



# THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR MINNESOTA

## 2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER



339 Third Street  
Excelsior, MN 55331  
Phone: (952) 474-5233  
cityhall@ci.excelsior.mn.us

### - HOLIDAY HOURS -

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

Memorial Day -

Monday, May 25, 2015

Fourth of July -

Thursday, July 2, 2015 (City Hall Only)

Friday, July 3, 2015

Labor Day -

Monday, September 7, 2015

PLEASE NOTE: Refuse and Recycling will be picked up on the Tuesday following the Memorial Day and Labor Day Holidays.

### - CITY HALL HOURS -

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

### - NEWS AND EMERGENCY ALERTS -

Stay notified of news and receive emergency alerts by visiting the City of Excelsior online at [ci.excelsior.mn.us](http://ci.excelsior.mn.us) and click on "Email Signup." Simply enter your email address and click on the notifications you would like to receive. Also check out the "In The News" section of our homepage for current news and calendar events.

## A Letter From The Mayor

With warmer days approaching, our city will become a destination for many visitors from the surrounding South Lake communities and beyond. While we welcome these visitors to enjoy our parks, businesses, and events, the residents bear the burden of increased traffic, noise, and parking. As many of you know, our city is less than one square mile and, if you take away roads, parks, a school, and seven churches, we are left with a little over 50 percent land area as taxable for funding the operation of the city. For a city our size, we are providing police, fire, water services, and roads, in large part for our neighbors to enjoy without any financial obligation. In essence, the City of Excelsior operates like a city of 12,000 residents, but is funded by 2,000 residents.

The looming summer event schedule will put stress on our city for parking, one of our city's most underutilized financial resources. For decades, our city has provided "free" parking in the commercial district to help promote a diverse and healthy business district, which we have achieved. What are the options that we have for parking improvements in Excelsior?

Visitors and residents often ask why the city doesn't build parking ramps to solve the problem. The financial reality is that ramps cost more than \$25,000 per parking space. As an example, a two-level, 100-space parking ramp would initially cost the city \$2,500,000, and another \$200,000 in annual maintenance. If we built the ramp on the East Parking Lot, we would gain approximately 30 parking spaces. Hardly enough to justify increasing the tax burden for our residents. However, we can be creative with parking ramp funding by asking our businesses and visitors to help pay for building and maintenance costs. For example, the City of Edina's parking ramp at 50th and France was funded by the businesses whose customers needed "free" parking. While parking ramps are financially unrealistic for the City to fund, build, and maintain, the next option is to reconfigure the East and West parking lots with smaller spaces and re-striping. This approach would net an additional 35 spaces and cost about \$750,000, or \$21,000 per additional space, with the majority of the cost going to constructing a retaining wall in the East lot. Several years ago, the Council enacted an ordinance to collect a parking impact fee of \$1,200 per space, per year, for businesses that need extra parking, with the idea that the parking impact fee will eventually fund reconfiguration of our parking lots. While we have collected over \$30,000 from parking impact fees, we have a long way to go to fully fund the improvements of our parking lots.

Last fall, the Council approved a valet parking ordinance for restaurants on Water Street. The valet ordinance was approved on a trial basis to better...

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## Spring Cleanup—Saturday May 16, 2015

The Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup will be held on

**Saturday, May 16, 2015**

**All items must be curbside by 7:00 a.m.**

The City has contracted with Allied Waste to pick up ALL items curbside. Please note that the Public Works Facility is NOT accepting materials and will be closed on Cleanup Day. Residents will be required to purchase special coupons prior to the Spring Cleanup.

### **Items Picked Up Curbside With Coupon Attached:**

Each item **MUST** have a special coupon attached to it—  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ◆ Appliances (washers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, etc.)   | \$38.00 each |
| ◆ Tires   | \$12.00 each |
| ◆ TV's  | \$45.00 each |
| ◆ Small box of misc. electronics                                | \$25.00 each |
| ◆ Electronics   | \$25.00 each |
| ◆ Window air conditioners                                       | \$40.00 each |
| ◆ Large bulky items   | \$35.00 each |
| —These include:   |              |
| • Couch, loveseat, chairs, or bookcase                          |              |
| • Mattress or boxspring   |              |
| • Carpet (8'x12' - must be rolled up and cut into 3'x3' pieces) |              |

Special coupons are available for purchase at City Hall during regular office hours, Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: CITY HALL WILL NOT BE OPEN ON FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, FOR PURCHASING COUPONS. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

### **Items NOT Accepted:**

Motor oil, paint, cement, railroad ties, and hazardous materials.

### **Items Picked Up Curbside Without a Coupon:**

- ◆ Normal household trash service
- ◆ Small pieces of furniture
- ◆ Grills, toilets, sinks
- ◆ Weeds, leaves, lawn clippings (bagged in compostable bag and placed separate from other items)
- ◆ Brush and limbs **MUST** be bundled in lengths of 4 feet or less

**If you have questions regarding the Spring Cleanup Day, please phone the City of Excelsior at 952-474-5233.**

## **Free Secure Paper Shredding Saturday, May 16, 2015**

The City of Shorewood is offering free secure paper shredding on Saturday, May 16th, from 9:00 am to Noon. Bring your old documents to Shorewood City Hall, 5755 Country Club Road. For more information, contact the City of Shorewood at (952) 960-7900 or visit [ci.shorewood.mn.us](http://ci.shorewood.mn.us), under Recycling.

## Help Beautify The Commons

Join friends and neighbors in helping clean up The Commons on Saturday, April 25th, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. Public Works has a limited number of tools, so please bring garden rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, edging tools, gloves, etc., with you from home. Lawn bags will be provided. Individuals interested in participating should meet at the concession building in The Commons.

## What Needs a Building Permit?

A building permit is required any time you do work that is regulated by the Building Code. This includes any work to the permanent weather resistive surfaces of the dwelling, such as the siding, windows (if altered) or roof. If you change the use of a space or finish an unfinished space, a permit may be required. Additions, garages, and decks require permits. Work that is exempt from a permit include painting, wallpapering, flooring, kitchen cabinets, minor repairs and detached storage buildings not exceeding 120 square feet. All retaining walls and fences need a fence permit. If you have any questions on building permits, please contact Pat Smith, City Planner, at (952) 653-3674 or [psmith@ci.excelsior.mn.us](mailto:psmith@ci.excelsior.mn.us).

## Construction Hours

Construction hours are between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on weekdays, and 8:00 am and 6:00 pm on Saturdays. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and Federal holidays.

## Tree Removal

Without a permit, property owners may remove one significant tree or ten percent of the total number of significant trees. Permits are required if more than ten percent of the significant trees are planned to be removed. Significant trees are deciduous trees over six inches in diameter or coniferous trees over eight feet in height.

## Historic Preservation Ordinance Revisions

The City received a \$10,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to help fund revising the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance and establishing design standards for the downtown historic district. The City Council appointed a Steering Committee to oversee the project. The Steering Committee held an Open House on February 26th to explain the need for the revision and process. A second Open House is scheduled for May 28th in the old library space at City Hall. To be included on future mailings or if you have any questions, please contact Pat Smith, City Planner, at (952) 653-3674 or [psmith@ci.excelsior.mn.us](mailto:psmith@ci.excelsior.mn.us).

## Charter Commission Openings

The Excelsior Charter Commission has a number of vacant seats. The Commission meets annually and is on call during the remainder of the year. Commissioners must be a resident within the city limits of Excelsior to be eligible. Appointments are for a four year term and are appointed by Chief Judge Peter Cahill of the Fourth Judicial District Court. For more information, contact Jane Ludwig, Executive Assistant to Chief Judge Peter Cahill at (612) 596-8738 or [jane.ludwig@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:jane.ludwig@courts.state.mn.us).

## Grants Available for Property Owners

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is offering grants to property owners for landscaping projects that provide and protect clean water and educate the community about the importance of preventing stormwater runoff. The program can contribute up to 75 percent of the cost installing raingardens, shoreline or streambank plantings, pervious pavement driveways, or other water friendly landscaping. For more information, visit [minnehahacreek.org/CostShare](http://minnehahacreek.org/CostShare), call (952) 641-4523 or contact [beidem@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:beidem@minnehahacreek.org).

## Step To It Challenge May 3–30, 2015

The Step To It Challenge is a fun way to get moving after a long winter. Twenty-three communities will compete to see which one has the most active residents. Participants record their activities during the challenge and have a chance to win Twins tickets and other prizes. To register, or for more information, go to [step toit.org](http://step toit.org) or contact Kristi Luger at [kluger@ci.excelsior.mn.us](mailto:kluger@ci.excelsior.mn.us) or (952) 653-3672.

## Protecting Our Waters

In an effort to protect our waters, the City has a Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This permit is currently up for reissuance and is scheduled to be signed in the Spring/Summer of 2015. The permit requires that the City, as an owner of a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its storm sewer system to the maximum extent possible.

For information on the City's SWPPP and MS4 program, visit [ci.excelsior.mn.us](http://ci.excelsior.mn.us) or contact Public Works at (952) 653-3676.

## Forcemain Project

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is constructing a second sanitary sewer forcemain, which requires reconstruction of George Street and Excelsior Boulevard. For project updates or more information, visit <http://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Projects/Sewer-Planning-Construction.aspx#Excelsior>.

## Parking Permits & Restrictions

Each household is allowed to purchase up to three 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. The first parking sticker is \$12.00, the second is \$17.00, and the third is \$22.00. Permits may be purchased at City Hall during regular office hours and you MUST bring the Temporary 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. 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, 2014. For more information, visit [ci.excelsior.mn.us](http://ci.excelsior.mn.us) or contact City Hall at (952) 474-5233.

## Summer Concerts

The City of Excelsior and the Park and Recreation Commission proudly present:

### "Concerts in The Park"

- May 20th**—Lamont Cranston (Blues)
- June 17th**—Wild Colonial Bhoys (Celtic Rock)
- July 15th**—Brute Squad (60's-90's Rock)
- August 12th**—Socaholics (Reggae-Calypto)
- September 9th**—Hitchville (Country)
- September 12th**—Splatter Sisters (Kid's Concert)

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and come enjoy the concerts! Concerts are from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Bandshell in The Commons. The kid's concert is from 11:00 am to Noon.

There will be food for sale and beer/wine for sale to those over 21 years old at all concerts, with the exception of the kids concert.

## 2015 Financial Calendar

Each year, the City puts together a calendar of important finance-related dates so that citizens may be involved in the budgeting and long-term planning process. Find the 2015 Financial Calendar can be found on the City's website or by contacting Heidi Tumberg, Finance Director, at (952) 653-3677 or [htumberg@ci.excelsior.mn.us](mailto:htumberg@ci.excelsior.mn.us).

339 Third Street  
Excelsior, MN 55331

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

Postal Customer  
Excelsior, MN 55331

## 2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

### A Letter From The Mayor (Continued from Front Page)

understand the dynamics of traffic and parking on Water Street. The City generates fees from a Valet License but, more importantly, it removes cars from public parking and stores the cars on private lots that would normally go unused in the evening. Victor's on Water was the first restaurant to use valet parking, and the result is 15 to 20 cars per night that are not using public parking. This kind of partnership between City, business, and private property owners is a low cost approach to our parking issue. Furthermore, we are reaching out to other businesses to grant usage of their parking lots for public usage during our busy summer months. A good example is the Excelsior Elementary School back parking lot at the end of George Street that may be used to park at no cost.

A recent article in the local paper discussed the Council's intention of upgrading parking meters near The Commons and potentially installing meters in our commercial district. Our current coin-operated parking meters generate over \$50,000 per year, or the equivalent of four percent of our operating levy. That's a lot of parking activity from one quarter per 15 minutes of parking time. If we replace our existing meters with electronic parking meters, we will have the ability to dynamically increase the parking fee, based on current date and time, event type, and current capacity, to potentially double the meter revenue for the City. If we were to take the next step and install electronic parking meters in our East and West Parking Lots, we could easily double the meter revenue again. The increased revenue from electronic parking meters may be used for any project in the city, without the residents bearing the financial burden. If we take this approach, we are using our parking resource effectively for all of us.

I think we need to take a different approach to funding our City's shared services, like parking. The approach will begin with accepting that parking isn't actually "free," and so we must engage in creative thinking from residents, businesses, and the greater South Lake community to solve the parking problem. After all, Excelsior is the destination of all our neighbors, and we all need to work together so the financial burden is not entirely on our city's residents.

Hope to see you around town.



Mark W. Gaylord, Mayor

### 2015 EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL

Mark Gaylord, Mayor  
182 Second Street  
(612) 720-1547  
[mgaylord@ci.excelsior.mn.us](mailto:mgaylord@ci.excelsior.mn.us)

John Beattie, Councilmember  
198 Third Street  
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182 Third Street  
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278 West Lake Street  
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Greg Miller, Councilmember  
335 College Avenue  
(952) 474-2541  
[gmliller17@msn.com](mailto:gmliller17@msn.com)

#### 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](http://lmcc-tv.org).

#### Meeting Schedules

<u><a href="#">City Council</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Planning Commission</a></u>
1st & 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm	2nd Monday, 7:00 pm
<u><a href="#">Park &amp; Recreation Commission</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Charter Commission</a></u>
2nd Tuesday, 6:15 pm	On Call
<u><a href="#">Heritage Preservation Commission</a></u>	
3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm	