

216 Fourth Street North Stillwater MN 55082 www.ci.stillwater.mn.us 651-430-8800 PRSTD U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Stillwater, MN 55082 Permit No. 206 Postal Patron

February 2022

TOM McCarty,

STILLWATER'S CITY ADMINISTRATOR will be retiring in March. He started with Stillwater in 2014 and during his time here has conducted strategic planning workshops with Council and Staff and has reviewed department vision and goals in three main areas: Developing Organizational Excellence, Developing our Community and Sustaining Strategic Planning and Implementations. Tom has lead City staff through COVID-19 Preparedness and Impact. Other accomplishments





include Public Works/Water Board merger and transition, establishing State Performance Measures program and outcomes. He has implemented sustainable funding sources for updating city infrastructure including energy savings to infrastructure updates. He has worked with Council to approve Green Step Cities program, Bird City designation, and Bicycle Friendly City designation. More of his accomplishments have been to Develop a Legislative Agenda for St. Croix Riverbank Protection and the Riverwalk project, Hwy 36/Manning, Bergstein Building Rehab project and affordable housing. He has connected downtown as a destination for residents and visitors (Sculpture Tour, Lowell Park utility box artwork, downtown parking study). He's an avid cyclist who might be seen completing a 100-mile (Century) bike ride on a Saturday or in the winter, skiing all altitudes in Colorado and Minnesota or listening to Jazz on his downtime and probably contemplating the next strategic initiative for the City. In all, he will be missed.

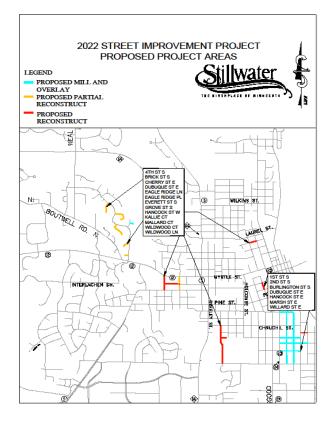
STILLWATER WELCOMES JOE KOHLMANN as our new

City Administrator. Joe was the City Administrator for the City of St. Francis, Minnesota, where he has been in the role for six years. Prior to this, he served as the City Administrator for the



City of Tonka Bay, Minnesota, for five years. He was also an Administrative Intern with the City of South St. Paul, Minnesota, for 15 months. Mr. Kohlmann holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hamline University and a master's degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University. Joe's first day will be March 7th.

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION IN THE CITY 2022



Street Reconstruction

Brick Street S (Olive St. to Myrtle St.)
West Ramsey Street (Brick St. to Grove St.)
Everett Street S (Abbott St. to Orleans St.)
Hancock Street W (West of Everett St)
4 TH Street S (South Of Olive St.)
Cherry St. E (4th St. to 3rd St.)
Dubuque St. (6th Ave. to 5th Ave.)

Partial Street Reconstruction

Mallard Ct.
Wildwood Ct.
Wildwood Ln.
Eagle Ridge LN
Eagle Ridge PL

Grove Street S (Olive St. to Myrtle St.)

Mill and Overlay Area

1 ST Street S (Willard St. to Orleans St.)
2 ND Street S (Willard St. to Orleans St.)
5 TH Street S (Willard St. to Churchill St.)
6 TH Street S (Willard St. to Hancock St.)
7 TH Street S (Willard St. to Hancock St.)
Burlington Street S (2nd St. 5th Ave.)
Hancock Street E (3rd St. to 6th Ave.
Marsh Street E (3rd St. to 6th Ave.)
Willard Street E (3rd St to 1st St.)
Kallie Ct.

(the above mentioned are proposed areas for the reconstruction, partial reconstruction and mill/overlay project)



Harmony • Dignity • Respect

STILLWATER HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Commission applauds all individuals who stand up for fairness, equality, inclusion, and diversity. Throughout the community, people work to build an environment that promotes fair and equal treatment for everyone. Their special efforts are often unrecognized. The Stillwater Human Rights Commission would like to recognize one worthy individual, organization or business in their efforts. If you know someone who should be nominated for the Stillwater Human Rights Award, please contact City Hall via email at stillwater@ci.stillater.mn.us or call 651-430-8800. And if you ever have concerns that you feel the Commission should address please feel free to share that

with them either in person at their monthly meetings which occurs on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in City Hall or by contacting the City Clerk at the email and phone number above.

The Commission has hosted educational opportunities for the community covering subjects such as dementia-friendly city, disabilities, equity within the school district, LGBTQ youth, juvenile sex trafficking, homelessness and hosts Martin Luther King Breakfasts. Here are some upcoming occasions to celebrate and ideas to observe them.

February 17, Random Acts of Kindness Day – Shovel a neighbor's walk, pay it forward or make a donation. **March 8,** International Women's Day – Read a book about local women, adopt a gender-neutral language, or support a women-owned business.

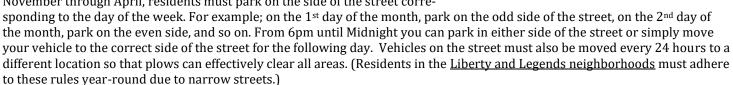
April 2, World Autism Acceptance Day – Contact Valley Friendship Club to volunteer or donate, Say "person with autism" instead of autistic, read a book about neurodivergent people.

DID YOU KNOW?

"... you can now log on to our Facebook page to ask an Officer a question?" Here they will tackle some of the things you've always wondered about but were afraid to ask. Or maybe you just have a question about what a day in the life of an Officer is like. Follow at Stillwater MN Police Department. Or drop us an email at communityoutreach@ci.stillwater.mn.us. Check it out.

THE STILLWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT requests assistance from Stillwater residents in keeping city streets and pathways safe, clear, and passable through the winter season. These rules exist for the purposes of public safety, and we attempt to achieve this through various city-wide ordinances. We recommend that all residents adhere to the following city regulations;

Odd/Even Winter Parking – When parking on public Stillwater streets from November through April, residents must park on the side of the street corre-



Sidewalk Clearing – Many residents rely on having cleared and navigable sidewalks to get around town. Ensure that sidewalks in front of your residence are cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall. Snow left on sidewalks could merit a citation, or civil penalties, if injury to a pedestrian occurs because of it.

Hydrant Clearing – If a fire hydrant exists on your property, it is your responsibility to clear a 3-foot diameter around, and up to, that fire hydrant. In the event of an emergency, first-responders need to be able to locate and utilize hydrants immediately and snow left in front of hydrants could delay their response.

Driveway Clearing – Make sure that yourself or your snow removal companies are aware of MN laws and Stillwater ordinances strictly prohibiting moving snow into the roadway. Remove snow within the confines of your yard without moving it into the street. These rules exist to ensure roads stay clear of ice and snow piles which could cause vehicle accidents, pedestrian injury, etc.

House Numbers – Ensure house numbers are installed on the front of your residence and are large enough to see from the street with contrasting color from the structure. House numbers should be highly visible, ensuring that they are not covered by snow, debris, or are hidden by snow piles. In the event of an emergency, first-responders need to be able to locate your house number as quickly as possible.

EST. POLICE

All winter ordinances can be found by searching these terms in our City Codebook at: https://library.municode.com/mn/stillwater/codes/code of ordinances

TRASH FEES INCREASED ON JANUARY 1ST



Ramsey and Washington counties jointly own and operate the Recycling & Energy (R&E) Center in Woodbury, which processes trash to recover resources instead of putting it into landfills. By processing waste, thousands of tons of metal are recycled, and waste is turned into a fuel that Xcel Energy uses to generate renewable energy for thousands of homes per year. Processing waste at the R&E Center not only significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding landfills, but the R&E Center also adds jobs and value to the East Metro economy. Plans are also underway at the R&E Center to recover food scraps and additional recyclables from the waste stream.

An average household produces about one ton of trash per year, so the 2022 tipping fee increased by \$3 per ton over 2021 and will increase the cost of trash collection in the average household by about \$0.25 per month. Here is the increase amount for each size of container: Senior 35 Gallon \$.07/month, 35 Gallon \$.08/month, 64 gallon \$.16/month and 96 gallon \$.25/month. Tipping fees typically account for about 1/3 of a trash bill. The rest of the bill is related to costs associated with transportation, insurance and labor.





New increased sanitary sewer rates will begin January 1, 2022. The biggest operating expense for the sanitary sewer system is for wastewater treatment. This service is provided by Met Council and they have continually raised rates every year. We are increasing our 2022 rates by 4% this year. The City will continue to review the user fee structure annually to ensure that operating and maintenance costs are covered adequately. Late fees are changing from the current past due penalty of \$25 to 10% of any past due amounts.

		Proposed	Total
	Current Rate	Increase Rate	Proposed Rate
Base Rate	\$64.00	\$2.50	\$66.50
Overage Rate	\$10.00	\$0.40	\$10.40

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts. The purpose of redistricting is to make sure that the people of each district are equally represented.

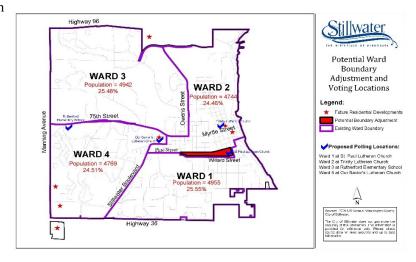
REDISTRICTING 2022

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts (wards). The purpose of redistricting is to make sure that the people of each district are equally represented. Redistricting is done every ten years after the completion of the Census. The State Legislature formulates the congressional and legislative districts, and then the process moves to the local level.

The Stillwater Charter Commission determines the election ward boundaries by having boundaries that are logical and understandable to the voting public, plan for population growth, preserve neigh-

borhoods, try to maintain current polling places and watch for any division of political subdivisions.

There is one area in the City of Stillwater being proposed to have the boundary lines moved and some polling location are proposed to change. The map highlights the proposed boundary changes in red. The current boundary line follows along Willard Street and it is proposed to move the line North to follow along Pine Street. This will help keep population levels equal between wards. The City for several of the past elections has had three of it's 4 wards split into separate precincts and had 7 polling locations to meet the different congressional and legislative districts. Currently the State is proposing to change the districts which could allow the city to reduce the number of precincts and polling locations.



Your Comments Matter

The City of Stillwater is holding a public hearing on March 7, 2022 at 7 pm in City Hall to hear comments from residents on redefining election ward boundaries for the City. Anyone is welcomed to attend or you may provide comments before the public hearing by visiting the City' website here: https://www.ci.stillwater.mn.us/city-government/departments/administration/elections. After receiving all public comments, the Charter Commission will recommend to City Council the ward boundaries and polling place designations. Residents will be notified via mail where they will vote.

Stillwater's Waste Reduction News



TIP AND TRICKS TO AN ECO-FRIENDLY WINTER

The winter months can bring challenges to eco-friendly living due to the cold temperatures. Although you may not be able to harvest a full vegetable garden or air-dry your laundry in the backyard, there are a number of sustainable activities you can implement during the winter season.

- 1. Continue Composting: Try to clean out all of the junk food from your pantries, refrigerator, and freezer and keep your waste output low by continuing to compost throughout the winter months. Avoid the cold and place a small composting bin outside your back door that's easily accessible. Since the temperatures are low, the compost will freeze and remove odors!
- 2. **Use Nontoxic De-Icing Products**: Though using a de-icing product is a quick and easy way to remove ice from your driveway and sidewalks surrounding your house, it can have a negative impact on your lawn, plants, and pets. Consider substituting a chemical de-icing product with sand, clay, or cat litter.
- 3. Clean Green: Try to use less cleaning product or use green cleaning products paired with 100% recyclable cloths or paper towels. If cleaning isn't your thing then just start by decluttering. Gather up all of the items in your house that are taking up too much space. Go room-by-room and clear out those closets or sort out the junk in the basement. As you store holiday items, clean out the area where you store them; avoid the urge to toss everything, keep the stuff you're not ready to part with but do your best to separate into four different piles:
 - **Recycle** metal, cardboard, glass, and everything else you can think of that can be recycled should go in this pile. To save time, throw it right in the recycling bin!
 - **Throw out** do your best to avoid this pile, but some trash is unavoidable when cleaning. Consider using a biodegradable garbage bag to collect your waste.
 - **Donate** these are for the items that you don't want anymore, but someone else would appreciate. Old clothes are better off being donated so they can be reused again.
 - **Sell** garage sales, swap and sells, and even eBay might be a good place for this pile of stuff. If you can make money on something you'd have otherwise thrown away, then you're making your cleaning job a little more worthwhile.
 - **Repurpose** The things that go in this pile may require a bit of creativity at times, but if it can't be recycled... maybe it can be reused in a different way?

If this is still too much and you can't seem to tackle the whole house then maybe just start by emptying your email inbox!

WAYS TO RECYCLE MORE

When cleaning out your house this winter here are a couple options to get rid of that extra stuff.

Call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 to arrange free curbside pickup of these items: 3 appliances, 4 electronics and 2 bulk items. If you go beyond these, it's 15/item.

Search the Washington County Disposal Directory at www.recyclesearch.com/wcdd. Its easy to use and mobile-friendly. You will find many locations where to dispose your items.

Visit the Washington County Environmental Center at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury to drop-off household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables. They also accept items for recycling such as, plastic bags, real estate lawn signs, holiday lights, extension cords and scrap metal.

Mark your calendar for **May 21**st. Washington County will hold a household hazardous waste collection day at Lily Lake in Stillwater where you can bring paint, stain, garden herbicides, fluorescent bulbs, household cleaners, antifreeze electronics, confidential paper shredding and more.

QUICK RECYCLING REMINDERS!

Keep plastic bags, masks, wipes, and latex gloves out of the recycling bin. If someone in your home has COVID-19, treat your recyclables as trash.

Don't put your recyclables in plastic bags.



not in use

heating & cooling

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX WHEN PLANTING TREES

Spring will be here soon, and that means tree planting season! In Stillwater, there are three contenders for most popular tree: crabapple, with its beautiful flowers and bark; spruce, with its attractive shape and screening abilities; and Autumn Blaze maple, with its amazing fall colors and fast growth. However, before you go out and plant one of these, know that these trees have become *severely overplanted*, threatening the health of the urban forest. And not just that, these trees actually have many issues that are rarely noticed until it's too late.

Crabapple trees have many minor diseases, but these diseases have become prevalent because, well, so have the trees. Spruce trees almost assuredly *will* contract an alarmingly common needle disease called *Rhizosphaera* needle cast, causing the branches to die from the bottom up. Autumn Blaze maples actually grow too fast for their own good, causing major structural issues, with the end result often being a blown-apart tree after a bad storm. Consider some of these less-planted alternatives:



- <u>Eastern Redbud</u> native to the Eastern United States, this tree has a brilliant spring display of pink flowers.
- <u>Serviceberry</u> this vastly underutilized small tree puts on an incredible show of white flowers in the spring and has perhaps the best fruit you've never tasted (if you can beat the birds to it).
- White Fir native to the Western United States, this is an extremely hardy evergreen. The needles, when crushed, smell just like lemons or tangerines.
- <u>Swiss Stone Pine</u> a dense and narrow pine native to the Alps. It's a beauty.
- Autumn Blaze Maple you'll get amazing color without lifting a finger .
- <u>Kentucky Coffeetree</u> an under planted Minnesota native specimen tree. They can look a little underwhelming the first few years, but your patience will be rewarded with explosive growth and

a tree much stronger than Autumn Blaze.

• <u>American Elm</u> - elms are back! Dutch elm disease-resistant varieties are dependable and absolutely beautiful. Try the St. Croix elm. The naturally disease-resistant parent tree was found just south of us, in Afton.

Due to nationwide shortages, trees and shrubs will be in short supply this year, so remember to get your orders in early!



150 YEARS—STILLWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In the late 1800's, Stillwater was a hustling and bustling city on the St. Croix River with the potential for devastating consequences if a fire broke out. The City, being a lumber town, had considerable risk to fire and experienced several fires and incidents prior to the formal creation of the Fire Department. It wasn't until the great Chicago Fire and the realization that a catastrophic fire of the same nature could occur in Stillwater that action was taken to organize a trained and equipped fire organization.

May 28, 1872 is the date officially creating the Stillwater Fire Department by City Council Ordinance. Shortly thereafter, on Monday June 3, 1872 the first meeting of the newly formed fire department was held. At this meeting officers were elected and the official name of the organization and uniform apparel were selected. The official name was "Stillwater Steam Engine Company, No. 1." The uniform consisted of New York style fire hats with 'Stillwater, 1' printed on the front, patent leather belt, with the logo and the name of the company on the back; double breasted red shirts with covered buttons and black pants." The history of the Stillwater Fire Department begins.

There is a saying in the fire service, "150 years of tradition unimpeded by progress." The fire service is a transformative profession and has changed and progressed with the times. In its infancy the fire service focused mainly on fires and fire suppression but over the course of time and the realization of new and emerging threats, the fire service has transformed into an all hazard response agency. Today, the Stillwater Fire Department provides numerous services to the community such as: fire suppression, technical rescue (high angle rope, extrication, water, dive), advanced level first aid and emergency medical services (EMS), fire prevention and life safety education, code enforcement, emergency preparedness, community support, civil unrest and terrorism response. As you can see, fire is no longer the only focus the Department is prepared to respond to.

The Stillwater Fire Department spends numerous hours training staff to be ready to respond at a moment's notice and be competent to handle the situation. In addition, the technology improvements seen over the course of 150 years is staggering and the need to be adept at learning and incorporating technology is paramount in the fire service profession today. Stillwater Fire continues to be on the cutting edge of progress and is ready to adapt and transform as needed and required to provide the best possible service to its residents and community.

150 years of serving and protecting our community is a significant achievement. Over all these years one thing remains consistent, the City of Stillwater is protected by extremely dedicated and committed individuals from within the community they live.

SHELFLIFE VOLUME 28 SHELFLIFE

224 N. THIRD ST. * STILLWATER, MN 55082 * 651.275.4338 * STILLWATERLIBRARY.ORG

2021 | YEAR IN REVIEW

Top Ten Checked Out Books



Top News

- Wi-Fi hotspots #1 on the circulation list
- Telescope kits added as new item for patrons to borrow
- 3,322 take & make kits a popular service for adults and kids



1,140 New Cardholders



293,219
Physical Items
Checked Out







43,889

eMaterials
Borrowed





Note: 2021 statistics are preliminary. Final numbers will be submitted to the state this spring as part of the annual Minnesota Public Library Report.

Libraries have a history of evolving to meet community needs. From curbside services to virtual programming, we worked to ensure that our materials and services were accessible to the community. In September, we returned to full hours of operation, including open hours on Sundays. Community members are again reserving meeting space at the library. Free classes and programs continue, with some offered in-person and others virtually. Contactless services remain available, including locker pickup and the opportunity to borrow laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots for use at home or on the go.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 10 AM to 8 PM

Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday* 1 to 5 PM

*Closed Sundays in summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.



Did you know? Processing fees are now gone!

As of January, processing fees will not be charged for overdue items. Although we have not charged daily late fines for years, patrons were charged an \$8 fee for extremely overdue items. Removing these fees makes library resources more accessible to our community. Countywide, more than 7,000 residents will have processing fees removed from their accounts.

Patrons with overdue items will owe the replacement cost of the material unless returned.

Don't want to worry about overdue items? As always, e-materials are easy to access and will never be overdue.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact us at 651-275-4338 or at splinfo@ci.stillwater.mn.us.



LEARN, CONNECT & DISCOVER



eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines

Keep informed and entertained with free eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines. Use the Libby app to access more than 275,000 titles. Need help getting started? Check out our online guide or sign up for a Learn to Use Libby class.



Library Book Clubs

Do you enjoy talking about books, exploring new authors and genres, or learning what others have been reading? Join one of our book clubs—Connect Through Books, Mystery Book Club, or Romance Book Club. Each group meets monthly. Come for one meeting or many. All are welcome.



eLearning Databases

The library's best-kept secret is now yours to explore! Do you want to fine-tune a tech skill? Would you like to prep for an academic or career test? Maybe you would like to attempt a small engine repair. Access these online resources and more!



Storytimes

Join us for storytimes with Miss Kim, Baby Bear, and special guest presenters. We create our programs with both fun and learning in mind, specifically designed to engage young children and build early literacy.



Tech Help

Sign up for an hour-long session to work individually with a technology assistant. We offer a wide range of tech help, including using a computer, getting on the internet, or using an iPhone, iPad, eReader, or Android device to access library resources.



Homework Help

Take some of the guesswork out of homework. Get help with a tough assignment or dive deeper into a topic with our homework resources. Access free, live online tutoring services, tap into ageappropriate resources for learning and research, take practice tests for school exams, and more.

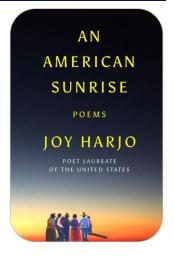
A SNEAK PEEK: UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March is the Month of MOO! Join us throughout March for moo-velous fun with cow-themed activities. Search for inflatable cows hidden in the library, create a cow craft, or check out a bovine book.





Join your neighbors in April as we read An American Sunrise by Joy Harjo. The NEA Big Read in the St. Croix Valley is a one book, one community program that brings together residents around a common book. This year's programming celebrates poetry and honors Native American voices. Visit artreachstcroix.org/bigread for a list of events.





Congratulations to Nick Chaves as the new Streets Superintendent in Public Works. Nick is no stranger to the city, he has worked in Stillwater Public Works for 27.5 years. He started in 1994 as a junior maintenance worker on the sewer crew and was promoted to Assistant Public Works Superintendent in 2020.





Congratulations to Brian Bruchu on his promotion. Brian has been with the Stillwater Police Department for 22 years and was promoted to Sergeant in 2013 and Captain this year. Thanks for all you do to keep Stillwater a safe place to live and visit.

Congratulations to Mike Eng, Building Inspector on passing his International Code Council Certification!
Good Job Mike!







Congratulations to Tim Moore on his retirement as the City of Stillwater Public Works Superintendent. Tim

worked for the City of Stillwater for 26.5 years. We wish him well in his retirement travels.



NEW HIRES:

Michael Eng/Building Brandon Crosbie/Police Cami Anderson/Library Mariah Waller/Library Catherine Bloomquist/Library

5 Years

Wade Wellner/Public Works

10 Years

Joseph Marchetti/Fire

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The City Council has amended Ordinance Number 1177, City Code Chapter 28,



Section 28-2(7): *Water System; Rules and Regulations; Hours.* This ordinance amendment limits lawn watering to certain hours and days during June through September.

GREEN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Did you know the Greater Stillwater Area has its own Green Business Directory? Read profiles of 60 local stores and services that are green, sustainable, and resilient. Spend your dollars at



businesses that share your values, use **GreenStillwater.org**. It's free! Businesses can also apply for free. Check it out!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you live or work in downtown Stillwater? Do you find parking to be an issue? Join the Downtown Parking Commission and provide you input on parking issues facing downtown. Visit the city of Stillwater website and apply today.

Upcoming Meetings

March 1 - City Council Meeting (4:30 pm and 7:00 pm)

March 7 - Charter Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 8 - Traffic Safety Review Commission Meeting (5:30 pm)

March 8 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 10 - Utilities Commission Meeting (8:00 am)

March 15 - City Council Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 16 - Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 17 - Downtown Parking Commission Meeting (8:30 am)

March 23 - Planning Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 28 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

March 30 - Human Rights Commission (7:00 pm)

April 5 - City Council Meeting (4:30pm and 7:00 pm)

April 11 - Charter Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 12 - Library Board of Trustees Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 14 - Utilities Commission Meeting (8:00 am)

April 19 - Economic Development Authority (4:30 pm)

April 19 - City Council Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 20 - Heritage Preservation Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 21 - Downtown Parking Commission Meeting (8:30 am)

April 25 - Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 27 - Planning Commission Meeting (7:00 pm)

April 27 - Human Rights Commission (7:00 pm)

Minnesota Statute 471.701 requires a city with a population of more than 15,000 to annually notify its residents of the positions and base salaries of its three highest-paid employees. For 2022, the City of Stillwater positions are: City Administrator: \$167,523, Public Works Director: \$149.838, and Fire Chief: \$145,766.