



Minnetrista Messenger

2023 Fall/Winter Edition

Message from the Mayor

Happy Fall, Minnetrista Residents!

September and October are always busy months at City Hall. We are wrapping up our 2023 road construction and maintenance projects. Some have been completed, and the largest project includes a complete street and utility reconstruction in the Eastview, Morningview and Westwood area which is scheduled to be completed before winter.

Chase Dwinell was sworn in and welcomed as our newest Police Officer at the August 21st Council Meeting. Officer Dwinell was promoted from his position as Community Service Officer. He served in the CSO position nearly a year while finishing up his studies and training in law enforcement. We will soon be backfilling the vacant CSO position with a new employee in early November. We are still recruiting a candidate for the 15th officer position. With our growing community, the Council has made it a top priority to make sure we have an appropriate number of officers to help keep our community safe.

We also welcomed Public Works

Maintenance Worker, Jon Geyen who filled a vacant position after an employee left in early summer. Mr. Geyen began employment with the city on October 2nd and we are happy to have him onboard. We hope to add staff to our Public Works Department in the upcoming year.

Also new to our team is City Clerk Ann Meyerhoff. She has filled the vacancy due to Dawn Motzko's resignation in late summer. Dawn resigned to work full time in her family's well drilling business. We wish Dawn the best and welcome Ann onboard!

As we near the fall and winter season, the budget becomes a main item of discussion. Staff and Council have been working on the budget and tax levy for 2024. The Council set the preliminary levy at our September 6th meeting.

The Council approved a 15% increase to the levy. However, we anticipate this number will come down once all the final figures are in. Per state statute, we must certify the preliminary levy to the County by or before September 30th. We can reduce the levy before we adopt the final budget on December 4th. However, we can't raise the

amount. Keep in mind our 3% new home growth will help offset some of this increase. One of the driving factors for the increase is employee compensation and benefits. In today's market it's important to stay competitive to attract quality candidates and keep quality employees. With that said, I must say we have a tremendous team of professional staff members who are dedicated to their jobs and our community. See page 2 and visit our website for more details on the levy and how it could affect your property taxes.

In case you haven't heard, we will be hosting our first annual Holiday Tree Lighting event at City Hall on Thursday, November 30th from 5pm – 7pm. There will be fun activities for all ages including bonfires with smores, a visit from Santa, Holiday Fire Trucks, free hot chocolate and cider, tree lighting, and for those 21 and older a wine and beer tent hosted by the Westonka Lions. We hope you can join us and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. If you are planning on making a donation to Toys for Tots we will have a collection box on site as well. I can't wait to see you there! As always,
Mayor
Lisa Whalen



2024 Budget

On September 6, 2023, the Minnetrista City Council approved a preliminary net tax levy of \$6,555,729 for 2024.

This amount calculates to a 15% increase over the 2023 levy amount. The final levy will be approved by the City Council on Monday, December 4, 2023. The levy cannot go above the preliminary levy amount that was adopted by can stay the same or be decreased.



With the Council approving the preliminary levy increase for funding the 2024 City operations, it means that most homeowners will see the City portion of their tax bill be higher in 2024 than it was in 2023. The City, through the annual budget process, has needed to account for the same inflationary and economic conditions that individuals and other entities are dealing with, as well as financing roads and infrastructure projects. For a median valued home of around \$650,000 there will be an estimated \$192-\$216 annual increase (\$16-\$18 a month) if your property had the average valuation increase for the year.

Other factors that impact the increase you may see on your tax statement are out of the city's control; such as property valuation increases/decreases, homesteading, and property classification. Taxes from other taxing jurisdictions (county, school districts, special taxing districts) can also affect your overall taxes paid as a homeowner.

On average the City portion of your total tax bill is about 20-25% of your total tax statement that comes from Hennepin County. The 2024 preliminary tax statements will be coming from Hennepin County during the month of November and will provide details for individual properties on the factors described.

As mentioned, the City of Minnetrista will hold its annual public comment on the final levy and budget at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at 7pm on December 4, 2023. It is at that meeting where the final levy and budgets for the City are expected to be adopted along with the 2024 fee schedule and other related financial planning documents. Additional information on the 2024 budget can be found on the City's website. <https://minnetristamn.civicpluswebopen.com/finance/page/2024-budget-0>

Winter Reminders



Do not put snow on roadways. It is against state law and city ordinance to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow onto public roadways. Depositing snow in any fashion onto a roadway is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor

Every year our plow drivers have incidents with garbage and recycling cans being placed in the roadway. When there is snow expected, we would like to remind homeowners that it is difficult for our plow crew when garbage/recycling cans are placed too far into the road.

Winter parking ordinance. With winter snow soon approaching, the Police Department will be enforcing the City's winter parking ordinance. This ordinance states that from November 1-March 31 no vehicle can be parked on any city street between 2:00am-6:00am. The City is authorized to remove the vehicle in violation of the ordinance.

Although not in ordinance, the city also asks that residents refrain from parking on the street after continuous snowfall until it has been plowed. Public Works crews work as efficiently as possible during and after a snow storm. We appreciate the resident's patience and cooperation during these snow events. A big thank you to our team! They put in long hours in take pride in keeping our roads safe.

Planning and Parks Commissioner Recruitment

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? If so, the City of Minnetrista is accepting applications for the volunteer positions of Parks Commissioner & Planning Commissioner.



There is currently two open alternate seats on the Parks Commission and two open seats on the Planning Commission all for terms beginning in January of 2024. Parks Commissioners serve a three year term and meet on the second Tuesday of each month, while Planning Commissioners serve a four year term and meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

How to Apply. Visit our website for more information and how to apply for this volunteer position. The deadline for applications is Wednesday November 22, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Only Minnetrista residents will be considered for the positions. www.cityofminnetrista.com/jobs

2024 Street Projects

The Minnetrista City Council is considering improvements to several streets within the City with one project proposed for 2024:

2024 Mill and Overlay

The proposed improvements include the mill and overlay of Hermitage Trail, Hermitage Circle, Stonebridge Lane, Ambjor Lane, and the paved section of Nike Road. Mill and overlay projects involve milling off the top layer of the road and overlaying with new pavement to extend the life of the existing pavement.



The estimated cost of these improvements is approximately \$580,000 and funding is proposed to be sourced through City Funds. Generally, these roads will remain open to traffic during the project, although minor delays may be encountered when crews are performing work. City Council has authorization for final design and bidding, the contract for this project will be presented to the City Council for review and award in the early months of 2024. Construction will generally take place between the spring and fall of 2024, weather permitting.

To view more information on the project, visit our City website: <https://www.cityofminnetrista.com/construction-projects>

Mayor for the Day

The City of Minnetrista is participating in the Mayor for a Day Essay Contest, which is a program to engage local 4th-6th grade students in civic engagement through a written essay contest.

To enter, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can answer the prompt, "What would you do if you were mayor for a day?" for a chance to win \$100 and recognition in Minnesota Cities magazine. If the winner is from Minnetrista, the Mayor will announce at a future City Council meeting.

For details, please visit our website: www.cityofminnetrista.com/mayor-council/page/mayor-day



2023 Election

Westonka Public Schools is holding an election on November 7, 2023. On the ballot are two questions regarding technology updates and facility improvements, and also the election of four school board members.

Early voting is at Westonka Educational Service Center (5901 Sunnyfield Road E, Minnetrista) weekdays through November 6th during regular business hours.

The polls are open November 7, 2023 from 7:00am-8:00pm. To find out where you vote on Election Day, please visit mnvotes.org.

Bonding Tour

Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee will embark on a statewide tour this fall, visiting sites and projects for proposed investment in a 2024 Bonding Bill. Minnetrista's representatives will be attending the tour on November 14, 2023 at 3:45p.m. at the Excelsior Library. Excelsior is also hosting Long Lake, and Spring Park.

The Mayor and staff will be presenting and discussing the Minnetrista Water Infrastructure Project with 20 House Representatives with the hopes of the water infrastructure project being included in the 2024 state bonding bill. We would like to extend a thank you to Representative Andrew Myers for his continued support of the community!

To learn more about the bonding tour, visit the state's website: <https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/news/15468/37396>

Mackenthun's Development

Mackenthun's Fine Foods grocery store is set to open on February 21, 2024. The development includes a full service grocery store, fine meats and smoke-house items, deli and bakery. There will also be a Caribou Coffee and The Cove Wine and Sprints liquor store. Check out their Facebook page to learn more!

They are continuing construction on the apartment complex as well, which is estimated to be completed in later 2024.



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This newsletter was published in accordance with the City of Minnetrista's Publication Policy which may be viewed in its entirety on the City's website during regular business hours at Minnetrista City Hall; 7701 Co. Rd 110 W; Minnetrista, MN 55364.



Holiday Tree Lighting Event
 NOVEMBER 30, 2023
 5:00PM-7:00PM
 CITY CAMPUS- 7701 CR 110 WEST

What to Expect:

- Wine and Beer Tent
- North Star Donut Truck (for purchase)
- Roasting smores, hot cider, hot cocoa and coffee
- Meet Santa Claus!
- Fire Trucks
- Tree Lighting (6:00pm)
- Toys for Tots donations
-and more!

We hope you and your family can join the City of Minnetrista for their first ever Holiday event!



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