



# City of Robbinsdale Newsletter

Website: [www.robbsdalemn.com](http://www.robbsdalemn.com)

4100 Lakeview Avenue North • Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422-2280 • Phone: 763-537-4534 Spring/Summer 2014

## 2014 EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- \* March 15: *Coffee with the Council Lions Gym 10-11:30 a.m.*
- \* April 5: *NW Suburban Remodeling Fair at Crystal Community Center*
- \* April 12: *Spring Eggstravaganza (for children 9 years & under)*
- \* April 12: *Heart of Robbinsdale Community Foundation Denim Dazzle 2014—A Night Packed with Heart*
- \* April 26: *Earth/Arbor Day at Sochacki Park*
- \* May 17: *Vehicle Fair*
- \* May 4-31: *Hennepin County Step To It*
- \* July 10-13: *Whiz Bang Days*
- \* July 31: *Pet & Wheel Parade*
- \* August 1: *Wet & Wild Water Day*
- \* August 5: *National Night Out*
- \* August 16: *Police/Fire Open House*
- \* September 8: *Main Street Meet & Greet, Downtown Robbinsdale*
- \* September 20: *Kids Garage Sale*
- \* December 2: *Christmas Tree Lighting*

Want to be kept informed of these and other City events? Sign-up for Robbinsdale's e-Subscribe. Go to [www.robbsdalemn.com](http://www.robbsdalemn.com).

## 2014 ELECTION INFORMATION

Robbinsdale's City Council Ward 3 and Ward 4 seats are up for election this year. The candidate filing for these Council positions begins May 20 and ends June 3, 2014 at 5 p.m. (Candidate withdrawal deadline is June 5 at 5 p.m.) Primary Election Date is August 12 and General Election is November 4. Updated election information is available on the City's website ([http://www.robbsdalemn.com/Election\\_info.shtml](http://www.robbsdalemn.com/Election_info.shtml)) or **sign up for Robbinsdale's e-Subscribe** to receive Current News.

### ELECTION JUDGES WANTED

If interested in serving as a Robbinsdale Election Judge call the City Clerk at 763-531-1252.

## FREE TAX ASSISTANCE AT ROBBINSDALE CITY HALL Wednesdays & Thursdays through April 10

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 **Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon through April 10, 2014.**

## SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Once again the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its spring event for children **9 years and under** with prizes provided by Robbinsdale local merchants and organizations. (Remember to come rain or snow—just think sunshine!) The event will be held on **Saturday, April 12, 2014, 1:00 p.m. at Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Avenue North.** (The line forms on the Lake Road side of the building.)

## HEART OF ROBBINSDALE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SPRING EVENT

The Heart of Robbinsdale Community Foundation is partnering with KidPack this year to raise funds to support local school children receiving weekend meal packs. This year's event titled *Denim Dazzle 2014—A Night Packed with Heart* will be held Saturday, April 12, 2014, 7-11 p.m. at the North Memorial Medical Center Outpatient Center at 3435 West Broadway, Robbinsdale. There will be food, a cash bar, entertainment, a silent auction, games, and an opportunity to learn more about the Heart of Robbinsdale Community Foundation and KidPack. Tickets are \$30 each. Registration and more information will be available soon at [www.heartofrobbsdale.org](http://www.heartofrobbsdale.org).

## EARTH/ARBOR DAY, SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 10:30 A.M.

Come celebrate Earth/Arbor Day with us at Robbinsdale Sochacki Park, 3500 June Ave N, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2014. There will be a tree planting/mulching, a kids signature tree and our park and watershed clean-up. For more information call 763-531-1278.

## ROBBINSDALE MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

Robbinsdale Motor Vehicle Office offers the following services: **Vehicle Title Transfers, Vehicle Registration Renewals, Boat and Snowmobile Renewals, Passports, Hunting and Fishing Licenses, Replacement Driver's Licenses (if you moved or lost your license), Variety of Specialty License Plates.**

License tab renewal options: in-person or drop-off! Come inside to our service counter or just place your license tabs statement along with a check payable to the City of Robbinsdale (*in an envelope marked "Motor Vehicle" along with a phone number where you can be reached*) into the Utility Drop Box located in front of City Hall. We pick up daily at 8 a.m. on regular business days and your tabs will be ready for pick-up after 12 Noon the following business day. If you are unable to pick up your tabs by the end of the following business day, they will be mailed out to you at no extra charge, except for new plates which must be picked up.

Vehicle Title Transfer processed quickly! We're a state approved Fast Track Office so for just \$20 extra you can get your transfer of title completed within 7 to 10 business days.

**Passport Services** include **first-time** passports. Items needed are proof of citizenship, proof of identify, recent photo (photo services available at Motor Vehicle Office), fee paid by personal check or postal money order. **Renewals** must be made by mail unless your passport is damaged, issued when you were under 16 years of age, or issued longer than 15 years ago. Please note due to the time it takes to process, passports cannot be processed after 4 p.m. during weekday hours and no later than 11:30 a.m. on the 1st and 2nd Saturday of the month.

**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 1st & 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon (except for some holiday weekends). The Motor Vehicle Office is located in Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Ave N. Call 763-535-8133 for more information.

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## 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](http://www.facebook.com/CityOfRobbinsdale)  
[www.facebook.com/Robbinsdalerec](http://www.facebook.com/Robbinsdalerec)  
[www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits](http://www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits)  
[www.facebook.com/Robbinsdale.Chamber](http://www.facebook.com/Robbinsdale.Chamber)



## Clean Water Update

### Green Up Your Lawn, Not Your Lakes and Rivers

Remember that the choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affect 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.

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 homeowners and commercial lawn services 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.

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 e.g. 22-0-12.

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

### Progress in Cleaning Crystal Lake

The Crystal Lake Flocculation Plant was in operation for its second year during 2013. Following the calibrations done during the previous year, the plant operated very efficiently for 24 weeks from early May through mid-October. During this time, the system removed over 200 lbs of phosphorus and more than 4,700 lbs. of total suspended solids. Ongoing operations of the plant and the continued removal of this quantity of material will assist in improving water quality in the lake.



### Twin Lake / Ryan Lake TMDL 5 Year Review

In response to excessive amounts of nutrients (particularly phosphorus) in the Twin Lake/Ryan Lake system, a plan was implemented to reduce this pollutant in order to improve water quality. The actions within this plan sought to reduce the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of phosphorus to the lakes.

The plan was adopted 5 years ago, and considerable progress has been made. The cities adjacent to these lakes have implemented many actions ranging from education programs (in partnership with the Shingle Creek Watershed) to construction of major Capital Works. A review of the progress is being made by the Watershed to quantify the improvements made and to develop the next stage of activities that will further assist in improving water quality in these lakes.

### New NPDES Permit

During 2013, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) approved a new NPDES Permit, and required all permittees (including the City) to complete and submit details by the end of 2013. The agency is now reviewing the City's details and will then public notice the permit in order to seek any comments.

### 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 opportunity to address the City Council with any issues or comments.

At this stage, the date of the meeting for 2014 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.

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 on ☎763-531-1260 or at [rmccoy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto:rmccoy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us).

## ROBBINSDALE'S PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PLAN

The City of Robbinsdale and Hennepin County are working together to develop the City's new Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. You can help by telling us about your experiences walking or biking in the City, and about the improvements you'd like to see. Please visit <http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/RobbinsdalePedBikePlan.html> to provide your comments. You can also visit the City's website for news about the plan, upcoming workshops, and additional updates.

### PARK PAVILION AT LAKEVIEW TERRACE PARK

Imagine a pavilion on the south shore of Crystal Lake which could be used for larger picnics, several smaller picnics, a space for community events such as a performance from the City Band, or family special events such as a wedding.

This idea was reviewed by the City's Pavilion Task Force in the summer of 2012. Since then it has become a vision for the City, and once built it will be considered an asset to our community. The Task Force supported the location on the south side of Crystal Lake in Lakeview Terrace Park near the Little League fields. They also embraced the concept of a simple open-air pavilion allowing views of the lake.

The cost is estimated to be \$400,000, and donations and other outside revenue are required to make this vision become a reality. Recent media reports highlighted a couple large donations from Mayor Murphy and the Robbinsdale Senior Volunteers which brings our effort to just under \$130,000, including a pledge from the municipal liquor store of \$100,000. The City is pleased to receive contributions of any size towards this project, and we are working on an outreach plan to potential major donors. There will be fundraisers and organized opportunities to contribute as we pass the halfway mark on fundraising. Please check the City's website for updates.

**YARD WASTE PICK-UP TO BEGIN AGAIN IN MID-APRIL**  
(weather permitting)



Enjoy Robbinsdale City Band throughout  
the summer months [www.robbinsdalecityband.org](http://www.robbinsdalecityband.org)



## 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 have sold recently in your neighborhood and for how much. Each week local newspapers print the address and sale price for recent sales. Compare those homes with your own. Helpful information is available on Robbinsdale's website ([www.robbinsdalemn.com/values.shtml](http://www.robbinsdalemn.com/values.shtml)). Look for the "Home Buyers" or "Home Sellers" Handbook. 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 require 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 homepage at [www.robbinsdalemn.com](http://www.robbinsdalemn.com).

## ROBBINSDALE WINE & SPIRITS

The city-owned liquor store located in Robin Center near the Post Office offers over 300 different import and craft beer packages, including local micro brews and seasonal crafts. We have a cozy wine room with an expanded selection of domestic and imported wines that you can browse at your leisure. If you're a fan of single batch bourbons or ultra-premium vodka and tequila, you must stop by and take a look.

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.shtml](http://www.robbinsdalemn.com/wineandspirits.shtml). Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits](http://www.facebook.com/RobbinsdaleWineSpirits) to check out new arrivals, specials and upcoming events.

Profits from the store help to pay for park improvements.

**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 please contact the City Clerk's Office at 763-531-1252.

13-13: Amending Section 535 of the Robbinsdale City Code to remove unnecessary delays in the process of various zoning requests or applications, adopted 09-17-13

13-14: Charter Amendment No. 35 amending the Robbinsdale City Charter Section 6.05, Purchase and Contracts (increases amount City Manager is authorized to approve for purchase and contracts in line with State Statute), adopted 11-05-14

14-01: Rezoning 3900 36th Avenue North from B-1, Neighborhood Commercial to R-B Residential Business, adopted 02-05-14

### 2014 NORTHWEST SUBURBAN REMODELING FAIR

The 2014 Northwest Suburban Remodeling Fair will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Drive, Crystal. This free event will feature Bob Jensen, as seen on KARE 11, 90 local exhibitors, 15 DIY workshops and a grand prize give-away.

The purpose of the Remodeling Fair is to encourage homeowners to make home improvements such as additions, kitchen remodeling, landscaping, three-season porches, garages, etc. The Fair has proven to be an excellent opportunity for homeowners to learn about products and services offered by the home improvement industry. The exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops will assist homeowners in finding the answers to their remodeling questions. For more information visit the website at [www.nwremodelingfair.com](http://www.nwremodelingfair.com).

**CITY OF ROBBINSDALE**  
4100 Lakeview Avenue North  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422-1898

**CITY COUNCIL** Phone & e-mail  
Regan Murphy, Mayor..... 763-257-0368, [rmurphy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto:rmurphy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us)  
Bill Blonigan, Ward 1 ..... 763-535-5576, [bloniganlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bloniganlaw@gmail.com)  
Dan Rogan, Ward 2 ..... 763-533-6874, [danrogan@gmail.com](mailto:danrogan@gmail.com)  
George Selman, Ward 3... 763-533-2661, [thirdwardgeorge@aol.com](mailto:thirdwardgeorge@aol.com)  
Pat Backen, Ward 4..... 763-439-6454, [pbacken@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto:pbacken@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us)  
Marcia Glick, City Mgr..... 763-531-1258, [mglick@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us](mailto: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  
City Forester\* .....763-531-1273  
(\* At City Hall, Mondays, Wednesdays, and 1/2 day on Friday in a.m.)

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](mailto: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
<b>Advisory Commissions:</b>		
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	2nd Monday (No meeting June, July, August)	9:30 am City Hall
Crime Prevention	1st Wednesday (April, June, Oct, Dec)	7 pm Police/Fire Building

\*Due to conflicts, the 2nd meeting in July will be on Tuesday, July 22, the 1st City Council meeting in August will be on Monday, August 4, and the 1st meeting in November will be on Wednesday, November 5.

\*\*The August REDA meeting has been changed to Wednesday, August 13.



### REMINDER: PET ORDINANCE



City Ordinance requires dogs and cats to be licensed in the City and have proof of current rabies vaccinations. Also, a person having the custody or control of a dog or cat may not permit the animal to be on a street, public park, school grounds or public place in the city without being effectively restrained by chain or leash, and must clean up after the pet and dispose of waste in a sanitary manner.

### REMODELING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority funds a rehab incentive program administered by the Housing Resource Center. Up to \$3,000 is available depending on extent of the project and family income. For more information call the Housing Resource Center at 612-588-3033, or long on to [www.robbinsdalemn.com/commun.shtml#HousingPrograms](http://www.robbinsdalemn.com/commun.shtml#HousingPrograms). Projects must be approved *before* work starts or any contract signed.

### \*\*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 & Financing Projections, Marketing, Loan Preparations and more! Walk in hours are 9:30-11:30 a.m. the 1st Wednesday of the month every other month starting in February at Robbinsdale City Hall. For information go to [opentobusinessmn.org](http://opentobusinessmn.org).

### 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.

**COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL—SATURDAY, MARCH 15 FROM 10-11:30 A.M. AT  
LIONS GYM, 4123 WEST BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN ROBBINSDALE**