



City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Fourth Quarter 2013 Newsletter

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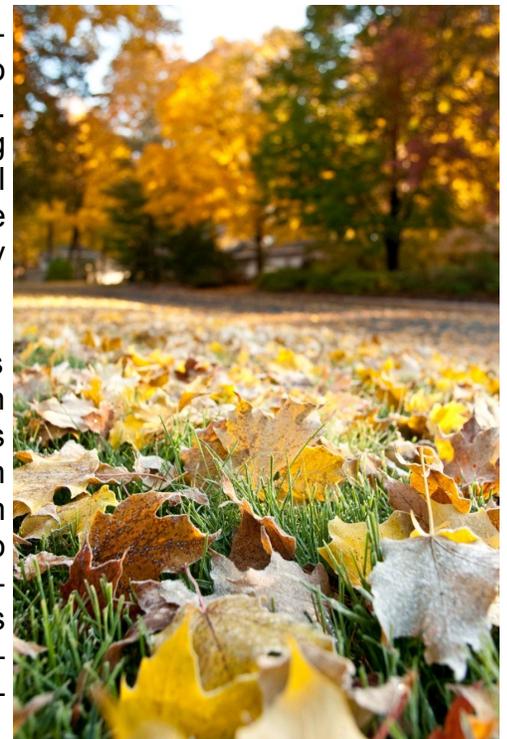
Fall leaves impact summer water quality

Managing and disposing of leaves properly will help to improve your lawn, protect your street from flooding, and improve the health of nearby wetlands and waterways. Although leaves and grass clippings are natural, they contain high levels of phosphorus. When rain and melting snow carry yard waste off the street and into nearby lakes, rivers and streams, it causes algae to grow out of control. Just five bags of leaves and clippings can grow up to 500 pounds of smelly green algae! When you clean up and compost leaves, seeds, twigs, and clippings during the fall, you help to ensure that our rivers, lakes, and ponds will stay clear and clean next summer.

Got a small yard? Rake and bag leaves from your yard and sidewalk. Dispose of the leaves by composting them in your yard or bagging them for curbside pick-up.

Got a big yard? Rake areas directly under trees and then use your mower to mulch the rest of the leaves into the grass. Mowing is less time intensive than raking and the shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer for your lawn. Be sure to aim the blower away from the street and driveway or bag the mulch and compost it.

Got a street? Rake and bag the leaves and debris settled against the curb and in the street in front of your home, as well as any debris covering the nearest storm drain inlet. Left in the street, leaves can clog storm drains and cause your street to flood. The leaves also contribute phosphorus to nearby wetlands and waterways that storm drains connect to, which contributes to algae blooms during the summer.



Remember: Keep leaves and yard waste out of the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas – it's illegal!

City held 19th Annual Party in the Park on September 8

The City's 19th Annual Party in the Park was a big success! This year, the event was held on a Sunday afternoon rather than on National Night Out. The City served ice cream sundaes and root beer floats. There were activities and prizes for the children, live music, a Sheriff's Department K-9 show, and promotional items from local businesses.

The City would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the following local businesses and organizations for their sponsorship and donations:

Andersen Corporation
 Boutwells Landing
 Cover Park Manor
 Cub Foods
 Dahl-Tech, Inc.
 Eckberg Lammers Law Firm
 Fred's Tire and Service
 Joseph's Family Restaurant
 Liquor Time
 Party on Stillwater
 Phil's Tara Hideaway
 Shear Hair
 Sport Clips
 Stillwater Motors
 Valley Floral
 Walmart Store, Inc.



If you attended the event and have any comments or suggestions, please visit the City's webpage, www.cityofoakparkheights.com, and click on the Contact Us link to let us know. We would love to hear from you!

New City Park has a New Name!

The Oak Park Heights held a contest to select a name for its new park land located at the former Moelter fly-ash site north of Valley View Park and west of Cover Park. The park is in the planning stage, but already has a playground, trails, and prairie grasses, and a picnic shelter will be built later this year.

The contest was open to children 17 years and under. The entries were considered by the Parks Commission and narrowed down to three finalists. The City Council selected the new name at their August 27 City Council Meeting.



The winning name, Oak Park Crossing, was submitted by resident Shelby Zeuli. Shelby was recognized at the City's Party in the Park on September 8 by Mayor Mary McComber. Congratulations Shelby!

Winterizing park shelters

Park shelters will be winterized in early October. This means water will be shut off and drained from the interior plumbing and bathrooms will be closed. The City does provide portable toilets on site at Autumn Hills Park, Brekke Park, Cover Park, and Swager Park. The portable toilets will be placed prior to the restrooms being closed for the season.



Recycling incentive program

The City of Oak Park Heights has a recycling incentive program. The City awards a prize of \$25.00 or a fire extinguisher and/or smoke detector. Residents participating in curbside recycling are picked randomly twice a month.

Recycling benefits the environment in countless ways: it reduces the amount of natural resources used to make new products, it saves energy, it prevents water and air pollution including greenhouse gas emissions, and it reduces waste. This means that the simple act of recycling in your daily life provides significant protection for our environment and reduces global warming.

Thank you for recycling!

What's included in trash pickup?

In addition to the typical garbage and recycling pickup, the City also covers the disposal of yard waste, large household items, and 'white-goods' such as televisions, refrigerators, couches, chairs, desks, water-heaters, stoves, dishwashers, dryers, etc. for single family residences and complexes with four units or less in Oak Park Heights. In order to have these items picked up in a timely fashion, please contact Judy Tetzlaff at City Hall, 651-439-4439, at least two days prior to collection day so that the special truck may be dispatched to your home. If you receive a bill from Advanced Disposal for these additional services, please call the City Administrator at 651-439-4439 as most, if not all, of these items are covered under the City's contract, and you should not be billed.



Some items are not included in your monthly fee are extra bags of garbage not placed in your container. The City's waste hauler, Advanced Disposal, will bill you \$1.50 per bag. Some other items that are picked up for a fee are sinks, toilets, and construction debris. You will be billed by Advanced Disposal at a regulated rate as monitored by the City.

REMINDER!!

Waste pick-up is every THURSDAY and recyclable pick-up is every-other THURSDAY. However, if one of the six holidays—New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas—falls on a weekday, collection may occur on FRIDAY of that week.

Recreational Fires

Recreation fires are permitted in Oak Park Heights but there are a few things you should know. First of all, your fire pit must be thirty six inches or less in diameter and flames should be no higher than two feet. The fire should be monitored by a competent adult with a garden hose or fire extinguisher readily available in the event of an emergency. Make sure your fire is completely extinguished when you are done and never, ever leave a burning fire unattended!

Only clean, dry wood should be used for a recreational fire. It is especially hazardous to burn material such as treated wood in your backyard fire pit because recreational fires burn at a low temperature which produces a large volume of smoke. The smoke carries toxic fumes which can be harmful to people gathered around the fire. Painted wood, plastic and rubber will also give off toxic fumes if burned. Materials such as leaves and other yard waste will cause excessive smoke which is prohibited by City ordinance. In addition, it is illegal in the State of Minnesota to burn household waste.

Lastly, be a good neighbor—locate your fire where it won't send smoke into your neighbors yard or house and also be aware of wind conditions and burning bans. Smoke can cause problems for people who suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions.

NLC Service Line Warranty Program

The City of Oak Park Heights has partnered with Service Line Warranties of America to offer the NLC Service Line Warranty Program to homeowners in Oak Park Heights. The NLC Service Line Warranty Program offers voluntary warranty protection at an affordable price for sewer lines in the event of a failure. The NLC Service Line Warranty Program offers protection against normal wear and tear, which is not covered under most traditional homeowners policies. If lines break, leak, or clog—Service Line Warranties of America will repair the line using local, licensed contractors who are familiar with local code and can ensure a timely response. This program provides up to \$4,000 in coverage with an additional allowance for public street or sidewalk cutting. Additionally, the program has no annual or lifetime limits, services fees, or deductibles—just protection when you need it most.

The program is offered at no cost to the City and no public funds are used to promote or administer the program. The program is entirely optional to homeowners in Oak Park Heights. Please watch your mailbox for a mailing from Service Line Warranties of America describing the program and its benefits.

Welcome New Businesses

- Thomas Grace Construction: 5605 Memorial Avenue North
- Hassis Paintworks.: 5625 Memorial Avenue North

Coming Soon

- Noodles and Company: 13301 60th Street North

Fall browning on pines

Each fall, pines (white, red, Scots, jack) will lose the 2nd and 3rd year needles (just toward the inside of the tree from the current year's needle growth). The needles first turn yellowish, then brown, and fall off the trees. This is called "fall browning" and is a regular phenomenon and not a disease or a reason for concern. Fall browning is often more pronounced during drought periods, so expect more fall browning this year.

Oak Wilt

Oak trees can be pruned up to April 1 in most years. Due to insect transmission of the oak wilt fungus to fresh wounds on healthy oaks, oaks should not be wounded or pruned from April 1 to July 1. If they are wounded during the growing season (April 1- October 1), the wounds should be painted with latex house paint to prevent oak wilt infection. It is best to prune oaks between October 15 and March 15.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been confirmed in Washington County. Check ash trunks for bark cracks and "S-shaped" larval galleries under the bark. If larvae are present there may be a lot of woodpecker activity, particularly in the top half of the tree. If you see any signs of EAB activity, please contact the Arborist. Do not move ash wood with intact bark from one area to another. The city is continuing to remove ash trees which are doing poorly, are interfering with power lines, competing with other trees, have storm damage, or are blocking sight lines along the street. If you have an ash tree that you think should be removed, contact the Oak Park Heights Arborist.

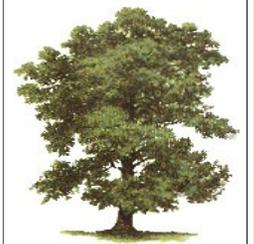
Watering trees and shrubs

Weather has been unusually dry since mid-summer, with little or no rain. Trees or shrubs which have been planted within the past five years will definitely need water. Established shrubs, small trees and evergreens will need water this fall as well. Water plants well, once per week, at the ground line. If the property slopes at all where you are watering, use a root feeder, which attaches to your garden hose, pushed into the ground about 4 inches. Do not use fertilizer on trees and shrubs during drought periods. Water plants up to the time that the ground freezes.

**** New Trees**** – If you received a new boulevard tree in August of this year, or in 2012, please water those trees well once a week (at least 10 gal. of water per week) up until the ground freezes. Any week where we have ½ in. of rainfall, or more, you will not need to water. Leave mulch around new trees for at least several years to help retain soil moisture.

Tree Problems?

If you are an Oak Park Heights resident, and have a problem with a tree or shrub, such as an insect or a disease, have planting questions, or just want to have a plant identified, call Dr. Kathy Widin, the OPH Arborist, at 439-4439 Ext. 1106. She can either answer your question over the phone or make an appointment for a site visit. This service is paid for by the City of Oak Park Heights.



Go GREEN: Pay & View Oak Park Heights Utility Bills Online



We accept...



Pay ONLINE

Go to www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com

1. Click "Pay Utility Bill"
2. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register and make your payment

Or CALL

1-877-885-7968 (have your bill handy to provide your account number)

View Bills Online

Go to www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com

1. Click "View Utility Bill"
2. You will go to our payment processor's website to register
3. You will get an email each time your bill is ready

You don't have to pay online to view your bills online.

WHY?

Help save natural resources by viewing and paying online.

- Easy, fast and secure
- Pay immediately, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay
- Keep costs down; opt out of paper bills
- Print receipts, view payment history and more



City Meetings

(subject to change)

City Council:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Typically the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City's website:
www.cityofoakparkheights.com

Trick-or-Treating in Oak Park Heights takes place on Thursday, October 31.

Third quarter 2013 utility bills

Utility bills for the third Quarter of 2013 (July 1 — September 30) will be mailed to residents in October and will be due November 9, 2013.



Auto pay is available. With auto pay, there is no need to waste time writing and mailing a check. Paying your utility bill electronically allows you to save time and money on stamps and late fees. The amount you owe on your utility bill is automatically withdrawn

from the account you designate on the billing due date each month. You will continue to receive your bill so that you know the date and amount to be withheld from your account.

If you are interested in participating, please call or stop by City Hall to obtain an enrollment form. The form is also available on the City's website, under City Information, Forms & Handouts. Call Judy Tetzlaff at City Hall, 651-439-4439, if you have questions.



Bayport Fire Department

284 N. 3rd Street • Bayport, MN. 55003 • Hall (651) 275-4401 • Fax (651) 275-4402

Fire and life safety are the reason we have Fire Departments. Each year the calls for service increase as do the complexity of the calls. The old days of having a wood-sided home and shingles are a thing of the past. Now we have homes wrapped tight and all holes are sealed. The roof is ventilated by ridge vents, and they are much more airtight. The materials inside have become more of a hazard as most contents are plastic or composite. With this new era we as fire fighters need to have training on all types of fires we may encounter. The equipment has doubled in price, if not tripled, and we need to replace it every 7-10 years. New trucks (Fire Pumpers) cost upwards of \$600,000 and last about 20 years, and ladder trucks are \$1.5 million. The call volume in Oak Park Heights has gone from 100 in 1998 to over 650 in 2013.

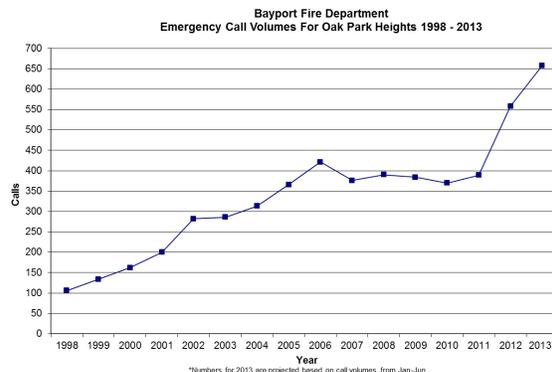
The new St Croix crossing project did put a delay in our calls for service for the residents on the north side of 36, but we worked with the developer and have a very good plan in place. Two medical bags with Oxygen and AEDs were purchased by Ames Construction for us to allow two of our members to respond from home and increase response time. This was a very good gesture from Ames to help us, and it is working.

The Bayport Fire Department is committed to providing excellent service when asked. If your home does not have house numbers that can be seen from the road PLEASE have them replaced so we can find you.

We are always looking for new members for our team. If you would like more information or want to tour the department please call me, and I will take care of your request.

Mark Swenson
Fire Chief
Bayport Fire Department

294 North 3rd St.
 Bayport, MN 55003
 Office: 651-275-4401 fax: 651-275-4402 Mobile: 651-300-2101
 E-Mail: Mark.Swenson@BayportFire.org



Proudly Serving the Communities of • Bayport • Baytown • Oak Park Heights • West Lakeland

Join the Bayport Fire Department for their 125th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 21! There will be a fire truck show in Lakeside Park from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m., children’s games from 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m., and Fire Department demonstrations from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Food and beer will be served. Visit bayportfire.org for more details!

House Numbers Required by City Ordinance

Not only are house numbers required by the City's Zoning Ordinance, they are essential for people to find you and can be critical for emergency response groups, such as the police department, fire department and emergency medical responders to assist you as quickly as possible.

To make it easy to locate your home, your house numbers should be:

- ◆ A minimum of 3 inches in height
- ◆ Made of a durable, weather resistant material such as metal, glass, plastic, etc.
- ◆ A color that stands out with the house or background upon which they are placed such as dark numbers against a light background
- ◆ Easily and clearly seen from the street when approached from any direction. You may want to consider having the numbers coated with a reflective material for better visibility at dark or locating them beneath a light source
- ◆ Attached to your home or a sign post that faces the street

If your home does not have house numbers on it, make it a priority to put them on today.

Parking pads and firewood storage

City Ordinance state that cars, trucks, trailers, boats, snowmobiles, water-skis, four-wheelers, motor homes and other similar items shall be parked in your garage or other accessory building, upon your driveway or an approved parking pad.

What is an approved Parking Pad?

An approved Parking Pad is a parking pad that is hard surfaced constructed of asphalt, concrete, cobblestone, paving block or crushed rock that meets minimum Class 5 material specifications and has at least a 4 inch deep base.

Designated parking pads shall extend directly from the driveway, away from the house and may be located within the front, side or rear yard setback. Parking pads must be set back at least 5 feet from rear yard property lines.

There are Limitations to What You Can Place on a Parking Pad

Your parking pad may be used for the placement of:

- No more than a total of two (2) recreational vehicles (boats, snowmobiles, etc.) or pieces of equipment (trailers, etc.), not including racing cars.
- Registered and operable passenger vehicles.
- No more than one (1) truck and/or trailer not to exceed a gross vehicle weight of 12,000 pounds, except when loading, unloading or rendering a service.
- Construction and landscaping materials currently being used on the premises.

Firewood Storage shall not be on a parking pad. Firewood shall be neatly stacked and stored in the side yard or rear yard or residential premises.

St. Croix River Crossing updates

Section of 56th Street N. to permanently close in mid-September

Beginning in mid-September, a section of 56th Street N. will permanently close. Large trucks and semis may find it difficult to turn in this area. Large vehicles should use an alternate route if traveling between Highway 36 and Highway 95 until the new ramps open this fall.

Historic Scenic Overlook now open to the public

The historic Lake St. Croix Scenic Overlook located off Lookout Trail near Peabody Avenue has reopened. Crews will return later this fall to complete the final details of the restoration. A temporary closure of Lookout Trail for utility work is anticipated in mid to late September and will limit access to the overlook. There will be a grand opening of the Scenic Overlook in October when it becomes fully accessible.

Ongoing traffic impacts

Traffic traveling on Highway 95 between 10th Avenue N. and the Highway 36 junction has shifted east onto the temporary pavement through fall 2013. Highway 95 will continue to have a single lane in each direction. This movement is necessary for crews to reconstruct and realign Highway 95.

Construction of the new Beach Road bridge continues through the end of November. Crews will remove the old bridge and Highway 36 ramps this fall. There will be no full closures of Highway 36 for this removal.

Overnight work on the bridge foundations continues. The noise disruptions associated with the nighttime work are similar to the noise associated with the ongoing daytime work. Crews will work 24 hours Sunday night through daytime Saturday, and the nighttime work is expected until early December.

Project information

The Minnesota approach project will be complete by fall 2014 and the new St. Croix Crossing bridge will be complete in fall 2016. When all work is finished, motorists will have smoother highway pavement surfaces, improved flow at intersections, improved frontage road system and a new river crossing between Minnesota and Wisconsin. All of this will occur while maintaining or restoring the area's cultural, historic and environmental resources.

Winter skating

Oak Park Heights maintains three rinks for park patron use. Brekke Park, located on 5500 Omar Ave N has a pleasure rink and a boarded hockey rink. Cover Park, located at 15366 58th Street N, which is on the same intersection of Beach Road and Peller Ave, has a boarded hockey rink. Both parks have warming houses for patron's convenience.

Ice is made as soon as nature allows and usually takes up to two weeks to form a solid ice sheet thick enough to skate on.

Warming house Hours:

Monday – Friday	3:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Weekends	9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Holidays	9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams

It is important you are made aware that false claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be extremely cautious about purchasing a water treatment system. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends the following:

- Make sure the treatment system/device you are considering is certified to achieve the results being claimed. Reliable certifiers include: NSF International, Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and the Water Quality Association (WQA).
- Make sure the treatment system/device actually addresses whatever issue you are concerned about – no one system will treat all water quality problems.
- Work with a reputable water treatment company.
- Verify that the installation is done by a licensed plumber or licensed water conditioning contractor (as required by state law). Such plumbers and contractors are licensed through the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (<http://www.dli.mn.gov/cdd/PlumbingLookup.asp>).
- Compare water treatment systems and prices.
- If you live in a city, contact your local water system for more information regarding your water quality.
- If you are contacted by a company to test your water and they say they are working with the city or a state agency, ask for their contact person at the city or state.
- Make sure you understand how to properly use and maintain the system; otherwise it may not work properly and, in some cases, can even make your water quality worse. Be wary of companies claiming their system is maintenance-free.

Beware of any sales pitch that involves one or more of the following:

- Reciting a list of recent groundwater contamination problems across the state, regardless of whether the contamination actually affects the resident or not.
- Conducting a series of in-home "water quality tests" that the salesperson claims indicate the presence of contamination, when in fact they may simply indicate the presence of naturally occurring minerals in the water.
- Misrepresenting state and federal drinking water standards, claiming the resident's water exceeds those standards, and implying the water is unsafe to drink.
- Offering a "one-time only" offer of a water treatment system at a "greatly reduced" price, when in fact the systems may be sold at inflated prices.

Anyone who believes they have been provided false or misleading information or that they have been subjected to unfair or high-pressure tactics in the course of a sales visit should contact the Minnesota Attorney General's office Consumer Complaints division at 651-296-3353 or 800-657-3787 or online at <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Complaint.asp>.

MDH has more information about drinking water and home water treatment systems on their website at:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/index.html>
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/cwm/pou.html>



Environmental Health Division
 Drinking Water Protection Section
 P.O. Box 64975
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
 651-201-4700

Notes from Public Works

Protect your house from frozen meters and pipes

You can take easy and inexpensive steps to prevent the damage, expense and inconvenience associated with freezing pipes and meters. Temperatures are colder along the floor and cement block wall of the basement than near the ceiling. Circulating the warmer air can help prevent frozen meters. In some homes, meters are in separate unheated rooms or boxes; open the doors to rooms or open a meter box to allow warmer air to circulate. Simply keeping your home and basement warm enough will help prevent freezing. In addition:

- Check along the foundation for areas where cold wind can enter the basement or a crawl space and plug them with insulation.
- Close off crawl space vents and doors.
- Replace broken or cracked basement windows or doors.
- Install a storm window or cover basement windows with weather insulation kits
- Make sure basement doors and windows close tightly.
- Seal or caulk cracks in the walls.
- Insulate pipes.
- **Don't forget to turn off the water supply and drain all outdoor faucets!**

Hydrants

Note the location of the nearest hydrant to your home. It is extremely helpful and appreciated that residents help city staff and the fire department in maintaining hydrants clear of snow. Keeping a hydrant clear and easily accessible could save precious time in the case of an emergency.

Trash receptacles

During a snow event on a trash pickup day, it is helpful to the street plowing crew when residents keep trash receptacles from creeping too far into the street. Please be aware on trash day if a snow event is occurring. The plows will likely be out.

Prevent sewer backups

Dumping grease down the drain can cause sewer backups. Grease solidifies in the sanitary sewer and creates dams and blockages in the invert. Dumping grease in the sanitary sewer usually affects houses closest to the entry point, but can also have adverse effects further downstream.

Water main breaks

Water main breaks usually occur during freezing and thawing cycles which causes the ground to shift. **To report a potential main-break, please call City Hall at 651-439-4439 during business hours and the Oak Park Heights Public Works Department emergency duty number at (651) 485-2304 after 4:30 PM or on weekends and holidays.** As a last resort contact the Oak Park Heights Police Department at (651) 439-4723; an officer will contact Public Works.

City of Oak Park Heights

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Phone: 651-439-4439
Fax: 651-439-0574

Police non-emergency: 651-439-4723
Police Emergency: 911

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
excluding legal holidays

MAYOR

Mary McComber: 351-7879

COUNCILMEMBERS

Chuck Dougherty: 491-0419
Mike Liljegren: 351-2742
Mike Runk: 439-5458
Mark Swenson: 270-5385

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Eric Johnson

Visit our Website!

www.cityofoakparkheights.com

*The Oak Park Heights
newsletter
is published by the City
of Oak Park Heights.
Comments are welcome.
651-439-4439*

City of Oak Park Heights

Fourth Quarter 2013 Newsletter

OAK PARK HEIGHTS FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, October 5, 2013, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The City of Oak Park Heights will be hosting a
Fall Clean-up on Saturday, October 5, 2013
from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Clean-up event will be in the southwest corner of the former St. Croix Mall (Andersen Corporation) parking lot, 14167 59th Street North in Oak Park Heights.

Proof of residency such as a utility bill or driver's license will be required. Common items disposed of include appliances, brush, construction materials, furniture, cardboard, scrap metal, carpet, TVs, and computers.

Hazardous waste (such as paints, stains, oil, gas, pesticides, or other chemicals from your home), tires, stumps, and firewood will not be accepted. If you have any questions please call City Hall at 651-439-4439 or Advanced Disposal at 651-459-3029.

WINTER PARKING REMINDER

Parking regulations begin November 1st through March 31st. No parking is allowed on City streets during the hours of 1:00am and 6:00am. Please be aware that these parking restrictions are in place AND ENFORCED regardless of whether or not there has been recent snowfall. Vehicles left parking on the streets may be removed without notice by the Oak Park Heights Police Department.