

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## BURWELL Spooktacular

Wear your best costume and have a spooktacularly good time at this FREE fall event!

**Friday, Oct. 25**  
**5:30-8 p.m.**

**Burwell House grounds**  
**13209 E. McGinty Road**

Free parking is available at St. David's Family Center (3395 Plymouth Road) and Mills Church (13215 Minnetonka Drive).

- Ages 12 and under recommended
- Spooky scavenger hunt
- Storytellers
- Pumpkin carving demonstration
- Crafts
- Burwell House tours
- Warm up by the fire.
- Create a pirate ship and race it down the creek!
- Purchase hot dogs, brats and hamburgers at the Boy Scouts Troop 346 food stand.



## Vote early for the 2019 election

There are five city council seats up for election in 2019 - all four Ward seats and a special election for one at-large seat. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5, but anyone can vote absentee early.

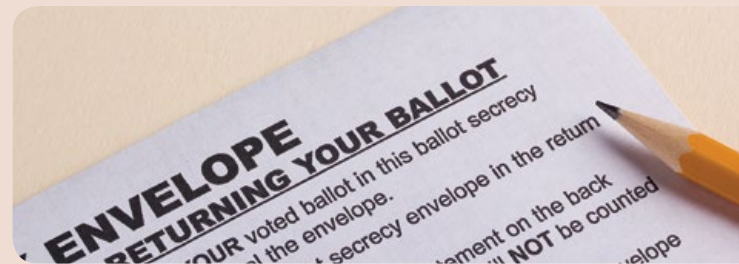
### Vote absentee in-person

Cast your absentee ballot in-person now through Nov. 4 at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Direct balloting begins Oct. 29.

City hall will be open extended hours Saturday, Nov. 2 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Monday, Nov. 4 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to accommodate voters.

### Absentee voting by mail

Hennepin County oversees all absentee voting by mail. Complete an application at [hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting](https://hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting) to receive a ballot and instructions. Ballots must be returned by election day to count.



### Learn more

Visit [eminnetonka.com/elections](https://eminnetonka.com/elections) to find a list of candidates, polling location changes and to learn more. Call 952-939-8200 or email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com) to ask questions.

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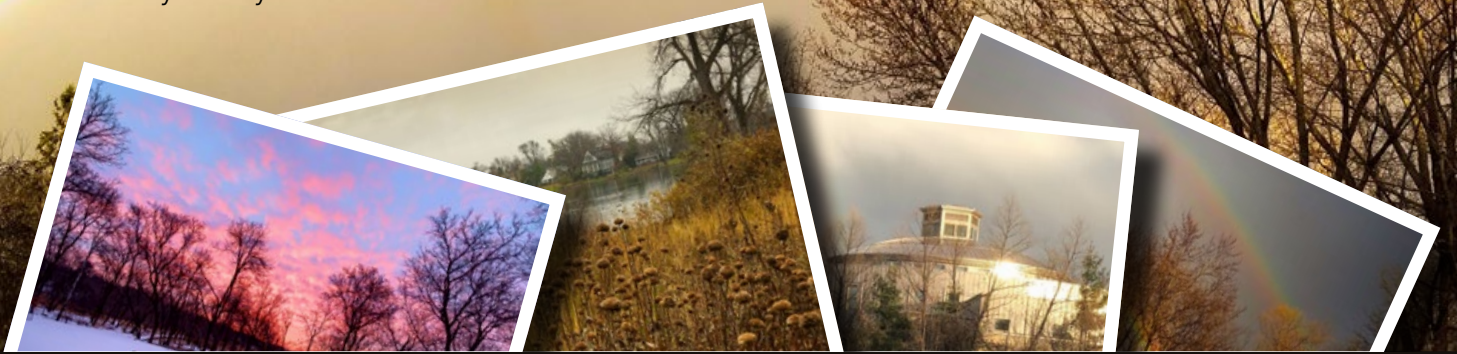
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# Capture the best of Minnetonka

## Enter your photo in the annual city photo contest

Have you taken a great Minnetonka photo over the past year? Enter it in the City of Minnetonka's annual photo contest for a chance to have your photo featured by the city!



### Entry information and contest rules

To enter, email your photo to [webmaster@eminnetonka.com](mailto:webmaster@eminnetonka.com). The city will begin accepting submissions Friday, Oct. 4. All entries must be received by Friday, Oct. 18, at 4:30 p.m.

All photos must be taken in Minnetonka. Photographers may submit one photo. Visit [eminnetonka.com/photocontest](http://eminnetonka.com/photocontest) to view complete contest rules.

### Facebook fans to choose winners

Voting will take place on Facebook the week of Nov. 1-8. The photos with the most "likes" will earn First, Second and Third Place and Honorable Mention honors.

Follow the city at [facebook.com/cityofminnetonka](https://www.facebook.com/cityofminnetonka) for your chance to vote!

### Awards

Winning photos will be featured on the city's website and social media accounts, in the Minnetonka Memo and displayed in the Community Center.

Please note, all entries will become the property of the City of Minnetonka and may be used in city publications.

## KNOW THE RULES about election signs

It's important to know the rules regarding political campaign signs during election season.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/campaign-signs](http://eminnetonka.com/campaign-signs) to learn more or email questions to [zoning@eminnetonka.com](mailto:zoning@eminnetonka.com).



# New police program offers a helping hand

A new Minnetonka Police Department program goes beyond serving and protecting - it offers resources and a caring, helping hand to residents in need.

The Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) is a new short-term, mental health case management initiative intended to improve access to mental health services. The program - a partnership between the Minnetonka and Plymouth police departments and Hennepin County - pairs a county social worker with police departments to provide additional assistance and services to mental health crisis calls. Minnetonka has trained a team of officers - the Crisis Intervention Team - to assist in these specific situations.

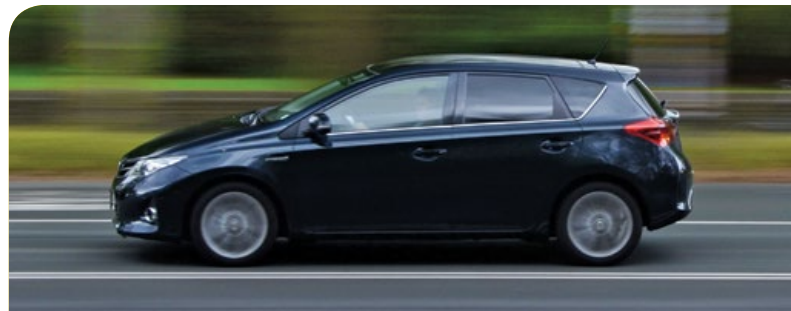


Here's how the new program works:

1. Minnetonka officers respond to initial mental health crisis calls.
2. Cases are referred into CAMP for assessment.
3. Follow-up is conducted by the social worker or a specially trained officer.
4. Those in need of further assistance are referred to partner organizations Relate Counseling Center, Vail Place or Headway Emotional Health for therapy, counseling or long-term case management.

The goal of the program is to provide real, long-term solutions, rather than simply responding to calls for service. The program aims to be a win-win for residents and police - help will be provided to those who need it and hopefully result in fewer repeat service calls.

Call the Minnetonka Police Department at 952-939-8500 to learn more about this new program.



## Safe Driving Class

Provided by the Minnetonka Police Department

**Saturday, Oct. 12**  
**9 a.m.-noon**

**Community Center  
Council Chambers  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Size: Max. 90  
Cost: Free  
Age: 15 and older



### Attend this class to learn more about:

- Traffic laws, including the new hands-free law
- Traffic stop do's and don'ts
- Child seat/seat belt setup information

### Also, learn the dangers of:

- Aggressive driving
- Distracted driving
- Impaired driving
- Speeding

All attendees receive a free cell phone car mount to help you go hands-free!



*This class does NOT qualify for the AAA senior insurance discount.*

To register, or for more information, contact Officer Trevor Johnson at [tjohnson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tjohnson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-7613.

# City council sets limit for 2020 property tax levy

Each September, the city council is required to set a maximum preliminary tax levy before approving the following year's budget. This year, the council set the preliminary tax levy for the 2020 budget at its Sept. 16 meeting, which occurred after the Minnetonka Memo went to print. The council will continue to review and discuss 2020 city property taxes and finances prior to final adoption in December.

Property owners will receive proposed 2020 tax notices from Hennepin County in November.

## Learn more and provide input

Learn more about the city's budget process and timeline at [eminnetonka.com/budget](https://www.eminnetonka.com/budget). View the Sept. 16 council meeting online at [eminnetonka.com/tv](https://www.eminnetonka.com/tv).

To provide feedback on the 2020 budget:

- Submit feedback online at [eminnetonka.com/request](https://www.eminnetonka.com/request)
- Attend the public hearing Monday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.)
- Call Finance Director Darin Nelson at 952-939-8253.

## 2020 Budget Process

- Aug. 19, 2019: Council discussed levy proposal
- Sept. 16, 2019: Council set preliminary levy
- Nov. 25, 2019: Council to discuss budget proposal
- Dec. 2, 2019: Public hearing

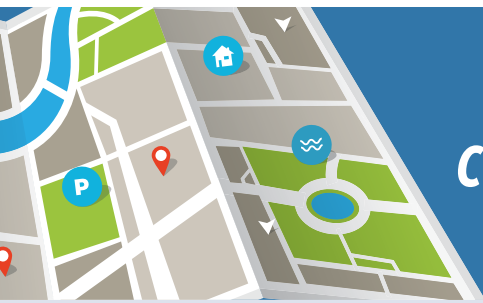
## 2019 open house canceled due to construction

Minnetonka's City and Fire Department Open House - typically held in early October each year - will not take place in 2019 due to construction on the civic center campus.

### Join us at the Burwell Spooktacular Oct. 25

We hope to see you at our new fall event - the Burwell Spooktacular - Friday, Oct. 25 instead! Learn more on Page 1.





## Ask a city planner

In each issue of the Minnetonka Memo, our planners answer a common question to help residents and businesses learn more about the planning process and available city resources.

### Question:

Can I add an apartment onto my home for my parents, in-laws, college-aged children or others?



### Answer:

An accessory apartment, commonly referred to as a “guest” or “mother-in-law” apartment, is a smaller secondary dwelling in a larger single-family home. It requires city council approval for a conditional-use permit.

The council will review to determine if it meets city code:

- The apartment must be incorporated into a home without changing the home’s character
- Unattached dwelling units are not allowed
- Off-street parking must be available
- The property owner must reside in one of the units
- Code also restricts the size of the apartment

Refer to the city code (§300.16 Subd. 3d) or contact the city’s planning division for full requirements. Learn more at a community presentation on accessory apartments on Wednesday, Oct. 2; see the ad on this page for details.

### Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at [zoning@eminnetonka.com](mailto:zoning@eminnetonka.com), call 952-939-8290 or visit [eminnetonka.com/planning](http://eminnetonka.com/planning) for more information.

# CLOSE before you DOZE



Did you know that closing all the doors in your home before bed can make a big difference in the event of a fire?

Closing doors can:

- Slow the spread of fire
- Protect people and belongings
- Reduce smoke and carbon monoxide levels
- Keep air more breathable



Learn more at [closeyourdoor.org](http://closeyourdoor.org). The Minnetonka Fire Department urges you to “close before you doze” every night to keep your family safe.

## Learn about accessory apartments Oct. 2

Are you interested in learning more about adding an accessory apartment onto your home? Attend the Family Housing Fund’s free seminar to learn about design, permits, construction and how a second living unit could benefit your family.

### Accessory Apartments Presentation

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 6-8 p.m.

Shady Oak Room, Community Center

Visit [eminnetonka.com/housing](http://eminnetonka.com/housing) to register online. Contact Rob Hanson at [rhanson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:rhanson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8234 to ask questions or learn more.

See the “Ask a Planner” article on this page or visit [fhfund.org/adu](http://fhfund.org/adu) to learn more about accessory dwelling units.

## Hit the court this winter with our adult basketball league

Looking for a fun way to stay in shape or to show off your skills? Join the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services adult basketball league!

- Wednesday nights, Oct. 23-Jan. 22
  - No games Nov. 27, Dec. 25 or Jan. 1
- \$575 per team
- Three divisions: Gold, Silver and Bronze
- Location: Hopkins High School Lindbergh Center
- Register by Oct. 9 at [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register), course number 1010101

Visit [eminnetonka.com/sports/basketball-adult](http://eminnetonka.com/sports/basketball-adult) for more information.



## Have your antiques appraised

Do you have an antique or family heirloom and have always wondered its value? Bring it to the Minnetonka Historical Society's Antiques Roadshow-themed event! Local experts will review each item and provide a verbal appraisal.

**Antiques Appraisal Event**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 29 | 7 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**  
**\$12 per item | Two items per person**



Registrations begin Oct. 1 and are first-come, first-served with limited availability. Find the registration form and more information at [minnetonka-history.org](http://minnetonka-history.org). Call 952-930-3962 to ask questions or learn more.



## Celebrate Halloween with a spooktacular symphony

Join the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra for its fall Spooktacular concerts. There are two great opportunities to attend this fun, all-ages concert.

**Saturday, Oct. 26 | 3 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center | Free**

**Sunday, Oct. 27 | 3 p.m.**  
**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska**  
**Free with Arboretum admission**

# Tackle buckthorn in cold weather

Like many plants, buckthorn goes dormant in cold weather, making it easier to recognize and access. Here's how you can identify, remove and dispose of buckthorn on your property to help us control this invasive species.

## Identify

The following characteristics distinguish buckthorn from similar-looking shrubs, such as chokecherry and American plum.

- Oval leaves with tiny teeth, growing opposite each other; may stay attached and green through November
- Paired leaf buds at the tip of most twigs, resembling a tiny hoof print with a thorn in between
- Black berries (on female plants) that cling to the stem through much of winter.

## Remove

1. Target female buckthorn with fruit to limit seed dispersal.
2. Cut stumps about a foot high (making them easy to relocate).
3. Return in early spring (when temperatures are above 32 degrees) to re-cut stumps about one inch above the ground.
4. Apply an herbicide solution of 20 percent glyphosate to the outer growth rings of freshly cut stumps. Wick applicators are ideal.

## Properly dispose of the debris

Bag up berries and deposit them in the trash (not with organic recycling or compost). Use buckthorn logs to reduce erosion on slopes, chip them on-site for mulch or transport debris to the city's brush drop.



## Learn more

Learn more at our buckthorn workshop on Oct. 10 or next March. See the ad on this page for details.

Call Janet Van Sloun at 952-988-8423 before removing buckthorn on city property.



## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

### Buckthorn Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 10 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center | Community Room

October  
2019

Learn best practices to control buckthorn and replace with native plants to improve the ecological health of your property.

Registration is required at [eminnetonka.com/NRevents](https://www.minnetonka.com/NRevents) or 952-988-8400.

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 3** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 17** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 25** Burwell Spooktacular, 5:30 p.m.
- 28** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) or call **952-939-8200** for the latest information. Meetings are available live and on-demand at [eminnetonka.com/tv](http://eminnetonka.com/tv).



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952-939-8200 | [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)

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## Shred paper Oct. 10

Securely destroy sensitive papers at our shredding event. Get rid of documents that can't be recycled or thrown in the trash.

**Thursday, Oct. 10 | 3-6 p.m.**  
**Public Works Facility | 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

**Fee and payment:** \$2 per full paper grocery bag (no limit). \$6 per bankers box. Plastic bags are not accepted.

Bring cash or checks payable to the City of Minnetonka.



## Drop off leaves throughout October

Each fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Residents must present a driver's license, state ID or utility bill. Commercial services must prove materials came from a Minnetonka address.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/yardwaste](http://eminnetonka.com/yardwaste) to learn more or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

## OCTOBER LEAF DROP-OFF SITE HOURS

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>7 a.m.-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>11 a.m. -7 p.m.</b>	<b>Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>11 a.m. -7 p.m.</b>	<b>Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29</b>

The leaf drop-off site is open until Nov. 23. Friday and Sunday hours aren't offered until November.