



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & SING-A-LONG

**Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at Robbinsdale City Hall**

Please join us for our annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the front steps of City Hall! There will be song sheets, refreshments and holiday gift bags from Santa for children bringing a non-perishable food item to donate. The event is sponsored by the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce & City of Robbinsdale with a special thanks to senior volunteers that prepared gift bags.



## WINTER PARKING RULES/SNOW EMERGENCIES ❄️

Robbinsdale City Code prohibits parking on any City street after a snowfall of 2 inches or more. When a Snow Emergency is declared, there is no parking on City streets until they have been plowed curb to curb. Violators are subject to citation and vehicle impound. For the current status of any snow emergencies call the **Snow Emergency Hotline at 763-531-1275** for a recorded message. **To avoid receiving a citation or having your vehicle towed, plan ahead when snow is predicted, to keep vehicles off streets.**

## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL AND PICK-UP 🌲

Waste Management will collect Robbinsdale residents' non-artificial trees the weeks of December 31st & January 14<sup>th</sup>. Each residential household is limited to free collection of one Christmas tree which must be prepared in the following manner: tree must be under 5 feet long (if it is not, cut the tree into lengths under five feet), metal stands must be removed, and tree is set alongside your garbage container. **DO NOT** bag the tree.

## PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING UTILITY RATES INCREASES



A public hearing to consider increases in water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and solid waste collection rates in Robbinsdale will be held at the City Council meeting on **Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.** at Robbinsdale City Hall. The City Council proposes to proceed under the authority granted by Minnesota Statute Section 429 and City Charter Chapter 11.

### **WHY RATE CHANGES?**

Rate changes are based on a utility system rate study done in 2017. Rate changes provide that the utility funds will maintain adequate cash flow to meet required debt service payments, cover operational costs and pay for major capital improvements to the utility systems.

### **WHAT ARE UTILITY FEES USED FOR?**

- Solid waste charges collected cover the cost of garbage, recycling, yard waste, branches, Christmas trees, garbage collections at city parks, code enforcement time spent on solid waste problems, illegal dumping, and similar services.
- Water charges include the cost to pump water from the ground, treat it, pump it up to water towers so there is enough pressure in the pipes to get it into homes and for firefighting. Costs are for delivering the water; maintaining the wells, pipes, storage tanks and towers; debt service payments; and capital improvements.
- Storm water utility charges cover the cost of water capacity and piping from streets into our lakes, street sweeping, system maintenance, debt service payments and capital improvements. The charges also cover the cost of operating the flocculation plant on Crystal Lake which is removing phosphorus from the lake to address smelly algae blooms and make the water optimal for recreational opportunities.
- Sanitary sewer utility charges, in addition to the cost of pipes and equipment at lift stations that elevate the sewage from low points so it keeps running downhill to the Pigs Eye Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul, also pay the cost for staff to clean clogged lines when grease gets poured down kitchen drains and wipes (anything other than toilet paper) get flushed down toilets, plus paying for clean up when these clogs block the line and have waste back up into homes. Other costs include payments to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for the cost of sewage treatment and metropolitan area system improvements along with city debt service payments and capital improvements.

Additional information on utility rates and the impact of rate changes to a typical home are available at the city web site [www.robbinsdalemn.com/eub](http://www.robbinsdalemn.com/eub)

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE AND PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL ONLINE**

Residents and businesses can register to receive electronic bills. Our new software powered by Invoice Cloud allows customers to view and pay their bill online at [www.robinsdalemn.com/eub](http://www.robinsdalemn.com/eub) using your bank account or with VISA, MasterCard, or Discover cards. The new software is also smart device compatible. Electronic bills save on postage, paper and envelope costs.



**ROBBINSDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOOD AND TOY DRIVE**

The annual Food and Toy Drive will kick off on November 1<sup>st</sup> and run through December 9<sup>th</sup>. Food donations will be given to the PRISM food shelf and NEAR food shelf which serve parts of Robbinsdale. Toy donations will be given to multiple metro area Battered Women Shelters. Donations may be dropped off at participating businesses in Robbinsdale including City Hall. For more information, leave a message for the Chamber at 763-531-1279.

**WINTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES**



There is something for everyone: sports, arts, book discussions, movies, exercise, and even science programs! We have a few programs during school breaks as well. Program information is available on the City website and flyers are available at City Hall. Remember you can register online for most programs as well. The link to register is available on our website or can be accessed by going directly to <https://webtrac.robinsdalemn.com>.

**SANBORN WARMING HOUSE AND RINKS**

The warming house at Sanborn Park will open once the weather and ice conditions are favorable for skating. Tentative plans are to open during Winter Break with extended hours of 12:30 to 9 pm. The warming house will be closed on December 25 and will have shorter hours on December 24 and January 1. Regular hours will start January 5<sup>th</sup>. Regular hours will be Mondays-Thursdays, 5-8:30 pm; Fridays, 5-9 pm; Saturdays, 12:30-9 pm; and Sundays, 12:30-8:30 pm. There are a few exceptions, so please check the City's website for current hours and conditions.



**USING SIGNS AT HOME TO HELP TO RECYCLE MORE**

Something as simple as putting a recycling and trash label on your collection bins can be a huge step in preventing recyclables from ending up in the landfill. Avoid confusion by using free, downloadable signs from the Recycling Association of Minnesota (<http://recycleminnesota.org> under Our Work - Resources). Labeling your bins lets guests know that you are serious about recycling and allows them to participate with ease without you having to worry about policing your guests. For some guests who don't care where bottles go, signs or labels can help them see just how effortless it is to set up a recycling system in their own home.

**Yard Waste Pick-Up**

Waste Management will continue to pick up residential yard waste until November 30<sup>th</sup>, unless there is a significant snowfall in the city before then. Call City Hall if you have questions 763-537-4534.

**RECYCLING REMINDER**

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:		UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:
<p><b>Bottles &amp; Jugs-examples are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Bottles and Containers with Recycling Code No.1-7 (Caps should be screwed onto containers.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Glass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food &amp; beverage bottles &amp; jars</li> </ul> <p><b>Metal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aluminum, tin or steel cans</li> </ul> <p><b>Paper, Cardboard, Dairy &amp; Juice Containers-examples are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yogurt, pudding &amp; fruit cups</li> <li>• Disposable cups &amp; bowls</li> <li>• Margarine, cottage cheese &amp; other containers</li> <li>• Produce and takeout containers</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Packaging-examples are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear packaging from toys and electronics</li> </ul> <p><b>Boxes-examples are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cardboard</li> <li>• Cereal &amp; cracker boxes</li> <li>• Shoe boxes, gift boxes &amp; electronics boxes</li> <li>• Toothpaste, medication &amp; other toiletry boxes</li> </ul> <p><b>Paper-examples are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mail, office &amp; school papers</li> <li>• Magazines &amp; catalogs</li> <li>• Newspapers &amp; inserts</li> <li>• Phone books</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>DON'T RECYCLE:</u></b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Styrofoam</li> <li>* Bubble wrap</li> <li>* Plastic wrap</li> <li>* Microwaveable food trays</li> <li>* Paper soiled with food</li> <li>* Paper plates and towels</li> <li>* Drinking glasses</li> <li>* Dishes</li> <li>* Mirrors</li> <li>* Plastic bags</li> <li>* Containers that held hazardous material</li> </ul>