



Hopkins Highlights

February
2010

2010 Utility Rate Increases Explained

In December 2009, the City Council approved rate increases in the water, sanitary sewer, and recycling programs effective for service in January and billed in February. This was done following a year-long study in 2007 of the current and future costs involved in providing utility services, which resulted in a 20-year Utility Master Plan.

How much are the rates going up?

The water rate will go from \$1.86 to \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons of water used, a \$.04 increase or about \$.30 a month for the average user; the sanitary sewer rate will go from \$3.10 to \$3.40 per 1,000 gallons of water used, a \$.30 increase or about \$2.25 for the average user; and the recycling rate will go from \$3.50 to \$3.75 per month, a \$.25 increase. Total impact is approximately \$2.80 a month for an average household using 7,500 gallons of water a month.

Why are the rates going up?

As an older community, Hopkins must repair and replace the pipes, pumps, meters, generators, and other components of our water, sewer and storm sewer system. Future improvement projects, funded by utility fees, include upgrades of Lift Stations #1 and #4, the construction of a connection to the St. Louis Park water system for emergency backup supply, and infrastructure replacement on residential streets. These projects will ensure the safety and viability of our sewer and water system for years to come.

On the operations side, the City must pay fees to other levels of government for utility services. The Metropolitan Council is responsible for treating all wastewater in the seven-county metro area. More than 50% of the City's annual sewer budget is for these treatment fees.

Similarly, the increase in the recycling rate is in response to the increased costs related to the City's recycling program.

Despite these increases, Hopkins utility rates continue to rank in the bottom third of metro cities. The City remains committed to providing these vital services as efficiently as possible. ♻️

West Metro Home Remodeling Fair Is Feb 28

Sunday, February 28, 2010, 10:30 am-3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

The 18th annual West Metro Home Remodeling Fair will again feature a tremendous line-up of seminars and mini-demonstrations for the do-it-yourselfer, with the added consideration of environmentally friendly remodeling. While

all the workshops will touch on the benefits of remodeling green relative to their respective topics, several workshops make it their focus. You 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.

The Home Remodeling Fair is a free event sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park, as well as Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park Community Education. ♻️

New Irrigation Meter Rate

In 2008, the State of Minnesota adopted a law requiring all publicly owned water utilities to adopt a water rate structure that would promote conservation. To comply with this law, the City has adopted an irrigation meter rate of \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons. The new rate only applies to customers who have a separate water meter for lawn irrigation. During 2010, the City will examine other rate strategies to conserve water use.

Join Us On Feb 23 For State Of The City & Taste Of Hopkins

The State of the City and Taste of Hopkins will be held at the Hopkins Center for the Arts on Tuesday, February 23, 5-7 pm. Mayor Gene Maxwell and the Hopkins City Council will provide an update of all things happening in Hopkins.

Before the main event, enjoy the Taste of Hopkins, a sampling of appetizers, entrées, beverages, and desserts courtesy of local Hopkins restaurants. Taste of Hopkins is coordinated by the Hopkins Business & Civic Association and the Twin West Chamber of Commerce.

In support of our local food shelf, ICA, everyone is encouraged to donate and bring a non-perishable food item to the event. 🍷



Lease A Garden Plot

The City of Hopkins provides a garden site area in Hopkins Valley Park in the Westbrooke/Nine Mile Creek area where residents can lease a 20' x 20' garden plot. The rate is \$12 for each plot. Residents can register for a plot at Hopkins City Hall. Due to the high demand for plots, there is a limit of three plots per person.

Registration begins March 1, 2010, for residents of Hopkins and Minnetonka and are on a first come first serve basis. You must provide proof of residency. Non-residents may purchase plots starting March 15, 2010. You can register in person at Hopkins City Hall or by calling 952-935-8474.

Plots are ready to plant in mid-May. 🌱



Hopkins Highlights

Refuse & Recycling



City offices will be closed February 15 for Presidents' Day. Refuse and recycling collection for the week of February 15 will be delayed one day.

February 2010

City Council Calendar

February 9, 6:30 pm
Work Session

February 16, 7:30 pm
Meeting

February 23, 5-7 pm
State of the City Presentation

February 23, 7 pm
Work Session

March 2, 7:30 pm
Meeting

Agendas and minutes can be found at www.hopkinsmn.com/cityhall/citycouncil/.

Boards & Commissions Calendar

February 22, 6:30 pm
Park Board

February 23, 6:30 pm
Zoning & Planning Commission

March 2, 7 pm
Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Agendas and minutes can be found at 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
Kristi Halverson ■ Bruce Rowan
Rick Brausen ■ Cheryl Youakim

City Offices Closed

City offices will be closed on **Monday, February 15**, for Presidents' Day.

Renew Alarms For 2010

The City of Hopkins requires homeowners and businesses to register all fire and police alarm systems annually.

The purpose of this requirement is to encourage alarm users to maintain their alarm systems and to provide the City with proper documentation. In doing so, it is believed that there will be a reduction of false alarms, which are a drain on our public safety resources. In 2009 there were 422 police calls for service from alarms—409 of these calls were false alarms.

To download a registration form, visit www.hopkinsmn.com/business/alarms.php. The annual registration fee is \$10 for police alarm systems and \$10 for fire alarm systems. There are fines for not registering your alarm system and for false alarms.

If you have questions, please contact Police Services Liaison Anne Marie Buck at 952-548-6407 or by e-mail at abuck@hopkinsmn.com.

Snow Reminders

Snow Emergency?
Call the Snow Line at 952-939-1399

Keep Refuse & Recycling Carts Clear
The City of Hopkins refuse and recycling collection requires a minimum clearance of 4 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 sufficient area 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 clearance around each container be maintained to allow for collection.

Keep Fire Hydrants Shoveled Out

Many fire hydrants are currently covered or hidden by snow. If you have a hydrant on your block, please help keep Hopkins safe by shoveling it out. If possible, hydrants should be cleared four feet on each side to give the Fire Department the fastest and best access. The property you save may be your own!

Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Deposit Disclosure

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 115A.9302, which requires that a person who collects mixed municipal solid waste for transportation to a waste facility shall 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, 2010 will be delivered to the following facilities during that time period. If an additional facility becomes either a primary facility or an alternative facility during this time period, the City of Hopkins will provide you with updated information within 30 days.

Primary Facility Name: Hennepin Energy Resource Company (HERC)
Location: 505 6th Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405
Type of Facility: Mass Burn Waste-to-Energy
MPCA Permit Number: SW-396

Primary Facility Name: NRG Elk River (NSP) Resource Recovery
Location: 10700 165th Ave NW, Elk River, MN 55330
Type of Facility: 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 Name: Dem Con Landfill, Inc.
Location: 331 Akers Lane, Jordan, MN 55352
Type of Facility: 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 substantially more financial and environmental protection than depositing waste in landfills in other states. Managing your waste in Minnesota may minimize your potential liability.

Fun For Kids at the Pavilion

Turf Tots
Mon-Fri, March 4-April 30,
9am-noon

A drop-in, freeplay program for children up to 5 years old. Play with sports balls, crawl tunnels, bounce houses, hula hoops, and more! Parents are required to stay on the field with their children. \$3/child. No registration necessary.



Dynamo Youth Soccer Clinics
Saturdays, March 6-April 17
Kids 5-14 yrs old will have a fun, action-packed hour while developing their soccer skills. \$55 registration fee.