



Fall 2019

Minnetrista Messenger

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

By the time this newsletter reaches your mail boxes, it will be close to Thanksgiving. So, I wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday!

The last four months have been busy as usual. We had great participation for our "National Night Out" back in August and I was able to visit seven of our eighteen parties. I always enjoy meeting our residents and talking about local issues. If your neighborhood didn't have a party, think about hosting one next year. It's a great way to get to know or reconnect with your neighbors.

The past two years have been a challenge with County Road 44 closed. As many of you know, it has added a lot of extra drive time, headaches, and inconveniences especially for those living close to this project. I'm happy to report that it will be opening soon, the MET Council informed the City that paving will be completed for the season sometime in November.

The Council, SEH, and staff have been working on plans for the new water tower. As I reported in my last newsletter, we found and purchased a parcel on the north side of Hwy. 7 just west of St. Bonifacius. The plans should be completed this coming January and we will be sending the project out for bids in February and awarding the contract some time in March, with the water tower up and running in the fall of 2021. The Council has already seen a preliminary sketch for the design and colors and made a few changes, keeping it as simple and unobtrusive as possible eliminating fancy logos or colors.

Our road projects for 2019 have wrapped up. I'm happy to say we had minimal problems and were able to complete all the roads on time and on budget. Over the summer months, the council has been discussing which road projects should be completed in 2020. This is always a challenge since there are many roads in dire need of being addressed and yet we're limited by the number of dollars at our disposal. See the article on page three for more details.

In August we started discussions on the 2020 budget and levy. The City is required to certify a preliminary levy to the County by September 30th and approve a final levy by the end of December. See page three for a message from our Finance Director.

So what is the difference between a budget and a levy? The levy is the amount that the city "levies" against all the properties. this amount is less than the total budget. The budget is the total amount of dollars the city needs to operate. We have a number of different revenue sources besides property taxes such as; interest from investments, building permits, the police contract with St. Boni., money from the state, etc. All these revenue sources, including property taxes, are added together for the total budget.

This past summer we welcomed a new building inspector, Gary Nelson, and promoted the inspector Robert Goodman to the open building official position. The transition has worked out very well and our planning department

has been tackling all the permit work exceptionally well.

In October we welcomed a new Community Service Officer, Kevin Walsh, to our police department. Kevin served as one of our police reserve volunteers for 12 years. We also welcomed Chris Sandberg to our public works staff, he comes to us from Chaska and is a Minnetrista resident.

Before I close, I would like to give our public works staff a big thank you for all the fabulous work they did immediately after the tornado on Labor Day weekend. They went over and above the call of duty. Our officers were also out and about making sure everyone was safe. It's wonderful to have such great people in all of our departments working hard on behalf of the residents.

Watch our website for a new Mayor's Blog in January 2020!

As always, Your Mayor,
Lisa Whalen



Don't Veer for Deer

Deer-vehicle crashes peak in the autumn months, but Minnesota's large deer population makes them a safety hazard on the road all year long. Here are some safety tips for motorists:

- Drive at safe speeds and always buckle up
- Do not swerve. Motorists can lose control taking them into oncoming traffic or off the road.
- Be especially cautious from 6-9 pm when deer are most active.
- Use high beams as much as possible at night, especially in deer-active areas.
- Motorcyclists: avoid night and low-light riding periods.
- Slow down in areas known to have a large deer population, such as areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forest land.
- Blow the horn urging deer to leave the road.

Information provided by the MN Dept of Public Safety



Minnetrista's City Hall and Police Department will continue to be Toys for Tots drop off locations. Minnetrista Police will deliver donated items to Golden Valley prior to Christmas. Donations should be valued at \$10 or more and must be unwrapped. Candy or military/weapon-type toys will not be accepted. Donations are for children ages 0-15 with the ages of 0-2 and 10-14 in greatest need. Donations are tax deductible and may be dropped off through December 13, 2019.

Contact the Minnetrista Police Department at 952-446-1131 for more information.

Minnetrista City Hall

Hours: Mon-Fri
8:00am-4:30pm

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Adult and Student Election Judges Needed

The City of Minnetrista is seeking citizens to serve as election judges and trainees to staff polling places and assist voters during the Presidential Nomination Primary being held on March 3, 2020, the State Primary Election on August 11, 2020, and the General Election on November 3, 2020.

Election Judges are officials that staff local polling places, administer election procedures, and ensure the voters' rights are protected on Election Day. Duties include: setting up the polling places, operating equipment, directing voters, registering individuals, ensuring qualified voters are permitted to vote, closing polling places, determining the results and certifying the polling place results after polls close.

Qualified election judges or trainees are:

- A United States Citizen
- Able to read, write and speak English
- Going to be 16 years old or older on Election Day
- NOT the parent, child, spouse or sibling of a candidate on the ballot
- Able to complete election duties in a fair and impartial manner
- Willing to complete election judge training

Additional information can be found at www.cityofminnetrista.com/elections or call City Clerk Kris Linquist at 952-241-2528.

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Infrastructure Updates

Public Works and Engineering staff are looking to build on the successful 2019 construction season by designing and planning for street and utility improvements in 2020 over the winter. There are three main projects that are currently underway in terms of planning and preliminary design.

The first is the 2020 Street Improvement Project planned for the Wood End Shores neighborhood just east of County Road 44. Proposed improvements include replacing a deteriorating sanitary forcemain and rehabilitation of the pavement section, as well as improving storm drainage on Lakeview Drive, Margaret Circle, and Shady Lane.

The next two projects are along Municipal State Aid Streets (MSAS) within the City, meaning that a portion of the project costs can be funded by MSAS distributions from the state. One project is proposed to improve the pavement surface along Halstead Drive from just west of Lakeside Drive to County Road 110 West via pavement mill and overlay. These efforts will improve the ride quality and extend the useful life of the roadway. The other project is proposed to improve the drainage ditches along North Branch Road from County Road 26 just west of Sunnyfield Road North. This segment of North Branch Road is rural with an aggregate surface and, due to its steep vertical roadway profile, has experienced shoulder washouts which require significant maintenance efforts by Public Works staff. The proposed project consists of re-grading the ditches such that they convey surface drainage efficiently and without washing out the aggregate shoulder.

Residents can find project information and updates at www.cityofminnetrista.com/construction-updates.

City Council Approves 2020 Preliminary Tax Levy

On September 3, 2019, the Minnetrista City Council approved a preliminary net tax levy of \$4,819,187 for 2020. This amount calculates to a 5.87% increase over the 2019 levy amount, and the final levy will be approved by the City Council on Monday, December 2, 2019. The levy cannot go above the preliminary 5.87% but could be decreased.

The focus over the last several years has been to add additional funding for road maintenance and carrying out the City's Pavement Management Plan. Keep in mind that the levy will be spread over more properties as the City continues to grow (over 100 new homes in each of the last couple years) and, therefore, any increases are offset proportionally as this growth comes online.

With the Council approving an incremental total levy increase for funding the 2020 City operations, most homeowners will see a slight increase in the city portion of your 2020 taxes over 2019 taxes. For a median valued home of around \$467,000, residents can anticipate about \$4 per month increase.

Other factors that come into the formula 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 overall taxes paid as a homeowner.

On average, the City portion of a total tax bill is about 20-25% of a total tax statement that comes from Hennepin County. The 2020 preliminary tax statements will be coming from Hennepin County during the month of November and will provide details for individual properties listed

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 2, 2019. The final levy and budgets for the City are expected to be adopted at this meeting along with the 2020 fee schedule and other related financial planning documents.

Winter Parking in Effect

Beginning November 1st through March 31st, motor vehicles or obstructions will be not be allowed to remain on City streets between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, so as not to interfere with the effective removal of snow.



Questions about the Metropolitan Council's City Rd 44 Project?

Hotline:

952-222-3912

Email:

MCESMound@zanassoc.com

Website:

[metro council.org/
sewerconstruction/mound-
CR44](http://metro council.org/sewerconstruction/mound-CR44)



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City Calendar

For updated information, visit www.cityofminnetrista.com and our City Hall Calendar.

City Council:

November 18
December 2
January 6

Planning Commission:

November 25
No December meeting
January 27

Land Use Apps Due:

November 22
December 27
January 25

Parks Commission:

November 12
December 10
January 7

Upcoming Holidays

November 28 & 29, 2019—City Offices Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24, 2019—City Offices Closed—Christmas Eve

December 25, 2019—City Offices Closed—Christmas Day

January 1, 2020—City Offices Closed—New Year's Day

January 20, 2020—City Offices Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Minnetrista City Hall

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MEETINGS ON YOUTUBE



Did you know you can watch regular City Council meetings at home on your computer? Regular City Council meetings are recorded and posted on YouTube the Friday after the meeting. A link is available on the home page of the City website or subscribe to the City of Minnetrista's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/cityofminnetrista