

ARDEN HILLS

notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

May 2016

Road construction season begins: what you need to know to get around town

by Tina Kulzer

The spring and summer seasons are always filled with road construction projects. This year, Arden Hills residents will be impacted by a significant number of construction detours and delays. Some have already begun, and there are more to come. Here's a look at what you need to know to get around town.

Enhance 694

 MnDOT's multi-year project to reconstruct and add a third general purpose lane in each direction of I-694 between Rice Street and Lexington Avenue began April 4. It is scheduled to be complete by fall of 2017. This project will also rebuild interstate ramps at Lexington Avenue, Victoria Street, and Rice Street, and it will create an exit-only lane to Rice Street from the right lane of the northbound I-35E flyover bridge to westbound I-694.

MnDOT will keep two lanes of traffic open in each direction while westbound lane work is underway this year. Nighttime lane closures are currently in effect in each direction between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday as crews build bypass lanes and widen the roadway to prepare to shift traffic onto a temporary alignment in mid-May. At that time, the ramp from Rice Street to westbound I-694 will close for the construction season.

Travelers on westbound I-694 are strongly encouraged to know their routes and are required to choose a lane upon entering the work zone just east of I-35E. I-35E traffic heading onto westbound I-694 will be routed into the local access (or right) lane. A concrete median barrier will separate the two lanes of traffic and will not allow for lane changes within the work zone. The left lane will be dedicated to through traffic, and the right lane will be intended for local traffic needing to enter or exit the in-

terstate. Next year's work rebuilding the eastbound lanes will have similar traffic restrictions.

Informational videos about this project, instruction on how to drive through the work zone, and construction update email sign-up are available at www.enhance694.com.

Lexington Avenue reconstruction

In coordination with MnDOT, Arden Hills, and Shoreview, Ramsey County began a road reconstruction project on Lexington Avenue north of I-694 in late March. Most local residents have been dealing with delays on Lexington Avenue as traffic in the construction zone has been reduced to one lane. There will also be ongoing changes in traffic lanes along County Road F between Hamline Avenue and Chatsworth Street during this project. During peak travel times, an alternate route is highly advisable for local drivers.

According to the Ramsey County website, this project is expected to continue through the construction season. When complete, this corridor will see a multi-use trail between I-694 and Cummings Park Drive, dedicated right and left turn lanes and a new traffic signal at the County Road F intersection, and new right turn lanes at both eastbound and westbound ramps to I-694 at Lexington Avenue.

 **County Road E2 bridge over I-35W**
The current bridge will be demolished the weekend of April 30 to May 1. A new bridge with more vertical clearance and



structural improvements, new ramps, and pedestrian access will be rebuilt over the summer. MnDOT reports that construction is expected to end in mid-August. The ramps at either end of the bridge will be closed for reconstruction for a few weeks at different times during the work. This project also will result in occasional weekend closures of I-35W, as well as temporary lane closures throughout the summer.

County Road H bridge over I-35W

 The existing bridge will be removed and replaced with one that has capacity to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic resulting from the Rice Creek Commons development. Like the bridge project on County Road E2, this new bridge also will include

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Stay informed!

Stay informed about local construction projects by signing up for email updates at:

- www.dot.state.mn.us
- www.ramseycounty.us

Arden Hills Service Directory

1245 West Highway 96
Arden Hills, MN 55112-5734

Regular Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
651-792-7800
www.cityofardenhills.org

Summer Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

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

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Communications Committee
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Staff Liaison: Amy Diel
Desktop Publisher: Mary Nosek

Council meetings are held at City Hall on the second and last Monday 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 taped meeting playback.

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

City connects with residents through social media

by Tina Kulzer

A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY was approved by the City Council (as part of the Personnel Policy) at their meeting on February 29, 2016. With a policy now in place, City staff members are posting daily to the City website, Facebook page, and Twitter account in an effort to build a larger social media presence and communicate news and event information to City residents. Posts on the City's Facebook page are set to automatically update to the City's Twitter account to promote re-sharing of news and information.

News sharing through social media is proving to be efficient and valuable to the City. For example, in March, a post on the City's Facebook page reached the 116 people who "liked" the page and 129 Twitter followers who received the post on the City's Twitter feed. Within moments, Ramsey County retweeted the post to their 7,840 Twitter followers. A Ramsey County commissioner also retweeted the post to his approximately 2,000 Twitter followers. Taking into account the numerous neighboring communities, civic groups, and news organizations that now follow the City's social media accounts and can re-share City news, a network for City news sharing is in place and is poised to continue to expand.

Find us on social media

Subscribe to these social media resources to learn about City events, recreation opportunities, and more.

www.facebook.com/CityofArdenHillsMN



twitter.com/ardenhills/city



Garage sale? Here's what you need to know about signs

It's garage sale season! Garage sales in Arden Hills should be registered at City Hall. To request a permit for your sale, visit the city website (www.cityofardenhills.org) and enter "Garage Sales" in the search window. It should be noted that garage sales are to be limited to three days or less of duration, and no more than two such sales are permitted to any one homeowner per year.

You can put up signs to advertise your garage sale if you follow these regulations.

On your property:

- Limit total signage to eight square feet.
- Each sign must be six square feet or less.
- Stay back five feet from property lines.
- Signs cannot be illuminated.
- Signs must be within one mile of garage sale location.
- Signs placed in the Ramsey County or State of Minnesota right-of-way are subject to County and State regulations.

In your neighborhood (on either private or City property)

- Size limited to four square feet.
- Height limited to four feet.
- Signs must be at least five feet from the edge of the road.
- Only five signs allowed.
- Signs must be freestanding and unlit.
- Signs are limited to three consecutive days in any seven day period.
- You must have permission from the property owner on which the sign is placed. If the sign is placed in the right-of-way, permission is required from the adjoining property owner.



Composting is recycling, too from Ramsey Recycles

Can you recycle food?

What do you think of when you hear the word recycling? Most of us can picture the blue bin next to the trash can with the “chasing arrows” recycling symbol where we throw our paper, cardboard, glass, and aluminum cans. We know that there are many products made of recycled content. But what about food scraps and yard waste? Can you recycle those?

Food today, dirt tomorrow

It is now easier than ever to start composting at home. About 30 percent of trash collected in the Twin Cities is made up of items like food scraps, yard waste, and compostable items. You cannot throw away yard waste and trimmings and instead of throwing away food scraps and other compostable materials, you can use these organic materials to create an incredibly effective and nutrient-rich soil additive for your garden.

Get a plan and start the process

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is holding many events where you can purchase your compost bin and get started right away. Or you could always make your own, if you are a DIYer. Many cities and counties also offer compost drop-off locations.

Don't throw it, grow it!

Composting is the process where organic wastes (grasses, leaves, kitchen scraps and garden debris) are converted into a highly desirable, organic, soil-like material. Many

creatures like bacteria, worms, and fungi play an important role in composting as they break apart organic waste by eating it and releasing nutrients in a form that plants can absorb. This process helps decompose the materials and creates a very rich additive for soil.

There are a few basics to backyard composting once you get your bin:

- Set up your bin in a partially shaded area in the yard.
- Make sure it is convenient for you to get to and has access to water as well as good drainage.
- Keep the bin away from large trees as their roots steal nutrients and can grow into the compost.
- Keep a small separate bin in your kitchen for food scraps from fruits and vegetables (no meats, bones, or oils in backyard composting) and add them to your composting area.
- Keep a ratio of three to one. Three dry or brown ingredients (leaves, paper, yard waste) to one wet or green ingredients (food scraps, grass clippings, coffee grounds)
- Consult this recipe for good clean dirt for more detailed instructions.

It's important to note that meats, oils, fat, bones, and dairy do not belong in your home compost bin because they attract rodents and other animals. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a great resource for information about composters.



Minneapolis makes it easier

Most Twin Cities residences have access to curbside yard waste pick-up, and many counties offer drop-off sites for larger yard waste such as branches. Now, the City of Minneapolis is rolling out a new program for curbside organics recycling that includes vegetable and meat scraps. This program requires residents to sign up and will be expanding the service area throughout the year.

Other metro area cities are studying the possibility of adding curbside organics recycling because it could help meet a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency goal of reducing the amount of trash headed to landfills. Watch your city newsletters for updates on this important issue or check with your waste hauler to see if curbside composting is available, or coming soon to your area. If curbside pick-up is not an option look for organics drop off sites in Minneapolis or Ramsey County.

Think spring! Parks and Recreation Department news

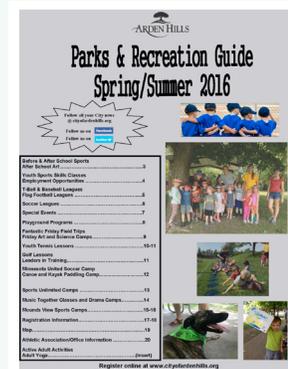
Family Fun Bike/Walk/Run Day – Saturday, June 11, 9:00 a.m., Cummings Park

An inaugural community event! Bike, run, or walk the trails through Cummings Park and Floral Park with family, friends, and neighbors. Refreshments, yard games, and sports skills practice at the Cummings Park pavilion to follow. \$2 per person. Registration deadline: June 8.

Bark and Rec Day – Saturday, July 30, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Perry Park

Second annual event for dogs and dog-lovers in the off-leash dog area at Perry Park. FREE event for all ages. Refreshments and snacks will be available.

See the Spring/Summer 2016 Parks and Recreation Guide, or go to www.cityofardenhills.org (Departments->Parks & Recreation) for more details.



There's more information in your summer Parks and Recreation Guide!

Ben Franklin Readiness Center opens *by Susan Cathey*

The Minnesota National Guard has moved into a second Readiness Center on the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) campus. The Ben Franklin Readiness Center (so named due to its location at 1536 Ben Franklin Street) joins another Readiness Center completed in 2012 and a Field Maintenance Shop, opened in 2013. The buildings are on land that the Guard acquired from the Army after the closure of the ammunitions plant, east of Rice Creek Commons.

The new Readiness Center, about 64,000 square feet in size, was federally funded and cost 17 million dollars to construct. It provides training space, storage and maintenance space for three companies of the 184th Aviation Support Battalion. “The new facility will be a great improvement for our unit, allowing our soldiers to be better trained and prepared to complete our assigned missions,” said Capt. Timothy Gorecki, Alpha Company commander, in a National Guard press release. In the past, the unit was separated and left to train in three different locations.

According to the Ben Franklin Center’s design firm Burns and McDonnell of Bloomington, the building will use about half as much energy as a typical National Guard facility. Like the first Arden Hills Center, this one meets the U. S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Silver facility

Want to adopt a garden?

The Adopt-a-Garden Program is a cooperative venture through which an individual or group assumes responsibility for the planting and maintenance of a garden bed located within one of the City parks.

Responsibilities include: designing a gardening plan or executing an existing plan already in place at the park; installing plantings accordingly; maintaining the garden including weeding, dead-heading, and mulching when appropriate; removing litter or debris; and reporting dead, damaged, or diseased plants to the City staff.

For more information, please contact Sara Grant at 651-792-7845 or email sgrant@cityofardenhills.org.

requirements. Some of its environmentally-conscious features include geothermal heating and cooling and extensive use of “day lighting” to harvest natural light.

As a Federal property, the Ben Franklin Center is available for rental by military organizations and law enforcement-related groups. The state of Minnesota is currently considering legislation which would remove barriers to opening the property for rental by other organizations as well.



“The new facility will be a great improvement for our unit, allowing our soldiers to be better trained and prepared to complete our assigned missions.” *Captain Timothy Gorecki*

Don't forget Spring Clean-up Day!

Saturday, May 21
7 a.m. to noon

Ramsey County Public Works Facility
1425 Kirkwood Drive (Highway 96 and Hamline Avenue)

Charges based on the type of load you bring to the facility

- Cars-\$10
- Trailers-\$35
- Others-\$25
- Yard waste, donations, and oversize items not accepted



Your City needs you: Volunteer!



Citizen volunteers are sought to serve on the Planning Commission; Communications Committee; Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee; and the Economic Development Commission.

More information about the commissions and the committees, as well as an application form can be found on the City website (click on “Committees & Commissions” under the “Government” tab).

Interested residents also can call or stop by City Hall.

Road construction

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bicycle and pedestrian access. Demolition was slated to start at the end of April or early May. Ramsey County anticipates project completion by November.

I-35W between Highway 36 and I-694
MnDOT has scheduled this repaving project to begin on July 25. I-35W between Highway 36 and I-694 will see complete closures for two weekends in August. I-694 will be one of the detour routes during these times.

Stay informed about local construction projects by signing up for email updates at www.dot.state.mn.us and www.ramsey-county.us.

Benchmarks

A review of City Council action

April 11 Council meeting

Approved Resolution 2016-13 concerning property tax abatement for certain real property in the City pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 469.1812 to 469.1815, approving a Minnesota Investment Fund Grant and Loan and specifying the terms thereof.

Note: other minor action and meeting minutes are available on the City website, www.cityofardenhills.org.

Correction: The Land O'Lakes expansion plan article in the April *Arden Hills Notes* contained a byline that incorrectly stated the article was from Land O'Lakes. The article was written by Jill Hutmacher, Community Development Director, at the City of Arden Hills.

What you need to know about summer projects

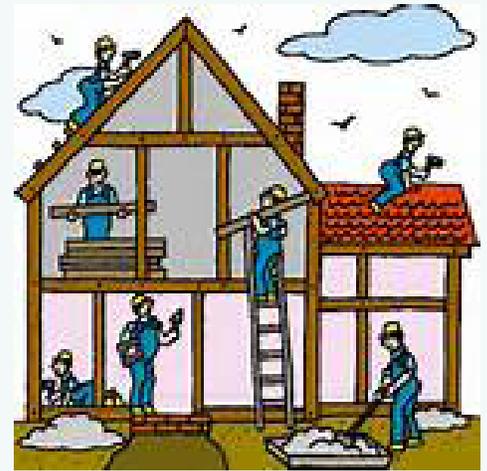
Summer is almost here and many of you are probably thinking of doing some type of home improvement project. The City would like to remind you that while many projects do not require a permit, many do require some type of permit. While most people know permits are required for an addition, some of you may not be aware that permits are required for many home improvement projects. Permits are required for projects that have minimum standards set for both safety and performance. These projects are then inspected to help make sure that these minimum standards are being met.

These projects do not require a permit:

- Faucet, sink, or toilet replacement
- Accessory buildings/sheds less than 120 square feet in floor area
- Retaining walls less than 4 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 are 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)



Planning summer renovation projects? Here are some pointers about the permits you may need.

- 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)



Summer hours at City Hall

Summer hours at City Hall will begin on Tuesday, May 31, and end on Friday, September 2.

Office hours for City Hall Staff
Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Office hours of Maintenance Staff
Monday-Thursday: 6:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Friday: 6:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.



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It's road construction season!
Social Media Policy approved
Ben Franklin Readiness Center open
Your City needs you: Volunteer!

Postal Customer

News from the Mayor

Ramsey County 911

Over the past months and years, it seems like a variety of large scale emergencies have been in the news. Some are international, some are domestic, and others are of a more regional nature. We have seen news stories of: suicide bombers, active shooters, floods, tornados, mud slides, and train derailments to name just a few. Some of the news stories seem so far away from Arden Hills, a quiet suburban city. However, the question still remains: what if something happened here? Just how prepared are we?

Being prepared at its very core is having a plan in advance. The City of Arden Hills maintains an emergency plan for large scale emergencies. The plan outlines a location and backup location for a City and County emergency operations center. Included in that plan are the people, organizational chain of command structure, procedures for implementation, communication, and equipment that can be used. Key to success is swift and effective response to unexpected and evolving situations.

The City of Arden Hills uses Ramsey County Dispatch for police and law enforcement services. Ramsey County 911 Dispatch has a secondary location should their primary location ever become compromised in an emergency. If the primary and secondary locations are not able to meet dispatch needs, all dispatch can be transferred to another predetermined county with literally the press of one very

important button. The important point, in terms of dispatch of services, is that there is a backup plan to the backup plan. Action can be taken quickly to continue services even in the most extreme emergency. The City of Arden Hills also has a designated operation control location and backup location should it become necessary.

Equally important to having a plan is to test and refine the plan under a variety of situations. For example, a few years back, a simulation was done for a train derailment with hazardous materials. This simulation tested the hazardous material response and communications parts of the plan. On April 1 of this year, Arden Hills was chosen for simulation of an active shooter in northern Arden Hills. The nature of this event pulled a wide number of resources including federal, state, county, police, fire, and military personnel.

The emergency plan is in place and undergoes ongoing testing and updating. Changes come about in a variety of ways. Changes are needed over time as laws, personnel, and equipment changes, and of course, as new information is learned from simulations.

As we enter the summer months, weather related emergencies, especially tornados, become more likely. Minneapolis had a tornado a few years ago. As for Arden Hills, our last major event was nine years



Ramsey County's 911 Dispatch Center

ago when a storm with straight-line winds caused widespread damage. Whatever the emergency, the City has a tested plan in place, should it ever be needed.

In the past, dialing 911 was used exclusively for emergencies. In Ramsey County, the use of 911 has been broadened to include both emergencies and to report information that may be useful to law enforcement. If you see suspicious activity or have information that you believe law enforcement should be aware of, it is acceptable to dial 911 and report it.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

David Grant

Mayor