

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
January 2016

Visit Minnetonka Kids' Fest Sunday, Jan. 24

Join friends and family for the annual Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services Kids' Fest from 12:30–3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus (14600 Minnetonka Boulevard). Enjoy live music, recreation activities, magic shows, trolley rides, arts and crafts, and much more!



All events are free and held at the Community Center (located on the Civic Center Campus) unless otherwise indicated. The event includes both indoor and outdoor activities – please dress accordingly.

Please bring canned goods to help area families in need. Collections will be received at the Minnetonka Community Center. Call 952-939-8203 for more information.



Schedule of Events

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Kids Folk Duo: Jack and Kitty

Noon–1:30 p.m.

• Dog sled rides

1:30–2:15 p.m.

• Amazing Nathan Magic Show

2:15–3:30 p.m.

• Dog sled rides

2:30–3:15 p.m.

• Bingo

2:30–3:30 p.m.

• Free ice skating and skate rental
(Minnetonka Ice Arena)

Noon–3:30 p.m.

• Horse-drawn trolley rides

• Facepainting

• Ice carving demonstrations

• Bonfire and s'mores

• Caricature artists

• Kiddance: Glow in the Dark DJ

• Amazing Nathan Strolling Magician

• Arts and crafts with KidCreate Studio

• Early childhood sensory activities
(Hopkins ECFE)

• Fire extinguisher simulator station

• Great Harvest wheat grass
gardens/bread samples

• Funtime Funktions Spin Zone

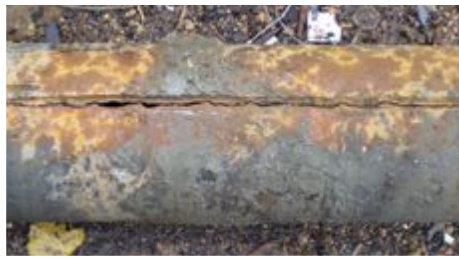
• Concession sales

• Shady Oak Beach pass sales

Activities and performances are subject to change without notice. Stay tuned to eminnetonka.com for details.

City utility fees increase to maintain water, sewer infrastructure

Due to aging infrastructure, the city experiences an average of 75-100 water main breaks a year – each costing as much as \$10,000 to repair – and the number of breaks is climbing. Not only do water main breaks result in expensive repairs, they can also cause extensive damage and inconvenient interruptions. That's why Minnetonka Public Works is working to proactively rehabilitate and replace this important infrastructure whenever necessary.



An aging water main.

In an effort to ensure enough resources are available to cover the cost of rehabilitating the system without having to do special assessments, the Minnetonka City Council adjusted city utility rates at a December meeting. Recycling and storm water fees were also adjusted.

Changes in these rates are effective January 1, 2016 and are as follows:

- Under the adopted rates reflected in the table, the average water and sewer utility customer will experience a rate increase of \$5.22 per month in 2016. Account fees, state of Minnesota testing fees and meter maintenance fees remain the same.
- The late fee for residential utility payments is also changing in 2016. Instead of a flat \$10 fee, residents making late payments will be charged 10 percent of their account balance.
- Storm sewer rate increases will help fund local street reconstruction projects, upgrades to county road projects and the cost of federal water quality mandates related to water runoff. The increases will also help to maintain the health of our many wetlands and ponds.
- The recycling fee was raised to \$4 per month from \$3.75. The new fee rate will allow the city to eventually recover the full costs of its recycling programs and make the city's charges equivalent to the average of residential recycling fees across the metro.

The adjacent table shows the complete rate changes for 2016.

For more information regarding 2016 rates, contact Finance Director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8200.

Rate Changes

	Rate per 1,000 gallons	
	Old	New
Residential Water Rate		
Tier 1 (0-18,000 gallons)*	\$2.20	\$2.50
Tier 2 (18,001-40,000 gallons)	\$2.51	\$2.85
Tier 3 (40,001-70,000 gallons)	\$3.16	\$3.59
Tier 4 (70,001+ gallons)	\$4.39	\$4.98
Sewer Rate		
	\$1.75	\$1.99
Base fee - residential	\$49.34/quarter	\$56/quarter
Base fee - commercial	\$16.45/month	\$18.67/month
Special class base fee**	\$18.22/quarter	\$20.68/quarter
Commercial/Industrial Water		
Base rate	\$2.20	\$2.50
Summer surcharge (May-Sept.)	\$2.50	\$2.84
Commercial/Industrial Sprinkler Accounts		
Sprinkler I (0-75,000 gallons)	\$2.51	\$2.85
Sprinkler II (75,001-175,000 gallons)	\$3.16	\$3.59
Sprinkler III (175,001+ gallons)	\$4.39	\$4.98
Stormwater		
Open space, undeveloped (acre/month)	\$2.83	\$2.92
Single family, 2-3 family, residential (unit/month)	\$6.29	\$6.48
Churches, schools, government (acre, month)	\$16.99	\$17.50
Apartment, condos (acre/month)	\$18.87	\$19.44
Commercial, industrial (acre/month)	\$47.56	\$48.99

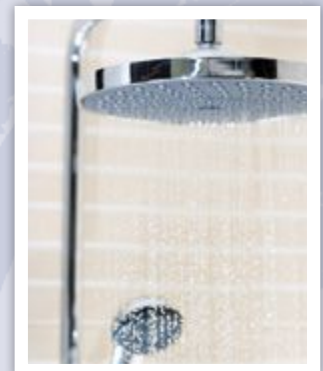
*Nearly 75 percent of all residents fall in this category.

**Discontinued for new entrants into the program.

Reduce your water consumption

The tiered water and sewer fee structures ensures every customer benefits by their own conservation. All customers share in the fixed costs of the system through the base fee; additional charges are directly related to usage. Check out these ideas to reduce your water consumption and save on your utility bill.

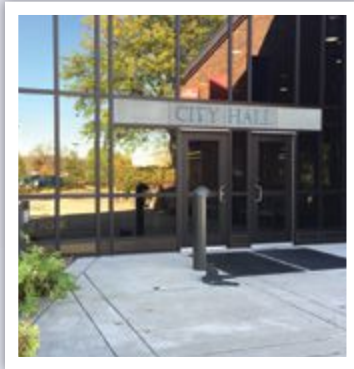
- Don't let water run when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Use a dishwasher instead of handwashing dishes, and only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Install a low-flow shower head. This can reduce up to 50 percent of water used while showering.
- Take shorter showers! Showers account for 30 percent of home water use.
- Fix leaks. A constantly dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons a day.
- Don't use running water to thaw foods.



Visit groundwater.org to find more ideas for conserving water.

Winter activities for all ages and interests

Get a behind-the-scenes look at city functions, attend a special event at the fire department, find out how to tackle that remodeling project and get out and enjoy the cold weather! No matter what your age or interest, the City of Minnetonka has planned a variety of fun activities to keep you busy this winter.



Citizens Academy

Enroll by Jan. 6

Learn more about your city and get to know city staff! This free program takes place over six Tuesday sessions: January 26, February 2, February 9, 16, 23, and March 8, 6:30–9 p.m., at Minnetonka City Hall. Hear from the various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance.

Graduates of the program — those who attend four or more sessions — receive special city council recognition.

To enroll, visit eminnetonka.com/register and click on “Adult Programs” to find the Citizen Academy information. You will be asked to create a user account to complete your registration if you have not already done so. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Fire Department

Family Fun Day

Jan. 9, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Minnetonka Fire Department’s “What If?” public educators invite you to Family Fun Day Saturday, Jan. 9, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at Minnetonka Fire Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard. Enjoy a tour of the fire station and see a firefighter dressed in full fire gear. The 20-foot inflatable slide will be ready for fun, and Sparky the fire safety dog will be on hand for photos. Program is free. Call 952-939-8331 for more information.



State of the City

Feb. 10, 7:30–9:30 a.m.

You’re invited to the 2016 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30–9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by Feb. 2, to Pat Schutrop at pschutrop@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8211.

Outdoor Ice Skating

Open through mid-February, weather permitting

Skating rinks with warming houses are available through mid-February (weather permitting) at 13 parks in Minnetonka and Hopkins. Minnetonka rinks are at Boulder Creek, Covington, Glen Lake, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill parks. Hopkins rinks are at Burnes, Central, Harley, Interlachen, Oakes and Valley parks. For a complete list of days and times rinks are open visit eminnetonka.com. Call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings, holiday hours and updates.



Home Remodeling Fair

Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring more than 75 contractor exhibits, seminars and an “Ask the Pro” booth is set for Sunday, Feb. 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. For more information visit homeremodelingfair.com.

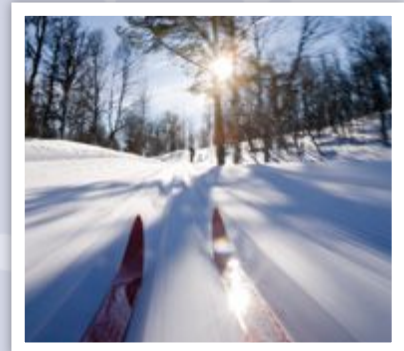


Ski Glen Lake Golf Course

rough March 6

The City of Minnetonka partners with the Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross-country ski trail each winter at the Glen Lake Golf Course. Snow is not made at the location, so the planned dates for the course are weather dependent.

Ski trails are not lit. The golf center will be open for ski rental, concession sales and restrooms. Ski trails and the golf center will be open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A season or daily pass is required for use, and all passes may be purchased on site. Three Rivers Park District season passes will be honored at the Glen Lake location. For more information, or to purchase a ski pass, call Minnetonka Recreation Services at 952-939-8203, the Glen Lake Golf Course at 763-694-7824 or visit threeriversparkdistrict.org.

Avoiding frozen water pipes

In extreme cold temperatures, it's important to be sure the water meter and water pipes located inside your home do not freeze. Frozen meters and pipes can burst, leading to costly water damage in your home.



Follow these tips to prevent issues:

- If meters and pipes are in unheated areas, install proper pipe insulation and commercially available pipe heaters. Use a box fan to circulate warm air in the unheated area from a heated area of the house.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors and utility closet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Make sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children.
- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let cold water drip from faucets served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Temporarily suspend cooler nighttime temperatures in your home and keep the thermostat set to the same temperature day and night. You may incur a higher heating bill, but you'll prevent a much more costly repair bill if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you are away during cold weather, keep the heat in your home set at a minimum of 55 degrees.

Water service line insurance coverage

Some residents have contacted the city about solicitations in the mail suggesting the purchase of water service line coverage. These solicitations are not endorsed by or affiliated with the city. The Better Business Bureau offers some recommendations about the purchase of water line insurance at bbb.org. Most importantly, before purchasing any additional insurance, first check with your homeowner's insurance – you may already be covered or there may be a rider available.

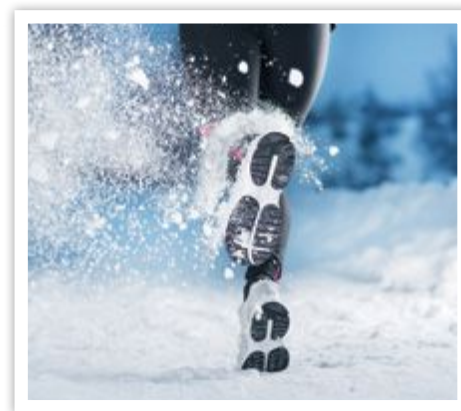
Contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 if you have questions about your water meter or pipes.

Stay safe on the trails this winter

Walkers, runners, bicyclists and skiers are reminded that they must obey traffic regulations to stay safe when using roadways and trails. Winter brings special considerations: slippery conditions, less visibility from earlier sunsets, piles of snow and winter weather conditions.

Follow these safety tips to minimize your risk of having an accident:

- When walking or running in low light conditions, dusk or dark, wear light-colored or reflective clothing to create the most visible profile for traffic.
- Carry or wear a lighted device.
- Every pedestrian or bicyclist crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk, or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk, should yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the roadway.
- The distance for safely stopping a vehicle increases with winter road conditions; use caution.



- Bicyclists should drive on the right side of the roadway with traffic and signal their turns. Bicycle riders are encouraged to wear a helmet.
- Watch out for snowplows and snow removal equipment on Minnetonka roads and trails.

Getting outside and enjoying the cool, crisp air of winter can be one of the best parts of the season, but please keep these guidelines in mind to avoid a scary situation. Have a fun, safe winter!

Seeking solutions to salt pollution

Salt has long been the go-to substance for melting ice and improving winter road safety. But recent research shows that chloride, found in the most common types of road salt, is a persistent and damaging water pollutant. Snowmelt washes excess road salt into local streams and lakes and there's no way to remove it once it's in the water. Aquatic animals and plants suffer as concentrations increase. Two of the three major waterways in Minnetonka, Minnehaha and Purgatory creeks, are impaired from chloride.

Salt can also seep into soils, blocking essential nutrients needed for plant growth. When salt-laden snow or water is sprayed onto the roadside by passing cars, nearby plants experience salt burn that kills leaves and disfigures stems.

That's why the City of Minnetonka has adapted its winter maintenance operation to reduce the risks of salt pollution while still keeping roads, sidewalks and parking lots safe. The city is a leader in salt reduction practices and will continue to incorporate the following strategies this winter:

Electronic monitoring. Plow trucks have been fitted with electronic sander controls to track when chemicals are applied and how much salt is used. That helps reduce equipment errors and use the right amount of salt for the conditions.

Expanding anti-ice techniques. A diluted solution of salt brine may be applied to dry pavement before a snowfall, preventing packed snow from bonding to the pavement.

Pretreating salt. Did you know that salt is only effective at temperatures 15 degrees Fahrenheit and above? By comparison, pre-wetted salt works down to -15 degrees. Because treated salt is already wet, it doesn't bounce or scatter across the pavement. A wet salt works more quickly, reducing the city's salt use by 30 to 60 percent.





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Programs and services for those 55+
January 2016 Newsletter

Income Tax Assistance

A free tax program is designed to help moderate to low income individuals with basic taxes. Please call senior services at 952-939-8393 starting January 4 to schedule an appointment.

- Mondays and Thursdays, Feb. 8 – April 14.
- Appointment times available include: 12:30, 1:45 and 3 p.m.

Women, Money and Power

Aimee Johnson, CRPC(R), CLU(R), CDFP, ChFC(R)

Monday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m.

Join Aimee Johnson, Vice President of Advanced Markets for Allianz Life Financial Services and take control of your financial future. Learn how to empower your hidden financial personality and why you need a financial strategy. Hosted by the Bulls and Bears Investment Club.

Free! RSVP by calling 952-939-8393

Co-ee with the Inspectors

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m.

Residential building codes were adopted to keep you and your family safe. However, too often, complacency at home leads to increased accidents. Second only to auto accidents, falls in the home are a common medical emergency. Join us for refreshments and a presentation that will put you in charge of making your home a safe place. A panel of building inspectors will be present to answer questions.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180404-01)

Travel Showcase

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m.

Join us as Landmark Tours presents an array of unforgettable North American travel opportunities for 2016. A local, family-owned tour operator, Landmark's inclusive packages feature roundtrip airfare, quality accommodations, motorcoach, a professional tour manager, many meals and more!

Cost: Free! (Course #2110301-01)

Monthly Party: Souper Bowl Party

Wednesday, Jan. 20, Noon

Wear your favorite team apparel and join us for a party!

Menu: Wild rice soup, salad, bread and dessert.

Sponsored by: Joyful Companions

Cost: \$7 due Friday, Jan. 15
(Course #2100101-01)

Lunch and a Movie: McFarland, USA

Friday, Jan. 29, Noon

After losing his current job a track coach lands a job in California's Central Valley where the student body is largely Latino. Discover the true story of Coach White creating a team of champions.

Menu: Grilled cheese, tomato soup and a treat.

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, Jan. 26.
(Course #2100201-01)

Community Connections: Building Your Strength Bank

Monday, January 25, 10:15 a.m.

Join Physical therapist Nicole Rennie, founder of Senior Abilities Unlimited, to learn the importance and positive effects for building a strength reserve. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Free! (Course #2180407-01)

Monthly Party: Valentine's Day

Thursday, Feb. 11, Noon

Love is in the air! Join us for a Valentine's Day party.

Menu: Swedish meatballs, salad, bread and dessert.

Sponsored by:

Brookdale Living

Cost: \$7 due Monday, Feb. 8
(Course #2100102-01)



Sips & Songs

Enjoy light refreshments and socializing before taking in local entertainment. Live it up, reserve your seat today!

BandanAhh!

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m.

It's all about LOVE and BandanAhh! loves to play your kind of music! Join us for your favorites from Sinatra, golden oldies, sing-a-longs and more.

Cost: \$3 (Course #2100301-01)

Sponsored by:
Brookdale Senior Living

Conversations with Hopkins High School Students

Thursday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m.

Visit one-on-one with high school students. Compare what school was like then and now, learn about current school activities and more. Please meet at Hopkins High School, 2400 Lindbergh Dr.; please park in visitor lot.

Cost: Free! (Course #2180406-01)

Author's Tale of Coco's Diary Peg Meier

Monday, Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m.

In 1927 13-year-old Coco Irvine kept a diary of her many antics living in what is now the governor's residence on St. Paul's Summit Avenue. Meier, award-winning reporter and popular Minnesota history author, will discuss her discovery of Coco's diary and its publication as the book *Through No Fault of My Own*.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180403-01)



Extra! Extra!

Look inside for a new Matter of Balance program, a new line dance instructor, a new oil painting group and a new Single Mingle location and time!

Fitness Programs

Over 50 and Fit

Volunteer Instructors

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.

Join this social group and enjoy music and fitness three days a week!

- Annual Fee: \$12
(Course #4090702-01)

New! Therapeutic Pilates

Dr. Sarah Petich

Mondays, Jan. 4 – Feb. 8 (no class 1/18)

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Pilates is a great low-impact, gentle, but challenging full-body workout that focuses on improving posture, flexibility and core strength. Work on posture alignment techniques, core strengthening exercises, flexibility, balance and breathing techniques. Taught by a physical therapist certified in Pilates and Postural Restoration. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat to class.

- \$45 (Course #2090901-01)

Tai Chi Chih

Susan Sobelson

Mondays, Jan. 11 – March 21

(No class 1/18 & 2/15)

Experience a form of “moving meditation” with benefits for body, mind and spirit. This series of 19 easy-to-learn movements creates a sense of calm and can improve balance, mental clarity and energy levels.

- Beginner, \$45, 10 – 11 a.m.
(Course #2090301-01)
- Intermediate, \$45, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
(Course #2090302-01)

Tai Chi for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 6 – 7 p.m.

Tai Chi short-form movements have many health benefits and are fun to learn. The slow circular movements help to improve balance and relaxation. Must be able to walk comfortably for an hour. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- \$54 (Course #2090401-01)



Yoga

Chair-Supported Yoga

Most of chair-supported yoga takes place while seated on a chair and includes plenty of stretching and warm-ups. Guided breath work and visualization help to release, relax and restore the body and calm the mind. Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- Jan. 5 – Feb. 23
\$48 (Course #2090101-01)

- March 8 – April 26
\$48 (Course #2090101-04)

Thursdays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- Jan. 7 – Feb. 25
\$48 (Course #2090101-02)

- March 10 – April 28
\$48 (Course #2090101-05)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

- Jan. 6 – Feb. 24
\$48 (Course #2090101-03)

- March 9 – April 27
\$48 (Course #2090101-06)

Zumba Gold

Renee Rahimi

Ditch the workout and join the party! Zumba Gold is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program featuring easy-to-follow rhythms and a variety of upbeat music. It is a low-impact, less intense form of Zumba designed for beginners and active older adults. Working out has never been so much fun!

Mondays, 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

- Feb. 1 – March 28 (No class 2/15 & 3/21)
\$35 (Course #2090501-01)

Wednesdays, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- Feb. 3 – March 30 (No class 3/23)
\$40 (Course #2090501-03)

Register Early

Programs can fill well in advance or may be canceled due to low enrollment. Registering early is the best way to secure a spot.

Intermediate Yoga

Intermediate yoga includes standing and balancing postures. Guided breath work and visualization help to release, relax and restore the body and calm the mind. Participants should have the ability to get up and down from the floor to complete postures while on the belly or backside of the body. Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – noon

- Jan. 5 – Feb. 23
\$48 (Course #2090201-01)

- March 8 – April 26
\$48 (Course #2090201-04)

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon

- Jan. 7 – Feb. 25
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- March 10 – April 28
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Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Jan. 6 – Feb. 24
\$48 (Course #2090201-03)

- March 9 – April 27
\$48 (Course #2090201-06)

Line Dance

New Instructor: Tricia Wood

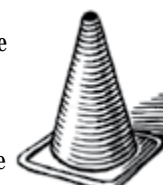
Thursdays, Jan. 21 – Feb. 18

Get a great workout and learn to hitch, vine and dance in a line! No partners needed.

- Beginner, \$35, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
(Course #2090601-01)
- Intermediate, \$35, 1:45–2:45 p.m.
(Course #2090602-01)

PARKING

If the community center parking lot is full please remember you may park at City Hall. The turnaround is for drop-off and pick-up only. Parking spaces behind the Community Center are reserved for city vehicles. Please do not park in the turnaround or behind the Community Center.



Athletic Activities

Indoor Pickleball

October – May

Try the fun and social game of pickleball. Limited racquets and balls are available.

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:30 – 10 a.m.
- Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Free for Williston, SilverSneaker and Silver and Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

Williston Fitness Center
14509 Minnetonka Drive

Art Programs

Watercolor with Pen and Ink

Sandra Muzzy

Tuesdays, March 1 – 15
1 – 4 p.m.

Watercolor and ink work well together with their versatile and unique properties. They can be delicate or bold, detailed or loose. Work with inks, assorted pens and water soluble materials to create various effects, expand your painting repertoire and experiment with fun, versatile and accessible painting techniques.

- \$84 (Course #2130301-01)

Education Programs

Matter of Balance

Tuesdays, Feb. 2 – March 22
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn to manage falls and increase activity levels during award-winning series by the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. Learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, reduce fall risks at home and increase strength and balance.

- \$58 (Course #2090801-01)

Defensive Driving

Attend and save 10 percent on car insurance! Pay the instructor at class with a check or exact cash. Register through MN Highway Safety Center, 1-888-234-1294, or visit mnsafetycenter.org for all classes.

4-hour renewal sessions:

- \$22, Thursday, Jan. 14, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
- \$22, Thursday, Jan. 21, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Leisure Programs

Full Moon Hike to Jidana Park

Steve Pieh

Monday, Feb. 22
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxed walk to Jidana Park. Enjoy refreshments and roasting hot dogs by campfire underneath the full moon. Meet at the main entrance of the Minnetonka Community Center.

- \$4 (Course #2190801-01)

Mahjongg

Carole Harris

Wednesdays, April 6 – May 18
10 – Noon

Learn to play the intriguing game of Mah Jongg, a game of chance and skill. Played previously? Refresh your skills.

- \$56 (Course #2190201-01)



History Programs

British History: Four Queens

Terry Kubista

ursdays, Jan. 7 – 28
1 – 3 p.m.

Queen Anne, Queen Caroline, Queen Mary and mistresses were major players in the United Kingdom. Learn how they influenced history for better or worse.

- \$28 (Course #2180101-01)

Leading Up to the Great War

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, Jan. 13
10:30 a.m. – noon

The Great War is considered an historical event that helped define the 20th century as we understand it today. This course will provide an understanding of what led up to the one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

- \$3 (Course #2180201-01)

Email Updates

Stay up-to-date on the latest events! Receive weekly email updates on senior happenings! Send your email address to spieh@eminnetonka.com.

Interest Groups

Interest groups are coordinated and led by seniors in the community. All groups meet at the Minnetonka Community Center unless noted otherwise.

500

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Join in the fun! We'll teach you.

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.
Speaker: *Birdchick* by Sharon Stiteler.

Book Club

3rd Thursday, 1 p.m.
The Girl You Left Behind by Jojo Moyes.

Bulls and Bears Investment Club

1st and 3rd Mondays, 1 p.m.
Learn about investing.

Bunco

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1 p.m.
Join in the fun! We'll teach you!

Dominoes

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1 p.m.
New members welcome!

Cribbage

ursdays, 10 a.m.
Bring your cribbage board and cards.

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.
No January meeting. Meets again in February.

Ham Radio

2nd Monday, 10 a.m.
New members welcome!

Mahjongg

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
New members welcome!

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain.

New! Oil Painting Drop In

Fridays, 1 p.m.
New members welcome!

Single Mingle

1st Monday, 9:30 a.m.
New time and location! Meet local singles over coffee at the community center.

Senior Day Trips

Around Rice Park: Winter Carnival

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Walk around St. Paul's Winter Carnival at the beautiful and historic Rice Park. Enjoy the beautiful ice displays. Lunch is at the M ST. Cafe in the historic St. Paul Hotel. After lunch take a guided tour at the Ordway eater, known as St. Paul's most elegant and inviting performance space.

Menu: Enjoy a seasonal menu prepared by the chef.

(Course# 2110102-01)

- **Cost:** \$59 includes tours, meal, transportation and escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 11:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Jan. 8



Paramount eater: Texas Tenors

Friday, March 4

Enjoy lunch at Ciatti's Ristorante in St. Cloud before taking in a show from Emmy Award Winning Texas Tenors. Since their debut on NBC's America's Got Talent, the group has performed more than 800 concerts around the world and were recently named the #10 Classical Artist in the world. Menu: Chicken marsala, salad, vegetable, bread and beverage.

(Course# 2110103-01)

- **Cost:** \$80 includes performance, meal, transportation & escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 9:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Jan. 29.

Services

Blood Pressure Screenings

1st and 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays
9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Free!

Provided by volunteer nurses.

Happy Feet

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays,
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$36

Provided by nurses specializing in foot care. For appointment call 763-560-5136.

Senior Community Services

Senior Outreach Social Worker

Lisa Engdahl

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Free!

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance and more. For appointment call 952-939-8393.

Health Insurance Counseling

1st and 3rd Mondays, Free!

Discuss Medicare, Social Security, long-term care, resources and more! For appointment call 952-939-8393.

HOME

Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) is available for Minnetonka residents 60+. For information call 952-746-4046 or visit the Community Center on Fridays, 9 a.m. – noon. Some of the chores HOME can help with include:

- Snow removal
- Install grab bars
- Change light bulbs
- Housekeeping
- Grocery shopping
- Painting
- Check carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Minor toilet repairs
- Change furnace filters
- Hang wall decor

Contact and Registration Information

Register in person, over the phone, online or by mail.

Minnetonka Senior Services

952-939-8393

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
 Minnetonka, MN 55345

eminnetonka.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Administrative Staff

Kate Egert

kegert@eminnetonka.com

Senior Services and Activities Manager

Steve Pieh

952-939-8366

spieh@eminnetonka.com

Senior and General Programs Manager

Janelle Cross Eld

952-939-8369

jcross_eld@eminnetonka.com

Program Locations

Meet at Minnetonka Senior Services unless otherwise noted.

Registration Information

• Program Cancellations

Refunds will only be made if registration is withdrawn before the advertised deadline. If no deadline is given, registration must be withdrawn at least two business days prior to the start date of the program. Partial credit will be considered if injury or serious illness occurs. In such case a physician's verification may be required.

• Trip Cancellations

Full refund requires canceling prior to advertised deadline. Cancellations after deadline are refunded after a \$5 fee per registration, only in the event a participant is found to fill the space.

Our mission: To develop and promote programs and services in our community to meet the diverse needs of those 55+.

Thank you to Minnetonka's 2015 natural resources volunteers

The Natural Resources staff at Minnetonka Public Works would like to thank the many volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours to assist with habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, tree planting and special events in 2015.

Natural Resources Group Volunteers

Wetland Health Evaluation Program volunteers contributed 106 hours in 2015. WHEP volunteers are led by Natural Resource Specialist Aaron Schwartz.

Cargill's Salt Division donated and planted over 40 trees for the city Arbor Month planting at Purgatory Park. The \$6,000 value of the Cargill donation includes the trees and the cooperative organization by nonprofit Tree Trust. The project was designed and overseen by City Forester Emily Ball.

Geocachers, recruited by resident-cacher **Ted Nearman**, volunteered five evening and weekend dates at four parks from May to October removing invasive species and installing plant protection cages for native trees.

Pastor Patrick Ray's Gospel Church youth volunteers from Minnetonka and Arkansas helped pull garlic mustard and invasive species in four parks the mornings of July 7-10.

St. Joan of Arc Church, Eco-spirituality members came from Minneapolis to pull garlic mustard at Lone Lake Park in May.

Minnetonka High School Senior Serve students pulled garlic mustard in Purgatory Park in June.

Hopkins High School American Legion Baseball teams volunteered for a half-day pulling garlic mustard in the Civic Center woodlands as a fundraiser for the teams.

MGK Research and Development Department of Golden Valley, recruited by director and Minnetonka resident **Donald Sundquist**, cut buckthorn in Purgatory Park in September.

Holdridge Road neighbors donated more than 50 hours removing buckthorn from city outlots along their roads in October and November.

Excelsior Boy Scout Troop 409 cut buckthorn the morning after their camp-out at Jidana Park in November.

Finally, thank you to new volunteers: **Val McGruder** for choosing Headwaters Park for her Master Naturalist project; **Cornell Anderson**, **Tom DiToso**, **Nickolay Semento** and the **Watkins/Wogstat family** for their help with invasive species control in two or more parks.

Adopt-a-Spot Habitat Restoration Volunteers

These volunteers work independently after instruction and approval. Several park areas would not have reached the highest quality restoration grade without the dedication of these individuals. Thank you to the following volunteers who reported 29 or more hours in 2015.

Bill and Renate Sperber contributed more than 234 hours to habitat restoration. In Purgatory Park they cut buckthorn and disposed of buckthorn berries, pruned diseased branches from wild cherries, pulled garlic mustard and provided maintenance to native plants.

Jane Sweet and company donated 172 hours at Mooney Park removing buckthorn and garlic mustard, planting trees and wildflowers, installing plant protection, spreading mulch, removing old debris and more.

Randall Neal and family worked 118 hours on habitat restoration in Kinsel Park for the tenth year. Randall continues to plant and maintain trees and wildflowers; remove buckthorn, garlic mustard and other invasive species; spread mulch; maintain planting beds and clean up after storms.

Dale Antonson provided 85 hours of loving care to several parks by weeding and picking up trash and dog waste. In Kelly Park he mulched newly planted trees and maintained the reading area under the special library oak.



Dale Antonson

Heather and Brent Holm spent 70 hours transforming the northeast corner of Lake Rose Park from an invasive species tangle into a restored woods with a wood mulch path.

Gary Kerber finished his seventh season as an Adopt-a-Spot volunteer in Big Willow Park. He pulled garlic mustard, mapped poison ivy and assisted in other parks with scheduled groups.

Leonard Mignerey worked 39 hours in Lake Rose Park on buckthorn and garlic mustard control, planting, caging and mulching.

Chris Carlson spent 29 hours leading Master Naturalist volunteers in "Mills Oak Woods" within Minnetonka Mills Park.

They removed invasive species from high-quality wildflower areas.

Additional thanks to **Jo Janssen**, **Nate Fleischhacker** and Minneapolis Master Naturalist **Jim Coleman**. We would also like to thank **Fred Leverentz** for years of bluebird box monitoring and maintenance in Purgatory Park.



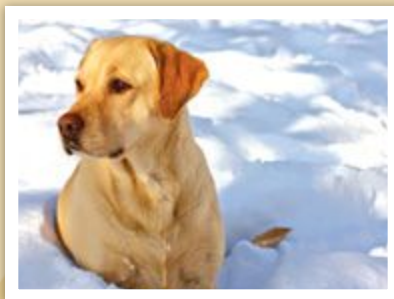
Volunteers at Purgatory Park

Want to help?

Call 952-988-8423 if you're interested in volunteering.

Protect Minnetonka's natural resources by picking up after pets

In Minnesota, about one in three households own a dog. With more than two million households in the state, that adds up to a lot of pooches and a lot of pet waste. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, on average one dog produces about 274 pounds of waste each year. Now multiply that by hundreds of thousands of dogs. You can see why it's so important for people to responsibly clean up after their pets.



Pet waste left in the environment does not simply disappear. In fact, pet waste is among the leading causes of pollution in urban waterways nationwide. Rainfall and spring snowmelt washes dog waste off lawns, sidewalks and other surfaces where it's then carried directly into the nearest body of water. Waste left atop the ice sinks into lakes, creeks and wetlands. Bacteria and parasites found in pet waste pose a threat to the health of people and wildlife. Decaying pet waste also adds nutrients to water, feeding bacteria that consume oxygen needed by aquatic plants and animals.

That's why pet waste contributes significantly to water pollution, especially in urban watersheds like ours.

You can help by bagging pet waste and depositing it in a proper trash receptacle. Picking up after your pet protects our environment – but it is also about being a good neighbor. Please, pick up after your pet!

Get ready for the annual spring tree sale

Have you planted one of the 12,000 trees the city has sold since 2007 through the tree sale program? If not, you are missing out on a fantastic opportunity!

The city's annual tree sale program allows residents to pre-order and pre-pay for up to two trees per property. At least 10 different species are offered, ranging from two to 10 feet tall at the time of purchase.

The trees will be available for pick up April 29 and 30.

Sale begins Feb. 8; all orders must be made online

Once again, the city is partnering with Tree Trust, a local nonprofit organization, to offer online ordering via eminnetonka.com. For the first time this year, however, all tree sale orders must be made online – paper order forms will not be distributed. The sale will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8 and will continue until 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 7. Keep in mind quantities are limited and many trees sell out before the deadline. Orders will not be accepted before Feb. 8.

Please note, if you are unable to place your order online, city staff will be available to provide assistance. Stay tuned for details in the February edition of the Minnetonka Memo.



To learn more about the tree sale:

- Attend a tree sale sneak preview Tuesday, Jan. 26, from 5:30–7 p.m. (see below for details)
- Watch the mail for the February *Minnetonka Memo*, which will include a list of available tree species
- Stay tuned to eminnetonka.com – available tree species will be posted by Wednesday, Jan. 27.

If your homeowner's association would like to order trees through the city's tree sale program, please contact the city forester at 952-988-8421 to discuss your plans and receive authorization to place an order. The city reserves the right to modify association orders to ensure species diversity and fair distribution of tree species.

Call the forestry information line at 952-988-8407 for more information.

Tree sale sneak preview Jan. 26

Attend a Tree Sale sneak preview Tuesday, Jan. 26, from 5:30–7 p.m. in the Shady Oak Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Learn about each tree offered and figure out what tree would do best in your yard before online ordering opens Feb. 8. You will also get some expert tips to ensure your tree thrives. Please note, tree orders will not be accepted at the presentation.

Space is limited to 36, so please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 or register online at eminnetonka.com.



Music Association of Minnetonka welcoming new choir members

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) is welcoming new members to its three adult choirs. This is a great opportunity for those who love to sing, are looking for a new commitment or want to be a part of a choir once again.

Symphony Chorus members perform great choral works by Bach, Beethoven and beyond. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Choral Reflections members perform popular arrangements, including show tunes, madrigals, and a wide selection of holiday carols. Rehearsals are Monday nights at the Arts Center on Highway 7.



Senior Chorale is an ensemble with members 55+ years or older who perform patriotic, folk and art songs and show tunes at a variety of venues throughout the southwest metro area. Rehearsals are Wednesday mornings at the Minnetonka Community Center.

There are no auditions. Contact the office for more information at 952-401-5954 or visit musicassociation.org.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Jan. 23

Join friends for the annual MAM Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 23 from 8–11 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center Banquet Room. Enjoy live music and a silent auction and have a chance to win special prizes. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

Call 952-401-5954 or visit musicassociation.org for details.

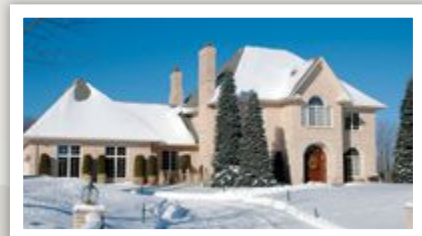
City receives award for excellence in financial reporting

For the 32nd year, the City of Minnetonka was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award was given to the city for demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” in its comprehensive annual financial report (CARF).

To qualify for this award, cities must meet the rigorous standards set forth by the GFOA. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Five simple ways to save energy in your home this winter

When the weather outside is frightful, a cozy home is so delightful. Of course, the price for winter comfort is a high heating bill. Here are good news, though! A more efficient home is less expensive to heat. These simple steps help you save money and protect the environment.



Stop leaks and drafts at the source

Leaks allow heat to escape. To conserve heat, locate and seal gaps around window frames, pipes and electrical fixtures.

Give your furnace a tune-up

An annual inspection keeps your furnace running smoothly. Take the time to check the air filter monthly, and clean or replace it as necessary.

Lower the setting on your thermostat

Save on your monthly heating bill by keeping the thermostat at or below 68 degrees. Consider installing a programmable thermostat, and choose a slightly lower setting when you are sleeping or away from home.

Let the sun work for you

Open curtains on south-facing windows during the day to let in sunshine. Close curtains at night to conserve heat.

Wrap up your water heater

Install an insulating blanket around the water heater and set up tubular foam insulation over the water pipes.

These small investments of time and money can result in significant energy savings.

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

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Non-emergency 952-939-8500 or 9-1-1	

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

January
2016

Call 952-939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call 952-939-8200 for meeting locations.
					1	2	1 New Year's Day, City Offices Closed
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	6 Park Board, 7 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	11 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
31							12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, City Offices Closed
							21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							28 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change – visit eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and can be viewed live and on-demand at eminnetonka.com. Meetings are rebroadcast on channel 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at noon.

Agendas for council meetings are available at eminnetonka.com by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Christmas tree disposal options

The holiday season came and went, and now it's time to clean up the decorations, including that needle-dropping Christmas tree. Minnetonka residents have a couple of options for live Christmas tree disposal.

- Check with your residential refuse hauler for pick up and recycling of your tree. Haulers have a specific time or limited days they collect trees from customers. Check the last bill you received or call your hauler. There may be an additional fee depending on the company and your level of service.
- Trees will be accepted at the city's brush drop-off site, open four Saturdays in March, 7 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Public Works facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd). Until then, place your Christmas tree in a snowbank as a habitat for birds.

Please note, tree stands and decorations must be removed before disposal.



The paper in this newsletter was manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas).

