



# THE CITY OF EXCELSIOR MINNESOTA

## 2016 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER



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

### A Letter From The Mayor

You may have noticed this past May that our parking meters were removed along The Commons. Due to multiple issues between the City, the parking meter vendor, and their installer, the meters were not operational until July 19<sup>th</sup>, well past the May 1<sup>st</sup> target date set by the City Council. While we missed the start of the busy summer season, we were able to reinstall the mechanical meters before the Memorial Day weekend and capture our normal parking revenue for June and July of \$23,843. When we switched to the new electronic parking systems, our parking revenue from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> was \$69,276. Our year-to-date parking revenue represents a 62.2 percent increase over the 2015 summer season. We were able to earn more this year, despite the failure to capture three weeks of revenue in May, primarily due to increasing parking rates from \$1 to \$3 per hour for non-event days and \$1 to \$5 for event days (e.g. Apple Days). As you can imagine, I've received a lot of negative emails from visitors regarding our increase in parking fees, but the changes were made to benefit our residents and the financial health of our City. The increase in parking revenue will directly impact our ever growing need to pay for public safety and fund capital improvements in our City.

The City of Excelsior is in a unique position in that we provide the business district for our neighboring Cities and as a result we bear the costs for maintaining utilities, roads, and parks that are heavily used by visitors. The proposed 2017 preliminary City budget reflects a 2.86% property tax levy increase, with the entire increase going towards preparation for phase 3 street improvements slated to begin in 2017. There will be more street improvement projects required over the next decade and we will continually increase the tax levy to pay for our street and infrastructure needs. We cannot afford to delay improvements, as doing so will result in larger problems to fix, costing more money in the long term.

Which brings us to public safety services, which in my mind is the number one priority for any City, and is a long term commitment. As you may know, we share police and fire services with our neighboring south lake cities and the combined cost for Excelsior is \$929,777 per year, \$732,436 for police and \$197,341 for fire, and this represents 43.6 percent of the City budget. These costs will most likely increase in the coming years, primarily due to wage increases and insurance costs. For example, the 2017 public safety budget are increasing by 4.26 percent. Each year, the public safety budgets are scrutinized by each member City and I believe these budgets are as lean as possible. As our combined south lake cities grow in population, there will always be a need for more police and fire services.

(Continued on back page)

#### - HOLIDAY HOURS -

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

Veteran's Day-

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Thanksgiving Holiday-

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

(City Hall only)

Thursday, November 24, 2016

Friday, November 25, 2016

Christmas Holiday-

Thursday, December 22, 2016

Close at Noon (City Hall only)

Friday, December 23, 2016

Close at Noon (Public Works)

Monday, December 26, 2016

New Year's Holiday-

Thursday, December 29, 2016

Close at Noon (City Hall only)

Friday, December 30, 2016

Close at Noon (Public Works)

Monday— January 2, 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 16, 2017

President's Day-

Monday, February 20, 2017

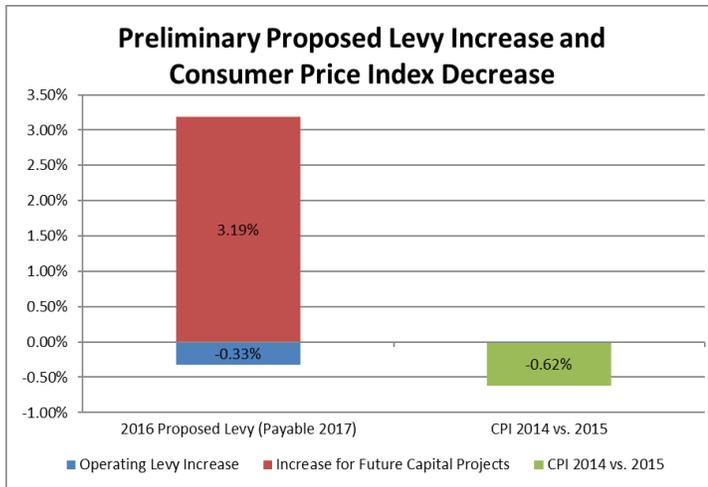
#### - CITY HALL HOURS -

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

## 2017 Preliminary Budget and Tax

The City Council has set the proposed 2017 tax levy at \$1,446,682 which is a \$40,256 or 2.86% increase over the 2016 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 2.86% increase represents a decrease in operating costs of \$4,601 or 0.33% and an increase of \$44,857 or 3.19% to prepare for the Phase III Street Project. The overall increase of 2.86% exceeds the Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Minneapolis-St. Paul decrease of 0.62%. However, the operating decrease of 0.33% is only slightly higher than the CPI-U.



The City Council has scheduled a public meeting regarding the 2017 Budget and Tax Levy for Monday, December 5 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 or contact the City's Finance Officer, Teah Malecha at (952) 653-3677 or email [tmalecha@excelsiormn.org](mailto:tmalecha@excelsiormn.org).

## Green Disposal Guide

Hennepin County's Online Resource to dispose of yard waste, mattresses, paint or fluorescent light bulbs:



[www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](http://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide)



## Arctic Fever Celebration January 13–15, 2017

For up-to-date information or to volunteer for this event, visit [www.arcticfever.net](http://www.arcticfever.net).

Saturday, November 5, 2016

## **\*\* Fall Yard Waste Cleanup \*\***

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

### Items picked up curbside on November 5th:

- 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.

## Prevent Pollution Report Illegal Discharges

If you look outside, you will probably find storm sewer inlets in the street. Have you ever wondered where they go? You might be surprised to learn that these special inlets are connected to nearby lakes and rivers. This is why we all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

By definition, an illegal discharge is the unlawful act of disposing, dumping, or discharging any substance other than rain water or snow melt into the streets, gutters, and ponds that make up our stormwater drainage system. As a community member, you play an important part in reducing illegal discharges in our community.

If you see anyone discharging any substance other than rain water into the gutter or storm drains, please report it to Public Works at (952) 474-3464.

## Parking in Downtown Excelsior

Municipal Parking Lots—November 1 thru April 1, municipal parking lots are closed between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., seven days a week, except in the designated areas 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 of the downtown area from 1:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m., unless you have a residential parking permit. 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.**

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

## New Parking System

The City of Excelsior has implemented a new smart parking system. A total of 19 solar powered, wireless parking pay stations have replaced the existing meters adjacent to The Commons and on the boat docks. Pay for parking has also been extended south of Lake Street and on Excelsior Boulevard.

The street pay stations are set-up for pay by plate parking where the user must enter their license plate number during the transaction. At the boat docks, the user will input their space number instead of the license number. A receipt is provided as proof of payment after each transaction. Parking payments are enforced with wireless devices so there is no need to place the receipt on the vehicle's dashboard.

The pay stations will accept coins and credit cards. Those parking also have the option of using their mobile phones to pay using the *Whoosh!* Mobile payment application.

## 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 remain in effect 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 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.

To receive emergency alerts and other notifications via text or email by simply signing up on the City's website at [www.excelsiormn.org](http://www.excelsiormn.org) and click on "Email Signup."

## Dog Licenses

All dogs over six months of age must be licensed in the City of Excelsior. Licenses may be purchased at City Hall with proof of current rabies vaccination. Licenses are: \$25 if the dog is spayed or neutered; \$40 if they are not spayed or neutered. A \$5 late fee is applied to all licenses purchased after April 1 of each year. Licenses are for a one-year period beginning January 1 and ending December 31. For questions or more information, contact City Hall at (952) 653-3675.

## 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 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).



## 2016 Elections

*General Election -*

*Tuesday, November 8, 2016*

### Polling Place for Excelsior Residents:

Excelsior Elementary School

441 Oak Street

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



## Firefighters Wanted

The Excelsior Fire District is looking for volunteer firefighters. The District currently operates out of 2 fire stations, Station #1 located in Shorewood and Station #2 is located in Deephaven.

The Fire District averages about 800 fire, medical, water, ice, vehicle crash and hazardous material related calls per year.

Ongoing training occurs on Thursday nights and the initial firefighter and medial training required to become a firefighter is paid for by the Fire District as well as firefighter gear and uniforms.

All members are required to live within a specified response time of their assigned station.

If interested please contact Fire-Chief,

Scott Gerber

952-962-1650 or

[sgerber@excelsiorfire.org](mailto:sgerber@excelsiorfire.org)

339 Third Street  
Excelsior, MN 55331

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## 2016 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

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

So what can the City of Excelsior do to offset the rising costs we face every year without the ability to substantially reduce services the City provides residents, businesses, visitors, and our regional park, also-known-as The Commons?

An easy solution is to expand our commercial and residential docks as the revenue generated can be directly applied to capital projects. We are working with the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) to expand our residential and commercial docks as the revenue will increase by 32.5 percent to \$329,448 annually. We are also working with State Senator Osmek to secure state bonding for The Commons or to setup a local sales tax of up to 1 percent that voters approved in a 2014 referendum. Earlier this year we started working with a new non-profit organization, Community for The Commons, and it is ideally setup to pursue private funding and donations for The Commons with oversight by City officials. Community for The Commons was founded by concerned residents and is an excellent example of being creative and using our resources effectively to offset rising costs the City faces each year. Please join us at our City Council meetings, or talk with a City Council member to help us make Excelsior a better place to live, work, and play.



Mark W. Gaylord, Mayor

### Meeting Schedules

#### City Council

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

#### Park and Recreation Commission

2nd Tuesday, 6:15 p.m.

#### Charter Commission

On Call

#### Planning Commission

4th Monday, 7:00 p.m.

#### Heritage Preservation Commission

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

### 2016 EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL

Mark Gaylord, Mayor

100 Lake Street

(612) 720-1547

[mgaylord@excelsiormn.org](mailto:mgaylord@excelsiormn.org)

John Beattie, Councilmember

198 Third Street

(612) 220-1589

[jbeattie@messerlikramer.com](mailto:jbeattie@messerlikramer.com)

Todd Carlson, Councilmember

243 Third Street

(707) 738-9903

[toddr Carlson@aol.com](mailto:toddr Carlson@aol.com)

Jennifer Caron, Councilmember

182 Third Street

(952) 474-7824

[jencaron@earthlink.net](mailto:jencaron@earthlink.net)

Greg Miller, Councilmember

335 College Avenue

(952) 474-2541

[gmiller17@msn.com](mailto:gmiller17@msn.com)

### Watch City Council and Planning Commission Meetings

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) has a link on their website at [www.lmcc-tv.org](http://www.lmcc-tv.org) that allows you to watch the meetings on the internet. The LMCC also broadcasts the meetings on Mediacom Cable, Channel 8.