



# Hopkins Highlights **December 2009**

## 2009 Election Returns Incumbents

On November 3, 2009, voters reelected Gene Maxwell to a two-year term as mayor and Cheryl Youakim and Kristi Halverson to four-year terms on the City Council. The complete official results can be found on the City's website at [www.hopkinsmn.com/elections](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/elections).

## Ready For Snow This Winter?

### Snow Emergencies

**Call the Snow Line: 952-939-1399**

Snow Emergencies may be declared upon a two-inch snowfall. Parking restrictions will remain in effect until streets are plowed curb to curb and the parking lots and parking ramp are completely plowed. Please move your vehicle off the street during snow emergencies so that plowing is possible. Visit [www.hopkinsmn.com/transportation/snow.php](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/transportation/snow.php) for more information on where to park during snow emergencies.

If your vehicle is towed during a snow emergency, call Matt's Towing at 952-949-2385 to confirm the location of your vehicle. Vehicles are released only to the registered owners. Owners need to bring proof of ownership, proof of insurance, and a valid driver's license in order to claim their vehicles. Payment is accepted by cash, Visa, or MasterCard. No checks. The impound lot is located at 6282 Industrial Drive (Baker Road and Crosstown Hwy) in Eden Prairie.



### Minimum Towing Charges 2009/2010 Snow Season

*NOTE: The City would prefer not to tow a single vehicle. Hopkins receives no money when cars are towed—all fees go the towing company.*

Regular truck towing with same day pick up - \$103  
Flatbed towing with same day pick up - \$113  
Additional daily storage - \$28

### Sidewalks

Hopkins residents are responsible for removing snow and ice from public sidewalks. Even a small snowfall can pose a safety hazard. Hopkins has an ordinance that mandates snow or ice be removed from sidewalks within 12 hours after a snowfall. This is necessary to ensure the safety of all people who use the sidewalks.

Remember—it is against State and City laws for individuals to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow onto streets, alleys, and boulevards (Hopkins City Code 800-01).

### Fire Hydrants

While the Public Works Department and Fire Department try to clean snow from fire hydrants as soon as possible after a snowstorm, the City could use your help. Please consider adopting a fire hydrant close to your residence and keeping it clear of snow through the winter. If possible, hydrants should be cleared five feet on each side to give the Fire Department the quickest and best access. Thanks for your help.

## Holiday Best Events at the Hopkins Activity Center

The Hopkins Activity Center is located at 33 14<sup>th</sup> Ave N in Hopkins. Call 952-939-1333 with questions or to register.

### Giving Tree Donation Drive Accepting donations through Dec 17!

The Hopkins Activity Center Giving Tree is accepting the following items: **mittens, caps, and scarves** (infants, children, and adult); **toys** (new, unwrapped toys for infant to children age 14); **cash** (to purchase needed holiday food and gifts for teens); **food** (non-perishable foods to help stock I.C.A.'s Food Shelves and put holiday food on the table of many families); and **toiletry items**.

The following gifts for seniors are also being accepted: **household items** (bath towels, bed blankets, electric fans, alarm clocks), **recreation items** (crossword puzzle books, books on tape, large print playing cards), **miscellaneous** (hats & mittens, bath robes, herbal tea, billfolds, greeting cards).

### Flu Shot Clinic (rescheduled) Tues, December 8, 1–3 pm

\$25/flu shot or free to seniors with Medicare Part B. Sign up in advance to secure your shot! Forms available at the office. Information needed: paying source (Medicare, VA or self pay) and DD214 Medicare number. Pneumonia shots are available for \$45. Provided by Nightingale Home HealthCare Services.

### Medicare Part D Wed, December 9, 1 pm

Rick Pavlisich of All About Insurance will present generic educational information about Medicare Part D. Review your Part D coverage before 2010 to make sure it still meets your needs, compare prescription coverages, and obtain information about the plans available to you.

## Christmas Tree Pickup Dates

Christmas trees will be picked up free of charge for Hopkins residential refuse customers from Monday, January 4, through Friday, January 15. Trees should be placed on the boulevard. **You do not need to call to schedule this service.**



# Hopkins Highlights



## Refuse & Recycling

Because the Christmas and New Year's holidays are on Fridays, refuse & recycling will be collected on normal days all month.

Recycling collection is Dec 7-10 and 21-24.

## December 2009

### City Council Calendar

December 8, 6:30 pm  
Work Session

December 15, 7:30 pm  
Meeting

December 22, 6:30 pm  
Work Session

January 5, 7:30 pm  
Meeting

Agendas and minutes can be found at [www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/citycouncil/](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/citycouncil/).

### Boards & Commissions Calendar

December 21, 6:30 pm  
Park Board

December 29, 6:30 pm  
Zoning & Planning Commission

January 5, 7 pm  
Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Agendas and minutes can be found at [www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/boards/](http://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**  
Rick Brausen              Bruce Rowan  
Kristi Halverson          Cheryl Youakim

### City Offices Closed

December 24 & 25  
Christmas Holiday

January 1  
New Year's Day



## Compostable Bags Required For Yard Waste Collection In 2010

Beginning January 1, 2010, a new state law will require residents in Hopkins who bag their yard waste to put the yard waste out for pickup in compostable bags—either paper bags or compostable plastic bags. The new state law will affect residents in the metro counties.

**Why the new law?** Using paper and compostable plastic bags rather than traditional black plastic bags will greatly reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities. Because local composters will have less plastic to screen out of their finished compost, processing costs will be reduced and the quality of the finished compost will be enhanced.

**Where can I get the new bags?** Most home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores now carry them. (If you don't see them at your local store, ask an employee; many store owners are just learning of this requirement also and may appreciate the customer request.) Compostable plastic bags should clearly state that they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting and that they are "compostable." Bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" do not meet the state law. The shelf life of compostable bags is approximately 1 to 3 years. Make sure to review the label for the product specific shelf life and purchase accordingly.

**Can I still use non-compostable plastic bags for yard waste?** Beginning in 2010, Hopkins yard waste pick-up service will no longer take the non-compostable plastic bags. You may still transport your yard waste in plastic bags to the drop off site, but you must dump the material out of the bag and take the bag with you.

Watch upcoming *Highlights* for more information on the new compostable bag requirements or visit [www.hopkinsmn.com](http://www.hopkinsmn.com) and [RethinkRecycling.com](http://RethinkRecycling.com).

## Your Monthly Wastewater Utility Fee Projected Increases To Met Council Fees Will Impact Monthly Sanitary Sewer Bills In Coming Years



The wastewater from your home, the rest of Hopkins, and 104 other Twin Cities metro communities is treated at facilities operated by the Metropolitan Council. Hopkins sewage is predominantly pumped to the Metro Plant located on the Mississippi River in St. Paul.

Accordingly, Hopkins is charged by the Met Council for its share of the cost of operating the treatment facility—based on how many gallons of Hopkins sewage are pumped and treated. Hopkins has an average annual wastewater flow of 660 million gallons, resulting in average annual fees paid to the Metropolitan Council of \$1.1 million.

The total annual operating cost of the City's sanitary sewer system utility is \$1.8 million, meaning the majority of each resident's monthly sanitary sewer bill goes toward paying the Met Council. The additional money covers maintenance, repair, and updating of seven lift stations and 44 miles of collection pipe in Hopkins, as well as staffing of the City's water & sewer utility division.

The Met Council has worked hard to remain competitive in its costs for services and is ranked very high nationally when compared to other large metropolitan systems. Nonetheless, the Met Council's costs of operating and maintaining the regional system are anticipated to go up an estimated 5% annually over the coming years. These increases, of course, will directly impact the budgets of each metro-area city and the utility fee each must charge.

### Hopkins Sanitary Sewer Fees Competitive

Hopkins residents' sanitary sewer utility fees are competitive when compared with other Twin Cities metro cities. In a 2009 survey, Hopkins' fees ranked 19th out of the 33 metro area cities who responded. The City will work to keep its fees competitive.

Questions? Call Doug Anderson, Utility Superintendent, at 952-548-6373.