

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
February 2014

## Visit Minnetonka Kids' Fest February 9

Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services hosts Kids' Fest Sunday, February 9, at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

All activities are free and include dog sled rides, bingo, magic shows, face painting, ice carving demonstrations, s'mores by the bonfire, crafts, entertainment, snowshoeing, indoor ice skating and more.

Please bring canned goods to help area families in need. Collections will be received at the Minnetonka Community Center. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or call (952) 939-8203.

This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy some winter fun for the whole family, all for free! We look forward to seeing you Sunday, February 9. ☺



*Dog sled rides are always a Kids' Fest favorite.*

## State of the City is February 12

You're invited to the 2014 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, February 12, 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. ☺

## Become an election judge this year

Election judges ensure that the voting process goes smoothly and honestly. Serving as an election judge is a great way to meet your neighbors and protect one of our most cherished freedoms — the right to vote. Judges are needed for both the August 12 state primary election and the November 4 state general election. This is a paid opportunity and training is provided. For more information visit the elections page at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219. ☺

## Outdoor ice rinks close February 17

Skating rinks with warming houses are available through February 17, weather permitting at 14 parks in Minnetonka and Hopkins. Minnetonka rinks are at Boulder Creek, Covington, Gatewood, Glen Lake, Grotonka, 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. ☺

### Kids' Fest Schedule of Events

All events are at the Minnetonka Community Center unless otherwise indicated. Activities and performances are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

#### 12 – 1:30 p.m.

- Dog sled rides

#### 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

- Teddie Bear Band

#### 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

- Amazing Nathan Magic Show

#### 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

- Dog sled rides

#### 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.

- Bingo

#### 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

- Free ice skating & skate rental (Minnetonka Ice Arena)

#### 12 – 3:30 p.m.

- Facepainting
- Ice carving demonstrations
- Bonfire and s'mores
- Caricature artists
- Dance instruction: hip hop & creative movement
- Amazing Nathan strolling magician
- Arts and crafts with the Minnetonka Center for the Arts
- Snowshoeing
- Early childhood sensory activities by Hopkins ECFE
- Fire extinguisher simulator station
- Great Harvest wheat grass gardens/bread samples
- Funtime Funktions Spin Zone
- Southwest LRT Bus
- Strolling characters
- Concession sales
- Shady Oak Beach season pass sales



# News for Neighbors

## From the Minnetonka Police Department

**N**ews for Neighbors appears periodically in the *Minnetonka Memo* with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

### New hires

The Minnetonka Police Department has recently welcomed several new hires to the department.

- **Community Service Officer Alex Draeger** graduated from Northwestern College in St. Paul with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement. He previously worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and also works for the Minneapolis Park Police.



Alex Draeger

- **Police Officer Dylan Hauer** earned a bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Minnesota State University-Mankato. Before graduating from college, he was deployed with the Minnesota Army National Guard as an intelligence analyst in Kuwait and Iraq.



Dylan Hauer

- **Jim Wilson** joined the department as a community service officer and property room technician. Most recently Wilson served 28 years as a police officer in Nebraska as well as for the cities of Wayzata and Minneapolis. Prior to becoming a police officer Wilson served as a K9 handler in the U.S. Air Force.



Jim Wilson

### Police Chief Mark Raquet to retire

Mark Raquet, Minnetonka's chief of police since January 1, 2007, has announced his decision to retire effective May 31. He will be succeeded by Minnetonka Captain Je Sebenaler, who was appointed to the position in late December by City Manager GERALYN BARONE.

**Chief Raquet**, 55, has been with the Minnetonka Police Department for 29 years, starting as a patrol officer, then being promoted to sergeant and to captain before being appointed chief. He earned a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University and a master's degree from Concordia University. Chief Raquet also completed the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., an invitation-only professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders.



Mark Raquet

**Capt. Je Sebenaler**, 51, has been with the Minnetonka Police Department since 1990, serving first as an officer, then as a sergeant before becoming captain. He began his law enforcement career in 1984 in chief River Falls, Minn. Capt. Sebenaler earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bemidji State University and attended the Law Enforcement Skills Program at Alexandria Technical College. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. He will assume the police chief duties June 1.



Je Sebenaler

### Crime Prevention Association

The Minnetonka Crime Prevention Association is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer board of directors that promotes strong community partnerships.

The Minnetonka police chief is a board member and makes recommendations to the committee based on department and community needs. The board of directors ultimately decides how funds are to be administered, and is responsible for fundraising efforts to support the police department's crime prevention programs.

Money raised by the association is used to support programs such as CounterAct (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth graders), Minnetonka Night for Neighbors, Neighborhood Watch and a variety of safety education programs for children, adults, seniors and businesses.

The fund also provides reward money for information leading to an arrest or conviction in a criminal case or for purchasing specialized crime prevention equipment. To learn more visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



## Stay informed

**D**o you want to stay informed about crime alerts, safety tips and information about programs and events offered by the Minnetonka Police Department? You can find all of the following information at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com):

- Interactive crime maps
- Subscribe to ePrevent to receive crime alerts.
- Join or start a Neighborhood Watch group. Call (952) 939-8546 for information.

# Visit the Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, February 23, in Hopkins

Minnetonka residents are invited to the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, February 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. Admission is free.



Sponsored by the cities of Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Hopkins and St. Louis Park, and Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka community education, the Home Remodeling Fair is designed to provide residents with ideas, information and resources to promote improvements to housing in each community.

Fairgoers can visit more than 100 exhibitors, including remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers and financial lenders. Get ideas for your kitchen,



bathroom, landscaping, windows and siding. Minnetonka planning department staff and city inspectors will also be at the fair.

Visit the Idea Center for free, no-obligation consultations from volunteer architects, interior designers, landscape designers, arborists, master gardeners and more. Bring your photos, sketches and questions. Attend a free seminar or demonstration to learn about the latest trends in home décor, kitchens and bathrooms, roofing, plumbing, landscaping and much more.

Enter to win a \$200 cash prize from the Home Remodeling Fair. Exhibitors will also hold prize drawings. Also, check out the Operation Rescue Room contest, where you could win \$1,000 to use towards

## WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Celebrating 20 Years

remodeling a room if it is voted most in need of a makeover by visitors to the home remodeling fair. A children's activity center is available for parent/child crafts and activities for ages three and up, including face painting.

For more information, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com), or call (952) 939-8200.



## Ski the Glen Lake Golf Course

The city of Minnetonka partners with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross country ski trail each winter at the Glen Lake Golf Course. The course is slated to be open through March 7, but is weather dependent since snow isn't made at this location. Ski trails are not lit. The golf center is open for ski rental, concession sales and restrooms. Ski trails and golf center are open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

## Pets and parks: Learn rules for leashes

If you're a pet owner, you likely want to enjoy Minnetonka's many parks with your pooch. Follow these rules for pets in city parks to ensure you don't end up in the doghouse with your fellow park users.

### On-leash vs. leash required

The majority of Minnetonka's parks have both on-leash and leash-required areas. None of the on-leash areas are fenced, which can make it a bit challenging to determine where those areas begin and end. Please quick guidelines from the Minnetonka Police Department may help.

### Dogs must be leashed:

- In parking lots.
- While on or within 15 feet of a paved or gravel trail.
- On mowed grass.

- Near picnic areas.
- Near playground areas.

### Dogs can be off-leash in the following areas:

- Non-mowed grassy areas.
- Dirt paths created by people and pets in the non-mowed areas.

### While in the on-leash area:

- Dogs must be in sight of the owner/handler at all times.
- Dogs must be under voice command at all times.

### Rules for the entire park:

- Owner/handler must have a leash with them at all times.
- "Electronic leashes" are not considered a proper leash.
- Owner must pick up after their dog.

## Learn hands-only CPR in five minutes

Do you want to learn how to save a life? CPR has become very easy using a hands-only approach, and you can learn it in just a few minutes. On February 3, 12 and 28, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., drop in for a free class taught by Minnetonka firefighters at the Ridgedale Government Center, 12601 Ridgedale Drive. Sessions take about five minutes, depending on how much practice you want and how many questions you have.

In the year since the Minnetonka Fire Department began offering its hands only CPR program, nearly 1,500 people have received training. If you can't make it to the February sessions offered, call Jim or Sara, Minnetonka Fire Department, at (952) 939-8331 to schedule an individual or group session. ☺

## Burwell House volunteers needed

Minnetonka's historic Charles H. Burwell House at 13209 E. McGinty Road is a treasured city resource, and tours led by volunteers play a critical role in bringing this site to life for visitors of all ages.

The 2014 tour season starts Saturday, June 7, and continues through August 30. Tours are available Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. In September, the house is open only on Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. Tours are also available by special appointment. Elementary school students visit the house in the spring to learn about Minnetonka's history. Additional volunteers are needed as regular season tour guides and to assist with the school program. Training is provided.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a tour guide, please attend one of our spring tour guide open house events: Tuesday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m., or Tuesday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m. Open houses are one hour and take place at the Burwell House. You'll receive a tour of the house and learn what it takes to become a tour guide.

Volunteering at the Burwell House is a great way to get involved in the community and to share this special site with others. To RSVP or to volunteer as a tour guide, contact Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207 or [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Young Artist Competition winner performs

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) is proud to announce the winner of its 32nd Annual Young Artist Competition, clarinetist Lydia Sado. Sado, 17, attends the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music and is a senior at Saint Paul Central High School. She is also a member of Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies and the Minnesota Youth Symphonies.

Sado will be featured in MAM's Young People's Concert with the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. at Wayzata Community Church, 125 East Wayzata Boulevard, Wayzata, and Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. Minnetonka United Methodist Church, 17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka. Please join MAM for an afternoon of extraordinary talent from our younger generation, and for the MSO's performance of Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" under the baton of Roger Satrang Hoel.

The Minnetonka Civic Orchestra will perform Friday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hennepin History Museum, 2303 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis. The concert will feature works by Mozart and Faure, under the direction of William Mayson.

MAM concert admission is free, but donations are appreciated. MAM welcomes



Lydia Sado

interested musicians of all capabilities. Contact MAM at (952) 401-5954 or via email at [mamoffice@musicassociation.org](mailto:mamoffice@musicassociation.org) regarding auditions and rehearsal times. ☺

## Caring Youth nominations due February 3

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 2014 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 2014 event is set for Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

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 nomination guidelines and forms, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. Nominations may also be submitted online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Nominations for are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday, February 3. ☺

# Looking for animal tracks in the snow

Winter is a great time to get outdoors and look for animal tracks in the snow. Follow this field guide for animal tracking.



### Fox and dogs

Foxes are known as straight-line walkers. They leave a neat pattern in the snow because the

hind foot steps in the front foot track, a behavior known as "registering." It helps a fox conserve energy when walking in deep snow. Its cousin, the dog, does not "register," and leaves a much sloppier tracking pattern in the snow.



Dog tracks

### Deer

Deer often reuse the same trail and their hoof marks are easily identified in the snow. Like the fox, they are straight-line walkers, with the hind foot stepping in the tracks left by the front foot. Often you will see a "hoof drag" between tracks.



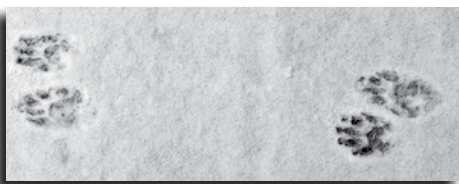
Deer tracks



Deer tracks

### Raccoon

Raccoons spend most of the winter in their dens. While temperatures stay below 30 degrees F, raccoon tracks usually won't be seen. However, February is the beginning of raccoon mating season, and tracks can be seen even in cold weather. Raccoon tracks are seen in pairs, a hind foot beside a front foot. The hind foot track is larger than the front and it looks a little like the print of a baby's foot.



Raccoon tracks

### Squirrels

Squirrels are hoppers. Their pattern is a clump of four tracks, followed by a space of 1 to 2 feet, then another clump of tracks. The smaller front feet touch the snow first, then the larger hind feet jump over the front feet. Squirrel tracks will often lead to trees and then stop, or to holes where they have dug out nuts. In the fall, squirrels store caches of nuts in "squirrel refrigerators" — underground hiding places they later locate by smell.



Squirrel digging



Squirrel tracks

### Rabbit

The tracks of a rabbit are almost identical to those of a squirrel. They are hoppers too and leave a pattern with a clump of four, a space, and a clump of four. The smaller front feet of the rabbit go down and the larger hind feet jump ahead.



Rabbit tracks



Rabbit tracks



Squirrel tracks

*In comparing the tracks of a squirrel and rabbit, notice that the smaller front feet are together on a squirrel. On a rabbit, however, one of the front feet is behind the other.*

Article submitted by Larry Wade, a Minnetonka naturalist and retired educator. To learn more about animal tracking, to see more track photos and to download an animal tracks activity visit [www.oldnaturalist.com/animal-tracking/](http://www.oldnaturalist.com/animal-tracking/).

# Learn how to prune your young tree

Calling all Minnetonka tree sale participants! As a result of the tree sale programs, more than 9,000 new trees have been planted in private yards throughout Minnetonka. Planting is only the beginning, however — we want to make sure your trees grow and thrive! One of the ways to help a young tree grow strong and healthy is by pruning them while they're still young.

Attend a workshop Thursday, February 27, 4 – 6 p.m. in the Shady Oak Room, Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, to learn the basics of formative pruning including helpful techniques, how to make the proper cut, required tools, best times for pruning and when to call an expert.

Rebecca Koetter, a consultant and landscaper with several years of experience pruning young trees, hosts the class which starts with one hour in the classroom followed by one hour outside practicing those new pruning skills. Outdoor portion may be shortened or eliminated if temperatures are below zero.

Registration is required and limited to 35. Please RSVP by calling Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

# City offers online utility billing

Tired of dealing with paper utility bills from the city? Now you can receive and pay your municipal utility bills (water and sewer) electronically. You can also choose to pay your bill online, either one time or on a recurring basis, using your credit card or bank account.

It's easy to sign up and it's free! Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and look for the online utility billing logo. Click on the logo and follow the instructions — be sure to have your latest bill handy. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.

online utility billing

## Register in March for summer rec

**M**ark your calendar! The summer edition of the recreation services brochure will be mailed to Minnetonka and Hopkins residents the last week in February. The brochure can also be viewed online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Registration starts March 3 for residents and March 17 for non-residents. Non-residents who wish to receive a copy of the brochure will be charged \$3 to cover mailing costs. To request a copy call (952) 939-8203 or email [recservices@eminnetonka.com](mailto:recservices@eminnetonka.com).

## Floor hockey, teen paintball offered

**L**ooking for some February fun? Join these recreation activities by calling (952) 939-8203 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

**Floor Hockey for Preschoolers**  
**Tuesdays, February 4 – March 11**  
**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

Discover the non-contact game of floor hockey! Learn stickhandling and passing, along with teamwork skills. Ages 4 – 6, \$44. Ubah Medical Academy Gym, 1600 Mainstreet, Hopkins.

**Teen Paintball Trip**  
**Saturday, February 22**  
**12 – 3:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a trip to Splatball's indoor field in Minneapolis for two hours of paintball. Transportation provided from the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Mtka Blvd., Minnetonka. Grades 7 – 12, \$45.

## Adopt-a-spot volunteers needed in many Minnetonka parks

**T**he city of Minnetonka has made great progress restoring parks in past years. Oak woodlands once clogged with buckthorn are now walkable, while treasured native plant species have been found, "released" from invasive species and begun to thrive once again. However, restoration areas are always subject to re-invasion by species like garlic mustard that spread aggressively.

Volunteers are needed to adopt areas in the following parks, where the majority of the big and bulky restoration work has been completed: Big Willow, Minnetonka Mills, Civic Center, Jidana, Lone Lake, Purgatory and Victoria-Evergreen parks.

Light, detailed maintenance work is needed in specific high-value assigned areas. Adopted areas can be as small as 500 square feet or as large as a quarter acre. Those who frequent the park and those who live nearby are a good match for this volunteer opportunity.

Multiple adopt-a-spot areas are available in each park, such as the new Minnetonka Mills Park that stretches from Plymouth Road to I-494 along Minnetonka Blvd. The park includes the Burwell house, gardens and paths, as well as woodlands, wetland and creek edge habitats. Volunteers are needed to adopt a wild area outside the formal grounds.

### Examples

Some examples of work needed:

- Pull weeds and remove grape vines in a known wood anemone patch
- Cut and stump-treat young buckthorn in a known choke cherry or nannyberry thicket
- Adopt an area that has recently had buckthorn cut. Pull young buckthorn and weeds. Re-cut stump sprouts. Monitor and assist native plants.
- Adopt one deer enclosure. Remove invasive species in and around a fenced area where native plants can grow free of deer browsing. Each enclosure plot is 50 feet square, with 22 enclosures available in five parks.
- Do more in your adopted area such as spread mulch, transplant native species and plant native seed.

Training, maps and some supplies will be provided. We ask volunteers to commit about 20 hours per year and to visit their assigned area during a few key times to control invasive species.

If your favorite park is not listed, 13 additional parks have quality habitat in need of adoption. Volunteers are usually matched with a park close to their home.

With limited city resources, volunteers can help habitat restoration continue beyond the initial community preserves where restoration began in Minnetonka years ago. For more information please call Janet Van Sloun, city restoration specialist, at (952) 988-8423.



*Thicket at Baker Road needs adoption.*

## Tips for successful city curbside recycling

It's been two years since the city switched to single-sort wheeled carts for curbside recycling, along with bi-weekly collection. In 2013, residents recycled 5,316 tons through the curbside and drop-o program! Read on for some updates and tips on the recycling program.

### Over owing carts

If your recycling cart is over owing by the time collection day rolls around, consider requesting the larger 95-gallon cart or an additional 60-gallon cart, at no additional monthly charge. Call Allied Waste at (952) 941-5174 to make arrangements for changing to a larger-size recycling cart or to have a second recycling cart delivered to your home. You can also call this number if your cart is damaged and you need a new cart.

### Items that don't t in cart

Automated collection of recycling carts requires that all recyclable items be placed inside the cart. is means that large items, such as attached cardboard boxes placed outside the cart, won't be picked up. Bring these additional recyclable items to the city Recycling Drop-O Center at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. e center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is located on the east side of the building. If you can't make it to the drop-o center, a special collection of additional attached cardboard boxes may be arranged before collection day by calling Allied Waste at (952) 941-5174.

### More plastics, bottle tops can be recycled

e program now accepts all plastic food and beverage containers #1 - #7, with the exception of number #6, made with polystyrene foam-Styrofoam®. Plastic bags from retailers are also accepted; please stu

them all together in one bag so they don't y out of the cart. A list of acceptable and unacceptable plastic items is printed on the recycling cart lid.

Additionally, caps and tops can now be recycled, as long as they are attached to the bottle or container — don't include loose caps or lids.

### Text message reminders

Allied Waste will send a text message to your mobile phone as a reminder to set out your recycling cart. Message arrives the Sunday before your bi-weekly collection day. To sign up, text "blue" or "grey" (depending on your service week) to 292929. Important: residents in the grey service area need to text "grey," not "gray." Standard text and data rates may apply. If you don't know your service week, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "recycling and garbage."

### Reminders

- Store garbage and recycling carts out of public view except for on your collection day.
- Separate recycling carts from garbage carts by at least a foot or more to allow service by each vendor.
- 2014 recycling collection calendars were mailed in early December and are available at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Tape the recycling calendar under the recycling cart lid so you'll always know where to check for recycling dates.

### Questions?

Questions about recycling? Contact Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ∞

## Winter tree pruning drop-o open soon

The city forester recommends November through March as the ideal time to prune oak trees, when they are least susceptible to oak wilt disease. is is also a great time to prune other trees, since insects and diseases are not active.

To assist residents who conduct proper winter pruning, the drop-o site at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, will be open Saturdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Enter the brush drop-o at the northwest corner of the Public Works facility (Big Willow ball eld side).

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Christmas trees (without plastic bags, stands or any decorations) will also be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency — driver's license or Minnetonka utility bill — is required to drop o brush.

Please note: trash, grass, leaves, dirt, sod, lumber, fencing, or wood scraps are **not** accepted.

No brush or trimmings will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

e site **is not** open weekdays in March. e regular brush drop-o program starts Tuesday, April 1.

For more information, contact Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430 or [delstad@eminnetonka.com](mailto:delstad@eminnetonka.com). ∞

## Keep garbage, recycling containers out of the street to allow plowing

During snow events, city plow drivers strive to clear city streets quickly and thoroughly. You can help them out by making sure that garbage and recycling containers are placed at the end of driveways and not in the street on collection days — especially when snow is predicted.

When garbage and recycling containers are placed in the street, plow drivers have to maneuver around them, making it impossible to clear the streets edge to edge. It's especially challenging in cul-de-sacs

where space is already limited. Plows then must return to your street after garbage or recycling day to nish the plowing.

Be considerate of your neighbors and help ensure your street is cleared in a snowfall by following these tips:

- Keep garbage and recycling containers out of the street. Place them at the end of your driveway instead. Worried about containers being plowed in or backed into by a vehicle? Starting with the rst snowfall, shovel or plow a small area in

the lawn adjacent at the edge of your street to your driveway as a space for your containers on collection day throughout the winter.

- While Minnetonka doesn't impose snow emergencies, all parked vehicles are required to be o city streets between 2 and 6 a.m. year-round. is helps ensure thorough snowplowing in the winter, as well as public safety throughout the year. ∞

# 2014 city tree sale orders due Feb. 28: Don't miss out!

**D**o you have a yard full of ash trees? The city's annual tree sale can help you diversify your yard and establish other trees before emerald ash borer arrives in Minnetonka. Maples are not available through this year's tree sale because a recent city-wide tree inventory (see page 11) showed Minnetonka has enough of this type of tree, and the goal of the sale is to diversify the city's tree species.

Be sure to turn in your order form as soon as possible, as quantities are limited

and based on nursery availability. Popular species sell out within a few days, so the earlier you submit your order the better your chances of receiving a tree.

**Trees must be picked up on designated dates (see box at right) or you forfeit the tree and the money you paid for it. Leftover trees will be planted in a Minnetonka park.**

For more information about the tree sale and tree species visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Tree pick-up

Friday, April 25, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Saturday, April 26 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Public Works, East Driveway  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

(952) 988-8400

Species	Initial Height	Fall color	Sun or shade?	Significant features	Mature Height	Mature Spread
<b>Large shade trees</b>						
<b>Bur Oak</b>	6–8'	Yellow/Brown	○	Requires very little pruning, very adaptable tree, best wildlife tree you could choose.	60–80'	60–80'
<b>Ginkgo 'Autumn Gold'</b>	6–8'	Yellow	○	Pyramidal canopy shape, fruitless variety, can tolerate road salt, compacted soil and droughty conditions.	50'	30'
<b>Hackberry</b>	6–8'	Yellow	○●	Looks similar to an elm tree but without disease, can tolerate dry & seasonally wet areas.	50–75'	50'
<b>Heritage Oak</b> (Bur oak x English oak)	6–8'	Yellow/Brown	○	Glossy leaves, vigorous growing oak attracts butterflies, has acorns for wildlife.	60–80'	40–50'
<b>Kentucky Coffeetree</b>	6–8'	Yellow	○	A unique tree used in many Minnetonka parks.	50–60'	40–50'
<b>Princeton (American) Elm</b>	6–8'	Yellow	○●	Resistant to Dutch elm disease, fast grower.	50–70'	30–50'
<b>River Birch</b> (clump)	5–7'	Bright Yellow	○●	Multiple stems and drooping branches, can tolerate wet and dry areas.	40–50'	30–40'
<b>White Oak</b>	6–8'	Scarlet/Purple	○	Requires very little pruning, good tree for woods, prefers moist well drained soil.	60–80'	40–50'
<b>Small ornamental or understory woodland trees</b>						
<b>Blue Beech</b>	5'	Yellow/Orange/Red	○●●	Slower growing, excellent replacement for buckthorn in woods.	30'	20'
<b>Hawthorn</b> (Thornless)	5–7'	Orange	○●	Red berries attract wildlife, best in open areas with well-drained soils.	15–20'	15–20'
<b>Japanese Tree Lilac</b>	4'	Insignificant	○	Fragrant white flowers, salt- and drought-tolerant.	25'	15'
<b>Pagoda Dogwood</b>	3–5'	Red	●●	Excellent replacement for buckthorn in woods.	15–20'	20–25'
<b>Serviceberry</b> (clump)	5–7'	Orange/Red	○●	White flowers, purple berries attract birds, butterflies.	20–25'	10–15'
<b>Conifers</b>						
<b>Eastern Red Cedar</b>	3'	Brown/Plum	○	Can grow in dry soils, road salt tolerant. Do not plant next to crop apples, hawthorn, serviceberry or crabapple trees.	40–50'	15–20'
<b>Northern White Cedar 'Techny'</b>	4'	Bright Green/Yellow	○●●	Does best in moist soil, growth is more vigorous with sun, good for screening.	12–15'	6–8'
<b>Supplies</b>						
<b>Plastic Tree Guard</b>	4'			Protect young tree stems from deer and more. Use on trees up to 3" in diameter. Not suitable for conifers or clump (multi-stem) trees. Use welded wire/hardware cloth instead. You may combine several guards for larger diameter trees to protect larger thin-barked trees: use white duct tape or zip ties to attach to tree inconspicuously.		



# Tree Order Form

**Due Feb. 28**

This offer available only to **Minnetonka residents**. You may order **two** trees per property.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
House number Street Zip code

**Daytime phone number:** ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Last name on check:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Order form, check, and postcard must be received by Feb. 28, 2014 at:**

Minnetonka Public Works (7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)  
 Attn: City Forester  
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305

Orders will also be accepted at city hall, but will be processed at Public Works within two business days.

- Before you mail the order, please confirm:**
- Filled out order form completely?
  - Checked [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to see if selections are sold out?
  - Enclosed check payable to City of Minnetonka for exact amount?
  - Filled out and enclosed postcard for city to mail your confirmation?
  - Checked your calendar to make sure someone can pick up your trees on April 25 or 26?
  - I will plant the trees in Minnetonka. I will water and care for the trees I purchase.

Species	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
<b>Large shade trees</b>			
Bur Oak	\$33		
Ginkgo 'Autumn Gold'	\$33		
Hackberry	\$33		
Heritage Oak (Bur oak x English oak)	\$33		
Kentucky Coffeetree	\$33		
Princeton American Elm	\$33		
River Birch (clump)	\$33		
White Oak	\$33		
<b>Small ornamental/understory woodland trees (canopy: 10'–25'; height: 15'–30')</b>			
Blue Beech	\$33		
Hawthorn (Thornless)	\$33		
Japanese Tree Lilac	\$33		
Pagoda Dogwood	\$33		
Serviceberry (clump)	\$33		
<b>Conifers</b>			
Eastern Red Cedar	\$33		
Northern White Cedar 'Techny'	\$33		
<b>Supplies</b>			
Plastic Tree Guard <small>(Protect trunk from deer, rodent and lawn mower damage. Not suitable for conifers or clump trees.)</small>	\$2		
<b>Total (Limit two trees per property; unlimited tree guards):</b>			<b>\$</b>

- Ordering Trees**
- Offer open to Minnetonka residents only. The city is offsetting the cost of the trees for residents in order to reforest Minnetonka. Please don't buy trees for cabins or others who don't live in the city.
  - You may order up to two trees per property.
  - Orders will be processed for single family homeowners. Townhome or condo associations: contact the city forester prior to placing your order. Orders will not be accepted from apartment buildings. The city reserves the right to limit tree species selections and quantities for associations and residents with multiple properties.
  - **Trees do not have a warranty.**

**Some species offered are in limited supply, and others are very popular. Complete one of the options below in case your selections are sold out:**

If one or both of your selections is sold out, what species should we substitute to fill your order?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If my first choice(s) are not available, please mail my order & check back to me.

# Legacy bur oak in Kelly Park is a little known Minnetonka treasure

A large framed color photograph of a grand old oak tree hangs in the lobby of Minnetonka Public Works. Underneath the tree, a young lady sits on a toadstool reading a book to three small children. There is storybook magic under the tree, the largest known bur oak in Minnetonka. Its diameter is 53.5 inches, and it stands in Kelly Park.

The magnificent old bur oak, which stands in Kelly Park, is likely 300 years old. It has been standing in its place since before the European pioneers settled here, long before Minnetonka became a village and when the surrounding landscape was an open prairie savanna.



*Legacy bur oak prior to pruning*

The tree has been given several names by those who recognize it as a rare old treasure. Minnetonka staff call the old tree the “library oak,” while contractors who admire its grand stature call it a “legacy oak.”

Robert C. H. Schmidt, a Minnetonka resident who knows the tree well, calls it the “multistoried oak,” to call attention to the scars that would illustrate stories the tree could tell, if only it could talk, he says. Robert found the tree more than a decade ago while waiting for the branch library on Excelsior Boulevard to open. The tree is in a strip of woods between the library parking lot and the community gardens of Kelly Park. At that time the tree was difficult to see through a multitude of buckthorn.

Schmidt adopted the woodland area around this grand old oak so library users would be drawn to read under its large canopy. He cleared buckthorn, made log steps from the parking lot down to the tree, set small footpaths, installed some interpretive labels, and among other things, provided seating. He donated the photo that hangs in the Public Works lobby to the city after it had been on display in the library for some time.

After many years of service, Schmidt approached the city looking for someone to take over the work he had started. Buckthorn and garlic mustard had recolonized the area; some of the log steps

were rotting; the benches and toad stool had been vandalized, repaired, and vandalized or stolen again. He wrote, “Now I’m getting old and need someone to keep up the maintenance of the area.”

Minnetonka Boy Scout Lucca Mancilio agreed to do a multi-faceted Eagle project in the summer of 2013. Directed by city natural resources staff, he led volunteers in his scout troop, family and friends in seven improvement activities.

They pulled garlic mustard in the spring, cut buckthorn in the summer, planted 18 species of native wildflowers, replaced wood in the steps, mulched the trail, built a bench and made a sign for the corner of the library parking lot to beckon readers to peruse under the tree’s canopy.

The sign has not yet been installed, because the tree will be professionally pruned by arborists to remove dead limbs for public safety. The tree and seating area should be ready for visits by spring 2014. ☺



*Legacy bur oak with new bench*

## Yellow Ribbon meeting February 20

The Southwest Twin Cities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon coalition, which includes Minnetonka, Hopkins, Eden Prairie and Edina,

will host a meeting on Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. This month’s topic is healthy financial practices for military members and their families,

followed by a meeting about the work of the Yellow Ribbon coalition. The meeting is open to all community members, civic organizations and businesses in the four cities. New volunteers and participants are always welcome. For February meeting location and more details, visit [www.swtcbeyondtheyellowribbon.org](http://www.swtcbeyondtheyellowribbon.org) ☺



**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon**

### Group needed to adopt oak woods at Kelly Park

Since maintenance of the old oak’s woods is needed long-term, the city is looking for a small group to adopt the 100 x 300 foot area on an on-going basis. Direction, training and some assistance will be provided by Minnetonka staff.

#### Tasks for the small grassy reading area:

- Rake leaves and twigs in the spring
- Pick up twigs as needed after storms
- Mow once in July

#### In the general area:

- Pull garlic mustard each spring (training for this species is provided at one of the city garlic mustard workshops each spring)
- Pull and bag some summer weeds, especially around the newly-planted wildflowers
- Add mulch as needed around the wildflowers
- Remove some buckthorn each year

For more information call Janet Van Sloun at (952) 988-8423. ☺

# City conducts inventory of 4,000 trees in parks, public lands

With local media reporting thousands of ash trees slated for demise from the emerald ash borer (EAB), have you ever wondered how many ash the city of Minnetonka has, and how we might fare if a different “bad bug” arrives to decimate another common species like maple?

Thanks to a past grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and extensive work by an AmeriCorps (MN GreenCorps) member who served with the city in 2013, we can give you an answer! More than 4,000 trees in the maintained areas of parks and city properties were counted, identified, measured and evaluated for conditions in a comprehensive tree inventory in 2010 and 2013. Each tree was also located on a map using a global positioning system (GPS) and geographical information system (GIS).

Tree inventories assist foresters and homeowners to plan and budget for tree management such as pest and disease management, removal, planting and routine maintenance. Since pests and diseases tend to be very specific, when there is little tree diversity, entire species can be wiped out like we have witnessed with Dutch elm disease.

## EAB and extreme cold

The few days of extreme cold in early January where temperatures dropped into the double digits below zero may have killed so much of the ash borer population, but many beetles will survive and reproduce. While the deep freeze might have bought some time, it hasn't changed the city's plans for coping with EAB, and homeowners should continue with their plans for diversifying trees on their properties.



### Top 8 tree species in the right-of-way

- **Green ash:** 17%
- **Colorado blue spruce:** 10%
- **Boxelder:** 7%
- **Cottonwood, crabapple:** 6% each
- **American elm, sugar maple, silver maple:** 4% each
- **Other species:** 42%

### Top 8 tree species in city parks

- **Green ash:** 11%
- **Bur oak:** 6%
- **Boxelder, quaking aspen:** 5% each
- **Ironwood, American elm, cottonwood, river birch:** 4% each
- **Other species:** 57%

### Interesting results

We are fortunate that most city parks will not be deforested when EAB arrives. There are currently 479 ash trees in maintained areas of parks, or 11% of all species. Another piece of good news is that since the initial inventory was completed in 2010, 425 new trees of varying species have been planted to establish prior to EAB. Some will need to be removed over time, while the best will be protected. However, there are several individual parks that have far too many ash trees and little else planted.

The city will be targeting those parks first to prepare for EAB. You can see what the top eight species are in city parks, indicating where we have an opportunity to diversify. Some of the common trees “planted themselves” by self-seeding.

### Where you can make a difference

The city has also completed an inventory for natural city properties located within neighborhoods (out lots) and along street right-of-way areas adjacent to private property (street trees). Since there were so many more trees in these areas, it was cost prohibitive to count every tree, so a statistically significant sample was evaluated instead. We found that in resident and business front yards along the street right-of-way, the top species are ash followed by Colorado blue spruce. We estimate there are about 6,000 ash trees growing along the

roads in Minnetonka.

Luckily, most homeowners are no longer planting ash, but there is still a great need to think about what trees are in your yard and to start making a plan to diversify. Although we get multiple requests for spruce trees through the tree sale, you may want to steer away from planting spruce trees and instead think of planting something else.

While a tree inventory is not a service the city provides, there are many arborist consultants who can help you accomplish a tree inventory and plan in your own yard. To get started, you can look at the city's list of tree contractors on [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), and start with the companies who have arborists. One great opportunity to plant a diversity of species is the city's annual tree sale (see order form on pages 8–9). Try to choose trees that are new for your yard in order to increase your species diversity.

### the future of the tree inventories

The city will continue to update and use the inventories to plan and care for the Minnetonka's community forest and to prepare for the next “bad bug”. We also hope to share some of the information on a park by park basis. In the meantime, if you have questions about the city's tree inventory, contact the city's forester, Emily Ball at (952) 988-8421. ☺

Use salt only if needed...

...shovel first

Help keep our waters clean.



## Special events and programs

### Historical Travelogue: Part I

*Wednesday, February 5, 10:30 a.m.*

Military historian and teacher Dan Hartmann returns with a historical travelogue on the American Civil War: Fort Sumter to Gettysburg. A light lunch follows the presentation.

**Cost:** \$2, presentation; \$6, presentation & lunch. Due Monday, February 3.

**Course #32129**

### James Shaw Program

*Thursday, February 6, 10:30 a.m.*

Enjoy the musical talents of pianist James Shaw.

**Cost:** \$2 due Tuesday, February 4.

**Course #32130**

### Traveling Naturalist: Otters

*Monday, February 10, 1 p.m.*

Melanie Shipman presents facts and stories about river and sea otter history.

**Cost:** \$2 due Thursday, February 6.

**Course #32131**

### Calling All Chocoholics

*Wednesday, February 12, 1 p.m.*

February is Celebration of Chocolate month and February 12 is Chocolate Day! Indulge in the history of the cacao bean and chocolate consumption at this program. Enjoy a chocolate tasting following the presentation.

**Cost:** \$2 due Monday, February 10.

**Course #32132**

### Assistive Technology

*Thursday, February 13, 10:30 a.m.*

Join Jennie Delisi, Assistive Technology Resource Specialist for STAR, Minnesota's federally funded Assistive Technology Act program. She is a board-certified neurologic music therapist, and has served on the Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council.

Jennie will bring gadgets, doo-dads and thing-a-ma-jigs that will help you hear better, see things more easily, and remain as independent as possible. She has nothing

to sell, just great ideas and information about free programs to share with you. This program is co-sponsored by Minnetonka Fire department's "What If?" program and Minnetonka Senior Services. RSVP by Monday, February 10.

**Course #32297**

### Valentine's Day Party

*Friday, February 14, 12 p.m.*

Enjoy a delicious meal of stuffed chicken, long grain wild rice, green beans and dessert. Thank you to Freedom Pointe of Minnetonka for providing dessert. Enjoy the musical talents of Ken Wanovich, vocalist/guitarist.

**Cost:** \$7 due Friday, February 7.

**Course #32296**

### Historical Travelogue: Part II

*Wednesday, February 19, 10:30 a.m.*

Part II will cover the American Civil War: Vicksburg to the Surrender of the South. A light lunch will be served following the presentation.

**Cost:** \$2, presentation; \$6, presentation & lunch. Due Friday, February 14.

**Course #32133**

### Winter Hike to Jidana

*Wed., February 19, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

Enjoy a scenic winter hike to Jidana Park from the Minnetonka Community Center. Hike along Minnehaha Creek to Deer Island and roast hot dogs over the campfire, with hot coffee, snacks and dessert.

**Cost:** \$5 due Friday, February 14.

**Course #31584**

### Lunch and a Movie:

**"The Five Year Engagement"**

*Friday, February 21, 12 p.m.*

One year after meeting, Tom proposes to his girlfriend, Violet, but unexpected events keep tripping them up as they look to walk down the aisle together.

**Menu:** Goulash, green beans and dessert.

**Cost:** \$5 due Wednesday, February 19.

**Course #32298**

### Community Connections

*Monday, February 24, 10:15 a.m.*

In partnership with the Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers, Minnetonka Senior Services offers Community Connections. February's topic is on investing. Have you ever wondered how to grow your money through investing it? Learn what your options are for investing your money. A general investment professional will give a lesson on what investors need to know. RSVP by Friday, February 21.

**Course #32299**

### Something to Smile About

*Monday, February 24, 10:30 a.m.*

A dental visit isn't just about your mouth, it's about your overall health. What goes into your mouth can affect the rest of your body and what goes on inside your body can affect your oral health. Learn about dental and oral health.

**Cost:** \$2 due Thursday, February 20.

**Course #32300**

### Fish Dinner is March 7

*Friday, March 7, 5:30 p.m.*

Enjoy a social outing with friends and a delicious catered meal of baked cod, baby red potatoes, mixed vegetables and dessert. Entertainment provided by Tim Patrick, Sinatra singer.

**Cost:** \$7 due Friday, February 28.

**Course #32301**

### Traveling Naturalist: The Fox

*Monday, March 10, 1 p.m.*

Melanie Shipman presents the facts and stories about fox history.

**Cost:** \$2 due Thursday, March 6.

**Course #32302**

### Author Presents

*Wednesday, March 12, 10:30 a.m.*

Joel Arnold will give a presentation on old trails specific to Minnesota, genealogy and his historical novel, *Ox Cart Angel*.

**Cost:** \$2 due Monday, March 10.

**Course #32303**

## Classes

### Beginning & Intermediate Yoga Nancy Holasek

These gentle yoga classes are geared toward the older adult, with lots of stretching and warm-ups. The 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, February 4 – 25 \$20  
(Course #31559)
- Thursday, February 6 – 27 \$20  
(Course #31561)

#### 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, February 4 – 25 \$20  
(Course #31562)
- Thursday, February 6 – 27 \$20  
(Course #31564)

### Evening Yoga Nancy Holasek

Wednesdays, February 5 – 26, \$20

Evening yoga classes have the same descriptions as the daytime classes.

- Chair Yoga, 6:15 p.m. ★★  
(Course #31560)
- Intermediate Yoga, 7:30 p.m. ★★★  
(Course #31563)

### British History Terry Kubista

Wednesdays, February 6 – 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

February's class will focus on the Isle of Man, a small island in the Irish Sea with a strange and fascinating past. Join the tour as we explore the island and its history.

- \$25 (Course #31581)

### Line dance Annette Fragale

Wednesdays, February 6 – March 13, \$30

Learn to hitch and vine and dance in a line. No previous dance experience needed for beginning course, 50 previous lessons required for intermediate course.

- Beginner ★★, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
(Course #31585)
- Intermediate ★★★, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
(Course #31586)

### Values & Planning for a Successful Painting Sandra Muzzy

Wednesday, February 19, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

A busy session has been planned to help the watercolorist have a few decision-making tools at hand to improve the final outcome of their painting. Before jumping right into painting we need to slow down and make a few decisions. This helps ensure a more satisfactory outcome. Discuss the importance of thumbnails, composition and values. Sandra Muzzy will demonstrate how to approach a value painting.

- \$35 (Course #32136)

### Zumba Gold ★★★ Jan Gamble

1 – 2 p.m., \$22

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!

#### Mondays

- February 24 – March 31 (Course #31589)

#### Wednesdays

- February 19 – March 26 (Course #31590)

### Art Class: The Dimension of Color Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays, February 26, March 5 & 12, 1 – 2:45 p.m.

Learn how to create color harmony and contrast to impact your drawings or paintings. Mix, blend, layer and glaze color to explore watercolor color wheel studies and schemes. Learn and apply methods in

painting, pen/ink wash and color pencil to depict nature subjects, still life and city/landscapes. View examples from major artists for inspiration. Materials will be provided for classroom use. If you have watercolor supplies, please bring them.

- \$60 (Course #31577)

### British History Terry Kubista

Wednesdays, March 6 – 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

March's class will focus on the Queen Mother, Elizabeth who influences the actions and decisions of the royal family even long after her death. Explore the life and legacy of this fascinating woman.

- \$25 (Course #31582)

### Oil Painting Marcella Nordseth

Fridays, March 7 – April 25, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Learn about composition, how to look at objects and how to mix colors. Bring supplies you have to the first class. For intermediate to advanced level students. Supply list will be provided in class.

- \$56 (Course #31579)

### Tai Chi ★★★ Ron Erdman-Luntz

Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m., \$48

The slow circular movements of Tai Chi help to improve balance and relaxation. The mind is calm, the body moves in balance, breathing comfortably, you are quietly aware and alert. **Prerequisite:** Able to walk comfortably for an hour. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- March 13 – April 17 (Course #31576)

### World War I: The Last of the Old, The First of the Modern

Tom Schmid

Tuesdays, February 11 – March 18, 1 – 3 p.m.

World War I, its beginnings, involvements and outcomes. How did it happen? How was the U.S. affected? How did the Versailles Treaty change world geography? These and other questions will be discussed during this class.

- \$40 (Course #32230)

# Trips

## Historic Theatre Tour ★★ ★

**Monday, March 31**

Enjoy lunch at Capital Grille. The Hennepin Theatre Trust includes the State, Orpheum and Pantages theatres. Experience a behind-the-scenes tour of one of these historic theatres.

### Course #32117

- **Cost:** \$58 includes tour, lunch, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 10:15 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 3:15 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, February 28

## Tapestry Tour ★★ ★

**Thursday, April 10**

A docent will present the tapestry on display at the Plymouth Congregational Church. Have lunch at Jax Cafe. Tour the Basilica of St. Mary.

### Course #32118

- **Cost:** \$58 includes tours, lunch, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 9:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 3:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, March 21

## Extended trips

For a further information and a full list of extended trip offerings and brochures, call Senior Community Services at (952) 541-1019 or visit [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org) and click on programs and go to senior tours.

### Valentines Mystery (February 14 – 15)

Cost: \$250 per person, double occupancy.

### Florida (February 18 – March 6)

Cost: \$2,650 per person, double occupancy.

### Arizona (February 19 – March 6)

Cost: \$2,250 per person, double occupancy.

### Florida Fly-In (Feb. 22 – March 3)

Cost: \$2,200 per person, double occupancy.

## Defensive Driving Classes

Please call the MN Highway Safety Center toll free at 1-888-234-1294, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register, or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org) for all defensive driving classes. Four-hour renewal

courses cost \$20. Eight-hour courses cost \$24 and are offered two times per year. Pay the instructor at the time of the class with a check or exact cash. Checks payable to MN Highway Safety Center. Save 10% on your car insurance by taking these classes!

### Day course (four-hour renewal)

- Thursday, February 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 4, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Evening course (four-hour renewal)

- Thursday, March 27, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## Income Tax Help Available

Complicated and time-consuming tax returns will not be completed at this site. The purpose of this income tax site is for simple, basic returns.

### Mondays

Call to see if appointments are still available. Appointment times are 12:30, 1:45 & 3 p.m.

- February 10, 24
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- April 7, 14

### Thursdays

Call to see if appointments are still available. Appointment times are 12:30, 1:45 & 3 p.m.

- February 6, 13, 20, 27
- March 6, 13, 20, 27
- April 3, 10

### What to bring...

- Copy of last year's return and all necessary documentation
- Income forms: W2, 1099, brokerage statements, etc.
- If itemizing deductions, a summarized list of deductions with supporting documentation
- Rent credit form or property tax statement for 2013
- Any federal and state forms received in the mail
- Long-term health insurance premiums paid
- Two forms of ID (one picture ID) — driver's license, passport, Social Security card

## Terms of service

- Minnesota residents only
- Age over 60 and low or moderate income
- No self-employed income unless expenses are less than \$5,000
- No farm or rental income
- No business partnerships or corporations
- Simple, basic, uncomplicated returns

## Special Interest Group Highlight

### Bunco

Do you know how to play Bunco? If not, join us for an open house to learn the fun and easy game of Bunco. The Bunco group meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m.

### Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg is now offered every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Glen Lake Activity Room. New members welcome.

### Single Mingle Club

The Single Mingle Club is a group of singles who gather for various monthly events. This group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Depot in Hopkins. Flyers promoting monthly activities can be found at the community center's flyer rack.

For more information, or to sign up for an activity, contact Margie at (952) 931-9470.

### Tale Spinners

Tale Spinners offers rapport and support for seniors interested in writing memoirs, fiction, short stories, poetry and more. Group meets every Tuesday from 1 – 3 p.m.

## Activity level scale

The following scale is an approximate guide of the activity level and physical ability required for a class or trip.

### Activity scale

- ★ — Passive
- ★★ — Moderate
- ★★★ — Active
- ★★★★ — Brisk
- ★★★★★ — Vigorous

## Registration

### Ways to register

- **Walk-in**  
Pay with cash, check or credit card (Visa, Discover & MasterCard)
- **Mail-in**  
Send registrations to Minnetonka Senior Services, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of the program, class or trip.
- **By phone**  
Registrations are accepted at (952) 939-8393, with a credit card.
- **Online**  
For more information, call the center at (952) 939-8393.

### Cancellation information

- **Class cancellations**  
Requires at least two business days prior to the start date of the class. Some classes may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.
- **Trip cancellations**  
Requires cancelling prior to the registration deadline. If a cancellation is made after the payment deadline, the participant is refunded/credited everything but \$5 (administration fee) only if a replacement is found.

### Trip registration

Participant can register up to four spaces on a trip. Trips are subject to change. If change occurs, participants will be notified.

## Contact us...

### Minnetonka Senior Services

(952) 939-8393

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

### Senior Services & Activities Manager

**Steve Pieh**

(952) 939-8366

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

### Senior & General Programs Manager

**Nicole Gorman**

(952) 939-8369

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

### Secretary

**Kathy Kline**

(952) 939-8393

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

## 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 center.

### Parkinson's Support Group

**Tuesday, February 4, 4 p.m.**

Topic: How to still have, while living with Parkinson's Disease.

### Bird Club

**Friday, February 7, 10 a.m.**

Featured Speaker: Sparky Stensaas  
Author & Photonaturalist

### Garden Club

**Monday, February 10, 1 p.m.**

Topic: Native Plants.

### Book Club

**Thursday, February 20, 1 p.m.**

*Shadows on the Mountain* by Margi Preus

### Literary Book Club

**Tuesday, February 25, 7:15 p.m.**

*The Watsons* by Jane Austen

### Investment Club

TBD, if interested contact Nicole

Gorman at (952) 939-8369 or [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com).

## Services

### Over 50 & 60+ Club

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.**

Annual Fee: \$12 (Course #32119)

### Blood Pressure Screenings

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

### Happy Feet

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

To schedule or cancel an appointment, call (763) 560-5136. Cost: \$35.

### Weekly E-mail Updates

To receive weekly e-mail updates on center happenings, send your e-mail address to [spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com).

### Volunteer Opportunities

Please call senior services at (952) 939-8393 for more information or to volunteer.

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

### Senior Community Services

Services listed below are provided by Senior Community Services, a local non-profit.

- **CareNextion**  
Free, easy-to-use online tool and complimentary phone service for caregivers and their families. For more information visit [www.carenextion.org](http://www.carenextion.org) or call (612) 770-7005.
- **Senior outreach**  
Available by appointment on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Mary Ann Lundberg at (952) 939-8393 or [m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org)
- **Health insurance counseling**  
Available by appointment on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.
- **H.O.M.E.**  
Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (H.O.M.E.) is available for Minnetonka residents 60+. For more information call (952) 939-8363.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Rummikub 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Poker Club 10:00                      Craft Committee 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Parkinson's Support 4:00</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Canadian History 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      Historical Travelogue 10:30                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      James Shaw 10:30                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      British History 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Bird Club 10:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Ham Radio 10:00                      Tonka Tale Tellers 10:00                      Traveling Naturalist 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Garden Club 1:00                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      500 Cards 10:00                      Advisory Board 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      World War I History 1:00                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Senior Outreach 1:00</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><i>No Exercise Today</i>                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Glass Blowing Tour 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Chocolate Program 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      500 Cards 6:30                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Legal Assistance 10:00                      Assistive Technology 10:30                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      British History 1:00                      Bunco 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Valentine's Day Party 12:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Center Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Poker Club 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      World War I History 1:00                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Single Mingle Club Mtg @ e Depot in Hopkins 1:30</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Canadian History 10:00                      Historical Travelogue 10:30                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Winter Hike 11:00                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Watercolor Program 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Defensive Driving 9:00                      Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Book Club 1:00                      British History 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Computer 10:00                      Lunch &amp; Movie 12:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Comm. Connections 10:15                      Smile Program 10:30                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Health Insurance 6:00</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      500 Cards 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      World War I History 1:00                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Senior Outreach 1:00                      Literary Book Club 7:15</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Dimension of Color 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      500 Cards 6:30                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Legal Assistance 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Bunco 1:00                      British History 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>



Group	Meeting day	Information
Advisory Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
AA/Al-Anon	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.	All ages welcome. New members welcome.
Billiards	Every afternoon - time varies	See calendar page for times.
Bingo	Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m.	
Bird Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 10 a.m.	February 7–Sparky Stensrud. Topic: Owls to Orchids: Magic & Mystery in the Sax-Zim Bog.
Book Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.	February 20–Shadows on the Mountain by Margi Preus
Social Bridge	Wednesdays at 12:45 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> place and grand slam prizes awarded.
Bunco	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1 p.m.	Don't know how to play? They will teach you.
Duplicate Bridge	Thursdays at 6 p.m.	Partners needed.
Card Games	Mondays at 1 p.m.	Rummycube & Hand and Foot, alternating Mondays. See calendar page for game dates.
Chess	Thursdays at 12 p.m.	If you have general knowledge of chess, join us.
Chorale	Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.	New members welcome.
Computer Interests	Fridays at 10 a.m. Website: <a href="http://mscig.wordpress.com">mscig.wordpress.com</a>	This group examines topics of interest. Experience ranges from beginner to expert.
Craft Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
Cribbage	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Bring your cribbage boards and a deck of cards.
500 Card Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Mtka Community Garden Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 1 p.m.	February 10–Topic: Native plants. New members welcome!
Literary Book Club (Formerly Great Books)	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:15 p.m.	February 25– <i>The Watsons</i> by Jane Austen
Ham Radio	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
The Landing Shop	Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	The Landing Shop is located at 11280 Wayzata Blvd. Phone (763) 591-4868. The Landing shop sells handmade items crafted by Minnetonka residents 55+.
Mah Jongg	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
Parkinson's Support	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 4 p.m.	February 4–Topic: How to still live, while living with Parkinson's Disease.
Pickleball	Monday-Friday, times vary.	Indoor play available at Williston. For more information call (952) 939-8370.
Poker	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	Join us for a good game of poker.
Scribblers	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Attention all writers (amateur to professional), if you enjoy writing poems, storytelling, fiction or short stories come join us and share your work with fellow writers. New members welcome!
Single Mingle Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at The Depot	Various events scheduled monthly. Stop by the center to pick up a listing of events. New members welcome.
Tonka Tale Tellers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	This group travels to elementary schools within the area to tell and animate stories.
Tale Spinners	Tuesdays at 1 p.m.	This group offers rapport and support for seniors interested in writing memoirs, fiction, etc.
Wood Carvers	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Group members work independently but also share ideas with one another.

# minnetonka memo

February 2014

PRESORTED  
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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

#### Mayor

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..... Home: (952) 934-9529  
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#### City Manager

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Minnetonka Mike..... (952) 939-8586

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

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency..... 9-1-1

Non-emergency..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

#### Council

At Large: Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231  
[dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)

Patty Acomb... (952) 807-8635  
[pacomb@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pacomb@eminnetonka.com)

Ward 1: Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065  
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Ward 3: Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907  
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Ward 4: Tim Bergstedt... (952) 934-1769  
[tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com)

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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

February  
2014

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
						1	5 Park Board, 7 p.m. 13 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 17 Presidents Day, city offices closed
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 18 Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m. 24 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28		12 State of the City, 7:30–9 a.m. (see page 1) 27 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](http://www.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 [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

The city regularly receives 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. If you'd like to stay informed, visit "MyMinnetonka" at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) — click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks."

rough MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted by the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information.

## Follow us on Twitter for snowplowing info

Follow the city on Twitter (@MinnetonkaMN) for snow removal tweets and updates during winter snowstorms. 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.



## Just a minute... for our email newsletter!

The city's weekly email newsletter was recently redesigned with a new quick-to-read format that works well on

mobile devices. Learn what's new and important each week: subscribe to the *Minnetonka Minute* at [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com).

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

