



City of Orono

Winter Newsletter

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Get to Know Your Mayor and Council Members



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Message from the Mayor

Happy New Year & Happy New Decade!!

I hope everyone had a great New Year, a very Merry Christmas and/or holiday season!!

2019 was a great year for Orono with lots of finished projects and great events:

1. We once again finished lots of roads.
2. Orono paid off another \$1,000,000 of old debt.
3. Santa arrived at the 2nd Annual Tree Lighting ceremony at the Orono Golf Course to the cheers of dozens of kids.
4. The transformation of Bederwood Park is almost complete with the new soccer fields getting completed late summer 2020.
5. The Council continued to simplify the code so it is much easier for the public to get stuff done.
6. Technology has brought Orono a new website that is much friendlier.
7. The City Council Chambers have been re-done to make it easier to see the items under discussion and the video will be better to watch from home.
8. We are almost done scanning in the paper documents on all properties in Orono so in the future with 1 click you will be able to review property files online.
9. With the new budget we approved in Dec 2019, we continue to be one of the least taxed cities in all of Hennepin County. All the while making sure we are fully funded for all of our infrastructure & city needs.
10. Our Police Department continues to keep us safe & secure with all the support & technology that they need.
11. The great volunteers at the Fire Department have done great work again in 2019 keeping us safe and always being there when needed.
12. The full City Council affirmed that we will always have the Pledge of Allegiance to start all City Council Meetings!!

2020 will bring lots of items to be on the look for:

1. Lots more roads getting done again!!!
2. Bederwood Park construction will be done.
3. 15/19 intersection re-construction will get underway!!
4. Hennepin County will be replacing Tanager Bridge.
5. \$400,000 improvement project at Big Island (\$200,000 matching grant) will continue to make the Big Island accessible to everyone and will bring bathroom facilities back.
6. We will continue to upgrade & keep all of our Orono park properties looking good.
7. The Summit Beach/ Old Long Lake Road transformation will begin in 2020.

Orono has great volunteers on all of our commissions and committees; which include the Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Code review committee to name a few. If you are interested in getting involved let me know & I would enjoy the opportunity to get you connected. Thank you to all of the awesome people that help our great city continue to be great!!!

I wish everyone a great 2020 spring break & Happy Easter. I look forward to a great and prosperous New Year in 2020 for all!!

If you feel the need to discuss any City issues, I am always open for the opportunity to chat, have coffee, text, email or house visit. It is always gratifying to help work through any issues or problems to their conclusion. We will get a lot of work accomplished for the Citizens and I am always available. My motto is Citizens 1st and that will never change.

Thanks!!

Dennis Walsh
Orono Mayor

City Communications

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

- 95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.
- Almost 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).
- Less than 1% of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

New Meeting Times For City Council And Commissions

All City meetings scheduled for 2020 will begin at 6:00 p.m. This includes City Council, Planning Commission and Park Commission. City Council work sessions will now start at 5:00 p.m.

The official meeting calendar can be found on our website or by visiting:

<https://www.ci.orono.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/1978/2020-Official-Calendar>



Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

What We Will Send in the Mail

On or between / You'll receive:

- March 12–20 An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
- March 16–24 A reminder letter.

If you haven't responded yet:

- March 26–April 3 A reminder postcard.
- April 8–16 A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
- April 20–27 A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail. Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire. It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

Notice Of Changes For 2020 – Utility Bills



City of Orono is implementing changes to your utility bills with the New Year.

1. Effective February 1st, 2020, all credit card transactions will be charged a convenience fee of 2.75%. Alternative payment methods free of charge includes cash, check or ACH direct deposit.
2. Effective April 2020, Water and Sewer customers will be billed on a monthly basis and Septic customers will be billed on a quarterly basis.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 952-249-4600.



Combined One-Day Spring Cleanup
E-Waste Recycling & Construction Debris

Save the Date; Saturday April 25, 2020

Watch for more information
on the City Website, Facebook Page and in the Spring Newsletter.



Elections

Presidential Nomination Primary Election FAQ's

When is the Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) Election?

Tuesday, March 3, 2020
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What is a presidential nominal primary election?

A type of primary in which only presidential candidates are nominated. The last Minnesota PNP was in 1992. A law passed in 2016 to bring PNP back; with first set for 2020.

Will all parties participate in the presidential nomination primary?

No, only major parties will participate.

Will all parties be on the same ballot?

No, each major party will have a separate ballot.

How will I be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary?

Registered voters will be able to vote at their polling place on presidential primary day or by absentee ballot in the 46 days before presidential primary day (starting January 17, 2020). A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.

Who decides which candidates will appear on a party's ballot?

The chair of each party will submit a list of candidates for the party's ballot no later than 63 days before the date of the presidential primary (December 31, 2019).

What if a candidate drops out before the primary?

Once a party's list is submitted, changes will not be made to candidates that will appear on the ballot.

Will there be a place to write in a choice or vote for "uncommitted"?

Only if it is requested by the party chair. Party chairs will need to submit names of write-in candidates to be counted seven days before the primary.

Will any other offices be on the ballot?

No, only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. Other offices with a primary will be on the primary ballot in August.

Will other people know which party's ballot I request?

A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Will parties have to abide by the primary results?

The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Who will pay for the presidential nomination primary?

County and municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for the primary costs.

How much will the primary cost?

The Office of Secretary of State surveyed all 87 Minnesota Counties and, based on that survey, estimates that the cost to administer the Presidential Nomination Primary will be \$11.9 million. The Secretary of State has certified this estimate to the Commissioner of Management and Budget. Counties and municipalities will be reimbursed for their costs of administering the Presidential Nomination Primary following the election.

Will there still be precinct caucuses?

Yes, **precinct caucuses** and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business.

Am I Registered to Vote?

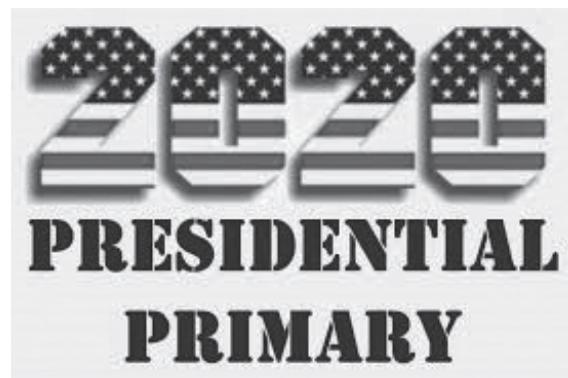
Visit this Secretary of State Website link to find out: <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>

Where Do I Vote On Election Day?

You may vote between 7:00 am and 8:00 pm at your polling location. To verify your polling location visit this Secretary of State Website link to find out: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> or call City Hall at (952) 249-4600

Polling Locations in Orono:

Precinct 1 – Long Lake Fire Station, 340 Willow Drive North
Precinct 2 – Good Shepherd Luther Church, 3745 Shoreline Drive
Precinct 3A – Calvary Memorial Church, 2420 Dunwoody Avenue
Precinct 4A – Orono Council Chambers, 2780 Kelley Parkway



Vote early through March 2, 2020 for 2020 PNP Election

All eligible voters in Hennepin County can vote absentee—either in-person or by mail.

Vote early in person

Voters who live anywhere in Hennepin County can in-person absentee vote at the Hennepin County Government Center – 300 S. Sixth Street, Minneapolis – skyway level. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In-person absentee voting is also available at Orono City Hall located at 2750 Kelley Parkway. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Orono Public Safety

See Something, Say Something

Local law enforcement is seeing an uptick in methamphetamine use. This is happening for several reasons. Those reasons include much lower cost of methamphetamine, increased regulation of opioids and overall awareness of opioid risk. However, we are still having heroin related overdoses. It does appear heroin use is diminishing in our area at the cost of increased methamphetamine use. The Orono Police Department asks that if you see something, say something. The Orono Police Department is an active participant in the West Metro Drug Task Force, with one officer assigned to enforce drug crimes. Your tips are critical to enforcement success

Crime Prevention

A reminder that garage burglaries and thefts from motor vehicles are still a common problem. Generally, the victimization can be mitigated through basic proactive measures of locking your vehicles, homes and garages. Don't leave items of value inside your vehicle and certainly not in plain sight. Again, if you see something, say something. Please call the police at the time it is happening.

Our residents are still frequently falling victim to scammers. The moral of the story is, if it seems too good to be true, it is. Most scams involve the victim being promised something in exchange for money. The scammer will want a relatively small sum of money sent to make the bigger transaction happen for the victim. The scammer will then continue the ruse getting more assets, oftentimes gift cards, personal identification and bank/credit information. Please spread the word and keep an eye on any vulnerable adults in your life as this population seems more likely to become a victim.

Vote early by mail

Voters must fill out an application online or on paper to receive a ballot. Paper applications are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, Lao, Oromo, Khmer and Amharic.

Voters do not need to be registered to vote to apply to vote absentee. To make the process easier, voters may want to register or ensure you are registered before applying for an absentee ballot. Voter registration applications are available online and at Orono City Hall.

Completed ballots must be received on or before Election Day, November 6. Voters can return ballots by mail or in person.

For more information about ways to vote early and how to register to vote, visit the Hennepin County website link provided below: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>



Placing Snow or Ice in a Roadway

It is a misdemeanor for any person, not acting under a specific contract with the city or without special permission from the city, to remove snow or ice from private property and place it in the roadway of any street or private road.

Numbering of Houses and Buildings

Please make it easier for emergency services personnel to find your home, place your house numbers conspicuously on the street side of your home and also on both sides of your mailbox. Not only is it the city ordinance, but makes it much easier for people to find your home when it matters most. Also, keep in mind that the numbers should be easy to see at night and during snow and rain.

Lights On Program

Orono PD is now part of the Lights on Program. The 'Lights On! Minnesota' program, launched by Microgrants, is a Minneapolis-based non-profit, that not only cut drivers a break but also helps them make proper repair by giving them a voucher to get it fixed for free.

When an officer makes a stop due to a headlight or tail light burned out instead of a citation a voucher can be given to the driver to have them go to a participating service station for a free bulb replacement. Drivers can go online to find the closest participating service station.

2020 BUDGET

The City of Orono is proud to present the 2020 budget and tax levy; the budget is a 6-month process beginning in May. The City of Orono has officially adopted the 2020 budget and tax levy at the public hearing held on December 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Taxes

The County Assessor provides an annual calculation of the City's tax value based on the annual property valuations. When compared to last year, taxable market value has increased by 5.54 % and the tax capacity by 6.02%. As a result of the City's increased tax capacity, the tax capacity rate will increase from 16.406% in 2019 to 16.498% in 2020. A property's tax is calculated by multiplying its tax capacity by the City's tax capacity rate. The City's tax capacity rate is the 3rd lowest (of 45 cities) in Hennepin County and one of the lowest in the state. The average city tax capacity for the State is 46.52% and for Hennepin County is 39.3%.

General Fund

The General Fund is the primary source of funding for the City services provided to residents. This includes:

- Police and Fire
- Streets and Engineering
- Parks and Golf Course
- Building and Zoning
- Mayor and Council
- Administration, Finance and Legal

The 2020 General Fund budget totals \$9,143,200, an increase of 6.6% over 2019.

As in prior years, the largest portion of General Fund revenue comes from the property tax levy. The total property tax levy required to fund the 2020 General Fund budget is \$4,679,000, an increase of 6.82% over 2019. The remaining funding increases for the General Fund are from non-tax sources.

The largest expenditure in the General Fund is Police Services, at 53.3% of budgeted expenditures. This is offset by revenue earned from Public Safety charges, which is the second largest revenue source at 28%. Public Safety charges are comprised of charges to the cities of Mound, Minnetonka Beach and Spring Park. These charges cover approximately 50% of the police budget.

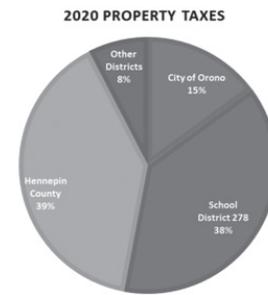
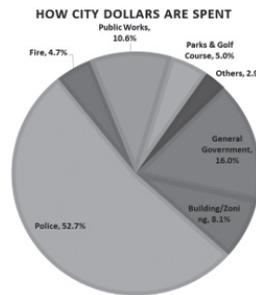
Special Revenue Funds

In addition to the General Fund, the City adopts the following Special Revenue Fund budgets: the Park Fund, the Drug Forfeiture Fund and the TIF Fund. Special revenue funds by definition have a primary source of revenue and can only be used for specific purposes.

Enterprise Funds

The City of Orono operates the following Enterprise Funds:

- Water (utility rate funded)
- Sewer (utility rate funded)
- Storm Water (utility rate funded)
- Cable
- Recycling (user fee funded)

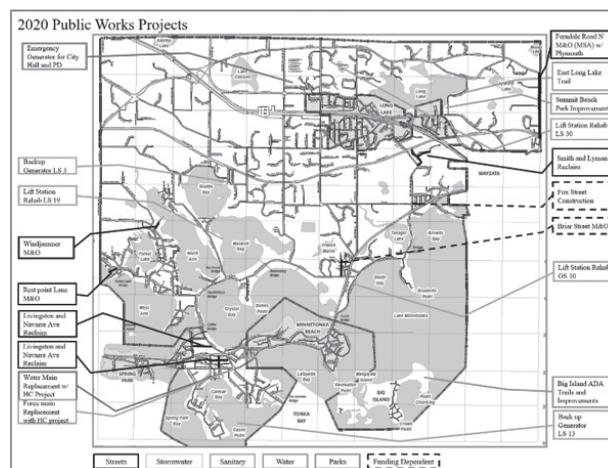


The Enterprise Funds operate like separate business entities with the minimum goal of breaking even. Therefore, the utility rates and user fees are set to cover the costs of providing these services. These funds do not receive any funding from property taxes.

Capital Improvement Plan

As of 2019, the City of Orono has 45 sewer lift stations; 17 stations are attached to generators to prevent sewage back-ups during power outages. Two generators and two lift stations undergo rehabilitation annually. Additionally, the city operates two water towers and four wells to provide residents water service.

The City reviews the condition of its road infrastructure annually and based on road condition and funding availability updates its pavement management plan. Orono does not use special assessments to fund road improvements. Instead, the City spreads the costs across all properties, unlike a number of other cities, Orono homeowners do not deal with special assessments of several thousand dollars for road maintenance. In order to more efficiently use funds, Water, Sewer, and Storm Water projects are undertaken in conjunction with street improvements. The Storm Water projects are designed to protect the roadways, property, water quality, and mitigate flood risks. All capital projects are contingent on available funding. The following map illustrates planned 2020 projects.



The adopted 2020 budget and tax levy will support the continuation of city services in 2020 and will aid in the future development of the City of Orono. If you have any questions regarding the budget or developments set for 2020, please feel free to contact City Hall at (952) 249-4600.

City Council Members
 Mayor Dennis Walsh
 Richard F. Crosby II • Matt Johnson
 Aaron Printup • Victoria Seals



City of Orono
 2750 Kelley Parkway
 Post Office Box 66
 Crystal Bay, MN 55323

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 TWIN CITIES, MN
 PERMIT NO. 29626

Orono City Facilities

- Administration, Building & Finance**
 952-249-4600
 Website: www.ci.orono.mn.us
- Planning & Zoning** 952-249-4620
- Police Department**..... 952-249-4700
 Website: www.ci.orono.mn.us/police
 24-Hour/Non-Emergency Dispatch 952-258-5321
 Emergency 911
 Animal Control..... 952-249-4700
- Public Works**..... 952-249-4600
 After Hours Dispatch..... 952-258-5321
 Utility Billing Department..... 952-249-4613
- Orono Public Golf Course**..... 952-473-1909
 Website: www.ci.orono.mn.us/395/Golf-course

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Frequently Called Numbers

- Assessing**
 Orono Division 952-249-4640
 Hennepin County 612-348-3011
- Lake Agencies**
 DNR..... 651-296-6157
 Lake Minnetonka Conservation District 952-745-0789
 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District..... 952-471-0590
- Recycling**
 Missed Pickups-Waste Management 952-249-4600
 Yard Waste-The Mulch Store 952-446-1056
 Hazardous Waste-Hennepin County..... 612-348-3777
- Schools**
 Orono #278 952-449-8300
 Orono Community Education 952-449-8350
 Westonka #277 952-491-8000
 Wayzata #284..... 763-745-5000

- Community Groups**
 Long Lake Chamber 952-491-0813
 Westonka Chamber westonkacc.com
 Orono Donation Garden 612-990-3836
 Orono Lions 612-965-0153
 Orono Rotary oronorotary.org
 Welcome Neighbor 952-442-9000

- Utilities/Services**
 Cable-Mediacom..... 800-332-0245
 Electric-Wright Hennepin (NW Corner) 763-477-3000
 Electric-Xcel..... 800-895-4999
 Garbage (Homeowner Selects Hauler) ci.orono.mn.us
 Gas-Center Point Energy..... 612-372-4727
 Gopher One-Call Before You Dig..... 651-454-0002
 Telephone-Frontier (Western Orono)..... 800-921-8101
 Telephone-Century Link 800-491-0118