



THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR MINNESOTA

2020 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



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

= HOLIDAY HOURS =

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

Veteran's Day -

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Thanksgiving Holiday -

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

(City Hall Closed)

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Friday, November 27, 2020

Christmas Holiday -

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

(Closed at Noon—City Hall Only)

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Friday, December 25, 2020

New Year's Holiday -

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

(Closed at Noon—City Hall Only)

Thursday, December 31

Friday, January 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day -

Monday, January 18, 2021

Presidents' Day -

Monday, February 15, 2021

A Letter From The Mayor

I read an article over the summer that highlighted the “new math” that was created for this year: 1918+1929+1968=2020.

To say that we are living in challenging times is an understatement. Lives have been lost, businesses have been turned upside down, and milestone events and traditions have been cancelled and altered. Life as we know it is no longer life as we knew it. Yet, in the midst of everything that is going on around us, I continue to be grateful for our community, proud of the work we are accomplishing, and amazed by the kindness and resiliency of our residents.

Against the backdrop of Covid, financial uncertainty and civil unrest, Excelsior has continued to push forward. For the second year in a row, the City has earned a AAA credit rating - the highest credit rating possible. We are one of only 22 cities in the state with this rating. Excelsior continues to have one of the lowest tax rates among cities in Hennepin County and we continue to have strong bonding capacity for future infrastructure projects.

While being careful to manage our budget and expenses, we have also worked hard to support our local businesses, churches and community organizations in very difficult times. In an effort to show our support, the City Council petitioned the Governor to allow takeout wine and beer service with curbside orders, reduced liquor license fees, significantly reduced fees to our cruise boat operators, allowed expansion of outdoor seating capacities for our restaurants, refunded parking lot maintenance fees for our businesses and churches, and joined our neighboring cities in providing emergency funding to the Chamber of Commerce to help keep it operating. We completed the street and sewer reconstruction project in the Glencoe and Academy neighborhoods, and we are nearing completion of a similar project in the George / Lafayette / West Lake neighborhood. For those residents that use the Three Rivers walking / bike trail, you will also notice that we completed some significant pedestrian and access improvements at the trail crossing on Water Street near the Library. We just completed the installation of a pedestrian median on Mill Street near 3rd Avenue - this is just the first step in a longer process to slow traffic and improve safety in that important access corridor. Finally, we recently established a new residential review process that seeks to ensure that every new house is a good neighbor to those around it. The Planning Commission will lead this review process through the use of adopted “Good Neighbor Guidelines”.

(Continued on back page)

THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR, MINNESOTA

2021 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy

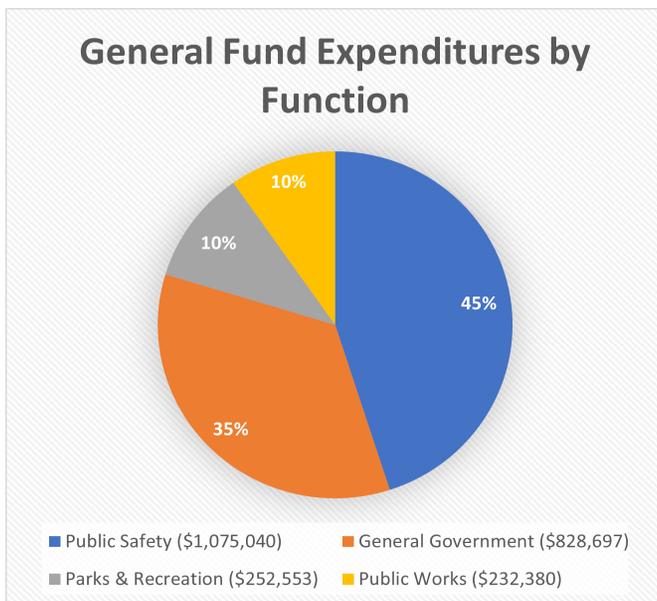
The City Council has set the proposed 2021 tax levy at \$2,040,205 which is a \$266,114, or 15%, increase over the 2020 levy. The increase over the prior year will be designated toward general expenses for 2021 and debt service for a bond for proposed projects. By State law, the Council may reduce the levy, but it cannot exceed the preliminary figure.



41%	28%	21%	10%
Hennepin County	City of Excelsior	Minnetonka School District	Other

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 28% of your bill goes toward city taxes. ISD #276—Minnetonka Public Schools gets 21%, Hennepin County gets 41%, the Metropolitan Council gets 2 ½% and other taxing districts such as Three Rivers Park get just over 7%.

What Does the City's Levy Pay For?



Saturday, November 7, 2020

**** Fall Yard Waste Cleanup ****

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

Items picked up curbside on November 7th:

- 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.

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 Notify Me, then News Flash, then Emergency Alert.

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2020 ELECTIONS

Tuesday, November 3

Polling Place for Residents:

Excelsior Council Chambers
(former library)

343 Third Street

(Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Meet Your Candidates:

Election 2020
For City Council

Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission

Election time is in full swing and LMCC has it covered, both on their channels and on the LMCC website.

www.lmcc-tv.org/lmcc-election-excelsior.html



**Absentee voting,
direct balloting
available prior to
Election Day**

Voters who cannot get to the polls on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot, which began on Friday, September 18.

Absentee voting is a two-step process that can be done in person or by mail.

In Person: Complete the entire process at City Hall, 339 Third Street. City Hall is open for voting 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

By Mail: Voters can apply for absentee ballots at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website (sos.state.mn.us) or by calling Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151. Hennepin County will mail an absentee ballot to those eligible. Please be sure to allow enough time to request the application and mail it back to Hennepin County Elections by Tuesday, November 3 at:

Government Center
300 South 6th Street MC 012
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012

Direct Balloting Begins October 27th

Direct balloting allows residents to feed their ballots through the ballot counter just like on Election Day. The process begins on Tuesday, October 27 and is more streamlined than requiring the use of absentee ballot envelopes.

To vote early via direct balloting, voters must complete an absentee ballot application and vote in person during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday) at Excelsior City Hall. City Hall will be open extended hours for direct balloting, including 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31 and 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

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, 2019. The results can be found at www.excelsiormn.org or contact City Hall at (952) 474-5233.

Residential Review Process Ordinance

At their September 21, 2020 meeting, the City Council adopted a Residential Review Process ordinance, which requires a residential review permit for any new construction, additions or remodels that result in the increase of volume, reorientation, or change in setbacks of a principal structure or accessory structure requiring a building permit. The ordinance also adopts Good Neighbor Guidelines, which provide the criteria to apply in administering this review process. The Planning Commission is the reviewing body in charge of approving and denying residential review permits, and they are assisted by both the Zoning Administrator and a City Architect. The ordinance is effective October 1, 2020, so please contact Planning Director Emily Becker at 952-653-3674 or ebecker@excelsiormn.org if you are thinking of a house project that would meet criteria requiring a residential review permit.

Thinking of Removing a Tree?

A tree removal permit is required for removal of any significant tree as outlined within Article 12 of the Zoning Code. Please visit the City's website page, "Permits & Licenses," to find an application form or email ebecker@excelsiormn.org.

339 Third Street
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Postal Customer
Excelsior, MN 55331

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A Letter From The Mayor (Continued from front page)

Given all of the great work that has been done, I continue to believe that the best is yet to come. In 2021 it is my hope that The Commons will have a new Pavilion to host community events, Concerts in The Commons, and private activities like weddings and family reunions. Our East Parking lot is in serious need of repair and we are discussing how best to approach that so we can continue to support our local businesses and the visitors that come to our town. In addition, we will be undertaking a joint infrastructure project with support from the Metropolitan Council to make much needed sewer and street improvements to Water Street and the College Avenue area. Finally, we continue to be involved in discussions to “Save the Minnehaha”, improve our Town Hall, strengthen our tree ordinances and beautify the streetscape in our downtown.

As I have stated in previous letters, all of the great work that has taken place in Town wouldn't be possible without all of the hard work and support of the Town Staff and your City Council. On behalf of Councilmembers Caron, Dierking, Kurschner and Miller, it is a privilege and a pleasure to continue to serve you. Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for improvement, please reach out to City Hall at 952-474-5233, visit the City website at www.excelsiormn.org or send me an email at tcarlson@excelsiormn.org.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's continue to move Excelsior forward together...

Todd Carlson

Mayor – City of Excelsior

2020 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
gmliller@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.

Council Work Session
1st and 3rd Mondays,
5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission
4th Monday, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Charter Commission
On call