

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
December 2010

## 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. ☺

At right: 2009 Photo Contest entry: "Burwell Tower," Kelsey Goeman



## 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](mailto: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. ☺

## Caring Youth Award nominations due Feb. 4

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 2011 Caring Youth Award.

Each year the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, and the Glen Lake Optimists host a Caring Youth Recognition to honor the contributions of caring young people.

Since the Caring Youth program started in 1996, more than 300 young people have been recognized for volunteering at churches, women's shelters, schools, food shelves, libraries, and a host of other organizations serving the community.

This year's event is set for Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center.

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;
- 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. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 4, 2011. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or contact

Jacque Larson,  
Minnetonka  
community relations

manager, at [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com)

or (952) 939-8207. ☺



## Public budget hearing is Dec. 6

MINNETONKA RESIDENTS AND property owners are invited to participate in the city's annual public budget hearing, set for Monday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. For more information about the proposed 2011 budget, please see page 2 of this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, or see the October and November *Memos*. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://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 2011 budget in late December. ☺

# 2011 levy increase to be reduced from preliminary levy; budget change less than inflation rate

The proposed 2011 budget and levy continue a repositioning plan enacted in mid-2009 to realize ongoing cost savings to the city and to secure its long-term fiscal balance. The plan will save about \$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 1.2 percent in 2011, less than the current rate of inflation. Along with the 1.1 percent increase in the property tax levy for operating costs, the 2011 budget includes a 1.2 percent increase for a dedicated fire apparatus fund and a 0.6 percent increase for capital costs of streets, equipment and parks. This total regular property tax increase of 2.9 percent translates to an additional \$26 for the average Minnetonka homeowner.\*

The preliminary levy set in September totaled 3.4 percent, which included 0.5 percent for economic development purposes. The Minnetonka City Council has discussed reducing the total increase by this amount, and possibly more. As a result, the actual change in city property taxes will be less than what is shown on the property tax notices sent to property owners in November.

\* *Estimated home value of \$292,800.*

## An explanation of your tax bill

City property taxes will increase by \$26 (2.6 percent) on an average \$292,800 home in Minnetonka. Like school districts, a portion of your city property tax bill is voter approved. Around \$40 of the 2011 total city taxes on the average bill will pay the debt service for the park renewal and open space referendum bonds, approved by voters in 2001.

### Proposed 2011 Property Taxes

*(average \$292,800 Minnetonka home)*

	2010	2011
<b>County</b>	\$1,322	\$1,355
<b>City</b>	997	1,023
<b>School</b> <i>(based on Hopkins School District)</i>		
<i>Voter approved</i>	770	788
<i>Other</i>	376	351
<b>School Total</b>	1,146	1,139
<b>Metro Districts</b>	81	87
<b>Other Districts</b>	218	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,764</b>	<b>\$3,833</b>

## Your input is welcome!

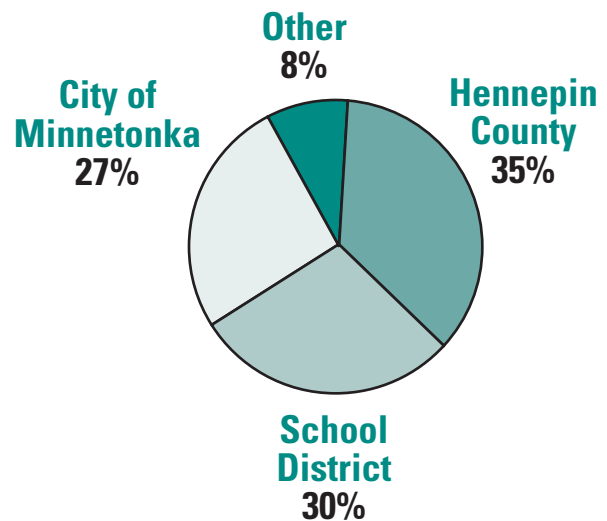
The city always encourages public budget input, and you are invited to attend the city's public hearing on the budget Monday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m., as part of the regular city council meeting in the council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Residents and businesses also have the opportunity to provide feedback via the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://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](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8586, or to finance director Merrill King at [mking@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mking@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8200. Your input is always welcome and appreciated!



## 2011 homeowner's property taxes

The city of Minnetonka accounts for about a quarter of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The remainder is comprised of taxes for your school district (30 percent), county (35 percent) and other jurisdictions (8 percent). Hennepin County estimates that close to one-half of all Minnetonka homeowners will see a decrease in their 2011 total property tax levies from all local taxing jurisdictions, and more than one-third will experience increases of less than five percent.





# News for Neighbors

## From the Minnetonka Police Department

**N**EWSPER NEIGHBORS APPEARS quarterly in the *Minnetonka Memo* with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- **Officer Jodi Kurtz**, a native of Grand Forks, N.D., joined the Minnetonka Police Department November 1.



*Officer Jodi Kurtz*

- This year, **99 neighborhoods collected 7,382 pounds of food** as part of the 2010 Minnetonka Night for Neighbors ICA food drive. Last year, 50 neighborhoods collected 4,148 pounds of food. The Stoney Bridge Court neighborhood turned in 471 pounds of food this year, winning the collection drive for the second year in a row.

### Minnetonka Police Explorers host pancake breakfast Dec. 5

Join the Minnetonka Police Explorers for a pancake breakfast Sunday, December 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Adults are \$5, kids eat free. This is a fundraiser for the Minnetonka Police Explorers, a youth organization developed to give young adults ages 14–21 the chance to learn about and experience the field of law enforcement. Explorer Post members are given training in all basic areas of law enforcement to enable them to assist police officers in their daily duties and in times of emergencies. The Explorer program is a part of the Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life division.

### Joining Neighborhood Watch is easy as 1, 2, 3!

Neighborhood Watch is a police-community partnership proven to reduce crime by keeping you and your neighbors informed of crime in your area, teaching you how to prevent crime and encouraging you to report suspicious activity.

Since August 2010, the police department has welcomed six new Neighborhood Watch groups, formed in the

following areas: Bent Tree/Sylvan/Crescent Ridge; Westridge/Meadow Lane; Gray's Bay/Fairchild/Lakeshore/Meadowbrook; Sunset/Oak/Victoria; The Ponds at Greenbrier; and Oberlin Road. This brings the total number of Neighborhood Watch groups in Minnetonka to 171.

If you want to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your area, follow these three easy steps:

1. Talk to your neighbors and determine if at least 50% of them are interested in participating in Neighborhood Watch.
2. Contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546 to arrange an informational meeting with you and your neighbors. The meeting can take place in your neighborhood and takes about an hour.
3. Find a volunteer to be Watch Captain.

Neighborhood Watch groups receive crime alerts, participate in the yearly Minnetonka Night for Neighbors event in August and have Crime Watch signs posted in their neighborhood. ☺

## Remember the rules for handicap parking: follow the law!

**T**HOSE WELL-LOCATED HANDICAP parking spaces may seem like a special privilege, but if you can't walk, or walking is difficult or hazardous, they're a necessity. Their location — often with the extra space needed to get a wheelchair in and out of a vehicle — makes businesses and public buildings more accessible. This is even more critical when ice and snow present additional obstacles.

Rules for handicap parking spaces only allow drivers who have a handicap parking permit or a handicap license plate on their vehicle to stop or park in a handicap space. Handicap parking permits and license plates must be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Documentation is required confirming that the applicant is qualified to park in a handicap parking space. People with healing injuries who are disabled for limited periods of time are

given temporary handicap parking permits with expiration dates.

Follow these tips:

- Don't park in a public parking space that is reserved for people with disabilities, unless you have a permit, placard or handicapped-parking plates.
- Don't park on striped access aisles next to spaces reserved for people with disabilities, even if you have a permit or plates.
- Don't drive with the certificate hanging from the rearview mirror. Remember to remove the certificate when you are driving, since it may obstruct your view.
- Don't let non-disabled individuals use handicap parking certificate or plates, unless they are transporting someone with a disability.

It is important to note that there are places that the handicap certificate or plate does not authorize parking, such as no-parking zones, commercial parking zones, fire lanes, rush-hour zones, in front of fire hydrants and at yellow curbs.

Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$500. ☺





## 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 2009-10 winter season, volunteers donated 110 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](mailto:djohnson@eminnetonka.com). Application materials can be found on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Winter skating lessons start Jan. 8

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 by visiting the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). The 12-week session begins January 8, 2011. Space is limited, so register now!



## Outdoor skating rinks open December 18

SKATING RINKS WITH WARMING HOUSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AT SEVEN Minnetonka park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will open Saturday, December 18 and remain open until Monday, February 21. Call the weather hotline number at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

### Minnetonka Rink Hours

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Boulder Creek</b>	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.
<b>Covington</b>	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.
<b>Gatewood</b>	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.
<b>Glen Lake</b>	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.
<b>Gro Tonka</b>	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.
<b>McKenzie</b>	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.
<b>Meadow</b>	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.
<b>Spring Hill</b>	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.

### Hopkins Rink Hours

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Burnes</b>	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	12-5 p.m.
<b>Central</b>	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
<b>Harley</b>	12-5 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	12-5 p.m.
<b>Interlachen</b>	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
<b>Oakes</b>	12-5 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	12-5 p.m.
<b>Valley</b>	12-5 p.m.*	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.	<b>Closed</b>	4:30-9 p.m.*	<b>Closed</b>	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. and Sundays from 3-6 p.m.

**Winter Break (12/23-1/2), Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/17), President's Day (2/21) Hours: 12-9 p.m.**

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

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

## Stay safe this season

THE MINNETONKA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S What If? public educators remind residents to be aware of the fire dangers present during the holiday season, including chimneys, candles and holidays. Follow these tips to stay safe this season!

- Have you had your chimneys swept? Chimney fires become more common as the weather gets colder and fireplaces are used more frequently. To prevent fires, chimneys should be swept at least once a year.



- Use candle holders with candles and always burn them within sight.
- If you need to plug in multiple strands of holiday lights, be sure to use a power strip to eliminate electrical overload to outlets.

What If? is an emergency management public education program, with the goal of creating a proactive community that is prepared for the unexpected. To learn more or to schedule a presentation for your group, call (952) 939-8331.

## Plan your end-of-year concert schedule

**T**HE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) provides enriching musical experiences for people of all ages and abilities. The following concerts are slated for November and December. All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted. Visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org) or call (952) 401-5954 for more information.

### Songs of the Season

#### Choral Reflections of Minnetonka and Minnetonka Chamber Choir

*Friday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.*  
Minnetonka United Methodist Church,  
County Rd. 101 and Lake Street Extension,  
Minnetonka

#### Annual Messiah Community Sing-Along

#### Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra and guest soloists

*Saturday, December 4, 3:30 p.m.*  
Ridgewood Church, 4420 County Road  
101 South, Minnetonka

### Sounds of Youth

#### Minnetonka Youth Choirs: Cappella, Concert and Chamber choirs

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



## Apply now to serve on a board or commission

**I**F YOU'D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR local government, consider applying for an opening on the Community Commission or Senior Citizen Advisory Board, described below. 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 and selections are made as openings occur throughout the year.

#### Minnetonka Community Commission

The commission has the primary responsibility of fostering partnerships that encourage community engagement.

### 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 and Youth Chamber Choir

Two performances:

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

*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. ☺

This commission meets monthly and is seeking four new members, each of whom will serve a two-year term.

#### Senior Citizen Advisory Board

The 15 members of this board advise the city council on the needs and status of seniors in the city; and recommend policies, goals and objectives for the operation of senior services. Members serve two-year terms and meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

If you're interested in participating, please visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to complete an application form, or to have an application sent to you, call Karen Telega at (952) 939-8211. Applications should be submitted by January 2, 2011. ☺

## December events for active older adults

**L**OCATED 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

#### Defensive Driving Classes

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

#### Four-Hour Course

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

#### Armchair Travel: Antarctica

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

#### Holiday Tea with Tara B.

*Dec. 13, 12 p.m.*  
Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment provided by pianist and vocalist Tara Brueske. Finger foods, tea and coffee will be served after the performance. Cost: \$3, due by Dec. 9.



#### Holiday Gala

*Dec. 14, 12 p.m.*  
Enjoy a holiday brunch buffet. Cost: \$7, due by Dec. 10.

#### Community Connections

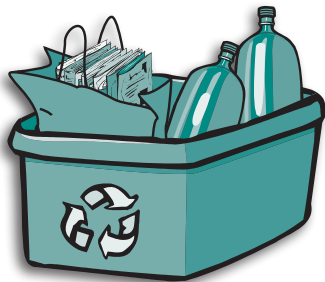
*Dec. 15, 10:15 a.m.*  
Enjoy an informal conversation with city staff members Patty Latham, information technology manager, and Jeff Dulac, information technology specialist. Rolls and coffee will be available—donations will be accepted for the refreshments. RSVP for this free event by Dec. 13. ☺

## Holiday recycling collection schedule

**T**HE UPCOMING CHRISTMAS AND NEW Year's holidays will not change curbside recycling collection days.

In 2011, only three holidays will delay curbside recycling collection in Minnetonka:

- **Memorial Day, May 30:** Collection is Tuesday, May 31, for residents west of I-494; and Wednesday, June 1, for residents east of I-494.
- **Independence Day, July 4:** Collection is Tuesday, July 5, for residents west of I-494; and Wednesday, July 6, for residents east of I-494.
- **Labor Day, Sept. 5:** Collection is Tuesday, Sept. 6, for residents west of I-494; and Wednesday, Sept. 7, for residents east of I-494. ∞



## Recycling holiday trees, cardboard

**C**HECK WITH YOUR RESIDENTIAL REFUSE hauler for pick up and recycling of your tree. Haulers have a specific period of time or limited days they collect trees. Check the last bill you received or call the hauler. Additional fees may apply, depending on the refuse company and your level of service.

Trees will be accepted when the city winter pruning brush drop-off program opens the four Saturdays in March 2011, or at the regular brush drop-off program opening Monday, April 11, 2011. Some private nurseries and private compost sites accept trees, for a fee. For more information call your refuse hauler or contact Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430.

### Recycling corrugated cardboard

To recycle corrugated cardboard boxes, simply flatten them and set them alongside your recycling container. It is not required to cut up the boxes or tie them in bundles. ∞

## Reducing salt use while keeping streets safe

**M**ANY LAKES, CREEKS AND WETLANDS are currently or will be degraded due to the use of chlorides (winter salt). According to the Environmental Protection Agency standards, both Nine Mile and Minnehaha creeks are unhealthy due to high chloride levels.

In the November *Memo* you read about things you can do to reduce your salt use this winter. The city of Minnetonka is very concerned about its own 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 will be 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. This 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.

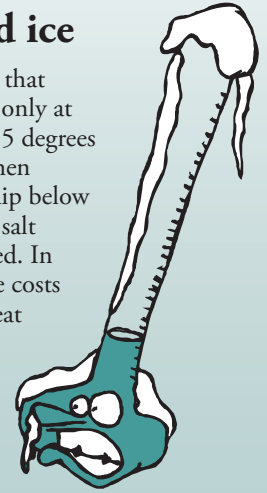
### Salt and snow

Did you know that the effectiveness of salt is determined by the moisture content of the snow and the air temperature?



### Beets and ice

Did you know that salt is effective only at temperatures 15 degrees and above? When temperatures dip below 15 degrees the salt has to be treated. In order to reduce costs the city will treat the salt with a "hot mix" of magnesium chloride, organic beet juice and salt brine, which allow the salt to be effective to 10 degrees below zero.



- **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 with salt brine will occur this year for streets located in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Next year the program will be extended to the entire city as additional new equipment is acquired.

Bulk treated salt will be used on streets not located within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Treated salt has a liquid salt coating around the rock salt that allows the salt to be more effective than ordinary rock salt and also prevents the applied salt from bouncing and scattering off the road surface.

The city's main goal is to continue to keep our streets safe while reducing our salt use. This is a win-win for our water resources and for your wallet. You can help by doing the following:

- **Slow down.**
- **Don't follow plow trucks too closely.**
- **Report any unsafe or icy areas** to the city's public works department at (952) 988-8400. ∞



# Thank you to Minnetonka's 2010 natural resource volunteers

ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, MINNETONKA residents have generously volunteered hundreds of hours in many capacities to help monitor and improve native habitats in more than 15 Minnetonka parks, lakes and wetlands. The city's natural resources division extends its gratitude to the many volunteers who contributed their time and energy to assist with the following projects:

- Invasive garlic mustard control in many high-value habitats
- Invasive buckthorn control in special project areas
- Native plant flagging in restoration areas
- Maintenance of plant protection cages
- Native wildflower plantings along a wetland buffer at Wing Lake
- Arbor Day tree planting in Covington Park
- Deer enclosure improvements in Big Willow Park
- Wetland Health Evaluation Program
- Citizen Assisted Lake Monitoring Program
- Adopt-a-spot

## Want to help?

**V**OLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED year-round to assist with native habitat restoration on city land. For more information on how you can help, call the city of Minnetonka natural resource division at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Special thanks to the following individuals who made a large contribution to improving the city's natural resources in 2010:

- Nick Wyers (Boy Scout): conducted an eagle project to improve the deer enclosures in Big Willow Park
- Randall Neal and family: Kinsel Park garlic mustard and burdock control, plus native plant maintenance
- Mike Pederson: Hopkins High School community involvement volunteer at Big Willow
- Gary Kerber
- Jim Coleman

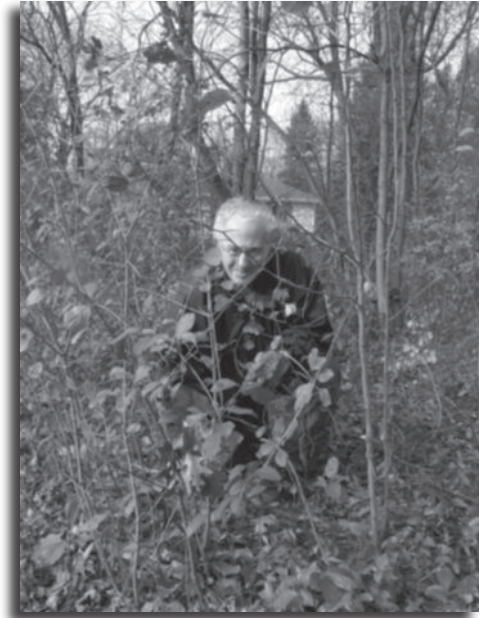
- Jacque Zimmerman
- Liz Schulz
- Bobbie Nebel
- Bill and Renate Sperber
- Robert Gausman

In addition, four groups assisted with plantings and garlic mustard control, allowing time-consuming work to be done in a more timely fashion.

- **Omegon school youth:** Sherwood Forest neighborhood street ROW plantings
- **Hopkins High School American Legion baseball team:** Lone Lake Park garlic mustard control
- **Wing Lake Neighborhood Association:** Highland Road wildflower plantings
- **UnitedHealthcare staff:** Lone Lake Park garlic mustard control

Volunteers help stretch taxpayer dollars and allow natural resources staff to expand projects beyond what might otherwise be possible. Volunteers make a difference in saving remnant native species whose populations are threatened locally by invasive species. They build community by working together in groups toward a

common goal. They help us learn more about the condition of the city's natural areas and restore unique places that provide food and habitat for pollinator insects, birds, amphibians, wildlife and a host of other organisms in nature's food web. Thanks again to this year's volunteers! ☺



*Volunteer Robert Gausman cutting buckthorn at Oberlin Park.*

## Keep your firewood close to home

**L**ATELY, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE interested in "buying local." This means firewood, too! Buying local firewood 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 fireplace, 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 firewood within 100 miles of the place you plan to use it.

Need more reason to buy your firewood locally? Consider this: emerald ash borer, the latest threat to metro area trees, can spread rapidly through the transport of firewood. That's why moving firewood out of

Hennepin and Ramsey counties is now prohibited, although firewood transport between the two counties is allowed.

If you need help finding a firewood 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 firewood that can enter a state park, and certifies dealers who are authorized to sell firewood for use in state parks. Use this same list to find a firewood dealer close to your home. Visit <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/firewood/firewoodVendors.pdf> for the list of certified firewood dealers.

For more information, contact city forester Emily Ball at [eball@eminnetonka.com](mailto:eball@eminnetonka.com) or at (952) 988-8421, or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺



# minnetonka memo

December 2010



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

<b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 .....tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	<b>Council</b> <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com ..... Amber Greves... (952) 931-3960 agreves@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum... (612) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

December  
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	1 Park Board, 7 p.m.      16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.      20 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Final tax levy and budget)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	6 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Public Budget Hearing)      24 Christmas holiday, city offices closed
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	13 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.      27 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31		14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.      31 New Year's holiday, city offices closed

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

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com)—click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information.

## The Landing Shop open extended hours in December

STILL TRYING TO DECIDE ON A HOLIDAY gift for that special someone? Stop in to The Landing Shop, open for extended hours in December: Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Browse and buy handmade toys, doll clothes and furniture, sweaters, quilts, towels, booties and more! The Landing Shop is located at 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka.

For more information call (763) 591-4868 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (search "the landing shop"). The Landing Shop is a recreational program offered by the city of Minnetonka for area seniors.



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

