



minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
December 2012

Be prepared for the snow season

Don't get left out in the cold! Read through these top tips for snow removal in Minnetonka.

- * 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. Because it is environmentally critical to limit salt use (see article on page 6), plowing will occur for even modest amounts of snow, prior to salt applications.
- * Heavy or above average **snowfalls may require a multi-day operation** 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 emergencies, but year-round, **parked vehicles are required to be off city streets between 2 and 6 a.m.** Illegally parked vehicles may prevent snowplows from fully clearing streets. Call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 if you are concerned about a vehicle parked on your street.
- * **Place curb markers** to show the edge of your lawn or driveway. The city provides free markers to residents — stop by Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., or Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., to pick up your markers. Installation is easier when the ground isn't frozen!
- * **Avoid mailbox damage** by inspecting and, if necessary, refurbishing your mailbox post and structure prior to the snow season to ensure it can withstand rugged winter conditions. 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. However, the city *does not repair*

or replace sprinklers, fences or rock gardens that are placed in the city right-of-way (generally extending several feet behind the edge of the roadway). 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.** Understanding this process may help you plan your driveway shoveling/blowing accordingly. The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets. After all streets have received a first pass, full-width plowing takes place, often within a few hours of the first pass. Final cleanup typically occurs the following day and includes intersection cleanup, salting, and plowing where vehicles had been parked.
- * **Garbage cans and recycling carts** should be set out behind the curb line so they won't be knocked over by snowplows. Remember to take in your garbage/recycling carts after collection occurs, and put them out of sight in your garage or behind a screened enclosure.
- * **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 city **has dramatically reduced its use of chemicals in snow and ice removal**, due to concerns about the negative effects of salt on lakes and creeks as well as on roads and bridges (see article on page 6). The public works department has implemented a number of very progressive initiatives designed to reduce chemical use and save money while continuing to provide high levels of winter maintenance service. Please use caution in the winter, however — driving conditions in January are bound to be more challenging than in July.

For those of you who love winter activities, we are keeping our fingers crossed for a snowier winter than last year! ☺

City utility rate changes considered

In December the Minnetonka City Council will consider, after two years of rate stability, an increase to water and storm water rates and changes to the sewer rate structure to ensure that:

- Systems remain fiscally sound and financially sustainable,
- Infrastructure can be maintained into the future, and
- The city's water conservation and ecological goals can be met.

The meeting will be held as part of the Minnetonka City Council's regular meeting Monday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Questions regarding water and sewer rates may be directed to Public Works Director Brian Wagstrom, at bwagstrom@eminnetonka.com or (952) 988-8400. Questions regarding storm water utility rates may be directed to City Engineer Lee Gustafson at lgustafson@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8239. ☺

Volunteer your time with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

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 the last Thursday evening of the month at various locations, and new members are always welcome.

For more information, email announce-subscribe@sw-btyr.org or visit www.sw-btyr.org ☺

Stay safe this winter: prevent fire hazards

Minnetonka residents don't want to be unexpected guests at your holiday celebrations — so please follow these tips to stay safe this winter season!



- Always use candleholders for candles, and never burn candles unattended or all the way down. For a safe and attractive alternative, consider flameless candles.
- Water your Christmas tree daily.
- Use a turkey fryer outside, in your driveway. Completely thaw & dry your bird before placing in fryer.
- Buy a fire extinguisher and learn how to use it.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels and in all bedrooms in your home.
- If you have a fire on your stove, put a lid on it to smother it — never use water.
- Always use a screen when burning in your fireplace.
- Review or learn the Heimlich maneuver so you can help someone who is choking. ☺



Correction: The last name of the Minnetonka Photo Contest Judges' Choice — Natural Minnetonka winner was incorrectly spelled in the November Minnetonka Memo. Congratulations to Ross Caster on his award. ☺

Coloring contest winners announced

The winners of the 2012 Minnetonka Night for Neighbors coloring contest are Michaela Mergen and Clara Brunk. Both winners received a ride to school with Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet. Special thanks to the Minnetonka Senior Center for judging the many entries. ☺



Michaela Mergen with Chief Raquet



Clara Brunk with Chief Raquet

Join these December senior center activities

Plan to attend one of these activities offered 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.

Christmas in Savannah 1864

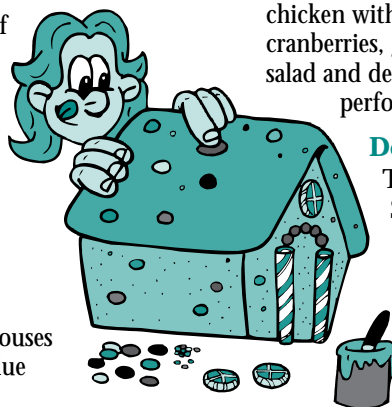
Dec. 4, 10 a.m.

Hear one man's story of his service with the Union forces under Generals Grant and Sherman. Cost is \$2, due by Dec. 3.

Gingerbread House Contest

Dec. 5, 1 p.m.

Enjoy socializing while building gingerbread houses as a team. Cost is \$2, due by Dec. 3.



Invasion of Normandy

Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.

Examine the events of the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Europe, followed by

the Normandy campaign that led to the liberation of Paris on August 25, 1944. Light lunch follows presentation. Cost is \$2 for presentation only, or \$6 for presentation and lunch. Register by Dec. 6.

Community Garden Club

Dec. 10, 1 p.m.

The community garden club will enjoy its annual holiday party. Questions? Call Karen Bechthold at (952) 546-3798.

Holiday Gala

Dec. 13, 12 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday with friends, entertainment and a meal — baked chicken with gravy, oven brown potatoes, cranberries, green bean almondine, Caesar salad and dessert. Pianist James Shaw will perform. Cost is \$7 due by Dec. 10.

Defensive Driving

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

Four-Hour Course

Dec. 11, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

2013 modest levy increase results in city property tax decrease for average home

The city is proposing a 1.5 percent increase in the property tax levy, which will **lower city property taxes next year for median valued homes in Minnetonka** (taxable market value of around \$277,200 in 2012). The county estimates that over 65 percent of Minnetonka single family homes will see a decrease in their total property taxes. While this may seem logically backwards, the reasons for the decline are as complex as the state property tax system. Nevertheless, the decrease is due in large part to the shifting of the city property tax burden away from residential properties to commercial properties due to the state's formula and relative market value changes between these two primary real estate sectors.

The city's responsible, long term focused, budget management continues to consistently pay off for our taxpayers and is why the levy increase is held low despite some other declining revenue resources and financial pressures such as rising energy costs. A 1.5 percent increase is lower than the current rate of inflation and lower than the increase proposed in most of our comparable cities in the metro. In addition, prudent actions such as financing city debt where appropriate in this low interest rate environment allows for the proposed 1.5 percent increase to be less than the 2.1

percent increase the city expected for 2013 at this time last year.

Three quarters of every city property tax dollar directly supports public safety protection and streets. Most of the remainder (eighteen cents) directly supports parks, trails and related services, which the annual community survey shows Minnetonka residents highly value.

User fees, instead of property taxes, support many of the city's services including permitting activities, the city's water and sewer enterprise, and recreation services and facilities. The operations of city enterprises are self-supporting. Facilities such as the Williston Fitness Center and the Ice Arena pay their own way. In fact, nearly three-fourths of all recreational services costs are financed by charging those who participate.

An explanation of your tax bill

City property taxes will decrease by \$8 (almost one percent) on the median valued, \$277,200 home in Minnetonka. Like school districts, a portion of your city property tax bill is voter approved. Due to the city's sensible financing, less than \$40 of next year's total city taxes on the average bill will pay the debt service for the park renewal and opens space referendum bonds, approved by voters in 2001.

Public budget hearing is Dec. 3

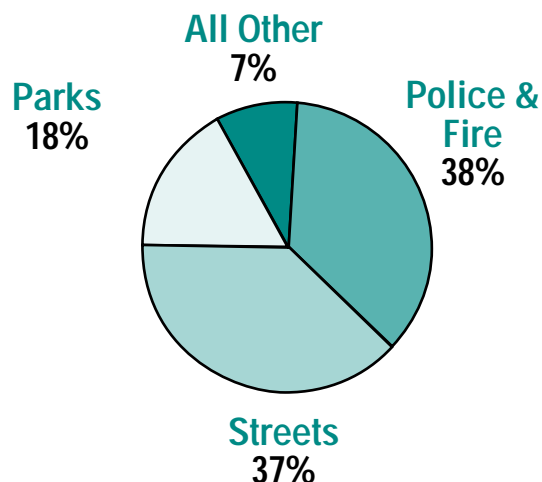
Minnetonka residents and property owners are invited to participate in the city's annual budget hearing, set for Monday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. For more information about the proposed 2013 budget, look inside this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, or see the October and November *Minnetonka Memos*. Visit www.eminnetonka.com to provide feedback on the city's budget. All comments will be shared with the council as the budget options are considered prior to the adoption of the final 2012 budget in late December.

An explanation of your tax bill

Proposed 2013 Property Taxes (average \$277,200 Minnetonka home)

	2012	2013
County	\$1,366	\$1,348
City	1,019	1,011
School (based on Hopkins School District)		
Voter approved	903	890
Other	364	370
School Total	1,267	1,260
Metro Districts	85	86
Other Districts	195	197
Total	\$3,932	\$3,902

Your 2013 property taxes will buy...



Ice skating lessons for ages 3 and up

The Minnetonka Ice Arena offers beginner skating lessons starting January 2013. Available lesson times include:

- **Ages 3 – 6:**
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.
- **Ages 4 & up:**
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Cost is \$100 for a 12-week session. Call (952) 939-8310 or more information or to register. ☺



Caring Youth award nominations open

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 Blvd., Minnetonka.

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 Jacque 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, 2013. ☺

Winter youth, teen classes & activities offered

Are you looking for winter activities for your child or teen? If so, check out the various opportunities below.

Youth Classes

To register or for more information call (952) 939-8203 or see the online recreation brochure at www.eminnetonka.com. All classes are held at the Glen Lake Activity Center, 14350 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka.

Kidcreate Studio

Make It & Take It Art Class

Dec. 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Sign your children up for some art fun while you holiday shop. Participants will craft a clay trinket box that anyone would love to receive as a gift. Ages 4 – 9. Cost: \$24. Course #26503.

Mommy & Me Holiday Craft Party

Dec. 12, 10 – 11 a.m.
Ornament making party. Ages 18 mos – 6 yrs. Cost: \$15. Course #26500.

Science Explorers

Magical Magnets

Dec. 11 & 18, 12:45 – 2 p.m.
Explore magnetic force with fun, hands-on experiments. Use a variety of magnets to learn about attraction & repulsion, magnetic poles and the invisible magnetic force. Ages 3.5 – 6 yrs. Cost: \$24. Course #26497.

Undercover Science

Dec. 28, 1 – 3 p.m.
Go undercover with Science Explorers to become a spy. Unlock the science behind secret messages and create simple spy tools. Cost: \$18. Ages 6 – 11. Course #26498.

Teen Activities

Register by calling Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 or online at www.eminnetonka.com.

Winter break trip to Brunswick Zone

December 27, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Join an afternoon of fun and games at Brunswick Zone in Eden Prairie! Spend an hour bowling, followed by a round of laser tag. Participants receive \$10 in game tokens. Pizza and a soft drink will be provided for lunch. Transportation is provided. Pick-up and drop-off is at the Minnetonka Community Center. Ages 11 – 17. Cost: \$25.

Ice Skating at the Depot, Minneapolis

January 19, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Chill out with an afternoon of indoor ice skating at the Depot Rink in downtown Minneapolis! Rink admission, skate rental and transportation provided. Bring money for snack bar if desired. Pick-up and drop-off at the Minnetonka Community Center. Ages 10 – 16. Cost: \$22. ☺

Home repair, home buyer loans available

Finding the perfect house can be stressful and sometimes chaotic. Once you find the perfect house, it's important to maintain it properly so it can be your home for the long haul.

If you're looking for that perfect starter home, the city offers a "Welcome to Minnetonka" program for first-time homebuyers.

This program offers lower-interest rates to provide funds for down

payment or closing costs.

Once you have your home, maybe it needs some TLC, and the city can help with that too! The Home Enhancement program offers a lower-interest loan for home maintenance and energy improvements. Examples of eligible improvements include:

- General housing maintenance such as roofs and siding;
- green investments such as geothermal and rain barrel installation; and
- Mechanical improvements such as furnace, water heater and window and door replacement.

For more information about the requirements of either program, call (952) 939-8285 or visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺

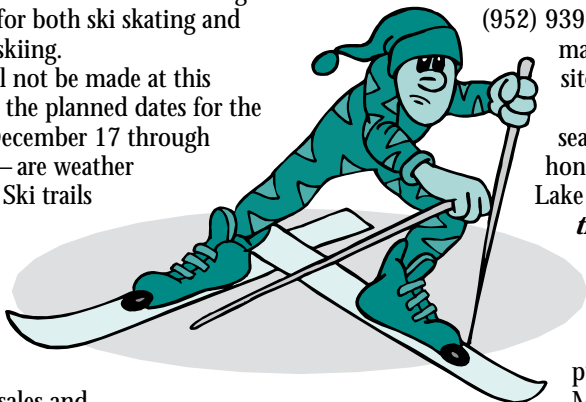


Ski Glen Lake Golf Course this season

The city of Minnetonka partners with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross country ski trail each winter at the Glen Lake Golf Course. 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 17 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 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 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. ☺

Outdoor skating rinks open Dec. 22

Skating rinks with warming houses are available at eight Minnetonka and six Hopkins park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will open Saturday, Dec. 22, and will remain open until Monday, Feb. 18. Call the weather hotline at (952) 939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates. For holiday and winter break hours, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8355.

Minnetonka rinks are at Boulder Creek, Covington, Gatewood, Glen Lake, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill parks. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 12 – 5 p.m.; and Mondays – Fridays, 4:30 – 9 p.m. Christmas Eve (Dec. 24): 12 – 5 p.m.; Christmas Day (Dec. 25): all sites closed. ☺

Outdoor ice rink volunteers needed

Since 2006, adult volunteers have allowed the city of Minnetonka to expand the operating hours at city warming houses beyond the regular operation schedule. More volunteers are needed for this season at Meadow, Covington, Spring Hill, Boulder Creek, Gro Tonka and McKenzie parks.



Volunteers must be at least 25 years of age and are responsible for opening and securing their assigned building, operating the rink lighting and building heating systems, completing required forms and regularly communicating with the Recreation Services Department. Volunteers are allowed to open their assigned warming house for extended use until 10 p.m. during days and times when the employee attendant is not scheduled. Because the warming houses are associated with outdoor ice rinks, the availability of ice and therefore volunteer hours is entirely weather dependent.

If interested in volunteering, or for more information, please contact the Recreation Services office at (952) 939-8203, or email Dave Johnson at djohnson@eminnetonka.com. Application materials can be found on the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com. ☺

News from the Williston Fitness Center

Don't sit, get fit in 2013!

The Williston Fitness Center offers an eight-week weight loss challenge called Don't Sit, Get Fit! Work with our fitness professionals and learn how to let go of old habits and replace them with new healthy ones, while losing weight and having fun!

For more information and program pricing visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation brochure for winter/spring 2013. Registration for the January – March fitness program starts in December.

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 fitness reimbursement. Stop by the Williston Fitness Center and fill out a new health/fitness enrollment form, and don't forget to bring your new insurance card and a voided check.

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

Recreation registration starts Dec. 3

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services winter-spring brochure was mailed to all residents in late November. Program registration for residents begins December 3, and open registration starts

December 17. Non-residents can purchase a copy of the recreation brochure for \$3 each by calling (952) 939-8203. The brochure is available to view online at www.eminnetonka.com. ☺



Follow us on Twitter!

Get your news delivered via "tweets!" Stay up to date on all the news that matters by following the city on Twitter: @MinnetonkaMN.

Holiday recycling reminders

Upcoming holidays may disrupt the recycling schedule, as follows:

Christmas Day: December 25

Residents living south of Minnetonka Boulevard and east of I-494 will have recycling collection delayed one day, to Wednesday, December 26.

New Year's Day: January 1

Residents living north of Minnetonka Boulevard and east of I-494 will have recycling collection delayed one day to Wednesday, January 2.

2013 Recycling Collection Calendar

Recycling contractor Allied Waste Services will mail out the 2013 Recycling Collection calendar in early December. Consider taping this calendar to the underside of your recycling cart lid for quick and easy reference throughout the year. The calendar will also be available at www.eminnetonka.com or at www.alliedwasteminnesota.com.

Store your trash, recycling carts

Over the past few months, the city has received nearly 300 complaints from residents regarding improper storage of trash and recycling carts by their neighbors.

A reminder that city ordinance requires 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. Please check the location of your trash and recycling carts — while they may be out of sight for you, that may not be the case for your neighbors.

Reducing salt use while keeping streets safe

The city of Minnetonka has been recognized as a leader in incorporating salt reduction strategies in its winter maintenance operation in order to protect the water quality of lakes, creeks and wetlands.

This year, the city will once again modify its current program to better monitor and reduce the amount of salt applied to roadways, while still keeping the streets safe. This is a win-win for water resources and for your wallet.

Here's what we're doing:

- **Incorporating electronic monitoring**
The city closely monitors the amount of salt applied on all streets throughout the city. Electronic sensor controls have been installed in trucks in order to gather information about when chemicals are applied, how much is applied and when the application started and stopped. This monitoring will assist supervisors in managing the amount of salt applied on the roadway. This snow season, all plow trucks with electronic monitoring will have real-time data. This tool will notify us immediately if there is an error with the equipment that could possibly distribute too much salt. We will also be able to check each truck as it is plowing to see that the appropriate pounds of salt per mile are being applied.
- **Expanding anti-icing techniques**
When conditions allow, a diluted liquid of salt brine will be applied to dry pavement prior to a snowfall. This light coating of chloride prevents ice

from sticking to and building up on the pavement during the snowfall, thus preventing ice build-up on the roads.

This allows for easier removal and the application of less salt, as compared to the amount that would be needed to remove compacted snow from the roads later, without the use of salt brine.

- **Eliminating bounce and scatter**
Since rock salt needs moisture to melt ice, pre-wetting the salt allows it to begin melting ice and snow almost immediately, instead of depending on activation from vehicle traffic or absorption from snow and ice on the ground. It also helps the salt stay where it's put, instead of "bouncing and scattering" around the roadway. Pre-wetting reduces the use of salt by 30 to 60 percent.

Pre-wetting road salt with salt brine is the standard practice for all Minnetonka snow routes. The majority of Minnetonka trucks are equipped with pre-wet equipment and all trucks operating in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District have pre-wetting equipment.

Here's how you can help:

- Slow down. No amount of anti-icing or plowing methods can make a January street as safe as one in July.
- Don't follow plow trucks too closely.
- Report any unsafe or icy areas to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Did you know?

- The effectiveness of salt is affected by the moisture content of the snow, the surface temperature of the roads, and air temperature. These conditions are used to determine the appropriate amount of salt applied to the roads.
- Salt is effective only at temperatures 15 degrees and above. When temperatures dip below 15 degrees the salt has to be treated. In order to reduce costs the city treats winter salt with a "hot mix" of magnesium chloride, organic beet juice and salt brine, which allow the salt to be effective to 10 degrees below zero.



Special thanks to Minnetonka's 2012 natural resources volunteers

The natural resources staff at Minnetonka Public Works thanks the many volunteers who contributed more than 1,200 hours to assist with more than 100 habitat restoration and water quality projects in 2012. Many projects simply wouldn't happen without these dedicated volunteers, whose donated time allows the city to expand projects beyond the capability of staff. Volunteers help stretch taxpayer dollars while helping city staff learn more about the changing conditions of Minnetonka's natural areas.



Hopkins HS American Legion baseball team

Group natural resource projects

Thank you to the following eight groups who assisted with one-time projects:

- **Employees of the Marsh** for planting more than 60 trees and shrubs in the Civic Center marsh woods west of the Minnetonka Community Center parking lot, and for helping water them throughout the summer.
- **Hopkins High School American Legion Baseball Team** for pulling garlic mustard and cutting buckthorn in the Civic Center woods at Minnehaha Place, north of Minnehaha Creek.
- **UnitedHealth Group staff** for helping with maintenance of Lone Lake Park rain gardens and plant cages.
- **Minnetonka High School Senior Serve students** for pulling garlic mustard in the tamarack wetland at Purgatory Park.
- **Minnetonka Middle School East students** for pulling garlic mustard at Victoria-Evergreen Park.
- **Minnetonka Kids Quest** for Arbor Day tree planting at Victoria-Evergreen Park.
- **Scout Troop 409** for pulling garlic mustard and weeds in Covington Park.

Individual contributions

A special thank you to the following individuals who made large contributions to improving city natural resources in 2012. Some volunteers worked in one park, while others worked all over the city.

- **Bill and Renate Sperber** for contributing the most hours of all restoration volunteers in 2012. They and those they led pulled nearly every square foot of garlic mustard in Purgatory Park in May and June, and led weekly volunteer sessions cutting buckthorn in the fall.
- **Randall Neal and family** for their on-going Kinsel Park habitat improvement, including dormant pruning, garlic mustard and weed control; maintenance of many native trees and shrubs planted in the last five years; watering; and plant caging.
- **Brett Kleist** for completing his Eagle Scout project at Jidana Park by making plant cages and reducing invasive species competition for 60 native plants.
- **Sarah Cornica** for completing her Girl Scout Gold Award service project by installing an optical viewer in Purgatory Park. She raised funds, donated and installed the viewer, led other Scouts, and put together an interpretive board featuring wildflowers and birds found in the park.



Minnetonka High School Senior Serve students

- **Heather & Brent Holm** for watering hundreds of plantings in Lake Rose Park, pulling garlic mustard in the spring, providing nearly solo maintenance during the summer, and spreading native plant seeds in open areas.
- **Mary Beth Pottratz**, master naturalist, for bringing the city's big tree register back to life.

Want to volunteer?

Want to help? We'd love to have you! Volunteers and groups are needed from March through November to assist with native habitat restoration on city land. Contact us now, and we'll put you on our list to contact in the spring. Our greatest need is in May and June when we pull garlic mustard for eight weeks, but many other needs exist. For more information, call the city of Minnetonka natural resource division at (952) 988-8423.

- **Jim Coleman**, a Minneapolis resident and master naturalist, who donated his time as the Lone Lake Park garlic mustard volunteer leader and dedicated plant puller.
- **Ken and Judy Molenaar and Barb Armstrong** for their regular weeding and maintenance of plantings at Green Circle Park.
- **Gary Kerber** for his ongoing Adopt-a-Spot garlic mustard and burdock control in Big Willow Park.
- **Larry Wade** for helping control a new invasive species, Japanese hedge parsley, in Victoria-Evergreen Park.
- **Fred Leverentz** for monitoring, maintaining and reporting on more than 20 bird nesting boxes at Purgatory Park.
- **Bobbie Nebel, John Riggle, Liz Schulz, Ingrid Welty and Jacque Zimmerman** for their dedicated time and roving labor working on multiple volunteer projects.



Mary Beth Pottratz with the largest known hackberry tree in Minnetonka. The tree is 37 inches in diameter.



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

<p>Mayor Terry Schneider (952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.</p> <p>City Manager Geraldyn Barone (952) 939-8200</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson (952) 939-8200 E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com Internet: www.eminnetonka.com</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com</p> <p>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1 Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1</p>
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ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

December
2012

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
						1	2 Holiday Open House at Burwell, 1 – 4 p.m. (<i>see below</i>)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20 Economic Development Authority Commission, 6 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
30	31						11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							25 Christmas Day, <i>city offices closed</i>

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.

Victorian holiday open house is Dec. 2

If you're already 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.

The house will be decorated in Victorian holiday fashion, and self-guided tours will be offered 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. The Burwell House is owned and operated by the city of Minnetonka.

Shop for the holidays at the Landing Shop

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. Through Dec. 22, the Landing Shop will have extended hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Landing Shop is a program of Minnetonka Senior Services.



Handmade baby clothes at the Landing Shop