



News & Views

A bi-weekly section where readers will be informed on subjects of seasonal interest, upcoming events and other timely topics.



Annual Spring Cleanup

ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY REMINDER – The Township's annual clean-up day is just around the corner – hold the date – Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Otter Lake Elementary School, 1401 County Road H-2, remember to bring proof of residency.



FRIENDLY PET REMINDERS:

• Please clean up after your pets: Pet owners are required to clean up after their dogs when taking them for a walk. Dog owners must carry a plastic bag or some other means of picking up after their dog whenever they are off their owner property.

- Dogs must be leashed when out for a walk: Dogs must be on a leash & under control while off the owner's property
- Looking to exercise your dog? Ramsey County's off-leash dog park is a 10 acre fully-fenced park located at 5750 Otter Lake Road & includes such amenities as wooded terrain, footpaths, community gathering area & water access at the boat launch. The park also has designated small dog hours which are Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. & Saturdays from 10-11 a.m.



SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT MAY 20TH TO JUNE 2ND

– One fact remains true in the world of traffic safety, seat belts save lives. The Click-It or Ticket Seat Belt Mobilization effort will be operational from May 20th through June 2nd, 2019, with at least 50% of the enforcement hours targeted in the window between 4 p.m. & 1 a.m. Take

the three seconds to fasten your belt – you win by avoiding a costly ticket & could save your life.



GREENING YOUR VEHICLE & YOUR DRIVING HABITS

– With so many choices these days, buying a new, greener vehicle can feel like wading through alphabet soup, & while shiny new cars with all their fuel saving

features can be exciting, they can also be expensive & unaffordable for many of us. Fortunately, there's a lot you can do regardless of what you drive to be a greener motorist. Read on for some proven strategies that will reduce your

carbon impact while saving you money for that future green car purchase!

Accelerate and decelerate smoothly. Accelerating & decelerating smoothly makes the best use of the vehicle's engine & reduces wear & tear on the brakes. Rapid acceleration & braking can reduce gas mileage by 15-40%. To help improve your gas economy, anticipate when you will need to stop, then ease off the gas & coast in gear.

Keep tires properly inflated. Inflating your vehicle's tires to the pressure shown in your owner's manual can help save you up to 3% on fuel. It can also help prevent irregular wear & tear on your tires & tire blowouts.

Avoid excess idling. Idling for 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine. Excess idling also causes more wear on your vehicle's engine.

Remove heavy items that you don't need from your vehicle.

Removing excess weight helps improve vehicle efficiency by 1% or more.

Close the windows when driving at higher speeds. This helps reduce aerodynamic drag on the vehicle, which means less work for your car's engine.

Keep your car in good repair & fix exhaust & oxygen sensor problems. Maintaining your vehicle in peak working condition will save you money in the long & short runs & will prolong the vehicle's life. For example, fixing a faulty oxygen sensor can improve your mileage by as much as 40%.

Use sunshades in the summer & windshield ice covers in the winter. Sunshades keep the interior of your vehicle cooler, thus reducing how hard your AC has to work to cool things down. Windshield ice covers prevent buildup of snow & ice on your windshield & eliminate the need for idling to defrost your vehicle.

Open your windows (briefly) when you turn on the AC in the summer. Vehicle interiors tend to get very hot in the summer. Having the windows down & turning on the AC for the first few minutes of driving allows the hot air to escape & allows the AC to work faster. You can then put the windows up & enjoy your cool vehicle.

Combine errands into one trip. Combining errands reduces the total distance you have to drive and, by keeping the engine warm, ensures more efficient operation of your vehicle.



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