

# ARDEN HILLS

## notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

January/February 2020

### City Adopts Budget and Approves Tax Levy Home Values Up, Tax Rate Stays Steady

The annual truth-in-taxation hearing was held on December 9 at Arden Hills City Hall. City staff presented information regarding the 2020 budget and tax levy.

The City Council adopted a 2020 property tax levy of \$4,135,340. This sets the city's property tax levy increase for 2020 at 5 percent, which is the same as the preliminary levy rate set in September 2019.

In 2020, the city tax rate is projected to be reduced by 1.5 percent. The tax rate is just one factor in calculating a tax bill, and with property values rising, many property owners will see their tax

bills rise to reflect the new higher value of their property. Home values are determined by the Ramsey County Assessor's Office.

The impact of a 5 percent levy increase translates to a \$57.06 increase in annual city taxes paid by resident owners of a median valued home.

Arden Hills continues to have one of the lowest tax rates in Ramsey County. In Arden Hills, the levy is split between the General Fund (\$3,665,340), the Economic Development Authority Fund (\$100,000) and Capital Funds (\$370,000).

*Continued on Page 4*

#### Check Register – What your Arden Hills tax dollar buys you.

Description of Transaction	Balance
Public Safety	\$32.96
General Government	\$15.92
Parks and Recreation	\$11.65
Public Works	\$10.20
Capital	\$ 5.21
EDA	\$ 1.41

A \$372,400 home generates \$928 in annual City property taxes.  
This comes to \$77.35 per month for 2020.

### Voting Details for March 3 Presidential Primary; Note Precincts 2 and 3 Changes

In 2016, legislation was passed establishing a presidential nomination primary, which will take place Tuesday, March 3. Only major parties will participate and each major party will have a separate ballot. Candidates have been submitted by the party chairs and no other races will appear.

A voter must request their party ballot choice and their choice will be recorded and provided to the chairs of each major political party. For more information and to request an absentee ballot, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's Elections & Voting web page.

Absentee voting opened January 17. Early voting runs February 25 to March 2. Visit the Ramsey County Elections and Voting web pages for information on key election dates (under Quick Links), as well as early voting locations and hours of operation.

On the March 3 Election Day, voters must vote at their precinct. See page 4 for precinct location changes.

*Continued on Page 4*

**Arden Hills Service Directory**  
1245 West Highway 96  
Arden Hills, MN 55112-5734

www.cityofardenhills.org  
651-792-7800

Office Hours  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sheriff and Fire  
911  
Water and Sewer Problems  
(During non-business hours)  
651-767-0640

Mayor  
David Grant 651-538-0747  
dgrant@cityofardenhills.org

Councilmembers  
Brenda Holden 651-636-2987  
bholden@cityofardenhills.org  
Fran Holmes 612-599-2457  
fholmes@cityofardenhills.org  
Dave McClung 651-332-0352  
dmcclung@cityofardenhills.org  
Steve Scott 651-604-0919  
sscott@cityofardenhills.org

City Administrator  
Dave Perrault 651-792-7824  
dperrault@cityofardenhills.org

Communications Coordinator  
Dawn Skelly 651-792-7817  
dskelly@cityofardenhills.org

Council meetings are held at City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are televised live on Cable Channel 16. Meetings of the Planning Commission are televised as well. Visit [cityofardenhills.org](http://cityofardenhills.org) for information about archived meeting playbacks.

*Arden Hills Notes* is the official newsletter of the City of Arden Hills, an equal-opportunity employer.

## City News Updates

### Snow Plow and Snow Clearing Reminders

- Street plowing typically begins when 2 inches of snow have accumulated.
- Plows will get as close as possible to mailboxes, but residents are responsible for clearing snow from around mailboxes and fire hydrants.
- Do not park vehicles on the street after the accumulation of 2 or more inches of snow and until after plowing has been completed.
- Parking is not allowed on any city street between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. year round.

### City Seeks Volunteers for Committees and Commissions

Volunteers are needed to fill vacant seats on the following city committees and commissions: Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission, Financial Planning & Analysis Committee and the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee. For more information or to submit an online application, visit [cityofardenhills.org/volunteer](http://cityofardenhills.org/volunteer).

### Simple Recycling will Cease City Service on February 18

Simple Recycling will cease service in Arden Hills on February 18 due to low participation and rising costs. The company has been picking up textiles and household goods in orange bags for a few years. To dispose of textiles, consider thrift store and select retail store donations, repair or reuse. Textiles should never go in your curb side recycling bin! Visit [RamseyRecycles.com/Reuse](http://RamseyRecycles.com/Reuse) for options.

### Scouting Day 2020 to be Held February 29

Scouting Day 2020 will be held on Saturday, February 29 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Ramsey County Public Works facility in Arden Hills. Scouting Day is a special event where school-aged children who are active in scouting organizations learn about the work performed by public safety agencies in Ramsey County. The annual event includes educational activities, equipment displays and demonstrations. Scout leaders are encouraged to sign up by Friday, February 21. Register online at: [surveyMonkey.com/r/ScoutDay2020](https://surveyMonkey.com/r/ScoutDay2020). For more information, call 651-266-7332.

### Census 2020 Kicks Off in March

Every 10 years a census is taken that counts every person living in the United States. The population totals from the census determine many important things including congressional representation and federal spending allocations. Residents can expect to receive census information by mail in March. Census workers will conduct follow-up visits with non-respondents during summer 2020. The final census numbers are expected to be public in March 2021.

## Benchmarks: A Review of Recent City Council Action

### November 25, 2019

*All items approved unanimously by 5-0 vote.*

- Approved the Arden Hills 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which was formally approved by the Metropolitan Council on November 13, 2019.
- Held a public hearing and approved a site plan review and conditional use permit for Valentine Hills Elementary School for a classroom and academic space addition on the south side and an addition to the existing cafeteria on the west side of the building.

### December 9, 2019

*Councilmember McClung, excused. All items approved unanimously by 4-0 vote.*

- Approved 2020 fee schedule with several increases/revisions, including increase in utility rates, increases in fees for use of certain park amenities and City Hall room rental fees, and revision of building permit fees in accordance with the 2019 Minnesota State Statute.
- Conducted truth-in-taxation hearing on the 2012 budget and tax levy and approved the 2020-2024 capital improvement plan. Adopted the proposed 2020 budget in the amount of \$13,526,110. Set the final tax levy for taxes payable in 2020 with a tax levy increase of 5 percent in the amount of \$4,135,340.

### December 16, 2019 Special City Council Meeting

*All items approved unanimously by 5-0 vote.*

- Approved 2020 tobacco license renewals for five business establishments in the city, all of which have successfully passed a background check conducted by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.
- Approved 2020 liquor license renewals for eleven business establishments in the city, all of which have successfully passed a background check conducted by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.
- Held a public hearing and expanded the city's Tax Increment Financing District to include the TCAAP/Rice Creek Commons redevelopment area.

### January 13, 2020

*All approved by a unanimous 5-0 vote.*

- Approved the 2019 Pay Equity Report to MN Management and Budget Office showing the city compensates male and female job classes equally for comparable work value.
- Approved a \$17,389 shared services agreement with Northeast Youth and Family Services for 2020 to provide services for at-risk youth and their families.
- Designated official resources

and appointment of officers, banking, insurance, media resources of record and appointed citizens to the various committees and commissions of the city.

- Approved a variance at 3244 Sandeen Road for a setback.
- Approved an \$18,248 environmental review of potential contamination found related to the Old Snelling and County Road E Improvement Project. The city will pay 70% of the cost (\$12,774) and the County pays 30% (\$5,474).
- Approved an action changing the location of voting polling locations for precincts 2 and 3.
- Approved \$44,585 for tennis court improvements at Cummings and Royal Hills parks. This project is 90% complete.
- Approved \$178,235 for remaining work on the Old Snelling and Watermain Improvement Project. This project is funded by a combination of city, county and state sources.
- Approved an amendment to the existing conditional use permit for the Arden/Shoreview Animal Hospital at 1261 County Road E.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Budget and Levy *Continued from Page 1*

The Council adopted a 2020 city budget of \$13,526,110, which includes the General Fund, Capital Funds and Utilities.

### 2020 General Fund Budget

#### Revenues

- General Fund revenues in the 2020 budget are set at \$4,896,720.
- The property tax levy accounts for approximately 74 percent of the General Fund revenues and will be increased 4.2 percent or \$146,920 over the previous year.

#### Expenditures

- General Fund expenditures for 2020 total \$5,018,310.
- Public Safety costs have increased by 8.2 percent for the Lake Johanna Fire Department and 7.7 percent for the Ramsey County Sheriff contract.
- Staff position changes resulted in a savings to the 2020 budget.

The approved budget and tax levy information can be viewed in detail in the December 9 City Council agenda at [cityofardenhills.org](http://cityofardenhills.org).

## Benchmarks *Continued from Page 3*

- Appointed Todd Blomstrom as Public Works Director/ City Engineer. He previously provided limited services to the city under a contract with SEH.

*For a complete and detailed listing of recent City Council action, please review the meeting minutes on the city website at [cityofardenhills.org](http://cityofardenhills.org) and click on View Agendas & Minutes.*

## Presidential Primary *Continued from Page 1*

### Precinct 2 & 3 Location Changes

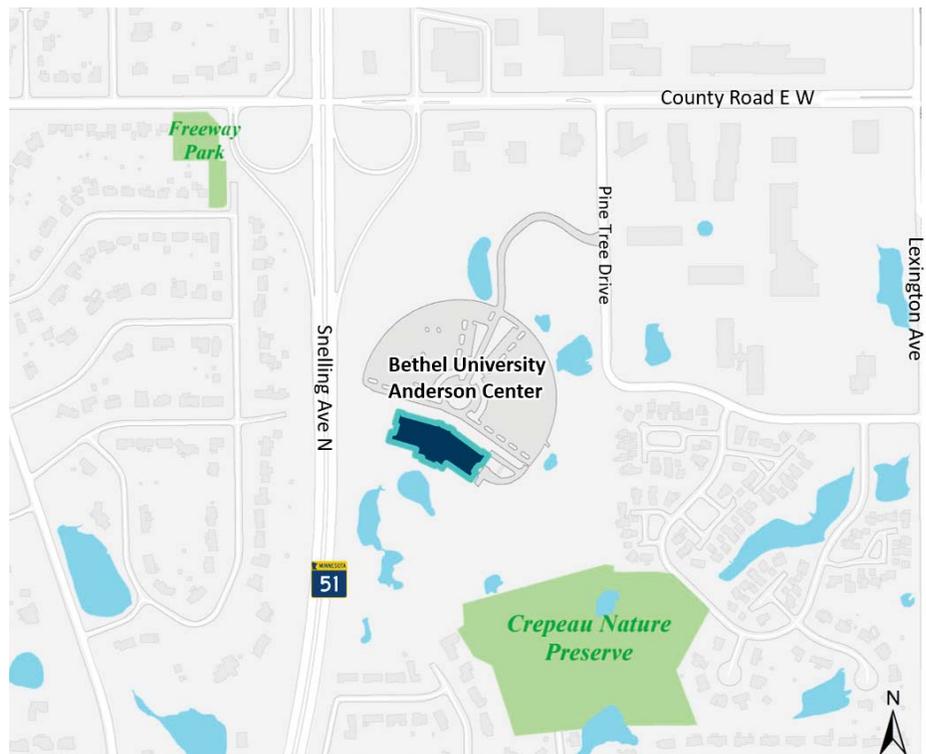
City precinct polling locations 2 and 3 have changed, due to proximity to the precinct and accessibility issues, respectively.

The polling place for Precinct 2 has changed from North Heights Lutheran Church to Bethel University-Anderson Center, 2 Pine Tree Drive (see map).

The polling place for Precinct 3 has changed from the Ramsey County Public Works Facility to North Heights Lutheran Church, 1700 Highway 96 W.

Those voters who live in Precinct 1 will continue to vote at Presbyterian Church of the Way, 3382 Lexington Avenue N.

To view a precinct map, visit the Elections and Voting web page at [cityofardenhills.org](http://cityofardenhills.org) and click on Where to Vote.



The Precinct 2 Polling Location at Bethel University's Anderson Center can be accessed from County Road E W or Lexington Avenue, via Pine Tree Drive.

## Frequently Asked Questions about Recycling

### What happens to my recycling?

Your recycling is taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF), where it is sorted into material type by employees and high-tech machinery. Then it is baled with other materials of its type, and shipped to manufacturers who turn it into new products!

Aluminum cans are melted and turned into new aluminum cans.

Plastic bottles are chipped, washed, melted and reformed into new food containers, composite decking, lawn furniture and more. Paper is pulped and the fibers are remade into new paper products at paper mills.

### Why should I continue to recycle?

You may have heard that China is no longer accepting USA's recyclables due to the high contamination rates of our recycling, which is caused by mixing non-recyclable items with recyclable items. However, Minnesota has a large capacity to recycle items in our own state. While this change has caused a drop in the price given for recyclables, it is illegal in Minnesota for sorted recyclables to be sent to a landfill. You can be confident that your recycling is still being recycled.

### What can I recycle?

The city's weekly curbside recycling service provider is Republic Services. Put the following materials in your curbside recycling bin:

- Flattened Cardboard
- Paper (including mail, magazines, phone books and newspaper)

- Metal Cans
- Plastic Bottles, Containers and Jugs (1, 2, 5). Please reapply caps and lids.
- Glass
- Paper Towel and Toilet Paper Tubes
- Most Frozen Food Boxes (Check packaging before recycling).

### What cannot be recycled?

Do not put the following in your curbside recycling bin:

- Food Scraps (these can be taken to a yard waste site)
- Greasy Pizza Boxes (these can be composted)
- Plastic Bags and Plastic Film
- Batteries
- String Lights and Cords
- Needles and Syringes
- Yard Waste
- Propane Tanks and Other Hazardous Waste
- Paper Plates, Cups, Plastic straws and silverware

### What should I do if I am not sure if an item can be recycled?

When in doubt, throw it out. Contamination lowers the value of recycled materials and can make recycling correct materials difficult. In 2018, Arden Hills had a 7.3% contamination rate in our curbside recycling. Visit [RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ](http://RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ) to learn how to dispose of items locally. Review the website annually, as some items may change due to technology advances in recycling equipment.

## Welcome New Customer Support Specialist



**Julie Horak**

As a customer support specialist at City Hall, Julie Horak greets customers with a smile—whether they are calling her on the phone or visiting her in person—and helps them with many tasks such as making a utility payment, registering for a class, or finding information about recycling.

Julie works part-time in a job-sharing role with Sue Johnson. “It’s a lot of little things and different projects,” she said. “I enjoy meeting people and helping them get the information they need.”

Julie worked for 18 years with Northwest Airlines, seven years for locally based Ulteig Inc. and most recently with the City of Fridley, all in customer support roles. She and her husband and two children reside in Fridley. Julie enjoys traveling, volunteering with school activities and spending time with their two dogs.

**Did you know?** Residents brought in more than 270 pounds of broken holiday string lights during the collection drive at City Hall. These lights were diverted from the landfill and taken to a local electronics recycler.



## ***Inside***

*2020 Budget and Levy*

*Presidential Primary Voting Details*

*Recent Council Action*

*Recycling FAQ*

### ***Made in Arden Hills Features Adherent Laboratories***

Adherent Laboratories, located at 3804 Dunlap Street North, is an independent adhesives and materials company focused on research and development, as well as consulting and testing for local and global clients who have unique adhesive application needs.

The adhesives developed by the company have various applications that include protective films to cover boats in the winter, waxes used to help make contact lenses, protective covers for transporting military weapons and skins to improve ski grip, to name a few.

#### **Three things to know**

1. Companies interested in developing a product often look to Adherent Laboratories. For example, a contact lens manufacturer needed a certain wax made to make it easier to manufacture prescription

lenses. “We develop and own the formula for a company and then license it to them,” said Paul Meyer, president.

2. Adherent works with a company that sells ski equipment for back country skiers who want ski skins with better grip in virgin snow conditions. They also partner with a company that offers custom fit storage covers for large river boats.
3. Companies like Johnson & Johnson or Hollister Incorporated hire Adherent Laboratories to test products and if required develop adhesives for their unique applications. Adherent also works with Arden Hills companies, including an industrial cut and sew supplier and a medical device manufacturer. “We work

all along the value chain for businesses that want to develop, make and use adhesives,” said Meyer.

Adherent Laboratories has been in Arden Hills for 15 years. For more information, visit [Adherentlabs.com](http://Adherentlabs.com).

