

City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Third Quarter 2009 Newsletter

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City Hall Facility Update

The construction of the City Hall Facility did commence in earnest in mid-May. The City's website, www.cityofoakparkheights.com, contains a general time-line for the entire project as well as numerous dated photos of the progress, which to date largely includes sites clearance, excavations for footings and early footing installation. While the area could use additional rain showers, the lack of inclement weather has provided the City's Contractor, Jorgenson Construction, excellent building conditions.

Points of Interest:

- While the City did perform typical soil-test borings prior to the construction, until the earth is removed, soil conditions are an unknown. When the underground conditions were actually exposed the City was fortunate not to have required additional soil replacement or compaction.
- The general site plan was adjusted slightly, shortening a driveway so as to persevere additional trees along the western lot-line.
- The location of the GEOTHERMAL well field, slated to be located north and east of the new Facility may shift to address concerns associated with its proximity to Xcel Energy Transmission lines, the concern being the height of the "drill-rig" used for installation. This issue is still under investigation.
- The current City Hall will be undergoing final asbestos/lead testing in the roof structure this summer/early fall. With such data, the City is able to perform all final abatements in the current structure prior it is demolition in Spring 2010. Earlier testing of other areas of the current City Hall found typical use of asbestos tiles and other minor hazards that will be required to be removed and disposed of at proper facilities.
- The City will be implementing a major "data digitization" effort prior to the move to the new City Hall Facility. The vast amounts of stored records are hoped to be largely condensed into accessible data files so that there will not be a need to relocate these to the new City Hall Facility. The City is required, at a minimum, to follow the State Historical Society's Retention Requirements for all records and materials. With such digitization, hard-copy storage requirements will be reduced and the ability to effectively retrieve records will increase.



Visit the City's website for photos of the construction progress.

Should any persons want additional information about the City Hall Facility project or would like to schedule a site tour please contact Eric Johnson, City Administrator at 651-439-4439.

Summer Time Fun

Summer is here! Time for getting outside! This means bike riding, jumping on the trampoline, cooling off in the pool and evening recreational fires. Please take note that the City's Zoning Ordinance requires recreational equipment, such as trampolines and swimming pools, to be located in the side or rear yards.

If you have a pool or plan on purchasing one, please take a few minutes to review the ordinance for City requirements and the definition of a pool or structure that retains water. The ordinance is available on the City's website.

There are local retailers selling inflatable pools that have side walls less than 48 inches. These pools do not require a security fence but are to be located within a fenced area.

When in doubt about the regulations for your recreational equipment, please call City Hall.

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 651-439-4439. City Ordinances can be viewed on the City's website: www.cityofoakparkheights.com



Residential Decks

Residential decks provide an ounce of aesthetic beauty to homes in our City, along with a convenient spot to sit back and entertain the neighbors. There is just something about a deck that shouts relaxation. But before you start digging holes and pouring concrete, it is important to learn about the City's requirements and restrictions regarding deck construction.

It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that a permit has been issued for the project, whether they are constructing it themselves or by hiring a contractor. They must also ensure that appropriate plans have been submitted and approved by the City's Building Official and that all the required inspections have been made.

Obtaining a permit for the construction of your deck is the most effective way to ensure that the structure is safe as possible for you, your family, and your guests. Contact the City Building Official before building and you will be sitting out on your deck in no time!

Considering a yard sale?

Consider your signage – Oak Park Heights City Ordinance 401.15.G. sets forth regulations for signage within the City. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide regulation of sign aspects in order to promote public health, safety and welfare, while striving to maintain, enhance and improve the visual appearance of the City.

A temporary sign permit is not required for placing your yard sale sign, though the following rules are to be followed:

- Signs are to be freestanding. Please do not attach them to trees, fences, utility poles or other permanent post structures.
- Signs are not allowed within a public right-of-way or any other location that creates a visual obstruction.
- Signs are to be no larger than 12 square feet in size and shall not contain or imitate a traffic sign or signal.
- Signs are to be removed at the end of the sale.

House Numbers Are Required

Not only are house numbers required by the City's Zoning Ordinance, they are essential for people to find you. Not only is it important that the pizza delivery person find you, it is 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, please make it a priority to get them put on today.

City Meetings

City Council:

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

Planning Commission:

2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16.

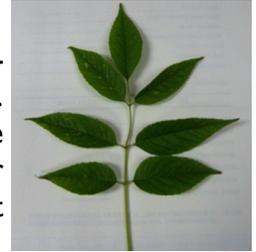
Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City's website:

www.cityfoakparkheights.com

Emerald Ash Borer

An exotic insect from Asia has been found feeding on ash trees in St. Paul. This insect, the emerald ash borer (EAB), feeds on all ash species, and can kill trees in 1-3 years. The presence of this insect has not yet been confirmed in Washington County. A few facts about EAB:

- EAB only attacks ash
- EAB prefers to attack stressed ash, but can also attack healthy trees
- Adult beetles are 1/2-inch long and metallic green larval stage forms "S"-shaped galleries under bark while feeding adults exiting trees form 1/8 in. "D"-shaped exit holes in bark top dieback of branches, thinning of tree canopy and splits in the bark may be symptoms of EAB attack woodpecker feeding damage on trees may be a sign of EAB larvae under bark this insect does not fly far, but travels easily in bark-intact ash wood



Ash tree leaf



Emerald Ash Borer

What you can do:

- Check your ash trees for signs/symptoms of EAB
- Check the following Minn. Dept. of Agriculture website for images showing symptoms of EAB, the insect and feeding damage: www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm. You can also use this website to access a checklist to see if you might have a tree with EAB
- If you capture an insect, compare it to photos of EAB and look-alike insects (images of EAB and look-alikes are posted at City Hall as well as available on-line at the web address above)
- Water your ash tree during dry periods - EAB prefers to attack stressed trees
- Insecticide treatments for valuable landscape trees - experts are not recommending insecticide treatment of ash unless there is a confirmed infestation within 10-15 miles of the tree
- Contact City Arborist Kathy Widin to make a site visit to look at your trees
- Plant a variety of tree species and do not plant more ash
- There is no need to remove healthy ash trees at this time
- Don't move bark-intact ash wood from the area and use local sources of wood when camping

Valley View Park Playground

The City will be updating the Valley View Park Playground with significant new playground equipment as the current equipment has excessive wear and is approximately 20 years old. The upgrade costs are \$40,000, and it is anticipated to be completed by mid-August. The swing-set and large slide will remain in place.



Park News

Park use is up in 2009. The City's disc golf course at Brekke has proven very popular, and the new tennis courts at Swager are attracting new players. The presence of extra visitors in the parks also discourages vandalism as the City has had in the past. Our trail system is becoming an outstanding resource. Please help keep our resources in good shape for all by disposing of your trash and cleaning up after your pets. Please immediately report vandalism or unacceptable behavior to the police. Enjoy the Parks and trails.

Boulevard Trees

New and replacement boulevard trees will be planted by the City in late August 2008. If you are interested in having a tree planted in the boulevard right-of-way between your home and the street, please contact the Arborist at 439-4439 Ext. 252. Trees are planted within about 10 feet of the street and there must be enough room, away from driveways, mailboxes, utility boxes, and other trees, for the tree to attain a healthy maturity. Species often planted in the boulevard are: red maple, honeylocust, linden, hackberry, bicolor oak and flowering crab.

Oak Anthracnose

This leaf blight and twig canker disease is caused by a fungus and is usually seen in the spring on white and bur oaks. The infection causes the edges of the leaves to turn dark brown and curl inward, shriveling the leaf. In severe cases the tree will lose the infected leaves and produce new leaves the same season. Usually anthracnose is confined to the lower part of the leaf canopy, but in wet seasons it may infect leaves clear to the top of the tree. The fungus overwinters on fallen leaves and on twigs and branches, infecting newly developing leaves the following spring. Once symptoms are seen, spraying is of no use in the current year. Not all white or bur oaks will be equally infected. On large, otherwise healthy, trees it is not usually necessary to control this disease. Oak anthracnose is often confused with oak wilt, a serious disease which attacks all oak species. Oak anthracnose affects only white and bur oaks, and appears in the spring, while oak wilt usually is most evident on red and northern pin oaks in July and August. Oak anthracnose also infects leaves more heavily on the lower portion of the canopy and oak wilt often causes trees to wilt from the top down.

Oak Wilt

Do not prune oaks between April 1st and September 15th to avoid creating wounds which attract the insects that spread the oak wilt fungus (the cause of a fatal disease of oaks). If oaks are pruned or wounded during this period (especially those wounded April 1st to July 1st), paint the wound immediately with either a tree wound dressing, varnish, or latex house paint. Painting wounds will keep them from being attractive to the insects which spread oak wilt. All oak species are susceptible to this disease. If you have an oak which looks sickly or suddenly wilts from the top down, contact the OPH Arborist, at 439-4439 Ext. 252, for an inspection and management information.

Dutch Elm Disease

This disease is similar to oak wilt and is also regulated within Oak Park Heights. American elms are the most susceptible. Elms dying from other causes can also harbor elm bark beetles which spread the fungus to healthy trees.

In Oak Park Heights, the city will remove currently wilting red/pin oaks and elms, on

both public and private property, which have been positively diagnosed with oak wilt or Dutch elm disease, respectively. If you have an oak or elm which looks sickly, contact the Arborist at 439-4439 Ext. 252 for an inspection and management information.

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. 252. 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.



What is 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. 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.



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

In the event you receive any billing from Veolia, except for the Annual Washington County Environmental Charge, please contact the City Administrator at 651-439-4439 to ensure that the billing is correct.

REMINDER!!

Waste and Recyclable pick-up is every THURSDAY, unless the week contains one of the six holidays – New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. During those weeks, collection will fall on FRIDAY.

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.

Need another recycling bin, contact City Hall at 439-4439. Recycling bins are available for pickup at City Hall during regular business hours. There is no fee for an additional bin.

How to sort your recycling

Materials collected by Veolia for recycling must be sorted into two categories to make sure they get recycled. Use paper bags and recycling bins to separate your materials. Do not use plastic bags. Place textiles in a separate paper bag from everything else. Please also make sure that recyclable products are securely packed so as to prevent items from falling or blowing out of the recycling bins.

Paper & Cardboard	Bottles & Cans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers • Magazines, Mail and Office Paper • Corrugated Cardboard • Boxboard/soda boxes • Phonebooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel and Aluminum Cans and Foil • Glass bottles and jars (any color) • Milk cartons and juice boxes • Plastic bottles (1 and 2)

Site redevelopment along Oakgreen Avenue

In June, the City Council approved a \$20 million dollar redevelopment plan and TIF proposal for the lands located on the west side of Oakgreen Ave, north of 58th Street. This plan includes the removal of the six vacant homes (via fire training – see article below) and will include the construction of a four-story, 120-unit Senior Assisted Living Facility and a 60-unit Senior Cooperative Housing Facility. Site and building plans are available at City Hall. Work is anticipated to commence this

summer.

Note on TIF, the City Council has approved the use of (TIF) Tax Increment Financing that assists the developer in pursuing their proposal. In this project, tax increment proceeds, up to \$1.2 million (principal), are being allocated for site acquisition and demolition, in this instance being the purchase and removal of the six homes along Oakgreen Ave. Tax increment financing is a mechanism whereby the increased tax capacity of new structure

(s)/development is allocated to reimburse a developer for certain eligible costs. The City has not pledged any direct funding to this proposal and the developer will only receive TIF funds when the project is completed and generates new tax revenues beyond what was originally derived from such sites. This City is not directly funding any portion of this proposal via its general taxing authority nor is it issuing any pass-through financing for the developer.

Fire training

The Bayport Fire Department, along with other regional fire departments have been holding training exercises/practice burns at the homes along the west side of Oakgreen Ave. These efforts may have caused some travel delays and other nuisances. The City of Oak Park Heights does appreciate the demonstrated patience in this effort as training exercises of this type are rare and allow fire fighters from numerous departments to experience the best possible simulations for rescue and practice fire knock-down techniques. This will result in more lives saved and/or more property preserved. The City has required that all asbestos/lead paint and other hazardous materials be removed from the sites and which has been documented prior to any significant training exercises involving “total burns” and removals.

Notes from Public Works

The annual maintenance of the fire hydrants will begin late June. The city flushes and lubricates every hydrant to remove any sand and bring fresh water through the entire system. This also identifies any hydrants that are hard to operate or that have been damaged for repairs. You may see crews through the rest of the summer.

Please assist the City in maintaining the road right of way next to your property. Homeowner’s get extra grass and boulevard area for use, with the requirement the homeowner maintain that area. Grass and bushes can interfere with snow, sweeping or visibility.

There are many construction projects going on this summer. There is curb replacement and mill and overlay of selected streets and Brekke Park parking lot. There is a seal coat project on 58th and around Norwich and Memorial Avenues. Some additional shoulder work will be done with the Memorial work. Storm sewer replacement near 53rd and O’Brien is an additional project. Please drive carefully whenever workers or equipment is present.

If you have any questions about upcoming projects, call Public Works at 651-439-4439.

Storm Preparedness in Oak Park Heights

Residents should be advised that the City of Oak Park Heights maintains an Emergency Preparedness Plan that will be implemented in the event the City experiences a storm, similar to what recently occurred in the City of Hugo. The City's Police and Public Works Departments, along with the Bayport Fire Department would immediately implement the strategies as outlined.

Generally, it is anticipated that water and sewer services will be operational as these facilities are underground, but the City may implement emergency water consumption practices should direct power be lost to the City's two wells. This would basically only allow household use, not the sprinkling of lawns or car washing, etc. The City maintains back-up generation power that can operate wells and sewerage lift-stations, but again these can only accommodate typical household usage.

Downed power lines can be the most dangerous aspect of storm clean-up, and residents are requested to not make attempts to clear tress, limbs and braches that may be entangled in power lines. Generally, the electricity distributions system in the City as operated by Xcel Energy lie underground in most areas, however extreme caution should be taken until trees and limbs are first verified as safe for removal.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to have an Emergency Preparedness Kit that will provide relief and resources in the event of a storm event and/or where electricity outages may be several days. Please visit www.codeready.org or www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/basickit.shtm for a listing of what every household or place of business should have in their Emergency Preparedness Kit.

Lastly, in the event of a significant storm, you should contact City Hall at 651-439-4439 for information on clean-up and response. Or, if you are able, check the City's website for "Storm Response Information" as this will be updated regularly.

Above all, patience and neighbors helping each other will result in the most effective and efficient clean-up/response to any disaster, large or small. The City will do its part to ensure a quick return to normalcy.

Things to know about Washington County's Warning Sirens

There are 62 sirens in Washington County. The Washington County Sheriff's Department tests all sirens at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month from March through October. The criteria for activating the sirens is as follows: when a tornado warning is issued for Washington County by the National Weather Service; when the National Weather Service indicates sustained wind speed of 76 miles per hour or more; or when a City or County Public Safety Official requests activation due to imminent danger to life and/or property.

Monitor weather information sources and watch the weather itself for any changes that could endanger you or those around you. Make preparations to initiate your emergency plans. Consider canceling outdoor activities. If you are in a mobile home, travel trailer or recreational vehicle, consider moving to shelter as the storms move into your area, before warnings are issued, especially if these are fast moving storms. Stay informed and be prepared.



Planning for an Emergency

Preparing for an emergency makes sense. First, prepare an emergency kit. Consider how an emergency might affect your individual needs. Plan to make it on your own for at least three days. It's possible that you will not have access to a medical facility or even a drugstore. It is crucial that you and your family think about what kinds of resources you use on a daily basis and what you might do if those resources are limited or not available. Some basic supplies you should have in your kit are:

- Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and a can opener if your kit contains canned food
- Battery powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps
- Pet food, extra water and supplies for your pet

Second, make a plan. Your family may not all be together when disaster strikes so plan how you will contact one another. You may need to decide to stay or go so make a plan for both scenarios. Plan two ways out of every room in the case of a fire. For more information on how to plan for an emergency, visit www.ready.gov.

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 neighbor's yard or house and also be aware of wind conditions and burning bans.

2008 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS



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PWSID: 1820020

2008 Drinking Water Report

The City of Oak Park Heights is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2008. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Oak Park Heights provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 290 to 310 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call Tom Ozzello, Public Works Director, at 651-439-4439 if you have questions about the City of Oak Park Heights drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2008. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range	Average/ Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2-1.3	1.33	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	N/A	2.7	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural
Total Coliform Bac-	0 present	>1 present	N/A	1	Naturally present in the environment.

Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2008)	Average/ Result*	
Radon (pCi/l) (10/04/2005)	N/A	317	Erosion of natural deposits.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Radon is a radioactive gas which is naturally occurring in some groundwater. It poses a lung cancer risk when gas is released from water into air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes or clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when it is ingested. Because radon in indoor air poses a much greater health risk than radon in drinking water, an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4,000 picoCuries per liter may apply in states that have adopted an Indoor Air Program, which compels citizens, homeowners, schools, and communities to reduce the radon threat from indoor air. For states without such a program, the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 300 pCi/l may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an Indoor Air Program once the Radon Rule is finalized.

Contaminant (units)			90% Level	# sites over AL	
Copper (ppm)	N/A	1.3	.23	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb)	N/A	15	4	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Oak Park Heights is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (units)	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
	Range (2008)	Average/Result	
Sodium (ppm) (09/04/2007)	N/A	6	Erosion of natural deposits.
Sulfate (ppm) (09/04/2007)	N/A	7.32	Erosion of natural deposits.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Oak Park Heights Police Files

From the desk of Chief Brian DeRosier



There have been some noteworthy changes to public safety law that affect us all. These were made in this last session of the MN Legislature. You may have already heard about these changes in the media. I would like to make sure we all understand what has been presented to law enforcement across the state as new changes and how those affect us all. Our officers receive frequent questions about the child restraint laws every year. These laws will have taken effect by the time you are reading this. I realize there are many wide and varied opinions on the seat belt laws, and I do not want to debate those. I do recommend they be used, as I have many times seen the ramifications of not doing so; even minor accidents can cause significant injury or loss of control of the vehicle without the use of a restraint.

Seat belt use by all persons in a passenger motor vehicle regardless of position within the vehicle is mandatory. This means those in the back seats are also required to wear them. This includes both the lap and shoulder portions of the belt, so do not tuck the shoulder belt under your arm.

Child passenger restraint systems meeting federal guidelines are required for ALL children meeting **BOTH** of the following criteria: Under 4'9" and Under 8 years old. Persons 8 years old and older are not required to be in a restraint system different than the normal seat belt even if they are not 4'9".

If you have detailed questions there are resources available on the state web site: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots. Our officers can provide you with general information and double check your child restraint system installation, however due to liability considerations we cannot do the actual installation for you. There are several recommended systems that vary by age and size of the child. The state web site has specific information of those guidelines.

Drivers may be stopped and cited for these violations as a primary offense, meaning no other violation has to be observed.

Have a fun and safe summer. Drive safely on your way to the summer events you participate in, and be aware while biking or walking to our parks and around the city.

City of Oak Park Heights

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Visit our Website!
www.cityofoakparkheights.com

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newsletter
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Oak Park Heights.
Comments are welcome.
651-439-4439*

City of Oak Park Heights

Third Quarter 2009 Newsletter

SUMMER PROGRAMS IN CITY PARKS

This summer the City of Oak Park Heights is implementing its first summer parks program! 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.

July 11—Kids Bingo in the Park—all ages: join us at Brekke Park from 10 am to noon. Bingo for candy and prizes. No pre-registration is required.

July 14—Crafts in the Park—all ages, children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult: Summer Fun Frames at Brekke Park from 10 am to noon. Come paint and decorate a frame with a summer theme. Pre-registration is appreciated. E-mail gzeuli@q.com with the number and ages of children attending.

July 24—First Annual Kids Disc Golf Tournament—ages 6 and up: come to Brekke Park for a chance to try the new disc golf course. The tournament sign up begins at 4 pm with some quick instruction at about 4:15 and tournament start at 4:30. Discs will be provided to registered players.

July 28—Crafts in the Park—all ages, children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult: Stepping stones and painting rocks at Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon. Come to the park and create a stepping stone and paint a cook rock. Pre-registration is appreciated. E-mail gzeuli@q.com with number and ages of children attending.

July 30—Family Movie in the Park: come to Autumn Hills Park for an outdoor movie! The movie will begin at dusk and popcorn/beverages will be available for purchase.

August 4—Party in the Park—all ages. Brekke Park from 5 to 7pm for free food, fun, and prizes. There will be face painting, balloon animals, and live music.

August 11—Crafts in the Park—all ages, children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult: 10 am to noon at Brekke Park, activity yet to be determined. Pre-registration is appreciated. E-mail gzeuli@q.com with number and ages of children attending.

August 27—Family Movie in the Park: come to Autumn Hills Park for an outdoor movie! The movie will begin at dusk and popcorn/beverages will be available for purchase.

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