

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



2025 Budget and Levy

Ensuring Minnetonka’s public safety needs are met continues to drive city budget planning.

In September, the city council set its maximum 2025 preliminary tax levy, a 7.23 percent increase.

A third of the increase is dedicated to implementation of the city’s multi-year public safety master plan. This includes the addition of nine full-time firefighters and one police investigator.

The fire positions help address a growing need in the Ridgedale area, which has experienced consistent growth in recent years due to its high-residential density and a visitor rate of more than 1 million people a month.



“As we enter 2025 – the second year of the master plan – these new fire positions will ensure 24-hour staffing on the north side of the city, significantly reducing response times to the north side of the city and Ridgedale area, which experiences the highest call volume in Minnetonka,” said Fire Chief Kevin Fox.

Learn more about the public safety master plan at minnetonkamn.gov/publicsafetyplan.

Property tax impact

City staff and council continue to refine the 2025 budget ahead of final approval in December. If the levy remains unchanged, a Minnetonka homeowner of a median-valued home that increased in value to \$502,200 could see an annual tax increase of \$148.

Estimates will be available on the proposed 2025 tax notices to be mailed this month.

Share your feedback

Visit minnetonkamatters.com/minnetonka-budget to learn more about the proposed 2025 budget and levy.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5

The 2024 general election is Tuesday, Nov. 5. You may register at the polls with proof of residence.

Vote early

- **Absentee in-person** at the Minnetonka Community Center

- Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Extended hours:
 - Oct. 26, Nov. 2–3 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 - Oct. 29 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
 - Nov. 4 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

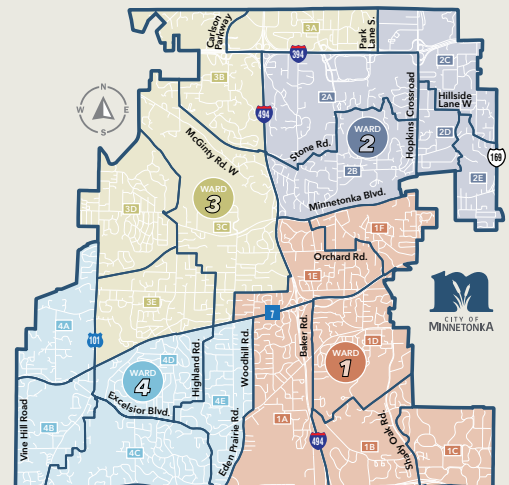
- **Absentee by mail.** Learn how at minnetonkamn.gov/elections.

- On Election Day only, ballots can be dropped off at Minnetonka City Hall front desk until 8 p.m.

Vote on Election Day

- 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Find your polling place and a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

Election results will be posted on the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org.



Shop local

Get started on your holiday shopping by visiting the Marshland Market at The Marsh and the Landing Shop.




This fall, the retail space at The Marsh is opening as the Marshland Market. The shop features goods by independent makers and local artists.



Helen Wang of helen wang jewelry has teamed up with Gretchen Hahn of 108 Candles and Helga Lange of Radiate Activewear to open the shop.

"Our intention is to keep [the shop] a community gathering spot, more of an experience that offers cozy goods that include various priced athletic wear, hats, jewelry, home goods and decor, olive oil and small batch honey," Wang said. "We will be rotating stock as well as adding visiting makers and also hope to add extra days and hours."

 **Marshland Market | 15000 Minnetonka Blvd.**
Wednesday-Saturday | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



If you're looking for a unique, one-of-a-kind gift, be sure to check out the Landing Shop.

The Landing Shop sells handmade items crafted by Minnetonka residents ages 55 and older including baby items, greeting cards, home décor, kitchen items and much more.

 **The Landing Shop | 11280 Wayzata Blvd.**
Thursday-Saturday | noon-5 p.m.



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

A great day to shop local and support Minnetonka's small business community.



Tour the Burwell House

The Minnetonka Historical Society invites you to spend a Victorian Christmas at the historic Charles H. Burwell House

13209 E. McGinty Road.

Holiday Tours

Sundays, Nov. 24, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15
1-4 p.m.

Holiday Open House

Sunday, Dec. 8
1-4 p.m.

Refreshments served

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Attend our winter giftable market to purchase crafts, soaps, candles, handmade gifts and more.



Saturdays
Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Feb. 8
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket

INCLUSIVITY at the coffeehouse

Ellie Swanson is not a coffee drinker, but her new job at Dunn Bros. Coffee in Minnetonka is giving the former Transition Plus student a chance to work a job she loves.

“My favorite part is I can make eggs and also I love to do the cash register,” said Swanson, who started in July. “I remember all different kinds of drinks.”

Swanson is one of several new employees from the disabled community working at Michael Kollar’s west metro coffee shops thanks to funding assistance from the state of Minnesota.

“

The community has really stepped up and supported this.

”

Michael Kollar, owner
Dunn Bros. Minnetonka

Kollar purchased Dunn Bros. in Minnetonka in July 2023 and since acquired three additional locations (Hopkins, Excelsior and Savage). Earlier this summer, he applied for funding from the state’s Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund (ERAF) to purchase automated espresso machines, which simplify the coffee-making process and allowed him to hire employees with disabilities.



“The community has really stepped up and supported this,” said the Minnetonka resident.

While the transition to coffee shop owner has been swift, it’s not surprising. Owning a coffee shop has long been Kollar’s retirement dream. He acquired a love of coffee while serving in the U.S. Coastguard in Seattle after high school.

“I kind of got a taste for coffee,” Kollar recalls. “Then, I decided to roast because I thought it would be fun.”

Kollar, a chemical engineer and president of a medical supply company, now roasts coffee daily - “That’s my little Zen time” - at his Hopkins’ location. He’s excited about sharing his passion with a more diverse group of employees and giving them an opportunity to find what brings them joy.

“I want to let people know that even though you have a disability or not you can still work like other people,” Swanson said. “It doesn’t matter what kind of person you are. It takes time to learn things but you will get it.”

Find your next move

Minnetonka dashboard helps focus the search for housing

Finding housing, let alone affordable housing, has become one of the biggest challenges of the decade. The city has worked to make that search easier by developing a housing dashboard. An online display provides real-time information about available multi-family housing across the community.

“Whether you are young or old, concerned with affordability or focused on location, the dashboard can help narrow your search,” said Julie Wischnack, Minnetonka’s community development director.



Rental and Affordability

Shows how many units are available at various levels based on area median income (AMI)



Townhome and Condo

Highlights the location of 82 developments



Senior and Assisted Living

Features information on by housing type and affordability



Visit the housing dashboard at minnetonkamn.gov/housing

Community Investment Fund to fund ice arena project

The city is considering a refrigeration improvement project to install a new ammonia refrigeration system for Ice Arena Rink B. The system will replace the existing R-22 refrigerant and refrigeration equipment, which has expended its useful life. The project also includes operating equipment, refrigeration controls, electrical, plumbing and structure improvements to support the system.

Funding for this project is proposed to come from the Community Investment Fund. A public hearing regarding the use of this fund will be held during the Nov. 18 city council meeting. More information is available at minnetonkamn.gov/icearena.



Share feedback on these Minnetonka projects at minnetonkamatters.com

- 2025 Minnetonka Budget
- Proposed dog ordinance



Right-of-way pruning begins soon

The city will prune trees and shrubs in the public right-of-way from December through April. This work is completed to improve sight lines, clear dead and broken branches and prepare for road construction projects. City crews and contractors will complete the work under the supervision of forestry staff.



Property owners will be notified by mail if right-of-way pruning is scheduled in their neighborhood. Call 952-988-8421 to ask a question or learn more.

Winter is a good time for pruning

Plan to prune in the winter when trees, along with potentially harmful insects and disease, are dormant. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/NRyourproperty](https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/NRyourproperty) to find our Proper Pruning handout.



Volunteer with us

Work with others to reduce the impact of invasive species in our parks and try out skills you can apply on your property. Fall events run through mid-November.

Advance registration is required at [minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents](https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents).

Service line survey results available

Minnetonka has conducted a Lead Service Line Inventory as part of a nationwide requirement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The goal is to identify and remove lead service lines from drinking water systems.

Our public works team reviewed thousands of utility and plumbing records, including construction plans, service tie cards, repair records and historical city ordinances to verify the materials used in the 17,617 water service lines across the city.



As of Sept. 24, 2024, we found no evidence of lead or galvanized pipes in the available service lines records.

- This includes 9,573 service lines confirmed to be free from lead and galvanized materials.
- The status of the remaining 8,044 service lines remains unknown until the materials on both sides of the curb stop can be verified.
- The city will continue to identify materials used during the water meter replacement installation process and update the inventory with those findings.

The service line inventory is publicly available and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at minnetonkamn.gov/LITT. You may also contact us at serviceInventory@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-988-8400.

LISTENING for Leaks

Every fall, technicians use specially designed equipment to listen to fire hydrants across the city. If they hear static in their headphones, it could be a sign of a leak somewhere in the system. It's a practice that saves the city money and water.

"We're pumping a lot less water than we used to and this innovation is one of the reasons why," said Deputy Public Works Director Mike Kuno.

Kuno says listening will typically spot more than a dozen leaks each year. Then, public works crews go to work making repairs before they can become big problems.





Winter is coming. Are you ready?

Get ready for the winter season. Here are some items to keep in mind for the coldest months of the year.

Mark the edge of your lawn or driveway.

Curb flags are available at public works and city hall.

Use less salt.

One teaspoon of road salt can pollute 5 gallons of water. Reuse salt on your driveway, chip away at compacted snow or ice or pick an eco-friendly alternative.

Plowing leads to piles at the end of driveways.

Inevitably, plowing leads to piling at the end of driveways. Drivers evenly distribute snow, especially in cul-de-sacs.

Have a plan for parking.

City code prohibits overnight parking on city streets. Cars left on the street during plowing operations are subject to tagging and towing at the owners expense.

Don't blow snow onto the street.

Snow from your driveway must remain on your property. City code prohibits pushing snow from your property onto the street or onto an adjacent property.

Minnetonka Crews only plow Minnetonka roads.

County and state teams deal with highways like 169, 494 and County Road 101.

Plowing operations typically begin between midnight and 4 a.m.

Larger snowfalls may require multi-day operations.

Crews first clear streets, then parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. Minnetonka has more than 90 miles of road, so it may take several days to complete plowing operations.

Keep garbage cans behind the curb line.

Plows can damage refuse cans and require additional passes to remove snow when cans are left on the street.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** Election Day, 7 a.m.
- 6** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m.
- 11** Veterans Day Holiday, city offices closed
- 12** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 12** Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 12** Charter Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 18** City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 28-29** Thanksgiving Holiday, city offices closed

City meetings are held in person. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/participate to learn how to also participate remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

For up-to-date information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call 952-939-8200.



**CITY OF
MINNETONKA**

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov



Mayor
Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907
bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov

Council
At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399
dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov
Kimberly Wilburn 952-222-8142
kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 1: Patsy Foster-Bolton 952-491-0407
pbolton@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
rschack@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 3: Paula Ramaley 952-222-0105
pramaley@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670
kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov

City Manager
Mike Funk 952-939-8200
mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov

**ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**



HONORING OUR VETERANS

All month long, Senior Services is honoring our veterans.

VETERAN PHOTO WALL

Photos of Minnesota veterans will be on display in the Minnetonka Community Center, with stories about each veteran.



Dave Griep



Dewey Hassig

VETERAN PROGRAMMING

Free admission to veteran programs in the month of November for vets and their spouses.

James Shaw: Ragtime	Nov. 7	10:30-11:30 a.m.	\$3 or FREE for veterans
Eden Prairie Community Band	Nov. 12	6-7 p.m.	\$4 or FREE for veterans
Lunch and Movie: Blue Angels	Nov. 13	Noon-3 p.m.	\$8 or FREE for veterans

Registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/register.