



# City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

December 2014 Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

2015 Recycling Pickup Calendar	2
2015 Budget and Tax Levy	3
Utility Bill Information	4
Parks Commission Vacancy	5
Winter Boulevard Tree Pruning	5
St. Croix River Crossing Update	6
Winter Skating Hours	7
House Numbers Required	8
Frozen Pipe Prevention	9
Volunteers Needed	10
Street Reconstruction	11
Building Permits	12
Prescription Drug Discount	13
Snow Plowing Policy	14
Winter Reminders	15
New Leash Law Changes Coming	16

## Trash and recycling hauler changes

Beginning in 2015, the City's new trash, recycling, and yard waste hauler will be Tennis Sanitation. As in the past, **the City will continue to pay for residential garbage and recycling services on behalf of the residents out of the City's general fund. Residences should not be receiving separate billing for solid waste and recycling services.**

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Dropping off of New Carts:

From December 8 through December 19, 2014, new trash and recycling carts will be delivered to City residential customers. This will mean that you will have two sets of carts for a short period until the City's current hauler (Advanced Disposal) picks up their carts later in December. Please only use your "old" carts until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

#### Trash services will begin on: Friday, January 2, 2015

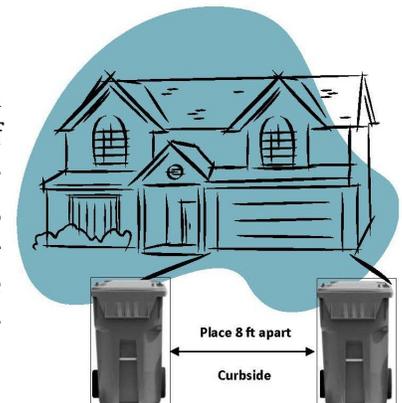
Important note: Due to the observed New Year's holiday – your trash services will be delayed by one day and will be picked up on Friday, January 2, 2015.

#### Recycling (Single-sort) services will begin on: Thursday, January 8, 2015:

Please note that you are "Blue" week – see calendar on Page 2 of this newsletter for the weeks your service is scheduled for. This will mean a three-week period between the last recycling pickup by Advanced Disposal, planned for December 18 and the first pick-up by Tennis Sanitation on January 8, 2015.

#### Yard waste services will remain on Thursdays

As always, please make sure to place your trash and recycling carts opposite sides of the end of your driveway by 7 am. For any questions regarding routing information or week of collection, please contact Tennis Sanitation at 651-459-1887. A calendar for recycling weeks is on Page 2 of this newsletter, and the schedule is also available on-line at [www.tennissanitation.com](http://www.tennissanitation.com).



# City of Oak Park Heights Recycling Schedule



## Blue Week 2 0 1 5



January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Observed Holidays

Scheduled Recycling Day

Please have recycling curbside by 7:00am

## 2015 City budget and tax levy

The City's Preliminary Budget for 2015 of \$5,461,999 is a budget based on 2014 and adjusted for the changes necessary to fund operations at the present level. The Preliminary Budget for next year has an increase of \$284,190 or 5.49% over the 2014 budget. The expenditures that are increased include: snowplowing, utilities, debt repayments and capital purchasing funds for streets, a potential fire station contribution and vehicle replacement. These increases were however offset to some extent due to reductions in some street maintenance, changes in health care and other insurance policies.

Even though the City budget costs are just over 5%, the City's 2015 Budget results in property tax increases that can approach a 15-20%. This situation is primarily due to the continued decrease in Commercial Property Values, dropping more than 8% in 2015, AND an increase in Residential Property values by more than 17%. This decline in Commercial Property subsequently shifts the property tax burden to the Residential sector thus increasing residential property taxes and reducing commercial property taxes.

Overall, Commercial Values have shrunk significantly since 2011. See Chart at right.



The combination of budget increases and change in valuations will result in the estimated increase of 15-20% in residential property taxes for 2015.

As indicated in the following example, for a median home valued at \$166,000 for 2014, City taxes will increase a total of \$151.06 with \$89.00 due to the shift in Commercial Property Values and \$62.06 due to the preliminary budget increases.

TAX LEVY CHANGES- RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY			
TAX LEVY 2014	TAX LEVY	TAXES ON A MEDIAN HOME	% INCREASE OVER 2014
2014 OPERATIONS	\$ 4,225,896		
2014 DEBT SERVICE	\$ 559,000		
<b>TOTAL 2014 TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$ 4,784,896</b>	<b>\$ 856.39</b>	
<b>INC DUE TO SHIFT IN RESIDENTIAL SHARE OF TAXES</b>		\$ 89.00	10.39%
<b>CHANGES TO LEVY</b>			
OPERATIONS	\$ 248,835	\$ 51.85	6.05%
DEBT	\$ 49,000	\$ 10.21	1.19%
TOTAL 2015 BUDGET INCREASE	\$ 297,835	\$ 62.06	7.25%
<b>TOTAL INCREASE</b>		\$ 151.06	17.64%
<b>TOTAL 2015 PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$ 5,082,731</b>	<b>\$ 1,007.45</b>	<b>17.64%</b>

The Preliminary Budget is continuing to be reviewed and adjusted prior to its final adoption in December and additional cuts to the 2015 levy are anticipated. The City's Truth-In-Taxation meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2014, 7:00 pm at City Hall.

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



We accept...



### Pay ONLINE

Go to [www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com)

### Fourth quarter 2014 utility bills

**The outdoor utility payment drop box has been relocated from near the front door to the landscaped circle directly outside the City Hall entrance. This will allow for you to drive up to the box to drop off your payment rather than having to get out of your vehicle.**

Utility bills for the fourth Quarter of 2014 (October 1 – December 31) will be mailed to residents in January and will be due February 9, 2015.

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.

## Parks Commission Vacancy

The City is seeking applications to fill a vacancy on the City of Oak Park Heights Parks Commission. This vacant term is anticipated to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017; however such date is subject to final City Council appointment.

The Parks Commission is a board of five members, appointed by the City Council, who meet regularly on the third Monday of each month, typically at 7:00 pm as well as on other occasions, when needed.

The objectives of the Parks Commission are to make recommendations to the City Council, which will guide the development of city parks, trails and related services and facilities. Commission terms are three years and run from January to December.



If you are a resident of Oak Park Heights and are looking for an interesting and rewarding opportunity to participate in development and governance of Oak Park Heights, contact City Administrator Eric Johnson at (651) 439-4439 or via e-mail at [eajohnson@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:eajohnson@cityofoakparkheights.com). Completed applications are due not later than 2:00 p.m. on January 5, 2015.

## 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!

## Winter boulevard tree pruning

The annual pruning of boulevard trees in Oak Park Heights will take place in the first three months of 2015. Areas to be pruned are 56th Street (west of Oakgreen Avenue), 55th Street (west of Oakgreen Avenue), 55th Street (O'Brien to Oldfield), Novak Avenue, Upper 56th Street (55th Street to Osgood Avenue), Upper 56th Street Court, Omaha Avenue (between 55th and 57th Streets), and selected low-hanging trees on 57th Street (Upper 56th St. to O'Brien Ave.).

If you have particular concerns about boulevard trees in the right-of-way adjoining your property, please contact the Arborist at 439-4439, Extension 1106. If you do not live in the area described above, but would like a boulevard tree pruned this winter due to storm damage (hanging limbs) or a clearance issue, please contact the Arborist. Work will be completed by a professional tree service licensed in the City of Oak Park Heights. Tree service will be chosen via a competitive quote process and should be approved by the end of December.

## St. Croix River Crossing construction update

Highway 36/Highway 95 and frontage roads construction work in Oak Park Heights and Stillwater needed to wrap up early due to an early winter storm and prolonged below-freezing temperatures.

Prior to winter shut down:

- \* All roads will be open to traffic on paved surfaces in their permanent alignment – there will be no gravel surfaces within the project limits.
- \* Highway 36 and Highway 95 will re-open to four lanes of traffic, except on Highway 36 east of Osgood Avenue.
- \* All roads will have lines that designate lanes—called striping.
- \* All intersection signal systems will be working.
- \* Resident and business driveways will be paved and open to their full width.

All new pedestrian/bicycle trails will remain closed through winter. For safety reasons, the public should not use these closed trail areas.

Crews will finish all remaining road, trail and minor driveway and utility work during spring and early summer 2015, when landscaping work is also scheduled to occur. The modified construction schedule ensures better quality and longer-lasting roads once the project is complete.

### Bridge Work During Winter

Construction work on the St. Croix River will continue throughout winter 2014-15 with crews breaking ice in the project construction zone. The public, and especially ice fisherman and snowmobilers, are asked to stay clear of bridge construction once ice starts forming and to heed all thin ice warning signs.

### Stay Connected

- Visit the project website: [www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing](http://www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing) (Sign up for weekly email updates)
- Call the hotline at 1-855-GO-CROIX (462-7649)
- Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintcroixcrossingmndot](http://www.facebook.com/saintcroixcrossingmndot)
- Follow us on Twitter @stcroixcrossing
- Stop by the office at 1862 Greeley St. S., Stillwater

Jessica Wiens  
St. Croix Crossing Communications  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
651-366-4272 (office)  
651-503-0637 (cell)



## Who's Who in City Government

The local government in the City of Oak Park Heights is made up of a City Council and a Mayor. The Mayor and four Councilmembers are elected to the Council. The Mayor and Councilmembers are elected in even-numbered years. Officials are elected for a four-year term, but may be re-elected for any number of additional terms. The City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The Council agenda is posted at City Hall and on the City's website.

The Mayor and Councilmembers work closely with City staff and the City Administrator to ensure that the best interest of the citizens of Oak Park Heights always comes first. The City Hall houses five departments: City Administration, Finance, Building, Public Works, and Police. The City contracts with other firms to provide legal services, planning services, engineering services, and forestry services. The City also contracts with Bayport Fire to provide fire services.

Contact information for City Hall and the Mayor and Councilmembers can be found on the back of this newsletter.

## Street light out in your neighborhood? Contact City Hall

Your help in identifying street lights that are not working is very important, as we rely solely on your notification assistance. Once City staff is aware of a light out, we contact Xcel Energy immediately to help make sure the light is repaired in a reasonable amount of time. Xcel Energy Streetlighting Department strives to repair outages within two business days of notification that the light is out or not working properly. To report a City street light out, please contact City Hall at 439-4439.

If possible, have the following information available:

- Property address and/or nearest cross street to where the light pole is located.
- Whether the light is located on a corner, midblock, or in a cul-de-sac.
- The nature of the problem (i.e. light is out, light is blinking, light is broken).

## Winter skating

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

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

### Warming house Hours:

Weekdays: 3:30 PM—9:00 PM

Weekends: 9:00 AM—9:00 PM

Christmas Eve: 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

All Other Holidays: 9:00 AM—9:00 PM

## 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.

## Preventing frozen water/sewer lines

**Your water lines may be at risk of freezing** during prolonged periods of bitter cold if you had issues with frozen water lines last winter. Water service lines that run from the main line to the home are private property as are the water shut-off boxes. The City does not have the capacity to thaw frozen private water lines.

*Here's what you can do to prepare:*

- Monitor the weather reports for extended periods of severe cold; then take action.
- Allow warm air to circulate in the area where the water comes in to the house.
- Leave utility room doors open and clear space around the water-line.
- Remove contents of vanity cupboards and leave the doors open.
- If possible/practical leave snow cover over the area where your lateral water line runs from the curb stop to the house.
- Put a fresh battery in the thermostat if the thermostat is not hard wired in to the home.
- Run your cold water closest to the water line entry point for a couple minutes and then take the temperature of the water. Please first notify the City if you must leave your water running.
- If water from the tap is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit it is recommended that you let your cold water run from this faucet at a pencil thickness until a few days after frigid temperatures subside.
- You may want to run your faucet non-stop overnight when temperatures typically dip lower or no water is being used for a period of time. Monitor such flows and keep track of water use and proactively inform the City that you are running water to preclude a frozen water line. The City will make appropriate adjustments to water and sewer billings for homes that do run water to prevent freeze-up.
- Contact the City with any questions you may have as we head into the winter season.



### **If your water line freezes:**

- Use heat tape, a space heater (don't leave it unattended) or a warm hair dryer on the pipe.
- If a contractor is needed to thaw the line be aware of unintended consequences of contractors thawing water lines, particularly if using an electrical welder.:
  - Namely fire, explosion, damage to appliances and electronics, and the possibility of damage to other property owners in the case of stray electrical current.
  - Determine if the contractor is insured.

### **Sanitary sewer freeze up considerations:**

Make sure the roof vent is not covered with snow or is otherwise blocked. Snow build up over the vent will cause the sewer drain to slow down. This prevents the warmer air in the sewer system from venting up the house line and keeping the line above freezing.

## City seeking interested citizens to serve on committee

The City of Oak Park Heights City Council is seeking residents and local business owners in Oak Park Heights to serve on a Community Award Committee.

Each year, the City Council awards exceptional businesses and distinguished residents of the community who have made a significant impact on the City.



The role of the committee is to review submissions and make a recommendation to the City Council. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the community and would require minimal time commitment.

If you would like to nominate a business or resident for the award, the nomination form and criteria can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com).

If you are interested in learning more about the committee or the award program, please contact Deputy Clerk Jennifer Pinski at 651-439-4439 or [jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com).

## Volunteer opportunity

The City's Parks Commission is looking for individuals or groups that might be interested in organizing and hosting a haunted park and trail event for Halloween 2015. The individuals or group would be responsible for coordinating the event, event set-up, and event clean-up. The City will assist with advertising the event and there may be some cost-sharing possibilities.

Anyone interested should provide a letter of interest and proposed plan to the City of Oak Park Heights, ATTN: Parks Commission. The letter and plan can be mailed to PO Box 2007, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082, or hand-delivered to City Hall, 14168 Oak Park Boulevard North.

If you have any questions, please contact Mayor Mary McComber at 651-351-7879.

## Beyond the Yellow Ribbon City

The Minnesota National Guard has pioneered a program which employers 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 been recognized as a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community for its effort in supporting military members and their families while defending the democratic values of the United States of America. The City is proud to recognize, appreciate, and say thank you to our military members and their families for their service sacrifices and all they do.

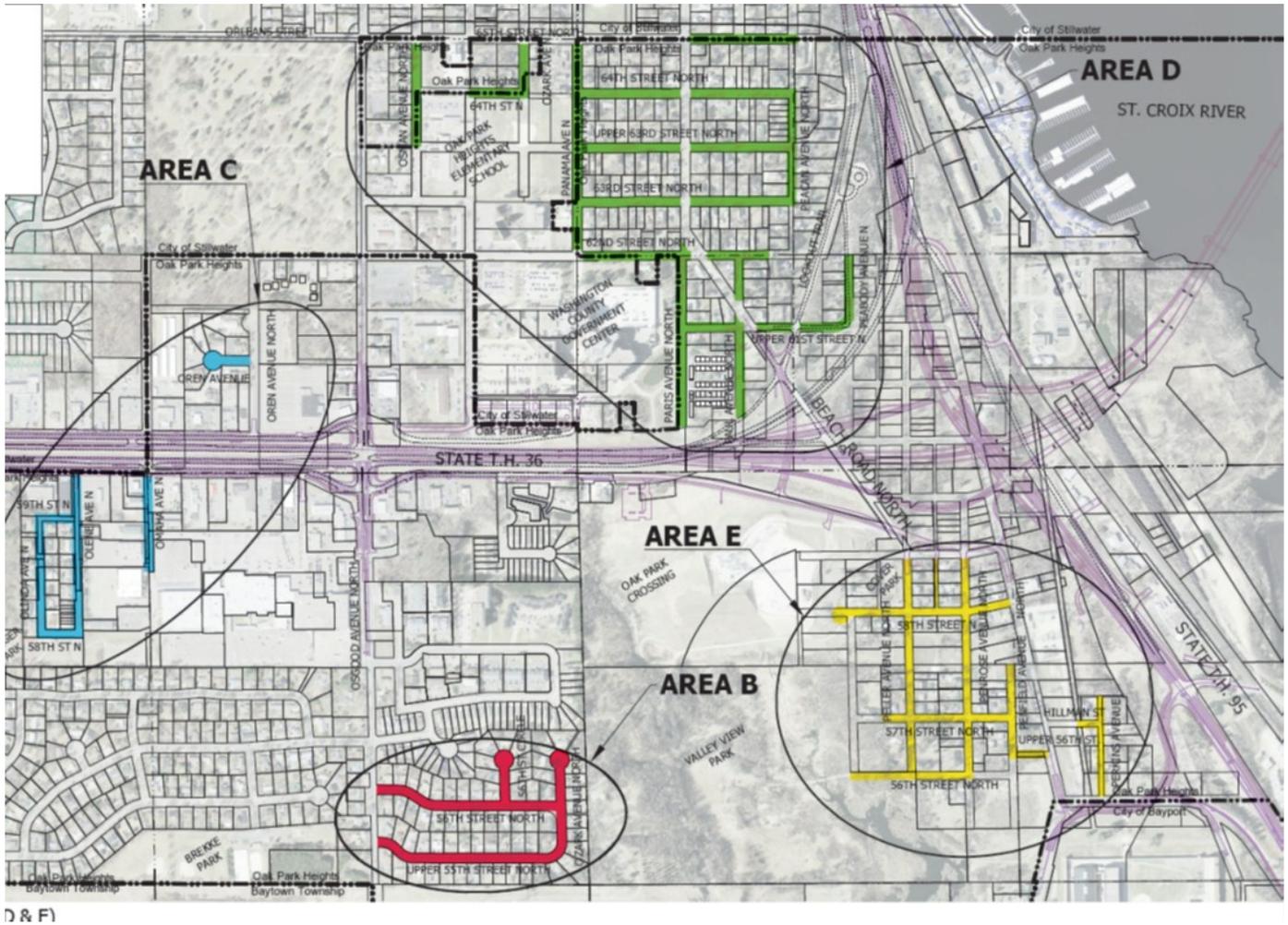
If you are interested in helping with this initiative or want more information, please contact Oak Park Heights Councilmember Mary McComber by e-mail at [marymccomber@aol.com](mailto:marymccomber@aol.com) or by phone at 351-7879.



## Street Reconstruction

### 2014 Street Reconstruction

The City wishes to thank its residents and businesses for working with the City to complete the numerous City street reconstruction projects in **Areas B, C & E**. There will of course be remaining “punch-list” items, such as surface restoration, some tree plantings, etc. that will need to be addressed in spring 2015. However, overall the 2014 Project is largely complete and these roads should useable for many decades.



### 2015 Street Reconstruction

In 2015 the City will be engaging in street reconstruction of those areas north of Highway 36 and east of Osgood Avenue. This area is known as **Area D**. See the map above. The City will be holding another neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00PM at the Oak Park Heights City Hall to again discuss this upcoming project and what is anticipated. Informational letters and meeting invites will be mailed to residents in that area in December. The City is continuing to work with Washington County to identify and understand their reconstruction of Paris Avenue. (County Highway 23).

## Will my improvement project require a permit?

It is always best to contact the Building Official, during the planning stages of your project, to determine what permits, if any are required for your project.

Examples of some projects that require permits include:

- New buildings or additions (bedrooms, baths, porches, family rooms, etc.)
- Accessory buildings (detached garages or utility sheds)
- Decks, screen porches, three-season porches, or gazebos
- Plumbing (basement bathrooms, new construction, sprinkler systems, hot water heaters)
- Heating (new construction, basement finishing, furnace replacement, Air conditioning)
- Fences (as required by City Zoning Ordinance)
- Signs (as required by City Zoning Ordinance for both temporary and permanent signage)
- Re-siding and re-roofing projects
- Window installation: New or replacement (sash, pocket windows and egress)

Building permits can be downloaded from the City's website or picked up at City Hall. The Building Official, Julie Hultman, may be reached at 651-439-4439.

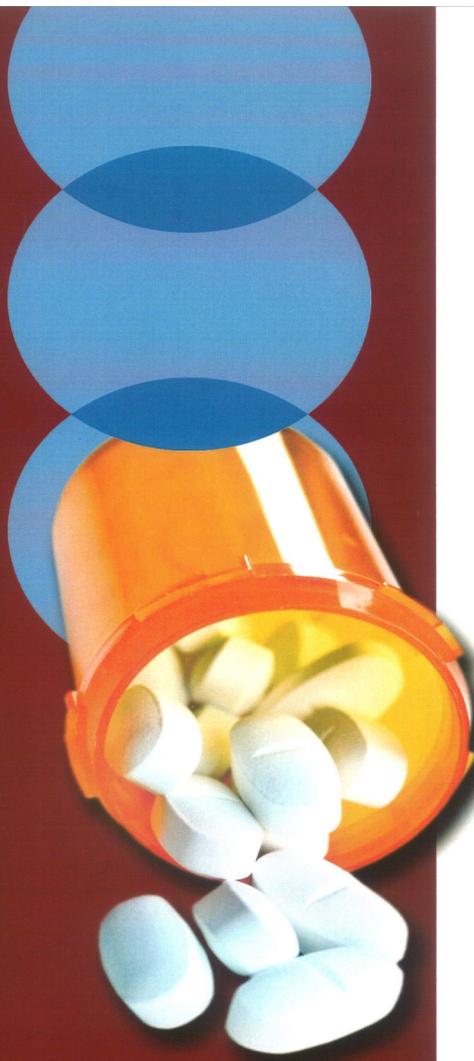
## Why do I need a building permit?

Your home - your business, it is a financial investment. The City has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code, which provides minimum standards to safeguard lives, property, and public welfare through regulating the design and construction of all buildings or structures. Many property insurers may not cover damages if work has been done without a permit or the required inspections.

When securing a contractor and completing a project, ask your contractor for verification of their licensing and insurance. Your contractor *must* obtain a building permit *prior* to starting your construction project. An inspection record will be issued with the project permit and should be posted *at the construction site*. Your contractor should schedule all required inspections. It is the property owner's responsibility that all inspections are made and passed.

*Check to be sure that your contractor is scheduling the required inspections.* Be certain to have a final inspection made and approved by Building Official, Julie Hultman. It may be difficult to get a contractor to come back to your project to make corrections after final payment has been made.

For do-it-yourself project, remember that *you* are also responsible for obtaining a permit and scheduling the required inspections. The best thing to do is call the Building Official, at City Hall, during the planning stages of your project, to have any questions answered and to ensure that your project is in compliance with City requirements. The Building Official can be reached at 651-439-4439. There are a variety of construction project and code requirement handouts available at City Hall or on the City's website under City Information, Forms & Handouts.



# Lower the Cost of Your Prescriptions. Start Saving Today!

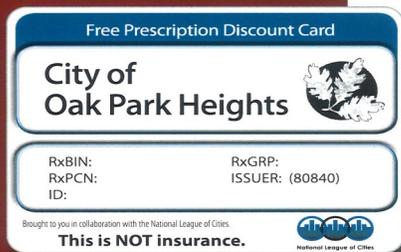
The **Prescription Discount Card** is easy to use and can be used any time your prescription is not covered by insurance.

The program includes:

- Average savings of 20%
- It's FREE, no enrollment or membership fees
- All family members are covered
- Even some pet prescriptions are covered
- No limit on how many times you use the card
- 9 out of 10 pharmacies accept the card



**Start Saving Today with the City of Oak Park Heights Prescription Discount Card**



It's easy to get a card from the Internet, go to [www.caremark.com/nlc](http://www.caremark.com/nlc) and select 'Print a Card Now' and follow the easy steps. Cards may also be found at city hall and most libraries.

**The City of Oak Park Heights Prescription Discount Card can be picked up at City Hall.**

For more program information visit [www.caremark.com/nlc](http://www.caremark.com/nlc) or call toll-free **1-888-620-1749.**



National League of Cities

**This is NOT insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies.**

## Snow plowing

The City has contracted with Raleigh Trucking for plowing services during the 2014-2015 winter season. Raleigh Trucking has provided plowing services to the City of Oak Park Heights for approximately thirty-five (35) years, and many of the company's employees have several years to decades of experience plowing the same City routes. When it snows, please remember the following:

- ◆ City collector streets and arterial streets are plowed first. Residential streets and cul-de-sacs plowing occurs after collector and arterial streets are cleared.
- ◆ City staff is responsible for plowing trails. Trail plowing begins as soon as vital infrastructure property is cleared of snow.
- ◆ To minimize property damage, snow is piled within cul-de-sacs. Snow removal occurs when lack of storage space necessitates it be done.
- ◆ Not only can blowing and or throwing snow from private property onto the public street cause hazardous road conditions; it also violates MN Statute 169.42. Please do not throw snow from your driveway on to the City street.
- ◆ During snow events keep trash bins back from the street so plows may pass without damaging your trash bin.
- ◆ Snowplows inadvertently obstruct mailboxes with high snow accumulation. Residents are responsible for keeping their own mailbox clear of snow.
- ◆ The City will repair or replace properly installed mailboxes that are physically struck by a snowplow. A temporary mailbox will be provided until a permanent post can be installed in spring.
- ◆ The City repairs major lawn damage from to snowplow blades. Major lawn damage will be repaired with black dirt and seed in the spring (Typically in May). Minor scratch and divot repair is the property owner's responsibility.
- ◆ To advise the City about a slick intersection or to report property damage caused by a snowplow, please call City Hall at (651) 439-4439.

### WINTER PARKING REMINDER

**Parking regulations are in effect November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. No parking is allowed on City streets during the hours of 1:00am and 6:00am.**

Winter parking restrictions are put in place in an effort to enable snow removal equipment the opportunity to do a top quality and efficient job in removing snow from city streets. 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. Move off the streets for overnight parking for the winter to avoid citations and towing. Please help us by obeying the winter parking restrictions.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

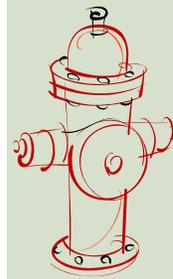
## Winter driving tips from the Police Department

Make sure you give your vehicle time to warm up and make sure the windows are clear of snow and ice, and well defrosted. Slow down and leave extra space between yourself and other vehicles. Keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle, the kit should include:

- Candles and lighter or matches that can be used to melt snow for drinking water
- A metal cup
- A basic first aid kit
- A flashlight with spare batteries
- Snack foods for energy, such as candy bars
- Cell Phone: an old cell phone with power cord even if it no longer has a service plan is still allowed to call 911.  
So throw that old cell phone & power cord in your glove box.

Other items that should be included are mittens, extra hat, boots, a blanket, jumper cables and shovel. Remember, if you become stranded, never leave your vehicle and consider carrying a cell phone that can be used for emergency calls.

## Fire Hydrants in Winter



*Please help your neighbors and yourselves by shoveling around fire hydrants. We hope they are not needed, but critical minutes can be saved if neighbors keep their hydrants accessible for emergency use. Doing so helps the Public Works Department and saves taxpayer money.*

## Snow Forts

*Parents, please protect your children by keeping snow forts and play away from streets and drives. Snow removal equipment is dangerous, and during operations, blowing snow and limited visibility can be a deadly combination to children in the path of equipment.*

## Ice Dangers

*There have been reports of ice skating on area ponds. These types of ponds are not monitored or checked by the City, or any other agency, to determine safety of ice conditions. Ice skating is available at both Brekke and Cover Parks.*

# City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd N, Box 2007  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082-2007

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 90100

## 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

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](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

December 2014 Newsletter

## Changes to the City's Leash Law

The City of Oak Park Heights City Council has updated its Leash Law Ordinance effective March 1, 2015. After that date, all dogs and cats that are off the premises of the owner must be on a leash at all times and under control of the owner or another designated person.

If you do not have your dog or cat on a leash, you will be in violation of the new Ordinance. The Ordinance will be posted on the City's website when it takes affect in March.

Also, 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.

