

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
January 2015

## Enjoy a wide variety of winter events for all ages in Minnetonka

Contributions to the community, find out how to tackle that remodeling project at your home and get out and enjoy the cold weather! You can do all these things and more at the following winter activities.

### Police Citizen's Academy

Enroll by January 9

If you want to learn more about the Minnetonka Police Department, register for the 2015 Minnetonka Police Citizen's Academy.

This free program takes place over eight Tuesday evening sessions February 3 to March 24 at Minnetonka City Hall. Enjoy hands-on experiences and presentations on police recruiting and training, crime scene investigation, SWAT, community service officers, computer forensics, drug task force, school resource officers, police K9s, crime lab, crime prevention, crime analysis, traffic unit, use of force and dispatch. This program hasn't been held since 2013, so don't miss your chance to participate!

The academy is open to anyone age 21 and above who lives or works in Minnetonka. To have an application mailed or emailed to you, contact Nicole Nelson at [nnelson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:nnelson@eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8546 and leave your name and mailing address. Applications may be downloaded at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Registration deadline is January 9.



### Family Fire Day

January 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Minnetonka Fire Department's "What If?" public educators invite you to Family Fire Day Saturday, January 10, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Minnetonka Fire Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Enjoy a tour of the fire station and see a firefighter dressed in full fire gear.

A 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.



### Caring Youth Awards

Nominations due February 2

If you know a young person in grades 7 through 12 who shows an ongoing awareness of others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating him or her for a 2015 Caring Youth Award.

Each year the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts and the Glen Lake Optimists host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people. The 2015 event is set for Thursday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: live in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley; attend school in Hopkins or Minnetonka; and/or volunteer (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Minnetonka, Hopkins, or Golden Valley.

Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. For more information, including nominations guidelines and forms, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or contact Jacquie Larson, at (952) 939-8207 or

[jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com). Nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday, February 2.



### Kids' Fest

February 8, 12-3:30 p.m.

Don't miss Kids' Fest, set for Sunday, February 8, from 12-3:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center and Ice Arena. Enjoy dog sled rides, bingo with prizes, magic shows, face painting, ice sculpture demonstrations, s'mores by the fire, crafts, entertainment, open skating and more. For a complete schedule of activities, see the February *Minnetonka Memo*.

### Hands Only CPR and AED Training

February 9, 7 p.m.

Minnetonka Fire is offering a Hands-Only CPR and AED class. Hands Only CPR is the new CPR, which is quick and easy to learn in this short, informative class. Presentation will be followed by a hands-on demonstration of the new CPR technique. No registration required and no charge. Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

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# City utility fees increase to maintain water, sewer infrastructure

Many as 75-100 water main breaks – each costing as much as \$10,000 to repair – and the number of breaks is climbing. The cost of ignoring the city’s aging utility infrastructure would be much greater in the long term, since water main breaks and sewer backups result in costly property damage, inconvenient interruptions in water and sewer service and the creation of hazardous living conditions.

Additionally, two very expensive sewer force main ruptures occurred in July 2013 and January 2014. At the same time, the city hired an engineering consultant to evaluate the water and sewer system’s capacity and condition to meet the community’s utility needs through 2030. During a series of discussions earlier this year, the Minnetonka City Council reviewed a comprehensive sustainability plan for the water and sewer utility.

The analysis included methods for financing the maintenance and replacement of these critical city assets, the vast majority of which were installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s and are now valued at \$500 million. A decision was made to continue the “pay as you use” approach for financing the majority of these endeavors by incorporating the sale of revenue bonds over the next five years.

As a result, at a December meeting the Minnetonka City Council adjusted city utility rates, both water and sewer, to cover the cost of debt service associated with the upcoming future repairs and replacements. Recycling and storm water fees were also adjusted. Changes in these rates effective January 1, 2015 are as follows:

- Under the adopted rates reflected in the table, the average water and sewer utility customer will experience a rate increase of \$3.58 per month in 2015.

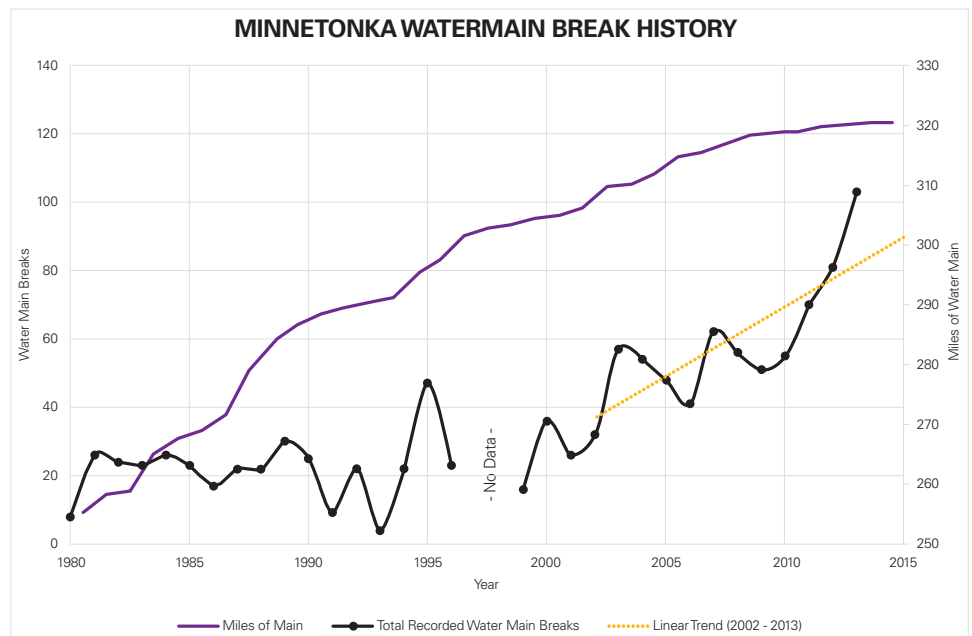
*(continued on page 10)*

## Online utility billing available

Receive and pay your city utility bills online, either one time or on a recurring basis, using a credit card or bank account withdrawal. To sign up, have your latest bill handy and visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Click on the online utility billing logo and follow the instructions.

Rate changes	Rate per 1,000 gallons	
	Old	New
<b>Residential water rate</b>		
<b>Tier 1 (0 – 18,000 gallons)</b>	\$2.00	\$2.20
<b>Tier 2 (18,001 – 40,000 gallons)</b>	\$2.29	\$2.51
<b>Tier 3 (40,001 – 70,000 gallons)</b>	\$2.88	\$3.16
<b>Tier 4 (70,001+ gallons)</b>	\$4.00	\$4.39
<b>Sewer rate</b>		
<b>Base fee</b>	\$1.59	\$1.75
<b>Special class base fee*</b>	\$44.94/quarter	\$49.34/quarter
	\$16.59/quarter	\$18.22/quarter
<b>Commercial/industrial water</b>		
<b>Base rate</b>	\$2.00	\$2.20
<b>Summer surcharge (May – September)</b>	\$0.28	\$0.30
<b>Commercial/industrial sprinkler accounts</b>		
<b>Sprinkler I (0 – 75,000 gallons)</b>	\$2.29	\$2.51
<b>Sprinkler II (75,001 – 175,000)</b>	\$2.88	\$3.16
<b>Sprinkler III (175,001+ gallons)</b>	\$4.00	\$4.39
<b>Stormwater</b>		
<b>Open space, undeveloped (acre/month)</b>	\$2.75	\$2.83
<b>Single family, 2–3 family, residential (unit/mo)</b>	\$6.11	\$6.29
<b>Churches, schools, government (acre/month)</b>	\$16.49	\$16.99
<b>Apartment, condos (acre/month)</b>	\$18.32	\$18.87
<b>Commercial, industrial (acre/month)</b>	\$46.18	\$47.56

*\* Discontinued for new entrants into program.*



*This graph shows the trend of water main breaks in Minnetonka.*



## Thank you to Minnetonka's 2014 natural resources volunteers

**T** Minnetonka Public Works thanks the volunteers who contributed hundreds of hours to assist with habitat restoration, water quality and resource assessment projects in 2014.

### Adopt-a-Spot volunteers

Special thanks to the following individuals who reported more than 35 hours in 2014.

- **Bill and Renate Sperber** contributed 215 hours, again the most hours of all restoration volunteers for the year. They've worked in Purgatory Park since 2009 relentlessly pulling garlic mustard in spring and early summer, followed by buckthorn control in the summer, fall and winter.
- **Jane Sweet** began work in Mooney Park in April 2014. She donated 92 hours flagging native species, liberating large bur oaks from buckthorn, planting native trees and ferns, watering and weeding.
- **Susan Goll & John Ziegenhagen** worked 90 hours cutting buckthorn and controlling weeds on a city outlot near their townhome.
- **Chris Carlson**, long-time city volunteer, started a new project leading master naturalist volunteers in Minnetonka Mills Park. He donated 50 hours to improving wildflower areas.
- **Heather & Brent Holm** work independently and organize and assist neighborhood volunteers removing invasive species, planting natives and installing plant cages in Lake Rose Park.
- **Randall Neal** has completed nine seasons of habitat work in Kinsel Park. His on-going projects include propagation of wildflowers, weed control, maintenance of many planted trees and buckthorn removal.
- **Joe Janssen** has worked since 2006 in a southwest Purgatory Park area that is now called "Joe's bowl" by staff. He has restored an extremely degraded area by removing buckthorn and garlic mustard. Native sedges, ferns, songbirds and raptors have returned there.
- **Jim Coleman**, a Minneapolis resident and master naturalist, continues to donate his time annually at Lone Lake Park pulling garlic mustard and assisting with other projects.

- **Dewey Hassig** recently adopted a city outlot near Glen Lake. He cuts buckthorn, uses slash for erosion control and removes noxious weeds to improve habitat and the lake view.
- **Gary Kerber** finished his fifth season as an Adopt-a-Spot volunteer in Big Willow Park, pulling garlic mustard and mapping poison ivy in a large area south of the creek.
- **Dale Antonson** recently adopted maintenance of the legacy bur oak woods in Kelly Park. Thanks also to **Robert C.H. Schmidt** for the first adoption of the woods in about 2002. He has written a children's book, "Autobiography of an Oak," for young visitors of this very old tree.

Additional thanks to volunteers **Leonard Migneray, Elizabeth Schultz, Larry Wade, Bruce Gefvert, Fred Leverentz, Jackie Zimmerman, Ingrid Welty, John Riggle** and new volunteer **Alice Sufka** for their invasive species control work in one or more parks.

### Group natural resource projects

- **CEPP – Community Engagement and Preparedness Program** volunteers inventoried 2,300 trees on private property in order to determine tree diversity and better help the city plan programs for residents to prepare for emerald ash borer.
- **Wetland Health Evaluation Program** volunteers contributed 318 hours in 2014
- **Mr. Hahn's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class (2013-14) at Gatewood Elementary** planted, mulched, and watered 9 trees at Spring Hill Park to help celebrate Arbor Day and reforest the park.
- **Hopkins High School American Legion Baseball** completed a one-day volunteer event to assist with habitat restoration and raise money for the teams. They pulled garlic mustard on the Civic Center campus in June.
- **Whole Foods** staff returned twice to Minnetonka Mills Park in 2014 to pull garlic mustard on a cold rainy May day and to cut buckthorn in September along Minnehaha Creek.



*Chris Carlson donated 50 hours to improving wildlife areas.*

- **Holdridge Road** neighbors continued removal of buckthorn from five city outlots along their roads.
- **St. Joan of Arc Church** eco-spirituality committee (Minneapolis) pulled garlic mustard at Lone Lake Park in June.
- **Minnetonka High School Senior Serve** students pulled garlic mustard in Purgatory Park in June.
- **Geocaching volunteers** pulled garlic mustard in Purgatory Park in June.
- **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** "Just Serve" missionaries cut buckthorn and purple loosestrife along Minnehaha Creek in October.
- **Minnetonka Community Ed** kids pulled garlic mustard and motherwort in Victoria Evergreen Park in July.

### Want to help?

We'd love to have you! Volunteers and groups are needed from March through November to assist with native habitat restoration on city land. The greatest need is in May and June for pulling garlic mustard, but many opportunities are available. For more information call (952) 988-8423. ☺

## Winter Events

(continued from page 1)

on demonstration of the new CPR technique. No registration required and no charge. Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Can't make it February 9? Attend a walk-in session at the Ridgedale Service Center, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, February 13, 18 or 23 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### State of the City

February 11, 7:30-9 a.m.

You're invited to the 2015 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, February 11, from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by February 3 to Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211.

### Police Explorers Pancake Breakfast

February 15, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Minnetonka Police Explorers Post 884 will host its annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 15, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. The Police Explorers is an exciting program for young adults ages 14-20 who have an interest in law enforcement. Funds raised will be used for trips to competitions throughout the year. For more information about the program contact Minnetonka Police Officer Larissa Johnson at (952) 939-8500.

### Outdoor ice skating

Skating rinks with warming houses are available through mid-February (weather permitting) at 14 parks in Minnetonka and Hopkins. Minnetonka rinks are at Boulder Creek, Covington, Gatewood, 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

[www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Call the weather hotline at (952) 939-8355 for conditions, closings, holiday hours and updates.



### Home Remodeling Fair

February 22, 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, February 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. More information will be in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com).

## Get ready for the annual spring tree sale

More than 10,000 trees through the city tree sale program. Have you participated in the program yet? If not, you're missing out on a worthwhile opportunity to plant interesting trees in your yard!

The city's annual tree sale program allows residents to pre-order and pre-pay for up

to two trees per property owner, with a tree pick-up day in early spring. Several different species will be offered, ranging from three to seven feet tall at the time of purchase.

### To learn more about the tree sale:

- Attend a tree sale sneak preview Wednesday, January 21, 5:30-7 p.m. (see sidebar for more information)
- Watch the mail for the February *Minnetonka Memo*, which will include an order form and list of available tree species.
- Check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) in February to learn more.

Quantities are limited and many species sell out quickly, so prepare your order as early as possible!

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 by February 6 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.

Need more reasons to order through the tree sale? While emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been found in Minnetonka, the city is planning for its inevitable arrival. Annual pesticide treatments are available to help prevent EAB from killing select trees, but most homeowners should also begin planting new trees.

## Christmas tree disposal options

Options for disposal of live Christmas trees:

- 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 refuse company and your level of service.
- Trees will be accepted at the city's winter pruning and brush drop-off, open four Saturdays in March, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Look for more information in the February *Minnetonka Memo*. Until then, you can plant your Christmas tree in a snowbank outside as habitat for birds.



### Tree sale sneak preview: Jan. 21

Do you plan to order a tree through the city's tree sale program? Learn about each tree offered and figure out what tree would do best in your yard before the *Minnetonka Memo* order form even hits your mailbox! You'll also learn some expert tips to ensure your tree thrives. Please note: tree orders will not be accepted at the presentation.

Attend the sneak preview Wednesday, January 21, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Shady Oak Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Space is limited to 36, so please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.





# minnetonka script

Programs and services for those 55+  
January 2015 Newsletter

## Grief, Loss, Transition & Downsizing

**Monday, January 5, 11 a.m.**

Join Marcie Spears of Organizing Angel and learn how to downsize your things in the midst of emotional situations. Go from stuck and overwhelmed to hopeful and confident. Gain the tools you need to reclaim your space. Topics include "How will I know when I'm ready?", "What feelings might arise?" and "How do I do it my way?"

**Cost:** \$2 Please RSVP by Friday, Jan. 2  
(Course#36109)

## Lunch and a Movie: Million Dollar Arm

**Friday, January 23, 12 p.m.**

In an effort to save his failing business, a sports agent stages an unconventional recruitment strategy. Agent J.B. Bernstein launches a reality show to get India's talented cricket players to play major league baseball.

**Menu:** Grilled cheese, tomato soup, cookie and popcorn for the show.

**Cost:** \$5 due Tuesday, Jan. 20  
(Course #36113)

## Winter Picnic

**Tuesday, January 13, 12 p.m.**

Join us for a winter picnic!

**Menu:** Hot dog bar and dessert

**Sponsored by:** Meridian Manor  
**Cost:** \$5 due Tuesday, Jan. 8.  
(Course #35628)

## Income Tax Assistance

This free tax program is designed to help moderate and low income individuals with basic taxes. Please call senior services at (952) 939-8393 starting January 2 to schedule an appointment.

- Mondays & Tuesdays, February 9 – April 13.
- Appointment times available include: 12:30, 1:45 & 3 p.m.

## Hopkins High School Tour

**Wednesday, January 14, 9:30 a.m.**

Ever wonder how the latest technology is integrated into the classroom? Get ready to be amazed during a tour of Hopkins High School featuring demonstrations of education through technology. Please park in the visitor parking lot at Hopkins High School, 2400 Lindbergh Drive, Minnetonka. The tour is on foot and will last about one hour.

**Free!** Please call (952) 939-8393 to RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 13.

## Falls & Balance

**Monday, January 26, 10:15 a.m.**

Learn about falls and balance from Aegis therapies. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

**Free!** (Course #36123)

## Become a Dementia Friend

**Monday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.**

Dementia Friends is an ACT on Alzheimer's initiative to help Minnesota prepare for the growing number of people living with dementia. Trained Dementia Champion Scott Burtlechner will teach participants how to be Dementia Friends. Learn about dementia and how to take action in the community by helping a friend with dementia or making the neighborhood more welcoming for someone with dementia.

**Cost:** \$2 Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 6  
(Course#36114)

## The Great Composers



**Thursday, February 12, 10:30 a.m.**

Enjoy the musical talents of pianist James Shaw as he plays and discusses the great composers, from Gershwin to the Beatles.

**Cost:** \$3 Please RSVP by Wed., Feb. 11  
(Course#35681)

## Valentine's Day

**Friday, February 13, 12 p.m.**

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

**Menu:** Stuffed chicken, wild rice, beans, dessert.

**Sponsored by:** Legacy Home Care

**Cost:** \$7 due Tuesday, Feb. 10

(Course #35629)



## Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: Hello Dolly



**Wednesday, February 18, 11 a.m.**

Enjoy your choice of entree and a front and center view of *Hello Dolly* at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. Meet at the theatre, 501 West 78th Street, Chanhassen, MN.

**Cost:** \$60 due Tuesday, Jan. 20  
(Course #36120)

## Sips & Songs

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

### Roe Family Singers

**Wednesday, February 25, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cost:** \$3 (Course #35602)

*Sponsored by: Minnetonka Assisted Living*

### Steven Marking: Sinatra Tribute

**Wednesday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cost:** \$3 (Course #35603)

*Sponsored by: Avinity Senior Living*

## Fitness Programs

### Over 50 & fit

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.**  
Join this social group and enjoy music and fitness three days a week!

- Annual Fee: \$12 (Course #35680)

### Tai Chi Chih Susan Sobelson

**Mondays, January 5 – March 16**  
**(no class Jan. 19 & Feb. 16), \$45**  
Practice a series of 19 easy-to-learn movements and one pose. Moving meditation can improve balance, flexibility, reduce stress, increase energy and more.

- **Beginner** (Course #35648)  
10 – 11 a.m.
- **Intermediate** (Course #35649)  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### Continuing Line Dance Annette Fragale

Learn to “hitch” and “vine” and dance in a line! No partners needed. Six previous lessons needed for continuing beginning level course; 50 previous lessons required for intermediate course.

- Continuing Beginner (Course #35654)  
\$20, Thursdays, Feb. 5 – 26,  
12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Intermediate (Course #35655)  
\$20, Thursdays, Feb. 5–26,  
1:45–2:45 p.m.

### Tai Chi for Health and Wellness Ron Erdman-Luntz

**Thursdays, February 19 – April 2**  
**(no class 3/26), 6 – 7 p.m.**

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

- \$54 (Course #35652)



### Beginning & Intermediate Yoga Nancy Holasek

These gentle classes are geared toward the older adult, with lots of stretching and warm-ups. Yoga postures help increase flexibility. 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.**

### Chair-Supported Yoga 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Most of the class takes place while seated on a chair.

- Tuesday, January 6 – February 10  
\$36 (Course #35633)
- Thursday, January 8 – February 12  
\$36 (Course #35634)

### Intermediate Yoga Class 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This class includes standing and balance postures. Students should have the ability to get down to and up from the floor for postures completed while on the belly or backside of the body.

- Tuesday, January 6 – February 10  
\$36 (Course #35639)
- Thursday, January 8 – February 12  
\$36 (Course #35640)

### Evening Yoga Mary Ann

**Wednesdays, January 7 – February 11**

- Chair Yoga, 6:15 p.m.  
\$36 (Course #36110)
- Intermediate Yoga, 7:30 p.m.  
\$36 (Course #36111)

### Zumba Gold Jan Gamble

**1 – 2 p.m.**  
Zumba Gold offers a complete body workout while learning the basic steps to salsa, meringue, cha-cha and other rhythms. No dance experience is necessary. Comfortable clothing and workout shoes are recommended. Bring water; you will sweat!

- \$24 Monday, January 5 – February 23  
(Course #35660) No class 1/19 & 2/16
- \$32 Wednesday, January 7 – February 25  
(Course #35661)

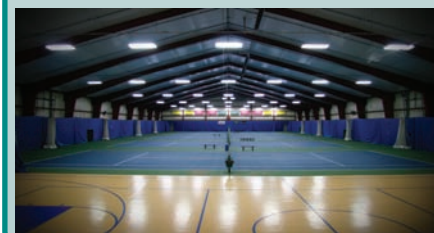
## Athletic Activities

### Indoor Pickleball

**October - May**  
Try the fun and social game of pickleball. Limited racquets and balls are available.

- Tuesdays & Fridays, 8 – 10 a.m.
- Thursdays, 8 – 9:30 a.m.
- **New!** Wednesdays, 1 – 4 p.m.
- Saturdays, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Free for Williston Silver Sneaker and Silver & Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

**Williston Fitness Center**  
**14509 Minnetonka Drive**



## Leisure Programs



### Winter Hike to Jidana

**Thursday, February 19**  
**11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
Hike along Minnehaha Creek to Deer Island. Enjoy roasting brats and sipping coffee by the campfire. This two-mile round-trip walk will begin at the Minnetonka Community Center.

- \$4 (Course #35679)

## 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 in programs and events.

## E-mail Updates

Stay up-to-date on the latest events! Receive weekly e-mail updates on senior happenings! Send your e-mail address to [spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com).

## Education Programs

### Defensive Driving

Attend and save 10% 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 [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org) for all classes.

Four hour renewal sessions:

- \$20, *ursday, January 15, 5:30–9 p.m.*
- \$20, *ursday, January 22, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.*

### Navigating Medicare

*Tuesday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.*

Learn to navigate Medicare Parts A, B & D. Offered in cooperation with Senior Community Services and is open to those considering retirement and to current Medicare users.



- \$10 *due Tuesday, January 20.* (Course #36121)

### Nutrition:

#### Gut Reaction: Restore Digestive Health through Nutrition

Do you suffer from heartburn, gas, bloating, indigestion, constipation or diarrhea? Do you have an autoimmune disorder, depression or out-of-control sugar or bread cravings? Put an end to these uncomfortable health issues by healing your digestive tract with real food, selected vitamins and amino acids. Discover the connection between what you eat and how you feel.

- \$22 *due the Monday prior to program.*
- *ursday, March 5, 6–8 p.m.* (Course #35676)
- *Wednesday, March 11, 1–3 p.m.* (Course #35677)

## History Programs

### Post World War I Society

*Tom Schmid*

*Tuesdays, January 27–March 3 1–3 p.m.*

Discover the important developments that occurred in the years 1919–1924. Topics include women vote, Russian revolution, Tea Pot Dome, labor-management issues, League of Nations, communism, Harding & Coolidge, cultural change and more!

- \$40 (Course #35668)

### British History: Shadow of the King

*Terry Kubista*

*ursdays, January 8–29 1–3 p.m.*

In his unquenchable thirst for celebrity and quest for an heir, Henry VIII reforms not only the British government but also the world's religious structure.

- \$28 (Course #35669)

### British History: Rule Britannia

*Terry Kubista*

*ursdays, February 5–26 1–3 p.m.*

William and Mary usher in the beginnings of the modern United Kingdom. The apparent madness of George III forces a rethinking of colonial policy and the British Empire is on the build.

- \$28 (Course #35670)

### Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's & MLK

*Dan Hartman*

*Wednesday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.*

Learn about the African-American civil rights movement, characterized by major campaigns of civil resistance, that resulted in legislative achievements and a Nobel Peace Prize for Martin Luther King, Jr.



- \$3 (Course #35674)

## Interest groups

For more information on these groups and a calendar of events, please visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or stop by the community center.

### Pen Pals

Volunteers are needed to serve as pen pals with a 4th-grade class at Scenic Heights School starting in January. Letters are exchanged monthly with the opportunity to meet your pen pal in May. Call (952)939-8393 to register.



### Bird Club

*1st Friday, 10 a.m.*

Wildness in the Wetlands by Scott Sharkey, physician, naturalist and photographer.

### Book Club

*3rd ursday, 1 p.m.*

*A Town Like Alice* by Nevil Shute.

### Bulls & Bears Investment Club

*1st & 3rd Monday, 1 p.m.*

Learn about investing.

### Chess

*ursdays, 12 p.m.*

If you have general knowledge of chess, join us in the Burwell Room.

### New! Dominoes

*1st and 3rd ursdays, 1 p.m.*

New members welcome!

### Literary Book Club

*4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.*

*A Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe.

### Wood Carvers

*ursdays, 10 a.m.*

Group members share ideas and work independently.



11280 Wayzata Boulevard  
(763) 591-4868

Handcrafted items by  
Minnetonka residents 55  
and older.

Wednesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.,  
ursdays until 8 p.m.





## Senior Day Trips



### Hockey Heritage Tour

**Wednesday, January 28**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Xcel Energy Center owned by the city of St. Paul. (Sorry, no access to the Wild locker room.) Enjoy lunch at Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub while taking in the collection of hockey photos and memorabilia that packs the exposed brick walls. After lunch drive around Rice Park to view Winter Carnival Ice Sculptures on display. Enjoy a riding tour and learn what makes Minnesota "the State of Hockey" as a professional guide reveals the deep roots of the sport.

**Menu:** Build your own burger and chicken sandwich but with wings, beverages and cookies.

**Course #36054**

- **Cost:** \$56 includes tour, lunch, transportation & escort.
- **Estimated trip time:** 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Monday, Jan. 12

### Ole & Lena, Uff Dah! A Scandinavian Tour

**Tuesday, February 24**

Meet Ole & Lena costumed character guides from Minnesota's Scandinavian past. Set out on a riding tour to discover how and why immigrants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland came as pioneers to St. Paul and Minneapolis. View the Mindekirken Church and the Norway House, the Swedish Institute and the statue of Leif Erickson as you learn about Scandinavian Heritage. Enjoy lunch at IKEA, founded in Sweden, before exploring the Swedish Food Shop and furniture shop.

**Menu:** Swedish meatballs, lingonberries, mashed potatoes, vegetable, beverage and bite-sized pastry.

**Course #36055**

- **Cost:** \$59 includes tours, lunch, transportation & escort.
- **Estimated trip time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Monday, Feb. 2



Swedish Institute

## Services

### Blood Pressure Screenings

**1st & 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays  
9:30-11:30 a.m. Free!**

Provided by volunteer nurses.

### Happy Feet

**1st, 2nd, 3rd & 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

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays, Free!**

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance, and more with Mary Ann, [m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org). For appointment call (952) 939-8393.

### Health Insurance Counseling

**1st & 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 more information call (952) 746-4046.

### CareNextion

[www.carenexion.org](http://www.carenexion.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 [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org)

- **Texas** (January 31 - February 14)  
Cost: \$2100 per person, double occupancy.
- **California** (March 16 - 30)  
Cost: \$2589 per person, double occupancy.

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

## Contact & Registration Information

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

### Minnetonka Senior Services

**(952) 939-8393**

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

[www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)

### Office hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Administrative Staff

Kate Egert and Kathy Kline

[kegert@eminnetonka.com](mailto:kegert@eminnetonka.com)

[kkline@eminnetonka.com](mailto:kkline@eminnetonka.com)

### Senior Services & Activities Manager

Steve Pieh

(952) 939-8366

[spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com)

### Senior & General Programs Manager

Janelle Crossfield

(952) 939-8369

[jcrossfield@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcrossfield@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 cancelling prior 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.



# Ridgedale area vision plan discussion set for January 21

**F**rom industrial use to development of a major regional mall in the early 1970s, the history of the Ridgedale area in Minnetonka has always been one of constant evolution. Now, this bustling commercial and residential area is poised for yet another transformation.

addition of Nordstrom scheduled to open in fall of 2015. Efforts to improve traffic flow resulted in the construction of a new westbound ramp to I-394 at Ridgedale Drive, completed in fall 2014 as a partnership between the city and MnDOT. Other improvements to Ridgedale Drive and Plymouth Drive are planned for the next few years.

The first meeting about the Ridgedale vision plan will be held Wednesday, January 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive. Anyone who has interest in the future of the Ridgedale area is invited to attend the meeting.

To review the current Ridgedale vision plan that was completed in 2012, visit <http://bit.ly/1GoGMZd>.



*Announcing the new Ridgedale Mall*

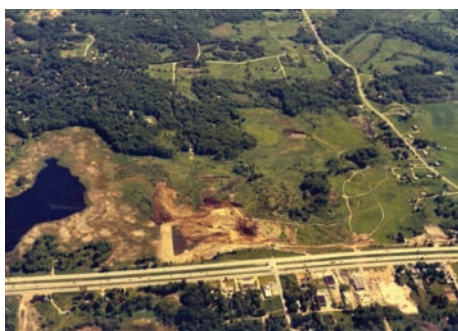
Two years ago, the city of Minnetonka embarked on a visioning plan for the Ridgedale area. That effort resulted in recommendations for making the area into a community gathering spot and for encouraging a more pedestrian friendly plan.

“Changes are going to occur in this area, and it’s now a matter of how we manage that change,” said Julie Wischnack, Minnetonka’s community development director. “We are trying to stay ahead of the game and ensure that what happens fits into the long-term vision for the area.”



*Ridgedale under construction*

“The city is committed to the continuing success of the Ridgedale area,” said Wischnack. “We look forward to working with our residents to discuss the long-term improvements needed to ensure the area remains a viable regional and economic center well into the future, while also taking into account the desires of neighboring residents.”



*Ridgedale site prior to construction*

Ridgedale Mall has recently undertaken significant improvement of its property, with a redesign of the Macy’s store and the

One of the main findings of the vision study was that while Ridgedale is a well-known area – people know about it and have visited – there isn’t anything particularly special about it. There’s no green space, no community gathering spot, and little connection to Minnetonka’s natural spaces. Additionally, it’s virtually inaccessible by any means other than car.

In the wake of recent controversy over a proposed redevelopment of the Highland Bank property, the city has heard from residents that they would like to revisit a portion of the Ridgedale vision plan and have discussions about the long-term outlook for the Ridgedale area.



*Ridgedale, 1995*

Residents and business owners in the Ridgedale area should look for a mailed invitation in early January regarding the January 21 meeting. ☺

## Kick off the new year with music at MAM

**T** Minnetonka (MAM) welcomes all interested musicians to attend open rehearsals during the month of January. Youth choirs welcome boys and girls from grades 2-8, and young women from grades 9-12 to join at mid-season. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights at the Arts Center on 7th Street (MHS), and the season runs through May.

Adults are also encouraged to join one of our many instrumental or choral ensembles.

The MAM currently has openings in all string sections and interested players are encouraged to audition. Please contact the office for more information at

[mamoffice@musicassociation.org](mailto:mamoffice@musicassociation.org) or visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org)



*Kick off the new year with music.*



*MAM concert choir*

## Utility fees

*(continued from page 2)*

- All other account fees, late payment, state of Minnesota testing fees and meter maintenance fees remain the same.
- The recycling fee was raised to \$3.75 per month from \$3.50. Until last year, the city's recycling fee rate had remained the same for the prior ten years due to the income received from the sale of recyclables. 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.
- 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 and to maintain the health of our many wetlands and ponds. The new rate still keeps Minnetonka's charges in line with comparable cities.

For more information or questions contact Merrill King, Minnetonka finance director, at [mking@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mking@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8200.

## Five easy ways to save energy in your home this winter

**I**n weather outside is frightful, you're likely to spend a lot more time indoors. That means higher heating bills. Use these tips to improving your home's efficiency in winter. Along the way, you'll save money and help protect the environment.

### Stop leaks and drafts at the source

Windows, doors, and fireplaces are common sources of heat loss in most homes. A number of easy changes can seal up your home more effectively. Install weather stripping or caulking around window and door frames. Identify and fix leaks in the fireplace and chimney, and keep the flue closed when not in use. Do you have gaps where pipes or electrical fixtures pass through walls? Seal them up with steel wool and spray silicone. And don't forget to check the seal on your garage door.

### Give your furnace a tune-up

You probably take your car in for maintenance a couple of times each year.

Did you know that furnaces also need regular maintenance to run well and use energy most efficiently? Schedule an annual inspection to identify leaks or other problems. And check the filter monthly during the winter, cleaning or replacing the filter when it becomes clogged.

### Lower the thermostat setting

The thermostat is an easy source of energy savings. Start by keeping the temperature at or below 68 degrees. If you have a programmable thermostat, set it a couple of degrees lower at night, when you are away at work, and when you travel. Be sure to keep the temperature above 55 degrees during the coldest weeks of winter to prevent water pipes from freezing and bursting. Slight changes like these can reduce your energy bills by several percent.

### Let the sun work for you

The sun is a natural—and free!—source of heat. Open curtains during the day to let sunlight enter south-facing rooms. At night,

close curtains to reduce heat loss. Open doors between rooms so that heat can flow between them. Remember, too, that heat rises. If you have ceiling fans, turn them on in reverse to push heat trapped at ceiling level back toward the floor.

### Provide a blanket for your water heater

Heat not only rises; it also moves from warmer to cooler areas. That's why your hot water heater radiates heat to the surrounding air. The US Department of Energy advises insulating your water heater to conserve its heat. A small investment of about \$20 for the blanket and an hour or so of work can return significant savings over the years. Lowering your water temperature to 120 degrees takes another bite out of the utility bill.



## Gray's Bay Marina slips available for 2015 season

**T** applications for vacant boat slips at Gray's Bay Marina for the 2015 season. Slips will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. If interested, please contact Marti Weseloh at (952) 939-8360 or [mweseloh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mweseloh@eminnetonka.com). More information is available at <http://bit.ly/GCBfkf>.

Interested in being placed on the waitlist? Applications and \$100 deposit (applied to first-year lease when chosen) are accepted at the city of Minnetonka offices any time throughout the year. The application and other conditions outlined in the waitlist guidelines can be found at <http://bit.ly/1GoLeqI>. ☺



*Gray's Bay Marina*

## About frozen water pipes; water line insurance

**I** mportant to be sure the water meter and water pipes located inside your home don't freeze, which could lead to a burst meter or pipes and water in your home. Check the location of your indoor water meter and pipes. If they are in a finished basement area, or uninsulated or unheated portion of your home, follow these tips to prevent a problem. If you have questions about your water meter or water pipes, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

- If meters and pipes are in unheated areas, install proper pipe insulation and commercially available pipe heaters. You might also open doors between the heated and unheated areas and use a box fan to circulate warm air in the unheated area.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors and utility closet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up 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 the faucet 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 job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you'll be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

### Water service line insurance coverage

Some residents have contacted the city about solicitations they've received 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 <http://go.bbb.org/1z4cvhp>. 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. ☺

## 2014 Photo Contest



*Sheryl Papp, "Squirrel on My Deck"*

Enjoy these wintry scenes submitted as part of the 2014 Minnetonka Photo contest.



*Christine Biondi, "Stunning Snow"*



# minnetonka memo

January 2015

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

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<b>City Manager</b> Geraldyn Barone.....(952) 939-8200	<b>Ward 1:</b> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com
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<b>Minnetonka Mike</b> .....(952) 939-8586 .....mike@eminnetonka.com	<b>Ward 4:</b> Tim Bergstedt... (952) 934-1769 tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
<b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b> ..... 9-1-1 <b>Non-emergency</b> .....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1	

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

January  
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	1 New Year's Day, city offices closed 5 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7 Park Board, 7 p.m. 8 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. 13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, city offices closed
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 26 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change – please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and via live videostreaming on [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Cable channel replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or any time at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## Staying informed about city projects

**T** applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). You can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during the approval process; and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information. ∞

## 2015 official newspaper selected

**T** selected as Minnetonka's official newspaper for 2015. It will publish the city's legal notices, ordinance titles and summaries, and other official information. Legal notices and full ordinances are also available at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). The newspaper is published weekly on Tuesdays and is available for pickup at many public locations, including Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. ∞

## Follow us on Twitter

**F** (@MinnetonkaMN) for snow removal tweets and updates during winter snowstorms. This is the best place to get timely updates on what the city has planned for snow removal and where we are in the snow removal process during large-scale snow events. As an added bonus, you'll receive tweets about city news, events and updates. ∞

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

