

Attachment A



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2021
TO: Arden Hills Mayor and City Council
FROM: Gretchen Needham, Communications Coordinator for the City of Arden Hills
SUBJECT: State of the City

The Mayor and City Council are asked to consider the following matters regarding State of the City:

The State of the City event will be held Thursday, October 7 at 7:30 a.m. at the Marsden Room in the Ramsey County Public Works Facility at 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive in Arden Hills. There will be time for questions from residents following the presentations. Arden Hills businesses and residents are encouraged to attend the event, which will be publicized in the upcoming August/September Arden Hills Notes newsletter and through the City's social media channels. The event will be videotaped and broadcast by NineNorth, and once the video is available, a link will be provided on the City's website.

The State of the City has generally followed a PowerPoint presentation format with topics including the City's finances, new business and development updates, public works and construction projects, and a summary report on the parks. Discussion topics for Councilmembers to address during the State of the City are outlined in Attachment A to this memo, titled "2021 State of the City Discussion Points."

Attachment

A: 2021 State of the City Discussion Points

City Accomplishments and News

- Arden Hills turned 70 on February 14, 2021
- Tobacco litigation resolution
- Successful recent community events: Hot Dog with a Deputy, Bark & Rec, Penny Carnival, Night to Unite. Upcoming: Fall Cleanup Day
- Arden Hills Foundations gifts
- TCAAP: The partnership with Ramsey County remains
- Seasonal help for the Public Works and Parks & Recreation Departments
- “Planning and Zoning 101”: explaining the rules and regulations Council is bound by
- Affordable housing overview
- How resident complaints are handled by staff

New and Expanding Businesses

Lexington Station, Phase III

New Perspectives Senior Living

Boston Scientific building addition

Bethel University sports field improvements

Lifelong Wealth Advisors

Chick-fil-A

Construction Projects

- Street and utility improvements to Hazelnut Park neighborhood
- Mounds View High School: pedestrian crossing
- Lexington Road construction
- In-house paving project on Fairview and Pascal Avenues completed
- Looking forward: improvements coming to Arden Oaks Street and Snelling Avenue North

Finances

- American Rescue Plan Act—The City received its 2021 allocation in the amount of \$543,952.40, with a similar second (and final) allocation in 2022.
- Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program
- AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor’s maintained

- Property taxes for Arden Hills residents remains one of the lowest in the area
- 2022 Budget Snapshot (preliminary levy, increases, etc.)

Public Safety Summary