

City News for Week of January 10th, 2020

Holiday Tree Pickup

If you'd like to dispose of your tree, you'll need to call your garbage hauler directly to set a schedule for pick up and ask what the rate will be. The number to call for Waste Management is 952-656-2084; Walters is 763-780-8464; Republic is 651-455-8634.

Please note that the City's recycling crew will NOT be picking up trees with recycling collection.

North Oaks Social Club Newcomers Event

North Oaks Social Club is hosting their annual Newcomers Social on Saturday, February 1st at 6:30 pm. The current North Oaks Social Club was formed in 2009 as a way for residents to meet their neighbors. NOSC organizes many events for couples and families as well as women's and men's nights. Some examples include Food & Friends (a monthly catered night out for women typically hosted by a member), an Oktoberfest event at Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter, and family events such as an outdoor Halloween party and back to school picnic at the beach. We also host a catered winter progressive dinner for couples that includes an appetizer house, dinner house and dessert house. We are open to all North Oaks residents and would love to meet you! If interested, please contact the incoming president Sarah Henry at skobbermann03@gmail.com.

Quarterly Sewer/Water Invoices

For those of you on Shoreview water, all water / sewer bills have been mailed. You are welcome to mail payments, or stop by our office from 9-4 p.m. Monday through Friday to drop off your payments. Thanks!

Police Report-Last Week

Notable police calls were; assist medical on Centerville Road, narcotics found on Island View Lane, Traffic stops at East Pleasant, alarms on Evergreen Road and Hill Farm Circle, 911 call on West Shore Road, Burglary on South Deep Lake Road, accident Property damage at Village Center Drive, suspicious Activity at Dogwood Lane, person in Crisis on Centerville Road, theft from auto on Village Center Drive.

Upcoming Meetings

All meeting take place in the Community Room at City Hall location at 100 Village center Drive, Suite 150 unless otherwise noted. The public is welcomed to attend any meeting.

Thursday, 1/16/19 – Natural Resources Commission 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 1/30/19 – Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2/13/19 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting

City Hall Schedule

The office will also be closed for training 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15th.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City News for Week of January 17th, 2020

Coyote Presentation

North Oaks residents are invited to a Coyote Presentation on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. This will include experts from the DNR, as well as a follow up from University of Minnesota on their coyote research. Presentation takes place at City Hall, located at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. Save the date!

Recycling Reminder

Please make sure your recycling can is at the end of your driveway by 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. Due to snowbirds resulting in less pickups, and adjustments due to weather, the normal schedule may be running earlier than usual on your respective day.

Holiday Tree Pickup

If you'd like to dispose of your tree, you'll need to call your garbage hauler directly to set a schedule for pick up and ask what the rate will be. The number to call for Waste Management is 952-656-2084; Walters is 763-780-8464; Republic is 651-455-8634.

Please note that the City's recycling crew will NOT be picking up trees with recycling collection.

Reminder: North Oaks Social Club Newcomers Event

North Oaks Social Club is hosting their annual Newcomers Social on Saturday, February 1st at 6:30 pm. The current North Oaks Social Club was formed in 2009 as a way for residents to meet their neighbors. NOSC organizes many events for couples and families as well as women's and men's nights. Some examples include Food & Friends (a monthly catered night out for women typically hosted by a member), an Oktoberfest event at Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter, and family events such an outdoor Halloween party and back to school picnic at the beach. We also host a catered winter progressive dinner for couples that includes an appetizer house, dinner house and dessert house. We are open to all North Oaks residents and would love to meet you! If interested, please contact the incoming president Sarah Henry at skobbermann03@gmail.com.

Police Report-Last Week

Notable police calls were; Pheasant Lane Traffic stop in North Oaks. Driver served OFP short form. Suspicious Activity at Foster Place, noise disturbance on Hodgson.

Upcoming Meetings

All meeting take place in the Community Room at City Hall location at 100 Village center Drive, Suite 150 unless otherwise noted. The public is welcomed to attend any meeting.

Thursday, 1/30/19 – Planning Commission 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2/13/19 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2/20/19 – Natural Resources Commission 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

City Hall Schedule

The office will also be closed for Monday, January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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City New for Week of January 24th 2020

Coyote Presentation

North Oaks residents are invited to a Coyote Presentation on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. This will include experts from the DNR, as well as a follow up from University of Minnesota on their coyote research. Presentation takes place at City Hall, located at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150. Save the date!

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Searchable Version of the East Oaks PDA

The 1999 East Oaks PDA document is now available in a searchable pdf format on the City's website [here](#).

Everything You Want to Know about Tomatoes

Hosted by the North Oaks Garden Club
Monday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.
North Oaks Community Room

Dave Olson and Cheryl Forrest will guide you through successful tomato growing techniques, starting with growing the plants from seeds, transplanting them to larger containers, hardening them off, and then planting them in the garden. Included in this presentation will be information on the difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes, and the advantages of both heirloom and hybrids. They will present ideas about selecting particular varieties and talk about choosing cherry, medium-sized or beefsteak tomatoes depending upon your space and personal preference. They will also give tips on summer maintenance including watering, fertilizing, preventing disease, mulching, and staking. Last, they will share information about harvesting and preserving the extra tomatoes safely and easily.

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Thursday, 1/30/19 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 2/13/19 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 2/20/19 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.
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City Hall Schedule

The office will also be closed for Monday, February 17 in honor of Presidents' Day.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City News for the week of January 31st 2020

Coyote Presentation

The Coyote Presentation which took place on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. was very informative and well attended. This included experts from the DNR, Ramsey animal Control officer as well as a follow up from University of Minnesota on their coyote research. If you were unable to attend the presentation, you can view the presentation [here](#).

Tick Task Force Survey

Take the Tick Task Force Annual Survey

This annual survey is meant to assess the effectiveness of the North Oaks multi-tiered Tick Management Program and to augment the Minnesota Department of Health disease surveillance. Answers are anonymous. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Results will be compared to those collected last year. All questions are based on your experience from January 1, 2019 through December 31st, 2019. One respondent per household, please. The survey will be live from February 3, 2020 through April 3, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

To take the survey, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account.

Notice of Council Work Session of the North Oaks City Council

Pursuant to North Oaks Ordinance Number 31.01 (B), a Special Meeting of the City Council of North Oaks is called to commence Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting is being called pursuant to Minn. Stat. 412.191 and noticed per Minn Stat. 13D.04.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider items as posted at City Office, and on website.

The undersigned have called this meeting:

Mayor, Gregg Nelson

Posted January 31, 2020

Notice of Continued Planning Commission Meeting

The Adjourned January 30, 2020 Planning Commission meeting will recommence on Tuesday, **February 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussion of items on the Agenda not addressed at the January 30, 2020 meeting due to the late nature of the meeting, as included in the Agenda posted at City Office and on website. The meeting will take place at City Hall, located at 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150, North Oaks, MN.

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Tuesday, 2/4/20 – Planning Commission meeting continuation, 5 p.m.

Thursday, 2/6/20 – City Council Special Work Session, 5 p.m.

Thursday, 2/13/20 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 2/20/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

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City Hall Schedule

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City Eblast – Week of 2/3/2020

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Thursday, 2/6/20 – City Council Special Work Session, 5 p.m.

Thursday, 2/13/20 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 2/20/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

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City Hall Schedule

The office will also be closed for Monday, February 17th in honor of Presidents' Day.

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City Eblast – Week of 2/14/2020

Start Thinking Spring and Order a New Locking Mailbox!

If you missed out and didn't order a locking mailbox last year, now's your chance! The City has two styles of mailboxes that are available for residents to purchase at a discounted rate. You can also order a newspaper box and/or a new post, and sign up to have a handyman install your mailbox.

Below is the link for the two mailboxes. The Mail Manager is \$80 and the Package Master is \$156. The newspaper box is \$40. These prices are last year's prices and they are still good for this year, although the prices will go up at some point later this year. Mailboxes are black.

- Mail Manager –
<https://www.mailboss.com/shop/curbside-mailboxes/mail-manager/>
- Package Master –
<https://www.mailboss.com/shop/curbside-mailboxes/package-master/>

Please contact Katy Ross with questions at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com. We expect to place an order soon, but will continue to order mailboxes as long as residents are interested in purchasing them. Mailboxes will be installed when the ground has thawed, if you would like a handyman to install it for you.

Road Restrictions

We are beginning to get calls inquiring when road restrictions will take effect. Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation. While the 3 ton per axle restriction typically has gone into effect around Mid-March in the past, we only receive a 48 hour notice from MN DOT of the date/time when restrictions take effect. As soon as we receive notice, we will publish this on the website, facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, NOHOA eblast. The City does not authorize road restriction waivers unless it is an emergency situation such as a surfacing septic system failure.

2020 Early Election Voting

Early voting is now open at some specific Ramsey County locations. There is NO early voting taking place at the North Oaks City Hall. For complete information on early voting in person and absentee ballot options – go to <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting>.

Campaign Finance Reform – Looking for resident input

A petition has been brought forth asking the City Council for a resolution of support regarding Campaign Finance Reform. City Council would like your input on how you feel about this issue. For details and to submit your anonymous response, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account. The survey will be open until March 7th, 2020.

Take the Tick Task Force Annual Survey

This annual survey is meant to assess the effectiveness of the North Oaks multi-tiered Tick Management Program and to augment the Minnesota Department of Health disease surveillance. Answers are anonymous. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Results will be compared to those collected last year. All questions are based on your experience from January 1, 2019 through December 31st, 2019. One respondent per household, please. The survey will be live from February 3, 2020 through April 3, 2020.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

To take the survey, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account.

Bringing Habitat Home – Movie Event

The Natural Resources Committee in conjunction with other North Oaks Community Groups is hosting a movie event called “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home” at the North Oaks Golf Club on **Wednesday, March 4th at 7 p.m.** This is a free event for North Oaks Residents.

A little bit about the movie: For two years, producer/director Catherine Zimmerman and film crew traveled around the country to visit with people who are exploring what it means to bring conservation close to home. Zimmerman shares success stories and lessons learned to reawaken and redefine our relationship with nature. The message is inspiring – we all have the power to support habitat by making our yards more valuable to the Earth. By learning from these examples and reflecting on how we use our yards, the movie gives a glimpse of how natural landscaping can be the new norm.

*** Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/smp49h5> Call 651-238-4198 with questions, or view the flyer [here](#).

Garden Club – Seeking Gardens for Tour

The North Oaks Garden Club is looking for gardens to participate in the annual garden tour July 16, 2020. If you have a garden you would be willing to share with our community, and be part of the tour, or if you know of a garden in North Oaks that people would enjoy seeing, please send us an email at: tour@nogardenclub.com Sharing what it is possible to achieve in gardens within our neighborhood expands all our vision and inspires budding gardeners. Please consider helping us maintain this traditional event in North Oaks!

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings take place in the Community Room at City Hall location at 100 Village center Drive, Suite 150 unless otherwise noted. The public is welcomed to attend any meeting.
Thursday, 2/20/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.
Thursday, 2/27/20 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.
Thursday, 3/12/20 – City Council 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

City Hall Schedule

The office will also be closed for Monday, February 17th in honor of Presidents' Day.
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City of North Oaks Eblast - Week of 2/28

2020 Election Voting Information

Early voting is now open at some specific Ramsey County locations including the Shoreview Library including: Friday, 2/28 12 p.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday, 2/29 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday, 3/2 12 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. There is **NO early voting** taking place at the North Oaks City Hall. For complete information on early voting in person and absentee ballot options – go to <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting>.

On Election day, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, voting takes place from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at either North Oaks City Hall and Presbyterian Homes. If you are new to the community and are unsure which location is your polling place, click <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> After entering your address, the finder will show where to vote and provide a sample ballot for your precinct.

Bringing Habitat Home – Free Movie Event

The Natural Resources Commission in conjunction with other North Oaks Community Groups is hosting a movie event called “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home” at the North Oaks Golf Club on **Wednesday, March 4th at 7 p.m.** This is a free event for North Oaks Residents.

A little bit about the movie: For two years, producer/director Catherine Zimmerman and film crew traveled around the country to visit with people who are exploring what it means to bring

conservation close to home. Zimmerman shares success stories and lessons learned to reawaken and redefine our relationship with nature. The message is inspiring – we all have the power to support habitat by making our yards more valuable to the Earth. By learning from these examples and reflecting on how we use our yards, the movie gives a glimpse of how natural landscaping can be the new norm.

*** Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/smp49h5> Call 651-238-4198 with questions, or view the flyer [here](#).

Order a Locking Mailbox and Protect Your Mail

You can still order a locking mailbox! This year you can purchase a mailbox through the City, or even two if you'd like! There are two styles of mailboxes that are available at a discounted rate, and you can order a newspaper box and/or a new post and even sign up to have a handyman install them! (The handyman will give you an estimate before installing anything.)

Below is the link for the two mailboxes. The Mail Manager can be purchased at the City's discounted rate of \$80 and the larger Package Master's discounted rate of \$156. The newspaper box is \$40. These prices are last year's prices and they are still good for this order, although the prices will go up at some point later this year. Mailboxes are black. Below are links for you to see what the mailboxes look like.

- Mail Manager – <https://www.mailboss.com/shop/curbside-mailboxes/mail-manager/>
- Package Master – <https://www.mailboss.com/shop/curbside-mailboxes/package-master/>

Please contact Katy Ross with questions at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com. The first order will be placed in early March, so orders must be received and **paid for in the City office by Thursday, March 5**. Residents will be contacted as soon as mailboxes arrive. The City will continue to accept orders for mailboxes as long as residents are interested in purchasing them. If residents would like a handyman to install a mailbox and/or post for an additional price, that information will be given out when mailboxes are picked up.

Mailboxes will also be on display at the Home Improvement Fair on Sunday, April 5 from 1-4 at the North Oaks Golf Club. You can also order your mailbox at that time.

Road Restrictions

We are beginning to get calls inquiring when road restrictions will take effect. Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation. While the 3 ton per axle restriction typically has gone into effect around Mid-March in the past, we only receive a 48 hour notice from MN DOT of the date/time when restrictions take effect. As soon as we receive notice, we will publish this on the website, facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, and NOHOA eblast. The City does not authorize road restriction waivers unless it is an emergency situation such as a surfacing septic system failure.

Campaign Finance Reform – Looking for resident input

A petition has been brought forth asking the City Council for a resolution of support regarding Campaign Finance Reform. City Council would like your input on how you feel about this issue. For details and to submit your anonymous response, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account. The survey will be **open until March 7th, 2020**.

Eureka Recycling Tour Scheduled

A tour of Eureka's Recycling plant will be held on Tuesday, April 7. The tour includes a trip through the plant, followed by a question and answer period. Residents must wear closed-toed shoes and tours are limited to ten people. Participants will meet in the lobby of 100 Village Center Drive and leave promptly at 12:00 and will return at about 2:30 p.m. For questions or to sign up, please email Katy Ross at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com.

Take the Tick Task Force Annual Survey

This annual survey is meant to assess the effectiveness of the North Oaks multi-tiered Tick Management Program and to augment the Minnesota Department of Health disease surveillance. Answers are anonymous. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Results will be compared to those collected last year. All questions are based on your experience from January 1, 2019 through December 31st, 2019. One respondent per household, please. The survey will be live from February 3, 2020 **through April 3, 2020**.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

To take the survey, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account.

Clean Up and Recycle Day

The second annual Clean Up and Recycle Day will be held on **Saturday, June 27**. Mark your calendar and start collecting items to drop off at the event. This year a scrap metal truck will also be available, and the shredding truck will once again be able to shred hard drives. For questions, contact the City at 651-792-7550. This event is for North Oaks residents only.

Garden Club – Seeking Gardens for Tour

The North Oaks Garden Club is looking for gardens to participate in the annual garden tour July 16, 2020. If you have a garden you would be willing to share with our community, and be part of the tour, or if you know of a garden in North Oaks that people would enjoy seeing, please send us an email at: tour@nogardenclub.com. Sharing what it is possible to achieve in gardens within our neighborhood expands all our vision and inspires budding gardeners. Please consider helping us maintain this traditional event in North Oaks!

Start the North Oaks News

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Upcoming Meetings

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Thursday, 3/12/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Thursday, 3/19/20 – Natural Resources Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 3/26/20 – Planning Commission Meeting

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

100 Village Center
North Oaks, MN 55127
651-792-7750

City of North Oaks - Noteworthy news for week of 3/6/2020

East Oaks Development Plans

The North Oaks Company has submitted preliminary plans to the Planning Commission for the Nord and Anderson Wood Parcels. The Public Hearing for Nord Parcel is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 and the Public Hearing for Anderson Woods will be on Wednesday April 15th, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and take place in the Community Room at City Hall. Documents for both of these parcels can be found on the City website, as part of the 2/27/20 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda packet.

Road Restrictions

Road restrictions took effect as of 12:01 a.m. today, March 6, 2020. Weight limits are now in effect at 3 tons per axle until further notice. Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation regulations. Restrictions apply to all roads within the City of North Oaks, so please plan accordingly.

We will receive a 48 hour notice from MN DOT when the restrictions will be removed, typically in 5-6 weeks. As soon as we receive notice they are off, we will publish this on the City website, Facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, and NOHOA eblast. The City does not authorize road restriction waivers unless it is an emergency situation such as a surfacing septic system failure.

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Thursday, 3/19/20 – Natural Resources Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 3/26/20 – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, 4/14/20 – Planning Commission: Nord Public Hearing

Wednesday, 4/15/20 – Planning Commission: Anderson Woods Public Hearing

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks - Noteworthy news for week of 3-13-20

NRC Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission has two openings. Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The forms can be found at the center/bottom of the homepage: <https://www.cityofnorthoaks.com/>

The Natural Resources Commission is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award

applications along with developing best practices for the city's natural resources. Questions may be directed to City Hall at (651) 792-7750.

Kevin Kress
City Administrator

East Oaks Development Plans

The North Oaks Company has submitted preliminary plans to the Planning Commission for the Nord and Anderson Wood Parcels. The Public Hearing for Nord Parcel is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 and the Public Hearing for Anderson Woods will be on Wednesday April 15th, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and take place in the Community Room at City Hall. Documents for both of these parcels can be found on the City website, as part of the 2/27/20 Planning Commission Agenda packet.

Road Restrictions

Road restrictions took effect as of 12:01 a.m. today, March 6, 2020. Weight limits are now in effect at 3 tons per axle until further notice. Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation regulations. Restrictions apply to all roads within the City of North Oaks, so please plan accordingly.

We will receive a 48 hour notice from MN DOT when the restrictions will be removed, typically 5-6 weeks. As soon as we receive notice they are off, we will publish this on the City website, Facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, and NOHOA eblast. The City does not authorize road restriction waivers unless it is an emergency situation such as a surfacing septic system failure.

Eureka Recycling Tour Scheduled

A tour of Eureka's Recycling plant will be held on Tuesday, April 7. The tour includes a trip through the plant, followed by a question and answer period. Residents must wear closed-toed shoes and tours are limited to ten people. Participants will meet in the lobby of 100 Village Center Drive and leave promptly at 12:00 and will return at about 2:30 p.m. For questions or to sign up, please email Katy Ross at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com.

Take the Tick Task Force Annual Survey

This annual survey is meant to assess the effectiveness of the North Oaks multi-tiered Tick Management Program and to augment the Minnesota Department of Health disease surveillance. Answers are anonymous. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Results will be compared to those collected last year. All questions are based on your experience from January 1, 2019 through December 31st, 2019. One respondent per household, please. The survey will be live from February 3, 2020 **through April 3, 2020.**

Thank you in advance for your participation.

To take the survey, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account.

Clean Up and Recycle Day

The second annual Clean Up and Recycle Day will be held on **Saturday, June 27**. Mark your calendar and start collecting items to drop off at the event. This year a scrap metal truck will also be available, and the shredding truck will once again be able to shred hard drives. For questions, contact the City at 651-792-7550. This event is for North Oaks residents only.

Start the North Oaks News

If you or your neighbors aren't receiving the North Oaks News, contact the circulation department at Press Publications (651-407-1234) to start and stop the paper. Newspapers cannot be forwarded, so delivery is stopped if papers are returned to the publisher. The E-Edition is available online at presspubs.com/north_oaks.

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings take place in the Community Room at City Hall location at 100 Village center Drive, Suite 150 unless otherwise noted. The public is welcomed to attend any meeting.

Thursday, 3/19/20 – Natural Resources Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 3/26/20 – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, 4/14/20 – Planning Commission: Nord Public Hearing

Wednesday, 4/15/20 – Planning Commission: Anderson Woods Public Hearing

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks: News and Updates for Monday, March 16, 2020

Mayor Signs Declaration of Emergency

March 16, 2020—Mayor Gregg Nelson has signed a Declaration of Emergency for the City of North Oaks.

Read the entire document [here](#).

New Guidelines Further Limit Social Gatherings

March 16, 2020—President Trump announced new coronavirus guidelines today, recommending that all Americans avoid groups of more than 10 people, discretionary travel, as well as eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts. He also said schools are recommended to close. The guidelines are to last for at least 15 days.

For the full report, please click [here](#).

CDC Recommends Canceling or Postponing In-Person Events

March 15, 2020—CDC recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States. More Information on Mass Gatherings can be found [here](#).

Information Hotline for COVID-19

The Minnesota Department of Health has a hotline for questions the general public has about COVID-19, Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m. at 651-201-3920.

Questions regarding county policies and the county response to COVID-19 can be sent to Ramsey County’s COVID-19 Response Team at CoronaVirus@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Telecommuting Tips

Working from home can be a challenge, especially when young children are home from school, too. Find useful tips and suggestions for productive remote working [here](#).

City Hall and Meetings

- City Hall is currently CLOSED to the public until further notice due to COVID-19. City staff are working remotely and phone calls will be forwarded. There is no change to police and fire support.
- Extra cleaning efforts are in place in all areas of City Hall and the Community Room.

- Public meetings, such as the City Council and Planning Commission meetings, are taking place as scheduled until further notice. Meetings may be conducted via telephone or interactive television. Notice will be provided on how meetings will be conducted.

Be in Touch

City Hall: 651-792-7750
 noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com
 www.cityofnorthoaks.com

Kevin Kress
 City of North Oaks
 City Administrator

Stay at Home Order

Governor Walz Issues Stay at Home Order for Minnesotans

Executive order directs Minnesotans to limit movement to slow the spread of COVID-19

March 25, 2020

[ST. PAUL, MN] – To slow the spread of COVID-19 across the state, Governor Tim Walz today signed Executive Order 20-20 directing Minnesotans to stay at home and limit movements outside of their home beyond essential needs. This order takes effect at 11:59pm on Friday, March 27 and ends at 5:00pm on Friday, April 10.

“We must take bold action to save the lives of Minnesotans,” said Governor Walz. **“Having served as a Command Sergeant Major in the Army National Guard, I know the importance of having a plan. While the virus will still be here when this order ends, this action will slow the spread of COVID-19 and give Minnesota time to ready for battle.”**

Modeling released today by the Minnesota Department of Health and University of Minnesota predicts that more than 70,000 Minnesotans could die from COVID-19 if we take no action. The Governor’s two-week order to stay home is forecasted to significantly slow the spread of COVID-19 and allow the state time to make key preparations for the pandemic. These preparations include building hospital capacity, increasing access to life-saving equipment like ventilators, increasing testing, planning for how to care for vulnerable populations, and assessing public health data to determine which community mitigation strategies are most effective.

“We will work with our world-renowned health care sector, cutting-edge manufacturers, innovative business community, and strong-spirited Minnesotans across the state to tackle this virus head on,” Governor Walz continued. **“These are trying times. But we are Minnesotans. We see challenges—and we tackle them. No matter how daunting the challenge; no matter how dark the times; Minnesota has always risen up—by coming together. If we unite as One Minnesota, we will save lives.”**

Minnesotans may leave their residences only to perform any of the following activities, and while doing so, they should practice social distancing:

- **Health and safety activities**, such as obtaining emergency services or medical supplies
- **Outdoor activities**, such as walking, hiking, running, biking, hunting, or fishing
- **Necessary Supplies and Services**, such as getting groceries, gasoline, or carry-out
- **Essential and interstate travel**, such as returning to a home from outside this state
- **Care of others**, such as caring for a family member, friend, or pet in another household
- **Displacement**, such as moving between emergency shelters if you are without a home
- **Relocation to ensure safety**, such as relocating to a different location if your home has been unsafe due to domestic violence, sanitation, or essential operations reasons

- **Tribal activities and lands**, such as activities by members within the boundaries of their tribal reservation

“Our top priority is the health and safety of Minnesotans,” said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. **“As the mom of a first-grader and the daughter of a parent with underlying health conditions, I know that the coming weeks will be difficult for many Minnesota families, but social distancing is the most important action we can take as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19 and care for each other.”**

“Public health and health care workers around the state are working incredibly hard to protect Minnesotans from this outbreak, and we need all Minnesotans to do their part to slow the spread,” Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said. **“These new measures will buy us much-needed time to secure additional resources and line up additional protections for our most vulnerable Minnesotans.”**

Workers who work in critical sectors during this time are exempt from the stay at home order. These exemptions are based on [federal guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with some Minnesota-specific additions. This includes, but is not limited to, jobs in:

- Healthcare and public health;
- Law enforcement, public safety, and first responders;
- Emergency shelters, congregate living facilities, drop-in centers;
- Child care;
- Food and agriculture;
- News media;
- Energy;
- Water and wastewater; and
- Critical manufacturing.

The Governor also today issued executive orders extending the closure of bars, restaurants, and other public accommodations set forth in Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-08 until May 1, 2020 at 5:00 pm and authorizing the Commissioner of Education to implement a Distance Learning Period for Minnesota’s students beginning on March 30 through May 4, 2020.

The Governor’s Executive Orders will have the full force and effect of law upon approval by the Executive Council.

Updates on the COVID-19 pandemic in Minnesota are available [here](#). Frequently asked questions are available [here](#).

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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City News for the week ending 3-27-20

COVID-19 Updates

March 25, 2020 - To slow the spread of COVID-19 across the state, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order 20-20 directing Minnesotans to stay at home and limit movements outside of their home beyond essential needs. This order takes effect at 11:59pm on Friday, March 27 and ends at 5:00pm on Friday, April 10.

The link to the full [press release](#).

The link to the full Executive order [Executive Order](#).

NRC Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission has two openings. Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The forms can be found at the center/bottom of the city home webpage. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, April 2, 2020**.

The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources. Questions may be directed to City Hall at 651-792-7750.

East Oaks Development Plans

The North Oaks Company has submitted preliminary plans to the Planning Commission for the Nord and Anderson Wood Parcels. The Public Hearing for the Nord Parcel is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 and the Public Hearing for Anderson Woods will be on Wednesday April 15th, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will take place via telephone or other electronic means only due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration.

Those wishing to submit public comment as part of the hearings above may submit written public comment by emailing the City Administrator, Kevin Kress at kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com by April 10th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to provide public comment/make a presentation at the meetings may do so by calling the following Zoom meeting teleconference/ videoconference number: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 456 840 0260 or by joining the meeting via the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/4568400260>. Individuals wishing to monitor the meeting remotely may do so in real time by watching the livestream of the meeting on North Oaks Channel 16 and on the City's website. Documents for both of these parcels can be found on the City website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

North Oaks Garden Club Plant Sale – PreOrder only

Although the annual Plant Sale will no longer be held on Saturday, May 9, the good news is that the same high quality herbs, hanging baskets, and annuals will be available through the Garden Club Order Form.

When you place an order, your order will be custom picked and waiting for you to be picked up at the Hill Farm. You will be able to drive up to the Blacksmith Shop so your order can be placed directly in your vehicle, allowing for safe social distancing. You don't even have to get out of your car! This year's Garden Club Order Form is available for download at www.nogardenclub.com. There are photos of many of the plants available on the website. Hard copies of the order form are available in a box at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle), or you may contact Nancy at 651-353-8415 to have a form sent to you in the mail. Garden Club Order Forms are due by **Thursday, Apr. 23**. Please send completed order forms to Nancy Hans, 10 Don Bush Road, North Oaks, MN 55127 along with your check made payable to the North Oaks Garden Club. Order pickup is on Thursday, May 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle).

Natural Resource Commission Seedling Order - Cancelled

With the cancellation of the Garden Club onsite Plant Sale, the Natural Resource Commission will not have seedlings available this year.

Seedlings only live so long in a 5 gal bucket. Due to lack of distribution method, the seedling order has been cancelled for this year and the State will use them for other purposes. We apologize for this unavoidable circumstance. The seedling program will be back again next year!

Ramsey County Recycles

If you been spending any quarantine time in the yard, the Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites are still open at specific locations and hours. For information including hazardous waste drop offs, medicine collection, food scrap drop offs – go to www.ramseyrecycles.com. Please follow the social distancing guidance

recommended by the [CDC](#) and [Minnesota Department of Health](#) while visiting county yard waste sites. The CDC and MDH recommend keeping six feet of space between yourself and others.

Home Improvement Fair Cancelled

The Home Improvement Fair scheduled for Sunday, April 5 from 1-4 at the North Oaks Golf Club has been cancelled.

Eureka Recycling Tour Rescheduled

A tour of Eureka's Recycling plant has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Road Restrictions

Reminder that road restrictions took effect as of 12:01 a.m. March 6, 2020. Weight limits are now in effect at 3 tons per axle until further notice. Please note that the City of North Oaks follows the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation regulations. Restrictions apply to all roads within the City of North Oaks, so please plan accordingly.

We will receive a 48 hour notice from MN DOT when the restrictions will be removed, typically 5-6 weeks. As soon as we receive notice they are off, we will publish this on the City website, Facebook page, City eblast, North Oaks News, and NOHOA eblast. The City does not authorize road restriction waivers unless it is an emergency situation such as a surfacing septic system failure.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans now available

Governor Walz requested an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration from the SBA. Online applications for these loans are open to Minnesota businesses at: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

Additional Resources:

- SBA disaster loan information at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/Index>
- Information for small businesses affected by coronavirus at www.sba.gov/coronavirus
- All coronavirus-related federal government resources: www.usa.gov/coronavirus
- DEED'S COVID-19 information and resources for businesses [COVID-19 update](#) page.

Campaign Finance Reform – Looking for resident input – DEADLINE extended

A petition has been brought forth asking the City Council for a resolution of support regarding Campaign Finance Reform. City Council would like your input on how you feel about this issue. For details and to submit your anonymous response, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account. The survey will be **open until April 4th, 2020.**

Take the Tick Task Force Annual Survey

This annual survey is meant to assess the effectiveness of the North Oaks multi-tiered Tick Management Program and to augment the Minnesota Department of Health disease surveillance. Answers are anonymous. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete. Results will be compared to those collected last year. All questions are based on your experience from January 1, 2019 through December 31st, 2019. One respondent per household, please. The survey will be live from February 3, 2020 **through April 3, 2020.**

Thank you in advance for your participation.

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Clean Up and Recycle Day

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Tuesday, 4/14/20 – Planning Commission: Nord Public Hearing

Wednesday, 4/15/20 – Planning Commission: Anderson Woods Public Hearing

Thursday, 4/16/20 – Natural Resources Commission

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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Weekly City Eblast for 4-3-2020

East Oaks Development Plans

The North Oaks Company has submitted preliminary plans to the Planning Commission for the Nord and Anderson Wood Parcels. The Public Hearing for the Nord Parcel is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 and the Public Hearing for Anderson Woods will be on Wednesday April 15th, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will take place via telephone or other electronic means only due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration.

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The full Public Hearing notice is [here](#).

Ramsey County Sherriff Covid-19 Help Team

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office announced the formation of the COVID "Help Team." For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the Help Team will assist those in the community who are most at risk and vulnerable during this time. The Help Team serves anyone in need in Ramsey County who requires assistance or support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some functions performed by the Help Team include the pick-up and delivery of prescription medication, pre-paid food, and groceries; delivery of food, medication, and other essentials that have been donated; coordination of the collection of donated items based on current community needs; and, provide referrals, including social services, financial assistance, medical assistance, mental health, and others.

People will be able to call, text, or email for assistance from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The phone number 651-448-3874 (call or text) and the email address is HelpTeam@co.ramsey.mn.us. Please note this is not a replacement to 9-1-1; always call 9-1-1 for emergencies or when immediate law enforcement services are needed.

Recycle the Right Way

Recycling volumes these days are rivaling those over the holidays. Here are some helpful tips to remember when recycling:

- All cardboard boxes **must be flattened** and measure no more than 4' x 4'. Any cardboard that is not flattened will not be picked up.
- Do **not** put plastic bags in your recycling bin.
- Remember to check recycling symbols to make sure items can be placed in your recycling cart. If you are not sure whether or not you can recycle an item, you can call Ramsey County at 651-633-3279.

US Census Survey

By this date, most homes have received a mailed invitation to participate in the 2020 Census along with a special code and instructions for responding online. Respond based on where you live and sleep most of the time as of April 1, 2020. Everyone "wins" when you respond to the 2020 Census, because when everyone is counted, there are more opportunities for shaping our community. To date, North Oaks has had 57.3% of their residents respond to the Census.

Beginning in May 2020, census takers will begin to visit homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted. We recommend responding to the 2020 Census as early as possible to minimize the need for in-person visits into our private community.

Street and Trail Reminders

With the increased use of City streets and private trails for walking, be sure to review the trail etiquette from the North Oaks Homeowners Association (just sent in their weekly eblast) to ensure the privacy, safety, and health of our residents. When walking city streets, be sure to walk against traffic so cars can see you and bike with traffic. Please keep social distancing in mind when passing fellow residents.

Earth Day Community Neighborhood Clean Up

With Earth Day coming upon April 22, 2020, the earth is unexpectedly getting a well-deserved "pause" as well. If you are out walking the trails and streets with the family, consider wearing gloves and bringing a garbage bag to gather any trash that has surfaced from under the winter's snow. Consider it an Earth Day challenge!

NRC Commission Openings

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission has two openings. Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The forms can be found at the center/bottom of the city home webpage. The deadline for applications has been extended to **Wednesday, May 6, 2020**. The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources. Questions may be directed to City Hall at 651-792-7750.

Final Weekend for Surveys – Community Input needed

There are two community surveys ending this weekend and both groups would love your input:

1. To take the Tick Task force survey, simply click [here](#) or visit polco.us/northoaks to set up an account.
2. To take the Campaign Finance Reform survey, simply click [here](#).

North Oaks Garden Club Plant Sale

Although the annual Plant Sale will no longer be held on Saturday, May 9, the good news is that the same high quality herbs, hanging baskets, and annuals will be available through the Garden Club Order Form.

When you place an order, your order will be custom picked and waiting for you to be picked up at the Hill Farm. You will be able to drive up to the Blacksmith Shop so your order can be placed directly in your vehicle, allowing for safe social distancing. You don't even have to get out of your car! This year's Garden Club Order Form is available for download at www.nogardenclub.com. There are photos of many of the plants available on the website. Hard copies of the order form are available in a box at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle), or you may contact Nancy at 651-353-8415 to have a form sent to you in the mail. Garden Club Order Forms are due by **Thursday, Apr. 23**. Please send completed order forms to Nancy Hans, 10 Don Bush Road, North Oaks, MN 55127 along with your check made payable to the North Oaks Garden Club. Order pickup is on Thursday, May 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle).

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Thursday, 4/9/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 4/14/20 – Planning Commission: Nord Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/15/20 – Planning Commission: Anderson Woods Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 4/16/20 – Natural Resources Commission 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks Eblast for 4-10-20

Weight Restrictions to be Lifted - Monday, April 13th

Per the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, weight restrictions will be lifted from roads within the Twin Cities Metro area beginning at 12:01 a.m. Monday, April 13, 2020. This includes all streets within North Oaks. Please ensure any construction work is properly permitted through the City office at 651-792-7750, and any exterior changes are also submitted to the North Oaks Homeowners Association for approval at 651-792-7765.

Nord and Anderson Public Hearings are next week:

**** Meeting has been changed to a Webinar. New Dial-in access is below.****

The Public Hearing for the Nord Parcel is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 and the Public Hearing for Anderson Woods will be on Wednesday April 15th, 2020. Both meetings will begin at 6:00

p.m. and will take place via telephone or other electronic means only due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration.

Those wishing to submit public comment as part of the hearings above may submit them by emailing the City Administrator, Kevin Kress at kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com by April 13th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to provide public comment/make a presentation at either of the meetings may do so by calling the following Zoom meeting teleconference /videoconference numbers:

Tuesday- Nord Parcel:

To attend by telephone: Dial 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 836 004 639

OR for iPhone one-tap : US: +13126266799,,836004639#

For video conference to attend on-line:

<https://zoom.us/j/836004639?pwd=REtkY1BWZDhiN2lKdWJNNG1YK0lyQT09>

Password: 208546

Wednesday- Anderson Woods Hearing:

To attend by telephone: Dial 1-312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 572 626 739

OR iPhone one-tap : US: +13126266799,,572626739#

For video conference to attend on-line:

<https://zoom.us/j/572626739?pwd=MndrYlJqaWQwU3kyelREK1BseXJOZz09>

Password: 901875

Individuals wishing to monitor the meeting remotely may do so in real time by watching the livestream of the meeting on North Oaks Channel 16 and on the City's website. Documents for both of these hearings can be found on the City website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

The full Public Hearing notice for Nord is [here](#). The hearing notice for Anderson Woods is [here](#).

The links to each agenda Packet is : [Nord Parcel](#) and [Anderson Woods](#)

Spring Pruning

It's that time of year when the weather warms up and people want to get outside and enjoy their property. That includes doing landscape projects. But before heading out to prune trees and shrubs keep these things in mind

Spring can be a good time to prune, remove deadwood, and shape shrubs. Be careful not to prune flowering shrubs before they bloom, or you may be removing the flower head. It's best to prune flowering plants after they have bloomed.

Trees can also be pruned but do not prune oak or elms in the spring. The Oak wilt season runs from April-June. If you prune your oak tree you run the risk of the tree getting Oak wilt, a fatal disease for oak trees causing large trees to die in just a matter of weeks. If you need to prune an oak tree during this time simply apply a latex based paint over the wound and the tree will not get oak wilt. This also applies to elm trees which can get Dutch elm disease. It's best to prune oaks and elms in the winter and choose an arborist off the Cities Arborist List to make sure they are properly insured.

NRC Commission Openings

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MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The forms can be found at the center/bottom of the city home webpage. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, May 6, 2020**. The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources. Questions may be directed to City Hall at 651-792-7750.

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Some functions performed by the Help Team include the pick-up and delivery of prescription medication, pre-paid food, and groceries; delivery of food, medication, and other essentials that have been donated; coordination of the collection of donated items based on current community needs; and, provide referrals, including social services, financial assistance, medical assistance, mental health, and others.

People will be able to call, text, or email for assistance from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, and from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The phone number 651-448-3874 (call or text) and the email address is HelpTeam@co.ramsey.mn.us. Please note this is not a replacement to 9-1-1; always call 9-1-1 for emergencies or when immediate law enforcement services are needed.

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Tuesday, 4/14/20 – Planning Commission: Nord Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/15/20 – Planning Commission: Anderson Woods Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 4/16/20 – Natural Resources Commission 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 4/30/20 – Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks Eblast for 4/17/20

US Census Survey

To date, North Oaks has had 71.8% of their residents respond to the Census. The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade. Information from the Census also impacts

school lunches, plans for highways, support for firefighters and families in need. Census results affect our community every day.

Most homes have already received the mailed invitation to participate in the 2020 Census along with a special code and instructions for responding online. Please respond based on where you live and sleep most of the time as of April 1, 2020.

Beginning in May 2020, census takers are scheduled visit homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted. Please respond to the 2020 Census as early as possible to minimize the need for in-person visits into our private community.

NRC Commission Openings – Applications due May 6th

The City of North Oaks Natural Resources Commission has two openings. Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The forms can be found at the center/bottom of the city home webpage. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, May 6, 2020**.

The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources. Questions may be directed to City Hall at 651-792-7750.

Earth Day

The City of North Oaks and NOHOA would like to remind you that **Earth Day is this Wednesday, April 22nd**. To find Earth Day digital events around the globe and to join the world's largest environmental movement, visit earthday.org.

Want to make a difference locally? Take a trash bag outside and pick up garbage on your property. Better yet, take a trash bag on your walk (while maintaining social distancing) and help clean-up the roadsides. Don't forget to recycle! Let's keep North Oaks clean and natural.

**** Weight Restrictions have been Lifted**

Please ensure any construction work is properly permitted through the City office at 651-792-7750, and any exterior changes are also submitted to the North Oaks Homeowners Association for approval at 651-792-7765.

Nord and Anderson Public Hearings Remain Open

A second opportunity for the Public to comment on the Nord and Anderson Woods Preliminary subdivision Applications will take place beginning at the next Planning Commission meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Public Hearing notices will be published in the paper, city office, and website as we closer to the date.

Order a Locking Mailbox and Protect Your Mail

You can still order a locking mailbox through the City at a discount rate. There are two styles of mailboxes that are available, and you can order a newspaper box and/or a new post and even sign up to have a handyman install them. (The handyman will give you an estimate before installing anything.) The next order will be placed once we have enough order to receive the bulk discount, so order now!

Below is the link for the two mailboxes. The Mail Manager can be purchased at the City's discounted rate of \$82 and the larger Package Master's discounted rate of \$166. The newspaper box is \$42. Mailboxes are black. Below are links for you to see what the mailboxes look like.

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Please contact Katy Ross with questions at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com. Residents will be contacted as soon as mailboxes arrive. The City will continue to accept orders for mailboxes as long as residents are interested in purchasing them. If residents would like a handyman to install a mailbox and/or post for an additional price, that information will be given out when mailboxes are picked up.

Reminders - In case you missed it:

North Oaks Garden Club Plant Sale – PreOrder only – Deadline April 23rd

Although the annual Plant Sale will no longer be held on Saturday, May 9, the good news is that the same high quality herbs, hanging baskets, and annuals will be available through the Garden Club Order Form.

When you place an order, your order will be custom picked and waiting for you to be picked up at the Hill Farm. You will be able to drive up to the Blacksmith Shop so your order can be placed directly in your vehicle, allowing for safe social distancing. You don't even have to get out of your car! This year's Garden Club Order Form is available for download at www.nogardenclub.com. There are photos of many of the plants available on the website. Hard copies of the order form are available in a box at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle), or you may contact Nancy at 651-353-8415 to have a form sent to you in the mail. Garden Club Order Forms are due by **Thursday, Apr. 23**. Please send completed order forms to Nancy Hans, 10 Don Bush Road, North Oaks, MN 55127 along with your check made payable to the North Oaks Garden Club. Order pickup is on Thursday, May 7 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Hill Farm site (35 Hill Farm Circle).

Spring Pruning

It's that time of year when the weather warms up and people want to get outside and enjoy their property. That includes doing landscape projects. But before heading out to prune trees and shrubs keep these things in mind

Spring can be a good time to prune, remove deadwood, and shape shrubs. Be careful not to prune flowering shrubs before they bloom, or you may be removing the flower head. It's best to prune flowering plants after they have bloomed.

Trees can also be pruned but do not prune oak or elms in the spring. The Oak wilt season runs from April-June. If you prune your oak tree you run the risk of the tree getting Oak wilt, a fatal disease for oak trees causing large trees to die in just a matter of weeks. If you need to prune an oak tree during this time simply apply a latex based paint over the wound and the tree will not get oak wilt. This also applies to elm trees which can get Dutch elm disease. It's best to prune oaks and elms in the winter and choose an arborist off the Cities Arborist List to make sure they are properly insured.

Clean Up and Recycle Day

The second annual Clean Up and Recycle Day will be held on **Saturday, June 27**. Mark your calendar and start collecting items to drop off at the event. This year a scrap metal truck will also be available, and the shredding truck will once again be able to shred hard drives. For questions, contact the City at 651-792-7550. This event is for North Oaks residents only.

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Thursday, 4/30/20 – Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5/14/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5/14/20 – Natural Resources Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City Eblast 4-24-20

April 23, 2020 - Governor Issues Order 20-40 and 20-41

Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-40 allowing some non-essential non-public facing offices / warehouses to return to work as of Monday, April 27th if there is a documented pandemic plan including safety distancing, and cleaning protocol being followed. He also issued Order 20-41 extending Distance Learning through the end of the June 2020 school year for all Minnesota schools. The details of the full Executive orders can be found [here](#).

*While the CDC has now recommended wearing facemasks, this is currently not a mandated government Order. The city has no ability to enforce this recommendation. Please give your neighbors space for the comfort of all.

Waverly Gardens - Covid-19 Update

Waverly Gardens has been navigating the impacts of the coronavirus epidemic for several weeks. They have implemented a number of precautions to ensure a safe and healthy environment. Despite these efforts, we are sorry to report that a resident receiving hospice care, who had been diagnosed with COVID-19 on Wednesday, April 22, has passed away. We have also been notified that an employee has tested positive for COVID-19. This individual has been at home since the first sign of symptoms where they are recovering.

They are working closely with the department of health to determine and notify any persons who may have come into contact with the resident or employee, and any additional precautions that may be advised. We are pleased to report that at this time no other residents or staff have tested positive or reported any COVID-19 symptoms.

The full press release can be read [here](#).

City Website / CivicReady Alert system

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NOTE: If you do NOT wish for your email to be put into the new alert system – please simply reply to this message, or email noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com by Friday May 8th to be removed.

This would not impact receipt of these weekly eblasts.

Brush Pickup Day

The city will once again be coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is Friday, May 29, 2020. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the

weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$155, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

All brush must be piled at the edge of the street with the butt ends of the brush pointing in the same direction. Please do not pile brush directly under power lines as that limits the equipment that can be used to make the pickup. Langer Tree service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions.

If you are interested in signing up for this service, please review the cost detail and complete the waiver found [here](#), and return to the City office, or call at 651-792-7750 for more information.

Hydrant Flushing

White Bear Lake Public works will be conducting scheduled Hydrant flushing on Monday, April 27th.

Squirrels on the Loose / Spring clean-up reminders

The City Forester has received a number of calls with regards to trees losing bark. It seems we have a high population of aggressive squirrels this year, and a mild winter allowed them to pick on the thin-barked maple trees which are high in nutrients and can be used for nesting. As this point, he suggests leaving them as is for now with the goal that the squirrels continue to pick on them and not target additional new trees.

As you work around the yard, please make sure you are not putting leaves, branches and tree debris into our valued wetlands. Finally, during this spring clean-up season, try to be considerate of our neighbors in leaf blowing frequency - being aware that many more people are working and schooling from home all day. Keep an eye out in the North Oaks news for an upcoming article. We're all in this together!

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Thursday, 5/21/20 – Natural Resources Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City Eblast for 5/1/2020

Stay at Home Order Extended – City office

On Thursday, April 30, 2020, Governor Tim Walz signed an Executive Order extending the Stay at Home Order for Minnesotans until May 18, 2020, limiting going out only for essential needs. Additional information can be found at mn.gov/stayhomemn. The details of all Executive orders can be found [here](#).

In compliance with this executive order, the City of North Oaks will extend the closure of City Hall to the public until further notice. During this time, all essential services—including public safety, water and sewer utilities, streets and park maintenance, and building inspections—are continuing. City staff will continue to be available by telephone and email during this closure. You can visit the [City's website](#) to view information on services and how to participate in virtual meetings.

City staff is developing plans to safely reopen City Hall once the stay-at-home order and directives from Governor Walz and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) allow us to open. This includes a phased approach based on Governor Walz's "safely adjusting the dials" graphic.

The City would like to thank our residents for their support and understanding during this time. It is everyone's continued efforts to practice social distancing and follow the state's guidelines that will limit community transmission of COVID-19.

Thank you,
City of North Oaks

From Ramsey County Sherriff's Office – Scam emails demand Bitcoin, threaten blackmail

April 29, 2020 by Bridget Small, Consumer Education Specialist, Federal Trade Commission
The FTC uses the information it gets from people who report scams to keep close watch on trends, so we can alert you to changes.

Here's one: **reports of Bitcoin blackmail scams have taken a big jump in the last few weeks (including Ramsey County)**. The emails say they hacked into your computer and recorded you visiting adult websites. They threaten to distribute the video to your friends and family within hours, unless you pay into their Bitcoin account. Stop. Don't pay anything. Delete the message. It's a scam.

Based on the timing of this spike, you may get one of these messages because your email was exposed in a recent data breach. The scammers may say they have access to your computer or webcam, or installed clever software to defeat you. That's all talk. But they may really know one of your old – or recent – passwords, and they include it in the message to prove it. When you see that, you know it's time to update your password on that account, and consider updating other passwords, too.

If you, or someone you know, get a message like this, please report it to the FTC at www.FTC.gov/Complaint. For the complete monthly newsletter – review the Ramsey County Sheriff's office May 2020 newsletter [here](#).

Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Drop Off – Month of May

During the month of May, you may drop off hazardous waste products such as those that you use to clean your kitchen and bathroom, maintain your car and home, and control animals and insects. If a container has the words **caution, warning, danger** or **poison** on the label and still has product inside, it does not belong in the trash. Use Ramsey County's free household hazardous waste collection sites for safe

disposal. You may drop off these items off at 1352 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills on Friday's 10-6 p.m. and Saturday's from 9 – 4:00 p.m.

Fire Department collection for Food Shelf

The Lake Joanna fire department is collecting food donations for the local food shelves. With school being canceled, many kids (and families) will be solely relying on these resources to eat.

There is an enclosed trailer in front of the Headquarters station on 5545 Lexington Avenue N. Shoreview where residents can drop off food items. Four truckloads of food have been taken to both the Ralph Reeder and St. Johns food shelves in the last couple weeks.

If you are able to help out- consider donating to the food shelf!

Brush Pickup Day

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If you are interested in signing up for this service, please review the cost detail and complete the waiver found [here](#), and return to the City office, or call at 651-792-7750 for more information.

Exploiting the Coronavirus: Fear of Infection

The cybercriminals are ruthless with their Coronavirus-themed phishing attacks. They have sent emails that appear to be from a hospital and warn that you have been exposed to the virus through contact with a colleague, friend, or family member. Attached to the email is a “pre-filled” form to download and take with you to the hospital. Don't be fooled. The attachment is actually a sophisticated piece of malware. This threat relies on panic and fear to bypass rational thinking. Don't give in!

Remember to stay vigilant:

- Think before you click. The bad guys rely on impulsive clicking.
- Never download an attachment from an email you weren't expecting.
- Even if the sender appears to be from a familiar organization, the email address could be spoofed.

Stop Look Think - Don't be fooled

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

Eblast for week of 5-8-2020

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If you are interested in signing up for this service, please review the cost detail and complete the waiver found [here](#), and return to the City office, or call at 651-792-7750 for more information.

Oriental Bittersweet Grant

The City just received great news that we will receive grant funding to combat Oriental Bittersweet. The City will receive a check in the amount of \$2,062 up front, with City Forester doing surveying, notification, and education. We will have residents who are interested in treatment pay for that service. Then they will submit to the City for reimbursement and the City will reimburse after we have approved it. Then the City will get the remainder (\$10,850 total so \$8,788) at the end of the year when the grant has been completed. Interested residents may contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519 or mark@rehderforestryconsulting.com.

Locking Mailboxes Available – Order by May 29th

An order for locking mailboxes, bought by the City at a reduced bulk rate, will be placed in June. Two different-sized mailboxes are available for sale to residents: the Mail Manager costs \$82 and the larger Package Master is \$166 (tax included in those prices); a newspaper box is an additional \$42. If you'd like a handyman to install the mailbox for you, that is an option as well.

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Please fill out and return [this form](#) with payment to order your mailbox by **end of day Friday, May 29**. Contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 or kross@cityofnorthoaks.com with any questions.

Seed Pollinator pack – Compliments of Excel Energy

Customers of Excel energy are able to order a complimentary pack of pollinator seeds to help plant seeds for a renewable energy future. Order your free pollinator seed pack and explore all the renewable options

for your home. Order: <http://click.xcelenergy-emailnews.com/?qs=d78a2d84b2a1ab7f770b6e9b9350b472be7d8cc802bb35c4e13a3fb309cdf3d6e46c14bbcc8eb2a64b61d80792dc67b0ecce250478d91f104e64f8abe8007b97>

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Thursday, 5/21/20 – Natural Resources Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 5/28/20 – Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing 5:30 p.m. ** Nord / Anderson Public Hearing. 7:00 p.m. Regular Planning Commission Meeting
Thursday, 6/11/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks

City Administrator

=====

City of North Oaks - Eblast for the week of 5/15/2020

World Bee Day

May 20th is World Bee Day! As you shop for plant for your gardens, look for plants that are pollinator-friendly. Be sure to avoid plants that contain Neonicotinoids, commonly referred to as “neonics.” Neonics, the most commonly used insecticides worldwide, are long-lived and highly toxic to bees and other beneficial insects.

For information on North Oaks commitment to a pollinator friendly environment, refer to the [Pollinator Resolution](#) initiated by the Natural Resource Commission and signed by the City Council in July of 2019.

Special City Council Meeting

City Council will be holding special meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to continue discussions regarding purchasing land for a new fire station at the request of Lake Johanna Fire Department. The Cities of Shoreview and Arden Hills are also in discussions on this collaborative purchase. The meeting can be viewed via the live webcast on the City of North Oaks website [here](#).

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Locking Mailboxes Available – Order by May 29th

An order for locking mailboxes, bought by the City at a reduced bulk rate, will be placed in June. Two different-sized mailboxes are available for sale to residents: the Mail Manager costs \$82 and the larger Package Master is \$166 (tax included in those prices); a newspaper box is an additional \$42. If you’d like a handyman to install the mailbox for you, that is an option as well.

Links to view the mailboxes are:

Mail Manager – <https://www.mailboss.com/shop/curbside-mailboxes/mail-manager/>

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Please fill out and return [this form](#) with payment to order your mailbox by **end of day Friday, May 29**. Contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 or kross@cityofnorthoaks.com with any questions.

Reminders - In case you missed it:

Oriental Bittersweet Grant

The City just received great news that we will receive grant funding to combat Oriental Bittersweet. The City will receive a check in the amount of \$2,062 up front, with City Forester doing surveying, notification, and education. We will have residents who are interested in treatment pay for that service. Then they will submit to the City for reimbursement and the City will reimburse after we have approved it. Then the City will get the remainder (\$10,850 total so \$8,788) at the end of the year when the grant has been completed. Interested residents may contact City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519 or mark@rehderforestryconsulting.com.

Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Drop Off – Month of May

During the month of May, you may drop off hazardous waste products such as those that you use to clean your kitchen and bathroom, maintain your car and home, and control animals and insects. If a container has the words **caution**, **warning**, **danger** or **poison** on the label and still has product inside, it does not belong in the trash. Use Ramsey County's free household hazardous waste collection sites for safe disposal. You may drop off these items off at 1352 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills on Friday's 10-6 p.m. and Saturday's from 9 – 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune in via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Tuesday, 5/19/20 – Special City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5/21/20 – Natural Resources Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5/28/20 – Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing
5:30 p.m. ** Nord / Anderson Public Hearing.

7:00 p.m. Regular Planning Commission Meeting

Thursday, 6/11/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks News - week of 5/22/20

City of North Oaks - Summer Office Hours

Beginning Tuesday, May 26th and ending Monday, September 7th – Summer office hours will be in effect:

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 – 12:00 p.m.

While the City office remains closed to the public at this time, you are welcome to email noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com or call 651-792-7750 to process any city business.

Emerald Ash Borer

The City Forester, with guidance from the Department of Agriculture, is working to identify and stop the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle. The Forester is helping inform residents about what to expect in coming years as Emerald ash borer continues to spread. If you have been identified as being in an area with a high amount of ash trees, you will receive a letter from Forester Mark Rehder in the next few weeks with additional information.

Septic Pumping Notices

We have 1,259 septic systems within the City of North Oaks and summer is prime time for pumping of these systems. Per City Ordinance Chapter 51.02, septic systems are to be pumped every two years. If you are due for pumping, you will receive a reminder notice sent from the City to schedule this maintenance pumping. If you have any question about your due dates, or who last serviced your system, please contact the city office at 651-792-7750.

Brush Pickup Day – May 29th

The city will once again be coordinating a brush pickup for interested residents. Brush Pickup Day is **Friday, May 29, 2020**. If all the brush is not picked up that day, work will continue over the weekend. The estimated cost for a dumpster size load of brush (14ft X 7.5ft X 3.5 ft and equals 10 cubic yards) is \$155, but rates vary depending on the amount of brush.

All brush must be piled at the edge of the street with the butt ends of the brush pointing in the same direction. Please do not pile brush directly under power lines as that limits the equipment that can be used to make the pickup. Langer Tree service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions.

If you are interested in signing up for this service, please review the cost detail and complete the waiver found [here](#), and return to the City office by **noon on Thursday May 28th**, or call at 651-792-7750 for more information.

City recycling Event – June 27th

The City will host its second annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

Residents will be able to drop off a wide range of recyclable items, including lamps, light bulbs, household and automotive batteries, computers, hard drives, TV monitors and other electronics, mattresses, box springs, residential appliances, and ink/toner cartridges. Please click [here](#) for a complete list of what items can be accepted. A paper shredder will again be available; up to three banker-sized boxes per household, please. Clean scrap metal will also be accepted this year (no attached plastic, wood, etc.)

There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, computer towers, laptops, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE. We will print a coupon in the North Oaks News that entitles drop off of one item for free; one coupon per household, please. For questions, please contact Katy Ross at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com or call the City at 651-792-7750.

Safety in Community

As summer kicks into high gear and even more people get out on the roads and trails, we are receiving phone calls regarding some close calls between cars and those on the streets. The following are some good reminders from the Homeowners Association – in order keep both our bikers, walkers and drivers safe on our narrow, curvy and winding streets.

As the weather gets nicer and more people are out enjoying it, we need to remind ourselves of proper road etiquette. With our roads being so narrow in North Oaks it is very important to stay close to the shoulder when driving on the roads. When coming around a blind curve or approaching a hill remember to stay in your lane and approach slowly.

When approaching a bicycle:

- **Slow down.** You may need to slow down all the way to the cyclist's speed if there is

- oncoming traffic. Don't follow too closely.
- **Wait until it is safe to pass.** That is, you have good visibility, can avoid oncoming traffic, and can clear the cyclist at a safe distance. Three feet of clearance is the (very reasonable) legal minimum in many states [1], but more is better.
 - **Pass safely** -- at a reasonable speed with a safe distance and make sure no oncoming traffic is coming.

When biking or walking:

- Bike [on the road](#) in the same direction as traffic. Even though bicycles lack a motor, bicycles are considered road vehicles just like cars and trucks.
- Stop at red lights and stop signs, and obey other [traffic signs](#) (i.e. one-way street, yield, etc.), just like you would in a car.
- Use marked [bike paths or lanes](#) when they're available. “

Locking Mailboxes Available – Order by May 29th

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Please fill out and return [this form](#) with payment to order your mailbox by **end of day Friday, May 29**. Contact City Hall at 651-792-7750 or kross@cityofnorthoaks.com with any questions.

Covid-19 Updates from Governor Waltz

Governor Walz continues to implement a phased approach in reopening the state. Click [here](#) for the latest news from Government Walz. The following is a quick visual of where the state is at this time.

Reminders - In case you missed it:

Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Drop Off – Month of May

During the month of May, you may drop off hazardous waste products such as those that you use to clean your kitchen and bathroom, maintain your car and home, and control animals and insects. If a container has the words **caution, warning, danger** or **poison** on the label and still has product inside, it does not belong in the trash. Use Ramsey County's free household hazardous waste collection sites for safe disposal. You may drop off these items off at 1352 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills on Friday's 10-6 p.m. and Saturday's from 9 – 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

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Thursday, 5/28/20 – Planning Commission Meeting / Public Hearing

5:30 p.m. ** Nord / Anderson Public Hearing.

7:00 p.m. Regular Planning Commission Meeting

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Thursday, 6/11/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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City Eblast for the week of 5/29/2020

Culvert Maintenance

What is a culvert?

A culvert is a pipe that allows water to flow under a road, driveway, or other embankment. The culvert could be constructed from several material types including corrugated metal, plastic, or reinforced concrete. If a culvert becomes blocked or partially blocked, the natural drainage pattern will shift and could cause flooding.

Is the culvert under my driveway my responsibility?

Yes, it is. If the culvert runs under the road, the North Oaks Homeowners Association will be responsible for its maintenance and will make any necessary repairs, but if the culvert is located underneath a private driveway, it is the property owner's responsibility to keep the culvert free of debris and any impediments to the flow of water.

As we enter summer, natural debris such as leaves, twigs, oak tassels, and bits of road gravel can quickly obstruct a culvert. By cleaning out those materials, you'll lengthen the life of the culvert, assist in natural water drainage, and protect your driveway and property from potential damage.

Coyote Awareness

April through June is the period when coyotes are having their pups and may be seen more in the daytime. With the guidance of the DNR, Ramsey County animal control, surrounding communities, and Coyote experts at the University of Minnesota, City Council approved a North Oaks Coyote Management Plan at their May 14, 2020, meeting. The goal of this Management Plan is to support coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behavior modification, and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. To read the document in full, click [here](#).

Brush Pickup Day – Today

Brush Pick up day is currently underway. If you have signed up for brush pick up, Langer's Tree service is working with the City Forester on these pickups. If they do not get to all addresses today, pick up will continue tomorrow.

All brush must be piled at the edge of the street with the butt ends of the brush pointing in the same direction. Please do not pile brush directly under power lines as that limits the equipment that can be used to make the pickup. Langer Tree service will be doing the work, with assistance of the City forester to answer resident questions.

Locking Mailboxes Available – Order being placed Monday

An order for locking mailboxes will be placed this Monday 6/1. If you have been thinking about it, please fill out and return [this form](#) with payment to order your mailbox by **end of day Friday, May 29**. You can email the form to noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com and call to make payment, or contact City Hall at 651-792-7750.

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City recycling Event – June 27th

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Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings.
Tuesday, 6/9/20 – Planning Commission Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. – CUP: 7 Eagle Ridge Road and Nord Parcel Subdivision Application Review 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, 6/11/20 – City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 6/18/20 – Natural Resource Commission 7:00 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City E-Blast for North Oaks: Curfew and Emergency Message for the Community

Curfew in Effect

A City-wide curfew is declared for all persons within the City of North Oaks from 8:00 p.m. on May 30th, 2020 through 6:00 a.m. on May 31st and from 8:00 pm on May 31st, 2020 through 6:00 am on June 1st, 2020. The curfew does not extend to people traveling to or from work, emergency services, law enforcement, people seeking emergency medical care or fleeing danger, the news media, or as deemed by law enforcement agencies. For the full declaration, click [here](#).

May 30, 2020—Emergency Message to All Residents

The City of North Oaks and NOHOA have been in close communications regarding the tragic events that have gripped our entire metro area. North Oaks is part of an Emergency Preparedness Plan together with neighboring cities, and discussions between City managers and Mayors have been ongoing regarding various actions that might be necessary in our individual communities to protect our citizens.

As we have been monitoring the situation regionally and locally, it has become apparent that it would be prudent to implement additional steps to protect our residents. Accordingly, the Mayor, in consultation with the City Administrator, has declared a City-wide curfew for all persons within the City of North Oaks from 8:00 p.m. on May 30th, 2020 through 6:00 a.m. on May 31st and from 8:00 pm on May 31st, 2020 through 6:00 am on June 1st, 2020. The curfew does not extend to people traveling to or from work, emergency services, law enforcement, people seeking emergency medical care or fleeing danger, the news media, or as deemed by law enforcement agencies. Read the full declaration on the City website, cityofnorthoaks.com.

It is important to note that there are no direct threats to our community at this time; however, situations can evolve rapidly and we want to be prepared to respond to conditions as they may emerge. NOHOA and the City will be issuing additional information as it becomes available including new tools for text and email communications for resident notification in case of emergency. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to sign up for the existing email blasts at the City website cityofnorthoaks.com and/or [.nohoa.org](http://nohoa.org).

If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please call 911.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation with these emergency Declaration guidelines. Please share this information with your neighbors, particularly those who may not have yet signed up for NOHOA and City communications.

100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230
North Oaks, MN 55127
651-792-7750

City Eblast for the week of 6/5/2020

George Floyd

In light of recent events in the Twin Cities as well those events that unfolded nationally and across the world, and in response to questions and sentiments from our community, the City Council and NOHOA leadership are coming together to develop an appropriate and thoughtful response to share with our citizens. NOHOA began deliberations on the topic at their Board meeting on June 4th and the Mayor has asked that this subject be placed on the City Council agenda for discussion at the upcoming City Council meeting on June 11th. In the meantime, we invite community members to share their thoughts with both the City and NOHOA as these deliberations get under way.

Emergency Alert System—Sign up now

Last weekend's events have led to even more cause for ensuring we are able to reach as many residents as possible in a short amount of time. The City has two means of regular communication. You can sign up for City e-blast via "Get Important Emails from City Hall" on the website; this allows you to receive a weekly email with current events going on in the city. There is also an emergency alert system in which you can sign up for text alerts of a more urgent nature.

If you have already registered to receive weekly e-blasts, you have been put into the alert notification system and will receive emergency alerts via email. If you wish to add cell phone information to receive text message, please enter **cityofnorthoaks.regroup.com** into your web browser and create an account. If you have any difficulty, call the city office at 651-792-7750 for assistance.

We encourage you to follow our Facebook page as well for regular updates/events.

Graduating Senior Recognition

We know graduating seniors have been cheated out of many of the traditional celebrations this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to recognize your high school or college senior on the City Facebook page, simply send a photo along with a few sentences you would like to share about your senior or their plans post-graduation. We'll post this on the City's Facebook page and help you celebrate your senior!

Pleasant Lake Beach Open

Pleasant Lake Beach will officially be open **today, June 5th!** There will be no Pleasant Lake Beach lifeguards this summer due to COVID-19. With no lifeguards on duty, you will need to swim at your own risk. Please exercise caution, maintain social distance, wash your hands, cover your mouth when coughing, and stay home when you are sick ([CDC Guidelines](#)). There has been a delay on turning the drinking fountains due to COVID-19, so please make sure to bring water and to stay hydrated.

Keep Dogs Leashed on Trails

As many residents are out using the trails in this beautiful weather, please be aware that different residents and their own pets may have different reactions to your "friendly" dog. When on NOHOA trails, you must leash your dog. Please see the [NOHOA Trail Usage document](#).

City Recycling Event—Saturday, June 27th

The City will host its second annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 27th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

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Thursday, 6/18/20 – Natural Resource Commission 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 6/25/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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City of North Oaks Eblast for 6/12/2020

Summertime Safety

Schools are officially out, and there are many more kids and families out traveling our neighborhood roads. Please make sure you carefully check all cross roads for pedestrians, travel at slower speeds around unpredictable kids on bikes, and watch out for our new teen drivers as we enjoy our beautiful area.

Shoreview/Arden Hills Youth-led Peaceful Protest

Please be aware there is a Youth-led Peaceful protest planned Saturday, June 13th beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Shoreview City Hall and ending at Arden Hills City Hall at 5:30 p.m. Please be traffic aware and extra careful if you are in the area during that time.

Donations for Minneapolis

A community donation drive is underway to provide items to the North Minneapolis Essential Needs Give Back & Donation Drive, benefiting the North Minneapolis Community by way of the McKinley Community.

If possible, please drop off donations by this Saturday, June 14th at noon (any late donations will still be 100% delivered). Drop off locations: 1 Monarch Ct (Rapp), 4 Monarch Ct (Rapp), 27 Cunningham Rd (Charley Lake), 58 West Pleasant Lake Rd.

The specific needs of this drive are listed below, but please donate any already-purchased items that may not be on this list as the need likely still exists. Diapers sizes newborn, 3,4 and 6, Baby wipes, Formula, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Body wash (not bars of soap), Kids tooth brushes and kids toothpaste, Laundry detergent, Dish soap, Non-perishable food items.

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The city also has an emergency alert system called Civic Ready in which you can sign up for text alerts of a more urgent nature. You can sign up via the City website [here](#). If you were already registered to receive weekly e-blasts as of 5/29/2020, your email was added to the alert notification system. If you wish to add cell phone information to receive text messages, we encourage you do so using the same link above to create an account and update your profile. (you may also paste cityofnorthoaks.reggroup.com into your web browser.) If you have any difficulty, call the city office at 651-792-7750 for assistance.

We encourage you to follow our Facebook page as well for regular updates/events.

Pleasant Lake Beach Open

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Coyote Awareness

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Thursday, 6/25/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 7/9/20 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

City of North Oaks Eblast for 6/19/2020

Recycling Reminders

When in doubt, check the lid of your recycling cart when you aren't sure what can be recycled. It lists three categories -- containers, papers, and boxes, and it gives you information about what exactly goes in the cart. Cardboard boxes MUST be flattened before putting them in your cart. If they are not flattened, they will be left behind. Other items that do not belong in recycling carts include pillows, dog poop, plastic bags, BBQ grills, and wood. To check what exactly can go in your recycling cart, call Ramsey County at 651-633-3279 or go to www.ramseyrecycles.com.

Operation Clear View

Operation Clear View is a community-wide program designed to encourage all property owners to keep the site lines of our roads free from foliage obstructions 5 feet back and 12 feet up from the edge of the road. Brush and trees throughout the city require frequent maintenance to ensure that they do not grow out and onto the roadway, blocking the view of motorists and pedestrians.

Because an individual property owner's boundary line extends to the center of the road, the responsibility for complying with the City Ordinance and NOHOA policy rests with each individual property owner in North Oaks. Please help do your part to eliminate traffic hazards and keep our bikers, walkers, vehicles, and emergency vehicles moving safely throughout the city.

City Recycling Event—Saturday, June 27th

The City will host its second annual recycling and paper shredding event on Saturday, June 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

Residents will be able to drop off a wide range of recyclable items, including lamps, light bulbs, household and automotive batteries, computers, hard drives, TV monitors and other electronics, mattresses, box springs, residential appliances, and ink/toner cartridges. Please click [here](#) for a complete list of what items can be accepted and cost.. A paper shredder will again be available; up to three banker-sized boxes per household, please. Computer hard drives can be shredded. Clean scrap metal will also be accepted this year (no attached plastic, wood, etc.)

There will be a fee for most items, although automotive batteries, computer towers, laptops, cell phones, tablets, cords, cables, wires and holiday lights will be FREE. We will print a coupon in the North Oaks News that entitles drop off of one item for free; one coupon per household, please. For questions, please contact Katy Ross at kross@cityofnorthoaks.com or call the City at 651-792-7750.

June Planning Commission Meeting CANCELLED

The Thursday, 6/25/20 Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled.

Keep Dogs Leashed on Trails

As many residents are out using the trails in this beautiful weather, please be aware that different residents and their own pets may have different reactions to your “friendly” dog. Your pet must be within close control when not on your own property. When on NOHOA trails, you must leash your dog. Please see the [NOHOA Trail Usage document](#).

Summertime Safety

Schools are officially out, and there are many more kids and families out traveling our neighborhood roads. Please make sure you carefully check all cross roads for pedestrians, travel at slower speeds around unpredictable kids on bikes, and watch out for our new teen drivers as we enjoy our beautiful area.

From the NRC—Pollinator Week Is About Pollinator Awareness

About 75% of all flowering plant species need animal pollinators for reproduction. As a result, pollinators contribute to ecosystem health and a sustainable food supply. Celebrate them this #pollinatorweek! Visit pollinator.org for more information.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Graduating Senior Recognition

We know graduating seniors have been cheated out of many of the traditional celebrations this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to recognize your high school or college senior on the City Facebook page, simply send a photo along with a few sentences you would like to share about your senior or their plans post-graduation to noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com. We'll post this on the City's Facebook page and help you celebrate your senior!

Emergency Alert System—Sign up now

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We encourage you to follow our Facebook page as well for regular updates/events.

Pleasant Lake Beach Open

Pleasant Lake Beach is officially open. There will be no Pleasant Lake Beach lifeguards this summer due to COVID-19. With no lifeguards on duty, you will need to swim at your own risk. Please exercise

caution, maintain social distance, wash your hands, cover your mouth when coughing, and stay home when you are sick ([CDC Guidelines](#)). There has been a delay on turning the drinking fountains due to COVID-19, so please make sure to bring water and to stay hydrated. Remember to always wash off when you get home to reduce any occurrence of swimmers itch. Please refer to the NOHOA Facebook page for the most current information on activities and recreation facilities.

Coyote Awareness

April through June is the period when coyotes are having their pups and may be seen more in the daytime. With the guidance of the DNR, Ramsey County animal control, surrounding communities, and Coyote experts at the University of Minnesota, City Council approved a North Oaks Coyote Management Plan at their May 14, 2020, meeting. The goal of this Management Plan is to support coexistence with urban coyotes using education, behavior modification, and development of a tiered response to aggressive coyote behavior. To read the document in full, click [here](#).

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

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E-BLAST FOR THE WEEK OF 6/26/2020

City Recycling Event—Saturday, June 27th

The City will host its second annual recycling and paper shredding event **TOMORROW** on Saturday, June 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Southpointe Fields, just off Hwy 96 and east of the City Offices. This event is open to North Oaks residents only.

Residents will be able to drop off a wide range of recyclable items, including lamps, light bulbs, household and automotive batteries, computers, hard drives, TV monitors and other electronics, mattresses, box springs, residential appliances, and ink/toner cartridges. Please click [here](#) for a complete list of what items can be accepted and cost.. A paper shredder will again be available; up to three banker-

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Early Voting starts today – June 26th

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Garage It!

Let's keep North Oaks looking its best by storing boats, cars, trailers, and other equipment as per the City ordinance:

151.028 (H); All recreational vehicles, disabled or stored motor vehicles, boats and trailers of all types, must be garaged or completely screened year round from all roads or adjacent dwellings, but may be parked or exhibited in view for a temporary period not exceeding 30 days in a calendar year.

Annual Renewal - Rental Property

Reminder that all rental properties must have a valid rental license through the City, with a safety inspection completed of the property every three (3) years. If you are the owner of a property that is being rented and have not renewed your license this year, please submit the [Rental License Application](#) and contact the City at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Golf Carts

Per City Ordinance 123, Residential Golf carts are only allowed in Rapp Farm neighborhood. All golf cart owners must have a form on file with the city and adhere to regulations. You can find this form [here](#).

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Operation Clear View

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/2/2020

City Office – Holiday Closure

The City office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of 4th of July holiday. Have a happy and safe holiday weekend!

County Road J Roadwork

Be aware of road work causing a closure of a stretch of County Road J just west of Centerville Road between July 6 and 10th. Detour signs will be in place—plan accordingly.

Turtle Lake Road Roadwork

The City of Shoreview is conducting a mill and overlay project on Turtle Lake Rd. (the cross section of Hodgson.) This closure begins next week and is anticipated to be done with a couple weeks or a month at most. You can review the project here:

<https://www.shoreviewmn.gov/services/street-projects/turtle-lake-rd-and-tanglewood-dr-rehabilitation>

Recycling Delays

There are some technical difficulties with recycling equipment this week. Please continue to put your recycling bin out on your normal day, and leave it out overnight if it has not been picked up on your usual day. It will be picked as soon as possible.

City Recycling Event a Success!

Thank you for your participation in the 2nd annual recycling event at Southpointe park this past week. There were over 200 North Oaks residents who took advantage of this program to get rid of those hard to dispose of goods.

Early Voting Is Available

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Annual Renewal— Rental Property

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/10/2020

Special City Council Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the City council on Thursday, July 16th at 6:00 p.m. for discussion and possible action on request from North Oaks Company for approval for grading, installation of drainage facilities and/or water and sanitary sewer lines, and street construction (infrastructure installation) in Nord and Anderson Woods Development Sites. The full meeting notice can be found [here](#).

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The filing period for the upcoming November election is open from July 28 – August 11th. Affidavits of candidacy for the following positions must be filed at either the North Oaks City office or Ramsey County Elections office:

- Mayor (2 year position)
- Two Council seats (4 year positions).

For information on how to file, contact Stephanie Marty at smarty@cityofnorthoaks.com or 765-792-7778, or Ramsey County elections at elections@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-266-2171.

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Mail safety tips

Be a difficult target. In order minimize risk of theft, suggest you drop off outgoing mail at the post office, or do not put up the red flag on your mailbox which may alert potential thieves of outgoing mail. Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com if you would like to get on the list to order a locking mailbox. The mail manager can be purchased for \$82.00, and the larger Package master for \$166.00. Services are available to help install. The mailbox form can be found [here](#).

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Annual Renewal— Rental Property

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/17/2020

City Council Vacancy - Accepting Applications

Due to a resignation, there is an immediate vacancy on City Council. All parties interested in applying for this appointment should submit their City Council Application by **noon on Friday, July 24th**. This is a great opportunity for those interested in running for one of the 3 open seats on City Council in the November election. The application with details on how to apply can be found on the bottom of the City Website homepage or [HERE](#).
Contact City Hall with any questions 651-792-7750.

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- Two Council seats (4 year positions).
- One Council seat (2 year position)

For information on how to file, contact Stephanie Marty at smary@cityofnorthoaks.com or 765-792-7778, or Ramsey County elections at elections@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-266-2171.

North Oaks Conservation Award – Submissions welcomed!

The goals of the North Oaks Conservation Award program are to acknowledge extraordinary achievement in land management, showcase examples of and encourage sound natural resource management best practices, promote ecosystem awareness, and illustrate the important role of private landowners in the future of our natural resources.

There are currently eight award categories: Wetland and Shoreland Conservation, Water Conservation, Woodland Conservation, Prairie Conservation, Pollinator Conservation, Wildlife Habitat Management, Tick Habitat Control, and Invasive Species Control.

Awards will be given to residents and organizations to recognize excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their property. You may nominate yourself or others and applications are accepted year-round. All entries are reviewed by assessment committee from the Natural Resource Commission. Finalists are evaluated and selected by the North Oaks City Council. Applications can be found [HERE](#).

Pollinator Resolution - Updates Requested

It was one year ago that the City of North Oaks passed a Pollinator Resolution. If you have adopted pollinator friendly practices during the past year, the City would like to hear from you! Examples include: incorporating more pollinator forage into your property, refraining from treating your lawn with pesticides, converting your lawn to bee habitat, avoiding plants that have been treated with systemic insecticides, etc. Please email your narrative (photos are welcome) to noaks@cityofnorthoaks.com.

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City Ordinance 115 states “the area between 5 feet and 10 feet from the blacktopped or other finished edge of any road shall be kept clear of anything with a height of more than 12 inches except a house identification post and 2 lamp posts placed within the area at the risk of the land owner, none of which may exceed 10 inches in diameter, and provided none of the foregoing creates a traffic hazard or interferes with road maintenance.”

Because an individual property owner’s boundary line extends to the center of the road, the responsibility for complying with the City Ordinance and NOHOA policy rests with each individual property owner in North Oaks. The City Forester will be out making observations of properties that need to be trimmed back for safety reasons.

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Monday, 7/27/20 – Special City Council Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7/30/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 8/6/20 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 8/13/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/24/2020

State Mandate Requiring Face Coverings Effective 7/25/2020

On July 23, 2020, Governor Walz signed Emergency Executive Order 20-81 requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in certain settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes all indoor public buildings such as stores, restaurants, businesses and public transportation, as well as outdoor environments where maintaining six foot distancing is not possible. Exemptions are in place for people with medical or mental health conditions that make it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. The full 15 page detailed executive order can be viewed [here](#).

City Hall is Partially Reopening to the Public on Tuesdays and Thursdays Starting July 28

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Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

Monday, 7/27/20 – Special City Council Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7/30/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 8/13/20 – City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 8/20/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 8/27/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—7/31/2020

State Mandate Requiring Face Coverings Effective 7/25/2020

On July 23, 2020, Governor Walz signed Emergency Executive Order 20-81 requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in certain settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This includes all indoor public buildings such as stores, restaurants, businesses and public transportation, as well as outdoor environments where maintaining six foot distancing is not possible. Exemptions are in place for people with medical or mental health conditions that make it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. The full 15 page detailed executive order can be viewed [here](#).

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Early Voting Rates / Links to vote early

Recent data from the Ramsey County Election board shows a fundamental shift in the way voters are choosing to cast their ballots this year. There has been a 4,800% increase in Vote by Mail from 2016 to 2020. Ramsey County is busy processing, mailing, accepting/rejecting, and counting all mail absentee ballots as well as managing the online requests.

Vote by Mail Requests:

Ballots sent by 7/21/2016: **1,450**

Ballots sent by 7/21/2020: **65,645**

In-Person Absentee Voting:

In-person voting for 3/3/20 primary: **80.8** voters per day, per location.

In-person voting for 8/11/20 primary: **4.4** voters per day, per location.

All voters can vote early by absentee ballot in Minnesota for the State primary on August 11 Primary. You do not need to provide a reason for voting early. Early Voting begins Friday, June 26. For more information, refer to Ramsey County Elections [here](#) or call 651-266-2171.

Did you know that August is National Water Quality month?

You are invited to a virtual Water Quality Symposium, hosted by the City of North Oaks Natural Resource Commission, on Wednesday, August 12th at 5:00 PM. A Zoom link and more information will be available in next week's email blast. This event will also be recorded for future viewing.

Pleasant Lake is considered the “heart” of North Oaks. Water flows into the lake from both Charley Lake and Deep Lake, exiting at the southern end of Pleasant Lake via an underground culvert network

leading to Sucker Lake. Unfortunately, Pleasant Lake is considered an impaired deep lake. This means that the lake fails to meet one or more [water quality standards](#), specifically acceptable phosphorus and algae levels. Click here to see the VLAWMO (our watershed district) fact sheet about Pleasant Lake: http://www.vlawmo.org/files/4015/8462/7336/Pleasant_Fact_Sheet_2020.pdf

Adjacent to Pleasant Lake is **Charley Lake**, which receives Mississippi River water diverted to the North Oaks chain of lakes by the St. Paul Regional Water Service (SPRWS). This chain supplies necessary water quantities for drinking water treatment to meet the needs of over 200,000 St. Paul customers. An average of 32 million gallons is pumped into Charley from the Mississippi River every day. Click here to see the VLAWMO fact sheet about Charley Lake: http://www.vlawmo.org/files/8315/8462/7603/Charley_Fact_Sheet_2020.pdf

You can help improve the water quality of North Oaks lakes by reducing storm water runoff. VLAWMO has many resources and a Landscape Grant Program to help you accomplish this. Click here to learn about grant opportunities: <http://www.vlawmo.org/grants/>

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/14/2020

It's still August and it's still National Water Quality Month!

Featured Lakes - Deep Lake and Wilkinson Lake: Located on the northern side of North Oaks, Wilkinson Lake is a shallow waterbody that is part of the Minnesota Land Trust, which provides protected open space surrounding the lake. Due to high nutrient levels, Wilkinson Lake is listed on the State Impaired Waters List. A fish barrier was installed in 1994 at the western outlet of Wilkinson to prevent carp from entering from Deep Lake. To see the VLAWMO (our watershed district) fact sheet about Wilkinson Lake, [Click Here](#).

Deep Lake is connected to both Wilkinson Lake and Pleasant Lake via a channel. Although Deep Lake's nitrogen and ammonia levels are below State standards, total phosphorus and Chlorophyll-A have been trending upward since sampling began in 2009, and can lead to fish and other aquatic organisms die-offs, green scum, and odors. Waters with high levels of nutrients from fertilizers, septic systems, and urban runoff may have high concentrations of phosphorus and Chlorophyll-A. Incoming water from Wilkinson (an impaired water body for nutrients) is a contributing factor to periodic algal blooms. To see the VLAWMO fact sheet about Deep Lake, [Click Here](#).

North Oaks residents can help support lakes, wetlands, and streams right from their home. [Click here](#) to learn how.

Free COVID-19 Testing in August:

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The law will also improve health by reducing smoking and vaping. Almost 95% of adults who smoke started before they were 21. A 2015 study from the [National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine](#) found that Tobacco 21 would reduce smoking initiation by 25% among 15- to 17-year-olds and by 15% among 18- to 20-year-olds.

State Warns Public about Unsolicited Seed Packets Received by Minnesotans

The Minnesota State Department of Agriculture is asking cities to help inform residents about how to respond if they receive unexpected seeds.

Be Responsible with Backyard Fires

Do you enjoy your evenings sitting around a backyard fire, roasting hotdogs and marshmallows? If you are burning wood, follow these tips to protect your health and the health of others:

- Do not have backyard fires when air pollution health advisories have been issued in your area. Wood smoke can make bad air days worse.
- Be considerate of your neighbors. Backyard fires may cause health issues for them. Let your neighbors know you are going to have a fire so they can close their windows.

- Never burn wet wood. It creates more smoke.
- Do not burn any garbage. It can create more smoke and produce toxic fumes.
- When cleaning out the ashes, let them completely cool, then double-bag the ashes and place them in the trash. Ashes are **not** accepted at Ramsey County yard waste collection sites.

Visit the [American Lung Association's website](#) to learn more.

Volunteer Opportunity – VLAWMO

Help the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization with monitoring in our Deep Lake and Charley Lake Channels. See the attached document for details

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Thursday, 8/27/20 – Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 9/10/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/21/2020

Local Election Ballot Set

With the Candidate filing period complete, the following residents are running for a position as part of the North Oaks City Council in the November 3rd, 2020 election. To view your complete sample ballot for the November election, click [HERE](#) for the link on the Secretary of State website.

For information on requesting an absentee ballot, refer to [Ramsey County Elections](#) or call 651-266-2171.

Election Judges Needed

Serve the community and promote the democratic process! Election judges staff local polling places for the primary and general election as well as during early voting. You can earn money, meet your neighbors and help ensure that elections are administered in a fair manner.

Refer to the Ramsey County Election Judge [website](#) for complete details and how to apply.

Openings: North Oaks Planning Commission and Natural Resources Commission

The City of North Oaks **Planning Commission** has one opening due to Commissioner Shah being appointed to the City Council. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing the City's Comprehensive Plan, conditional use permits (CUP), variances and development related submissions. Upon review the commission makes recommendations to the City Council. The North Oaks Planning Commission meets the fourth Thursday of each month.

The City of North Oaks **Natural Resources Commission** has two openings. The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission or NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@cityofnorthoaks.com. The form can be found on the City's website at cityofnorthoaks.com. The deadline for applications for Planning Commission is Aug. 28 at noon; there is no deadline specified for the NRC appointments.

Planning Commission Meeting – Cancelled

This Thursday's August 27th Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled due to lack of Agenda items.

August is winding down and so is National Water Quality Month!

Featured Lake: Gilfillan Lake: Located on the southern edge of North Oaks, Gilfillan Lake was converted from a wetland to an open surface water lake around the time that residential development began in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The lake level began to drop between 2009 and 2010, and the lake owners around the lake pursued the path towards augmenting water from Pleasant Lake into Gilfillan. Permission was granted by the DNR and other agencies to go ahead with the augmentation, which was funded by residents. Gilfillan Lake was added to the MPCA's List of Impaired Waters in 2010 due to high nutrient/eutrophication levels in the lake, however, because of the augmentation effort, there is some hope that the lake could be removed from the list in the future. [Click here](#) to see the VLAWMO (our watershed district) fact sheet about Gilfillan Lake.

To learn more about shallow lakes, wetlands, and buffers, [click here](#).

National Night to Unite - Cancelled

Per the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the 2020 National Night to Unite event originally scheduled for August, and postponed to October has officially been cancelled due to safety concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This annual event to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships will return on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

Free COVID-19 Testing in August:

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Thursday, 8/27/20 – Planning Commission 7 p.m. – CANCELLED
Thursday, 9/10/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.
Thursday, 9/17/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—8/28/2020

Local Election Ballot Set

With the Candidate filing period complete, the following residents are running for a position as part of the North Oaks City Council in the November 3rd, 2020 election. To view your complete sample ballot for the November election, click [HERE](#) for the link on the Secretary of State website.

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August is winding down and so is National Water Quality Month!

Featured Lake: Gilfillan Lake: Located on the southern edge of North Oaks, Gilfillan Lake was converted from a wetland to an open surface water lake around the time that residential development began in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The lake level began to drop between 2009 and 2010, and the lake owners around the lake pursued the path towards augmenting water from Pleasant Lake into Gilfillan. Permission was granted by the DNR and other agencies to go ahead with the augmentation, which was funded by residents. Gilfillan Lake was added to the MPCA's List of Impaired Waters in 2010 due to high nutrient/eutrophication levels in the lake, however, because of the augmentation effort, there is some hope that the lake could be removed from the list in the future. [Click here](#) to see the VLAWMO (our watershed district) fact sheet about Gilfillan Lake.

To learn more about shallow lakes, wetlands, and buffers, [click here](#).

From the North Oaks Natural Resources Commission: It's the end of August, but it's still National Water Quality Month!

We hope the email factoids about our lakes and waters in the North Oaks community have provided some interesting new information. At the North Oaks Natural Resources Commission, we represent your concerns to the City Council and welcome the public to our monthly meetings, usually the third Thursday of the month.

We leave you with some facts about invasive aquatic species in North Oaks. While some of these are a nuisance, some are quite pretty. But invasive aquatic species can lead to lower native diversity, displacement of native plants and animals that are part of our local food chain, and impact water quality.

Carp, such as the Common Carp, Bighead Carp and the Black Carp, disturb the sediment of lakes and create a barrier to light penetration needed to energize aquatic plants. They can even unroot shallow plants, causing plant death. These invasive carp species also compete with native mussels and other mollusks for food.

One invasive aquatic weed is the curly-leaf pondweed. Curly-leaf pondweed grows in dense mats in Charley Lake, Pleasant Lake, and other nearby watersheds and choke out other native plants. It also makes it nearly impossible to paddle through our lakes.

To learn more about aquatic invasive species in Minnesota including ones that impact the North Oaks chain of lakes, visit the MN DNR site here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>. To share your opinion and voice your concerns for North Oaks Natural Resources, join the NRC for a meeting or contact one of the NRC Commissioners who represent you. Or, email Chair Dr. Andrew C. Hawkins @ andrewchawkins@gmail.com.

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This annual event to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships will return on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

Free COVID-19 Testing in August:

Ramsey County Public Health is working with community partners to offer COVID-19 testing at two sites over the next four weekends. The drive-thru and walk-up testing is open to anyone, with or without symptoms. The testing is free, no insurance is needed. [View testing site information](#) for details on times and locations. The dates are: Saturday, August 8, 15, 22 and 29.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/4/2020

City office – Closed Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day – City offices will be closed on Monday September 7th. We will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday September 8th. The City office is open to the public on Tuesday's and Thursday's, however electronic means of doing business is appreciated where possible. Contact City hall at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Special Joint City Council / Planning Commission Meeting

There will be a Special joint session of the City Council and Planning Commission on Thursday, September 10th at 5:00 p.m. for review, discussion, and potential action on revised Island Field Concept Plan submittal from North Oaks Company. The meeting can be viewed live via the webcast link on the City website. The full meeting notice is [HERE](#).

Proposed Ordinance – Lot line adjustments

For review at Thursday's September City Council meeting is a proposal to allow administrative approval for minor lot line adjustments between property owners. The proposed ordinance is [HERE](#) and has also been posted at City Hall and Council chambers.

Water Quality Symposium

Did you miss the Water Quality Symposium that took place on August 12th? Click [HERE](#) to view this valuable presentation regarding our own neighborhood lakes. The speakers for this event were:

Dr Kenny Blumenfeld, MN DNR Climatology

Dr Don Pereira, North Oaks Company

Vadnais Area Lakes Water Management Association (VLAWMO) -Administrator Phil Belfiori, Dr. Dawn Tanner, Mr. Nick Voss

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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/11/2020

Upcoming Candidate Forums

The public is invited to submit questions in advance of virtual candidate forums planned for MN State House District 38B and for North Oaks Mayoral and City Council elections. Candidates who have confirmed participation so far include Elliott Engen and Ami Wazlawik for State House District 38B, Rich Dujmovic, Rick Kingston, Nick Sandell, Sara Shah, and Thomas N. (Tom) Watson for City Council, and Mark R. Azman, Alex Legeros, and Kara Ries, for Mayor. Interested persons should email questions for the candidates **before Monday, September 21, 2020**, at lwvwb1@lwvwmn.org, with the candidate forum in the subject line.

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, and for the foreseeable future, all candidate forums will be held and recorded on Zoom. Interested persons may contribute questions for the candidates via email, and the recordings will be made available for public viewing.

Census Takers in the Community

Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, [you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language](#).

Census takers work between 9am and 9pm, including weekends. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to [respond online](#), [by phone](#) or [by mail](#).

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response.

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*Call the City office at 651-792-7750 or email noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com to make an appointment if you need to come at an alternate time, or with any questions.

Face coverings are required for entering the City office.

Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Thursday, 9/17/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 9/24/20 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/8/20 – City Council Meeting 7, p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/18/2020

Early Voting: Vote in Person now at Select Locations

Beginning Sept. 18th, Ramsey County voters may vote in-person by using an absentee ballot at three locations:

Ramsey County Elections office - 90 Plato Blvd W #160, St. Paul, MN 55127
New Brighton Community Center – 400 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
Ramsey County Library – Roseville – 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113

Eligible voters may visit any location, regardless of their home address. Ballots do not need to be requested in advance. These sites are open weekdays September 18th – October 30th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For additional information on early voting, refer to the Ramsey County elections [HERE](#). Or call 651-266-2171. ** There is no voting at North Oaks City Hall. **

Upcoming Candidate Forums

The public is invited to submit questions in advance of virtual candidate forums planned for MN State House District 38B and for North Oaks Mayoral and City Council elections. Candidates who have confirmed participation so far include Elliott Engen and Ami Wazlawik for State House District 38B, Rich Dujmovic, Jim Hara, Rick Kingston, Nick Sandell, Sara Shah, and Thomas N. (Tom) Watson for City Council, and Mark R. Azman, Alex Legeros, and Kara Ries, for Mayor. Interested persons should email questions for the candidates **before Monday, September 21, 2020**, at lwvwb1@lwvmn.org, with the candidate forum in the subject line.

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, and for the foreseeable future, all candidate forums will be held and recorded on Zoom. Interested persons may contribute questions for the candidates via email, and the recordings will be made available for public viewing.

Reports of Solicitors / Trespassing

There have been reports of individuals in the community under the pretense of being a Department of Health worker taking information about Covid-19. If individuals do not have proper identification on them, please report them as solicitors/ trespassers by calling Ramsey County Sheriff's office at 911.

Slow down on our Roads / Stop for Crosswalks

Remember to drive slowly throughout our City and watch for bikers and walkers. Stop at crosswalks when pedestrians are present, even if there is not a stop sign. Take special care near bus stops and the West Recreation facility where soccer families are now back in the session. Do your part and make the roads safer for everyone!

Census Takers in the Community

North Oaks current Census response rate is at **87%**. If you have not completed the census, you may do so online [here](#).

Census takers also may be in the area. Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, [you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language](#).

Census takers work between 9am and 9pm, including weekends. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to [respond online](#), [by](#)

[phone](#) or [by mail](#). If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Local Election Ballot Set

With the candidate filing period complete, the ballot is set for the upcoming November 3, 2020 election. To view who is running for local office, as well as your complete sample ballot, click [HERE](#) for the link on the Secretary of State website.

The League of Women Voters will be holding a candidate forum at the end of September. The videos from this session to allow voters to meet their local candidates will be posted on the City website, Facebook page, and this eblast as soon as it is available.

For information on requesting an absentee ballot, refer to [Ramsey County Elections](#) or call 651-266-2171.

Election Judges Needed

Serve the community and promote the democratic process! Election judges staff local polling places for the primary and general election as well as during early voting. You can earn money, meet your neighbors and help ensure that elections are administered in a fair manner.

Refer to the Ramsey County Election Judge [website](#) for complete details and how to apply.

Operation Clear View

Please help do your part to eliminate traffic hazards and keep our bikers, walkers, vehicles, and emergency vehicles moving safely throughout the City.

Operation Clear View is a community-wide program designed to encourage all property owners to keep the site lines of our roads free from foliage obstructions 5 feet back and 12 feet up from the edge of the road. Brush and trees throughout the City require frequent maintenance to ensure that they do not grow out and onto the roadway, blocking the view of motorists and pedestrians.

Because an individual property owner's boundary line extends to the center of the road, the responsibility for complying with the City Ordinance and NOHOA policy rests with each individual property owner in North Oaks. Please proactively look a look at your property and trim back accordingly. The City Forester will be out making observations of properties that need to be trimmed back for safety reasons.

Openings: Natural Resources Commission

The City of North Oaks **Natural Resources Commission** has two openings. The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@Cityofnorthoaks.com. The form can be found on the City's website at Cityofnorthoaks.com. The deadline for applications for Planning Commission is Aug. 28 at noon; there is no deadline specified for the NRC appointments.

Ralph Reeder Food Shelf needs donations:

The Ralph Reeder food shelf is in need of food and school supply donations to help our surrounding communities during these tough times. Click here for ways to help or if you need assistance: <https://www.moundviewschools.org/foodshelf>

Mail Safety Tips

Be a difficult target. In order minimize risk of theft, suggest you drop off outgoing mail at the post office, or do not put up the red flag on your mailbox which may alert potential thieves of outgoing mail. Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com if you would like to get on the list to order a locking mailbox. The mail manager can be purchased for \$82.00, and the larger Package master for \$166.00. Services are available to help install. The mailbox form can be found [here](#).

North Oaks Conservation Award— Submissions Welcomed!

The goals of the North Oaks Conservation Award program are to acknowledge extraordinary achievement in land management, showcase examples of and encourage sound natural resource management best practices, promote ecosystem awareness, and illustrate the important role of private landowners in the future of our natural resources.

There are currently eight award categories: Wetland and Shoreland Conservation, Water Conservation, Woodland Conservation, Prairie Conservation, Pollinator Conservation, Wildlife Habitat Management, Tick Habitat Control, and Invasive Species Control.

Awards will be given to residents and organizations to recognize excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their property. You may nominate yourself or others and applications are accepted year-round. All entries are reviewed by assessment committee from the Natural Resource Commission. Finalists are evaluated and selected by the North Oaks City Council. Applications can be found [HERE](#).

City of North Oaks—New Office Hours

New City staff hours are shown below. We will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday's and work remotely the remainder of the week. Electronic means of conducting business is still encouraged whenever possible. Permit applications can be found on the website and emailed to noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com for processing. Call the City office at 651-792-7750 to make an appointment if you need to come at an alternate time, or with any questions.

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks

City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—9/25/2020

View Candidate Forums – Get to know your Candidates

North Oaks Mayoral Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks Mayoral election, recorded on September 21, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for North Oaks Mayor, Mark R Azman and Kara Ries, respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election. Candidate Alex Legeros was absent.

North Oaks City Council At-Large Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks City Council at-large election, recorded on September 22, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates Rich Dujmovic, Rick Kingston, Sara Shah, and Tom Watson, respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

North Oaks City Council Special Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks City Council special election, recorded on September 22, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates Jim Hara and Nick Sandell respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the election Nov. 3. Candidate Jason Triemert did not respond to LWV's invitation.

MN State House District 38B Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the MN State House District 38B election, recorded on September 21, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for Minnesota House of Representatives Elliott Engen and Ami Wazlawik respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

New Planning Commissioner

Welcome to new Planning Commissioner Grover Sayre III, who was sworn in to fill an empty seat on the Planning Commission at the Thursday, September 24, 2020 meeting.

State launches 4-week push to increase access to “no Barrier” COVID-19 testing

(From Sept. 17, 2020 Dept. of Health press release) Responding to increased levels of community spread of COVID-19 statewide, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will launch a four-week effort to provide increased access to “no barrier” COVID-19 testing in communities across the state. Testing will be free, available to anyone who feels they need to be tested whether they have symptoms or not, and will not require insurance.

Testing will be taking place at multiple locations including:

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 451 Central Ave W, St. Paul, MN: Thursday, September 24-Friday, September 25th from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Aldrich Arena, 1850 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood, MN: Tuesday, September 29th through Thursday, October 1st from 12:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Making an appointment is encouraged, but not required. For complete details and to schedule an appointment at one of the locations, click [here](#).

Junior Watershed Explorer Program

Looking for something fun and educational to do as a family in the great outdoors? The Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization (VLAMWO) has created a new Junior Watershed Explorer Program as

a great way for children and families to learn about water resources and explore the Vadnais Lake Area watershed. The Program provides a workbook which includes a variety of puzzles, art activities, and a bingo game that helps you explore locations around the watershed. This program is for kids of all ages. There are recommendations for the number of pages to complete for each child's age.

The first 20 children who complete the workbook will get a FREE "Junior Watershed Explorer at work" T-shirt. Shirts are reserved for families and children who live, work in, or go to school in the VLAWMO watershed. Hardcopies of the workbook are available for free pick-up at the North Oaks City Hall on Tuesday or Thursday's between 9 – 4:00 p.m., or you can download the program workbook [here](#).

Early Voting: Vote in Person now at Select Locations

Beginning Sept. 18th, Ramsey County voters may vote in-person by using an absentee ballot at three locations:

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Eligible voters may visit any location, regardless of their home address. Ballots do not need to be requested in advance. These sites are open weekdays September 18th – October 30th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For additional information on early voting, refer to the Ramsey County elections [HERE](#). Or call 651-266-2171. **** There is no early voting at North Oaks City Hall. Ballots cannot be picked up or dropped off at City Hall . ****

Slow down on our Roads / Stop for Crosswalks

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Census Takers in the Community – Respond Now

North Oaks current total Census response rate is at **87.1%, with 79.6 %** being registered via internet. If you have not completed the census, you may do so online [here](#).

Census takers may be in the area contacting homes which have not been counted. Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. Census takers work between 9am and 9pm, including weekends. If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to [respond online](#), [by phone](#) or [by mail](#). If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response.

Reports of Solicitors / Trespassing

If there are individuals within the community that do not have proper identification on them, please report them as solicitors/ trespassers by calling the Ramsey County Sherriff office at 911.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Mail Safety – Purchase locking Mailbox before Winter

Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com if you would like to get on the list to order a locking mailbox at a discounted price. The mail manager can be purchased for \$82.00, and the larger Package master for \$166.00. Services are available to help install. The mailbox form can be

found [here](#). In order minimize risk of theft, suggest you drop off outgoing mail at the post office, or do not put up the red flag on your mailbox which may alert potential thieves of outgoing mail.

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Thursday, 10/15/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29/20 – Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29 - 6:00 p.m. * Gate Hill public hearing
Tuesday, 11/10 - 6:00 p.m. * Red Forest South public hearing
Thursday, 11/19 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission
Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission
Wednesday 12/16 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/2/2020

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Discussion on Impact of Pesticides

The City's Natural Resources Commission is convening a committee to discuss the use of pesticides, primarily insecticides, in North Oaks. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact the City at 651-792-7750 or noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com by October 15th to be added to the list.

Election Guide Tips:

Voter Registration – The deadline for voter registration if you plan to vote via **absentee ballot** is October 13, 2020. Details on how to register online or at an absentee ballot location are [here](#). After this deadline – you can still register the **day of the actual election** at your local polling place.

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Get to know your Candidates - View Candidate Forums

North Oaks Mayoral Election

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Testing will be taking place at multiple locations including:

Aldrich Arena, 1850 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood, MN: Saturday, October 3rd from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Making an appointment is encouraged. For complete details on dates, locations, and to schedule an appointment, click [here](#).

Junior Watershed Explorer Program

Looking for something fun and educational to do as a family in the great outdoors? The Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization (VLAMWO) has created a new Junior Watershed Explorer Program as a great way for children and families to learn about water resources and explore the Vadnais Lake Area watershed. The Program provides a workbook which includes a variety of puzzles, art activities, and a bingo game that helps you explore locations around the watershed. This program is for kids of all ages. There are recommendations for the number of pages to complete for each child's age.

The first 20 children who complete the workbook will get a FREE “Junior Watershed Explorer at work” T-shirt. Shirts are reserved for families and children who live, work in, or go to school in the VLAMWO watershed. Hardcopies of the workbook are available for free pick-up at the North Oaks City Hall on Tuesday or Thursday's between 9 – 4:00 p.m., or you can download the program workbook [here](#).

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/9/2020

New City Website and Email addresses

The City of North Oaks is excited to launch a new website! Go check us out at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. This website brings the City into the 20th century with its simplistic view, buttons for frequently used items, search bar capability, mobile phone and ADA friendly, and automation of posting Agendas and Minutes. To ease transition, for the next several weeks we will have both the old website and new website active. We welcome your feedback as you begin to use the new website. Let us know if you see anything that needs tweaking and we'll get right on it! We want your feedback! Please visit the new site and let us know what you think: <https://www.northoaksmn.gov/home/webforms/email-us>

The City has also received official approval for use of a .gov domain. All City email addresses have been transitioned to the "xxx@northoaksmn.gov" extension, and the general City staff inbox is changing to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. Transitions are in place to ensure inquiries to old emails are automatically redirected to the new emails. If there are questions, contact City Staff at 651-792-7750.

Last chance for 2020 – Purchase locking Mailbox before Winter

Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or northoaks@northoaksmn.gov by **Friday 10/8/2020** if you would like to order a locking mailbox. The mail manager can be purchased for the discounted rate of \$82.00, and the larger Package master for \$166.00. Services are available to help install. The mailbox form can be found [here](#).

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Get to know your Candidates - View Candidate Forums

NEW: MN Senate District B Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the MN Senate District 38 election, recorded on October 1, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for Minnesota House of Representatives Roger Chamberlain and Justin Stofferahn respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

North Oaks Mayoral Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks Mayoral election, recorded on September 21, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for North Oaks Mayor, Mark R Azman and Kara Ries, respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election. Candidate Alex Legeros was absent.

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MN State House District 38B Election

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Reminders—In case you missed it:

Leash on Trails

Just a reminder, per NOHOA regulations all pets are to be leashed on NOHOA trails and common public spaces.

Slow down on our Roads / Stop for Crosswalks

Remember to drive slowly throughout our City and watch for bikers and walkers. Stop at crosswalks when pedestrians are present, even if there is not a stop sign. Take special care near bus stops and the West Recreation facility where soccer families are now back in the session. Do your part and make the roads safer for everyone!

Openings: Natural Resources Commission

The City of North Oaks **Natural Resources Commission** has two openings. The NRC is advisory to the City Council and meets once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The Commission will be working on evaluating Conservation Award applications along with developing best practices for the City's natural resources.

Residents interested in serving on the NRC should review the appointment policy and submit the Board Application form to City Administrator Kevin Kress at North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127, or email it to kkress@Cityofnorthoaks.com. The form can be found on the City's website at Cityofnorthoaks.com. The deadline for applications for Planning Commission is Aug. 28 at noon; there is no deadline specified for the NRC appointments.

Junior Watershed Explorer Program

Looking for something fun and educational to do as a family in the great outdoors? The Vadnais Lake Water Management Organization (VLAMWO) has created a new Junior Watershed Explorer Program as a great way for children and families to learn about water resources and explore the Vadnais Lake Area watershed. The Program provides a workbook which includes a variety of puzzles, art activities, and a bingo game that helps you explore locations around the watershed. This program is for kids of all ages.

Hardcopies of the workbook are available for free pick-up at the North Oaks City Hall on Tuesday or Thursday's between 9 – 4:00 p.m., or you can download the program workbook [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

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Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. * onsite and open to public only Tues/Thurs.

Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

Face coverings are required for entering the City office.

Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into via the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Thursday, 10/15/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29/20 – Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Thursday, 10/29 - 6:00 p.m. * Gate Hill public hearing

Tuesday, 11/10 - 6:00 p.m. * Red Forest South public hearing

Thursday, 11/19 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Wednesday 12/16 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Thursday, 11/12/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/16/2020

Public Hearings – Gate Hill and Red Forest Way South

There will be a Public Hearing to review the Gate Hill Subdivision Application on Thursday, October 29 at 6 p.m. during the regular Planning Commission meeting. Information on how to participate can be found in the full meeting notice [HERE](#).

There will be a Public Hearing to review the Red Forest Way South Subdivision Application on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m. Information on how to participate can be found in the full meeting notice [HERE](#).

Meeting materials will be posted on the website 72 hours prior to the meeting. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held virtually due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration. Residents can view the meetings on our cable access channel, through the website portal, or through the zoom link in each meeting notice. If you wish to provide comment prior to the meeting, email kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

Snow Removal

With the early snowfall underway, just a reminder that all private snow plow contractors must keep snow on your own property. It is against Minnesota Statute, Section 169.42 to push snow into the street or onto adjacent neighbor's properties. Snow plowing of all North Oaks neighborhood roads is completed by Mel's services under the direction of the North Oaks Homeowner association. Thanks to Mel's as they start off the season early!

Septic Pumping

If you have a septic system that was due for the required two year pumping in 2020, please call to schedule a pumping right away with a licensed contractor. This will avoid problems with frozen manhole covers, and reduce the possibility of frozen drain fields going into the winter. If you are unsure if your system is due for pumping or need to know who pumped it last, call the City office at 651-792-7750. For your convenience, a list of septic pumpers is [HERE](#), along with [tips](#) for a healthy septic system.

Pumpkin Composting

When Halloween is over, bring your pumpkins to a Ramsey County yard waste site for composting. It's free! Remove any candles and decorations, and place your pumpkins in the leaf pile, not the food scraps dumpster. For more information, visit RamseyRecycles.com/yardwaste.

Election Guide Tips

If you still have your absentee ballot in hand, we recommend mailing it now to be sure it reaches Elections officials. If you wish to drop it office in person, drop off locations are [here](#).

Track my absentee ballot - If you are mailing in your absentee ballot, you can track your ballot [here](#).

View my Ballot - View a complete list of what will be on your ballot [here](#).

Election Day Polling Place finder - Precinct 1 voting is at North Oaks City Hall. For those in Precinct 2 who typically vote at Waverly Gardens, the polling place has changed to the North Oaks Golf Club due to Covid-19 concerns in protecting our seniors at Waverly. To confirm your polling place location for Election Day voting by address, click [here](#).

New early voting location - beginning Tuesday, 10/27/2020

Beginning October 27th, the White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55118, will be an additional Early voting location available for North Oaks residents. At this location from Oct. 27 – November 2nd, voting will take place via normal ballot (run through the machine).

Tuesday 10/27 – Friday 10/30: 10 – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10/31: 10-3 p.m.

Monday 11/2: 10 – 5 p.m.

Election Day – All residents must vote at their respective polling place voting ONLY.

Early Voting- Vote in Person now at Select Locations – Through October 30th, Ramsey County voters may vote in-person by using an absentee ballot at three locations:

Ramsey County Elections office - 90 Plato Blvd W #160, St. Paul, MN 55127

New Brighton Community Center – 400 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

Ramsey County Library – Roseville – 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113

Eligible voters may visit any location, regardless of their home address. Ballots do not need to be requested in advance. These sites are open weekdays September 18th – October 30th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For additional information on early voting, refer to the Ramsey County elections [HERE](#). Or call 651-266-2171. ** There is no early voting at North Oaks City Hall. **

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Fall Yard Waste

Are the leaves piling up in your yard? Bring your leaves, branches and other yard waste to a Ramsey County yard waste site. It's free! Not sure what to expect? Watch this short video.

Website link: www.ramseyrecycles.com/yardwaste

Video link: https://youtu.be/AWp9t_SDyDk

New City Website

The City of North Oaks is excited to launch a new website! Go check us out at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. We welcome your feedback as you begin to use the new website. Let us know if you see anything that needs tweaked and we'll get right on it. We want your feedback! Please visit the new site and let us know what you think:

<https://www.northoaksmn.gov/home/webforms/email-us>

New City Email addresses

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MN Senate District 38 Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the MN Senate District 38 election, recorded on October 1, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#) . Candidates for Minnesota House of Representatives Roger Chamberlain and Justin Stofferahn respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

North Oaks Mayoral Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks Mayoral election, recorded on September 21, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for North Oaks Mayor, Mark R Azman and Kara Ries, respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election. Candidate Alex Legeros was absent.

North Oaks City Council At-Large Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks City Council at-large election, recorded on September 22, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates Rich Dujmovic, Rick Kingston, Sara Shah, and Tom Watson, respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

North Oaks City Council Special Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the North Oaks City Council special election, recorded on September 22, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates Jim Hara and Nick Sandell respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the election Nov. 3. Candidate Jason Triemert did not respond to LWV's invitation.

MN State House District 38B Election

The League of Women Voters candidate forum for the MN State House District 38B election, recorded on September 21, 2020, can be viewed [HERE](#). Candidates for Minnesota House of Representatives Elliott Engen and Ami Wazlawik respond to voter questions about their positions on the issues prior to the Nov. 3 election.

Leash on Trails

Just a reminder, per NOHOA regulations all pets are to be leashed on NOHOA trails and common public spaces.

Openings: Natural Resources Commission

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Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Wednesday, 10/28 6:00 p.m. Special City Council meeting

Thursday, 10/29 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission * Gate Hill public hearing, Island Field completeness review

Tuesday, 11/10 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission * Red Forest South public hearing

Thursday, 11/19 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Wednesday 12/16 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Thursday, 11/12/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Thursday, 11/19/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—10/30/2020

Time to turn the clocks back

When clocks turn back this Sunday, November 1, our evenings will become darker much earlier. With the early onset of nightfall please adjust and keep an eye out for pedestrians, especially those in dark clothing and kids getting off school buses. Walkers are encouraged to please wear reflective clothing and walk in a single file facing the traffic.

First time voters in North Oaks

If you have not previously voted in your local precinct or registered to vote ahead of time, you can still register in person on Election Day. To register on Election Day, you must show proof of identification and residence. This would be one of the following:

- 1) ID with current name and address, or
- 2) Photo ID and a document with current name and address
- 3) Registered voter who can confirm your address
- 4) College student ID with housing
- 5) Valid registration in the same precinct
- 6) Notice of Late Registration
- 7) Staff person of a residential facility

For complete registration details with approved photo ID and documentation options:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-election-day/>

IMPORTANT - New Deadline for Absentee Ballot Return

Late Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit overruled the State of Minnesota's approved consent decree extending the deadline for submitting an absentee and mail ballots. The consent decree had changed the deadline from requiring absentee and mail ballots to be received by Election Day to being postmarked on or before Election Day and received within the next seven days. The decision is available [here](#).

The Court of Appeals ruling means absentee and mail ballots **must be received by Election Day** in order to be counted. Deadline to drop it off in person is 3 p.m.; deadline for mail or delivery service is 8 p.m. Elections administrators still have an extra day (two instead of one) to process the ballots under the law passed by the state legislature. Absentee and mail ballots received after Election Day should be segregated and held until additional instructions are provided by the Secretary of State's office.

*** If you still have your absentee ballot in hand – it is too late to put it in the mail to ensure it will be counted. You must drop it off at a certified location. The closest to North Oaks is:

Ramsey County Library - Shoreview

Friday, October 30: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday, November 2: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Election Day: the ONLY location for absentee ballot drop off is downtown St. Paul at the main Plato Boulevard Election office no later than 3 p.m. You CANNOT drop off your absentee ballot at Precinct 1 (City Hall) or Precinct 2 (North Oaks Golf Club) in person voting locations.

You may also drop it off at any of the in person voting locations shown below under “early voting. Click [HERE](#) for the full list of drop off ballot locations and times.

Election Guide Tips

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2. **View my Ballot** - View a complete list of what will be on your ballot [here](#).
3. **Polling Place finder** - To confirm your polling place location for Election Day voting, click [here](#).
4. **Early Voting- Vote in Person now at Select Locations** - Ramsey County voters may vote in-person at the following locations:

White Bear Lake Library, 2150 2nd Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55118

New Brighton Community Center – 400 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 *

Ramsey County Library – Roseville – 2180 Hamline Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113 *

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10/31: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday 11/2: 10 – 5 p.m.

Election Day – All residents must vote at their respective polling place voting ONLY.

For additional a complete list of early voting locations and **current wait times**, refer to the Ramsey County elections [HERE](#) or call 651-266-2171. Reminder - There is no early voting at North Oaks City Hall.

Public Hearings – Red Forest Way South

There will be a Public Hearing to review the Red Forest Way South Subdivision Application on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m. Information on how to participate can be found in the full meeting notice [HERE](#). Meeting materials will be posted on the website 72 hours prior to the meeting. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held virtually due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration. Residents can view the meetings on our cable access channel, through the website portal, or through the zoom link in each meeting notice. If you wish to provide comment prior to the meeting, email kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

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Thursday, 11/12/20 – City Council Meeting 7 p.m.
Thursday, 11/19 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission
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Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Island Field public hearing Planning Commission
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Kevin Kress
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City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—11/6/2020

Election Results

Thanks to all residents for a great North Oaks election turnout. Congratulations to the Kara Ries, Tom Watson, Sara Shah and Jim Hara who will be sworn in as new Mayor and members of North Oaks City Council. Full results for all elections can be found [HERE](#).

North Oaks Mayor: *Kara Ries (total votes: 2,060) 59.7%
 Mark R. Azman (total votes: 1,260) 36.5%
 Alex Legeros (total votes: 16) .46%

North Oaks City Council: * Thomas N. Watson (total votes: 1,769) 29.5%
 * Sara Shah (total votes: 1,631) 27.2%
 Rich Dujmovic (total votes: 1,576) 26.3%
 Rick Kingston (total votes: 984) 16.4%

North Oaks City Council Special Election: *Jim Hara (total votes: 1,723) 56.9%
 Nick Sandell (total votes: 1,020) 33.7%
 Jason Triemert (total votes: 270) 8.9%

Public Hearings –Red Forest Way South

There will be a Public Hearing to review the Red Forest Way South Subdivision Application on Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m. Information on how to participate can be found in the full meeting notice [HERE](#). Meeting materials will be posted on the website 72 hours prior to the meeting. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held virtually due to the health pandemic and emergency declaration. Residents can view the meetings on our cable access channel, through the website portal, or through the zoom link in each meeting notice. If you wish to provide comment prior to the meeting, email kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

Anderson Woods Grading

Grading work on the Anderson Woods site will begin soon in accordance with the preliminary plan approved by the City Council on June 11, 2020 and in addition to Resolution 1391 approved by the City Council on July 16 2020.

Veterans Day Week - Recycling will NOT Shift

All recycling pickups will remain on normal schedule next week. There will be NO shift due to the Wednesday holiday (this is a change from what was published at the beginning of the year). Please contact North Oaks City Hall at 651-792-7750 if you have any questions.

Deer Trapping

As we prepare to go into winter, the annual Deer management program with the DNR and State of Minnesota is underway. Deer removal authorization letters have been sent to residents who have participated in the past. If you wish to be put on this list, please email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Natural Resources Commission/Watershed District Survey

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and our watershed district (VLAWMO) would like to hear from you! They are conducting an online survey about yard practices to help understand garden habits and interests in North Oaks. Please consider answering the questions in the following survey:

[North Oaks Yard Practices and Events Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y56D6HX)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y56D6HX>

Additionally, if you attended the *Hometown Habitat* movie event at the North Oaks Golf Club in February, please also answer the questions in the following survey:

Hometown Habitat Feedback

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N65PXMB>

Your participation in these surveys will help the NRC and VLAWMO plan for relevant and enjoyable activities in the future.

Theft Prevention Tips - Prevent theft from your vehicle:

- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk.
- If you must leave personal property in your vehicle, make sure it is out of view.
- Be aware in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.

Caution around Thin Ice

The ice thickness will quickly become unpredictable on all waterways and ponds this time of year, so we encourage all residents to steer clear of these surfaces, as well as the banks surrounding them.

Parents, please talk to you your kids about the dangers of thin ice. Dog owners, please keep your dog on a leash to prevent an accident.

Snow Removal

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Kevin Kress
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E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—11/13/2020

Governor Walz – New Restrictions starting 10 p.m. 11/13/2020

November 10, 2020 – Governor Walz office press release

Due to increased positivity rates throughout Minnesota, new targeted restrictions have been put in place to reduce the spread. Effective 10 p.m. on Friday, November 13th, 2020, all bars and restaurants must end dine-in service between 10pm and 4am. Indoor capacity will be capped at 150 people, and may not exceed 50 percent of an establishment's total capacity. Bar counter service will be closed for seating and service in all establishments besides those that only have counter service. In counter-service only establishments, patrons can line up with masks and then return to their table. These restrictions follow research that shows these environments become more risky later in the evening.

Beginning on Friday there will also be a 10-person limit for indoor and outdoor gatherings, and all social gatherings will be limited to members of three households or less.

Capacity limits for receptions related to weddings, funerals, and similar events will be instituted through a phased approach, but will eventually lead to a 25-person cap. In addition, such receptions and similar events may not take place between 10pm and 4am.

All current restrictions also remain in effect. Since data has not shown a connection between religious services and the recent increase in outbreaks, there will be no change to religious services.

The full press release is [HERE](#).

COVID Positivity Rate Increased in Ramsey County

November 9, 2020 — Ramsey County currently has a COVID positivity rate of greater than 5%.

This rate reflects the number of COVID-19 tests that were positive over the total number of tests performed in your county during the most recent 14-day period prior to a one week lag period to assure data completeness. Having a positivity rate above 5% means the spread of the virus in your county has reached a concerning level.

Higher rates of virus transmission in the community increase the risk for all members of your community, including residents and staff in long-term care (LTC) facilities. As cases continue to rise, the residents and staff in these facilities are at serious risk even as they take aggressive action to limit infections. The full status update: [Ramsey County Status Update—Nov. 9, 2020](#)

Winter Weather – Avoid Recycling Delays

As winter weather arrives, snow and ice conditions can make navigating tricky for recycling trucks on our narrow winding roads. Peterson Waddle will always pick up as many cans as road conditions permit, however please note that recycling trucks are unable to back up on icy or unplowed driveways at risk of sliding back into roadways or getting stuck. If weather is questionable, please make sure all recycling containers are down by the street to ensure pickup. Recycling trucks make one pass through the neighborhoods, ensure your can is ready and accessible by 7 a.m. on your recycling day – otherwise it will be picked up the following week.

Subscribe to City specific emails

As part of the new City Website, residents have the ability to sign up for specific types of communications they would like to receive. If you are currently subscribed to this website eblast, your email has been transferred to the new website and signed up to receive communications. You can subscribe, or unsubscribe to various options such as News and Announcements, Council Agenda and Minutes, or sign up for text messaging by clicking [here](#).

Leaf Disposal

To maintain water quality, just a reminder that leaves and debris are not to be blow into any wetlands or ponds. Leaves, branches and other yard waste can be taken to a Ramsey County yard waste site for free! Not sure what to expect? Watch this short video.

Website link: www.ramseyrecycles.com/yardwaste

Video link: https://youtu.be/AWp9t_SDyDk

Deer Management Program

As we prepare to go into winter, the annual Deer management program with the DNR and State of Minnesota is underway. Deer removal authorization letters have been sent to residents who have participated in the past. If you wish to be put on this list, please email northoaks@northoaksmn.gov.

Natural Resources Commission/Watershed District Survey

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and our watershed district (VLAWMO) would like to hear from you! They are conducting an online survey about yard practices to help understand garden habits and interests in North Oaks. Please consider answering the questions in the following survey:

North Oaks Yard Practices and Events Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y56D6HX>

Additionally, if you attended the *Hometown Habitat* movie event at the North Oaks Golf Club in February, please also answer the questions in the following survey:

Hometown Habitat Feedback

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N65PXMB>

Your participation in these surveys will help the NRC and VLAWMO plan for relevant and enjoyable activities in the future.

Theft Prevention Tips - Prevent theft from your vehicle:

- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk.
- If you must leave personal property in your vehicle, make sure it is out of view.
- Be aware in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.

Tis the season to be Merry....and for package theft

As we enter the holiday season, just a reminder to be proactive in protecting your valuables this time of year. Be sure to lock your vehicles while both in your driveway and out shopping, keep valuables out of site, and bring inside as soon as possible any packages and mail that may be delivered to your home. While there are many types of vehicles making deliveries, keep an eye out for anything suspicious and call 911 to report any unusual activity.

Mail Safety Tips

Be a difficult target. In order to minimize risk of theft, we suggest you drop off outgoing mail at the post office or do not put up the red flag on your mailbox which may alert potential thieves of outgoing mail. Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com if you are interested in a locking mailbox. We do have a few extras available for purchase. The mail manager can be purchased for \$82.00, and the larger Package master for \$166.00. The mailbox form can be found [here](#).

Caution around Thin Ice

The ice thickness will quickly become unpredictable on all waterways and ponds this time of year, so we encourage all residents to steer clear of these surfaces, as well as the banks surrounding them.

Parents, please talk to your kids about the dangers of thin ice. Dog owners, please keep your dog on a leash to prevent an accident.

Snow Removal

As you begin to think about snowfall removal for the winter, just a reminder that all private snowplow contractors must keep snow on your own property. It is against City ordinance to push snow into the street or onto adjacent neighbor's properties. Snow plowing of all North Oaks roads is completed by Mel's services under the direction of the North Oaks Homeowner association.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Election Results

Thanks to all residents for a great North Oaks election turnout. Congratulations to the Kara Ries, Tom Watson, Sara Shah and Jim Hara as new Mayor and members of North Oaks City Council. Full results for all elections can be found [HERE](#).

North Oaks Mayor: *Kara Ries (total votes: 2,060) 59.7%
 Mark R. Azman (total votes: 1,260) 36.5%
 Alex Legeros (total votes: 16) .46%

North Oaks City Council: * Thomas N. Watson (total votes: 1,769) 29.5%
* Sara Shah (total votes: 1,631) 27.2%
 Rich Dujmovic (total votes: 1,576) 26.3%
 Rick Kingston (total votes: 984) 16.4%

North Oaks City Council Special Election: *Jim Hara (total votes: 1,723) 56.9%
 Nick Sandell (total votes: 1,020) 33.7%
 Jason Triemert (total votes: 270) 8.9%

Pumpkin Composting

When Halloween is over, bring your pumpkins to a Ramsey County yard waste site for composting. It's free! Remove any candles and decorations, and place your pumpkins in the leaf pile, not the food scraps dumpster. For more information, visit RamseyRecycles.com/yardwaste.

New City Email addresses

The City has also received official approval for use of a .gov domain. All City email addresses have been transitioned to the "xxx@northoaksmn.gov" extension, and the general City staff inbox is changing to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov. Transitions are in place to ensure inquiries to old emails are automatically redirected to the new emails. If there are questions, contact City Staff at 651-792-7750.

Recycling Reminders

Please flatten all cardboard, and ensure they are not longer than 4 feet. The recycling truck must be able to reach your driveway to pick up your recycling can. If you have contractors or landscapers working on your property, please ensure they do not block access to your trash and recycling cans on pick up days as this may prevent pickup.

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

The City office is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday's, with electronic means of conducting business still encouraged whenever possible. City staff will work remote the remainder of the week. Permit applications can be found on the website and emailed to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov for processing. Call the City office at 651-792-7750 to make an appointment if you need to come at an alternate day/time, or with any questions.

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. * onsite and open to public only Tues/Thurs.
Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

Face coverings are required for entering the City office.

Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Wednesday, 11/18/20 – Special City Council meeting *Nord final plat/plan approval consideration, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 11/19/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission *Island Field Public Hearing & Continuation of discussion on * Red Forest Way South

Thursday 12/10/20 – City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday 12/16 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

The City of North Oaks is excited to launch a new website! Go check us out at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—11/20/2020

Thanksgiving Week – City Office Closed

The City of North Oaks will be closed Thanksgiving week. Staff will address any immediate issues and concerns remotely. Please continue to submit any permit requests via email to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov, or leave message at 651-792-7750 for any questions. Wishing a happy and safe Thanksgiving to all!

City Office Closed to the Public - Starting November 30th

Starting Monday November 30th, City Hall will be conducting business during normal office hours, but CLOSED to the public until further notice due to health and safety guidelines regarding COVID-19. City staff will be working remotely and phone calls will be forwarded. Permits will continue to be processed via email at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and inspections continue as requested. Contact the City at 651-792-7750 if your business cannot be conducted remotely. Updates will be provided once it is safe to reopen.

New Restrictions for 4-week period beginning November 21, 2020

November 18, 2020 - Governor Walz implements new restrictions effective November 21st - December 18th

Per Executive order #20-99 issued by Governor Walz, new restrictions will be in place for a 4-week period beginning Saturday November 21, 2020 through Friday, December 18th. These restrictions state that all restaurants and bars are carry-out only, with no indoor or outdoor dining. Fitness centers, entertainment venues and all youth and adult sports are also to halt in person activities during this period. For additional details and links to the full executive order refer to our website: [Full Executive Order](#).

**** CONSIDER SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS and BUSINESSES DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME OF YEAR – who will again be faced with cutting back hours and furloughing employees.**

Upcoming Public Hearings

Planning Commission Public Hearing –Island Field Preliminary Subdivision

There will be a public hearing to discuss the proposed Island Field development on Wednesday December 2nd, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

City Council – 2021 Truth in Taxation / Budget Public Hearing

There will be a Special City Council meeting and public hearing for Truth in Taxation for 2021 Budget / Levy on December 10th, 2020 at 6:45 p.m., just prior to the regular City Council meeting.

The full meeting notice and how to participate in both meetings can be found [HERE](#). Materials will be published on the website no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Residents Formalize New Community Group for Social Justice and Inclusivity

Introducing NORTHE

North Oaks Residents Together for Human Equity (NORTHE) is a new, nonpartisan community group. The mission of NORTHE is to foster a welcoming, inclusive neighborhood by promoting equity, civility, appreciation, and respect for one another through community building, community outreach, and community action.

NORTHE's work falls into the following three categories:

- **Community Building:** Provide opportunities for North Oaks residents to come together for events to encourage a better understanding of the historical context for racism in Minnesota and the United States. These may be book clubs, documentary viewings, or other social events.

- Community Outreach: Engage with local nonprofits who serve marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, LGBTQIA, women, and refugee populations through volunteering, fundraising, and advocacy.
- Community Action: Collaborate with the North Oaks City Council to review policies that affect safety, security, and services to align with our community values.

NORTHE invites all North Oaks neighbors to join meetings, held at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. Please email northe.oaks@gmail.com for a Zoom meeting invite and to learn about our winter fundraisers. Full detail as the goals of the group and service project can be found [HERE](#).

Recycling Service Updates

Due to COVID related staffing, recycling pickup may be delayed this week. If it is not picked up on your normal day, please keep your bin out at the curb as it will be picked up at a later time. Please make sure to bring all bins down to the curb to facilitate quicker pickups. Thank you for your patience.

Winter Weather – Avoid Recycling Delays

As winter weather arrives, snow and ice conditions can make navigating tricky for recycling trucks on our narrow winding roads. Peterson Waddle will always pick up as many cans as road conditions permit, however please note that recycling trucks are unable to back up on icy or unplowed driveways at risk of sliding back into roadways or getting stuck. If weather is questionable, please make sure all recycling containers are down by the street to ensure pickup. Recycling trucks make one pass through the neighborhoods, ensure your can is ready and accessible by 7 a.m. on your recycling day – otherwise it will be picked up the following week.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

COVID Positivity Rate Increased in Ramsey County

November 9, 2020 — Ramsey County currently has a COVID positivity rate of greater than 5%. This rate reflects the number of COVID-19 tests that were positive over the total number of tests performed in your county during the most recent 14-day period prior to a one-week lag period to assure data completeness. Having a positivity rate above 5% means the spread of the virus in your county has reached a concerning level.

Higher rates of virus transmission in the community increase the risk for all members of your community, including residents and staff in long-term care (LTC) facilities. As cases continue to rise, the residents and staff in these facilities are at serious risk even as they take aggressive action to limit infections. The full status update: [Ramsey County Status Update—Nov. 9, 2020](#)

Theft Prevention Tips - Prevent theft from your vehicle:

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- Always lock your car, and park in a well-lit and well-traveled area.
- When running errands, shopping, or traveling, make an extra stop before arriving at your destination to lock valuables in your trunk.
- If you must leave personal property in your vehicle, make sure it is out of view.
- Be aware in parking lots. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle, ready to unlock the door.

Tis the season to be Merry....and for package theft

As we enter the holiday season, just a reminder to be proactive in protecting your valuables this time of year. Be sure to lock your vehicles while both in your driveway and out shopping, keep valuables out of site, and bring inside as soon as possible any packages and mail that may be delivered to your home. While there are many types of vehicles making deliveries, keep an eye out for anything suspicious and call 911 to report any unusual activity.

Mail Safety Tips

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Caution around Thin Ice

The ice thickness will quickly become unpredictable on all waterways and ponds this time of year, so we encourage all residents to steer clear of these surfaces, as well as the banks surrounding them. Parents, please talk to your kids about the dangers of thin ice. Dog owners, please keep your dog on a leash to prevent an accident.

City of North Oaks – Office Hours

Due to health concerns, the City office is currently closed to the public. Electronic means of conducting business is encouraged, and City staff may be working remotely. Permit applications can be found on the website and emailed to northoaks@northoaksmn.gov for processing. Call the City office at 651-792-7750 if you are unable to conduct your business via email, or with any questions.

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. * onsite and open to public only Tues/Thurs for appointments only.
Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

*Closed Thanksgiving Week: November 23 – 27th,2020.

Face coverings are required for entering the City office.

Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Wednesday 12/2 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission *Island Field Public Hearing & Continuation of discussion on * Red Forest Way South

Thursday 12/10/20 – City Council meetings:

- 2021 Truth in Taxation/ Budget Level Public Hearing 6:45 p.m.
- Regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday 12/16 - 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission

Thursday, 12/17/20 – Natural Resources Commission, 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website <http://www.northoaksmn.gov> 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/4/2020



COVID Testing Locations

With the increase in Covid-19 cases within Ramsey County and concerns with the upcoming Holidays, there are several available testing options via the Minnesota Department of Health. These include no cost at home saliva tests, and in person testing sites. For complete details and to make an appointment at a testing site, refer to [MN Department of Health testing](#).

City Office – Closed to the Public

Starting the week of November 30th, City Hall was CLOSED and will remain CLOSED to the public until further notice due to health and safety guidelines regarding COVID-19. All City business will continue processing as usual, with City staff working remotely and phone calls forwarded. Permits will continue to be processed via email at northoaks@northoaksmn.gov and inspections continue as requested.

Contact the City to make an appointment if your business cannot be conducted remotely. Updates will be provided once it is safe to reopen. Call the City office at 651-792-7750 with any questions.

Subscribe to City specific emails

As part of the new City Website, residents have the ability to sign up for specific types of communications they would like to receive. If you are currently subscribed to this weekly eblast, your email has been transferred to the new website and signed up to receive News and Announcements and Urgent alerts. **NEW:** You can also subscribe to receive various other City information such Council Agenda/Minutes, Planning Commission Agendas/Minutes, or sign up for text messaging by clicking [here](#).

Tis the season to be Merry....and for package theft

Over the past week, 5 thefts have been reported either from porches or cars in driveways within North Oaks. As we enter the holiday season, just a reminder to be proactive in protecting your valuables this time of year. Be sure to lock your vehicles both in your driveway and out shopping, keep valuables out of site, and bring inside as soon as possible any packages and mail that may be delivered to your home. While there are many types of vehicles making deliveries, keep an eye out for anything suspicious and call 911 to report any unusual activity.

Recycling Packaging Reminder

As we enter the shipping and packaging season, just a reminder that Styrofoam, plastic bags and plastic wrapping is not recyclable. This includes shipping peanuts and packing materials. Card board **MUST** be totally flattened to no larger than 4 foot x 4 foot in order to be taken, as to not jam up the mechanisms in the trucks and recycling plant.

Make sure to have your cart curbside to ensure recycling each week, as trucks can't back up icy or unplowed driveways. Please refer to your recycling cart for what can be recycled. You may also call Ramsey County's recycling hotline at 651-633-3279, or check their [website](#) for a complete guide on how to dispose of a variety of items.

Watch List - Snowbirds

If you will be out of town for more than 14 days and wish to be added to the Home Watch List, Email to Officer Burrell at Michael.burrell@co.ramsey.mn.us. Please indicate the address, duration of stay, and an out of town contact number to request sheriff patrol in the area of the home. We also suggest you alert and share an emergency contact number with your neighbors. As always, call 911 to report any immediate suspicious activity.

Recreational Fires / Brush Fire Rules

Just a reminder that recreational, brush and tree fires are allowed in the Lake Johanna Fire Department districts under the following specific conditions.

Recreational fires are **not required to be reported to the fire department prior to the burn**. However, all residents who intend to have a recreational fire are responsible for abiding by the following fire [Recreational Fire Rules and Regulations](#). This includes no burning of leaves and grass, and flame limits of 3w x 3d x 3h feet within a fire pit ring.

Anyone wishing to have a brush or tree fire is **required to obtain a burn permit** from the Lake Johanna Fire Department **prior** to the burn. However, all persons are responsible for abiding by the following [Burn permit Rules and Regulations](#), including checking for any current burning bans.

Violations of any of the above rules will result in the immediate extinguishment of the fire. These and any other violations of the open burning laws may result in loss of the right to have fires and also may cause a citation to be written. If there are any questions, contact the Lake Johanna Fire Department at 651-415-2100.

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North Oaks Residents Together for Human Equity (NORTHE) is a new, nonpartisan community group. The mission of NORTHE is to foster a welcoming, inclusive neighborhood by promoting equity, civility, appreciation, and respect for one another through community building, community outreach, and community action. Please see the attached PDF on our website or contact northe.oaks@gmail.com for more information.

Caution around Thin Ice

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Website link: www.ramseyrecycles.com/yardwaste

Video link: https://youtu.be/AWp9t_SDyDk

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City Hall office hours are:

Monday–Thursday: 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 - 12 p.m.

Upcoming City Meetings

All meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Residents wishing to make comments during the meeting are requested to log-on via the zoom link listed on each meeting agenda, or send comments to the City Administrator at kkress@northoaksmn.gov.

- **City Council Meeting** - Thursday 12/10/20 at 6:45 p.m. (TNT) 7 p.m. (Regular Session)
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, 12/16/2020 at 6:00 p.m. (TBD – if needed)
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – 12/17/2020 at 7 p.m.

Materials for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>.

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center
North Oaks, MN 55127
651-792-7700

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/11/2020

Holiday Event – Sunday 12/13/20

North Oaks residents, check the private homeowner's association Facebook page and emails for information regarding the upcoming holiday event this Sunday between 3 – 5 p.m.
Happy Holidays from the City of North Oaks!!

Package and Theft from vehicles

North Oaks continues to see a high volume of package and thefts from vehicles in driveways throughout various areas of North Oaks. Park inside your garage if possible and be sure to lock your vehicles in your driveway. Keep valuables out of site and bring inside as soon as possible any packages and mail that may be delivered to your home. Ask a neighbor to bring in your boxes if you are going to be away for the day.

Stay vigilant and call in any unusual activity to 911.

Road Safety – Our roads are our Sidewalks

With the early dark hours and lack of snow on the ground, residents walking on our roads are extremely difficult to see. For safety, please be sure to wear reflective gear when you are out and about. Contact the Homeowners association if interested in purchasing a reflective vest.

Special City Council Meeting

Mayor Nelson has called a special meeting of the City Council for Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is to:

1. Consider approval of application for final plan/plat/subdivision for the Nord Development Site (Site C of the 1999 East Oaks PDA as well as adjacent parcels as shown on the previously-submitted preliminary plans legally described as Tracts A, F, G, I, L and M, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 268; Tract V REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 284; Tract B, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 292, and Tract KK, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 589, RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA) including approval of related development contract, stormwater facilities maintenance agreement, and determination of status of old farm road shown on the preliminary plans as a legally established nonconforming use, along with related development approvals for the Nord development site.
2. Consider approval of application for preliminary plan/plat/subdivision for the Island Field Development Site (Site H of the 1999 East Oaks PDA legally described as Tract D, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 561, RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA).
3. Consider approval of application for preliminary plan/plat/subdivision for the Red Forest Way Phase I Development Site (Site K of the 1999 East Oaks PDA, legally described as Tracts C and E, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 561 and Tract P, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 629, Ramsey County, Minnesota).
4. Consider approval of Amendment to the 1999 East Oaks Planned Unit Development Agreement, as amended, to permit on Site H, the Island Field Site (legally described as Tract D, REGISTERED LAND SURVEY NO. 561, RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA) a maximum building height of 47 feet and to explicitly allow the construction of a total of 74 dwelling units on Site H.

The full meeting notice can be found [HERE](#).

To participate, at the time of the meeting click on the meeting [calendar](#) entry on the website for links to 1) view via CTV or 2) log onto zoom if you wish to make public comment. Meeting documentation will be published 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Holiday Recycling Dos and Don'ts

When it comes to holiday cleanup, Ramsey County is here to help you sort through what can and can't be recycled. Watch this short video. <https://youtu.be/NZYi-8OIEiM>
For additional information: www.ramseyrecycles.com

Caution around Thin Ice

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Watch List – Snowbirds & extended travel

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Reminders—In case you missed it:

COVID Testing Locations

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Make sure to have your cart curbside to ensure recycling each week, as trucks can't back up icy or unplowed driveways. Please refer to your recycling cart for what can be recycled. You may also call Ramsey County's recycling hotline at 651-633-3279, or check their [website](#) for a complete guide on how to dispose of a variety of items.

Mail Safety Tips

Be a difficult target. In order minimize risk of mail theft, we suggest you drop off outgoing mail at the post office or do not put up the red flag on your mailbox which may alert potential thieves of outgoing mail. Contact the City office at 651-792-7750 or noaks@Cityofnorthoaks.com if you are interested in a locking mailbox. We do have a few extra mail managers available for purchase at \$82.00. The mailbox form can be found [here](#).

Subscribe to City specific emails

As part of the new City Website, residents have the ability to sign up for specific types of communications they would like to receive. If you are currently subscribed to this weekly eblast, your email has been transferred to the new website and signed up to receive News and Announcements and Urgent alerts. **NEW:** You can also subscribe to receive various other City information such Council Agenda/Minutes, Planning Commission Agendas/Minutes, or sign up for text messaging by clicking [here](#).

City of North Oaks—Office Hours

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City Hall business hours are:
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Upcoming City Meetings

All public meetings will take place via remote access until further notice. The community is welcome to tune into the live webcast feed on the City website for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Minutes will be taken and published for Natural Resource Commission meetings.

Residents wishing to make comments during the meeting are requested to log-on via the zoom link, or send comments to the City Administrator at kkress@northoaksmn.gov. A complete list of options for participation can be found [here](#).

- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, 12/16/2020 at 6:00 p.m. cancelled.

- **City Council Special Meeting** - Thursday 12/17/20 at 7 p.m. – Red Forest Way, Island Fields, Nord parcel subdivision, amendment consideration.
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Thursday, 12/17/2020 at 7:00 p.m. cancelled due to lack of business

Materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access links to view via CTV, or to participate via zoom.**

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/18/2020

City Hall Holiday Schedule

The City office will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. City Hall remains closed to the public during other normal business hours and City staff may be working remotely. Call 651-792-7750 to make an appointment if your business cannot be conducted electronically, or with any questions.

Shout out to Santa

Thanks to all residents who came out last Sunday afternoon to greet Santa, as he rode on top a Lake Johanna Fire department truck delivering holiday cheer to North Oaks residents. This great Covid friendly event was enhanced by a perfect snowfall. Happy Holidays!

Covid Update – Governor Walz

On December 17, 2020, Governor Walz signed Executive order 20-103, extending and modifying Executive Order 20-99. Effective December 17th at 11:59 p.m., now allowed are indoor gatherings of 10 people up to 2 households, and outdoor gatherings of 3 households and 15 people. Also permitted to reopen are fitness centers and outdoor dining at restaurants. Effective January 4th, approval has been given to resume adult, youth and after school group activities. Covid safety protocol and capacity restrictions remain in effect for these areas. Refer to the full Executive Order [HERE](#).

Planning Commission Openings – There will be three vacant seats available beginning January 2021. The Planning Commission is advisory to the City Council and meets on the last Thursday of each month. Commissioners work on a variety of development applications as well as responding to land use requests for variances, conditional use permits and other planning related items.

Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission should submit the [Boards, Committees, and Commissions Application](#) to City Administrator Kevin Kress via kkress@northoaksmn.gov or mail to North Oaks City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230, North Oaks, MN 55127. Applications will be considered until the openings are filled.

Holiday Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Wondering how to dispose of dead holiday lights, wrapping paper, packing materials? When it comes to holiday cleanup, Ramsey County is here to help you sort through what can and can't be recycled. Watch this short video. <https://youtu.be/NZYi-8OIEiM>

For additional recycling disposal information of larger/unusual items: www.ramseyrecycles.com

Caution around Thin Ice - Lakes

Pleasant Lake, Charley Lake, Deep Lake, Wilkinson Lake and Lake Gilfillan are all part of the St. Paul water authority chain of lakes and have a constant flow of moving water underneath, which can make ice thickness very unpredictable and very dangerous. Please steer clear of these surfaces, as well as the banks surrounding them.

Parents, please talk to your kids about the dangers of thin ice. Dog owners, please keep your dog on a leash to prevent an accident.

Package and Theft from vehicles

North Oaks continues to see a high volume of package and thefts from autos in driveways throughout various areas of North Oaks. Park inside your garage if possible, be sure to lock your vehicles both in

your driveway, keeping valuables out of site, and bring inside as soon as possible any packages and mail that may be delivered to your home. If you are away for the day and expect packages, we suggest asking a neighbor to bring in your boxes.

Stay vigilant and call in any unusual activity to 911.

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Road Safety – Our roads are our Sidewalks

With the early dark hours and lack of snow on the ground, residents walking on our roads are extremely difficult to see. Please be sure to wear reflective gear when you are out and about. Contact the Homeowners association at 651-792-7750 if interested in purchasing reflective vest.

Watch List – Snowbirds & extended travel

If you will be out of town for more than 14 days and wish to be added to the Home Watch List, Email to Officer Burrell at Michael.burrell@co.ramsey.mn.us. Please indicate the address, duration of stay, and an out of town contact number to request sheriff patrol in the area of the home. We also suggest you alert and share an emergency contact number with your neighbors. As always, call 911 to report any immediate suspicious activity.

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Residents wishing to make comments during the meeting are requested to log-on via the zoom link, or send comments to the City Administrator at kkress@northoaksmn.gov to be included in the packet. A complete list of options for participation can be found [here](#).

- **City Council Meeting** - Thursday 1/14/21 at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Thursday, 1/21/21
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, 1/28/21

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Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center

North Oaks, MN 55127

651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/24/2020

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Weekly Town News

Looking for information you have seen in a past City E-blast? All former weekly E-Blasts can be found on the City Website under [Weekly Town news](#).

Garage It!

Let's keep North Oaks looking its best by storing boats, cars, trailers, and other equipment as per the City ordinance:

151.028 (H); All recreational vehicles, disabled or stored motor vehicles, boats and trailers of all types, must be garaged or completely screened year-round from all roads or adjacent dwellings, but may be parked or exhibited in view for a temporary period not exceeding 30 days in a calendar year.

Holiday Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Wondering how to dispose of dead holiday lights, wrapping paper, packing materials? When it comes to holiday cleanup, Ramsey County is here to help you sort through what can and can't be recycled. Watch this short video. <https://youtu.be/NZYi-8OIEiM>

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For additional recycling disposal information of larger/unusual items: www.ramseyrecycles.com

Recycling of Plastic - Tips

While your regular recycling cart cannot accept plastic bags, there are alternatives to putting plastic them in the trash. Please consider collecting and dropping off your plastic bags to a retail center such as Target, Cub Foods, Kohl's. Items collected include:

- Retail, carryout, produce, newspaper, bread, and dry cleaning bags (clean, dry and free of receipts and clothes hangers)
- Zip-top food storage bags (clean and dry)
- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels), bubble wrap and air pillows (deflate)
- Product wrap on cases of water/soda bottles, paper towels, napkins, disposable cups, bathroom tissue, diapers
- Furniture and electronic wrap
- Plastic cereal box liners (but if it tears like paper, do not include)
- Any film packaging or bag that has the How2Recycle Label shown at right

For a complete list of drop off locations: <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/.../find-drop-off.../>

Planning Commission Vacancies

There will be three vacant seats available beginning January 2021. The Planning Commission is advisory to the City Council and meets on the last Thursday of each month. Commissioners work on a variety of

development applications as well as responding to land use requests for variances, conditional use permits and other planning related items.

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Parents, please talk to your kids about the dangers of thin ice. Dog owners, please keep your dog on a leash to prevent an accident. Let's have a safe holiday!!

Reminders—In case you missed it:

Covid Update – Governor Walz

On December 17, 2020, Governor Walz signed Executive order 20-103, extending and modifying Executive Order 20-99. Effective December 18th at 11:59 p.m., now allowed are indoor gatherings of 10 people up to 2 households, and outdoor gatherings of 3 households and 15 people. Also permitted to reopen are fitness centers and outdoor dining at restaurants. Effective January 4th, approval has been given to resume adult, youth and after school group activities. Covid safety protocol and capaCity restrictions remain in effect for these areas. Refer to the full Executive Order [HERE](#).

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Residents wishing to make comments during the meeting are requested to log-on via the zoom link, or send comments to the City Administrator at kkress@northoaksmn.gov to be included in the packet. A complete list of options for participation can be found [here](#).

- **Special Planning Commission Meeting (variance request)** – Tuesday 12-29-20 at 6 p.m.
- **City Council Meeting** - Thursday 1/14/20 at 7 p.m.
- **Natural Resource Commission Meeting** – Thursday, 1/21/20
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Thursday, 1/28/20

Materials and links for meetings can be found on the City of North Oaks website 72 hours prior to each meeting at <http://www.northoaksmn.gov>. **Click on the calendar entry for each meeting to access links to view via CTV, or to participate via zoom.**

Happy and Safe Holiday's to all!!!

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



100 Village Center
North Oaks, MN 55127
651-792-7750

E-BLAST FOR THE CITY OF NORTH OAKS—12/30/2020

City Hall Holiday Schedule

The City office will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

The City would like to thank its residents for the opportunity to serve you during this challenging socially-distanced year. Please give us a call if there is anything we can do and we look forward to a terrific 2021 within our community!

Special City Council Meeting

Councilmember/Mayor-Elect Kara Ries and Councilmember Jim Hara have called a special meeting of the City Council for Monday, January 4, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. The full meeting notice and agenda packet can be found [HERE](#).

To participate at the time of the meeting, click on the meeting [calendar](#) entry on the website for links to 1) view via CTV or 2) log onto zoom if you wish to make public comment. Meeting documentation will be published 72 hours prior to each meeting.

Recycling Shift – New Year's Day

Due to the New Year's Holiday, those homes with Friday recycling will shift to Saturday, January 2nd.

Planning Commission Openings

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Permit processing reminders

While outdoor work has slowed, interior home improvement picks up. Don't forget to remind your licensed contractors to contact City hall via phone or email to complete any permits needed for work to be done.

2021 Recycling Calendar

The new [2021 Recycling calendar](#) can now be found on the City website. Note: The 2021 recycling calendar reflects the **ONLY** shifts in recycling this year is on New Year's Day, and Thanksgiving Day. Recycling will be picked up as normal all other days.

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Recycling Packaging Reminder

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Happy New Year!!!

Kevin Kress
City of North Oaks
City Administrator



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