



Hopkins Highlights

Inspire Educate Involve Communicate



Plan to Vote Tuesday, November 3

On November 3, 2015, Hopkins residents will elect a Mayor and three City Council members. The Mayor's position is a two-year term, and two of the Council member positions are four-year terms. (The third position is a two-year term to complete the term of a vacated Council seat.) Residents will also be voting for School Board members. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Register To Vote

Pre-registration is available until October 13 if you have moved or changed your name since the last election. City Hall will be open until 5 pm on this day. If you have not registered before the October 13 deadline, you may register at your polling place on Election Day with approved ID or a voucher by another registered voter in your precinct. For a list of approved identification, visit www.hopkinsmn.com/elections/registration.php.

Where To Vote

To find your polling place, visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us or call City Hall at 952-935-8474.

Absentee Voting

To request an absentee ballot application, visit or call City Hall at 952-935-8474 (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm) through November 2. You will receive your ballot after returning your application to City Hall. Absentee voting can be done in person at City Hall or through the mail. City Hall will have extended hours for absentee voting on Saturday, October 31 (10 am-3 pm) and Monday, November 2 (open until 5 pm).

For more information, please call Amy Domeier, City Clerk, at 952-548-6304. 🍓

Sign Up For Defensive Driving Oct 28 & 29, 6-10 pm

The Hopkins Activity Center is hosting an introductory defensive driving course for people 55 years old+, taught by an instructor from the MN Safety Council. After participants complete this 8-hour course, they are entitled to a 10%, 3-year discount on their auto insurance. Registration required by calling 952-939-1333. Cost: \$21. Activity Center members save \$3. 🍓

Skate on Sundays

Sunday Open Skates are back at the Pavilion! Bring your whole family and skate from 1-2:30 pm. No sticks or pucks allowed. Cost is \$3/youth and \$4/adult. Visit www.hopkinspavilion.com for more details. 🍓

Is Your House Winter-Ready?

GET EXPERT HELP FOR \$50

While it can be tough to think about snow before it actually hits, now is the time to get your home ready for winter.

The City of Hopkins partners with Home Energy Squad Enhanced to offer residents a reduced cost home visit for \$50. At a Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit, two energy experts assess your home and find opportunities to help you stay warm and save money.



At the end of the visit you will receive a customized Energy Fitness report with prioritized recommendations for energy upgrades, rebate information and financing options to take the next steps.

For more information or to schedule a Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit, call Beth at 612-335-5874 or visit www.mncee.org/hes-hopkins. 🍓

Ride in a Fire Truck on October 10

The Hopkins Fire Department will host its annual Open House at the Hopkins Fire Station (101 17th Ave S) on **Saturday, October 10, 10 am-2 pm**. Stop by for fire truck rides, hot dogs and popcorn, and lots of hands-on fun. Watch live fire demonstrations including an auto extrication and car fire, and learn valuable fire safety tips. *Parking available just south of the fire station or use the lot at Ubah Medical School.* 🍓



Let's Raise Some Dough for the Arts

The Hopkins Center for the Arts invites you to eat at Pizza Rev (525 Blake Rd N, Hopkins) on **Thursday, October 22 between 10 am and 10 pm**. The HCA will receive 20% of proceeds from the day's sales. 🍓





Upcoming at City Hall

City Council Calendar

Tuesday, October 6, 7:05 pm
Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 pm
Work Session

Tuesday, October 20, 7 pm
Meeting

Monday, November 2, 7 pm
Meeting

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/council/meetings/. Watch City Council meetings live at www.hopkinsmn.com/council/video/.

Boards and Commissions Calendar

Tuesday, October 6, 7 pm
Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Monday, October 19, 6:30 pm
Park Board

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30 pm
Zoning and Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 2, 7 pm
Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Agendas and minutes found at www.hopkinsmn.com/boards/.

Meeting Broadcasts

City Council and Zoning and Planning Commission meetings can be seen live on Cable Channel 16. Meetings are also replayed every day (except Tuesdays) at 7 pm; Thursdays at 2 pm; and Sundays at 1 pm.

Elected Officials

Mayor
Eugene Maxwell (952-935-5270)

City Council
Molly Cummings Jason Gadd
Kristi Halverson Aaron Kuznia

TAKE NOTE: October Refuse & Recycling Schedule

Recycling collection is October 5–8 and 19–22. Refuse collection will take place Monday through Thursday as usual. ♻️



Take Advantage of FREE Brush and Yard Waste Pick Ups This Fall

Free Brush Pick-Up is October 12–15

Brush will be picked up for free on your regular garbage day from October 12–15. **You do not need to call to schedule this pick up.**

Brush is defined as tree limbs, twigs and branches up to a maximum of 6 inches in diameter and 15 feet in length.

- Stack brush in a neat pile on the boulevard, NOT in the street (NO alley pick-up)—butt ends all one way, parallel to the street.
- Keep brush at least 5 feet away from overhead wires, trees, fences, refuse containers, parked cars, etc.

After October 15, brush will be collected on Tuesdays, weather permitting. To schedule a brush pick-up after October 15, call 952-939-1382 before 2 pm on Monday. Fees apply.



Free Leaf & Yard Waste Pick Up (Dates Vary by Location)

Bellgrove, Hobby Acres, Park Ridge and Interlachen Park Residents:

The City provides free street leaf and yard waste pick up in your area using front-end loaders and dump trucks. Pick up in these areas will be November 2–5. Refer to schedule below for your neighborhood's pick up day:

- Bellgrove: Monday, November 2
- Interlachen Park: Tuesday, November 3 (Meadowbrook Rd up to & including Maple Hill Rd)
- Park Ridge: Wednesday, November 4
- Hobby Acres: Wednesday, November 4
- Interlachen Park: Thursday, November 5 (Interlachen Rd to Blake Rd)

Place leaves in loose, unbagged piles in the street along the curb line. Leaves should be placed on the street no later than 7 am on your scheduled pick-up day and no earlier than the day before your scheduled pick-up day. There will not be free bagged yard waste pick up in these neighborhoods.

All Other City Service Area Residents:

Free fall leaf/yard waste bag pick up will be October 26–November 19.

NOTE:

The last week of curbside/alley yard waste bag pick up will be November 16–19. For all community areas, before and after the scheduled free pick up dates, yard waste stickers must be affixed to bags. Bags of leaf and yard waste in all City service areas will be collected on the same day as regular refuse. ♻️

Yard Waste/Brush DROP-OFF SITE

The free brush and yard waste drop-off site (3100 Hopkins Crossroad) will be open regular hours (Monday and Wednesday 2–7 pm and Saturday 9 am–3 pm) through October 14.

From October 17–November 28, the free brush and yard waste drop-off site will be open Monday and Wednesday 1–5 pm and Saturday 9 am–3 pm (closed on Veterans Day).

The drop-off site will be closed after November 28. All services are subject to change or cancellation due to weather. 🍁

Fun (OFF THE ICE) at the Hopkins Pavilion

For more information or to register, visit www.hopkinspavilion.com or call 952-548-6390.

Play Place

Weekday mornings,
\$3/child (9 mths–5 yrs).
Reservations suggested.
Adult must stay with child.

Chess

Sunday Chess School &
Training Tournaments,
October 4–December 6.
All ages and abilities.

Aikido

Learn to defend yourself
using this unique martial art.
Classes for youth and adult
beginners Monday nights. 🍁



Hopkins Highlights EXTRA

2016 City Budget

The City Council approved a 2016 preliminary General Fund Budget of \$11,875,730, a 4.66% increase over 2015.

2016 Levy

The 2016 tax levy was set at \$11,949,829 which provides for general operations and levies for capital, the Arts Center, Pavilion and debt service. The levy results in an estimated \$40 annual increase for a home valued at \$230,000, and \$89 for a home valued at \$500,000.

Purpose	2015	2016 Net Levy Proposed
General Operations		
General Fund	\$9,224,729	\$9,676,451
Capital Levy	53,000	125,000
Arts Center Levy	85,000	140,000
Pavilion Levy	65,000	65,000
PERA Levy	35,500	35,500
Subtotal	9,463,229	10,041,951
Special Levies:		
Debt Levies	1,514,844	1,907,878
TOTAL LEVIES	\$10,978,073	\$11,949,829



Core City Services Funded With Tax Dollars

- » 24-hour police and fire protection
- » Emergency medical service
- » Street, sidewalk and trail maintenance
- » Snow plowing
- » Hopkins Activity Center
- » Boulevard and forestry program
- » Park maintenance
- » Recreation programs
- » Planning and economic development
- » Elections

2016 General Fund Budget

The General Fund is the main operating fund of the City and accounts for core services provided by the City. Taxes are the main revenue source for the General Fund, accounting for approximately 82% of budgeted revenues in 2016.

General Fund budgeted revenues increased 4.66% from the 2015 budget. Revenue sources other than taxes are expected to remain stable or slightly increase for 2016. In particular the City expects to receive increased income from local government aid along with fire & police aid. Due to development activity, permit fee revenue is also up slightly.

General Fund	2015	2016	% Change
Property Taxes	\$9,307,729	\$9,796,951	5.26%
Intergovernmental Revenue	843,112	891,954	5.79%
License, Permits & Fines	569,975	575,775	1.02%
Charges for Service	209,300	188,900	-9.75%
Miscellaneous Revenue	401,600	402,150	0.14%
Interest Earnings	15,000	20,000	33.33%
Total Revenues	\$11,346,716	\$11,875,730	4.66%

General Fund expenditures rose slightly as a result of bargaining agreements, professional services, heating fuel, contractual services, and property insurance. In addition, two full-time firefighters are proposed, along with a part-time police evidence property room manager.

General Fund	2015	2016	% Change
General Government	\$1,378,084	\$1,430,201	3.78%
Community Services	965,889	1,047,755	6.28%
Public Safety	5,518,165	5,842,844	5.88%
Public Works	2,517,880	2,580,621	2.49%
Recreation	591,498	618,362	4.54%
Community Development & Planning	228,409	275,747	20.73%
Other	126,791	80,200	-36.75%
Total Expenditures	\$11,346,716	\$11,875,730	4.66%

The challenge for 2016 is to maintain the current level of services to the citizens with minimal financial impact to the taxpayers. To meet this goal the City has worked with its financial advisor to update the long range Financial Management Plan, adopted in 2014, which is a tool to assist with the preparation of the annual budget (see reverse).

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Financial Management Plan

Traditionally cities have taken a short term view for financing city operations. The one year budget is still the norm for most cities. In the 1980s, the City of Hopkins did begin to use more long term planning for large expenditures, such as construction projects and large pieces of equipment, but continued to use one-year budgets for its day to day operations.

Longer term planning is now becoming the industry standard. Rating agencies, like Standard and Poor's, prefer multi-year plans when assessing the financial health of a city. A better credit rating can result in lower borrowing costs.

Longer term planning can also help the City spot trends that could adversely affect the budget. During the preparation of the Financial Management Plan, the City looked at overall tax capacity, the general fund balance, what the tax levy pays for, historic and projected tax rates, projected tax impacts on an average home, existing debt, and new debt. Two specific issues that needed to be addressed concerned the Center for the Arts and the Ice Arena/Pavilion (see right column).

The Financial Management Plan will continue to get updated every year and will be a tool to assist the Council and staff in making decisions at budget time. Having a vision and planning for the future is important in shaping the direction of the City. The Plan will ensure that money is available to finance needed road construction, capital equipment, and maintenance of City-owned facilities. It also provides adequate reserves/fund balances and it reduces the need for future borrowing. 🍷

In January 2014, Standard & Poor's upgraded the City of Hopkins' bond rating from AA to AA+. Among the factors which Standard & Poor's used in making this decision included: "a very strong budgetary flexibility," "strong overall budgetary performance," and "strong financial management practices."

*Prepared by the City of Hopkins Finance Department.
For further information contact the Finance Department
at 952-548-6330.*

Budget Issues Addressed by the Financial Management Plan



Center for the Arts

Historically, the Center for the Arts received a subsidy from the Economic Development Fund. This was because the Center has an impact on the economic health of the city and the downtown area in particular, attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. However, devoting these funds to the Center meant that there were fewer resources to devote to other development projects in the city. According to the adopted Financial Management Plan, this subsidy will be replaced by supplemental funding through the General Fund in a manner similar to the Activity Center.



Pavilion

The Ice Arena/Pavilion actually pays for its day to day operations through fees which are charged to the users. The Pavilion, however, will soon be 25 years old. An aging infrastructure and changes to federal and state rules regarding ice arenas will require significant capital expenditures. General fund dollars will have to be used to supplement the user fees in order to keep this facility operating into the future.