



Mayor's Column

By Dan Denno

I hope everyone is having just a fantastic summer. I am looking forward to Highway 13 being resurfaced by the county, since I drive it every day. The bridge for Cedar Creek will be in for the school buses, I am told. Although it's not really a bridge, it is just two huge concrete culverts with the road built over them. Then later this summer the county will resurface Highway 9. This fall we will be doing work on the sewer connection between The Ponds and St. Francis. There will be a new turn lane installed on east bound 221st to go south on Nightingale. We will also be doing some resurfacing of some of our streets the second half of the summer. I am curious as to your reactions to the newly designed intersection at Highway 65 and Viking Boulevard. We have had some new developments brought to the city and two of them will be quite visible. One is right next to St. Patrick Church and the other one is right across the highway from Back to the SRO Bar & Grill.

This will always be the year of the hawk for my wife and I. When we built our house here 40 years ago, we had a huge triple trunk oak tree in our front yard. At that time, it must have been well over a hundred years old. My wife would always say, "I'll just be sick if that tree dies." Over the years branches started to die and fall, and then two years ago it caught the deathly oak wilt and died. This year a hawk decided to build a nest in that tree and had three chicks. So, for the last two months we really have been unable to enjoy our patio and garden in front of our house. Every time we would go out there we would be dive bombed by mother hawk. The chicks are finally flying and not in the nest anymore, so hopefully the mother will give up her protective attitude towards our front yard. It sort of reminds me of some government organizations. They sit and wait to see if someone is going to do something they don't like and then they swoop down and dive bomb you. Case in point is Dunedin, Florida (Google it). One woman there had a dirty pool and overgrown grass. She ended up getting fined \$103,559.31. I don't know what difference the dirty pool made to the city, unless they were trying to sneak in a swim at her house. These are cities that hire fulltime code enforcement officers to go around and give people

citations for not following ordinances, whether the issue was concerning anyone else or not. On the other end of the spectrum are cities like Oak Grove. We have always felt that if no one is bothered enough by somebody's actions to go to the effort of filing a complaint, then we weren't going to bother that person either. That being said, if someone does make a complaint, then it is up to the person in violation of the ordinance to correct the issue. Summer is usually when we get complaints because people are outside of their houses and more aware of things outside their own yards.

Even though we only act when we get a complaint, we do have to act on a complaint. When that happens the person who is in violation of the ordinance will either realize they should change and do so, or they take the attitude that it's their property and they can do what they want. Out here we all have some of that attitude, but we need to temper it with the acknowledgement that we can't encroach on others rights either. We all have to live together and we are all supposed to be able to enjoy our property.

In certain situations the city has to take someone to court because of an unwillingness to conform to ordinances. When this happens everybody loses. The City loses because of all the court costs, all the residents lose because it is their money being spent on the court costs, and the person being taken to court loses, because it almost always is found in favor of the City's ordinances.

As I mentioned, most everyone that lives in Oak Grove has an independent spirit and feels that they should be able to do what they want on their property, but let's not forget that we can't totally dismiss the way that our actions may be affecting our neighbors. On the other hand, lets not forget that we too want to do things on our property the way that we want to, so if what our neighbor is doing is not really affecting our enjoyment, maybe we could be a little forgiving. We always hear the statement, "I wish they would have just talked to me about it." Most of us don't do things on purpose to aggravate other people. Usually we are unaware of how our actions are affecting other people or we hope other people are not affected. When we find out they do bother other people, it is usually no big deal to change our actions. And if talking to your neighbor about it doesn't help, there are meditation services in the county that are available at a low cost. In my mind I would rather try those two remedies before calling the city in on the problem. Just some food for thought.

Have a great rest of your summer.

Mediation services available to resolve disputes

Five years ago in New Brighton an angry guy killed his neighbor in the worst-case scenario for those involved in conflict resolution. The lingering question is whether it could have been avoided if the two parties had tried to work out their differences early on.

At Mediation and Restorative Services, every day the phone rings with someone seeking help. It may be a neighborhood dispute, a family feud or a referral from a city or police department in Anoka County. The dispute is the biggest thing in the world to the parties involved: They are angry, frustrated and searching for a solution that often needs outside help.



According to Money Magazine, a survey by State Farm Insurance and Harris Interactive found that 60 percent of Americans have a pet peeve with someone who lives nearby. It can be a difference in culture or lifestyle, a barking dog, a boundary line dispute, kids running through their yard and gardens or a longstanding grudge. It can build and build, ruining the sense of community within our cities. You know the situation — you may be in one right now!

And that's where Mediation Service's 40 volunteer mediators and their free community mediations come in. For over 30 years they have provided well-trained, neutral third-party mediators that can help facilitate and guide the much-needed discussion. Not every situation results in a happy ending, but often just having the opportunity to air their grievances in a safe and neutral setting can help both

parties begin to understand that things need to change.

So what do you do if you want to resolve your dispute?

- Stay calm when discussing the situation with the other party. Try to describe how the situation makes you feel as specifically as possible so they can understand why something bothers you. But skip the blaming and inflammatory language that will just upset the other party.
- Be prepared to respect the other party's response. Listen to them carefully — don't just use that time to be preparing your next verbal volley. Find out what is important to them and figure that into a solution.
- After both parties have made their case without interruption, look for any areas where you may agree, and build on them. Be thinking about what changes you can make in your own behavior, because often both parties need to "give" a little.
- Keep the conversation focused on today and the future, not the past. Propose reasonable solutions that meet your interests and theirs.
- Even if you don't reach an agreement, thank the other party for their time, and say that you both need to continue working on this issue.

Disputes happen within a neighborhood, between communities, or within a family—they really can't be totally avoided. But that tension doesn't need to result in permanent damage. If handled properly there is an opportunity to discuss and work through differences, to settle the dispute and to move forward.

For more information on how to resolve disputes, visit **Mediation Services for Anoka County at www.mediationservice.org**.

Planning Commissioner Wanted

The Oak Grove Planning Commission currently has an opening for a Planning Commissioner. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing and commenting on land use applications such as Preliminary Plats, Re-zoning, Variances, Interim Use Permits, etc. Planning Commissioners attend monthly meetings, become familiar with City Code, hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the matters it has considered. The terms for the open position runs through the end of the year, and may be reappointed for a three year term ending in December 2022.

Applications are available at City Hall or online at www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us.

Burning Permits

Burning permits for brush fires are required for any fire larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. Permits are free and available at City Hall during regular office hours and anytime at www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us. Remember, open burning is only permitted for clean brush originating onsite. Open burning is only allowed between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. All fires must be attended.



REMINDER: If you have a question as to whether or not permits are allowed, please check the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website map as it is updated daily.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html

City Administrator's Updates

Loren Wickham CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Met Council Population Estimates

The Metropolitan Council released preliminary population estimates for Oak Grove as of April 1, 2018. The Metropolitan Council estimates that the City of Oak Grove had 8,689 people and 3,011 households as of April 1, 2018. These estimates are up from 8,582 people and 2,938 households from 2017. The population growth in Oak Grove 2010-2018 is estimated at an additional 658 people and 267 households.

Residential Growth & New Construction

The City of Oak Grove continues to see strong demand for its large rural residential lots. Since 2016 the City has approved over 150 single-family lots. Recent subdivisions include Rum River Ridge, Woods of Lake George, The Sanctuary of Oak Grove, Serenity Cove, Stewart Acres 2nd Addition, Applewood Cove, Collins Corner and Westside Second and Third Additions. More information about these developments, including the location and contact information is available on the front page of the City's website: www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us. New home construction is also increasing. Since 2016, more than 170 new homes have been constructed in the City.



2019 Night to Unite Neighborhood Get Togethers

Night to Unite was celebrated in many neighborhoods in Oak Grove on Tuesday, August 6. This year nine neighborhood get-togethers were registered in Oak Grove. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office,

Oak Grove Fire Department and Oak Grove City Council members attended many of the get-togethers this year. The annual event is held each year on the first Tuesday in August. The event encourages neighbors to spend the evening getting acquainted with each other and talk about what is going on. This helps get residents involved in crime prevention efforts in their city and improve their quality of life. For more information on the annual event or if you think you might want to host a get-together next year visit: www.anokacounty.us/1979/Night-to-Unite

City Council Meetings

Z Systems recently installed a new digital video system for recording and broadcasting City Council and Commission meetings. Click on the City Meetings tab on the City website to watch a meeting live or to view an archived meeting at your convenience. Residents will notice an improvement in the audio and video quality of the meetings.



Fall Fun in Oak Grove

There are upcoming fun family-friendly events in Oak Grove this fall. Remick's Orchard and Pumpkin Patch at 18978 Lake George Boulevard NW has weekend events including duck races, apple and pumpkin picking, starting September 7-8. For more information, go to www.remicksorchard.com.

St. Patrick's Church at 19921 Nightingale Street NW has its annual County Fest September 6-9. Activities this year include a Ribfest contest, 5k Walk/Run, fireworks display and more. For more information, go to www.st-patricks.org/countryfest.

2019 Anoka County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office will be hosting its 2019 Citizens' Academy on Wednesday evenings September 11-October 23, 6:00-9:00 p.m. The Citizen's Academy is an interactive course with the goal of developing positive community relationships and exposing participants to information and experiences that demonstrate Sheriff's Office operations.

The staff of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office are looking forward to working with and getting to know citizens outside of their normal law enforcement work environment in order to make Anoka County a better place to live and work.

If you are willing to make the seven-week commitment and become more involved in your community, please consider being part of the 2019 Anoka County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy.

Those wishing to participate in the academy must be an Anoka County resident and be willing to make the commitment to attend all seven sessions. Interested individuals should contact Lt. Dan Douglas at daniel.douglas@co.anoka.mn.us or Lt. Andy Knotz at andy.knotz@co.anoka.mn.us or by calling 763-324-5004.

Oak Grove Lions Club

Where there is a need there is a Lion's Club.



The Lions Club has been active in Oak Grove since 1982. The Club currently organizes the annual spring and fall ditch clean-up, French Toast Breakfast and Meet the Candidates Forum. The Club also collects eye glasses, ink cartridges, hearing aids and cell phones with collection boxes at City Hall. New ideas and members are always welcome. If interested, Oak Grove Lions meet at Oak Grove City Hall at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meeting dates are August 20 and September 17.

PUBLIC alert

Sign up today for Oak Grove’s new public alert system. Alerts can be received as an automated SMS text message, email, or phone call. You don’t have to have a mobile phone to utilize this service. This service can be used to notify residents of important information include: Planned detours/road maintenance, burning restrictions, road closures, hydrant flushing, imminent threats to the public, wildland fires and community events like Recycling Day. We won’t immediately use it for weather-related events such as tornadoes, but we may in the future. To sign up look for the Public Alert logo on the front page of the City’s website.



The City of Oak Grove values its local businesses!

To support and promote the success of commercial, industrial, and home-based businesses in our community, the City has launched a “local business directory” page on its website. To see a list of Oak Grove business, or if you would like to have your home-based business listed on the City’s Local Business Directory page, please visit the city’s website at www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us/business.



Rum River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load

The Rum River connects Mille Lacs Lake to the Mississippi River. It is one of our community’s great amenities. Portions of the river, including the section traveling through Oak Grove, was added to the Minnesota’s Wild and Scenic Rivers program in 1978. To help protect the river, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study was completed for impaired waterbodies of the Rum River watershed.

The study addresses five river/stream-reach bacteria impairments, one river/stream-reach dissolved oxygen (DO) impairment, and eleven lake nutrient impairments. The goal of this TMDL is to quantify the pollutant reductions needed to meet the state water quality standards for DO, bacteria (E. coli), and nutrients (phosphorus [P]) for impaired streams and lakes located in the Rum River Watershed (RRW).

The City of Oak Grove has a number of water bodies that are on the Minnesota’s Pollution Control Agency’s Impaired Waters List including:

Waterbody	Pollutant or Stressor
Rum River – Seelye Brook to Cedar Creek	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Rum River – Stanchfield to Seelye Brook	Mercury in Fish Tissue
Cedar Creek – Headwaters to Rum River	E. Coli
Seelye Brook – Headwaters to Rum River	E. Coli
Mahoney Brook – T33 R23 S34, South line to Cedar Creek	Fish Bioassessment
Lake George	Mercury in Fish Tissue

For more information on this topic can be found at www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw8-56e.pdf

With a goal of improving our water resources, the City of Oak Grove is in the process of updating their Local Surface Water Management Plan. The City of Oak Grove is also a member of the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO). Other members include the Cities of St. Francis, Nowthen, Bethel, and portions of East Bethel and Ham Lake. This organization seeks to maintain the quality of area lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and other water resources across municipal boundaries. Work of the URRWMO is guided by its 10-year Watershed Management Plan. That plan can be found visiting <http://urrwmo.org/>.

Wellhead Protection



Supply Management Area (DWSMA) is established. Below is the DWSMA for the Lake George municipal water supply well that serves a number of residents and a senior housing complex. This diagram shows the geographic area where contaminant source controls are needed to protect the public well.



Anoka County Construction Project Update

Lake George Boulevard NW (CSAH 9) Reclaim from Viking Boulevard NW to St. Francis.

Reclaim existing paved surface and replace with new bituminous surfacing.

Tentative start date is September 1, 2019.

For more information visit www.anokacounty.us/1578/Construction-Weekly

Ground water is recharged drop by drop by precipitation that infiltrates into the ground. An important step in understanding how to prevent contaminants from reaching a public water supply well is understanding where the ground water comes from and how susceptible that water supply is to contamination. The area that contributes water to a public well is called the Wellhead Protection Area. The size of this area is based on the distance the water will travel underground in ten years. This is called the ten-year time of travel. This is the minimum required size for a Wellhead Protection Area. By defining this area, wellhead protection is focused on the land uses that are most likely to have an impact on the quality of the water supplying the well and contaminants that could have a long-term effect on the health of the people consuming the water.

1. The criteria used to determine the extent of the Wellhead Protection Area are:
 - a. The amount of water pumped daily from the well based on a five-year average.

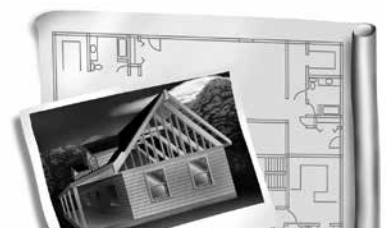
- b. Wells which pump a larger volume of water draw water from a larger area, so the Wellhead Protection Area will be larger.
2. The ability of the ground water aquifer to yield water to the well. The characteristics of the material the water moves through determine how fast it can move and how far it moves to replace the water that was pumped out of the ground. This is determined from pumping tests evaluated by hydrogeologists from the MN Department of Health or hired by the water supplier.
3. The direction of the ground water flow. This is determined from water levels in wells in the area surrounding the public water supply well that draw water from the same aquifer.
4. The rate of ground water flow to a well. The presence of rivers, wetlands, or lakes, changes in the geology, or nearby wells pumping large quantities of water can all affect the rate of flow.

Once a Wellhead Protection Area is determined, a Drinking Water

Building Department Inquires

Submit permit applications to: Permits@rumrivercc.com

For inspections or general questions contact Brant Schreder at Brant@rumrivercc.com or call 763-458-3704.





19900 Nightingale Street NW
 Oak Grove, MN 55011
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

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Website
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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 Council

Mayor	Dan Denno.....	763-443-4729
Council Member	Scott Lawrence.....	763-228-0222
Council Member	Paul Tradewell.....	612-910-7577
Council Member	John West.....	763-250-1740
Council Member	Weston Rolf.....	612-385-4036

City Staff Directory

City Administrator	Loren Wickham.....	763-404-7075
City Clerk	Kathy Nielsen.....	763-404-7007
Building Official	Andy Schreder/Rum River Const. ..	763-291-3704
Account Specialist	Lisa Hart.....	763-404-7022
Public Works Director	Tim Smith.....	763-434-1441

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.

