

City Calendar

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2
City Council Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
City Council Special Work Session

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
City Council Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
Planning Commission Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6
City Council Meeting

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Veterans Day Holiday—Office Closed

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20
City Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Planning Commission Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
City Council Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
City Council Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
Christmas Eve Holiday—Office Closed at
Noon

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Holiday—Office Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28
New Years Eve Holiday—Office Closed at
Noon

A Letter From the Mayor

“Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall”

-F. Scott Fitzgerald-

I am always amazed at how quickly fall seems to come every year. Just when it seems we are settling into our summer routines of Wednesday night Concerts in the Commons, coffee with friends outside on Water Street, or ice cream at one of Excelsior’s three favorite ice cream shops, the calendar turns to September and we are back to the increased pace that comes with back-to-school schedules and finishing the summer projects we started but have yet to finish.

As I begin this letter, I would first like to say that I hope this note finds you well and that you are heading into the fall season in a good place. Secondly, please know that Excelsior’s City Staff, City Council and your City Commissions are continuing to work hard to make Excelsior the best place to live, work and play in the Twin Cities. While we may not always agree, I can say that everyone is working hard and really trying to do the right thing for our historic town.

As for the work that continues to get done in our community, let me share some of the highlights from the first half of the year. If you haven’t had a chance to visit it yet, I would like to encourage you to wander down to The Commons Park and sit and relax in the new “concession area” near the pavilion. This newly designed area features improved outdoor seating, welcoming firepits and a creatively designed building with a new “green” roof. It also features improved access to the historic seating area of the baseball diamond and improved vistas to The Commons and Lake Minnetonka.

In addition to this new destination in The Commons, we also added a new restaurant at a key corner on Water Street (saw a famous MN United player there the other day), a new mural on Second Street (see if you can find it), signed an extension to the South Lake Minnetonka Police Department Joint Powers Agreement (they do terrific work), approved a “Savannah Project” in The Commons Park to protect our historic oak trees (check it out by the playground near the beach), and designated six existing features within our community as Excelsior Landmarks (time for a scavenger hunt - you need to find the Blue Line Ticket Booth, Third Street Horse Tie Rings, St. Alban’s Bay Bridge, Elm Place Pumphouse, The Commons Ballfield Seating, and the First Public Works Building down at the Public Works Yard).

As for projects that are in progress, the biggest and most obvious project is the new development on Third Street called One West Drive. This project will include 11 new row homes, 39 new market rate apartments and a public parking ramp. While this project will certainly be transformational to our community, it was designed by a leading Minnesota architectural firm to fit into the existing neighborhood and not be visible from Water Street. This project is currently in progress and is expected to be completed in 2024.

(Continued on page 4)

NEW UTILITY BILLING SOFTWARE

The City of Excelsior has transitioned to a new financial software platform. The first utility bills on the new software will be the October 2023 billing. The bills will come on the same style of cards as in the past so there will be very little change in that regard.

Coming Soon

Later this year the City of Excelsior will be launching a user-friendly, electronic payment system through InvoiceCloud. You can look forward to being able to:

- Pay your utility bill anytime 24/7 via an easy-to-use online portal
- Manage your account and view up to two years of payment history
- Receive e-mail reminders when your bill is ready, when a scheduled payment is pending, and a confirmation after making a payment
- Make a one-time payment or register to gain access to all features
- You choose when to pay—simply schedule a payment for any future date (before the due date)
- Set and forget it with AutoPay. Save time and avoid late or missed payments
- On the go? Use Pay by Text to get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text message with your default payment method

More payment options accepted including American Express, PayPal, ApplePay and more



Residents already on autopay will be transitioned to the new platform automatically. If the billing is paid on a credit card for auto pay there will be a 3.5% fee associated with that charge. Residents will be encouraged to change from a credit card to ACH payments to avoid the credit card fee. The features to change from credit card autopay to ACH will be available once the InvoiceCloud site goes live. There will be many more enhancements as well. Keep an eye on Excelsior's website for more information coming from InvoiceCloud including tutorials, additional services provided, and updated fees for use.

DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

It's been a challenging summer to park in downtown Excelsior – the combination of our exciting events, attractive businesses, desirable restaurants, and the temporary loss of access to some of our public parking—has made parking scarce at certain times of the week. Parking impacts the desirability of our City from the points of view of residents, businesses, and visitors, and we need a system that provides adequate parking and fairly allocates the cost. We are in a moment of change as construction of a new parking garage with 244 public parking spaces and 49 new apartment and rowhome units is underway on West Drive. The City of Excelsior has engaged Walker Consultants to help us over the next six months shape our parking system as we anticipate the opening of the new public garage in September 2024. We want to hear your views on parking in downtown Excelsior – we'll be doing a survey and listening sessions. Watch the City website for updates.

PRESERVING EXCELSIOR'S RESIDENTIAL CHARACTER

Since 2020, in Excelsior's single-family and two-family zoning districts, proposals for new homes and additions to existing homes are reviewed for their compatibility with Excelsior's Good Neighbor Guidelines, a set of criteria meant to keep new residential construction similar in its mass and scale to that of existing homes in Excelsior. To date the City Council and Planning Commission have reviewed 30 applications for new homes or additions to existing homes. The Council has initiated a review of this process with the goal of ensuring that our zoning requirements result in homes that are consistent with Excelsior's residential character. Recommendations for changing this criteria will be considered this fall.

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 signing up on the City's website at www.excelsiormn.org and click on E-Notifications Sign Up, then Emergency Alert.

HALT THE SALT

As winter settles in, we will start to seek relief from salt to reduce the dangers of ice and snow on our driveways and sidewalks. While it's essential to keep safe in the wintertime, it's important to note that salt doesn't just disappear when the snow and ice eventually melts. Instead, it can cause irreversible damage as it washes into our lakes and streams.

Fortunately, you can help prevent salt pollution by limiting the amount of deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. Try to avoid using salt altogether, if possible. However, if safety concerns require you to control ice, follow these simple tips to limit your salt use:

- (1) Shovel. In order to limit the amount of deicer needed, try to keep your driveway and walkways free from snow when it first falls.
- (2) Skip the salt if temperatures are below 15 degrees. Most salts are not effective below this temperature. Instead, use sand for traction.
- (3) Use salt sparingly. Use no more than one pound of salt for 250 square feet. One heaping coffee mug is about one pound of salt and 250 square feet is roughly the size of two parking spaces.
- (4) Adding extra salt does not mean more melting. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement, it is no longer working and will be washed away. Sweep it up and use it somewhere else.
- (5) Tell a neighbor! They could be over-salting their driveways or sidewalks.

FALL CLEAN-UP

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 on October 28 to ensure these organics are disposed of properly.



Get Ready for Yard Clean Up!

FALL

YARD WASTE CLEAN UP

OCTOBER
28
2023

Items acceptable for pickup

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

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CURBSIDE BY 6:00 AM

Questions? Contact Republic Services (952)941-5174

REPUBLIC SERVICES

The poster features a decorative border of colorful autumn leaves on the left side. At the bottom right, there is an illustration of a rake with leaves and twigs caught in its tines. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the date and time requirements prominently displayed.

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.



350 Highway 7, Suite 230
Excelsior, MN 55331

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Excelsior, MN 55331

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

In addition, we are also working with the Excelsior's residents and Hennepin County to improve the Mill Street corridor, we are pushing the City of Excelsior forward for "Tree City USA" designation status, we are working on a potential Art Center at 106 Center Street, as well as on continued improvements to our historic Oak Hill Cemetery and a new and improved building for Truffle Hill Chocolates next to the Library (can we bring a mural back to that location please).

While I have mentioned it before, I am continually amazed at how much work continues to get done and how this town continues to push itself forward on the backs of a small staff and the volunteering spirit of its residents (Heritage Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and the Community for the Commons). It needs to be noted that we continue to do all of this work while maintaining the highest possible AAA Bond Rating and solid City finances. My sincere thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.

On behalf of Councilmembers Jennifer Caron, Lou Dierking, Ann Hersman, and Rob Tyler, 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's website or send me an email at tcarlson@excelsiormn.org.

I continue to be proud of our residents and our community. Let's make sure to continue to look out for one another and to represent the best version of ourselves when dealing with our neighbors and our guests. All the best to each of you as we move forward into fall and all that it has to offer.

Todd Carlson
Mayor - City of Excelsior

CONTACT US

City Hall	952-474-5233
Public Works	952-653-3676
Police	911
Fire	952-401-8801

EXCELSIOR CITY COUNCIL

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Jennifer Caron, Councilmember jcaron@excelsiormn.org (612) 812-3695	Rob Tyler, Councilmember rtyler@excelsiormn.org (952) 681-0702
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