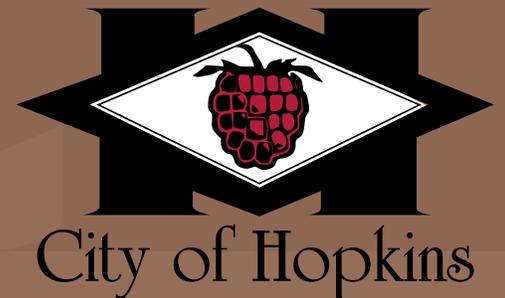




2014 Annual Report

Partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life



Nine Mile Creek



Financial Excellence

In 2014 the City received a bond rating upgrade from AA to AA+. This is the second highest rating a city can receive and reflects the City's strong economy, budget flexibility and solid reserves.

In addition, for the 24th year the City received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for their annual audit report and for the 12th year received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the annual budget.

2014: Celebrating Today, Planning for Tomorrow

The City of Hopkins Annual Report has always been an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments during the past year. The 2014 Annual Report is no exception.

2014 saw the completion of two housing projects: the Gallery Flats apartments and the Marketplace & Main townhomes. New businesses and restaurants opened in both Crossroads Plaza and Knollwood Crossings, and there were also new Mainstreet businesses such as LTD Brewing Co., Kiddywampus, Mill City Sound, Ladybug, and more.



Marketplace & Main townhomes

The City was also the recipient of awards including a Local Government Innovation Award for the Cottageville Park expansion project.

In addition to completing projects, 2014 saw a substantial investment of time and effort in planning for the future.

- ◆ **Mainstreet** The City Council, City staff, local businesses, and others spent months planning improvements to Mainstreet. This project will include resurfacing of the roadway, making pedestrian upgrades at intersections, replacing old water main and services, and the rehabilitation or replacement of streetscape features in need of attention such as benches, signs, trees and plantings, etc. This project is now scheduled to be completed during the 2015 construction season.
- ◆ **Cottageville Park** The City of Hopkins, in partnership with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, finished planning for major Cottageville Park improvements to take place in 2015. The improvements contribute to the health and visibility of the creek and nearly triple the size of the park. See page 3 for more details.
- ◆ **Artery** Planning for the Artery project on 8th Avenue continued to move forward. The City worked to develop concept designs and secure grants to help fund the project.
- ◆ **Blake Road Corridor Study** Agreement was reached in 2014 among the City of Hopkins, Hennepin County, the cities of Edina and St. Louis Park, Three Rivers Park District, the Minnehaha Watershed District, MNDOT, and the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project office on a corridor study for Blake Road to identify and plan for transportation improvements needed to support construction of the SWLRT line.
- ◆ **SWLRT** 2014 saw a significant milestone accomplished in the construction of the SWLRT line, with all of the cities along the Southwest line granting municipal consent. This action allows the project to proceed with engineering and keeps it on schedule for construction to begin in 2017.



Cottageville Park & Planning for 2015

2014 was a year of significant planning for upcoming improvements. Projects taking place in 2015 include improvements on Mainstreet (see page 2) and at Cottageville Park (pictured).

Cottageville Park improvements will increase the amount of green space along Blake Road, improve the water quality of Minnehaha Creek, and make the creek more accessible and visible to the community. Planned improvements will include new play equipment, trails, lighting, a permanent community garden with water source and tool shed, and extensive new landscaping.

The new park will be nearly three times larger than the existing space, and be accessible from both Blake Road and Lake Street.

The City is also in the process of creating a Park System Reinvestment Master Plan to guide future investments in our park system.

Keeping Hopkins Streets, Parks & Trails Up To Date

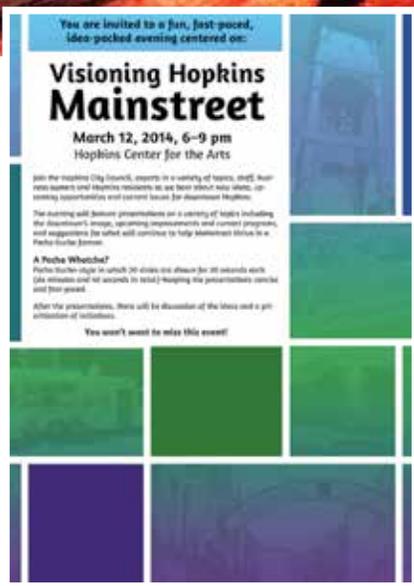
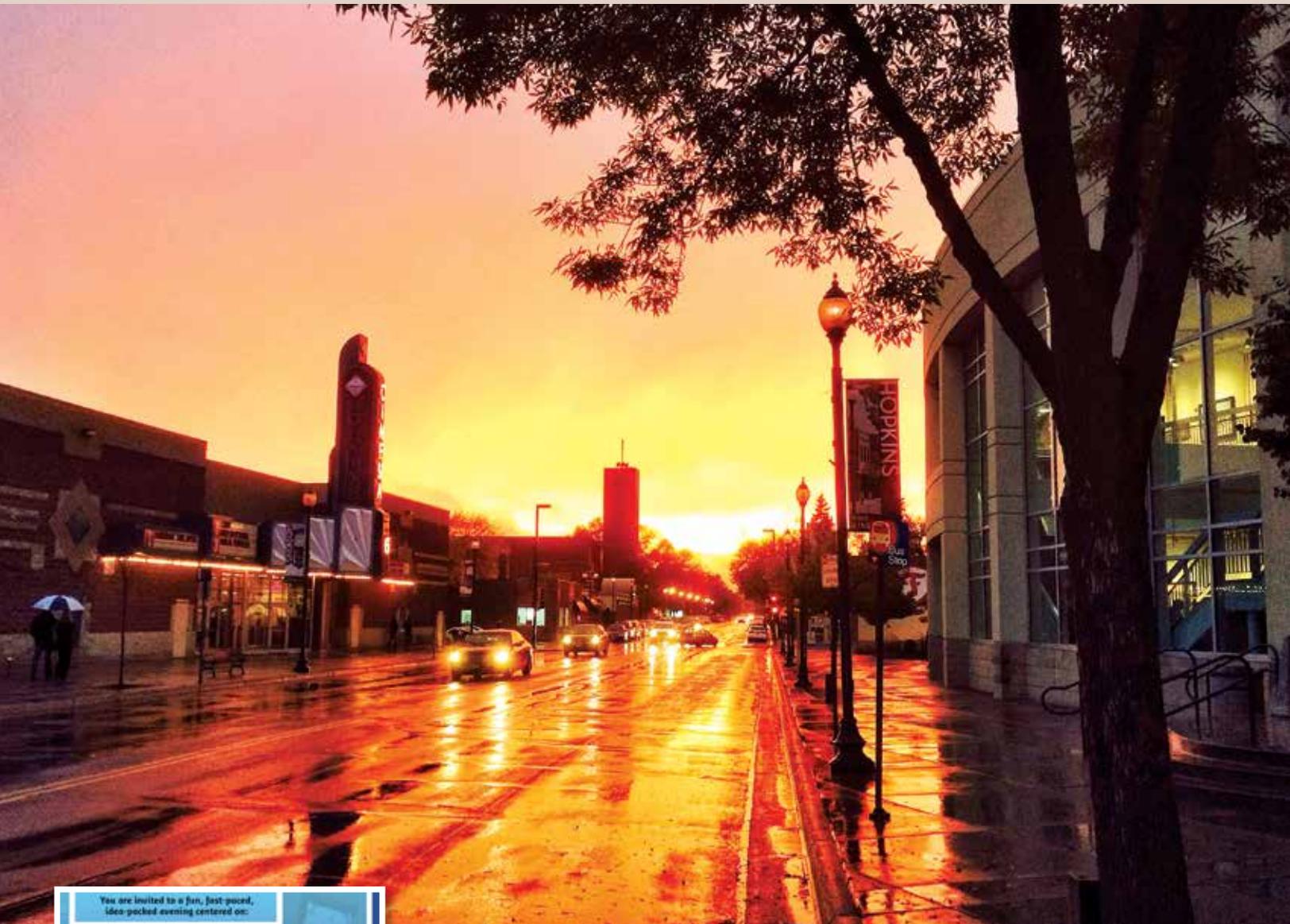
The City completed a number of infrastructure improvement projects in 2014, including:

- street improvements in the Hobby Acres neighborhood
- trail improvements in north Hopkins
- parking lot improvements at Burnes Park
- street and utility improvements at West Park Road and 21st Avenue North
- play equipment replacement at Oakes Park

Along with other improvements to the drainage, alley, and sidewalk systems, as well as continued street and utility maintenance and repairs, the cost of the improvements in 2014 totaled over \$2 million.



*Behind: Reconstructed street in Hobby Acres neighborhood
Front: New play equipment at Oakes Park*



A poster advertises the event

Visioning Hopkins Mainstreet

On March 12, 2014, Hopkins residents and business owners came together to envision Mainstreet in the next 20 to 30 years, considering new trends and opportunities. The gathering included presentations from a dozen diverse individuals.

Topics included food trucks, public art, historical preservation, and more. Attendees were asked to vote for their favorite ideas, and many of those ideas are being acted on. It was a fun, energetic, thought-provoking night—not your typical public information meeting.



National PARK(ing) Day

Hopkins celebrated National PARK(ing) Day by installing a parklet on 8th Avenue, north of Mainstreet. National PARK(ing) Day is an annual global event where citizens, artists, and activists collaborate to temporarily transform parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public places.

Visitors were encouraged to play tetherball, a giant Jenga game, or just sit and enjoy lunch in the temporary park. Hopkins chose to participate in order to bring attention to the changes planned for 8th Avenue as a connector to the future light rail transit station at 8th Avenue and Excelsior Boulevard.



Gallery Flats

2014 saw the completion of 163 new apartment homes on the former Park Nicollet Clinic site in downtown Hopkins. The development, Gallery Flats, was constructed by Klodt Development and is owned by Sidal Realty. The name refers to its location on the Artery—the planned pedestrian and bike connection between the downtown Hopkins LRT station and Mainstreet.

Green Line Extension SWLRT

The City of Hopkins, along with the four other Green Line Extension cities, gave municipal consent on the plans for the 16-mile light rail transit line that will run from Eden Prairie, through Hopkins, and on to Minneapolis, where it will interface with the Blue Line and the Green Line. Hopkins is planning for stations at Blake, downtown Hopkins, and Shady Oak, as well as the line’s operation and maintenance facility.

Construction of the line is expected to begin in 2017, with the line operational by 2019.

New Businesses

Many new businesses opened their doors in Hopkins in 2014. Among the notable include LTD Brewing Co. at 8 - 8th Ave N, a microbrewery tap room, and Pizza Rev at 525 Blake Road, the first location in Minnesota of a restaurant franchise owned by Buffalo Wild Wings.



Awards

In 2014, Hopkins was the recipient of a Local Government Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs for the Cottageville Park expansion project (see page 3).





New squad car technology

New Technology Means More Efficient and Effective Policing

The Police department continues to make technological advances and recently implemented new squad car computers and a fully integrated camera system.

The new, state-of-the-art cameras capture HD-quality footage of events as they happen. This footage assists the department with gathering evidence for court and is also useful in recording public interactions for future training, continued accountability, and professionalism.

The department continues to look for ways to improve operations, including continued fiscally responsible spending.

In 2014 the Police department began a new vehicle leasing program for some of its fleet, which allows for substantial savings to the City. In the next four years of the leasing program, approximately \$120,000 will be saved in vehicle purchases, and more fuel-efficient vehicles will be acquired.



School Resource Officer, Youth Initiatives Yield Great Results

School Resource Officer

The Hopkins Police department's school resource officer serves to build relationships with youth and their families while supporting school staff. Now into the second year of having a uniformed officer dedicated to Hopkins schools, the Police department is seeing proof of how beneficial this has been to the schools. As of fall 2014, both elementary schools have reported a 52.6 percent drop in behavioral incidents in their buildings over the past year.

The school resource officer is also building valuable relationships with teens at Mainstreet School of Performing Arts, Blake School, and Ubah, and seeking ways to help youth problem-solve and be successful.

Youth Initiatives

Youth initiatives such as Cops & Kids Fishing, Cops & Kids Shopping, Safety Camp, the summer parks program, and EMPOWER continue to flourish and serve as a way to reward youth for positive choices in and out of school, while helping to build lasting relationships among youth, their families, and police.



A Daily Digital Dose of Safety Dos and Don'ts

Thanks to a public safety grant procured by the Hopkins Fire department, the City has purchased a digital message board that has been installed permanently in front of City Hall near the Police department. The sign has become instrumental in providing safety tips and awareness to the community.

Grant Provides Top-Notch Gear

In November, the Hopkins Fire department received a \$237,000 Assistance to Firefighters Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus.

SCBA are used by firefighters to enter into hazardous environments. With the grant, the department was able to purchase 35 of the most up-to-date SCBA that not only protect firefighters, but also track their movements within a structure.



Firefighters Help Pilot Patient Visitation Program

Patients are most at risk for readmission into the hospital within the first 24 hours after their discharge. Through a pilot program with Park Nicollet, Hopkins firefighters are teaming up with other local firefighters to help residents transition safely back into their homes after hospital stays.

Through this program, launched in September with the Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Eden Prairie, and Minneapolis fire departments, firefighters visit discharged patients, with their consent, to go over their discharge papers so that they understand what medication they should take and when their next appointment is. The firefighters also check the patients' vital signs and do a safety check of their homes, making sure patients are in safe environments and have food at home.

This pilot program will run into 2015. With possible legislation, it will become a permanent program to help the citizens of Hopkins.



Hopkins firefighter Garrett Grniet demonstrates a home visit with a discharged patient.

Safety Camp is Repeat Success

In conjunction with the Police department and many other partners, the Hopkins Fire department held its second annual Safety Camp in July 2014. Firefighters helped instruct 200 kids on bike safety, water safety, fire safety, and stress reduction.

Members of the Police department, Fire department, and MN State Patrol were in each group as counselors, and wore their respective uniforms for the award presentation. "It is always fun to watch the kids' faces when they see their counselors in uniform," said Fire Chief Dale Specken.





Hop-Kids Swings Through Its Second Successful Year

Recreation Services teamed up with Hopkins Public Schools Community Education in the summer of 2013 to form Hop-Kids, a collaboration designed to increase programming options for preschool-aged children.

After a successful first year, the Hop-Kids partnership continued and expanded in 2014. Hop-Kids offered 52 programs during the summer months at 11 different city and school district facilities. A total of 506 kids participated. Little Sluggers T-Ball and Mini Kickers Soccer proved the most popular offerings, with 221 participants in those two programs alone.

Hop-Kids programs were offered once the school year began as well. There were 240 participants in the 37 programs offered during the fall season.

The philosophy behind the Hop-Kids collaboration is to provide opportunities for playing and learning to youth ages 3-6 in the areas of sports, art, music, dance, science, and technology.

The program spotlights the outstanding parks, playgrounds, and facilities both the City of Hopkins and the Hopkins School District have to offer.



By The Numbers: Hopkins Center for the Arts

Open 358 days each year, the Hopkins Center for the Arts welcomes over 215,000 visitors annually. This year, the Center had visitors from 27 states, California to New York, and even Canada. The Center has been host to over 2,500 individual events—an average of seven per day.

This past year the Center presented 14 concerts, 17 visual arts exhibitions, Tea & Treasures (left), May Day, Raspberry Jam, Pints and Paints (right), the Hopkins Artist Social Club, and Twin Cities Artful Book Club. The Center has a very small staff and relies on many volunteers to make it all happen. In addition to Stages Theatre Company and the Hopkins School District (tenant partners), the Center served 150 private hosts for events including parties, weddings, dance recitals, cultural events, and business meetings.

