



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
October 2015*

Fire Department and City Open House is Oct. 6

EVERY YEAR, THE CITY HOSTS AN open house to provide a fun and informative glimpse into what it takes to operate a community of more than 50,000 residents. The 2015 City and Fire Department Open House is Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Highlights of this year's event include:

Fire Department

- Fire truck rides (ages 4 and over)
- Free all-beef hot dogs and pop
- Tours
- Interactive demonstrations
- Meet Sparky the Fire Dog
- Live entertainment

City Hall

- Get your election questions answered
- Get recycling information
- Learn about the city's natural resources and conservation efforts

Community Center – Lower Level

- View photo contest entries and vote for your favorite
- Browse displays from community organizations, city departments and boards and commissions
- Visit the "House of Germs"
- Get moving with activities sponsored by Recreation Services

Community Center – Upper Level

- Snack on free refreshments including cookies, popcorn and lemonade



- See woodcarving demonstrations
- Enjoy live musical entertainment by the Choral Reflections

Police Department

- Jail tours
- Sit in a squad car
- Meet McGruff the Crime Dog

Public Works

- Sit inside heavy equipment such as snow plow trucks and street maintenance equipment (*Community Center parking lot*)

Plan ahead for parking

Please note, parking at the Civic Center Campus is limited. Minimize the hassle by carpooling with friends and planning extra time. Or better yet, avoid the issue entirely and bike to the event! ♡



Property Taxes for Most Minnetonka Homes to Decrease

IN SEPTEMBER, THE MINNETONKA CITY Council adopted a preliminary city levy increase of 4.2 percent that will result in a more than four percent reduction in property taxes on median-valued homes.

How can property taxes go down if the levy is increasing? Read below for an explanation and find out how the tax dollars will be put to work.

Expanded tax base decreases individual property tax

New development and redevelopment significantly increased the city's property tax base last year, and this growth more than offsets the adopted increase in the city's property tax levy. Median-valued homes in Minnetonka (\$317,800 in 2015) will see a more than four percent reduction to their individual city property taxes.

The savings for residential properties is also supported by a shift in the property tax burden from residential to commercial real estate, because commercial property values rose at a greater rate than did residential properties last year.

How Tax Dollars Will Be Put To Work

Public safety.

The 2016 city budget reflects the city's commitment to public safety by devoting nearly half of the new dollars to this area. The budget adds significant funds to perform needed maintenance and renovations to two of the city's aging fire stations, which were built in 1976 and 1987. One full-time firefighter training officer will be added and funding also supports the addition of one police investigator.

Streetscapes.

While the whole of the city's capital budget dedicates significant funds for maintaining and improving the city's roadways with no special assessments to property owners, the 2016 levy provides some additional resources for taking care of street-line landscaping and boulevard trees.

Property Taxes *continued from page 1*

Workforce expenses and legal mandates

Over the past several of years, changing demographics, retirements and generational workplace transformations have increased the challenges facing human resources. The additional levy in 2016 provides the budget for one additional human resources employee to ensure administration can provide appropriate support to staff.

Additionally, human resource staff are beginning an analysis with other cities to determine the feasibility of self-insurance in an effort to address the ongoing rise in employee health insurance costs.

Development

As economic activity and development has risen over the past few years, community development has adjusted their staffing levels accordingly. However, because the demand for services is increasing wait times

for inspections and permits, the 2016 budget includes funding for one additional full-time inspector. The cost for this staff member will be offset by the revenues the activity generates.

Similarly, the city's levy will include for the first year of approximately fifteen years property taxes to be paid by Ridgedale Mall properties for costs of public improvements associated with their recent renovations and expansions.

HRA levy

Acting as the city's Economic Development Authority, the city council also adopted a preliminary Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy increase of \$75,000 to support the city's contribution to the Southwest Light Rail Transit project.

Summary

The preliminary city tax levy will be limited to an increase of 4.2 percent for 2016, which is the average increase comparable metro suburbs are expected to see this year. The increase will reduce property tax bills for most homeowners while ensuring the city's ongoing ability to provide the level of services Minnetonka residents have come to expect.

Feedback encouraged

Would you like to provide feedback on the city's budget process? Comment at eminnetonka.com; contact Finance Director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8200; or attend a public hearing Monday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. ☺

Election Day

THE MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION IS set for Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Get answers to the most frequently asked election questions below.

What offices are on the ballot?

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.

When and where do I vote?

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.

There are 23 precincts in Minnetonka, each with a designated polling location. You must vote in the precinct in which you live. Visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us and enter your current address to find your

designated polling location. Call City Hall at 952-939-8200 if you need assistance.

Who can vote absentee?

Anyone who wishes to vote absentee may do so. Voters do not have to state a reason in order to receive and cast an absentee ballot.

Please note, absentee voters are required to complete an application to receive a ballot and must also complete a certificate once the absentee ballot is cast. Election judges compare the information on the two documents before the ballot can be accepted.

Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail.

How do I vote absentee?

Two options are 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. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at City Hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal



service delivery. 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. If your ballot is rejected by the city's absentee ballot board, the city will mail you a replacement absentee ballot, but again, it is extremely important to follow the instructions.

The Minnesota Secretary of State allows absentee voters to apply online and verify the status of their absentee ballot. Visit mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx to get started.

Am I registered to vote?

Visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx to verify if you are current registered, or call City Hall at 952-939-8200.

The last day to pre-register for the Municipal General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Election Day

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Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Yes. Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. You will need to register if you have never registered to vote; you have changed your name or address (including moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted; or if you have not voted in four years.

What identification is needed to register?

Minnesota state law requires specific forms of identification to register at the polling place. The list of acceptable identification has been expanded. For information about these forms, visit eminnetonka.com and search, "Register to Vote."

Where will election results be available?

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

For more information on the voting process or for questions on how to find your polling location, contact City Hall at 952-939-8200 or visit eminnetonka.com.

Final Buckthorn Workshop of the Season

LEARN HOW TO SAVE TIME, ENERGY AND expense by controlling buckthorn right the first time.

Thursday, Oct. 8
6:30–8:30 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
Community Room
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Restoration Specialist Janet Van Sloun will present the following topics:

- How to avoid common errors in a buckthorn project
- Why gradual removal is best when garlic mustard is present
- How forest/woodland structure and diversity is affected by invasive species
- Top two priorities for any buckthorn job
- How to recycle wood and reduce erosion on slopes
- Recommended native species to replace buckthorn

The workshop and handouts are free. Please RSVP to 952-988-8400.

Volunteers Needed to Cut Buckthorn in Meadow Park

ASSIST THE CITY'S RESTORATION specialist in cutting second-growth buckthorn as part of a long-term habitat restoration project along west Meadow Park trails.

Saturday, Oct. 24
9 a.m.–noon
Meadow Park main parking lot
2725 Oakland Rd.

Volunteers will:

- Cut second-growth buckthorn with loppers, bow saws and hand saws
- De-limb branches with black fruit and stack for disposal
- De-limb fruit-free brush and place in low wind-rows above the wetland edge to slow erosion and create amphibian habitat
- Treat stumps with "Buckthorn Blaster" daubers
- Spread wood chips

The city will provide a limited number of tools, instructions, snacks and drinks. All volunteers will be required to sign a release form.

Please RSVP to 952-988-8400. The work date will be re-scheduled if conditions are too wet.

Help your bottom line with a home energy audit

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, RISING utility bills have led many people to reevaluate their use of energy in the home. Fortunately, saving energy doesn't always require costly renovations or dramatic changes in behavior. Simple actions can significantly improve the energy efficiency of your home and, in turn, lower your gas, electric, and water bills.

A home energy audit is a great place to start. You can hire a private contractor to do the audit or contact a local utility, such as Xcel Energy. This assessment takes just a couple of hours and quickly highlights how much energy is being used and wasted in your home.

Like a doctor conducting a physical, the energy auditor determines the health and wellness of every major system in your house.

- Is there sufficient insulation in the walls

and attic? Insulation helps to regulate the temperature of your home, retaining heat in winter and preventing its entry to the building in summer.

- Are doors and windows sealed well? An airtight home prevents energy loss, reducing heating and air conditioning bills.
- How are mechanical systems--like water heaters, furnaces, and air conditioning--performing? Old or damaged mechanical systems may lead to poorly distributed energy.
- Are the furnace and ductwork clean? Poor ventilation not only reduces the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems; it also increases the risk of airborne particles, mold, and mildew that worsen allergies and asthma.

Using this information, the auditor identifies specific actions you can take to increase the energy efficiency of your home. You will receive a report outlining steps to make your home more comfortable and healthy. These may include changing air filters, sealing windows and doors or heating ducts, installing an insulated water heater or installing a blanket around the existing one, or replacing old appliances with those that have an Energy Star rating. Your short-term expenditure for upgrades will be a long-term investment in energy savings. Call (800) 599-5795 or visit www.responsiblebynature.com to schedule an energy audit through Xcel Energy.

This message provided by Xcel Energy as a service to Minnetonka residents.

Leaf and Brush Drop-off Sites Close Nov. 21

RESIDENTS HAVE UNTIL SATURDAY, NOV. 21 TO UTILIZE THE CITY'S LEAF AND/OR BRUSH DROP OFF SITES.

Leaf Drop-off Site Hours

Leaves are accepted at the following days and times:

Mondays: Noon–8 p.m. Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, Nov. 16

Tuesdays: Noon–8 p.m. Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17

Fridays: Noon–6 p.m. Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20

Saturdays: 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct. 17, Oct. 24, Oct. 31, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21

Sundays: Noon–4 p.m. Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15

Leaf Drop-off 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-off 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-off Site Hours

Brush is accepted Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 21.

Brush Drop-off 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-off area. The brush drop-off and leaf drop-off programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials; it is important they stay separate.

Call Public Works at 952-988-8400 for more information. ∞

Why It's Important to Properly Dispose of Leaves

Properly disposing of leaves preserves natural resources and keeps yard waste where it may do some good. Leaves disposed of properly can be converted to compost and used to help grow new trees.

Proper leaf disposal options include:

- Utilizing the city's leaf drop-off program.
- Utilizing your curbside waste hauler. Contact them directly for service options.
- Composting in a suitable area away from a water resource.
- Mulching with a lawn mower. Pulverized leaves decompose and add nutrients to the soil.

It is illegal to dispose of leaves by blowing them into the street, burning them, or leaving them on public lands, in wetlands, lakes, creeks or other drainage areas.

Visit eminnetonka.com to find more information about composting and yard waste management.

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)

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.





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Programs and services for those 55+
October 2015 Newsletter

Dementia and Family Relationships

Join us for a three-part dinner and film series focusing on love, loss, dementia and family relationships. Each day includes a film, discussion and a light dinner. This program is designed to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of Alzheimer's and other related dementias. **Cost:** \$7 due Thursday prior to session. **Register for all three sessions and save \$6!**

- Sunday, Oct. 4, 4-7 p.m.
Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter (NR)
(Course #1100302-01)
- Sunday, Oct. 11, 4-7 p.m.
The Savages (R)
(Course #1100302-02)
- Sunday, Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m.
Iris (R)
(Course #1100302-03)

Supported by:

Homewatch CareGivers, Qualicare Family HomeCare, ComForCare Home Care, Elder Homestead, Augustana Care and Neptune Society

Drain the Worry and Stress Out of Aging

Monday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.

Join us as we join over a dozen other senior centers across the state through a joint teleconferencing effort. Listen and interact with Dr. Bruce McBeath as he discusses how to make aging stress resistant.

Cost: \$2 Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 2.
(Course #1180410-01)

Store to Door

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.

Do transportation or mobility concerns make grocery shopping a chore? Looking for a way to give back? Store to Door, a volunteer based non-profit shopping and delivery service, gives seniors access to food and household essentials. Learn about the service and how to get involved.

Cost: \$2 Please RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 6.
(Course #1180406-01)

Taste of Brookdale

Thursday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m.

Enjoy tropical themed refreshments while visiting several senior living options on a shuttle bus. Along the way, enjoy goodies including a beach bag, sunglasses and more. Don't miss this taste of the tropics!

Cost: \$3 due Monday, Oct. 12.
(Course #1110202-01)

Shred Event

Friday, Oct. 16, 12:30-3 p.m.

Shred important documents on site at the Minnetonka Ice Arena. Here are the details:

- \$5 for up to eight full paper grocery bags. Plastic bags are not accepted.
- Please bring exact cash or check payable to M.S.S.
- Wait in line inside your vehicle.
- Proceeds benefit Minnetonka Senior Services.

Minnetonka Ice Arena
3401 Williston Road

Fall Features Nature Hike Naturalist Kelly Stewart

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy the crisp fall air and take a look at what the animals and plants are doing this time of year. Dress for the weather and plan to spend an hour walking and discovering. Meet at Lone Lake Park: Lakeside Shelter.

Cost: \$3 due Thursday, Oct. 15.
(Course #1190707-01)

Monthly Party: Oktoberfest

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 12 p.m.

Friends, fun and keg root beer are the highlights of our Oktoberfest celebration! **Menu:** Brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and dessert.

Sponsored by: Meridian Manor
Cost: \$5 due Thursday, Oct. 22.
(Course #1100105-01)

Email Updates

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

Lunch with Meals on Wheels

Thursday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.

Enjoy a lunch by Meals on Wheels while learning about the program that delivers meals to your door.

Cost: \$2 Please RSVP by Monday, Oct. 26.
(Course #1180414-01)

Lunch and a Movie: Big Hero 6

Friday, Oct. 30, Noon

Follow the animated adventure of robotics engineer Hiro Hamada and his over-sized robot best friend, Baymax, as they try to save San Fransokyo.

Menu: Pizza, salad and a treat.

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, Oct. 27.
(Course #1100202-01)

Sips & Songs

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



Geoff Elvee Band

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$3 (Course #1100301-01)

James Shaw

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

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

Sponsored by:
WestRidge of Minnetonka

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 for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Thursdays, Oct. 29–Dec. 10, 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. (No Class 11/26)

- \$54 (Course #1090401-02)



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, Oct. 8–29

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 #1090601-01)
- Intermediate, \$24, 1:45–2:45 p.m.
(Course #1090602-01)

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.

- 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

Computer Skills: The Basics

Abbey Key

Thursdays, Oct. 29–Nov. 19, 9–10 a.m.

Learn the basics of operating computers. This program includes time for questions and answers as well as covering the following topics: computer parts and functions, creating word documents, emailing, photo sharing and storage, printing, web browsing and social media.

- \$16 (Course #1180601)

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, Thursday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- \$20, Monday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Leisure Programs

Adventure Book Club

Kelly Stewart

Saturday, Oct. 17, 8–10 a.m.

Join Naturalist Kelly Stewart for a book club discussion followed by an adventure. Meet at Lone Lake Park: Lakeside Shelter.

Book: *The Homing Instinct and Mystery on Animal Migration* by Bernd Heinrich.

Adventure: Bird and fall color hike.

- \$10 (Course #1190601-01)
Due by Thursday, Oct. 14

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 GI's, 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. The Treaty of Versailles 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.

History Programs

British History: Building an Empire

Terry Kubista

Thursdays, Oct. 1 – 29

1 – 3 p.m.

Learn how the powerful Victorian Empire was built and what led to its downfall. The build up of wealth, opulence and power seemed attractive to many but the cost of world dominance could not be maintained.

- \$35 (Course #1180101-02)

Mexican-American War

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, Oct. 14

10:30 a.m. – noon

Discover how American forces quickly occupied New Mexico and California and captured Mexico City during the armed conflict between the United States and the Republic of Mexico from 1846-1848.

- \$3 (Course #1180202-02)

Cuban Missile Crisis

Tom Troy

Mondays, Oct. 19 – Nov. 9

1 – 2:30 p.m.

The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 was, arguably, the most dangerous US-Soviet confrontation during the entire Cold War. Over the years, a number of myths have developed about the missile crisis, especially about the causes of the crisis and the relative effectiveness of President John F. Kennedy's advisers. Mr. Thomas M. Troy will attempt to separate historical fact from myth in a series of discussions.

- \$12 (Course #1180201-01)

Interest Groups

Book Club

3rd Thursday, 1 p.m.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin.

500

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

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

Join in the fun! We'll teach you.

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

The Dead by James Joyce.

Art Programs

Continuing Watercolor

Sandra Muzzy

Mondays, Oct. 19 – Nov. 30

2 – 4:30 p.m.

Continue to work on honing watercolor skills. Each week paint from a different still life. Improve compositions through the use of thumbnails, work on getting good values, experiment with a variety of products that are watercolor friendly and continue to push our boundaries. Constructive criticism will be offered on how to improve paintings and group participation is encouraged. Join us for 6 weeks of watercolor fun and experimentation!

- \$120 (Course #1130301-01)

Contemporary Watercolor Methods

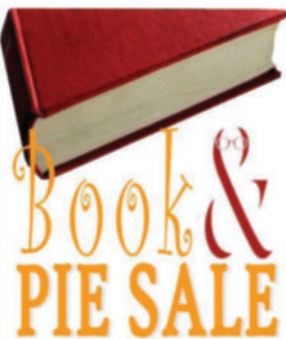
Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays, Oct. 21 – Nov. 4

1 – 3:15 p.m.

Explore and improvise with mixed media and traditional and contemporary painting methods. Explore the role of brush strokes, washes, glazes, intense and neutral color, and edges in contemporary watercolor. Paint various subjects in class, incorporating the painting styles of Cezanne, Edouard Manet, Georgia O'Keefe, John Marin, and John Singer Sargent.

- \$60 (Course #1130102-01)



Book & Pie Sale

Tuesday, Oct. 13
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The annual Book and Pie Sale is provided by Minnetonka Senior Services in conjunction with the Senior Advisory Board.

Most Books are \$1
Pie by the slice, sloppy joes, ice cream and coffee will be available for purchase.

BLOW-OUT SALE
4 - 5 p.m.
\$2.50

For all you can fit into a bag!

Book donation drop-off times
Friday, Oct. 9, and
Monday, Oct. 12,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Senior Day Trip



Christmas at Mayowood

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Enjoy "Christmas at Historic Mayowood." This 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

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

Navigating Medicare

Thursday, Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Learn to navigate Medicare Parts A, B and D. This educational opportunity is open to those considering retirement and current Medicare users.

Cost: \$10

(Course #1180407-01)

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.

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

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 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.

Volunteer

Adopt-a-highway

Thursday, Oct. 15, 1 p.m.

Meet at the Minnetonka Community Center and join us for adopt-a-highway! Each volunteer walks approximately one mile.

Keep Your Neighbors Happy: Be Aware of City Ordinances

BARKING DOGS, ROAMING CATS, SMOKY campfires, trash and recycling container storage, outside storage, and noise — these are some of the most common complaints expressed by Minnetonka residents about their neighbors. While they may seem like minor issues to you, please be considerate of your neighbor by complying with these city ordinances.

Trash and recycling bins

City ordinance requires that all trash and recycling bins be stored out of public view, either inside a garage or behind a screened enclosure, except for the evening before and the day of trash and/or recycling collection. While your bins may be out of sight for you, think about the view your neighbor has of your property, and store your bins accordingly.

Barking dogs

Sometimes pet owners will put their dogs outside while they conduct household tasks or run errands. Then, if the dog starts barking, no one is available to let it back inside. It's important to monitor your dog and be sure it isn't barking continuously while outside — even if you can't hear it, your neighbors most likely can. City ordinance prohibits excessive barking, which is defined as repeated noise over at least a five-minute period with one minute or less lapse of time between each animal noise during that five-minute period. The ordinance is enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. Call the police department at 952-939-8500 to report a barking dog.

Roaming cats

It is common for cat owners to let their housecats outside for a portion of the day. However, if cats are left outside for long periods of time, they can quickly turn into a nuisance by leaving animal waste on adjacent properties. City ordinance states that an owner must not permit their pet to endanger another person's property, nor should pets be allowed to defecate on public or private land without permission of the property owner. Please keep this in mind when letting your housecat outside and do not let your pet roam the neighborhood.

Noise

Minnetonka's "quiet hours" are 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven days a week, all year.

Campfires

Recreational fires (campfires) in the city

require a permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department. Even with a permit, the burning of brush, trash or leaves is not allowed. Please remember that smoke and the smell of smoke often carries into neighboring homes, even on calm days. In addition to the fact that not everyone likes the smell of a campfire (especially in their home), smoke is also an irritant for those who have chronic respiratory issues such as asthma. Beyond minding the conditions of the recreational fire permit, consider your neighbors as well.

Tips for talking to your neighbors

If you're not sure how to approach your neighbor with concerns, follow these helpful tips:

- Learn what you can about the situation. Maybe your neighbor has a new baby or just adopted their pet. Knowing the situation will keep things in perspective.
- Choose an appropriate time to talk. Pick a time when you are rested and calm, and when you have reason to believe your neighbor is feeling the same.
- Be as polite, friendly and respectful as possible.
- Let your neighbor know how you are being affected. The more they understand your concerns, the more likely it is they'll feel motivated to address the situation.
- Make suggestions. Maybe your neighbor is aware of the issue but their attempts at correcting it haven't been successful. New ideas could be helpful.
- Agree on a concrete solution.

If you would like to speak to someone who can help mediate a conflict, call the Hennepin County Mediation Program at 763-561-0033 or visit mediationprogram.com to learn more.

If you are concerned for your safety or the safety of your neighborhood, do not hesitate to call 911. ☺

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Plymouth

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) WAS RECENTLY found in Plymouth, Minn., near Medicine Lake. It has also been discovered in Chisago County, near the Washington border, and Scott County, in Prior Lake. There are now a total of ten counties in Minnesota where EAB has been detected.

EAB is a destructive non-native beetle that feeds on and kills the living tissue of ash trees. Research has indicated the beetles are not strong flyers and that the non-native invasive pest's spread is accelerated greatly by the transportation of firewood. For this reason, when EAB is discovered, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture institutes a quarantine, making it illegal to transport firewood (or logs of any size) of any tree species in or out of the county unless there is a compliance agreement in place.

The other eight quarantined counties include Anoka, Dakota, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Olmstad, Ramsey and Winona.

Make a difference by abiding by the quarantines, educating neighbors and friends, and buying or collecting firewood close to where you plan to use it.

Make Plans to Protect Your Ash Trees

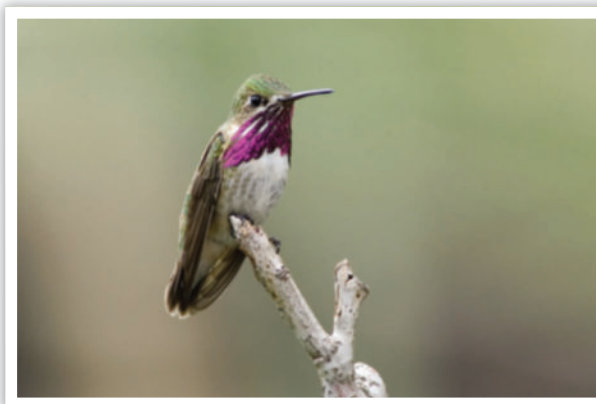
If you haven't yet taken steps to protect your ash trees from EAB, there is still time to take advantage of the city's program. Though injections can no longer be administered this year due to them not being effective when trees are showing signs of fall color — injections will be available again for the 2016 season, beginning in May. Homeowners with ash trees that are at least 10" in diameter and in good physical condition are encouraged to participate. Contact the city's injection contractor, Rainbow Treecare, at 952-767-6920 to be added to the list for next year.

To learn more about the injection program, visit eminnetonka.com and search "emerald ash borer" or call the forestry information line at 952-988-8407. Visit mda.state.us and search "emerald ash borer" to learn more about preventing the spread of EAB. ☺

Help Pollinators Survive the Winter

POLLINATORS SUCH AS HUMMINGBIRDS, bees and butterflies help fertilize more than 75 percent of our crops by carrying pollen from one plant to another as they collect nectar. Their existence is vital to our ability to grow fruits, vegetables, nuts and even chocolate. Recent studies have shown a major decline in pollinator populations, making it increasingly important to take measures to protect them.

Some pollinators migrate to regions with milder winter weather but many, including honeybees, remain in Minnesota.



Check out this list of things you can do to help pollinators survive the winter:

- Plant sedum, asters and other late-blooming flowers as a source of nectar in fall, and leave nectar feeders up until you haven't seen a hummingbird for more than a week.
- If you have a bee "hotel," replace it yearly to reduce the spread of disease, or clean it thoroughly every fall using a 10:1 solution of water and vinegar.

- Leave hollow-stemmed plants in place all winter to harbor hibernating bees.
- Spread leaf litter over your garden beds.
- Leave a few patches of bare soil in the garden.

Visit pollinator.org to learn more about the importance of pollinators and what you can do to protect them. ♪

Ten tips to stay safe from fire

AN AVERAGE OF SEVEN PEOPLE DIE EVERY day in a home fire, most of which could have been prevented. Sixty percent of these fires occur in homes where there was either no smoke alarm or the existing alarm is not working. While fires caused by smoking are not as common as they used to be, they continue to be the leading cause of fatal fires.

Follow these ten tips from the National Fire Prevention Association to stay safe:

- Be careful in the kitchen - cooking is the leading cause of fires
- Give space heaters space – at least 3 feet
- Smoke outside and use ashtrays
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Inspect electrical cords and replace as needed
- Be careful with candles
- Have a home fire escape plan and practice it
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom

and every level

- Test smoke alarms at least once per month
- Install sprinklers if building or remodeling

For more information or to schedule a safety presentation for your group call the Minnetonka Fire Department public educators at 952-939-8331. ♪



Burwell House Open Sundays in November

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

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. ♪


Help Emergency Responders Find You – Make Your Address Numbers Visible

IF YOU HAVE EVER NEEDED TO DIAL 911 in an emergency, you know every second counts – but have you ever thought about what you can do to help emergency responders help you? Making sure your house or business numbers are easily visible is vital to ensuring emergency personnel are able to respond in a timely manner.

Minnetonka city ordinance states that each separate residential, commercial and industrial building in Minnetonka must have a street number displayed on the building. The numbers must be easily visible from the street and if it is not easily visible, the number must also appear at the street entrance to the building.

Follow these tips to ensure your address is properly displayed:

- Numbers should be visible from both directions of travel
- Trim trees or bushes to improve visibility
- Do not use your mailbox as the only means of identifying your property
- Avoid using cursive numbers which are decorative but difficult to read
- Pick a color that contrasts with the color of your siding. For example, use black numbers on a white house.

Take the time to ensure your property is clearly marked – it could make all the difference. 

Keep “flushable” wipes out of the sewer

THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE SEEN THE introduction of more and more disposable wipe products for a variety of household uses. Many of these products are labeled and marketed as disposable, while many baby hygiene products are labeled both disposable and flushable.

While items such as household wipes and cleaning towelettes are marketed as convenience items, they may potentially become a huge inconvenience because of their ability to clog and stop up not only the sewer on your property, but also to cause blockages and backup problems in Minnetonka’s public sewer system and pump stations.

To understand how these wipes can become a problem, it’s important to understand a little about how the sewer system works. Every home has a sewer connection, which runs from the home to the public sewer system. This sewer service line is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain so there are no backups of wastewater into the home. The sewage then moves into larger collector lines, and pump stations help lift the wastewater across

different elevations in the sewer system, an especially important component in a hilly city such as Minnetonka.


Why are household wipes a problem? Unlike toilet paper, these disposable or “flushable” products don’t break down once they are flushed. They can then cause blockages in your on-site sewer lines, especially in older pipelines that may have already existing grease, roots or other obstructions, resulting in the backup of sewage into the home. A repair of the service line can leave the homeowner with a nasty repair bill – often not covered by homeowners’ insurance – and an even nastier cleanup.

On a larger scale, when these products make their way into the public sewer system, they collect together and cause clogs in the collector lines and get tangled in lift pumps. When pump stations are clogged, they stop working and require cleaning and repair – or even replacement – in order to get the sewage moving again.

Avoid a nasty cleanup in your home and help protect the city’s sewer system by never flushing the following into the sewer

system, regardless of what the packaging promises. Instead, put these items in the trash:

- Any consumer item that is not toilet paper
- Diapers
- Disinfecting wipes or baby wipes
- Cotton swabs
- Toilet cleaning pads
- Mop refills
- Paper towels
- Moist towelettes
- Feminine hygiene products

Not sure what should or shouldn’t be flushed? Remember this easy reminder: if it’s not toilet paper, and if you didn’t eat it or drink it first, it shouldn’t go in the toilet. When in doubt, don’t flush! For more information, contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400. 



minnetonka memo

October 2015

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

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ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

October
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	October 2015 calendar	19 – City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1 – Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.	22 – Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	6 – City and Fire Department Open House, 5 p.m.	26 – City Council, 6:30 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	7 – Park Board, 7 p.m.	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	12 – City Council, 6:30 p.m.	
							13 – Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.	
							15 – Planning Commission, 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 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. 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. 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.