



minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
November 2015

Introducing the 2015 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners

Nearly 100 entries were received for the 2015 photo contest, held in conjunction with the October City and Fire Department Open House. Photographers were invited to submit photos in three categories – Lifestyle Minnetonka, Natural Minnetonka and Wild Minnetonka.

The Minnetonka Park Board judged the contest entries and chose three overall winners and one winner in each of the categories. In addition, attendees of the Oct. 6 Open House voted on their favorite photo for the People's Choice Award.

Congratulations to the contest winners and thank you to everyone who participated!



First Place: Eric Raarup, "Three Sisters"



Second Place: Jennifer Hyland, "Barred Owl"



Third Place: Jennifer Hyland, "Black Eyed Susans"

Photo Contest continued on page 2.

Photo Contest Winners *continued from page 1*

Judges' Choice Award Winners

In addition to the overall winners, Judges' Choice Awards were selected in each of the three photo contest categories.



Judges Choice - Lifestyle Minnetonka
Krista Badola, "On Gray's Bay"



Judges Choice - Natural Minnetonka
Christ Bystedt, "Blazing Star in Pollinator Garden"



Judges Choice - Wild Minnetonka
Danny Mydra, "Pollinating Bumblebee"

People's Choice Award Winner

Visitors to the October 6 City and Fire Department Open House selected the following winner for the People's Choice Award.



People's Choice: Brad Caron, "Bambi andumper"

Home Repair and First-Time Homebuyer Loan Funds Available

Are you a first-time home buyer looking to get settled into a new home before winter? Or are you a current homeowner planning to make updates soon? The city is accepting pre-applications for the Welcome to Minnetonka First-Time Homebuyer program and the Minnetonka Home Enhancement program, both offered at the low interest rate of only 1 percent.



Welcome to Minnetonka Program

Provides up to \$10,000 for down-payment and closing costs for first-time homebuyers. Income limits apply.

Minnetonka Home Enhancement Program

Provides up to \$15,000 for home repair, green improvements and some additions. Household income limits apply.

Visit eminnetonka.com/housing to find pre-applications, program guidelines and eligibility requirements. Call 952-939-8234 with questions.

Time to vote: Municipal election is Tuesday, Nov. 3

The Municipal General Election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 3. The ballot includes the following city offices and candidates:

Minnetonka Council Member Ward 1

Robert (Bob) Ellingson

Brian J. Kirk

Minnetonka Council Member Ward 2

Colbert Boyd

Tony Wagner

Minnetonka Council Member Ward 3

Brad Wiersum

Minnetonka Council Member Ward 4

Tim Bergstedt

School board members for the Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata school districts will also be on the ballot.



Absentee Voting

Anyone who wishes to vote absentee may do so. There are two options available for voting absentee:

- In person: Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. City Hall will also be open for absentee voting Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Monday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- By mail: Absentee voting also may be done by mail. The voted ballot must be received at City Hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Be sure to follow all the directions included with the absentee ballot. Absentee voters who do not provide the required information, by state law, will have their ballots rejected.



Polling Times

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. Everyone in line by 8 p.m. is allowed to vote.

Polling Place Locations

There are 23 precincts in Minnetonka, each with a designated polling location. You must vote in the precinct in which you live.

The simplest way to check your polling place location is to visit poll.nder.sos.state.mn.us and enter your current address. Call City Hall at 952-939-8200 if you need assistance.

Election Results

Results will be posted on Hennepin County's website at hennepin.us/residents/elections/election-results.

More Information

Visit eminnetonka.com to learn more about the voting process. Contact City Hall at 952-939-8200 with questions.

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 9, 16, 23, and March 1 and 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. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 6.



minnetonka script

Programs and services for those 55+
November 2015 Newsletter

Veterans Week

Free for veterans and spouses of veterans.

Documentary: *The Ghost Army*

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m.

Discover the bizarre mission a selected group of American GIs, mostly artists, undertook during World War II. These special troops used inflatable rubber tanks, sound trucks and performance art to trick the enemy repeatedly. Join us for donuts and coffee as we learn about the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the mission that was kept secret for nearly 50 years.

Cost: \$2* (Course #1180402-01)

Veterans Social

Thursday, Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m.

Meet local veterans while enjoying coffee and treats.

Cost: \$1* (Course #1180403-01)

Honoring America's Veterans

Thursday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m.

Discover the history that made Veterans Day a national holiday, the origin of the Purple Heart and other stories of the Great War that lead to the national salute to America's veterans.

Cost: \$2* (Course #1180401-01)

Veterans Week is supported by:

Brookdale Living, WestRidge of Minnetonka, Emerald Crest, Legacy Care Home, Brookdale Home Health and Hospice, Qualicare and Cub Foods-Minnetonka.

Paris Peace Conference

Thursday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m.

Discuss the meeting of the allied victors, at the end of World War I. Major decisions included: creation of League of Nations; five peace treaties with defeated enemies, reparations imposed on Germany, and the drawing of boundaries to reflect forces of nationalism. Learn more about the Treaty of Versailles, which laid the guilt for the war on "the aggression of Germany and her allies."

Cost: \$3* (Course #1180404-01)

Lunch and a Movie:

Unbroken

Friday, Nov. 13, 12 p.m.

An inspiring tale of survival based on Olympian and American prisoner of war Louis Zamperini. The Second Lieutenant spent 47 days adrift in a raft after his plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean before being caught by the Japanese Navy.

Menu: Fried chicken, potato wedges, coleslaw, dinner roll and a cookie.

Cost: \$5* (Course #1100203-01)

Registration Information

- Registrations due **Monday, Nov. 9** even if attending for free.
- *Free for veterans and spouses of veterans.

Monthly Party: Thanksgiving

Tuesday, Nov. 17, Noon

Give thanks together at our annual party.

Menu: Roast turkey, stuffing, potatoes, corn, cranberries, roll and pumpkin pie.

Sponsored by: Home Care Assistance

Cost: \$7 due Thursday, Nov. 13.
(Course#1100106-01)

Legal and Financial Planning

Monday, Nov. 23, 10:15 a.m.

Learn about legal and financial planning in your retirement years. Discuss who will make decisions for you if you are not able to do so, what type of legal paperwork you need and for what reasons. Learn about Medicaid and veterans benefits and much more. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Free! (Course #1180414-01)

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 Minnesotans who qualify.

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

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)

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.



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!

the 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!



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)

Tai Chi Chih

Susan Sobelson

Mondays, Nov. 16 – Dec. 14

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 II, \$35, 10 – 11 a.m.
(Course #1090301-02)

Zumba Gold

Renee Rahimi

Mondays, Nov. 2 – Dec. 21

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

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!

- \$40 (Course #1090501-02)

Line Dance

Eileen Ronning

Thursdays, Nov. 5 – Dec. 3 (No Class 11/26)

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

- Cont. Beginner, \$24, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
(Course #1090601-02)
- Intermediate, \$24, 1:45–2:45 p.m.
(Course #1090602-02)

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.

- Nov. 3 – Dec. 15
\$36 (Course #1090101-03)

Thursdays, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- Nov. 5 – Dec. 17
\$36 (Course #1090101-04)
(No Class 11/26)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

- Nov. 4 – Dec. 16
\$42 (Course #1090101-06)

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 down and up 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

- Nov. 3 – Dec. 15
\$36 (Course #1090201-03)

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon

- Nov. 5 – Dec. 17
\$36 (Course #1090201-04)
(No Class 11/26)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Nov. 4 – Dec. 16
\$42 (Course #1090201-05)

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.
- Thursdays, 8 – 9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Free for Williston, Silver Sneaker and Silver and Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

Williston Fitness Center

14509 Minnetonka Drive

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.

Four-hour renewal sessions:

- \$20, Tuesday, Nov. 10,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

History Programs

British History: Decay from Within

Terry Kubista

Thursdays, Nov. 5 – 19

1 – 3 p.m.

Greed, bribes and corruption meant that the British Empire was doomed. Explore the people at the heart of the governments and the relationships that developed between them.

- \$21 (Course #1180101-03)

Pearl Harbor Today

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, Dec. 9

10:30 a.m. – noon

Take a look at Pearl Harbor as it is today an active naval base and a memorial to those who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. Enjoy personal pictures of a tour of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base made by the instructor and his wife while visiting Hawaii.

- \$3 (Course #1180409-01)

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

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.

Interest Groups

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

500

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Join in the fun! We'll teach you.

AA/Al-Anon

Wednesdays, 10:30a.m.

All ages welcome.

Art Drop In

Mondays, 9 a.m. – noon

Informal, drop in and create!

Billiards

Monday - Friday

Time varies, please see calendar page.

Bingo

Tuesdays, 12:45 p.m.

Join in the fun!

Bird Club

1st Friday, 1 p.m.

Speaker: Bob Janssen, author and birding expert.

Book Club

3rd ursday, 1 p.m.

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Ciaverini.

Bulls & 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!



Chorale

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

New singers welcome!

Computer Club

Fridays, 10 a.m.

All levels of computer users invited.

Craft Committee

1st Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Create decor for monthly parties.

Cribbage

ursdays, 10 a.m.

Bring your cribbage board and cards.

Dominos

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

New members welcome!

Duplicate Bridge

ursdays, 6 p.m.

New members welcome!

Games and Cards

Mondays, 1 p.m.

1st & 3rd is Rummikub. 2nd & 4th is Hand and Foot. If there is a 5th Monday, train dominoes is played.

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

Seed exchange and election of new officers.

Ham Radio

2nd Monday, 10 a.m.

New members welcome!

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

Let Him Go by Larry Watson.

Mahjongg

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

New members welcome!

Poker

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

New members welcome!

Shutterbugs

3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m.

All levels of photographers welcome!

Single Mingle

3rd Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. at Tuttle's in

Hopkins for a monthly planning meeting. Monthly yers available at the Community Center.

Social Bridge

Wednesdays, 12:45 p.m.

Prizes awarded!

Tale Spinners

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

New members welcome!

Tonka Tale Tellers

2nd Monday, 10 a.m.

Tell tales at elementary schools.

Wood Carvers

ursdays, 10 a.m.

Group members share ideas and work independently.

Senior Day Trips

Christmas at Mayowood

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Enjoy "Christmas at Historic Mayowood." is the former residence of Doctors Charles H. and Charles W. Mayo. A national historic landmark situated on a wooded hillside overlooking the Zumbro River Valley, many rooms are uniquely decorated and each is personalized by those who contribute to the holiday spirit. The mansion has been recently restored to its full former elegant glory. Lunch will be served at the historic Hubbell House in Mantorville, MN; a tiny village that was once a booming community until it was bypassed by the railroad.

Menu: Choose roast beef or Hubble baked chicken with salad, vegetable, roll and sherbet.

(Course# 1110104-01)

- **Cost:** \$62 includes tours, meal, transportation and escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Nov. 6



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 Crossfield

952-939-8369

jcrossfield@eminnetonka.com

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 will be kept confidential.
- No questions will be 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.

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.

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

Leaf and Brush Drop-o Sites Close Nov. 21

Public Works Facility

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mile west of Cty. Rd.73
Enter on the west side of the building (near Big Willow ball fields)



Leaf Drop-o Site Hours

Leaves are accepted at the following days and times:

- Sundays:** Noon–4 p.m. Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15
- Mondays:** Noon–8 p.m. Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16
- Tuesdays:** Noon–8 p.m. Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17
- Fridays:** Noon–6 p.m. Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20
- Saturdays:** 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21

Leaf Drop-o Site Guidelines

- A driver's license, state ID or utility bill must be presented to verify residency.
- Leaves and non-woody yard waste such as grass, weeds, pine cones, needles, garden trimmings and fruit are accepted.
- Sticks and branches smaller than ½ inch in diameter are accepted with leaves; anything larger must go to the brush pile.
- **Bags of any kind cannot be left at the drop-o site.** Residents must unload and/or unbag their leaves and yard waste onto the large bulk pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal.
- Leaves are not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- Loads of leaves must be covered during transport.

Tips for Hauling Leaves

To make unloading leaves easier and faster, the city suggests using tarps to gather and transfer leaves to your truck or trailer; layer leaves and tarps until the vehicle is full.

Brush Drop-o Site Guidelines

- A driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill must be presented to verify residency.
- Branches up to 12" in diameter are accepted.
- Trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted.
- Brush is not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- All yard waste must be disposed of in the leaf drop-o area. The brush drop-o and leaf drop-o programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials; it is important they stay separate.

Residents have until Saturday, Nov. 21 to utilize the city's leaf and/or brush drop-o sites. Call Public Works at 952-988-8400 for more information.

Public Hearing for 2016 Budget Dec. 7

In September, the Minnetonka City Council adopted a preliminary 4.2 percent increase in the city property tax for 2016 that will result in a more than four percent reduction in property taxes on median-valued homes. The city council will continue to analyze the budget for potential reductions before the final levy is adopted in December.

With the proposed 4.2 percent increase, city property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$317,800 in 2015) are estimated to decrease by approximately \$50 next year. This is due to two factors: new development and redevelopment that significantly increased the city's tax base and a shift in the property tax burden as a result of commercial property values rising at a greater rate than residential property values.



Dollars from the preliminary levy increase will help support public safety costs, care of street line landscaping and trees, and assist with workforce expenses and legal mandates. Details on each of these activities can be found at eminnetonka.com.

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.

Did you know? All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste for a fee (either an annual, monthly, per cart or per bag fee). Check with your garbage hauler for details.



Winter recreation brochure available online Nov. 24



The Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services winter-spring 2015-16 brochure will be available by Tuesday, Nov. 24 at eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure. Residents will also receive a mailed postcard reminder prior to the start of registration.

In a continued effort to be environmentally friendly, as well as to reduce printing and postage costs, the winter/spring edition is only available online and will not be printed and mailed. 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.

Program registration starts at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 for Minnetonka and Hopkins residents. Non-resident registration begins Wednesday, Dec. 16, with the exception of tennis lessons which are open to all (residents and non-residents) starting Wednesday, Dec. 2. It is highly recommended that you have your household account set up for online registration prior to the start of registration. Visit eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure and click on "online registration" to get started.

Call Recreation Services at 952-939-8203 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with questions.

Burwell House holiday tours start Nov. 8

Take a break from the bustle of the season and step back in time to 1894 when you take a tour of the fully-restored Charles H. Burwell House. The house will be decorated for the holidays in typical Victorian fashion and open for tours Sunday, Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29 from noon until 3 p.m. Reservations are not necessary – stop by for a guided tour any time.



Schedule Group Tours

Call 952-939-8219 to schedule a tour on the day and time of your choice for a group of 10 or more. Requests will be considered as volunteer tour guides are available.

Burwell House Holiday Event Dec. 6

Mark your calendar for the Holiday Open House Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1-4 p.m. Enjoy refreshments and take a self-guided tour to check out the Victorian holiday decorations. Limited parking, including handicapped spaces, is available close to the house with additional parking at St. David's Family Resource Center across Plymouth Road. This free event is presented by the Minnetonka Historical Society.

The Burwell House, located at 13209 E. McGinty Road, is owned and maintained by the City of Minnetonka. The city coordinates volunteer-led scheduled tours each summer and hosts the annual Burwell House Festival in June.

Coloring contest winners announced



This year's Night for Neighbors coloring contest entries were once again judged by senior center participants, with the winners receiving a ride to school in a police vehicle driven by Police Chief Jesse Sebenaler. Thanks to everyone who participated in the contest!

Plan for safe driving this winter



Driving on icy, snowy roads is a challenge most Minnesotans will face at one time or another. Whether you're new to the area or are a seasoned wintertime driver, keep the following tips in mind as you prepare for winter-weather driving this season.

Plan Ahead

Keep close tabs on the weather. Avoid traveling, especially alone, if severe weather is threatening. Before taking a trip, inform someone at your destination of your expected arrival time and your route.

Clear Snow from Your Vehicle

If your vehicle has been outside during a snowfall, it is important to remove the snow from all parts of the car before setting out. Remember, snow left on the front hood will blow into the front vent and cause defrosting problems. Pay particular attention to cleaning off headlights and tail lights so other motorists can see you.

React Accordingly

Adjust your speed to the conditions and increase the distance from vehicles you are following. Remember that bridges, overpasses and ramps can be more slippery than other parts of the road. If you begin to skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and turn the wheel in the direction you want the car to go. If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), apply a steady firm pressure to the brake pedal. Never pump ABS brakes.

Have a Plan for Problems

If you find yourself stranded, stay calm and stay put. Your chances of being rescued are greater if you remain in one place. Staying in your car will decrease your risk of frostbite or hypothermia. Run your engine for heat about once an hour (every half hour in extreme cold). Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear to prevent the back-up of carbon monoxide. Leave one window slightly open. Tie a piece of brightly colored cloth to your antenna to alert others and aid rescuers. Always have supplies on hand to see you through an emergency.

Build an Emergency Kit

Stock your car with the following items in the event of an emergency:

- Small shovel
- Jumper cables
- Tow chain
- A bag of sand or cat litter for traction
- A metal bucket or coffee can
- A small candle with matches or a disposable lighter
- Brightly colored cloth, such as a bandana
- A basic first aid kit
- A large plastic garbage bag (to insulate feet, legs and torso)
- High-energy non-perishable foods and bottled water

More Information

For more tips on driving safely in winter weather, visit MnDOT's website at dot.state.mn.us and search "winter weather driving."

Shovel first, salt second to protect water quality

Winter is coming, and – along with it – snow and ice. Before liberally sprinkling salt on sidewalks and driveways, remember that all of that salt doesn't just disappear – it melts into nearby creeks, wetlands and lakes. Once in the water, there's no cost-effective way to remove salt. To make matters worse, it doesn't take much salt to cause problems in lakes and streams; as little as one teaspoon of salt per five gallons of water can harm aquatic life.

It's possible to reduce salt use while still maintaining safe surfaces in the winter.

Follow these tips to protect yourself against slips and falls while being mindful of the environment:

- Apply a liquid deicer before snowstorms to prevent snow and ice buildup and make shoveling easier. Want to make your own? Mix two cups of hot water with one cup of salt, then apply.
- During a storm, get out early to shovel or snow blow. Keep up with the snowfall and you may need less salt.
- Don't over apply. More salt doesn't equal more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is about the equivalent of a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup. Hint: If salt crystals are visible after the surface has dried, you've used too much salt. Go easier next time.
- Temperature matters. Most salts stop working when the pavement temperature is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Instead, use a small amount of sand for traction.
- Sweep up. Salt and sand on dry pavement isn't doing anything and will be washed into wetlands and lakes. Sweep up the extra and reuse it, or throw it into the trash.
- Do you live in a townhome, apartment or condominium? If so, talk to your association about encouraging your snow removal contractor to use less salt.

City's shade tree disease control program wraps up for the year

In an effort to protect Minnetonka's forest, the city's Shade Tree Disease Control program targets Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. Emerald ash borer has not yet been found in Minnetonka, but staff is offering several programs to help the city prepare, keeping a watchful eye and conducting selective inspections for early detection.



Estimated numbers of trees lost to Dutch elm disease and oak wilt in 2015 are looking slightly higher than in previous years. From June through mid-September 2015, the city's natural resources division identified and required the removal of approximately 694 diseased elm and oak trees on public and private property. Individual private property owners, public agencies, or businesses were notified if they owned a diseased tree and were required to remove it within a specified period of time. The city also identified and removed diseased trees on city property.

Tree inspectors re-inspect each site in order to make sure that the wood has been disposed of or handled correctly and leave a door hanger to let residents and businesses know they have met the city's ordinance requirements. In November, the natural resources division will continue to recheck every site where diseased trees were marked for removal.

Minnetonka's Natural Resources Division thanks those residents and businesses who have already removed diseased trees this year, and to those who have treated their trees to prevent these diseases. Tree diseases can spread across property boundaries so your role in helping protect Minnetonka's community forest is crucial!

For more information about the program, call the forestry information line at 952-988-8407.

Tree pruning along right-of-way begins later this month

Each winter, the city prunes boulevard trees along the right-of-way (ROW) in an effort to maintain sightlines and prepare for upcoming road construction projects. Read below to find a list of frequently asked questions regarding this process and learn more about the maintenance of ROW trees.

Who owns the tree in my boulevard and who is responsible for maintaining them?

Trees planted along roadway boulevards are owned by the adjacent property owner. However, the City of Minnetonka has a right-of-way easement along all city roadways, which means the city is allowed to use the land to provide for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, utilities, snow storage and other public necessities. As a result, the city is responsible for any maintenance that is necessary for preserving the safety and use of the right-of-way. Homeowners are responsible for performing the necessary maintenance required to preserve private property, such as pruning branches over a driveway or a neighbor's house.

Why are trees pruned in the ROW in anticipation of road projects?

The city proactively prunes right-of-way trees in advance of all road projects on city streets to ensure potential road-tree conflicts are addressed before the project begins. The pruning is done during the winter months – when tree diseases and insects are inactive – to reduce the risk of spreading diseases and invasive insects.

How does the city determine whether or not it is necessary to remove a tree in advance of a road project?

Trees in the ROW must sometimes be removed in anticipation of upcoming road projects – but only if the established boundaries of the road project make it necessary. For instance, many road projects require several feet of space behind the curb in order to excavate utilities and operate large equipment; trees within the work zone must be removed to make this work possible.



Who performs the work and what does it entail?

A city crew or contractor performs the necessary work at no cost to the property owner. The goal is to raise tree canopies 18-20 feet off the road surface, remove dead or broken branches hanging over the road, remove branches extending into the anticipated work zone, and remove shrubs or small trees that are blocking intersection sightlines or signs.

How can I plant and maintain my property so it does not create a road-tree conflict?

- When planting evergreen trees, please refrain from planting within 20 feet of the road edge. This will leave enough space for a mature tree.
- When planting deciduous trees (which drop leaves in fall), please plant at least 15 feet away from the road edge.
- Formal shrubs/hedges planted near the road must be trimmed regularly by the homeowner to maintain aesthetics and ensure the right-of-way area (approximately 6 feet behind the curb) is kept clear.
- If you have natural areas near the road edge, please ensure they are not blocking intersection sightlines or signs.

What can I do to ensure I stay aware of the work planned on my street?

Homeowners living in neighborhoods that will be affected by right-of-way pruning will receive a detailed letter in late November. If you have any questions or concerns about the process regarding your boulevard trees, call the forestry information line at 952-988-8407.

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November 2015

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A publication of the city of Minnetonka
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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

November
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	6	7	3 Municipal Election
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4 Joint Meeting of the City Council and Park Board, 6 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
29	30						10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							11 Veterans Day, City Offices Closed
							16 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
							19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							23 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							26 Thanksgiving, City Offices Closed
							27 Thanksgiving, City Offices Closed

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change — please check eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at 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.

Visitors enjoy October open house event

The October 6 Fire Department and City Open House proved popular again this year, with many hundreds of people enjoying fire truck rides, police department tours, musical entertainment and food. Thanks to everyone who visited the city – we hope to see you again next year!



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