

Deephaven Digest

1st Quarter, 2024 | Issue 74



Deephaven Rink Report in the Hockey Capital of Lake Minnetonka

Mother Nature has not been kind to our outdoor ice rinks this year. Warm temperatures have made the early winter delightful, but the impact it has had on our rinks has been frightful. Here are some frequently asked questions and fun facts about outdoor skating in Deephaven, “the Hockey Capital of Lake Minnetonka.”

The Deephaven Public Works Department maintains our city rinks throughout the winter. Here are some tips from our crew that may help if you are making your own “backyard” rink, or if you are wondering how we maintain our city rinks. Ice is generally only made on calm, cold evenings when the air temperature is between zero and twenty degrees Fahrenheit. If it is much colder than that, the ice can shale or form long cracks, and if much warmer, the ice won’t properly set up and you can lose layers. Additionally, like most things in life, good things take time. The best ice is made by flooding thin layers that are allowed to freeze and build up over time to a nice, thick sheet of ice.

Rink maintenance takes time and patience as well. Rinks need to be completely free from snow before they can be flooded. The smallest amount of snow will turn to slush with water and can create ice chunks and a bumpy surface.

Removing snow is also an ongoing battle in the winter. Rinks that aren’t completely shoveled will have a frozen ridge along the border between the ice and shoveled snow that is very difficult to remove. This takes a lot of time to correct and makes the unshoveled area of the rink unusable until it is repaired.

So, cheers to the Public Works Department for putting their time and effort into our public rinks, and a tip of the cap to the backyard warriors and lake lieutenant rink-keepers that make their own rinks for their neighborhoods! If you have any other tips or tricks on making ice or maintaining a rink, feel free to send them our way – we are always up for comparing notes and sharing lessons learned.



Warming House Hours Village Hall | Thorpe Park

Monday through Saturday:

1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sundays and Holidays:

12:00 Noon – 9:00 p.m.

Be Safe, Be Aware of Thin Ice

Winter ice conditions are highly variable and can change very rapidly from day to day. Safety officials stress the importance of anyone heading out onto the ice to check its thickness for themselves and to not rely on other people’s footprints, tracks or social media posts. Please consider following the DNR’s guidelines for maximum safety:

- Consider wearing a life jacket or float coat while on the ice
- Carry ice picks, rope, a chisel and measuring tape
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions change quickly
- Bring a cell phone or personal locator beacon
- Don’t go alone, bring a friend or tell someone where you are going
- Check the weather and research ice conditions prior to your event
- Do not leave children unattended on frozen ponds or lakes



Deephaven City Hall Staff Biographies



Dan Madsen
City Administrator / Special Counsel
Hometown: Chaska, MN
Hobbies:
Hockey, Cooking / Eating
Last Netflix Series:
Suits



Diane Schwalbe
Building Permits / Public Works
Hometown: Bloomington, MN
Favorite Food:
Italian
Favorite Winter Activity:
Beach vacations



Amy Jones
Utility Billing / Marina Clerk
Hometown: Makinen, MN
Favorite Holiday:
Christmas
Fun Fact:
2 Time State Spelling Bee Champion



Viktoriya Montik
Finance Director
Hometown: Blaine, MN
Favorite Food:
Vietnamese Pho and Sushi
Favorite Winter Activity:
Staying Warm



Pat Smith
Planning Director
Hometown: Minneapolis, MN
Hobbies:
Coaching and Golf
Favorite Holiday:
Halloween - fun with neighbors



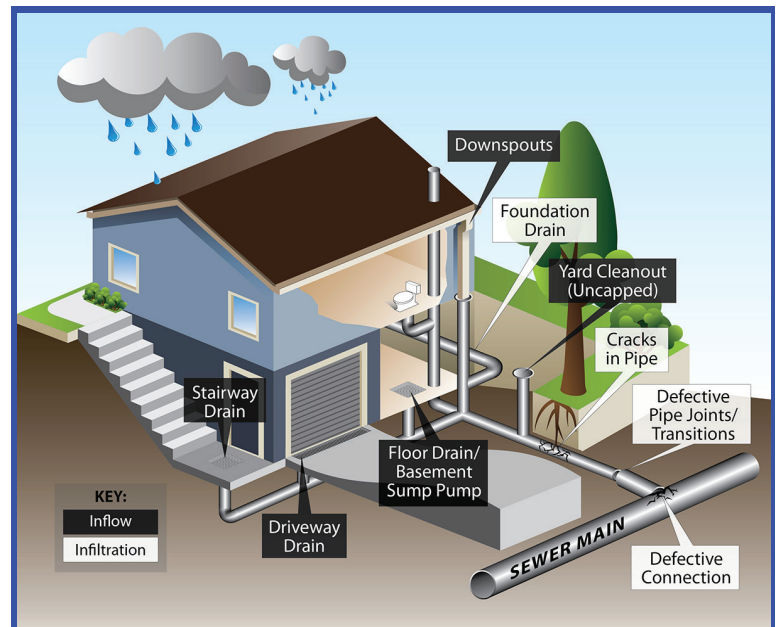
Rachel Myskevitz
City Clerk
Hometown: Chanhassen, MN
Favorite Holiday:
Thanksgiving
Fun Fact:
Loves playing rec volleyball

2024 Street Project Update

The new year carries with it the city's continued focus on repairing and maintaining our roads and infrastructure. This past year, Walden Road, Walden Lane, Walden Trail, Ramsey Road, Sibley Avenue and Dale Avenue underwent repairs that included mill and overlay, and in some cases reclamation, of the bituminous road surface. In 2024, Manor Road and Dyer Lane will undergo reclamation of the bituminous to improve their condition and drivability. Along with these road repairs, the city will be instituting the new Inflow and Infiltration (for reference, "I&I") Ordinance to reduce costs and protect the city's infrastructure.

The I&I Ordinance was drafted to address and correct groundwater entering into the city's sanitary sewer system. Groundwater entering the system brings with it roots, dirt and debris that damage the city's sanitary sewer mains, lift stations and other infrastructure. Additionally, groundwater entering the system is metered and treated by the Metropolitan Council, resulting in unnecessarily high charges and fees to our community. The City routinely inspects our sanitary sewer mains for I&I, and it is estimated that up to eighty percent (80%) of I&I enters the system through resident lateral sewer services. It is also a growing trend that new home buyers will ask for a certificate or inspection and proof that a home does not have damage or failures in their lateral services, so correcting these issues now can prevent larger issues in the future.

Residents or owners of property abutting a road scheduled for construction will be receiving detailed information in the coming weeks about the road project and I&I inspection and repair requirements for street projects beginning in 2024 and for future street projects thereafter. Please follow the City's website, pick up a copy of the Spring Newsletter or reach out to us with any questions you may have. More information will be shared as project details are established.





Youth Programming

Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. beginning on January 10, 2024. Students from our local school district connect over dinner and games and talk about various things that affect them and their lives.

Marriage Workshop

Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. between January 9 - February 6. This is a video and a book series and is free to all participants.

MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers)

First Sunday of every month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. MOPS® (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a tribe of moms living life together. Designed for moms of kids from birth through age 18, you will find friendship, community support and growth. Childcare is available. For each of these programs, people can contact Greg directly at 763-545-5659 or: gstephenson@calvary.org.



Upcoming Events

February

2/10/24- Mardi Gras Game Night at 6pm
2/14/24- Ash Wednesday
2/16/24- Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper
2/23/24- Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper
2/23-2/24/24- Women's Retreat

March

3/1/24- Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper
3/8/24- Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry
3/15/24- Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper
3/16/24- Marriage Retreat
3/22/24- Stations of the Cross and Fish Fry
3/31/24- Easter

For detailed information, please refer to their website: www.st-therese.org

Founded in 1882, Minnetonka Yacht Club is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the country. Our mission is to have a diverse membership composed of sailors and social members of good character, and to promote and encourage sailing by providing our members and guests with a facility, services, and social events that meet and exceed our members' standards. For more information, visit: <https://www.minnetonkayachtclub.org/>.



Klondike Watch Party & Chili Open on Light House Island Feb 3, 2024.

This year, Minnetonka Yacht Club will be hosting a watch party and providing refreshments, bonfires and the opportunity to enter or judge in our First Annual Chili Open. Cooks will be asked to bring a triple batch of their best Chili recipe in a crock pot(s) and will be compensated for their costs (\$40). Judges will pay \$7 to test and rate everyone's chili. There will be awards for First, Second and Third Place. Races start at 10:00; first pass at Lighthouse Island between 10:20 and 11:30, second pass between 12:30 and 2:00. Chili Event starts at 11:30 a.m.



Snow Kite Open & Midwinter Party on Light House Island March 2, 2024.

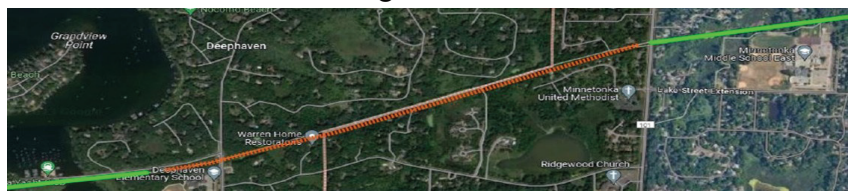
The Minnetonka Snow Kite Open will be happening the first weekend of March and takes place on the main lake in front of Lighthouse Island (if conditions are safe). Come watch the up-and-coming new wind sport that combines kite flying and skiing!

Republic Sanitation Christmas Tree Collection

Republic will be picking up Christmas Trees the weeks of January 1, and January 8, 2024. There is no charge for this pickup and the trees collected as part of this program will be chipped and used for compost. Place the tree curbside by 6 a.m. on your trash collection day, either the first or second week in January. Before trees are recycled, please remove all lights, tinsel, wire and ornaments, as well as bags you may have used to bring the tree in and out of the house. If it is longer than 8 feet, cut the tree into sections.

LRT Trail Closure

Xcel Energy will be replacing powerlines on the LRT trail corridor between Vine Hill Road and County Road 101 (shown in orange) beginning December 18, 2023 through March 1, 2024. The trail will be closed to public access during this time. The City will maintain the rest of the trail for winter use for those who wish to continue to use the trail through the winter months.



Deephaven Truth In Taxation, Property Tax Information

The 2024 Deephaven General Fund Budget is set with expenses totaling \$4,061,858. The property tax levy for operating expenses is \$2,996,000, which represents an increase of \$316,000; or roughly 11.8% from what was levied in 2023. This increase is primarily due to an increase in health insurance and compensation for new additions to City Staff. The City's long term debt levy is set at \$187,635 based upon the principal and interest payments due in 2024 for the 2019 A Series Bond to improve Minnetonka Boulevard. The City's Capital Improvement Fund levy is set at \$700,000, which represents an increase of \$250,000 from the amount levied in 2023 of \$450,000; an increase of roughly 36%. This increase will help cover cost overruns from the 2023 street projects, support the 2024 improvements of Manor Road and Dyer Lane, and support future capital equipment replacement and facilities upgrades. Based upon these figures, the City's total 2024 Property Tax Levy is \$3,848,000. This represents an increase of \$564,000 from the 2023 Property Tax Levy of \$3,284,000; an overall property tax increase of 17.17%.

The State of Minnesota has a complex system for calculating property taxes specific to your property. The following chart illustrates what your property tax dollar supports in our community. For more information, stop by City Hall for a copy of the City's 2024 Budget and Property Tax Publication, or view it online here:

<https://cityofdeephaven.org/truth-in-taxation-informational-letter/>.

Hennepin County 35¢ Minnetonka Schools 42¢ Other Deephaven 16¢



6¢ Police Services

3¢ Administration

3¢ Public Works

2¢ Fire Services

1¢ Planning and Zoning

.5¢ Parks and Recreation

"Other" includes the Met Council, any Fiscal Disparity Tax, TIF Districts or other Special Taxing Districts

The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held at 6 p.m. on April 15, 2024.

Additional information on this annual meeting can be found on Page 3.

Volunteers Matter; Help Make a Difference!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community! Their contributions to beautifying our gardens and parks, preserving our historical heritage, and providing recommendations on issues important to our citizens are priceless. We sincerely thank all of you that offer your time to serve our community, your efforts are greatly appreciated! If you would like to help us guide our community, please consider applying for one of our Boards, Committees or Commissions. The City of Deephaven currently has positions available on the Park and Recreation Committee and Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Deephaven Park and Recreation Committee is primarily responsible for issuing recommendations to the City Council on the maintenance, appearance, repair and replacement, budgeting and future improvements at public parks, beaches, trails and community recreation facilities and programs. The Park and Recreation Committee also recommends rules and regulations on the use of park and recreational facilities as deemed necessary to promote public use and preservation of park lands. The Park and Recreation Committee regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Deephaven Planning and Zoning Commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council by making recommendations regarding site plans, subdivisions, conditional use permits, planning, zoning, sign regulations and other planning-related items. The Planning Commission regularly meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.



To inquire about volunteer opportunities with the City of Deephaven, please call City Hall at 952-474-4755 and ask for a Volunteer Application Form. You can also stop by City Hall during normal business hours and fill out a form in person. Thank you, we look forward to having you on our team!



Winter Parking Regulations

Wintertime and snow accumulation are a constant battle for communities across our great State. We need your help to ensure that our roads are free from vehicles during snowstorms to support our snow plowing activities. Deephaven City Ordinance 700.05, Subd. 2 prohibits vehicles from being parked or left unattended on City streets or in City parking lots after two inches or more of snow has fallen during a snow event. Vehicles must remain off of all streets and out of all parking lots until our city roads and parking lots have been plowed and cleared of snow. Thank you, we greatly appreciate your cooperation and support.

Snowmobile & ATV Operation

Wintertime is the best time of year for snowmobile enthusiasts. Safe operation of snowmobiles and ATVs includes knowing where and when you can ride them in our community. If you plan on operating a snowmobile or ATV this winter, please be aware that Deephaven City Ordinance No. 705.03 prohibits the operation of snowmobiles and ATV's under any of the following circumstances:

- On a sidewalk or walkway used for pedestrian traffic,
- On private property without having in possession written consent from the property owner,
- On any public land or frozen waters including, but not limited to, school property, park property, public beaches, playgrounds and recreational areas except for areas authorized for such use (the Carson's Bay and St. Louis Bay boat launches, for example) when traveling to or from the approved snowmobile routes.
- Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m., except for travel to or from a final destination without delay.
- On any street except when traveling to or from an approved area by the shortest legal route.



Thank you, and please ride safely.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Information

State Law requires City Assessors to determine the market value and classification of all real property within the City of Deephaven by January of each year. These values and classifications will be the basis for property taxes payable in the following year. Cities have the ability to form their own Local Board of Appeal and Equalization to hear the appeals of property owners in their jurisdictions who believe their property is improperly classified or has been assigned an incorrect property valuation. Members of the Deephaven City Council serve as our community's Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. Our local Board will hold this annual meeting at 6 p.m. on April 15, 2024 to hear and review any such appeals. Determinations made by the Board can be appealed to, or reviewed by, the Hennepin County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

There are steps that you must take if you believe your property has been incorrectly classified or improperly valued. First, you should contact the Deephaven City Assessor, Dan Distel, who can discuss and review your property's classification and valuation. If you are not satisfied or in agreement after discussion with the City Assessor, you can appear before our Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The Board shall review the property valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall make any corrections that are necessary and warranted. Please remember that the burden is upon the property owner to present sufficient evidence to the Board to clearly establish why the property classification or valuation as determined by the City Assessor is not fair and equitable.

Appearing before the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is generally required by law before an appeal can be made to the Hennepin County Board of Appeal and Equalization. If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact Deephaven City Assessor Dan Distel: distel1115@gmail.com; 952-361-0566 to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Hennepin County District 6 Special Election

Hennepin County intends to hold a special election for the expected vacancy of Commissioner District 6 on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. A special primary is possible and, if needed, will be held Tuesday, April 30, 2024. This vacancy is the result of the resignation of Commissioner Chris LaTondresse. Candidate filing is expected to open on January 30, 2024. Hennepin County Commissioner District 6 includes 66 precincts and contains areas of Deephaven, Edina, Excelsior, Greenwood, Hopkins, Long Lake, Minnetonka, Minnetonka Beach, Mound, Northern Eden Prairie, Orono, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Woodland, and Wayzata.

This year is also a General Election year, where voters will have the following elections on our ballots this November: U.S. President; U.S. Senator; U.S. Representative; State Representative and Judicial seats, as well as local Municipal and School Board elections.

2024 Election Dates:

- **April 30, 2024:** Possible Special County Commissioner Primary
- **March 5, 2024:** Presidential Nomination Primary Election
- **May 14, 2024:** County Commissioner Special Election
- **August 13, 2024:** Primary Election
- **November 5, 2024:** General Election



****Please note the polling place for Precinct One is at City Hall and the polling place for Precinct Two will be held at Calvary Church for all 2024 elections****

Statewide Election Dates

JAN 19	Vote by mail or in person January 19 through March 4 for the Presidential Primary
FEB 13	Register in advance by February 13 to save time on Presidential Primary Day
MAR 5	Presidential Primary
JUN 28	Vote by mail or in person June 28 through August 12 for the Primary
JUL 23	Register in advance by July 23 to save time on Primary Election Day
AUG 13	Primary Election
SEP 20	Vote by mail or in person September 20 through November 4
OCT 15	Register in advance by October 15 to save time on Election Day
NOV 5	Election Day

BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE

Deephaven is accepting Election Judge applications for 2024. Becoming an election judge is a great way to learn about elections and is an opportunity to serve in your community! Consider working the elections this year. You must be eligible to vote in Minnesota and be able to read, write, and speak English. Your employer is required by law to provide you time off from work to serve with no reduction in pay. Election judges are paid \$14 per hour; head election judges are paid \$15 per hour. Judges are assigned to morning, afternoon, or all day shifts and are required to take at least two hours of paid training.

For more information call City Clerk Rachel at 952-474-4755 or email rachelm@cityofdeephaven.org.

Don't Be Salty... Salt Smart This Winter!

Salt is an important means of preventing slips, falls and accidents on our walkways and roads each winter. Unfortunately, salt can have a detrimental impact on our habitat and environment if overused. According to environmental experts, it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater eco-systems like Lake Minnetonka. To protect our lakes and community, please consider using salt cautiously and sparingly. Here are some suggestions to help maximize the benefits of minimal salt use this winter:



Most salts stop working at temperatures around 15 degrees Fahrenheit, try to avoid using salt at temperatures around there and lower. While it won't melt the ice, using sand as a salt substitute when it is cold can help with traction and visibility of slippery areas.

You can probably use less salt than you think. Salt will continue to melt ice even after it dilutes into the melted ice water. Spreading salt on ice is very effective if the salt grains are spread out to the point they resemble stars in the night sky.

If you notice excess salt on a dry pavement, it can still be swept up and re-used at a later time. That will help conserve salt usage and help keep it from washing down into Lake Minnetonka.

Thank you for your smart usage of salt this winter. For more information on winter salt and safety, additional information can be found on the University of Minnesota Sustainability Website: <https://sustainable.umn.edu/sustainable-campus>.

Cottagewood Garden Club

Shoveling? Don't Forget the Mailbox...

The width of the street right-of-way is designed to provide room for snow storage, utilities, sidewalks and other public uses. However, private mailboxes are also often located in the right-of-way and digging out mailboxes is a private property owner's responsibility. The City of Deephaven plow operators will plow as close to mailboxes as snow accumulation will allow.

If your mailbox is physically hit and damaged by a plow, the City will repair or replace it immediately; however, the City will only replace a mailbox directly hit by a plow, not ones broken by snow heave, wear and tear from the elements or age.

It is important for residents to clear snow accumulations from around the entire mailbox. Doing so not only reduces the chance of snowplow damage, it also goes a long way in helping the United States Postal Service safely and timely deliver your mail.

Winter may seem an odd time to think about gardening, but it's a perfect time for reflection, planning and some deeper thought about how you want your yard and gardens to look and function.

Is this the year to plant more natives, help pollinators, reduce maintenance, mowing and your chemical and water use? Or is this the year to expand planting beds, consider a rain garden or finally address overgrown or failing shrubs?

Change can be difficult so clarifying your goals in advance helps. Other items on your winter checklist might include: repairing or replacing tools, showing some love to indoor plants that might need repotting or splitting, keeping track on a calendar of significant weather events that may affect results in the growing season or inspecting your yard for salt, wind or animal damage. Leaving flower seedheads standing provides food and habitat for birds and enhances the beauty only winter offers. With or without snow!



The Cottagewood Garden Club is an organization that promotes and shares the beauty of nature through educational opportunities and gardening for the Deephaven City Gardens. To learn more about the Cottagewood Garden Club, visit their website: <https://cottagewoodgardenclub.com/>.

Mayor Carlson's Mentions

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. As we return to the workday routine, I wish you all the best in 2024!



It has been very busy in City Hall over the past few months. Thank you to everyone who attended former City Administrator Dana Young's retirement party! It was wonderful to join Dana's colleagues, friends, and family to celebrate his remarkable 23-year career and pay tribute to his service to the City and residents of Deephaven. With Dana's departure, please join me in welcoming these new City staff members to Deephaven, they are all featured on the Staff Biography page. Please stop by City Hall to introduce yourself!

Our new staff brings years of city administration experience with them to Deephaven. They've already begun upgrading the City's IT system, and soon we'll be able to accept electronic payments for all City fees. We've also started streamlining our permitting process. I look forward to working with all of you!

Speaking of ringing in the new, 2024 will be a busy year for elections. On May 14, 2024, we will have the opportunity to elect a new Hennepin County Commissioner. This is a very important government role that isn't discussed often enough. In fact, did you know the Hennepin County budget is second only to the State's, and approximately 35 percent of the real estate taxes paid by Deephaven residents go to the County? Make sure you get to know the candidates and where they stand on the issues you care about. Make your voice heard, and take the time to vote.

But before we get ahead of ourselves, we are still in the middle of winter! I want to thank Public Works Supervisor Jeff Kask and his team for doing such a great job preparing us for our snow removal season. Reminder: keep watch for these hard-working people who are making our streets, sidewalks, and paths safe, especially in the early dark morning.

As we enter 2024, there are ways you can provide your input and help our community. Please get in touch with any member of our Council or Staff and share your thoughts and suggestions to guide our efforts in the New Year. Also, please consider volunteering for the Park Committee or the Planning Commission. Both groups are vital to our city, neighborhoods, and community. Volunteer Applications are available for download, or stop by City Hall and pick one up at your convenience during normal business hours. If you have questions, feel free to contact City staff or me.

Thank you for your attention and for being an engaged Deephaven citizen. As always, please reach out with any feedback or suggestions. I wish you a fun and safe winter and a very merry New Year!

- Kent

Winter City Meeting Schedule

Wintertime, the New Year and the Holidays offer opportunities for reflection, family time and celebration. The City will continue the tradition of cancelling the second Council Meeting of the month in January and February, with the regular meeting schedule recommencing in March. The January and February meeting dates and times are Monday, January 8th at 4 p.m., and Monday, February 5th at 7 p.m. The City Council will have an internal Goal Setting Meeting on Monday, January 22nd, but no Council Action is planned for this event as it is for informational and discussion purposes only. In March, Council Meetings will be held on the first and third Monday of the month starting at 7 p.m. Additional information on the City's Scheduled Meetings can be found on the City of Deephaven Website:

www.cityofdeephaven.org.

January 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day Holiday	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 4:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	9 7:00 p.m. Park Board Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday Council Cancelled	16 7:00 p.m. Planning & Zoning Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22 3:00 p.m. Council Goals Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	6 7:00 p.m. Park Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Washington Birthday Holiday Council Cancelled	20 7:00 p.m. Planning & Zoning Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	5 7:00 p.m. Park Board Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting	19 Planning & Zoning Meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						