



City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Spring 2017 Newsletter

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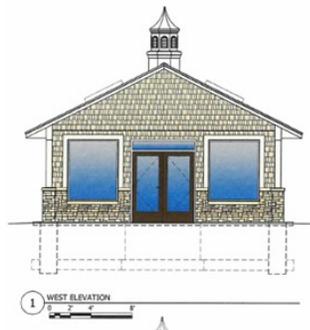
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Cover Park update

Plans for the Cover Park renovations are continuing to be developed and are based on the feedback from the 2015 public engagement process as well as previous concept plans. The following elements are anticipated:

NEW ITEMS

The City hopes to remove the current park shelter / warming house and replace it with a larger and more efficient structure to the north of the ice rink. The new building will also have a shaded overhang that will accommodate picnic tables. The new Cover Park Shelter will include expanded parking areas, restrooms that will be available throughout the year, eliminating the need for the port-a-pot facilities, as well as drinking fountains.



Also, new trails will be installed that connect the area neighborhood to the developing St. Croix River Crossing trails and to the balance of the City's trail systems to the west. Finally, the hockey boards are failing and will not be replaced, however the ice rink will remain in a new configuration as generally shown on the plans (see Page 2). It is hoped that the new configuration will make flooding easier and allow more use of a green-space during the summer months.

In addition, the City is seeking the use of "Made in USA" elements, using local manufactured products, the possibility of solar power, as well as the use of durable and highly efficient equipment so as to create the most efficient building reasonably possible. The site will be in compliance with the Middle St. Croix Watershed rules.

UNCHANGING ITEMS

The current playground which was constructed in 2006 will remain in place as will the slope abutting the eastern side of Cover Park where flower gardens have been

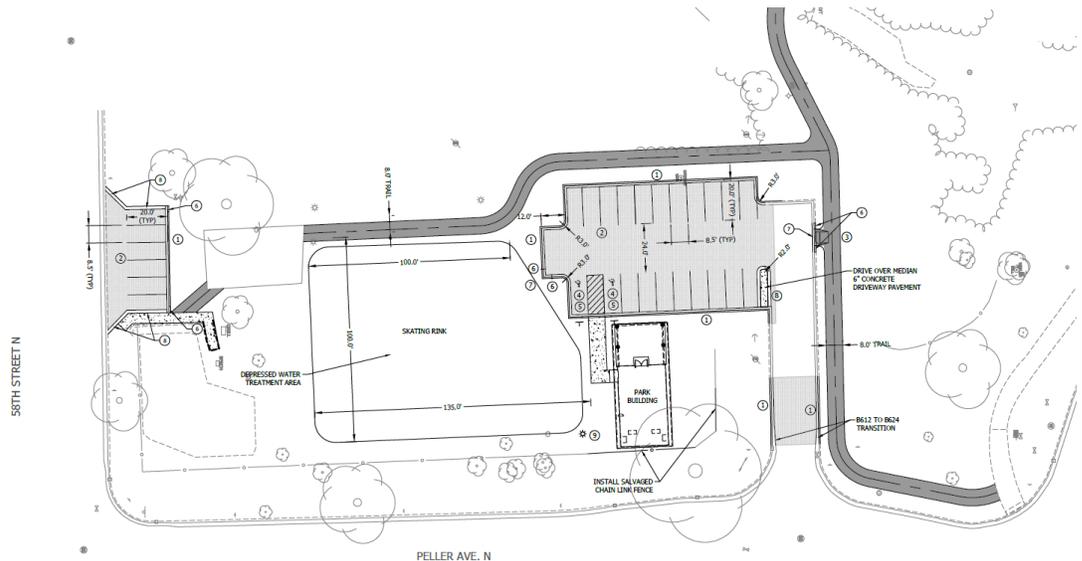
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Cover Park update ...continued from Page 1

planted. The City hopes to reuse the four (4) current outdoor lighting and to preserve the overhead rink lights.

TIMELINES

Please see the general site plan at right. Bids are anticipated to be issued in March with construction to commence in late spring. Ultimately, the City anticipates that the new building will be open for the 2017-2018 winter skating season.



FUNDING

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$500,000 +/- depending on bids received. The funding applied to cover these costs is generally derived from two main sources: Contributions to the City's Park and Trails Development fund made by developer's over the past years as well as contributions by Xcel Energy to the City as part of the fly-ash site renovation commitments.

Oak Park Heights Police Department implements new CPR assistance device



The Oak Park Heights Police Department has trained and implemented a new advancement in CPR. The ResQ CPR device by Zoll Medical increases CPR efficiency by up to 49 percent. The Oak Park Heights Police Department works with Lakeview Hospital EMS to ensure the best possible medical response for our citizens. The Oak Park Heights Police Department is the first responding agency to medicals in Oak Park Heights, and every minute counts in a cardiac event. This new device along with our AED units will help officers provide critical profusion and shock treatments if needed for the patient until Lakeview EMS Paramedics arrive on scene to provide further critical advance lifesaving techniques. The Oak Park Heights Police Department is leading the way in the country being one of the first law enforcement agencies in the entire country and one of a handful of responding fire agencies in the state to implement this advanced resource according to the manufacturer.

After speaking with Lakeview EMS Director Jon Muller about the device, I felt it was a critical part of our medical response in the community to implement the device. Our officers can be on scene minutes before Lakeview EMS arrives starting other advanced techniques. Those minutes can save lives and improved outcomes. Our community has a top notch medical response team with Oak Park Heights Police Department, Lakeview EMS and the Bayport Fire. The Oak Park Heights City Council supported the program, funding the equipment and training. In the photo are Officers Croft and Hicks training with the equipment.



OAK PARK HEIGHTS SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

The City of Oak Park Heights will be hosting a Spring Clean-up on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Clean-up will be in the southwest corner of the former St. Croix Mall (Andersen Corporation) parking lot in Oak Park Heights. Proof of residency such as a utility bill or driver's license will be required.

COMMON ITEMS DISPOSED OF:

- Appliances such as washers, dryers, ovens, and water heaters
- Brush and yard waste (please use compostable bags)
- Construction materials such as doors, windows, and lumber
- Furniture such as sofas, chairs, and tables
- scrap metal
- carpet
- Electronics such as televisions and computers
- Lawnmowers (please drain all gas and oil)

THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT ACCEPTED:

- Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this event, but can still be picked up curbside for no charge—please call City Hall to schedule)
- Hazardous waste (such as paints, stains, oil, gas, pesticides, or other chemicals from your home)
- Tires, stumps, and firewood

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 651-439-4439.

Reserve a City park shelter

Are you thinking about having a get-together or a family reunion? The Brekke, Cover, Valley View, and Autumn Hills Park shelter buildings can be reserved free of charge for your event. The Autumn Hills Park Shelter does require a refundable \$100 deposit. Oak Park Heights typically opens the park shelters by Memorial Day weekend.

Brekke Park is located on Omar Avenue south of the former St. Croix Mall. The park has a covered shelter building with restrooms as well as a tot lot, baseball diamonds, playground equipment, and barbeque grills.

Valley View Park is located on Osgood Avenue at the edge of the city limits. This park has a covered shelter building, picnic areas, play-grounds and a beautiful passive park area with trails, a prairie restoration area and wetlands.

Autumn Hills Park is located at 5697 Norwich Parkway off of 58th Street adjacent to the Boutwells Landing campus. The park contains meandering trails, trail access parking, and playground equipment. It has a 2,000+ square foot shelter, which includes a covered gathering area with a small kitchen/serving area, men's and women's restrooms, and a water fountain.

You may use the City's online reservation form to reserve either the Brekke Park or Valley View Park shelters. You may obtain the Autumn Hills Park Shelter reservation documents and information online as well. Or, you may call or visit City Hall anytime to reserve any of the shelters for your next event!

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



We accept...



Pay ONLINE

Go to www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com

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

Or CALL

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

View Bills Online

Go to www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com

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

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

WHY?

Help save natural resources by viewing and paying online.

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



City Meetings (subject to change)

City Council:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

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

Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

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

Please remember to pull your garbage and recycling bins away from the curb as soon as reasonably possible after pickup day and store them out of view, such as in a garage, screened in area, or shed.

First quarter 2017 utility bills

Utility bills for the first Quarter of 2017 (January 1 – March 31) will be mailed to residents in April and are due May 9, 2017 .



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 Jennifer Pinski at City Hall, 651-439-4439, if you have questions.

Oak Wilt

DO NOT prune oak trees from April 1st - July 1st (high risk period). There is also a slight risk of oak wilt being spread via insects to fresh wounds from July 1st to September 15th. If oaks are pruned or wounded April 1st through September 30th, wounds should be painted immediately with latex house paint. It is best to prune oaks between October 15th and March 15th.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was identified in Washington County during the Fall of 2015. Check trunks and branches for “D-shaped” adult exit holes and “S-shaped” larval galleries. These galleries are under the bark and the bark maybe cracked open over the gallery and wound tissue. There may be a lot of woodpecker activity, particularly in the top half of the tree, seen most easily in the winter. If you see signs of EAB activity, please contact the

Oak Park Heights City Arborist. Do not move ash wood with intact bark from one area to another, to avoid spreading EAB to new areas. If you would like information regarding insecticide injection to protect ash trees in your yard, contact the City Arborist. There are EAB handouts with images on the Arborist’s page of the City’s website and copies are also available at City Hall.

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.

Prairie Restoration area maintenance

The two (2) prairie restoration areas within the City (located to the north behind City Hall Building which runs east to Oldfield Ave N and the Valley View Park prairie restoration area located on the east side of Valley View Park on the west side of the wetland) will both have a spring prescribed burn take place and four (4) timed weed control visits. This work is similar to work in past years with the substitution of the burn instead of the spring mow this year. It is important that all of these prairie management tasks are done on a cycle to maintain quality vegetation. The City has contracted this year with Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc. for the 2017 vegetation maintenance.

Tree problems?

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 e-mail at 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.



Xcel Energy Provides Opportunities to SAVE \$\$\$ with the Home Energy Squad; a one-stop efficiency shopping: an easy way to save energy and money

The concept is simple: you schedule a visit and a truck pulls up in front of your house. Two energy experts from Xcel Energy's partners hop out to help you identify opportunities where the addition of a few simple measures can add up to big savings. You choose which energy saving items you want installed and the expert does all the work. Two hours later, your home is more efficient.

It's called the Home Energy Squad. It's one-stop efficiency shopping for anyone wanting to save energy at home and get immediate results.

Some of the recommendations they will provide include installing weather stripping on exterior doors, programmable thermostats, LEDs, high-efficiency showerheads or faucet aerators. The homeowner pays for the \$70 trip charge, and the rest - materials, installation and labor which normally costs about \$200 - is covered by Xcel Energy.

New this year, for only \$100 the homeowner can request a Home Energy Audit at the same time as the Home Energy Squad visit and receive a full home analysis in addition to the direct installation of the Squad materials. The combined service is a \$600 value.

"The goal is to help people achieve energy efficiency one home at a time with easy, tangible improvements," says Jean Hammer, Xcel Energy program manager. "Customers like getting expert advice specific to their home and making their own decisions about which measures to implement."

Since the program started in early 2010, the Squad has visited more than 40,100 homes in the Twin Cities and outlying areas. The program has achieved enough savings to supply more than 9,100 homes with their energy needs for an entire year.

"Customers love the ease of having someone in the home who can consult and install, all in less than two hours," says Hammer.

To be eligible for the program, the resident must be an Xcel Energy electricity customer and an Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy natural gas customer. The Neighborhood Energy Connection and the Center for Energy and Environment perform the customer visits, in partnership with Xcel Energy

Check out the Home Energy Squad van and learn more during City's Party In The Park on Thursday, June 8 or visit www.homeenergysquad.net or call 651-328-6220.



CodeRED Notification System



The City of Oak Park Heights has started to use its ability to geographically target telephone, text and email messages to citizens through the use of the CodeRED high-speed notification solution.

To ensure your home address, phone number, text and email addresses are in the database, visit www.cityofoakparkheights.com and click on CodeRED. Those without personal Internet access may use the county library system computers or call 651-439-4723 Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. Required information includes a street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes) for location purposes and a primary phone number. To receive email and text messages, individuals will also need to enter these addresses. By entering a cell phone you will receive the notices even when away from your home so you may know if children or other persons at your residence may need assistance from you. Do NOT use your home phone number for a residence of another person such as parent, or a business.

This system enables emergency services to notify you if there are activities in your area you need to be aware of or to request your assistance in emergency situations. In an emergency you may be given a description to help locate a missing person, be notified of a potential danger in your area and what action you should take, along with other police or fire emergency information. You will not be notified just because the police or fire are in your neighborhood, you will only be notified if we need your assistance or to provide you safety information.

If you sign up for the **General Notifications** you may be told of non-emergency public works information such as water outages, and other city events and notices. MNDOT will be using CodeRED to provide notifications on road closures and other issues related to the St. Croix River Crossing Bridge Project.

Remember no system is perfect at all times. Do not rely on this if you feel you are in danger. Take appropriate action on your own, and do not wait for a notification. For more information on how the system works, how the message gets to you, and why you may not be notified in some incidents, please visit the City's website, click on CodeRED, and read through the FAQ section.

2017 Party in the Park—Thursday, June 8 at Autumn Hills Park

The year 2017 marks the 160th anniversary since the platting of Oak Park. The City of Oak Park Heights plans to combine an anniversary celebration with its annual Party in the Park. Party in the Park is usually held on National Night Out, but in 2017, the City will be having this event on Thursday, June 8 at Autumn Hills Park and will be encouraging neighborhoods to organize their own National Night Out events on August 1st in order to get to know their neighbors and promote public safety. If you would like an Oak Park Heights Police Officer to stop by your neighborhood event, please contact the Police Department at 651-439-4723 to request that.

For the Party in the Park/160th Anniversary Celebration, we are requesting residents to gather pictures, memories, and stories which depict the history of the City. We hope to display those at the event for others to see. If you have any mementos or memories to share, please contact City Clerk Jennifer Pinski by phone at 651-439-4439 or by e-mail at jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com.

City department spotlight—Code Enforcement & Building Department

The Planning & Code Enforcement Department enforces both City and State Building Codes and regulations, including local zoning ordinance regulations to ensure safety and compliance within the City of Oak Park Heights.

The Office of the Building Official is responsible for reviewing construction plans, issuing work permits, and inspecting work performed to residential and commercial projects. The department strives to engage meaningfully and provide respectful service to our residential and commercial customers.

You can reach Julie at City Hall by calling 651-439-4439 or by emailing her at jhultman@cityfoakparkheights.com.



Parking pads

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. Parking on grass is prohibited.

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.
- No firewood.

Spring landscaping workshops

The East Metro Water Resource Education Program and Master Gardeners in Washington County invite you to join us for some Spring Dreaming!

We are offering fun, informal workshops to help you with ideas and how-tos for your own property including:

- Small landscaping projects: incorporating gardens, natural areas, and spaces for play;
- Managing drainage and erosion issues using raingardens, swales, dry creeks while protecting water resources;
- Creating habitat for pollinators, birds and wildlife on your property;
- Managing invasive species such as buck-thorn.



Enjoy an evening with your community and get helpful advice from Master Gardeners and Water Resource Educators.

RSVPs received at least 2 days before the workshop will receive a free aerial print out of their property to use during the workshop

North Saint Paul - April 6 @ 6:30 p.m. Casey Lake Park Building
 St. Paul Park – April 11 @ 6:30 p.m. City Hall
 Oakdale – April 18 @ 6:30 p.m. Washington Conservation District Office
 Hugo – April 27 @ 6:30 p.m. City Hall
 Forest Lake – May 2 @ 6:30 p.m. City Hall

RSVP to the workshops at: tinyurl.com/SpringDream2017

For more information contact Jenn Radtke: jradtke@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x44

Oak Park Heights local business and development news

Welcome New Businesses:

Man Cave Precision Hair – 5948 Osgood Ave. N.
 Meals From The Heart – 5600 Memorial Ave. N.
 Pizza Ranch – 5785 Minnesota Ave. N.

Coming Soon:

Fiesta Cancun Mexican Grill & Bar – 5817 Neal Ave. N.
 Goodwill (New Location) – 5980 Krueger Ln. N.
 Simonet's Furniture Warehouse – 5745 Memorial Ave. N.

Sanitary sewer use

The City's Public Works Department provides for the collection, operation and maintenance of a wastewater system that ultimately leads to treatment and the return of water back to the ecological system at an environmentally safe level.

Oak Park Heights has approximately 28 miles of sanitary sewer mains, roughly 750 sanitary sewer manholes and four lift stations. Each year about 30,000 linear feet or roughly six miles of the City's sanitary sewer mains are cleaned and inspected. Mains that require a higher level of maintenance are cleaned more frequently. This routine maintenance helps to prevent blockages and sewer backups; however when unauthorized items are flushed into the sanitary sewer, the City's ability to prevent backups is no longer controllable.

As a resident, you play a key role in preventing sanitary sewer backups. To help prevent backups, please dispose of the following items properly by NOT dumping in a drain or flushing down the toilet:

- ◆ Diapers
- ◆ "Flushable" wipes (These do not dissolve, therefore they clog sanitary sewer lines and pumps)
- ◆ Cooking grease and oil
- ◆ Sanitary napkins
- ◆ Rags or shop towels
- ◆ Garage waste products such as oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze
- ◆ Household waste such as ashes, corrosives, glass, metals, paint, poisons, or solvents
- ◆ Yard waste such as sand, soil, or mud.

Sanitary sewer problems should be reported to the City of Oak Park Heights Public Works Department during business hours by calling City Hall (651) 439-4439. The public works department also has a 24 hour emergency only hotline (651) 485-2304. OPH, as in many other Cities across Minnesota, the sewer main is owned by the City of OPH. City staff are responsible to maintain the City main lines. The sewer service or lateral from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is the property owner's responsibility. That means the property owner is responsible for clearing any blockages in the service lateral between the home and the main.

Spring Street Sweeping

The City contracts with a street sweeping company to perform a spring, summer and fall street sweeping. Street sweeping begins when temperatures allow safe application of water on the street for dust control. Street sweeping usually begins in late March or April for the spring sweep, as needed in the summer months and after significant leaf accumulation in the fall.

Park shelter restrooms

Oak Park Heights Park shelter restrooms typically open at the end of May, but may be sooner if weather permits. Public Works will open restrooms when the vulnerability of possible damage due to freezing water pipes has passed. Each park does have portable restrooms available for use when shelter restrooms are not available.

The City of Oak Park Heights is on Facebook!

Find and "Like" the City of Oak Park Heights on Facebook to receive up-to-date information on events, meetings, programs, and city news.



CLIP AND SAVE!

2017 Summer Park Activities Schedule



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

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

- June 6 - Craft in the Park - Sand Art: Oak Park Crossing Park from 10 am to noon.
- June 8 - Party in the Park - Autumn Hills Park from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.
- June 13 - Craft in the Park - Mandalas: Oak Park Crossing Park from 10 am to noon.
- June 20 - Craft in the Park - Beading: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.
- June 22 - Family Fun Night - Kids Bingo: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 to 8pm.
- June 27 - Craft in the Park - Fabric Art: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon.
- July 6 - Family Fun Night - WaCo Conservation explore the ponds! Autumn Hills Park at 6:30 pm.
- July 11 - Minnesota Zoomobile - Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am.
- July 18 - Craft in the Park - Wood Crafts: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon.
- July 20 - Craft-a-palooza - make lots of crafts at the park: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- July 25 - Emily Roberts' snake presentation - Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am.
- August 1 - Craft in the park - Weather: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon.
- August 3 - Totally Turtles Presentation - Autumn Hills Park at 6:30 pm.
- August 8 - Magician Brian Richards - Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am.
- August 15 - Rockin Woody Concert - Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am.
- August 17 - The Bugman Presentation - Autumn Hills Park at 6:30 pm.
- August 22 - Craft in the Park - Halloween in August: Autumn Hills Park 10 am to noon.

City of Oak Park Heights

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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.cityfoakparkheights.com

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

Cable Commission Citizen Rep Vacancy

The Central St. Croix Valley Joint Cable Communications Commission is a joint powers entity representing the cities of Oak Park Heights, Bayport, and Stillwater, and the townships of Baytown and Stillwater. The cities each have one elected and one citizen representative that attend regular meetings. The commission meets every other month on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The commission is the franchising authority for cable television in our area. They are in charge of making sure that the franchise with the cable company is being followed and negotiating a new franchise, when appropriate. At meetings, the commission takes action on several issues such as approving budget expenditures, joining telecommunications organizations, keeping informed on legislative cable franchise issues, and handling complaints regarding cable services.

There will be an upcoming opening for a citizen representative from the City of Oak Park Heights. If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, please contact City Hall at 651-439-4439.