



City of Oak Park Heights

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

COVID-19 Update – City of Oak Park Heights

RE: Public UPDATE # 10 – May 8th, 2020

From: Eric Johnson, City Administrator

With the Governor's Extended **STAY AT HOME ORDER** – in effect through May 18th – 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**.

- Fall Elections will come quickly and the City Hall is a polling place; we are looking into how the COVID-19 may impact that process and operations. Absentee Voting can be an option for you if you have concerns. There will be two elections this fall: the August 11 Primary and the November 3 General Election. To help provide options, we are encouraging voters to vote by mail using an absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/2444/english-regular-absentee-ballot-application.pdf> to download an application to have a ballot sent to you. You can return the application to the Washington County Elections Division by phone, fax or email: 651-430-6175 / Fax: 651-430-6178 / Email: elections@co.washington.mn.us

- 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 4th. 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 2nd; 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.

- 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

- 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 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.