

# Minnetrista Messenger

## 2020 Fall and Winter 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

Greetings Minnetrista Residents,

Summer has slipped by, and we're already several weeks into fall.

I'm sure many of you experienced a very different summer than you ever have before. I'm hopeful as we move into the New Year that we will experience a better tomorrow. So what's been happening at city hall?

We reopened our buildings for in-person business on July 13, 2020. A reopening plan was implemented which includes staggered office hours for our employees in order to maintain social distancing. Our goal is to keep our employees healthy while also continuing to provide the city services that are needed.

The City Council continues with virtual meetings on our regularly scheduled days, the first and third Mondays of every month. These are recorded and posted on our website and YouTube channel. You also have the option of listening in live. The City Council meeting agendas are posted the Thursday prior to our Council meetings. All the information to dial in is listed at the top of the agenda.

In August, the City Council unanimously rescinded the local emergency order that had been in place since March. We have also been discussing the appropriate use of the COVID-19 relief funds the city received from the State. At the October 19, 2020 City Council meeting, the City Council approved allocating the funds for non-profit assistance expenses, to reimburse eligible City COVID-19 expenses and to reimburse eligible Public Safety expenses.

One of the many events that we have had to cancel this year was the National Night Out in August. Although it was rescheduled to October 6<sup>th</sup>, once again it was canceled to keep everyone safe.

Our road projects for 2020 are wrapping up. This year we completed a reclamation of Lakeview Drive, Margaret Circle and Shady Lane and a mill and overlay on Halstead Drive. We also did overlays on Fielding Trail, Sterling Drive, Retreat and Game Farm Circle. For more details see our Engineers article on page 5.

Since April, the Council has been discussing projects for 2021. So far, they include reconstruction of Sunnyfield Road, up to the

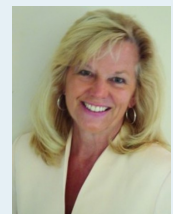
western edge of the school district property and Minneapolis Avenue, Hardscrabble, Loring Drive and Stone Bridge Road. We will be doing more overlays in 2021 as well, but the Council will determine which ones our budget allows as we move into next year.

At our first Council meeting in September, the Council approved the preliminary levy. Although the levy increase is 3.07%, the average homeowner will actually see a decrease in their property taxes. We had approximately a 3.5% increase in new home market value, and this means the levy increase will be off-set by these new homes. For more details see Brian Grimm's article on page 2.

As you've been driving around town I'm sure you have all seen the many campaign signs. I encourage you to get informed and get out and vote. For voting information see the article on page 2.

As always,

Your Mayor  
Lisa Whalen



## 2021 Preliminary Levy

Finance Director Brian Grimm

On September 8, 2020, the Minnetrista City Council approved a preliminary net tax levy of \$4,943,358 for 2021. This amount calculates to a 2.78% increase over the 2020 levy amount. The final levy will be approved by the City Council on Monday, December 7, 2020. The levy cannot go above the preliminary 2.78% increase, but could be decreased.

The focus over the last several years has been to add increased 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 2021 City operations, it means that most homeowners will see a slight decrease in the city portion of your 2021 taxes over 2020 taxes. For a median valued home of around \$481,000 you are looking at about an \$9 annual decrease if your property had the average valuation increase for the year.

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

Tax Impact: Assuming a 4.0% valuation increase, based on a levy increase of 2.78% with 3.4% growth in the City, using a projected tax rate of 23.37%

2020 Property Value	2021 Property Value	2020 Tax Amount	2021 Tax Amount	Difference
\$350,000	\$364,000	\$866	\$851	-\$15
\$500,000	\$520,000	\$1,237	\$1,227	-\$10
\$750,000	\$780,000	\$2,010	\$1,986	-\$24

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 2021 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 7, 2020. It is at that meeting where the final levy and budgets for the City are expected to be adopted along with the 2021 fee schedule and other related financial planning documents.

## 2020 General Election Information

### Early Voting

**Absentee Voting:** Absentee voting for the 2020 General Election began on September 18, 2020 from 8:00am-4:00pm at City Hall. In-person absentee voting hours will be Monday-Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm with the following exceptions:

- Saturday October 31, 2020—City Offices are open extended hours from 10:00am-3:00pm for the purpose of in person absentee voting
- Monday November 2, 2020— City Offices are open extended hours from 8:00am-5:00pm for the purpose of in person absentee voting.

**Direct Balloting** is October 27, 2020– November 2, 2020.

Please remember that early in-person absentee voting is a City Hall (7701 CR 110 W) not the Police Department.

### Election Day

The 2020 General Election will be held on November 3, 2020 from 7:00AM-8:00PM at your polling location. To find your polling location, visit <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>



Voters are required to follow Minnesota's face covering guidelines to ensure the safety of fellow voters and election workers. Polling locations will be taking necessary safety precautions for voters and poll workers on election day.

To see who is on your ballot, please visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot>

For additional 2020 General Election questions, please visit <https://www.cityofminnetrista.com/> or call 952-446-1660.

## 2021 Proposed City Projects

Improvements to seven streets are proposed for 2021: Sunnyfield Road (CR 110 to the western edge of the school district property), Hardscrabble Circle, Hardscrabble Road, Loring Drive, Stonebridge Road, Stonebridge Circle and Minneapolis Avenue. The proposed improvements generally consist of rehabilitation of the pavement and minor storm drainage improvements. The road rehabilitation is a reclamation process where the existing pavement is pulverized and blended with the aggregate base, and the road is repaved. Access improvements to the school and enhancements to the pedestrian crossing on Sunnyfield Road are being considered. In the Hardscrabble area the sanitary sewer forcemain is proposed to be replaced from the lift station on Hardscrabble Road to approximately 1,000 feet to the south. Hydrants and valves that have corroded in the Stonebridge area will be replaced.

The City's policy is to assess a portion of the street improvement costs to benefitting property owners according to Minnesota State Statutes Chapter 429. These property owners will be notified of the proposed assessments prior to the two public hearings that will be held prior to the project commencement.

Residents can find project information and updates at [www.cityofminnetrista.com/construction-updates](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com/construction-updates).

## Winter Parking Regulations

The City of Minnetrista Police Department will be enforcing the cities winter parking regulation (City Ordinance 910.01) which states:

"During the period from November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, no motor vehicle or any obstruction will be parked, or allowed to remain, on any city street between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, so as to interfere with the proper removal of snow. The city is authorized to remove or cause such obstruction, whether a vehicle or other object, to be removed and the owner will be responsible for the actual costs of removal in addition to any penalties which may be imposed upon conviction of a violation of this section." While this ordinance states no parking from 2:00 am to 6:00 am, Public Works officials asks that residents please refrain from parking on the street after a continuous snowfall, with an accumulation of two (2) inches or more of snow, until it has been plowed to the full width of the roadway. This will allow for faster and more efficient snow removal. Residents can help the snow removal efforts by shoveling around hydrants and mailboxes.

Mailboxes should be constructed sturdily enough to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. If damage occurs due to snow hitting the box, the City is not responsible. The City will repair or replace mailboxes in those instances where direct impact by a plow truck caused the damage. Public Works also requests that residents do not place refuse and recycling containers in the roadway, please place them in your driveway.

**DO NOT PUT SNOW ON ROADWAYS.** A Minnesota Statue (160.27) and a Minnetrista ordinance (805.01-Subd 5) prohibit plowing, shoveling, blowing or placing snow onto public roadways. Depositing snow in any fashion onto a roadway is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor. Persons who place snow on a public roadway may be subject to civil liability if a road hazard caused by deposited snow results in a traffic accident. The City of Minnetrista asks all citizens to obey these rules designed to keep city streets and highways safe during winter months.

For more information, please call City Hall at 952-446-1660 or visit our website: <https://www.cityofminnetrista.com/>

## Completed City Projects 2020

**2020 Street Improvement :** The project consisted of necessary street, water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and drainage improvements to the Wood End Shores neighborhood. This project was substantially completed on September 16, 2020, however there are some remaining restoration and punch list items to complete.

### 2020 MSA Improvement-Halstead Drive:

This project consisted of Halstead Drive from County Road 110 W to approximately 300 feet west of Lakeside Drive receiving a pavement edge mill and overlay. This project was substantially complete on July 29, 2020

### Heading South for the Winter? Don't forget your waterlines!

- Close the main water valve shut-off in your home. If you can't find the main water shut-off valve, call Minnetrista City Hall and a Utility Department representative can come out and show you where it is located.
  - Even with your interior valve is shut off; you can still get water damage from frozen pipes. Call Minnetrista City Hall and set up an appointment to have your curb stop shut off.
  - Drain the water lines down after the water is shut off. You can drain the water lines by opening a faucet on the upper floors and in the basement and waiting for the lines to clear.
  - Add nontoxic, marine or RV anti-freeze to your toilets. Flush your toilets to drain the water in the tank and read your product label as to the proper amount of antifreeze to add and turn your water heater down or off.
- Visit [www.cityofminnetrista.com/public-works-utilities](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com/public-works-utilities) for more information.



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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](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com) or during regular business hours at Minnetrista City Hall; 7701 Co. Rd 110 W; Minnetrista, MN 55364.

## 2020 Important Dates

### City Council

**November 9:** City Council Work Session & Meeting

**November 13:** City Council Special Meeting

**December 7:** City Council Meeting

### Commission Meetings

**October 26:** Planning Commission Meeting

**November 10:** Parks Commission Meeting

**November 23:** Planning Commission Meeting

### Other Important Dates

**November 3:** General Election

**November 11:** City Hall Closed for Veteran's Day Holiday

**November 26-27:** City Hall closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 24-25:** City Hall Closed for Christmas Holiday



**City of Minnetrista**

7701 CR 110W Minnetrista, MN 55364

**Phone** 952-446-1660

**Website** [www.cityofminnetrista.com](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com)

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