



THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR MINNESOTA

2019 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



339 Third Street
Excelsior, MN 55331
Phone: (952) 474-5233
cityhall@excelsiormn.org

A Letter From The Mayor

I love Excelsior! While every town has its challenges, this past summer has reminded me of all the terrific things that make our town such a special place to work, live and play. From our Tuesday afternoon Farmer’s Markets to our Wednesday evening Concerts in the Commons to our legacy events like the Art on the Lake, the Concours d’ Elegance, our region-wide 4th of July Celebration and Apple Day, I am hoping that the summer of 2019 offered something fun for everyone.

As we move into fall, I would like to highlight the continued hard work that is going on behind the scenes to ensure that Excelsior is well positioned to address the needs of its residents in the future. First and foremost is the on-going infrastructure work that is being done to improve our streets, sewer lines and water system. Our 2019 project has been the College Lake Neighborhood Street Improvement Project which is focused on the Glencoe, Academy and College Lake neighborhoods. This project was long overdue and will repair the roads, upgrade the infrastructure, add sidewalks and address water quality improvement in College Lake. I really appreciate the community involvement and engagement that has gone into trying to make this a project that works for everyone. I also want to thank the residents of these neighborhoods for their patience as we move this project toward completion.

In addition to the improvements in the College Lake area, we are also making some safety improvements to Excelsior’s portion of the Mill Street corridor. In an effort to slow traffic, as well as to improve pedestrian safety for the residents in this neighborhood, the City has approved the installation of a pedestrian island at 3rd Avenue and Mill Street. I am personally excited about this project as I believe it is just the start of actions that will be taken to improve safety and walkability for our residents in this gateway area of our town.

What else? Add-in continued discussions about The Commons, Excelsior’s 2020 Budget, Residential Design Standards, and plans for possible East Side development and there is a little something for everyone. Should you have any questions or require any information on any project, please reach out to the City at 952-474-5233. Also, if you haven’t checked out a City Council meeting lately, I would like to encourage you to come and spend some time with us. As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, we have moved our City Council meetings to the old Library Space at City Hall – you can find us there on the first and third Monday of every month. I hope you will consider coming out and joining us.

(Continued on back page)

- HOLIDAY HOURS -

City Hall and Public Works will be closed for business on the following holidays:

Veteran’s Day-

Monday, November 11, 2019

Thanksgiving Holiday-

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

(City Hall only)

Thursday, November 28, 2019

Friday, November 29, 2019

Christmas Holiday-

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

(Closed at Noon)

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

New Year’s Holiday-

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

(Closed at Noon)

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Martin Luther King Jr. Day -

Monday, January 20, 2020

Presidents’ Day -

Monday, February 17, 2020

- CITY HALL HOURS -

City Hall is open from
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,
Monday through Thursday.
City Hall is closed on Fridays.

2020 Preliminary Budget and Tax

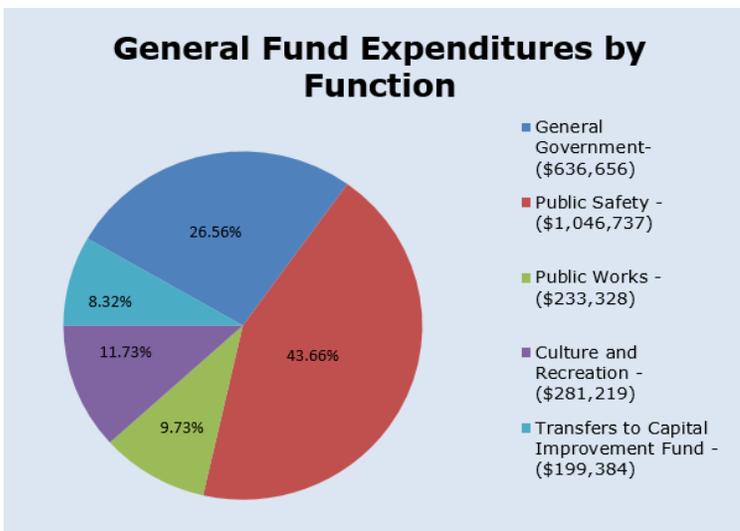
The City Council has set the proposed 2020 tax levy at \$1,849,019 which is a \$282,780, or 18%, increase over the 2019 levy. The entire increase over the prior year will be designated towards street and utility improvements that are planned for 2020 and debt service for the 2019 street project. By State law, the Council may reduce the levy, but it cannot exceed the preliminary figure.

Where Does Your Tax Dollar Go?



When you receive your property tax bill, keep in mind your bill includes taxes from several jurisdictions, not just the City. Most residents tend to attribute their high taxes to their city, but actually only 21 percent of your bill goes toward city taxes. ISD #276—Minnetonka Public Schools gets 39 percent, Hennepin County gets 33 percent, the Metropolitan Council gets two percent and other taxing districts get five percent.

What Does the City's Levy Pay For?



Saturday, November 2, 2019

** Fall Yard Waste Cleanup **

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CURBSIDE BY 6:00 A.M.

Items picked up curbside on November 2nd:

- Weeds, leaves, lawn clippings (bagged in a compostable bag, placed separate from other items).
- Brush/limbs MUST be bundled in 4' lengths or Less.

Any questions, contact City Hall at (952) 474-5233.

Don't Leaf the Lakes You Love

As you tend to your yard this fall, take a minute to sweep or rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street in front of your home. Left in the street, they can clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding. When washed into nearby lakes and wetlands via storm drains or ditches, the leaves and clippings become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that feeds algae blooms in the summer. Dispose of leaves and grass clippings by composting them in your yard or take advantage of the upcoming Fall Yard Waste Cleanup event to ensure these organics are disposed of properly. For more information, check out the City's website at www.excelsiormn.org.

Winter Parking Regulations

Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there has been an occurrence of snowfall where snow has accumulated to a depth of two inches or more. During a snow emergency, vehicles shall be parked on city streets in accordance with the following regulations from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.:

- (1) On all even-numbered calendar days, parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered house numbers.
- (2) On all odd-numbered calendar days, parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered house numbers.

Receive emergency alerts and other notifications via text or email by simply signing up on the City's website at www.excelsiormn.org and click on "Email Signup."

Minnetonka School District Election Tuesday, November 5

You can vote absentee now through November 4. View a sample ballot at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot/>.

To vote early by mail for this fall's election, you must fill out a paper application to receive a ballot. Find out more at <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting>

2020 ELECTION DATES



**Presidential Primary
Election:
Tuesday, March 3, 2020**
**Primary Election: Tuesday,
August 11, 2020**
**General Election: Tuesday,
November 3, 2020**

Interested in serving as an Election Judge? Fill out the form online at www.excelsiormn.org.

Opportunities for Involvement

The City currently has one opening for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board. To apply for a City Commission please fill out a Citizen Inquiry Form, which is on the City's website at www.excelsiormn.org.

Sidewalk Regulations for Snow and Ice

City Ordinance requires that all sidewalks be kept clean of snow and ice to keep sidewalks safe for pedestrians.

- Commercial properties are required to remove all snow and ice within 16 hours after it has been deposited.
- Residential properties are required to remove all snow and ice within 24 hours after it has been deposited, with the exception of Bell Street between Center and Courtland Streets and Oak Street between Beehrle Avenue and Water Street.

Snow or ice shall be considered deposited on the sidewalk when the snow or other precipitation has ceased to fall, ice has formed, or more than two inches has accumulated (whichever occurs).



2019 Street and Utility Improvement Project



For information updates on this project, a project hotline phone number and email has been created.

projectinfoEXCL@wsbeng.com

952-737-4646

Parking Permits & Restrictions

Each household is allowed to purchase parking stickers for vehicles registered to the household address. A parking permit allows residents to park at the meters in Excelsior without having to pay the meter. Each parking sticker is \$10.00. Permits may be purchased at City Hall during regular office hours and you MUST bring the registration (annual renewal for your license tabs) for each vehicle. No vehicle shall be parked continuously at any public place for a period of more than 48 consecutive hours, however, residents of the City may park on public streets within the City for unlimited time periods if their vehicle displays the annual City parking sticker.

Consumer Confidence Report

To advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources, the City is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period January 1-December 31, 2018. The results can be found at www.excelsiormn.org or contact City Hall at (952) 474-5233.

Excelsior Sales and Use Tax

Starting October 1, 2019, Excelsior will have a 0.5 percent sales and use tax. The Minnesota Department of Revenue will administer this tax. Revenues will fund the projects identified in The Commons Master Plan. More information can be found at www.excelsiormn.org.

339 Third Street
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PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
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Postal Customer
Excelsior, MN 55331

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A Letter From The Mayor (Continued from Front Page)

Before closing, I would be remiss if I did not once again say thank you to everyone that keeps the City of Excelsior operating. From our hard working City Staff and Public Works employees, to our friends at the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department and Excelsior Fire District, to the City Council and all of the volunteer Commissioners that make our Planning, Parks & Rec and Heritage Preservation Commissions run – the City of Excelsior couldn't do it without you.

Thank you!

I look forward to seeing everyone out-and-about...

Todd

City of Excelsior Receives Standard and Poor's Highest Bond Rating of AAA

Standard & Poor's, one of the nation's bond-rating agencies, has upgraded the City of Excelsior's general obligation bonds to AAA from AA+ for the first time in the City's history. Excelsior shares this top rating by S&P with roughly only 25 other cities in the State. In the agency's rating summary, S&P said "The raised rating reflects our view of the city's track record of sustaining very strong available reserves in excess of 75% of general fund expenditures, and our view that this is likely to continue." S&P rated the City very strong in economy, management, budgetary performance, budgetary flexibility and liquidity. Finance Director Kelly Horn who received the news from S&P stated "The upgrade to AAA is a good indicator of the City's solid tax base, and that the City's elected officials and staff are acting in good faith with public dollars and are committed to practicing sound fiscal policies." Ratings are published by credit rating agencies, such as Standard & Poor's, and used by investment professionals to assess the likelihood the debt will be repaid, and can potentially allow a local government to borrow at lower interest rates, saving its taxpayers' money over the life of the bonds. The City issued \$5.6 million in bonds to fund street and utility reconstruction projects.

2019 EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL

Todd R. Carlson, Mayor
tcarlson@excelsiormn.org
(707) 738-9903

Jennifer Caron, Councilmember
jencaron@earthlink.net
(612) 812-3695

Lou Dierking, Councilmember
ldierking@excelsiormn.org
(651) 283-7703

Dale Kurschner, Councilmember
dkurschner@excelsiormn.org
(763) 567-9241

Greg Miller, Councilmember
gmiller@excelsiormn.org
(952) 474-2541

Watch City Council and
Planning Commission Meetings

The Lake Minnetonka
Communications Commission
(LMCC) broadcasts meetings on
Mediacom Cable, Ch. 8,
and also on their website
at lmcc-tv.org.

Meeting Schedules

City Council
1st and 3rd Mondays,
6:30 p.m.

Charter Commission
On call

Planning Commission
4th Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Park & Recreation
Commission
2nd Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.

Heritage Preservation
Commission
3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.