

Time to vote: General election is Tuesday, November 6

The state general election will take place Tuesday, November 6. If you have questions about voting, read on for the answers to most frequently asked questions. If you need more information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit *www.eminnetonka.com.*

When and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, November 6, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

To nd your speci c polling place, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website at *www.sos.state.mn.us.*

Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place — due to redistricting, many voters will be voting at new locations.

Where can I view a sample ballot?

e Secretary of State's online polling place nder includes a link to your precinct's absentee ballot. Visit *www.sos.state.mn.us.*

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. Registration is required 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.

What identi cation is needed to register?

Minnesota state law requires speci c forms of identi cation to register at the polling place. Acceptable forms of identi cation are listed at *www.eminnetonka.com.*

Who can vote absentee?

Absentee voting is 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?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

• In person

Visit Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended voting hours are available Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 5, until 5 p.m.

• By mail

Request an absentee ballot application by calling (952) 939-8200. Applications may also be downloaded from the election section at *www.eminnetonka. com.* Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow su cient time for postal delivery.

Where will election results be available?

Results will be available at the Hennepin County website at *www.hennepin.us* and the Secretary of State website at *www.sos.state.mn.us.* ∞

2012 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners announced

A bout 175 entries were received for this year's city of Minnetonka photo contest, held in conjunction with the October Fire Department and City Open House. Minnetonka Community Commission members met to evaluate the entries, and chose the following winners.



First Place: Jennifer Wistrand, "Tonka Turkeys"



Second Place: Brittany Main, "Hanging Ten on the Lake"



ird Place: Je Kirby, "Fingerpainting with Clouds"

See page 2 for more photo contest winners.

2012 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners announced, continued

In addition, the commission chose a Judges' Choice Award in each of the three categories: Lifestyle, Natural and Wild Minnetonka.

e People's Choice Award winner, as chosen by visitors to the October 9 Fire Department and City Open House event, was Reed Nelson, *"Who Me?"*

Finally, the commission gave out several honorable mention awards. We've printed a few photos here — to see the rest visit *www.eminnetonka.com.*

- Dale Antonson,
 "Gray's Bay Dam in May"
- Abigail Key, *"I've Always Wanted to Travel"*
- JoJo Liebeler, *"Red Blue Moon of August"*
- Norbert Lucas, "Moth"
- Whitney Manka, "Piliated Woodpecker"
- Maria Montero, *"Last Day at the Beach/Back to School"*
- Molly Rutzick, *"Ramsey with Sprinkler"*
- Jean Neuman, *"Farm Market"*
- Sandy Schmoker, *"Red Skies Over Minnetonka"*
- Katy Tessman Stanoch, "Frog Boy at Minnehaha Creek"

All of the winning photos are displayed on the city of Minnetonka's website at *www.eminnetonka.com.* Winners were recognized at the October 29 meeting of the Minnetonka City Council. ank you to everyone who entered this year's contest! ~



Honorable Mention: Abigail Key, "I've Always Wanted to Travel



Judges' Choice — Lifestyle Minnetonka: Mercedes Arnold, "Summer's Day at Gray's Bay Dam"



Judges' Choice — Wild Minnetonka: Christine Petersen, "Male Cardinal"



Judges' Choice — Natural Minnetonka: Ross Caster, "Minnehaha Creek Rushing Waters"



People's Choice: Reed Nelson, "Who Me?"



Honorable Mention: Katy Tessman Stanoch, "Frog Boy at Minnehaha Creek"



Honorable Mention: Molly Rutzick, "Ramsey with Sprinkler"

Stop at e Landing Shop for gift giving

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. From Nov. 26 through Dec. 22, e Landing Shop will have extended hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and ursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. e Landing Shop is a program of Minnetonka Senior Services.



Stay safe with wood stoves, replaces

With average temperatures in the 30s, this is the time of year many people begin enjoying wood stoves and replaces. e Minnetonka Fire Department wants you to stay safe, so please follow these tips to prevent unwanted res:

- Have your replace cleaned professionally at least once per year, to clean out soot and creosote that can ignite and burn.
- Have your wood stove professionally cleaned before rst use.
- Burn seasoned, dry hard woods like oak, maple, birch and hickory.
- Remove ashes in a metal container and store them outside (not in your garage!), away from combustibles. Never put ashes in a plastic container.



- Use a replace screen to keep sparks and logs contained.
- Remember, ashes and embers stay hot for days after a re. ∞

Visitors enjoy October open house event

The October 9 Fire Department and City Open House proved popular again this year, with many hundreds of people enjoying re truck rides, police department tours, musical entertainment and food. anks to everyone who visited the city, and we hope to see you again next year! ~



Minnetonka Police Captain Scott Boerboom shows Open House visitors the SWAT equipment.

Sign up now for preschool classes

A re you looking for activities for your child? If so, check out the various opportunities below. To register or for more information call (952) 939-8203 or see the online recreation brochure at *www.eminnetonka.com.*

Abrakadoodle

Mommy/Daddy & Me Art Class Wednesdays, Nov. 14-Dec. 19 (no class 11/21), 10-10:45 a.m., *Glen Lake Activity Center* Spend the morning doing fun art projects and crafts, and explore a new art medium each week. Ages 20 months – 4 years.

Cost: \$72. Course #26489

Science Explorers Fascinating Physics

Tuesdays, Nov. 13, 20 & 27; and Dec. 4, 12:45–2 p.m. Glen Lake Activity Center

Preschoolers explore physics using building systems, including force, friction, simple machines, gravity and more. Ages 3.5 - 6. Cost: \$48. Course #26496 ∞

Greening your celebrations

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by

more than 25%. Added food waste, packaging, wrapping paper and decorations — it adds nearly one



million tons a week to the nation's garbage piles. To reduce waste at the holidays:

- **1.** Give gifts that conserve natural resources.
- 2. Use reusable tableware.
- **3.** Buy LED lights.
- **4.** Recycle.
- **5.** Reuse gift wrap supplies.

For more information visit *www.hennepin. us* and search "waste reduction." ∞

City Council sets a 1.5% preliminary property tax levy

Responsible long-term financial planning has placed the city of Minnetonka in an excellent position to accommodate the slow economic recovery, as well as federal and state political uncertainties. 2013 marks the fourth year since the city's budget was repositioned to account for the recession's permanent long-term e ects.

2013 Levy

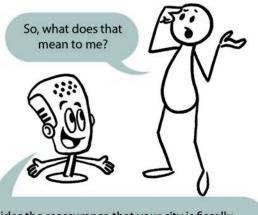
In August, the Minnetonka City Council set a 2013 preliminary levy increase of 1.5%, which will lower property taxes next year for the median value home in the city. is rate is lower than the current in ation rate and lower than the increase proposed in most of our comparable cities in the metro. In addition, with in ationary costs below original expectations, and with re nancing of debt where appropriate, the 2013 levy of 1.5% is less than the 2.1% increase that was projected last year.

Comparisons with other cities

e proposed 2013 city levy increase is among the lowest increases of comparable cities. Of the twelve cities in the metro with which Minnetonka generally compares itself, only two are proposing lower increases. e others are proposing increases averaging 3.2 percent above last year's levies. Unlike many of those other cities, no assessments for roads or extraordinary fees are proposed to supplement Minnetonka's very modest tax increase.

HRA levy

Acting as the city's Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Minnetonka City Council adopted no change in the preliminary Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy for 2013. e HRA levy will remain at \$175,000 to continue the commitment made for housing reinvestment and down payment assistance, designed to preserve and improve Minnetonka's housing stock and attract homebuyers to the city.



Besides the reassurance that your city is fiscally responsible, it also means the median-valued home in Minnetonka is estimated to experience a **decrease of about 1% in the city portion of property taxes.**



Homeowner impacts

With the proposed levy increase of 1.5 percent, city property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$277,200 in 2012) are **estimated to decrease by about one percent.** e reasons for the decline are as complex as the state's property tax system; however, in a nutshell, the decline is due to three main factors:

- Shifting the city property tax burden away from residential to commercial properties due to the state's formula and changing property values;
- Deciding last year to spread the bene t of the Market Value Homestead Credit change over two years;
- Declining median value of single-family detached homes in Minnetonka. ∞



Join these November senior center activities

Plan to attend one of these activities o ered this month for adults 55-plus, all of which are advertised in a weekly email as well as a free monthly publication, the *Minnetonka Script.* Subscribe to one or both of these 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.

Medicare Part D

Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m. Learn about the Part D bene t; how to compare prescription coverage; and how prescription coverage works with various Medicare supplements, employer plans and Medicare Advantage plans. Cost: \$5, due by Nov. 5.

Judges, Juries & Lawyers

Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Minnetonka's Associate City Attorney Rolf Sponheim covers how the court system works; what a lawyer is looking for when selecting jury members; what happens in the judges' chambers; and a short history of the court and why it works.

Re ections of World War II

Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m. Hear rsthand recollections of a US Navy pilot during World War II. Presenters are from the Eighth Air Force Historical Society MN Chapter. Cost is \$2, due by Nov. 7.

Community Garden Club

Nov. 12, 1 p.m. Elect new o cers and plan for 2013. Open to all community members interested in gardening.

anksgiving Party

Nov. 15, 12 p.m. Turkey, stu ng, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberries, dinner roll and pumpkin dessert. Cost is \$7, due by Nov. 8.



Enjoy a anksgiving feast November 15.

Pumpkin Pie Social

Nov. 19, 1 p.m. Enjoy a sweet treat and an afternoon of socializing with friends. Cost is \$1, due by Nov. 15.

Lifesaving Training

Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m.

Minnetonka re ghters present bystander lifesaving skills, including CPR and AED use. ese simple pointers may help you greatly increase the rate of survival for a cardiac arrest victim. RSVP by Nov. 16 for this free event.

Musical History Lesson

Nov. 26, 7-8:30 p.m.Enjoy a piano concert of jazz, ragtime, waltzes, boogie woogie and blues with James Shaw, who will play examples of each and provide short explanations of how the music developed. Cost is \$2, due by Nov. 26.

Defensive Driving

To register, call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit *www. mnsafetycenter.org.* AAA members receive \$3 o class registration by providing member number and expiration date.

Four-Hour Course

Nov. 13, 9 a.m. -1 *p.m.* Refreshments provided (no meal). Cost: \$20 ∞

Williston Center hosts food drive

The Williston Fitness Center is hosting a food drive to bene t the ICA Food Shelf, November 5-9. Donate a non-perishable food item at Williston, and receive a half-price day. One discounted day pass per food item.

Changes to health insurance?

If you are a Williston Fitness Center member and you have changes in health insurance coverage, be sure to submit those changes to Williston in order to prevent a delay in your frequent tness reimbursement. Stop at the Williston Fitness Center and ll out a new health/ tness enrollment form, and don't forget to bring your new insurance card and a voided check.

e Williston Fitness Center is located at 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8370 for more information. ∞



Weather becoming ightful? Take the kids to the indoor play structure at Williston!

Nominations for 2013 Re ections Award due November 14

Do you know of an individual, business or program that consistently works to make Minnetonka a great community? en consider nominating that person or organization for a 2013 Re ections Award!

e biennial Re ections Award program was created in 1997 to recognize individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions re ect positively on Minnetonka. e Minnetonka Community Commission reviews applications and recommends awards to be presented by the Minnetonka City Council.

To be considered for the 2013 awards, to be presented at a council meeting in January 2013, the city must receive a completed application by November 14, 2012. For an application, visit the city's website at *www. eminnetonka.com;* pick one up at city hall; or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207, and one will be mailed to you.

Follow us on Twitter!

G et your news delivered via "tweets!" You can receive news releases, project updates, meeting agendas and minutes, and much more, by following the city on Twitter at http://twitter.com/MinnetonkaMN. ~

Tree disease control program continues

The city's shade tree disease control program continues to battle the twin enemies of Dutch elm and oak wilt. is year (June – September), Minnetonka's natural resources division identi ed about 1,200 diseased elm and oak trees in the city, and then worked with property owners to ensure removal of these trees in a timely fashion.

e city's natural resources division extends a big "thank you" to those residents who have removed diseased trees this year, and also to those who have treated their trees to help prevent the spread of these diseases. Your diligence is appreciated, and since these tree diseases don't respect property lines, your role in helping protect Minnetonka's community forest is crucial! For more information about the shade tree disease control program, call City Forester Emily Ball at (952) 988-8400.

Lower your winter salt diet for snow removal

S ince the early 1950s, metro area waters have become increasingly salty. Chloride levels have risen so high that many metro area creeks are now considered unhealthy. Chlorides harm plants and animals, contaminate drinking water, damage buildings and corrode vehicles, roads and bridges.

Storm drains carry excess water from streets and homes to nearby lakes and creeks; which e ectively makes every property a waterfront property! During the cold winter months, salt applied to streets, driveways and sidewalks eventually ows into lakes and creeks.

Use these strategies to prevent winter water pollution.

Before the storm

Apply a liquid de-icer before snow storms to prevent snow and ice buildup. is also makes shoveling more e ective.

Want to make your own liquid de-icer? Mix two cups of hot water with one cup of salt, then apply.

Less is better

If leftover salt crystals are still visible after

salt has been applied, then you've used too much. Sweep up the leftover salt and re-use it, or dispose of it in the trash. Remember, shoveling is the most e ective way to prevent ice buildup.

Shovel that snow

Shovel, snow blow, plow and/or sweep the snow. ese are all e ective in removing snow and minimizing ice buildup.

Temperature matters

At low temperatures, salt becomes less e ective — check your product for details. When the temperature falls below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, consider using sand instead of salt.

Townhome, condo, apartments

If you live in a townhome, apartment or condominium, talk to your association about encouraging your snow removal contractor to reduce salt use. Use salt only if needed — shovel rst.

Information provided by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Visit **www. ninemilecreek.org** for more information. ∾





2011 Photo Contest: Lia Harel, "Looking Up"

Pay your municipal 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 this logo at *www.eminnetonka.com.* Click on the logo and follow the instruction. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200. ∞

2012 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-Off Program Open through November 18

Public Works Facility

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

Leaves and non-woody yard waste (grass, weeds, pine cones and needles, garden trimmings, fruit, etc.) will be accepted from Minnetonka residents at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., on the following days and times:

• Mondays:	12 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Nov. 5, 12
• Tuesdays:	12 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Nov. 6, 13
• Fridays:	12 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Nov. 2, 9, 16
• Saturdays:	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Nov. 3, 10, 17
• Sundays:	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Nov. 4, 11, 18

Proper identification to verify Minnetonka residency (driver's license, state ID, or Minnetonka utility bill) is required each time a resident enters the site.

The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free. Residents will unbag their leaves and yard waste at the large bulk leaf pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal including paper and compostable bags.

Loads of leaves must be covered during transport! The suggested method of loading and transport is to use many tarps, each with a layer of leaves a foot or less. Use the tarps to gather up and move small piles of leaves from your yard to your trailer or vehicle, continuing to use lots of tarps until the vehicle is full. This makes unloading your leaves much faster and easier at the site, since all you need to do is flip the tarps one at a time to dump the leaves. If you don't use this method, please bring proper equipment, such as a stout pitch fork, to unload your truck or trailer load of leaves.

Sticks and branches smaller than $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter are acceptable with leaves. Anything larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter goes to the brush drop-off pile.

If you have other means of disposing of your leaves, such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option. For a fee (annual, monthly or per cart or bag), all garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as



your garbage collection. The hauler yard waste collection usually runs April through November. Check with your garbage hauler for details. Please note state law requires using proper compostable bags for curbside collection of bagged yard waste — plastic bags are not acceptable.

Drop off brush through Nov. 18

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. This service is only available to Minnetonka residents. Proper I.D. proving residency is required each time a resident enters the site (driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill).

Please note: trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted. **Do not** bring these materials with your load of brush.

Do not put grass, loose leaves, dirt, sod or other non-woody materials in with the brush pile.

The brush drop-off is located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Use the west entrance near the Big Willow Park ball fields.

No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services. Brush drop-off closes November 18. For more information call (952) 988-8430.



Dog poop. It's a serious health problem. Why? Because it contains disease-carrying bacteria that can make people sick and pollute our waters. And because there are more than 50,000 people in Minnetonka, many of them dog owners. Do the math. Then do this. Pick up after your pooch. Remind your neighbors to pick up after theirs. Good manners, great health policy. Your dog can't help it. But you can.

A publication of the city of Minnetonel 14600 Minnetoneka Boulevard, Minnetoneka Boulevard, Minnetoneka Boulevard, Minnetoneka a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday	a	PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID CITY OF MINNETONKA
	CouncilAt Large: Dick Allendorf (952) 933-6231dallendorf@eminnetonka.compatty Acomb (952) 807-8635pacomb@eminnetonka.comWard 1: Bob Ellingson (952) 931-3065bellingson@eminnetonka.comWard 2: Tony Wagner (952) 512-1817twagner@eminnetonka.comWard 3: Brad Wiersum (612) 723-3907bwiersum@eminnetonka.comWard 4: James Hiller (952) 974-1003jhiller@eminnetonka.comMinnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586mike@eminnetonka.comPOLICE-FIRE: Emergency	ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

<i>Calendar</i>	S	М	т	w	т	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
City of Minnetonka	4	5	6	0	1	2 9	3 10	 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. Veterans Day observed, <i>city offices closed</i> City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (<i>Topic: 2013 budget, utility rates</i>) Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Joint Study Session with City Council, EDAO & Dispute Council,
November 2012	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	 6 General Election (polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., see page 1) 7 Joint Meeting of the City Council and Park Board, 5:30 p.m.; Park Board, 7 p.m. 15 Planning Commission, 6 p.m. (<i>Topic: Navigating the New Normal</i> <i>Workshop</i>); Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
Call (952) 939-8200	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	 8 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m. 19 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 22/23 Thanksgiving holiday (<i>city offices closed</i>)
for meeting locations.	25	26	27	28	29	30		29 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change — please check *www.eminnetonka.com* for the latest information. Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and 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."

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 the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit *www.eminnetonka.com* for information. ∞

Victorian holiday open house is Dec. 2

If you're al ready planning your holiday calendar, be sure to mark Sunday, December 2, 1 – 4 p.m., for the annual Victorian holiday open house at the Charles H. Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road, Minnetonka.

e house will be decorated in Victorian holiday fashion, and self-guided tours will be o ered along with refreshments. Attendance is free, but donations to the Minnetonka Historical Society are appreciated. Limited parking is available on the Burwell grounds, including handicapped spaces, with additional parking across Plymouth Road at St. David's Family Resource Center. e Burwell House is owned and operated by the city of Minnetonka.

