



# Hopkins



Inspire • Educate      Involve • Communicate

## Garden Plot Lottery Open

*Lottery Registration Open Through April 1*

Hopkins residents have the opportunity to rent a 20-foot by 20-foot garden plot in the Westbrooke/Nine Mile Creek area of Valley Park.

Starting March 1, interested gardeners will be able to enter an online lottery for a community garden plot. The lottery will be open through April 1, with names drawn the first week of April.

Due to high demand, there will be a limit of one plot per household.

The rate is \$25 for residents (must show proof of residency) and \$35 for non-residents.

Learn more at [www.hopkinsmn.com/398/Community-Gardens](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/398/Community-Gardens).



## *Happening Now:* METRO Green Line Testing in Hopkins

Metro Transit has begun testing light rail vehicles in Hopkins as the Green Line Extension project is nearing completion. Testing will continue throughout 2026. During testing, contractors will ensure the systems used to power trains and signals, guide train movements, and detect irregularities are working as intended. Test trains will eventually help determine travel times for scheduling purposes. In all, some 4,000 tests will be completed before the Green Line Extension opens in 2027.

While testing is underway, trains will become increasingly active along the corridor in Hopkins. Be aware of and comply with all railroad crossing gate arms and warning lights, even if the reason for them might not be apparent. The testing work is critical to ensure the project is ready to serve customers in 2027. If you spot a potential safety issue, contact the 24-hour hotline at 612-373-3933. For emergencies, always call 911.

## Sign-Up for Summer Recreation

**Tuesday, March 3 • General Recreation**

**Thursday, March 5 • Senior Programs**

**Tuesday, March 17 • Ice Skating**

**Wednesday, May 6 • Swimming Lessons**

Visit [minnetonka.gov/register](http://minnetonka.gov/register) to check out program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including summer camps, swimming lessons, skating lessons, fitness classes, arts and crafts, athletic leagues and senior programs. There's something for everyone!

Register online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) or call between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. General Programs & Swimming Lessons: 952-939-8203, Senior Programs: 952-939-8393, Ice Skating: 952-939-8310.

## Apply for a Board or Commission

Looking for a way to get more involved in your community? Hopkins has multiple boards and commissions that help shape the future of the City, and they need volunteers like you. The Planning & Zoning Commission and Park Board are both looking for applicants.

*Youth Invited to Apply Too!*

The City of Hopkins is looking for two young adults who reside or attend school in Hopkins and are in grades 9-12 to serve on either the Park Board or Planning and Zoning Commission. Members are paid \$50 for each meeting and will gain meaningful professional experience. Learn more and apply at [www.hopkinsmn.com/346/Boards-Commissions](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/346/Boards-Commissions).

## Order a Rain Barrel!

The City of Hopkins is partnering with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to offer a rain barrel sale to Hopkins residents! Rain barrels are \$100 each and are made of 100% recycled material, can hold 45 gallons of water, and come with a shut-off valve, hose and debris screen kit. Pick-up will be in mid-May at Hopkins Public Works. Rain barrels can be purchased through Recycling Association of Minnesota on our website at [www.hopkinsmn.com/1250/Rain-Barrels](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/1250/Rain-Barrels).

# City Meeting Calendar

## City Council Calendar

**Tuesday, March 3, 6:35 p.m.**

Regular Meeting

**Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.**

Regular Meeting

**Tuesday, April 7, 6:35 p.m.**

Regular Meeting

**Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.**

Regular Meeting

Find agendas and minutes at [www.hopkinsmn.com/343/City-Council](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/343/City-Council).

Watch City Council meetings live at [www.hopkinsmn.com/349/Watch-Meetings-Live-On-Demand](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/349/Watch-Meetings-Live-On-Demand).

## Boards and Commissions Calendar

**Tuesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.**

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

**Monday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.**

Park Board

**Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.**

Planning and Zoning Commission

**Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.**

Housing and Redevelopment Authority

**Monday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.**

Park Board

**Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.**

Planning and Zoning Commission

Find agendas and minutes at [www.hopkinsmn.com/346/Boards-Commissions](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/346/Boards-Commissions).

## 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:** Patrick Hanlon

### City Council:

- Heidi Garrido
- Brian Hunke
- Ben Goodlund
- Aaron Kuznia



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## Hydrant Flushing Schedule

### *Check Your Water Before Doing Laundry*

Public Works utility crews will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the community in April and May.

**If you own or manage a business or townhome/apartment complex, please arrange for your private hydrants to be flushed by a contractor during the same time frame that the City is flushing in your area.**

- April 20-24: Hydrants north of Excelsior Boulevard and west of Highway 169
- April 27-May 1: Hydrants south of Excelsior Boulevard and west of Highway 169
- May 4-8: Hydrants east of Highway 169

During hydrant flushing it is normal to experience some discolored water. **Residents are cautioned against doing laundry—particularly whites—while crews are in the neighborhood.**

This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water in your laundry tub.

Public Works will also be doing routine sewer cleaning starting April 20, weather permitting.

The cleaning area will be south of Excelsior Boulevard.

If you experience problems, contact Public Works at 952-548-6353. 🍷

## Spring Plant Sale Now Open

Purchase beautiful plants from Gertens to support the Hopkins Center for the Arts and the Hopkins Activity Center. Choose from perennials, annuals, veggies and more.

To order plants, visit [gertensfundraising.com](http://gertensfundraising.com) and enter Store ID 928. At checkout, note

the “Seller’s Name” as either the Arts Center or Activity Center. The deadline to purchase plants is April 2 at 8 p.m.

Plant pick-up will be at the Community Garden Kick-Off event at Valley Park on Saturday, May 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. 🍷

## Tree Sale Happening Now

In partnership with Tree Trust, Hopkins Public Works is offering a limited number of trees at a discounted price of \$40 each. The sale is open now at <https://tree-trust.myshopify.com/>. Trees must be planted by residents on private property in Hopkins, not within the boulevard or public right-of-way.

Trees will be available for pick-up on May 2 at Hopkins Public Works, 11100 Excelsior Boulevard. This will be the only tree pick-up date. There is a two tree limit per household. *Note: Trees provided through the program do not come with a warranty.* 🍷

# Save Money with Hopkins Rebate Opportunities

Applications for three City programs are open now.

## Hopkins Climate Solutions Fund

Incentives are available for residential and commercial projects to accelerate our transition to cleaner and more efficient energy. Projects awarded in the past have been solar panel installations, heat pumps, electric dryers, and insulation and air sealing. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Projects must be pre-approved before purchases are made.

## Water Efficiency Rebates

Rebates are available to improve water efficiency and save money at homes and businesses when a product is replaced with an eligible WaterSense or Energy Smart

certified product. This program is offered and funded in partnership with the Metropolitan Council and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

## E-Bike Incentive Program

Looking to use your car less and bike more? Apply for a rebate for an electric bicycle, cargo e-bike or e-trike. This grant-funded program is designed to foster a culture of sustainable mobility, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses alike.

Learn about funding opportunities from the City of Hopkins, including eligibility and how to apply, at [www.hopkinsmn.com/1181/Grant-and-Loan-Opportunities](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/1181/Grant-and-Loan-Opportunities). 🍷

# Brush, Yard Waste Reminders

## Brush, Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

The free drop-off site for residential garbage customers opens Monday, April 6, weather permitting.

Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The site is located at 3100 Hopkins Crossroads.

Find more information, including a list of accepted items, at [www.hopkinsmn.com/599/Drop-Off-Site](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/599/Drop-Off-Site).

## Brush, Yard Waste Pick-Up

**April 6-16 • Free Brush Pick-Up**  
**April 20-30 • Free Yard Waste Pick-Up**

Brush and yard waste will be collected for free on your regular garbage day. You do not need to call to schedule this pick-up. Both free pickups are provided only for City of Hopkins residential garbage customers. Please note: Yard waste stickers are now \$5.

Find more information about pick-up guidelines at [www.hopkinsmn.com/594/Brush-Yard-Waste](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/594/Brush-Yard-Waste). 🍷

# Start Your Spring Cleaning

## *Bulk Item Drop-Off Event is April 24-25*

The City is holding its annual spring bulk item drop-off event on Friday, April 24, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon.

For a **\$40 fee plus taxes**, you can drop off one appliance and up to three cubic yards worth of trash (the equivalent of one pick-up truckload).

Shred-N-Go will also be on-site for confidential destruction of documents.

Payment will be processed by card at the event.

Find more information at [www.hopkinsmn.com/333/Bulk-Item-Drop-Off](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/333/Bulk-Item-Drop-Off). 🍷

# Upcoming Events

## Cops and Community Bingo

**Saturday, April 18 • 1 p.m.**

The Hopkins Police Department is hosting their annual spring Cops and Community Bingo at the Hopkins Activity Center, 33 14th Avenue N. For \$20, play 10 games and help support the Hopkins Crime Prevention Fund and Youth Outreach. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Cash only. Participants must be 18+.

## Arbor Day

**Friday, April 24 • 4 to 5 p.m.**

Save the Date for the City's annual Arbor Day celebration! Keep an eye out on social media and Hopkins Connections for more information as the date gets closer. 🍷

# Garbage, Organics & Recycling Schedule

## March 2026

Garbage and organics collection will take place every week on normal pick-up days. Recycling collection will be the weeks of March 9-12 and March 23-26.

## April 2026

Garbage and organics collection will take place every week on normal pick-up days. Recycling collection will be the weeks of April 6-9 and April 20-23.

## *Coming Soon!* Organics Drop-Off for Multifamily Residents

Starting in May, residents in multifamily buildings can collect organics at home and bring their organics to an organics drop-off site in Downtown Park.

About one-third of our trash is organic materials, including food, food-soiled paper, and certified compostable products that could be composted. Accepted materials include food, paper products and packaging, and other household items.

Learn what's accepted, sign-up for the program and claim your free starter kit at [www.hopkinsmn.com/863/Organics-Recycling](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/863/Organics-Recycling).

Residents with curbside trash and recycling service can opt-in to curbside organics recycling service at [www.hopkinsmn.com/863/Organics-Recycling](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/863/Organics-Recycling). 🍷



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## As Flowers Bloom and the Days Grow Longer...

### *...Let Music be a Part of the Season*

Fill your spring with *music* by attending a concert at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Bringing rhythm, emotion, and connection to life this spring are four can't miss acts: The Lone Bellow with Fabrizio on Friday, March 6; The Robert Cray Band on Tuesday, March 24; My Brightest Diamond on Friday, April 17; and returning fan favorite Los Lonely Boys on Saturday, April 25.

All concerts begin at 8 p.m., with a cash bar and socializing in the lobby starting at 7 p.m.

For concert ticket purchasing information, visit [www.hopkinsartscenter.com/222/Concerts](http://www.hopkinsartscenter.com/222/Concerts).

### *...Let Art be a Part of the Season*

Fill your spring with *art* by visiting the exhibitions at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Bringing color, emotion, and community to life this spring are the collective works of artists from the Minnesota Artists Association, the Minnesota Mosaic Guild and artist Don Biehn.

All exhibitions are free and open to the public. Check out gallery hours or view video documentaries of past exhibitions and artist talks at [www.hopkinsartscenter.com/223/Exhibitions](http://www.hopkinsartscenter.com/223/Exhibitions). 🍷



## Hopkins Activity Center

*Fitness • Recreation • Social Opportunities • Rentals*

Opportunities for staying active and engaged are available for senior adults at the Hopkins Activity Center. We invite you to sample a fitness class, join a club, or get connected with a cards or games group.

### **Garden Club for Seniors**

**Wednesday, April 1 (planning meeting) • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

In partnership with the expertise and aid of Hennepin County Master Gardeners, get your hands dirty at the Valley Park community garden plots while tending the vegetable garden. All produce harvested is donated to ICA Food Shelf. Volunteer, as you are available, with any of the gardening tasks from planning to planting, watering, weeding or harvesting.

### **Community Garden Class for All Ages**

**Wednesdays, April 8-29 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Free classes open to the public. Held at Hopkins Activity Center. Topics include Preparing for the Growing Season (April 8), The Right Plant for the Right Spot (April 15), Adaptive Gardening through the Lifespan (April 22) and Problems in Your Garden - Disease & Pests (April 29). No registration required.

### **Explore Area Trails with the Bike Club**

**Season Kick Off Tuesday, April 28 • 5:30 p.m.**

Hopkins Activity Center Senior Bicyclers are looking forward to getting back on the trails. Many exciting destinations have been scheduled, including stops for ice cream, visiting local landmarks and taking in scenic nature preserves. Riders sign-up each week according to their level of intensity and time preference: Monday morning active rides are for those who want to travel longer routes, and for the casual senior cyclist, the Tuesday evening recreational group includes a social experience along the way.

To learn more about these fun experiences, join the Activity Center for the Bike Club Season Kick-Off Party on April 28, at the Maetzold Field Picnic Shelter. Register to attend and view Bike Club schedules at [www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter.com](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter.com).

For a full list of senior activities, visit the program registration site at [www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter](http://www.hopkinsmn.com/activitycenter) or call 952-939-1333. 🍷