

City of Hopkins

# 2006 Annual Report

A community vested in threads of history, growth, character, and progress



## 2006: A Year of Accomplishments

2006 was a year of reaching previous goals and setting new ones for the City of Hopkins.

The Hopkins City Council began the year by approving plans for Phase III of the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Improvement project (page 8), which continues a four-phase, 15-year roadway improvement program. Embarking on another major redevelopment project, the Council ended the year with approval for Excelsior Crossings (page 5). They also worked with Hennepin County and the City of Minnetonka to formulate a plan for future redevelopment along the Shady Oak Road Corridor.

Continuing to take action to advance Hopkins, the Council also began a partnership with the Hopkins Business and Civic Association in 2006 to better market and promote the city. The initial results of this effort will be the “Think Hopkins” campaign (page 4).

The Council also met with representatives of the faith community to discuss concerns and determine where joint action is possible.

In the fall, the Council worked on the 2007 budget. In December, the Council approved a General Fund Budget that reduced the tax rate for the second straight year.

The Hopkins City Council looks forward to another goal-reaching year in 2007.

The City of Hopkins and Finance Director Christine Harkess were honored in 2006 by the Government Finance Officers Association with awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

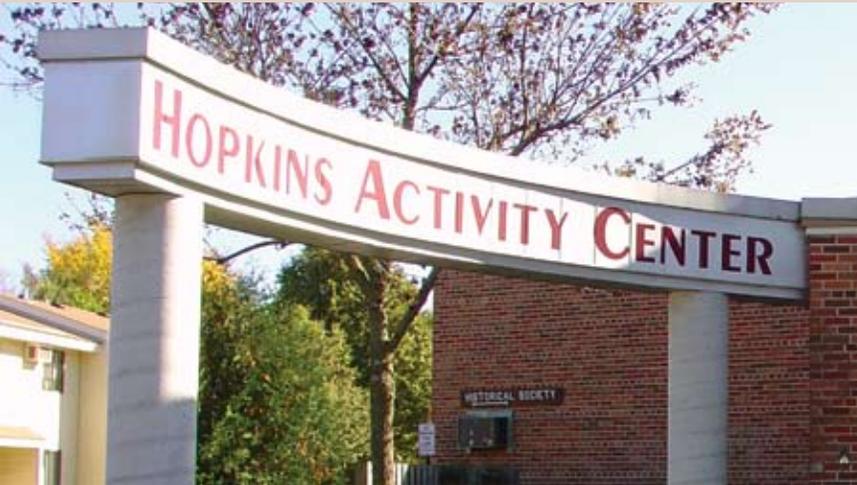
## Police Service Liaison, YMCA receive Human Rights Awards

On December 5, 2006 Katherine Magdal was recognized with an award from the Hopkins Human Rights Commission. Magdal is the Police Service Liaison for the Police Department and was recognized for her efforts in coordinating many participants and programs in the Blake Road Corridor project. Her work on this project truly helps “foster a community that embraces diversity, mutual respect, and principals of equal opportunity.”

The Ridgedale YMCA was also presented a Human Rights Award in recognition of its efforts in the city of Hopkins. The YMCA, in addition to being an ongoing partner in the Depot Coffee House/Teen Center project, has been participating in the Blake Road Corridor project. The YMCA has provided recreational opportunities for all of the children living in the Blake Road Corridor regardless of race or creed.



# Community



## Hopkins Activity Center Celebrates 25 Years

2006 was the 25th anniversary of the Hopkins Activity Center. The Center works with 23 different community partners in offering events and services for older adults in the Hopkins area. In 2006, the Center served 2,655 people with hot meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



## Hopkins Center for the Arts

The Library Foundation of Hennepin County selected the Hopkins Center for the Arts as the home of their Pen Pals Series for 2006-07. This is a series of lectures by nationally-known authors benefiting the library foundation. This season's authors include Amy Tan, David McCullough, Vince Flynn, Rick Bragg, and Dr. Elaine Pagels.

The Arts Center's rental event usage increased by over 500 hours in 2006 to reach an annual all-time high in hours rented, attendance, and rental revenues.

The Arts Center's Mainstreet planting areas were planted in perennial prairie grasses. The landscape plan was developed to work well with the high temperatures and full sun exposure, as well as to provide year-round foliage to beautify the areas.



## Hopkins Pavilion

The Pavilion rented over 1,400 hours of ice, 400 hours of turf, and showed an increase in summer dry floor rentals and programs in 2006. Mezzanine Room rentals and usage has shown steady growth since opening in 2003.



## Depot Coffee House

The Depot Coffee House was awarded a total of \$55,000 in grants in 2006, from 3 different foundations, in support of the Depot Board's work with youth.

The Three Rivers Park District invested in improving the Depot site as a trailhead with improvements to the parking lot, expanding the brick patio, improving site drainage, and adding a drinking fountain to the site.

# Planning & Economic Development

## Campaign Launched to Market Hopkins

In January the City of Hopkins, in collaboration with the Hopkins Business and Civic Association, began a two-year marketing campaign, *Think Hopkins*.

The goal is three-fold:

- to encourage Hopkins residents, business owners, and employees to support Hopkins businesses
- to encourage new visitors to Hopkins from the metro area and beyond
- to encourage new businesses to locate in Hopkins

The campaign features a new website, [www.thinkhopkins.com](http://www.thinkhopkins.com), that has both a business and visitor focus. It also includes advertising that uses testimonials and pictures of our very photogenic city, recognition of our many *Points of Pride* and various promotions.



*The Think Hopkins logo emphasizes three of Hopkins main assets: our business community, academic reputation, and various art venues.*

## Development Updates



### Hopkins Honda/Walser/Chrysler Dodge

Hopkins Honda, at 5th & Mainstreet since the 1980s, constructed a new facility on Excelsior Boulevard. The project involved a redevelopment of the former Knox Lumber Company property.

The Walser Group has subsequently purchased the former Hopkins Honda site and is now in the process of completing an overall upgrade of the property west of 5th Avenue to combine their existing Chrysler dealership and a relocation of Hopkins Dodge from Highway 7.



### The Summit

The Summit is a residential/retail project that involved a redevelopment of the former Hopkins House property at Highway 7 and Hopkins Crossroad. The hotel, which had operated for decades, was demolished to its frame and rebuilt with 58 condominium units. A Starbucks Coffee shop was constructed on a portion of the parking lot.



### Oak Ridge Place

This luxury condominium project, adjacent to the Oak Ridge Country Club, is being developed by Halley's Custom Homes. It includes 16 custom-designed condominiums in the first phase with prices ranging from \$549,000 to \$1,595,000. A proposed second phase would add 14 condominiums to the project. The land for the first phase was surplus land made available by United Methodist Church.



*An artist rendering of what one of the Excelsior Crossings buildings will look like upon its completion.*

## From Warehouse to Stunning Office Complex

Opus Corporation completed a purchase of the SUPERVALU North Annex property (located on the northeast corner of Excelsior Boulevard and Highway 169) in the fall of 2006. Demolition of the large building on this site was completed in January.

The Excelsior Crossings Project, when completed, will have approximately 740,000 square feet of office space in three buildings. Two buildings will be occupied by Cargill, as a corporate campus. There will also be 6,000 square feet of retail space. The project will have a large water element along Excelsior Boulevard, and a path system within the project area will connect to the regional bike path system. Start of construction will be in spring 2007 and be phased over the next several years.



## Teaming Up to Help the Community

Each year patrol teams are assigned a long-term project to complete in addition to regular patrol duties. The assignments allow the officers to develop long-term strategies to address issues of concern in the community and work with stakeholders to find solutions. During 2006 the Police Department concentrated on two traffic and two quality of life projects in the community:

- One team worked with parents, students, and staff on stop sign violations around Alice Smith School
- Another team worked with residents on speeding concerns in the area of the newly remodeled intersection of County Roads 73 and 5
- Another team worked with residents and businesses on Mainstreet about vehicle noise issues
- Another team worked on safety concerns and crime issues with the newly formed Cottageville Park Neighborhood Watch Association

## Hopkins Police Officers Recognized



*Officer Mark Kylo and Sgt. Gordy Klingbeil both received the Minnesota State Patrol Commendation Award in 2006.*

On October 12, 2006 Chief Mark Dunaski of the Minnesota State Patrol presented Sgt. Gordy Klingbeil and Officer Mark Kylo the Minnesota State Patrol Commendation Award. The two Hopkins Officers received this recognition for their efforts last year when a suicidal man attempted to jump off an overpass on Highway 169. Sgt. Klingbeil and Officer Kylo responded to the scene to assist a state trooper. The suicidal man attempted to jump from the bridge and was grabbed by the Trooper and Hopkins Officers and pulled to safety. This action saved the man's life and was undertaken at personal risk to the officers.

The Minnesota State Patrol Commendation Award is the highest award presented by the Minnesota State Patrol to police officers from other departments.

On October 4, 2006 the Minnesota Sex Crimes Association recognized Investigative Sgt. Ray Laudenbach as the Investigator of the Year for 2006. Sgt. Laudenbach was recognized for his investigative efforts that led to identification of a suspect wanted for two home invasion/sexual assault cases that occurred in December of 2001. Sgt. Laudenbach not only identified the suspect in those cases but also tracked that suspect's movement and helped identify him in unsolved cases in two other states. That suspect is awaiting trial in Hennepin County as well as Wisconsin and Illinois thanks to the work of Sgt. Laudenbach. Sgt. Laudenbach is the first member of the Hopkins Police Department to be named Investigator of the Year.

Chief Craig Reid was present at both awards presentations. Chief Reid noted these incidents show the high level of professional effort typical of this department. "I am very proud of these officers," Chief Reid said. "Their actions showcase the best possible performance of duty that all members of this department are prepared to give each day."



*The new fire truck includes state-of-the-art technology to help extinguish fires more quickly.*

## A Year Marked By Progress

2006 was a year of good changes for the Hopkins Fire Department, starting in January when the City hired its first fulltime fire chief. Chief Dale Specken took over the department as the fire chief/fire marshal/emergency-preparedness director.

In March the fire department purchased a new 2006 Custom Fire Engine. This state-of-the-art truck is outfitted with Compressed Air Foam (CAF) to help firefighters extinguish fires more quickly.

With the delivery of the new engine, the department had to dispose of its old engine. All attempts to sell the old engine failed. The Lake Kabetogama Fire Department in northern Minnesota said that they were interested, but unable to pay for it. The City of Hopkins and the Hopkins Fire Department donated the truck to Lake Kabetogama.

Also in 2006 the department began a program where firefighters respond to medical calls in place of police officers. This program results in a faster response to medical emergencies and frees up police, allowing them more street time.

By the end of the year, the Hopkins Fire Department completed its goal of having all commercial businesses, schools, and places of assembly inspected in a two-year time period. The inspection department will begin its next cycle in 2007.

The Fire Prevention Bureau spent the year doing fire prevention in all Hopkins schools and started working with apartment managers to educate their residents on safe cooking practices. A large number of the fires that occurred in 2006 were in apartment buildings and involved cooking.

# Public Works

## Noticeable Improvements in 2006

### Hopkins Crossroads/Minnetonka Boulevard Intersection

Long-awaited intersection improvements, including traffic signals, were completed in 2006 ending a frustrating bottleneck for commuters that frequently included long queues at the stop signs. A City of Hopkins citizen task force assisted in securing project support and approval and facilitated the design work. The result is a county intersection that is foremost functional and safe, but also includes several aesthetic features resulting in a unique, distinctive appearance. The project also included a new off-road pedestrianway along Minnetonka Boulevard through the Bellgrove neighborhood.



### Excelsior Boulevard Streetscape Improvements

Phase III of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor improvements were completed in 2006. The Phase III improvements included: placing overhead electrical lines underground, new street lighting, new sidewalks, a downtown entrance monument at 8th Avenue, enhanced pedestrian crosswalks and access to the regional trail, median and boulevard plantings, and an irrigation system.

### Mainstreet Bus Shelter

Using Metropolitan Council Livable Communities funding tied to the Mainstreet Lofts mixed-use development, City workers installed a new, decorative bus shelter near the corner of Mainstreet and 7th Avenue South.

# Recreation



## Hopkins Stays Active

2006 was another busy year for the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Department. The summer playground programs involved more than 7,800 visits to the playgrounds throughout the summer. The fall youth soccer program involved 789 children and more than 150 adults as team parents or volunteer coaches.

There were 166 teams that played in the 2006 summer adult softball program. Fifty-two teams participated in the 8-week fall softball league that concluded the last week of September.