



A Letter from the Mayor

“Counting Our Blessings”

When growing up, I would hear great words of wisdom from my mother – whether I wanted to hear them, or not! If ever one of us kids would say something negative about our condition, or start to feel a little down, mom would remind us to “Count your Blessings.”

We all have lived through one of the toughest economic downturns in our history, and, at times, it has been challenging to see the bright side of life. But Excelsior has been very fortunate to not only survive the downturn, but actually “thrive” through it. Residential, commercial, and institutional projects have continued at a significant clip, new and exciting businesses are coming to town, and volunteers from all over the South Lake work together to make our community events better each year.

Our city is healthy, our spirits are high, and future is bright. I think I hear my mother’s voice reminding me to “count my blessings.”

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Mayor for the past eight years.

Nick Ruehl

City Hall Hours

The City has implemented a four day work week schedule. City Hall is open 7:30 am–5:30 pm, Monday–Thursday and closed on Fridays.

Holiday Hours

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

Veteran’s Day – Monday, November 12

Thanksgiving Holiday –

Wednesday, November 21 (City Hall only)

Thursday, November 22

Friday, November 23

Christmas Holiday –

Monday, December 24

Tuesday, December 25

New Year’s Holiday –

Monday, December 31

Tuesday, January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day –

Monday, January 21

Presidents Day – Monday, February 18

Arctic Fever Celebration January 19 & 20, 2013

The cities of Excelsior, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay will once again help residents and friends of the South Lake Minnetonka area celebrate winter with Arctic Fever!

Planning is underway for another amazing Arctic Fever Celebration in 2013. A number of volunteers are needed to assist with this event. For up-to-date information or to volunteer for this event go to:

www.arcticfever.net

Fall Leaf Pickup Saturday, November 10th

The City of Excelsior's fall leaf pickup for residents is Saturday, November 10th. Leaves and yard waste must be bagged and placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. No other items will be collected.

If leaves are not in a compostable bag, the leaves will not be picked up. Compostable plastic bags must state that they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting. Bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" may not meet the State law.

Leaves and yard waste gathered after November 10th will be picked up as part of the curbside weekly pickup.

Parking in Downtown Excelsior

Municipal Parking Lots – November 1 through April 1, the municipal parking lots are closed for parking between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., seven days a week, except in the designated areas signed for overnight parking. The designated area for overnight parking can change following a snowfall, so do not leave your vehicle parked unattended for more than a 12 hour period.

Downtown Streets – Year round there is no parking in the central core area of the downtown area from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The central core area includes all of Water Street, and portions of Lake, Second, and Third Streets (extending one to two blocks each side of Water Street).

Vehicles that are in violation of these parking regulations will be ticketed and towed.

If you have questions regarding the parking regulations, please contact City Hall at (952) 474-5233.

Winter Parking Regulations

There is always confusion on where to park during a snow emergency. A snow emergency is declared whenever there has been an occurrence of snowfall where snow has accumulated to a depth of two inches or more. Snow emergencies commence at 1:00 a.m. following the snowfall and remains in effect on all City streets until 7:00 a.m.

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

Please contact Public Works at 952-474-3464 if you have any questions regarding these

Sidewalk Regulations

City Ordinance requires that all sidewalks be kept clean of snow and ice. The owner/occupant of any property adjacent to a sidewalk in the public right-of-way shall use due diligence 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.

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

General Election – November 6th

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6th. The polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

The polling place for Excelsior residents is at the Excelsior Elementary School, 441 Oak Street. The School is located on the northeast corner at the intersection of State Highway 7 and County Road 19 (Oak Street). Signs will be in the parking lot directing you to the entrance.

Register to Vote on Election Day:

If you are not registered to vote, you may register on election day by showing one of the following forms of identifications:

- MN Driver's License, Learner's Permit, MN I.D. Card, Tribal I.D. with your current address (or the receipt for renewal or change of the license or I.D.)
- "Notice of Late Registration" received from your City Clerk if registration was received after last day to pre-register.
- MN Driver's License, MN I.D. card, U.S. Military I.D., US Passport, or Tribal I.D., with your previous address AND a bill for electric, water, gas, telephone, cell phone, cable TV, sewer, or solid waste services with a due date within 30 days of the election that contains your name and current address.
- Another registered voter living in your precinct who will come to the polling location with you to vouch for your residency.

If you are a college student, you may also use your college I.D. card with your name and photo if your college has provided a list of students to the county.

City Items Included on Excelsior Ballots

Ballot 1 – City Offices

Mayor — 2 year term

Two Council Members — 4 year terms

Special Election — Council Member — 2 year term

Ballot 2 – City Question

City Charter Amendment

Absentee Voting

Eligible Excelsior voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote in person on Election Day for any of the following reasons:

- Absent from the precinct on Election Day
- Illness or disability
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or beliefs
- Serving as an election judge in another precinct

Absentee voters have the following options:

- Vote in person at Excelsior City Hall during regular business hours (Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. City Hall will also be open on Saturday, November 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for absentee voting.
- Vote by mail. Mail, fax, or email an Absentee Ballot Application to Excelsior City Hall, 339 3rd Street, Excelsior, MN, 55331, fax – (952) 474-6300 or email cheri@ci.excelsior.mn.us. Upon receipt of an application, a ballot will be mailed to you. Please allow at least seven business days to complete the process. Absentee Ballot Applications can be downloaded from the City's website at www.ci.excelsior.mn.us, on the Elections page, which is located under "Live" tab.

For more information, see the MN Secretary of State website at: www.sos.state.mn.us, or contact Cheri Johnson at (952) 653-3675 or email cheri@ci.excelsior.mn.us.

2013 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy

The City Council has set the proposed 2013 tax levy at \$1,317,339, which is a 0% increase over the 2012 levy. By State law, the proposed tax levy is the maximum that the City Council may certify for the following year. The Council may reduce the levy, but it cannot exceed the preliminary figure.

The 0% levy increase was attainable through the restructuring and efficiencies made within City Hall. This is the second year in a row the City has had a zero percent levy increase. The zero percent increase is considerably lower than the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Minneapolis-St. Paul increase of 3.595%.

The City Council has scheduled a public meeting regarding the 2013 Budget and Tax Levy for Monday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed budget and tax levy.

If you would like more information about the preliminary budget and tax levy please visit the City's website and click on the "In the News" section of the homepage or contact the City's Finance Officer Heidi Tumberg at (952) 653-3677 or via email at htumberg@ci.excelsior.mn.us.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

Adopt a Fire Hydrant — Please help keep the snow clear from the fire hydrant in your neighborhood. Keep a 4-foot clear space around the hydrant so firefighters have easy access to your neighborhood hydrant in case of a fire. The time saved could save a home or a life.

Automatic Utility Billing Payment Plan

Avoid late fees and save time! ACH (Automated Clearing House) Payment allows you to set up automatic payment of your utility bill. Each quarter your bill will be paid automatically from your bank account on the due date (or the following business day if the date due falls on a weekend or holiday).

You will still receive your quarterly utility bill, but it will have the message "DIRECT PAYMENT DO NOT PAY" and you won't have to do anything further.

Enrollment is quick, easy, and free! Simply fill out the form (green insert) that is included on a separate page of the newsletter and attach a voided check or deposit slip.

For further information please contact Finance Officer, Heidi Tumberg at (952) 653-3677 or htumberg@ci.excelsior.mn.us.

Excelsior's Proposed Charter Amendments

In the City's newsletter is a document (yellow insert) that gives an overview of some of the differences between the Charter Commission/City Council Version and the Petitioned Ballot Version amendments to the City Charter. The documents that are referenced in the insert are posted on the City's website (www.ci.excelsior.mn.us) on the Charter Commission page, which is located under the "Live" tab. The documents include:

- Charter Commission/City Council Version
- Ordinance to Add Financial Reporting Requirements
- Petition Ballot Version
- Sample Ballot
- Difference Between the Two Charter Amendments

What You Can Do to Protect Your Environment

In Your House:

- Buy less toxic or nontoxic cleaning materials.
- Properly dispose of all hazardous materials, from cleaners to fluorescent tubes to paints.
- Recycle your recyclables! From pop cans to newspapers.
- Compost your kitchen scraps.
- Don't waste water.
- Don't waste energy. Turn off lights when they're not in use. And, turn your thermostat down when you're not at home.

In Your Yard:

- Compost your leaves and grass clippings.
- Follow the directions for use on all lawn and garden chemicals and their containers.
- Use Nontoxic fertilizers and weed control products.

In Your Garage:

- Keep your motorized garden equipment well – tuned and in good operating conditions. Small engines can add a lot of air pollutants – especially engines that aren't properly tuned up.
- Avoid using motorized lawn and garden equipment, when possible. Use a push mower and hand operated trimmers and rakes. It's quieter, less stinky and you get a good workout at the same time.
- Don't pour any used oil or antifreeze down your sewer drain! One pint of used motor oil can contaminate thousands of gallons of water, making it unfit to drink.

In Your Car:

- Purchase and use the most fuel efficient vehicle that meets your needs.

In Your Car (Con't):

- Keep your car tuned up and in good working conditions.
- Don't drive more than you need to. Most air pollutants that we breathe come from cars!
- Carpool, take the bus, ride your bikes, and walk whenever you can.

Fall Clean Water Tips

- Fall is the best season to fertilize your lawn and control common weeds. Use fertilizers and pesticides conservatively and always read and follow product instructions carefully. Minnesota passed a law in 2002 that restricts the use of phosphorus containing fertilizers. For additional information about the law and its exceptions, visit the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture website at www.mda.state.mn.us
- Check your car and lawn equipment for leaks. A good rainstorm can send gasoline and oil drips from automobiles, lawnmowers, and power equipment into waterways.
- Have a storm drain near your home? Do your part and keep it free from litter and leaves.
- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques in addition to, or even instead of, pesticides. Try these: pulling weeds by hand, or spot-treating weedy areas instead of your entire lawn. More yard-care information is available under the garden section of the University of Minnesota Extension Services' website: www.extension.umn.edu
- Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Use the sweepings as mulch and compost yard waste. Don't forget to sweep along the curb. Remove leaves from your gutters, ditches and driveways, sidewalks and street.

City of Excelsior
339 Third Street
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Excelsior, MN

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2012 EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL

Nick Ruehl, Mayor
603 Lake Street
(612) 889-2851
nruehl@mchsi.com

Jennifer Caron, Councilmember
182 Third Street
(952) 474-7824
jencaron@earthlink.net

Mary Jo Fulkerson, Councilmember
278 West Lake Street
(952) 380-1373
mjofulkerson@earthlink.net

Greg Miller, Councilmember
335 College Avenue
(952) 474-2541
gmiller17@msn.com

John Olson, Councilmember
1 Third Street
(612) 385-7007
johnolson10@gmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULES

City Council
1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Park and Recreation Commission
2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Preservation Commission
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Charter Commission
1st Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Watch City Council and
Planning Commission Meetings

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) has a link on their website at www.lmcc-tv.org that allows you to watch the meetings on the Internet. The LMCC also broadcasts the meetings on Medicacom Cable – Channel 8

EXCELSIOR'S PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

What is a Charter?

A “charter” is a city’s local “constitution.” Excelsior’s Charter, which has been in place since 1982, establishes – among other things – our form of government, the process we use to adopt local laws, and rules regarding the use of eminent domain. It is the city’s highest legal authority; all ordinances adopted by the City Council must be consistent with it.

Why is the Charter an issue now?

Minnesota law provides cities with many ways to amend their charters. This year, two separate efforts are underway to amend Excelsior’s Charter to add provisions related to the City’s finances. One – the “Charter Commission/City Council Version” – has been recommended by the City’s Charter Commission to the City Council and will become part of the Charter if it is approved by all five members of the City Council.¹ An ordinance (also jointly drafted by the Council and Charter Commission) implementing the concepts in this amendment has already been adopted. The other – the “Petitioned Ballot Version” – was proposed by a petition circulated by five city residents and will become part of the Charter if it is supported by **51 percent of those casting votes on it** in the upcoming November 6 election.

Unlike the constitutional amendment questions on the ballot, **results of the voting on the Petitioned Ballot Version of the Charter Amendment will be determined based only on those votes cast on the question.** Accordingly, if you do not cast a vote on the Charter Amendment question, your ballot will not be part of determining whether the Petitioned Ballot Version is adopted.

What are some differences between the Charter Commission/Council Version and the Petitioned Ballot Version?

	Charter Commission/Council Version	Petitioned Ballot Version
Length of Each Version	320 Words	2,997 Words
How Proposed	The Charter Commission recommended it to the City Council. It will be adopted if unanimously approved by the Council.	Five residents of the City circulated a petition proposing the amendment. The petition was signed by those five residents and 53 other residents registered to vote in Excelsior.
The Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms Council Authority over City Financial Matters • Commits City to Annual Budgeting and Long-Term Financial Planning • Mandates Communication with Residents regarding Finances • Adopts Implementation Details (i.e., deadlines, hearing requirements, publication and dissemination requirements, etc.) via an ordinance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms Council Authority over City Financial Matters • Commits City to Annual Budgeting and Long-Term Financial Planning • Mandates Communication with Residents regarding Finances • Includes Implementation Details (i.e., deadlines, hearing requirements, publication and dissemination requirements, etc.) within the Charter

¹ The Charter Commission/Council Version does not need to be approved by the voters unless a valid petition seeking to have an election on it is filed within 60 days of the Council’s approval of it.

Flexibility/ Durability	Permits future changes to the details of implementation by ordinance.	Prevents future changes to the details of implementation without another amendment of the Charter.
Annual Costs²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Costs Associated with Development of Required Reports and Summaries • Mailing of Annual Postcard Notifying Residents of Issuance of Annual Citizen’s Report (approx. \$550) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Costs Associated with Development of Required Reports and Summaries • Mailing of Complete Annual Citizen’s Report (approx. \$1,200) • Publication of Long Term Financial Plan Priorities (approx. \$250) • Publication of Budget Priorities, Goals & Objectives (approx. \$250) • Publication of Long Term Financial Plan Summary (approx. \$500) • Publication of Final Annual Budget and City Manager Summary (approx. \$750) • Potential Special Election (approx. \$3,000)³
Schedule⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Separate Deadline for Completion of Enterprise Budgets • Adoption of Annual Financial Calendar on April 1 • Citizen’s Report complete and postcard sent by July 15 • No official publication of or public hearing for Long Term Financial Plan • No additional Council Meeting on Annual budget (only statutorily required hearings) • Budget Summary published upon adoption of the Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Enterprise Budgets Complete by end of January • Adoption of Annual Financial Calendar on February 1 • Citizen’s Report Due June 1 • Annual Long Term Financial Plan Published by August 1 after public hearing • October Council Meeting on Annual Budget (in addition to statutorily required hearings) • Budget Summary published within 60 days after adoption

² The annual costs identified for the Charter Commission/Council Version are figured based on requirements in that version and the implementation ordinance adopted by the City Council on October 1, 2012.

³ A Special Election could be necessary if there is a future need to amend the Charter. While there could be a need to amend either version in the future, an amendment of the Petitioned Ballot Version is far more likely because it includes detailed requirements that the other version mandates by ordinance.

⁴ This section compares the schedule items in the Petitioned Ballot Version with the schedule items in the implementation ordinance adopted by the City Council on October 1, 2012.



CITY OF EXCELSIOR UTILITY BILLING AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The City of Excelsior's automatic utility payment plan will allow your financial institution to automatically transfer the amount of your quarterly utility bill from your account to the City of Excelsior.

You will still receive your quarterly utility bill but it will have the message "DIRECT PAYMENT DO NOT PAY." The amount will be transferred out on the date due per the bill (or the following business day if the date due is a weekend or holiday).

If you have any questions contact Heidi Tumberg at (952) 653-3677 or via email at htumberg@ci.excelsior.mn.us.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

The customer may withdraw from the automatic payment plan at any time by notifying the City of Excelsior Utility Billing Department in writing.

The customer must notify the City of Excelsior Utility Billing Department if there is a change in the customer's bank or bank account where automatic withdrawal is to be administered.

Non-sufficient funds will be treated as a returned check and charged a returned check fee in the amount allowed per State Statute.

The City of Excelsior has the right to cancel the customer's use of the Automatic Payment Plan for any

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN AUTHORIZATION

Please enroll me/us in the City of Excelsior's Automatic Payment Plan. I/we authorize the City to collect payment on my/our utility bill by initiating debit entries (deductions) to the bank account shown on the attached voided check (for checking account) or deposit slip (for savings account).

I/we understand that this authorization will continue in force unless discontinued by my/our written request.

Mail completed form and voided check/deposit slip to:

City of Excelsior
339 Third Street
Excelsior, MN 55331

or place in the utility billing drop box located by the entrance to the City Hall.

Name(s) on the Utility Bill

Service Address

Phone Number

Utility Bill Account Number

Checking Savings

Financial Institution Name

Authorized Signature on Account

Joint Owner Signature on Account