

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
December 2015

Prepare for the snow season

Now that the winter season has arrived, it's time for a city snow removal refresher. Please keep the following things in mind as you get prepared for the snow season.

Remember to follow the city on Twitter (@MinnetonkaMN) to stay informed of the city's activities during winter storms.



- In most snowfalls, **plowing operations begin between midnight and 4 a.m.**, but the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall and its intensity.
- 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, the goal is to clear streets within nine hours.
- **Mailboxes** damaged by direct impact from a city snowplow will be repaired, but mailboxes that break from the force of the snow coming off the snowplow will not be repaired. The city will conduct a review of each mailbox damage claim to determine whether the city has responsibility for the damage and if so to repair, replace or provide reimbursement (up to \$200) for the mailbox. The deadline to report mailbox damage to the city is June 1.
- **The city will repair turf** that was damaged on the boulevard which was the direct result of plowing beyond the road edge. All other damage within the public right-of-way is the owner's responsibility (e.g. shrubs, bushes, rocks, trees, irrigation systems, driveways, etc.) Report snowplow damage to Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400. Repairs usually are made in May and June.
- **Snowplowing takes place in three steps.** The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets. Within a few hours of the first pass, full-width plowing takes place. Final cleanup typically occurs the following day and includes intersection cleanup, salting and plowing where vehicles had been parked.
- After snowfalls of two inches or greater, **cul de sacs** will be plowed similarly to mainline streets. Plow trucks will make a first pass to clear the center of the circle, then will return later to clear the remaining snow curb to curb in conjunction with the second pass on mainline streets. The goal is to evenly distribute the snow from cul-de-sacs on the adjacent properties. However, depending on the number of obstructions (hydrants, mailboxes, driveways, etc.) it is not always possible to do so.
- **Clear snow from your property**, but don't push it into or across the street, or onto sidewalks and trails. City ordinances require snow to be placed on the boulevard adjacent to your property in a manner that doesn't interfere with traffic or city snowplowing operations. Please make contractors aware of city snow removal ordinances.

Minnetonka voters re-elect incumbents to city council

The municipal general election was held Tuesday, Nov. 3. The following incumbents were re-elected to office:

- Council Member
Robert "Bob" Ellingson (Ward 1)
- Council Member
Tony Wagner (Ward 2)
- Council Member
Brad Wiersum (Ward 3)
- Council Member
Tim Bergstedt (Ward 4)

A reminder about winter parking

As winter arrives, please remember the following city ordinances designed to control parking on Minnetonka's streets and allow for efficient snowplowing.

- 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 any one place for a longer continuous period than six hours.
- 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 from the street, road or highway. In addition to any other penalties imposed for the violation of this section, the police department may order that the motor vehicle or trailer be towed from the right-of-way at the owner's expense.

The Minnetonka Police and Public Works Departments appreciate your cooperation in following these ordinances.

An update on 2016 property taxes

In September, the Minnetonka City Council adopted a preliminary levy increase of 4.2 percent which was originally forecasted to result in a tax decrease for the owner of a median-valued home in Minnetonka. However, the impact of the state's property tax base sharing program – also known as fiscal disparities – that requires cities to share a portion of the taxes generated by the growth of commercial properties is greater than originally calculated. As a result, the owner of a median-valued home (\$317,800 in 2015) in Minnetonka is expected to see a modest increase of 2.4 percent – or **\$28** – to their 2016 city tax bill.

Expanded tax base minimizes impact of increase

Why are city taxes increasing by only 2.4 percent if the levy is increasing by 4.2 percent? In 2015, Minnetonka's tax base expanded as a result of new development and redevelopment. As a result, the 4.2 percent increase will be spread over a larger group of tax payers, making individual homeowners and business owners responsible for a smaller portion of the proposed increase.

2016 city budget

Over one-half of the new dollars from city property taxes will be devoted to public safety. The remaining funds generated by the increase support the preservation of natural resources and address changes in employment law and health benefits. Specifically, the \$28 annual increase for the median-valued home will:

- Support the addition of a police investigator to handle a growing number of identity theft and fraud cases
- Provide funds to perform needed maintenance and renovations to two of the city's aging fire stations
- Add one additional full-time firefighter to coordinate the rigorous and complex training required to maintain a strong, paid-on-call fire force
- Dedicate resources to maintain the trees and landscaping along the public right-of-way
- Support a new human resources position to meet the demands created by health care law complexities and an increase in legal mandates

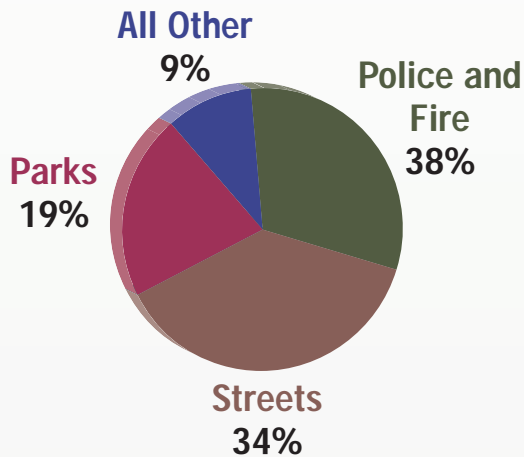
The 2016 budget also includes funding for an additional full-time community development inspector. However, the cost for this position is offset by associated permit fees.

The specific change in city taxes vary from home to home and depend upon the change in a home's taxable value from 2014 to 2015. More details on the proposed 2016 budget and associated levy increase can be found at eminnetonka.com.

Give us your feedback

Minnetonka city staff take pride in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars – and we want your feedback. Contact Finance Director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8200 with your thoughts, or attend a public hearing Monday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Your input will be collected and used to refine the final budget presented to the city council.

Your 2016 property taxes will buy...



An explanation of your tax bill

	2015	2016
County	\$1,417.03	\$1,459.14
City	\$1,115.06	\$1,142.61
School (based on Hopkins School District)		
Voter approved	\$817.09	\$865.95
Other	\$619.37	\$622.24
School Total	\$1,436.46	\$1,488.19
Metro Districts	\$88.34	\$89.57
Other Districts	\$202.87	\$208.98
Total	\$4,259.76	\$4,388.49

*Based on the 2015 median single family home value of \$317,800.

INVESTING IN MINNETONKA'S UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Water and Sewer

According to the American Society of Civil Engineering, an estimated 240,000 water main breaks occur each year in the United States – and these breaks are becoming more common as the country's utility infrastructure ages. Minnesota alone projects more than \$10 billion in drinking water and sewer infrastructure needs over the next 20 years.

Minnetonka's water and sewer infrastructure, primarily installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, is unfortunately not exempt from this issue. According to Minnetonka Public Works Director Brian Wagstrom the city experiences up to 100 water main breaks a year, and the number is climbing – at a cost of up to \$10,000 per repair. That's why Minnetonka Public Works is taking a proactive approach to addressing the city's aging utility infrastructure by monitoring and assessing the condition of pipes and investing in new infrastructure when necessary. Whenever possible, pipes are rehabilitated; but when beyond repair, they're replaced. This is also why the city council is discussing long-term investment strategies to account for the cost of these repairs.

As part of the investment in Minnetonka's \$500 million water and sewer infrastructure, and to ensure enough resources are available to cover the cost of rehabilitating the system without having to do special assessments, the monthly utility

cost for the average Minnetonka household is expected to increase each year over the next few years, beginning in January 2016. The city council is discussing the details of the 2016 expected rate increase at a public hearing in December – watch eminnetonka.com for more information about the hearing and for details regarding the discussion.

By creating a plan to proactively rehabilitate and invest in sewer and water infrastructure, the city is working to spare homeowners and businesses from the nightmare of dealing with unexpected sewer backups and water main breaks that result in costly interruptions and damage.

Though the out-of-sight, out-of-mind nature of utility infrastructure makes it easy to take the system for granted, having reliable sewer and water service is critical to ensuring our city's economy, schools and public health continues to be successful far into the future.

By the numbers:

Minnetonka's water and sewer system

- City water and sewer utility infrastructure valued at \$500 million
- 280 miles of sanitary sewer pipeline
- 320 miles of water pipeline
- Eight water treatment plants
- Water and sewer pipelines installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s
- Up to 100 water main breaks a year; each can cost up to \$10,000 to repair



Aging infrastructure results in costly repairs and inconvenient interruptions.

Outdoor ice rink volunteers needed

Each winter, adult volunteers allow the City of Minnetonka to expand the operating hours at city warming houses beyond the regular operation schedule. More volunteers are needed for this season at Meadow, Covington, Spring Hill, Boulder Creek, Gro Tonka and McKenzie Parks.



Volunteers must be at least 25 years of age and are responsible for opening and securing their assigned building, operating the rink lighting and building heating systems, completing required forms and regularly communicating with the Recreation Services Department. Volunteers are allowed to open their assigned warming house for extended use prior to scheduled openings or until 10 p.m. during days and times when the employee attendant is not scheduled. Because the warming houses are associated with outdoor ice rinks, the availability of ice and therefore volunteer hours is entirely weather dependent.

The 2015-2016 skating season is scheduled to start in mid-December and run through mid-February.

If interested in volunteering, or for more information, please contact the Recreation Services office at 952-939-8203, or email Dave Johnson at djohnson@eminnetonka.com.

Application materials can be found on the city's website at eminnetonka.com.

Ski Glen Lake Golf Course this season

The City of Minnetonka partners with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross-country ski trail each winter at the Glen Lake Golf Course. Using the golf course's natural landscape, the 2.5-kilometer cross-country trail provides skiers of all levels and abilities a dedicated trail groomed exclusively for both ski skating and traditional cross-country skiing.



Snow is not made at the location, so the planned dates for the course – December 12 through March 6 – 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 of the Glen Lake trail. Season ski passes may be purchased for \$30 for the first family member and \$15 for each additional family member. Daily ski passes may be purchased on site for \$4. All passes may be purchased on site. In addition, Three Rivers Park District season passes will be honored at the Glen Lake location. Visit threeriversparkdistrict.org for more information.

For more information, or to purchase a ski pass, call Minnetonka Recreation Services at 952-939-8203 or the Glen Lake Golf Course at 763-694-7824.

Outdoor skating rinks open December 19



Outdoor skating rinks with warming houses are available at seven Minnetonka park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will be open Saturday, Dec. 19, and will remain open until Monday, Feb. 15, 2016. Call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates. For a complete list of holiday and winter break hours, visit eminnetonka.com.

For weather related updates regarding the rink conditions, please call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355.

Minnetonka Rink Hours

	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-5 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-5 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-5 p.m.



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Programs and services for those 55+
December 2015 Newsletter

Spring Registration (January – March)

Residents: Wednesday, Dec. 2
Non-Residents: Thursday, Dec. 3

- Register online, over the phone, by mail or in person.
- Online: webtrac.hopkinsminnetonka.com. First-time users should call for a PIN.
- Phone: 952-939-8393, payments can be made with Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
- Mail: 14600 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55345
- In person: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Scholarships

- Limited scholarships are available for Minnetonka residents age 55+.
- Scholarships are kept confidential.
- No questions are asked regarding details of finances.
- Up to three scholarships per brochure totalling nine per year.
- Up to 50 percent for programs.
- Up to 50 percent on one day trip per year.

Telephone Equipment Distribution Program

Monday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.

The Telephone Distribution Program provides telephones to people with hearing loss, physical or speech needs. Join us to learn more about this program that provides phones at no cost to qualifying Minnesotans.

Cost: \$2 (Course #1180408-01)

School Theater Performance

Friday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.

Enjoy student performances of musical numbers from: *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Truly Scrumptious* and more!

Cost: Free! (Course #2190901-01)



11280 Wayzata Blvd.
763-591-4868
Purchase items handcrafted
by Minnetonka residents
ages 55 and older.

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
Thursdays until 8 p.m.

*Holiday Hours: Monday – Saturday,
Nov. 30 – Dec. 23rd.*

Seasonal crafts and gifts have arrived!

Place for holiday shopping:

- Winter hats, gloves and scarves
- Baby clothes and toys
- Jewelry and accessories
- Handbags and wallets
- Doll furniture and clothes
- Household items and more!



Lunch and a Movie: *I'll See You in My Dreams*

Friday, Dec. 11, Noon

Carol Peterson finds her well-ordered life thrown out of balance by the death of her beloved canine companion. However, she soon discovers life can begin anew, at any age.

Menu: BBQ meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable and a treat.

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, Dec. 8.
(Course #1100204-01)

Holiday Craft Party

Monday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for refreshments, socializing and crafting! Create an adorable wooden snowman to add some holiday cheer to your home or to give as a gift.

Provided by: Brookdale Senior Living

Cost: \$4 (Course #1100303-01)

Sips & Songs

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

James Shaw

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$3 (Course #1100301-02)

Sponsored by:
WestRidge of Minnetonka

Monthly Party: Holiday Gala

Tuesday, Dec. 15, Noon

Celebrate the season with us.

Menu: Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, roll and dessert

Sponsored by: Brookdale Senior Living

Cost: \$7 due Thursday, Dec. 10
(Course #1100107-01)

Come 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)

Monthly Party: Super 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)

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 #4090701-01)

New! Therapeutic Pilates

Dr. Sarah Petich

Mondays, Nov. 30 – Dec. 21

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.

- \$36 (Course #1090903-01)

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

Tai Chi for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Wednesdays, 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)
- **Wednesdays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.**
- Jan. 7 – Feb. 25
\$48 (Course #2090101-02)
- March 10 – April 26
\$48 (Course #2090101-05)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

- Jan. 6 – Feb. 24
\$48 (Course #2090101-03)
- March 9 – April 25
\$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 28 (No class 3/23)
\$40 (Course #2090501-03)
- March 10 – April 26
\$48 (Course #2090101-05)

Intermediate Yoga

Intermediate yoga includes standing and balance 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)
- **Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – noon**
- Jan. 7 – Feb. 25
\$48 (Course #2090101-02)
- March 10 – April 26
\$48 (Course #2090101-05)
(No Class 11/26)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Jan. 6 – Feb. 24
\$48 (Course #2090201-03)
- March 9 – April 25
\$48 (Course #2090201-06)

Athletic Activities

Indoor Pickleball

October – May

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

- Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 – 10 a.m.
- Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 – 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**



History Programs

British History: Short Stories

Terry Kubista

ursdays, Dec. 3-17

1-3 p.m.

Discuss the treaty negotiated "to end the war to end all wars" and its failure, the roles of English Royalty in common England and the history and traditions of a Victorian Christmas.

- \$21 (Course #1180101-04)

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 good or for bad.

- \$28 (Course #2180101-01)

Pearl Harbor Today

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, Dec. 9

10:30 a.m. - noon

This seminar will look at Pearl Harbor as it is today - active naval base and a memorial to those who lost their lives on Dec. 7, 1941. A picture presentation will show the Pearl Harbor National Monument, the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin and the USS Missouri where the final surrender was signed by Japan.

- \$3 (Course #1180409-01)

Education Programs

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:

- \$20, *ursday, Dec. 10,*
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Register Early

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

Pen Pal Program

January - May

Volunteers are needed to serve as pen pals with a fifth grade class at Scenic Heights Elementary in Minnetonka. Letters are exchanged monthly, with the opportunity to meet your pen pal in May. Please call 952-939-8393 to volunteer.

TRAVEL SHOWCASE

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

Join us as Landmark Tours presents an array of unforgettable North American travel experiences for 2016. A local, family-owned tour operator, Landmark's inclusive packages feature roundtrip airfare, quality accommodations in great locations, many enjoyable meal experiences, admission to all itinerary attractions, deluxe motorcoach transportation, and the services of a professional tour manager.

- Free! (Course #2110301-01)



2016 Travel Opportunities:

- Washington DC Cherry Blossoms
- Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle
- New York City: The Big Apple
- Pacific Coast (Portland & San Francisco)
- Grand Canadian Rockies with Calgary Stampede
- Classic Canadian Rockies
- Nova Scotia with Cape Breton
- Autumn in New England
- Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- San Antonio Christmas Lights
- Plus many more!

Interest Groups

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

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.

Speaker: Stan Tekiela, naturalist, author and birding expert.

Book Club

3rd ursday, 1 p.m.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver.

Bulls and Bears Investment Club

1st and 3rd Mondays, 1 p.m.

Learn about investing.

Bunco

2nd and 4th ursdays, 1 p.m.

Join in the fun! We'll teach you!

Duplicate Bridge

ursdays, 6 p.m.

New members welcome!

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

Holiday party.

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Tale Spinners

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

New members welcome!

Wood Carvers

ursdays, 10 a.m.

Group members share ideas and work independently.

Senior Day Trips

Minneapolis Rivercity Tour

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Enjoy a riding tour of the historic Minneapolis Riverfront District lead by a Mill City Museum professional tour guide. Discover the history of the buildings, the river, the landscape, bridges and neighborhoods. After, visit the Mill City Museum, peruse the gift shop and enjoy a multimedia show and a short movie. Enjoy lunch at Jax Café, serving Minnesotans since 1933.

Menu: Choose between chicken and dumplings or a strawberry spinach salad with grill chicken breast.

(Course# 2110101-01)

- **Cost:** \$68 includes tours, meal, transportation and escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Dec. 18



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. Café in the historic St. Paul Hotel. After lunch take a guided tour at the Ordway

center, 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

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., \$35

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.

CareNextion

carenextion.org

is online communication tool brings together the support needed to help live a vital and engaging life.

Extended Trips

For information call Senior Community Services at 952-767-7899 or visit

seniorcommunity.org

- **Duluth Christmas** (Dec. 4 – 5)
Cost: \$300 per person, double occupancy.
- **Omaha Christmas** (Dec. 10 – Dec. 13)
Cost: \$650 per person, double occupancy.

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

Kaylee Wallin

kwallin@eminnetonka.com

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

952-939-8369

jcross@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+.

Music Association of Minnetonka 2015 Holiday Performances



A Child's Christmas with the Youth Choirs

Saturday, Dec. 5, 3 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church

Saturday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church

Toast to the Holidays with Choral Reunions

Saturday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

(adult ticketed event)

The Chamber Choir at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Saturday, Dec. 12
11 a.m. and noon
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

(free with admission to arboretum)

Messiah Sing-Along with Soloists and Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, Dec., 12, 2 p.m.
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

(free with admission to arboretum)

Juletide with the Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus

Sunday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, Dec. 20, 3 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church

Recreation registration starts Dec. 2

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services winter-spring brochure was posted online at eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure in late November. Program registration for residents begins Wednesday, Dec. 2. Registration for non-residents begins Wednesday, Dec. 16, with the exception of tennis lessons registration which is open to all starting Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Minnetonka and Hopkins residents who do not have internet access and wish to request a hard copy at no charge may call 952-939-8203 or email recservices@eminnetonka.com. Non-residents who request a hard copy will be charged \$3.

Sign up for the 2016 Citizen Academy

If you want to learn more about your city and get to know city staff, consider signing up to attend the 2016 Minnetonka Citizen Academy. This free program takes place over six Tuesday sessions: January 26, February 2, 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. This program is only offered every other year, so don't miss your chance to participate!

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

Enroll by Jan. 6

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. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Play it safe on the ice this winter

Minnesotans know that "going to the lake" is just as much fun in winter as in summer. But recreating on the ice requires a unique approach to safety. Whether you skate, snowshoe, snowmobile or ice fish, make sure you know how to protect yourself and our water resources while you play.

The Department of Natural Resources urges people to stay on ice that is less than two inches thick. Snowmobiles need five inches of ice, and small- to medium-sized trucks are not safe until the ice is 12 to 15 inches deep. It is important to remember that ice may be unsafe even in the heart of winter – cycles of melting and freezing cause air pockets to form, and springs may produce unpredictable patches of thin ice. Always check the ice before going out, and pay attention to changing conditions that could affect safety.

If you're planning to snowmobile this winter, please remember to use a safe speed and keep a respectful distance from others on the ice. Maintain your snowmobile to reduce noise and help to protect natural resources by avoiding cattails or other wetland vegetation. To find out if a lake is permitted for snowmobiling, contact the Department of Natural Resources.

Finally, be a good neighbor. Never leave trash or pet waste on the ice, as those materials cause water pollution when the ice melts in spring.



Enjoying sports on the ice can be one of the best parts of winter, but please keep these guidelines in mind to avoid a scary situation. Have a fun, safe and responsible winter!

How trees survive the winter

Unlike animals who hibernate or produce thicker fur, trees stand in place weathering winter's bitter cold. Have you ever wondered what happens within the tree to help it survive?

During the growing season, deciduous trees lose water primarily through their leaves. As fall arrives and daylight hours get shorter, chemicals and hormones are triggered that slow photosynthesis and eventually break down chlorophyll (which gives leaves their green color). In turn, this causes reds, oranges, yellows, purples and browns to show through before the leaves eventually fall. As leaves are dropped, the trees' need for water is reduced, thereby preparing the tree for winter when water is not widely available.

Coniferous trees, on the other hand, retain their needles and continue to photosynthesize during the winter. As a result, they have more of a need for water during the winter.

How trees survive the winter is a lot like the process of winterizing a cabin – water is drained from pipes and shut off to avoid freezing. Unlike winterizing a cabin, however, trees must retain some of the water in their “pipes,” or xylem, to ensure they survive. In order to retain this needed water, trees use a complex set of processes to ensure ice crystals do not burst living cells. First, cell membranes become pliable so water can migrate out of the cells and into spaces between the cells. Then, the tree converts starch within the cells to sugar. Eventually, this sugary liquid becomes a natural “antifreeze” lowering the freezing point within the living cell. The result is that the water between the cells can freeze but the living cells are not punctured by ice crystals due to their elasticity. Deciduous trees lose their ability to transport water throughout the tree during the cold winter months, but conifers have water transport tubes that allow them to transport water when it is available.

Please keep in mind that not all species of trees are able to endure Minnesota winters. Pay special attention to the USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map when purchasing a tree from a different climate – any tree purchased from Zone 6 or higher won't survive our cold temperatures.

Follow these tips to help your trees survive winter:

- Build water reserves – keep your trees well watered until the ground freezes
- Use leaves and wood mulch to cover root zones, as roots are the least hardy parts of a tree
- Protect newly planted trees with a tree guard and/or welded wire cage to keep deer and stem-girdling rodents away from the stem
- Do not over-apply salt which can accumulate in the soil and make trees less winter-hardy

Avoid these common fire hazards

Almost 70 percent of structural fires in Minnesota are caused by accidents with cooking, heating or open flames – all things that are easily preventable. Check out the following tips from the Minnetonka Fire Department to avoid being the victim of these common mistakes!

Staying safe while cooking

Daily distractions make it easy to forget what you are doing in the kitchen. Here's how to avoid a cooking disaster:

- Use a timer
- Keep cooking surfaces clean and clutter free
- Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing that can easily catch fire
- Always keep a lid nearby to smother a stovetop fire
- Never use water on a cooking oil fire – cover it with a lid and turn off the stove

Staying safe with home heating

Space heaters and unattended candles can quickly turn into fire hazards when used incorrectly or not properly maintained. Here's how to stay safe:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet from flammable items, such as furniture, clothing and bedding
- Get your chimney inspected once a year and cleaned as needed

Safely managing open flames

Keep these tips in mind when using candles or enjoying an evening in front of your fireplace.

- Blow out candles when you leave the room or plan to sleep
- Use flashlights instead of candles when the power goes out
- Burn candles on sturdy and non-combustible candle holders
- Do not burn candles all the way down
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from combustible materials
- Install a screen on fireplaces and always dispose ashes into a metal container with a lid

For more tips on how to protect you and your family from fire, call Minnetonka Fire Department Public Educators Jim Lundeen or Sara Ahlquist at 952-939-8331.



Think twice before sharing holiday plans on social media

Now that social media has become so popular, it is only natural that burglars are actively searching Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media sites for keywords and specific posts to determine good targets. For this reason, the Minnetonka Police Department would like to caution residents to think twice before posting information that could alert criminals you are going out of town.

Checking in at the airport may seem like a nice way to let friends and family know you are going on a trip, but this could also alert tech-savvy criminals that your home is empty and an easy target.

Feel free to share your holiday memories – but wait until you are home to post those memories online!





How animals survive the winter

Minnesota is a tough place for creatures to survive a harsh winter. But many of the creatures have figured out unique ways to help them make it through the dark time of the year.

Mammals

Groundhogs are Minnesota's longest hibernator. They go into their burrows in October with a lot of fat and they do not store any food to eat during the winter. While in hibernation, a groundhog breathes once every six minutes; the heart rate slows to 4 beats a minute; and the body temperature drops to 38° F. By mid-March they leave their burrows, having lost 40 percent of their fall weight.



Chipmunks make a burrow in the ground with a hole opening of two inches. They are in their burrows from late October to March. Chipmunks are not true hibernators, but sleepers, and will get up and eat from their large store of food. Chipmunks store up to ten quarts of nuts, berries and

seeds in their den. The burrow also has a nesting area and a bathroom area.

Raccoons sleep for long periods of time in the hollow of a tree. However, raccoons are not true hibernators. If the temperature goes above 30° F a raccoon will climb out of its home and hunt for food. In late winter, a male will leave its den and search for a mate that is living in a different tree hole.



Deer survive by eating roughly two pounds of plant buds a day. They rest in "deer beds" which are in protected wooded areas, out of the wind. If there is deep snow, deer have to dig to find buds or they may get up on their hind legs to nip the buds off of trees.

Insects

The entire hive of **bald-faced hornets** die when the temperature drops below 20° F. However, the queen leaves the hive in early fall and she survives the winter under a log or in the ground. She lays her first batch of worker eggs in her ground nest in the early spring. The workers hatch and begin making the nest for the summer colony.



Monarch butterflies are one of the earliest to leave Minnesota. They began their migration in late August. These amazing butterflies fly over 1700 miles to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Central Mexico and return to Minnetonka in June.



Birds

Not all northern birds migrate south for the winter. A few birds eliminate the dangers of migration and take their chances with the weather and their ability to find food in the frozen northern climate. Since food is at a premium in the winter, you can easily attract birds to your home by putting out a feeder. A covered feeding station that has a suet feeder attached to it (for woodpeckers, cardinals and blue jays) and a thistle feeder (for goldfinch) are excellent choices.



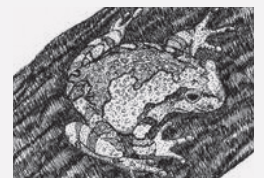
On cold winter nights, a **chickadee** will find a tight insulated place in the tree bark or a hollow. It will puff out its feathers to conserve heat and then go into a state of hypothermia, lowering its body temperature about 20°F.

Amphibians

American toads spend the winter in sandy soils, one to two feet beneath the ground. They use their hind feet to dig. Some toads actually spend the winter in the window wells of homes, warmed by the heat from the house.



Gray tree frogs overwinter under leaves on the ground. Their body completely freezes like an ice cube or "frog cube". The frog survives by filling major body organs with an "anti-freeze" substance.



To learn more about animals in winter, visit oldnaturalist.com.

Article submitted by Larry Wade, a local Minnetonka naturalist and educator. Illustrations by Jeanette Dickinson and Amelia Ladd.

minnetonka memo

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

December
2015

Call 952-939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call 952-939-8200 for meeting locations.
		1	2	3	4	5	2 Joint Meeting of the City Council and Park Board, 6 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31			7 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							21 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Christmas Day, City Offices Closed

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. e 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.

Apply now for boards, commissions

Do you want to be involved in your local government? Consider applying for a volunteer position on a city board or commission. Applicants must have a desire to serve their community in a volunteer capacity and be willing to contribute the number of hours necessary for the particular group to which they are applying. Applicants are interviewed by the city council and appointed by the mayor. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than December 18, 2016. Find an application at eminnetonka.com, or email pschutrop@eminnetonka.com. For more information, call Minnetonka City Hall at 952-939-8200.

Get free business advice

Want to start a new business or expand an existing one but not sure where to start? Through Minnetonka's Open to Business program, a collaboration of the city of Minnetonka and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), you can meet with a business advisor for free!

You'll receive one-on-one counseling from expert staff, customized to meet the needs of small business owners and operators. You can get advice on finances, marketing, strategic planning, small business loans, regulatory compliance, real estate analysis, networking and more.

To schedule an appointment or for more information contact Rob Smolund at MCCD at 612-789-7337, ext. 260.