

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## 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.**, but it varies depending on the time and intensity of the snowfall.
- **Heavy or above-average snowfalls may require a multi-day operation** to clear (in this order) streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. In an average snowfall, our goal is to clear streets within nine hours.
- **Snow removal takes place in three steps.** The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets. Within a few hours, full-width plowing takes place. Final cleanup typically occurs the following day and includes intersections, plowing where vehicles had been parked and salting.
- **Snow cleared from your property must remain on your property. Don't push it into or across the street, or onto sidewalks and trails.** Make sure your snow doesn't interfere with traffic or city plows. Please make contractors aware of city snow removal ordinances.
- **The city will repair damage to curbs and sod caused by city snowplows.** Mailboxes damaged by direct contact with city snowplows will also be repaired. Damage to private improvements (fences, sprinklers, rock gardens, etc.) in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner.
- **Plowing will result in snow at the end of your driveway.** While inconvenient, this is unavoidable and clearing the driveway is the responsibility of the property owner. Drivers will try to evenly distribute snow in cul-de-sacs, but that is not always possible due to hydrants, mailboxes and utilities.
- See page 5 for tips to be "salt smart" this winter.

### Winter parking reminders

- Vehicles can't be parked on a public street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and a vehicle must not be parked on a public street in one place more than six hours (continuous).
- Vehicles and trailers can't remain on a street, road or highway in a manner that interferes with the removal of snow, sleet, slush or ice. In addition to other penalties, vehicles and trailers in violation may be towed at the owner's expense.

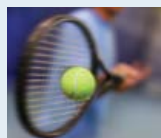
Call Minnetonka Police at 952-939-8500 with any parking concerns. Thank you for your cooperation!



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# 2019 budget summary and public hearing

In order to continue delivering the high level of service Minnetonka residents have come to expect, and to address new initiatives requested by residents, the Minnetonka City Council adopted a preliminary property tax increase in September of no more than 3.9 percent for the 2019 budget.

The city council will vote on adoption of the final 2019 budget and levy at its Dec. 3 meeting.

## What does this mean for the average homeowner?

With the proposed increase, city property taxes for the median-valued home in Minnetonka (\$359,800 in 2019) are estimated to increase by approximately \$53 per year.\*

Here's how the proposed increase will be put to use:

- **Police service demands:** Greater vitality and increasing population centers in our community require the addition of a fifth police service district and one additional sworn officer.
- **Inspection and permitting services:** Enhanced development activity has created more demand for construction-related services.
- **Sidewalk, trail and cul-de-sac maintenance:** Community desires for improved transportation infrastructure demand greater ongoing upkeep, including snow removal.
- **Emerald ash borer (EAB) program:** The ongoing implementation of a plan to guard Minnetonka's ash trees from EAB requires the hiring of an additional forestry technician.

## Learn more and provide input

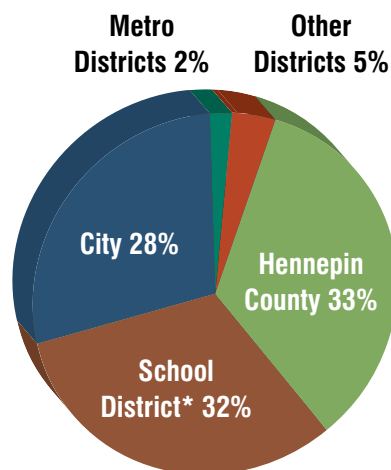
To provide feedback on the 2019 budget:

- Submit feedback via [eminnetonka.com/minnetonkamike](http://eminnetonka.com/minnetonkamike)
- Attend the public hearing Monday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- Contact Finance Director Merrill King at [mking@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mking@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8200

For more detailed information about the proposed budget, visit [eminnetonka.com/budget](http://eminnetonka.com/budget).

\* The exact impact on specific properties will depend on the assessed market value of each home. These numbers do not include the proposed increase from other taxing jurisdictions such as the county and local school district.

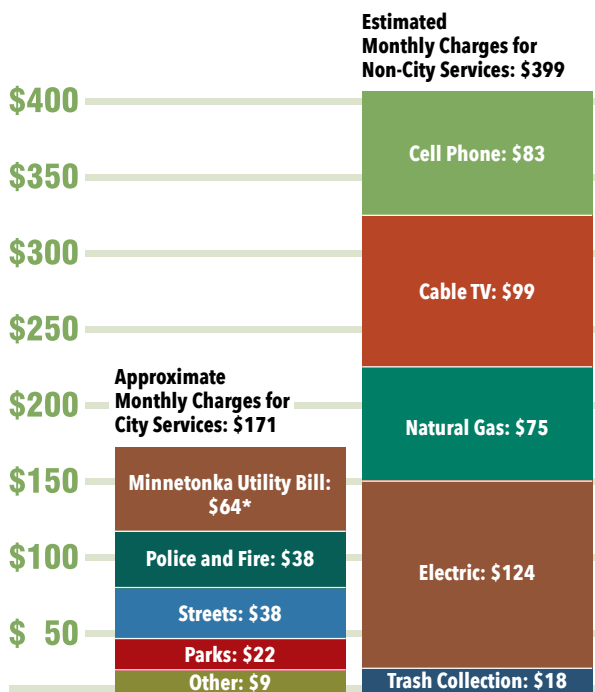
## Where Your Property Taxes Go



\*Based on Hopkins School District. Excludes any changes to voter-approved levies on the November ballot.

## How City Services Compare

The median single family homeowner in Minnetonka pays approximately \$171 per month for all city services. Compared with other monthly charges for the average household, city services remain a bargain.



\*Includes water, sewer and recycling

# Resident thanks fire and police for life-saving efforts

Todd and Beverly Wadsworth visited the Minnetonka Fire station recently to thank firefighters Brad Rolling, Jim Lundeen and Loren Palmer for saving Todd's life.



On Aug. 21, 2018, Todd went into full cardiac arrest in the Highway 101 Target parking lot, and the first responders resuscitated him twice before transporting him to Methodist Hospital for further care. He's since made a full recovery and returned to work.

Minnetonka Police Officers Scott Reis and Erin Spinks, Community Service Officer Alex Farrell and two Hennepin County Medical Center medics also responded and assisted.

Thank you to our talented and dedicated first responders for your life-saving efforts!

## Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

Join the conversation and stay connected to latest news, events and updates!

 @cityofminnetonka

 @MinnetonkaMN  
@MtkaPD  
@MtkaFD

 @MinnetonkaMN

 City of Minnetonka

 City of Minnetonka



# JOIN THE MINNETONKA FIRE DEPARTMENT



**The Minnetonka Fire Department is an active and committed team whose members share a common desire to serve.**

### Why Minnetonka?

- Fully-funded on-the-job training and educational opportunities
- Cutting-edge response technology and equipment
- Daily opportunities for creative problem solving and service
- Flexible schedule and unique retirement benefits
- Camaraderie that extends far beyond the job



To apply and find more information, visit [eminnetonka.com/firefighters](http://eminnetonka.com/firefighters).

# Featured Recreation Programs

## Santa's Toy Shop

Ages 5-12



Send your little elves to class to create toys they can actually play with. We'll be making snow globes and much more. Please pack a nut-free snack and drink for your child.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Course
Sa	Dec. 1	9 a.m.-noon	\$31	1040206-01

Location: Minnetonka Community Center

## Men's Broomball League

Ages 18 and older

Get your team of six on the ice in our seven-week men's broomball league. The Dec. 14 registration deadline is coming up, and space is limited! Visit [eminnetonka.com/broomball](http://eminnetonka.com/broomball) for more information.

Day	Date	Time	Cost	Course
Th	Jan. 3-Feb. 14	6-10 p.m.	\$300	2010201-01

To register call 952-939-8203 or visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register).

## Winter-Spring recreation program registration begins Dec. 4

Registration for winter-spring recreation programs begins Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 8 a.m. Visit [eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure](http://eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure) to check out the program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including fitness classes, kids' programs, craft opportunities and sports leagues. There is something for everyone!

Visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register) to register online, or call 952-939-8203 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



### Want the program guide?

To request a printed copy of the winter-spring program guide, call 952-939-8203 or email [recservices@eminnetonka.com](mailto:recservices@eminnetonka.com). It's free for Minnetonka and Hopkins residents and \$3 for non-residents.

# Winter FARMERS MARKET

**Saturday**  
**Dec. 15**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

- Shop for local foods, crafts and gifts
- Visit with Santa
- Listen to live music
- Explore the Hennepin County Library booth

For more details, or to apply to be a vendor, visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket) or email [farmersmarket@eminnetonka.com](mailto:farmersmarket@eminnetonka.com).



# Plant pest program protects Minnetonka's trees

In an ongoing effort to protect Minnetonka's community forest, the city is actively working to limit the spread of Dutch elm disease (DED) and oak wilt, while also preparing for new or emerging threats, such as emerald ash borer.

DED has declined steadily in Minnetonka since 2004 thanks to a strong ordinance that requires removal of diseased trees within 30 days. This summer, in fact, only half as many elms were identified with the disease compared to 2017.

Oak wilt infestations were also lower in 2018. Many of the oaks inspected this summer had two-lined chestnut borer, an insect that infests stressed oaks and produces signs easily confused with oak wilt.

The city forester has not yet found emerald ash borer in Minnetonka, but continues to conduct selective inspections for early detection.

For more information on the plant pest program and related ordinances, visit [eminnetonka.com/plantpestprogram](http://eminnetonka.com/plantpestprogram).



# PLEDGE TO BE SALT SMART



## 1. Shovel

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.



## 2. Select

Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction when it's too cold, or a different de-icer.



## 3. Scatter

Use salt only where critical. Aim for three inches of space between salt granules.



## 4. Sweep

Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Graphics courtesy [cleanwatermn.org](http://cleanwatermn.org)



## 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.

In its review, the council will determine if it meets city code. The apartment must be incorporated into a home without changing the home’s character. Code also restricts the size of the apartment, requires adequate off-street parking and necessitates that the property owner must reside in one of the units.

For a full list of the requirements, refer to the city code (§300.16 Subd. 3d) or contact the city’s planning division.



### 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.

## Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans

The City of Minnetonka seeks applicants for a home improvement loan program and another that assists first-time homebuyers.

### Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program

This program offers low-interest home improvement for Minnetonka residents through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 with a 10-year term and a three percent interest rate. Income and asset limits apply.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans](http://eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans) to learn more about program guidelines – including loan terms, property eligibility and eligible improvements – and how to submit applications to the CEE.



### Welcome to Minnetonka loan program

The city partners with the CEE to offer low-interest loans to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments and closing costs. Loans are up to \$10,000 with a one percent interest rate and the homebuyer must contribute at least

25 percent of the total down-payment or closing costs; income and asset limits apply.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/welcometominnetonka](http://eminnetonka.com/welcometominnetonka) to learn more about loan terms, eligible properties, additional requirements and how to submit applications to the CEE.



### More information

For questions or more information contact City of Minnetonka Economic Development Coordinator Rob Hanson at [rhanson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:rhanson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8234.



# Music Association of Minnetonka Winter Concert Series

## MAM Winter Festival

Saturday, Dec. 1 | 3:30 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center | Cost: \$5

Join the MAM choral and orchestra ensembles for live entertainment, cocoa, coffee and deserts. Fun for all ages!

## Handel's Messiah Singalong with Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, Dec. 8 | 2:30 p.m.  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska  
Free with arboretum admission

## Minnetonka Youth Choir

Sunday, Dec. 9 | 3 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Excelsior  
Free

## Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Dec. 15 | 3 p.m.  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie | Free

# Ski at Glen Lake Golf Course

Glen Lake Golf Course offers a 2.5-kilometer cross-country skiing trail that features a fun and challenging groomed trail for all age and skill levels.



## Schedule

The course is scheduled to be open from Dec. 15 through March 11, but snow is not made at this location and availability is weather-dependent. Please note trails are not lit.

The trails and golf center (rentals, concessions, restrooms) will be open at the following times:

- Monday–Friday: 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturdays, Sundays, holidays: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Passes

Season (\$30) or daily (\$6) passes are required, and sold on-site or at Glen Lake Activity Center. Visit [threeiversparkdistrict.org](http://threeiversparkdistrict.org) for more information about season passes. Three Rivers Park District passes are honored at Glen Lake Golf Course.

# Outdoor skating rinks scheduled to open Dec. 15

Outdoor skating rinks with warming houses are available at seven Minnetonka park locations.

Call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/outdoor-ice-rinks](http://eminnetonka.com/outdoor-ice-rinks) for more information, including Hopkins locations and hours for holidays and winter break.



LOCATION	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Boulder Creek	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
Covington	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
Glen Lake	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
Gro Tonka	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
McKenzie	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
Meadow	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.
Spring Hill	Noon–7 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9 p.m.	4:30–9:45 p.m.	Noon–9:45 p.m.

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 3** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 11** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 13** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 17** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 24** Christmas Eve, City Offices Closed
- 25** Christmas Day, City Offices Closed

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).



CITY OF  
MINNETONKA

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

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### Council

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**Ward 4:** Tim Bergstedt 952-934-1769  
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## Annual Holiday OPEN HOUSE

**Victorian holiday decorations, self-guided tour, refreshments available!**

**Where:** Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 2 from 1-4 p.m.

**Hosted by:** Minnetonka Historical Society

**Cost:** Free (donations accepted)

**Parking:** St. David's Center, 3395 Plymouth Rd. Handicap limited parking available at the Burwell House.



## Winter 2018-19 Seasonal Jobs

**Basketball officials**  
**Lifeguards and swim instructors**  
**Warming house attendants**  
**Williston Fitness Center supervisors and attendants**

Apply online at  
[eminnetonka.com/job-openings](http://eminnetonka.com/job-openings)