



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
November 2010*

2010 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners announced

MORE THAN 200 ENTRIES WERE received for this year's city of Minnetonka photo contest, held in conjunction with the October Fire Department and City Open House. Minnetonka Community Commission members met to evaluate the entries, and chose the winners appearing at right.

Attendees at the October 5 Fire Department and City Open House event were invited to vote for a People's Choice Award, and the photo receiving the most votes appears below.



People's Choice: *Norma Norell, "Whitey, Fluffey and Snowball"*

In addition, the commission chose a Judges' Choice Award in each of the three categories: Lifestyle, Natural and Wild Minnetonka. Winners in this category appear at right.

Finally, the commission gave out several honorable mention awards, as follows:

- Pieper Abernathy, *"Happy Family 2"*
- Erik Ahlquist, *"Spider Web"*
- Tom Anderson, *"Deer Crossing Road"*
- Mercedes Arnold, *"Taking the Plunge"*
- Kim Flemmer, *"Garden Friend"*
- Jane Fox, *"Backyard Surprise"*
- Tim Howe, *"Friends Meeting for Breakfast"*
- Christine Petersen, *"Jidana Sunset"*
- Jess Quiner, *"Saturneid on My Patio"*
- Judy Winterhalter, *"Mother's Gone, But Life Goes On"*



First Place: *Anne Groton, "Water to Ice"*



Judges' Choice—Lifestyle Minnetonka:
Brant Buchika, "Minnehaha Creek Nature Fairy"



Judges' Choice—Wild Minnetonka:
Shannon Quinn, "What a Hoot"



Second Place: *Eric Raarup, "The Last Day of Summer"*



Third Place: *Doug Hobertz, "Star Gazing Tree Frog"*



Judges' Choice—Natural Minnetonka:
Tom Anderson, "Boulders in the Creek"

View photos online

ALL OF THE WINNING PHOTOS are displayed on the city of Minnetonka's website at www.eminnetonka.com. Winners were recognized at the October 25 meeting of the Minnetonka City Council. Thank you to everyone who entered this year's contest! ☺

Spinning, tennis and self-defense offered

RENOVATIONS AT THE WILLISTON Fitness Center continue, with the swimming pool and locker rooms set to re-open in mid-November. Water aerobics will begin immediately following the opening. In mid-December, a new zero-depth pool debuts, followed in March 2011 by the opening of a new indoor play structure!

Please call the service desk at (952) 939-8370 for up-to-date information.

Spinning @ Williston!

Spin classes have started and are free to Williston Center members! Check www.eminnetonka.com for schedules. Non-members can attend classes by purchasing a guest pass to the facility.

Tennis heats up

Williston is offering new weekly tennis clinics for all ages and ability levels. Please call the service desk to register for one of the drills below:

- **Stroke, drill & play 3.5 & above:**
Mondays 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **3.25-3.75 Drill & Play:**
Fridays 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- **“Back into Tennis” Lesson & Play:**
Fridays 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Self-defense class set for November 13

The Williston Fitness Center will offer a self-defense class November 13 from 12 – 3 p.m. This class teaches situational awareness, avoidance and the basic defensive skill set. Any woman can use these tools to avoid potentially dangerous situations. State-of-the-art self-defense technology and expert coaching make this class a must for every woman over the age of 15. To register, call (952) 939-8360. Cost: \$35. ☺

Begin registering for recreation Dec. 2

THE HOPKINS-MINNETONKA Recreation Services winter-spring brochure will be mailed to all residents the week of November 22. Program registration for residents begins Thursday, Dec. 2. Open registration begins Thursday, Dec. 16.

Non-residents can purchase a copy of the recreation brochure for \$3 each by calling (952) 939-8203. The brochure will be available to view online November 15 at www.eminnetonka.com. ☺

November events planned for older adults

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 Course

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

Medicare Part D Presentation

Nov. 10, 10 a.m.
Call (952) 939-8393 by Nov. 8 to RSVP for this free event.

The Andrew Sisters

Nov. 10, 1 p.m.
Join local author Tom Rockvam for his video and presentation about The Andrew Sisters. Cost: \$2, due by Nov. 8.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Nov. 18, 12 p.m.
Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal, with entertainment provided by Vern Drilling. Cost: \$7, due by Nov. 12.

Armchair Travel: Antarctica

Dec. 6, 1 p.m.
Join Grace McGarvie as she describes her travels to Antarctica. Cost: \$2, due by Dec. 3. ☺



Plan your end-of-year concert schedule

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) offers the following concerts in November and December. All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted. Visit www.musicassociation.org or call (952) 401-5954 for more information.

Songs of the Season

Choral Reflections of Minnetonka and Minnetonka Chamber Choir

Two performances:

Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church of Hopkins,
241 Fifth Ave., Hopkins

Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.
Minnetonka United Methodist Church,
Cty. Rd. 101 & Lake Street Ext., Minnetonka

Annual Messiah Community Sing-Along

Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra and guest soloists

Saturday, December 4, 3:30 p.m.
Ridgewood Church, 4420 Cty. Rd. 101 S.,
Minnetonka

Sounds of Youth

Minnetonka Youth Choirs

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.
All Saints Lutheran Church, 15915
Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka

Annual “A Child’s Christmas”

Minnetonka Youth Choirs (chamber, concert and cappella) and guest performers

Two performances:

Sunday, December 5, 3:30 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church, 125 E.
Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

Saturday, December 18, 3:30 p.m.
Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 16345
Polk St. NE, Ham Lake

Juletide

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus, Youth Chamber Choir

Two performances:

Sunday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
The Church of St. Therese of Deephaven,
18325 Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven

Sunday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church, 16515 Luther
Way, Eden Prairie

Toast to the Holidays

Food and fun with the Choral Reflections of Minnetonka

December 11, 7 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center,
14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka
By reservation only. Tickets: \$20.
Call (952) 401-5954. ☺

The ABCs of snow removal in Minnetonka

ENJOY THIS QUICK REVIEW ABOUT SNOW removal in Minnetonka, as well as a few tips for enjoying the winter weather safely!

Always ready to plow snow — that's the motto of the Minnetonka Public Works snow removal crew! By November 1, snow removal crews have been assigned and all equipment is prepped and ready to roll in event of a snowfall (see "V").

Bare pavement is not the goal of snow removal in the city of Minnetonka. Instead, roadways are cleared and then treated to hasten melting of any remaining snow. While we all have places to go and things to do, it's unrealistic to expect driving in January to be as easy and trouble-free as driving in July — despite the very best efforts of our snowplow crews.

Clear snow from your driveway, but don't push it into or across the street. City ordinances require that snow be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to your property. If you use a contractor to remove your snow, it is your responsibility to make the contractor aware of city snow removal ordinances.

Discourage kids from playing in or tunneling through the large piles of snow left behind by plows. Snow piles can collapse and trap children, while passing snowplows could hit the pile and injure children hiding inside. The backyard is a fun and safe place to play in the snow!

Easy does it — that will be the motto of snow plow crews when it comes to salt application on city roads. While driver safety is the primary concern during the winter months, the protection of water resources and the environment from excessive salt use is a secondary concern. Watch the December and January *Minnetonka Memos* for more information about the innovative methods being used by public works for snow removal and ice control this year!

Frost patrol starts in December and continues through February. Public Works employees are on the roads at 5 a.m. five days a week to check for frost and light snow. Should they find these conditions, chemicals are spread to increase traction and promote melting.

Garbage cans and recycling containers should be set out behind the curb line so they won't be knocked over by snowplows or the snow coming off the plow.

Heavy or even average snowfall requires a three-day operation to clear (in this order) streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. Removal of snow from city streets (see "I") is the first priority, and since the amount of personnel and equipment working on the parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks is smaller, it takes more time to clear these areas.

In an average snowfall, the goal of city crews is to clear the streets and cul-de-sacs within 10 hours.

Just about every day — that's how often chemical control trucks work during a normal winter, with noteworthy events occurring about 25 times per year. Major plowing events take place about 12 times each year.

Keeep parked vehicles off city streets between 2 and 6 a.m., in accordance with city ordinance. Illegally parked vehicles may hinder snowplows from fully clearing streets. Call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 if you are concerned about a vehicle parked on your street.

Less than half the salt than a decade ago — that's the target for Minnetonka Public Works to combat snow and ice. All snowplows now carry electronic devices that precisely measure and record the amount of salt used on roadways, and this information is reported to environmental authorities supporting efforts to monitor health of the surrounding wetlands. In addition, public works is implementing a number of very progressive, technology-supported initiatives this year designed to reduce chemical use and save money while continuing to provide high levels of winter maintenance service.

Mailboxes that are physically hit and damaged by city snowplows will be repaired. However, mailboxes that break from the force of snow coming off the plow will not be repaired. Help us help you avoid mailbox damage by inspecting/refurbishing your mailbox post and structure prior to the snow season to make sure it can withstand rugged winter conditions.

No county or state highways or private roads are plowed by city personnel. They are only responsible for city roadways.

Overpasses and bridges are notoriously slick in the winter, even when surrounding roadways are not, so be careful when driving across them.

Put in curb markers to show the edge of your lawn or driveway and make the snowplow driver's job easier. The city provides free markers to residents — stop by Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., or Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., to pick up your markers. Remember, installation is easier when the ground isn't frozen solid!

Questions about snow removal? Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. If your concern doesn't require an immediate response, contact Minnetonka Mike at www.eminnetonka.com.

Respect snowplows, both as a pedestrian and as a motorist. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speed and the driver's field of vision is severely limited. Never pass on the right, since plows are pushing snow and spreading sand chemicals behind them. Stay 70 feet (four car lengths) from the snowplow so the driver can see you.

Snowplow boulevard damage will be repaired by the city. The city does not repair or replace sprinklers, fences, or rock gardens that are placed in the city right-of-way. (generally extending several feet behind the edge of the roadway) Report plow damage through Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or through Minnetonka Mike at www.eminnetonka.com. Repairs usually are made in May and June.

Timing of the start of snow removal depends on when the snowfall ends. In most cases, plowing operations begin between midnight and 4 a.m., but the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall and its intensity. Usually two inches or more of snow accumulation trigger the start of city-wide snow removal.

Understanding that citywide snowplowing is accomplished in three separate steps will help you plan your driveway snow shoveling or blowing accordingly:

- The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets.
- After all streets have received a first pass, full-width plowing takes place, often within a few hours of the first pass.
- Final cleanup occurs the next day and includes intersection cleanup, sanding and plowing where vehicles were parked.

Vehicles — more than 29, ranging from dump trucks to loaders to pickups — have been prepped by Minnetonka Public Works and are ready for snow removal service this winter (see "A").

Weather forecasts are useful in preparing for the conditions. Keep up on forecasts. Drive carefully, even if the streets have been plowed.

Xpect to drive carefully after a snowfall, even if the streets have been plowed.

You'll save precious minutes in event of a fire by adopting a hydrant and keeping it clear of snow throughout the winter.

Zones are assigned to each snowplow driver. Most drivers stay in that area for the entire winter, allowing him or her to become very familiar with the roadway features in a specific area. Mainline, or collector, streets are plowed first with residential streets and cul-de-sacs plowed last. ♻️

Sign up for the 2011 Citizen Academy

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

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

Graduates of the program — those who attend four or more sessions — receive special city council recognition. To enroll, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 7, 2011. ☺

The Landing Shop offers unique gifts

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 Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For the month of December, The Landing Shop will be open additional hours — 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. ☺

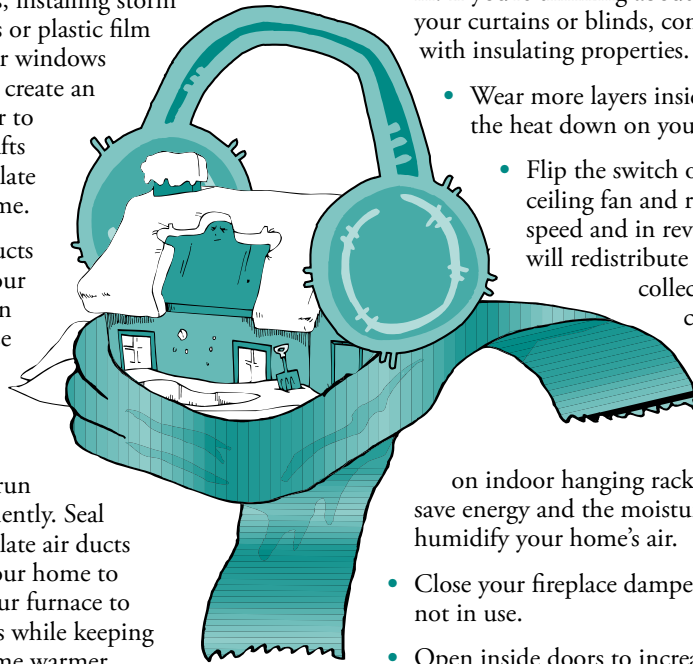


Preparing your home for hibernation

THE WARMER MONTHS HAVE OFFICIALLY ended. Farmers' markets are closed, trees are bare and bicycling is soon to become an extreme sport. Follow these tips to keep your home cozy and your energy bills less frightful during the winter season.

Seal up your home for winter

- Faulty seals or air leaks in your home can equate to having a window open, allowing warm air to escape and cold air to sneak in.
- Focus on the outer shell of your home and pay special attention to gaps that may be near windows, doors, and pipes or wires entering the house. These can be sealed by caulking, installing weather stripping around windows and door frames, and/or adding insulation to outer walls and attics.
- If you have single-paned windows, installing storm windows or plastic film over your windows can help create an air buffer to limit drafts and insulate your home.
- Leaky ducts inside your home can also cause heat loss and make your furnace run less efficiently. Seal and insulate air ducts inside your home to allow your furnace to work less while keeping your home warmer.



- Heat escapes from hot water heaters and is lost as hot water travels to your kitchen or bathroom. To reduce heat loss, install a hot water heater blanket and insulate hot water pipes. This will allow you to lower the temperature setting for even more energy savings.
- If you find yourself needing to replace old heating equipment or appliances this season, look for Energy Star labels.
- With fewer daylight hours this time of year there's a greater need for artificial light, so make sure you're using energy efficient fluorescent bulbs.
- Make the most of the day's sunlight. Open blinds and curtains during the day to let light and warmth in, and close them at night. This is especially helpful for south-facing windows, but east or west-facing windows can also take heat in. If you're thinking about replacing your curtains or blinds, consider those with insulating properties.
- Wear more layers inside and turn the heat down on your thermostat.
- Flip the switch on your ceiling fan and run it on low speed and in reverse. This will redistribute the warm air collected near the ceiling back down into the room.
- Dry your clothes on indoor hanging racks. You'll save energy and the moisture will help humidify your home's air.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.
- Open inside doors to increase air (and heating) circulation in your home.
- Buy a timer for your outdoor holiday lights so they don't stay on all night.
- To help keep others warm this season, donate winter clothes and used gear. ResourceWest (www.resourcewest.org) accepts warm winter wear through November 15.

For additional resources, search online for “A do-it-yourself guide to sealing and insulating with Energy Star” or “Xcel Energy's Guide to Home Energy Savings.” ☺

2011 city budget & levy continues to be downsized under repositioning plan

DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANT FISCAL challenges the city of Minnetonka continues to face, the city's 2011 budget will reflect our consistent commitment to responsible, long-term financial planning and management. The proposed 2011 budget and levy continue a repositioning plan that was enacted in mid-2009 to realize ongoing cost savings to the city and secure its long-term fiscal balance.

Repositioning plan

As the state and nation continue to feel the effects of the very slow economic recovery, the city is reaping the benefits of having taken clear and aggressive management actions early to address the new fiscal environment, which positioned the city to deal with the ongoing economic and fiscal uncertainties. Rather than rely on temporary, one-time reductions in debt or capital spending, the city of Minnetonka reduced the growth in operating costs on an ongoing basis.

Grounded in four primary objectives, the city implemented a number of comprehensive budget actions under a repositioning plan. The plan included reorganization, initiation of joint cooperative service agreements with other cities, renegotiation of labor contracts and a permanent, six-percent reduction in staff through both layoffs and attrition.

Repositioning plan objectives

- 1. Achieve long-term budget balance**, without one-time gimmicks that avoid tough decisions by 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.

Ongoing fiscal challenges

As projected early on, the drawn-out economic recovery will continue to challenge the city's finances through 2011. The state continues

to require the city to fund the state's Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program at a cost of \$525,000 annually, and the city continues to anticipate significantly reduced revenues from non-property tax sources.

Because the city of Minnetonka does not receive any state aid, property taxes are the city's primary resource for funding its general operations. Nearly three-fourths of the city's general fund is supported by property taxes, with an additional 10 percent supported by construction permits and licenses and investment income. For these critical secondary sources of revenue, investment income is projected to remain depressed and development-related fees are forecasted for an all-time 15-year low in 2011.

2011 budget

The proposed 2011 budget reflects consistent fiscal vigilance in the second full year of the repositioning plan, which is **saving around \$4 million over two years**. As a result, the **operating budget will remain flat** over the same period, decreasing nearly one percent in 2010 and increasing only 1.1 percent in 2011, less than the current rate of inflation.

The city continues to take actions to analyze its costs as well as address efficiencies and fiscal pressures. For example:

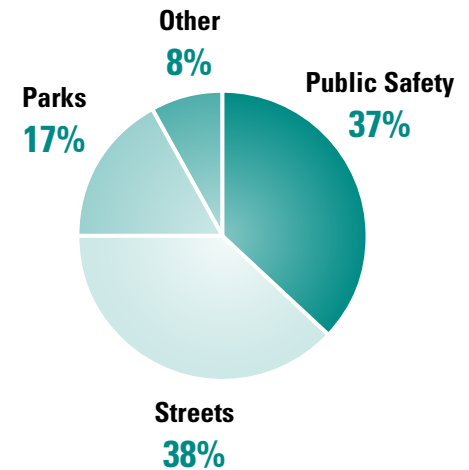
- Staff recently completed a comprehensive public safety study, and a collaborative task force is making headway to develop a plan to address fiscal sustainability of our firefighters' pension.
- Public works staff continues to complete capital projects to reduce energy use, many of which were accelerated with federal recovery funds.
- Staff has applied for reimbursement of health insurance costs provided under the federal Affordable Care Act.
- The city will take advantage of the market's low interest rates by refinancing debt and saving more than \$430,000 over time.

Property taxes

Instead of fluctuating between freezes and catch-up tax increases, the cuts and changes adopted in the repositioning plan were accompanied by an ongoing program of modest and sustainable tax revenue growth that will continue to support the city's basic services.

Along with a 1.1 percent increase in the city's property tax levy for operating costs, the 2011 budget includes a 1.2 percent increase for a dedicated fire apparatus fund to replace essential, but costly, fire trucks and equipment

Property taxes support basic city services



over the next five years, in addition to a modest 0.6 percent increase for capital costs of streets, equipment and parks. The total regular property tax increase of 2.9 percent would translate into an additional \$27 annually for the average Minnetonka homeowner.*

The city council is also considering levying an additional increase of 0.5 percent, for a total increase of 3.4 percent, to preserve the option of leveraging significant proceeds for economic development. If adopted by council, the \$150,000 tax proceeds would translate into \$3.2 million over the next five years to support housing developments in the city. This additional levy would mean less than another \$5 in annual property taxes for the average Minnetonka homeowner.*

We want to hear from you

The city always encourages public budget input, and you are invited to attend the city's public hearing on the budget Monday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. as part of the regular city council meeting in the Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Residents and businesses also have the opportunity to provide feedback via the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com. All comments will be shared with the council as budget options are considered prior to adoption of the final 2011 budget in late December.

City budget or tax questions can be addressed to Minnetonka Mike at mike@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8586, or to finance director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8200. Your input is always welcome and appreciated! ☺

* Estimated home value of \$292,800.

Change your smoke detector batteries

MINNETONKA Fire

Department's "What If?"

program public educators remind you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks to "fall back" on November 7.

What If? is an emergency management public education program, with the goal of creating a proactive community that is prepared for the unexpected. ☺



Shade tree disease control program continues

THE CITY'S SHADE TREE DISEASE control program is currently targeted at managing Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases within the city. This summer, the city's natural resources division issued nearly 800 work orders to remove 1,259 diseased elm and oak trees, which requires the property owner to remove a diseased tree in a set amount of time.

More than half of these work orders have already been checked for compliance, with tree inspectors returning to each site to ensure the wood has been disposed of or handled correctly. Inspectors leave a door hanger to let residents know they have met the city's ordinance requirements. In November, the forester and tree inspector will continue checking the remaining work orders.

Minnetonka's Natural Resources Division thanks the residents who have already removed diseased trees this year, and also those who have treated their trees to prevent these diseases. Your diligence is appreciated, and since these tree diseases spread across many property lines, your role in helping protect Minnetonka's community forest is crucial!

For more information about the program, call Emily Ball, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Prepare for winter without pickling ponds

SINCE THE EARLY 1950S, METRO area waters have become increasingly salty. Many metro area creeks are now considered unhealthy due to their salt levels — including Minnehaha and Nine Mile creeks. The fight against snow and ice each winter is a prime culprit in the pickling of our waters.

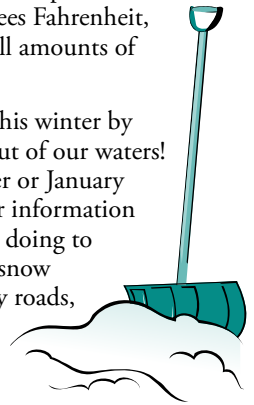
Salts, or chlorides, are applied on roads, sidewalks and parking lots to melt ice. However, once dissolved in water, the salty mixture goes directly to creeks and lakes from our streets and homes via the storm drain system. Salt is difficult to remove from water and harms plants and animals, contaminates drinking water, damages buildings, and corrodes vehicles, roads and bridges. Even if your bag of de-icer says "environmentally friendly," it doesn't mean it's friendly to water resources — especially if chloride is listed in the ingredients.

Follow these tips this winter to keep your roads and sidewalks safe, and our waters healthy.

- **Apply a liquid deicer** before snow storms to prevent snow and ice build-up. This is not a substitute for shoveling, it just makes it more effective.

- **Shovel that snow.** Shoveling, snow blowing, plowing and/or sweeping are all effective measures that will remove snow and minimize ice build-up.
- **Less is better.** If leftover crystals are still visible after being applied, you've used too much. The leftover salt can be swept up and reused or disposed of in the trash.
- **Try using small amounts** of plain sand or clean clay kitty litter for traction on ice, then sweep it up after the ice melts.
- **Temperature matters.** At low temperatures, salt becomes less effective. When the temperature falls below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, consider using small amounts of sand for traction.

Make a difference this winter by helping to keep salt out of our waters! Look in the December or January *Minnetonka Memo* for information about what the city is doing to decrease salt use in its snow removal efforts on city roads, while still protecting driver safety. ☺



Coloring contest winners announced

THE WINNERS OF THE 2010 Minnetonka Night for Neighbors coloring contest were eight-year-old Yasmin Penny of Immaculate Heart of Mary School and five-year-old Lauren Roberts of Clear Springs Elementary. 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 Minnetonka senior judges. ☺



Above: Police Chief Mark Raquet and Lauren Roberts.

At left: Police Chief Mark Raquet and Yasmin Penny (left)



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)

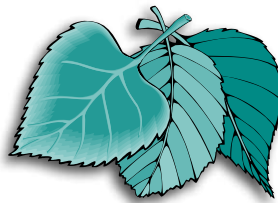
The Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd will be **the only** site accepting leaves and yard waste. During the busiest times there will be expanded drop-off days. In addition to the normal operating schedule, the site will be open Friday, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, from 12 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 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 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. Nov. 1, 8, 15
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. Nov. 2, 9, 16
- **Fridays:** 12 to 6 p.m. Nov. 5, 12, 19
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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. ☺

Plan a green holiday

BETWEEN THANKSGIVING AND NEW Year's, the average household's waste increases by 25 percent.

That's an extra one million tons of garbage per week, nationwide. To cut back on your holiday consumption, buy products with less packaging, reuse decorations and gift wrap, and eat with reusable dishware. If you're hosting this year, use fewer lights and turn the heat down before guests arrive. ☺



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 at left). 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. ☺

Recycle, adjust or opt out of telephone directories

Since 1991, the city of Minnetonka's recycling program has accepted phone books (white and yellow pages) for recycling. Now, in addition to recycling the phone books you may already have, you can adjust or eliminate the delivery of phone books to your home.



Visit www.donttrashthephonebook.org to adjust the number of directories you receive or stop delivery altogether. The site is sponsored by Conservation Minnesota, the Yellow Pages Association and local directory publishers.

And remember, those phone books you already have and want to discard can go in your curbside recycling bin, not in the trash. ☺

minnetonka memo

November 2010



PRESORTED
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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

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

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency.....9-1-1

Non-emergency.....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

November
2010

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	2 General Election (polls open 7 a.m.–8 p.m.)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3 Joint Park Board / City council, 5:30 p.m.; Park Board, 7 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	8 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
28	29	30					9 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							11 Veterans Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
							15 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: 2011 budget)
							16 Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
							18 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							22 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25/26 Thanksgiving holiday, <i>city offices closed</i>
							29 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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. ∞

Victorian holiday open house is Dec. 5

THE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will host its annual Victorian holiday open house Sunday, December 5, 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.

Youth groups needed for decorating

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. ∞



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

