

City of Hopkins

2010 Annual Report



Partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life

City Hall

2010: An Award-Winning Year

In 2010, many important facets of Hopkins' city government were recognized for excellence, both locally and nationally.

The winners, ranging from people to projects to partnerships, included:

- The Hopkins Finance Director and her department again received honors for the Hopkins **budget document** and the City's **annual financial report**;
- The Mayor and Hopkins City Council once again received honors as the "**Most Active City Council**" in a Hennepin County health initiative known as the Step To It Challenge;
- Hopkins residents and business that participated in the Step To It Challenge also won the "**Most Active Residents**" city award;
- A group of University of Minnesota Humphrey graduate students won a **state planning award** for their work on transit-oriented development plans on 8th Avenue South in Hopkins (see page 5);
- The Hopkins city website received two awards, one in Minnesota and one nationally, for **excellence in government communications** (see page 2);
- The Blake Road Corridor Collaborative was named a National League of Cities finalist for an **Award of Municipal Excellence** (see page 4);
- Police Sergeant Brent Johnson was named a national runner-up for the **Enrique Camarena Award** established by the Order of the Elks (see page 6);
- Police Services Liaison Anne Marie Buck received the **Rosie Griep Legacy Award** for crime prevention (see page 6);
- The Hopkins Fire Department received a **Life Safety Achievement Award** from the Residential Fire Safety Institute (see page 7);
- Hopkins Fire Chief Dale Specken was named **Minnesota Fire Officer of the Year** in 2010 (see page 7); and
- The City's annual report won a **MN Association of Government Communicators Award of Merit** for printed publications.

Serving a community with such a track record for excellence, the Hopkins City Council looks forward to an even more successful 2011.



photo by Tracy Ashley

The year began with a State of the City address that doubled as an awards show, foreshadowing the award-winning year that was to come. The Mayor and City Council presented Golden Raspberry awards to important city projects.

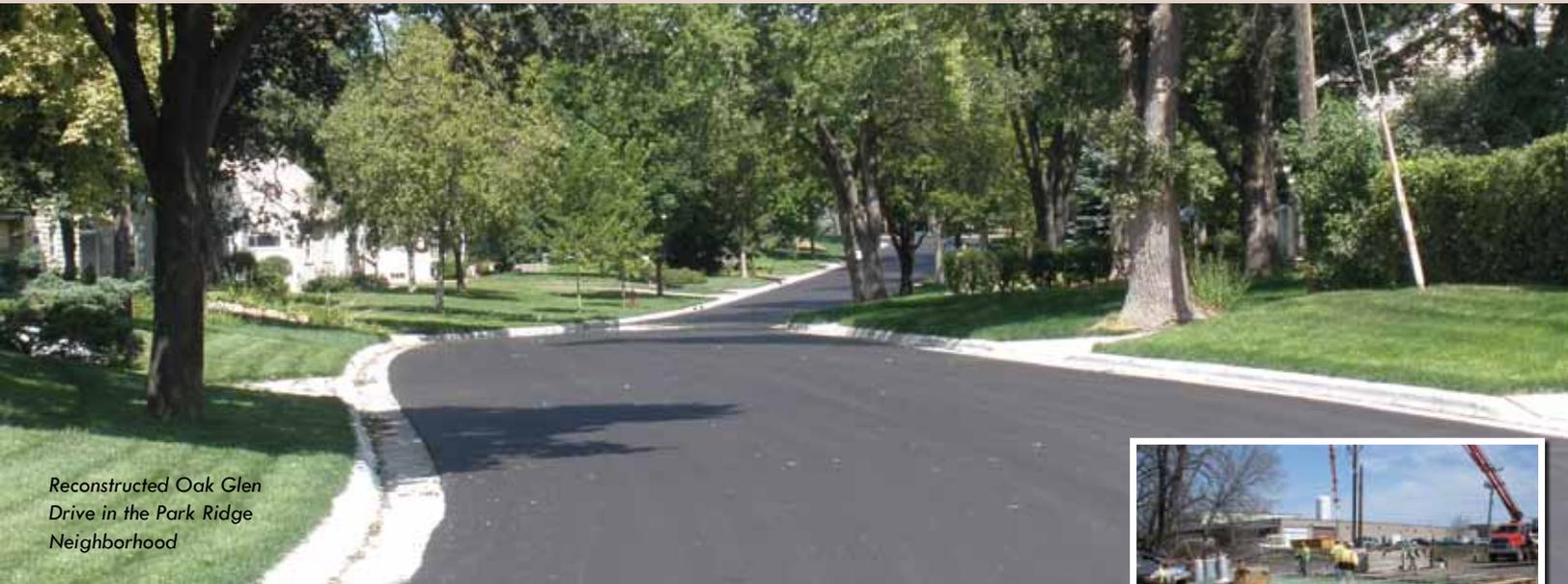
City Website Wins Two Awards

The City of Hopkins website, www.hopkinsmn.com, was recognized twice in 2010. In May, the website received an Award of Excellence from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators. In September, it won the Pinnacle Award from the National Association of Government Webmasters for strongest entry in the small population group (under 50,000). The NAGW judges were "pleased with this simple, elegant site,

and appreciated its ease of use and readability." The City's website is designed and edited by Kristi Bucher.



Public Works



Reconstructed Oak Glen Drive in the Park Ridge Neighborhood

Projects Improve Infrastructure, Quality of Life

The Public Works Department completed several street and utility improvement projects in 2010, including:

- a \$3 million, two-year effort in the Park Ridge neighborhood to reconstruct all streets and replace all utilities
- reconstruction of 5th Street South
- constructing a new bridge over 9 Mile Creek at 5th Street South
- replacing a sanitary sewer lift station with a new gravity sewer line

Cottageville Park Improvements

The Department partnered with the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, which provided the funding for a new basketball court and soccer goals for Cottageville Park. New lighting was also installed.



Top: Nine Mile Creek bridge at 5th Street S under construction. Bottom: Neighbors enjoy the new basketball court and soccer goals at Cottageville Park.



Grants Help Hopkins Go Green, Save Green

The City received two federal economic stimulus grants totaling \$90,000 for energy-saving projects, including replacement of old, inefficient boilers at City Hall and a lighting upgrade for the City parking ramp.

Also in 2010 the City began a new organic recycling program for all City facilities, assisted by a two-year Hennepin County grant.

Background: Waste gets divided into recycling, organics, and trash at The Depot Coffee House. Foreground: New energy-efficient boilers at City Hall.

Planning & Economic Deve

Engaging Raspberry Renters Moves On To The Cricket Field

In 2010 the City of Hopkins continued to reach out to Hopkins renters through Engaging Raspberry Renters (ERR), a project that aims to get renters more involved in the city. The ERR team worked specifically with Ramsgate Apartments. The City held special events and shared information about personal safety, fire prevention, pool safety, community events, Hopkins parks and trails, and local business support.

One event, a cricket match between City staff and Ramsgate residents, made a big impression on all involved. The experienced cricket players gave the very inexperienced City employees a quick tutorial on the game before dividing into mixed teams. The Ramsgate residents felt a strong sense of appreciation from the City and were excited to share their sport. The City employees had a great time, got active, and learned a new sport.

City staff asked how the City could support the residents in their cricket league and their suggestions will be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Department. The event was simple to organize and free.



Crime Prevention Specialist Anne Marie Buck tries her hand at "bowling."

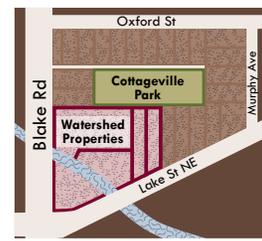


Youth from neighborhoods near Blake Road volunteered to help clean up Cottageville Park on Earth Day.

Partnerships Continue To Bring Improvements To Blake Road Corridor

The City made great strides implementing one of the major recommendations of the Blake Road Corridor Small Area Plan: improving green spaces and connections.

In 2010, Hopkins partnered with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, which purchased four properties connecting Minnehaha Creek and Cottageville Park. The residential buildings on these properties will be demolished, and a new park will be created that provides a neighborhood and regional amenity in the Corridor. The redesigned park will be safer thanks to new visibility from Blake Road, and water management elements will improve the health of the creek while also providing much desired public access.



Blake Road Corridor Collaborative

The City continues to be an active participant in the Blake Road Community Collaborative (BRCC). 2010 activities included the creation of the Blake Road blog (www.blakeroad.org) and an Earth Day event.

Largely due to the collaborative efforts of the BRCC, Hopkins was a 2010 National League of Cities finalist for its Award of Municipal Excellence.



Think Hopkins Campaign Going Strong

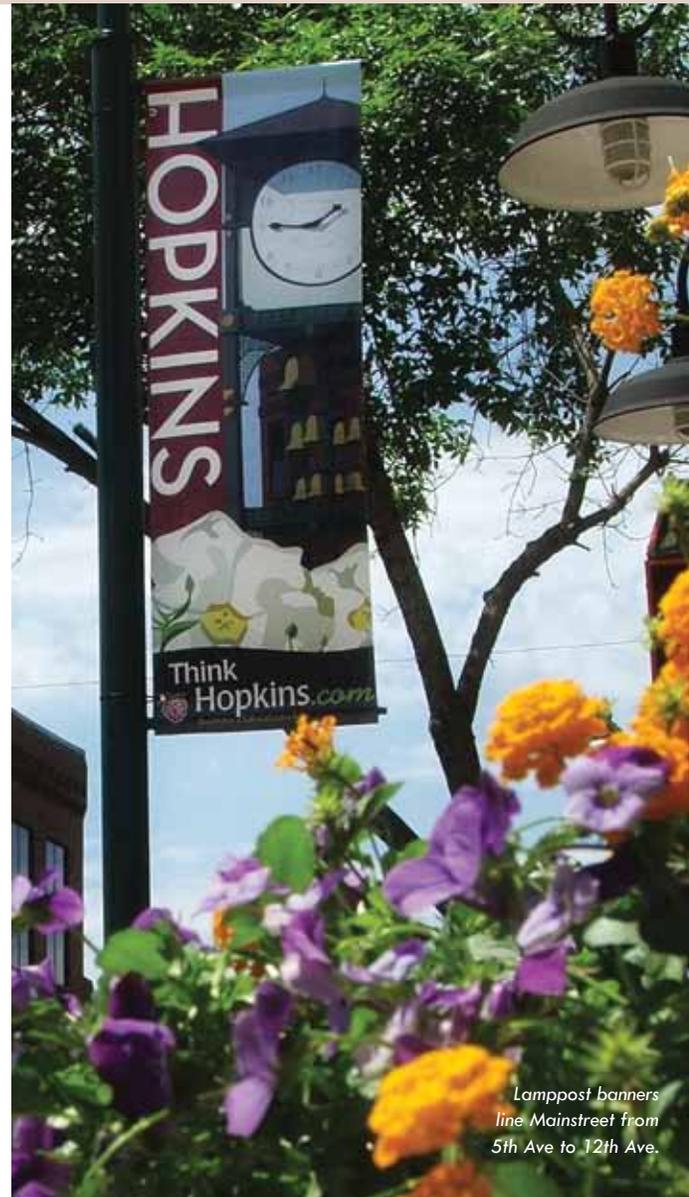
The Think Hopkins campaign had another busy and successful year getting the word out about all Hopkins has to offer.

- The Shopping and Dining Guide was updated to reflect the many new shops and restaurants that have come to Hopkins since 2008.
- Lamppost banners were designed and installed along Mainstreet to contribute to our “small town feel” and drive traffic to www.thinkhopkins.com.
- Think Hopkins jump ropes were distributed at various events to encourage youth activity and awareness of the campaign.

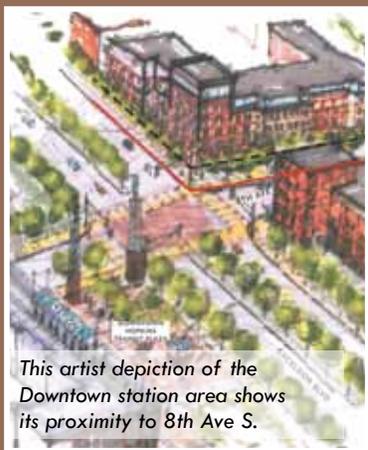
The Think Hopkins campaign also looked for ways to draw interest to available business spaces on Mainstreet. In December, artist Christopher Bowman painted a mural for the storefront windows of the vacant business space at 812 Mainstreet. The mural encompasses the spirit of Hopkins from the past through the future, and was painted on panels that can be relocated when the space is leased. In addition to attracting new businesses to Mainstreet, the mural promotes art in Hopkins and provides visual interest for Downtown patrons.



Mural by Christopher Bowman



Lamppost banners line Mainstreet from 5th Ave to 12th Ave.



This artist depiction of the Downtown station area shows its proximity to 8th Ave S.

Planning For A Future 8th Avenue South Connection

In 2010 the City of Hopkins issued a Request for Proposals to redevelop the vacant Park Nicollet Clinic on 8th Avenue South. 8th Avenue South has been identified in many recent plans as an important connection between the future Downtown Hopkins Light Rail Transit station and Mainstreet. One such study, completed by graduate students at the Humphrey Institute at the U of MN, won an award for Outstanding Student Project from the MN Chapter of the American Planning Association. That study in particular highlighted the need for a “pedestrian seductive” experience along 8th Avenue South through streetscape improvements, active first floor uses, and circulation options from the station throughout Downtown.

The City will be selecting a developer to further refine the redevelopment project.

Police



The Police Department and JCPP sponsored two Somali cultural events in 2010, one at Raspberry Ridge Apartments (pictured) and the second at Westside Village.

Bridging The Cultural Gap

In 2010 the Police Department continued its work with the award-winning Joint Community Police Partnership to bridge the gaps of cultural diversity in Hopkins. The police & JCPP held two well-attended Somali cultural events, a New Americans Academy, and a new event called Face2Face, held at Hopkins High School. At this event, the police and youth did role-reversal scenarios and discussed how youth can make good decisions. The youth are already asking for a second Face2Face.

The JCPP's Multi-Cultural Advisory Board has grown to 17 members from ten different cultures.



Mike Reynolds was sworn in on July 6. His family took part in the ceremony.

Hopkins Names New Chief Of Police

After ten years of service with the Hopkins Police Department, Police Chief Craig Reid retired in 2010. In June the City hired Mike Reynolds, formerly a commander with the Brooklyn Center Police Department, to replace him as Chief of Police.

Johnson, Buck Recognized For Excellence

The Police Department continued to add to its history of excellence in 2010, with two major awards that recognized individuals on the department's staff.

Sergeant Brent Johnson was named a national runner-up for the Enrique S. Camarena Award. The Enrique S. Camarena Award was established by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks to recognize and honor law enforcement officers who have made a significant contribution in the field of drug prevention and who personify Agent Camarena's belief that one person can make a difference.



Sgt. Brent Johnson

The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association awarded **Anne Marie Buck**, crime prevention specialist for the Hopkins Police Department, the Rosie Griep Legacy Award. This award is a lifetime achievement award given to crime prevention specialists who have made significant contributions to crime prevention efforts for at least 10 years.



Anne Marie Buck



Minnesota State Fire Marshal Jerry Rosendahl (middle) presents the Life Safety Achievement Award to Hopkins Mayor Eugene Maxwell and Fire Chief Dale Specken.

Fire Chief, Department Receive High Honors

Fire Chief Named Minnesota's "Fire Officer of the Year"

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association named Hopkins Fire Chief Dale Specken the Minnesota Fire Officer of the Year for 2010. In his nomination, the Fire Chief of the Excelsior Fire District commended Specken for his leadership and "can do" attitude, the outstanding work culture he has created in the fire department, and his reputation for going "above and beyond the call of duty with firefighters, co-workers, and the community."

Specken joined the Hopkins Fire Department in March of 1981. He was appointed as full-time fire chief in 2004. He also serves as the emergency manager and fire marshal for the City of Hopkins.

Department Receives Life Safety Achievement Award

In 2010 the Fire Department was presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for the year 2009 by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

The Fire Department qualified for this award because it recorded zero fire deaths in structures in 2009, demonstrated the existence of an active and effective fire prevention program, and showed a clear commitment to reducing the number of fires in homes in Hopkins.

photo by Curtis Magdal



Partnerships And Preparation Help Keep Hopkins Safe

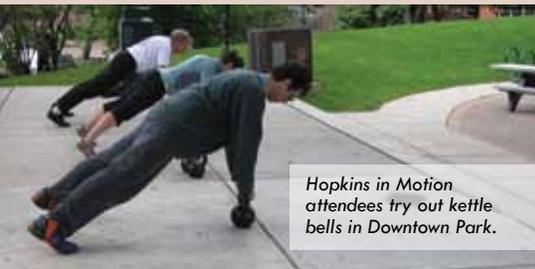
The Hopkins Fire Department, along with the Hopkins Police Department, conducted an Emergency Preparedness Drill with the Hopkins School District in August 2010. The drill, held at Eisenhower Elementary, put into place the City of Hopkins Emergency Operations Plan and the Hopkins School District Plan. Personnel from the City and school district learned many lessons through this cooperative drill and strengthened a good working relationship.

City Becomes "StormReady"

The City of Hopkins became a "StormReady City" in 2010. The StormReady program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations. Storm-Ready communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness.



Recreation



Hopkins in Motion attendees try out kettle bells in Downtown Park.

Hopkins Promotes Active Living

As a participant in Active Living Hennepin County, the City encourages residents to incorporate activity into daily life. In 2010, this included:

- promoting participation in the Step To It Challenge
- sponsoring a second annual Hopkins In Motion community event
- improving the built environment with new sidewalks, trails, and other pedestrian improvements
- conducting site plan reviews from the viewpoint of both motorist and pedestrian
- working to develop a new mixed-use zoning ordinance to assure development around proposed LRT stations will be both transit and pedestrian/bicyclist supportive
- continuing to offer joint recreation programs with Minnetonka, with over 30,000 people participating in 2010

Old And New Favorites Continue To Engage

Youth and adult recreation programs saw strong participation in 2010. Several programs saw an increase in registrations over the previous year.

Little Dribblers offered first graders an introduction to basketball through small group games and activities in order to prepare them for the youth basketball league that begins in second grade. A total of 48 boys and girls participated in this new program.

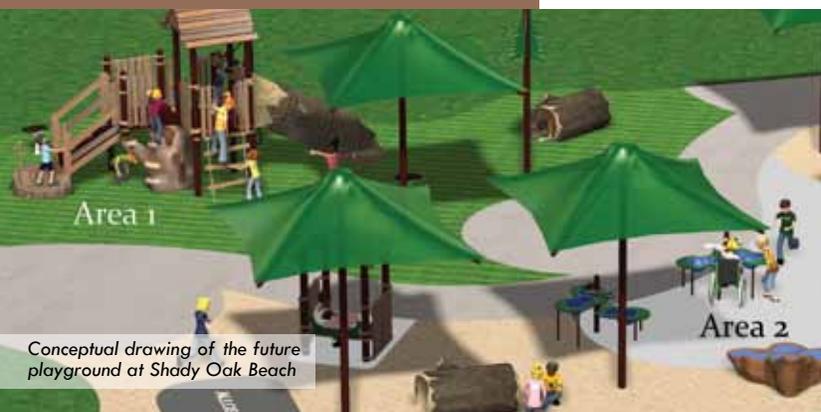
Over 150 kids participated in the popular **Spring Eggstravaganza**. Offered to children ages 10 and under, the event features an egg hunt, musical entertainment by a local band, face painting, spin art, a variety of kids games, and a visit from the spring bunny.

The **Playground Program** was a huge success in 2010 with over 1100 registered. This free, five-week summer program is offered at 10 neighborhood parks throughout Hopkins and Minnetonka. Program staff lead children ages 6-12 in playground games, activities, and crafts. The program concludes with a Summer Carnival held at Burnes Park with a cookout for all participants and their families, carnival games, and a pie-eating contest.

Summer **Adult Kickball Leagues** continued to be popular in 2010 with 23 teams participating. Leagues are offered on weekday evenings and take place at Central and Burnes Parks in Hopkins. The seven-week regular season is followed by playoffs for the top four teams.



Frisbee golf proved a popular activity at the Playground Program's Summer Carnival at Burnes Park.



Conceptual drawing of the future playground at Shady Oak Beach

Construction Begins On Shady Oak Beach Play Area

Renovations on the Shady Oak Beach playground began in the fall of 2010. The play area will be ready for use when the beach opens in June of 2011.

In 2009, the Cities of Hopkins and Minnetonka received a \$187,500 Youth Sports Program grant for this project from Hennepin County.