



Mayor's Winter 2018 Newsletter *By Mark Korin*

Is there anybody out there? Does anybody care? No, I'm not talking about a Pink Floyd song. Are we all so busy in our personal lives that we are just focused on only what's directly in front of us? Has the world changed and become so fast paced that we go from work, kids, chores, catastrophes, weekend traveling to just start all over again on Monday? Does it matter? What, you wonder? Let's start with me bringing you up to speed. A few weeks back we had a wrap up meeting for the Oak Grove Acorn Day festival. Less than 12 people came. Of those twelve people, honestly, four or five do ninety percent of the planning, researching, organizing, scheduling, preparation and daily follow through to bring a one day

event into fruition. These handful of volunteers sacrifice many hours of their personal and family time, desires and commitments for this one event, Acorn Day. Discussions at this meeting revealed the hard honest truth. **Is it worth it?** Members said they're simply wore out, tired because to do this right, planning takes a lot of time while others expressed family or health issues and other commitments take priority. After the past four years nothing's changed, really new or exciting for the event. I think something huge, the glaring big elephant **NOT** in the room? Where are all the interested people that we need to help and pitch in, to offload some of the chores and tasks that must get done way before the date of the festival? The real eye opening and solemn question that was asked, has it come time to rethink the genuine interest for this kind of community event? As we were told in the meeting, other cities are thinking the same thing, reducing the size, scope and length of their events. Some cities, after decades of continual decline in volunteers and noticeable reduction of attendance they are realizing the inevitable, time to close the doors, turn off the lights and shut it down. I remember talking to my wife about the meeting, sharing everyone's sediments, frustrations and concerns. She said something interesting.... **Times are different now**.... It's hard to get people interested to even volunteer at their church and other charitable organizations. I see a reduction in political action meeting attendance and very few come to watch any city meetings. Maybe it's because there are so many venues to choose from that add to the fast paced personal and family time or maybe it all boils down to a lack of any spare time. I can tell you, running a business, being your Mayor, dealing with aging parents, home maintenance and family life, adding the chair of the Acorn Day festival might just be "**the straw that breaks the camel's back**". I loved seeing all the kids' happy faces when they jump into the hay wagon during the Mayors hay wagon rides, but even the hay wagon preparation, setting up the sound system and being the emcee is challenging for me and only a tiny part of the entire event involvement. The direction and the consensus of **ALL** committee members that night was very clear; have one final meeting.... **Oak Grove Acorn day meeting FEBUARY 22, 2018 at 7:00PM at the City Hall chambers..... There must be a rejuvenated interest with a significant number of NEW members committed to the work and develop and new plan for Acorn Day.** Even if you can't be at the meeting but are committed to the Acorn day festival, contact the City offices, contact me directly at: markk@markkorin.com I hope to see or hear from those interested in becoming Acorn Day committee volunteers.
TO BE CONTINUED.....

City Administrator's Update

By Loren Wickham
OAK GROVE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

An opportunity to serve — 2018 primary and general election judges wanted

Serving as an election judge is an excellent way to get involved in your community. Judges will learn election procedures and help administer elections in a fair manner. Election judges are an essential part of our democracy. If you are interested in serving as an election judge, please contact the City Clerk at 763-404-7000 or visit www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us for more information.

Park Commissioner Wanted

There is an opening on the Park Commission. The Park Commission is an advisory commission that reviews and makes recommendations on park and recreation policies to the City Council. Applications are available on the City's website or at City Hall. Please return completed applications to Katie Ostendorf by March 2, 2018.

Oak Grove Council Approves Special Law



On December 11, 2017, The Oak Grove City Council approved Resolution 17-125 approving the Special Law enacted and signed by the Governor. The Special Law overrides a previous Metropolitan Council land use designation of over 2,000 acres of land in the southeast corner of the city. This area was restricted to minimum 10-acre lots and will now allow for 2.5-acre lots. Pictured are Oak Grove City Council (L-R) Dan Denno, Scott Lawrence, Mayor Mark Korin, Mike Wylie and Paul Tradewell.

What is the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization and what do they do?

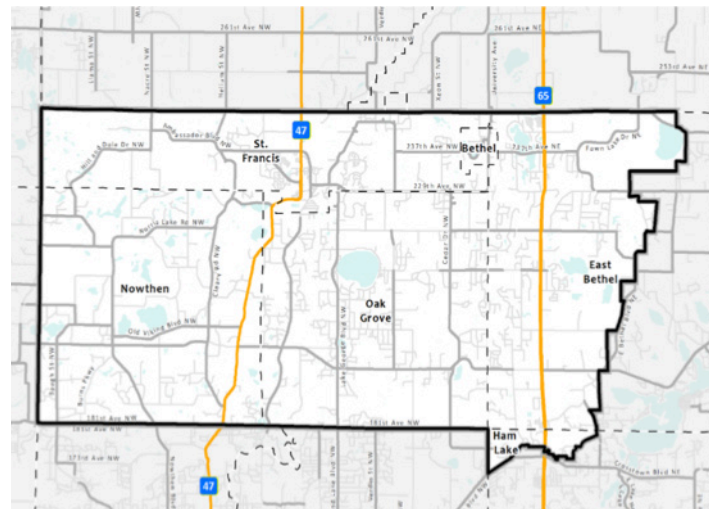
The Upper Rum River Watershed is comprised of all or part of six cities in Anoka County, including all of Oak Grove. The WMO is governed by a Board that is comprised of two members appointed from each community by their respective City Councils. Oak Grove's current representatives are Dan Denno and John West. Dan Denno is the current chairman of the URRWMO and an Oak Grove City Council Member.

The purpose of WMOs is set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.201, Metropolitan Surface Water Planning, which codified the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems
2. Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management
5. Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems
6. Promote groundwater recharge
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and

8. Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.

To get involved or learn more about the organization, please visit their website at www.urrwmo.org, attend a future meeting, or contact City Hall. Meeting dates are listed on the website. Everyone is welcome. On the website you can also review their draft 10-year plan update.



2018 City of Oak Grove Summary Budget Data

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2018 budget information concerning the City of Oak Grove to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 471.6965. This budget is in summary form: the complete budget may be examined at Oak Grove City Hall, 19900 Nightingale Street Northwest, Oak Grove, MN 55011. The city council approved this budget on November 27, 2017.

Governmental Funds 2018 Adopted Budget

Budgeted Governmental Funds (General and EDA)	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
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Revenues		
Property Taxes	1,981,596	2,183,892
Special Assessments	13,000	-
Licenses and Permits	134,500	164,500
Intergovernmental Revenues	296,959	294,000
Charges for Services	20,575	22,350
Fines and Forfeits	35,000	25,000
Interest on Investments	9,000	13,250
Miscellaneous	9,000	27,000
Other Financing Sources	-	-
Total Revenues	2,499,630	2,729,992

Expenditures		
General Government	719,222	715,750
Public Safety	925,015	988,452
Public Works	523,542	510,134
Culture and Recreation	74,189	76,479
Conservation of Natural Resources	13,900	10,360
Economic Development	13,519	14,400
Streets and Highway Construction	115,000	120,000
Capital Outlay	47,500	60,000
Transfers to Other Funds	200,000	300,000
Miscellaneous	5,000	5,000
Total Current Expenditures	2,636,887	2,800,575

Save the date: April 28 is Spring Recycle Day

With spring in mind, please take the time to dig into your garages, closets, accessory buildings and yards to prepare for the Pride in Oak Grove Spring Recycle Day on Saturday, April 28. Recycle day is held at the Public Works

garage from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The Public Works Garage is located at 815 Viking Boulevard.

Recycle tires, appliances, electronics, scrap metal, and fluorescent bulbs. Paper shredding will be available to shred

your confidential or miscellaneous documents. Tree seedlings will be available for all recyclers.

For more information please contact City Hall.



French Toast Breakfast

Saturday, April 15
8:00 a.m.–Noon
Oak Grove Senior Center
19900 Nightingale Street NW



The 13th Annual French Toast Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at Oak Grove Senior Center, 19900 Nightingale St. N.W. from 8:00 a.m.-noon. This event is sponsored by the Oak Grove Lions Club. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to helping area youth groups. Ticket prices are: Adults: \$6, Children (12 & under) \$4, and Family \$20. The Oak Grove Seniors will also be having a bake sale at this event. If your youth group is interested in participating or you are interested in finding out more about the Lions or becoming a member please contact Lion Meghan T. 763-753-0056, Lion Mark S. at 763-753-2215 or email Lion Cheryl at bluesage51@gmail.com.



Mark your calendar: Pet Clinic

Saturday, April 21, 2018
9:00 a.m.–Noon
Oak Grove Fire Station #1
19900 Nightingale Street NW

Get involved with wellhead protection!

Ground water often moves very slowly. Once it is contaminated, it may remain so for a long time, and it is difficult and expensive to locate and remove the contamination. It may require decades of treatment before the water is restored to drinking water quality. In some cases, the contamination may never be completely removed.

Every well is different in degree of contamination risk. If there is a protective layer of soil or rock

between the surface and the aquifer from which your water is drawn, there is a better chance there will be no contamination in the aquifer. Even if a good, protective confining layer exists, contamination can occur if there are "leaks" in the layer. Leaks may be in the form of rock crevices or improperly constructed wells. Water also moves naturally, although very slowly, down through the confining layers. Therefore, contaminants should be dealt with at the surface so

they don't have a chance to enter your drinking water supply.

If everyone becomes aware of contaminants and deals with them properly, our water can remain drinkable for years to come. Here are a few things you can do to help keep hazardous wastes out of our aquifers:

- read product labels to identify what is hazardous
- purchase fewer hazardous materials,

choose the least toxic product, and consider changing business/household practices to avoid producing hazardous wastes

- reduce, reuse, and recycle garbage and hazardous wastes
- manage hazardous wastes responsibly--use, store, and dispose of properly

SOURCE:

Minnesota Rural Water

Lost pet?

Sheriff James Stuart
ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

It's every pet parent's nightmare: Your pet has gotten out and you don't know where they are. Don't panic. There are steps you can take to help locate your pet. Being a responsible pet owner, along with swift action and networking, will increase the odds of quickly returning your furry friend back to your home. The key is to quickly get the word out to as many people in as many places as possible.

Not everyone who loses, or finds, a pet handles the situation the same way. Below are suggestions on how our office, and the ASPCA, suggest handling the situation:

- If you find a pet and have it in your custody, call 911 and report it. Deputies will give you information on contacting your local animal control agency and will complete a "found pet" report.
- If your pet is lost, call 9-1-1. Dispatchers will notify a Deputy, who will then gather the details and complete a "lost pet" report.
- Alert your neighbors. Knock on doors and ask them to keep an eye out. Also make sure they have your cell number.

- Call your local animal control agency. If the animal control agency does not have your pet, reach out to local vets, animal shelters, or rescue groups. Continue to check with these organizations regularly. Do not rely on them to contact you.
- Get on your social media networks and share photos of your pet along with the situation. Give details about where your pet was lost and how to contact you.
- Create a "Lost Pet" flyer that will stand out and get noticed. Place it at high-traffic establishments like convenience stores, gas stations, restaurants, dog parks or any local establishments.

Deputies often report that owners have not registered their pets which means their tags and registered contact info is absent for their pets. A tag with an address or phone number may help to reunite you with your pet before animal control gets involved. Deputy Miller stated when he encounters an animal that has a tag, and it includes an address or phone number, he will contact the owner and in some cases, even transport the pet home.

What a lot of pet owners do not understand is that when a pet is turned over to animal control, whether by a resident or law enforcement, there

are fees that are charged by the agency that need to be paid before your pet is returned. It is very similar to when your car



is impounded; businesses are hired to transport and care for the animal until it can be reunited with its owner. When you pick up your pet, you will need to provide proof of ownership (pictures, vet records, etc.) and a valid ID. Fees can range from \$35 and up. They cover pickup and the first 24 hours of care and will increase each day. If the animal needs veterinary care, is scanned for a microchip, or needs to be quarantined, additional fees will be charged.

In Oak Grove, Dover Kennel is the Animal Control Agency that is used. They are located at 16422 Hanson Blvd NW, in Andover, and can be reached by calling 763-434-7332.

The goal is to reunite you with your pet. By planning and following these suggestions, we hope to make that happen a little quicker. For information on Apps you can download, or programs that are available for lost pets, check out the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) website www.asPCA.org.

News from the Oak Grove Fire Department & Auxiliary

Curt Hallerman
OAK GROVE FIRE CHIEF

On January 13 the Oak Grove Fire Auxiliary hosted an appreciation dinner for current and past members including retirees. The event took place at Hidden Haven Country Club.

Fire Chief Curt Hallermann provided a year-in-review summary, noting that the department had responded to 198 calls in 2017. A majority of these calls are summarized as fire calls, good intent calls, hazardous condition, rescue, false alarms and service calls. This number is slightly up from year past. In 2016 the department responded to 173 calls. This is about a 15 percent increase from the year prior. This increase demand seems to be mainly be seen in an increased number of call for medical response. The chief noted a significant change in the past two years for rescue response calls noting that in 2015 there were only 23 rescue calls. In 2016 there were 44 calls for rescue and in 2017 this increased to 53 calls — over double the amount from two years prior.

Chief Hallermann also recognized his current officers: Assistant Chief Rob Engler, Captains Wayne McNally and Steve Pelton, Lieutenants Adam Johnson, Todd Torson, Nathan Johnson and Steve Leider and Training Officer Matt Powers.

Recognition was given to firefighters reaching a service milestone. Assistant Chief Rob Engler presented the following firefighters with service pins:

- Sandy Perala 5 years
- Curt Hallermann 15 years
- Steve Leider..... 20 years
- Bill Ktytor 30 years

Chief Hallermann then presented the Firefighter of the Year Award. This award is given to one firefighter per year for outstanding service, effort and time dedicated to the department. Peer nominations are reviewed by the senior officers and awarded to the most worthy candidate of that year. This year was

interesting as many suggestions were submitted and reviewed. The decision was narrowed to two candidates. With no solid agreement it was decided the department would present both candidates, Andy Winiecki and Tom Hackbarth, with the award. Andy was nominated for his work on the recognition committee for getting photos placed at both stations, working on many community events and other activities. Tom was nominated for his help in fire prevention activities, fundraising for the pancake breakfast and other activities as well. According to Chief Hallermann, it was too difficult to pin down who was more deserving; they both worked hard and should both be recognized.



Pictured are Oak Grove Firefighter Andy Winiecki, Chief Hallermann and Firefighter Tom Hackbarth

Chief Hallermann also presented Firefighter Jim Stafki with Top Responder Award. This award is given to one fire fighter for responding to most calls throughout the year. Jim responded to 127 out of the 198 calls in 2017. Other people mentioned in this category were Shane Hendricks responding to 109 calls (last year's recipient), Steve Leider responding to 105 calls, Todd Torson responding to 93 calls and Tom Hackbarth responding to 87 calls.

Special recognition was also presented to Blair McCartney. Blair was presented with the Chief's Appreciation Award for her work in helping with the pancake breakfast,



Oak Grover Firefighter Jim Stafki

fire prevention, St. Patrick's event, Acorn Days and the annual dinner. Her hard work is greatly appreciated.

Members of the department would also like to thank the St. Francis Fire Department for covering the City of Oak Grove and handling all fire calls that evening so the entire department could attend the dinner.

Lastly, the City of Oak Grove has a continued need for men and women who are willing to join the fire department on both day and evening shifts. The department is primarily going to focus on filling roles on the west side of the city at Station #2. Oak

Grove Fire Department is a paid on-call department and has no full time staff. Training is provided and there are many benefits to becoming a paid on-call firefighter. If you would like additional information, please contact City Hall at 763-404-7000 to learn more about this opportunity. You will be contacted and given information that will cover the application process, the training that will be required, job expectations and the benefits that come with this exciting position.

In closing your support of the Oak Grove firefighters and this community is as always greatly appreciated.

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.

Building Official Office Hours

The City's Building Official has open office hours Mondays, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m and Wednesdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m. If you have an upcoming building project which may require a permit and inspections, please feel free to contact the Building Official at 763-291-3704 or by email at andy@rumrivercc.com. Informational handouts are also available on the Building Department section of the City's website.

Order native trees and seed

The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) promotes the restoration of native ecosystems by offering native species tree and shrubs for sale. Native plants offered are best suited for Anoka County's conditions and can survive the soils, moisture and climate without needing additional care. They are capable of forming the most complex and resilient ecosystems supporting local wildlife not to mention they are inexpensive.

Preorders are being accepted for the April 28 pick-up at the Anoka County Fair Grounds. The ACD offers a wide variety of native stock, including black cherry trees, mixed oak trees, red maple trees, and white pine trees. The trees and shrubs are sold in bare root seedlings or transplants range from 8" to 24" in height. They may be purchased in bundles of ten for \$17 or twenty-five for \$30 not including tax. Native prairie seed and tree aides are also available. You do not need to be an Anoka County resident to order.

Homeowner education for septic systems*Julie Blomquist*UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION, ANOKA COUNTY

Are you a homeowner? Do you have a septic system? Are you interested in saving money? Would you like to protect your family's environment and the natural environment?

Homeowners wanting to better understand, operate, and maintain their septic systems will want to attend a Homeowner Education for Septic Systems program being presented by the University of Minnesota Extension. You will learn how to keep your septic system operating properly—when to pump, how to protect it from freezing, and more.

This two-hour program will be held Monday, March 12, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Bunker Hills Activities Center, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW in Andover. The cost to attend is \$10. You will receive the University of Minnesota Extension Septic System Owner's Guide at the class.

Pre-registration is required. You can get the flyer and registration form online at <http://z.umn.edu/ssclass>. If you have any questions or to request the flyer and registration form, call the University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County at 763-324-3495. Presentation of this program is partially covered by an Anoka County Ag Preserves Grant and is presented by Valerie Prax, Retired Extension Educator.

