Prepare to vote: March 3, 2020
Polls open on Election Day from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Minnesotans will nominate candidates for president of the United States by voting in a presidential nomination primary election on March 3. Vote at your polling place on Election Day between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. You may also vote early by mail, or in person at city hall between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Jan. 17 – March 2.

Results of the presidential primary election will determine each political party’s presidential candidate who will then appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot. Your options to vote are the same as in other elections run by the City of St. Louis Park. Remember, in order to vote, you must be preregistered to vote or provide proof of residence to register on Election Day.

What is a presidential primary?
A presidential primary is a regular election replacing the straw poll that formerly took place at precinct caucuses.

Will all the candidates be on the same ballot?
No. You must request the ballot of your preferred major political party. Only the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and the Republican Party chose to submit a list of candidates.

Will other people know which party’s ballot I request?
The choice you make on your ballot is private; the political party ballot you select is also private. However, if you vote in the presidential nomination primary, you will be added to a list of voters that will include who voted and the political party ballot each voter selected. The list will be provided to the chair of each major political party.

Will there still be caucuses?
Yes. Caucuses are run by Minnesota’s political parties, not by the city. They are scheduled for Feb. 25. For more information about participating in your local caucus, contact your preferred political party.

Why is there also a primary election in August?
The primary election in August will be to vote for all other federal and state level races. The offices of president and vice president will not be on the primary ballot in August.

New polling locations in Precincts 2 and 7
Voters in Precinct 2 who previously voted at Peter Hobart Elementary School and voters in Precinct 7 who voted at Susan Lindgren Elementary School will vote at new polling places in 2020. The change in locations is due to extensive construction at both buildings.

The new polling place for Precinct 2 will be Wat Thai of Minnesota, 2544 Hwy. 100 S. The new polling place for Precinct 7 will be Vista Lutheran Church, 4003 Wooddale Ave. S. All registered voters in Precincts 2 and 7 will receive a mailed notification of this change from Hennepin County before Election Day.

Snow and ice
Since the presidential nomination primary election will occur in winter months, we anticipate difficult driving conditions and transportation to the polls. Voters are encouraged to vote early at city hall on a day with relatively nicer weather, or through the mail, if possible.

Campaign kindness
The 2020 election cycle will involve many important and argumentative issues. You may experience a high level of stress or strong feelings about the election at some point this year. Elections are one way for people to express their opinions about the direction of our country and issues that matter to them.

The city is encouraging kindness and civility when you go to the polls or have discussions with your friends and neighbors about elections. St. Louis Park has an opportunity to be an example to other communities in terms of civility and fairness. Regardless of who you choose to support on Election Day, help us promote kindness and ensure that everyone who chooses to vote can do so in a peaceful and welcoming environment.

Youth invited to join Civics in the Park
The Civics in the Park youth program is an opportunity for St. Louis Park High School students, grades 9 – 12, to learn more about what a city does through educational and collaborative monthly meetings. This group will function as a funnel for future civic engagement opportunities at the City of St. Louis Park. For more information, visit www.stlouispark.org/civics-in-the-park.

Note: If you are an adult interested in learning about the city, see page 2 for information about a new Civics Academy starting in April.

www.stlouispark.org/vote or call 952.924.2503
City advances racial equity and inclusion

The city’s racial equity, inclusion and community engagement division has added staff to allow for quality community engagement and to strengthen St. Louis Park’s work towards creating an equitable and inclusive city. Recently, the division hired two outreach specialists, Sagal Abadirman and Yariet Montes-Huerta. Sagal and Yariet have already increased the city’s ability to engage with different cultural groups in St. Louis Park.

The division’s focus in 2020 is to engage with often underheard communities, including people of color, indigenous peoples, renters, youth and seniors in the community.

The city is always looking for new and different ways to engage with the community. If you have any engagement ideas, contact Alicia Sojourner, racial equity manager, at asjourner@stlouispark.org, or Darius Gray, community organizer, at dgray@stlouispark.org.

Participate in an online survey about cable franchise renewal

The city’s current franchise agreement with Comcast is set to expire in January 2021. The city has notified Comcast of its intent to conduct informal renewal negotiations in accordance with the federal Cable Act.

Given the enormous changes in technology and media over the past 15 years, the process of granting a new franchise to Comcast deserves serious consideration and opportunity for public input to help determine future community channels, equipment and resources that will be available to St. Louis Park residents, community groups, schools and the city.

Focus groups were held in late January to get input from residents and other stakeholders. The final step in the input process is an online survey, available at bit.ly/slp fiercurvey until March 15.

For more information, visit www.parktv.org and click on “franchise renewal.”

Questions? Contact Jacque Smith, communications and marketing manager, at jsmith@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2632.

City seeks community input on local option sales tax

At its Jan. 21, 2020, regular meeting, the St. Louis Park City Council decided against asking the state legislature at this time to let St. Louis Park voters decide on implementation of a local option sales tax for infrastructure improvements. The delay will allow more time for input from the community, although any future authorization by the state would still require approval by St. Louis Park voters.

While pursuit of this option would benefit property taxpayers in the community by spreading costs among those who most benefit, the funding need for the regionally significant project with multiple road improvement components is not an emergency. Therefore, the council and city staff wish to take more time for community input and research before possibly revisiting the issue for 2021.

Special state legislation would allow the city to ask its voters to approve imposing a local option sales tax of 0.5 percent. The tax would help meet funding needs for a regionally significant project that includes multiple road improvement components in St. Louis Park. Collective improvements to these roads would benefit residents, non-residents and businesses by ensuring safe and convenient travel by vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians throughout the city.

The city is proactively trying to determine a solution to spread costs among those who most benefit from the roads, for the following reasons:

• The needed increase in property taxes to close the funding gap for these projects is unrealistic, requiring St. Louis Park property owners to unfairly shoulder the entire burden of paying for roads that benefit the region.
• The city recognizes that changes in consumer behavior in response to environmental concerns may affect future gas tax revenues, which help fund these improvements.

The identified project components, estimated to cost a collective $37.5 million, are currently included in the city’s 10-year capital improvement program. According to a University of Minnesota Extension study, a 0.5 percent local option sales tax (5 cents on a $10 purchase) would bring in about $5 million a year, meeting funding needs for the identified road improvement components within 7-1/2 years. Residents would pay about 45 percent; non-residents about 55 percent. The project funded by the local option sales tax would include the following components:

• Cedar Lake Road (Hwy. 169 to Kentucky Avenue)
• Louisiana Avenue (I-394 to Walker Street)
• Shelard Parkway area roads
• Oxford industrial area, including segments of Meadowbrook Road including the bridge over Minnehaha Creek, Oxford and Cambridge streets, and Edgewater Avenue
• Texas Avenue/Minnetonka Boulevard intersection

Next steps

Residents should look for more opportunities in the coming months to provide input on the local option sales tax, prior to possible revisiting of this issue for the 2021 legislative session.

New in 2020: Learn about your city at the civics academy

Starting in April, the city will host a civics academy where participants can learn more about the basic roles and functions of city government through monthly face-to-face meetings, activities and tours. Over eight separate sessions, the academy will highlight the various departments, programs and services offered by the city. The academy is open to residents age 18 and over.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/civics-in-the-park if you are interested in attending the academy or want to learn more. Registration forms must be completed and submitted by Friday, March 13. The academy will be limited to 15 participants.

Note: If you are under 18 years old and want to learn about the city, see page 1 for information about the Civics in the Park youth program.

Request a visit from the community engagement vehicle

The City of St. Louis Park’s community engagement vehicle (CEV) is an interactive mobile engagement tool loaded with games, activities and an entertainment system! The CEV helps city staff connect to the community and foster social capital by inspiring unique interactions among neighbors.

To request the CEV at your event or community meeting, contact Darius Gray, community organizer, at dgray@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2184.

Focus groups were held in late January to get input from residents and other stakeholders. The final step in the input process is an online survey, available at bit.ly/slp cablesurvey until March 15.

For more information, visit www.parktv.org and click on “franchise renewal.”

Questions? Contact Jacque Smith, communications and marketing manager, at jsmith@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2632.

On line survey
New members join city council

Voters in the 2019 St. Louis Park municipal election used ranked-choice voting for the first time to select a mayor and two at large council members. Jake Spano was elected to a second term as mayor, while Larry Kraft and Nadia Mohamed were elected to the two at large seats on the council. All three were sworn in at the Jan. 6 council meeting.

Larry Kraft
As a 16-year resident of St. Louis Park, Kraft has been actively involved in the community. He has served on the city’s environment and sustainability commission and was involved in drafting St. Louis Park’s Climate Action Plan. He served as a member of the steering committee developing an arts and culture strategic framework for St. Louis Park. He also has coached Little League baseball and rec/traveling basketball.

Kraft brings 25 years of high-tech business experience to the city council, having held leadership positions in a variety of organizations from startups to large public companies. In 2013, with the goal of helping young people fight the climate crisis, Kraft left his position as senior vice president of sales and marketing for Digi International. From 2014-19, Kraft led the national nonprofit iMatter, which supports high school and middle school youth leaders as they press local governments to act on climate change. Some of his most rewarding work with iMatter happened here in St. Louis Park, where students from the Roots and Shoots club lobbied the city council to adopt its Climate Action Plan, the most aggressive plan in Minnesota.

Kraft is married and has two kids who attend St. Louis Park schools. He has a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s in business administration, both from Cornell University. He swims regularly with Minnesota Masters, loves traveling and cross-country skiing, and is an ice cream fanatic.

Nadia Mohamed
Mohamed is a 13-year resident of St. Louis Park and has lived at Louisiana Court and Oak Park Village.

As a four-year member of the St. Louis Park Multicultural Advisory Committee, Mohamed participated in strategic planning and implementation efforts to connect various communities within St. Louis Park. That work resulted in Mohamed being named a co-recipient of the St. Louis Park Human Rights Award in 2019 and helped her to understand what could be achieved through civic activity.

As a city council member, Mohamed intends to address issues such as affordable housing, racial equity, climate action and youth engagement. She believes it’s important for the city to address these issues because they affect everyone, especially people of color.

Mohamed is a December 2019 graduate of Metropolitan State University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in human resources management. She has worked primarily in human resources for the nonprofit sector, most recently for the Center for Energy and Environment. In her free time, she spends time with family and takes care of her disabled brother.

Help shape our community!

Applications are being accepted for the following City of St. Louis Park boards and commissions:

- Community technology advisory commission
- Environment and sustainability commission
- Housing authority
- Human rights commission
- Parks and recreation advisory commission
- Planning commission/board of zoning appeals
- Police advisory commission

There are adult and youth positions open. Terms begin May 31. Apply online at www.stlouispark.org/boards-commissions by Friday, Feb. 28.

Mayor joins NLC board of directors

St. Louis Park Mayor Jake Spano was elected to the National League of Cities (NLC) board of directors at the 2019 City Summit in San Antonio. Spano was elected to a two-year term and will provide strategic direction and guidance for NLC’s federal advocacy, governance and membership activities. NLC is the largest and most representative organization for cities, their elected leaders and municipal staff, and advocates for city priorities in Washington by building strong federal-local partnerships.

As a member of the board, Spano will meet in March, June and November to guide NLC’s strategic direction. Board members are selected by a 15-member nominating committee and are confirmed by a vote from NLC’s membership at the organization’s annual business meeting.
Climate Action Plan progresses

The City of St. Louis Park is a leader in environmental stewardship and is committed to reaching its Climate Action Plan goal of communitywide carbon neutrality — a net zero carbon footprint — by 2040. Accomplishing the goals of the Climate Action Plan requires the participation of residents, businesses and organizations throughout the community.

Since the Climate Action Plan’s adoption in 2018, the city has been developing programs to help residents and business owners reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption in commercial buildings, transportation and solid waste.

The plan includes a midterm goal to reduce energy consumption in large commercial buildings 30 percent by 2030. To support this, the city created the efficient building benchmarking program. Passed by the city council in December 2019, the program requires owners of commercial, multifamily and public buildings over 25,000 square feet to report annual whole building energy and water usage. The data reported will be used to benchmark energy consumption and motivate building performance improvement. Empowering property owners with the ability to compare the performance of their building to itself, its peers and to industry standards is key in this effort. The data may also reveal long-term utility cost savings opportunities to property owners.

To complement the program, property owners and city businesses will be invited to sign on to the upcoming Climate Champions program. The Climate Champions program allows businesses and property owners to take a community leadership role in increasing energy efficiency, reducing energy consumption and increasing renewable energy usage. The program will connect businesses to energy and cost savings opportunities, including rebates, loans and grants, and will recognize those businesses that are committing to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Champions program is still in development; more information will be available in the upcoming year.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/climate-action-plan to subscribe to updates on the Climate Action Plan and find ways to participate. For more information, contact Emily Ziring, sustainability manager, at eziring@stlouispark.org.

Energy demonstration project open houses

3611 Glenhurst Ave. S., St. Louis Park
March 18, 4 – 6:30 p.m. and March 22, noon – 3 p.m.

The city purchased the tax forfeiture property at 3611 Glenhurst Ave. S. to support the city’s Climate Action Plan and worked with a contractor to make energy efficient upgrades, general home improvements and added a residential fire sprinkler system. Now’s your chance to see it! Attend one of the open houses to learn about energy efficient home improvements, Home Energy Squad visits (energy audits), city rebates and loans, and fire safety.

Rainwater Rewards program

It’s not too early to start thinking about spring landscaping projects that can help manage stormwater. The city’s Rainwater Rewards program offers funding and technical guidance to residential property owners who install projects that do at least one of the following:

• Protect and restore stormwater by capturing pollutants in rainwater runoff
• Increase the watershed’s ability to store water
• Preserve and restore native plant and wildlife communities
• Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity

Program benefits include cost share, guidance with management practices, selecting designers and contractors, and future planning.

Project examples:

• Rain gardens
• Tree plantings
• Rain barrels
• Permeable pavement
• Green roofs
• Other innovative stormwater management practices

The program is available to residential properties in St. Louis Park. Applications are accepted year-round on a first-come, first-serve basis. To learn more, visit www.stlouispark.org/rainwater-rewards, or contact Erick Francis, water resources manager, at efrancis@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2690.

Now available: electric chargers at The Rec Center

In order to reach the city’s Climate Action Plan goal of carbon neutrality by 2040, vehicle emissions must be reduced 25 percent by 2030. One strategy to reach this midterm goal is to expand the number of public electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city. Two new level 2 chargers have been installed at The Rec Center, 3700 Monterey Drive. These ChargePoint network chargers are available for public use during normal daytime hours. Overnight parking is not allowed.

Contact Emily Ziring, sustainability manager, at eziring@stlouispark.org for more information.

Order a rain barrel

The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) has partnered with the city to provide rain barrels to residents at a discounted price this spring. St. Louis Park residents receive 50 percent off the regular price of $79. Online ordering starts March 1 at www.recycleminnesota.org; use promo code “stlouispark” to receive discount.

Pick up preordered rain barrels Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. – noon or Monday, May 4, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St. If you can’t pick up rain barrels on these dates, RAM is holding other sales throughout the spring which may have more convenient pickup dates. Visit www.recycleminnesota.org or call RAM at 651.641.4589 for more information.
The City of St. Louis Park has several transportation projects scheduled for this construction season. If you live or travel through these areas, you can learn more about the projects and sign up for email updates at www.stlouispark.org/construction-updates.

1. **Southeast bikeway improvements**
Bikeways are proposed on Wooddale Avenue starting at 44th Street and winding north to Princeton/Quentin Avenue, then to Park Commons Drive along the south side of Wolfe Park to The Rec Center. In addition, advisory bike lanes are proposed on 38th Street from Excelsior Boulevard to France Avenue. Construction is expected to start in late summer and be done by fall 2020.

2. **Dakota Park Bridge and bikeway**
In summer 2020, a bikeway will be built starting at Cedar Lake Road and heading south on Edgewood Avenue to the railroad tracks. The bikeway will continue on a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the railroad tracks and land in Dakota Park. From there, it will follow Dakota Avenue to Lake Street. The bikeway will be a combination of multiuse trails, dedicated bike lanes and shared bike lanes.

3. **Monterey Drive/Beltline Boulevard/36th Street bikeway improvements**
Monterey Drive from Excelsior Boulevard to just north of Park Commons Drive will be under construction this summer. The construction will add on-street bike lanes to Monterey Drive and modify the access of Park Commons Drive to Monterey Drive to improve intersection operations and safety. Phase 2 is expected to occur in 2021 and will continue along Monterey Drive from Park Commons Drive to the intersection of Beltline Boulevard and 36th Street near The Rec Center.

4. **Historic Walker Lake**
The 2020 Historic Walker Lake street project includes the reconstruction of Walker Street from the Holiday gas station to the railroad tracks. It also includes the realignment of the Lake Street and Walker Street intersection. A bike lane will be added on Lake Street along with additional sidewalks. Two alleys will be reconstructed east of the railroad tracks. This project also includes stormwater improvements, watermain replacement and LED street lighting. Construction is expected to begin in May 2020 with completion in October 2020.

5. **Louisiana Avenue Bridge**
Beginning March 2020, Louisiana Avenue will be reconstructed between Louisiana Circle and Excelsior Boulevard. The existing bridge over Minnehaha Creek will be replaced with a higher bridge, allowing pedestrians to cross Louisiana Avenue under the bridge. The project is expected to be done by November 2020.

6. **2020 pavement management**
Several streets in the Fern Hill Neighborhood are scheduled for rehabilitation during the 2020 construction season as part of the city’s pavement management program. This project is included in the capital improvement program, with improvements paid for using city funds rather than assessments to property owners.

7. **Southwest Light Rail Transit**
Cold winter weather hasn’t slowed down the construction of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT). One of the most noticeable road closures will be Wooddale Avenue between 36th Street and the Highway 7 south frontage road to construct the Cedar Lake Regional Trail underpass at Wooddale Avenue. A timeline for this closure had not yet been determined at the time of this publication. Expect additional road closures and detours as construction progresses. Most other work in St. Louis Park has been focused on building new bridges for the freight rail and for the Cedar Lake Regional Trail at Beltline Boulevard, Highway 100, Louisiana Avenue and Minnehaha Creek. 2020 will continue to be a busy year for major construction activities. Sign up for the Metropolitan Council’s SWLRT weekly updates at www.swlrt.org.

Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are also planning projects in St. Louis Park for the 2020 construction season. Sign up for email and text updates on county projects by visiting www.hennepin.us, then click “Subscribe” in the top navigation bar; visit www.mndot.org for state projects. Visit www.stlouispark.org/construction-updates for links to county and state projects.
Developments underway in the city

1 **10 West End**
This 11-story, 343,000-square-foot office building is located at 1601 Utica Ave. S. in the West End area. The development is Phase IV of the Central Park West planned unit development, located on the border of St. Louis Park and Golden Valley. The office building will be in St. Louis Park, and the 1,214-stall parking structure will be in Golden Valley.

2 **Parkway Residences**
Located on West 31st Street between Inglewood Avenue and Glenhurst Avenue, this proposed development includes four new multifamily buildings with 211 units, as well as the rehabilitation of three existing apartment buildings that contain 24 units, creating a total of 235 residential units. The development will also include the removal of 12 existing buildings.

3 **Luxe Residential**
This redevelopment is located at the former Olive Garden restaurant site, 5235 Wayzata Blvd. The new six-story apartment building will have 207 units ranging in size from studio to three bedrooms, along with two levels of underground parking. The site will include a new pocket park along 16th Street and pedestrian improvements connecting the building to the West End area.

4 **PLACE (Via Sol)**
Building permits have been issued for Via Sol, 5725 Hwy. 7. The mixed-use, mixed-income, creative community is near the intersection of 36th Street West and Wooddale Avenue, on the north side of the future Southwest Light Rail Transit Wooddale Station. Via Sol includes 218 dwelling units, a bike shop, makers space, e-generation and greenhouse, and approximately 1 acre of urban forest.

5 **The Elmwood**
Located at 5605 W. 36th St., the five-story, 70-unit, mixed-use development will include 53 market rate apartments with 17 affordable units at 60 percent area median income, and approximately 4,400 square feet of leasable office and commercial space. The development includes on-street, surface and underground parking, as well as outdoor amenity space.

6 **Elan West End**
This six-story apartment building with 164 residential units is adjacent to Central Park West and the AC Hotel by Marriott at 1325 Utica Ave. S. The development includes five affordable units at 60 percent area median income.

7 **Bridgewater Bank**
Located on Excelsior Boulevard at Monterey Drive, this four-story, 84,000-square-foot office building will include a 7,000-square-foot bank branch, 7,000 square feet of commercial space and three levels of structured parking. The first floor will include Bridgewater Bank’s customer branch and retail space. The second, third and fourth floors will include the bank’s executive offices and opportunities for co-working entrepreneurial space. There are also plans for a plaza at the corner of Excelsior Boulevard and Monterey Drive with outdoor seating, space for public art and landscaping. Construction started in spring 2019 and is expected to be done this spring.

8 **Platia Place**
This project includes a five-story, 137-unit apartment building and a six-story, 100-room hotel located at 9808 and 9920 Wayzata Blvd. Extensive outdoor amenity space will be included for both residents and visitors. The apartment building will have 15 affordable housing units, and both buildings will comply with the city’s Green Building Policy.

9 **Urban Park Apartments**
This second building at 3601 Phillips Pkwy. will have 61 market rate apartments, two community rooms and a fitness center. A pool and improved outdoor amenity space will be added as part of the project.

10 **Tosa-Tonka small area plan**
More than 2,800 residents helped shape the Tosa-Tonka Small Area Plan through a variety of engagement efforts. The plan is available at bit.ly/20tmeyr and includes design guidelines, activation ideas, concept plans for site and building improvements, and considered both market conditions and traffic capacity. The plan will help guide future investments into the area.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/development-projects for a full list of development projects and a map.
Help for home purchasing

The city provides down payment/closing cost assistance for those looking to purchase a home in St. Louis Park. The program is limited to first-time homebuyers or those who have not owned a home in the last three years. Employees of St. Louis Park businesses may be eligible for additional funds to encourage them to live where they work.

The loan is a zero percent interest deferred loan up to $15,000, not to exceed five percent of the purchase price. An additional $5,000 is available for employees of St. Louis Park businesses. Income restrictions apply ($120,000 for households with one to four family members). Contact the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612.335.5884 or www.mncee.org to apply.

Home remodeling tour canceled

The 2020 home remodeling tour scheduled for May 3 is canceled due to a lack of participating homes for the tour. The city continues to offer remodeling advisor visits, architectural design consultations and loan programs for home remodeling and improvements. Visit www.stlouispark.org/home-remodeling for details.

Don’t miss the energy efficient open houses March 18 and 22 to see a newly remodeled home featuring many energy improvements. See page 4 for details.

Public housing and Section 8 waiting lists opening soon

The St. Louis Park Housing Authority will accept online waiting list applications for:

- Public housing and Section 8 waiting lists opening soon

Week: April 13 – 17

Severe Weather Awareness Week: April 13 – 17

Snow might still be on the ground, but it’s not too early to plan for Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 13 – 17. Each day of the week focuses on a different weather safety topic.

- Monday: alerts and warnings
- Tuesday: severe weather, lightning and hail
- Wednesday: floods
- Thursday: tornadoes (with statewide tornado drills)
- Friday: extreme heat

Annual statewide tornado drills will take place April 16 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Outdoor warning sirens and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radios will sound a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is for institutions and businesses; the evening drill is for second-shift workers and families.

What’s new with the St. Louis Park Police Department?

Mental health support

The St. Louis Park Police Department has taken the lead in mental health support and advocacy through a partnership with Hennepin County. Officers and social workers follow up with individuals immediately following an interaction with law enforcement. The proactive initiative aims to reduce repeat calls for service, especially calls where police response may not be the best way to solve an issue.

Vitals™ Aware Services

With the help of a generous donation from the St. Louis Park American Legion, the police department has added Vitals™ Aware Services to its toolbox. This community-based service provides first responders with crucial information about vulnerable individuals, increasing the effectiveness of situational responses and vastly expanding the potential for successful and safe resolutions.

Burned-out light? We can help!

The police department joined several other Minnesota police departments in partnering with Lights On!, created by Minneapolis nonprofit Microgrants. A broken turn signal or taillight can mean a family might have to choose between paying for the repair over an important family expense. The Lights On! program allows officers to issue a voucher to a driver of a vehicle with broken lights. The driver can then redeem the voucher at a participating service provider for a free repair. Visit www.lightsonus.org to learn more.

Compliment an officer or report a concern

If you recently had a great experience with a St. Louis Park police officer or other police department members, we want to hear from you! Share with us the details of your interaction at bit.ly/policecomment, and let us know if you have any other suggestions on how we can provide even better service to our community. You may file a complaint there as well.

Dispose of prescription drugs safely

The police department has a medicine drop box installed in the lobby area to dispose of household medicines, including prescription, over-the-counter and pet medicines. The drop box is accessible at all times for people to dispose of unwanted or unused medicine at no cost. Medicines should be brought in their original containers.

Hennepin County also has several other drop box locations throughout the area. Visit www.hennepin.us/medicine for locations and hours.

Medicine disposal bags

St. Louis Park’s fire and police departments offer free medication disposal bags to residents.

You can pick up medication disposal bags Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at one of the following locations:

- Fire Station 1, 3750 Wooddale Ave. S. (enter north side of building)
- Police department, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S.

There is a limit of two bags per St. Louis Park household. Bags are for home use only. Residents interested in larger quantities may contact the police department at 952.924.2600 for information about purchasing the bags at cost.

Neighborhood watch block captains needed!

Neighborhood watch is a voluntary program aimed at reducing your likelihood of becoming a crime victim. It works by teaching simple, yet proven crime prevention techniques and by building relationships between neighbors and the police department. Neighborhood watch block captains help maintain the safety and well-being of their neighborhood by coordinating neighborhood watch activities for their block.

To find out if your neighborhood is organized, volunteer to become a block captain or for more information, contact Community Outreach Officer Ken Sysko at 952.924.2661. You can also complete the neighborhood watch block captain application at bit.ly/2JqO8i.

Citizens’ Police Academy returns this spring

The Citizens’ Police Academy is open to adults 18 and over who live or work in St. Louis Park. Classes will be held on Wednesdays, March 18 – May 27 (no class April 1), from 6 – 9 p.m. at the St. Louis Park Police Department, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S. Twenty applicants will be accepted and must be able to attend all 10 sessions. Register online at www.stlouispark.org/police-academy. Note: Interested in learning about the city overall? See pages 1 and 2 for youth and adult opportunities.

www.stlouispark.org
We are excited to say the exterior walls are up, the roofing materials have been applied and the new interpretive center at Westwood Hills Nature Center is taking shape! The new interpretive center will be ready to use in summer 2020.

Even though construction is underway, come explore our 3.5 miles of trails, host a birthday party, rent a pair of snowshoes and participate in our variety of nature programming.

The current interpretive center is open during construction, with parking on West Franklin Avenue. At the main entrance, a trail leads to the current interpretive center. Alternative access points are at gate 7 and gate 8, located on Virginia Avenue and Westwood Hills Drive. For additional details, view the alternate entrances map at www.stlouispark.org/whnc/new-interpretive-center. Drive carefully, park responsibly and be considerate of those who live on the streets being used for alternative parking and access points.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/whnc/new-interpretive-center to take a video tour of the new building. You can also sign up for project updates online or by texting SLPMN WHNC to 468311.

City of St. Louis Park Operations and Recreation Director Cindy Walsh received the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award, the highest professional award given by the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) to one of its members. Award recipients must have more than 20 years of professional experience and provided long and outstanding service to the parks and recreation field and MRPA.

Recreation Supervisor Lisa Abernathy received the MRPA’s Dorothea Nelson Award, which is awarded to a female member of MRPA who has more than 10 years of experience and has provided outstanding service to the parks and recreation field and to MRPA.

Pictured above (left to right): Tom Schmitz, MRPA president; Cindy Walsh, operations and recreation director; Tom Harmening, city manager.

The city manages more than 100 community garden plots in five sites around the city. Garden plots can be rented for $35 per season starting in March on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit www.stlouispark.org for more information.

Starting March 2, visit www.treetrust.org to order and pay for your tree as part of the city’s annual tree sale. Trees are $35 each; a maximum of three trees per property may be purchased. Tree pickup will be Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. – noon or Monday, May 4, from 5 – 7 p.m., at the Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St.

Visit www.shamrocicebowling.com for rules, registration and more information.

Meet Ryan from the KS95 Morning Show from 2 – 5 p.m. and stay for the fabulous prizes, music, food and fun!
Hennepin County offers incentive program for deconstruction

To divert waste from landfills, Hennepin County will begin providing incentives to homeowners and developers to deconstruct structures rather than demolish them. Compared to standard demolition techniques that use mechanical equipment to knock down structures, the additional labor costs and time with deconstruction can be a deterrent. The newly established incentive program will help make deconstruction a more affordable option by offering up to $5,000 to homeowners and developers for deconstruction projects. Starting in 2020, the program will initially be implemented in Brooklyn Center, Edina, Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Additional cities will be recruited for participation as the program expands.

For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/deconstruction or contact Olivia Cashman at Olivia.Cashman@hennepin.us or 612.348.4843.

Yard waste collection starts April 6

During residential yard waste season, yard waste is collected every week on the same day as your garbage. Set out yard waste by 7 a.m. to ensure collection. If you believe your yard waste was missed, call Waste Management at 763.783.5423.

There is no additional cost for yard waste collection during residential yard waste season; it is included in your solid waste collection rate.

Yard waste includes garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, wood chips, twigs and branches. Set yard waste out for collection in one of these ways:

1. Use your own reusable container. The container should be sturdy, weigh 40 pounds or less when filled and have handles so it can be lifted by a single person. Yard waste can be placed in the container loose (not bagged). The city provides yard waste stickers to mark your reusable containers. These can be picked up at city hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., or the Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St., or by calling public works at 952.924.2562.

2. Use certified compostable bags, brown paper Kraft lawn bags or brown paper grocery bags.

3. Branches must be less than 4 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet long. Tie branches into bundles with string or put them in one of the container options above.

Note: Each container, bag or bundle should weigh no more than 40 pounds.

Wishing workshop

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6 – 7 p.m.

Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St.

Registration required!

What is wishing? Many of us do this when we stand over recycling bins and eventually toss something in with the hope that someone else will figure it out in the sorting process. Come and learn more about what can and can’t be recycled, and pledge to stop wishing!

Register online at www.stlouispark.org/garbage-recycling for this free workshop.

Gardener’s swap

Tuesday, May 12, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Recreation Outdoor Center (ROC)

3700 Monterey Drive

Mark your calendar for the city’s third annual gardener’s swap! This free event is a great opportunity to clear out gardening tools you no longer use or share extra plants, and then take home new treasures. The event is open to all. No broken items, black plastic pots or chemicals of any kind.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/waste-reduction for more information.

Residential brush drop-off site opens April 25

Branches, brush or logs greater than 4 feet in length or 4 inches in diameter are too big for residential curbside yard waste collection. Bring them to the city’s brush drop-off site, 2501 Edgewood Ave. S., at the intersection of Cedar Lake Road and Colorado Avenue South. There is no charge for St. Louis Park residents. A Minnesota ID, driver’s license or utility bill is required as proof of residency.

Yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves and small branches, is not accepted at the site and should be set out for curbside collection instead.

Hours of operation for the brush drop-off are:

• Tuesdays: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
• Saturdays: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
• Sundays: Noon – 4 p.m.

The following materials are also available at no cost, for self-service pickup at the site. Bring your own shovel and containers.

• Mulch – shredded wood chips. Delivery of mulch is available for a fee. Call Parks Superintendent Rick Beane at 952.928.2854 to schedule a delivery.
• Black dirt/soil – to be used for fill. Soil is screened for large rocks, but not sanitized for weed seed.
• Compost – available on a limited basis. Check the city’s website or call public works at 952.924.2562 for more information.

For more information, visit www.stlouispark.org/brush-drop-off or call 952.924.2562.
Minnehaha Creek cleanup
Help clean up litter and debris from Minnehaha Creek on Saturday, May 2, 9 – 11 a.m. (light rain or shine). This year, we’ll be cleaning up the stretch of the creek located between The Shoppes at Knollwood and Target. Bags, gloves and waders will be provided. Children must have an adult supervisor present. Interested volunteers should meet in the southeast corner of the Bremer Bank building parking lot. No registration required.

Celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Day
Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. – noon
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

Join the City of St. Louis Park in celebrating Arbor Day and observing the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Learn about the impacts of climate change and the actions you can take to help our community reach its climate neutrality goal. Volunteer to plant one of 150 diverse trees with our local partner, Great River Greening, or pick up litter throughout the Westwood Hills Nature Center (all supplies and equipment will be provided). Take a tour of the net zero energy-designed Westwood Hills interpretive center, set to open later this year. Dance and sing to earth-inspired music by Kidpower with Rachael beginning at 10 a.m. Dance supplies and equipment will be provided. Take a tour of the net zero energy-designed Westwood Hills interpretive center, set to open later this year. Dance and sing to earth-inspired music by Kidpower with Rachael beginning at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. The event is free, but registration is required. Visit bit.ly/2Ro3sqd to register.

*Due to construction of the new interpretive center, the main parking lot will be closed and parking won’t be available onsite. All attendees are asked to park at St. Louis Park Middle School and ride a free shuttle to and from the event, which will take place near gates 7 and 8.

Be counted in the 2020 census!
Every address in St. Louis Park will receive an invitation in the mail to complete the 2020 census beginning in March. The census is about 10 questions long and takes about 10 minutes to complete. You can respond online, by phone or by mail.

Everyone counts! This includes babies, immigrants, students, renters, “snowbirds,” group home residents and anyone else living in St. Louis Park. The state estimates each person not counted in the census could result in a loss of $28,000 in federal funds, which are distributed based on population. That money funds school programs, transportation projects and food and housing assistance.

Your privacy is protected. It is against the law for the U.S. Census Bureau to release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics. Any data you share is safe, secure and protected for 72 years!

For more information, call the community development department at 952.924.2575 or visit www.stlouispark.org/census. You can also text COUNT to 662020 to receive automated responses to your questions in English or Spanish, and responses in Hmong or Somali within 24 hours. The text option also allows you to receive limited and timely updates about the census.

Snow emergency rules refresher
Snow emergencies are declared in St. Louis Park based on two scenarios:
1. After or during a significant snowfall, generally 3 or more inches of snow accumulation.
2. In advance of an approaching storm which is forecasted to produce at least 6 inches of snow. Timing, duration, intensity and estimated snow amount are factors in determining if a snow emergency is warranted ahead of the storm.

During a snow emergency, you must park your vehicle(s) off the street to avoid ticketing and towing until the street is plowed to the curb. As soon as your street is plowed to the curb, you may park your vehicle(s) on the street.

The snow emergency will remain in effect until tagging operations are completed. Snow removal operations are not changing. The city will provide the same high-quality service following the same pattern it has in the past when conditions warrant. The city will provide snow removal in a cost-effective manner taking into consideration safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The city will use city employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

• Priority A – These are high volume roads that are generally cleared first to connect major sections of the city with access points to the Metropolitan Highway Systems and provide access for fire, police and medical services, including the fire and police departmental driveways.

• Priority B – These streets provide direct service to residential neighborhoods, schools and commercial properties and are cleared after completing Priority A routes.

Have snow plowing questions? Call public works at 952.924.2562 during regular business hours or visit www.slpsnow.org.

Citywide hydrant flushing starts May 3
City crews are scheduled to flush the watermains throughout St. Louis Park starting Sunday, May 3, weather permitting. Flushing hours will mainly be from 8 p.m. – 6 a.m. and should be complete by Friday, May 8.

Watermain flushing is done each spring to break loose normal mineral build-up inside underground watermains. Crews flush the watermains by opening fire hydrants, so don’t be alarmed if you see water gushing from hydrants while a city truck is nearby.

The flushing process will take a week to complete citywide. Any one neighborhood or area won’t be affected for the entire week. Once a watermain is flushed, city crews will move to the next one. Unfortunately, it’s not possible to specify exact dates and times crews will be in specific neighborhoods, which is why a weeklong window is published.

Although the final result is improved water color and taste, watermain flushing can temporarily discolor water due to loose iron particles. Iron naturally occurs in groundwater and isn’t harmful to your health. If you experience discolored water, take the following precautions:
• Turn your water softern off or set it to “bypass” for the time period.

• During this time period, don’t do laundry without first checking to see if your water is rust-colored. Check water by running the tap. If it’s rust-colored, don’t run your washing machine until you’ve cleared the water.

• To clear your water, run the cold water tap in your laundry tub until it runs clear. Then you can go ahead and do the laundry. If your laundry is stained by the water during this time period, keep the laundered items wet and call public works at 952.924.2562. We will bring a chemical to you that will remove the stains.

• Each morning during this time period, run the cold water tap to flush your household system of any discolored water sitting in the pipes. If tap water becomes discolored during the day, run the cold water tap until the water clears again.

If you have questions, call public works at 952.924.2562.
Snow removal reminders

Sidewalks
Removing snow and ice from sidewalks is a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public walkways. Clearing the sidewalk after each snow event will not only create a safer surface for the public to use, but it will also help eliminate future issues. It’s also required by city ordinance.*

St. Louis Park has more than 120 miles of community and neighborhood sidewalks, with public works staff maintaining 66 miles of community sidewalks. Residents and property owners are asked to remove snow from the remaining 54 miles of neighborhood sidewalks. If you aren’t sure if the sidewalks by your property is a community or neighborhood sidewalk, visit www.slpsnow.org and click on the “sidewalk and trail snow removal map” to find your sidewalk segment.

*Note: Public works staff highly encourages sidewalk snow and ice removal to the extent reasonable and practical, but ice alone will not result in a citation if the snow has been removed. Similarly, although removing snow from the full width of the sidewalk is encouraged, residents need to only clear a minimum width of 3 feet to avoid a citation. Visit www.slpsnow.org to learn more.

Fire hydrants
As you clear snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear the snow from around fire hydrants (3-foot radius) on or near your property. The extra time removing snow from around fire hydrants may save your neighbor’s home, business or your own home in case of a fire. Adapt a hydrant at www.hydranthero.org and keep it clear of snow this winter!

Mailboxes
Mail and paper boxes must be mounted a minimum of 45 inches above street level. Properly installed mailboxes will be considered for repair or replacement only if physically struck by a plow blade, wing or other piece of snowplow equipment. Mailboxes damaged by snow or ice coming from the plow blade will not be repaired or replaced. The city and post office request you help keep the area around your mailbox clear of snow. This will help postal carriers deliver your mail without delay.

Right of way
Items that are properly installed and allowed by ordinance will be considered for repair/replacement only if physically struck by a plow blade, wing or other piece of snowplow equipment. Trees, shrubbery, landscaping, irrigation and other items located within right of way will not be considered for compensation.

Garbage, recycling and organic carts
Keep garbage, recycling and organic carts out of the street, sidewalk and alley. If snowplow drivers have to stop and get out of the truck to move them, it increases the time and costs of snow removal.

Private property
City ordinance doesn’t allow homeowners or contractors to deposit any snow or ice, plowed or removed from private property, onto or across a public street, sidewalk or alley (including right of way). These piles of snow create a problem for traffic and future snow removal efforts. Any snow removed from a driveway must remain on the property.

If you hire a contractor to remove snow, let them know about the ordinance and ask that they comply with this requirement. If the city sees an ordinance violation, you’ll receive a letter with educational information about city ordinances. If the practice continues, you as a home/business owner, not your contractor, can be fined $100 per each event in the form of an administrative citation.

Parking
During a snow emergency, you must park your vehicle(s) off the street to avoid ticketing and towing until the street is plowed to the curb. As soon as your street is plowed to the curb, you may move or park your vehicle(s) on the street.

Winter fun
Discourage children from building snow forts at the street edge or sliding from snow banks onto the street. Let children know that snow removal vehicles are dangerous, and they should stay away from the street until it has been cleared and the plow has left the area.

Using salt for managing snow and ice
The danger of ice and snow on roads and sidewalks is a fact of life in Minnesota, and salt or sand can help reduce ice while adding traction. However, please be mindful of how much salt is needed to be effective at melting ice, because it takes only 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently plow 250 square feet of ice. Currently, salt use is not regulated, but it’s best to use no more than 1 pound of salt per 250 square feet (for scale, a typical parking space is about 150 square feet). One pound of salt fills up a 12-ounce coffee mug.

The city uses a salting strategy that balances financial and environmental responsibilities to achieve a safe driving surface for the public. Road salt is a great tool in the snow and ice-fighting toolbox, but it is not a cure-all for all things icy and doesn’t work well by itself.

The city maintenance staff works diligently to follow the snow removal and ice control policy, adopted by the St. Louis Park City Council, which provides direction for snow and ice removal activities and establishes priorities for how this is accomplished. Visit www.slpsnow.org to learn more.

Health in the Park Fair
Saturday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
St. Louis Park Middle School
2025 Texas Ave. S., St. Louis Park

A free event for all ages to learn about physical and mental wellbeing and what resources are available in St. Louis Park. Local organizations will share information and offer free physical activity classes. Westwood Hills Nature Center will offer free snowshoeing. There will also be speakers on a variety of topics.

30-minute classes (cafeteria)
• 11:30 a.m. – Yoga for every body with Rachel Holguer
• Noon – 305 fitness/cardio dance with Aliva Tison
• 1:30 p.m. – Zumba with Katherine McGraw
• 2 p.m. – intro to qigong with Deborah Heltzer

20-minute classes for kids (cafeteria)
• 12:30 p.m. – Kids Yoga (grades 1 – 5)
• 1:10 p.m. – Kids Yoga (ages 3 – 6)
• 1:30 p.m. – Intro to mindfulness for kids (grades 1 – 5)

Speakers (room 134)
• 11:30 a.m. – The effects of stress on wellbeing with Kimberly Rittmaster
• Noon – Relationship survival with toolkit with Ryan Plasch, MS
• 1 p.m. – Preventing postpartum depression with Allison Greenwald, MSW, LICSW
• 2 p.m. – The voice of invisible hunger with Victoria Martinez
• 2:30 p.m. – Introduction to mindfulness for parents: resources for a mindful family with Heather Wirsch

New year, new utility rates

The City of St. Louis Park periodically conducts a utility rate study to make sure our rates are properly structured and generate enough revenue to operate and maintain the city’s water, sewer and solid waste services. The city council adopted the study’s recommended rate changes for 2020. For more information on rate changes, watch for an insert in your 2020 utility bill or visit www.stlouispark.org/utility-billing.

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The solid waste rate changes are as follows:

Water meter charges, which are quarterly fixed fees based on meter size, increased 15 percent for 2020. These charges offset the cost of making water service available to users and future meter replacement.

The sanitary sewer consumption rate has changed from $3.61 to $3.77 per unit of water used for 2020. The sewer rate is calculated based on winter water consumption for residential users and actual use for all other users. The quarterly sanitary sewer service charge, a fixed fee to offset the cost of making sanitary sewer service available to users, changed from $18.49 to $19.32 for 2020.

The quarterly single-family stormwater drainage rate, which pays for flood control projects and stormwater drainage, changed from $23.83 to $25.02 for 2020.

The 2020 solid waste rates reflect increased costs to provide service. Solid waste rates include all city collection services. A base amount is paid by customers to provide collection of recycling, organic and yard waste. The remaining cost is determined by, and increases with, the garbage service level. This supports waste reduction by charging residents based on how much they throw away. Residents have the option of weekly or every-other-week (EOW) garbage collection.
Water efficiency grant program offers rebates

If you’re considering buying a toilet or lawn irrigation, choose a WaterSense product and you might be eligible for a rebate! In partnership with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the City of St. Louis Park is offering $30,670 in rebates to encourage residents to install toilets and irrigation components that reduce water use.

Eligibility requirements:

- Only St. Louis Park residents who receive a water bill from the city are eligible for the program.
- All qualifying purchases must be made between Feb. 15, 2020, and June 30, 2022.
- New construction and new developments are not eligible for rebates.

Rebates are up to $200 for purchasing a WaterSense toilet and up to $250 toward purchasing a WaterSense irrigation controller and/or irrigation spray sprinkler bodies. Rebates are for product purchase only; residents are responsible for installation and permit costs. Your receipt and the UPC showing the WaterSense product will be required to qualify for the rebate. Rebates will be issued as a bill credit on your city utility bill. Rebates will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis until the grant money is gone.

For more information, contact Jay Hall, utilities superintendent, at 952.924.2557 or jhall@stlouispark.org.

Is your property at risk of flooding?

Wondering what the flood risk is for your property? The city will give you the following information at your request:

- If your property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the city; in or out of the floodway; or in or near an area where the problems are not shown on the FIRM.
- Additional flood insurance data for a property, such as the FIRM zone and the base flood elevation or depth, if shown on the FIRM, and if a property is in or near an area of historical flooding and/or natural functions floodplain.

To request information, provide your street address and, if available, the subdivision, lot and block number. City staff will do the rest.

For more information, call the community development department at 952.924.2575 or stop by city hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/floodplain for more information on flood hazards, risks and building responsibly.

Understanding property taxes

Why do we have property taxes?

Property taxes are the primary funding source for local services provided by cities, counties, school districts and other special districts. Unlike sales or income taxes which can vary, the property tax is an exact levy to fund budgets – no more, no less. Property taxes work in three steps.

Step 1 – Determining assessed value and classification

The city’s assessing office determines the estimated market value (EMV) and classification (use) of your property on Jan. 2 each year. The EMV is determined after reviewing market activity (comparable sales, rents, costs). The EMV may be reduced by programs such as the homestead market value exclusion and disabled veteran exclusion which “exclude” part of the value from taxation. This reduced value is known as the taxable market value (TMV). The TMV is converted into tax capacity by the classification rates set by the Minnesota legislature. Note: If there are no exclusions, the EMV and TMV may be the same.

How am I notified?
The valuation and classification notices are mailed in March. When you receive the notice, read it carefully. If you believe your property valuation and classification are accurate, no further action is needed. If you have questions about either, contact the St. Louis Park Assessing Division at 952.924.2535. Most questions can be answered in an informal discussion. If you disagree with the valuation or classification, follow the appeal process steps listed on the notice. Don’t delay in calling – this is the time to appeal or question your valuation and classification. Valuations cannot be appealed after proposed property taxes are sent. Taxes may not be appealed.

Step 2 – Establishing a budget

Every year, local governments establish a budget for the following year after determining planned revenue and expenses. The property tax levy is set in September and is determined by subtracting all non-property tax revenue from the total proposed budget. The preliminary levy for each of the taxing jurisdictions (county, city, schools, Metropolitan Council, watershed, etc.) is totaled and spread among all taxable properties according to their individual tax capacity.

How am I notified?
The Truth-in-Taxation notice is the second notice you will receive. Sent in November, it shows the proposed tax amount for the following year for each taxing jurisdiction (county, city, schools, Metropolitan Council, watershed, etc.). The notice also includes the meeting dates where you can provide input on the budgets and proposed levies. Budgets are finalized in December after these meetings.

Step 3 – Calculating property taxes

Your property taxes are calculated using the prior year’s value and classification relative to the budgets levied. The property tax is your share of the costs to provide the services approved by elected officials.

How am I notified?
The final notice you receive is your property tax statement, which tells you how much property tax you owe for the year. It provides an itemized list of all local property taxes, including county, county, school district, etc. It also includes any special assessments on your property. Property tax statements are mailed by March 31 of each year.

When are property taxes due?
Most property taxes are due May 15 and Oct. 15 in equal installments.

Potential property tax refunds

Property owners and renters are urged to annually review their eligibility for property tax refunds. The Minnesota Department of Revenue’s website, www.revenue.state.mn.us, offers information about refunds and property taxes. For information about refunds, enter “property tax refunds” in the website’s search bar. For more information on property taxes in general, enter “property tax fact sheets” in the search bar. You may also contact the St. Louis Park Assessing Division at 952.924.2535 for more information.