

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Election Day is Nov. 6

The 2018 state general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6. Governor, two U.S. Senate seats, one U.S. Representative seat and state attorney general are among the offices on the ballot.

Here's what you need to know to cast your vote on Election Day.



- **Hours:** 7 a.m.–8 p.m. If you're in line at 8 p.m. you're allowed to vote.
- **Locations and Ballot:** Find your polling place and view a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
- **Registration:** Voters can register at the polls with proper identification. Visit eminnetonka.com/voters to learn more.
- **Results** will be available at hennepin.us and at sos.state.mn.us.
- **Location Change:** Ward 2 Precinct D voters will vote at Minnetonka Public Works (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.) instead of Ridgedale Hennepin County Library.

To cast your ballot before Election Day, visit the Minnetonka Community Center (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) for in-person absentee voting. Visit eminnetonka.com/election2018 for dates, times and details.

Call 952-939-8200 or email elections@eminnetonka.com for more information or to ask questions about the 2018 state general election.

City logo wins first place in national contest

Residents can display their City of Minnetonka materials with even more pride these days because the city's new logo received the top award in a national graphic design contest. 3CMA, a national communications and marketing association, announced the first place honor in September.



In addition to the first place graphic design award, the city also received a third place award for the plan to roll out the new brand. The city also received five awards at the state level earlier this year, including first place for its branding and marketing plan.



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2018 MINNETONKA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



First Place (left)
Rabbi David Locketz

Second Place (above)
Jeremiah Pilon

Third Place (right)
Mike Bialick



Congratulations to the winners of the city's 2018 photo contest!

Winners were chosen by the city's Facebook fans. First, second and third place (pictured above) and honorable mention winners were chosen from a pool of 81 entries.

To view all winners and submissions, visit [facebook.com/cityofminnetonka](https://www.facebook.com/cityofminnetonka).

Thank you to all the talented photographers who entered the contest, and to everyone who voted on Facebook!

Fall leaf drop-off site open until Nov. 17

Each fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. This month, the site has expanded hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 17. The site is closed Monday, Nov. 12 in observance of Veterans Day. Call 952-988-8430 with questions.

NOVEMBER LEAF DROP-OFF SITE HOURS

Mondays and Tuesdays	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Nov. 5, 6, 13
Fridays	Noon to 6 p.m.	Nov. 2, 9, 16
Saturdays	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Nov. 3, 10, 17
Sundays	Noon to 4 p.m.	Nov. 4, 11



City hall renovations begin in November

For the first time in 35 years, Minnetonka City Hall is getting a facelift. A renovation project to update city hall's office spaces, meeting rooms and conference rooms is scheduled to begin in late November.

The updates are necessary to accommodate growth, improve security and efficiency and ensure staff remains well-equipped to continue to provide excellent customer service.



Some services temporarily relocated during construction

Phase one of the three-phase project is scheduled to last approximately three months. City hall will remain open throughout, but some services will be temporarily relocated. Here's what you need to know for the project's first phase:

- **Minnetonka-Hopkins Recreation Services will relocate to Glen Lake Activity Center** (14350 Excelsior Blvd.) from Nov. 2, 2018, until the project is complete. Visit this location for in-person program registration and jersey pickup. Community Center staff can also assist with in-person registration.
- **The main city hall entrance will be closed. Please enter through the police department.** The city hall front desk will be relocated to the police lobby to assist you.
- **Utility billing and assessing will relocate to the lower level of city hall.**
- **Inspections and permits will remain on the main level of city hall** throughout the first phase of construction.
- All phone numbers will remain the same throughout the project.
- The community center and senior services area will not be affected by construction.
- Look for temporary signage to guide your visit to city hall.

Learn more

Visit eminnetonka.com/cityhallproject for more information and to sign up for project updates via email or text message.

City council review of mountain bike trail concept postponed

The Minnetonka City Council's Oct. 22 consideration of whether to add mountain bike trails to Lone Lake Park has been postponed indefinitely pending litigation.

The legal process is expected to last several months. Once it concludes, next steps will be determined and shared.

Subscribe to email and text updates and find more information at eminnetonka.com/mountainbiking.



1ST ANNUAL TURKEY BOWL



AGES 12 AND OLDER
RECOMMENDED

Saturday, Nov. 17
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Civic Center Park
and Hopkins High School

Fee: \$60 per team
Course: 1212001-01

Space is limited. Registration closes
Nov. 9 or when full. Visit
eminnetonka.com/sports/football
for complete details.

Have a fun - and safe - Halloween

Halloween is here, and these tips from the Minnetonka Fire Department will help ensure your holiday is both safe and fun.



- Costumes should be bright, reflective, flame-resistant and properly fitting.
- Masks should have large eye holes so children can easily see. Better yet, consider non-toxic makeup and hats as alternatives.
- Flashlights help trick-or-treaters see and be seen. Add reflective tape to trick-or-treat bags for extra visibility. Always trick-or-treat with a group and stick together.
- Light up your jack-o-lanterns with battery-powered candles, flashlights or glow sticks instead of candles.
- Consider drawing or painting on pumpkins, rather than carving with sharp knives, especially with little ones.
- Ensure fall decorations - like cornstalks and crepe paper - are nowhere near open flames.
- Halloween is the perfect time for a smoke detector survey - replace batteries and ensure detectors are placed on each level and in every bedroom.

Formal review of police and fire facility set for November

The City of Minnetonka has submitted a formal land-use application to improve its police and fire stations, and the planning commission and city council are tentatively scheduled to review and act on the application in November and December.

The application details the city's plan to construct a new fire station on the city campus and to repurpose the existing police and fire facility into a remodeled police station.



Next steps

- **Thursday, Nov. 15*** - Planning commission reviews application and makes recommendation to council
- **Monday, Dec. 3*** - City council reviews application and planning commission recommendation and takes action. If approved, bid documents are prepared.

Project history

For more than a year, city staff and officials worked with an architect to develop a plan to expand and improve both facilities.

The concept plan was unveiled to the public at a July 2018 community meeting, and presented to the planning commission and city council in August for review and feedback. The input gathered at these meetings was used to revise the concept plan before it was submitted as a formal application.

Stay informed and learn more

Visit eminnetonka.com/policefire2020 for more information. Text "mtkapf2020" to 468-311 to subscribe to project updates, or sign up for email or text updates online.

To provide feedback or ask questions, contact Assistant City Manager Perry Vetter at 952-939-8216 or pvetter@eminnetonka.com.

*Dates are tentative and subject to change.

Check eminnetonka.com/policefire2020 for updates.

★ CITY OF MINNETONKA PRESENTS ★

ROCK AT RIDGEDALE



The city's first-ever "Rock at Ridgedale" event was a big hit on Saturday, Sept. 22. Roughly 3,000 people enjoyed the free evening of family fun at Ridgedale Center, which included live music by The Johnny Holm Band, food trucks, games, activities and much more. Thank you to everyone who attended or helped with this new event. You rock, Minnetonka!



Recreation gift cards make a perfect holiday gift

Looking for a gift idea for the holidays? A City of Minnetonka recreation gift card offers something for everyone, from fitness center memberships and classes to community programs and events.

Gift cards can be used for the following programs, services and facilities:

- Williston Fitness Center
- Minnetonka Ice Arena
- Minnetonka Community Center
- Recreation Programs

Purchase a gift card at the Minnetonka Recreation Department (temporarily relocated to Glen Lake Activity Center, 14350 Excelsior Blvd., beginning Nov. 2) or at any of the above locations.





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 operate a business out of my home?

Answer:

Any business operated in a residential home is called a home occupation, or a home-based business. While most home-based businesses are generally compatible within residential neighborhoods, the city has standards that allow these businesses to exist without negatively impacting surrounding properties. These are considered permitted uses, and do not require any special approvals or permits.

Generally, the business must be located within the home and must not significantly alter the home's visual appearance. Certain businesses that tend to increase in intensity and size beyond what is compatible with surrounding residential uses are prohibited. Examples include auto and appliance repair, service and sales; landscaping and maintenance; mortuaries and massage therapy. Refer to the city's home occupation ordinance (City Code §300.15 Subd. 14) for more information.

Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at zoning@eminnetonka.com, call 952-939-8290 or visit eminnetonka.com/planning for more information.

City council sets 2019 property tax levy limit

Each September, in accordance with Minnesota state law, the Minnetonka City Council is required to set a maximum preliminary tax levy before approving the following year's budget.

At its meeting Monday, Sept. 17, the city council adopted a preliminary property tax increase of no more than 3.9 percent for the 2019 budget.

What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$359,800 for taxes payable in 2019) will increase by approximately \$53* next year.

How does the 2019 budget differ from the current budget?

The proposed 2019 budget will allow the city to continue to deliver high quality services to Minnetonka residents. The budget reflects a reduction in some areas, but it will also make it possible to address new initiatives and needs:

- **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:** Improved transportation infrastructure requires additional 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 review the Sept. 17 city council meeting materials and find out more about the 2019 city budget, visit eminnetonka.com/budget. View the Sept. 17 council meeting online at eminnetonka.com/tv.

To provide feedback on the 2019 budget:

- Submit feedback via 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 or 952-939-8200

*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.

2019 Budget Process

Aug. 20, 2018

Council discussed levy proposal

Sept. 17, 2018

Council sets preliminary levy

Nov. 19, 2018

Council to discuss budget proposal

Dec. 3, 2018

Public hearing

Right-of-way tree pruning begins this month

In November, the city will begin pruning trees and shrubs along the right-of-way (ROW) to improve sightlines and ensure safe streets, and to prepare for 2019 street construction projects. Crews will continue to prune through March 2019. Property owners in designated pruning areas will be notified by mail prior to the start of work.



Frequently asked questions about tree pruning

Why prune during the winter?

Winter is the best time to prune because trees - along with potentially harmful insects and diseases - are dormant. Winter pruning also promotes healthy regrowth in spring.

Who performs the work, and what does it entail?

The city or a contractor prunes ROW trees at no cost to property owners. Goals are:

- Raise tree canopies 16-18 feet above the road to avoid damage by the 15-foot-tall mill machine used in road construction.
- Create a safe work zone for street construction crews and equipment.
- Remove dead or broken branches that may become a future hazard.
- Remove shrubs or small trees that block sightlines or signs at intersections.

Each site is cleaned up after pruning, but winter conditions make it challenging to remove twigs and small debris.

How does the city determine to remove a tree in advance of a road project?

ROW trees must be removed if they are a street hazard. Trees may also be removed if they can't be properly pruned to allow for the safe passage of construction equipment.

How can ROW tree conflicts be avoided?

Plant evergreen trees (pine, spruce, etc.) more than 20 feet from the street.

Plant deciduous trees (those that drop leaves in the fall) at least 15 feet from the street.

Don't plant anything within six feet of the street.

On corner lots, ensure that intersection signs and sightlines are clear and visible.



Pick up after your pets

Dogs may be man's best friend, but their waste is a serious enemy of the environment, particularly surface waters. Pet owners should always pick up after your pets and properly dispose of the waste in a trashcan. If you're out in public be sure to keep your dog on a leash (or on voice command in city parks) and always know when and where they go so you can clean up.

Pet waste left behind doesn't disappear. Instead, runoff (rain, snow melt, etc.) carries it to storm sewers and into our lakes, streams and wetlands. Bacteria and parasites in pet waste pose a health threat to people, pets and wildlife, and the waste feeds algae and aquatic plants to reduce water quality and appearance.

Please pick up after your pets! Your neighbors and the environment will thank you.



MINNETONKA MEMO

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 12** Veterans Day Observed, City Offices Closed
- 13** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 14** Joint City Council and Park Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 14** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 15** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** Thanksgiving Day, City Offices Closed
- 23** Thanksgiving Observed, City Offices Closed
- 26** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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



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