



City of Robbinsdale Newsletter

Website: www.robbinsdalemn.com

4100 Lakeview Avenue North • Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422-2280 • Phone: 763-537-4534 Spring/Summer 2017

2017 EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ April 8: *Spring Eggstravaganza (for children 9 years & under)*
- ◆ April 22: *Rockin' Robins Dance*
- ◆ April 29: *Earth/Arbor Day*
- ◆ May 13: *Vehicle Fair*
- ◆ May 1-28: *Hennepin County Step To It*
- ◆ May 20: *Birdtown Half Marathon*
- ◆ July 6-9: *Whiz Bang Days*
- ◆ July 27: *Pet & Wheel Parade*
- ◆ August 1: *National Night Out*
- ◆ August 4: *Wet & Wild Water Day*
- ◆ August 12: *Police/Fire Open House*
- ◆ September 11: *Main Street Meet & Greet, Downtown Robbinsdale*
- ◆ September 30: *Kids Garage Sale*
- ◆ December 5: *Christmas Tree Lighting*

Want to be kept informed of these and other City events? Sign-up for Robbinsdale's e-Subscribe. Go to www.robbinsdalemn.com.

Discover Our Parks

Did you know Robbinsdale has fourteen parks that offer a variety of recreation? From the 1/3 acre Parkview Park to the 37 acre Sochacki Park, from the ball fields at Lakeview Terrace Park to the vegetable gardens at Mielke Park, our residents have opportunities to be active or to just relax. One example of how Robbinsdale seeks to offer variety in its parks is the courts at Manor and Sanborn Park, they are lined for both tennis and pickleball! In addition to exploring the many features in our parks, the Recreation Services offers a variety of programs. Check inside pages, or for current updates, visit the Recreation Services pages on our website.

Park Improvements. We continue to redevelop our parks to meet current needs. Last year we updated the playground equipment at Triangle Park, including the addition of a new electronic style playground piece, with the help of grant money from Hennepin Youth Sports. In 2014, we installed a synthetic turf ball field at Lee Park with the assistance of funds from the Cal Ripken Senior Foundation and the Minnesota Twins. We have installed a canoe rental rack at Lakeview Terrace Park allowing canoe owners to show up at the park and have their canoe already there.

Water Too! In addition to our parks, we have our lakes with public boat launches. Take your canoe, kayak, paddleboard or sailboat to one of these lakes for an enjoyable, relaxing afternoon on the water. The city continues to improve the water quality of these lakes by working on weed control and carp control. At Crystal Lake we process millions of gallons of water to clean phosphorus and suspended solids from the lake water. **-Next time you are wondering what to do, try one of our parks!**

Spring Eggstravaganza, Saturday, April 8, 2017, 1:00 pm

Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce sponsors this event for ages **9 years & under**. Prizes provided by Robbinsdale local merchants and organizations. (Remember to come rain or snow!) Event held at **Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Ave. N.** (The line forms on the Lake Road side of the building.)

4th Annual Birdtown Half Marathon, May 20, 2017

This years race will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2017 and will include the Half Marathon, 8k, 4k and Lil' Birdie Fun Run. The race starts and stops at Lakeview Terrace Park, 3769 Crystal Lake Blvd. in Robbinsdale. To register or for more information go to <http://www.thebirdtown.com/>.

Volunteer for the 2017 Birdtown Half Marathon: If you have questions about what volunteer opportunities are available, what's required, and time commitment, make sure to check out the website at www.thebirdtown.com or contact birdtownracevolunteer@gmail.com.

Ever wonder what's the key to a successful race? A slew of amazing volunteers! Our volunteers embody the spirit of Birdtown (a great attitude, positive vibe and endless smiles) and ensure that our event is a success – from start to finish. Our volunteers are runners and non-runners alike with a shared passion for helping us execute a flawless event! *Each volunteer will receive an awesome T-shirt.*

Free Tax Assistance at Robbinsdale City Hall

AARP Tax-Aide is providing free tax help at City Hall for taxpayers with low and middle-income, with special attention to age 60 and older. AARP tax help will be available at City Hall on a first-come, first-serve basis on **Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am until 12 Noon February 1 through April 13, 2017.**



Sign up for E-Subscribe

Do you want an easier way to know what's happening in Robbinsdale? By signing up for E-Subscribe, you can receive city updates including: city council agendas and minutes; information on recreational programs; city press releases; and specials from Robbinsdale Wine and Spirits, among other options. To sign up to receive E-Notifications, please visit www.robbinsdalemn.com/enews. All you'll need is an email address.

Metro Paint-A-Thon

Metro Paint-A-Thon is a program which assists low-income seniors with home exterior maintenance. The program and its' volunteers typically do 50-60 projects each year. Half of the requests sent in are usually completed. Work is mostly performed on 1-story or 1½ -story homes. If you or a team are interested in volunteering, or if you qualify for assistance, you can find information for both volunteers and applicants on the website: <https://www.metropaintathon.org/>

Attention: Entrepreneurs & Small Business Owners



Hennepin County and Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority have funded *Open to Business* for Robbinsdale, which is a free service that can help you with Business Plan Development, Feasibility Studies, Cash Flow and Financing Projections, Marketing, Loan Preparations and more! The first Wednesday of even number months (next date is April 5), walk-in hours are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall. For more information go to opentobusinessmn.org.



Enjoy Robbinsdale City Band throughout the summer months www.robbinsdalecityband.org

WASTE MANAGEMENT YARD WASTE PICKUP BEGINS MID APRIL (weather permitting)

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 91249
Twin Cities, MN

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

ECRWSS

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Robbinsdale's Facebook Pages are a great place to watch for updates. Links to the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce and other Robbinsdale businesses are available so you can follow their information too. Remember—you do not need to have a Facebook Account to view these pages.

www.facebook.com/CityOfRobbinsdale
www.facebook.com/Robbinsdalerec
www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits
www.facebook.com/Robbinsdale.Chamber



FORESTRY/NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE

Emerald Ash Borer Update & Treatment of Public and Private Ash Trees

Beginning in 2016 public ash trees growing in parks and along streets (boulevards) have been treated as a preventative shield against Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB has not yet been confirmed in Robbinsdale, but the nearest known infestation is less than 2 miles east of the City's border. Ash trees in good condition with a full canopy, no significant dieback, room to grow and a healthy branching structure are regularly injected with an insecticide called TREE-äge. A single treatment using this insecticide is guaranteed to provide protection for 2-3 years. Because ash trees are wind pollinated, injected TREE-äge poses no threat to bees or other pollinating insects. Treated city ash trees are marked with a round aluminum tag stamped with the letters EAB and the treatment year.

The cost of a single TREE-äge injection every 2-3 years is a fraction of the cost for a full tree removal. The removal of a healthy mature ash eliminates all future benefits the tree could have provided such as shade, aesthetics, stormwater interception and wildlife habitat. Treatment of ash trees prior to known EAB infestation is critical since ash killed by EAB deteriorate rapidly and pose significant risk to life and property. If you have an ash tree in your yard it is important to consider either treating the tree or having it removed and replaced. From the City's perspective, preservation of healthy private ash trees is very important due to the benefits the trees provide to the community as a whole. Cost of a preventative TREE-äge injection performed by a contractor has been decreasing in recent years and may be as low as \$5.00 per diameter inch depending on the company.

There is a 100% chance an untreated ash tree will be killed once it is infested by EAB. By the time EAB-caused decline symptoms become visible from ground level, it is often too late to save the tree. Robbinsdale licensed tree service contractors provide treatment services for private ash trees. This list can be found on the forestry webpage. If you have any questions about whether you have an ash tree or treatment options for Emerald Ash Borer please contact City Forester, Stephan Papiz at 763-531-1273, or at spapiz@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.

2017 Public Right of Way Tree Planting

Even though it is still late winter, it is not too early to start thinking about tree planting! If you recently had a public tree adjacent to the street removed, or if you happen to have an empty spot and would like a tree to provide some shade and green space, please feel free to make a request by contacting the City Forester. Keep in mind that **you do not need to have a sidewalk to qualify** since most right of ways along public streets generally extend 12-15 feet in from the back of the curb.

Many trees have been lost in recent years due to storms, Dutch Elm Disease, stem girdling roots and other symptoms of decline. The city plants trees in the fall after a 4-6 month stay in a gravel bed nursery. This method makes use of bare root trees that cost a fraction of container or balled in burlapped tree stock and promotes faster establishment in the landscape. The only requirement is that residents agree to water any new trees using the green TreeGator watering bag provided by the City. Over 140 street trees were planted last year by the City Forester and we plan to have plenty of trees available this year, so any tree planting requests will be followed up on. Any requests will be inspected for existing canopy conditions and considered for planned near-future street reconstruction projects prior to being approved. Actual tree placement will depend on the location of underground utilities such as gas and water lines. Planting a good distance away from buried utilities reduces the potential for damage to the tree should a future excavation be required. To submit a request, contact City Forester, Stephan Papiz at 763-531-1273 or at spapiz@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.

2017 ARBOR DAY

This year's Arbor Day Event and Park Cleanup will be held at Triangle Park, 4001 Noble Avenue North, on **Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m.** Robbinsdale combines its Arbor Day Celebration and Adopt-A-Park annual park clean-up with the annual watershed clean-up. Come help us plant a tree, learn about Robbinsdale's community forest and grab a free tree seedling for planting in your yard.



CLEAN WATER UPDATE

Green Up Your Lawn, Not Your Lakes and Rivers

Remember that the choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affects water quality in our lakes and rivers.

With the passing of another winter, many residents like to give their lawns a 'kick start' to the growing season by adding fertilizer. After rains, some of the fertilizer you apply to your lawn can wash into the storm sewer system and end up in our lakes and rivers. Many commercially available fertilizers contain Phosphorous, an element that stimulates algae growth in our lakes and rivers and can turn these waterways green.

Bags of fertilizer typically display an N-P-K ratio. This is a ratio of Nitrogen (N) Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) contained within the fertilizer. When selecting a fertilizer for your lawn, make sure that the N-P-K ratio displays a 0 value for the P, eg. 22-0-12.

To further protect our waterways, the City has in place, a Phosphorous Free Fertilizer Ordinance. This ordinance helps the City manage and protect our natural water resources that are enjoyed by residents of our City and the surrounding area. The ordinance requires home owners and commercial lawn services to use fertilizer with no phosphorous. The only exceptions are for newly established lawn areas during the first growing season, or for lawns that have been confirmed as being below phosphorous levels established by the University of Minnesota Extension Services. Most Robbinsdale lawns are naturally high in phosphorous and can be maintained with phosphorous free fertilizer.

Please make the right choice for our natural environment when selecting your fertilizers.

Annual Meeting to Review Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Each year, as part of our compliance with State stormwater regulations, City staff brings forward a report to a Council meeting that provides an update of the City's actions relating to maintaining clean water in our waterways. During the Council meeting, residents are given the opportunity to address the City Council with any issues or comments.

The date of the meeting for 2017 has not been set; however, it is normally held within the first four months of the new year. We will place a notice in the local newspaper at least 30 days prior to the proposed meeting date. Our City is required to implement certain actions that help to keep our stormwater and our waterways clean.

We encourage our residents to take an interest in clean water in our lakes, creeks and rivers. We are always happy to hear from residents about issues, ideas and comments you may have.

Crystal Lake Water Quality Improvements

During calendar year 2016, the Crystal Lake Flocculation Treatment Plant operated for 182 days and processed 102 million gallons of water (about 1/3 of the lake volume). For this period, 172 pounds of phosphorus and 10,231 pounds of suspended solids were cleaned from the lake water.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

City staff relies on the vigilance of residents to help control illegal dumping and poor construction site control that can cause undesirable material finding its way into our stormwater system and eventually into our lakes, creeks and waterways. If you observe illegal dumping, see and/or smell conditions that seem out of place, or see tracking of dirt from a building site, contact the City immediately by phone and/or email to report the problem.

We appreciate your help.

If you have any comments, would like further information on these articles or would like to find out more about stormwater in general, please contact our Public Works Director/City Engineer, Richard McCoy at 763-531-1260. or at rmccoy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.

NOTES ON BUYING OR SELLING HOMES

Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home?

It is recommended that you do some homework before selling your home. Find out what homes sold recently in your neighborhood and for how much. Each week local newspapers print the address and sale price for recent sales. Another good resource is the "Home Sellers" and "Home Buyers" Handbooks available on the Minnesota Attorney General's website: <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Consumer/Handbooks/HmSellers/default.asp> and <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/Handbooks/HmBuyers/default.asp>.

There are other internet sites with ideas to make your home more marketable. It is a good idea to get more than one estimate on the listing price of your home. Beware of people using the real estate market as a get-rich-quick scheme. Make sure you don't sell one of your most important investments for less than it is worth!

Point of Sale Information:

Robbinsdale's Point of Sale (POS) ordinance requires a disclosure report prepared by independent certified evaluators (hired by the seller). Under this code, licensed evaluators walk through homes *prior to being placed on the market and shown for sale*. The evaluator would file an inspection report with the City and leave a copy for viewing in the home. This applies to all single family homes, twin homes, townhouses, and condominiums (except new construction). Reports would indicate items which are acceptable, below standards, and required repairs. Required repairs include imminent structural failures, unsafe electrical and plumbing systems, hazardous or unsanitary conditions, and lack of basic items (sinks in kitchens, toilet facilities, etc.). For more information contact Rick Pearson at 763-531-1266. The POS inspection must be performed by a certified evaluator. A link to more information regarding POS requirements, as well as a list of evaluators currently certified in Robbinsdale, can be found on the City's website.

ROBBINSDALE MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

Robbinsdale Deputy Registrar/Motor Vehicle Office services include *Title Transfers, Registration Renewals, Variety of Specialty License Plates, Boat and Snowmobile Renewals, Hunting and Fishing Licenses, Driver's Licenses (change of address, or lost license only), and Passport Services**. **Hours:** Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and 1st & 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 Noon (except some holiday weekends). The Motor Vehicle Office is located in Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Avenue North. Call us at 763-535-8133 for more information. **Remember: state law requires insurance information be provided at the time of registration renewal (tabs), title transfer or application for new Minnesota title/registration.**

***Passports:** Monday thru Friday drop-ins are welcome, but sufficient time is needed for processing applications and will only be accepted at the counter **between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** during the week, or 9-11:30 a.m. on the Saturdays we are open. Payment for passport applications MUST be personal check or money-order. A Saturday appointment can be scheduled by calling 763-535-8133, pressing 1 and then pressing 3. You may still drop in on the Saturdays we are open, but drop-in wait time will depend on the appointment schedule. (*Passport renewals should be made by mail unless it's been over 15 years since your passport was issued, your passport has been damaged, or it was issued at age 16 or younger*). For more information on passport requirements visit www.travel.state.gov. NOTE: When there are school release days, we often have longer wait times due to demand for passport services.

ROBBINSDALE WINE & SPIRITS

The city-owned liquor store located in Robin Center near the Post Office offers over 300 domestic, import, craft beer and hard cider packages, including micro brews and seasonal crafts. If you're a fan of single batch bourbons or ultra-premium vodka and tequila, you must stop by and take a look. We proudly focus on "made in Minnesota" products from local breweries, cideries and distilleries. We have a cozy wine room with an expanded selection of domestic and imported wines that you can browse at your leisure. We encourage requests for new products—just stop in or make your request on Facebook. Find monthly specials at Robbinsdale Wine & Spirits website at www.robbinsdalemn.com/wineandspirits. Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits to check out new arrivals, specials and upcoming events. Profits from the store help to pay for park improvements.

CITY OF ROBBINSDALE

4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

CITY COUNCIL

Phone & e-mail

Regan Murphy, Mayor763-257-0368, rmurphy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us
Bill Blonigan, Ward 1..763-537-7776, wablonigan@ci.robbinsdalemn.us
Dan Rogan, Ward 2.....763-533-6874, dprogan@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us
George Selman, Ward 3 .763-533-2661, gbselman@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us
Pat Backen, Ward 4763-439-6454, pbacken@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us
Marcia Glick, City Mgr763-531-1258, mglick@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us

ROBBINSDALE SERVICE DIRECTORY

Emergency (Police & Fire)..... 911
Police Administration 763-531-1220
City Hall..... 763-537-4534
Motor Vehicle Office..... 763-535-8133
Recreation..... 763-531-1278
Building Inspections 763-531-1268

The City newsletter is published twice per year to keep residents informed about the City. E-mail comments and questions about the publication to: webmaster@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us.

COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS

MEETING SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

CITY COUNCIL	MONTHLY MEETINGS	LOCATION
Regular Meetings	1st & 3rd Tuesday*	7 pm City Hall
Economic Development Authority (REDA)	2nd Tuesday	7 pm City Hall
Charter	Subject to call	Time TBD City Hall
Advisory Commissions:		
Human Rights	4th Thursday (every other month beginning January)	7 pm City Hall
Parks, Recreation & Forestry	4th Tuesday (Except July, Dec)	7 pm Meets at City Hall Oct-March and Sanborn April-Sept
Planning	3rd Thursday	7 pm City Hall
Senior	1st Monday (No meeting July, August and September)	6 pm City Hall
Crime Prevention	1st Wednesday (Feb, April, Oct, Dec)	7 pm Police/Fire Building

*The 1st Council meeting in July has been changed to Wednesday, July 5 due to 4th of July; the 1st meeting in August has been changed to Tuesday, August 8th due to National Night Out on the 1st; and the 2nd September meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 26th.

City Council Update In an effort to better inform the citizens of Robbinsdale, this section contains information on ordinances passed by the City Council. For questions or more information call the City Clerk's Office at 763-531-1252.

16-13: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF PROPERTY TO ROBBINSDALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY—TWIN OAK LANE DEDICATED IN THE PLAT OF ROBBINS BEACH. ADOPTED 08-1-16

16-14: AN ORDINANCE VACATING WEST BROADWAY FRONTAGE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY AT THE TERRACE MALL IN ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA. ADOPTED 10-18-16

16-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 425 OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE IDENTIFYING SUMP PUMP AND DRAIN TILE DRAINAGE AS A NUISANCE . ADOPTED 09-20-16

16-16: AN ORDINANCE REZONING 3606 LAKE DRIVE FROM B-2 LIMITED COMMUNITY BUSINESS TO R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. ADOPTED 10-18-16

16-17: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 520 ADOPTING A NEW FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND REPEALING THE FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE AS REVISED IN 2014., ADOPTED 10-4-16

16-18: AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING AN ELECTRIC SERVICE FRANCHISE FEE ON NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, FOR PROVIDING ELECTRIC ENERGY SERVICE WITHIN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE, ADOPTED 12-20-16

16-19: AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A GAS ENERGY FRANCHISE FEE ON CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., d.b.a. CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA GAS ("CENTERPOINT ENERGY"), f.k.a. CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNEGASCO, A DIVISION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., f.k.a. RELIANT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP., A DELAWARE CORPORATION, FOR PROVIDING GAS ENERGY SERVICE WITHIN THE CITY OF ROBBINSDALE, ADOPTED 12-20-16

Support Your Local Businesses

Our local businesses play an important part in our community and rely on resident patronage. Whenever possible, if an item you are shopping for can be found here, rather than going elsewhere consider buying in Robbinsdale.

