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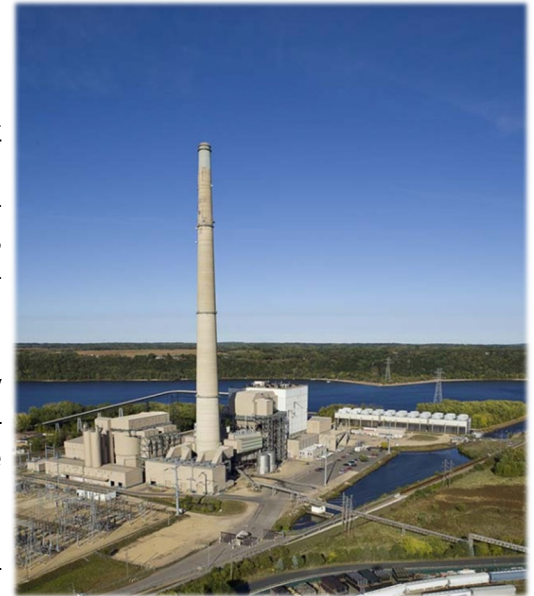
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XCEL ENERGY UPDATE

Xcel Energy announced last year that the Allen S. King Plant will close in 2028. At 179 acres with 4,000+ linear feet along the St. Croix River, this is a premier property and the repurposing of the property will have a profound impact on the City, the St. Croix Valley, and beyond. The City Council established a King Plant Advisory Panel to explore and analyze ideas relating to how the Allen S. King Plant site could be repurposed and to consider the physical, environmental, economic, social, scenic, and recreational impacts of those options. As part of this process, the City has asked Xcel Energy to provide updates periodically for us to include in our Newsletter.



*Submitted by Brian Behm, King
Plant Director—*

You've probably noticed that the Xcel Energy King plant went into seasonal operations on September 1st. This means that the plant is not operating and generating electricity during our seasonal operations phase. We'll use this time to conduct routine maintenance work and to build our on-site fuel inventory to ensure the on-going generation of safe and reliable power for our customer base. We anticipate returning to normal operations by the beginning of December.

I'd like to remind you that September is National Emergency Preparedness Month, an especially poign-

ant campaign this year as we send resources to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. Xcel Energy sent more than 200 contract workers to the Louisiana region to assist with outage response. These workers have been busy as the area requires significant repairs to both electric transmission and distribution facilities. We are part of the Edison Electric Institute's Mutual Assistance program, designed to facilitate the sharing of workers and resources between member utilities. Communication is constant in preparation for large outages so that crews and resources can be available as soon as the receiving

PROJECT CHILD SAFE



The Oak Park Heights Police Department continues to participate in project Child Safe and will have free gun locks available at City Hall/Police counter. Under Minnesota State Law a person can be found guilty of a gross misdemeanor who negligently stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child (under 18yrs old) is likely to gain access, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child. Own it. Respect it. Secure it.



LOCAL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

You might have noticed the construction happening around town. If you haven't already visited a new or remodeled business in Oak Park Heights, stop and visit them soon.

Welcome New/Relocated/Remodeled Businesses:

Central Automotive (New Location)

14819 59th Street N

ESports Arena

5815 Norell Avenue N
(Inside Walmart)

Twin City Orthopedics

5715 Memorial Avenue N

Huntington Bank

(TCF Bank Merger)

5850 Neal Avenue N

Vet IQ

5815 Norell Avenue N
(inside Walmart)

Coming Soon:

Lakeview EMS

14702 60th Street N



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

XCEL ENERGY

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

utility is ready for them. The Mutual Assistance Program is an important tool for rapid restoration following significant outages.

I would be remiss not to share a link to the National Emergency Preparedness Month campaign www.ready.gov/september - here you will find great messaging for your families and employees to help them make their own preparedness plans.



COMMUNITY THREAD JEWELRY SALE



Community Thread's Baubles, Bangles and Bling jewelry sale is back! The sale begins on Thursday, October 7 from 4-7pm and continues with hours on Friday, October 8 from 10am-4pm and Saturday, October 9 from 10am-2pm. All purchases made on Saturday will be buy one get one free.

Guests can expect to find one-of-a-kind vintage, new and gently used jewelry, handbags, and fashion scarves. The event is also a great place to find jewelry for Halloween costumes. The sale will take place at Community Thread, 2300 Orleans Street West in Stillwater.

This annual sale is organized by Community Thread's older adult volunteers who do all the sorting, pricing, and set up. Proceeds from the sale support programs that keep older adults in our community engaged, enriched, and connected. For those unable to attend, donations can be made online by visiting www.CommunityThreadMN.org.

Community Thread requests face masks be worn by anyone entering the building, regardless of vaccination status.

For over 50 years, Community Thread has been connecting people, neighborhoods and lives together to strengthen the community. The nonprofit's mission is to leverage resources and volunteers to improve the quality of life for adults and their families in our local community. The vision of Community Thread is a community where all people are engaged, enriched, and connected. To learn more visit www.CommunityThreadMN.org, or call 651-439-7434.

2022 CITY BUDGET

The City Council is in the process of preparing the 2022 Budget and related Tax Levy. The final budget has not yet been determined and work will continue until its adoption in December 2021. This is expected to correspond with the **Truth In Taxation Hearing, scheduled for December 14, 2021 6:00 pm at City Hall, 14168 Oak Park Blvd.**

BUDGET

The preliminary budget is summarized in three categories:

- ◆ Operations (General Government, Public Safety, Public Works)
- ◆ Debt
- ◆ Capital Improvements



A comparison of the preliminary 2022 budget to the 2021 budget is as follows:

GENERAL FUND BUDGET					
<i>Figure 1</i>	2021	2022		INCREASE (DECREASE)	
	BUDGET	BUDGET	% OF TOTAL	\$	%
OPERATIONS					
PERSONNEL COSTS	\$ 2,164,877	\$ 2,297,623	35.35%	\$ 132,746	6.13%
CONTRACTUAL	1,475,425	1,549,960	23.85%	74,535	5.05%
SUPPLIES	127,995	137,475	2.12%	9,480	7.41%
INSURANCE	515,800	518,950	7.98%	3,150	0.61%
OTHER	46,635	57,415	0.88%	10,780	23.12%
CONTINGENCY	40,000	60,000	0.92%	20,000	50.00%
TOTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 4,370,732	\$ 4,621,423	71.10%	\$ 250,691	5.74%
TRANSFERS					
DEBT	\$ 579,000	\$ 579,000	8.91%	\$ -	0.00%
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 1,167,450	\$ 1,299,050	19.99%	\$ 131,600	11.27%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	\$ 1,746,450	\$ 1,878,050	28.90%	\$ 131,600	7.01%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 6,117,182	\$ 6,499,473	100.00%	\$ 382,291	6.25%

The larger increases projected for the 2022 Budget are: Personnel Costs which includes contractual wage increases, cost of shift changes by the Police Department for organizational improvement of supervisory coverage as well as election wages and the related benefit costs. Contractual costs are also seeing increases for general inflationary costs expected with Solid Waste Collection. The City's Contingency Costs includes a possible expenditure for a shared participation cost to include a contracted social worker to assist with the Police Department when necessary. Finally, Capital Improvements are in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5...

2022 BUDGET...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

creased due to increased equipment replacement costs and an increase in funding the Emerald Ash Borer eradication.

Like in past years, Capital Improvements continue to include funding for the street programs (seal coating, mill and overlay and replacement), parks and trail improvements along with public works and police vehicles and equipment. The annual funding of these expenditures allows the City to fund purchases in the current and future years without issuing debt and incurring additional expenses for interest.

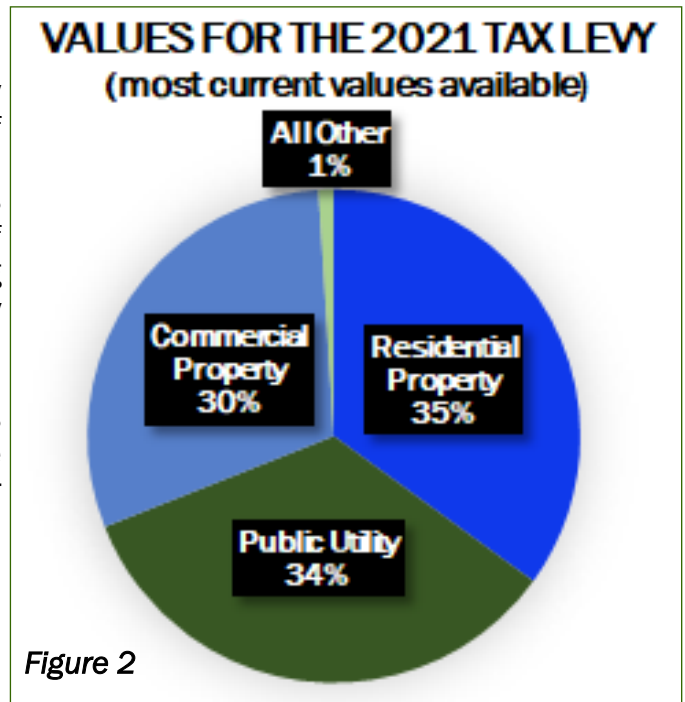
TAX LEVY

The Preliminary Tax Levy to fund the Preliminary Budget is \$6,034,373. This is an increase of \$343,361 from 2021. This increase stems from a \$382,291 increase in the budget expenditures (Figure 1) and an offset of increased revenues of \$38,930. Largely due to the increase of the funding for the School Resource Officer. The City has very few other revenue sources to draw from.

The tax levy is distributed among the taxpayers based on the value of the properties. In the City, the 3 basic components of the tax base share a similar value of the total value.

VALUES /TAX RATES

Figure 2 reflects the portion of taxes paid by each property class. For example, every \$100 of tax levy, residents pay \$35, Commercial Property pays \$30, Public Utility pays \$34, and other pays \$1. If values decrease in one component, the other components will increase proportionately. Since 2018 the shift of property taxes has moved from 38% Public Utility to 34%. This 4% change has shifted to residential and commercial properties. The values for 2022 taxes are estimated to increase 10% for commercial property, 3.2% for residential and a 2.2% increase for Public Utility. Using the property values, a tax rate is determined to be 51.2267 for 2022 as compared to 50.8383 for 2021, less than a 1% increase. This rate is applied against individual property values to determine the property tax.



The following chart is 2022 Estimated taxes calculated for residential properties as compare to 2021 taxes.

2022 ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY			
HOME VALUE	CITY TAXES 2021 ACTUAL	CITY TAXES 2022 ESTIMATE	ACTUAL TAX INC OVER 2021
\$ 200,000	\$ 884.60	\$ 925.98	\$ 41.38
\$ 250,000	\$ 1,152.80	\$ 1,204.88	\$ 52.08
\$ 300,000	\$ 1,421.56	\$ 1,484.36	\$ 62.80
\$ 320,000	\$ 1,521.85	\$ 1,588.66	\$ 66.81
\$ 400,000	\$ 1,958.51	\$ 2,042.72	\$ 84.21

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ON PAGE 6...

2022 BUDGET...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

TNT NOTICES - CORRECTIONS

Due to their large percentage of the total taxable values, the City is very dependent on Xcel Energy values being both correct and timely. In May 2021, the Department of Revenue (DOR) provided their calculated values for the Xcel properties to Washington County to use for the 2022 property tax calculations. These are preliminary values. In August, the preliminary values were negotiated by the DOR with Xcel Energy, and they decreased the initial estimate by \$18,630,000 in market value. This was an 8% downward adjustment in Xcel's total preliminary values of \$262,359,000, adjusting the Xcel property values to approximately the same value as the 2021 tax values.

Due to the timing of these changes, Washington County will not change the value for the tax calculations used in the 2022 TNT notice. This UNADJUSTED value changes the tax rate for calculating the local city portion of your 2022 taxes. Based on the preliminary budget as of date, the tax rate the County will be using is 50.0818% while the actual rate due to the change in Xcel Values is 51.2267%. **The TNT will reflect a 2.2% increase in taxes while the actual adjusted value is a 4.5% increase in your city property taxes.**

The following chart reflects what may be on your TNT notice (Column B) however the more accurate amount of your taxes is listed under Column C based on the preliminary budget.

2022 TNT COUNTY NOTICE COMPARED TO ESTIMATED ACTUAL			
<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
HOME VALUE	COUNTY UNADJUSTED TAX RATE	CORRECT TAX RATE 2022 ESTIMATE	ACTUAL TAX DIFFERENCE
\$ 200,000	\$ 905.29	\$ 925.98	\$ 20.69
\$ 250,000	\$ 1,177.95	\$ 1,204.88	\$ 26.93
\$ 300,000	\$ 1,451.18	\$ 1,484.36	\$ 33.18
\$ 320,000	\$ 1,553.15	\$ 1,588.66	\$ 35.51
\$ 400,000	\$ 1,997.06	\$ 2,042.72	\$ 45.66

The City will be holding its annual Truth in Taxation Public Hearing prior to any final adoption of the 2022 Annual Budget. This will be held at City Hall, December 14th, 2021 at 6:00 PM. For additional budget information please check out www.cityofoakparkheights.com or call City Hall 651-439-4439.

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN OAK PARK HEIGHTS



The City Arborist, Lisa Danielson recently discovered signs of the emerald ash borer (EAB) while performing a requested tree inspection on private property. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed emerald ash borer presence in the City of Oak Park Heights on Monday, July 12, 2021. Some tell-tale signs of EAB infestation in ash trees are woodpecker holes, thinning canopies, and epicormic sprouts. The City of Oak Park Heights encourages

residents to look for signs of the emerald ash borer (EAB).

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer:

- Be sure you've identified an ash tree. This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.
- Look for woodpecker damage. Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- Check for bark cracks. EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.

Contact the City Arborist. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, please contact Lisa Danielson, City of Oak Park Heights Arborist, 651-439-4439 or ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Ash trees in Minnesota are highly susceptible to the destruction caused by this invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation. The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash



EAB ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps residents can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions. Be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. If you think your ash tree is infested, go to <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners> for resources on identifying EAB, how to hire tree care professionals, and insecticide options for protecting your ash tree.



It is also recommended to avoid trimming ash trees during the Emerald Ash Borer flight season May 1st -September 30th. This means that EAB adult beetles are emerging from infested wood or trees and flying in search of new hosts during this time. The City has been preparing for the EAB arrival for several years and while there are limited steps to prevent community-wide infestations -the City has culled many ash trees on City properties and in the street boulevards. The City expects to remove more in the next 24-36 months and would be replaced with a more diverse planting-type. For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab visit the City website www.cityofoakparkheights.com or contact the City of Oak Park Heights, Arborist Lisa Danielson at 651-439-4439 ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com.

WINTER PARKING REMINDER

Parking regulations are in effect November 1st through March 31st. 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.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CART PLACEMENT

On occasion, the City has noted trash and recycling containers have been placed into the street area/driving lane. This can cause traffic disruptions and possibly dangerous swerving, and can cause problems for the street sweepers and snow plows.

As a reminder, please make sure garbage and recycling containers are placed on your driveway or in the grassy area of the boulevard adjacent to your driveway instead of in the street.

Here are some more tips for placement of garbage and recycling containers:

- Place your carts at the curb Wednesday night or by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday.
- The wheels on the carts should face the home. The front of each container has a metal bar that needs to face the street and be accessed by the garbage truck.
- Containers should be approximately two feet apart and two feet away from mailboxes and vehicles to allow for the mechanical arm on the garbage truck to reach between the containers.
- Place your carts on a level surface, and make sure nothing is between your carts and the street.

Additionally, please retrieve your containers soon after collection. Empty containers are vulnerable to winds and could cause a hazard if knocked into the roadway.

The City appreciates your help in this matter to keep our roadways as safe as possible.



BE A BATTERY HERO

Put batteries in their place.

Batteries thrown in the trash or recycling can get punctured or crushed and cause fires at waste facilities.

Where do batteries hide?

If it lights up, makes noise or moves without a plug, it has a battery. Batteries can cause fires when they end up in the trash or recycling cart. Knowing where to find batteries is the first step in proper battery disposal. Don't let batteries get past you.

Button

Button batteries cannot be recharged and must be disposed of once they lose their charge. They can be found in flashlights, clocks and watches, smoke detectors, and many other household electronics.



Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd)

Can be recharged up to 1,000 times and contain cadmium, which can be toxic to the environment. They can be found in power tools, garden path lights and remote controlled cars.



Lithium-ion (Li-ion)

Has excellent performance in high drain devices. They can be found in power tools, cellphones, laptops, portable chargers and toys.



Nickel-metal hydride (Ni-MH)

Performs well in high drain devices and can be recharged up to 1,000 times. They can be found in power tools, two-way radios, digital cameras and cordless phones.



Other

Small sealed and lead acid batteries (SSLA/Pb) are two other types of batteries that should be properly disposed of. They can be found in emergency devices, ride-on toys, security systems and mobility scooters.



Be a battery hero and bring all used batteries to a drop-off location near you.

For more information and to find a drop-off location visit:

co.washington.mn.us/batteries | hennepin.us/batteryrecycling | ramseycounty.us/HHW

PARKING PADS & FIREWOOD STORAGE

Parking on the yard area is not permitted by City Ordinance. 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. All such vehicles on your driveway and parking pad shall be operational and display current registration.

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.



City of Oak Park Heights

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Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

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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

CITY CLERK
Jenni Pinski

Visit our Website!

www.cityofoakparkheights.com

REGIONS HOSPITAL WILL BE HOSTING A FREE CAR SEAT CLINIC AT BAYPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

The proper use of car seats is one of the simplest and most effective methods available to protect the lives of young children in the event of a motor vehicle crash. Take the time to have your child's car seat checked to save their life.

Minnesota State law requires that children under age eight, unless they are 4-foot 9 inches or taller, must be in an appropriate , federally approved child safety seat or booster seat.

WHEN: December 11, 2021
9am to noon

WHERE: Bayport Fire Department
1021 5th Avenue North
Bayport, Minnesota



APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

Call 651-254-3564 or email carseatinfo@healthpartners.com
to schedule your time.

Additional safety precautions will be taken during this in-person appointment. You will receive instructions prior to attending the clinic. Masks may be required.