



# Hopkins Highlights

Inspire Educate Involve Communicate



## Plant Your Garden In Valley Park

The City provides a community garden site in Hopkins Valley Park in the Westbrooke/ Nine Mile Creek area where residents can lease a 20-foot by 20-foot garden plot for \$25 per plot.

Registration begins March 6 for residents and is on a first come, first served basis (limit two plots per household). Residents must provide proof of residency and register in-person at Hopkins City Hall. Non-residents may register beginning March 13. 🍓

## Get Expert Advice, Ideas At Free Home Remodeling Fair

The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair on February 12 will feature seminars and mini-demonstrations for the do-it-yourselfer. In addition to over 50 exhibitors, guests will also have the opportunity to talk to a variety of professionals including architects, landscape architects, master gardeners and interior designers, who will provide free, no obligation advice. Visit [www.HomeRemodelingFair.com](http://www.HomeRemodelingFair.com) for details of all the day's activities. 🍓

### WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy. 7, Hopkins

**COST:** Free!

## Winter Fun at the Hopkins Pavilion

Hopkins Pavilion is located at 11000 Excelsior Blvd. For more information on any of these programs or to register, call 952-548-6390 or visit [www.hopkinspavilion.com](http://www.hopkinspavilion.com).

- **Aikido**  
Mondays: 6:30 p.m. (*youth beginners*) or 7:30 p.m. (*adult beginners*). Learn to defend yourself using this unique martial art.
- **Pavilion Chess**  
Sundays: Chess School and Training Tournaments. Spring and Summer camps now open for registration. All ages and abilities welcome.
- **Music Sense**  
Thursdays: Preschool kids learn social, language and motor skills while developing a love of music and creativity.

- **Open Skate**  
Monday-Friday: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (*adults only*); 12:30-1:30 p.m. (*all ages, sticks & pucks allowed*); Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. (*any age, no sticks & pucks*). \$3/students, \$4/adults. The Pavilion does not do skate rental or sharpening.



- **Play Place**  
Play Place is available Monday through Wednesday for private rentals. For \$30, have the whole place and toys to yourself. Call 952-548-6390 to schedule. Play Place is open for drop-ins Thursdays and Fridays. 🍓

## Plastic Bags Are Not Recyclable

Hopkins residents are reminded that all recyclables should be placed in recycling carts loose or in a paper bag – do not use plastic bags. There has been confusion recently as area retail stores have begun stocking bags marketed as “recycling” bags.

Plastic bags cause major problems at sorting facilities and must be kept out of recycling.

It is important to know what is accepted in your area when it comes to recycling. Visit our website at [www.hopkinsmn.com/waste/accepted.php](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/waste/accepted.php) to learn what can be recycled in Hopkins. 🍓



## Buy-A-Brick!

BE A PART OF HOPKINS HISTORY

The Buy-A-Brick Program allows the opportunity to participate in the ongoing enhancement of Clock Tower Plaza. Individuals, families and businesses can purchase bricks with names imprinted that will be placed in Clock Tower Plaza at the southwest corner of 9th Ave. and Mainstreet. Bricks are a great gift idea for family and friends, and are a special way to be part of Hopkins history.



Buy-A-Brick order forms are available online at [www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter/buyabrick/](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter/buyabrick/), or by contacting the Activity Center at 952-939-1333 or [activitycenter@hopkinsmn.com](mailto:activitycenter@hopkinsmn.com). The deadline to order is March 31. 🍓



## Upcoming at City Hall

### City Offices Closed

**Monday, February 20**  
Presidents' Day

### City Council Calendar

**Tuesday, February 7, 7:05 p.m.**  
Meeting

**Tuesday, February 14, 6:30 p.m.**  
Work Session

**Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m.**  
Meeting

Find agendas and minutes at [www.hopkinsmn.com/council/meetings/](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/council/meetings/). Watch City Council meetings live at [www.hopkinsmn.com/council/video/](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/council/video/).

### Boards and Commissions Calendar

**Tuesday, February 7, 7 p.m.**  
Housing and Redevelopment Authority

**Monday, February 27, 6:30 p.m.**  
Park Board

**Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 p.m.**  
Zoning and Planning Commission

Agendas and minutes found at [www.hopkinsmn.com/boards/](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/boards/).

### Meeting Broadcasts

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

## Elected Officials

**Mayor**  
Molly Cummings

**City Council**  
Katy Campbell      Kristi Halverson  
Jason Gadd          Aaron Kuznia

## Winter Is Not Yet Over: Snow Reminders

### Snow Emergency? Call the Snow Line at 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 ramps are completely plowed. Visit [www.hopkinsmn.com/transportation/snow.php](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/transportation/snow.php) for more information on where to park and what to do if your vehicle is towed.

### Keep Refuse & Recycling Carts Clear

Refuse and recycling collection requires a minimum clearance of four feet around each container. Sometimes a spot is carved out in the snow to create a pocket for the container, but this does not allow enough room for the automated arm on the truck to reach. Although alleys and driveways can be narrow because of snow piling up, it is necessary that the four-foot clearance be maintained.

### Keep Fire Hydrants Shoveled Out

If you have a hydrant on your block, help keep Hopkins safe by shoveling it out after it snows. If possible, hydrants should be cleared four feet on each side for fire department access. The property you save may be your own! ❄️

### TAKE NOTE Refuse and Recycling Schedule

City offices will be closed Monday, February 20 for Presidents' Day. Refuse and recycling collection that week will be delayed by one day.

**February recycling pick up weeks are Feb 6-9 and 21-24.** ♻️

## Upcoming Concerts

AT THE HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

For tickets, call 952-979-1111 or visit [www.HopkinsArtsCenter.com](http://www.HopkinsArtsCenter.com). Discounts available for students, those age 60 and over, and Hopkins residents.

### Julian Lage & Chris Eldridge

**Saturday, February 25, 8:30 p.m. (7:30 p.m. social hour)**  
Known for pushing the envelope of folk, bluegrass, and jazz, their performance is sure to astound. \$27.

### Sierra Hull

**Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m. (7 p.m. social hour)**  
Bluegrass roots inform and inspire the singer and mandolinist's soundscape. \$31. 🎸



## Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Deposit Disclosure

Minnesota Statue 115A.9302 requires that a person who collects mixed municipal solid waste for transportation to a waste facility disclose to each waste generator from whom waste is collected the name, location, type of facility and the number of the permit issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, or its counterpart in another state, for the processing or disposal facility or facilities at which the waste will be deposited.

The City of Hopkins (hauler) hereby discloses that the mixed municipal solid waste collected from January 1-December 31, 2017, will be delivered to the following facilities during that time. If an additional facility becomes either a primary facility or an alternative facility during this time, the City of Hopkins will provide you with updated information within 30 days.

#### Primary Facility:

Hennepin Energy Resource Company  
505 6th Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
**Type:** Mass burn waste-to-energy  
**MPCA Permit Number:** SW-396

#### Primary Facility:

NRG Elk River (NSP) Resource Recovery  
10700 165th Ave NW, Elk River, MN 55330  
**Type:** Refuse-derived fuel waste-to-energy  
**MPCA Permit Number:** SW-305

The following facility is used for disposal of construction and demolition material collected through our twice-yearly bulk item drop-off and weekly bulk item collection.

**Alternative Facility:** Dem Con Landfill, Inc., 331 Akers Lane, Jordan, MN 55352  
**Type:** Construction demolition landfill      **MPCA Permit Number:** SW-290

You may be responsible for any liability that results from contamination at a facility where your waste has been deposited. Minnesota believes that its waste management system provides more financial and environmental protection than depositing waste in landfills in other states. Managing your waste in Minnesota may minimize your potential liability. 🌱



## Free Tax Assistance

AARP Tax-Assistance offers free help for older taxpayers and people with limited incomes. Drop by the Hopkins Activity Center beginning February 6 on **Mondays and Tuesdays between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.** The last client tax return starts at 12:45 p.m. No appointment necessary. 🍷



# Hopkins Highlights

## EXTRA

## Water and Sewer Rates Increase and New Rate Structure is Approved

Effective with the February 2017 utility bills, the City will be implementing increased water and sewer rates, and switching to a new tiered structure according to water use. Implementing a tiered rate structure more equitably balances costs with revenues across the various groups of users (see chart to right).

User Type	% Water Used	% Water Usage Revenue
Single Family Residential	27.98%	27.98%
Multi Family Residential	43.14%	41.56%
Commercial	23.22%	24.47%
Irrigation	5.65%	5.99%

### Why Are Rates Increasing?

Rates are increasing for three reasons:

1. City-wide water consumption is lower than anticipated in the utility financial plan.
2. The City has an increasing demand for maintenance and repair of its water and sewer infrastructure.
3. To stay in compliance with regulations from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the City must have a water rate structure which incentivizes water conservation.

Most of the City's water and sewer infrastructure dates back to the 1950s. Accordingly, the City must continue, and even step-up, its program of replacing, upgrading and improving critical water and sewer facilities to keep water and sewer systems safe, reliable and efficient. During the next five years, the city will undertake more than \$9 million in water system work and \$6 million in sanitary sewer system work.

The new tiered rate structure was set up to ensure that each customer class, lower and higher consumption rate residential users, and lower and higher consumption rate commercial users, pays their fair share of the water system costs. The new rate structure is shown to the right.

While the schedule shows proposed rate increases for 2017 to 2020, the future year rate increases are based on anticipated future revenues (consumption) and costs.

The plan is designed to be reviewed periodically and future proposed rate increases adjusted according to the financial needs of the funds.

Sanitary sewer rates are increasing from \$4.30/1,000 gallons to \$5.81/1000 gallons.

Sample utility bills are available on the following page.

	Monthly Water Rates				
	Current	Proposed Rates			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Flat Rates</b>					
Residential - '5/8" Meter		2.39	2.55	2.72	2.91
Residential - 1" Meter		2.39	2.55	2.72	2.91
Apt/Commercial - 1 1/2" to 2" Meter		4.77	5.09	5.44	5.80
Apt/Commercial - 3" Meter		7.16	7.64	8.16	8.71
Apt/Commercial - 4" Meter		9.54	10.18	10.87	11.61
Apt/Commercial - 6" Meter		14.31	15.28	16.31	17.41
<b>Residential and Multi Family</b>					
All usage	2.18				
0 - 3,000 gallons		2.44	2.60	2.78	2.97
3,001 - 5,000 gallons		2.81	3.00	3.20	3.42
Over 5,000 gallons		3.23	3.45	3.68	3.93
<b>Commercial</b>					
All usage	2.18				
0-10,000 gallons		2.33	2.49	2.66	2.83
10,001 -20,000 gallons		2.68	2.86	3.05	3.26
Over 20,000 gallons		3.08	3.29	3.51	3.75
<b>Irrigation</b>					
All usage	2.60	2.92	3.12	3.33	3.55



# Hopkins Highlights EXTRA

## Utility Bill for Average Customer – Residential

	Impact Analysis on Rate Payers				
	Current	Proposed Monthly Bills, Usage and Fixed Fee			
	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Single Family Residential Property (Low User)</b>					
Water (3,000 gallons)	\$ 6.54	\$ 9.71	\$ 10.37	\$ 11.07	\$ 11.81
Sewer (3,000 gallons)	12.90	17.42	18.37	19.38	20.45
Total Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 19.44	\$ 27.13	\$ 28.74	\$ 30.45	\$ 32.26
<b>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>7.69</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.81</b>
<b>Single Family Residential Property (Median User)</b>					
Water (8,800 gallons)	\$ 19.18	\$ 27.60	\$ 29.47	\$ 31.46	\$ 33.58
Sewer (4,800 gallons)	20.64	27.86	29.40	31.01	32.72
Total Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 39.82	\$ 55.47	\$ 58.86	\$ 62.47	\$ 66.30
<b>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>15.64</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>3.61</b>	<b>3.83</b>
<b>Single Family Residential Property (High User)</b>					
Water (36,000 gallons)	\$ 78.48	\$ 115.46	\$ 123.25	\$ 131.57	\$ 140.45
Sewer (5,800 gallons)	24.94	33.67	35.52	37.47	39.54
Total Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 103.42	\$ 149.13	\$ 158.77	\$ 169.05	\$ 179.99
<b>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>45.71</b>	<b>9.65</b>	<b>10.27</b>	<b>10.94</b>

## Utility Bill for Average Customer – Commercial

	Impact Analysis on Rate Payers				
	Current	Proposed Monthly Bills, Usage and Fixed Fee			
	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Commercial Property (Low User with a 1" meter)</b>					
Water (3,000 gallons)	\$ 6.54	\$ 9.38	\$ 10.01	\$ 10.69	\$ 11.41
Sewer (3,000 gallons)	12.90	17.42	18.37	19.38	20.45
Total Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 19.44	\$ 26.80	\$ 28.39	\$ 30.07	\$ 31.86
<b>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>7.36</b>	<b>1.59</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>1.79</b>
<b>Commercial Property (High User with a 2" meter)</b>					
Water (35,000 gallons)	\$ 76.30	\$ 101.07	\$ 107.89	\$ 115.17	\$ 122.95
Sewer (35,000 gallons)	150.50	203.18	214.35	226.14	238.58
Total Monthly Utility Bill	\$ 226.80	\$ 304.25	\$ 322.24	\$ 341.31	\$ 361.53
<b>\$ Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>77.45</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>19.07</b>	<b>20.21</b>

We understand that you will likely have questions regarding these utility rate increases.

For further information contact:

Christine Harkess, Finance Director, at [charkess@hopkinsmn.com](mailto:charkess@hopkinsmn.com) or 952-548-6330

Steve Stadler, Public Works Director, at [ssadler@hopkinsmn.com](mailto:ssadler@hopkinsmn.com) or 952-548-6350