

# North Oaks News

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## Month Meetings

Residents can view city meetings on the cable access channel and through the website portal.

• **Agendas available online** •

### CITY OF NORTH OAKS

100 Village Center Drive, Suite 230  
651-792-7750

[www.cityofnorthoaks.com](http://www.cityofnorthoaks.com)

### CITY MEETINGS

**City Council Meeting:**  
7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14

**Planning Commission:**  
7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28

### NORTH OAKS HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (NOHOA)

100 Village Center Drive, Suite 240  
651-792-7765

[www.nohoa.org](http://www.nohoa.org)

**NOHOA Board meeting:**

7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13  
(Please remember all applications need to be submitted to NOHOA the two weeks before the ASC meeting.)

## Silent auction to be a big draw at Farm Fest

By Gretchen Needham

Contributing Writer

Imagine you are transported back in time to St. Paul, 1910. You enjoy more money and privilege than most, and befitting a successful businessperson of the Gilded Age, the dining table in your richly appointed Summit Avenue mansion is just one indicator of many that you are living a charmed life.

Crisp linens, fine china, sparkling crystal and polished silver adorn the carved mahogany table where you are seated with friends and family. You press a discreetly placed buzzer under the table to summon a servant to refill your

wineglass. There is a toast in your honor — to the generous benefactor, our hearty wishes for health and happiness.

Turn this dream into a reality by placing the winning Silent Auction bid at Farm Fest for a private party at Hill House. Sixteen people will be treated to a one-of-a-kind evening at James J. Hill's Summit Avenue mansion, complete with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Don't miss the opportunity to experience an intimate gathering in one of St. Paul's most beautiful historic buildings.

The Silent Auction also features many unique and



CONTRIBUTED | JULIE OLIVER PHOTOGRAPHY

The Red Barn houses Farm Fest's Silent Auction. Make sure to place your bids before the auction closes at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10.

SEE FARM FEST  
- PAGE 7A

## What's with the weeds?

By Dawn Tanner

Contributing Writer

By late summer, it seems like everybody in Minnesota is doing what they can to stretch the season and spend a little more time on, and in, their favorite lakes. We only have a few months of summer. We want to enjoy every last bit of it.

Aquatic vegetation, commonly bemoaned as lake weeds, seems to get in the way of our fun. What's going on with these plants? Do these plants mean that a lake's water quality is getting worse? These are questions we hear a lot at VLAWMO, NOHOA, and SPRWS, especially when it comes to Pleasant Lake.

Despite common perception, native aquatic plants are often a sign of improving water quality. Pleasant Lake is a deep-water lake valued for its recreational opportunities. Pleasant Lake is also listed as impaired for nutrients by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Native aquatic plants are important for good water quality. Pleasant Lake is a priority for improvement, and that means supporting native aquatic plants.

Why aren't lakes in the metro more like clear lakes up north?

There are a few things going on here. First, our baseline conditions in this part of the state include higher nutrient levels in our soils and in our lakes compared to up north



CONTRIBUTED

Dawn Tanner, the author on a Curly-leaf pondweed delineation survey on Pleasant Lake.

SEE AQUATIC PLANTS - PAGE 6A

## Annual rummage sale is right around the corner

By Carol Beatty

Contributing Writer

The annual North Oaks rummage sale is Sept. 16 and 17. North Oaks residents are encouraged to bring rummage sale donations to the fall drop-off from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Shoreview Ice Arena, 877 West Highway 96 in Shoreview. As always asks the North Oaks community for donations of gently used items. Your contributions ensure the success of rummage sale and all proceeds are used to help fund vital programs at Children's Minnesota.

The guild regrets that some items cannot be sold at the sale so those will not be accepted at the drop-off. Disposal fees for items that cannot be sold reduce the contribution to CHA. Please consult the guild website [www.northoaksrummagesale.org](http://www.northoaksrummagesale.org) and the flyer in this newspaper for items welcomed and those that cannot be sold.



CONTRIBUTED

(From left) North Oaks Children's Hospital Association Guild II members Kelly Knutson and Cathie Gatto volunteer their time at one of the craft stations during the annual rummage sale held at the Shoreview Ice Arena.

Furniture donations are greatly appreciated

Please call Jennifer Martini, no later than Tuesday, Sept. 5, to schedule a pick up on Sept. 9. This is for pick-up of furniture only, just in North Oaks. Tax donation receipts

SEE RUMMAGE SALE - PAGE 7A

### IF YOU GO

Rummage Sale Details:

**When:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 (Early Bird Special 7 to 9 a.m.)  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.  
Most items are ½ price on Sunday so return to find even better bargains!  
**Where:** Shoreview Ice Arena, 877 Highway 96 at the corner of Victoria St. in Shoreview.  
**What:** Biggest rummage sale in the area! Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital Association, and sale is

sponsored by North Oaks Guild II. Due to safety issues and the large amount of merchandise, the guild asks that NO strollers be brought into the arena. Cash, checks, credit cards all welcomed. For more information, go to: [www.northoaksrummagesale.org](http://www.northoaksrummagesale.org) or email the guild at: [northoaksrummagesale@gmail.com](mailto:northoaksrummagesale@gmail.com).

## AQUATIC PLANTS – FROM PAGE 1

lakes. Think “farming country.” Up north conditions in general include lower nutrients and cooler temperatures. This translates to clearer water, often with fewer plants.

Many metro lakes also tend to have more inputs of fertilizers and other pollutants. One thing everybody who owns a yard and tends it, especially with the addition of chemicals, can do to help our lakes is reduce those inputs and transition to native species. Native plants are adapted to local conditions. Prairie plants especially have deep root systems and low nutrient requirements in general. Outdated and leaky septic systems may also be providing nutrient inputs to some metro lakes. Leaky septic systems should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible once a problem is detected.

Why do we need native plants in our lakes?

Aquatic plants take up nutrients from the lake bottom and water column. Without plants, algae take up these nutrients, resulting in algae blooms, which can potentially produce harmful toxins. Once a lake is dominated by algae, switching it over to a clear water lake with a healthy plant community is a difficult task that takes time and often requires many interventions. Some interventions that are currently in progress for Pleasant Lake include invasive species removal focused on reducing common carp and yellow iris, restoring shoreline areas to prevent erosion, and minimizing water-level fluctuation in the winter to protect shoreline restoration efforts. These actions all were identified through carefully conducted research efforts that investigated and made specific

recommendations catered to improve Pleasant Lake.

Hot, dry summers also tend to correspond to poorer water quality and more frequent algae blooms. This summer is stimulating earlier algae blooms in watershed lakes that are closely monitored for potential harmful algae blooms.

We need plants in our lakes to have clear, healthy water. The littoral zone, or shallow areas, tends to be heavily covered with plants in healthy lakes in our part of the state. This zone goes from the shoreline to approximately 15 feet in depth, depending upon water clarity. In urban lakes, plants often extend to 7 or more feet in depth. In these areas, sunlight is able to reach the plants. If algae are more abundant, they take up those nutrients, capture the light, and shade out plants. In addition to keeping the water clear, aquatic plants also provide food and habitat for a variety of insects, fish, birds, and other wildlife. An excellent resource that provides more information is the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources web page called: A Guide to Aquatic Plants. On that page, click the link for Where Aquatic Plants Grow. A quick Google search will take you there, or follow this link: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/index.html>.

Native versus invasive plants

We need native aquatic plants and a healthy aquatic plant community for clear water, but some of the plants in Pleasant Lake do not belong there. Invasive species are species outside of their native range that have an oversized impact to the ecosystem compared to native species that tend to be more balanced in growth



CONTRIBUTED

(From left) Alexis Lipstein and Justin Townsend, RCSWCD staff, on a Curly-leaf pondweed delineation survey on Pleasant Lake.

patterns and by what eats them. Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil are examples of plants that are invasive in Pleasant Lake. Infestations are areas where these plants form dense stands of only that species. These infested areas limit diversity and inhibit healthy ecosystem function.

An invasive aquatic plant species that is of concern for water quality is Curly-leaf pondweed. Curly-leaf pondweed starts growing early in the season, often under the ice, and reaches peak abundance in the spring and early summer. It dies off in early- to mid-summer in large numbers. The decaying plants release the nutrients they have taken up into their plant tissues back into the water column and often stimulate late-season algae blooms.

It is important to remember that by mid- to late- summer, native plant species, and not Curly-leaf pondweed, are pretty thick in the littoral zone of Pleasant Lake. An example is Coontail, which is a native species that gets very abundant later in the season. Coontail, along with native pondweeds and other plant species, can inhibit recreational uses including swimming and sailing. These native plants are important in helping to keep Pleasant on a water-quality improvement path.

Reducing Curly-leaf pondweed infestation is a current discussion underway with partners and State agencies to determine if a permit for chemical treatment might be allowed; in the past, an application for chemical treatment of Curly-leaf pondweed in Pleasant Lake was denied. Extra caution is needed for permit consideration because drinking water is pumped through these lakes including Pleasant Lake.

How can we tell which plants we're looking at?

VLAWMO and NOHOA are working with Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division (RCWCD) to conduct thorough and targeted aquatic vegetation surveys in Pleasant Lake. We will continue to share the results of those surveys and highlight some native plant species in Pleasant Lake in the coming months.

*Dawn Tanner is the VLAWMO Program Development Coordinator. This article was submitted in partnership with the North Oaks Home Owners' Association (NOHOA) and St. Paul Regional Water Services.*

### JOIN US! PREK-12 MPA PREVIEW SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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