

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
December 2011

Special election set for February 14 to fill vacant city council seat

At its November 14 regular meeting, the Minnetonka City Council voted to hold a special election Tuesday, February 14, 2012, to fill the remaining two years of the four-year term of vacant At-Large Council Seat B. Councilmember Amber Greves announced in October that she would be resigning this seat in early December when she and her family move out of state.

Special elections are governed by the City Charter, with a time period that is far more compressed than normal city elections. No primary is held, so all candidates' names will appear on the ballot. Absentee voting will be available from January 13 through February 13, 2012 at City Hall.

Filings for this At-Large Council Seat B, with the term expiring December 2013, will open December 7, 2011, and will remain open through December 19, 2011. Interested persons may file for this office during regular Minnetonka City Hall hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To be eligible for office, candidates must be at least 21 years of age upon assuming office, and be a resident of Minnetonka for at least 30 days prior to the general election.

Questions about the election process or filings may be directed to the city clerk's office, (952) 939-8218, or (952) 939-8219, or by contacting dmaeda@eminnetonka.com or Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Public budget hearing is Dec. 5

Minnetonka residents and property owners are invited to participate in the city's annual public budget hearing, set for Monday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. For more information about the proposed 2012 budget, please see page 3 of this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, or see the October *Memo*. Visit www.eminnetonka.com to provide feedback on the city's budget. All comments will be shared with the council as the budget options are considered prior to the adoption of the final 2012 budget in late December. ☺

Get started on next year's photo contest!

Capture Minnetonka's winter wonderland: you might have a great entry for next year's photo contest! Need ideas? Check out the 2011 winning photos, as well as all digitally submitted entries,

on www.eminnetonka.com. You can also look at entries from previous years to find inspiration for taking the perfect photo this winter. Find the beauty in the snow and ice that lies ahead! ☺



2011 photo contest: Mary Pearson

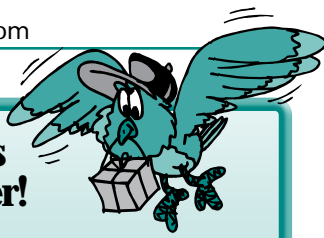
Sign up for the 2012 Citizen Academy

If you want to learn more about your city and have the opportunity to meet city staff, consider signing up to attend the 2012 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over six sessions, January 24 and 31, February 15, 21 and 28, and March 6, 6:30 – 9 p.m., at Minnetonka City Hall. (Note: This year's academy skips a week due to the February 7 caucuses. All sessions are on Tuesdays, except Wednesday, February 15.) Hear from the various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Also enjoy a short presentation on Minnetonka history by Betty Johnson, official city historian and long-time Minnetonka resident!

Graduates of the program — those who attend four or more sessions — receive special city council recognition. To enroll, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 10, 2012. ☺

Follow us on Twitter!



Get your news delivered via tweets! You can receive news releases, project updates, meeting agendas and minutes and much more by following the city on Twitter at @MinnetonkaMN.

Rec registration starts Dec. 1

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services winter-spring brochure was mailed to all residents in late November. Program registration for residents begins Thursday, December 1. Open registration begins Thursday, December 15.

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

Recreation offers 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 or by calling Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203.

Extended hours at the Landing Shop

Pick up a unique, handmade gift this season at the Landing Shop, located at 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka (northwest corner of I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad). The shop is open extended hours in December: Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information call (763) 591-4868 or visit www.eminnetonka.com (search "the landing shop"). The Landing Shop is a recreational program offered by the city of Minnetonka for area seniors.



Apply now for boards and commissions

If you'd like to be involved in your local government, consider applying for an opening on the city's community commission, economic development advisory commission, park board or planning commission; or on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District.

Applicants must have a desire to serve their community in a volunteer capacity and be willing to contribute the number of hours necessary for the particular group to which they are applying. Applicants are interviewed by the city council.

Minnetonka Community Commission

The commission has the primary responsibility of encouraging community engagement. The commission meets monthly and consists of 12 members representing local school districts, the business community, community and faith organizations, the rental community and ethnic/immigrant populations.

Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC)

The EDAC advises the city council regarding economic development, housing and redevelopment matters. The commission meets on the fourth Thursday of every month.

Park Board

Park Board consults with the city council and staff in matters relating to park land, park facilities, program, and finances. The board's functions include long and short range planning related to capital improvement projects, acquisition, development and use of park lands, park facilities, recreational, and leisure time facilities, and recreational programs. The board meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

Planning Commission

The commission assists and advises the city council in administration of the city zoning ordinance, conducting public hearings on matters as required by provisions of the zoning/subdivision ordinances, and any other matters referred by the council or by ordinance. The commission meets on the first and third Thursday of every month.

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

One opening exists for a Minnetonka representative. Information on this commission is available at www.lmcd.org.

If you're interested in participating, please visit www.eminnetonka.com to complete an application form; or, to have an application sent to you, call Karen Telega at (952) 939-8211. Applications are due by January 3, 2012.

Victorian holiday open house is Dec. 4

The Minnetonka Historical Society hosts 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 self-guided tours will be offered. Refreshments will be provided.

Attendance is free, but donations to the Minnetonka Historical Society are appreciated. Limited parking is available on the Burwell Park grounds, including handicapped spaces, with additional parking across Plymouth Road at St. David's Family Resource Center. *The Burwell House is owned and operated by the city of Minnetonka.*



Responsible city financial management limits 2012 tax increase to less than one percent

The city of Minnetonka continues to responsibly manage its budget to minimize property tax impacts on homeowners and businesses. Because the city made significant and permanent spending cuts beginning three years ago, 2012 property taxes will be limited to an increase of only 0.9 percent, well below the current 3.3 percent inflation rate, and the lowest increase in fifteen years.

Beginning in 2009, the city responsibly repositioned its operations in anticipation of the lingering effects of the recession. Changes included permanent workforce reductions and renegotiated labor contracts comparable with cutbacks in the private sector, and cooperative service agreements with other cities and productivity investments so that the city could operate more efficiently. As a result of this foresight, Minnetonka taxpayers continue to benefit from ongoing cost savings of more than one million dollars every year.

By responsibly managing for the long-term, the city of Minnetonka will continue to provide its homeowners and businesses

the quality police, fire, streets and parks services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price, both in 2012 and well into the future.

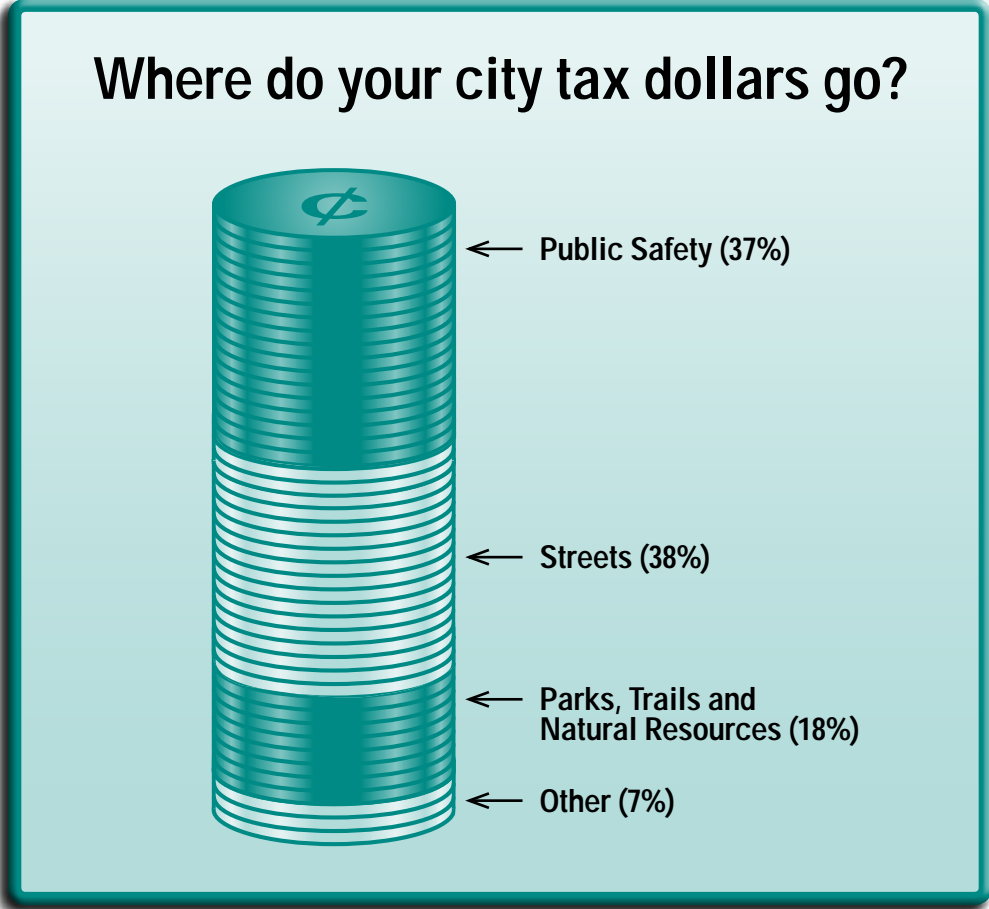
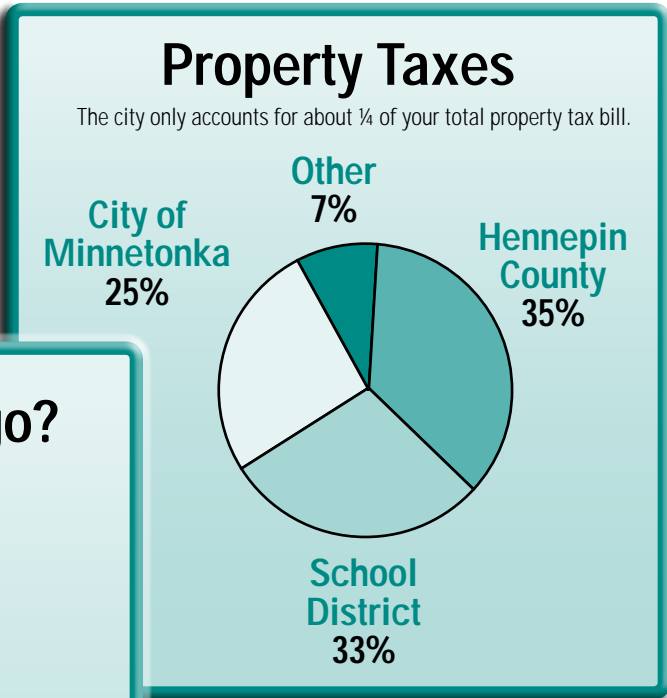
Homeowner property taxes

Although the city of Minnetonka will limit its 2012 property taxes to an increase of less than one percent, the city only accounts for about one-quarter of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The remainder is comprised of taxes for your school district (33 percent), Hennepin county (35 percent), and other jurisdictions (7 percent).

For 2012, other factors will have a far greater impact on the property taxes of individual homeowners than the city's responsible budget. Most significantly, the state made major changes to its Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program. As a result, both property values and property taxes will vary greatly from city to city

and even within cities. Many organizations have created resources to help explain these state changes, and links to these resources are available at www.eminnetonka.com.

Despite the confusing state changes, the bottom-line is, the city of Minnetonka is limiting the property taxes supporting police, fire, streets and parks to an increase of less than one percent, or about \$9 for the average value home (\$287,300) in the city. Any tax changes greater than or less than this modest city increase are due to other taxing jurisdictions, real estate market values, property improvements and most significantly, state changes to its MVHC program.



Your input is always welcome!

Minnetonka residents and property owners are invited to participate in the city's annual budget hearing, set for Monday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Visit www.eminnetonka.com to provide feedback on the city's budget. All comments will be shared with the council as the budget options are considered prior to the adoption of the final 2012 budget in late December.

Outdoor ice rink volunteers needed

Since 2006, adult volunteers have allowed the city of Minnetonka to expand the operating hours at city warming houses beyond the regular operation schedule. During the 2010-11 winter season, volunteers donated 87 hours of extended warming house hours. More volunteers are needed for this season at Meadow, Covington, Spring Hill, Boulder Creek, Gro Tonka and McKenzie parks.

Volunteers must be at least 25 years of age and are responsible for opening and securing their assigned building,



operating the rink lighting and building heating systems, completing required forms and regularly communicating with the Recreation Services Department. Volunteers are allowed to open their assigned warming house for extended use until 10 p.m. during days and times when the employee attendant is not scheduled.

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

Winter skating lessons start Jan. 10

Sign up for winter skating lessons with the Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School! The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers instruction for skaters ages 3 and up, including adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visiting the city of Minnetonka website at www.eminnetonka.com. The 12-week session begins January 10, 2012. Space is limited, so register now!



Outdoor skating rinks open December 17

Skating rinks with warming houses are available for your enjoyment at seven Minnetonka park and six Hopkins park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will open Saturday, December 17, and remain open until Monday, February 20. Call the weather hotline number at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

Minnetonka Rink Hours

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boulder Creek	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Covington	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Gateway	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Glen Lake	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-9 p.m.
Gro Tonka	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-9 p.m.
McKenzie	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-9 p.m.
Meadow	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-9 p.m.
Spring Hill	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.

Hopkins Rink Hours

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Burnes	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	Closed	12-5 p.m.
Central	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Harley	12-5 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	12-5 p.m.
Interlachen	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Oakes	12-5 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	12-5 p.m.
Valley	12-5 p.m.*	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.	Closed	4:30-9 p.m.*	Closed	12-5 p.m.

* Due to adult broomball, only the general skating rink is available for public use at Valley Park on Thursdays, from 6-9 p.m.

Christmas Eve (12/24) Hours: 12-5 p.m.

Christmas Day (12/25): All sites closed.

Join the Williston weight loss challenge

Get fit with the Williston Fitness Center's weight loss challenge! During this 12-week program, led by fitness center staff, you'll replace your old habits with new, healthier habits so you can lose weight and have fun! The weight loss challenge starts January 16 and continues through April 9, 2012.

The program includes:

- Four nutrition presentations
- Four 60-minute personal training sessions
- 12 group fitness classes, specifically for program participants
- Twice-monthly one-on-one meetings
- Individual and team challenges
- T-shirt and great prizes

Register between December 1, 2011, and January 6, 2012. Kickoff meeting is Sunday, January 15, 1-2:30 p.m. Cost: \$199 for Williston Fitness Center members; \$299 for non-members. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com.

2012 brings new city recycling contract: learn what will change

In mid-November, Minnetonka residents received a mailing from Allied Waste announcing the city's new recycling contract, which starts in January 2012.

After Thanksgiving and into early December, Allied Waste will begin dropping off 60-gallon, wheeled, lidded recycling carts to each Minnetonka household.

Don't start filling your new recycling cart yet — pickup doesn't start until January. Until then, continue to use your old blue plastic recycling bin. In the meantime, you'll want to find a place to store your new recycling cart. City ordinances require all trash and recycling bins to be stored out of public view, either inside a garage or behind a screened enclosure, except for the evening before and the day of trash and/or recycling collection.

The letter from Allied Waste also included a calendar of service dates for 2012. While

your recycling pickup day won't change, pickup will take place every two weeks instead of every week.

Recycling should be out by 6:30 a.m. on your pickup day. Be sure to place your new recycling cart and your garbage can on opposite sides of your driveway — at least three feet apart from each other and any other objects. This ensures carts aren't mixed up by the haulers and also makes it easier for the truck arms to retrieve the carts.

Each cart will contain a list of acceptable and unacceptable items imprinted in the lid for easy reference. The new recycling contract allows more items to be recycled, including plastic bags from retailers, foil-lined containers (juice boxes)



and all types of plastic food and beverage containers (#1 – #7), including yogurt cups and butter/whip cream tubs.

Once the new recycling program starts, there are three options for your old blue recycling bin:

- Keep it and use it as you wish.
- Bring it to Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, and leave it by the recycling drop-off center.
- Watch for information in the January *Minnetonka Memo* about a citywide collection of the old blue recycling bins.

The new recycling contract offers several advantages, including less truck traffic in neighborhoods, increased participation in recycling due to ease of use and additional recyclables collected; and carts with lids (no more recycling blowing in the wind) and wheels (no more heavy lifting).

If you have questions about the new recycling program, contact the Allied Waste Customer Service Group at (952) 941-5174. ☺

A peek at Minnetonka's past: Ferrell daughter becomes shooting champion

In the mid 1800s, David (D.C.) and Sarah Ferrell left Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, for Minnesota. They first settled in Shakopee, then moved to Minneapolis in 1862. In 1873, David purchased a 160-acre farm in the area around Highway 101 and Ridgewood Road in Minnetonka, where they lived until 1903. The Ferrells had several children, many of whom are now buried along with their parents in Minnetonka's Groveland Cemetery.

One of the Ferrell daughters, Sophrona Cleora (born in 1856) took up hunting and shooting at the age of 40. It was a sport she enjoyed with her husband, Sumner S. Johnston. Sophrona eventually became an expert shot and won many shooting trophies, including 16 consecutive state championships.

Each year, Sophrona received Minnesota's first hunting license of the season, while her husband received the second license. At the age of 60, she traveled to Canada to compete in a shooting contest with a team of five men and won first prize.

Her crowning achievement was winning a shootout against the famous Annie Oakley, the crack shot of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Sophrona



Sophrona (Ferrell) Johnston a former winning first prize in a Canadian shooting contest.

attributed her shooting success to her excellent eyesight.

Sophrona died in 1942 at the age of 86, and is buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, along with her husband and children.

If you know more about the Ferrell family or about Sophrona Ferrell Johnston, please contact Laura Ronbeck at Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8219. ☺

Caring Youth nominations due February 3

If you know a young person in grades 7 through 12 who shows an ongoing awareness

of others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating him or her for a 2012 Caring Youth Award.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: live in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley; attend school in Hopkins or Minnetonka; and/or volunteer (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Minnetonka, Hopkins, or Golden Valley.

Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. For more information, including nominations guidelines and forms, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. Nominations for the 2012 Caring Youth awards are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2012. ☺



December activities for older adults

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, or contact Nicole Gorman at ngorman@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8369. For general information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

Special Events

Money Matters

December 6, 10:30 p.m.
Learn about four mistakes investors make with their money. Program provided by Home Instead Senior Care. Refreshments provided. Free, RSVP by Dec. 2.

Understanding Psoriasis

December 7, 10:30 a.m.
Learn the signs and symptoms of psoriasis, various treatment options, as well as lifestyle strategies that allow psoriasis patients to lead healthier and happier lives. Free, RSVP by Dec. 5.

Do-It-Yourself Facelift

December 12, 10:30 a.m.
Cost is \$5, due by Dec. 8.

Holiday Gala

December 15, 12 p.m.
Enjoy time with friends, a lunch buffet and entertainment by the Grace Notes Trio. Cost is \$7, due by Dec. 12.

Holiday Tea with Tara B.

December 19, 1 p.m.
Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment provided by Tara Brueske, a talented pianist and vocalist. Cost is \$3, due by Dec. 15.

Defensive Driving Classes

To register, call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit www.mnsafetycenter.org

Four-Hour Course

December 8, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Refreshments provided (no meal). \$20. ☺

Plan your winter concert schedule

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) offers the following concerts in November and December to brighten those dreary winter days! All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted. Visit www.musicassociation.org or call (952) 401-5954 for more information.

Toast to the Holidays

Food and fun with the Choral Reflections of Minnetonka

December 3, 6:30 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

By reservation only. Tickets: \$20. Call (952) 401-5954.

Annual Messiah Community Sing-Along

Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra and guest soloists

Saturday, December 10, 2 p.m.
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska

Free concert with gate admission.

Sounds of Youth

Minnetonka Youth Choirs (chamber, concert and cappella)

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka

Annual “A Child’s Christmas”

Minnetonka Youth Choirs (chamber, concert and cappella)

Sunday, December 11, 3 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church
125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

Juletide

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus and Youth Chamber Choir

Two performances:

Sunday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

Sunday, December 18, 3 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church
125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

Accompanist wanted

The Minnetonka Senior Chorale is seeking a volunteer piano accompanist for the 2011-2012 concert season. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon from September through May at the Minnetonka Community Center, with 12 – 15 performances throughout the Twin Cities area. For more details, contact Roger Hoel at (952) 401-5954. ☺

Fire department offers variety of services

The public educators with the What if? Fire and life safety program from the Minnetonka Fire Department want you to know about some of the services offered by the fire department, in addition to putting out fires. The fire department provides care at medical emergencies, assists in vehicle accidents and provides public education to the community through a variety of means and events.

- The Minnetonka Fire Department:
 - Responds daily to 9-1-1 medical calls from residents.
 - Offers a public education program, called “What If? Expect the Unexpected,” that reaches thousands of residents through presentations, extinguisher training

sessions, station tours and other city wide events.

- Through the What If? program, offers a service called “After the Fire.” When a Minnetonka resident has a fire in their home, the fire department provides guidance in putting the pieces back together again.

To learn more about the What if? program, or to schedule an event, please contact public educators Jim Lundeen and Sara Ahlquist at (952) 939-8331. ☺



Reducing salt use while keeping Minnetonka's streets safe

Many lakes, creeks and wetlands are currently or will be degraded due to the use of chlorides (winter salt). According to Environmental Protection Agency standards, both Nine Mile and Minnehaha creeks are unhealthy due to high chloride levels.

The city of Minnetonka is very concerned about salt use in its winter maintenance operation and has been recognized as a leader in incorporating salt reduction strategies.

This year the city will once again modify its current program to better monitor and reduce the amount of salt applied to roadways, while still keeping the streets safe.

Here's what we're doing:

- **Incorporating electronic monitoring**
The city will be closely monitoring the amount of salt applied on streets located in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (the southeast part of town). Electronic sander controls have been installed in specific trucks in order to gather information about when chemicals are applied, how much is applied and when the application started and stopped. This monitoring will assist supervisors in managing the amount of salt applied on the roadway.

- **Expanding anti-icing techniques**
When conditions allow, a diluted liquid of salt brine will be applied to dry pavement prior to a snowfall.

A light coating of chloride prevents ice from sticking to and building up on the pavement during the snowfall, thus preventing ice build-up on the roads. This allows for easier removal and the application of less salt, as compared to the amount that would be needed to remove compacted snow from the roads later.

- **Pre-treating salt to prevent "bounce and scatter"**

Rock salt needs moisture in order to melt ice. Pre-wetting the salt allows the salt to stay where it's put, instead of "bouncing and scattering." This results in using 30 to 60 percent less salt. The salt then begins melting ice and snow almost immediately.

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

The city's main goal is to continue to keep our streets safe while reducing our

Did you know?

Salt is effective only at temperatures 15 degrees Fahrenheit and above. When temperatures dip below 15 degrees, the salt has to be treated. In order to reduce costs, the city treats winter salt with a "hot mix" of magnesium chloride, organic beet juice and salt brine, which allows the salt to be effective to 10 degrees below zero.



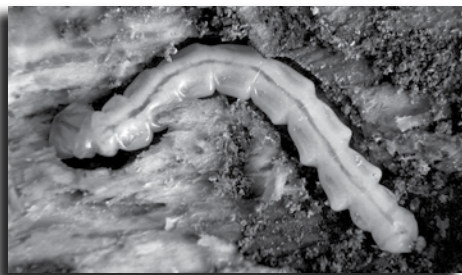
salt use. This is a win-win for our water resources and for your wallet. You can help by doing the following:

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

Buy rewood locally to prevent the spread of tree diseases

Lately, more and more people are interested in "buying local." This means rewood, too! Buying local rewood can help prevent the spread of insects and fungal diseases that may threaten the health of Minnetonka's community forest.

If you're stockpiling wood for your replace, try to use wood collected from your own yard. If that's not possible, then a good rule of thumb is to buy or collect rewood within 100 miles of the place you plan to use it.



The emerald ash borer larva tunnels under the bark and feeds on the tree's living tissues (cambium). You may not know your rewood is infested unless you peel off all the bark.

Need more reason to buy your rewood locally? Consider this: emerald ash borer, the latest threat to metro area trees, can spread rapidly through the transport of rewood. That's why moving rewood out of Hennepin and Ramsey counties is now prohibited, although rewood transport between the two counties is allowed.

If you need help finding a rewood dealer close to your home, look no further than the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To protect the state's forests, the DNR regulates the type of rewood that can enter a state park and certifies dealers authorized to sell rewood for use in state parks. Use this same list to find a rewood dealer close to your home or your planned destination, such as a cabin. Visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/rewood_vendors/vendors/list.html for the list of certified rewood dealers.

Questions? Contact city forester Emily Ball at eball@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 988-8421, or visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺



Many tree insects and diseases can survive in rewood under the bark. When you move rewood you can inadvertently carry these with you, spreading them to new areas.

minnetonka memo

December 2011



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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

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

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POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka
December
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. 19 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Final tax levy and budget)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Public Budget Hearing) 22 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	7 Park Board, 7 p.m. 26 Christmas Day (observed), city offices closed
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.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 for the latest information.

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

Staying informed about city projects

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

Use caution with candles this winter

With the approach of winter and the increased use of seasonal decorations, it's important to think about candle safety and prevention. Follow these safety tips to ensure your home doesn't become a statistic:

- If possible, avoid using lighted candles. On average, 42 home candles are reported every day.
- If you do use lighted candles, place them in sturdy holders (glass, metal or ceramic) and keep them away from materials that can burn. More than half of all candles start when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains or decorations are too close to the candle.

- Keep candles away from children and pets. Set a good example by using matches, lighters and re carefully. Young children and older adults have the highest death risk from candles.
- Extinguish candles after each use and before going to bed. In 20% of candle fires, the candles are unattended or abandoned, and falling asleep is a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 36% of the associated deaths. One-half of home candle deaths occur between midnight and 6 a.m., and more than one-third of home candles start in the bedroom.

Information adapted from the U.S. Fire Administration website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>. ∞