



Hopkins Highlights

March
2012



Buy A Brick Before March 31

The "Buy A Brick" program gives you an opportunity to be a special part of Hopkins history. Individuals, families, groups, businesses, and organizations can purchase bricks with their names imprinted that will be placed in the Clock Tower Plaza at the southwest corner of 9th and Mainstreet.

Brick pricing starts at \$67 for individuals. For more information on ordering, visit www.hopkinsmn.com, call 952-939-1333, or stop by the Hopkins Activity Center, Hopkins City Hall, or Hopkins Public Works. **Deadline to order is March 31.**

Hopkins Fire Dept Offering Free Home Fire Inspections

The Fire Department is offering Hopkins residents in homes or apartments the opportunity to have a home fire inspection done at no cost. A fire inspector will visit your home and identify fire hazards, answer questions, and provide you with a free smoke alarm (and help install it). For older adults, the Fire Department will also complete a fall prevention inspection.

To schedule your free inspection, call 952-548-6465. The inspections are offered at no cost due to a grant received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Report A Pothole

Keeping City streets in good repair is especially challenging this time of year due to the freeze-thaw cycles that occur during winter and early spring.

If you would like to report any street repairs that need attention please visit the City website at www.hopkinsmn.com and click on "Report a Pothole" in the Quick Links box on the right. You may also contact Public Works at 952-939-1382.

Storm Water Meeting Is April 11

The City of Hopkins will hold its annual Storm Water Informational Meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 6 pm.

Staff will make a brief presentation outlining the City of Hopkins Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, followed by a question and answer period. Public input will be taken on the content of the SWPPP, and public participation is encouraged.

The goals of the meeting are to inform the public on the current SWPPP, receive public comment on the SWPPP, and raise awareness of the importance of good storm water management.

You can view a copy of the SWPPP at City Hall. Contact the City's Engineering Department for more information at 952-548-6357.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Public Works utility crews will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the community from April 9-27. **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 9-13: North of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169	April 16-20: South of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169	April 23-27: Hydrants east of Hwy 169
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The UPSIDE of Aging: Stay Active & Engaged At The Hopkins Activity Center

The Hopkins Activity Center is located at 33 14th Ave N in Hopkins. Call 952-939-1333 or email activitycenter@hopkinsmn.com with questions or to register.

Tablet Technology Lab

Tuesday, March 6 & 20, 12:30 pm
Tablet technology is here! Drop in with your portable hand-held display, whether it is an iPad, Nook or Kindle. Our volunteer, Norman, will help you understand and use your device better.

Nancy's Fit & Fun Aerobic Walk

Wednesdays, starting March 14, 9 am
Join this indoor multi-muscle walking class that boosts your metabolism and burns calories. It's a 45-minute workout/walk to fun, upbeat music. Instructor: Nancy Shields. Frequent User members \$32/10 punch card; others \$42/10 punch card. Try your first class free!

Know Before You Throw

Wednesday, March 14, 9:30 am
Do you have any treasures in your attic? Bring your collectibles and Cheryl of Heirloom Jewelry will help you discover information about your special treasure.

Travel Show

Thursday, March 22, 3 pm
Be the first to find out about the fabulous trips planned by the Hopkins Activity Center in cooperation with our partners. We kick off the adventures with information on 2012 trips. Enjoy dessert and a beverage. Meet your tour guides.

Mark Your Calendar

Hopkins' **Spring Bulk Drop Off** will take place April 19-21. Complete information will be in the April Highlights and at www.hopkinsmn.com.





Hopkins Highlights



Refuse & Recycling

Recycling collection is March 12-15 and 26-29.

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

March 2012

City Council Calendar

March 6, 7:30 pm

Meeting

March 13, 6:30 pm

Work Session

March 20, 7:30 pm

Meeting

March 27, 6:30 pm

Joint Work Session with Zoning & Planning Commission and Parks Board

April 3, 7:30 pm

Meeting

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/council/meetings/.

Boards & Commissions Calendar

March 6, 7:20 pm

Housing & Redevelopment Authority

March 19, 6:30 pm

Park Board

March 27, 6:30 pm

Zoning & Planning Commission

April 3, 7:20 pm

Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/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
2:00 pm

Sunday
1:00 pm

Elected Officials

Mayor

Gene Maxwell (952-935-5270)

City Council

Molly Cummings Jason Gadd
Kristi Halverson Cheryl Youakim

Attend A Raingarden Workshop For Clean Water

Thursday, April 5, 6-9 pm

Hopkins Activity Center, 33 14th Ave N

Workshop Fee: \$15

Get ready for spring by planning a garden that beautifies your yard and helps keep our water clean. Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never tried gardening before, this eco-friendly gardening workshop will help you learn how to:

- Use native plants in your garden landscape
- Limit fertilizers and pesticides without compromising a beautiful yard
- Capture rainwater on site with rain gardens
- Redirect downspouts to address drainage issues
- Plan your own garden with one-on-one assistance from landscape designers



Learn how to plant a rain garden

To register for the gardening workshop, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651-698-1390. Sponsored by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Hopkins. Instructed by Michael Keenan, Metro Blooms Lead Landscape Designer. 🍷

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.**

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.

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.

Questions?

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

Dillman's Mid-Winter Festival Of Artists

Friday, March 9, 4-7 pm
@ Hopkins Center for the Arts

Well-known artists will present complimentary, hour-long demonstrations in their chosen medium, such as watercolor, pastel, oil, and acrylic. Free event. No RSVP required. More details at www.hopkinsartscenter.com. 🍷