

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
January 2012

## City council special election set for Tuesday, Feb. 14

A special election to fill the vacant Minnetonka City Council Member, At Large Seat B, is set for Tuesday, February 14.

The seat became vacant when former Council Member Amber Greves resigned the position in December.

### Absentee voting

Absentee voting will be available if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct, illness or disability, religious observance, or service as an election judge in another precinct.

### How do I vote absentee?

Absentee voting for the special election begins Friday, January 13, and continues through Monday, February 13.

Voters may vote in person at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended absentee voting hours are available Saturday, February 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, February 13, until 5 p.m.

Voters may also absentee vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot application

at (952) 939-8200. Applications may also be downloaded from the election section at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed to you. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count.

A sample ballot is available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Special election is Feb. 14

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

### Polling locations

All voters will vote at their regular polling location, however, some of the room locations may have changed. Please follow signs at your polling place, and check the website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for current room updates. If you vote at the Lindbergh Center, consider voting during the day, as a Hopkins High School basketball game is scheduled for the evening.

To find your specific polling place, visit the elections page on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

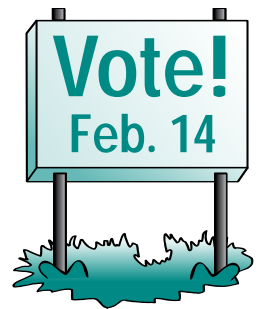
Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place — it will save you time.

### Registering to vote

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

Minnesota state law requires specific forms of identification to register at the polling place. For more information about these forms, see the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Results will be available on the city's website on election night at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



## Minnetonka's new recycling program starts January 1

By now, every Minnetonka household has received a new wheeled, lidded recycling cart in preparation for the arrival of single-sort recycling. You should also have received a mailing from Allied Waste explaining the new program and showing your 2012 collection dates.

Still have questions? Read on for more information.

### When will my recycling be picked up?

Your recycling pickup day doesn't change, but pickup will take place every two weeks instead of every week. Recycling should be out by 6:30 a.m. on your pickup day. Be sure to place your new recycling cart and your garbage can on opposite sides of your driveway — at least three feet apart from each other and any other objects. is

ensures carts aren't mixed up by the haulers and also makes it easier for the truck arms to retrieve and empty the carts. For a map of recycling collection areas and the 2012 collection dates for each area, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). You can also find the map and January collection dates on page 7.

### How can I request a larger or smaller recycling cart?

You may request a larger cart or smaller recycling cart as soon as you determine you need it by calling Allied Waste at (952) 941-5174.

### What do I do if my recycling cart won't fit inside my garage?

Some people choose to keep recycling and garbage containers outside because of limited garage space. Remember, city

ordinances require all trash and recycling bins to be stored out of public view, either inside a garage or behind a screened enclosure, except for the evening before and the day of trash and/or recycling collection.

### What can I recycle?

Each cart contains a list of acceptable and unacceptable items imprinted in the lid for easy reference. The new recycling contract allows more items to be recycled, including plastic bags from retailers, foil-lined containers (juice boxes) and all types of plastic food and beverage containers (#1 – #7), including yogurt cups and butter/whip cream tubs. Wax-coated cardboard (which typically holds frozen items) still cannot be recycled — but plastic coated items such as milk cartons, juice boxes and cartons of soup/broth are recyclable.

More on the new recycling program, p. 7

# Flashpoints



## From the Minnetonka Fire Department

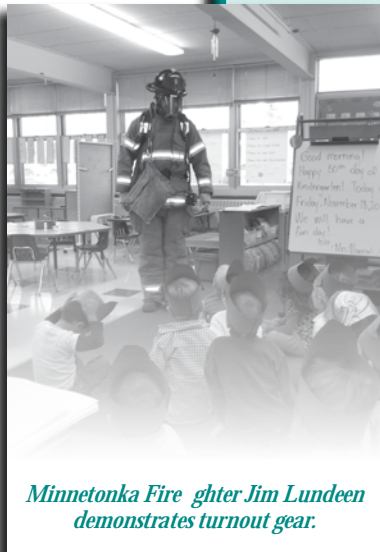
In firefighting lingo, a flashpoint is the temperature at which combustible materials can burst into flame. Flashpoints in this quarterly feature, however, are not so volatile—rather, they are the initiatives and events that serve as the catalyst for the excellent service provided every day by the Minnetonka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

### Calls for Service

Throughout mid-November 2011, the fire department responded to more than 1,300 calls for service.

The three-person duty crew handles most calls, while about 35 paid-on-call members report to every structure fire.

Calls included 569 medical calls, 206 fire alarm calls, 186 lift assists, 96 good intent calls, 86 natural gas leaks or hazardous condition calls, 50 service calls (such as smoke removal), 49 mutual aid requests, 43 other fire calls, 37 rescue calls and 19 building fires.



Minnetonka Firefighter Jim Lundeen demonstrates turnout gear.

### School programs

From September through November, the fire department's public educators gave 71 fire safety presentations to more than 1,800 elementary school students.

### Adopt-a-Hydrant

Year round, fire hydrants stand ready to assist in stopping a fire. Some people see them as an eyesore and try to camouflage them with foliage or other items. In the winter, hydrants may spend months buried under the snow.

With nearly 7,000 hydrants in the city, keeping hydrants accessible with three feet of clearance all around them is impossible without the help of residents.

The Minnetonka Fire Department asks you to adopt a fire hydrant and keep it clear of snow in the winter and foliage in the summer, so that hydrants are visible and accessible all year round.

## Tips for fireplace and winter safety

Fireplaces during a Minnesota winter are cozy, but do you know how to keep your fireplace and ashes safe when you are done burning? Each year, the Minnetonka Fire Department responds to fires caused by improper disposal of fireplace ashes. Avoid a visit from firefighters by following these tips:

- Chimneys should be swept at least once a year; more if you use your fireplace frequently.
- Open the flue before starting a fire, and leave it open until the fire is completely out.
- When cleaning your fireplace, place ashes in a metal container with a lid. Never use plastic. Embers can stay hot for as long as two weeks after the fire has stopped burning!
- Place ashes away from buildings, including your home, garage, shed and your neighbors' homes.

appropriate tires, fully charged battery, full windshield wiper fluid reservoir, etc. At the very least, be sure to have a snow and ice scraper in your vehicle.

- Dress in layered clothing and avoid over-exertion when you are outside during storms or extreme cold.
- Be cautious when shoveling snow—it's very hard work and may induce a heart attack.
- Stay off thin ice. It takes at least four inches of clear ice to support an adult. No ice is 100% safe.
- Avoid mixing alcohol with snowmobiling—most snowmobile accidents are alcohol related. Take a snowmobile safety course through the Minnesota DNR, or check with a snowmobile dealer for courses.
- 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 at night. Have a working, UL-listed smoke alarm on every level of your home and in every bedroom.
- Carbon monoxide is most likely to accumulate inside homes during the winter. Check your heating systems and ensure your home is properly ventilated. Install a UL-listed carbon monoxide 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-burning equipment. Detectors with digital readouts are highly recommended.

Avoid other winter hazards by following these simple guidelines:

- Stay informed of the latest weather forecasts, including winter storm watches and warnings.
- Properly winterize your vehicle with



## Plan your winter special events calendar

Looking for activities this winter? Don't miss these special events!

### Citizen Academy

Registration due January 10

If you want to learn more about your city, sign up to attend the 2012 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

is free program takes place over six Tuesday sessions, January 24 and 31, February 15, 21 and 28, and March 6, 6:30–9 p.m., at Minnetonka City Hall. (Note: This year's academy skips a week due to the February 7 caucuses, and the session the week of February 13 is on a Wednesday due to the February 14 special election—see page 1). Hear from the various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance.

Graduates of the program receive special city council recognition. To enroll, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 10.

### Family Fire Day

January 14, 12:30–2 p.m.

The Minnetonka Fire Department's "What If?" public educators invite you to Family Fire Day Saturday, January 14, from 12:30–2 p.m. at Minnetonka Fire Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Enjoy a presentation on personal fire and safety awareness, then take a tour of the fire station. Program is free. Call (952) 939-8331 for more information.

### Caring Youth Awards

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 2012 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.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth



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

Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. For more information, including nominations guidelines and forms, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. Nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 3.

### Kids' Fest

February 12, 1–5 p.m.

Don't miss Kids' Fest, set for Sunday, February 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus. 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*.

## west METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Celebrating 20 Years

### Home Remodeling Fair

February 26, 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 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. More information will be in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com).

### State of the City

February 29, 7:30–9 a.m.

You're invited to the 2012 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, February 29, 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 15 to Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211.

## Ski Glen Lake Golf Course this season

The city of Minnetonka is partnering with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross country ski trail for the 2011–12 season at Glen Lake Golf Course. Using the golf course's natural landscape, the 2.5-kilometer cross country trail provides skiers of all levels and abilities with a dedicated trail groomed exclusively for both ski skating and traditional skiing.

Snow will not be made at this location, so the planned dates for the course—December 15 through March 15—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 will be 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, Three Rivers Park District season passes will be honored at the Glen Lake location. Visit [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org) for more information.

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.

## Winter skating lessons start Jan. 10

Sign up for winter skating lessons with the Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School! The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers instruction for skaters ages 3 and up, including adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visiting the city of Minnetonka website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). The 12-week session begins January 10, 2012. Space is limited, so register now!

## Williston Fitness Center offers family fitness program

The Williston Fitness Center would like to help your family discover fun and different ways to enjoy physical activity together! This class is open to parents and guardians with children ages 6 – 12 years old. Each session will focus on a different aspect of fitness, while creating an exciting learning environment designed to introduce activity into the family. Be your child's healthy role model and their biggest supporter of finding play in exercise!

Sessions are free for members and \$25 per session for non-members. Sign up for one class or all five sessions, all held on Saturdays at the Williston Fitness Center, 14509 Williston Drive, Minnetonka.

- **Introduction to Family Fitness** (highly recommended)  
*February 4, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.*
- **Family Fit**  
*February 4, 12–1 p.m.*
- **Mind/Body Fitness — Yoga**  
*February 11, 12–1 p.m.*
- **Self-Defense**  
*February 18, 12–3 p.m.*
- **Aqua Fit (Williston Pool)**  
*February 25, 12–1 p.m.* ☺



*Fun family fitness at Williston Center.*

## Minnetonka Police welcome new officers

Two new officers joined the Minnetonka Police Department this past fall, filling open positions at the department.

Officer Justin Stetson, originally from Robbinsdale, attended Anoka Ramsey and North Hennepin community colleges, and completed his law enforcement skills course at the Center for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement. Before joining the Minnetonka Police Department, he worked as a park agent with the Minneapolis Park Police, and prior to that was a park service officer with the Three Rivers Park District and a community service officer with the Minneapolis Police Department.

Officer Scott Zitzlo, originally from Waconia, attended Northwestern College and Normandale Community College, and completed his law enforcement skills course

at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. He was previously a police reserve officer with the Plymouth Police Department. ☺



*New Minnetonka Police Officers Justin Stetson (left) and Scott Zitzlo (right).*

## Sign up for art, science, music classes

Recreation Services offers the following art, science and music classes for kids this winter. Register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8203. All classes are held at the Glen Lake Activity Center at Excelsior Boulevard and Clear Springs Road in Minnetonka.

### Kindermusik

For 30 years Kindermusik has been the world's most respected name in musical learning for children from birth to age 7. All classes include 2 music CDs, 2 books, home activity book, instrument, and carrying bag.

- **Village (with adult)**  
rough a blend of creative movement, vocal play, instrument exploration and literature, baby's growth and development are stimulated. Required materials fee of \$60 payable at first class. Course #24020: Tuesdays, January 24 – May 8 (No class 2/21 & 4/3), 9–9:45 a.m. Cost is \$130.
- **Our Time (with adult)**  
Playing instruments, singing, dancing, storytelling and exploring help develop emotional, social, physical, cognitive and musical skills. Required materials fee of \$55 payable at first class. Ages 18 months to three years. Course #24021: Tuesdays, January 24 – May 8 (No class 2/21 & 4/3), 10–10:45 a.m. Cost is \$140.

- **Imagine It (Children only, parents join for last 10 minutes)**  
Pretend play activities are integrated with singing, storytelling, instrument ensembles and creative movement activities. Required materials fee of \$65 payable at first class. Course #24022: Tuesdays, January 24 – May 8 (No class 2/21 & 4/3), 11–11:45 a.m. Cost is \$150.

### Science Explorers (classes for kids ages 3.5 to 6)

- **Exploring Light & Sound**  
Investigate the spellbinding world of light and sound. Course #24014: Tuesdays, January 31, February 7 & 14 (Class on February 14 will be held at the Minnetonka Community Center) 12:45–2 p.m. Cost is \$35.

### Kidcreate Studio

- **Disney Princesses Art Class (Ages 3–6)**  
Join us as we read some princess tales and then create a beautiful painted scene featuring the child's favorite princess! Course #23970: Monday, January 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Cost is \$21.
- **Monet Masterpiece Art Class (Ages 5–12)**  
Learn about impressionist painter Claude Monet and create your own masterpiece. Course #23983: Monday, January 16, 12:30–2:30 p.m. Cost is \$22. ☺

## Got ash? Diversify your yard with the annual spring tree sale

By now, most homeowners have heard about the non-native invasive insect called emerald ash borer (EAB) that was found in St. Paul in 2009 and Minneapolis in 2010. EAB kills ash trees and has not been successfully eradicated in areas where it has been found.

While emerald ash borer has not yet been found in Minnetonka, the city is planning for its inevitable arrival. One of the best ways to prepare for EAB is to plant a diversity of species, so while annual chemical treatments are available to help prevent EAB from killing select trees, most homeowners should also begin planting new trees. This is especially true if your yard is overplanted with ash trees.

The city and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture do not recommend that homeowners cut down healthy ash trees, but it is important to get new trees established now to minimize tree losses over time. Trees serve many essential functions including absorbing storm water runoff, preventing erosion, providing energy savings, cleaning the air, providing habitat and food for

birds and wildlife and 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 the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to learn more about the trees offered. Some species sell out quickly, so plan to send your order as early as possible!

If your homeowners' association would like to order trees through the city's tree sale program, please contact the city forester at (952) 988-8400 by February 1 to discuss your plans and receive authorization to place an order.

For questions call (952) 988-8400 or check the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Tree sale sneak preview is Jan. 19

Do you plan to order a tree through the city's tree sale program this year? Would you like a sneak peak to learn about the species before the order form goes out in the *Minnetonka Memo*? This is your chance to learn about the trees and determine what tree will do best in your yard. You'll also learn some expert tips to ensure your tree thrives.

Attend the sneak preview *Thursday*, January 19, 5:30 – 7 p.m., in the Boards and Commissions room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Space is limited to 46, so please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Mark your calendars for these January activities for older adults

Do you want to participate in engaging and lively activities that provide mental and/or physical exercise, and provide social interaction? Then plan to attend one of the exciting activities offered each month for older adults. For more information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

### Pickleball (new!)

*Mon., Wed. & Fri., 7:30 – 10 a.m.*

**Williston Fitness Center  
14509 Minnetonka Drive**

Pickleball uses a plastic ball and a wooden racket slightly larger than a ping pong paddle and is played on a court roughly half the size of a tennis court. Two pickleball courts, striped onto the basketball court area, are available at the Williston Fitness Center. This is not a league — come when you wish, with no advanced sign up. Rackets are provided for you to try the game. Try this activity for some winter exercise. Volunteers will teach you the rules and how to play the game.

Cost: Free for Williston or Silver Sneakers Members. Non-members: \$4 per session (includes use of locker room and shower).

For Minnetonka senior residents, the monthly Williston Center membership

rate is \$25. With most health insurance companies giving discounts on health club memberships if you attend at least 12 times a month, the cost is reduced even more.

### Special Events

#### Garden Club

*January 9, 1 p.m.*

Hear a presentation on birds during the winter months.

#### Winter Party

*January 12, 12 p.m.*

Celebrate winter with a chili luncheon, with entertainment by Tara Brueske and Carol Zimmerman. Cost is \$7, due by Jan. 9.

#### Top Dog Foundation Program

*January 18, 10:30 a.m.*

Learn about adoptable senior dogs. Free, RSVP by Jan. 13.

#### Navigating Medicare

*January 19, 6:30-9 p.m.*

Class will cover Medicare Parts A, B & D. Materials provided. Cost is \$10, due by Jan. 17.

#### Be Wise, Informed, Empowered

*January 25, 10:30 a.m.*

Better Business Bureau representative

discusses scam alerts, BBB business reviews and how to empower and protect yourself in today's marketplace. Cost is \$2, due by Jan. 23

#### Winter Games

*January 26, 1 – 4 p.m.*

Are you getting cabin fever? Spend an afternoon playing games – bean bag toss, ladder golf, golf event, board games and more. Cost is \$3, due by Jan. 23.

#### Income Tax Appointments

Available Monday and *Thursday* afternoons, February 13 – April 12. Appointments taken starting in January — call (952) 939-8393.

#### Defensive Driving Classes

To register, call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org). AAA members receive \$3 off class registration by providing member number and expiration date.

#### Four-Hour Courses

*January 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*January 26, 6 – 10 p.m.*

Refreshments provided (no meal). Cost: \$20.

## Thank you to the 2011 Minnetonka natural resources volunteers

Another season of habitat restoration projects has passed, and once again, Minnetonka residents have generously volunteered more than 1,300 hours in many capacities to help monitor and improve native habitats in more than 15 Minnetonka parks, lakes and wetlands. Many habitat restoration projects simply wouldn't happen without these dedicated volunteers.

Volunteers are the people who truly make a difference when it comes to saving remnant native species populations. Volunteers help stretch taxpayer dollars and build community by working together in groups toward a common goal. Volunteers help us learn more about the condition of our natural areas and restore unique places that provide food and habitat for pollinator insects, birds, amphibians, mammals and a host of other organisms in nature's food web.

A special thanks to the following individuals who made large contributions to improve city natural resources in 2011. Some volunteers worked in one park of their choice and others worked all over the city.

- **Heather & Brent Holm:** Neighborhood volunteer coordinators for the Lake Rose Park cost-share grant project
  - **Ashley Mecum:** College student who adopted Lake Rose Park for the summer
  - **Cole Feagler (Boy Scout):** Eagle Project to release native plants from invasive species and improve plant protection cages at Victoria-Evergreen Park
  - **Katie Hirl (Girl Scout):** Gold Award project to plant and cage 40 sugar maple trees at Reich Park
  - **Adam Hauge (Boy Scout):** Erosion reduction project at Lake Rose Park
  - **Randall Neal and Family:** Kinsel Park garlic mustard and burdock control, and maintenance of native tree and shrub plantings
  - **Jim Coleman:** Lone Lake Park garlic mustard coordinator and back woods puller
  - **Gary Kerber:** Garlic mustard and burdock control in Big Willow Park
  - **Bobbie Nebel:** A dedicated volunteer who helped with nearly every project.
  - **Liz Schulz:** Regular roving volunteer
  - **Bill & Renate Sperber:** Garlic mustard and buckthorn control in Purgatory Park
  - **Ingrid Welty:** Roving volunteer
  - **Jacque Zimmerman:** Purgatory Park volunteer
  - **Kurt Anderson:** Orchard Park buckthorn renewal
- Several groups assisted with one-time projects and garlic mustard control, allowing a large amount of work to be done in a short time.
- **Hopkins High School American Legion Baseball Team:** Lone Lake Park garlic mustard pull
  - **Gatewood Elementary School fourth-grade students:** Arbor Day planting at Boulder Creek Park
  - **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Minnetonka Ward:** Planted 25 new trees in Kinsel Park
  - **UnitedHealth Group staff:** Lone Lake Park garlic mustard control and rain garden maintenance
  - **Glen Lake Elementary School third-grade students:** Pulled buckthorn in Kinsel Park
- **Lake Rose Park:** 750 tree seedlings and 275 wild flowers planted, steep slope stabilized (Nine Mile Creek Watershed District cost-share grant program)
  - **Kinsel Park:** 25 new trees planted
  - **Green Circle Park:** 31 new native shrubs planted to create a bird thicket
  - **Purgatory Park:** Invasive buckthorn control in bird thicket and along trails
  - **Orchard Park:** Native plant protection and buckthorn removal
  - **Lone Lake, Victoria Evergreen and Kinsel parks:** Maintenance of plant protection cages
  - **Invasive garlic mustard control** in 10 parks in May and June
  - **Wetland Health Evaluation Program:** Monitor wetland conditions
  - **Citizen Assisted Lake Monitoring Program:** Monitor lake water quality
  - **Adopt-a-spot:** Individual volunteer projects

### 2011 Natural Resource Projects

Wondering what volunteers worked on this year? Here's a list of some of the 2011 natural resource projects made possible by volunteers.

- **Boulder Creek Park:** Arbor Day tree planting



*Volunteer John Pierce planted a dogwood in the Green Circle Park bird thicket.*

# What do I do with my old blue recycling bin?

You have several options for your old blue recycling bin. You can keep it and use it as you wish, or bring it to Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, and leave it in the designated area at the recycling drop-off center.

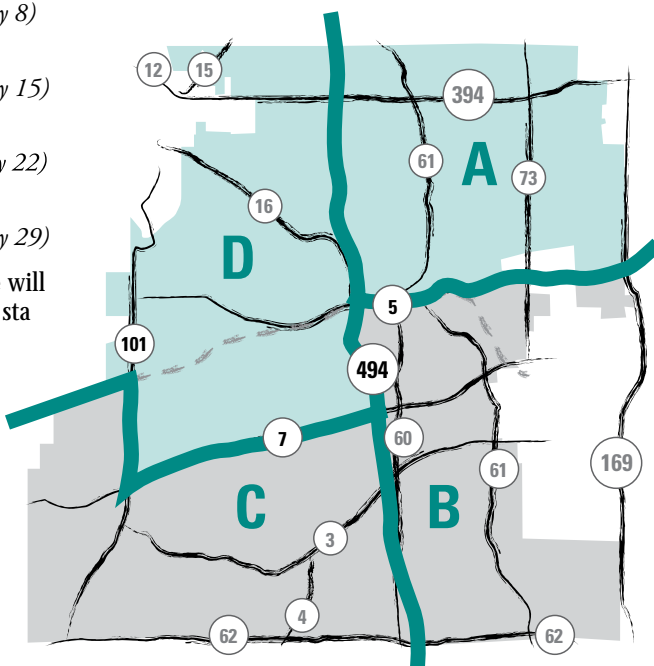
Or, starting on Wednesday, January 11, and continuing for four weeks, the bins will be picked up by the city. Please leave your empty bin at the end of your driveway on the appropriate pickup day. Collection in each area will start on Wednesday and continue until the bins are picked up, possibly through the end of the week (see map at right).

The recycling bin collection schedule is as follows (all dates are Wednesdays):

- **Area A:** January 11  
*(alternative collection: February 8)*
- **Area B:** January 18  
*(alternative collection: February 15)*
- **Area C:** January 25  
*(alternative collection: February 22)*
- **Area D:** February 1  
*(alternative collection: February 29)*

The alternative collection date will only be used if the public works staff has snow plowing or emergency infrastructure duties and the recycling bin collection is cancelled. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for details of any changes to the alternative collection dates.

If you have questions about the new recycling program, contact the **Allied Waste Customer Service Group at (952) 941-5174.**



# New recycling schedule

You can find the full recycling schedule on [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), but here's a quick preview. The map below also corresponds to the areas used to determine when your recycling will be collected. The dates of the first few months of recycling pickup are listed below to help get you started.

- **Area A: Tuesdays, Blue Weeks**  
*(January 3, 17, 31; February 14, 28; March 13, 27; April 10, 24)*
- **Area B: Tuesdays, Gray Weeks**  
*(January 10, 24; February 7, 21; March 6, 20; April 3, 17)*
- **Area C: Mondays, Gray Weeks**  
*(January 9, 23; February 6, 20; March 5, 19; April 2, 16, 30)*
- **Area D: Mondays, Blue Weeks**  
*(January 2, 16, 30; February 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9, 23)*

## Holiday recycling collection in 2012

In 2012, only three holidays will delay curbside recycling collection in Minnetonka and only for the residents whose service dates fall in the week with that holiday:

- **Memorial Day, May 28**  
If May 28 is in the week of your recycling service date, then collection is Tuesday, May 29, for residents west of I-494; and Wednesday, May 30, for residents east of I-494.
- **Labor Day, Sept. 3**  
If Sept. 3 is in the week of your recycling service date, then collection is Tuesday, Sept. 4, for residents west of I-494; and Wednesday, Sept. 5, for residents east of I-494.
- **Christmas Day, Dec. 25**  
If Dec. 25 is in the week of your recycling service date, then collection is Wednesday, Dec. 26, for residents east of I-494.

# Test drive your idea with the Open to Business program

Did your new year's resolution include starting a new business or expanding an existing one? Are you a small-business owner looking for some technical assistance?

The Minnetonka Open to Business program, provided in collaboration with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), provides one-on-one assistance from expert staff, customized to meet the needs of small business owners and operators. Clients receive help in planning and organizing their business ventures, financial management, marketing and

regulatory compliance. Additionally, a small business loan fund can help entrepreneurs access the capital they need to grow their business.

The Minnetonka Open to Business program is free! Contact Rob Smolund at the MCCD at (612) 789-7337, ext. 11, for more information, or stop and test drive your idea the second Monday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. No pre-registration is required.



# minnetonka memo

January 2012



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
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**PAID**  
CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

<b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 .....tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	<b>Council</b> <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com ..... Open seat ..... (to be filled by Feb. 14 special election) <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
<b>City Manager</b> John Gunyou.....(952) 939-8200	<b>Minnetonka Mike</b> ..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200	<b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b> ..... 9-1-1
<b>E-mail:</b> ..... comments@eminnetonka.com	<b>Non-emergency</b> .....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
<b>Internet:</b> ..... www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

January  
2012

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2 New Year's (observed), <i>city offices closed</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4 Park Board, 7 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
29	30	31					10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, <i>city of- fices closed</i>
							19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							23 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.; Community commission, 6 p.m.
							24 Citizen Academy, 6:30 p.m.
							26 Economic Development Authority Com- mission, 6:30 p.m.
							30 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							31 Citizen Academy, 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." 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information.

## Apply now for a home repair loan

It's January — the coldest month of the year in Minnesota. Is your aging furnace having a hard time keeping up? Do you dread opening your energy bills this time of year? Are you planning your spring home improvement projects already? If the answer to any of those questions is yes, the city offers a low-interest loan up to \$15,000 for home repair, green improvements, and some additions/modernizations. Pre-applications and program guidelines are available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or by calling (952) 939-8285.

## Join an orchestra, choir or band

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) invites interested musicians to join an adult orchestra or band or an adult or youth choir during the month of January. Rehearsals and concerts are held right here in the Minnetonka community. Visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org) or call (952) 401-5954 for more information. We'd love to have you!



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

