

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
October 2011

## General election is Tuesday, November 8

**T**HE GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, November 8. Below are the questions voters most frequently ask, and their answers. For more specific information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### What's on the ballot?

The ballot will include the following city offices and candidates:

#### Council Ward 1

Robert L. "Bob" Ellingson  
Peggy Kvam

#### Council Ward 2

Tony Wagner

#### Council Ward 3

Brad Wiersum

#### Council Ward 4

James Hiller  
Jason Iannone

The Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata school districts will also be electing school board members. No levy questions are on the ballot.

### Who can vote absentee?

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

### How do I vote absentee?

Absentee ballots are available now. If you can't get to the polls on Election Day, two options are available for voting absentee:

- **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 also be available Saturday, November 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, November 7, until 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 for the vote to count. Be sure to allow sufficient time for postal delivery. Request an absentee ballot application by fax at (952) 939-8244, phone at (952) 939-8200 or through [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed.

### How do I register to vote?

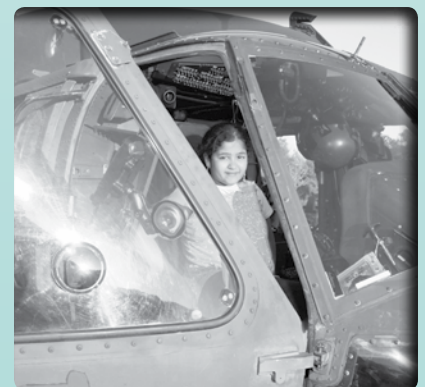
If you have moved, or changed your name or address since the last election, you will need to register. Pre-registration is available until October 18. Registration forms are available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), by calling Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200, or by stopping in to Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Pre-registering will save you a great deal of time when you vote at the polls. If you have not registered by the October 18 cutoff date, check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the types of identification the law allows for Election Day registration or call city hall at (952) 939-8200.

### When and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, November 8, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote. Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place—it will save you time. To find your polling location, visit the elections page on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or call city hall at (952) 939-8200. None of the city's polling locations have changed in the last four years. ☺

## Fire Department and City Open House is Tuesday, October 11



See page 3 for a full schedule of events.

*Photos courtesy Jason Stenvold*

# Flashpoints



## From the Minnetonka Fire Department

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

### Calls for Service

During the second quarter of 2011, the fire department responded to 351 calls for service, compared to 398 during the same period in 2010. The three-person duty crew handles most calls, while about 35 paid-on-call members report to every structure fire.

Calls included three structure fires, two vehicle fires, two brush fires, 202 medicals and invalid assists, 13 rescue/extrications, two missing person searches, 24 gas leaks, eight mutual aid requests, 26 “good intent” calls and 51 false fire alarms.

The more significant events this quarter included:

- Apartment fires on Saint Albans Mill Road, Greenbrier Road and Smetana Drive.
- Cooking fires in apartments on Stratford Road and Cedar Hills Boulevard.

- A vehicle crash resulting in a sheared-off power pole on Baker Road.
- Assisting St. Louis Park with a tornado strike and an apartment fire, all in 103-degree heat.
- Assisting Mound with a house fire on Enchanted Island.

### Take our survey

As part of the fire department’s ongoing efforts to provide excellent customer service, department members are handing out survey cards at every call. These yellow, postage-paid cards have three simple “rate the service” questions, and room for comments. The information from these cards will be used to help assess if residents were satisfied with the service provided, and to help identify any outstanding individuals or crews.

### About influenza

As the United States enters the annual flu and cold season, the Minnetonka Fire Department, in conjunction with the city’s environmental health department, reminds residents to stay informed. While the city of Minnetonka has an excellent all-hazards emergency plan in place, there is no substitute for good individual preparation. For more information about influenza or all-hazard preparedness planning, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on “Fire” then “Emergency Management.”

## Fire Prevention

### Week: October 9–15

This year’s National Fire Prevention Week theme is “Protect Your Family from Fire.” The results of a fire can be devastating and

Minnetonka firefighters want you to be safe. The “What if?” public educators have provided the following

safety tips to protect you and your loved ones from a fire:



- Establish and practice using a family meeting place for home evacuations.
- Have working smoke alarms on every level and in every bedroom.
- Make sure everyone can locate a phone and call 9-1-1. (See page 3 for a kid’s guide to using 9-1-1.)
- Know two ways out of each room in your home.
- Don’t ever go back into a burning building — that’s the job of firefighters.
- Always pay attention when cooking — half of all fires start in the kitchen!
- Buy an extinguisher and learn how to use it.
- Make sure your house numbers are easily visible from the street.
- Adopt a fire hydrant and keep it clear all year from landscaping, snow, vegetation, etc.
- Practice, practice, practice — your escape plan!

For more information, contact Minnetonka Fire Department Public Educators Sara Ahlquist or Jim Lundeen at (952) 939-8331.



*Minnetonka firefighters assisted at a St. Louis Park apartment fire.*



# Fire Department and City Open House is October 11

**M**EEET CITY STAFF AND LEARN MORE about local government, as well as mingle with your friends and neighbors, at the Minnetonka Fire Department and City Open House Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Kids four and over can ride in city fire trucks, and everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with department tours and entertainment.

### Plan your evening of activities:

- Take a tour of the Minnetonka Police Department's jail and visit with members of the city's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. *(Police Department)*
- Get moving with activities sponsored by Recreation Services. *(Community Center lower level)*
- View this year's photo contest entries and vote for your favorite *(Community Center lower level)*
- Ride in a fire truck. *(Fire Station)*
- Sit inside heavy equipment from the public works department and enjoy a treat! *(Community Center south entrance)*
- Enjoy entertainment from the Music Association of Minnetonka Reflections Chorale. *(6:30–7:30 p.m., Community Center, upper level)*
- Visit the House of Germs and learn how to stay healthy! *(Community Center)*
- Browse displays from city departments and boards and commissions; as well as community organizations. *(Community Center lower level)*
- See woodcarving demonstrations *(Community Center upper level)*
- Snack on free refreshments, including all-beef hot dogs and pop (5–8 p.m., Fire Station) and cookies, popcorn, and lemonade. *(5–8 p.m., Community Center upper level)*
- Learn more about single-sort recycling, coming to Minnetonka in January! *(City Hall lobby, Community Center lower level)*

### Organics collection

The city is embracing organics collection and is pleased to offer it again this year at Open House! Look for the organics collection bins around the campus, and toss in your leftover food, napkins, paper cups and plates.

### Bike to Open House

Avoid the parking hassles and bike to the Fire Department and City Open House! Wear light-colored clothing if you'll be biking in the dark, and have the proper lighting on your bicycle. ♻️



## October activities abound for active adults

**D**O 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. For general information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

### Monthly Interest Groups

The center has many groups that meet monthly and welcome new members, including art drop in, AA, Al-Anon, billiards, bingo, bridge, chess, computer, ham radio, 500, Red Hat Society, woodcarving and a discussion group.

### Ongoing Services

The center offers blood pressure checks, health insurance counseling, HOME outreach, bus trips, foot care and other community resources.

### Special Events

#### Adopt-a-Highway

October 12, 1 p.m.

Volunteers needed. Meet at the community center. Supplies provided.

#### CareNextions Demo

October 12, 6:30–8 p.m.

Learn about this caregiving resource website. Free — RSVP by Oct. 10.

#### Tech Day

October 17, 1–4 p.m.

Learn about the technology used by your kids and grandkids! Free — RSVP by Oct. 12.

#### Medicare Part D

October 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Learn about Medicare Part D. Free — RSVP by Oct. 14

#### Flu Shots

October 25, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Call (952) 939-8393 with questions.

#### Great Singers with James Shaw

October 26, 10:30 a.m.

Cost is \$2, due by Oct. 24.

#### Let's Talk Turkey

November 2, Time TBD

A speaker from the Minnesota Turkey Research and Promotion Council will present information on all things turkey. Cost is \$2, due by Oct. 24.

#### Before the Bundt

November 3, 1 p.m.

Learn all about the history of Nordic Ware, from its origins in 1946 in Minneapolis to the worldwide company it is today. Founder Dorothy Dahlquist and her granddaughter Jennifer Dahlquist present, and demonstrate how to use the aebleskiver pan. Cost is \$2, due by Oct. 31.

### 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

October 13, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

October 20, 6–10 p.m.

Refreshments provided (no meal).

Cost: \$20 each. ☺

## Don't miss these fun fall concerts

**T**HE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) has begun its 38th concert season, and invites you to attend one of these exciting October concerts! For more information, call (952) 401-5954 or visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org).

#### "Spooktacular" Concert

Sunday, October 23, 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra  
Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka  
Free-will donation

Saturday, October 29, 4 p.m.

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum  
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska  
Free concert with gate admission. ☺

## Victorian holiday open house is December 4

**T**HE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will host its annual Victorian holiday open house Sunday, December 4, from 1–4 p.m. at the historic Charles H. Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road, Minnetonka.

The house will be decorated in Victorian holiday fashion and refreshments will be served. No reservations are needed, and the event is offered free of charge. Donations are welcome. Limited parking is available on the Burwell Park grounds, with additional parking across Plymouth Road at St. David's Family Resource Center.

The historical society welcomes participation by youth groups in decorating the Burwell House for this holiday event. To volunteer, contact Florence Bogle at (952) 938-3758. ☺





# Register now for youth & adult basketball

## Youth Basketball (register by Oct. 14)

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. The cost is \$55 for grade 2 and \$95 for grades 3-6.

## 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. The 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.

## Little Shooters Basketball Clinic

This clinic is instructed by experienced basketball camp organizer Kevin Lynch, a former Mr. Basketball of Minnesota, All Big Ten guard at the University of Minnesota and NBA player with the Charlotte Hornets. Participants will learn basic skills and techniques, cultivate self-esteem and engage in teamwork and fair play—all in a fun and challenging environment. Each participant receives a camp t-shirt. The Little Shooter's Clinic is a great way to prepare for the upcoming Youth Basketball League!

Saturdays, October 29 – November 19, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Grades 2 – 5, Hopkins West Junior High, \$75. Call (952) 939-8203 to register..

## Adult Basketball Five-Player League

A five-player, officiated 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).



# Tuesday Tot Time at Williston Center

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.



The new splash pad at Williston Center. Photo courtesy Jason Stenvold

# 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 – Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and extended hours in December, Mondays – Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop 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.



## Calling 9-1-1: A guide for kids

**I**N 2010, MINNETONKA PUBLIC SAFETY dispatchers handled more than 47,000 calls for service. While a majority of the calls are from adults, there are times when a child may need to call for emergency services.

The following tips provide some guidelines for parents to use in talking with their children about using 9-1-1 properly.

### About 9-1-1

You can call 9-1-1 from any phone (including a cell phone) when you or someone else needs help from a police officer or firefighter or needs medical care. A 9-1-1 call from any pay phone is always free.

### What happens when you call 9-1-1?

After you dial 9-1-1, the person who answers the phone will be someone who works at a 9-1-1 call center and whose job is to help you. Tell the dispatcher what happened. The dispatcher may ask several questions. When answering, speak slowly and clearly.

### Never hang up

Even if you called 9-1-1 by accident, it is important that you stay on the phone until the dispatcher tells you it is all right to hang up. Tell the operator what happened and explain there is no emergency.

### Memorize

Help will reach you more quickly if you are able to tell the 9-1-1 operator things like your address, your parents' names and your phone number.

### Know your location

If you aren't at home and don't know the address where you are, look around and try to find a street sign or a building with a name on it. This will help the 9-1-1 operator determine your exact location.

### When to call 9-1-1

Only call 9-1-1 when someone or something is hurt or in danger. Always call from a safe place. Here are some handy guidelines:

#### Do call 9-1-1 when:

- Someone is hurt or there is a serious injury.
- Someone is sick, having pain, choking or can't breathe.
- You are lost.
- You are home alone and are afraid.
- Someone is following you and making you feel afraid. Run to a safe place.
- You see or smell smoke coming from a fire. Get out of the house and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.
- You see someone committing a crime, stealing something or hurting someone.

#### Don't call 9-1-1 when:

- You are playing a joke.
- There is a minor injury, bruises or toothaches. ☺

# City Council adopts

**A**T ITS SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING, the Minnetonka City Council adopted the lowest increase in the city property tax levy for the past fifteen years, and set the stage for sustainable and affordable finances well into the future. Having taken early and decisive fiscal actions in 2009 to meet the challenges of the recession, the city is well positioned to ensure 2012 city property taxes are mindful of how recent state legislation may impact all city property owners. With a levy increase of only 0.9 percent above last year, city taxes on the average home in Minnetonka will likely increase even less.

### Repositioning Plan Cost Savings

The city of Minnetonka takes a responsible, long-term perspective with financial planning and management. Decisions are made with the future in mind to ensure the city's ongoing ability to provide quality services at a reasonable price.

Recognizing the implications of the "new normal," the city of Minnetonka enacted in 2009 a long-term budget strategy designed to restructure the way city services are provided. This permanent budget restructuring continues to save over \$1 million every year, thereby preserving the city's capacity to continue to provide the quality services our residents and businesses have come to expect, both now and well into the future.

Strategies involved new ways of doing business: cooperative service agreements with other agencies, productivity investments that help deliver core services more efficiently, and reorganizations that reposition the city to better serve our constituents. Because the city is a service business, changes were needed to permanently reduce personnel-related costs. The city's work force was permanently reduced by six percent, similar to nationwide contractions in the private sector. Additionally, employment contracts limit future base wage increases to one percent annually.

### MVHC changes

Recent legislative changes to the state's Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program will significantly

impact the 2012 property tax levy. The former system consisted of a property tax credit based upon home value, and when the state refused to fund the program in seven of the last ten years, the city of Minnetonka was required to raise property taxes on all properties to make up the difference.

The new Homestead Market Value Exclusion program makes adjustments within the tax formulas to provide the same tax relief, but takes cities out of the middle. As a result, there will be a one-time adjustment for Minnetonka's 2012 levy, since those cities that had lost state funding no longer need to levy to make up the difference.

Since the adjustment is one-time, the council ensured that the benefit is passed through to our taxpayers in a way that does not create future difficulties. By spreading it over two years, rather than freezing taxes for one year and then having a major increase the following year, city taxpayers will have a very minor increase for 2012 and a still small increase in 2013.

### 2012 Levy

The adopted city 2012 tax increase of 0.9 percent is substantially below recent years, and by smoothing the MVHC benefit over two years, 2013 will also remain lower. The change is far less than the 2.2 percent Consumer Price Index (CPI) and 3.4 percent official State of Minnesota Implicit Price Deflator (IPD).

### Comparisons with other cities

The proposed 2012 city levy increase remains among the lower increases of comparable cities, even with the two year MVHC smoothing. By taking this longer-term approach, Minnetonka's 2013 levy will be well below those cities that take the entire one-time savings in 2012. Unlike many other cities, no assessments or extraordinary fee hikes are proposed to supplement this minor tax increase.

### HRA levy

Acting as the Economic Development Authority, the city council adopted no change in the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy for 2012. The HRA levy will remain at \$175,000.

# low preliminary property tax levy

## Homeowner impacts

The net effect of a 0.9 percent city tax revenue increase on individual homeowners is uncertain, since there are so many interactions within the system, including market value fluctuations, and the MVHC changes that impact not only the city, but also school district and county levies.

The median-valued Minnetonka home (\$287,300 in 2011) would qualify for the new MVH Exclusion program. Very rough staff estimates indicate these homes would likely only experience a 0.4% city tax increase. However, all homes, especially those valued higher than \$414,000 and commercial properties would likely see higher tax increases as a result of the new state formulas, related to school and county levy adjustments.

## Summary

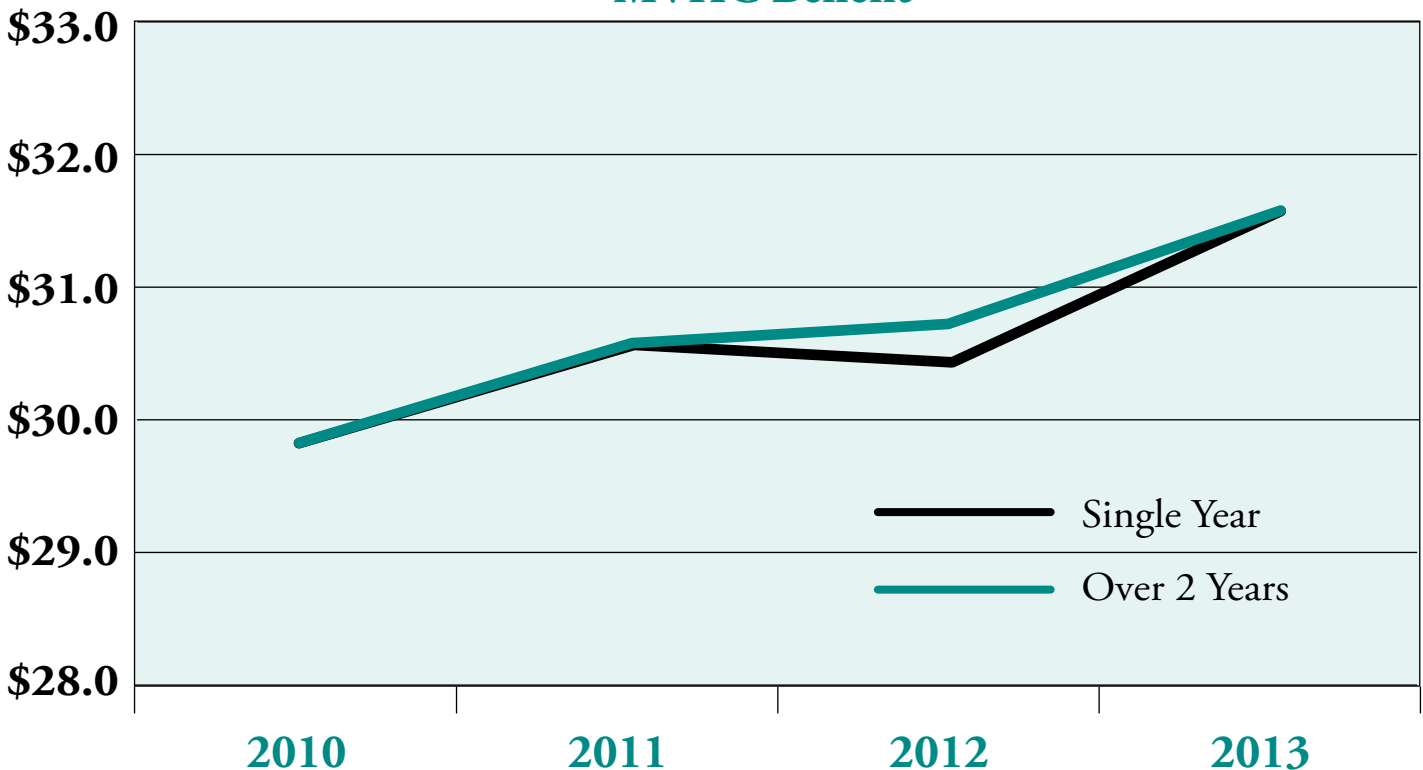
Responsible long-term financial planning has continued to well position the city of Minnetonka to accommodate the slow economic recovery, as well as federal and state political uncertainties. The major restructuring that took place in 2009 has

permanently reduced the city's operating costs, and cost management is ongoing.

As always, the city of Minnetonka will continue to provide the excellent services our residents and businesses have come to expect, and at a reasonable price, both in 2012 and well into the future. ☺

Property Taxes (thousands)	2012 Levy	
	2011	2012
Operating & Capital Levies	\$29,137	\$29,416
Park Bond Referendum	\$1,129	\$1,134
<b>Total City Levy</b>	<b>\$30,266</b>	<b>\$30,550 (0.9% Increase)</b>
EDA HRA Levy	175	175

City Property Taxes  
MVHC Benefit





## Night for Neighbors coloring contest winners announced

THE WINNERS OF THE 2011 MINNETONKA Night for Neighbors coloring contest were Lauren Roberts in the kindergarten-grade 1 category, and Anna Wander in the grade 2–4 category. Both winners received a ride to school on a day of their choice by Police Chief Mark Raquet. Winners were selected by a group of judges from the Minnetonka Senior Center. ☺



Chief Raquet with Anna Wander



Chief Raquet with Lauren Roberts

## Interview with an Open to Business success story

IN JANUARY 2011, THE CITY OF Minnetonka, in partnership with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, launched the Open to Business program. The program provides one-on-one assistance customized to meet the needs small business owners and operators. Clients receive help in planning and organizing their business ventures, financial management, marketing and regulatory compliance. Additionally, a small business loan fund can help entrepreneurs access the capital they need to grow their business.

Longtime Minnetonka resident Charlie Hutchinson, owner of Gotta Go Gotta Throw, is one of many who have taken advantage of the Open to Business program this year. He provided a few comments on the program:

**Q: How did you hear about the Minnetonka Open to Business program?**

**A:** From the Minnetonka Memo

**Q: Please briefly describe your business.**

**A:** Gotta Go Gotta Throw is the largest independent distributor and retailer of disc golf and disc sports-related equipment in the world.

**Q: Why did you contact the Open to Business program?**

**A:** Because of the down economy, I was finding it impossible to borrow from any bank, despite years of positive growth and increased profitability.



**Q: How did the program help you?**

**A:** The staff at the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers took the time to learn what we do and how we do it, and realized what we were asking for was necessary and credible. They lent us some of the money we needed to help nurture a stronger future for our rapidly growing and well-poised small business.

If you are a small business owner, perhaps the Open to Business program can help you too! For more information, contact Rob Smolund at the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers at (612) 789-7337, ext. 11. ☺

## New year brings new recycling program

T IRED OF SEPARATING YOUR recyclables? Hate hauling a bin to the curb every week? Wish you could recycle more items?

Then you'll be excited to hear that single-sort recycling is coming to Minnetonka in January! Here are the highlights:

- Every household will receive a **60-gallon wheeled, lidded** recycling cart. Carts will be delivered in late November or early December, although service won't start until January.
- All the **recyclables go together**—no more sorting and separating.

- **Recycle more items**, including plastic shopping bags and all plastic and glass food and beverage containers.
- Your recycling pickup day won't change, but **pickup will take place every two weeks** instead of every week.

More detailed information will be in the November *Minnetonka Memo*. Also, recycling representatives will be available at the Minnetonka Fire Department and City Open House October 11 (see page 3). Stop by and see a recycling cart, and pick up more information about the program.



# Boulder Creek Park receives donated bur oak tree

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA'S BOULDER Creek Park is the home of a new bur oak tree and bench, donated by the Minneapolis Branch Office of Employers Mutual Casualty (EMC) Company, in honor of the company's 100-year anniversary.

On April 29, 26 grade school students planted the tree, with a dedication ceremony held June 22. A tree planting was selected by the company to represent the oak and acorn, part of the company's original logo in the 1920s. ☺

*Pictured: (left to right, seated) Minneapolis Branch Manager Jerry Harlow and Administrative Services Manager Denise Best (left to right, standing) Underwriting Manager Jim Matthees, Minnetonka City Forester Emily Ball and Claims Manager Mike Huttner.*



## New Bren Road bridge to open in mid-October



### @169 Bren

**T**HE NEW BREN ROAD BRIDGE, part of the expansion of the interchange at Highway 169 and Bren Road, is slated to open to traffic in October. The old bridge was removed in late July.

New highway on- and off-ramps at Bren Road are completed, with only the northwest ramp remaining. 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. 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, decking is installed on the new Bren Road bridge at Hwy. 169. The bridge is due to open in mid-October.*

## Preparing for winter



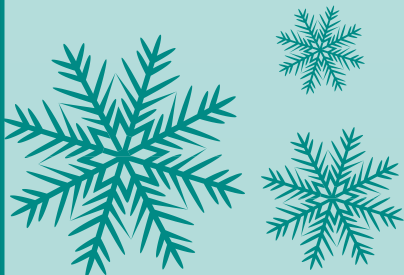
IT SEEMS LIKE SUMMER ended just yesterday, but it won't be long before the snowflakes fly. Minnetonka Public Works held its annual "snow day" in September, with staff busy converting equipment from summer to winter uses and training on all the latest snow removal techniques. Here are a couple snow-related items to think about as we move toward winter.

### Contractor snow removal workshop is October 27

Do you live in a townhome, condo or apartment? Are you a Minnetonka business owner? If you contract for snow removal, encourage your contractor to attend this workshop, offered by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. It will help you save money, keep your parking lots and sidewalks safe this winter and protect our waters! The workshop is Thursday, October 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bloomington Public Works Training Room, 1700 W. 98th Street, Bloomington. Lunch is included. To learn more visit [www.ninemilecreek.org](http://www.ninemilecreek.org) or contact Claire Bleser at (952) 358-2276 or [cbleser@ninemilecreek.org](mailto:cbleser@ninemilecreek.org).

### City snow removal info in the November Memo

Read the November *Minnetonka Memo* for everything you need to know about snow removal in the city of Minnetonka. If you can't wait that long to talk snow, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on Public Works, then Streets, then Snowplowing. ❄️



## The dos and don'ts of autumn yard waste

FALL CLEAN-UP CAN PRODUCE A LOT of materials to dispose of each year, including leaves, grass clippings, weeds, branches and assorted debris. Disposing of these items properly can help keep your neighborhood clean, while improper disposal can be harmful to woodlands, wetlands, lakes and creeks. Please use the tips below to properly dispose of fall yard waste.

- Do use the curbside pick-up services offered by your garbage hauler. Contact them directly for details regarding yard waste collection.
- Do use the city leaf and brush drop off programs when available. See page 11 for more details, or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).
- Do consider composting some yard waste for reuse in your yard next spring. Search "composting" on the city website for more information.
- Don't dump yard wastes on public property. Disposing of yard waste on public property is not permitted. In addition to being unsightly, it can pose damage to existing vegetation. Piles of leaves and brush do not readily decompose and may remain visible for years. Waste piles suppress the growth of native vegetation that provides food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, and can help promote the growth of

weed species.

- Don't dump yard wastes in or adjacent to wetlands, lakes and creeks. Our wetlands and other water bodies serve many functions including filtering pollutants and sediment from storm water runoff, recharging groundwater supplies, providing food and shelter for wildlife, and capturing runoff to prevent flooding. Placing yard waste in these areas can impair these functions. Additionally, as yard waste decomposes it releases nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which in turn promote the growth of weeds and algae.
- Don't blow, rake or deposit yard wastes into the street or storm drain. The materials may block water flow during rain or snow melt, causing the potential for flooding. Also, nutrients from these materials may be carried downstream to lakes, streams and wetlands.
- If you're not certain how to rid yourself of yard waste or other items, visit the city website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Recycling and Garbage."
- Or, visit the Hennepin County "A to Z How to Get Rid of It Guide" [www.hennepinatoz.org](http://www.hennepinatoz.org) for more disposal and reuse information. ❄️

## Last buckthorn workshop is October 6

October is an ideal time to start on buckthorn control, since you can identify native plants before the leaves fall, then cut the buckthorn to allow those native plants to grow. Learn more about buckthorn control at this season's last buckthorn workshop Thursday, October 6. You'll learn:

- Why gradual, prioritized buckthorn removal is best, especially if garlic mustard is present.
- How to avoid the most common buckthorn removal mistakes.
- How to re-forest using regional native plants and how to save high-value remnant species.

How to reduce erosion on slopes and protect selected plants from deer.

Janet Van Sloun, Minnetonka natural resource specialist, will present this workshop Thursday, October 6, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Please RSVP by calling (952) 988-8400 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Space is limited to 40. ❄️



## 2011 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Fall Leaf Drop-Off Program

## Open through 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. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov. 7, 14
- **Tuesdays:** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. 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 event is October 8

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

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

## 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.

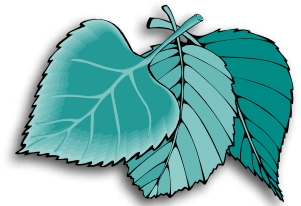
Proper I.D. proving residency is required each time a resident enters the site (driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill).

**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. ♻️



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. ♻️



# minnetonka memo

October 2011



PRESORTED  
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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

<b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 .....tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	<b>Council</b> <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com ..... 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) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
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<b>Internet:</b> ..... www.eminnetonka.com	

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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

October  
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	4	5	6	7	8	3 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Fire Department and City Open House, 5-8 p.m. (see page 3)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 24 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. 27 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	31 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
30	31						

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. ∞

## Fall Family Festival is October 23

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. ∞



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

