



# City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd. N • Oak Park Heights, MN 55082 • Phone (651) 439-4439 • Fax (651) 439-0574

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## COVID-19 Update – City of Oak Park Heights

**RE: Public UPDATE # 9 – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**From: Eric Johnson, City Administrator**

With the Governor's Extended **STAY AT HOME ORDER – in effect through May 18<sup>th</sup>** – the City Hall will remain closed to visitors; however, the City's **CORE SERVICES** remain largely operational; Here are some updates from the City:

- The City Offices are **OPEN via telephone and email** and most operations are proceeding to a great extent. The City's general phone line remains open from 8 am to 4:30 pm - Mon-Fri; due to the call forwarding feature; we only have one incoming-line-- so you may – on occasion - receive a busy signal or it will roll to voice-mail. Please call back in a couple of minutes and we can address your needs. **651-439-4439**.

- You may notice more banners than usual around the City; the City has temporarily relaxed some of the rules associated with large banners, being that no permits are now required and that they may remain up longer than 50 days per year. It is hoped that this will aid the business community to get the word out about their operations and services.

- The City has cancelled the 2020 Party in the Park Event which was planned for June 4<sup>th</sup>. This event requires significant commitments and investments by vendors and the City and we could not guarantee that such event could be accomplished properly or with due consideration to all participants. However, the City's first **SUMMER PARKS** program is slated for June 2<sup>nd</sup>; We will plan to keep these dates in-place at this time. If it becomes apparent these are not possible...we will alter the dates and make that known.

- Please recall the City's **SPRING CLEAN-UP** that was slated for May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been cancelled....and is **NOW planned for June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. Also, The City's recycling provider – **TENNIS SANITATION**, can no longer accept **TEXTILES** or **LINNENS** (old clothes). Their end-carrier has had to shut down due to the COVID-19 matter. Please place these items in the solid waste or perhaps hold them until summer.

- **REMINDER...**The City Council has waived all **CITY** building permit fees related to improvements to existing homes through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020; if you had thought about some home projects now may be a time to tackle this project; We can issue the permits remotely and with no City Permit fee! Just give us a call and tell us what your project might be! The City Council has also waived late fees associated with utility bills for the upcoming quarters.

- The City Council and City Commissions continue to function utilizing **ELECTRONIC METHODS** for meetings, such as **ZOOM** or telephone. We expect to continue to involve the public in these processes but must rely on this available technology to make this happen. If you would like to watch these meetings and/or participate in planned Public Hearings, please reach out to the City Clerk Jenni Pinski at [jpinski@cityof oakparkheights.com](mailto:jpinski@cityof oakparkheights.com)

- City Parks and Trails remain open, but park shelter restrooms will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

- Governor Walz & State of MN has an **ONLINE PORTAL** that contains a number of State updates. <https://mn.gov/covid19/>

**The City's CORE FUNCTIONS of public service delivery regardless of the situation shall be maintained:**

1. Ensuring water is delivered to homes and hydrants
2. That sanitary sewers and sanitary sewer lift stations remain operational
3. Streets remain plowed, and
4. Police/EMS/FIRE services remain intact and functional
5. We expect regular building Permit Issuances and Garbage and Recyclable pick-up to continue.

Should there be any changes related to the City's ability to deliver these CORE SERVICES we will post them on the City's Website which can be found at [www.cityof oakparkheights.com](http://www.cityof oakparkheights.com) and links will be placed on Facebook. One can always call City Hall at 651-439-4439 if you have any specific questions or need guidance on securing other aid. We will do our best to respond.