

City of Orchard Lake Village

2024 Winter Newsletter
◆◆ Volume 16.4

Tree/Vegetation Trimming Along City Roads

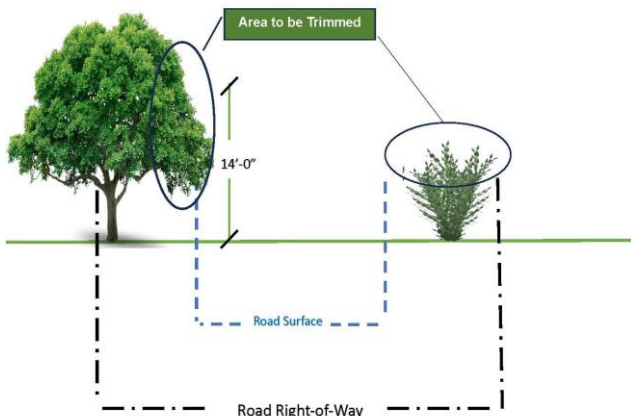
Dear City of Orchard Lake Residents:

Please be advised that the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) employees will be doing extensive trimming of trees and vegetation along all the City Roads. This work is needed to protect the safety of all residents and to prevent damage to City equipment that maintains the roads. The snow event that took place the weekend of January 13, 2024, resulted in damage to the City's main plow truck and other DPW equipment.

The City will be cutting back approximately 3'-5' from the road edge to a height of approximately 14' to prevent future damage to the equipment and more importantly to provide proper site lines for vehicular traffic (see below diagram). The proposed work will take place in the City right-of-way which is typically 8'-10' off the edge of the road. The work is anticipated to begin at the end of February.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,
Gerry McCallum, Director of City Services



No Scale

Dear Friends and Neighbors

I am deep into another year as your Mayor and Councilmember. Despite having the usual challenges, I can report that your City is in very fine shape. Thanks to a superb staff in all departments and frankly a pretty good revenue stream, we are able to provide an exceptional level of service to our citizens. Speaking of revenue, I know we have all seen a hefty property tax increase last year. Remember that only a small portion of your tax, less than twenty percent, goes to the City and we have not raised our City operating millage rate for the past six years. We are determined not to see it raised this year either and the finance committee will be submitting a budget to reflect this. The overall tax increase last year was due to the mandated five percent inflation bump and the addition of the Oakland County Transit Tax.

The other very important reason that our City works so well is that your hard working and unpaid City Council Members know how to work together even when there are strong disagreements on an issue. There is a spirit of cordiality and mutual respect that never wanes. I am very happy to congratulate our two newly elected Councilmembers, Kelly Mandel and David Steuer. They will prove to be great additions to our team.

Your Planning Commission is reviewing some major developments in our commercial district including new shops with upper floor residences on the vacant Starbucks and cleaner property as well as a new upscale restaurant proposal to replace the long-closed Village Palace. These could bring some new vitality to the Orchard Lake Road corridor. I know there is a Dollar Tree now in the former Walgreens.

Lastly my sincerest congratulations to our new Police Chief, Jeffrey Gomez. He has a big job, but his many years of devotion to Orchard Lake Village have demonstrated his ability to handle, with intelligence and integrity, anything put before him.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. And remember, I would love to perform at least one wedding while I am still Mayor.
Warmest Regards to all for a great 2024,

Mayor Finkelstein

The Orchard Lake City Council welcomes new Police Chief, Jeffrey Gomez.

Chief Gomez was Sworn in as the ninth Chief of Police for the City of Orchard Lake Village on November 20th, 2023 following the retirement of Chief Nicholson. Chief Gomez began his career with the Orchard Lake Police Department serving as a part-time officer in May of 2009. Chief Gomez was later promoted to a full-time position in February of 2011.

Throughout his tenure with the Department, Chief Gomez served in many roles in addition to road patrol duties including firearms instructor, policy manual administrator, basic evidence technician, in-car & body-worn camera system administrator, social media coordinator, and the Department's general information technology person.



In September of 2020, Chief Gomez was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and in January of 2023 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, following the retirement of Lt. Banks.

Chief Gomez has been married to his wife Sara for 13 years, and they have a six-year-old son.

Message from OL Police Department

There has been an increase in the number of larcenies and auto thefts reported in the area over the last year. Generally, thieves are targeting unlocked vehicles looking for small valuables to steal. In a few incidents, keys / fobs were left inside the vehicle, and the entire vehicle was stolen. We also had a few firearms stolen out of unsecured vehicles. We were able to identify some of the perpetrators, and obtain warrants for their arrest.

Please park your vehicles in your garage if at all possible. If parking outside, please lock your vehicles and do not leave your keys, firearms, or any other valuable items inside. We are aware of the increase in home invasions reported throughout the county, and we have increase neighborhood patrols. Please periodically check all windows & doors, utilize your home's exterior lighting at night, arm your alarms, and check any video surveillance equipment for proper operation. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please do not hesitate to call dispatch at any time.

We'd also like to remind our residents that we offer vacation house checks, and security surveys of your home or business located within the City. Please call the front desk during business hours for more information.



Orchard Lake Police Chief Gomez welcomed the new full-time Officer, David McNealy.

Follow us on Facebook!



The City of Orchard Lake Village is looking for Election Inspectors to assist voters through the voting process on election day.

If you are interested, applications can be picked up from the Clerk's Office or on our website under Department/Clerk/Elections.

Election Inspectors are required to participate in a short training session.

Election Inspectors will receive payment for working elections.



Early Voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before election and ends on the Sunday before election.

Locations:

Regional Site: West Bloomfield Public Library. 4600 Walnut Lake Rd, West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Central Site: Waterford Oaks Activity Center. 2800 Watkins Lake Rd. Waterford, MI 48328

Hours:

Early Voting is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except **Thursday when hours are 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**



Upcoming Elections:

- February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election
- August 6, 2024 Primary Election
- November 5, 2024 General Election

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, here at City Hall, 3955 Orchard Lake Rd, Orchard Lake, MI 48323

Registered voters can also request an absentee ballot and join the permanent absentee ballot list. Contact Clerk's Office for details.

**Orchard Lake Nature
Sanctuary Spring Walk**
*Sunday, April 28, 2024,
2-3 pm*
**Orchard Lake Nature
Sanctuary,
4700 Pontiac Trail**

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided tour. Walk through rolling terrain and explore the breathtaking spring flowers. Sponsored by the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary. No charge.



*Greater West Bloomfield
Historical Society*

The Orchard Lake Museum Tour is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

(\$5.00 cash donation at the door)
3951 Orchard Lake Rd
Orchard Lake MI 48323
Please visit gwbhs.org/events for more details

1914 & 1954 Tax Books Open House

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 1-4 pm
Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Come see 1914 and 1954 West Bloomfield tax record books. To learn more about your property, know your Township section number, property description and, if known, subdivision. Engaging permanent exhibits interpret local area culture and history

Yard Waste Collections start Monday, April 1, 2024. Please, do not put your trash out for collection until late Sunday night or Monday morning. Just a reminder that trash cans must be shielded from public view per City Ordinance



**The City of Orchard Lake Village
wants to remind you to help keep
the watershed clean!**

Many items found in homes, garages, and yards can cause serious stormwater pollution if they are washed into the storm drains and allowed to flow untreated into the Clinton River, its tributaries, and Lake St. Clair. Everyone can prevent stormwater pollution by taking simple steps;

1. Never dispose of paint or paint-related products into the gutters or storm drains. This is illegal dumping.
2. Do not blow, sweep, or hose fertilizer into the street, or storm drain.
3. Clean up after your pet
4. Choose earth friendly landscaping. Use non-toxic products for your garden and lawn whenever possible. Use pesticides sparingly.
5. Conserve water whenever possible.

**Light Pollution on
Freshwater Lakes**



At a recent lecture by a National Science Foundation Scholar at Cranbrook, the speaker addressed the effect of light pollution on freshwater lakes. The bottom line of that lecture was: lights near the lake attract, exhaust and kill the adult mating stage of a number of insects that form the basis of the food chain of the lake. So, for example, mayfly and caddisfly larvae live in the water and feed the small fish that feed the bigger fish. The surviving insects emerge as adults from the water for a short time to mate. Lights near the lake will attract these adults, and those bugs will obsess over the lights, instead of obsessing over mating and laying eggs, until they get exhausted and die.

Therefore, to maintain a healthy fish population on Orchard Lake, we all should be minimizing our night time lights.

For more information, below is the link describing the research.

<https://oakland.edu/oumagazine/news/biology/2022/ou-student-studying-light-pollution-awarded-prestigious-nsf-fellowship>



City of Orchard Lake Village
3955 Orchard Lake Rd
Orchard Lake, MI 48323



Our Lady of Refuge Church, located at 3700 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake 48324, is hosting The Red Cross blood drive in the Social Hall on Monday **March 11, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Appointments can be scheduled online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org and entering sponsor code "OLRC."

If you haven't donated blood before you can obtain more information on the Red Cross website, RedCrossBlood.org, or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Reminders!

- ✚ The next scheduled Hazardous Waste Event will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the West Bloomfield Civic Center.
- ✚ Free Documents Shredding & Electronic Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the West Bloomfield Civic Center.
- ✚ City Offices will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2024.
- ✚ The 2024 Dog Licenses are available to purchase at City Hall.
- ✚ Turn your unused and expired medication for a safe disposal at the Orchard Lake Police Department.
- ✚ Notary Services available at City Hall at no charge.
- ✚ Please check with the Orchard Lake Building Department prior to making changes to your property, cutting trees, lakeside planting, moving dirt, etc.