

City of Hopkins

# 2011 Annual Report



Partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life

# City Hall



Hopkins Mayor Gene Maxwell signs the sister city declaration in September.

## 2011: A Year of Change

The City of Hopkins saw a number of changes occur in 2011.

- Two long-time Council members, Rick Brausen and Bruce Rowan, retired. Two new Council members, Molly Cummings and Jason Gadd, were elected.
- In August, Hopkins welcomed a new city manager when Mike Mornson replaced Rick Getschow.
- After waiting several years for economic conditions to improve, developers broke ground on the Marketplace & Main retail and apartment complex. Another project, the Hopkins Health & Fitness expansion, was completed in 2011 (see page 4).
- Dramatic changes occurred at Cottageville Park with the park being expanded and opened up to Blake Road (see page 4).
- New events such as Cinco de Mayo and the Somali Cultural Celebration highlighted the diversity of Hopkins (see page 6) while Artstreet showcased the art scene (see page 5).
- Hopkins acquired a sister City—Boryspol, Ukraine.

Some things don't change—the City continued to be recognized for excellence, including the Hopkins Finance Department again receiving honors for the Hopkins budget document and annual financial report, and the Police Department receiving a national award (see page 6).

The Hopkins City Council looks forward to continued excellence and meaningful change in 2012.



Above: Rick Brausen (left) and Bruce Rowan (middle) receive recognition for their years of service.



Right: New Council members Jason Gadd and Molly Cummings.

## Meet Our Sister City: Boryspol, Ukraine

In September 2011, the City of Hopkins officially formed a sister city relationship with Boryspol, Ukraine.



The City held a Sister City Celebration at the Hopkins Center for the Arts on September 27, when a delegation from Boryspol visited Hopkins.

In May, Hopkins Mayor Gene Maxwell visited Boryspol as part of a civic-cultural exchange program.

Boryspol lies just outside Kiev and is home to Kiev International Airport.

# Public Works

## Let It Snow

Public Works was busy plowing and hauling snow last winter. Hopkins received 86 inches of snow during the 2010-2011 winter.

By February, this snow dump site at 11th Avenue and Smetana Road was several feet high with snow.



## Streets & Gardens, Courts & Parks Mark Productive 2011

The City stayed on course with its infrastructure improvement program by completing a \$2.5 million street/utility improvement project in 2011. The work included rehabilitating 1.5 miles of city streets, along with associated water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer improvements. The project area included north-central Hopkins between 12th and 17th Avenues N, as well as the North Frontage Road adjacent to Eisenhower Elementary School.

The City also made several improvements to parks in Hopkins, including installing a new basketball court at Valley Park and a new community garden at Cottageville Park.

Improvements to the Shady Oak Beach play area, funded through a Hennepin County Youth Sports grant, were also completed in 2011 (see page 8).



Behind: Crews pave 3rd Street N, just east of 17th Avenue.  
Left: New basketball court at Valley Park.  
Right: Work begins on the new community garden at Cottageville Park.

# Planning & Economic Deve



## Blake Road Area Plan Moves Forward With Cottageville Park Improvements

In 2011 the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, in partnership with the City of Hopkins, acquired several properties along Minnehaha Creek to further the vision detailed in the Blake Road Small Area Plan. That vision was to improve a neighborhood park, clean the creek water through treatment of stormwater runoff, and create a catalyst for additional redevelopment in the corridor. With an expanded footprint and direct access to Minnehaha Creek, Cottageville Park will be transformed into an exciting community gathering place for the neighborhood and community alike.

Planning for the new and improved park land will begin spring 2012.



*Before and after photos reveal the transformation underway at Cottageville Park.*



## Work Begins At Marketplace & Main

In the fall of 2011 The Beard Group broke ground on the long-awaited Marketplace & Main development. The project required the demolition of the former Hopkins Honda Body Shop and when completed will include 53 units of upscale apartments, 6000 square feet of retail space, and 7 townhome units. The majority of the work will be finished by summer of 2012.



## Hopkins Health And Wellness Center Expands

The Hopkins Health and Wellness Center doubled its size in 2011 with the addition of 7,420 square feet to its existing building. The HHWC expanded its own physical therapy facilities and moved Snap Fitness into the new space.

## SW LRT Enters Preliminary Engineering Phase

In 2011, the Southwest Light Rail Transit line received permission from the Federal Transit Administration to enter into preliminary engineering. This milestone means that the project moves from one of 100 around the country seeking FTA approval to one of a dozen that have the go-ahead to begin engineering for the line, scheduled to be operational in 2018.

Hopkins leaders are planning for three station areas: Blake Road, Downtown Hopkins at 8th Ave, and the Shady Oak Station.

The Southwest Corridor LRT line will stretch approximately 15 miles from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie, with projected average weekday ridership of nearly 30,000 by 2030.



The Man and the Muse, Deb Zeller

## Sculptures Turn Mainstreet Into Artstreet

In May 2011, art hit the street with the launch of Hopkins Artstreet. Five sculptures were installed in downtown Hopkins for year-long display until May 2012, when Artstreet 2012 will be rolled out.

The project is a collaboration among the City of Hopkins, the Hopkins Business & Civic Association, and the Friends of the Hopkins Center for the Arts, and is part of a long-term vision for incorporating public art into Hopkins and enriching the lives of its residents and visitors. This project is made possible, in part, by funds provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature.

Top to bottom: Shoo-Shoe Train, Kyle Fokken; Variation No. 1 and No. 2 On A Circular Theme, Norman Holen; Like A Tree, Rooted In The Earth, Richards D. Poey

## Limited Prints Of Historic Hopkins Painting Go On Sale



"THE CULTIVATION OF RASPBERRIES" — HOPKINS, MINNESOTA  
David Granahan, 1936

"The Cultivation of Raspberries" by David Granahan once graced the walls of the Hopkins Post Office. But when the post office was demolished in 1972, much of the artwork was destroyed. A 4½-foot by 11½-foot section was rescued and eventually donated to the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota.

The City of Hopkins purchased the reproduction rights in 2011 from the Weisman for a limited reprinting of the image, available through the City's online store and at Hopkins City Hall.

# Police



## Police Department Receives National Award

The Hopkins Police Department was recognized with a national award for its community-police partnership, innovation, and impact in the Blake Road neighborhoods.

The national MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award recognized innovative community safety efforts that have reduced crime, eliminated blight and renewed economic vitality in Hopkins neighborhoods.

Hopkins was selected from among 700 applicants for one of 10 distinguished MetLife Foundation honors. The award specifically recognizes the work of the Blake Road Community Collaborative (BRCC) and the Hopkins Police Department for their creative efforts to improve quality of life and bring together governmental and community organizations to address crime.

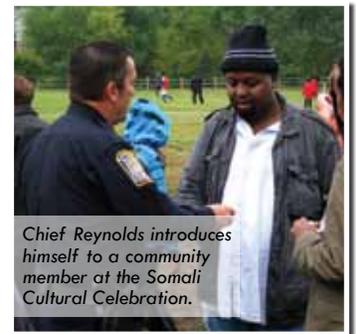


Face painting at the Somali Cultural Celebration

## New Events Strengthen Community

The Joint Community Police Partnership and the Multicultural Advisory Committee organized four major events in 2011:

- The **Cinco de Mayo Celebration** at Burnes Park was an opportunity for the Spanish-speaking community of Hopkins to interact with Hopkins law enforcement and enjoy fun activities. In addition to law enforcement, residents interacted with representatives from the fire department, school district, and local non-profits. Attendees learned about resources available to them and opportunities to get involved through volunteering, CERT, and community education.
- The **Somali Cultural Celebration** at Oakes Park was an opportunity for the Somali community of Hopkins to learn more about the functions and activities of local government and county and community resources. Attendees participated in fun activities, acquainted themselves with law enforcement personnel, learned about representative participatory government, and could register to vote.
- **Consumer Rights and Responsibilities Workshops** introduced residents to consumer laws and informed them of the jurisdiction of different government and consumer entities, including the US Attorney's Office, MN Attorney General's Office, the Better Business Bureau, and HUD.
- Hopkins West and North Junior High School students attended the **Hopkins Police and Fire Academy**. Students learned about the services provided by the police and fire departments, toured the departments, and learned about the citizen's role in safety. They also learned about careers with the FBI, police, and fire.



Chief Reynolds introduces himself to a community member at the Somali Cultural Celebration.

Photo courtesy hopkinsparch.com



Hopkins firefighter Greg Smith accompanies visitors on a ride in the ladder truck at the 2011 Open House.

## Grants Help Fire Department Take Safety To New Heights

2011 was a year of grants for the Hopkins Fire Department. The Fire Department received significant grants to help implement programs that assist residents in being fire safe.

- The Hopkins Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This \$30,000 grant will allow Hopkins residents, both homeowners and renters, to request a free home fire safety inspection from the Fire Department. Firefighters will come to the resident's home and perform a safety inspection, identifying household fire hazards and replacing smoke detectors. In addition, the program will allow firefighters to perform fall prevention checklists for senior citizen residents of Hopkins. The home fire safety inspection program will allow the Fire Department to educate and help households mitigate potential fire and household safety issues.
- The Fire Department also received a \$7,500 grant from Cargill to upgrade the department's training and technology materials for its public education program.
- In December of 2011, the Fire Department received a grant from the University of Minnesota for \$5,000 to increase sudden cardiac arrest survival rates. This program will teach residents how to start CPR before first responders arrive at the scene and give the patient a better chance of survival.

# Recreation



## New Play Area Opens At Shady Oak Beach

The Shady Oak Beach Community Play Area was completed in 2011. Replacing the older water feature at the beach, the new community play area offers multiple play areas suitable for ages 1-12. Just a few of the features include water tables, water misters, and a “fossil dig” for exploration. This area will be open from April through October each year.

Hopkins and Minnetonka received a \$187,500 Hennepin Youth Sports Program grant to develop the new play area.



Solar panels were installed at The Depot Coffee House in 2011. Energy production can be monitored in real time online.

## New Energy At The Depot

For years Depot students have been seeking out ways to “green” The Depot Coffee House building and the ways the community uses it. This summer, The Depot received funding to add solar energy-producing panels to its south-facing roof. The work was completed just in time to take advantage of the longest day of the year—June 21. Funding for the project was made possible by The Depot partner Three Rivers Park District and the Solar Legacy Fund at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Energy production from The Depot’s solar panels can be monitored online and inside the coffee shop, where guests can also learn about renewable energy and how the system works.