



CITY OF
NorthOaks
Building on a tradition of innovation



Eblast for the Week of 3.1.2024

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Presidential Primary Voting - Tuesday, March 5th

There are still three days to vote early for the Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP). Early voting allows you to place your ballot directly into the voting machine. You can now vote in person at either the Shoreview Ramsey County Library or the Roseville Ramsey County Library during the following times:

Friday, March 1: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Monday, March 4: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

On election day, Tuesday, March 5th residents must vote at their assigned polling place:

- Precinct 1 votes at City Hall, 100 Village Center Drive, Suite 150



- Precinct 2 votes at North Oaks Golf Club, 54 East Oaks Road

Unsure where you vote? [View my polling place](#). Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Contact Ramsey County Elections with any voting questions at 651-266-2171.

Highlights from the 2.29.2024 Planning Commission Meeting



Highlights from the Thursday, February 29th Planning Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. include:

- Approval of Planning Commission Minutes of 11.30.2023
- Public Hearing for CUP for garage size in excess of 1,500 square feet and building addition at 70 W. Pleasant Lake Road. CUP was approved.
- Septic Variance at property located at 4 Dove Lane was approved.
- CUP for building height in excess of 35 feet at 8 Sherwood Trail was moved to the March 28th meeting. It was determined that this property would also need a variance for wetland setbacks. The Commission will consider both requests at the March 28th meeting.
- Public Hearing for CUP for building height in excess of 35 feet for property at 1 Sherwood Trail. CUP was approved; the Planning Commission also discussed their interest in preserving trees on the property.
- Public Hearing for CUP for building height in excess of 35 feet for property at 2 Sherwood Trail. CUP was approved.
- Public Hearing to consider Ordinance amending City Code Title XV, Chapter 151 regarding garage definitions and garage size standards. The amendment raises the baseline garage from 1500 square feet to 2000 square feet. This will reduce the number of CUPs that come before the Commission. Proposed ordinance amendment was approved, with a note to the Council that the majority of the Planning Commission was not opposed to a 2500 square foot standard for garage size.
- Public Hearing to consider ordinance amending City Code Title XV, Chapter 151 regarding building height and setback standards in the RSL - Residential Single Family Low Density District. The amendment updates definitions to clarify language. Proposed ordinance amendment was approved.
- Planning Commission discussed a proposed ordinance amending City Code Title XIII, Chapter 130 regarding unnecessary noise. This amendment would put time limitations on activities such as loud outdoor music,

domestic power equipment, landscaping equipment, etc. with some exceptions for equipment such as snow plows, public safety vehicles, etc. The Commission reviewed an initial draft and will share additional feedback with the City Administrator over the coming weeks. Discussion will continue at the March meeting.

- All approved items will be considered for final approval at the upcoming City Council meetings in March or April.
- City Administrator Kress gave an update on the Gate Hill area and a proposed berm to provide separation from Centerville Road.

View the full meeting recording [HERE](#).



Road Restrictions are now in Effect

The City has been notified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation that spring road restrictions are now in effect as of last Monday, February 26th at 12:01 a.m. The weight limit in North Oaks is 3 ton or 5 ton per axle depending on the below streets during this period.

Tier 1: 3 tons per axle limit with appropriate signage posted at the entrances. Most roads will be signed with a 3 ton per axle weight limit. These are most of the central North Oaks roads.

Tier 2: 5 tons per axle for select newer roads listed below with appropriate signage posted at the entrances:

- Charley Lake Preserve (single family area not the townhomes)
- Rapp Farm Development
- East Preserve (Sherwood Trail)
- Creekside Lane
- Villas of Wilkinson Lake
- Anderson Woods (Pond View Trail)
- Preserve Trail

If you are anticipating large contractor deliveries within the next 8-10 weeks during these road restrictions, heavy delivery loads will need to be split into smaller trucks. Spring road conditions are weather dependent and based on the impact to road surfaces while the ground thaws from winter. Road restrictions help prevent damage and cracking to road surfaces.

There are NO exceptions to the road restrictions through the City during this period unless it is a surfacing septic system emergency, or garbage/recycling collection. Violations of road restrictions are subject to ticketing during this period. The City will receive a 72-hour notice from MN DOT when they are being lifted.

Any overweight exemptions on our private roads can **ONLY** be granted by the North Oaks Homeowners Association under special circumstances. NOHOA can be reached via email at NOHOA@nohoa.org. Permit applications will be accepted and approved or denied by the NOHOA engineer.

COMMUNITY NEWS



A journey
to a healthier
YOU.

Join a free diabetes prevention program.



Program begins soon. Register today!



Monday, April 8
6 p.m.



Ramsey County Library -
Shoreview



RAMSEY COUNTY

Diabetes Prevention Program at the Ramsey County Library - Shoreview

Ramsey County community members are invited to join a free, year-long diabetes prevention program. You and fellow community members will learn how to:

- Move your body through daily fitness.
- Eat well on a budget.
- Control your sugar intake.

This year's Diabetes Prevention Program starts Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. All sessions will be in-person at **Ramsey County Library - Shoreview**.

During the first 16 weeks of the program, participants will meet with fellow community members once a week for one hour.

After that, participants will meet twice a month. Family members are invited to attend.

As a participant, you will:

- Learn about foods that can help reverse diabetes.
- Access healthy, quick and low-cost recipes for your whole family to enjoy.
- Gain a sense of community to help you succeed and reach your goals.
- Have all the resources you need to be empowered to live your healthiest life.

For more information on the program and how to sign up, visit the link below.

[Diabetes Prevention
Program](#)

SAFETY

Reminder to Residents: Sign up Now for North Oaks Emergency Alert System

Currently there are 133 Residents that have already signed up for the new City Emergency Notification System. Thank you! Now only 1,800 homes to go!



You will need to "Opt In" to be part of the emergency alert system.

To register for the system, North Oaks residents and businesses should click the Sign-up button below. You will need to:

1. Follow prompts to set up an Account.
2. Under Notification, check the boxes for your preferred delivery method (text, voice, email)

****Note** This emergency alert system is separate from the general non-urgent City weekly Eblast newsletters. Questions? Call the City office at 651-792-7750.

[Sign up for Rave Emergency Notification](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

VLAWMO Chronicle: March 2024

The VLAWMO March Newsletter is here! The latest issue has information on:

- Upcoming workshops and webinars
- Volunteer activities
- The watershed management plan
- Lawns to Legumes program
- Otter trailcam footage



Check out the full newsletter at the link below.

[VLAWMO March 2024 Newsletter](#)

Upcoming VLAWMO Workshops

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Training

March 12, 2024 5:30-7 pm

West Recreation Building - free to attend

Join VLAWMO and Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division as we learn about existing and potential aquatic invasive species threats in Minnesota. Attend to learn about the status and management strategies, or continue on to serve as an AIS detector. AIS detectors receive aquatic vegetation monitoring materials from VLAWMO, and the primary area of focus is the Mississippi River connection into Charley Lake.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AIS TRAINING

MARCH 12TH
5:30 - 7 PM
14 W PLEASANT LAKE RD
VISIT VLAWMO.ORG/EVENTS TO RSVP

Learn about aquatic invasives in Minnesota and potential threats facing local waters. Attend to learn or continue on as a volunteer who helps monitor local lakes for possible new infestations.



Resilient Shorelines

April 9, 2024 6-8 pm

Online - \$15 with pre-registration

Join VLAWMO and Blue Thumb to learn about planning, installing, and maintaining a native planting shoreline project as well as how native plants reduce erosion and help protect lake water quality.



Visit vlawmo.org/events to RSVP.

University of Minnesota Extension Yard & Garden Resources

Does warm weather have you dreaming of summer lawn and garden projects? The University of Minnesota Extension program has resources to get you started. Check out this great resource for articles on solving common garden problems, finding plants for the Minnesota climate, and many more how-to guides and resources for lawns and landscapes. Check out the site at the button below.



U of M Extension - Yard and Garden
Resources

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

- **City Council** - Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** - Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Early Voting for Presidential Primaries
- Spring Road Restrictions in Effect
- Planning Commission Public Hearings Scheduled for 2.29.2024
- Holiday Lights Recycling Recap
- Rave Emergency Alert Sign-Up
- VLAWMO Resilient Shoreline Workshop

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750



HOURS

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Fri: 9AM to 12PM
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Eblast for the Week of 3.9.2024

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Daylight Saving Reminder

Sunday, March 10th is the start of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to "spring forward" and set your clocks forward one hour as you go to sleep on Saturday night.

Curious about the origin of this practice? Visit [Daylight saving time - Wikipedia](#) for more information.



March City Council Meeting - Cancelled

Due to the Spring Break holiday week and lack of City new business, the March City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting of the City Council will be Thursday, April 11th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

North Oaks Resident Cell Phone Survey

Spotty coverage in North Oaks has been a frequent complaint of residents in some areas. In an effort to gather information as a resource for residents, you are invited to complete the following Cell phone survey to gauge what works (or doesn't work well) in your area.

*NORTH OAKS CELL PHONE COVERAGE
QUESTIONNAIRE*

North Oaks Survey (6-10 questions maximum)

The more feedback received, the better the information available. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Thanks for your input!

[Complete the Cell Phone Survey](#)

Presidential Primary Results

Thanks to everyone who came out to vote in the Presidential Primary this past Tuesday, March 5th, 2024. The full results with number of votes received and percentages can be found on the [MN Secretary of State website](#).



Road Restrictions in Now Effect

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Spring Break Staycation Ideas

Spring Break is here for local school districts! If you are looking for staycation ideas in the metro area, check out the following resources for family-friendly activities and events:

- [Twin Cities Spring Break Staycation Guide & Minnesota Family Fun \(familyfuntwincities.com\)](http://familyfuntwincities.com)
- [Twin Cities Guide to March Events \(twincitiesmom.com\)](http://twincitiesmom.com)
- [Event Calendar | Mpls.St.Paul Magazine | Minneapolis, MN \(mspmag.com\)](http://mspmag.com)
- [Events Calendar | Minnesota Monthly](#)

Family Storytime: Petite Concert at the Shoreview Library

Visit the Shoreview Library for a live music performance with Petite Concerts on Tuesday, March 12th from 6-6:45 p.m. Children will sing and move to well-



known children's songs in this 30-minute program for ages 2-6. A short instrument discovery session to follow.

This program is funded with money from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds.

Appropriate for ages 2-5. No registration is required.

Family Storytime: Petite Concerts

SAFETY

Reminder to Residents: Sign up Now for North Oaks Emergency Alert System

Currently there are 170 Residents that have already signed up for the new City Emergency Notification System. Thank you! Now only 1,800 homes to go!



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[Sign up for Rave Emergency Notification](#)

Fire Safety Checklist

The start of Daylight Saving Time is a good time to make sure your smoke and CO2 detectors are in working order and that you have a fire safety plan for your home.



Check out the printable Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters from the U.S. Fire Administration for a list of items to make sure your home is fire-safe.

Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

NATURAL RESOURCES

Volunteer to be a Rainfall Monitor with the DNR

- Do you have an interest in the weather?
- Are you looking for a way to do something for the environment from your location?
- Or how about a great classroom or family activity that provides an easy way for kids to get involved with science?

Volunteer as a rainfall monitor for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) coordinated through the state climatology office in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Data provided by volunteers:

- Verifies high rainfall totals after big events
- Provides critical information during flooding events
- Monitors drought conditions
- Provides needed guidance on Minnesota's changing climate

The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure rainfall in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge and submit their reports online. The program also collects snowfall and reports hail among other weather observations. The data is used by the National Weather Service, researchers, cities, and a wide range of industries.

To become a rainfall monitor, you must:

- Have internet access to submit reports by computer or using the CoCoRaHS Observer weather app on your smartphone
- Provide or purchase a **standard 4-inch rain gauge** (discounts are available through CoCoRaHS)
- Complete online training on how to observe weather trends and how to submit precipitation and weather event reports online
- Commit to submitting reports for at least one season

Volunteers are particularly needed in Greater Minnesota outside the Twin Cities metro area. Some areas have very few reporting stations so the more we have across the state, the better information we have to work with.

To sign up:

- Complete the [CoCoRaHS.org](https://www.cocoraHS.org) application OR
- Contact Luigi Romolo, State Climatologist, at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us

For more information on becoming a rainfall monitor, go to the Minnesota page on the CoCoRaHS website:

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

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- Early Voting for Presidential Primaries
- Highlights from the 2.29.24 Planning Commission Meeting
- Road Restrictions in Effect
- Diabetes Prevention Program
- Rave Emergency Alert Sign-up
- VLAWMO March Newsletter
- Upcoming VLAWMO Workshops
- U of M Extension Yard & Garden Resources

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



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Eblast for the Week of 3.15.2024

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Spring Road Restrictions to be Lifted Monday 3.18.2024

Due to unusually warm weather, The Minnesota Department of Transportation will end spring load restrictions (SLR) in the METRO frost zone on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 12:01 AM. This includes all of North Oaks.

While this was a historically short restriction period, spring load restrictions protect our most valuable asset, our private road network, from undue damage as the seasons change. Thanks to everyone who helped preserve the integrity of the roads by breaking down deliveries into small loads during the last few weeks.



Tree Work Regulations / Tips



Regulations are in place to ensure preservation of our natural North Oaks environment. As residents begin thinking about cleaning up yards and trees, a few important things to keep in mind:

- To minimize risk of Oak Wilt spreading to other trees, check the [U of Minnesota Extension update](#) on the current oak wilt status, before pruning branches to ensure it is a SAFE period.
- If trees on your property have been marked by the City Forester for removal due to disease and risk to property/trails/safety - contact an [Arborist licensed by the City of North Oaks](#) to do work in our community.
- If there are trees / brush that you would like to clear within the shoreland district area adjacent to water, a [Shoreland alteration application](#) must be completed with approval received from City, NOHOA and VLAWMO.
- If you are unsure if trees are diseased or need to be taken down, contact the City Forester Mark Rehder at 612-760-3519 or mark@rehderforestryconsulting.com to request an onsite visit.
- If a tree needs to be taken down roadside by Mel's Service for safety purposes, it is the property owner's responsibility to dispose of the wood left behind.
- NOHOA is a separate entity from the City of North Oaks. Any tree removals also need to be [submitted to the NOHOA ASC](#). There is a drop down for "tree removal" and reasons for removal. Review the NOHOA Tree policy [HERE](#).
- **Coming Soon:** A FREE City tree seeding give away event will take place late April, as well as a City Brush pick up day happening late May. Keep an eye out for more information in future City communications!

Aging in Place Survey Results

The City of North Oaks was awarded an Age-Friendly Minnesota Community Grant by the MN Department of Human Services to develop a Community Visioning Project to identify improvements, ordinance and programs that could be implemented to help North Oaks be more age friendly and inclusive.



Between the period of August 2023 - January 2024, the City of North Oaks undertook initiatives to gain

feedback from North Oaks residents on the topic of making North Oaks a more age-friendly community.

The results from the survey and Community open house event resulted in the following Age-Friendly Action plan developed by City Planner Landform. This plan will be reviewed by City Council for final input / approval at their April 11, 2024 7:00 p.m. meeting.

[View Draft Age-Friendly Action Plan](#)

North Oaks Residents - Take Quick Cell Phone Survey

Spotty coverage in North Oaks has been a frequent complaint of residents in some areas. In an effort to gather information as a resource for residents, you are invited to complete the following Cell phone survey to gauge what works (or doesn't work well) in your area.

The more feedback received, the better the information available. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Thanks for your input!

[Complete the Cell Phone Survey](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

North Oaks Egg Hunt - Save the Date

North Oaks Residents are invited to attend the Homeowners Association egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the West Recreation Center. Activities include: egg hunt, face painting, balloon artists, petting zoo.

Look for flyer from the North Oaks Homeowners Association.



NORTH OAKS EGG HUNT
Egg Hunt • Face Painting • Balloon Artists • Petting Zoo
SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH 10 - 11:30 AM
WEST REC CENTER
31 WEST PLEASANT LAKE ROAD

EGG HUNT SCHEDULE:
10:15 AM: CHILDREN AGES 2-4
10:30 AM: CHILDREN AGES 5-7
10:45 AM: CHILDREN AGES 8-12
PET HUNT WILL RUN ON-TIME. SO PLEASE ALLOW FOR ENOUGH TIME TO GET PARKED AND READY TO HUNT!

* Please bring your own basket or bag for eggs. * The hunt will happen rain, snow or shine. * Bring a coffee mug/water bottle to honor North Oaks & be thoughtful to our environment. * Flowers and Centerpieces will be available for purchase from Hummingbird Floral.

This is a FREE event for our community! Thank you to our sponsors:

Glasrud Family | STROLL | MICHEL'S
Krista Wolter REAL ESTATE GROUP | Brogger Family | SONIA KOHLI (651) 428-8105 Edina Realty | HUMMINGBIRD floral & gifts
Northview DENTAL | NORTHERN STARS HOME CARE | RE/MAX RESULTS | TAMMY BRICE
DUNKIN' | Chick-fil-A | KROGER

North Oaks Garden Club 2024 Plant Sale - Time to Order

As spring approaches, so does the garden club's annual plant sale. Changes this year include a new electronic ordering system and a new supplier for baskets, planters and some plants.

This year's sale will include a great variety of annuals, herbs and vegetables along with new basket combinations. The sale will offer 10" baskets and 12" patio planters with combinations for sun and shade.

The electronic order form and photos of the plants and hanging baskets are available at:

<http://www.nogardenclub.com>.

Submit your order early to receive your first choice of plants and hanging baskets. All orders and payments are due **by Friday, April 12th**. Payments may be made by credit card or check.



Pickup dates at Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle):

- Hanging baskets and patio pots: Monday, May 6th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Herbs, fruits, vegetables, annual plants: Thursday, May 9th from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Please send any questions to nogardenclub@gmail.com. The Garden Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to seeing you at the plant pickups.

The North Oaks Garden Club is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All plant sale proceeds are used to support charitable programs benefiting our community.

Shop North Oaks Garden Club Plant
Sale

SAFETY



Neighborhood Watch Updates

Shared on behalf of NOHOA

Several incidents have been reported by Residents over the last two weeks. As Spring arrives, we get to enjoy warmer weather and the great outdoors. However, the risk of incidents in the neighborhood increases as well. The NOHOA Board

wanted to share this information with all Members in the spirit of encouraging neighbors to watch for strange or suspicious/inappropriate behavior and say something. Please continue to report suspicious activities, trespassing, and emergencies to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office at either 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line at 651-767-0640. Then, please let NOHOA and the City know, if possible.

Rapp Farm near miss: an incident occurred in Rapp Farm on Thursday 3/7/2024. A neighbor's 11-year-old daughter was running home from a friend's house around 5:45 pm on Thursday and was stopped by a delivery driver and asked if she wanted a ride home. She told him no thank you and then he asked her if she wanted a towel (sitting in the front seat of his car). It was a door dash delivery driver, and the parents reported it to the police and door dash. Thankfully, the parents taught their youngster about stranger danger - but this is scary and wrong on many levels.

Solicitors/Trespassers in Rapp Farm: A lawn care group hung door tags or placed ads in mailboxes in Rapp Farm the afternoon of Monday 3/11/2024. The incident was reported to the City and NOHOA and the group will be contacted to remind them that trespassing and soliciting are not allowed in North Oaks. The City or NOHOA **DO NOT** issue solicitation permits. If you see someone soliciting, they are trespassing and please report this to Ramsey County Sheriff's Office by calling 911.

Home Safety Tip of the Month

Excerpt from Ramsey County Sheriff Crime Prevention Newsletter



Take away the opportunity for crime to occur by closing your garage doors. Whether we get home at night or go out for a walk, we may think our neighborhood is safe, but you never know when a crime may occur. Ramsey County Sheriff's Office sees an increase in vehicle break-ins and residential burglaries through open garage doors. By keeping your garage door closed anytime someone is not present can take away an easy opportunity for a criminal to gain access to your home, steal your vehicle or take your property from the garage.

During the spring months, people welcome the breeze as they are in the garage getting yard work done. However, many forget to close the garage door as they get ready for bed. Get into the habit of adding to your bedtime checklist ensuring the garage door(s) are closed and any interior door from the garage to your home is locked.

Reminder to Residents: Sign up Now for North Oaks Emergency Alert System

Currently there are 181 Residents that have already signed up for the new City Emergency Notification System. Thank you! Now only 1,800 homes to go!

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To register for the system, North Oaks residents and businesses should click the Sign-up button below. You will need to:

1. Follow prompts to set up an Account.
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Sign up for Rave Emergency
Notification

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ramsey County prepares for climate change with new action Framework

Communicated by Request of Ramsey County Recycling Committee

The effects of climate change impact everyone in Ramsey County. So, the county is taking steps to address that and create opportunities to strengthen the economy, improve health and create a more equitable community for everyone.

Ramsey County recently published its first [Climate Action Framework](#) to guide the county's response to climate change. The framework was developed with input from residents, county staff and key partners. It builds on the six focus areas identified in the [State of Minnesota Climate Action Framework](#)

- **Clean transportation:** Connect people to places through a safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system.
- **Climate-smart natural land:** Manage county land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support healthy ecosystems and increase environmental resilience.
- **Thriving communities:** Collaboratively build the capacity of Ramsey County communities to survive and thrive in changing conditions.
- **Clean energy and efficient buildings:** Pursue 100% carbon-free, reliable and affordable electrical power and heat sources through policies, investments and partnerships.
- **Healthy lives:** Partner with community to reduce the direct and indirect health impacts of climate change together.
- **Clean economy:** Build an economy that addresses climate change and creates equitable opportunities for all.

County departments will focus on "near-term" actions outlined in the plan over the course of 2024. They will share updates on this work at ramseycounty.us/climate-action.

A team of residents will meet with county staff regularly throughout the year to review progress and discuss ways to improve outcomes. While the current team has been selected, there will be opportunities for new residents to participate later in the year.

Learn more about Ramsey County's [climate action work](#) and sign up to receive updates.

Spring Burning Restrictions Set to Begin Monday 3.18.2024

from MN DNR press release



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is restricting the open burning of vegetative debris due to increased wildfire risk resulting from unusually warm temperatures and exceptionally dry conditions across most of Minnesota.

Beginning Monday, March 18, the restrictions apply in the following counties:

Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Mahnomon, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Otter Tail, Pine, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Sherburne, St. Louis County (southern half), Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Washington, Wilkin, and Wright.

The DNR will not issue permits for open burning of brush or yard waste in these counties until restrictions are lifted.

Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before vegetation greens up. "This year, we've seen an early start to our wildfire season due to exceptionally warm winter temperatures and less than half the

average snowfall across much of the state," said Karen Harrison, DNR wildfire prevention specialist. "Spring burning restrictions help reduce the number of wildfires, especially those caused by debris burning."

Harrison encourages residents to use alternatives to burning to dispose of yard waste, such as composting, chipping, or taking brush to a collection site. For more information, visit the **composting for woodland owners page** of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/wildfire/prevention/debris-composting.html).

Burning restrictions will be adjusted as conditions change. For more information and daily updates on current fire risk and open burning restrictions, visit the **statewide fire danger and burning restrictions page** of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/burnrestrictions).

Minnesotans with private wells urged to test their drinking water for five common contaminants

from MN Department of Health

In conjunction with [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#), now in its 25th year, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is reminding Minnesotans who rely on a private household well for their drinking water to test regularly for contaminants. Testing is particularly important if babies or pregnant people will be drinking the water.

More than 4 million Minnesotans rely on groundwater for their drinking water, including 1.1 million who rely on a private well. A recent MDH study found that less than 20% of well users test their drinking water as frequently as MDH recommends.

Public water systems are required to meet federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards, which MDH enforces, but private wells do not have those same protections. If groundwater is or becomes contaminated, it can affect the health of those who drink it. MDH therefore recommends testing private wells regularly and using an accredited laboratory for that testing ([Search for Accredited Laboratories](#)).

“You cannot taste, smell or see most contaminants, so testing your private well is the only way to know what’s in your drinking water,” said MDH Water Policy Manager Tannie Eshenaur. “The good news is that there are many ways to address water quality issues.”

The five most common contaminants in Minnesota, and their potential health effects, include:

- Nitrate — Test every year. Porous geology in southeast Minnesota and sandy soils in central Minnesota make these areas of the state especially susceptible to nitrate contamination from fertilizer, manure, wastewater and faulty septic systems. Consuming too much nitrate can cause babies to develop methomoglobinemia (also known as blue baby syndrome), which can be fatal.
- Coliform bacteria — Test every year. Coliform bacteria can indicate that other infectious bacteria, viruses or parasites may be in your water. These may cause diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, nausea, headaches, fever and fatigue.
- Arsenic — Test at least once. Arsenic has been detected in about half of private wells constructed since 2008. Drinking water that contains arsenic can increase your risk of cancer and other serious health effects.
- Lead — Test at least once. Lead from pumps or pipes can damage the brain, kidneys and nervous system. It also can slow development or cause learning, behavior and hearing problems.
- Manganese — Test at least once. Manganese can cause problems with memory, attention and motor skills. It can also cause learning and behavior problems in infants and children.

If testing identifies any contaminants, a variety of treatment options are available to improve water quality, depending on the contaminant(s) to be removed. Solutions can include installing point-of-use or whole-home filters such as reverse osmosis or a water softener, repairing cracks where contaminants are entering the well or potentially even building a new well. A limited number of [grants and low-interest loans](#) are available to help offset water treatment costs. More information about [well testing, understanding your test results and treatment options](#) can be found on MDH’s website. More information about the quality of water provided by public water systems is shared annually in each community’s [Consumer Confidence Report](#).

-Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

[Upcoming City Meetings/Events](#)

[Highlights From Last Week's News:](#)

The public is encouraged to attend City

meetings.

- **Planning Commission** - Thursday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.
- **City Council** - Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Click on the calendar for each meeting 72 hours prior to access agendas, links to view via Nine North, or to participate via zoom.

A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Daylight Savings Time
- City Council March Mtg. Cancelled
- North Oaks Cell Phone Survey
- Presidential Primary Results
- Spring Break Staycation ideas
- Sign up for City Alert System
- Fire Safety Checklist
- Volunteer to be a DNR Rainfall Monitor

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

100 Village Center Drive, #230
North Oaks, MN 55127
Phone: (651) 792-7750



HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 9 AM to 4 PM

Fri: 9AM to 12PM

[Email Us](#)

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Eblast for the Week of 3.22.2024

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Septic Pumping Notices Going Out

Tis the season! Road restrictions have lifted, which means the septic pumping season has begun. Those residents who are due for your every 2-year septic pumping by end of June, will receive a reminder letter from the City in the next week to call to schedule your pumping. Those that are overdue for pumping will also receive notices.

For your convenience, the letter will include your prior pumping date, date that your new pumping is due, and phone numbers of pumpers frequently used in North Oaks. Once a pumper adds you to their schedule, you're all set! You do NOT need to call the City to let us know the scheduled date, as we will receive a report directly from the pumper after completion of the work.



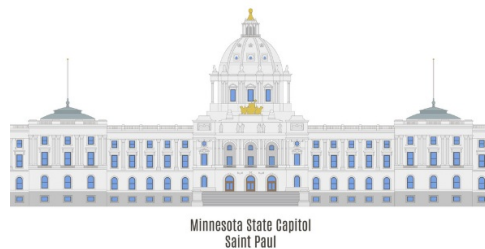


Planning Commission Meeting Next Thursday 3.28.2024

There will be a Planning Commission meeting in the Community Room at City Hall next Thursday, March 28th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda includes discussion on:

- CUP for excess height and driveway variance at 8 Sherwood Trail
- Septic Variance request for 6 Badger Lane
- State Legislature Zoning Bills under consideration

The meeting agenda packet and links to participate can be found [HERE](#) no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.



MN State Legislature Bills Under Consideration

The MN State Legislature is currently in session with many bills being presented to the Senate Housing and Preventing Homelessness Committee related to increasing the stock of affordable housing in the state, and provides mechanisms to remove exclusionary zoning, promote density, and reduce fees.

This legislation would undermine the abilities of city officials and their residents to make their own decisions about zoning and land use. The “Missing Middle Housing” bills, HF 4009, SF 3964, and SF 3980, increases housing density and takes away local cities’ rights to make zoning and land use decisions that best fit their communities’ needs.

WHAT’S IN THE BILL:

- Forces administrative approvals of projects that meet standards and prohibits public input in the approval process.
- Limits minimum lot size requirements to no greater than 2,500 square feet for first class cities and 4,000 square feet for all other cities except for cities with populations less than 10,000.
- Requires all cities to accept Accessory Dwelling Units on all residential lots regardless of size and allows property owners to subdivide their lots by right.
- Sets a base level for density allowed on any residential lot by right—regardless

of size—at 2 units statewide and 4 units in first class cities.

- Prohibits off-street parking from being required close to major transit stops and limits off-street parking minimum requirements to 1 spot per unit in other areas.
- Allows multi-family dwellings to be constructed in any zoning district that allows commercial activity as tall as the tallest commercial or residential structure within ¼ mile radius of the parcel up to 150 feet in height or the local height restriction, whichever is higher.
- Broadly prohibits design standards for residential development and eliminates minimum square footage and floor area ratio requirements.

The City of North Oaks, along with surrounding communities throughout the State, are very aware of these bills under discussion. The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) is lobbying on our behalf, our serious concerns with these bills as worded. The City of North Oaks has no plans to increase density in our carefully planned community and will continue to advocate to retain zoning and development at the local level. The City Attorney is also drafting resolutions for consideration on this topic for North Oaks Planning Commission and City Council.

Changes to both the Senate and House bills are happening daily during the next two weeks of State Session. Interested in learning more on this topic? Click below.

[View LMC Fact Sheet on Housing / Zoning Bills](#)



Spring Road Restrictions have been Lifted

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has ended spring load restrictions (SLR) in the METRO frost zone on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 12:01 AM. This includes all of North Oaks.

While this was a historically short restriction period, spring load restrictions protect our most valuable asset, our private road network, from undue damage as the seasons change.

Thanks to everyone who helped preserve the integrity of the roads by breaking down deliveries into small loads during the last few weeks.

Trash Bins in Driveways

For safety of cars and walkers on our narrowing winding roads, please place garbage and recycling cans at the end of your own driveway and not creeping into the street.

Please bring them inside as soon as possible once they have been emptied, in case the mechanical garbage "arm" has accidentally dropped your can encroaching

the street.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community roads safe.



North Oaks Residents - Reminder Links / Cell Phone and Emergency Alerts

Haven't had time to fill out some of the recent links from the City? Here you go!

Complete the Cell Phone Survey

Sign up for City Emergency Alert System

COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH OAKS HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NORTH OAKS EGG HUNT

Egg Hunt • Face Painting • Balloon Artists • Petting Zoo

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH 10 – 11:30 AM
WEST REC CENTER
31 WEST PLEASANT LAKE ROAD

EGG HUNT SCHEDULE:
10:15 AM: CHILDREN AGES 2-4
10:30 AM: CHILDREN AGES 5-7
10:45 AM: CHILDREN AGES 8-12

THE HUNT WILL RUN ON TIME, SO PLEASE ALLOW FOR ENOUGH TIME TO GET PARKED AND READY TO HUNT!

• Please bring your own basket or bag for eggs. • The hunt will happen rain, snow or shine
 • Bring a coffee mug/water bottle to honor North Oaks & be thoughtful to our environment
 • Flowers and Centerpieces will be available for purchase from Hummingbird Floral

North Oaks Egg Hunt - Save the date for Next Saturday 3/30
Event presented by NOHOA

We are a little over a week away from NOHOA's annual Egg Hunt! Bundle up your little bunnies, grab a basket and come have fun, friends, eggs and food at the West Rec on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m.! All the information is on the flyer.

Egg Hunts will run on time and there will be plenty to do and see to keep your kiddos busy! Grandparents, feel free to bring your grandkids and make some memories.

Please thank our generous sponsors when you see them out in the

This is a FREE event for our community! Thank you to our sponsors:

North Oaks Garden Club 2024 Plant Sale - Time to Order

As spring approaches, so does the garden club's annual plant sale. Changes this year include a new electronic ordering system and a new supplier for baskets, planters and some plants.

This year's sale will include a great variety of annuals, herbs and vegetables along with new basket combinations. The sale will offer 10" baskets and 12" patio planters with combinations for sun and shade.

The electronic order form and photos of the plants and hanging baskets are available at:

<http://www.nogardenclub.com>.

Submit your order early to receive your first choice of plants and hanging baskets. All orders and payments are due **by Friday, April 12th**. Payments may be made by credit card or check.



Pickup dates at Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle):

- Hanging baskets and patio pots: Monday, May 6th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Herbs, fruits, vegetables, annual plants: Thursday, May 9th from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Please send any questions to nogardenclub@gmail.com. The Garden Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to seeing you at the plant pickups.

The North Oaks Garden Club is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All plant sale proceeds are used to support charitable programs benefiting our community.

Shop North Oaks Garden Club Plant
Sale

SAFETY

Reminder - Animal Control and Leashing Ordinance

Please remember to follow City Ordinance regarding animal control guidelines when your pets are out of the house. City Ordinance § 90.15 states: "Any animal shall be deemed to be under control if it is on the premises of its owner; on the premises of another owner of property with the property owner's permission; if on a leash held by a person able to physically restrain the animal; or if suitably trained to respond to audible or other signals and accompanied by a person within the range of trained response when on public or easement property".

Homeowners Association regulations require pets be leashed on our NOHOA trails and recreation spaces. **A clause from the North Oaks 2022 NOHOA Membership booklet includes (but not limited to):**

"Regulations for All NOHOA Property: To assure Members' safe and positive experiences:

- Parks are open from dawn to ½ hour after sunset.
- Members must accompany their guests on any NOHOA property.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Dogs are not permitted on the beach.
- Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets."

Residents have varying levels of comfort with off leash animals. For the safety of others and their own leashed pets, please keep your pet leashed in our shared public spaces to ensure all residents have the ability to comfortably use these spaces.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Dark Sky's Natural Environment

Part of the beauty of living in North Oaks is the dark natural environment in which our wildlife and natural resources thrive. While we many of us enjoy additional holiday lights during the dark winter season, out of consideration for neighbors, please consider turning off any flashing / excessive lights during the overnight hours.

Also, keep in mind bulbs in outdoor fixtures must be shielded as to not spill into neighboring yards or cause a glare into windows.

Refer to our [F.A.Q. on outdoor landscaping lighting](#).

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

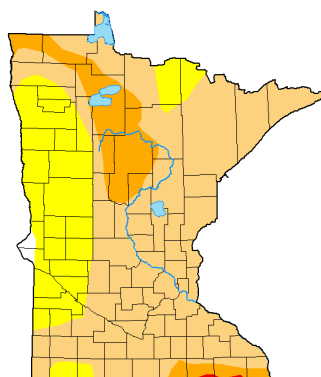
Warm, dry winter heightens drought concerns

via MN DNR press release

Year-round water conservation is beneficial

With less than half the average snowfall across much of the state and extraordinarily warm winter temperatures, drought conditions in Minnesota have persisted through the winter. Abnormally dry

U.S. Drought Monitor
Minnesota



March 12, 2024
(Released Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D4	D4	
Current	0.52	99.48	74.74	12.42	0.25	0.00
Last Week (02-22-2024)	0.52	99.48	53.48	12.42	0.25	0.00
3 Months Ago (12-12-2023)	1.66	98.34	44.92	18.01	0.25	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (01-01-2024)	14.82	85.18	40.24	12.42	0.25	0.00
Start of Water Year (09-01-2023)	0.00	100.00	82.65	46.65	8.00	0.00
One Year Ago (03-14-2023)	58.59	41.41	15.64	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

conditions exist throughout the state and about half of Minnesota is in moderate or severe drought.

Minnesota has experienced significant drought conditions each year since 2021. The 2021 drought was the most severe in Minnesota since at least 1988. Drought in 2023 was generally less severe, but some areas of the state experienced conditions comparable to or worse than 2021.

“While climatologists don’t issue forecasts, we want everyone to recognize that, without substantial precipitation this spring, a continuation of widespread drought conditions in 2024 is likely,” State Climatologist Luigi Romolo said.

Sixty-five surface water appropriation permits remain suspended due to last year's low streamflow conditions. These locations and other watersheds will be monitored closely to support decisions on suspending or reinstating surface water appropriation permits. Surface water appropriation suspensions are implemented when streamflows drop to a low level measurement called the Q90, which is a flow that is exceeded 90% of the time. Weekly streamflow reports typically resume the first week of April.

Recent drought events in Minnesota highlight the importance of year-round efficient water use and conservation. The [DNR website](#) has information about what individuals, families, businesses and communities can do to conserve water. More information about drought is available on the [DNR drought web page](#).

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

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A complete list of options for participation and submitting comments can be found [here](#).

[City Calendar](#)

Highlights From Last Week's News:

Did you miss last week's news? No problem! The topics were:

- Spring Road Restrictions Lifted
- Tree Work Regulations
- Age-Friendly Action Plan
- North Oaks Cell Phone Survey
- Egg Hunt Save date 3.10.24
- Garden Club Plant Order Link
- Neighborhood watch Update
- Home Safety Tip - Close Garage Doors
- Ramsey County Climate Action Framework
- DNR Spring Burning Restrictions
- Well Water Testing Links

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

North Oaks



Minnesota

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Eblast for the Week of 3.29.2024

IMPORTANT CITY NEWS

Easter Weekend Activities

The City of North Oaks wishes residents a happy and safe Easter weekend!

Enjoy a beautiful weekend stopping by the North Oaks Easter Egg hunt, [Spring Gardens at the Como Park Zoo / Conservatory](#), or checking out other [family fun activities around the twin cities](#)



Highlights from the 3.28.2024 Planning Commission Meeting

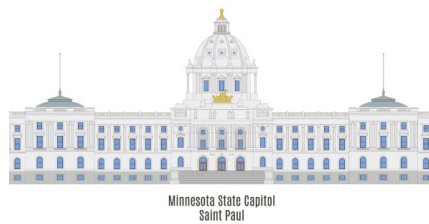
Highlights from the Thursday, March 28th Planning Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. include:

- Approval of the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

of 2.29.2023

- Septic variance for 6 Badger Lane was approved with conditions as outlined in the staff report.
- Public Hearing for building height in excess of 35 feet and driveway setback variance at 8 Sherwood Trail. Commissioners were presented with a staff report and spoke to the builder of the proposed home. Commissioners voted to continue the hearing to the April 25th meeting and to consider the variance at that time as well.
- Resolution in opposition of Missing Middle Housing Bill. Commissioners heard from the City Attorney about a bill before the Minnesota State Legislature that would undermine the ability of City officials and their residents to make decisions about zoning and land use. The Commission recommended a resolution that supports retention of city zoning authority. This resolution will be considered by the City Council at their April meeting.

View the full meeting recording [HERE](#).



MN State Legislature Bills Under Consideration - Update

In last week's eblast, the City shared information and links to proposed bills under discussion by the State legislature that related to increasing housing stock in the state, removing exclusionary zoning, and promoting density. The proposed changes reduce the ability for local cities to make their own zoning and land use decisions. Since last week, the following has occurred:

Recent Changes to the bill:

The House housing committee adopted a [delete everything amendment \(pdf\)](#) that replaced the existing bill's language. The amendment eliminated several concerning provisions based on League advocacy and includes new provisions that are supported by the League and city stakeholders. Changes made by the delete-everything amendment include:

- Removal of the prohibition of multifamily development being located less than 500 feet from highways, airports, or rail lines.
- Removal of the requirement that cities must approve multifamily development if it is consistent with a city's comprehensive plan.
- Allowing cities to permit multifamily residential development, subject to the bill, to be permitted via a conditional use permit to preserve public health, safety, and general welfare.
- Removal of the 150-foot height requirement, with language that creates more reasonable height requirement restrictions, and the inclusion of language to allow cities to impose other height or setback requirements to

- ensure compatibility and scale with surrounding properties.
- Replacement of the previously required administrative review process with a process that is consistent with existing [Minnesota Statutes, section 15.99](#).
- Requirements that multifamily residential development containing 13 units or more be allowed as a permitted use in any zoning district that allows for commercial use except for industrial zoning districts where commercial use is not allowed, single-family zoned areas, or any industrial-zoned areas located in an environmental justice area.

View the full article: [House Committee Advances Amended Multifamily Housing Development Bill - League of Minnesota Cities \(lmc.org\)](#)

The City of North Oaks, along with surrounding communities throughout the State, continue to follow these bills very closely with the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) is lobbying on our behalf. Changes to both the Senate and House bills are happening daily during State Session. Interested in learning more on this topic? Click below.

[View LMC Fact Sheet on Housing / Zoning Bills](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS



NORTH OAKS EGG HUNT
 Egg Hunt • Face Painting • Balloon Artists • Petting Zoo
SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH 10 – 11:30 AM
WEST REC CENTER
31 WEST PLEASANT LAKE ROAD

EGG HUNT SCHEDULE:
10:15 AM: CHILDREN AGES 2-4
10:30 AM: CHILDREN AGES 5-7
10:45 AM: CHILDREN AGES 8-12

THE HUNT WILL RUN ON TIME, SO PLEASE ALLOW FOR ENOUGH TIME TO GET PARKED AND READY TO HUNT!

• Please bring your own basket or bag for eggs • The hunt will happen rain, snow or shine
 • Bring a coffee mug/water bottle to honor North Oaks & be thoughtful to our environment
 • Flowers and Centerpieces will be available for purchase from Hummingbird Floral

This is a FREE event for our community! Thank you to our sponsors:

Glasrud Family | STROLL North Oaks | MICHEL'S HOMES
 Krista Wolter REAL ESTATE GROUP | Brogger Family | SONIA KOHLI (651) 428-5105 Edina Realty | HUMMINGBIRD Floral & People
 Northview DENTAL | NORTHERN STARS HOME CARE | RE/MAX RESULTS | TAMMY BRICE | North Oaks News
 scotts | DUNKIN' | mackenzie events & consulting | Chick-fil-A | Kona | Kona

North Oaks Egg Hunt - THIS WEEKEND - Saturday, 3/30
Event presented by NOHOA

It's time for NOHOA's annual Egg Hunt! Bundle up your little bunnies, grab a basket and come have fun, friends, eggs and food at the West Rec on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m.! All the information is on the flyer.

Egg Hunts will run on time and there will be plenty to do and see to keep your kiddos busy! Grandparents, feel free to bring your grandkids and make some memories.

Please thank our generous sponsors when you see them out in the community!

Date Saturday 5.18.2024

North Oaks Guild II conducts an annual rummage sale each September as a fundraiser for Children's Hospital Association.

The first donation drop-off day will be **May 18th at the West Rec Center** at 14 West Pleasant Lake Road, North Oaks. Please bring your donations of gently used items between 9 AM – 2 PM. Refer [HERE](#) for a list of items accepted.

Furniture donations are greatly appreciated. Please call OR text Jennifer Martini (651) 231-5825 No later than May 13th to schedule a pickup on May 18th. Pick-up of furniture only (and this service is available only within North Oaks).

The Fall donation drop-off will be held on Saturday, September 7th at the Shoreview Ice Arena, 877 Hwy 96 West, Shoreview, MN 55126.



The dates for the September sale are Saturday September 14, 2024 from 7 AM – 3 PM (Early Bird Admission 7 – 9 AM \$5) and Sunday September 15, 2024 from 9 AM – 2 PM at the Shoreview Ice Arena.

Please visit the website for more information, including how to volunteer and other support for North Oaks Guild II at:
www.northoaksrummagesale.org

Modern Trends in Home Irrigation - North Oaks Garden Club Learning Event

Date: Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Community Room, 100 Village Center Drive



All residents are welcome to attend a presentation by Jamey Caldwell of Mickman Brothers and Jeff Laterall of HLS Outdoor. Speakers will address current improved efficiency means of irrigation to all parts of our gardens - including pots, window boxes, etc. as well as lawns and plant beds. They will also consider environmental awareness generally and how well planned home irrigation systems enhance broader ecosystem goals.

Please join us, meet your neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments!

Reminder: North Oaks Garden Club 2024 Plant Sale - Time to Place Your Order!

As spring approaches, so does the garden club's annual plant sale. Changes this year include a new electronic ordering system and a new



supplier for baskets, planters and some plants.

This year's sale will include a great variety of annuals, herbs and vegetables along with new basket combinations. The sale will offer 10" baskets and 12" patio planters with combinations for sun and shade.

The electronic order form and photos of the plants and hanging baskets are available at:

<http://www.nogardenclub.com>.

Submit your order early to receive your first choice of plants and hanging baskets. All orders and payments are due **by Friday, April 12th**. Payments may be made by credit card or check.

Pickup dates at Hill Farm (35 Hill Farm Circle):

- Hanging baskets and patio pots: Monday, May 6th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Herbs, fruits, vegetables, annual plants: Thursday, May 9th from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Please send any questions to nogardenclub@gmail.com. The Garden Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to seeing you at the plant pickups.

The North Oaks Garden Club is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All plant sale proceeds are used to support charitable programs benefiting our community.

Shop North Oaks Garden Club Plant Sale

SAFETY



Safe Drug Disposal

Safe Drug Disposal Do you have a stockpile of unwanted, expired or unused medicines? Ramsey County offers safe disposal options through public drop boxes. Safe disposal of unwanted medicine helps prevent crime, drug abuse and accidental poisoning.

For information on how and where to dispose of medication, visit [Drug Take Back Sites | OPUS Coalition](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Prevent Conflicts with Bears this Spring

via MN DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural

Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could attract bears.

While most of the female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their denning areas, **the mild winter has caused some full-grown bears to emerge from dens early** to look around or find a quick, high-calorie snack.

“Bird feeders can become bear feeders,” said Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader. “Birdseed and grains are very attractive to bears looking for a quick, high-calorie meal. Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return.”

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up as they transition from nibbling on plants to more substantial meals. Food and food odors attract bears, and they can pick up a scent from over a mile away.

Home and cabin owners can prevent bear conflicts now by using the [BearWise checklist](#)

(files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/bear/bearwise/mn-bearwise-at-home-checklist.pdf) and following these [BearWise basics](#):

(bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics):

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active.
- Secure food, garbage and recycling.
- Never feed or approach a bear.
- Never leave pet food outdoors.
- Clean and store grills and smokers.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity.



People should be cautious around bears and give them space. If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact a Minnesota DNR area wildlife office for advice.

To find a local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit [wildlife area office contact information](#) (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife) on the Minnesota DNR website.

For more information on how to live responsibly with bears visit the [Minnesota DNR website](#) (mndnr.gov/livingwith_wildlife/bears) or [BearWise website](#) (bearwise.org).

[Click HERE](#) for more detailed resources on preventing interactions with Bear in Ramsey County. **If there is a bear sighting in your area of North Oaks, please contact the City so we may alert other neighbors in the area that it is passing through.**

[North Oaks Residents - Sign up for Emergency Alerts](#)

[Sign up for Emergency Alerts](#)

REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Meetings/Events

The public is encouraged to attend City meetings.

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[City Calendar](#)

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- Septic Pumping Notices
- MN State Legislature Bills Under Consideration
- Spring Road Restrictions Lifted
- Trash Bins in Driveways
- Reminder: Cell Phone Survey, City Emergency Alert System
- Animal Control and Leashing Ordinance
- Dark Sky Environment
- Drought Concerns: MN DNR Press Release

[View Last Week's E-Blast](#)

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