



Minnetrista Messenger

2021 Summer Newsletter

"The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character."

Mayor's Message

Greeting Minnetrista Residents,

Happy Summer! In the last Minnetrista Messenger, we were just a few weeks into 2021, and it's hard to believe that summer 2021 has arrived.

In Person Meetings

After nearly 1 ½ years of virtual meetings, the City Council and staff are excited to get back to in-person City Council meetings starting with our meeting on July 19, 2021.

Clean-Up Day

On May 8, the City (along with the City of Mound) held the annual Clean-up Day. After cancelling this event in 2020 due to COVID-19, the event was held and was successful.

Trista Day

After cancelling Trista Day in 2020, the City Council hoped to move Trista Day to September this year, but ultimately decided to cancel the event altogether for 2021. The Council would like to hold the event in 2022 in either May or June.

Outdoor Watering Ban

As you have noticed, the City implemented an emergency outdoor watering ban from June 8-June 16. Then, on June 16, the City implemented a revised outdoor watering schedule, hoping to allow some residential outdoor watering. But on June 24, 2021, the City reinstated the Emergency

Outdoor Watering ban effective until further notice. Because of the unusually hot weather, there has been a large increase in water demand and usage, primarily from home irrigation. When this happens, the water levels in City water towers are lower than what is needed for fire protection. More information on the outdoor watering situation can be found on page two, but we encourage residents to continue to conserve as much water as possible!

Broadband

Broadband connectivity and expansion is one of the Council's top priorities for 2021. At the second work session meeting of each month, the Council is exploring and analyzing some solutions to expand broadband to the unserved and underserved areas of Minnetrista. We are hopeful to have both short-term and long-term solutions in place by the year end.

Street Improvements

We are moving forward with several City street improvement projects. They include the 2021 Street Improvement Project, the 2021 MSA project, the 2021 Crack fill project, and early steps towards the 2022 Street Improvement project. Progress on all of the projects can be found on our website: <https://www.cityofminnetrista.com/2021ConstructionProjects> Additional information can be found on page three of this newsletter.

Solar Ordinance

In May, the Council approved a new solar ordinance. This issue was brought to the Council's attention last year when an application for a "solar farm" was submitted. Our original ordinance had some ambiguities that needed to be cleared up. After recommendations from staff to the Planning Commission, discussions with residents, and a recommendation from the Planning Commission to the City Council, the new ordinance was forwarded for City Council and was approved in May.

2022 Budget Process

Late summer also marks the beginning of the 2022 budget process. During Council work sessions in August, the City Council and staff will be discussing budget priorities for 2022, and will set the preliminary tax levy in late September.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Fourth of July! I look forward to seeing you in-person soon.

Your Mayor,

Lisa Whalen



Drought Conditions, Water Conservation and Outdoor Watering

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the City of Minnetrista has only seen two thirds of the rain that we see in a typical year, and we are only about 3.3" above the driest year to date (1997.) Over the last 30 days, Minnetrista has only seen 1.5-2.0 inches of total rain with an average temperature of 88.3 degrees; 12 of the last 30 days have been over 95 degrees. In the past three years, we have seen 4-6 inches of rain and an average temperature of 80.7 in June. When there is less precipitation, the water demand increases, and the ability to keep the water tower levels where they need to be for fighting fires is compromised.

Since the beginning of June, the City has been closely monitoring the water tower levels to ensure public safety and fire protection. As of June 24, 2021, the City implemented an outdoor watering ban until further notice. The outdoor watering ban prohibits all outdoor watering by mechanical or automatic means, it also includes non-essential water use (washing vehicles, filling pools, power washing, etc.) This does not include watering of small gardens, flowers, and shrubbery by means of a hand held hose.

Over the last several years, the City's water infrastructure has been evolving. Connections to our central and southern water systems occurred in July 2016. In late 2016 and early 2017, there were two water treatments plants brought online. After a search for a location for the new water tower, the third water tower (located off Highway 7 west of County Road 92) will be completed this year and expected to come on line during the 4th quarter of 2021. In recent years, the City has spent nearly \$14.5 million in water infrastructure. Current and previous Mayors and City Councilmembers have thoughtfully planned the infrastructure completed to date.

The current need for the outdoor watering ban in place now is due to the increased water demand and continuous drought like conditions in Minnetrista. When the water tower levels get below a certain threshold, water contamination and fire protection become concerns for the City.

Please visit our website for more details:
www.cityofminnetrista.com/news/post/12564/

To receive notifications for outdoor watering, please sign up for the "Public Works Alerts" here:
www.cityofminnetrista.com/newsletters

2020 Audited Financial Report Article

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2020, has been completed. It was presented to the City Council at the May 17, 2021, City Council meeting by the City's auditors, Clifton Larson Allen. The City received an "unqualified opinion" on its financial report, which is the best opinion the City can receive on the annual audit.

The full audit report is available at the City's website on the Finance page and is labeled "2020 Comprehensive Financial Annual Report". The City has sent the report to the Government Finance Officers Association for review to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The City has received this award the last 16 years. This award is presented to government units whose financial reports achieve the highest standards in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The City's auditors reported that the city remains in very good financial condition. For 2020, the actual expenditures for the general fund were \$102,648 lower than the budgeted general fund expenditures. Revenues came in higher than projected as actual revenues came in \$735,120 higher than budgeted revenues in the general fund. Most of this was attributed to the \$579,517 in CARES dollars the City received during 2020. The second biggest revenue positive variance was attributed to license and permits revenue coming in much better than expected.

The City ended the year with the general fund having a total fund balance of \$3,480,982 and an unassigned fund balance of \$3,220,792. This represents a healthy reserve level of 67% and 62% of the 2021 General Fund Budgeted expenditures of \$5,193,641 respectively.

2021 Projects

2021 Local Street Improvement Project: Local road improvements this summer include Full Depth Reclamation and bituminous paving of Hardscrabble Circle and Hardscrabble Road N, and Full Depth Reclamation, addition of concrete curb and gutter, and bituminous paving of Stonebridge Road, Stonebridge Circle, Loring Drive, and Minneapolis Avenue. Utility improvements will also be constructed and consist of enhancements to stormwater drainage, minor repairs to the watermain and sanitary sewer systems, replacement of two four-inch sanitary sewer force mains along Hardscrabble Circle and Hardscrabble Road North, replacement of Lift Station #3 and the force main along Minneapolis Avenue, and the adjustment of valve boxes and manhole rings and castings.

2021 Crack Filling Project will take place on the following streets sometime between August and September, 2021: Red Oak Lane, Fairway Lane, Grand View Avenue, Wildwood Avenue, Glacier Court, Orchard Cove, Orchard Trail, Farmhill Circle, Crane Island Court, Creekside Way, Cottagewood Court, Woodland Cove Parkway, Big Woods Drive, Fisher Bend, Minnehaha Court, Tonka Bend, Maple Leaf Lane, Trista Bend, and the Police Department parking lot.

2021 MSA Street Improvement Project: Work on the 2021 MSA Street Improvement Project, will begin in late June, early July and will take approximately six weeks to complete and include:

- Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) of Sunnyfield Road from Langewood Drive to the west end of the paved section,
- Mill and Overlay of Langewood Drive,
- Repaving the trail on the south side of Sunnyfield Road, and
- Miscellaneous utility improvements, including installation or replacement of storm sewer and installation of inflow and infiltration (I&I) barriers in the sanitary sewer manholes along Langewood Drive.

The road will remain open to traffic however motorists should expect delays as the road will be reduced to one lane in order for the contractor to install the improvements.

Public Safety Updates

National Night Out:

National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. The goal of National Night Out is to encourage our residents to know their neighbors. Neighbors knowing neighbors is a very powerful crime fighting tool. If your neighbors know you, they may notice a suspicious car that may not belong in your driveway. They will be more likely to report suspicious activity to the police and we can better protect your neighborhood. The Minnetrista Police Department along with St. Bonifacius and Mound Fire Departments and McGruff attend many of the parties. It's an easy and fun way to accomplish our mission of fighting crime and promoting safety. Since we were not able to celebrate in 2020, we really look forward to seeing you all again! In 2019 we had 23 parties with over 2,000 people attending, a record for Minnetrista NNO! Each party was unique and a fun experience for those attending. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Fireworks in Minnesota:

The sale, possession and use of certain non-explosive and non-aerial fireworks are now permitted in Minnesota. Examples of [LEGAL](#) fireworks include items such as sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks, and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.

Consumer fireworks may not be used on public property (parks, roads, alleys, schools, government property, etc.) Purchasers of consumer fireworks must be at least 18 years old and retailers are required to check photo identification before selling these products.

Explosive and aerial fireworks are prohibited for public sale, possession and use. Prohibited fireworks included firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles, mortars and shells.

Fireworks are associated with many injuries nationally each year. To view safety guidelines to reduce fireworks injuries, fires, and nuisance complaints, please visit www.fire.state.mn.us



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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 at www.cityofminnetrista.com or during regular business hours at Minnetrista City Hall; 7701 Co. Rd 110 W; Minnetrista, MN 55364.

2021 Important Dates

City Council and Worksession Meetings

(typically the first and third Monday of every month)

- Monday, July 19
- Monday, August 2
- Monday, August 16
- Tuesday, September 7

Planning Commission Meetings

(typically the last Monday of every month)

- Monday, July 26
- Monday, August 23
- Monday, September 27

Parks Commission Meetings

(typically the second Tuesday of every month)

- Tuesday, July 13
- Tuesday, August 10
- Tuesday, September 14

Upcoming Information

City Hall Closed

- Monday, July 5, 2021– Observance of the 4th of July
- Monday, September 6, 2021– Labor Day

2021 Trista Day: In early 2021, the City Council decided to postpone Trista Day until later in the year due to COVID-19. When revisiting the possibility of hosting the event in the Fall, the Council decided to cancel 2021 Trista Day entirely due to staffing restrictions and other factors. The event will be held in May or June 2022.



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