

ARDEN HILLS

notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

November 2016

State of the City meeting offers news and insight about City projects

by Tina Kulzer

Sixty-seven guests attended the annual “State of the City” community meeting at Flaherty’s Arden Bowl on Thursday, September 29. This year’s meeting was a departure from the traditional overview of City issues presented by City Council members and instead featured presentations by community businesses and partner organizations.

Bob Lux from Alatus spoke first and explained the role of the master developer in the Rice Creek Commons project, reviewed the history of and timeline for the redevelopment, and explained the goals for the working relationship they now have with the City. He explained that the current focus of that relationship is to find a “middle ground” between the Master Plan developed by the Joint Development Authority (JDA) and City and the market realities that drive the work done by developers like Alatus. Lux fielded questions from the audience related to traffic increases, mass transit accessibility, and planned housing mix.

One of the City’s largest business residents, Land O’Lakes, had the second presentation slot. Mayor Grant presented information about the Fortune 200 company that calls Arden Hills home, detailing the construction plans that will consolidate its Shoreview campus into the Arden Hills headquarters, as well as the tax abatement that secured their future in the City.



Sheila Kauppi, North Area Manager for MnDOT, concluded the meeting with status updates on the many road construction projects coming to a close in our area, as well as a summary of what Arden Hills residents can expect in the coming years.

Kauppi disclosed that approximately \$70 million in state road construction funding was spent in Arden Hills from 2013-2015. As one of the busiest road construction seasons in recent memory winds down, area residents will have improved road conditions to enjoy as a result. Kauppi reported that the outlook for the 2017 construction season in our area will not be as busy, with eastbound lane closures on I-694 (the next phase of the “Corridors of



Residents and community leaders had the chance to talk together during the State of the City meeting on September 29.

Commerce” on I-694) being the main project that will affect residents. There were several audience questions and comments for Kauppi, who addressed them all.

Notes on a second meeting

The Arden Hills City Council scheduled an additional open house to provide information and gather input on TCAAP development plans on Wednesday, November 16, at 4:30 p.m. in the Marsden Room of the Ramsey County Public Works Facility, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills.

Local election results outlined

Arden Hills voters elected three City Council Members during the general election on November 8. They are incumbents Brenda Holden and Dave McClung who will fill four-year terms and Steve Scott who will fill a two-year term (completing the unexpired term of the late Bob Woodburn). They will begin their duties in January.

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 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 archived meeting playbacks.

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

It's that time of year!

A note about snow removal policies and regulations

Here are a few things to remember as the white flakes begin to fly.

- The City does not have a bare street policy, as this requires tons of salt, around the clock plowing, and heavy traffic. Plows will get as close as possible to mailboxes, but the cleaning of the mailboxes is the responsibility of individual residents. It is also the responsibility of adjacent homeowners to clean snow from fire hydrants.
- The City plows the walks and trails to the best of its ability after all the streets are done. Some trails are not plowed if icing occurs due to them being too steep to plow.
- No vehicle can be parked on the street after the accumulation of two or more inches of snow and continuing until after plowing has been completed.



Remember, there is no parking on any City street between 2 and 6 a.m. year-round.

Get out your skates!



Arden Hills skating rinks are scheduled to be open from December 5, 2016 to February 20, 2017. Dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions. Rinks will be closed if the temperature is -20 degrees Fahrenheit, and/or the wind chill is -20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Warming house hours for Freeway, Hazelnut, and Perry Park are:
Monday – Friday: 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday – 12:00-8:30 p.m.
Sunday – 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Cummings Park will have a push-light system available during the week for open skating. Lights will automatically turn off at 10:00 p.m. The warming house will not be open during this time. A warming house attendant will be on duty Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only.

Call Aaron Thelen at 651-792-7848 with questions.



Vacation and holiday hours at the rinks

Vacation and holiday hours for the warming houses are:
December 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 – 12:00-8:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve – 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day – CLOSED
New Year's Eve – 12:00-6:00 p.m.
New Year's Day – 12:00-8:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 16) – 12:00-8:30 p.m.
Presidents Day (February 20) – 12:00-8:30 p.m.

New Customer Service Specialist joins City staff *by Susan Cathey*

When the phone rings at City Hall, the cheerful voice that answers is that of Arden Hills' new Customer Service Specialist, Britt Pease. Britt began work in her new position on Monday, October 3, coming to us from Andover, where she worked for 18 years in that city's Building Department. She has also worked in many departments in other cities and brings to Arden Hills a rich and varied municipal experience with specialized knowledge of city departments and operations.

Besides greeting and assisting residents and customers on the phone and in person, Britt's job involves providing administrative and clerical support for all City departments. She assists with permits and licenses, registers participants for City programs, processes financial payments, and much more.

When she is not at work, Britt, who currently lives with her husband in St.



Britt Pease

Francis, enjoys spending time with her sister, niece, and two-year-old twin great-nieces. She likes traveling to warm places in the winter and having fun with friends. She always appreciates the importance of health and happiness in life.

Britt says she is excited about her new adventure in Arden Hills and is happy to be part of such a good team.

Meet Arden Hills' new Public Works Superintendent *by Susan Cathey*

Ken Novack, Arden Hills' new Public Works Superintendent, hit the ground running with meetings and lots to do on his first day, Monday, October 10. He's equal to the task, though, having chosen to come to Arden Hills because he missed the challenges of working as part of a management team and had decided he preferred working for a metro area city.

Ken has moved up through the ranks in the Public Works field over the last 25 years, starting as a custodian doing building and ground maintenance for the St. Paul Schools. From there, he learned a variety of new skills at jobs with the St. Paul Water Utility and the communities of Woodbury, Chisago City, and Vadnais Heights. He holds a Public Works certificate and a certificate in Leadership and Management, as well as being selected the state of Minnesota Collection System Operator of the Year.

Ken lives with his wife and two sons in Lindstrom and has a daughter attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his boys, gathering with neighbors around the fire



Ken Novack

pit, and gardening and canning the harvest. A favorite family activity is preparing snacks together before watching the Vikings games.

Ken's goal in his new job is to leave the City a better place to live and work when he retires than when he started. "If I can have that impact, I have done well."

Benchmarks:

A review of City Council Action

September 12, 2016

(Brenda Holden absence excused)

- Approved Resolution 2016-028 certifying the attached list of delinquent utility accounts totaling over \$15,000 to Ramsey County (4-0). These are public records available online.
- Approved Planning Case 2016-017 for a side yard setback Variance at 1536 Edgewater Avenue, based on the findings of fact and submitted plans, as amended by the six conditions in the September 12, 2016, Report to the City Council (3-1, Holmes).

September 26, 2016

- Approved Planning Case 2016-022 for a setback Variance at 1500 Arden Place, based on the findings of fact and submitted plans, as amended by the six conditions in the September 26, 2016, Report to the City Council (5-0).
- Adopted the Snowplow Policy with July 2016 revisions (5-0).
- Adopted Resolution 2016-031, setting the Preliminary Levy for Taxes Payable in 2017 at 4.7% (4-1, Holmes).
- Adopted Resolution 2016-032, adopting Truth In Taxation Public Hearing Date for Proposed Taxes Payable in 2017 (5-0). The meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Accepted proposal from Midwest Asphalt Corporation for the bituminous mill and overlay for Shorewood Drive in the amount of \$79,694.30 (5-0).

October 10, 2016

- Adopted Ordinance No. 2016-008: An Interim Ordinance Temporarily Prohibiting Land Use Applications and Reviews for Higher Education Uses in Residential, Business, Industrial and Other Zones (4-1, Wicklund).

Note: other actions were approved. View online minutes from meetings for details.

Update from the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf *by Tina Kulzer*

Here's an update on programs at the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. The food shelf is located at the Pike Lake Education Center, 2101 NW 14th Street, NewBrighton.

Summer Successes:

•*Free Farmers' Market Tuesdays:* These events were very popular, serving an average of 7,400 pounds of produce to 414 individuals per market in less than two hours. Many of the people served were new to the food shelf. The markets were especially well attended by community seniors on fixed incomes.

•*National Night Out:* Collections at neighborhood block parties brought in over 200 backpacks and 4,800 pounds of food.

•*Good Neighbor Back to School Project:* 903 district students in need received school supplies ranging from pencils to backpacks.

Holiday Programs:

•*Thanksgiving for All:* Last year, nearly 600 families asked for help with food in the month of November. This program provides a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings to anyone visiting the food shelf during the month of November.

•*Operation Joy:* The annual Operation Joy Toy Shop will take place this year on December 21 and 22. Donations of toys, gifts, and gift cards for nearly 1,000 area children in need are currently being accepted.

Two New Programs:

•*Schooltrition:* A sub-program of the weekend backpack program, Snackpack. The program provides snacks to schools in the Mounds View Public School District to have on hand for students who might otherwise go without.

•*Partnering with the district Meals on Wheels program:* We are starting to send home supplemental food to our homebound seniors through the Senior Mobile Outreach Program.

Learn More: To learn more about Ralph Reeder Food Shelf or any of its programs, call 651-621-7451 or visit ralphreederfoodshelf.org.



Volunteers worked on Operation Joy at the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf last season.

Truth in Taxation Hearing set

The City's annual Truth in Taxation Hearing is scheduled for:

*Monday, December 12, 2016
7 pm
City Hall Council Chambers*

What's new around town?

Take a look around Arden Hills and you'll see some changes. Here are two examples:



Bright red awnings and an improved parking lot design greet visitors to the Red Cross Donor Center on County Road E.



A new drive-up window adds another level of service at Caribou Coffee on Lexington Avenue.



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- I**
- n** *State of the City meeting*
- s** *Snow season is coming!*
- i** *Meet new City employees*
- d** *Tips for disposing of hazardous materials*
- e**

Postal Customer

From City Hall

Some questions frequently asked of staff at City Hall

Most residents have called City Hall at one time or another in need of information or services. City staff that field telephone calls and greet in-person visitors must possess full knowledge of City services, issues, and a wide-range of related (and sometimes not-so-related) knowledge so that the information needs of residents can be met.

Here are the Top Five questions most frequently-asked by residents and others who contact City Hall – and their answers! Since inquiries are made on these topics so often, we thought the information would be worth communicating in this month’s resident newsletter. Staff members at City Hall are ready and available to answer resident questions and inquiries Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 651-792-7800.

Is this the DMV?/Can I schedule a driver’s test?/Do you have the number for the DMV?/How do I get to the DMV?
The Department of Motor Vehicles is a state agency that operates the Arden Hills North Metro Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) Office, located at I-35W and County Road I in Arden Hills. Apparently, Arden Hills City Hall is often mistaken for the DVS Office because City staff frequently has to redirect wayward individuals, both in person and on the telephone. This happens often enough that City staff has created a specific map that provides directions from City Hall to the DVS Office. The telephone number for the Arden Hills North Metro DVS Office that is provided on the City website and furnished by staff in response to this question is 651-201-7900.

The wheel on my recycling cart broke – how do I get a new cart?/My recycling didn’t get picked up today – now what?/I just moved in and don’t have a recycling cart – how do I get one?
The City of Arden Hills contracts with Republic Services to provide residential curbside single-sort recycling services. City residents with questions about recycling services, concerns regarding weekly collection, or issues with recycling carts should contact Republic Services directly by calling 952-941-5174 or sending an email to cstwincities@republicservices.com.

I’m moving in/out of the city – what do I need to do to set up my utility bill/get a final bill?
The City website (www.cityofardenhills.org) provides online forms for residents moving in or out of the City to manage their utility bills.

Residents leaving Arden Hills to move to another city should select the orange tab labeled “Online Services” in the middle of the home page. Next, click on “Are You Moving?” This brings the user into the Form Center and directly to an online form that, when completed, will prompt City staff to take a final meter reading on the closing date of the sale of your property. This information will be used to close out the water and sewer accounts at your address.

Residents moving to Arden Hills from elsewhere should also start at the orange “Online Services” tab in the middle of the home page. New residents should then

select “New/Update Your Account” and click on that. The user is again redirected into the Form Center to create a new water and sewer account in the name of the new property owner.

When is the next AARP Driver’s Refresher Class?
AARP Driver Safety Program classes are designed for motorists 55 years of age or older. Upon completion of one of these seminars, residents are entitled to a discount on auto insurance premiums. For new Driver Safety Program members, an eight-hour introductory course must first be completed. To retain the insurance premium discount, residents must attend the four-hour refresher course every three years. The current cost for the class is \$25, or \$20 for AARP members.

Classes are generally offered one day each month and are held at City Hall. Class dates are published in the quarterly Parks and Recreation Guide and available for viewing on the City website at: Home > Departments > Parks & Recreation. Registration is required for these classes and must be done online or in person – registrations cannot be completed on the telephone.

I need an inspection on a building/electrical/plumbing permit.
Front desk staff will transfer calls relating to inspections to the appropriate building inspector, based on whether the permit was for residential or commercial work.