

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

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ENCLOSURE:  
*2020 City Calendar*

## GOING THE EXTRA DISTANCE WITH THE BUS LOOP

Imagine if you didn't drive. How would you get groceries? Run errands? Stay connected to friends? Transportation is a critical link in helping people maintain their independence and access services that provide for their overall health and self-sufficiency. As our population ages, and driving becomes more limited for older adults, accessible transportation options are a growing need.

In late October 2018, thanks to generous community sponsors, the Community Thread Connector Loop bus service started as a one-year pilot. The fixed-route service runs every Monday from 10am-3pm between Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. There are no sign up requirements and riders of all ages and income levels are welcome to use the service. The bus makes scheduled stops at housing complexes including Boutwells Landing, Rivertown Commons, Oak Park Senior Living, Raymie Johnson Estates, Ann Bodlovick Apartments, and Green Twig Villas. Residents of Birchwood Commons will soon be able to board the bus at their site. The loop takes passengers to retail sites, the food shelf, and various medical facilities.

Every day, on average 15 people use the bus mainly to access retailer that sell groceries and general household items. Riders shared their experience using the bus loop service on a recent survey, with comments ranging from "I can go shopping on my own



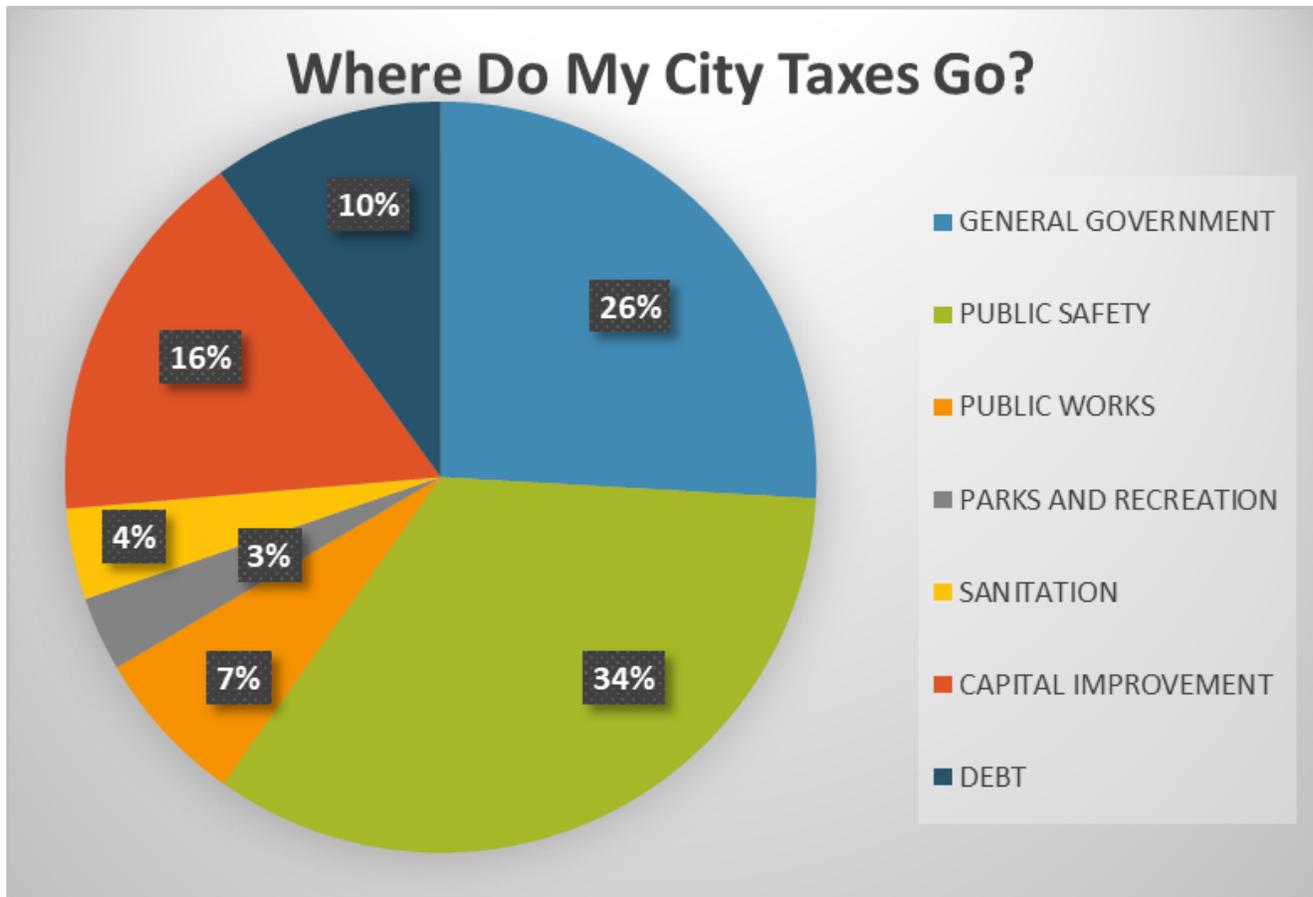
# 2020 CITY BUDGET

On December 10, 2019 the City Council adopted the City’s 2020 Budget with a total expenditure of \$5,803,520.

Compared to the 2019 Budget, the 2020 Budget does have increased costs for in snow plowing, fire protection costs, insurances, and general labor costs estimated at \$115,397. An additional expense of \$25,000 is also budgeted for a legislative services agreement for assistance with the City obtaining funds from the State Capital Bill for the proposed Norell Avenue Intersection Improvement. The reductions to the 2020 budget of \$137,765 are in the capital improvement expenditures which fund various building and street improvements.

The City expenditures are funded by various revenues such as permits, licenses, intergovernmental, charges for services and taxes. Property Taxes however support 91% of the budgeted expenditures. The Property Tax Levy for the 2020 Budget is \$5,263,194 and is an increase of \$172,948, a 3.4% increase from the 2019 Property Tax Levy. Although total 2020 budgeted expenditures increased \$2,632 over the 2019 budget, a reduction of revenues of \$170,316 from building permits, charges for services and fund balance contributions, required an increase in the tax levy.

The City’s Budget is utilized to fund essential services such as 24-hour police protection, fire department, snow plowing, road maintenance, solid waste & recycling services, parks & trails and a many of other services our Citizens expect. The graph is a breakdown of the 2020 budget expenditures.





## PAY & VIEW OAK PARK HEIGHTS UTILITY BILLS ONLINE

### PAY ONLINE

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

1. Click "Utility Payments Online"
2. Scroll to bottom and click "Pay Online"
3. You will go to the payment portal website

### OR CALL

877-885-7968

Have your bill handy to provide your account number

### VIEW BILLS ONLINE

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

1. Click "Utility Payments Online"
2. Scroll to bottom and click "View Bill Online"
3. You will go to the payment portal website
4. You will get an email each time your bill is ready

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



## 2020 BUDGET ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

As previously explained in the TNT notices and the City's fall newsletter: City Residential property values increased on average 9.8%, while Commercial property and Public Utility values decreased. This means that more of the tax levy was shifted to Residential properties. On average the city tax portion of your tax bill increased by 11%, 7% was due to the shift in values and 4% is due to the City's increase in tax levy.



Please visit the website, [www.cityfoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityfoakparkheights.com), for a complete budget or contact Betty Caruso, Finance Director, at City Hall 651-439-4439 with any questions or comments.

# SUBMIT YOUR OAK PARK HEIGHTS PHOTOS

The City is seeking your photos that have been taken in the City of Oak Park Heights. Photos could be of landscapes, nature, people, places, events, or anything that captures the beauty of our City.

By submitting a photo, you will be granting the City the right to use it on the website, Facebook, in the City newsletter or annual calendar, and on other informational and marketing materials.

Please send your photos to City Clerk Jen Pinski: [jpinski@cityfoakparkheights.com](mailto:jpinski@cityfoakparkheights.com). Information about your photo, such location and date, is appreciated. Include your name for photo credit.



Andersen Corporation employees volunteered to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity in Oak Park Heights for ten days in mid-October.

Photo credit: Micki Siewwright, resident and Andersen Corporation employee.

# 2020 WATER AND SEWER USAGE RATES

Every year the City reviews the Utility Rates to see if they are sufficient to generate the revenue needed cover the budgeted expenditures for the related utility. The 2020 study reflected that rate increases are required in the water and storm sewer utilities. Below are the following rates for 2020. The Utility Rate Study supporting this increase is available on the City’s website.

**Effective January 1, 2020, the City of Oak Park Heights shall establish a municipal Water rate for all users: the quarterly minimum charge in 2019 was \$40.00. All other rates have increased \$0.15.**



1. A quarterly minimum charge of \$43.10 for the first 15,000 gallons of water used.
2. A rate of \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons for water use above 15,000 up to 50,000 gal.
3. A rate of \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons for water use above 50,000 gallons up to 99,000 gal.
4. A rate of \$5.01 per 1,000 gallons for water use above 99,000 gallons up to 200,000 gal.
5. A rate of \$5.93 per 1,000 gallons for water use above 200,000 gallons.

**Effective January 1, 2020, the City of Oak Park Heights shall establish a municipal Sewer rate for all users as follows: No change in rates from 2019.**

1. A quarterly minimum charge of \$78.50 for the first 15,000 gallons of water used.
2. A rate of \$5.40 per 1,000 gallons of water used above 15,000 up to 50,000 gallons.
3. A rate of \$5.75 per 1,000 gallons of water used above 50,000 gallons.

Residential sewer rates are determined by the amount of water used in the March quarter of each year. Commercial, industrial, institutional and high density residential sewer rates are based on actual usage.

**Effective January 1, 2020, the City of Oak Park Heights shall establish a municipal Storm Sewer rate for all users as follows:**

Residential	\$1.50/UNIT/MO	(PRIOR RATE \$1.00/UNIT/MO)
Residential Vacant	\$2.00/UNIT	(PRIOR RATE \$1.50/UNIT)
High Density	\$33.00/ACRE	(PRIOR RATE \$30.00/ACRE)
High Density-Undeveloped	\$5.00/ACRE	(PRIOR RATE \$4.50/ACRE)

## HOUSE NUMBERS—ARE YOURS VISIBLE?



House numbers are required by the City’s Zoning Ordinance, and 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 your house number on it, make it a priority to put them on today.**

## LOCAL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Welcome New and Remodeled Businesses:

- Boo Boo’s Garage, 5899 Nova Scotia Ave. N.
- Bridgeview Chiropractic, 13481 60th St. N., Suite 102
- Lace Salon, 14375 60th St. N.
- Lollie Salon & Spa, 14375 60th St. N.
- Public Storage Expansion, 5710 Memorial Ave. N.
- Selena’s Treasure Chest, 5901 Omaha Ave. N.
- Taco Bell, 14529 60th St. N.



### Construction Underway:

- Pony Express Carwash—Self-Service Wash Remodel, 5970 Neal Ave. N.
- Twin Citites Orthopedics Remodel, 5805 Neal Ave. N.
- Wendy’s Restaurant Remodel, 14560 60th St. N.

If you are interested in learning about what is coming or happening, call City Hall at 651-439-4439.

## HOME OCCUPATION PERMITS REQUIRED FOR HOME-BASED BUSINESSES

City Ordinance 401 regulates home based businesses and requires a home occupation permit for them. The purpose of the permit is to provide a means through the establishment of specific standards and procedures by which home occupations can be conducted in residential neighborhoods without jeopardizing the health, safety and general welfare of the surrounding neighborhood.



Oak Park Heights issues two types of home occupation permits which distinguish between a permitted home occupation (typically no retail traffic), such as a home-based office and a special home occupation that may entail cliental traffic or have other criteria that does not meet the specific requirements for a permitted home occupation. A permit application is required for either type of home occupation. Annual renewal is required for all approved home occupation permits.

Information regarding home occupations and permit application can be found at the City Hall or on the City web page at [www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com).

If you have a home-based business or are thinking about one, contact Julie Hultman at City Hall with any questions you may have and to learn what is needed to obtain a permit.

## BUS LOOP ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

without depending on anyone in my family” to “it is convenient and I can count on it”. Going forward, they will continue to be able to count on it, thanks to funding from community supporters for year two of the service.



New supporters this year include Andersen Corporate Foundation, the City of Stillwater and the Greater Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce. Returning supporters are Allina Health – Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, City of Oak Park Heights, Lakeview Hospital and the noon Rotary Club of Stillwater.

The bus seats 16 people and is handicap accessible. With a \$3 all you can ride fare, riders may get on and off at any of the stops along the loop. Riders who live within 2 blocks of the route may request to be picked up at their home by calling DARTS at 651-234-2272 the week prior to the service. For more information or to see the two block radius, go to [www.CommunityThreadmn.org](http://www.CommunityThreadmn.org) or call Community Thread at 651-439-7434 for a schedule.

## HIRING A TREE SERVICE/LANDSCAPE COMPANY

When hiring a tree service and or landscape company for tree pruning, chemical treatment or tree removals contractors are required to have a current Tree Worker's License with the City of Oak Park Heights as required by City Ordinance 1307. A current list of licensed tree workers can be obtained from City Hall.



## OAK WILT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) updated the oak wilt status from low risk to safe on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The safe months are the best months of the year to prune oak trees. Typically in Minnesota the safe months are November thru March. The next update from the MN DNR on the status of oak wilt is expected on April 1, 2020. Details and updates can be found on the MN DNR website: <http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/oak-wilt/>



## RISK TREES



Winter is a good time to look for structural problems in trees in your yard and near your home. When leaves are gone, it is a lot easier to see risk issues such as broken, hanging limbs, cracks in large branches and main trunk unions, and decay issues such as cavities (wildlife holes, openings in the trunk), or conks (shelf fungi) on the main trunk, on large branches, or at the base of the tree. If a large tree has died back from the top or has had signs of decline (small leaves, early fall coloration, thin leaf canopy) in the past few years, it should be examined for decay and other risk factors. Being proactive about tree risk situations can prevent serious damage and injury.

## WINTER LANDSCAPING CHECKLIST

- Prune dead, diseased, or unsafe branches
- Prune elm and oak trees
- Inspect your trees and shrubs for ice and snow damage
- Have hazardous or dead trees removed by a licensed tree worker



## TREE QUESTIONS?

If you have a problem with a tree or shrub, such as insects, diseases, site factors, or just want to have a plant identified, call Lisa Danielson, the City Arborist at 651-439-4439 or via email [ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com)

She can either answer your question over the phone or make an appointment for a site visit. This service is free for residents of Oak Park Heights.

# City of Oak Park Heights 2020 Recycling Schedule



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	29

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	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Scheduled Recycling Day

Holiday

Please have recycling curbside by 7:00am

# NEW YARD WASTE DROP OFF SITE FOR RESIDENTS



Washington County Northern Yard Waste Site has opened in Hugo at 5527 170th Street North. The site accepts leaves, grass, brush, and tree waste from residents at no charge. No business yard waste is accepted.

Food scraps (organics) are also accepted at the Northern Yard Waste Site.

Food and other organics must be kept separate from yard waste.



**NORTHERN YARD WASTE SITE**  
5527 170th St N., Hugo, MN 55038

**SUMMER HOURS: APRIL—NOVEMBER**  
Wednesday.....11 a.m.—7 p.m. (or until dusk)  
Friday & Saturday.....8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Sunday.....Noon—4:30 p.m.

**WINTER HOURS: DECEMBER—MARCH**  
Saturday.....10 a.m.—3 p.m.  
Sunday—Friday.....Closed

Search the Disposal Director to find more drop-off locations: [recyclesearch.com/wcdd](http://recyclesearch.com/wcdd)



# City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd N

Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

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

#### City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.  
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  
Carly Johnson: 261-5801  
Mike Liljegren: 351-2742  
Mike Runk: 439-5458

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Eric Johnson

Visit our Website!

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

*The Oak Park Heights  
newsletter*

*is published by the City  
of Oak Park Heights.*

*Comments are welcome.*

## 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.

