



# City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Second Quarter 2011 Newsletter

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## Water Tower 2 Rehabilitation Project

*For questions regarding the water tower rehab project please contact Public Works Director Andy Kegley at 651-439-4439*

**Introduction:** The City of Oak Park Heights has two water towers equaling a total storage capacity of 750,000 gallons. Not unlike any major component of an operating system, routine maintenance of water tower structures is necessary. Routine maintenance includes making minor repairs to attached structures such as ladders, as well as stripping and repainting the interior and exterior surface of the tower. The City will be undertaking this routine maintenance beginning in May 2011.

**Background:** Water towers are a critical component of any public water system; aside from providing water storage, the water tower is the component that pressurizes the entire water distribution system. The water tower located on the North West corner of 58<sup>th</sup> Street and Norell Ave (Tower 2) is a 500,000 gallon capacity hydropiller style tower. The tower has a tank diameter of 50 feet and an overall height of 135 feet. The protective coating on tower 2 has reached its design life. A protective coating typically consists of a high quality epoxy or urethane paint which is designed to last approximately twenty years. Tower 2 was constructed and last coated in 1991.

**Project Overview:** Rehabilitation of tower 2 will include sandblasting the old paint coating from both the shaft and exterior and interior bowl surfaces, performing minor repairs to attached structures and repainting the tower interior bowl and exterior surface. Expect to see a large curtain draped from the top of the tower. The purpose of the curtain is to contain sandblasting debris. **It is expected that water service will NOT be interrupted over the duration of the project.**

**Benefits:** Rehabilitating the protective coating as recommended greatly reduces the risk of failure and structure damage. Neglecting to rehabilitate a protective coat after it fails could result in necessary costly repairs to the water tower structure.

**Construction Schedule:** Construction is tentatively planned to begin on May 1, 2011 for a duration of approximately eight weeks. Tower 2 is expected to be back in full operation by July 1, 2011. The construction schedule is subject to change.

**Cost:** The cost of this project is \$475,000 and is funded by the City's Water Utility, which is of course made of water payments received from water users.



## Get Started on a Raingarden—May 21 at Axdahl's

Want to add curbside appeal to your home without spending a lot of money? A raingarden might be the perfect solution. Raingardens come in all shapes and sizes, and can be easily designed to complement existing landscaping, with styles ranging from wild and wooly to highly manicured. A raingarden catches runoff from your rooftop, driveway or street and soaks it into the ground before the water can wash dirt and pollutants into nearby waterways. Raingardens can be used to fill in unsightly areas where nothing seems to grow and help to correct erosion and drainage problems in your yard. Best of all, raingardens help keep the St. Croix River clean.



To get started on a raingarden of your own, join Axdahl's and the East Metro Water Education Program on May 21, 10am-noon, for a fun and informative Raingarden Workshop. Learn which plants to select to attract birds and butterflies and how to create a garden that will be colorful throughout the summer. Tour Axdahl's new demonstration raingarden and get advice on where and how to build your own raingarden.

Oak Park Heights residents can contact the Washington Conservation District (651-275-1136 x.22) to schedule a free site visit prior to the workshop to select the best location for a raingarden and to get a free garden design. To learn more about raingardens, visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org). To learn more about site visits and grants available through the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, visit [www.mnwcd.org/mscwmo](http://www.mnwcd.org/mscwmo).

Register for this class at 651-439-3134 or [info@axdahlfarms.com](mailto:info@axdahlfarms.com). The \$25 class fee includes a copy of the Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens book (retail \$17.95) and a \$20 Axdahl's gift certificate.

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## City Ordinance requires house numbers

House numbers are required by the City's Zoning Ordinance. Not only is it important that delivery people be able to find your home, it is critical for emergency response groups, such as the police department, fire department, and emergency medical respondents to assist you as quickly as possible.

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

- A minimum of three inches in height;
- Made of durable, weather resistant material such as metal, glass, or plastic;
- A color that stands out against the house or background upon which they are placed;
- 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 in the dark or locate them beneath a light source); and
- 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 get them put on today.

## Planning Commissioner Applications Sought

Applications are now being accepted for consideration to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Oak Park Heights Planning Commission. The anticipated term for the vacated seat is June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2014, subject to City Council approval. The Planning Commission is comprised of five members, who are appointed by the City Council to serve on the Commission in an advisory capacity.

The Planning Commission serves as the City's planning agency and conducts public hearings on matters affecting zoning, subdivision and building regulations, land use development, and comprehensive planning. Other matters are referred to the Planning Commission by the City Council from time to time. The Commission typically meets on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of

each month at 7:00 p.m. and periodically holds workshops or other special meetings.

If you are a resident of Oak Park Heights and are looking for an interesting and rewarding opportunity to participate in the development of Oak Park Heights, please contact Julie Hultman at the City of Oak Park Heights for more information and an application. She may be reached by phone at 439-4439 or by email at [jhultman@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:jhultman@cityofoakparkheights.com)

Applications may also be printed from the City's web page [www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com). Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2011. Applicants will be contacted for an interview.

## Yellow Ribbon City

The Minnesota National Guard has pioneered a program which empowers community leaders to synchronize efforts and build an enduring network of support for service members and families throughout the deployment cycle. The Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is a reminder that supporting service members cannot end when they return home from deployment and the yellow ribbons are untied. A Yellow Ribbon City develops an action plan and organizes groups to support military families.

The City of Oak Park Heights has formed a joint Citizen's Committee with Bayport, Baytown, and West Lakeland Township to start working on an action plan. If you are interested in serving on the Citizen's Committee, please contact Oak Park Heights Councilmember Mary McComber by e-mail at [marymcomber@aol.com](mailto:marymcomber@aol.com) or by phone at 651-351-7879, or contact Bayport Councilmember Judy Seeberger at 651-492-3181.

The group holds a coffee get together the first Saturday of every month at Joseph's Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. for women who have a family member or friend in military service. Wives, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and friends are all welcome to join the group. The next coffee get together will be on Saturday, May 7. If you have any questions, contact Mary McComber at 651-351-7879 or Karla Keller at 651-351-0655. A spaghetti dinner will be held at the Bayport Legion on Saturday, May 7 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please join the group for support military families.

The next general meeting of the Yellow Ribbon Committee will be at the Baytown Community Center on April 7 at 5:30 p.m.

### 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.  
Check the City website  
or call City Hall.

Parks Commission:  
3rd Monday at 6:30  
p.m.

City meetings are  
broadcast live on cable  
channel 16.

Agendas and Minutes  
are posted on the City's  
website:

[www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com)

## Moelter “Fly-Ash” Site Planning—City residents needed to serve on task force

The City of Oak Park Heights is seeking up to three City Residents to serve on a Public Task Force to provide input and recommendations to the City Council for final layout and uses of the Xcel Energy “fly-ash” site located at the southwest corner of STH 36 and Beach Road. This property lies between Valley View Park and Cover Park and currently contains several walking trails.

It is anticipated that this process would take several months of planning and engagement by this Task Force, meeting about once per month, so as to best define a future recreational uses for this site and how it best accommodate City residents and needs.



This task force is anticipated to consist of three residents, the five member City parks Commission, an Xcel Energy representative and a City Council representative. If you would be interested in serving on this Task Force or would like more information, please contact the City Administrator Eric Johnson at 651-439-4439 or via email at [eajohnson@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:eajohnson@cityofoakparkheights.com) prior to May 3, 2011.

## Parking pads

City Ordinance states 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.

## Volunteers Needed to Maintain City Flower Gardens

The City of Oak Park Heights is seeking volunteers to plant, water, and maintain the flower gardens on the City Hall campus. For more information or to express an interest, please contact Jennifer Pinski at City Hall at 651-439-4439.

## Emerald Ash Borer Update

At the time of this writing, emerald ash borer(EAB) has not yet been found in Washington County. We do not know if the insect is already in this area, so everyone with ash trees should be examining them for signs of EAB activity. If larvae are under the bark, one might see a lot of woodpecker activity and feeding holes on the tree along the trunk and larger branches, particularly in the top half of the tree. Looking closely, you might also be able to see <¼ long "D-shaped" exit holes in the bark if adult EAB exited the tree in 2010.

If you have any ash trees which are dying from the top down, have excessive woodpecker activity and feeding, or you see any other signs of EAB activity, please contact the arborist to come out and take a look. Do not move ash wood from one area to another, as this is one way that emerald ash borer can be easily spread.

## Oak Wilt

In the spring, oaks are susceptible to insect transmission of the oak wilt fungus to fresh wounds. Avoid pruning or wounding oaks in the spring or summer. The City of Oak Park Heights will remove recently wilted red and pin oaks from both public and private property. Please contact the arborist if you have any questions regarding oak wilt.

## Gypsy Moth

In 2010, a large infestation of gypsy moths was found in the City of Grant. The MN Dept. of Agriculture is planning treatment of that infestation this spring. Gypsy moths have been found repeatedly in Minnesota, and, with treatment, this insect has not yet become established here, though it is well-established in the eastern half of Wisconsin. Egg masses are light brown and velvety, an inch or more in length, and may be found on objects such as fire-

wood, wheel wells of cars, play structures, tree trunks, and outdoor furniture. Females are large white moths which do not fly, while male moths are brown and do fly. Larvae are bluish/black and hairy. Gypsy moth larvae feed readily on oaks and other tree species, weakening trees with repeated years of feeding. Contact the arborist if you think you have found gypsy moth larvae, adults or egg masses.

## 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 a n appointment for a site visit. This service is paid for by the City of Oak Park Heights.*



**CLIP AND SAVE!**  
**2011 Summer Park Activities Schedule**

All events are free! Look over the following schedule, and mark the dates on your calendar. Please check the City's website for further updates on summer programming in the parks.

All ages are welcome to attend the activities. Children under six must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is appreciated for the craft activities. E-mail Gina at [gzeuli@q.com](mailto:gzeuli@q.com) with number and ages of children attending.

June 3—Stillwater Area High School Band Outdoor Concert: Autumn Hills Park from 5-7:30 pm

June 14—Craft in the Park—Sand Art: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

June 21—Craft in the Park—Ceramics/Pottery: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

June 28—Craft in the Park—Painting: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

June 30—Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Face painting begins at 7:30 pm, movie begins at dark. Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

July 12—T-shirt/pillowcase decorating: Autumn Hills Park from 10:30 am to noon.

July 19—Minnesota Raptor Center Presentation: Autumn Hills Park from 10:30 am to noon.

July 26—Explore the Park-Monarch Butterfiles: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon.

July 28—Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Face painting begins at 7:30 pm, movie begins at dark. Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

August 2—Craft in the Park—Beading: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

August 2—Party in the Park: Brekke Park from 5-7 pm. Join us for free food, fun, and prizes.

August 9—Cards/care packages for U.S. Troops overseas: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

August 16—Minnesota Zoo Zoomobile: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

August 23—Bingo in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon.

August 25—Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Face painting begins at 7:30 pm, movie begins at dark. Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

August 30—Woodcrafting: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.

September 1—Sports Camp: Brekke Park from 10 m to noon. Learn soccer, kickball and T-ball.

## Coyote Sightings in the City

The City's Police Department has received phone calls regarding reported sightings of coyotes in the City over the last four to five months. These reports have been infrequent, but we would like to provide you with some basic information.

The areas reporting them have been near wildlife areas such as the DNR wildlife management areas and large wooded areas such as Valley View Park. No aggression or attacks or property damage has been reported.

It is likely that the coyotes have found food sources in the area with residents leaving out food for their dogs and cats. The heavy snow in the area has likely limited hunting and caused them to extend farther from their normal habitat looking for food.

Please help us and your neighborhood by not leaving food out for your pets in a location accessible to roaming animals, and do not leave out garbage not contained in proper containers. Once the attraction in your neighborhood is gone, we anticipate the coyote will leave the area.

As with any wild animal, a coyote should be treated with caution and respect. Do not approach them. Make loud noises to let them know you are in the area and scare them off.

Please visit the DNR web link for more information:  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/coyote.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/coyote.html).

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## Attention Pet Owners

### Leash Law Reminder

The City of Oak Park Heights has a leash law in effect that prohibits pets from running at large. Any dog or cat that is off the premises of the owner and not under the physical control (by leash or by voice) of the owner or another designated person is in violation of this Ordinance.

When you are out walking your pet, please remember to bring a plastic bag. Pet owners are required by City Ordinance to clean up pet waste on public and private property. Removal and proper disposal of pet waste helps keep our City clean and healthy.

### Pet Licenses

All dogs and cats in the City for more than 30 days are required to have a City Pet License. There is no charge for this service and it could save your pet from a trip to the animal shelter. Bring proof of your pet's rabies vaccination to City Hall to receive a pet license and tag. For more information, please call City Hall at 439-4439. City Ordinances can be viewed on the City's web-site: [www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com).

## Playful City USA

Playful City USA is a national recognition program honoring cities and towns across the nation who are creating an agenda for play. The Playful City USA program is a unique self-assessment tool that assists communities in identifying local play assets and play deficits, and in developing a rigorous action plan driven towards increasing quality, quantity, and access for play in your city or town.

The City of Oak Park Heights has been designated as a Playful City and has formed a committee as part of the program. If you are interested in serving on the Playful City USA committee, contact Councilmember Mary McComber at 651-351-7879. The committee will likely meet three to four times per year at either City Hall or one of the City parks.

**City of Oak Park Heights**

14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.  
PO Box 2007  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082  
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  
David Beaudet: 439-2582

COUNCILMEMBERS  
Les Abrahamson: 351-0807  
Mary McComber: 351-7879  
Mike Runk: 439-5458  
Mark Swenson: 439-1479

CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
Eric Johnson

Visit our Website!  
[www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://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**

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**OAK PARK HEIGHTS SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY**  
**Saturday, April 30, 2011, 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

The City of Oak Park Heights will be hosting a  
Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 30, 2011  
from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Clean-up 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 Veolia Environmental Services at 651-459-3029.

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