

# ARDEN HILLS

## notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

November 2013

### Water tower gets a makeover *by Susan Cathey*

As you traveled along Snelling Avenue or I-694 during September, your attention may have been caught by the “tent” covering the City’s south water tower. Now you will notice the new paint job and City logo beautifying this structure.

The contract was awarded to Classic Protective Coatings, whose workers applied a new color to the formerly light blue tower, erected in 1987. The City Council agreed to use the shade of tan called Barbados, the same color used on the north tower. The two City logos, positioned to be visible from each direction of the freeway, are painted in a green called Serpentine.



The bowl of the tower, which serves residents and businesses south of I-694, holds one million gallons of water. It also provides a reservoir from which to draw for the north tower. For this project, it was drained and painted inside as well as out. Minor structural improvements were made, and the bowl was disinfected before being put back into service. The total cost for the work was just under \$800,000 plus engineering and inspection fees of \$48,800.

### Tower Tidbits

Some things you may not know about the Arden Hills water tower:

- The tower is about 145 feet high.
- The bowl of water at the top is 74 feet in diameter and 40 feet deep when full.
- The logos are approximately 46 feet wide by 19 feet tall.
- Arden Hills gets its water from Roseville who gets it from St. Paul.
- The bottom of the tower provides room for storage. Public Works stores off-season equipment there.

*Learn about the City’s most recent drinking water report on page 4 of this newsletter.*



### Community members offer ideas and opinions during TCAAP open house

Community members attended the first TCAAP Master Plan Open House on Tuesday, September 17, to learn, ask questions, and share ideas about the TCAAP development process before the Master Plan was drafted. This open house marked the end of the “discovery phase” of the Public Involvement Plan and began the work to draft the Master Plan.

“We were very pleased with the open house,” Jill Hutmacher, City of Arden Hills Community Development Director, said. “The attendees seemed very engaged and were willing to provide comments and participate in the land use exercise.”

Attendees participated in discussions and planning activities to inform consultants of the community preferences for the mix and placement of land uses. Those who weighed in revealed diverse opinions of what the land should be used for.

“In some ways the open house confirmed what the City has heard in previous planning efforts,” said Hutmacher. Common themes included:

- concentrate commercial uses on the western side and residential uses on the eastern side of the site,
- parks, green space, and trails are important,
- retail should be located near the access points to the site.

“This is very important insight that the consultants will take into account as they draft the Master Plan,” Hutmacher said.

Hutmacher concluded, “We are on schedule with the master planning process. The Planning Commission and City Council will review the first draft of the Master Plan in December. Residents will be asked to provide feedback on the draft Master Plan at an open house in January 2014.”



## Arden Hills Service Directory

1245 West Highway 96  
Arden Hills, MN 55112-5734  
Office Hours  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m.--4:30 p.m.

651-792-7800  
www.cityofardenhills.org

Sheriff and Fire Emergency  
911

Sheriff (non-emergency)  
651-767-0640

Fire (non-emergency)  
651-481-7024

Water and Sewer Problems  
(During non-business hours)  
651-767-9640

Mayor:

David Grant 651-538-0747

Councilmembers:

Brenda Holden 651-636-2987

Fran Holmes 651-631-1866

Dave McClung 651-332-0352

Ed Werner 651-636-2547

See City website for email addresses

City Administrator:

Patrick Klaers 651-792-7810

Communications Committee

Kristine Goodrich, editor; Susan  
Cathey

Council Liaison: Dave McClung

Staff Liaison: Amy Dietl

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 live at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Playbacks of City meetings begin the morning after the meeting and continue every day until the next City meeting. Playbacks are 3 a.m., 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m., 2 p.m., and 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For web casts, visit [www.ctv15.org](http://www.ctv15.org).

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

## News from Around the Town:

### Some thoughts about being "green" this holiday season

from Eureka Recycling

#### Throw a green holiday party

Find resources and case studies at the Event Planning webpage at [www.mnngreengatherings.org](http://www.mnngreengatherings.org).



#### Recycle your tree

Some communities make discarded holiday trees into mulch for use in community parks. Contact your trash hauler to see if they offer this service.

#### Think about new ways to wrap your gifts

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that the United States produced 12.6 million tons of plastic packaging. Almost 90 percent of this packaging was thrown away. But you can avoid big piles of wasted paper this holiday season. The gift wrapping ideas below not only conserve paper and other resources, they also reduce the amount of waste we send to landfills and incinerators. They can save you money, too!

##### Use items that can be reused:

- Scarves, handkerchiefs or bandanas
- Fabric scraps
- Reusable decorative bags
- Hand-sewn or purchased cloth bags
- A cake pan, basket or a wooden box

##### Reuse paper items:

- Old posters and maps
- Old sheet music
- Newspaper, like the Sunday comic pages
- Brown Kraft paper (paper bags)
- Advertisements from magazines and catalogs

##### Use presents to wrap presents:

- A hat in a matching scarf
- Jewelry in a wooden box
- Cookies in a reusable tin or cookie jar
- Barbecue grill utensils or picnic supplies in a tablecloth
- Kitchen gifts in towels or all-purpose cloths

##### Reuse wrapping paper:

- Reuse last year's holiday paper
- Save all the wrapping paper you get this year and use it next year
- Wallpaper scraps make excellent, durable, reusable wrapping paper

Eureka Recycling is a local nonprofit organization that believes waste is completely preventable. Eureka Recycling is here to serve as your partner in waste reduction. If you have questions about reducing waste, please call the Hotline at (651) 222-7678.

### It's coming!

The City's Public Works Department plows snow after two or more inches of accumulation. Lesser amounts are only salted/sanded as needed. Plows will not go out until after the snow has stopped, unless the snow becomes too heavy. In that case, roads will be opened, then cleaned up after snow has stopped.



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 the 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. Some trails are not plowed if icing occurs due to them being too steep to plow.

Snow plowing parking restrictions: No vehicle can be parked on the street after the accumulation of two or more inches of snow and continuing until after snow plowing has been completed.

#### Want to see the City's complete snow removal policy?

Go to [www.cityofardenhills.org/snowplowing](http://www.cityofardenhills.org/snowplowing).

# Benchmarks: a review of recent City Council action

September 30, 2013

- Authorized the purchase of two Toro “zero-turn” mowers and the trade-in of the two 2011 Toro mowers currently in the City fleet (5-0)
- Adopted Resolution 2013-037 appointing Brent Bartel to the Planning Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2015 (5-0)
- Approved Payment No. 1 to Classic Protective Coatings, Inc. for the South Water Tower Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$151,050 (5-0)
- Approved Payment No. 1 to SAK Construction, LLC for the 2013 Sanitary Sewer Lining Improvement in the amount of \$292,179 (5-0)
- Approved Payment #4 to North Valley, Inc., in the amount of \$115,012 for the 2013 Pavement Management Program (5-0)
- Approved a payment in the amount of \$19,336 to the Lake Johanna Fire Department, which is the City’s share for the replacement of Rescue 4 (fire truck) (5-0)
- Approved Resolution 2013-038 certifying a list of delinquent utility accounts to Ramsey County to be added to property taxes payable in 2014 (5-0)
- Approved Planning Case 13-014 for an amendment to the Final Planned Unit Development for Phase 1 of the Lexington Station redevelopment proposal at 3833 Lexington Avenue, based on the findings of fact and submitted plans, as amended by the City Council (approval of the master sign plan for phase 1 of the development) (5-0)



# Everything you wanted to know about Benchmarks

by Dave McClung, City Council

In each edition of the *Arden Hills Notes*, you will see a series of bulleted items describing official actions taken by the City Council. These items are called Benchmarks. Because they are so abbreviated, a few readers have questioned their purpose.

Benchmarks are intended to alert readers to important actions taken by the City Council. Some of the most important actions of the City Council warrant a separate, more detailed story in the *Arden Hills Notes*; but most of the Council’s votes are more routine.

If a bulleted item sparks your interest, you can go to the Arden Hills’ website at [www.cityofardenhills.org](http://www.cityofardenhills.org), look for the City Council page, and then click on the agenda for that date’s meeting. Attached to each agenda item is a staff report that provides the background for that agenda item. If the item is a Planning Commission case being brought to the City Council for a final decision, the attachments to the agenda may include site maps, drawings of planned improvements, and the Planning Commission’s recommendations. If the minutes of that City Council meeting have been approved, you can look at the minutes for a more detailed version of the Council’s discussion.

A bulleted summary of a planning case may include abbreviations like “PUD” for a Planned Unit Development case. By looking back at agendas and minutes, the planning process begins to make more sense to a reader. Likewise when it comes to street construction you will see terms such as “PMP” for Pavement Management Program which is the program the City uses to prioritize and then construct/maintain our City streets.

*Arden Hills Notes* is not an “official” publication, meaning it does not include formal actions such as requests for bids, official notices of hearings, and other official acts requiring publication. The *Shoreview Arden Hills Bulletin* is Arden Hills’ official newspaper. So Benchmarks are not the “official” recordings of City actions. They are there to give readers a summary of the action.



## Fundraising underway for Gateway Sign project

by Fran Holmes

The newly formed Arden Hills Foundation has begun a campaign to request the support of local businesses with the City’s gateway sign initiative. The City’s first gateway sign was erected at the intersection of County Road D, Lake Johanna Boulevard and New Brighton Road, in the City’s newly acquired “triangle parcel.” The City is currently considering placement of the next gateway sign on the south side of County Road E2, just east of Cleveland Avenue. The City has budgeted approximately \$25,000 per gateway sign, which includes lighting and landscaping.

The City’s 2014 plan is for a gateway sign on the southwest corner of Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue. Because this is a major intersection, there is a need for a larger gateway sign and extensive landscaping to increase the visibility of the sign. The City estimates that the cost for this project will be approximately \$50,000, which is double the budgeted \$25,000. This is an important gateway to the City, and with the development of TCAAP, this area will become an even more important entryway to Arden Hills. The Arden Hills Foundation Board plans to ask Arden Hills businesses to make tax deductible donations to the Foundation to

help fund the Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue gateway sign. The City’s Economic Development Commission, which is an advisory committee comprised of City business people, has been requesting gateway signs in Arden Hills for a number of years to help promote local businesses.

One of the purposes of the Arden Hills Foundation is to connect the generosity of the business community with the needs of the City.

The Arden Hills Foundation is asking local businesses to *give forward* to promote their presence in the City. In the near future, foundation board members will contact local businesses by mail to request donations. Any business or resident who would like to donate to the Foundation may send a check (made payable to the Arden Hills Foundation) to Arden Hills Foundation, 1245 W. Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112. For more information, please feel free to contact Foundation Board Member Fran Holmes via email at [franh116@aol.com](mailto:franh116@aol.com). All donations will be recognized.





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**I** Water tower gets a fresh look  
**n** “Green” ideas for the holidays  
**S** Snow’s coming  
**i** TCAAP open house meeting held  
**d**  
**e**

## Postal Customer

### Notes from the City Council

The Arden Hills community was invited to the State of the City on Thursday, September 12, at Flaherty’s Arden Bowl. Attendees heard the latest news on the TCAAP project, County Road E improvements, along with other current development and transportation projects. The event was hosted by the Arden Hills City Council and the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Over the past several years, the City Council and EDC have focused on identifying and achieving economic development goals.

Goals include promoting the City’s identity and brands by prioritizing locations for gateway signs to the City. In addition, the Arden Hills logo was included on the Red Fox Road water tower when the water tower was repainted this fall. The logo will be seen by over 100,000 people every day. Over the past several years, the City and the EDC have increased their efforts to reach out and communicate with the business community.

The City Council, EDC commissioners, and staff have been visiting new and expanding businesses in Arden Hills. Staff has also visited businesses in the B-2 and Round Lake/Gateway business districts to collect updated contact information and keep businesses informed of public improvement projects. In addition, staff will be visiting businesses in the Red Fox/Grey Fox district in early 2014.

The City’s website organizes business information, making it easier to find data on business districts, licenses, sign requirements, and business resources.

The Twin Cities North Chamber of Commerce and the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce co-host a monthly Shoreview-Arden Hills Business Council for local businesses to meet with elected officials and staff to discuss public policy. The meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the Northeast Youth and Family Services Center on Lexington Avenue.

The EDC and the Communications Committee have been collaborating to include business-focused articles in nearly every City newsletter. The articles highlight

business development and educate residents on the importance of the City’s business community.



The EDC consists of nine members who are appointed by the City Council. The Commissioners may be residents or non-resident business representatives; however at least four must be Arden Hills residents.

There currently are vacant seats on the EDC. For information about applying, contact City Hall or download an application from the City website.

Ed Werner, City Council

### Keeping our drinking water safe

by Kristine Goodrich

Arden Hills regularly monitors the quality of the City's drinking water and issues an annual report. The 2012 report shows that the City's water is safe to drink. Like most water supplies, water in Arden Hills contains trace amounts of some contaminants, many of which are added as part of the water treatment process. But no containment level exceeded federal drinking water standards. Arden Hills water contains trace amounts of the following substances: fluoride, lead, copper, haloacetic acids, nitrate, trihalo-methanes and chlorine. The 2012 report is posted on the City website.

The City purchases water from the Saint Paul Regional Water Services, which treats water obtained from the Mississippi River and the Chain of Lakes, and from wells in the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

While the testing ensures water is safe at the source, the plumbing at water users' properties sometimes can contaminate water with an unsafe level of lead. If a faucet hasn't been used in several hours, you can reduce this risk by letting the faucet run for at least 30 seconds before filling up your glass. You also can have your water tested for lead. For more information go to [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).