

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
January 2013

Enjoy a wide variety of winter events in Minnetonka

Visit the fire department, nominate a youth for their contributions to the community, find out how to tackle that remodeling project at your home and get out and enjoy the cold weather! You can do all these things and more at the following January and February activities.

Family Fire Day

January 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Minnetonka Fire Department's "What If?" public educators invite you to Family Fire Day Saturday, January 19, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Minnetonka Fire Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Enjoy a tour of the fire station and see a firefighter dressed in full fire gear. The 20-foot inflatable slide will be ready for fun, and Sparky the fire safety dog will be on hand for photos. Program is free. Call (952) 939-8331 for more information.

Caring Youth Awards

Nominations due February 1

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 2013 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 2013 event is set for Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: live in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley; attend school in Hopkins or Minnetonka; and/or volunteer (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Minnetonka, Hopkins, or Golden Valley. Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. For more information,

including nominations guidelines and forms, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Jacquie Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. Nominations for the 2013 Caring Youth awards are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 1.

Kids' Fest

February 10, 12-3:30 p.m.

Don't miss Kids' Fest, set for Sunday, February 10, from 12-3:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center and Ice Arena and the Williston Fitness Center. Enjoy dog sled rides, bingo with prizes, magic shows, face painting, ice sculpture demonstrations, s'mores by the fire, crafts, entertainment, open swimming, open batting cages, open skating and more. For a complete schedule of activities, see the February *Minnetonka Memo*.

State of the City

February 13, 7:30-9 a.m.

You're invited to the 2013 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, February 13, from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka

Boulevard. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by February 1 to Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211.



Home Remodeling Fair

February 24, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring more than 75 contractor exhibits, seminars and an "Ask the Pro" booth is set for Sunday, February 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. More information will be in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit www.homeremodelingfair.com.

Ski Glen Lake Golf Course

Through March 10



The city of Minnetonka, the Rivers Park District and Hennepin County provide a cross country ski trail each winter at the Glen Lake Golf Course. Planned dates for the course - now through March 10 - are weather dependent. Ski trails are not lit. The golf center will be open for ski rental, concession sales and restrooms. Ski trails and golf center will be open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A season or daily pass is required for use of the Glen Lake trail. Season ski passes may be purchased for \$30 for the first family member and \$15 for each additional family member. Passes may be purchased on site or in advance by calling Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. Daily ski passes may be purchased on site for \$4. In addition, the Rivers Park District season passes will be honored at the Glen Lake location.

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

Outdoor ice skating

Through February 18

Skating rinks with warming houses are available at eight Minnetonka and six Hopkins park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will remain open until Feb. 18. Call the weather hotline at (952) 939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

Minnetonka rinks are at Boulder Creek, Covington, Gatewood, Glen Lake, Grotonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill parks. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 p.m.; and Mondays-Fridays, 4:30-9 p.m. For holiday hours, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8355.



Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department

In firefighting lingo, a flashpoint is the temperature at which combustible materials can burst into flame. The flashpoints in this quarterly feature, however, are not so volatile—rather, they are the initiatives and events that serve as the catalyst for the excellent service provided every day by the Minnetonka Fire Department to city residents and businesses. For more information about any of these items, call the fire department at (952) 939-8598.

By the numbers

Rough mid-November of 2012, the fire department responded to nearly 1,400 calls for service. The three-person duty crew handles most calls, while about 35 paid-on-call firefighters report to structure fires. Calls included 724 medicals, 176 lift assists, 156 fire alarms, 61 mutual aid requests from other cities, 38 natural gas leak and 13 building fires.

Adopt a hydrant

Year round, fire hydrants stand as silent sentries, ready to assist in stopping a fire. Unfortunately, some people seem them as eyesore, covering them with foliage in the summer and leaving them buried in the snow throughout the winter.

Minnetonka has about 7,000 hydrants, spaced approximately 500 feet apart. Keeping those hydrants accessible - with three feet of clearance all around - is impossible without your help. The Minnetonka Fire Department asks you to "adopt" a hydrant and keep it clear of snow in the winter and foliage in the summer.

Thank you for helping to ensure hydrants can be located quickly and easily used when they are needed most!

School programs

From late September through early December, Minnetonka Fire Department firefighters and public educators Sara Ahlquist and Jim Lundeen gave 71 presentations to almost 2,000 students at every elementary school in Minnetonka. Parents report that following presentations, their children often requested a trip to the store to purchase smoke detectors and other safety equipment for their homes.

New this year, Sara and Jim have also been visiting junior high and high school students with information about kitchen fires, and, for seniors, college dorm safety.



Winter safety

Keep your winter from becoming abominable by following these simple guidelines:

- Stay on top of the latest weather forecasts, including winter storm watches and warnings.
- Winterize your vehicle with appropriate tires, fully charged battery and full windshield wiper fluid reservoir. Keep the gas tank at least half full. At the very least equip your vehicle with a shovel, jumper cables, a bag of sand or salt, basic tools, blankets or sleeping bags, a tow cable or chain, a flashlight, a first aid kit and extra clothing.
- Know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite. Seek medical attention if signs/symptoms are present.
- Outside in storms or extreme cold? Dress in layered clothing, stay hydrated, stay dry and avoid overexertion.
- Take it easy with the snow shoveling - it's hard work and can bring on a heart attack.
- Stay off thin ice. It takes at least four inches of clear ice to support an adult. No ice is ever 100% safe.



Minnetonka Firefighter Jim Lundeen demonstrates turnout gear.

- Avoid alcohol when snowmobiling. Most snowmobile deaths are alcohol related. Take a snowmobile safety course (check with the DNR or with your snowmobile dealer).
- Heating fires are a major cause of residential fires in Minnesota. Turn off portable heating devices when you are away from home or when you go to bed. Have a working, UL-listed smoke alarm on every level of your home and in every bedroom.

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is most likely to accumulate in homes during the winter. Check heating systems and ensure your home has proper ventilation. Install a UL-listed CO detector with alarm

within 10 feet of every sleeping room. In multi-family dwellings, they may be placed between 15 and 25 feet from fuel-fired equipment. Detectors with digital readouts are highly recommended.

- Have at least three feet of clearance between heating equipment and any material that can burn, and keep children and loose clothing away too.



Sign up for Citizen Alert

Since the Citizen Alert system was introduced, several hundred Minnetonka residents have signed up. Here's why you should too!

By signing up, you'll be alerted about emergencies or important community alerts, however you choose - via phone, email, text message and more. Read on for the answers to some other questions frequently asked about the program:

Do I have to sign up?

If you have a landline telephone and are listed in the telephone book, your phone number should be entered in the system to receive emergency alerts. However, it's still a good idea to sign up to ensure your telephone number is correct and you receive emergency notifications.

By signing up, you can:

- Receive non-emergency community alerts, such as notification of a water main break in your area.
- Add more points of contact, such as cell phones, emails or text messages.
- Add contact information for multiple members of your household.
- Add additional locations in Minnetonka you'd like to be notified about, such as a workplace, school, church, etc.

Register online at www.eminnetonka.com (click on the icon on the home page) - it only takes a few minutes! If you need assistance, call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207.

Fireplace safety

Each year the Minnetonka Fire Department responds to many fires caused by improper disposal of fireplace ashes. Follow these easy tips for fireplace safety:

- Hire a professional to clean and inspect your fireplace at least once a year.
- Open the flue before starting a fire, and leave it open until the fire is completely out.
- Place ashes in a metal container with a lid. Never use plastic or paper. Embers can stay hot for as long as two weeks after the fire has stopped burning!
- Store ashes away from buildings, including homes, garages and sheds.

Sign up for picnic shelters starting January 7

Thinking ahead to summer group activities at a Minnetonka or Hopkins park? Picnic shelter reservation requests will be accepted starting January 7. A permit and fee is required to reserve a park picnic shelter for groups of 25 people or more.

Minnetonka picnic shelters are available at Lone Lake, Gro Tonka and Shady Oak parks. Hopkins picnic shelters are at Burnes, Valley and Central parks.

For complete details about reserving a park picnic shelter, and for an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8390.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meets January 31

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a statewide program designed to establish and create awareness of a support network of agencies, organizations and resources that can meet the needs of service members, military families and employers in Minnesota.

Community members from the cities of Minnetonka, Edina, Excelsior, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Wayzata have formed the Southwest Twin Cities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Coalition, and are working together to meet the requirements of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program for these cities.

The coalition meets next Thursday, January 31, at the Hopkins Elk Lodge, 30 8th Avenue South, Hopkins. New members are always welcome.

For more information, email announce_subscribe@sw-btyr.org or visit www.sw-btyr.org.



Make crime prevention your resolution

A new year means new resolutions. If increased safety is on your to-do list for 2013, consider making the following resolutions.

- Talk to your children about safety. At a young age, children can be taught their name and phone number and how to use 9-1-1. For older kids, topics such as computer safety are more appropriate.
- Lock your doors. Most residential burglaries are unforced, meaning the suspect entered by means of an unlocked door or window. Close your overhead garage door, lock your front door (even when you're home) and check to make sure windows and patio doors are locked at night.
- Remove items from the passenger compartment of your vehicle. Do you keep your GPS unit on the dash? A gym bag or briefcase in the backseat? Lock your car door. If you must leave valuable items in your vehicle, the best defense is to remove these items from your car or place them in your trunk **before** reaching your destination.
- Be a good neighbor. Knowing your neighbors helps to prevent crime in your neighborhood. If you witness suspicious activity call 9-1-1. Coordinate a Night for Neighbors event in August to get your neighbors together, or participate in Neighborhood Watch - a police-neighborhood partnership that promotes safety and the prevention of crime. For more information contact Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka Police Department crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

Join these January senior center activities

Plan to attend one of these activities offered this month for adults 50-plus which are advertised in a weekly email and the free monthly publication, the *Minnetonka Script*. Subscribe to one or both publications by visiting www.eminnetonka.com, or contact Nicole Gorman at ngorman@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8369.

To register, or for general information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

Minnesota Luncheon

Jan. 10, 12 p.m.

Enjoy chicken wild rice casserole, green salad, dinner roll and dessert. Entertainment by barbershop quartet the MN Go-4's. Cost is \$7, due by Jan. 3.

I Stand With Courage

Jan. 14, 1 p.m.

Minnetonka author Kathi Holmes will share her book, "I Stand with Courage: One Woman's Journey to Conquer Paralysis." Cost is \$2, due by Jan. 10.

Community Garden Club

Jan. 14, 1 p.m.

Discover new and must-have plants for gardens in 2013. Questions? Call Karen Bechthold at (952) 546-3798.

Single Mingle Club

Jan. 15, 1 p.m.

The new single mingle club will gather at the Depot Coffee House in Hopkins to discuss the details of the club. Singles welcome.

Kathmandu Travelogue

Jan. 24, 10:30 a.m.

Fred Leverenz shares stories of his travels to Kathmandu, Nepal. Cost is \$2 due by Jan. 22.

Traveling Naturalist Series

Jan. 28, 1 p.m.

Part I: It's a Dog's Life - The world's greatest athletes have four legs and pull sleds across thousands of miles of snow and ice. Learn more about sled dogs. Cost is \$2, due by Jan. 24.

Last Kings of Norse America

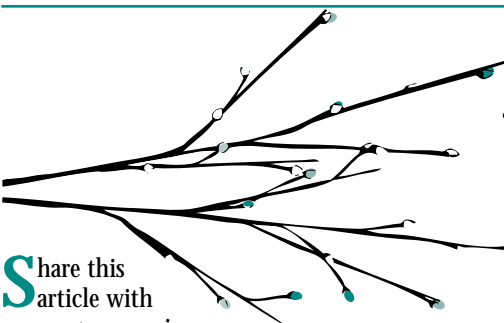
Jan. 30, 1 p.m.

Join Robert Johnson and Janey Westin as they tell the story of a 1356 Norwegian expedition sent to North America to restore Norway's lost fur trade - 136 years before Columbus left Spain. Cost is \$2, due by Jan. 28.

Tai Chi

Thursdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 28, 6-7 p.m.

Learn the slow, circular movements of Tai Chi with Ron Erdman-Luntz. Cost is \$48, due before class start date.



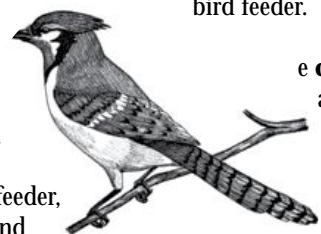
Just for kids Nature News

Share this article with a young person in your life! Minnetonka natural resources staff plans to publish an article for young people a few times a year. Enjoy!

Winter Birds

During the winter, much of nature is sound asleep. Trees and plants are dormant and many animals hibernate. However, not all northern birds migrate south for the winter. A few birds eliminate the dangers of migration and take their chances with the weather and their ability to find food in the winter. Since food is at a premium in the winter, you can easily attract birds to your home by putting out a feeder. Black oil sunflower seed is relatively inexpensive and numerous species of birds eat the seed.

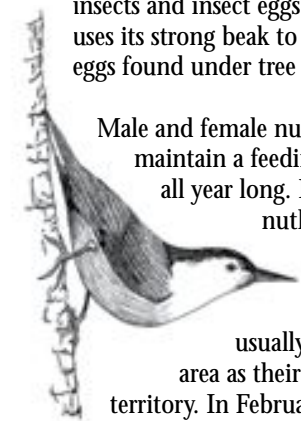
Most **blue jays** remain in Minnetonka through the winter. However, some young birds migrate south in the fall. Jays can easily be told by their bluish color and crest. At the feeder, blue jays eat sunflower seeds and cracked corn. They will imitate the scream of a hawk to scare other birds away from the feeder. Blue jays can store a number of seeds or acorns in their gular pouch (part of their throat) and they hide and store nuts so they can eat them later. In March, blue jays begin singing their spring "pumphandle" song. Also in early spring blue jays tend to flock together, calling "jay, jay, jay."



The **male cardinal** can be identified by its red color, black mask and crest on its head. The back of this bird is a grayish red. The beak of the cardinal is orange and thick for cracking seeds. Cardinals will readily come to the feeder if sunflower seeds are available. In December and January, cardinals are not territorial and can be seen in small flocks of up to 20 birds. On cold winter days, cardinals seek protection in evergreen trees. In early February, male cardinals begin singing their spring calls and establishing their territories.



The **white-breasted nuthatch** is a small grayish-blue forest bird. Nuthatches are often seen upside down on trees and have been called the "upside-down bird." This behavior helps them find and wintering insects and insect eggs. A nuthatch uses its strong beak to dig out insect eggs found under tree bark.



Male and female nuthatches maintain a feeding territory all year long. In late winter, nuthatches start setting up their nesting territories, usually in the same area as their feeding territory. In February, males can be heard calling in the woods. The spring call of the nuthatch is a nasal "eee-eee-eee." Nuthatches will eat sunflower seeds, suet and corn, and readily come to a bird feeder.

The **chickadee**, a small bird with a black cap and black bib, is a favorite of many birdwatchers. Chickadees are found in small flocks which remain in contact by singing "chick-a-dee-dee... chick-a-dee-dee." When they are not at a feeder, chickadees search for insects or insect eggs on twigs and outer branches. At night, chickadees may sleep in a tree hole made by woodpeckers or they may roost in a small crotch in an evergreen tree. In early February, chickadee flocks break up when they begin to select their mates. By mid-February they begin singing their spring call, "feebee-feebee," a welcome sound after a long winter.



Pileated woodpeckers are about the size of a crow and are the largest woodpeckers in North America. Pileated woodpeckers live deep in the woods, but will visit backyard suet feeders. In February, they start setting up their mating territories and the loud spring call "kek-kek-kek-kek-kek-kek" can be heard echoing throughout the forest.



A pileated "drums" or pecks on trees to announce its territory. The sound can be very loud and resemble an actual drum beating in the woods.

In Minnetonka the pileated woodpecker is commonly seen. However, in most parts of the United States they are rare. Pileated woodpeckers eat carpenter ants, searching for them in dead or dying trees and cutting large deep furrows into the trunk. Some trees are so carved up by pileated

woodpeckers that they resemble wood sculptures in the forest.



The **red-bellied woodpecker** can be identified by its black and white ladder-back. The bird also has a striking red crown on its head. The breast of a red-bellied woodpecker is mostly tan, but it does have a reddish tinge on its belly that is barely visible in the field. Like most woodpeckers, it readily comes to suet feeders.

The **downy woodpecker** is the smallest woodpecker in the woods. They are about an inch longer than a chickadee. The male has a red spot on the back of its head, but the female doesn't. Downy woodpeckers can be heard drumming in March. The sound resembles someone tapping rapidly on a tree. Downy woodpeckers will peck on a dead or dying tree over the winter, feeding on insect larvae and eggs. The hairy woodpecker looks identical to the downy, but it is almost twice the size, and the beak is much larger than that of a downy woodpecker.



Article written by Larry Wade, a trained naturalist and retired elementary school teacher. For more information on winter birds visit www.oldnaturalist.com, which focuses on Minnetonka's natural world. Scroll to the end of the article and look for the activity page.

Diversify your yard with the annual spring tree sale

While emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been found in Minnetonka, the city is planning for its inevitable arrival. Annual pesticide treatments are available to help prevent EAB from killing select trees, but most homeowners should also begin planting new trees. This is especially true if you have lots of ash trees and not many other tree species.

Why should you add plants to your landscaping? Trees serve many essential functions, from absorbing storm water runoff and preventing erosion to providing energy savings and clean air, habitat and food for birds and wildlife, as well as beautifying the community.

The city's annual tree sale program allows residents to pre-order and pre-pay for up to two trees per property owner, with a tree pick-up day in early spring. Over ten different species will be offered, ranging from three to seven feet tall at the time of purchase.

Watch the mail for the February *Minnetonka Memo* to find an order form and list of available tree species. You can also check www.eminnetonka.com to learn more about the trees offered, or attend the Tree Sale Preview presentation by the forester January 17 (see sidebar). Quantities are limited and some species sell out quickly, so send your order as early as possible!

If your homeowner's association would like to order trees through the city's tree sale program, please contact the city forester at (952) 988-8421 by February 1 to discuss your plans and receive authorization to place an order. The city reserves the right to modify association orders to ensure species diversity and fair distribution of tree species.

For questions call (952) 988-8400 or visit www.eminnetonka.com.



Tree sale sneak preview is January 17

Do you plan to order a tree through the city's 2013 tree sale program? Would you like a sneak preview to learn about the available trees? Learn about each tree offered and figure out what tree would do best in your yard before the *Minnetonka Memo* order form even hits your mailbox! You'll also learn some expert tips to ensure your tree thrives. Please note: tree orders will not be accepted at the presentation.

Attend the sneak preview **Thursday, January 17, from 5:30-7 p.m.** in the Minnehaha Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Space is limited to 46, so please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Disposing of your Christmas tree



Not sure what to do with your Christmas tree now that the holidays are over? Check with your residential refuse hauler for pick up and recycling of your tree. Haulers have a specific times or limited days that they collect trees from customers. For information, check the last bill you received or call your hauler. There may be a fee for pickup, depending on the company and your level of service.

Trees will be accepted at the city of Minnetonka's winter pruning and brush drop-off, open all **ve Saturday in March, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.**, at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. In the meantime, put the tree in a snowdrift in your yard as a refuge for birds.

Streetlight or electricity out?

If your streetlight is out, it should be reported to Xcel Energy. Call 1-800-960-6235 or visit www.xcelenergy.com for an online reporting form.

If your power is out, or you have an electrical emergency, report it by calling the Xcel Energy Electric Outage number at 1-800-895-1999.

Contact information for outages at the various utilities is available at www.eminnetonka.com.

Beware of door-to-door water testing offers

Residents in some metro area communities recently have been approached by private companies offering to test their tap water in order to sell costly and often unnecessary water filtration systems to the homeowner.

Minnetonka residents receive water from a public water supply, which is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA sets standards for public water supplies that limit the level of contaminants, and the water is tested regularly to ensure those standards are being met. No contaminants have been found in Minnetonka's water that exceed levels set by the EPA for safe drinking water.

Minnetonka Public Works performs weekly water quality tests at several specific sites throughout its water system in order to establish expected outcomes and to understand the quality of the system as a whole. Each spring, the city publishes a water quality report in the *Minnetonka Memo* with testing results.

It's important to distinguish between home water treatment for health protection and home water treatment for aesthetic reasons. Water treatment units are most appropriately used for the removal of substances that affect the physical or aesthetic quality of water—taste, color, and odor.

The use of home water treatment units for reduction of health-related substances should be done only under emergency conditions or in situations where other alternatives do not exist. In Minnetonka, where water is tested weekly and in compliance with EPA requirements, it's unnecessary for homeowners to install home water treatment units for the reduction of health-related substances.

If you would like to perform your own home water tests, or if you have a private well you would like tested, there are many qualified, local test facilities that can be found in the phone book under "water analysis."

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/factsheet/com/pou.html.

Licensing of door-to-door sales

Solicitors, peddlers, and canvassers are allowed in Minnetonka, but for-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a photo ID issued by the city. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by the issuing of this license.



Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license, unless they pay their solicitors. However, the city does request that charitable organizations register.

The city regularly posts a list of licensed and registered solicitors, peddlers and canvassers on the city website at

www.eminnetonka.com. Click on

"community development," then "licenses," then "solicitors, peddlers and canvassers."

Every resident and business has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property.

If you have a complaint about a door-to-door salesperson or soliciting party, immediately contact the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 or call 9-1-1.



Winter reminders for Minnetonka trail users

Walkers, runners, bicyclists and skiers too are reminded that they must obey traffic regulations in order to be safe when using the roadways and trails. Winter brings special considerations: slippery conditions on roadways or trails, less visibility from earlier sunsets, piles of snow and winter weather conditions. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- When walking or running in low light conditions, dusk or dark, wear light-colored or reflective clothing to create the most visible profile for traffic.
- Carry or wear a lighted device.
- Every pedestrian or bicyclist crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk, or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk, should yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the roadway.
- The distance for safely stopping a vehicle increases with winter road conditions, so use caution.
- Bicyclists should drive on the right side of the roadway with traffic and signal their turns. Bicycle riders are encouraged to wear a helmet.
- Watch out for snowplows and snow removal equipment on Minnetonka roads and trails.

By following these safety tips, you can minimize your risk of accidents while enjoying Minnetonka's lovely winter scenery.

online utility billing

Pay city utility bills online

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 a credit card or bank account withdrawal.

It's easy to sign up and it's free! To sign up, grab your latest bill and look for the logo at www.eminnetonka.com. Click on the logo and follow the instruction. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.

Bundle up your home this winter

For most people, staying warm in winter means spending less time outside and more time in the house. While you're hibernating, make a few improvements indoors that will also help the environment.

Keep the heat

- Faulty seals or air leaks in your home can be the equivalent of an open window. Keep heat inside and cold outside by paying special attention to gaps that may be near windows and doors or pipes or wires entering the house. Gaps can be sealed by caulking, installing weather stripping around windows and door frames or adding insulation to outer walls and attics. Don't neglect the seal under your garage door (even if you don't have a heated garage) as well as other replaceable seals under doors and windows that may need attention.
- Be sure attic doors/hatches are closed completely and sealed or insulated for the winter. Recheck them after use.

- Seal and insulate air ducts inside your home to allow your furnace to work less while keeping your home warmer. Also, seal gaps around registers/vents in the floor, walls and ceiling to prevent heat from escaping.
- Close drapes, blinds and curtains to minimize drafts and heat lost around windows but open them when the sun is shining for some free warmth.
- Insulate water heaters and water pipes to minimize heat loss before it gets to your kitchen or bathroom. You'll also conserve water by not running water as long while you wait for it to warm up.
- Turn the thermostat down if you need to have a door or window open for deliveries, repairs, etc.
- Turn down the heat while you sleep or while you are running errands, shopping, at work, or other times when no one is home.

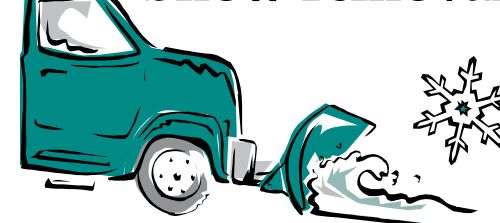


- Wear more layers inside rather than turning up the heat.

Be Efficient

- Change your air filters once a month during the heating season. Dirty filters reduce airflow and make your furnace work harder to heat your home.
- Circulate heat by opening doors between heated rooms. Running your ceiling fan on low and in reverse can help draw warm air back down into the room.

Snow removal in Minnetonka



There's plenty of winter left, so here are some reminders about city snow removal. Remember to follow the city on Twitter (@MinnetonkaMN) to stay informed about all of the city's activities during winter storms!

- ❄ In most snowfalls, plowing operations begin between midnight and 4 a.m., but the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall, and its intensity.
- ❄ Heavy or above-average snowfalls may require several days to clear (in this order) streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. In an average snowfall, the goal is to clear streets within 10 hours.
- ❄ The city doesn't have snow emergency procedures, but year-round, parked vehicles are required to be off city streets between 2 and 6 a.m. Call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 if you are concerned about a vehicle parked on your street.

- ❄ Mailboxes physically hit and damaged by city snowplows will be repaired, but mailboxes that break from the force of the snow coming off the snowplow will not be repaired.
- ❄ Boulevard damage caused by snowplows will be repaired by the city, except for sprinklers, fences or rock gardens that are placed in the city right-of-way. Report snowplow damage to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. Repairs usually are made in May and June.

❄ Snowplowing takes place in three steps. The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets. Within a few hours of the first pass, full-width plowing takes place. Final cleanup typically occurs the following day and includes intersection cleanup, salting, and plowing where vehicles had been parked.

❄ Clear snow from your driveway, but don't push it into or across the street. City ordinances require snow to be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to your property. Please make contractors aware of city snow removal ordinances.



The Landing Shop

Open Wednesday-Saturday

Looking for a unique gift? Stop by The Landing Shop at 11280 Wayzata Blvd., Minnetonka, for bird houses, kitchen items, home décor, baby items, quilts, books by local authors, handmade purses and more. Shop is open Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Landing Shop is a program of Minnetonka Senior Services.



minnetonka memo

January 2013



PRESORTED
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U.S. POSTAGE
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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 Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	Council <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com Patty Acomb... (952) 807-8635 pacomb@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
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Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

January
2013

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
		1	2	3	4	5	1 New Year's Day, city offices closed
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	7 City Council study session, 5:30 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31			8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							14 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.
							17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, city offices closed
							24 Economic Development Authority Commission, 6 p.m.
							28 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community 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 replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream 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.

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 — click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through 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 the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for information.



Police Explorers host pancake breakfast January 27

The Minnetonka Police Explorers will host their annual pancake breakfast Sunday, January 27, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Cost is \$5, and all proceeds go to support Police Explorers, a youth organization developed to give young adults ages 14–21 the chance to learn about and experience the field of law enforcement. Program guidelines are available on the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com or by calling (952) 939-8285.