

Minnetrista Messenger

2021 Winter/Spring 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

In the last Minnetrista Messenger, we were just a few weeks away from the 2020 election. In case you haven't heard, I was re-elected to serve another four-year term. Two Councilmembers, Ann MacGregor and Cathleen Reffkin were newly elected for four-year terms and were sworn in on January 4, 2021. It's an honor and a privilege to serve as your mayor, and I'm thrilled about the many opportunities that lie ahead for our city.

At the first work session in January, the City Council interviewed 8 applicants for our Parks and Planning Commission vacancies. Damian Young was re-appointed to the Planning Commission and John Sturgess was newly appointed as Planning Commissioner, both serving four year terms.

Sarah Hussain was re-appointed to the Parks Commission. Hal Goldstein and Nancy Richeson were newly appointed for the two alternate Commissioner seats. I want to thank all of the applicants for their interest and willingness to serve their community, and of course a big thank you to all our commissioners for their time and dedication!

Broadband has been a challenging issue in Minnetrista which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Internet services in Minnetrista will continue to be an agenda item for the 2nd work session of every month. Much of the rural area in Minnetrista is considered un-served or under-served in regards to broadband and internet services, and many residents experience poor or even no service. Mediacom recently received a grant through the DEED Border to Border Broadband grant program to extend services to several areas in Minnetrista. The build out area includes Ox Yoke Circle, Farm Hill Road, Halstead Road and Northview Drive. This construction should begin this spring or summer and be complete in the winter of 2021. The Council is considering additional opportunities to extend this service to even more residents.

In January, the Council approved a new police squad car camera system to replace the current system which is past its life expectancy and is obsolete. The new system also includes body cameras to be worn by Minnetrista Patrol Officers in the line of duty.

We are moving forward with our

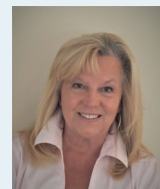
2021 street improvement projects. The City Council held several public hearings regarding assessments, approved plans and specifications, and authorized moving forward with the bidding process. Streets to be improved in 2021 include Hardscrabble, Loring Drive, Stone Bridge Road, Stone Bridge Circle, Minneapolis Avenue, and a portion of Sunnyfield Road. More information can be found on page three of the newsletter.

If you've had a chance to visit our website lately you may have noticed a few changes! Staff has implemented a new website redesign to improve navigation, transparency and overall user experience. Check it out here: www.cityofminnetrista.com

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled the annual Trista Day Event that was scheduled for May 15, 2021. City staff will continue to monitor the pandemic to determine if we can possibly hold this event safely in the Fall. Stay tuned,

As Always,

Your Mayor
Lisa Whalen



2021 Budget

Finance Director Brian Grimm

As a part of the budget process, the City Council adopts a property tax levy, which is the amount of money needed from property owners to pay for essential services. Each individual property owners portion of the City tax is based on the City's tax rate, which is derived from the City's total tax levy applied against all property values in the City and taking into account each individual property's classification and class rate.

On December 7, 2020, the Minnetrista City Council approved a total City budget for 2021 of \$14,498,533 and a total net tax levy amount of \$5,097,062, which is a 2.78% increase from 2020's tax levy.

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.

Some items that have impacted the 2021 budget are:

- Roads Improvement and Maintenance Projects
- Pavement Improvement plan
- Capital Equipment Purchases
- Compensation pay plan adjustments
- COLA/Insurance/Benefits for 37 full time employees

What does this mean for you?

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.



2020 Home



2021 Home

2020 Value	Tax Amount	2021 Value	Tax Amount
\$350,000	\$866	\$364,000	\$851
\$500,000	\$1,237	\$520,000	\$1,227
\$750,000	\$2,010	\$780,000	\$1,986

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 your overall taxes paid as a homeowner. To view more budget information, visit our website:

www.cityofminnetrista.com/Budget

Best Practices for Winter Snow and Ice Removal at Home

Winter brings cold weather and thick snow cover, making it easy to forget about lakes, rivers, and green grass. Even though it may not seem important, practicing good housekeeping in the winter is vital for the health of the surrounding natural resources. Snow and ice removal is a large factor to consider.

It is important to understand that the conventional method of using salt to melt ice from the pavement is not an environmentally friendly deicer. Salt leaches heavy metals which end up in nearby surface waters when the spring thaw occurs, harming the aquatic ecosystem. The salt also sticks to vegetation, causing dehydration and death. Avoiding the use of salt is a smart practice to protect natural resources.

The most effective and environmentally friendly way to remove snow and ice is to use some good old-fashioned arm power. Shoveling snow immediately after a snow storm prevents accumulation and does not allow ice to form under the snow pack. If a deicer is needed, several everyday products can do the trick such as pickle brine, alfalfa meal, and sugar beet juice. Be proactive and shovel regularly to play a part in keeping the surrounding environment free of pollution.



2021 Projects

2021 MSA Street Improvement Project: The Sunnyfield Road improvement project includes the reclamation of Sunnyfield Road from Langewood Drive to the end of the paved section, and the mill and overlay of Langewood Road. Reclamation consist of reclamation of the streets (grinding up the pavement section, re-spreading the material and installing new pavement). Minor utility improvements will take place within the project corridor. The project is anticipated to start once the school year ends with the majority of the work completed before fall school activities begin.

2021 Local Street Improvement Project: The reclamation of Hardscrabble Circle, Hardscrabble Road, Loring Drive, Stonebridge Road, Stonebridge Circle and Minneapolis Avenue will occur sometime between May and September, 2021. Utility work within the Hardscrabble area includes the replacement of sanitary sewer forcemains and miscellaneous storm sewer improvements. Minor storm sewer improvements will be constructed in Loring Drive, Stonebridge Road, Stonebridge Circle and Minneapolis Avenue. The storm sewer structure at the pond to the west of Minneapolis Avenue is proposed to be replaced, and the lift station on the north side of the road is proposed to be replaced along with the associated forcemain. Watermain improvements within the Stonebridge area include replacement of some valves.

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

Elected Officials and Commission Appointments

City Council

Congratulations to Mayor Lisa Whalen, Councilmember Ann MacGregor and Councilmember Cathleen Reffkin! Mayor Whalen was re-elected for a third time as Mayor, and this is the first election victories for both MacGregor and Reffkin in holding office as Councilmembers. Each member was sworn in on January 4, 2021.

Planning Commission

Damian Young and John Sturgess were appointed by the City Council to serve on the Planning Commission for a four-year term. Damian Young was re-appointed for his second term as Planning Commissioner and John Sturgess was newly appointed for his first term as Planning Commissioner. Congratulations to you both.

Parks Commission

Sarah Hussain was re-appointed by the City Council to serve as a Park Commissioner. Hal Goldstein and Nancy Richeson were appointed as alternates to serve on the Park Commission. Congratulations to all.

A Special Thank You to All Minnetrista Election Judges:

We would like to give special thanks and recognition to the Election judges and poll workers during the 2020 election cycle. We were all faced with the uncertainty and anxiety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the midst of an already stressful election, election judges completed extra training, faced additional risks, and adapted to the changes and challenges of this election cycle. With your help, our polling places were safe, secure, accessible and efficient. The City would like to express our appreciation to the election judges who worked so diligently making the election cycle possible for all voters!

Important City Information

Broadband in Minnetrista: New and current residents often inquire who the internet providers are in the City, how they can get more options for providers, how do they contact internet companies for service and much more. To improve transparency and provide more information to residents, the City has redesigned it's TV, Phone, & Internet webpage! That information can be viewed here:
www.cityofminnetrista.com/TV,PhoneandInternet

The City, in partnership with Mediacom was award the Border to Border Broadband Development grant for built out to areas of Minnetrista. For more information and project details see the link below :
www.cityofminnetrista.com/2021MediacomExtensionProjects

2021 Trista Day

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Trista Day event scheduled for May 15, 2021 has been postponed indefinitely. Staff will continue to monitor the situation closely to determine if we can hold this event safely this fall. Stay tuned for more information.

Spring Tree Sale

Hennepin County is selling trees to property owners to restore and improve woodland areas and increase wildlife habitat. See more information here:

www.cityofminnetrista.com/news/post/11489/

Open Book Meeting

The Hennepin County Assessor's Office will host virtual meeting sessions for taxpayers to discuss their assessments. To view more information, visit this link:

www.cityofminnetrista.com/news/post/11555/



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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

March 1: City Council Work Session & Council Meeting

March 15: City Council Work Session & Council Meeting

April 5: City Council Work Session & Council Meeting

April 19: City Council Work Session & Council Meeting

Commission Meetings

March 9: Parks Commission Meeting

March 22: Planning Commission Meeting

April 13: Parks Commission Meeting

April 26: Planning Commission Meeting

Upcoming Information

Recycling/Clean-Up Day

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the scheduled City Recycling/Clean-up day was cancelled in 2020, but staff is eager to begin scheduling for 2021. Continue to monitor the City's website for more information on a potential City Recycling/ Clean-up Day in during Spring or Summer, 2021.

Utility Rates

The water and recycling rates were updated for 2021 as a part of the fee schedule adoption. Check out the new rates here:

www.cityofminnetrista.com/media/2021%20News/2021%20Final%20Fee%20Schedule%20Clean%20Version.pdf



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