



Newsletter

Volume 27 • Number 4

FALL 2017

Mayor's Fall 2017 Newsletter

By Mark Korin



Where has all the time gone? How time flies when you're having fun. If only there was more time. Why did this take so long? Time's too short to worry about that. Simple everyday profound statements but have you ever taken the time to really think about them? Time, looking back, looking forward, filling time, wasting time, the beginning of time or the end of time and the worst....

Times up! Although time, as a unit of measure is a constant, there are so many variables and individual perceptions of the constant **Time.** Like waiting for important test results or hitting every single stop light when you're

running late or realizing things have changed and you feel like you missed important steps along the way. Time, it never seems just right, **what's with that?** Some things, like seeing the grandkids and how fast they're growing up or like our Minnesota seasons changing from the summer green forests to leafless branches of fall dreading that time will bring winter much too soon. You can't stop time, go back in time or go forward in time, come to think about it, would you want to? Look what happened in the "Back to the Future" movies, poor Marty.... I think as I get older I do value the perception of time more knowing the future will be filled with our kids, grandkids and great grandkids and hopefully their time is filled with joy, happiness and their time is just right, to live their lives without losing or missing any time. I find that I'm looking back in time, to see if in my own life did I miss anything, to contribute, to share, to make things right, to make a difference or the biggest question of them all, is there enough time to finish the tasks on the honey-do list before God takes me from this earth? I do wish there was more hours in a day, more days in the weeks, more sunlight in the day, more time to learn something new, to maximize and focus on what's important, to find solutions, fix things and time for a Mulligan, (a do over), or two or three before the dreaded... time runs out. I hope and pray I have time left to see happiness in my children's and families lives, to create new opportunities, accomplish more inventions, products and devices that will live on in time. I looked back at all the time, and yes, measured over a few decades at all the jobs I've had in the private sector, the employees and tens of thousands of customers I've met. Time has also gone by fast thinking about all the positions I've held in Oak Grove leadership working to help direct or shape our community over the years and always preparing for the distant future. I think the most important part of time is learning, absorbing as much as possible every minute and taking that knowledge with time hopefully becoming wiser, sharing that wisdom throughout every opportunity. I was once asked; **what do I know for sure?** My answer is simple, "**More than I did yesterday, but not as much as I will tomorrow!**" We've come a long way in Oak Grove from a small township with dirt roads, farm fields and vast woodlands with open spaces transforming into a growing bedroom community with endless opportunities and a future that time will tell the rest of the story. This brings to mind a very important point: "**Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it!**" Ferris Bueller. **TO BE CONTINUED.....**

City Administrator's Updates

Loren Wickham
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

New Building Official/ Inspection Services

Rum River Construction Consultants will provide building official/inspection services to the City beginning October 30, 2017. Andy Schreder will serve as the Building Official for Oak Grove. Andy and his staff at Rum River are committed to a quality, customer service oriented approach to building official and inspection services. With this change we are excited to announce the following:

- The City will now accept building permit applications and plans digitally via email at permits@ci.oak-grove.mn.us
- Payments for building permits can be made in person at City Hall by cash, check or credit card now. You can now pay online via credit card or electronic check, too. There is a convenience fee added to these transactions.
- The Building Official will have regular office hours at City Hall on Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you were issued a building permit by the City of East Bethel before October 30, 2017, they would still provide the inspection for your permit. Continue to use the contact info on your permit for inspections. Thank You to the City of East Bethel for providing these services for the City since 2013!

Law Enforcement Services Contract

The City Council renewed a contract with Anoka County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services in 2018. Anoka County Sheriff's Office provides 20 hours per day of patrol service, 4.20 deputies and a dedicated squad car to Oak Grove.

2018 Budget and Preliminary Levy

On September 11, 2017, at its regular meeting, the City Council adopted a preliminary tax levy for 2018 with a zero percent increase from 2017. Moving forward, the levy may be further reduced before final adoption but not increased. There will be dedicated time at the City Council meeting on November 27 to accept public comment on the 2018 budget and levy. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at Oak Grove City Hall. The preliminary budget is available at www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us on the finance department page.



Curt Hallerman, Oak Grove Fire Chief accepting the Center Point Energy Community Partnership Grant award of \$2,500 for the purchase of automated external defibrillator and medic bags.

City of OAK GROVE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan Available for Review

MSA Professional Services in partnership with the City of Oak Grove has prepared a draft version of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for review. The Planning Commission will hold a public

hearing on the plan at City Hall on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information and to review the draft plan visit: www.oakgrove2040plan.com

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fire department has a busy fall season

Curt Hallerman
OAK GROVE FIRE CHIEF

The fall is a particularly busy time on the fire department. There are many fire prevention activities that take place this time of year. The activities usually kick off in August with Night to Unite. This year the fire department attended multiple Night to Unite events sending both engines out for the evening. The engines and crews would stop at the homes hosting events and discuss fire prevention, allow citizens to ask questions and allow the kids (young and old) to go in the fire truck and spray the fire hose. If you plan on hosting an event next year, please contact Laura Landes at the Anoka County Sherriff's office to schedule a fire department visit.

After night to unite, the department started to get into events for St Patrick's church and the Country Fest. This year Oak Grove and Ham Lake participated in the events allowing citizens to view the trucks and ask questions, stood by during the 5k Races, and provided fire protection during the fireworks. Right after this event, came Fire Prevention Week. Here again Oak Grove teamed up with East Bethel and helped with Fire Prevention activities at both East Bethel Elementary and Cedar Creek elementary. The firefighters went to the schools and discussed fire safety, stop drop and roll, and how to safely exit the home. Then fire firefighters dressed in their gear so the kids would not be scared if fire personal had to come in and rescue them.

Lastly this quarter the residents of Oak Grove were invited to attend the yearly pancake breakfast that was held at Oak Grove Fire Station #1. The firefighters and auxiliary members have been putting on this event for over 13 years now. "Community outreach is an important part of our mission; we want the community to get involved. It's important for the residents to feel comfortable approaching us and asking questions said Chief Curt Hallermann."

The pancake breakfast was held on Sunday, October 8th 2017. The weather cooperated and it was a wonderful fall day. We served over 510 people from around the community said Todd Torson & Blair Ecklund, Members of the Oak Grove Pancake Committee. In addition to enjoying pancakes, sausages, juice, milk and coffee; attendees were able to learn about fire prevention which included coloring books and hats, educational packets and safety material, pictures and videos from last year's pancake breakfast and of course touring the fire trucks. The people in attendance in the early morning were also able to view the Life Link Air Care unit stop in for a visit.

Both the firefighters and auxiliary members wish to extend their appreciation to all those who attended the breakfast and made it a huge success.

Outside the fire department, fall as mentioned is a busy time of year for homeowners as well. I would like to ask the public to think about their private drive. If called upon, a piece of fire apparatus is likely the biggest vehicle that will come up your private drive. We are seeing that as existing apparatus age-out they are replaced by larger and newer models. We often find that these vehicles are becoming increasingly larger and heavier. This is caused in part by numerous changes in emission controls brought on by way of federal legislation and the necessity to carry more equipment and water, and also changes in vehicle safety. These changes have forced vehicle manufacturers to increase the engine compartment size of fire apparatus in order to accommodate the necessary emission controls and body length for more storage room. This results in fire vehicle that is longer and higher and these vehicles demand a wider



Ford Explorer compared to a standard fire engine.

turning radius and a larger clearance area than ever before.

The recommended driveway specifications are 16 feet of width clearance, 14 feet of overhead clearance and containing a surface capable of supporting an emergency vehicle. Most typical drives will support a fire vehicle. However, the big obstacles we often see are trees that are overgrown or people that install gates or decorative posts in the driveway. Fire trucks are very large, very heavy and require a lot of space. Please look this fall and ask if a vehicle sized below could make it up your drive. Our response will be delayed if we do not have clear access up the driveway to your home.

Lastly, we continue to be in need for men and women who are willing to join the fire department on both day and evening shifts. The training would be provided and there are many benefits to becoming a paid on call firefighter in the city. If you would like additional information, please contact our city hall during business hours. Another option for finding additional information on being a firefighter and to apply on-line is to go to www.mnfirehire.com This is a county wide web site that will explain what it is like to be a firefighter in both Oak Grove and Anoka County.

Your support of the Oak Grove firefighters and this community is as always greatly appreciated.

#1 Wellhead Protection

Do you appreciate clean drinking water?

SOURCE: MINNESOTA RURAL WATER

Minnesota has a remarkable resource and that is its underground water supply. It is great to drink clean, good tasting water like we have. However, the aquifers that supply our drinking water can become contaminated if we do not make an effort to protect them. What we drink a few years from now might be what we are putting onto the soil right now!

Just where are the drops of water right now that you will be drinking 10 years from today? In much of Minnesota that water probably is only a short distance away



in an aquifer a few hundred feet below the surface. We certainly don't want that water contaminated! It is by far more costly to clean up a contaminated water supply or even drill a new well than it is to keep the ones we have clean.

Most contaminants in water are measured in parts per million (ppm). One part per million is about equal to one drop in a 55 gallon barrel. That doesn't sound like much but would you really care to drink water from a barrel, which had 10 drops of arsenic added to it? It's estimated that the average person uses 50 gallons of water per day of which 2.5 pints are used in drinking water and cooking. Would you really care to drink the water we just talked about, day after day and year after year?

Oak Grove was recently required by the State to develop a water supply plan for our West Lake George municipal water system. The plan is intended to make that water supply the best it can be for years to come and prevent our wells from becoming contaminated. The same principals used to protect that water source is applicable to all public and private water sources in Oak Grove. Look for more information on this subject in subsequent community newsletters or contact City Hall with any questions you have regarding your drinking water.

Riparian buffers. Why?

Riparian buffers are strips of land (up to 300 feet wide) bordering streams, lakes, and other bodies of water. The most functional riparian buffers are vegetated with a variety of native plants, including trees and shrubs. The benefits derived from vegetated riparian buffers, especially forested buffers, include: filtering pollution from runoff; trapping excess soil and taking up nutrients; shading the water, keeping water temperatures cooler; acting like a sponge, soaking up rainwater, reducing flooding down-stream and recharging groundwater; helping prevent erosion and loss of land; providing food and shelter for wildlife; absorbing noise from waterfront activity; and providing privacy and shade for picnicking and fishing. The following list provides more detail about some of the primary functions riparian buffers provide in the landscape:

- Trap sediment and take up nutrients. Sediment that is filtered out of runoff from upland areas often carries contaminants that can be harmful to aquatic life and impair water quality. The soil also contains nutrients, excess concentrations of which can cause water quality and ecological health problems in the receiving waters. Riparian buffers can often break down these pollutants while utilizing the sediment and nutrients to improve soil conditions.
- Protect and maintain stream banks. Root mass from woody vegetation present in buffers helps to reduce soil loss from erosion along lake shorelines and stream banks. Vegetation from riparian buffers can also work in concert with stream channel functions to create new stream bank, balancing what erosion does occur within the stream channel.
- Water storage and energy dissipation. Riparian buffers can reduce damage to property during flood events by slowing floodwaters. The root mass present in riparian buffers also promotes the absorption of water and helps to recharge nearby aquifers. Riparian buffers play an important role in regulating surface water flows by helping to hold and slowly release water following storm events.
- Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution. As noted in the first bullet, riparian buffers can filter various pathogens, pollutants and nutrients that are found in stormwater runoff. Often times, nutrients can be taken up by vegetation within the riparian area, which can promote additional vegetation in the buffer. This vegetation in turn can be used to process other potential pollutants before they enter the adjacent waterbody.
- Provide wildlife habitat. Riparian buffers offer a variety of mechanisms for habitat enhancement of both aquatic organisms and terrestrial wildlife. Areas where riparian buffers are intact can host a multitude of different organisms. When connected to other buffers and habitats, riparian areas can serve as corridors for the movement and distribution of wildlife. The continual cycle of nutrient uptake and recycling of compounds trapped aids in the diversity of vegetation present in the buffer and also helps create a varied age-class structure for vegetation present which in turn affects habitat features and organisms present in the buffer.

Natural and man-made disasters: Are you prepared for a disaster?

Sheriff James Stuart
ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mother Nature has not been kind this hurricane season—Harvey, Irma, Jose and now Maria. Couple the hurricanes with the recent earthquakes in Fiji, Mexico and Japan it becomes obvious that a disaster could strike at any time. In Minnesota, we may become a little complacent because we don't have to deal with "serious" disasters like earthquakes or hurricanes, but we do have extreme cold, flooding, tornadoes, and don't forget man-made disasters to contend with—and every situation needs a plan.

September was National Preparedness Month. In a large disaster situation, government or law enforcement may not be there to assist you immediately. When disaster strikes, you may have to be able to survive on your own for 72 hours or more without access to power, food, water, or transportation. Everyone must be prepared to be

their own emergency manager. Our goal is to help you understand how to help yourself.

At Ready.gov you can find all the tools you need to plan for disasters. The first step they walk you through is how to make an emergency plan, where to sign up for alerts and warnings, talk about insurance coverage, and how to financially plan for a disaster. The next step, they will give you the opportunity to learn the skills you need to help yourself and others until help can arrive. They offer "Until Help Arrives" online training, information about utility safety and how to help your neighbors. Research shows that 46 percent of individuals expect to rely a great deal on people in their neighborhood for assistance within the first 72 hours after a disaster. How great would it be if all your neighbors had a plan for their families and a plan to help each other?

The last steps, Ready.gov will give you the tools to practice and



build your plans and address local community resources to look for. In addition to online information, they also offer free publications that can be mailed to you.

Your plan is just one part of a much larger picture. Law enforcement is a first response but there are many others entities that get involved from the city, county, state, and federal government when a disaster strikes. We all need to do our part and work together so there is not weak link in the chain. Being prepared may not prevent a disaster, but it will give you the confidence to meet the challenge.

Log on to www.ready.gov today and start creating your disaster plan.

Source: Ready.gov

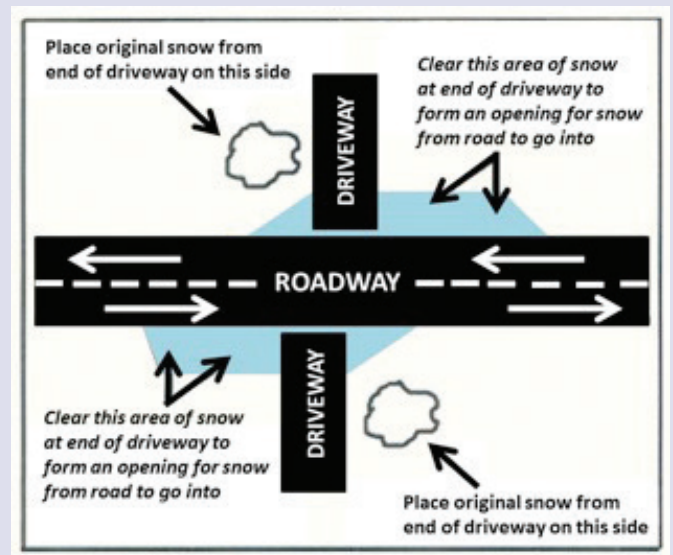
Snow is coming!

Our Public Works staff maintains over 120 miles of city streets. Please keep the following things in mind this winter:

When streets are covered with snow, it can be very difficult for snowplow operators to determine the edge of the road. Staking the curb/edge of the road with wood laths or fiberglass poles enables the operator to locate the edge of the road during the first or second snowfall. These markings are intended to be used as a guide for the plow operator, not as a fence protector along property. The city is not responsible for damaged sod/landscaping or damage to the wood laths or fiberglass markers.

This is the responsibility of the property owner.

Many homeowners install sprinkler systems and place the sprinkler heads in the road right-of-way (along the curb) when installing the system. The city is not responsible to repair or replace any sprinkler head in the road right-of-way that is damaged during the snowplowing operations. Since the sprinkler head is placed in the easement it is the property owner's responsibility to repair if damaged.



Do not plow, shovel, or blow snow onto or across any public street according to the Minnesota State Statue #160.27.

Website

www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

City Hall**General Information**19900 Nightingale Street NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011

Phone: 763-404-7000

Fax: 763-404-7001

Monday-Friday except holidays
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**Anoka County
Sheriff's Office**(Police non-emergency)
763-427-1212**Fire & Police Emergency**
911**CITY STAFF DIRECTORY**

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| City Administrator | Loren Wickham | 763-404-7075 |
| Interim City Clerk | Katie Ostendorf | 763-404-7006 |
| Building Official | Andy Schreder/Rum River Const. | 763-367-7844 |
| Account Specialist | Lisa Hart | 763-404-7022 |
| Public Works Director | Tim Smith | 763-434-1441 |

CITY COUNCIL

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Mayor | Mark Korin | 763-753-7389 |
| Council Member | Scott Lawrence | 763-753-8069 |
| Council Member | Mike Wylie | 612-845-5103 |
| Council Member | Dan Denno | 763-443-4729 |
| Council Member | Paul Tradewell | 612-910-7577 |

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| City Council | Second and last Mondays | 7:00 p.m. |
| Planning Commission | Third Thursday | 7:00 p.m. |
| Parks Commission | Third Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. |

**Interim City Clerk
announced**

The City Council appointed Katie Ostendorf as the Interim City Clerk on September 11, 2017. Katie was previously an office manager for a construction company in East Bethel, and started at City Hall part-time in June as an administrative assistant.

Katie and her husband Jacob live in Oak Grove and have a small hobby farm of rescue animals. She enjoys the outdoors, hiking with her dogs and spending time with her family.

Welcome aboard, Katie!

Oak Grove Accepts Credit Card Payments

Credit card payments online, at City Hall or via telephone

Oak Grove offers the convenience of accepting MasterCard, Discover, American Express and Visa credit cards for building permits.

The payment processing company charges a service fee of 2.65% or \$3.00 minimum to cardholders who use this service.



Just stop by our office or give us a call at 763-404-7000 to use your MasterCard, Discover Card, American Express or Visa.

New building official office hours and site inspections

Office hours: Monday mornings, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
and Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Site inspections:
Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Contact Andy Schreder, building official,
by email at andy@rumrivercc.com or
by phone at 763-291-3704

