



A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF TWO HARBORS, MN

VOLUME 10, NO.2 August 2020



## City of Two Harbors accepting applications for sidewalk repairs

In an effort to begin a proactive approach to sidewalk improvements, the Two Harbors City Council approved a revised Sidewalk Repair Policy in March 2020 to address a comprehensive and strategic approach to sidewalk repairs within the City. That policy can be found here: [www.twoharborsmn.gov](http://www.twoharborsmn.gov)

The Two Harbors City Council has made sidewalk repairs a priority across the community to increase accessibility, promote health and exercise, identify, and fill any gaps in the system, and to improve the safety and condition of the City sidewalks.

The City of Two Harbors with the help of Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) conducted a sidewalk condition survey in 2016. The full results of the survey can be found here: <https://arcg.is/Hijji> and the methodology for the survey can be found here: <https://dsmic.org/duluth-sidewalk-study/>.

According to the results of the survey, the City of Two Harbors has 89,805 feet of sidewalk which equates to roughly 17 miles! Of those sidewalks, 44,444 feet have been identified as fair condition (49%) and 8,569 feet have been identified as poor condition (10%). The City of Two Harbors is asking property owners to continue to voluntarily request sidewalk improvements in 2020 while we prepare to fully implement the program in the fall. To promote property owners to consider sidewalk repairs this summer, the City is offering a discounted rate for applications received prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The cost to the property owner is \$50.00 per square, with a 10 square minimum (or full property frontage) for any sidewalk repair. The City of Two Harbors will cover the remainder of the cost of the repair.

Due to the COVID Pandemic, the repairs will likely not begin until later in the summer. Requests will be processed in the order they were received unless there is an advantage to batch repairs in close proximity. The repairs will be conducted by City crews or private contractors and any application received prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 that is not completed this year will be honored and repaired as soon as possible in 2021.

Homeowners will be invoiced for the repairs and can either pay the entire cost by November 30, 2020, or request an assessment be placed on their property taxes payable over 2 years at an interest rate of 2.2%.

Requests for service can be obtained by contacting the City at [info@twoharborsmn.gov](mailto:info@twoharborsmn.gov) or by calling 218-834-5631.

Dan Walker, City Administrator 6/4/20



**GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER & SEWER  
FOR ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

For any other concerns M-  
F 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
(218) 834-5631  
After Hours  
(218)834-5566

Visit us at: [twoharborsmn.gov](http://twoharborsmn.gov)

## Flushable Wipes

Community members should be reminded that the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant is not capable of processing "flushable" wipes. These wipes get caught in the treatment plant equipment and cause damage. Please do not flush wipes.

## 2019 Consumer Confidence Report

The 2019 Drinking Water Report is now available at:  
<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/twoharbors/2019%20Drinking%20Water%20Report.pdf>

You may also request a copy at City Hall by calling 218-834-5631.

## Become an Election Judge

The City of Two Harbors is looking for individuals to serve as election judges. Anyone who may be interested should contact Joni at City Hall at 218-834-5631. This is a paid position. Training is provided. Judges must be eligible to vote.



## Notice to Cemetery Lot Owners

Flower baskets and decorations must be removed by September 15, 2020.

The Cemetery office is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 218-834-8815



## Seasonal Reminders

### City of Two Harbors Yard Waste Facility

The City of Two Harbors Yard Waste Facility is open to Two Harbors Residents throughout the fall and we will keep the Yard Waste Facility open as long as people can be respectful of the facility!

The Yard Waste Facility ONLY accepts grass clippings, leaves, tree branches and garden waste (weeds, dead flowers, etc).

We DO NOT accept trash, construction debris, cinder blocks, mattresses, appliances, etc. They can be disposed of at the Castle Danger Pit or WLSSD in Duluth.

Please do your part to help our staff keep the facility clean and open for your convenience.

### Lawn Mowing

Residents and business owners are encouraged to ensure that their yards are kept up. City code requires that weeds or grass are properly maintained at a height of not more than six inches. If a property owner fails to do so, after seven days written notice, the City has the authority to see that it is done, at the property owner's expense. Not only does mowing your lawn make for happy neighbors, assessable charges may result if the City is required to take care of it.

**Reminder**, not to push grass clippings into storm drains. Pushing grass clippings into storm drains can clog storm drains, which can cause streets to flood. Debris also ends up in local waterways and causes contamination.



### Two Harbors Municipal Liquor Store Hours

#### Summer Hours

Monday -Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Winter Hours

Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 7:pm.

Sundays Closed

Accommodations for curbside services is available Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Only 6 customers are allowed in the store at any time. Masks are required for all customers. One person per group into store whenever possible.

### Building Permits

Construction season is here! Please be aware that most construction projects (even some minor ones) require a building permit. As per MN Building Code, no work can begin without a permit - if required. The permit can be found on the City's website or by calling City Hall at 218-834-5631, or Jennifer Sterbenz at [jsterbenz@twoharborsmn.gov](mailto:jsterbenz@twoharborsmn.gov)





## Library News

**Re-Opening (With Restrictions)** – The Two Harbors Public Library opened to the public again starting July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. However, you will notice a few changes. We are asking that patrons wear masks while on the library premises, as well as to maintain social distancing guidelines. If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to somebody who is feeling unwell, please stay home and wait to visit the library until a future date. Staff will also be spending more time behind the plexiglass barrier and less time assisting patrons' side-by-side at the computers and copier.

Please note that the Library is still quarantining returned materials. Therefore, when you return materials, always use the outdoor book drop, even when we are open. This keeps library materials from entering the main library building before their quarantine period is over. Please also note that this means items will still be checked-out on your account for a few days past their return; we will be very lenient with fines during this period.

Only half of the library computers are currently available in order to keep space between computer users; all computer users will be required to sign-up at the staff desk in advance, and we ask that patrons wait to use the computers while staff clean the workstations between users. We have also removed all headphones for now, so if you wish to listen to something on the computers, you will need to provide personal headphones.

All of the children's toys have temporarily been removed from our Early Learning Play Area. We have also removed some of the library furniture and many of the handouts we had previously offered. This is to help ensure that we are offering a clean space and plenty of distance between tables. We look forward to being able to return all of the educational play materials at some point in the future, and staff will gladly fetch an informational brochure from storage if you ask.

We ask that you not use the games available for checkout in the library, nor read the magazines while still in the library. Rather, please check them out and enjoy them at home. This helps ensure they have had a proper quarantine period between users.

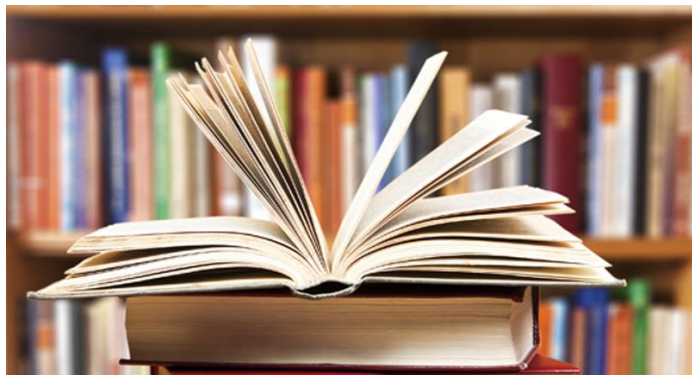
The number of people allowed in the building at one time is currently limited by state restrictions. Therefore, we ask that you try to keep your visit brief. Please feel free to browse the stacks and use our computer stations but try not to spend too much time inside reading and socializing, as this may prevent other library users from being able to visit.

We have missed serving you all, so we're glad that we're finally able to open our doors once again. Please follow these guidelines to help keep us open and serving you in the future.

### **New Service Hours:**

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Tuesdays, Thursdays – 11:30 am – 7:00 pm



### **Residential Demolition Program**

Residential Redevelopment grants assist communities in demolishing dilapidated residential structures including single-unit residential homes, residential duplex homes of no more than two units, garages, sheds and barns. This is a partner program between the City of Two Harbors and IRRRB. It's a great way pave the way for a cleaner, healthier environment, more attractive communities and new construction. Homeowners interested in applying, please contact Jennifer Sterbenz at [jsterbenz@twoharborsmn](mailto:jsterbenz@twoharborsmn).

### **Census**

A quick reminder about the 2020 census - Two Harbors is doing great! We are at 72% completion. I'm so proud to be a part of this community. -Jennifer Sterbenz, Community Development Planner

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Think of your morning commute: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems. Or think of your local schools: Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, to restore wildlife, to prevent child abuse, to prepare for wildfires, and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

It takes just a few minutes to complete but will have a lasting impact on the community. If you haven't already completed the census, please do so asap.

<https://my2020census.gov/> or call 1-844-330-2020

### **Work Order System**

The City of Two Harbors implemented a work order system in 2018 to help streamline responses to requests from citizens. A work order can be generated by contacting City Hall at 218-834-5631, or email us at [info@twoharborsmn.gov](mailto:info@twoharborsmn.gov). Once the work order is created, it is passed on to the appropriate department head to schedule a follow up and complete the task. Work orders can be generated for a variety of tasks including park maintenance and repair, streetlight outages, power pole damage, alley or street maintenance, etc. Depending on the workload and the size and priority of the task, the issue will be addressed as soon as possible. Residents can also follow up with the status of the repair. Work orders are intended for non-emergency repairs, so if your request is an emergency, please contact dispatch.



# Save time — pay by phone!

## The City of Two Harbors

gives you access to your account 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's a convenient way to pay your bills on your own time — with no waiting!

- Save postage by paying your bill by phone.
- Access your updated account instantly.
- Hear real-time balances, payment amounts, and due dates.
- Enter your information securely through an automated system.

Call 833-259-4015 today to make your payment over the phone!



## Carbon Monoxide Safety

### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



### Did you know?

More than 150 people in the US die every year from accidental non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal. Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO.

- Install and maintain CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove & fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Check/change batteries of each CO detector every six months.

A Safety Message from

**Head of the Lakes  
Natural Gas Group**

ComfortSystems - Duluth  
Superior Water, Light & Power  
Hibbing Public Utilities

Northwest Gas  
Virginia Public Utilities  
Two Harbors Public Utilities

[holnaturalgas.com](http://holnaturalgas.com)

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked  
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident:

**Head of the Lakes  
Natural Gas Group**

Two Harbors Public Utilities 218-834-5631  
[www.holnaturalgas.com](http://www.holnaturalgas.com)

**Always Call 811**

**Before You Dig**

*A Safety Reminder from  
Two Harbors  
Public Utilities*

**CITY OF TWO HARBORS  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

<u>GROUP MEETING</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<b>August 2020</b>		
Planning Commission	4	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole/Agenda	10	5:00 PM
City Council Regular Meeting	10	6:00 PM
Edna G. Meeting	19	6:00 PM
Trees & Trails Commission	20	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole/Agenda	24	5:00 PM
City Council Regular Meeting	24	6:00 PM
<b>September 2020</b>		
Library Board	1	5:00 PM
Planning Commission	1	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole/Agenda	14	5:00 PM
City Council Regular Meeting	14	6:00 PM
Edna G. Meeting	16	6:00 PM
Trees & Trails Commission	17	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole/Agenda	28	5:00 PM
City Council Regular Meeting	28	6:00 PM

This listing represents the meetings of the City committee and commissions which are scheduled on a regular basis. It does not include committees and commissions that do not meet at the same date and time each month or special meetings. The official listing of all City meetings is posted at the entrance to the Council Chambers at City Hall. A calendar of meetings is also posted online at: [twoharborsmn.gov](http://twoharborsmn.gov)

### Closure Updates

Due to the critical nature of the services we provide, City Offices will remain closed to walk-in traffic until further notice, however, individuals may contact City Hall to arrange for any meetings which may be necessary. In addition, the City is not accepting reservations for the Community Center or City park facilities until further notice. Please contact us at 218-834-5631.

### City Council, Committees and Commissions

City Council, committee and commission meetings will be held via Zoom Video conference through August and virtual meetings may continue depending upon public health conditions.

The official postings are located on the window near the Council Chambers entrance to City Hall.

Please see the "Notices" section on our website for connection information, cancellations, and updated meeting information.

## **COVID 19 Updates**

Minnesota has begun the process of safely reopening. As we return to work and activities we enjoy, we have a shared responsibility to look out for each other and save lives. Keeping businesses and other venues open will depend on all of us doing our part to stay six feet apart, wash our hands often, stay home when sick, and wear a mask.

We've made progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19 here in Minnesota. But as we watch numbers rise across the country, we know the COVID-19 outbreak is not over. Testing is now widely available and contact tracing allows us to quickly identify new outbreaks. These things help us slow the spread of the disease so we can get back to enjoying the things we love.

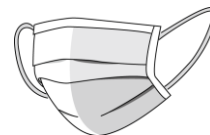
We must continue to all do our part. Wearing a mask is simple - nearly everyone can do it. When paired with other steps, like staying six feet apart, washing your hands, and staying home when possible, we can stay safe.

For up to date information please visit:  
Minnesota Department of Health Website at: [health.state.mn.us](http://health.state.mn.us)  
[Staysafe.mn.gov](http://Staysafe.mn.gov)

### **Minnesota Helpline:**

For questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, call 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504  
Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mental Health Crisis Line - Call: \*\*CRISIS (\*\*274747)





# CITY SCENE VOLUME 10. No. 2

522 1st Ave.  
Two Harbors, MN 55616



## 2020 City Offices Closed

Monday, September 7, 2020-Labor Day  
Thursday, November 26, 2020-Thanksgiving  
Friday, November 27, 2020-Thanksgiving  
Thursday, December 24, 2020, Christmas Eve  
Friday, December 25, 2020, Christmas Day

### City Hall Summer Hours

Memorial Day to August 28, 2020

Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If the last working day of the month falls on a Friday,  
payments will be extended to the next regular business day.



## Upcoming Events

The City of Two Harbors has postponed  
fireworks until Labor Day Weekend on  
Saturday, September 5, 2020.

