



A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF TWO HARBORS, MN

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December 2019

## 2019 Street & Alley Improvement Project

Construction is nearing conclusion on the 2019 Street and Alley Project. The contractor, Utility Systems of America Inc. began work in mid-June and has generally followed the anticipated schedule. As a reminder, the project included six blocks, consisting of two avenues and four alleys. The blocks are listed below:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alley North of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alley North of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alley North of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Alley North of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 15<sup>th</sup> Street end of the public street

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, all underground pipe work, all concrete curb, and all blacktop paving on the project is complete. Turf restoration work is also partially complete.

The main items to be completed are pouring of the final handful of concrete driveways, finishing the turf restoration (grass seeding), and repairing a few identified locations of concrete and blacktop. It is expected all work will be completed by October 18<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

A final thorough inspection will be performed of each block once work is done, and a list (referred to as a “punch list”) of any items needing attention will be developed and provided to the contractor. Work on the punch list items will likely extend into the spring of 2020. The construction contract will remain open and the City will hold monetary retainage on the contractor to ensure all punch list work is completed.

Once construction costs are finalized, the proposed assessments to the benefitted properties along the project blocks will be determined. A Public Hearing will be held (most likely in November) to review the project costs and assessments. All properties to be assessed will receive individual notices of the Public Hearing in the U.S. Mail. The notice for the Public Hearing will also be advertised and posted.

Any questions or concerns regarding the project can be directed to City Hall. Project information and documents can be found under the 2019 Project tab on the City’s website: [www.twoharborsmn.gov](http://www.twoharborsmn.gov). Hard copies of the project construction plan and the preliminary engineering report are also available for review at City Hall.

Thank you to all the residents and other members of the public affected by the work this summer. Your cooperation and understanding during construction helped the project go more smoothly and is greatly appreciated!

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**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)

**Two Harbors Municipal Liquor Store Hours**

**Labor Day to Memorial Day**

- Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Friday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Liquor Store is closed to observe the following holidays:

- Easter
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

**Gift Cards now available!**

Call us at 218-834-3745



**SNOW, ICE AND GAS METERS**

Gas meters and regulators require ventilation in order to operate properly. Accumulation of snow and/or ice may cause a meter to stop, resulting in an interruption of your service. Customers are reminded to keep the areas surrounding gas meters and regulators free of snow and/or ice during the winter months to avoid potential service interruptions.



**BUDGET PAYMENT PLAN CUSTOMERS**

City utility customers currently participating in the Budget Payment Program are asked to take a moment to review their account status. Utility bills may have been larger than normal due to the long stretch of extremely cold temperatures we have recently experienced. Although not required, customers on a Budget Payment Program who do not currently have a credit balance may consider increasing their monthly budget payments in order to avoid a larger than expected bill at the end of the Budget Plan Year. Please contact City Hall by phone at (218) 834-5631 if you have any questions.

The Budget Payment Program runs from April 1 to March 31 of each year. Customers interested in signing up for the program should contact City Hall at (218) 834-5631 before the end of March.



## A Message from the Minnesota State Demographic Center

We are reaching out to let you know that the U.S. Census Bureau is soon to begin the next step in making sure Minnesota gets a complete count in the 2020 Census. Address canvassing by Census Bureau workers is set to begin next week.

### What is address canvassing?

Address canvassing is the process by which the U.S. Census Bureau validates, corrects, or deletes existing Census Bureau addresses, adds missing addresses, and adds or corrects locations of specific addresses before a decennial census. In previous address canvassing operations, field representatives traversed every road and visited each residential address in the United States. At this time, only select addresses will be canvassed. Census Bureau employees will not be asking for information about individuals but rather about addresses and habitable locations.

### How to verify employment

We realize that Census workers may draw the attention of residents or law enforcement personnel who are concerned about the presence of strangers in their neighborhoods. Please share the information below with public safety officials in case a need arises to verify the employment of a Census worker.

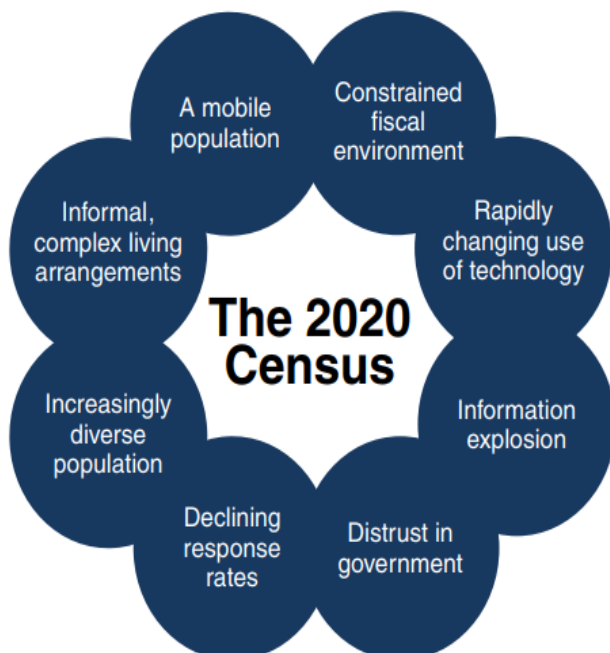
Each temporary decennial Census employee will have an official identification card with the employee's name, picture, and an expiration date. Regional level staff can be identified by their Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Card. Both temporary and regional level staff can be identified by their laptop computer with a Census Bureau logo on the top, and a black canvas bag with a Census Bureau logo.

### TO VERIFY AN EMPLOYEE WITH THIS TYPE OF ID:

Chicago Regional Census Center  
175 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60604  
1-312-579-1500

Thank you,

Minnesota State Demographic Center



Join the 2020 Census Team!  
Be a part of History!

**2020census.gov/jobs**

**1-855-JOB-2020**  
**(1-855-562-2020)**

Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339 TTY / ASCII  
[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) provides telecommunications services to allow individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech disabilities to conduct official business with and within the federal government.  
The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



## 2019 Street and Alley Improvement Project, Continued



8<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Alley North of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Alley North of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

### Having Trouble Paying Your Utility Bills?

Recognizing that some customers find it difficult to pay their utility bills in the winter, the City follows the MN Cold Weather Rule, which protects residential heat-affected customers who are unable to pay their utility bills, from disconnection of service between October 15 and April 15.

**The Cold Weather Rule does not forbid winter shut off.** If you receive a shut off notice this winter, you must act promptly by applying for Cold Weather Rule protection and set up a payment plan which is agreeable to the City and based on income guidelines. Residents must keep their payment plan to avoid future disconnection.

Following is a list of local emergency assistance providers should you need help paying your gas or electric utility bills:

#### AEOA

Energy Assistance Program      Ph: 1-800-662-5711  
Or: 1-800-223-1850

#### Heatshare

A division of the Salvation Army      Ph: (218) 722-7934

#### Lake County Social Services

616 Third Avenue  
Two Harbors, MN 55616      Ph: (218) 834-8400

### REMINDER TO LICENSE PETS

Residents are reminded to purchase 2020 licenses for dogs and cats 3 months of age or older residing within the City as new tags are required each year.

Licensing is an important part of the process in place to ensure that animals are properly immunized for their safety and that of the residents of the City.

The cost is \$10 for each pet, or just \$5 if the animal has been spayed or neutered. Owners must provide evidence of immunization and spay or neutering at the time of purchase.

Licenses for 2020 are available at City Hall after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, at City Hall during regular business hours.



### **2019-20 Rec Skating Schedule**

\$1 per skater

#### **December**

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Saturday, December 7, 5:00 PM-6:00 PM  
Sunday, December 8, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Sunday, December 15, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
Sunday, December 22, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
Monday, December 23, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Thursday, December 26, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Saturday, December 28, 6:30PM-7:30 PM  
Sunday, December 29, 2:00 PM -3:00 PM

#### **January**

Sunday, January 5, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Saturday, January 11, 2:45 PM-3:45 PM  
Sunday, January 12, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Sunday, January 19, 4:30 PM-5:30 PM  
Sunday, January 26, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM



#### **February**

Saturday, February 1, 5:45 PM-6:45PM  
Saturday, February 8, 2:30 PM-3:30PM  
Sunday, February 9, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
Saturday, February 15, 1:30 PM-2:30 PM  
Sunday, February 16, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Saturday, February 22, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Sunday, February 23, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

## ***Winter Related Reminders***

City crews have been busy preparing for the upcoming winter season. The following are some important reminders as winter approaches:

- ❖ **Sidewalks** – City Code requires property owners to see that all snow and ice is cleared from public sidewalks abutting their property within twelve hours after each snow or ice event that has ceased.
- ❖ **Snow Removal** – It is unlawful to remove snow or ice from private property and place in on any public roadway or sidewalk.
- ❖ **Winter Parking** – Residents are reminded that off-street parking begins November 1 and remains in effect through April 30. During this time, it is unlawful to park or leave any vehicle on any street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. If snow has fallen, the prohibited hours are from 2 a.m. until such time as snow plowing curb-to-curb has been completed on such street. It is also unlawful to park a vehicle on any boulevard which has been curbed.
- ❖ **Play it Safe** – Parents are encouraged to remind children that it is not safe to build snow forts or play in snow that is piled at or near streets.
- ❖ **Fire Hydrants** – The Fire Department asks those with property near fire hydrants to clear a path to the hydrant after each snowfall. This allows firefighters quicker access to hydrants in the event of an emergency.
- ❖ **Don't Take it Personally** – Please don't be offended when the plows leave snow near the end of your driveway. To efficiently plow streets, City plow drivers are not able to lift the blade for driveways. Concerns regarding snow removal or City road conditions should be directed to the Public Works Director at (218) 834-8810.





# 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*

## 2020 Street & Alley Improvement Project

The City Council has authorized a Feasibility Report for a possible 2020 Street and Alley Project. This is the first step in developing a project for 2020, but it does not commit the City to doing the project.

The Feasibility Report will include 7 blocks (3 avenues, 2 streets, and 2 alleys):

- 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alley North of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street
- 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alley North of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- 6<sup>th</sup> Street from 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 7<sup>th</sup> Street from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue

A map of the proposed project area is included for reference.

The project under consideration for 2020 would be notably different than the 2018 and 2019 project. For those projects, the approach was to identify what were considered to be blocks of streets and alleys in the worst conditions, and completely reconstruct them. The approach for the 2020 project is to address some street and alley segments that are not completely deteriorated and restore them back to like new condition. This may seem counter-intuitive, but there is rationale behind this approach.

The life cycle of bituminous (blacktop) pavements have been studied by many agencies. The consistent finding is the deterioration of the pavement is not linear. A pavement can exist in good condition for a number of years after it is constructed. But once deterioration starts, it will advance rapidly – especially in cold regions where freeze-thaw cycles through the winter/spring can be severe. If a pavement can be addressed in its life cycle before it ‘falls off the cliff’ of rapid deterioration, it can be returned to like new condition through more cost-effective **rehabilitation** methods rather than needing the much more expensive complete **reconstruction**.

Two Harbors has undertaken a Pavement Management Study to inventory all street, avenue, and alley segments in the city, and develop a strategic approach toward the needed activities. The inventory is complete, and analysis is in progress. The preliminary findings show that 60% of the paved segments in the city are in poor or failed condition; 25% are in fair condition; and only 15% are good or better.

If left untreated, and not addressed through maintenance and rehabilitation techniques, fair and good pavements will deteriorate to poor and failed conditions. That is why it is appropriate to incorporate a project periodically on the fair and good pavements, to catch them before they deteriorate. To use an analogy, you would typically replace the shingles on your house before the roof springs multiple leaks. It is the same approach in addressing a fair or good pavement before it deteriorates.

The city will continue to address the poor and failed segments on future projects. But once a pavement is in poor or failed condition, it really can’t get much worse. Pavements that are currently in fair to good condition can get worse. It is important for the city to not lose sight of those assets that are in decent condition and maintain them so they don’t deteriorate.

Given the large number of poor and failed segments, the city needs more time to properly develop a strategy to approach those segments. While that analysis continues, 2020 provides a good opportunity to perform a rehabilitative project on some of the fair and good segments. In doing so the city will continue to make progress on its overall system. The proposed 2020 project would be grouped in one geographic neighborhood, compared to the 2018 and 2019 project which were spread over larger areas. The rehabilitative project in 2020 will also be more cost-effective than the reconstruction projects of the past few years. In comparison, it is anticipated the proposed 2020 project can address over 40% more length of streets than the 2018 project did for the same cost.

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Of the segments in the proposed 2020 project, only one (the alley north of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue) is anticipated to be a full reconstruction. The remaining segments are anticipated to be either partial-depth or full-depth replacement of the bituminous pavement. Appropriate sidewalk repairs or upgrades would also be done on the segments, including upgrading all pedestrian ramps to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Feasibility Report for the potential 2020 Project will address three primary questions on each block: 1) What is proposed to be done; 2) What will it cost; and 3) How will it be financed. Special assessments are anticipated to be used in the project funding, similar to the 2018 and 2019 projects.

The Feasibility Report is anticipated to be completed by November. Once the Feasibility Report is complete, a Public Hearing will be held to review the project costs and proposed assessments. All properties proposed to be assessed will receive individual notices of the Public Hearing in the U.S. Mail. The Public Hearing will also be advertised and posted, and comments from any member of the public in attendance will be accepted.

After the Public Hearing, the City Council would consider whether to order the project. If the project were ordered, it could include any or all of the blocks in the Feasibility Report. If a project is ordered, the intent would be to have construction from approximately June - October of 2020.



### Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

On October 12 and 18, the City of Two Harbors welcomed members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee and House of Representatives Capital Investment Division. The purpose of their visits was to hear information on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. The City has requested funding assistance for this project through the upcoming 2020 bonding bill. Committee members heard from staff and engineers on city wastewater characteristics, the scope of the project, and why the project is necessary. The plans for the project have been designed and certified by the MPCA, and ready to bid once financial assistance has been obtained. Anyone with questions on the project should contact Luke Heikkila, Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Facility at (218) 834-8813.



# CITY SCENE VOLUME 9. No. 3

522 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Two Harbors, MN 55616

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Std Mail  
Two Harbors MN  
PERMIT NO. 4



## 2019/2020 City Offices Closed

Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving
Friday, November 29	Day after Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day
Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day
Monday, January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 17	President's Day

## UTILITY ACCOUNT DIRECT PAYMENT PLAN

City utility customers may pay their monthly utility bills using the City's Direct Payment Plan. Payments are made directly from your checking account automatically each month – no checks to write, no stamps to buy, and no late payments. It's free, fast and easy! Simply contact City Hall at (218) 834-5631 to get signed up today!



## Upcoming Events

Winter Frolic  
February 6-8, 2020

Adult workout Nights  
March, April, May  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
\$40 payable to the City of Two Harbors  
\*\*If school is closed or cancelled, work out nights are cancelled as well\*\*\*

Heritage Days  
July 9-12, 2020