



Hopkins Highlights

March
2010



Buy A Brick Before March 31

Leave A Lasting Impression In Clock Tower Plaza

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.

Bricks are a great gift idea for family and friends. With each order, you will also receive a free copy of the "Hopkins Through the Years" historical book. Brick pricing starts at \$65 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.**

Opportunities for Continued Learning

at the Hopkins Activity Center

Travel Show

Tuesday, March 9, 1 pm

The adventures begin as we kick off our upcoming 2010 adventures. Be the first to learn about these upcoming trips as you sit back and enjoy dessert and a beverage. Meet the tour escort and tour director.

Healthy Living Group

Tuesday, March 9, 10:30 am

Find out things about your nutrition, why fat doesn't make you fat, what foods you should buy or not buy organically, and why soy is bad. Facilitated by Dr. Mike Madison, Total Chiropractic. Frequent User members free; Others \$1. Call to register.

Zoey's Story Book Reading

Tuesday, March 23, 10:30 am

Zoey's story is a collection of actual events in the life of Zoey, a once abandoned black lab pup. The book will remind pet lovers that their own precious animals have stories to tell. Sit back, listen carefully, and use your imagination as the author Larry Litman shares some of the stories from the book. Come & meet Zoey. Frequent User members free; Others \$1. Call to register.

4 Hour Defensive Driving Refresher Course

Wednesday, March 17, 6-10 pm

A 4-hour course to qualify for the senior auto discount. Prerequisite: 8 hr course. Instructed by Lt. John Nagel, Minnesota State Patrol. Preregistration required. Frequent User members \$15; Others \$18.

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.

New Ordinance Requires Owners To Register Vacant Properties

Over the past few years, the City has experienced an increase in the number of vacant properties. In an effort to ensure that vacant properties do not create health, safety, and crime issues, the City Council has recently adopted a vacant property registration ordinance: Section 455 of the Hopkins City Code. Many other cities throughout the Twin Cities metro area have adopted similar ordinances. **Residential property, which is vacant for more than 90 days, must now be registered with the City.**

The new ordinance imposes a registration fee to defray the expense of additional monitoring of vacant properties by City staff and other administrative expenses related to registration. However, the following properties are exempt from paying the registration fee, although the owners must still complete the registration form:

1. Dwelling units possessing a valid rental license;
2. Homes which are for sale;
3. Any vacant property where the owner intends to resume occupancy of the property within 180 days, for example "snowbirds."

Find out more on the City's website.

New at the Pavilion... Adult Dodgeball League



Start getting your team together for dodgeball at the Hopkins Pavilion! This adult league will run on Monday nights, May 24-July 26 (no games on May 31 or July 5). For more information, visit www.hopkinspavilion.com. **Registration due: May 3.**

photo by Daniel Slaughter

Time To Study Up On SEVERE WEATHER

Free Severe Weather Awareness Class

⚡ Wednesday, March 17, 6-8 pm @ the Hopkins Fire Station

Keep yourself and your loved ones safe during storm season! Learn about the causes of severe weather, what exactly triggers the tornado sirens (and why), and what the National Weather Service can and cannot see on radar. Class also covers safety and the importance of NOAA Weather Radios and the Skywarn™ storm-spotter program. Instructor Dan Bovitz is the Deputy Director for Hennepin County Emergency Preparedness. Class is free; registration is requested. Maximum 50. Please call 952-548-6302 or email dsperling@hopkinsmn.com to register.



Hopkins Highlights



Refuse & Recycling

Recycling collection is March 1-4, 15-18, and 29-April 1.

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

March 2010

City Council Calendar

March 9, 6:30 pm
Work Session

March 16, 7:30 pm
Meeting

March 23, 6:30 pm
Work Session

April 6, 7:30 pm
Meeting

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

Boards & Commissions Calendar

March 15, 6:30 pm
Park Board

March 30, 6:30 pm
Zoning & Planning Commission

April 6, 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

What's Your Earth Day Idea?



Has your neighborhood association, scout troop, civic organization, etc, ever considered doing an Earth Day project in Hopkins? Maybe you do one already. The City of Hopkins "Think Green Team" is interested in hearing about your group's Earth Day projects & ideas. The City may be able to help you coordinate with City services, promote your activity, or possibly match your group to a project. We hope to help promote a number of community-building Earth Day projects in Hopkins neighborhoods and parks. For more information, or to tell us of a project, contact Jay Strachota, Facilities Director, at jstrachota@hopkinsmn.com or 952-979-1101. 🍷

Earth Day 2010 is Earth Day's 40th birthday!

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. 🍷

Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Public Works utility crews will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the community from April 12-30. **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 12-16: Hydrants north of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169

April 19-23: Hydrants south of Co Rd 3 and west of Hwy 169

April 26-30: Hydrants east of Hwy 169 🍷

Mark Your Calendar

Hopkins' **Spring Bulk Drop Off** will take place April 15-17. Complete information will be in the April Highlights and at www.hopkinsmn.com.

