

ARDEN HILLS

notes

The Official City Newsletter for Arden Hills Residents

May 2014

City sets new minimum sizes for multi-family housing

by Kristine Goodrich

The City has revised minimum size requirements for new multi-family housing units. The required size was decreased slightly for efficiency apartments and was increased for units with two or more bedrooms.

Previously, the City required 600 square feet for efficiency units. For units with bedrooms, the minimum was 600 square feet plus 100 square feet for each bedroom. The revised minimums are: 550 square feet for efficiencies (50 feet smaller), 700 square feet for one-bedrooms

(no change), 950 square feet for two-bedrooms (150 feet larger), 1,200 square feet for three-bedrooms (300 feet larger) and 150 square-feet for each additional bedroom (50 feet larger). The changes were unanimously approved by the City Council at its March 31 meeting.

The Planning Commission had voted against increasing the minimums for the units with bedrooms. Council members noted that developers who wish to have smaller units can apply for a variance. No developers voiced opposition to the City.

Before making its decision, the Council examined size requirements in seven other cities as well as unit sizes of 10 recently approved multi-family developments. Among the seven cities, the average minimum requirements (in square feet) were: 463 for efficiencies, 601 for one-bedrooms, 759 for two-bedrooms, 904 for three-bedrooms and 145 for additional bedrooms. Among the new developments, the averages of the smallest-size units were (in square feet): 553 for efficiencies (of the three that have efficiencies), 752 for one-bedrooms, 1,042 for two-bedrooms and 1,420 for three-bedrooms.

Home improvements in your future?

With the arrival of spring, many residents are busy planning home repairs or improvements. When making plans, one of the first places you should check is with the City's Community Development Department to find out what permits and requirements might apply to your project. City standards are in place to protect your safety and property values. You might also get some good ideas and helpful suggestions for your project.

City website offers information

The City website (go to "Departments," then "Community Development," then "Building & Permits," and "For Residents") has information on the following: additions, basements/interior remodels, decks, demolition of structures, detached garages, driveways, egress windows, electrical, fences, grading and erosion control permits, new home construction, plumbing, roofs, siding, sheds, swimming pools, windows, and exterior doors.

Search the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, Appendix A, for information on covered porches, encroachments and

design guidelines. The Code also includes information on required licenses. If you are hiring contractors, it is your responsibility to assure that they are appropriately licensed, if required, and obtain the proper permit(s) and inspections.

If your project includes any of the above items, or something that is not listed but seems that it might require inspection, check the website and/or call City Hall to get further information.

The current year's schedule of fees can be located from the City website under "Government" and "Fee Schedule."

Residents should also be aware that some building projects, especially projects that would affect the exterior, landscaping or lot coverage, may need to go to the Planning Commission for a hearing if the zoning regulations are not met. City staff will be able to advise you when this is the case.

by Lois Rem

Got questions?

See the FAQs section of the webpage for answers to the following questions:

1. Doing utility work in the right of way?
2. Doing work near a lake?
3. Can I fax in a permit?
4. What documentation do I need to do work in Arden Hills?
5. Why do I need to submit a plan or drawing for ____?
6. Do I need a permit if I'm just replacing cabinets in my kitchen?
7. What is required for siding and roofing inspections?
8. What type of permit do I need for a security system for my home or work?
9. Do I need a permit to put in a lawn sprinkler system?
10. Do I need a permit if my sewer backs up in my home and I have the line cleared?



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
dgrant@cityofardenhills.org

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bholden@cityofardenhills.org

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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 live at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

Visit www.cityofardenhills.org for information about taped meeting playbacks.

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

News from Around the Town:

Little Free Libraries help build community

by Susan Cathey

Miniature buildings on posts are popping up in many Arden Hills neighborhoods, situated near the street in front of homes. Look closer and you will see that these little houses, of varied and imaginative design, are filled with books and labeled "Little Free Library." What's it all about? A website for the non-profit organization describes these boxes as "a take a book, return a book gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories."

The phenomenon goes back to 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built a model of a one-room schoolhouse to honor his mother, a teacher who loved reading. He filled it with books and labeled it "Free Books." People were intrigued, and Todd built and gave away more little houses.

Soon he was joined by Rick Brooks of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and they started a movement that has grown into a world-wide enterprise. As of January 2014, the total number of Little Free Libraries (LFL) in the world was estimated at 15,000 and continues to grow by the thousands. There is a map available on the website. The mission of the organization is to:

-  promote literacy and the love of reading through free book exchanges worldwide
-  build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations

Brian and Vanessa Ranallo built a new home in Arden Hills recently and soon put up a Little Free Library. They have dedicated it to the memory of the man whose property they purchased, Dr. Eugene Bauer, who was a voracious reader. Their model has solar lighting and a plant container, as well as a garden around the base of the post. They have found it a good way to meet new neighbors and invite people to use it. They like the idea that they are encouraging reading and building community in their neighborhood.

If you are interested in creating a Little Free Library, start by identifying a location and a steward, someone who regularly checks that the box is stocked, clean and inviting. You may choose to design and build your own model, to order one from the LFL website, or to sponsor a LFL in a needy community. Learn more at www.Littlefreelibraries.org.



Summer office hours at City Hall begin on May 27

Summer office hours at City Hall begin on May 27 and end on August 29.



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 for Maintenance Staff

Monday-Thursday: 6:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Friday: 6:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Remember Cleanup Day on May 17--

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ramsey County Public Works Facility, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive (off Highway 96 and Hamline Avenue).

Benchmarks: a review of recent City Council action

March 31, 2014

- Approved No Parking Resolution for Round Lake Road (5-0)
- Approved County Road E (B-2 District) Feasibility Report and authorized preparations for the plans and specifications (5-0)
- Authorized the purchase of a Bobcat Tool Cat (5-0)
- Authorized the purchase of a one-ton truck (5-0)
- Authorized the purchase of an upgraded camera system for sewer televising (5-0)
- Authorized consultant bridge contract among Arden Hills, New Brighton and Ramsey County (5-0)
- Approved an outfield fencing project for Perry Park Field #3 (5-0)
- Approved a premises permit application for Roseville Area Youth Hockey Association for charitable gambling at Welsch's Big Ten Tavern (5-0)
- Tabled the Procurement Policy and Fund Balance Policy discussion to the April 14 meeting (5-0)
- Approved Planning Case 13-021 - Boston Scientific PUD Amendment Agreement to build a 1,310 square foot addition on the west side of building 14 (5-0)
- Approved Planning Case 14-010 - Lexington Station PUD Second Amendment Agreement for Phase 1, relating to building elevation and a revised window detail plan (5-0)
- Adopted the quarterly special assessments for delinquent utilities (5-0)
- Approved 2013 and 2014 budget adjustments to establish TCAAP expenses as a separate capital fund (5-0)
- Approved a public hearing for the April 28 City Council meeting regarding Presbyterian Homes bond refunding (5-0)
- Approved Planning Case 14-009 - Multi-Family Design Standards to establish minimum square foot requirements (5-0)

April 14, 2014

- Authorized City staff to begin summer work hours on May 27, 2014, and conclude on August 29, 2014 (5-0)
- Approved the annual Ramsey County Joint Powers Agreement for Recycling Funding (5-0)

Who let the dogs out?

City opens off-leash dog area at Hazelnut Park on trial basis

This spring, the City began, on a trial basis, using the hockey rink at Hazelnut Park as a seasonal off-leash dog area. The rink is open to dogs through November 1 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily. The park is located at 3301 New Brighton Road.

The following regulations apply to all users:

1. Keep your dog in sight and under voice control at all times.
2. Clean up and dispose of feces left by your dog in the provided barrels. Owners must possess a bag for removal of feces.
3. Dogs must be licensed and vaccinated.
4. No aggressive dogs allowed. If your dog becomes unruly or plays rough, leash it and leave immediately.
5. Female dogs in heat and dogs under the age of four months are prohibited.
6. Use at your own risk. Owners are responsible and liable for the behavior of their dogs at all times.
7. Users are limited to three dogs per visit.
8. Children must be supervised at all times while in the dog park.
9. Dogs must be on leash unless in Off Leash Dog Area boundaries.
10. All other City park rules apply.



Cleaning up the yard?

Tips about recycling yard waste

Yard, garden, and tree waste can be recycled into compost. Putting this waste into your garbage is illegal in Minnesota. Leaves, grass, and plant trimmings, along with some types of food waste, can be combined in a backyard compost bin to create a valuable soil additive for your lawn and garden.

Compost bins can be purchased at local garden centers, hardware stores or home improvement stores.

If you don't plan on composting in your backyard, check with your garbage hauler to see if it offers yard waste pickup service. If you put your yard waste in bags for curbside pickup, you must use compostable bags.

Of course, you can drop off your yard and garden waste at the nearest compost site. There's a site in Arden Hills. It's located at 3530 Hudson Avenue. Food waste composting is available at other County sites.

For more information on composting and disposal of yardwaste, check out RamseyAtoZ.com or call 651-633-EASY.



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Multi-family housing standards

New off-leash dog park

Does your project need a permit?

Little Free Libraries

Postal Customer

Notes from the City Council

Contributions to the Arden Hills Foundation can benefit City parks and trails

This past February, the Arden Hills City Council held hearings to consider a utility franchise fee to raise additional funds for infrastructure improvements, including parks and trails. Based on public input and Council deliberations, the City Council unanimously concluded not to pursue consideration of utility franchise fee. However, from statements made during the hearings, it is clear that many Arden Hills residents feel very strongly about improving the City's park and trail system.

Many residents stated that they would be interested in funding park and trail improvements, and the Arden Hills Foundation was suggested as an organization to which residents can make tax deductible contributions for City parks and trails. The vice-chair of the City's Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee recently contributed a check for \$57, which was the annual amount that would have been paid per residence for the utility franchise fee under consideration. More about this later...

The Arden Hills Foundation is a charitable group through which individuals and business can contribute to programs benefiting our residents and our City. All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. The Foundation welcomes more involvement from the Arden Hills community, either through contributions or active participation. The Foundation is starting a legacy program for those in the community who

want to make significant gifts to the Foundation by way of a lifetime grants or provisions in their wills.

Arden Hills Foundation projects range from a donation from Presbyterian Homes for irrigation on the "Triangle Parcel" (where the first Arden Hills gateway sign was erected) to contributions by residents to improve the water quality of Karth Lake. The Foundation has also started a free seminar series, with two seminars held this spring and more planned for the fall.

Back to the \$57 check. This is a modest amount to contribute, but the hope is that this amount will start a trend. If many residents donate this amount, it will start to add up. All contributions to the Founda-

tion are gratefully accepted and recognized. Checks made out to the Arden Hills Foundation should be sent to the Arden Hills Foundation, c/o Arden Hills City Hall, 1245 W. Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112.



For more information, check out the Arden Hills Foundation on Facebook or LinkedIn. You may also contact me at 651-631-1866, as I serve as one of the Foundation board members. Enjoy the warm weather, and enjoy our parks and trails!

Fran Holmes

Fran Holmes, Council Member

Correction concerning emerald ash borer information in the April newsletter

The April edition of the *Arden Hills Notes* contained an article regarding identifying and treating emerald ash borer (EAB). The price quoted for treatment was incomplete. The article indicated that the price quoted was the total price per tree. That is not correct.

HERE IS UPDATED INFORMATION: The City has negotiated a price for EAB chemical treatment on private trees (TreeAGE injections), exclusively for Arden Hills residents at \$7 (12" - 24") - \$9 (> than 24") per diameter inch. There are other contractors on the market; however, for this negotiated price, contact Precision at 651-484-2726 to set up a consultation.