

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
January 2011

Resist the urge to hibernate: attend these winter events!

CRAWL OUT FROM UNDER YOUR wool blanket, put down the hot chocolate and brave the cold to participate in these exciting events coming up in January and February!

Citizen Academy

Registration due January 7

What's the role of the city council? What are the city's subdivision and zoning regulations? What recreational opportunities does the city offer? These are just a few of the questions you'll be able to answer after attending the 2011 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over six Tuesday sessions, 7–9 p.m., Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1 and 8 at Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the sessions, you'll hear from the various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Also enjoy a short presentation on Minnetonka history by Betty Johnson, official city historian and long-time Minnetonka resident!

Graduates of the program — those who attend four or more sessions — receive special city council recognition. To enroll, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 7. While registration is open to both residents and non-residents, Minnetonka residents will be given priority should demand exceed the spaces available.

Family Fire Day (New!)

January 8, 12:30–2 p.m.

The Minnetonka Fire Department's "What If" program invites you to Family Fire Day Saturday, January 8, 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. See a firefighter dressed in full fire gear, as well as all the trucks in the station! Sparky the fire safety dog will be on hand for photos. Program is free. Call (952) 939-8331 for more information.



Caring Youth Awards

Nominations due February 4

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 2011 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 to honor the contributions of caring young people. This year's event is set for Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, 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. Nominations are due by Friday, February 4. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or contact Jacque Larson, Minnetonka community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8207.

State of the City

February 9, 7:30–9 a.m.

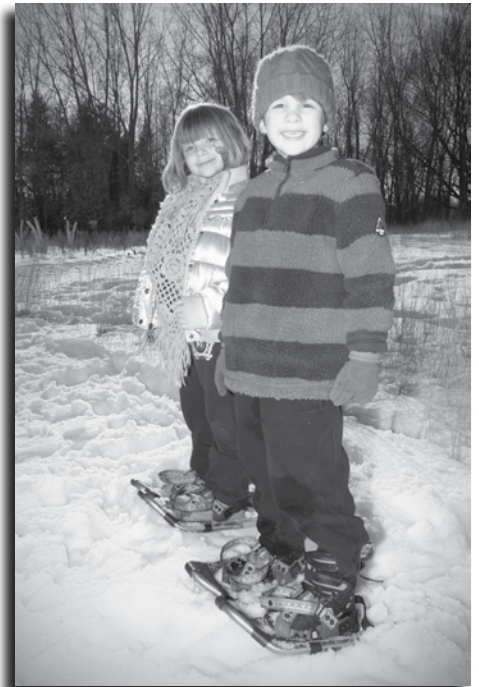
You're invited to the 2011 State of the City Address by Mayor Terry Schneider Wednesday, February 9, from 7:30–9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will

be served. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 19, to Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211.

Kids' Fest

February 13, 1–5 p.m.

Don't miss Kids' Fest, set for Sunday, February 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, Ice Arena and Williston Fitness Center. Enjoy dog sled rides, bingo with prizes, magic shows, face painting, ice sculpture demonstrations, s'mores by the fire, crafts, entertainment, open swimming, open batting cages, open skating, and more. For a complete schedule of activities, see the February *Minnetonka Memo*.



Home Remodeling Fair

February 27, 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 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. Look for more information in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit www.homeremodelingfair.com.

Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department



IN FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A “FLASHPOINT” is the temperature at which combustible materials may burst into flame. The flashpoints in this quarterly feature are not so volatile. Instead, 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.

Fire alarm fee reminder

Because the Minnetonka Fire Department is primarily a paid-on-call fire department, there are significant costs associated with response to fire alarm calls. Therefore, there is a \$250 charge for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm. The only exceptions are fire sprinkler water flow alarms and residents who call 9-1-1 to report a fire alarm sounding.

Calls for service

Through mid-November, the fire department responded to just over 1,400 calls for service. Calls included 19 building fires, 624 medical calls, 144 lift assists, 52 rescue calls, 47 natural gas leaks, 39 mutual aid requests, 88 “good intent” calls (for ex: smoke scares) and 176 fire alarm calls, among others.

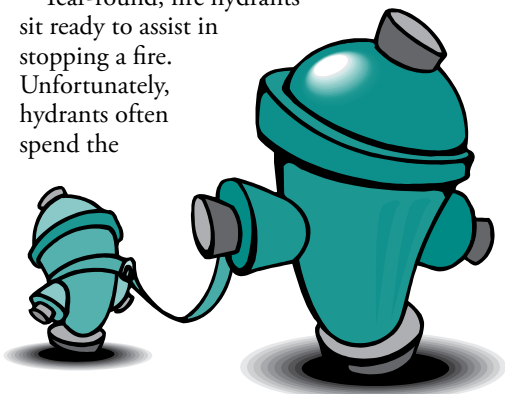
School programs

From September through November, using primarily the What If? program’s paid-on-call public educators, 71 fire safety presentations were given to more than 1,800 elementary students in every elementary school in Minnetonka.

Adopt a Hydrant

What’s red, made of steel and easy to forget about? Your closest fire hydrant!!

Year-round, fire hydrants sit ready to assist in stopping a fire. Unfortunately, hydrants often spend the



summer treated as eyesores and disguised with plants, while the winter months are spent buried under snow and ice. Then, in case of a fire, precious moments are wasted trying to access the hydrants.

Minnetonka has more than 3,500 hydrants. Keeping those hydrants accessible year-round with three

feet of clearance is impossible without your help. The Minnetonka Fire Department asks residents to adopt their nearest hydrant not only in the winter, but also in the summer. Help keep hydrants visible and accessible all year long—the house you save may be your own!

The “What If?” public education program and all of us at the Minnetonka Fire Department as well as the residents of Minnetonka wish to thank you in advance for helping us find our hydrants when they are needed most.



Be safe this winter

- Stay abreast of the latest weather forecasts, including winter storm watches and warnings.
- Properly winterize your vehicle with appropriate tires, fully charged battery, full windshield wiper fluid reservoir, etc. At the very least, have a snow and ice scraper in your car!
- If you are outside during storms or extreme cold, dress in layered clothing and avoid overexertion.
- 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. There is no such thing as 100% safe ice.
- If you are snowmobiling, avoid alcohol. Most snowmobile deaths are alcohol related. Take a snowmobile course offered by the Minnesota DNR or check with your snowmobile dealer.
- Heating fires are a major cause of residential fires in Minnesota. Turn off

portable heating devices when you are away from home or when you go to bed 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 winter. Check your heating systems and ensure your home has proper ventilation. 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-fired equipment. Detectors with digital readouts are highly recommended.

Keeping fireplaces safe

The Minnetonka Fire Department responds to many fires every year caused by improper disposal of fireplace ashes. These can all be prevented by following the few simple guidelines below. Enjoy those fires, but be safe!

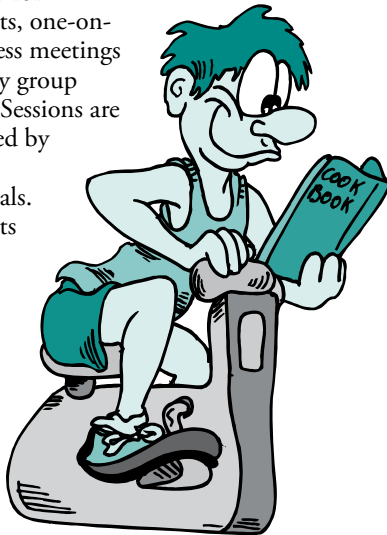
- Have your chimney swept at least once per year, and more often if you use your fireplace frequently.
- Be sure to open the flue before starting a fire, and leave it open until the fire is completely out.
- When cleaning your fireplace, be sure to place ashes in a metal container with a lid. Never use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



Take the Williston weight loss challenge

IF YOU MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION to lose weight, the Williston Fitness Center's weight loss program might be just what you need to ensure you reach your goal.

The 12-week weight loss program includes four nutritional and/or healthy living seminars, four 60-minute personal training sessions, 12 group fitness classes specifically for participants, one-on-one wellness meetings and weekly group meetings. Sessions are coordinated by health professionals. Participants also work on food choices and exercise outside of the program.



The program runs from January 10 through April 3. Program schedule includes:

- **Sunday, January 9, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**
Kick-off meeting at the Williston aerobics studio
- **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.**
Nutritional seminars
- **Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7–7:40 a.m. and Wednesdays, 5–6:30 p.m.**
Weekly wellness meetings (scheduled individually with each participant)
- Personal training sessions are **scheduled individually** with each participant.

Program costs are \$199 for Williston members; \$269 for Minnetonka, Hopkins or St. Louis Park residents; and \$299 for non-residents.

For more information or to register contact Samantha Hackbart, Williston Fitness Center assistant manager, at shackbart@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8372. Registrations are accepted through January 7. **Note:** *If medical approval is required, it must be obtained prior to the start of the program.*

Got music?

IF YOU HAVE A SONG IN YOUR HEART, THE Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) invites you to join a choral or instrumental ensemble in January. For those who play an instrument, MAM offers the Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra or Concert Band. Singers, consider the adult Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections of Minnetonka, and Senior Chorale as well as four Youth Choirs for grades K–12.

Spring Benefit Concert

Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Mtka

Minnetonka Youth Choirs with special guest Cantus, a male vocal chamber ensemble named MPR's 2010–11 Artists in Residence. Reserved tickets available through www.musicassociation.org. Adults: \$20; Students: \$15. Tickets purchased at the door are \$25. Call (952) 401-5954 for information.



Glen Lake Golf Course open for skiing

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS partnered once again with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross country ski trail for the 2010–11 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 is not made at this location, so the planned dates for the course—mid-December through March 15—are weather dependent. Ski trails are not lit. The golf center is open for ski rental, concession sales and restrooms. Ski trails and golf center are open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A season or daily pass is required for use of the Glen Lake trail. 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 are 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.

Handmade gifts at The Landing Shop

IF YOU NEED A UNIQUE gift, The Landing Shop is for you! Browse and buy handmade toys, doll clothes and furniture, sweaters, quilts, towels, booties and more. In January, The Landing Shop returns to its regular hours: Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (763) 591-4868 or visit www.eminnetonka.com (search "the landing shop"). The Landing Shop is a recreational program offered by the city of Minnetonka for area seniors.



Be prepared: When storms

STORMS CAN CAUSE A VARIETY OF ISSUES FOR MINNETONKA RESIDENTS, FROM DOWNED TREES TO POWER outages. This winter so far has been no exception, with storms causing an uncommon number of downed trees as well as extended power outages. Here's what you need to know before, during and after a storm.

All about trees: When the branches break

AFTER RECENT STORMS, MINNETONKA Public Works received lots of questions about who is responsible for maintaining trees, both before and after a storm. Here are a few of the most-asked questions, and the answers.

My boulevard tree has broken limbs that hang over the street and some that hang into my property. Who is responsible for that boulevard tree?

The city of Minnetonka has right-of-way easement along all city roadways, meaning the city does not own the land but has an easement for vehicle and pedestrian traffic, utilities, snow storage and other public uses such as a trail or sidewalk. The city maintains the right-of-way in order to protect anyone traveling along or on the roadway. When the city is notified of the problem, this includes trimming broken, split or hanging branches over the road; trimming up or lifting tree branches in order to allow safe passage of larger vehicles such as school buses, garbage trucks and snow plows; clearing intersection sightlines; removing debris in the roadway that may block traffic; and removing debris that has fallen along the roadway that will affect the city's snow and ice removal operations.

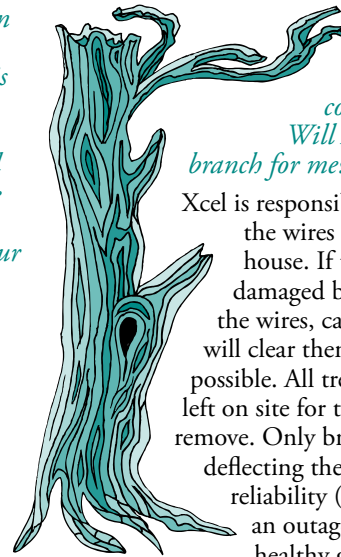
The boulevard tree is owned by the adjacent property owner who is responsible for any maintenance that may affect that private property

The house right behind mine has been vacant for several years. There is tree damage on the property following this last snow/sleet storm. On the back side of the lot the branch of a large pine tree has broken off and is lodged within the remaining branches of the tree. This branch has the potential to break and hit a shed at the back of our lot. What can be done?

A case like this is a civil issue between you and your neighbor or, unfortunately, your absentee neighbor. Notify the current owner of the problem in writing and document the situation with photos. Without permission from your neighbor you are not allowed to trespass on their property and remove the tree limb.

Imagine that the property line is a vertical wall. You may prune the portion of the offending branch that is hanging onto your property, but you are not allowed to remove any portion of the tree that does not extend over the vertical property line or the imaginary wall. You may trim the portion that hangs over the property boundary only if you do not cause harm to the tree and if you can perform the work from your side of the property.

Visit www.eminnetonka.com/public_works/natural_resources/forestry/identify_hazard_trees.cfm and click on "Trees and the Law" to learn more.



A tree branch is resting on the power line that connects to my house. Will Xcel trim this tree branch for me?

Xcel is responsible for maintaining the wires from a pole to a house. If there is a storm damaged branch or tree on the wires, call Xcel and they will clear them as soon as possible. All tree debris will be left on site for the homeowner to remove. Only branches that are deflecting the wire or threatening reliability (capable of causing an outage — not a normal, healthy growing tree rubbing or growing close to wires) will be removed. Please note that if power is already out in different areas of town it may take Xcel longer to respond.

My neighbor's tree has branches leaning on the power line that connects to my house. What should I do?

If a homeowner's service could be affected by a storm-damaged branch or tree (even if the tree or part of the lines are on someone else's property), they can call Xcel and report the issue. Xcel will look at it and if a hazard exists they will inspect and fix it.

How do I know if an overhead line is electrical, phone or cable?

Generally, lower wires are phone or cable lines and the highest one is a power line.

Call 1-800-895-1999 if you have a tree issue and your power is out; call 1-800-895-4999 if you have a tree issue and your power is on. Visit Xcel Energy's website at www.xcelenergy.com and type "trees" in the search bar for more information.

For information about phone and cable lines, call Qwest at 1-800-954-1211 or Comcast at 1-800-COMCAST (266-2278).

Questions about snowplowing?

VISIT www.eminnetonka.com and click on the snowplow on the left side of the page to learn all about snow removal in Minnetonka.



The main power lines (pole-to-pole connection) in my neighborhood run behind all of the houses. My neighbor's tree is leaning on the line and I am concerned that my neighborhood will have a power outage or, worse, a fire. Who should I call?

If you suspect a tree is contributing to a power outage in your area, call Xcel at 1-800-895-4999. They will look at the issue and assign a tree crew to trim or remove the tree if needed. Stay away from the tree until they arrive.

hit, what you need to know

A Q and A with Xcel Energy

XCEL ENERGY PROVIDED THE following information for residents regarding power outages.

When a power outage happens, what is Xcel Energy's power restoration process?

Xcel Energy's goal is to provide the most accurate information available while quickly and efficiently restoring power in a manner that upholds safe practices for both customers and utility workers.

Xcel Energy's restoration process gives top priority to situations that threaten public safety, such as live, downed wires. The remaining work is prioritized based on what will restore power to the largest number of customers most quickly.

For example, by repairing a single high-voltage transmission line, often power can be restored to tens of thousands of customers at once. After major lines have been re-energized, causes of outages can be more effectively tracked down along the lower-voltage distribution lines.

In contrast, repairing lines at the feeder level may result in restoring service to several hundred or a few thousand customers at once, instead of tens of thousands. And, if service restoration was started at the individual customer level first, it wouldn't be clear if the problem was fully solved until "upstream" power was restored (at the transmission level). This could be unsafe for customers and Xcel Energy crews.

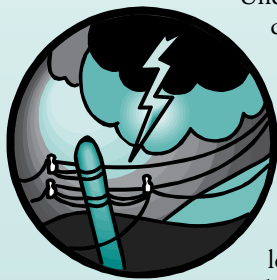
During severe snow, ice and wind storms, electric service can be disrupted to hundreds or thousands of customers all at once. When storms disrupt power to more than 100,000 customers, it may take several days to fully restore power, depending on the extent of damage and how easily Xcel Energy crews can access the damaged areas.

To report an electric outage call 1-800-895-1999. Links to Xcel Energy's restoration process and outage map are available through the city of Minnetonka

website at www.eminnetonka.com — click on "Power Outages" under "Services" on the right side of the home page.

Would electric service be more reliable if power lines were underground?

There are advantages and challenges with both overhead and underground lines.



Underground lines can still be damaged by an outside entity or weather or environmental issues, and can also experience cable faults and fail when certain pieces of equipment are affected. In addition, because they are buried, it can take much longer to locate and repair cables and equipment.

What should I know about standby generators?

Emergency standby generators can supply electricity to your home or business in the event of a power outage. They are powerful appliances and require extreme caution in installation, use and maintenance. Operating a standby generator can be useful during a power outage, but only if it is properly installed and maintained.

Improper installation and use of standby generators may violate state or local electrical codes and can severely endanger those working to restore your power. During power outages, Xcel Energy crews work from maps to locate disconnects on the system. Improperly connected generators may re-energize lines that otherwise would be dead, creating "back feed." Back feed occurs when electric power is introduced to the utility's power lines from generators with faulty connections. Lines expected to be de-energized are in fact live, and could potentially electrocute crew members attempting to make repairs.

Find more information about generators and power outage via the city of Minnetonka website at www.eminnetonka.com — click on "Power Outages" under "Services" on the right side of the home page. ☺

Who you gonna call?

KEEP THIS LIST HANDY SO YOU KNOW who to contact about a service outage!

Cable TV

Cable TV service in Minnetonka is provided by Comcast.

- **Phone:** 1-800-COMCAST (266-2278)
- **Website:** www.comcast.com

Internet

Broadband internet service in Minnetonka is provided by Comcast or by Qwest.

Comcast

- **Phone:** 1-800-COMCAST (266-2278)
- **Website:** www.comcast.com

Qwest

- **Phone:** 1-800-954-1211
- **Website:** www.qwest.com

Natural gas/carbon monoxide

If you suspect a natural gas leak (smells like rotten eggs), leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1 from another location or a cell phone to report a possible gas leak. If your carbon monoxide detector is sounding, call CenterPoint Energy to report a possible carbon monoxide leak.

- **General Info:** 1-800-722-9326
- **Gas Leaks:** 1-800-722-6821

Electricity

To report an electric outage call Xcel Energy.

- **Phone:** 1-800-895-1999
- **Website:** www.xcelenergy.com

Water/Sewer

Water and sewer services are provided by the city of Minnetonka. Reasons to contact the city about water and/or sewer include requesting water shut off due to a broken pipe; sewer backup; broken fire hydrant; broken water main; or water is shut off and you're not sure why.

Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. for questions related to water or sewer service. Outside of these hours, call 9-1-1 for any of the above reasons related to water and sewer. ☺

Minnetonka Script

14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 939-8393 • on the web at www.eminnetonka.com

January 2011

Exciting upcoming January events for active older adults

ARE YOU 55 OR OLDER? ARE YOU newly retired? Do you want to participate in engaging and lively activities that provide mental and/or physical exercise, and provide social interaction? Minnetonka Senior Services offers a wealth of exciting activities, 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. Below are a just a few of the classes, programs and activities included in the monthly *Script*.

Limited financial scholarships are available for Minnetonka residents age 55 and over, for events, classes and one-day trips. Call Minnetonka Senior Services at (952) 939-8393 to learn more. Scholarships are confidential.

Ongoing Groups

- Participate in morning group fitness classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Also available: yoga, line dance, tai chi chih, Zumba dance and biking and hiking groups.
- Enjoy computer club, garden club, community needs and issues group, and many other clubs.

Special Presentations

Navigating Medicare

January 11, 6:30–9 p.m.

Learn about Medicare. Cost: \$10, due by Jan. 7.

Community Connections

January 19, 10:15 a.m.

Chat with Tim Morin, Minnetonka's HOME program coordinator. RSVP for this free event by Jan. 18. Rolls and coffee provided — donations appreciated for the refreshments.

Macular Disease

January 19, 1 p.m.

Learn about macular disease and strategies for living with vision loss. Cost: \$2, due by Jan. 14.

The Secret History of North America

January 20, 1 p.m.

Geologist Scott Wolter presents on his book "The Hooked X: Key to the Secret History of North America." Cost is \$2, due by January 14.

Retirement Transitions

Mondays, Jan. 24–Feb. 27, 1–3 p.m.

Group discussions will be based on Trish Herbert's book, "Journeywell: A Guide to Quality Aging." Cost is \$25 with book; \$20 if you already own the book — due by Jan. 19.

IHL Caregiver Website Demo

January 26, 10:30 a.m.

Check out a new caregiver website and learn how to use it to access resources within the Minnetonka community. RSVP for this free event by Jan. 24.

Memoirs of a Superintendent

January 28, 1 p.m.

Learn about the distinctive history of the Minnetonka Schools when Dr. Don Draayer presents based on his book, "The Minnetonka School Story, 1971–75: Memoirs of Superintendent Dr. Don Draayer." Cost: \$2, due by Jan. 24.

Classes

Beginning Watercolor Workshop

January 26, 1–4 p.m.

Explore basic key techniques and tools of watercolor painting by following along with a step-by-step demonstration. Materials provided and included in cost of class. Cost: \$25, due by Jan. 19.

Defensive Driving Classes

Call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 to register.

Four-Hour Courses

- Jan. 20, 6–10 p.m.
- Jan. 27, 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Feb. 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Celebrations

Winter Party

January 13, 12 p.m.

Enjoy chili, cornbread and pineapple slaw. Cost: \$6, due by Jan. 10.

What's this?

THIS MONTH'S SENIOR activities are presented in the format of the *Minnetonka Script*, a monthly publication sent to adults 55 and over in the community who have requested it. Don't miss out on the great activities at the Minnetonka Senior Center — subscribe today to the *Minnetonka Script* by calling (952) 939-8369 or email ngorman@eminnetonka.com.

Using your cell phone responsibly

IN 2008, NEARLY 6,000 PEOPLE DIED AND more than 500,000 were injured nationwide in crashes that resulted from drivers using a cell phone or engaging in other distracted or inattentive behaviors.

Texting while driving in Minnesota is against the law for all drivers.

Talking on the phone while driving a vehicle is allowed in Minnesota for anyone who is at least 18 and who is not driving with a learner or provisional license. One exception to this law — bus drivers are not allowed to use cell phones while driving. When traveling, be aware that some states ban cell phone use while driving — visit www.ghsa.org for information.



If your children use cell phones, talk to them about appropriate cell phone use. According to the National Crime Prevention Council:

- 80% of teens said they either didn't have parental rules about Internet use or found ways around the rules
- 43% of teens have been the victim of cyber bullying in the last year.
- 81% of youth said that others cyber bully because they think it's funny

Share these guidelines with your children:

- Know and follow school rules for cell phones. Some schools ban students from carrying cell phones.
- Don't use cell phones to share photos or text messages that could embarrass yourself or others. A good rule of thumb is not to share photos or messages without the permission of those shown in the picture or of the original message sender.
- Ask permission before downloading or subscribing to anything on your cell phone.
- Don't talk or text with anyone you don't know. Tell a parent if someone is trying to contact you who is not welcomed.

Finally, if your child is being cyber bullied via cell phone, it's important to intervene quickly to put a stop to the unwanted activity. In most cases, blocking the number on the phone is an effective method of stopping the messages. ☺

MnPASS lanes offered on I-394, I-35W

THE MNPASS EXPRESS LANES OFFER motorists fast, safe, reliable travel on I-394 and I-35W. Solo motorists with a valid MnPASS account can choose to pay a toll to access the Express Lanes. Carpools (two or more occupants, motorcycles and buses) can use the Express Lanes free of charge.

Commuters can open a prepaid MnPASS account in less than 10 minutes online at www.mnpass.net or by calling the MnPASS Customer Service Center at 1-866-EZ-RIDE4 (1-866-397-4334). A MnPASS welcome kit will arrive in the mail with easy instructions on how to install the transponder in a vehicle. The transponder

will provide motorists access to the MnPASS Express Lanes on both I-394 and I-35W.

For more information about MnPASS, visit www.mnpass.net, call 1-866-EZ-RIDE4 or visit the MnPASS Customer Service Center, 2055 Lilac Drive North, Golden Valley. ☺



Got ash? Diversify with the 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 over-planted 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 for a community such as absorbing storm water runoff, preventing erosion, providing energy savings, cleaning the air, providing habitat and food for birds and wildlife and beautifying our 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. Between five and 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 to learn more about the trees offered. Some species sell out quickly, so plan to send your order as early as possible!

For questions call (952) 988-8400 or check the city's website. If you are associated with a townhome, please plan to call prior to placing your order. ☺

City continues public tree inventory

THIS WINTER THE CITY OF MINNETONKA continues its inventory of trees in the right-of-way, park trees and trees on city out lots. This inventory will identify species and size classifications and will help the city better prepare to manage emerald ash borer and other tree issues. Visit the city website at www.eminnetonka.com and search "emerald ash borer" to learn more. ☺

minnetonka memo

January 2011



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

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| <p>Mayor Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.</p> <p>City Manager John Gunyou.....(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 Amber Greves... (952) 931-3960 agreves@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) 817-3713 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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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

January
2011

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations. |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 | 5 Park Board, 7 p.m. 20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 24 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 10 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 27 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m. |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m. 31 City Council, 6:30 p.m. |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, city offices closed |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | |

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 Web site by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Staying informed about city projects

THE CITY REGULARLY RECEIVES applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the city's website. If you'd like to stay informed, visit "MyMinnetonka" at www.eminnetonka.com—click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for information. ∞

Reflections Award winners to be honored

THE 2011 REFLECTIONS AWARD winners and honorable mentions will be recognized by the Minnetonka City Council at its Monday, January 10, regular meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

This year's winners are **Judy Elling**, Resource West executive director, and **Cathy Maes**, ICA Foodshelf executive director, who were jointly nominated for the collaboration between their two organizations; **Jean McSwiggen**, who has led an exercise class at the Minnetonka Senior Center three times per week for the

past 26 years; and **Ruth Stricker**, founder and owner of The Marsh: A Center for Balance and Fitness.

This year's honorable mentions are the **West Suburban Teen Clinic**, a nonprofit organization that serves young people, their parents and the general community in western Hennepin, Carver and Scott counties; and **Tour de Tonka**, an annual Minnetonka Community Education multi-distanced bicycle ride through Lake Minnetonka communities.

Look for award presentation photos and more information about the award winners in the February *Minnetonka Memo*. ∞

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

