

General election is Tuesday, November 2

THE GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, November 2, with federal, state and county offices on the ballot.

Below are the questions voters most frequently ask, and their answers. For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com.

What's on the ballot?

Offices on the ballot include governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, U.S. representative (Dist. 3), state representatives (Dists. 33B, 42A and 43B), state senators (Dists. 33, 42 and 43), county sheriff, county attorney, soil and water commissioners (Dists. 2 and 4) and judicial races.

Voters living in the Hopkins School District also will have two referenda ballot questions on which to vote. For more information on those referenda, visit www.hopkinsschools.org.

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?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

- **In person:** Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will be available at both locations Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, November 1, until 5 p.m.
- **By mail:** Absentee voting also may be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery. Be sure to follow all the directions that are included with your

absentee ballot. By state law, absentee voters who do not provide the required information will have their ballots rejected. If your ballot is rejected by the city's absentee ballot board, the city will mail you a replacement absentee ballot, but again, it is extremely important to follow the instructions that are included.

When and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, 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 or call city hall. None of the city's polling locations have changed in the last three years.

Am I registered to vote?

The Minnesota Secretary of State's website now allows you to verify if you are currently registered to vote at your present address. To check your voter registration status visit <http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>. You can also call city hall to find out if you are registered to vote.

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, if you have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted or if you have not voted in four years.

What identification is needed to register?

Minnesota state law requires specific forms of identification to register at the polling place. For information about these forms, visit the election page on the city's website.

Where will election results be available?

Results will be posted on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us and the Hennepin County website at www.hennepin.us.

What is the city's role in the election?

Although no local issues are on the ballot, the city plays a key role in the election process. City staff recruits and trains elections judges, provides polling place supplies, answers questions and ensures voter results are sent to Hennepin County. Our thanks to all of the wonderful election judges who maintain the integrity of the voting process.

Where can I find General Election information?

Because the General Election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 2—very close to the first of the month—all General Election information is provided in this *Minnetonka Memo*. Be sure to visit the city website at www.eminnetonka.com or contact city hall at (952) 939-8200 for the latest updates. We encourage you to get out and vote on November 2. ☺

Fire Department and City Open House is October 5



Open House information is on page 3.

Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department

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

Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 3–9

Nationally, fire prevention has been officially observed during October since 1920, when President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. This period traces its roots to 1871, when the Great Chicago and Peshtigo, Wisc. fires occurred, killing more than 1,400 people, destroying 16 towns and blackening more than 1.2 million acres.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme is “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.” The Minnetonka Fire Department encourages residents to take this a step further by practicing both emergency plans: a fire escape plan and an emergency plan.

Creating a fire escape plan is simple. Walk through your home with your family and agree on two ways out of every room. Explain how to check doors for heat before opening them. Then determine a place such as a tree, boulder or mailbox outside your home where the family can meet once they have left the residence. Now that you have presented the plan, practice it by sounding a smoke detector and having everyone evacuate to the meeting place.

The other simple plan to have in place is a family emergency plan. Meet with all family members to discuss how to respond to all types of emergencies that could occur such as flooding, power outages or storms. Then:

- Identify a storm shelter. This should be a small, windowless room on the lowest level of your residence.
- Teach everyone when and how to call 9-1-1.
- Post 9-1-1 and other emergency numbers, such as poison control, by every phone.

- Show competent family members how to shut off gas, electricity, and water at the main switch/valve.
- Pick a meeting place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Pick two contacts (one local & one out-state) for family members to call in case of an emergency.
- Ensure your house numbers are visible from the street.

What If? preparedness program

The Minnetonka Fire Department's “What If?” program asks, “What if the batteries in your smoke alarms don't work?” This question follows the 2010 National Fire Prevention week theme, “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.” To ensure that your smoke alarms function properly, we remind you to change the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks. Buy your batteries today and be ready for tomorrow!

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

Survey cards

As part of the fire department's ongoing commitment to excellent customer service, department members hand 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 ensure residents are satisfied with the service provided or to identify any issues, and to help identify any outstanding individuals or crews.

Influenza season begins

As the United States enters the annual cold and flu season, residents should be aware there is no substitute for individual preparedness. The city of Minnetonka has an excellent all-hazards emergency management plan in place, but we

recommend visiting the city website for more information on preparing yourself in case of a widespread influenza outbreak. At www.eminnetonka.com, click on Fire, then Emergency Management, for information on preparing for a variety of emergencies. ∞

Below: All ages enjoy fire truck rides at the Fire Department and City Open House.



Fire Department and City Open House is Oct. 5

MEET 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. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. A fireworks display is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater.

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.

What's new this year?

- Like many residents, the city is embracing **organics collection** and is pleased to offer it 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. All food and food containers offered at the open house can be thrown in the organics bin — for outside containers (bottled water, etc.), trash and recycling containers also will be offered.
- **Fireworks!** Enjoy a fireworks show at 8 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater on the Minnetonka Civic Center campus. In case of inclement weather, call (952) 939-TELL (8355) for fireworks status. Fire truck rides will end at 7:30 p.m. to accommodate traffic expected for the fireworks display. **Note:** *Fireworks were rescheduled to this event after being rained out at Summer Festival in June.*

Plan your evening of activities:

- Take a tour of the Minnetonka Police Department's jail and visit with members of the city's Emergency Response Team. (5–8 p.m., *police department*)
- Get moving with activities sponsored by Recreation Services. (5–8 p.m., *Community Center lower level*)
- View this year's photo contest entries and vote for your favorite (5–8 p.m., *Community Center lower level*)
- Ride in a fire truck. (5–7:30 p.m., *Fire Station.*) **Please note:** Due to large volumes of traffic expected for the fireworks, **fire truck rides will end this year at 7:30 p.m.**
- Sit inside heavy equipment from the public works department. Don't forget to pick up an ice pop or hot chocolate! (5–8 p.m., *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! (5–8 p.m., *Community Center*)
- Browse displays from city departments and boards and commissions; as well as community organizations. (5–8 p.m., *Community Center lower level*)
- See woodcarving demonstrations (5–8 p.m., *Community Center upper level*)
- Snack on free refreshments, including hot dogs and pop (5–8 p.m., *Fire Station*) and cookies, popcorn, and lemonade. (5–8 p.m., *Community Center*)

A word about parking

With the addition of the fireworks show, record crowds are expected at this year's Open House. While we are doing everything we can to ensure as much parking is available as possible, please help by carpooling with friends and planning extra time for parking when you arrive at the event. Police staff will be on hand to direct traffic. Thank you for your patience. We hope to see you at Open House! ☺

Open house photos courtesy of Jason Stenvold.



Parks restrooms winterized

DURING OCTOBER, MINNETONKA PARK staff will turn off and winterize all outdoor drinking fountains, as well as the restrooms, at Big Willow, Guilliams and Lone Lake parks. Restrooms are available year-round for park and trail users at Meadow, Gro Tonka and Purgatory parks. ☺

Shoreland, winter maintenance classes offered

THE CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND EDEN Prairie and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District are teaming up to offer the following classes in October and November, through Eden Prairie Community Education. Register for both classes at <http://www.epcommunityed.org/insight/registry/classlist.asp?catID=594>.

Living with Shoreland

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Central Middle School,
8025 School Road, Eden Prairie

Learn the basic steps of how to create and maintain a sound, natural landscape for the edges of lakes, ponds and wetlands. See examples of how to stabilize slopes, reduce goose issues on the lawn, deal with invasive plants and pick the best plants for your shoreland conditions. Get help determining what you can do yourself and when to call in an expert. Through the use of aerial photos you'll be able to see how your property plays into the big picture of the landscape around you. Limit: 25. Cost: \$9. Course #5158-01.

Environmentally Friendly Winter Maintenance

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7–8 p.m.
Central Middle School,
8025 School Road, Eden Prairie

Discover how to keep your driveway, sidewalk and steps safer in the winter without causing harm to the surrounding concrete, vegetation, pets, people and water. With Nine Mile Creek on the impaired waters list for high chlorides, you can make a positive impact with your use of salt this winter. Discussion will include de-icer selection, application rates, snow removal methods and how it all affects the environment. Bring your trickiest winter maintenance concerns and join the discussion. Limit: 25. Cost: \$9. Course #5159-01. ☺

A reminder about curfews for youth under 18

THE CITY OF Minnetonka's juvenile curfew ordinance is the same as that of Hennepin County. Children must be off the streets and home by the following times, based on their age and the day of the week:

- **Younger than 12**
Sunday through Thursday, 9 p.m.;
Friday and Saturday, 10 p.m.
- **Ages 12, 13, 14**
Sunday through Thursday, 10 p.m.;
Friday and Saturday, 11 p.m.
- **Ages 15, 16, 17**
Sunday through Thursday, 11 p.m.;
Friday and Saturday, 12 p.m.

Curfews apply to anyone under age 18, at any public place, including streets, common areas of schools, hospitals, apartment houses, office buildings, transit facilities and shops. Parents can always set tighter curfews. The curfew ordinance is in place not just to keep kids out of trouble, but also to protect them from becoming victims.

If you witness anyone under the age of 18 out after these hours, please call 9-1-1 to report it. Law enforcement officers can ask for information about why a juvenile is out after curfew. They can't issue a citation, detain someone or take them into custody unless, after speaking to the

child and considering the circumstances, they reasonably believe the child has violated the ordinance and no exceptions apply.

Exceptions to curfew

Exceptions to the curfew ordinance apply, if the juvenile can prove he or she is:

- Accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult.
- Working or going to and from work.
- In an emergency situation.
- Going to, attending or coming home from an official school, religious or recreational activity that is sponsored or supervised by a public entity or civic organization.
- On an errand at the direction of a parent or guardian.
- Exercising First Amendment rights, protected by the federal or state constitution.
- Engaged in interstate travel.
- On a public right-of-way, boulevard or sidewalk abutting property where they live or a neighbor's property.

The Minnetonka Police Department has business-size cards and refrigerator magnets, available in four languages (English, Hmong, Spanish, Somali), that show curfew times. Call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546 if you would like one sent to you. ☺



Enjoy fall concerts by MAM

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) has embarked on its 37th concert season, and invites you to attend any or all of these October and November concerts! For more information about the concerts, call (952) 401-5954.

Spooktacular Concerts

Sunday, October 24, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 30, 3:30 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center,
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

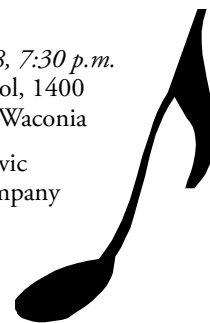
Symphony Orchestra (accompanied by the Senior Chorale Oct. 24). Free-will donations accepted.

Magnificat

Monday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Waconia High School, 1400
Community Drive, Waconia

The Minnetonka Civic Orchestra will accompany the Waconia High School Select Choir in the presentation of John Rutter's "Magnificat."
Admission: \$5

per person or \$10 per family. For more information call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org. ☺



Register now for Oct. 24 fall festival

ENJOY A DAY OF outdoor fall fun Sunday, October 24, from 1–3 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater on the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Activities include musical entertainment by The Splatter Sisters, storytellers, hay rides, face-painting, hot apple cider by the fire, games, treats and more! Costumes are encouraged, but not required. **Registration is required for this event.** Please call Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register. The cost is \$8 per child and adults are free. All pre-registered participants will receive a treat bag. In case of rain, this event will be moved into the Minnetonka Community Center.



Enjoy a post-festival concert

After the fall family festival, plan to attend a “Spooktacular” concert by the Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by the Minnetonka Senior Chorale. Concert starts at 3:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Call (952) 401-5954 for more information. ☺



Costumed participants enjoyed the 2009 fall family festival.

Reflections Award nominations due Nov. 15

DO YOU KNOW OF AN INDIVIDUAL, business or program that consistently works to make Minnetonka a great community? Then consider nominating that person or organization for a 2011 Reflections Award!

The biennial Reflections Award program was created in 1997 to recognize individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions reflect positively on Minnetonka. The Minnetonka Community Commission reviews applications and recommends awards to be presented by the Minnetonka City Council.

To be considered for the 2011 awards, to be presented at a council meeting in January 2011, the city must receive a completed application by November 15, 2010. For an application, visit the city’s website at www.eminnetonka.com; pick one up at city hall; or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207, and one will be mailed to you.

Other awards available

If you know of someone who has made a contribution to the community, but you’re not sure he or she would qualify for a Reflections Award, consider a Minnetonka Community Action Recognition award nomination! This program targets those projects that enrich the quality of life in this community, demonstrate human connections, preserve natural resources, beautify the community, or exemplify good citizenship. Award nominations are accepted and evaluated as they are received—there are no nomination deadlines. Award winners are recognized at a council meeting.

Submit your nomination online at www.eminnetonka.com (search “community action recognition”) or contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207 for a paper nomination form. ☺

Williston Center improvements continue; spin classes start Nov. 1

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WILLISTON Fitness Center continue, including interior remodeling, two additions to the existing pool building, parking lot expansion and painting of the tennis building exterior. However, much of Williston is still available to use! Here’s an update.

What’s open now

The weight rooms, gym, group fitness studio and tennis court are still open and available for use.

What’s opening soon

The swimming pool and locker rooms are slated to re-open in mid-November, with



the new entrance and fitness area opening at the beginning of December.

Spin classes start November 1

Looking for a new exercise routine? Consider spin classes, starting November 1 at the Williston Fitness Center!

For more information or to register for spin classes, call (952) 939-8370. To stay updated on the Williston Center improvements, visit www.eminnetonka.com and search “Williston Fitness Center.” ☺

Training offered for snow removal contractors

ARE YOU A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR IN the snow and ice removal game? Are you a local business looking to save money while keeping your parking lots and sidewalks safe? Then this is the workshop for you and your contractor to save money, keep roads safe and protect local waters.

Attend the Stormwater U workshop “Winter Maintenance for Parking Lots” Thursday, Oct. 7, from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Training topics include

application rates, equipment calibration, material storage, environmental effects, new maintenance methods and de-icing and anti-icing. MPCA Level I certification is available—an optional test will be given at 12:30 p.m.

Workshop fee is \$25 and includes a manual and morning refreshments. If your organization has more than three people attending, all participants after the first three will be charged only \$12.50. Register at www.extension.umn.edu/stormwater—click on “Stormwater U Workshops.” ☺

Budget restructuring plan continues: permanent

RECOGNIZING THE “NEW normal” of the national and state economy, the city of Minnetonka enacted a long-term budget strategy last year designed to restructure the way city services are provided. Now in its second year, this **permanent budget restructuring will have saved \$4 million, while 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.**

Responsible fiscal management

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.

In the spring of 2009, the city implemented a number of comprehensive budget actions to ensure financial stability over the long term. These strategies involved various new ways of doing business: cooperative service agreements with other agencies, productivity investments that help deliver core services more efficiently, and department reorganizations that reposition the city to better serve our constituents.

We want to hear from you

THE CITY WILL HOLD ITS PUBLIC hearing on the budget, Monday, December 6, during the regular city council meeting beginning at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. Residents and businesses also have an opportunity to provide direct feedback via the city’s website at www.eminnetonka.com. All comments will be shared with council as budget options are considered prior to adoption of the final 2011 budget in late December.

Because the city is a service business, changes were needed to permanently reduce personnel-related costs. As a result, the reorganizations required a **net reduction in our total work force by six percent** — similar to contractions in the private sector nationwide. Seven employees were laid off, half of whom were managers, and seven vacant positions were permanently eliminated.

Additionally, the city and its unions responsibly **renegotiated existing contracts to limit future base wage increases to one percent annually**, with an allowance for market adjustments, when warranted, to remain competitive. This same structure was adopted city-wide for all non-represented employees, as well as for all management personnel.

Operating budget remains flat

To meet the current and future service needs of our community, the city continues to take actions to meet the four objectives of the repositioning plan:

- 1. Achieve long-term budget balance**, without one-time gimmicks that avoid tough decisions by simply shifting obligations into the future.
- 2. Sustain direct core service priorities**, including police and fire protection, street maintenance, parks and recreation.
- 3. Continue infrastructure investments** to protect city assets and avoid the higher costs of deferred maintenance.
- 4. Reduce past property tax growth rates** to ease pressures on homeowners and businesses.

Recognizing the economic hardships affecting our residents and businesses, the Minnetonka city council directed that the city’s operating budget tax levy be limited to an increase of only 1.1

Fire equipment fund

THE 2011 BUDGET BEGINS TO phase in, over three years, a new fund to replace essential, but costly, fire trucks and equipment. These recurring capital needs will be funded by a modest (1.2 percent) levy increase in 2011, with another smaller increase in 2013. The new levy will fund more than \$2 million of replacement pumper and ladder trucks over the next five years, which will significantly lower rising maintenance costs of the aging equipment. Funding this equipment on a pay-as-you-go basis also avoids interest borrowing expenses that would otherwise be much greater over time.

percent. **Over two years, the operating budget for basic city services will remain flat.**

This extraordinary achievement was made possible by the substantial permanent spending reductions already enacted by the city. Rather than rely on temporary, one-time reductions in debt or capital spending like many cities, the city of Minnetonka reduced the growth in operating costs on an ongoing basis.

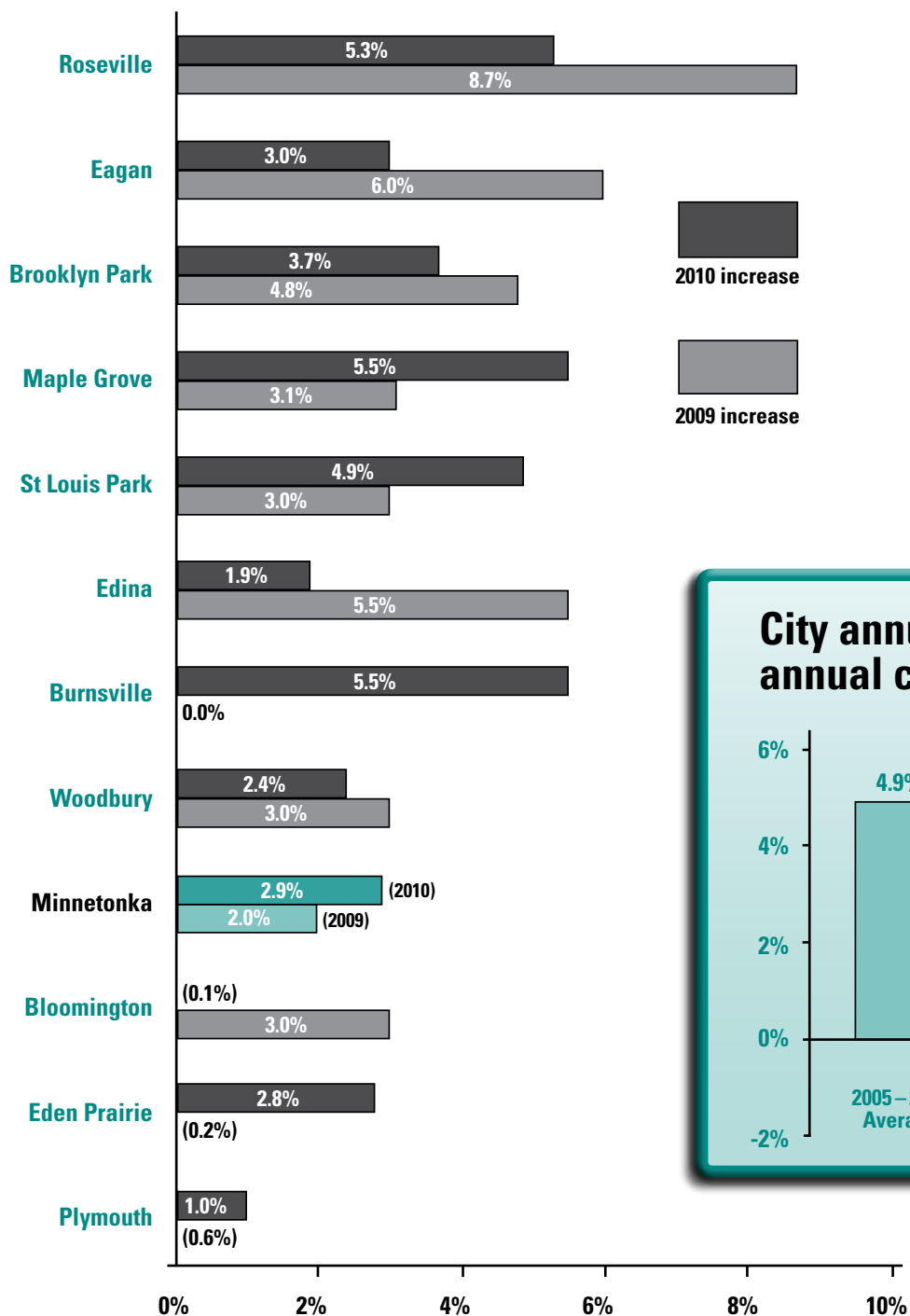
Property tax restraint

The budget increase of 1.1 percent for general operations remains substantially below the average of recent years, and is less than the current inflation rate. With a 1.2 percent increase for the dedicated fire apparatus fund and a modest 0.6 percent increase for streets, equipment and parks, the total recommended preliminary city tax levy is 2.9 percent higher than last year.

This adopted preliminary levy continues the city’s tradition of modest tax increases for basic services, and would translate into an additional \$28 for the average Minnetonka homeowner of a \$292,800 home. ☺

ent downsizing saves \$4 million over two years

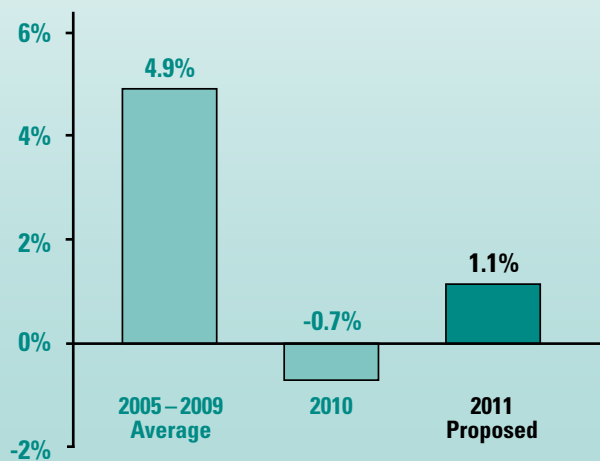
Minnetonka remains among lower tax increases over last two years



Leveraging economic development funds

THE PRELIMINARY LEVY ALSO includes an additional 0.5 percent to preserve the option to leverage economic development funds, which brings the total preliminary levy to 3.4 percent. If adopted in December, This additional \$150,000 annually generated by the partial decertification of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district would leverage an estimated \$3.2 million over the next five years to support housing developments in the city.

City annual operating budget—annual change from prior year



Note: Unlike most other cities, Minnetonka does not special assess for capital investments in streets.

Living with Minnetonka's wildlife: coyotes and deer

AS PROMISED IN SEPTEMBER, THIS month's *Minnetonka Memo* offers tips on living with coyotes and deer.

Remember, the most important tip in helping keep the wild critters at bay — don't feed them. If you want to feed birds in your yard without attracting other animals, follow these tips:

- Keep bird feeder areas clean. Use feeders designed to help keep seed off the ground, as the seed may attract turkeys and other wild animals. Clean up any spilled seed daily.
- Mount bird feeders away from trees and shrubs when possible and install baffles or other animal guards on pole-mounted feeders to keep squirrels and raccoons from reaching the seed.
- Temporarily discontinue feeding birds if other animals become a nuisance.



Coyotes

Hardly any animal in America is more adaptable to changing conditions than the coyote. Coyotes can live just about anywhere. They are found in deserts, swamps, tundra, grasslands brush and dense forests, yet they have also learned to live in suburbs and cities.

One of the keys to the coyote's success is its diet. A true scavenger, the coyote will eat almost anything. Identified as a killer of small livestock, poultry and deer, the coyote will also eat snakes and foxes, rodents and rabbits, birds, frogs, grass and grasshoppers, pet cats and cat food, pet dogs and dog food, carrion, fruits and vegetables, doughnuts and sandwiches and just plain garbage.

Coyotes look like small collies or German shepherds. They have erect pointed ears, a slender muzzle and a bushy tail. Most coyotes are brownish gray in color with a light gray to cream-colored belly. However, a coyote's color varies and may be somewhat darker or lighter depending on the time of the year.

In areas where they are hunted or trapped, coyotes are extremely wary of human beings. However, in urban and suburban areas where they are less likely to be harmed and more likely to associate people with an easy and dependable source of food, they can become very bold. They will come up to the door of a house if food is regularly present.

Take these steps to help minimize interactions with coyotes:

- Don't feed coyotes!
- Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night. Be sure your pets have all the appropriate immunizations.
- Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet and livestock feed where it is inaccessible to wildlife.
- Bird feeders should be positioned so that coyotes can't get to the feed. Coyotes are attracted by bread, table scraps and even seed. They may also be attracted by birds and rodents that come to the feeders.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Trim any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.
- Discourage coyotes from frequenting your area. If you start seeing coyotes around your home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks (near them, not at them).

If practiced continuously, these steps may decrease the frequency of coyote sightings in your area. However, coyotes are adaptable to change and are quick to learn new ways of survival. Occasional sightings most likely will continue. By making life more difficult for coyotes, you will increase the likelihood that they will go somewhere else.

Deer

Deer are a common sight in Minnetonka. Follow these suggestions to help keep them out of your landscaping.

- From mid-August through April, keep hardware cloth or a plastic tree guard on any recently planted trees. Deer can damage young, tender trees by rubbing their antlers on the thin-barked stems. See the August *Minnetonka Memo* for extensive information on protecting trees from deer.



- Install deer-proof fencing to keep deer out of recently planted areas or to protect existing plants from deer browse.
- Homemade repellents can be made by placing human hair, soap, or garlic in netting or a stocking and tying it to tree branches or fences.
- Commercial repellents can be sprayed directly onto plants (many cannot be used on food crops, however). Experts note that, with any kind of repellent, the key is to begin using it as soon as you see deer damage, and change or reapply the repellent often, especially after rain or when new growth appears.

The city maintains a deer management program involving education and also the periodic removal of deer, with the goals of preventing starvation and disease from deer overpopulation, reducing the number of motor vehicle accidents involving deer, to preserve the land of property owners and to contribute to the success of the city's natural resources stewardship program.

One final reminder, although the wildlife may be driving you crazy, remember that the discharge of any firearm or air-powered weapon is prohibited in Minnetonka.

For more information or assistance with any wildlife questions or issues, contact the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500.

Photos courtesy of past photo contest participants. ∞



Using nature's mulch wisely

DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF WOODS ON your property? Is the understory wide open from clearing, or a tripping hazard with dead debris? Do you need a machete to get through the buckthorn?

Our woods today look much different than they did decades ago. Invasive species are becoming the norm in unmanaged woods; trees are lost to storms, disease and insect pests; and the leaf litter is very thin due to the feeding of non-native earth worms (but that's another story). All these conditions are disturbances that can result in erosion when the heavy rains come and dry soil when the rains don't come.

Nature's great recycling process

As you work in your woods, be mindful of nature's great recycling process and the benefits of leaves, sticks, logs and plant debris. Plant debris on the ground is nature's mulch, and the benefits of mulch are great. When dead wood of any size has soil contact, it helps to retain soil moisture and prevent erosion. Dead logs provide habitat for small animals and a host of organisms in the food web. Rotting wood breaks down into organic matter that builds the soil.

Trees that fall to the ground can result in a big mess in the woods, depending on their size.

Did you know that logs on the ground provide habitat and egg-laying sites for frogs, toads, salamanders and reptiles? Did you know these critters eat mosquitoes? Rodents will use ground logs for shelter and nesting, too. Did you know the rodents are food for owls and hawks? Branch tops of fallen trees near the ground will protect tree seedlings from early deer browse. As the tree decomposes, the wood breaks down into compost and some of the stored nutrients return to the soil, allowing another tree to grow in its place. For this reason, foresters call an old moist tree trunk on the ground a "nurse log," because it's able to provide the needs for young seedlings.

Too much mess?

A fallen tree or too much brush (like buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle) can clog your woods and create an obstacle course and a safety hazard, so consider these options for clean-up and recycling wood on site:

- De-limb a tree trunk or two and lay it flat on the ground.
- Better yet, place the trunk on a slope perpendicular to the downhill flow of water to slow velocity, increase



infiltration, and trap leaf litter and silt during heavy rain.

- Cut branches into sections so they will lay flat on the ground, too. Soil contact retains moisture and allows faster decomposition.
- Place logs and branch sections along a foot path to define a trail.
- Chip the finer brush on site and spread the chips evenly in the woods. This is easiest when the plants are dormant and the ground is frozen.

Some dos and don'ts of plant debris

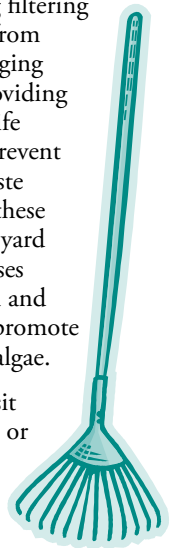
- **Do** spread wood mulch over bare soil. Bare soil is where invasive species take root. Dig weeds out first.
- **Do** use all these tips when removing buckthorn and non-native honeysuckles. Don't forget to treat the fresh-cut stumps.
- **Do** rake leaves out of the street to prevent them and their nutrients from going down the storm drain.
- **Do** spread leaves throughout your woods in the fall, rather than dump them in a pile.
- **Don't** put leaves or grass clippings near a wetland because the leached nutrients increase algae growth in the water.
- **Don't** create brush piles on your property—it's against city ordinance.
- **Do** ask a professional for advice on proper procedure if you have a diseased elm or oak.

The next time you think about cleaning up your woods, try to remember the benefits of retaining nature's mulch on site.

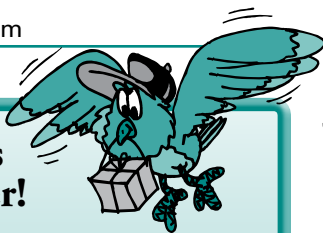
Dispose of yard wastes properly

CLEANING UP YOUR YARD EACH FALL can be a daunting task, and often results in a large amount of yard waste including leaves, grass clippings, brush and branches. Improper disposal of these materials can be damaging to the natural environment and result in an unsightly public nuisance. Please use the tips below to properly dispose of yard waste correctly this fall, as well as in the future.

- **Do** use the curbside pick-up service offered by your garbage hauler. Please contact your garbage hauler for details regarding yard waste collection.
- **Do** use the city leaf and brush drop-off programs when available.
- **Do** consider properly composting some of your yard wastes for reuse.
- **Don't** dispose of yard wastes on public property. Dumping yard waste on public property is not permitted and can pose damage to existing vegetation as well as become unsightly. Piles of leaves and brush do not readily decompose and may remain visible for years. Waste piles also 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** dispose of yard wastes in or adjacent to wetlands, lakes and creeks. Wetlands and other water bodies serve many functions including filtering pollutants and sediment from stormwater 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. In addition, as yard waste decomposes it releases nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which then promote the growth of weeds and algae.
- **Don't** blow, rake or deposit yard wastes into the street or storm drain. In addition to being unsightly, the materials may block water flow during rain or snow melt and the nutrients from these materials may be carried downstream to lakes, streams and wetlands. ♻️



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Minnetonka Historical Society meeting Oct. 7

CHANGE IS CONSTANT. NO MATTER how remote, no community comes about in isolation. The history of every community is influenced by events nearby and far away. Join Official City Historian Betty Johnson Thursday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., for a look at some of the social and technological changes that have affected American life during the last 150 years, and discuss how they are reflected in the city of Minnetonka's history. This event is hosted by the Minnetonka Historical Society.

For more information, call Minnetonka Historical Society member and event organizer Dorothy Welch at (952) 240-7952.

Shady Oak Beach groundbreaking event is Oct. 8

JOIN CITY AND COUNTY LEADERS FOR a groundbreaking Friday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m. at Shady Oak Beach, 5200 Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka.

The cities of Hopkins and Minnetonka received a \$187,500 Hennepin Youth Sports Program grant to develop the new Shady Oak Beach Community Play Area. Scheduled for completion in mid-May 2011, the play area is for children ages 1–12 and will be open for use from April through October.

Funding for the grant came from tax dollars collected for the new Minnesota Twin stadium and designated for youth sports/recreational enhancement.

For more information call (952) 939-8203.

Seniors, enjoy these October activities

LOCATED AT THE MINNETONKA Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, Senior Services offers a wide variety of classes, programs, and activities for active older adults. For more information, or to sign up for the free monthly newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Courses

Oct. 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Refreshments provided (no meal).
Cost: \$20.

Oct. 19, 6–10 p.m.
Refreshments provided (no meal).
Cost: \$20

Community Dance with "The Castaways"

Oct. 8, 6:15–10 p.m.
Eisenhower Community Center,
1001 Hwy. 7, Hopkins

Dance lessons provided from 6:15–7 p.m.; dance follows lessons. Cost is \$13 per person — pre-registration is required. Call (952) 401-6800 or visit www.minnetonkacommunityed.org. Click on "Browse catalogs and programs," then "Community Events" under Adult Programs.

Journey Well with Trish Herbert

Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m.
Join author Trish Herbert as she takes you on a journey through her book. Cost is \$2, due by Oct. 8.

Senior Garden Club

Oct. 11, 1 p.m.
Whether you are a beginning, advanced or master gardener, you're invited to join the Senior Garden Club! Enjoy speakers, demonstrations, tours and volunteer projects. Club meets the second Monday of each month at the community center. This month, garden club members demonstrate the uses of dried local plants in creating seasonal and holiday decor. Call Irene Kostka at (952) 473-0862 for more information.

Caregivers Website Demo

Oct. 12, 10 a.m.
Senior Community Services in partnership with Independent Home Living will demonstrate a new web resource for caregivers. RSVP for this free event by Oct. 8. Call (952) 939-8393.

Attitudes at Every Altitude

Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m.
Gregg Proteaux will present his book, "Attitudes at Every Altitude: One Flight Attendant's Observations from 7 Million Miles Flown." The book is based on Proteaux's 26 years of experience in the airline industry, and includes a close-up view of airline travel today based on real-life miles flown. Cost is \$2, due by Oct. 11.

30th Anniversary Party

Oct. 14, 12 p.m.
Entertainment provided by Cliff Brunzell and the Golden Strings. Cost is \$7, due by Oct. 7.

Civic Center/Creek Hike

Oct. 15, 9 a.m.
Park at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Adopt-A-Highway

Oct. 20, 1 p.m.
Volunteers needed. Supplies provided.

Flu Shots

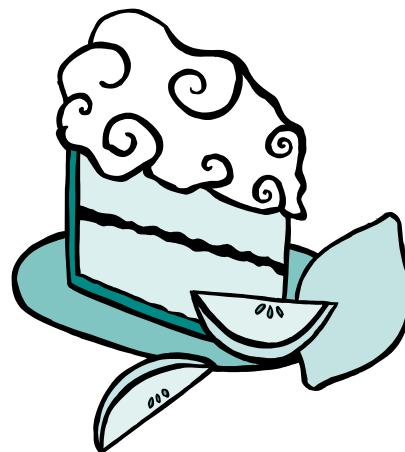
Oct. 21, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Healthy Leadership: What Legacy Will We Leave Our Children?

Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
What we can do to maintain and improve the planet for future generations? Speaker is Dr. Mike Osterholm, professor, University of Minnesota Division of Environmental Health Sciences and Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. Sponsored by the Minnetonka Senior Advisory Board. Call (952) 939-8393 to RSVP for this free event.

Pops and Pie

Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy pie while being entertained by the musical talents of the Senior Synod Band. Cost is \$3, due by Oct. 26.





2010 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

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)

The Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd will be **the only** site accepting leaves and yard waste. During the busiest times there will be expanded drop-off days. In addition to the normal operating schedule, the site will be open Friday, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, from 12 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 7, 14 and 21, from 12 to 4 p.m. You must present proper identification to verify you are a Minnetonka resident (driver's license, state I.D., or Minnetonka utility bill).

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option! All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as your garbage collection for a reasonable fee (either an annual, monthly, per cart or per bag fee).

The garbage hauler yard waste collection programs typically run October through November. Check with your garbage hauler for details and see the information on proper bags required for curbside collection of bagged yard waste in the article at lower right or on www.eminnetonka.com.

LEAVES — Truck and trailer loads of leaves will be accepted only at Minnetonka Public Works and only during brush drop-off hours on the following dates:

- **Mondays:** 12 to 8 p.m. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16
- **Fridays:** 12 to 6 p.m. Nov. 5, 12, 19
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20
- **Sundays:** 12 to 4 p.m. Nov. 7, 14, 21



Fall leaf drop-off ends Sunday, Nov. 21.

The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free. Residents will unload and/or unbag their leaves and yardwaste onto the large bulk pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal — including paper and compostable bags. Please bring proper equipment, like a stout pitch fork, to unload your truck or trailer load of leaves.

The suggested method is to use many layers of tarps between a foot or less of leaves. Use the tarp to gather up and move a small pile of leaves from your yard to your trailer or vehicle, continue using lots of small tarps until the vehicle is full. This makes unloading your leaves easier and faster at the site. All you need to do is flip off the tarps one at a time. Sticks and branches smaller than ½ inch in diameter are acceptable with leaves; anything larger goes to the brush pile. (See the brush drop-off article at top right.) **Loads of leaves must be covered during transport!**

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430. ♻️



Brush drop-off closes Nov. 21

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 and a valid I.D. proving residency is required.

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, or sod in with the brush pile. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials go in the separate leaf drop-off area (see article). The brush drop-off and leaf drop-off programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials.

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 21, 2010. For more information call Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430. ♻️

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 to the left on the leaf drop-off program. ♻️

minnetonka memo

October 2010



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

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Ward 4: James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike.....(952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency..... 9-1-1
Non-emergency.....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

October
2010

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

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

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

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

Staying informed about city projects

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

The Landing Shop opens at its new location

THE LANDING SHOP (PREVIOUSLY THE Mills Landing Gift Shoppe) has moved to 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, at the northwest corner of I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad/Cty. Rd. 73, and opens for business October 1. Browse and buy handmade toys, doll clothes and furniture, sweaters, booties and more. The shop is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Extended hours in December

In December, The Landing Shop will be open additional hours for all your gift-giving needs! Shop Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call (763) 591-4868 or visit www.eminnetonka.com (search "the



landing shop"). The Landing Shop is a recreational program offered by the city of Minnetonka for area seniors. ∞