

ARDEN HILLS

notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

May 2017

Summer is coming! Here are some things to consider

Home improvement projects on your agenda?

Has the home improvement bug bitten you this year? Great! Remember, though, that some of those projects require a permit from the City, particularly those with minimum standards set for both safety and performance. These projects must be inspected when completed to make sure that the minimum standards are met.

The following are some of the projects that would *not* require a permit:

- Replacing a faucet, sink, or toilet
- Accessory buildings/sheds less than 120 square feet in floor area
- Retaining walls less than four feet in height
- Painting, flooring, cabinets, countertops, or similar work
- Swings and/or playground equipment
- Swimming pools that are above ground and do not exceed 1,000 gallons in capacity or 18 inches in depth

Projects that *do* require a permit are:

- Decks less than 30 inches above grade and not attached to the home (zoning permit)
- Decks either higher than 30 inches above grade or attached to the home (building permit)
- Gas or wood fireplace (mechanical permit)
- Fences (zoning permit)
- Replacement water heaters, furnaces, and AC (mechanical permit)
- Replacing windows, siding and roofing (building permit)
- Accessory buildings/sheds larger than 120 square feet (zoning permit) and those over 200 square feet (building permit)
- Driveways, new or expanded (zoning permit)
- Basement and interior remodels that involve demolishing, moving or building walls (building permit)

- Insulation (building permit)
- Swimming pools that are in-ground (building permit and zoning permit for fencing) and those that are above ground which exceed 1,000 gallons or are over 18 inches deep (building permit)



About summer and those door-to-door solicitors

This time of year, when more people are thinking about household projects, the City sees an uptick in businesses that solicit door-to-door. In Arden Hills, door-to-door solicitors are required to obtain a permit. If a sales person comes to your door, ask to see the permit. You may tell non-permitted vendors that they need to stop soliciting and obtain a permit. The City would also appreciate it if you call the non-emergency sheriff's number at 651-767-0640.

Got buckthorn? Here's some information

That nuisance buckthorn continues to be a problem in our yards and neighborhoods. The shrub is a threat to native plants in forests, wetlands, and prairies as well as to wildlife habitats. Although it is no longer sold in Minnesota, it is a very invasive species and well established.

Both physical and chemical methods can be used to remove buckthorn, which is very persistent. A combination of methods may prove most effective. For detailed instructions and specific chemicals, see the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/control.html>.

Once you have removed the buckthorn, the City of Arden Hills will help out with disposal. Your trees or branches should be organized in piles of no more than ten feet in length and placed at the curb with the cut side toward the street. Pick-up is available April through September. Residents must complete a Buckthorn Pickup Request form, which can be found on the City's website under Home\Departments\Public Works\Forestry\Buckthorn, or you can search for the keyword Buckthorn. For questions or trouble accessing the site, please call City Hall at 651-792-7800.

Pictured at right: common buckthorn, top; glossy buckthorn, bottom

Another disposal option is the Ramsey County compost site, located at 3530 Hudson Avenue, Arden Hills. County residents can dispose of buckthorn at this site at no cost. For days and hours, visit <https://www.ramseycounty.us/yard-waste>.

Buckthorn has invaded all corners of our state and has no natural enemies, so it is up to us to remove it and protect our environment from its harmful effects.



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

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Council meetings are held at City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings are televised live on Cable Channel 16. Meetings of the Planning Commission are televised as well. Visit www.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.

Sue Johnson, new Customer Service Specialist

Sue Johnson began her new job at City Hall on April 3 as Arden Hills' Customer Service Specialist. She brings over 20 years of experience in customer service and finance.



For the past two years, Sue worked for the City of Fridley as a utility billing clerk. She has also worked for the White Bear Lake School District and for many years with Wells Fargo in their mortgage and banking areas. In Arden Hills, Sue will be providing clerical and administrative support to various City departments, as well as assisting visitors and phone customers with information on City services, programs, and events.

Johnson is married and has two grown daughters. Leisure time activities she enjoys include bicycling, exploring area parks and trails, and spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys her two small dogs.

Sue says she is excited to be working in Arden Hills and is looking forward to getting to know the City better. She has already been impressed by the friendliness of other employees and is a welcome addition to the staff.

Jeff Frid promoted to Public Works Superintendent

Jeff Frid has been promoted to Arden Hills Public Works Superintendent. Jeff grew up in Mounds View and has been working for the City since October 2005. Previously, he was auto mechanic with a company specializing in trenchless pipeline reconstruction.



During his twelve years here, Jeff has earned licensure from the Minnesota Department of Health as a water system operator and from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a wastewater operator. He also serves the City of Lino Lakes, where he lives with his wife, three children and three dogs, as the District Two Fire Chief.

Frid feels strongly that public service is where he belongs and is passionate about serving as a leader in the Public Works Department, where he feels there are many workers with strong skills. He is eager to see what they can accomplish together to benefit the residents of Arden Hills. His vision for the department is, "We do it right, as a team."

Please note...

✓ **Drinking Water Report available:** The 2016 Consumer Confidence Report (also known as the 2016 Drinking Water Report) is now available on the City's website at www.cityofardenhills.org. Go to Departments\Public Works\Utilities\Watermain or search keywords 2016 drinking water report to view the report.



✓ **Summer office hours:** Summer office hours at City Hall will begin on Tuesday, May 30. Summer hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 5.

Help protect our lakes, streams, and ponds

Every year, the water bodies around Arden Hills become a concern to residents due to algae and weed growth. Additionally, sediments and other debris can fill ponds, reducing their water treatment capability, making them less of an aesthetic amenity for neighborhoods. Here are some steps to help protect our water:

Fertilize smart: Use phosphorus-free fertilizer and sweep up fertilizer spills on hard surfaces. This helps prevent fertilizer from getting into the storm drain.

Grass--don't blow it off: Remove grass clippings and leaves from the street, sidewalks, trails, and driveways. Grass clippings and leaves in the street end up in the storm sewer and are carried to ponds and lakes.

Scoop the poop: Pick up after your pets. Rainwater washes pet waste into lakes and streams. Pet waste contains bacteria that can cause illness.

Keep a healthy lawn: Aerate your lawn, seed bare patches, and mow at a higher setting. A healthy, vigorous lawn needs less water, fertilizer, and maintenance.

Adopt a storm drain: Keep storm drains free of leaves, trash, seeds, and grass clippings. Storm drains are directly connected to the nearest pond or lake.

Replace turf with native plants: Replace high-maintenance lawn with low-maintenance plants and grasses. Native plants develop deeper root structures, reduce runoff and allow for better water infiltration.

Vegetative buffer: If you own shore land on a pond or lake, a vegetative buffer by a water body helps protect it.

For more information, check out the Blue Thumb Planting for Clean Water Program at www.bluthumb.org

Oh, the places you'll recycle this summer!

Summer is coming, which means it's time to start planning those summer vacations. Wherever you're heading, have you thought about how you will get there, what you'll bring and how you'll recycle while you're there? There are lots of ways to keep your commitment to reducing, reusing and recycling even when you are away from home. Environmentally friendly travel involves everything from where you go, how you get there, where you stay, and the actions you take while you're there.



Booking green

When planning your vacation, keep the environment in mind. Look into travel companies like iStayGreen and Responsible Travel that can help you find green hotels and activities. Consider making your vacation about ecotourism, which is responsible travel to natural areas that focus on conservation and sustainability.

Getting there

Choose the best travel option by looking into how far you're going and try to

get direct flights. Consider bus or train travel, and try to walk, bike, or use public transportation to get around. Keep an eye on what your trip is doing to your carbon footprint and avoid paper by using apps for plane tickets, itineraries, reservations, maps, and other travel documents.

Pack smart

Become an eco-friendly traveler by bringing a refillable water bottle, travel mug and reusable bag or backpack to avoid acquiring extra waste. Refill your travel-sized bottles from larger bottles in your home, and only bring as much as you'll need. Reduce.org provides even more ways to reduce while traveling whether you are heading to a hotel or taking a fishing trip.

Live like a local

You may be a guest, but try to live like a local by using public transportation and looking for locally sourced, sustainable goods as souvenirs. Best of all, eat local! Find farmers markets and sustainable restaurant options to eat delicious food and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time.

Spring Cleanup Day is May 20

Refuse and electronics drop-off is available for a reduced cost to Arden Hills residents during *the Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 20*, at :
Ramsey County Public Works Facility
1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive
Arden Hills, MN 55112

Household hazardous waste materials will be accepted during the event. However, if you only have household hazardous waste items you can dispose of these materials year around at facilities throughout Ramsey County. Please visit RamseyRecycles.com or call 651-633-EASY (3279) answered 24/7, to learn options for other drop-off dates and locations.

Benchmarks--a review of City Council Action

April 10, 2017

Approved the following consent items (all by 5-0 vote):

- Appointed Brent Bartel (alternate) and Nick Gehrig (regular) to the Planning Commission for terms expiring December 2018
- Appointed Sheila Kilander to the Economic Development Commission for a term expiring December 2019
- Approved purchase of 2018 Mack truck for the Public Works Department for \$197,350 to replace a 2001 Sterling truck
- Authorized summer work hours of 7:30 a.m.-5p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6:30 a.m.-noon on Fridays May 30 to September 5
- Appointed eight Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers and four Parks and Recreation positions

Approved Rice Creek Watershed District Maintenance Agreement for the 2015 Pavement Management Plan (5-0)

Approved \$5,000 for WSB Design and Bidding Services for the rehabilitation of the City's 500,000 gallon north water tower (located near Cummings Park). Total project previously estimated and budgeted for \$900,000 (3-2) (Holmes and Scott)



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From the Mayor

As I write this, the grass is starting to green up with the help of spring rains. Soon summer temperatures, the warm air, and sunshine will be inviting us to come outside. It is a time to get outdoors, take a walk, and reconnect with neighbors. I would like to take this opportunity to cover some of the summer City activities and programs that you may want to add to your list of things to do this summer.

Recreation Guide

The City offers various programs contained in the *2017 Spring and Summer Recreation Guide*. By now you have received a copy in the mail. The guide can also be viewed online at: <http://www.cityofardenhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/1695>

The 20-page guide contains a wide variety of activities, such as:

- Youth before and after school activities
- Youth Sports Skills Classes
- T-Ball, Baseball and Adult Softball Leagues
- Soccer Leagues
- Youth Art and Science Camps
- Golf Lessons for all ages
- Sports Unlimited Camps
- Music and Drama Camps
- Mounds View Sports Camps
- Canoe Paddling Camp
- Active Adult Activities

This year's guide includes a new pull-out section on active adult activities and classes. Some of the many items include a St. Croix River cruise and classes on yoga, pickle ball, and AARP driver training. The latter may save you a fair percentage off your car insurance.

Parks and Trails

There are lots of summer activities that go beyond what is in the guide. One item that stands out is our many parks and trails. A complete guide of our fourteen parks and numerous trails can be viewed online at: <http://cityofardenhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/43>

One of the more interesting trails is the one that starts at County Road I and goes south to County Road H. This trail was once a loop, but until improvements are completed near County Road H, the trail will remain two segments. You can walk one of the segments, but when reaching County Road H, you will need to turn around. The trail is paved and it has a natural setting which includes Rice Creek running through it.

For family events, our park pavilions can be reserved. Perry Park and Cummings Park have large shelters to hold large gatherings. Several of our other parks have smaller shelters. (Find the reservation form on the City website or call City Hall for information.)

Our trails offer miles of scenic beauty for a leisurely walk. Don't forget to take the dog for some exercise too. Another option is the new dog park located in Perry Park. Field four has been enclosed and is now dedicated as a year round Dog Park.

Tony Schmidt Park

Tony Schmidt Park has a swimming beach, pavilions which can be reserved, picnic benches, trails and a fishing pier. In addition this park features a dual lane public boat launch onto Lake Johanna.

At right: Spring comes to Rice Creek

Summer Yard Work

Of course summer brings with it the "to-do-list". For yard work you may want to consider composting at the Ramsey County compost site located on New Brighton Road just south of the railroad tracks. It accepts compostable material, leaves, grass clipping and soft bodied plants. Composting is good for the environment and helps keep grass clippings from washing into nearby lakes, thereby helping to maintain the water quality of our lakes. The site also accepts branches, shrubs, and trees, excluding stumps. There is no charge for composting or brush deposits, but an ID is required. Information is available online at: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/yardwaste>

Gardening

Don't have room for a garden? The City rents out garden plots to residents on a first-come basis. Garden plots are prepared by the City each spring. Garden plots are located north of I-694 on Old Snelling. Contact the Park and Recreation Department for details.

Have a great summer.

David Grant
Mayor

