

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
September 2011

## Absentee voting starts September 23

This year's general election is set for Tuesday, November 8. The four city of Minnetonka ward council positions, as well as school board races, will be on the general election ballot.

Absentee voting is available for voters who are unable to get to the polling place on Election Day, November 8, due to absence from the precinct, illness or disability, religious observance or service as an election judge in another precinct.

### How do I vote absentee?

Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail. Absentee ballots will be available beginning September 23. Absentee voting continues through November 7.

- **In person:** Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended absentee voting hours will be available Saturday, November 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, November 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **By mail:** Absentee voting may also be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day (November 8) for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery. The first step to vote absentee by mail is to complete an application. Applications may be obtained by calling city hall, through the

city website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or by faxing a request to (952) 939-8244. Upon receipt of an application, the city will mail a ballot with instructions.

### Pre-registering to vote

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote on Election Day at the polls. However, the lines can be long, so it is to your advantage to register before Election Day.

Pre-registration for the November 8 election closes October 18 to allow the county time to update the precinct voter lists for Election Day. You will need to register if you:

- Have never registered.
- Have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted.
- Have not voted in four years.

To receive a voter registration application form, or for more information about the election, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200, or visit the city website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

A sample ballot will be posted on the city's website as soon as one is available. If you don't have internet access, a sample ballot will be posted in the city hall lobby at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. ☺

## Williston Center hosts fall events

Visit the newly renovated Williston Fitness Center for the following events this September!

### Open House

Sept. 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Participate in free activities for all ages at the Williston Fitness Center Open House Sunday, September 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your gear to work out, swim or climb in the Treehouse (socks required).

### Tuesday Tot Time

1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 8 – 11 a.m.

While the older kids are in school, bring your little ones to swim and play in the splash pad or climb in the Treehouse. Tuesday Tot Time will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., starting this September. Adult admission is free with a paid child admission.

The Williston Fitness Center is owned and operated by the city of Minnetonka and is located at 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka. ☺



A portion of the Williston Treehouse.  
Photo courtesy of Jason Stenvold

## Farmers' Market continues this fall

The Minnetonka Farmer's Market takes place every Tuesday through September 27, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot, located at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Visit vendors selling produce, all-natural meat, baked and canned goods, salsa, maple syrup, honey, bread, pet treats, snack mixes, soups, bread, sauces, apples and crafts.

Parking is available in the city hall parking lot or the Ice Arena A parking lot.

For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺





# News for Neighbors

## From the Minnetonka Police Department

News for Neighbors appears quarterly in the *Minnetonka Memo* with new for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- Nearly **9,000 residents attended 163 parties during Minnetonka Night for Neighbors August 2.** In addition, 120 events collected 10,600 pounds of food for the ICA food shelf. The winning neighborhood, collecting 649 pounds of food, was Stoney Bridge Court. They won 40 cruise passes on the Queen of Excelsior, provided by the ICA food shelf.
- City Open House is October 11**  
Visit the police department during the Minnetonka Fire Department and City Open House Tuesday, October 11, from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Take a close look at police department vehicles on display in front of city hall and visit with members of the city's SWAT unit. Then take a tour of the police department jail, where kids receive a free trick-or-treat bag (while supplies last). Be sure to bring along your cameras for photo opportunities with McGrub the Crime Dog!



Open House: Tuesday, October 11, 5 – 8 p.m.

- Minnetonka Police Officer Shannon Odegaard has been named Officer of the Year by the Glen Lake Optimists.** Since being hired in September 2005, Officer Odegaard has served in the department's traffic unit and as an advisor for the department's Police Explorer program. He is also responsible for training and mentoring high school

students who have an interest in law enforcement. In 2009, Officer Odegaard became the first Minnetonka police officer to be selected as a member of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Honor Guard (LEMA), an organization working to honor Minnesota law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty.



Police Officer Shannon Odegaard

### Join Minnetonka's Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a police-community partnership that promotes a safe environment. It is also one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime in your community.

#### What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program supported by the Minnetonka Police Department. Residents are trained to recognize and report suspicious activity in their neighborhood. Personal safety and home security techniques are practiced by residents in the neighborhood. The benefits of Neighborhood Watch are many:

- Neighborhood Watch street signs are posted in participating neighborhoods warning that suspicious activity will be reported.
- Crime alerts and notices are distributed to Watch Captains to be sent to the Watch Group.

- The police department informs Watch members about trends in security and safety.

#### How does a Neighborhood Watch start?

Starting a Watch group is easy as 1, 2, 3:

- At least 50% of your neighborhood must be interested in participating in Neighborhood Watch.
- Neighbors attend a meeting with a police representative to learn about Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention techniques.
- A Watch Captain is selected to represent the neighborhood.

#### Who can be involved?

Any community resident can join—whether you live in a single-family home, rent an apartment or own a condo in your neighborhood, you can benefit from the Neighborhood Watch program.

For more information on getting a Neighborhood Watch started in your area call Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka Police Department crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.



#### Minnetonka Police ask, "How are we doing?"

Employees of the Minnetonka Police Department are dedicated professionals committed to creating a safe environment in which to live, work and attend school. To that end, we encourage feedback from the public and would like to hear about your interaction with police department personnel. If you recently required the service of the police department, please share your experience with us by emailing [policefeedback@eminnetonka.com](mailto:policefeedback@eminnetonka.com). Your input will go directly to Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet. If you would like to be contacted by Chief Raquet, please indicate that in your comments along with your contact information. ☺

## MAM presents “Let’s Dance”

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) invites interested musicians to visit MAM’s website at [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org) to learn more about the youth choir program, three adult choral ensembles, the symphony and civic orchestras and the concert band. For more information, call (952)401-5954. Upcoming performances include:

**Sunday, September 25, 3 p.m.**  
**Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7,  
Minnetonka**

Under the direction of Dan Geldert, the Minnetonka Concert Band presents its “Let’s Dance” concert featuring Gliere’s *Russian Sailor’s Dance*, Faure’s *Pavanne* and Arnold’s *Four Scottish Dances* and much more. Free-will donations at the door. ☺

## Historical Society hosts fall meeting

The Minnetonka Historical Society hosts its annual fall meeting Tuesday, October 4, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Irene Stemmer, chair of the city of Wayzata Heritage Preservation Board, will give a presentation of the history of Bushaway Road and the surrounding neighborhood.

For more information visit the Minnetonka Historical Society website at [www.minnetonka-history.org](http://www.minnetonka-history.org). ☺

## Recreation offers new e-newsletter

Register today for Get Active, the new Recreation Services e-newsletter! *Get Active* includes updates on city facilities, new program offerings, registration deadlines and upcoming special events. Don’t miss out on the latest recreation information! Sign up for the *Get Active* distribution list at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or by calling Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. ☺

## Adults, get active with September activities!

Do you want to participate in engaging and lively activities that provide mental and/or physical exercise, and provide social interaction? Below is just a sample of the exciting activities offered each month for adults, 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or contact Nicole Gorman at [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8369.

### Special Events

#### Tonka Brass Music Variety Show

September 12, 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner and entertainment provided. Cost is \$6, due by Sept. 7.

#### Fall Fitness Fest

Sept. 13 & 14  
Enjoy the second Fall Fitness Fest program. Cost is \$10 for two days of activities, a light breakfast on Tuesday and lunch on Wednesday. Registration deadline is Sept. 9. Call (952) 939-8393 for information.

#### Community Connections

September 19, 10:15 a.m.  
Enjoy a conversation with Nicole Gorman, senior and general programs manager for the city of Minnetonka. Bring your questions about the senior center! RSVP for this free event by Sept. 16.

#### Ride Buses & Trains with Confidence

September 19, 1 p.m.  
Metro Transit’s Tony Elia will give a presentation on how to use the bus and train systems. Cost is \$2, due by Sept. 16.

#### Navigating Medicare

September 20, 6:30–9 p.m.  
This class is open to anyone who wants to learn more about Medicare. Cost is \$10 (includes materials), due by Sept. 16.

#### What’s in Your Suitcase?

September 26, 10:30 a.m.  
Author Chuck Tindell discusses how to pack important life traits in your suitcase. Snacks provided. Cost is \$5, due by Sept. 23.

#### CareNextions

September 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Learn about a caregiving tool. Register for this free program by Sept. 23. ☺

#### Journey of an Orphan Train Rider

September 28, 10:30 a.m.  
Learn about the orphan trains that ran from 1854 – 1929. Snacks provided. Cost is \$5, due by Sept. 23.

#### Prince & the Nanny: The Life of Prince Harald

September 29, 1 p.m.  
Learn about the life of Prince Harald, by author Odell Bjerkness. Snacks provided. Cost is \$5 due by Sept. 29.

### Defensive Driving Classes

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

#### Four-Hour Courses

September 8, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
September 27, 6–10 p.m.  
Refreshments provided (no meal).  
Cost: \$20 each.

#### Eight-Hour Course

September 13 & 15, 6–10 p.m.  
Refreshments provided (no meal).  
Cost: \$20. ☺

## Free caregiving event is September 10

If you’re a caregiver for a friend, relative or spouse, or if you expect to fill that role in the future, don’t miss “Caregiving: A Road Map to Success” Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Enjoy a vendor fair and door prizes, as well as the following featured speakers:

- John Gunyou, Minnetonka City Manager
- Warren Wolfe, Star Tribune
- Jan Malcom, Courage Center
- Annette Sandler, Jewish Family & Children’s Services of Minneapolis

Event is free and hosted by the Minnetonka Senior Center. For more information call (952) 939-8393 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Identify potential bus service changes

**D**o you ride the bus or wish to use the bus for commuting to work or school, or for shopping, appointments or recreation? Do you have ideas on changes that could be made to the bus system in Minnetonka?

Metro Transit, in cooperation with the city of Minnetonka, will be conducting a study to identify potential bus service changes in the city. This study will build upon the city's transit vision and goals, which were recently developed in a separate, city-led study.

Public participation throughout the study is encouraged. Currently, comments and feedback on the bus system in Minnetonka, including the locations of bus routes and schedule times, are being solicited. Initial service recommendations will be presented next spring in public meetings, followed by a period of additional public feedback on proposed changes. Implementation of final service changes is scheduled for late 2012.

To provide comments and to receive regular study updates, visit the study's website at [metrotransit.org/minnetonka-study](http://metrotransit.org/minnetonka-study) or call (612) 373-3333. ☺

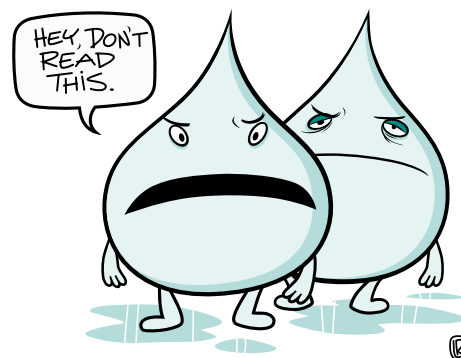
## Photo contest entries due Sept. 9

**A**s announced in the August *Minnetonka Memo*, the city and the Minnetonka Community Commission are hosting the annual photo contest in conjunction with the October 11 Fire Department and City Open House. All photos must be submitted by Friday, September 9, at 4:30 p.m. Rules and entry form are available in the August *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and try out our pilot program for submitting photos online. Emailing your photos? Simply include the entry form information in the body of the email. For more information call (952) 939-8207 or email [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com). ☺



## Test your water wisdom with this quiz!

**F**or the past few months, articles have appeared in the *Minnetonka Memo* and in city utility bills with information on how to conserve water. Now it's time to test your knowledge!



**1. The average family of four in the U.S. uses about how many gallons of water per day?**

- A. 50
- B. 100
- C. 250
- D. 400

**2. How much water can you save per day by turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime?**

- A. Up to 2 gallons
- B. Up to 4 gallons
- C. Up to 8 gallons
- D. Up to 6 gallons

**3. In the average household, which of the following wastes the most water per day?**

- A. Running the tap while washing dishes
- B. Using a garbage disposal
- C. A leaky toilet
- D. Long showers

**4. Which of the following uses less water?**

- A. Washing dishes under a running tap
- B. Washing dishes in a fully loaded automatic dishwasher without pre-rinsing

**5. How much water used for irrigating lawns and gardens, on average, is wasted due to overwatering and evaporation?**

- A. 50%
- B. 25%
- C. 15%
- D. 10%

**6. A water-efficient irrigation system may include which features?**

- A. Drip irrigation
- B. Moisture sensors
- C. Rain shut-off device
- D. All of the above

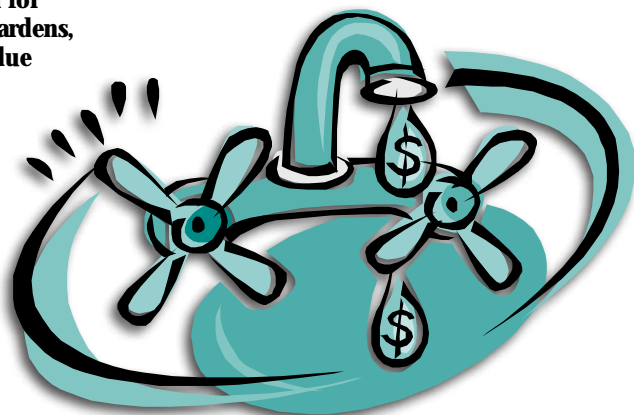
**7. High-efficiency washing machines save about how much water per load compared to traditional models?**

- A. 2-5 gallons
- B. 7-10 gallons
- C. 11-13 gallons
- D. 14 gallons or more

**8. Easily corrected household water leaks account for what percentage of the average water bill?**

- A. 2%
- B. 4%
- C. 6%
- D. 8%

(answers on p. 7)



## Register today for youth & adult basketball

### Youth Basketball (grades 2 – 6)

Join the Hopkins-Minnetonka Youth Basketball League today and be a part of this local tradition. The program is an in-house recreational league for boys and girls in grades 2 – 6 living in the Hopkins — Minnetonka area. Separate boys and girls teams are formed by school and grade. Games will be played on Saturdays starting December 3 and concluding on January 28 for second-graders, and February 18 for grades 3 – 6. Grades 3 – 6 will have one weekday evening practice starting the week of November 7. For second grade only, practice will be held on Saturday before each game starting December 3. Call (952) 939-8203 to register.



- **Deadline is Friday, Oct. 14**  
Registrations received after October 14 will be placed on a waiting list. Fee administered if placed on a team from the waiting list, bringing the total cost to: Grade 2, \$65; Grades 3 – 6, \$105.

### First Grade Little Dribblers

This program will introduce boys and girls to the game of basketball through activities and group games that focus on skill development and fun! Development of skills and introduction to the rules of the game will prepare the young player for the youth basketball league starting in second grade. Sessions will be led by instructors from Minnesota Developmental Basketball. Fee includes a Little Dribblers t-shirt.  
Saturdays: December 10, 17, January 7, 14, 21, & 28, Hopkins West Junior High, 9 a.m. or 10 a.m., \$45. Call (952) 939-8203 to register.

### Adult Basketball Open Gym

Adult basketball open gym will take place Wednesday evenings for ages 18 and older beginning October 5 and running through February 8 at the Hopkins West Junior High Activity Structure. The program is from 6:30 – 9 p.m. There is no open gym on November 23, December 21 or 28.

Participants are asked to bring their own basketballs. The cost is \$5 per adult, per night, but participants may purchase a 15-session punch card for \$60. Advance registration is not required.

This basketball program consists of pickup games that are played in a social, yet competitive atmosphere. Participants are asked to come dressed to play even though locker rooms are available if needed.

### Adult Basketball Five-Player League

A five-player, organized adult basketball league will be conducted Wednesday evenings starting November 2. This 12-week program offers three divisions of ability with a chance to participate in a state tournament. Games will be played using full-size courts at Minnetonka High School, the Lindbergh Center and the Hopkins West Junior High Activity Structure. Call Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register by phone or visit us online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Preschool activities offered this fall

Looking for fun activities for your preschool child? Check out these fun opportunities below, offered through Minnetonka Recreation Services. For more information or to register, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8203.

### Science Explorers

- **Magical Magnets**  
*Tuesday, September 27, 12:45 – 2 p.m.*  
Explore the forces of magnets with fun, hands-on experiments. Ages 3.5 – 6.  
**Cost:** \$12

### Kindermusik

- **Village**  
*Tuesdays, Sept. 20 – Jan. 10, 9 – 9:45 a.m.*  
Through a blend of creative movement, vocal play, instrument exploration, and literature, baby's growth and development are stimulated and all senses engaged. Ages birth – 18 months (with adult). **Cost:** \$130, with a materials fee of \$60 due to instructor at first class.
- **Our Time**  
*Tuesdays, Sept. 20 – Jan. 10, 10 – 10:45 a.m.*  
This class encourages children to be curious and creative with music. Ages 18 months – 3 years (with adult). **Cost:** \$140, with a materials fee of \$55 due to instructor at first class.
- **Imagine that**  
*Tuesdays, Sept. 20 – Jan. 10, 11 – 11:45 a.m.*  
This class is for the imaginative preschooler who is ready for their own class. Plenty of activities are integrated in this class. Ages 3 – 5 (children only). **Cost:** \$150, with a materials fee of \$65 due to instructor at first class.

### KidCreate Studio

- **Puppy Love Art Class**  
*Thursday, October 20, 9 – 11:30 a.m.*  
Children will create a stuffed puppy complete with a customized collar and puppy ears. Every dog needs a house so they'll make that too! Ages 3 – 6 years.  
**Cost:** \$24. ☺



## Tour Burwell House in September

Looking for a way to get in touch with Minnesota's past? There's still time to visit Minnetonka's own Charles H. Burwell House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a treasure loaded with stories about Minnetonka's early history.

The Burwell House is open for tours from 12–4 p.m. Saturdays only in September (September 3, 10, 17, 24), before closing for the season. Be sure to tour the new stone wall on the property, and search for the hidden icons representing Minnetonka's history!

Tours are free and no reservations are required—just stop by the house at 13209 E. McGinty Road, Minnetonka. Parking is available on the grounds, the main door of the house is handicap accessible, and the entire house is air-conditioned. Want to bring a group for a special tour? Arrange a time by calling Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or email [Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com](mailto:Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com). ☺



## Find gifts galore 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. The shop is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka (northwest corner of I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad). For more information call (763) 591-4868 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (search "the landing shop"). The Landing Shop is a recreational program offered by the city of Minnetonka for area seniors. ☺



## Stay safe when using trails and roads

With fall just around the corner, more and more people are out enjoying the trails and roads in Minnetonka.

Minnetonka trails are shared by bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers and dog walkers. Please respect the rights of others when using the trails, and follow these tips for a safe and enjoyable trail experience.

- Pass on the left, and only when safe. Pass in single file.
- When overtaking fellow trail users, warn them by activating a bell, horn or whistle and saying, "Passing on your left" or "passing."
- Yield to slower trail users.
- Proceed at a reasonable speed (15 mph maximum speed on trails).
- Dogs must be on a short leash (six feet or less).
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Dispensers with bags for picking up pet waste are placed along the trail. Please use them!
- Travel on the right side of the trail. If you stop, move off the trail.
- Obey all traffic signs.
- Stop at road crossings and look for approaching and turning vehicles.
- Signal your turn.
- Proceed slowly around blind curves, steep hills and bridges.
- Watch for wet or slippery surfaces, sand, acorns, rocks or washouts.

- Travel in pairs if possible.
- Trails close at 10 p.m.

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. For comments or concerns about the trails, or to receive a trails map, call (952) 988-8400. Enjoy the trails!

### While on the roads

Many walkers and bicyclists use city roads. To stay safe, please follow these tips.

When **biking** on the road:

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Watch for turning vehicles to make sure they see you.
- Walk your bike across busy intersections.
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Obey traffic laws, including stop signs and traffic lights.

When **walking** on the road:

- If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk on the road, walk facing traffic.
- Wear bright-colored clothing.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep away from parked cars so drivers can see you.
- Cross only at intersections or crosswalks—never in the middle of the block.
- If walking a pet, pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. ☺

## Register now for Fall Family Festival


October 23, 1–3 p.m.

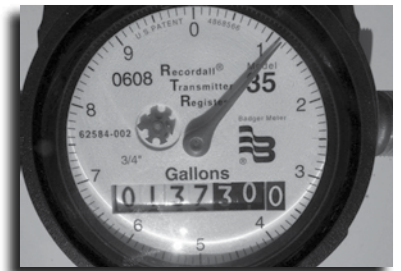
**Registration required:**  
\$8 per person (adults free)

Enjoy a day of outdoor fall fun at the amphitheater on the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Activities include musical entertainment, storytellers, hayrides, face painting, pumpkin painting, hot apple cider by the fire, games, treats and more! Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Registration is required for this event. All pre-registered participants will receive a treat bag. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Adults are free! In case of rain, the event will be moved into the Community Center. ☺



## Answers to the water wisdom quiz (from p. 4)

1. **D** It may seem hard to believe, but the average person uses 100 gallons of water a day — enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses. This water use can easily be cut by as much as 30% by taking a few simple steps to use water more efficiently.
2. **C** The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of 2 gallons per minute. By turning the tap off, you can save up to 240 gallons of water per person each month.
3. **C** A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! To test for toilet leaks, place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.
4. **B** To waste the least amount of water in the kitchen, operate your automatic dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Filling the sink or a bowl instead of running water can save an average of 25 gallons.
5. **A** Water-efficient irrigation systems help save water, potentially more than 11 billion gallons per year across the U.S. That's equal to the amount of water used by 3,200 garden hoses flowing constantly for one year!
6. **D** Inefficient or poorly maintained irrigation systems can waste water and money each month. Look for sprinklers that produce droplets — not mist. Systems with rain shutoff devices and moisture sensors reduce excess watering and runoff.
7. **D** High-efficiency washing machines use less than 27 gallons of water per load, compared to traditional models that use an average of 41 gallons. To achieve an even greater savings, adjust water levels in the washing machine to match the size of the load.
8. **D** Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water each year. If you're unsure if you have a leak, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak. 



Quiz courtesy of *WaterSense*, a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help families and businesses realize they can reduce water use by 20 to 30 percent through a few simple measures. For more information visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## Work continues on Hwy. 169 and Bren Road interchange project

Significant progress has been made on the expansion of the interchange at Highway 169 and Bren Road leading into the Opus 2 business park in Minnetonka.

The Bren Road bridge was removed in late July, and by mid-August the piers,


abutments, wing walls and girders for the new bridge were completed. Decking was scheduled to be installed by the end of August. The bridge is expected to be back in service by November 2011.

Construction of new highway on- and off-ramps at Bren Road is nearly finished,



with the northeast, southeast and southwest ramps scheduled for completion in August, and the northwest ramp set to be done in September. With the exception of the southwest ramp, which closed completely for two weeks in late August and early September, these ramps remained in service throughout construction.

The entire project is expected to be complete by November 2011, with the exception of some minor landscaping and finishing work that will be done in the spring of 2012.

To receive updates on this project and to see detour maps for the area, visit [www.169bren.com](http://www.169bren.com) or follow the project on Twitter: [@169Bren](https://twitter.com/@169Bren). Questions may be directed to [169bren@eminnetonka.com](mailto:169bren@eminnetonka.com) or to (952) 908-7099. This project is being led by the city of Minnetonka, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the city of Edina. 



Above, demolition of Bren Road bridge. To view video of the demolition, visit [www.169bren.com](http://www.169bren.com).

## Learn how to tackle buckthorn this fall

Attend a fall buckthorn workshop so you still have time before leaves fall to take your knowledge to the woods and find native species among the buckthorn. Don't know what this means? Come to a workshop and find out!

You'll learn:

- How gradual, prioritized removal is usually much better for a site than an "understory clear-cut," especially if garlic mustard is present.
- How to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal.
- About forest structure and re-forestation using native plants indigenous to our region.

During these free workshops, Minnetonka Natural Resource Specialist Janet Van Sloun will emphasize measures to save high-value remnant plant species, prevent erosion on slopes and protect selected plants from deer. Handouts provided.

Workshops are scheduled for the following dates and times. Please register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 988-8400.

- **ursday, Sept. 22, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Community Room,**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**  
 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard,  
 Minnetonka
- **ursday, Oct. 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Boards and Commissions Room,**  
**Minnetonka City Hall**  
 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard,  
 Minnetonka ☺



Above, a buckthorn stump

## Fall: it's not just for raking leaves

For many people, fall yard care means one thing: raking leaves. But did you know that fall is one of the best times to restore or establish a lawn, plant trees and shrubs or start composting? Use the tips below to help improve your yard now and make next spring more rewarding.

### Seed the soil

Most turf grasses used in Minnesota are considered "cool season" grasses and grow best in spring or fall when the air is cool and the soil is moist and warm. Spread grass seed evenly by hand or with a lawn spreader and gently rake into the soil surface. If establishing a lawn or covering a large area, a thin layer of straw mulch may be needed to help retain the seed and prevent erosion. Erosion control blanket may be needed on slopes or areas with occasional water flow. Using a plug aerator on an existing lawn can help increase the ability of the soil to absorb and retain moisture and nutrients, improving the health of your lawn. If needed, add seed following aeration. Sod is a fast alternative to seed for sunny areas. Choose fine fescue seed mixes for shady areas or consider lawn alternatives.

### Plant trees and shrubs

Trees and shrubs make great lawn alternatives and add beauty and diversity to a yard. Woody plants are available for

almost every growing condition from full sun to shade and from wet to dry. Select native tree and shrub species to attract and feed birds and pollinating insects. Apply a 3- to 4-inch layer of wood mulch around new plantings to help retain moisture and reduce weed maintenance. Consider some shade-tolerant, non-woody groundcovers such as wild ginger, violets, columbine, ferns or others to fill in the spaces. Water new plants deeply as needed to keep the soil moist until the ground freezes — this will help the plants survive the winter.

### Compost leaves

When composted and incorporated into the soil, leaves contain nutrients that can be beneficial for lawns, plantings beds or vegetable gardens. The simplest way to compost leaves is to mulch them into the lawn with a mower. However, be sure to shred them sufficiently so grass is exposed and the lawn doesn't smother. To compost leaves, combine some grass clippings, vegetable peels, manure or another nitrogen source with the leaves and turn periodically to ensure even decomposition. In the spring, till compost into the garden to improve the soil, spread it among plants to control weeds and hold moisture, or mix it with some grass seed to create a lawn patch mix. ☺



## Fire fighters visit local schools this fall

September means it's time for two things: the Minnesota State Fair and back to school! Public educators Sara Ahlquist and Jim Lundeen from the Minnetonka Fire Department "What if?" fire and life safety program will be in Minnetonka classrooms this



fall teaching fire and life safety awareness. Please review with your child your own fire safety plans, including escape planning, calling 9-1-1 without a landline, and checking your smoke alarms. We look forward to seeing your children soon! ☺





## 2011 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Fall Leaf Drop-Off Program

## Open September 26 – November 20

### 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 (same as the brush drop-off hours):

- **Mondays:** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14**
- **Tuesdays:** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Sept. 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15**
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19**

Expanded Friday and Sunday fall leaf drop-off hours:

- **Fridays:** 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Nov. 4, 18 (closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day)**
- **Sundays:** 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Nov. 6, 13, 20**

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 ½" in diameter are acceptable with leaves. Anything larger than ½" 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 (see article on p. 7).

## County medicine collection events are Sept. 24, Oct. 8

Hennepin County is offering residents the opportunity to properly and safely dispose of unwanted, unused and expired medicines free of charge at these upcoming Saturday medicine collection events.

**Sept. 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**7250 Hwy. 7, St. Louis Park**

**Directions:** From the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Louisiana Ave., go south on Louisiana Ave. Turn right (west) onto Lake St. Turn right into event site — parking lot in the SW quadrant of Hwy. 7 and Louisiana Ave.

**Oct. 8, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Hennepin County Public Works — Orono Facility, 3880 Shoreline Drive, Orono**

Household medicines will be accepted, including prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, supplements and pet medications. All

## Brush drop-off closes Nov. 20

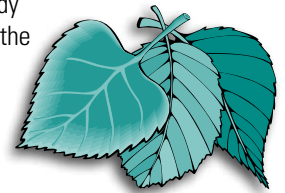
The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. This service is only available to Minnetonka residents. Proper I.D. proving residency is required each time a resident 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 Nov 20, 2011. For more information call (952) 988-8430.



forms of medicine will be accepted, including ampoules, blister packs, capsules, creams, cylinders, gels, inhalers, IV bags, patches, pills, powders, sprays, vials, etc.

The event is a drive-through service. When you arrive, follow the signs, stay in your car and stay in line — event staff will assist you. Also:

- Keep medications in the original packaging so they can be identified. If the medicine has been removed from the original container, put it in a clear plastic bag and write the name and dosage of the medicine on the bag, if you know it.
- Put all bottles/packages of medication in a larger, clear plastic bag.

For more information visit [www.hennepin.us/medicines](http://www.hennepin.us/medicines) or call (612) 348-3777.

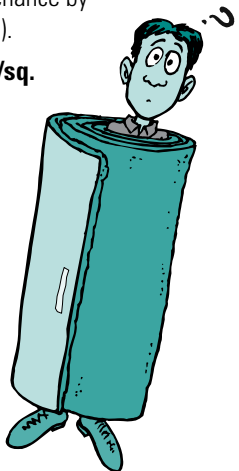


## 2011 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Special one-day drop-off

Minnetonka residents may drop off the materials listed below. The charge for dropping off each item, if any, is listed in parentheses.

- **Air conditioner or water softener (\$20)**
- **Appliances (\$12 each)**  
Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cooktop, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier, dehumidifier.
- **Batteries (No charge)**  
All car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6- and 9-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).
- **Bicycles (No charge)**  
Bicycles brought to the special drop-off will be given a second chance by Re-Cycle (612-209-6669).
- **Carpet & padding (\$1/sq. yd. for carpet and \$1/sq. yd. for padding)**  
Determine the number of square yards of carpet or room size the carpet came from. Roll carpet or pad and tape or tie rolls. Rolls must not exceed six feet in length and/or up to 12 inches in diameter.
- **Copier or fax machine (\$35)**
- **Doors (\$2 and up, depending on size)**
- **Electronics (\$1 for each item, including TVs up to 32"; \$5 for TVs larger than 32")**  
TV, stereo, computer, printer, monitor, radio, speakers, CD, VCR, DVD players, camcorder, cell phone, telephone, laptop.
- **Fluorescent lamps (No charge)**  
Up to ten fluorescent bulbs will be accepted per vehicle. No lamps will be accepted from business or commercial use. Please transport lamps in a manner to avoid breakage. Don't tape bulbs together!
- **Furniture: Chairs (\$5 – small, \$10 – large); loveseat (\$15); couch/sofa (\$20); hide-a-bed (\$30); sectionals, dressers, chests, tables and other furniture (\$5 and up depending on size)**



**Saturday, Sept. 17,**

**8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Minnetonka Public Works  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**  
 East entrance by recycling center

- **Lumber (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)** No railroad ties, concrete or shingles.
- **Mattresses and box springs: (\$15 per piece for all sizes).** Mattresses are dismantled and acceptable materials recycled by the PPL Industries mattress recycling program.
- **Propane tanks:** Small (**\$1**); Large — over a 2-lb. tank (**\$5**)
- **Scrap metal — clean (no charge)**  
Clean scrap metal means all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous materials must be removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.
- **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5)**  
For example, lawn chairs with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines must be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snowblowers, or other large items.
- **Tires:** Car, trailer or light truck (**\$4 each**); tires on rim (**\$8**); tractor or truck tire on split rim (**\$30**)

- **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**
- **Windows (\$2 min., based on \$25/cubic yd.)**

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka.

**NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Please note:** There will **not** be a charitable organization at the Special Drop-off accepting clothing and household goods.

Local charitable organizations that accept clothing and household goods include the following:

- **Bethesda Thrift Shop**  
4749 Cty. Rd. 101, Minnetonka  
(952) 939-0988
- **Goodwill Industries**  
1025 Hill Street, Hopkins  
(952) 935-2760  
13820 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka  
(952) 544-6648
- **Value Village Thrift Store**  
2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope  
(763) 544-0006
- **ARC Hennepin-Carver**  
Pickup route information: (612) 886-8820
- **Salvation Army**  
Pickup route information: (612) 332-5855
- **Vietnam Vets**  
Pickup route information: (651) 778-8387

For more information, call Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). 2012 special drop-off events will be held June 2 and September 15. ♻️

## Labor Day delays recycling one day; brush drop-off closed

The Labor Day holiday Monday, Sept. 5, will delay recycling by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, Sept. 6, while residents east of I-494 will have recycling collection Wednesday, Sept. 7.

The brush drop-off at Minnetonka Public Works will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day. ♻️





## 2011 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Household hazardous waste, organics drop-off sites

Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) and consumer electronics, at no charge, to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities:

**1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington**  
**8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park \***

\* Organics recycling now accepted at Brooklyn Park facility.

The drop-off sites are open to any Hennepin County resident and only accept items from households. No hazardous waste or problem materials can be accepted from businesses, including home businesses and non-profit organizations.

Facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

There are annual limits to the quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit [www.hennepin.us/dropoffs](http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs) or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

### Household hazardous waste (HHW): free

Household hazardous waste includes such items as paint, stain, thinners, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, gasoline, used oil, oil filters, aerosol cans, fire extinguishers, light bulbs (fluorescent, CFL and HID), thermostats, switches and thermometers containing mercury, rechargeable appliances and batteries.

### Consumer electronics: free

Also accepted for no charge are consumer electronics (TV, radio, stereo, VCR, camcorder, telephone, computer, monitor, printer). No copiers or fax machines are accepted.

### Household appliances: \$15

Household appliances (microwave, water heater, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

This is not a comprehensive list of everything accepted at the facilities — for more information visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) or call (612) 348-3777 (M–F, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

### Organics recycling: free

**Accepted only at the Brooklyn Park facility:** organics recycling (food scraps or food-soiled paper products) from homes and businesses. Organic materials that will be accepted include:

- All food scraps
- Food-soiled and non-recyclable paper, including napkins, pizza boxes, freezer boxes and milk cartons
- BPI-certified compostable plastic utensils, cups and containers
- Other compostable items, including vacuum bags, coffee filters, dryer lint, and ice cream and corn dog sticks

Organics can be dropped off Tuesday through Friday.

Organics are **not** accepted on Saturday.

Organics must be in BPI-certified compostable bags, and there is a limit of five bags per person per day. For more information visit [www.hennepin.us/organics](http://www.hennepin.us/organics).

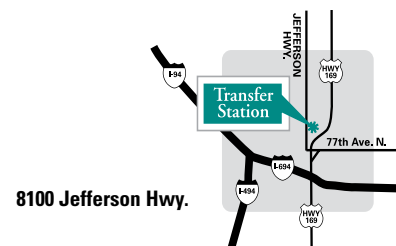
### Junk loads, mattresses

**Also accepted only at the Brooklyn Park facility (for a fee):** small loads of junk (minimum charge of \$19) and mattresses and box springs (\$15 each).

### Fees and acceptable materials

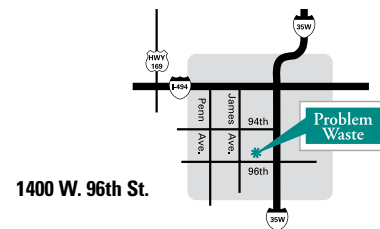
Fees and acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff. Cash, check, MasterCard or Visa are accepted.

### Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off — Brooklyn Park



8100 Jefferson Hwy.

### Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off — Bloomington



1400 W. 96th St.

## Compostable bags required for curbside yard waste collection

As you begin your fall yard and leaf cleanup please be aware of the state law, in effect since January 1, 2010, that requires compostable bags for leaves, grass and yard waste set out for curbside collection.

Compostable bags may be either paper Kraft bags (large brown paper bags) or compostable plastic bags. The required compostable bags are available in retail stores. Look for compostable plastic bags that state on the box they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting and that they are **"compostable."**

"Biodegradable" or "degradable" and regular plastic bags **do not meet** the state law requirements and **cannot** be used for your leaves and yard waste curbside collection by your refuse hauler (if you have arranged for this service). Compostable plastic bags are usually clear or tinted an opaque shade of green, white or pink.

If your refuse hauler provides the option of yard waste carts, the materials inside the carts may be loose without bags and is a great method of having your yard waste collected by your hauler. The city of Minnetonka leaf drop-off is a bag-free site. See the article on p. 5 about the leaf drop-off program. ♻️

# minnetonka memo

September 2011



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
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**PAID**  
CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Mayor</b><br>Terry Schneider .....(952) 939-8389<br>..... Home: (952) 934-9529<br>.....tschneider@eminnetonka.com<br>Meetings with the mayor may be<br>scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211. | <b>Council</b><br><i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com<br>..... Amber Greves... (952) 931-3960 agreves@eminnetonka.com<br><i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com<br><i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com<br><i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com<br><i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com |
| <b>City Manager</b><br>John Gunyou .....(952) 939-8200   | <b>Minnetonka Mike</b> ..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com   |
| <b>Newsletter Editor</b><br>Jacque Larson .....(952) 939-8200  | <b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b> ..... 9-1-1  |
| <b>E-mail:</b> ..... comments@eminnetonka.com  | <b>Non-emergency</b> ..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1   |
| <b>Internet:</b> ..... www.eminnetonka.com   |  |

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

September  
2011

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.  |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.   |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 5 Labor Day, city offices closed  |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 22 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.   |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 7 Park Board, 7 p.m.  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 12 City Council, 6:30 p.m.<br>(2012 budget and levy)  |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 26 Joint Study Session of the City Council and Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., followed by City Council Study Session; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.   |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |   |

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change — please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## Staying informed about city projects

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

## Open House planned for October

### Fire Department and City Open House

October 11, 5 – 8 p.m.

The city of Minnetonka hosts its annual Fire Department and City Open House at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. This popular event offers an informal and entertaining way to meet city staff and learn more about local government. Kids four and over can ride in city fire trucks, everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with department tours and entertainment. See the October *Minnetonka Memo* for a complete schedule of events, or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



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

