The city held a public forum on November 15 to review the proposed Rice Creek Commons development plans to date, including overall financing, parks, amenities and a proposed civic site on the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) property. Residents were asked to provide feedback on the presentation and corresponding displays. The feedback is being gathered and a summary will be included in a later issue of this newsletter.

The forum date was set in September, and the week before the forum was held, Ramsey County officials notified the city that it was pulling resources from the project, essentially putting the brakes on months of negotiations with the city and the developer, Alatus LLC.

“The ball is in the county court,” said Mayor David Grant, citing frustration with the county. “We’ve been able to find common ground and make progress on a number of items in the draft master development agreement, and it’s disappointing that we cannot continue those negotiations with the county as this time.”

At the forum, representatives from HGA, an architecture and design firm, reviewed four concepts for a civic space, including a City Hall option, community center, wellness center and a hybrid option with a community hub and wellness center.

Attendees were asked whether they wanted a civic site as part of the Rice Creek Commons development and what they would like to see included. There are 1.6 acres currently zoned for a civic site.

To watch the public forum presentation, please visit the city’s YouTube channel and click on the November 15 public forum video. The Civic Site Task Force will review feedback at its January 29 meeting.

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Plowing
- Remove your vehicles from the street when snow has accumulated to two inches and until plows have cleared the street. Overnight parking on city streets is prohibited.
- Do not push snow from your driveway into or across the street.
- Place trash recycling containers at the end of your driveway, rather than in the street, during winter.
- Keep nearby fire hydrants clear of snow to save emergency response time.

Salting
- Use salt for driveways and walkways sparingly. De-icing salt typically stops working when temperatures fall below 15 degrees.
- Sand can also be used.
- Be sure to sweep up salt and sand from bare driveways and sidewalks for reuse and to prevent it from washing away and into storm drains.
Arden Hills' residents re-elected David Grant as Mayor and Fran Holmes and Steve Scott as City Councilmembers in the November 6 General Election.

Grant received 3,603 votes. He ran unopposed. Holmes received 2,577 votes. Scott received 2,087 votes. The challenger candidate, Greg Rubenstein, received 1,533 votes. The mayor and councilmembers will serve four-year terms beginning January 2019.

“It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor for the past eight years and for the previous 10 years as a councilmember,” said Mayor David Grant. “I want to thank everyone for their votes during this last election.”

Grant said he looks forward to serving as Mayor for four years and appreciates feedback from residents. “It takes resident input to run a city, and I look forward to your input,” he said. “Working together we will continue to make Arden Hills a great place to live, work and play.”

Councilmember Holmes said talking with residents on the campaign trail gave her great insight into their concerns and helped her set an agenda for the next four years.

“The TCAAP/Rice Creek Commons development project is challenging, and I will continue to work to reach an agreeable plan to move forward,” she said. “Please keep up the dialogue by contacting me at any time. Thank you for your vote.”

Councilmember Scott said this was the first election cycle in 14 years that he has not worked as an election judge. “I’d like to thank the dozens of citizens who put in a very long day to assist with our voting experience, including the many student judges I saw,” he said. “I hope they remain engaged in the process.

“I’d also like to thank the candidates who filed and campaigned for office, particularly newcomer Greg Rubenstein,” he added. “I met Greg and his wife Marlys several times hard at work canvassing the neighborhoods.”

Compiling results on election night
Ramsey County administers elections for the City of Arden Hills and “they do it the old-fashioned way, meaning no internet transmission of data,” said City Clerk Julie Hanson.

“They transport the physical ballots and corresponding data housed on a flash drive, along with a report, from the polling places to the Ramsey County Elections office, which can cause a delay of the final voting results,” Hanson said. “They have to allow time for the judges to allow all to vote, do the wrap-up procedures they need to do, and then transport the sealed ballots to downtown St. Paul. This is done to prevent hacking,” she added.

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.

Visit the City website at cityofardenhills.org/volunteer for more information or to submit an online application.
Add Recycling to Your Holiday Gathering Plans

'Tis the season for food, fun and family time! If you’re having guests over, make it easy for them to recycle by putting out a bag or bin to collect empty cans and bottles.

You can add a sign that says, “Bottles and Cans” on the recycling bag or bin.

If you do organics recycling, you can set out an organics recycling bin, too, with a sign that says, “Food and Napkins” or “Food, Napkins and Plates,” if you are using uncoated paper plates or certified compostable plates.

You can also borrow temporary recycling and organics containers for large events through Ramsey County’s recycling program. Go to RamseyRecycles.com/EventRecycling to make your request.

Please Recycle Your Holiday Tree Through Ramsey County Recycling

While a Christmas tree can legally be placed in the trash, we encourage you to recycle it. Here’s how:

• Bring your tree to the Arden Hills Yard Waste Drop off Center at 3530 Hudson Avenue on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or Sunday 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Remove all decorations, lights, tinsel and tree bags. Flocked trees and wire wreaths are not accepted and may be placed in the trash.
• Contact your trash hauler to see if they will take your tree to a compost site for you (fee charged).
• Leave your natural tree outside, so it can be used as shelter for birds during the winter.

Benchmarks: A Review of Recent City Council Action

October 22, 2018

All items approved unanimously by 5-0 vote.

• Authorized appointment of Michael Mrosla to the position of City Planner.
• Approved Cooperative Agreement with MNDOT for the city’s share of the frontage road and watermain construction along Highway No. 10 from Highway 96 to I-35W. Funding for construction of the watermain was identified in the State’s 2018 bonding bill. The city’s financial contribution to the project is estimated at $413,180, and the long-term maintenance responsibilities include watermain, non-highway side of the retaining walls and frontage road.

November 13, 2018

All items approved unanimously by 5-0 vote.

• Approved resolution certifying 2018 City election canvass results.
• Conducted a public hearing and approved an on-sale liquor license for Orchid Restaurant and Grill Inc., located at Lexington Square, Phase Two.
• Conducted a public hearing to accept further public comment regarding increasing the tobacco sales age to 21 and/or regulating the sale of flavored and/or menthol tobacco.

For a detailed listing of recent City Council action, please review the meeting minutes on the city website at cityofardenhills.org and click on Agendas & Minutes.

Fun & Fitness Classes for Youth and Adults in the New Year

Before- and after-school classes will be offered after the holiday break at Island Lake and Valentine Hills elementary schools, including Youth Ninja Warrior, Basketball and Soccer.

The Arden Hills Dance Program will start the winter dance season on Tuesday, January 8. A spring recital will be held at Chippewa Middle School in April.

Upcoming Adult Activities

Join city staff in January as we explore Theodore Wirth Regional Park on a pair of cross country skis on January 8 or snowshoes on January 22.

Back by popular demand is our Yoga for all levels class. The city will host two sessions – Thursday mornings, 9:30-10:45 a.m., and Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:15 p.m. starting January 3rd.

Don’t forget to sign up for the De-Stress for Success Yoga Workshop scheduled for Sunday, February 24 at Arden Hills City Hall.

Tai Chi Basic: Develop strength and energy in your legs. Each move will naturally transfer into your cores and arms, and then form a well-coordinated entire body movement. Classes begin Wednesday, January 9 in the City Hall Community Room.

Check out the City of Arden Hills website or the Winter Parks and Recreation Guide for more information, or contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 651-792-7848.
As I look back on the year, I see that 2018 has been filled with business expansions and city infrastructure improvements.

 Lexington Station Phase II was completed and many storefronts are now open for business. We welcome what the new vendors bring to our community along with the additional parking. This is the second of three phases planned for Lexington Station.

 Health Partners completed its building addition specializing in infant through juvenile care.

 The Land O’Lakes corporate expansion was certainly one of the largest projects completed this year. We look forward to the many new jobs this expansion will bring to our community. We are pleased to have the corporate headquarters for a Fortune 500 company in our city.

 Dunn Brothers completed its grand opening. They offer a roomy interior with drinks and various food items. The interior is designed for coffee and conversation, and many students study for exams there.

 The Red Bulls of the Minnesota Army National Guard broke ground on the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) property. Their 136,000 sq. ft. facility will bring 800 soldiers to our area. This project has been in the works for several years. We congratulate them on the start of their building and welcome them as part of our community.

 Springhill Suites by Marriott broke ground on a new 134-room hotel. The location is on Grey Fox Road west of Lexington.

 A new trail section was completed (yes finally completed) that connects County Road E, starting at the bridge and going west to Old Snelling, then north to County Road E2. This completes an important trail section for the city. It enables pedestrians to have a safe walking path and creates physical separation for drivers. The project also included a new water main on Old Snelling and replacement of a problem main on County Road E2.

 Several roads were reconstructed in northern Arden Hills this summer. It is important that the city keep up with maintaining our roads as they age.

 Also important was the maintenance of the city’s two water towers. This year our north water tower underwent substantial maintenance and repainting. We also upgraded the Johanna Marsh Park to include playground equipment.

 I hope you have a wonderful time with friends and family this holiday season.

 Sincerely,

 David Grant, Mayor