

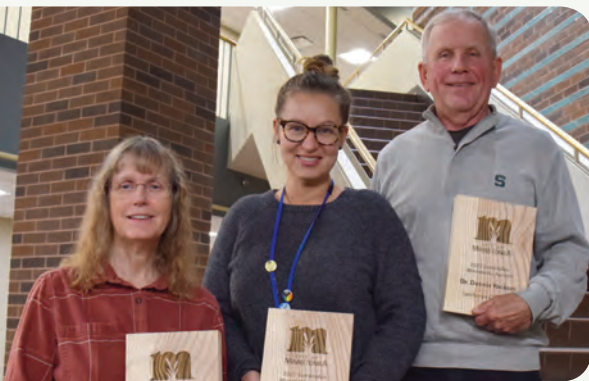
# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Residents and businesses recognized for sustainable projects

Congratulations to the inaugural recipients of the **Sustainable Minnetonka Awards**. Read more about them and their work at [minnetonkamn.gov/sustainableminnetonka](http://minnetonkamn.gov/sustainableminnetonka).



Recipients of the Sustainable Minnetonka Awards include LeAnne Jergensen, Lindsey Leseman with Hopkins Schools, and Dr. Dennis Yockers.

### Energy Category

#### Preserve at Shady Oak Apartments, by Dominion

This 438-unit complex uses Energy Star-rated lighting and appliances and installed a roof solar energy system.

### Landscape Category

#### Dr. Dennis Yockers

Dr. Yockers planted more than 50 species of native grasses with a buffer strip that helps with stormwater filtration.

### Landscape Category

#### LeAnne Jergensen

Jergensen's property hosts multiple vegetable gardens and berry patches and has installed three rain gardens to captures rain water.

### Water Category

#### Opus 2, Phase 2 Condominiums

Opus Condominiums installed a rain garden near the entrance of the development that collects runoff from Green Circle Drive and has a pollinator habitat with native flowers.

### Young Person Category

#### Hopkins West Junior High Community School

Sixty students and community volunteers made switches for solar suitcases which were sent to communities in Kenya that lack electrical infrastructure.

## Minnetonka Academy returns with in person and online sessions

Get an inside look into how your city operates at the 2023 Minnetonka Academy. This free program returns to the city calendar next year. It helps residents go behind the scenes and learn more about your city.

A variety of formats will be offered to accommodate different schedules and age groups. The March academy will meet four times at Minnetonka City Hall with detailed sessions about each city department. Shorter Minnetonka Academy sessions will also be offered next year for those who wish to participate in online sessions or teenagers to take part in a summer session. Watch future Minnetonka Memos for details.



### March Minnetonka Academy

- Tuesdays, March 7-28  
6-7:30 p.m.
- Minnetonka City Hall
- Register at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) between Dec. 13-Feb. 14
- Reference course #2020201-01.
- Topics include General Government, Public Safety, Parks and Recreation and Tonka Town Development
- Questions? Contact Sarissa Falk at 952-939-8211

# 2023 budget summary and public hearing

The council will vote in December on adoption of the final 2023 budget and tax levy. The 2023 budget and levy strive to maintain the city's meaningful community services, despite a challenging economic environment. The budget includes increased fixed energy, fuel and personnel costs, as well as a handful of new positions related to public safety.

In September, the council set the maximum 2023 preliminary tax levy at a no-more-than 6.85 percent increase. The council will adopt the final levy Dec. 5.

## What does this mean for the average homeowner?

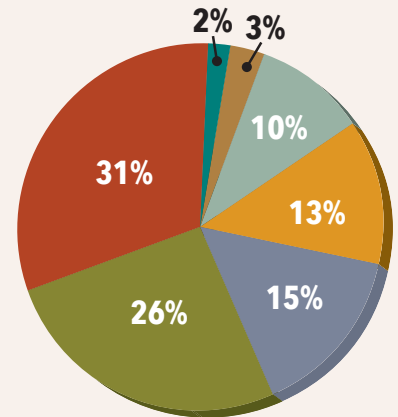
Residential property owners will bear a bigger piece of the tax pie in 2023 due to residential valuation increases surpassing commercial property increases.

City property taxes for the median-valued Minnetonka home (\$468,500 for taxes payable in 2023) will increase by approximately \$99. The exact impact on specific properties depends on the assessed market value of each home. The numbers do not include any proposed increases from other taxing jurisdictions, such as the county and local school district.

## Where your money goes

The pie chart shows how the city's dollars fund the core Minnetonka services.

- Conservation of Natural Resources (3%)
- Culture and Recreation (15%)
- Economic Development and Housing (10%)
- General Government (13%)
- Public Safety (26%)
- Streets and Highways (31%)
- All other current expenditures (2%)



## Learn more and provide input

A public meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers to discuss the proposed 2023 budget and final levy.

Learn more about the city's budget process and submit feedback at [minnetonkamn.gov/budget](http://minnetonkamn.gov/budget).



# Council addresses public safety with ordinances

The Minnetonka City Council is considering several public safety ordinances aimed at helping residents avoid becoming victims of crime and addressing public safety. The council has utilized [MinnetonkaMatters.com](http://MinnetonkaMatters.com) to gather community feedback.



Third-party gift cards	Catalytic converters	THC Edibles
<i>Approved</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Under Consideration</i>
Businesses must verify a buyer's identification at the point of sale of third-party gift cards. Crime rings often use stolen credit cards to buy up gift cards and commit fraud.	It is a misdemeanor to possess a catalytic converter (not attached to a vehicle) unless permitted by state law. Police report more than 90 thefts so far this year.	A proposed ordinance would establish a license requirement for the sales of THC edibles. Action could help prevent children and young adults from using the products.

# Longtime police volunteer retires

After nearly 35,000 hours, Minnetonka Police Department's longest-serving volunteer has turned in his uniform.

Billy Gerard retired in October from the Minnetonka Police Reserves after 46 years, dating back to the days when officers carried oats and lead ropes to catch escaped horses and radio reception was so poor officers would occasionally stop at a resident's house to use their phone.

The 90-year-old, retired Honeywell engineer joined the police reserve under the department's first police chief, Howard Drobny. During his time, he developed by-laws for the reserve unit; conducted firearms training; assisted with the city's deer management program; and checked every traffic light in the city.

"[Billy] has volunteered his time at every city function from when he started in 1976 all the way through Summer Fest of this year," wrote Police Capt. Rachel Meehan in a council recognition letter.

His passion project has been enforcing disability parking. He has written more than 8,000 tickets to people who did not have a permit to park in disabled-only parking spots.



"Billy is an incredibly conscientious, hard-working and dedicated person," Meehan said. "The department was made all the better because of him, and we will miss him dearly."



# Victim's advocate receives Journey of Hope Award

Navigating the criminal justice system can be a complicated and emotional experience. Rachel Daniels works each day to prevent that from happening.

Daniels, who is Minnetonka's victim and witness liaison, recently received the Journey of Hope Award for her focus in this area.

"Some victims will say 'it feels like the defendant has more rights than I do.' Victims have rights, and I'm here to tell you what they are," she said.

Daniels began working last year in Minnetonka's legal department, which typically handles cases ranging from property damage to civil disputes. While the city is not brought into felony cases, Daniels often works one-on-one with victims in cases involving domestic disputes and assaults.

"Courtrooms are intimidating. There's so much lingo. Sometimes they have no idea what's going on," she said. "The key to helping victims, is patience and understanding."

The Journey of Hope Award is given by Standpoint, an organization that assists survivors and victims of domestic and sexual assault. Each year, the organization recognizes individuals who work to bring safety and justice to victims.

"She has a passion for the work," Assistant City Attorney Anna Krause Crabb said of Daniels in her nomination letter. "Her conversations with victims are real, honest and in-depth."



## Apply to serve on city board or commission

The city is currently seeking applicants to serve on the following boards and commissions:

- Park Board
- Senior Advisory Board

Interested candidates must be Minnetonka residents and able to fulfill board obligations, including regularly attending meetings. All applications remain on file for one year and can be considered for any mid-year vacancies.

Apply by Jan. 2, 2023 at [minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions](https://minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions).

Questions? Contact Sarissa Falk at 952-939-8211 or [sfalk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:sfalk@minnetonkamn.gov).

## Winter-Spring recreation program registration begins

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 8 a.m.**

**General Recreation Programs**

**Thursday, Dec. 15, 8 a.m.**

**Senior Programs**

Browse program options and choose from an array of activities including kids' programs, tennis lessons, crafts and athletic leagues. There is something for everyone!



### Register:

- Online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](https://minnetonkamn.gov/register)
- Call between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
  - 952-939-8203 (general programs)
  - 952-939-8393 (senior programs).

## Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

**Dec. 17-Feb. 20** (weather permitting)

Lace up your skates at our area parks. Outdoor rinks with warming houses are available at:

- **Minnetonka rinks:** Boulder Creek, Covington, Glen Lake, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill parks
- **Hopkins rinks:** Burnes, Oakes, Central, Harley, Interlachen and Valley parks

### Skating Rink Hours

<b>Monday-Friday</b>	4:30-9 p.m.
<b>Saturdays</b>	Noon-9 p.m.
<b>Sundays</b>	Noon-7 p.m.
<b>Holidays</b>	see the website

For weather-related updates, rink conditions and closings, please call 952-939-8355. For more information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/outdoorrinks](https://minnetonkamn.gov/outdoorrinks).



## Enjoy the sounds of the holidays with winter concerts

Minnetonka Music Association concerts are free and open to all, unless noted.

**Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra in Concert**  
**Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka  
2030 Wayzata Blvd. E., Wayzata

**Minnetonka Youth Choirs and Senior Chorale Concert**  
**Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m.**

Excelsior Elementary Auditorium  
441 Oak St., Excelsior

**Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra**  
**Messiah Sing-Along**  
**Saturday, Dec. 17, 1:30 p.m.**

Minnesota Landscape Auditorium  
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska

Free with Arboretum admission; ticket reservations required for Arboretum admission

**Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra**  
**Winter Concert**  
**Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m.**

St Joseph Parish  
8701 36th Ave. N., New Hope

## GREAT MINNETONKA YETI HUNT

Join Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services for the Great Minnetonka Yeti Hunt. Over winter break, stuffed Yeti will be hanging around Purgatory Park. Find each Yeti, unscramble the letters and solve a riddle to win a prize.

**Dec. 28-Jan. 3**  
**Purgatory Park**



[minnetonkamn.gov/yetihunt](https://minnetonkamn.gov/yetihunt)

# Get ready for winter snow removal

Please keep the following items in mind as winter weather approaches:

- **Plowing operations typically begin between midnight and 4 a.m.**
- **Above-average snowfalls may require a multi-day operation.**  
Crews work in the following order: streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. In an average snowfall, the goal is to clear streets within nine hours.
- **Snow removal takes place in three steps:** A first pass to provide access, full-width plowing and clean up.
- **Snow cleared from your property must remain on your property.**  
Don't push it into the street or onto sidewalks and trails where it could interfere with traffic and plows.
- **The city will repair damage to curbs and sod caused by city snowplows.** Report the damage to Public Works. Repairs typically take place in the spring.
  - Mailboxes damaged by direct contact with city snowplows will also be repaired. That deadline is June 1.
  - Damage to private improvements (fences, sprinklers, rock gardens, etc.) in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner.
- **Mark the edge of your lawn or driveway.** Free curb markers are available at city hall. Try to install before the ground freezes.
- **Plowing will result in snow at the end of your driveway.**  
Unfortunately, this is unavoidable. Plows will try to evenly distribute snow in cul-de-sacs.
- **Set garbage and recycling cans behind the curb line** so they don't interfere with plows.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/snowplowing](http://minnetonkamn.gov/snowplowing) for full details or call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 to learn more or ask questions.



## Winter parking

- Vehicles cannot be parked on a public street between 2 and 6 a.m., or in one place for more than six hours.
- Parked vehicles and trailers cannot interfere with the removal of snow, sleet, slush or ice and may be towed at the owner's expense.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/parking](http://minnetonkamn.gov/parking) to learn more. Call Minnetonka Police at 952-939-8500 with questions or concerns.



Enjoy live music while you shop for local foods and handmade gifts from our farmers market vendors! Kids can enjoy a scavenger hunt around the market and seasonal crafts.

**Saturday, Dec. 10**

**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Minnetonka Community Center**

**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Do you have farmers market tokens left over from summer? Bring them to the winter market.

Get tokens with your SNAP/EBT, credit or debit card. The first \$10 of SNAP transactions will be matched with Winter Market Bucks and Winter Produce Market Bucks.

## Stay fire safe this winter

The holiday season is a favorite time for many families to light a fire in their wood burning fireplace or wood stove. While these can be beautiful and comfy, fireplaces and chimneys are involved in two out of every five home heating fires. Follow these tips to help prevent fireplace fires.



- Have your furnace, wood stove, fireplaces and chimneys inspected annually.
- Never leave a fireplace unattended.
- Don't forget to open the flue so harmful smoke and carbon monoxide leaves the home.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from fireplaces and create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires.
- Ensure that your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Ashes should be cool before you remove them in a metal container.
- As always, check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.

## Minnetonka Fire hosts wounded Ukrainian soldiers

The Minnetonka Fire Department hosted five Ukrainian soldiers for a visit and tour in early November. The men are in Minnesota getting fitted for prosthetic devices after being injured in the war.



## Join our Minnetonka Fire team

This winter, the Minnetonka Fire Department will be accepting applications for paid-on-call firefighters. Watch our website and sign up for email/text notifications at [minnetonkamn.gov/fire](http://minnetonkamn.gov/fire) for more information.

## Keep your home safe during holiday travel

- Ask a neighbor to watch your home.
- Install a security system.
- Use a timer for your lights and change the times for different rooms within your home.
- Have your walkways and driveway shoveled or plowed while away.
- Put a hold on your mail or have a neighbor collect it daily. This goes for online purchase deliveries as well.
- Do not share vacation whereabouts on social media. Wait until you have returned – plus, you can add those amazing photos.
- Contact the Minnetonka Police Department for a home check – we'd be happy to help!



## Minnetonka Police seek first police cadets

This winter, the Minnetonka Police Department is introducing a new program to develop qualified and diverse candidates for future employment as police officers.

The police cadet program provides enrolled cadets with a full scholarship to a two-year law enforcement program. While attending school, cadets also work part-time in a uniformed position to gain on-the-job experience, training and mentorship.

"By providing tuition assistance and paid employment, we hope to eliminate some of the barriers to becoming a police officer and create a direct track to future employment as a Minnetonka police officer," said Capt. Jason Tait.

### Apply and learn more

Applications will be accepted in December. For position information and qualifications, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/policehiring](http://minnetonkamn.gov/policehiring).

# Help keep Minnetonka waters clean. Maintain your drain.



## What goes here...

### Leaves, twigs, pet waste, road salt and sediment

What do they all have in common? They're some of the many pollutants that reduce water quality.

Adopt-a-Drain volunteers help prevent water pollution by cleaning up storm drains in their neighborhood. Since the program began, about half a million pounds of debris have been removed from storm drains across Minnesota - making a big difference for the health of our lakes, streams and wetlands.



## ...ends up here.

Visit [mn.adopt-a-drain.org](http://mn.adopt-a-drain.org) to learn how you can help!

- Use the system map to locate and adopt one, or several, storm drains in your neighborhood.
- Find tips to safely and efficiently clear your adopted drains.
- Borrow a clean-up kit from your watershed district. Find your watershed district by visiting [minnetonkamn.gov/NRresources](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NRresources).
- Track your impact by reporting the amount and types of debris collected.



## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 12** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 13** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 15** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** Christmas Holiday, city offices closed

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/participate](http://minnetonkamn.gov/participate) to learn how to also take part remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at [minnetonkamn.gov/tv](http://minnetonkamn.gov/tv).

For up-to-date information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/calendar](http://minnetonkamn.gov/calendar) or call 952-939-8200.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-939-8200 | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

**Mayor**  
Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907  
[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)

**Council**

<b>At Large:</b>	Deb Calvert	612-205-5399
		<a href="mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov">dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov</a>
	Kimberly Wilburn	952-222-8142
		<a href="mailto:kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov">kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov</a>
<b>Ward 1:</b>	Brian Kirk	952-451-6251
		<a href="mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov">bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov</a>
<b>Ward 2:</b>	Rebecca Schack	612-590-3735
		<a href="mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov">rschack@minnetonkamn.gov</a>
<b>Ward 3:</b>	Bradley Schaeppi	612-770-7447
		<a href="mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov">bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov</a>
<b>Ward 4:</b>	Kissy Coakley	952-486-9670
		<a href="mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov">kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov</a>

**City Manager**  
Mike Funk 952-939-8200  
[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## 2022 Minnetonka Photo Contest

# WINNERS



**Winner:** *Angry Bird with Ruffled Feathers*

Taken by Marlene Smith



**Second Place:** *Spring Sunrise at Minnehaha Creek*

Taken by Elizabeth Mohr



**Third Place:** *Untitled*

Taken by Rachel Hargrove

Honorable mentions:

- Diane Palmersheim
- Chris Beseres

You can view more contest photos at [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov). They will be featured throughout the year on the city website, social media and in print publications.