

Hopkins Highlights

March
2009



You're Invited To The 2009 State Of The City Presentation

The Hopkins' City Council and the Hopkins Business and Civic Association invite you to join them for the Hopkins State of the City presentation. This is your chance to find out more about what has been recently happening in Hopkins and where the City is headed.

This year's event will be held on **Monday, March 16, from 5-7 pm** at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Food will be provided as part of the "Taste of Hopkins." 🍷

Bulk Item Drop-Off

Twice a year the City offers a bulk item drop-off service for Hopkins **residential refuse customers only**. A valid Minnesota ID or current paid utility bill must be shown to prove eligibility.

Beginning in 2009, a \$10 per vehicle fee will be charged for this service. This user fee is in addition to the \$20 per appliance recycling fee.

April 23 & 24
3:00 - 7:00 pm

April 25
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop-Off Site: 1414 7th St. S (old landfill site)

Remember: Each eligible residence is allowed to dispose of **a maximum of 3 cubic yards of material**, the equivalent of one pick-up truck load.

Guidelines

- **\$10 fee per vehicle depositing material at drop-off site.** Fee will not be collected the day of drop-off, but will be placed on your utility bill.
- \$20 fee for each recyclable appliance. Fee will not be collected the day of drop-off, but will be placed on your utility bill.
- Maximum 3 cubic yards (one pick-up truck load) per household.
- Residents must separate recyclable materials into the proper areas at the site. Construction materials, appliances, and metal materials will be separated and recycled.
- Small engines and lawn mowers must have fluids removed. Caps, drain plugs, and wheels must also be removed prior to taking them to the drop-off site.
- Electronics and concrete products are accepted at the drop-off site (concrete products containing steel will not be accepted).

Items not accepted at the bulk drop-off include, but are not limited to:

- Tires
- Car parts
- Gas refrigerators
- Hazardous waste
- Junk cars
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Treated lumber
- Car batteries
- Waste oil
- Paint products
- Metal barrels or drums
- Concrete containing steel

Hazardous wastes must be taken to the Hennepin County Transfer Station. Call Hennepin County at 612-348-3777 for more information. 🍷

Crime Reports Now Online

The Hopkins Police Department now offers you online access to recent crime reports via the web-based communications service CrimeReports. The Police Department has been testing the software since late summer 2008 and went live with online crime reporting on Jan 1.

To view the reports, visit www.crimereports.com, click on the state of Minnesota, and choose Hopkins. You can also sign up to receive e-mail alerts when crimes are reported within a specified distance of your residence. Crime reports are not in real-time, but will show up once a police report has been filed (generally within a couple days).

If you have questions about this service, contact Police Services Liaison Anne Marie Buck at 952-548-6407. 🍷



2009 Utility Rate Changes

In December, the City Council approved rate increases in the water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer utility rates, as well as refuse and recycling rates, effective for service in January and billed in February. This was only done after a year-long study of the current and future costs involved in providing utility services.

As an older community, Hopkins must repair and replace the pipes, pumps, meters, generators, and other components of our water, sewer, and storm sewer systems. The capital plan, funded by utility fees, includes future projects such as the placement of an emergency electrical generator at the water treatment plant, the construction of a connection to the St. Louis Park water system for emergency backup supply, and the complete replacement of one of our seven sewer lift stations. These projects will ensure the safety and viability of our sewer and water system for years to come.

On the operations side, the City must pay fees to other levels of government for utility services. The Metropolitan Council is responsible for treating all wastewater in the seven-county metro area. More than 50% of the city's annual sewer budget is for these treatment fees. These fees have been increasing much faster than the City rates. Similarly, the increase in the refuse rate is in response to increased fees paid to the landfill site to dispose of the garbage collected from residents.

Despite these rate increases, Hopkins utility rates continue to rank in the bottom third of metro cities. The City remains committed to providing these vital services as efficiently as possible. 🍷



Hopkins Highlights

Refuse & Recycling

Recycling collection is March 2-5, 16-19, and 30-April 2.

Refuse collection will take place Monday through Thursday of every week.



March 2009

City Council Calendar

March 10, 6:30 pm
Work Session

March 16, 7:30 pm
Meeting

March 24, 6:30 pm
Work Session

April 7, 7:30 pm
Meeting

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/citycouncil/.

Boards & Commissions Calendar

March 9, 6:30 pm
Park Board

March 31, 6:30 pm
Zoning & Planning Commission

April 6, 7 pm
Human Rights Commission

April 7, 7 pm
Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/boards/.

Cable Channel 16

City Council and Zoning & Planning Commission meetings can be seen on cable channel 16 live and are replayed on:

Monday & Wednesday
7:30 pm

Thursday Sunday
2:00 pm 1:00 pm

Elected Officials

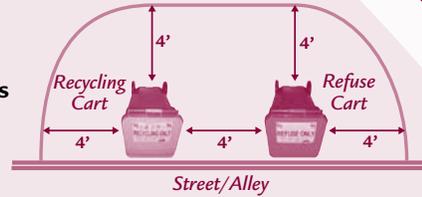
Mayor
Gene Maxwell (952-935-5270)

City Council
Kristi Halverson ■ Bruce Rowan
Rick Brausen ■ Cheryl Youakim

Garbage Pick Up Reminders

The City provides refuse containers and weekly refuse collection in the City service areas. Refuse containers must be set out by 6 am on the collection day. Containers should be large enough to contain and confine weekly refuse.

Refuse drivers cannot collect containers with overflowing refuse. Contact City Hall if you need a larger container.



Where To Put Your Container

Refuse containers are to be placed in the alley one to four feet behind the alley edge line with the handle positioned away from the alley and away from any building, obstacle, or other containers. In areas without an alley, containers are to be placed in the street or boulevard one to three feet behind the curb line with the handle positioned away from the street. In alley locations requiring trucks to be backed in, refuse cans must be placed on the street side of the residence.

For more information about garbage collection, go to www.hopkinsmn.com/publicworks/garbage/ or call the Public Works Department at 952-939-1382.

Sewer Backups: What You Need To Know

If a property owner has reason to believe that there is a problem with their sewer service, the City should be notified immediately. The Public Works Department can be reached day or night at 952-939-1382 (weekdays 7:30 am-4 pm) or 952-938-8885 (weekends, holidays, and off-hours).

Sewer backups are a potential problem for all property owners. Prompt action by the property owner in notifying the City may prevent damages to the home or business. The City will dispatch a Public Works employee to investigate the sewer main line for problems and take action if appropriate. If the problem is found to be in the sanitary sewer service from the home or structure to the sewer main in the street, including the connection, it is the responsibility of the property owner.

Cleaning Your Sanitary Sewer

Please notify the Public Works Department if you contract a private contractor to clean your sanitary sewer service line. The City will check/clear the City's main service line for/of debris that could affect you or your neighbors' sanitary sewer service.

Damage From Sewer Backups

Claims for damages to people's homes caused by sewer backups probably lead to more misunderstanding and hard feelings than any other single kind of claim. Property owners should be aware of three basic points regarding sewer backups and the resulting damage:

1. The City is not automatically liable for resulting damages whenever a sewer backs up. The City is only liable for damages if the backup was caused by the City's negligence.
2. Many property owner insurance policies exclude damage resulting from sewer backups. Thus, property owners often end up looking to the City to pay their damages when their own insurer denies their claim.
3. Some insurance companies do provide sewer backup coverage. Therefore it is possible for property owners to protect themselves against this risk.

If you have any questions or concerns about your sewer service, please call the Public Works Department at 952-939-1382.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Public Works utility crews will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the community from April 13-May 1. **Flushing the hydrants may cause water discoloration problems.** Residents are cautioned against doing laundry—particularly whites—while crews are in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine where sediment or discoloration problems will occur.

April 13-17: Hydrants north of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169

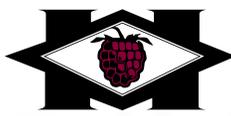
April 20-24: Hydrants south of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169

April 27-May 1: Hydrants east of Hwy 169

Compost Bins, Rain Barrels For Sale

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling Compost Bins and Rain Barrels at a reduced price this spring. Visit www.recycleminnesota.org to place your order.

Orders must be placed by March 27. Bins and Barrels will be available for pick up at the Living Green Expo at the State Fair Grounds, May 2-3.



Hopkins Highlights *Extra*

2008 Hopkins Photo Contest Winners

2008 City of Hopkins 
PHOTO
contest



On January 15, 2009, the City of Hopkins Marketing Committee selected 10 winners of the 2008 Hopkins Photo Contest. Over 160 photos were submitted, and the competition was tough. Winners received \$100 and an award certificate, presented by Mayor Gene Maxwell at a recognition ceremony during a City Council meeting in February.

All winning photos are framed and on display at City Hall until March 28, when they will be put on display at The Depot Coffee House until June 13. The framed images will then be available for other events or displays, but their permanent home will be City Hall.

The winners and even some of the non-winning photos may be used in other City publications, so keep your eyes open for great images of Hopkins!

View the images in color:
Log on to thinkhopkins.com!

Overall Grand Prize



"Landing in the Creek"
Martha Fillion

Education



"Father's Pride"
Pamela Knetter

Raspberry Rapture



"Raspberry Parade"
Tony Zakariasen



Historic Hopkins

2008 City of Hopkins 
PHOTO
contest



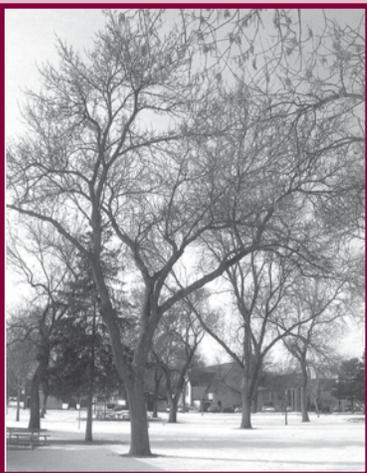
"Seeds of Change"
Patricia Isaak

The Built Environment



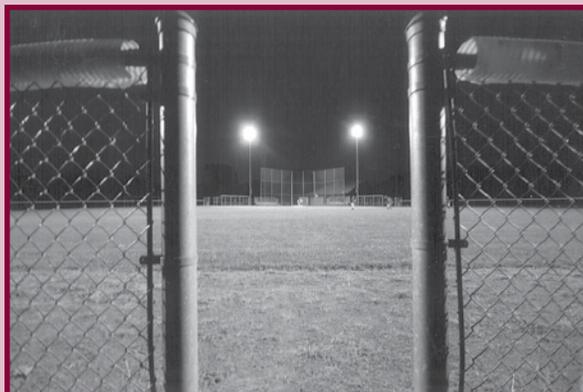
"Time for the Holidays"
Don Bouchier

Outdoors



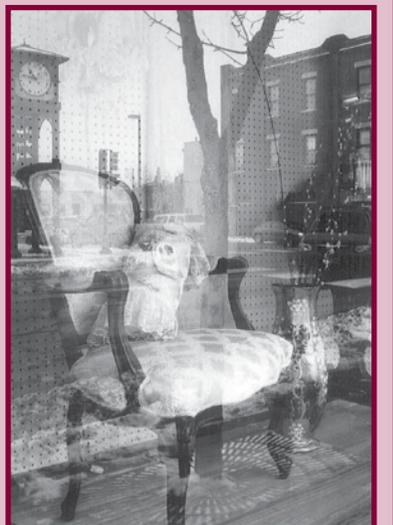
"Big Trees"
Arianna Madison

Miscellaneous



"Maetzold Field"
Patrick Davidson-Locke

Business



"Visuals of Downtown Hopkins"
Shelly Thomas

Recreation



"Hopkins Boys 9-10 League State Champions 2008"
Emily Miller