

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
February 2009

## Visit Minnetonka Kids' Fest Sunday, February 8



### Kids' Fest Schedule of Events

*All events are at the Minnetonka Community Center unless otherwise indicated. Activities and performances are subject to change without notice.*

- 1–2:15 p.m.** Dog sled rides (first come, first served)
- 1–2 p.m.** Amazing Nathan (strolling magician)  
Batting cage (grades 4 and up) —  
*Williston Fitness Center*
- 1–4 p.m.** Shady Oak Beach season pass sales  
Early childhood sensory activities  
(Hopkins ECFE)
- 1–4:30 p.m.** Concession sales; bonfire and s'mores
- 1–4 p.m.** Reptile and amphibian display  
Minnetonka Reads activity  
Marvelous mask making
- 1–5 p.m.** Facepainting  
Ice carving  
Dance instruction — hip-hop and creative  
Wheat grass gardens/bread — *Great Harvest*
- 1:15–2 p.m.** The Woodland Puppets performance
- 2 & 3 p.m.** Snow shoe nature walk (*Limited amount  
of snowshoes available.*)
- 2–4 p.m.** Open swimming — *Williston Center*  
Strolling characters
- 2:15–3 p.m.** Amazing Nathan (magic show)
- 2:30–4:30 p.m.** Ice skating/skate rental — *Ice Arena*
- 3–4 p.m.** Amazing Nathan (strolling magician)
- 3:15–4 p.m.** Wonderful World of Woody —  
music, magic and juggling show
- 3:15–5 p.m.** Dog sled rides (first come, first served)
- 4:15–5 p.m.** Bingo — win great prizes

**F**EBRUARY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED NATIONALLY AS “WE LOVE OUR Kids” month. To help celebrate, Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services will host Kids' Fest Sunday, Feb. 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

All activities are free and include dog sled rides, dance instruction, face painting, ice carving demonstrations, snowshoe nature walks, swimming, ice skating, and more! For a complete list of activities, see the schedule to the left.

Please bring canned goods to help area families in need — collections will be received at the Minnetonka Community Center. Proceeds from concession sales will be donated to the Richard Wilson Recreation Services Scholarship Fund.

For ease of parking, a free van shuttle will run every 15 minutes among the three facilities at which activities take place: the Minnetonka Community Center, the Ice Arena, and the Williston Center, located at 14509 Williston Drive. Visitors may park at any one of these facilities for the afternoon.

For more information, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8203. ☺

## Minnetonka Reads kicks off third year with “Home of the Brave”

**T**HE MINNETONKA Reads community reading initiative, a partnership of the Minnetonka Community Commission and Hennepin County Library, kicks off its third year at Kids' Fest Sunday, February 8.



**Minnetonka  
READS**  
A COMMUNITY READING INITIATIVE

This year's book, “Home of the Brave” by Katherine Applegate, is the story of Kek, an African refugee who is adjusting to his new Minneapolis home.

Read “Home of the Brave,” then plan to attend an April book discussion, hosted by Hennepin County Library staff. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org) for dates, times and locations.

In addition to the book clubs, the community commission and library are very excited to announce that author Katherine Applegate will make a personal appearance in early May in Minnetonka to talk about “Home of the Brave,” and to sign books. More information on this appearance will be available in the upcoming months.

Be sure to stop by the Minnetonka Reads and Hennepin County Library display at Kids' Fest — free paperback copies of “Home of the Brave” will be available while supplies last (One per family, please.) ☺



## Fire department introduces duty crews

**T**HE MINNETONKA FIRE DEPARTMENT IS marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with its most dramatic change in staffing ever—the introduction of duty crews.

While for all of its history the fire department has used paid-on-call firefighters who respond to emergencies from work or home within minutes, duty crews include three paid-on-call firefighters on duty 24 hours, seven days a week, at fire station #1 (near city hall). These three firefighters are the first responders to any calls, including car accidents, medical emergencies and fires. Additional firefighters are then called in as the situation requires.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Bob Eastham, duty crews were implemented for three reasons: to ensure that the fire department continues to have prompt response times to emergencies; to help recruit new firefighters and retain current firefighters; and to effectively respond to Minnetonka's aging population, which translates to an increase in medical calls.

"With people working longer hours and further away from home, it's becoming harder and harder to find people available at all hours of the day to respond quickly to an emergency," Eastham explained. "The duty crew system allows people to have a set schedule which they can then fit more easily into their work and personal life, versus being called out at any time of the day or night."

The use of a combination of duty crews and paid-on-call firefighters is a trend among fire departments nationwide, with full-time departments realizing they can't financially support the staff they used to, and solely paid-on-call departments realizing they can't continue to provide the same level of fire service without implementing duty crews.

After experimenting on weekends in December to iron out any kinks in the program, duty crews began officially on January 2, 2009. When not out on calls, each shift of duty crews has assigned tasks, such as cleaning areas of the fire station or checking equipment. Firefighters sign up for duty crew shifts via an electronic scheduling system.

"We are committed to the paid-on-call system," said Minnetonka Fire Chief Joe Wallin. "However, by combining duty crews and paid-on-call firefighters, we are ensuring we continue to provide excellent fire service to our residents and to our neighboring fire departments that rely on us to provide mutual aid." 🐾

## Visit the home remodeling fair March 1

**M**INNETONKA RESIDENTS ARE invited to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, March 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins.

Sponsored by the cities of Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Hopkins and St. Louis Park, as well as Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka Community Education, the Home Remodeling Fair is designed to promote improvements to these communities' housing stock.

Fairgoers can visit nearly 100 displays by remodeling contractors, architects, electricians, landscapers, tool rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, and lenders. Minnetonka planning staff and city inspectors will also be at the fair.

Architects, interior designers, landscape designers, arborists and master gardeners will staff the "Ask the Pro" booth and provide free, no-obligation advice to visitors. Fairgoers are encouraged to bring their photos or sketches.

Seminar topics include kitchen remodeling; decks and three- and four-season porches; wood floor refinishing; new trends in interior design; making your home more accessible as you age; landscaping; rain gardens and barrels; restoring old windows; and more. Visit the Idea Center for remodeling plan

## Park Board to consider off-leash dog area

**I**F YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE possibility of an off-leash dog area in Lone Lake Park, be sure to attend the March 4 Minnetonka Park Board meeting. The Park Board meets at 7 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

With more than 36% of Minnetonka households owning at least one dog, residents have voiced strong support for dedicating an area within the city to allow dogs off leash. At its Wednesday, Feb. 4, meeting, the Park Board will discuss a proposal for an off-leash dog area within Lone Lake Park.

To provide input or to request further information on these topics, contact Perry Vetter, parks and trails manager, at [pvetter@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pvetter@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 988-8412. 🐾



books; remodeling financing and home maintenance; radon, lead and indoor air pollution; plumbing repair basics; green remodeling advice; ecologically friendly gardening; and planting for clean water.

Advance registration is not required and admission is free. Food concessions will be available at the Wetlands Café.

Fairgoers may park at Eisenhower Community Center or take the free shuttle bus from the Oak Ridge Country Club parking lot, 700 Oak Ridge Road.

*Directions to Oak Ridge Country Club:* From Eisenhower Community Center/Hwy 7, go east on Hwy. 7 to Oak Ridge Road/5th Avenue, then turn left on Oak Ridge Road. The parking lot is one block north of Hwy. 7 on the west side of Oak Ridge Road. Look for signs.

For more information, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com), or call (952) 939-8200. 🐾

## A reminder about snow removal

**A** LOT OF WINTER STILL REMAINS, SO remember these snow removal tips:

- When clearing snow from your property, don't push it into or across the street. City ordinance requires that snow be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to your property. If you have a snow removal service, please remind them of this ordinance.
- Garbage cans and recycling containers should be set out well behind the curb line of your driveway so they aren't knocked over by snowplows or by the snow coming off the plows. Garbage trucks can reach up to four feet into your driveway to retrieve containers, so there is no need to set containers directly on the curb. Snowplow drivers cannot stop to clean up spilled containers.
- Sod damage resulting from city snowplows will be repaired by the city, usually in May and June. Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 to report sod damage. 🐾

# Discover Purgatory Park's trails

**L**OCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MINNETONKA, Purgatory Park's 155 acres makes it the largest of the city's five community parks. Park features include views of Purgatory Creek, expansive open spaces and extensive trails. More than two miles of formal trails are connected with the park, including a 1.2-mile loop from the parking lot that offers scenic views of the various ecological areas in the park: wetlands, woodlands and prairies.

## Purgatory's history

How did Purgatory get its unusual name? As the story goes, early settlers traveling to Excelsior along an old Native American trail came to some springs around dusk. The trail was the worst they had traveled, with swampy land and a plague of mosquitoes. One of the settlers remarked, "This is hell!" "No, it's even worse," another replied, "It's purgatory!" The name stuck.

## Purgatory's trails

Purgatory's 2.2 miles of trails are mostly surfaced with crushed limestone, although a few hilly areas are paved with asphalt to prevent erosion and facilitate maintenance. During the winter season, trails are plowed after a snowfall of two inches or more.

### The Inner Loop

Just off the parking lot is access to the 1.2 mile Inner Loop, which covers mostly flat terrain and crosses Purgatory Creek twice. Visitors can view three ecological areas from this trail: wetlands, prairie and woodlands. Two neighborhood accesses are available to the Inner Loop: at 55th St. W. (west trail segment) and at Stodola Road (east trail segment). Scenic Heights School also has an access from their nature area.

### The South Leg

The trail segment heading south from the bridge on the south side of the Inner Loop travels over the ridge and then down to follow a branch of Purgatory Creek. The trail crosses the creek and heads up a hill to Townline Road. The south leg is 0.8 miles from the Inner Loop Trail to Townline Road, with neighborhood access at Covington Path. From Townline Road it is 2.65 miles east to Baker Road and the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail, and 0.25 miles west to County Road 101.

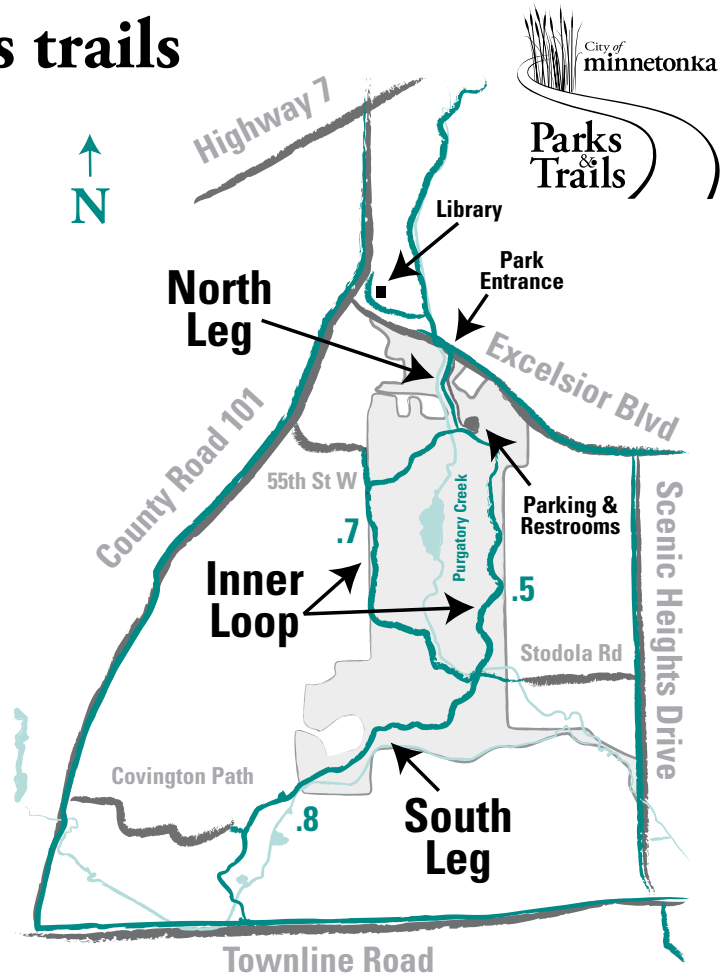
### The North Leg

Just west of the parking lot is a trail segment heading north out of the park along Purgatory Creek. The trail travels under Excelsior Boulevard, with a spur to the Minnetonka Library and County Road 101, or continuing north behind businesses. The trail follows the south side of Hwy. 7 until it dips under the highway using an old cattle pass from the 1920s. The trail continues through the wetland and joins the trail along the east side of County Road 101, then continues up to the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail — a distance of 2 miles from Purgatory Park.



*Exploring pet-friendly Purgatory Park*


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## If you go

- Park is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- The park is accessible by car from Excelsior Boulevard, just one-quarter mile east of County Road 101.
- A park building with restrooms and a drinking fountain is located near the parking lot.
- Dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) on the trails, in the formal areas of the park and the parking lot. Dogs must be under voice command (as defined in Minnetonka Park Regulations) or on leash in the natural area in the middle of the Inner Loop trail.
- Please pick up after your pet in natural and formal areas. Mutt Mitt dispensers are available along the trail.

## Don't miss

- Look for the concrete bridge abutment on the east side of the entrance road, not too far in from Excelsior Boulevard, a remnant of the bridge that carried the Minneapolis-to-Excelsior streetcar line over Purgatory Creek. The ridge along which the track ran parallel to Excelsior Boulevard is still visible through the tree line.
- Just east of the park entrance is a red barn, formerly part of the Westburg farm. The Westburg family started a bottled water business using water from the spring located near Purgatory Creek. Later, they operated a grocery store, which in the 1950s and 1960s became an aquarium shop.
- A winter plant walk is set for Feb. 28, from 1–3:30 p.m. at Purgatory Park. See Eco-Series article on page 4. 



## Eco-Series: Academy of Walks and Talks

### Birds of Prey

**Thursday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Council Chambers,**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Learn about the birds of prey you may encounter in Minnetonka throughout the year, presented by George Skinner and Anne Hanley, Minnetonka residents and Audubon Society members. Also, enjoy taped calls and videos of these magnificent birds. **RSVP required:** (952) 988-8400. Watch future newsletters for information about a spring bird walk.

### TLC for Ponds

**Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center,**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Join Gregg Thompson of the Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts to learn about the nature of ponds, impacts of storm water, and what you can do to help improve pond quality. **RSVP required:** (952) 988-8400.

### Winter Plant Walk

**Saturday, Feb. 28, 1–3:30 p.m.**  
**Purgatory Park, 17315 Excelsior Blvd.**

Cabin fever got you down? Bundle up and join Janet Van Sloun Larson, city of Minnetonka restoration specialist, and ecologist Kevin Clay of Midwest Natural Resources on a winter plant walk through Purgatory Park. Observe three habitat types; learn how to identify dormant trees and shrubs; and learn about habitat restoration. Purgatory Park is on the south side of Excelsior Boulevard, just east of County Road 101. Meet at the picnic area parking lot. **RSVP required:** (952) 988-8400. Want to learn more about Purgatory Park's trails and history? See page 3 of this edition of the *Memo!* ☺

## Brush drop off open Saturdays in March

**D**ID YOU KNOW THAT WINTER IS THE best time to prune your trees? If you have been pruning your trees or removing buckthorn, you're in luck! For the second year, the city will open the Brush Drop off every Saturday (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) in March to encourage winter pruning. See the March *Minnetonka Memo* for details. ☺

## Third annual tree sale: order by March 16

**T**HE TREE SALE IS BACK FOR A THIRD year to help you celebrate spring and Arbor Day. In order to encourage tree replanting and improve the diversity of the community forest, the city is pleased to offer residents a selection of 13 tree species at value pricing.

Each year we'll alter the species composition offered in order to encourage you to plant a tree you may not have otherwise considered. If you planted a maple last year, this year you may want to consider planting a tree like the bur oak. Bur oak trees have good resistance to drought conditions, are long-lived and provide architectural interest to winter landscapes.

Keep in mind that planting a diversity of tree species makes your yard and the city's community forest more resilient to problems. Most forest pests are very selective, meaning insects and diseases tend to thrive on specific tree species, so tree diversity can help a community to recover from a forest health setback. If you have an entire yard of the same type of tree, your tree cover is more at risk.

Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to learn about the trees offered this year. Find out where the tree might grow best in your yard, anticipated fall color, mature size, and special features the tree offers. A packet with the tree information will also be available at city hall and public works if you do not have Internet access. Forms may be mailed in or dropped off at public works between 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Ordering trees

- Quantities are limited, and based on availability. Order early to help ensure you will get your first choice.
- Please rank your second tree choices in the event your top choices are sold out at the time we receive your order.
- **Orders must be postmarked by Monday, March 16, 2009.** Orders received thereafter will be filled if trees remain but will be returned to sender if trees are sold out.
- You may order up to **two** trees per property.
- Along with the tree order form, please fill out your name and address on the postcard to ensure you receive a confirmation reminder two weeks prior to the tree pick up. Enclose postcard in envelope with order form and check.
- This offer is only open to Minnetonka residents.

- If you represent a homeowner's association, please contact the city forester prior to placing your order.
- For questions contact Emily Barbeau, city forester, at [ebarbeau@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ebarbeau@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 988-8400.

### Tree pick-up

Trees **must** be claimed on designated pick up dates or they will be resold.

**Friday, April 24, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**East Driveway, Public Works**  
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305

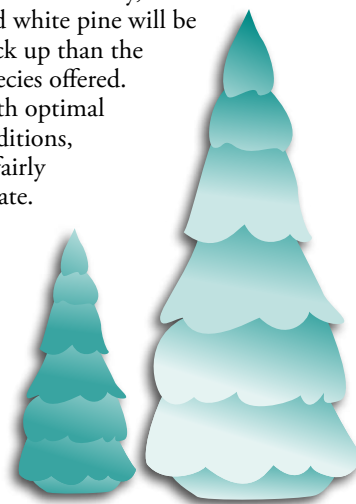
**(952) 988-8400**

### Picking up trees

- You may ask someone (family member, friend, neighbor, landscaper) to pick up the trees on your behalf, but they must have your confirmation postcard to present to city staff.
- We will offer some assistance loading vehicles, but please order a tree that you can realistically transport home.
- We will provide written planting and care instructions for each order.
- Unlike a retail nursery, these trees do not have a warranty.

### About conifer size

Due to limited availability, the tamarack and white pine will be smaller at pick up than the other tree species offered. However, with optimal growing conditions, both have a fairly fast growth rate. Tamarack is Minnesota's only deciduous conifer, meaning it loses its needles each fall and produces new, soft, lush needles in the spring. ☺



# Tree Order Form

This offer available only to **Minnetonka residents**. You may order **two** trees per household.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
House number Street Zip code

**Daytime phone number:** ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Last name on check:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Rank alternative	Species	Stock type	Height	Weight	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
* Second choice in case first selection is sold out				* Height at time of purchase			
<b>Large shade trees</b>							
	<b>American Basswood</b>	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Bur Oak</b>	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Disease-resistant Elm</b> (Triumph)	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Freeman Maple</b> 'Sienna Glen'	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Ginkgo</b>	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Swamp White Oak</b>	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
<b>Ornamental tree—suitable for planting under powerlines (as are Serviceberry and Pagoda Dogwood)</b>							
	<b>Redbud</b> (Minnesota strain)	Container	3–4 ft.	30 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
<b>Large shrubs/small trees — suitable for habitat restoration</b>							
	<b>Ironwood</b>	Container	6–8 ft.	55 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Pagoda Dogwood</b>	Container	4–5 ft.	40 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Serviceberry</b> 'Autumn Brilliance'	Container	4–5 ft.	40 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
<b>Conifers</b>							
	<b>Canadian Hemlock</b>	Container	4–5 ft.	40 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>Tamarack</b> ( <i>deciduous conifer — loses needles each fall</i> )	Container	2 ft.	15 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
	<b>White Pine</b>	Container	2 ft.	15 lbs.	<b>\$30</b>		
<b>Supplies</b>							
	<b>Plastic Tree Guard</b> (will protect trunk from deer, rodent and lawn mower damage)	3–5 ft tall with a 2–3" diameter			<b>\$3</b>		
<b>Totals</b>							

**Please mail (or drop off) order form, check, and postcard to:**

Minnetonka Public Works  
 Attn: City Forester  
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305

**Before you mail the order, please confirm:**

- Filled out order form completely?
- Enclosed check for exact amount?
- Filled out and enclosed postcard for city to mail your confirmation?
- Checked your calendar to make sure someone can pick up your trees on April 24 or 25?

## Kinsel Park restoration leaps forward, volunteers needed for next steps

**K**INSEL PARK IS A 19.5-ACRE COMMUNITY preserve park north of Glen Lake and south of Excelsior Boulevard. It's a passive-use park with hiking trails through mixed woods and a cattail/willow marsh. Most of the park is marsh, but it is bordered by upland woods on the east, north and west sides. Only two acres of the park are developed, with features that provide parking, access, picnic tables and a small gazebo shelter.

Kinsel Park habitat restoration began several years ago when the Glen Lake Optimists and local Boy Scouts volunteered to partner with the city to remove invasive buckthorn from the woods west of the marsh. Buckthorn removal and subsequent tree loss from wind storms created a much more open look in the woodland understory — and a place for weeds to thrive.

The 2007 park renewal process resulted in two outcomes: a new boardwalk that was built through the marsh in early 2008, and a plan for habitat restoration in five areas.

The first restoration planting was completed in October 2008 by volunteer Boy Scouts, led by Hopkins High School Senior Mike Hirl. Together with a few neighbors and city of Minnetonka natural resources staff, they planted 55 trees and 30 shrubs in the woods west of the marsh. Prior to planting, many hours were donated by the same groups to prepare the site by removing perennial weeds, especially bitter nightshade, motherwort and burdock. The

new plants were container-grown trees and shrubs ranging in height from one to ten feet tall. All plantings were mulched and protected from deer and rodents with wire plant cages.

The species chosen for the west woods of Kinsel Park were selected from the big woods forest community, characterized by sugar maple and basswood trees in the canopy. The species planted grow together naturally in the big woods and will tolerate the shade canopy of existing boxelder trees in the park. The new trees are intended to outlive and ultimately replace the boxelders. The diversity of the new native plantings will add excellent fall color and wildlife value to the Kinsel woods.

City staff extend thanks to the three Minnetonka residents who donated many hours to the fall planting project: Michael Hirl and Randal and Elizabeth Neal.

### Buckthorn cutting completed

In December 2008, the last remaining buckthorn trees were removed from Kinsel Park by a restoration contractor and a Minnetonka work crew. The last to be cut were in the east woods and the marsh. Buckthorn brush was recycled in upland areas by chipping it back into the woods on site. While the results look very nice, many buckthorn and weed seedlings will germinate in the future from the seed bank in the soil, starting the battle with invasive species over again.



*New plantings tucked in for the winter and ready for growth in the spring.*

### What's next?

Minnetonka restoration staff plans to work with volunteers and contractors to control the next generations of invasive species and carry out new planting projects along the north perimeter of the marsh and along Kinsel Road. Volunteers are needed to help ID and hand pull invasive species and spread mulch. If you'd like to help, please call Janet Van Sloun Larson at (952) 988-8423.

### Notable Kinsel Park trees

If you visit, there are a few large trees in Kinsel worth seeing. Three large, wide-crowned bur oak trees grace the open lawn in the northeast corner of the park, remnants from the oak woodland and savanna of pioneer days. The largest known ponderosa pine tree in Minnetonka stands south of the trail in the southeast corner of the park. Ponderosa pine is native to the western United States, and this large tree was likely planted by a settler. ☺

## Environmental ordinance updates

**D**URING THE UPCOMING MONTHS, a number of revisions to city environmental ordinances will be reviewed by the planning commission and city council. Ordinances under consideration include impervious surface regulations, grading and erosion control, steep slopes and floodplain. The proposed revisions address current ordinance deficiencies and regulatory mandates and establish a higher level of best practices. This city-led project brings a balanced approach to protecting Minnetonka's highly valued land and surface water resources.

If you are interested in learning more about the proposed revisions, please visit the projects page on [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for more information and meeting dates or call Loren Gordon, city planner, at (952) 939-8296. ☺

## Safety and security for places of worship

**R**ELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS ARE FACED with the dilemma of wanting to be open to the public while still protecting their building and staff. Consider implementing these measures for extra security.

### Exterior security

- Ensure all exterior doors have quality deadbolt locks and heavy-duty strike plates.
- Secure basement or ground level windows with bars or a polycarbonate material.
- Provide good exterior lighting around the building and in parking areas.
- Have an effective key control system by tracking who has which keys.
- Post a sign at the door indicating there is no cash on the premises.

### Interior security

- Secure valuable items when not in use.
- Keep unused offices and rooms locked, especially during services.
- When closing, ensure there is no one in the building. Check offices, meeting rooms and bathrooms.
- If money is collected during services, make frequent deposits.

The Minnetonka Police Department offers premise surveys at no charge. A premise survey will identify vulnerable areas and suggest ways to improve the security of your building. To arrange for a premise survey, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546. ☺

## Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors: Find your February fun!

**D**ON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN AND friendship at Minnetonka Senior Services! 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes, for more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities. All class registration and payments should be directed to Minnetonka Senior Services. VISA or MasterCard are now accepted. Payment must be submitted at the time of registration for classes, trips or programs.

### Defensive Driving Classes

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

#### Four-Hour Day Courses

*Tuesday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*Tuesday, March 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

Refreshments provided but no lunch. \$18 per course.

#### Four-Hour Evening Course

*Tuesday, March 24, 6–10 p.m.*

Refreshments provided. \$18 per course.

### Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

**Note:** No exercise class on Wednesday, Feb. 4, due to the annual State of the City event.

#### The Life of Abraham Lincoln

*Thursday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m.*

Learn about the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln and his life, as we celebrate his legacy on his birthday. Cost is \$2, due by Feb. 10.

#### Valentine's Day Party

*Friday, Feb. 13, 12 p.m.*

Entertainment provided by David Allen. Cost is \$6, due by Feb. 10.

#### Young at Heart Community Dance

*Friday, Feb. 13*

Enjoy beginning swing dance lessons from 6:15–7 p.m. and dancing from 7 to 10 p.m. with entertainment provided by The Castaways: Music of the 50s and 60s, at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy. 7, Hopkins. All ages are welcome. Cost is \$10 per person or \$13 at the door, if space is available. Registration fee includes light refreshments. Register early — space is limited. Register online at [www.minnetonkacommunityed.org](http://www.minnetonkacommunityed.org) or call (952) 401-6800.

#### Walking Your Dog Safely

*Wednesday, Feb. 18, 10:15 a.m.*

Learn helpful tips from a therapist on safety precautions for having a safe walk with your dog. Cost is \$2, due by Feb. 16. Refreshments provided.

#### Safe Driving Workshop

*Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

The Minnetonka Police Department invites drivers over the age of 55 and their family members to attend this free seminar to learn how the effects of the natural aging process may affect your driving ability, how

to adjust your driving habits during the aging process, and how to evaluate when it may be time to hand over the keys. To register, call Minnetonka Senior Services at (952) 939-8393.

#### Senior Bike Group

*Thursday, March 12, 10 a.m.*

Interested in a new biking group whose members bike 12 to 15 miles at a time? Join the 2009 planning meeting in the Glen Lake Activity Room. Please RSVP at (952) 939-8393 if you plan to attend and/or would like to join this group.

#### Breakfast at Applebee's

*Saturday, March 28, 8–10 a.m.*

Enjoy breakfast at Applebee's, located near the west side entrance of Ridgedale Mall. Menu includes pancakes, syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage, butter, orange juice and coffee. Cost is \$6, due by March 24. Tickets should be purchased at the senior center. Musical groups will be on hand to provide entertainment. Proceeds will support ongoing senior activities.

### Analog/Digital TV Transition

On February 17, 2009, all TV signals will be broadcast exclusively in digital format. If you currently use cable or satellite service, you don't need to purchase a converter box or do anything at this time. If you have an analog TV and plan to keep it, trained volunteer help is available to assist in connecting cables between the required converter box, antenna and television. To schedule an appointment, call the Minnetonka Senior Center at (952) 939-8393. Volunteer students from the Minnetonka Christian Academy will visit your home to assist with your TV. ☺

## Eco Fair is March 14

**L**OOKING TO "GREEN UP" EARLY THIS spring? If you would like to learn more about selecting native plants for your yard, capturing runoff with a rain garden, dealing with invasive plants, or other environmental and natural resource-related topics, then the Minnetonka Eco Fair is for you. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. The event will include seminars as well as exhibits by city departments and outside vendors. For more information and a full schedule see the March *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺

## Beat the winter blues with music concerts

**N**OW IN ITS 35TH YEAR, THE MUSIC Association of Minnetonka (MAM) provides enriching musical experiences for people of all ages and abilities. The following concerts are slated for February and March, featuring the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra. All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted. Call (952) 401-5954 for information.

### Young People's Concert

*Featuring Rose Marie Bart, cello, winner of the MAM Young Artist Competition, and the Minnetonka High School Jazz Band*

Program includes **Gliere:** Russian Sailor's Dance "The Red Poppy Suite;" **Haydn:**

Symphony No. 94, 2nd movement; **Bach:** Bouree from Orchestra Suite #2; **Kabelevsky:** Gallop from the Comedians; **Rossi:** "A Trip Through the Rain Forest;" **Sousa:** Stars and Stripes Forever March; **Duke Ellington:** Grand Slam Jam; **Shostakovich:** Festival Overture, op. 96.

*February 22, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.*

**Normandale Highlands United Methodist Church**

9920 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington

*March 1, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.*

**Minnetonka United Methodist Church**

17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka ☺



# Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

February  
2009

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m. ( <i>Topic: To be decided</i> )
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	4 State of the City, 7:30–9 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							8 Kids' Fest, ( <i>see page 1</i> )
							9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							16 Presidents Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
							19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							23 City Council, 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

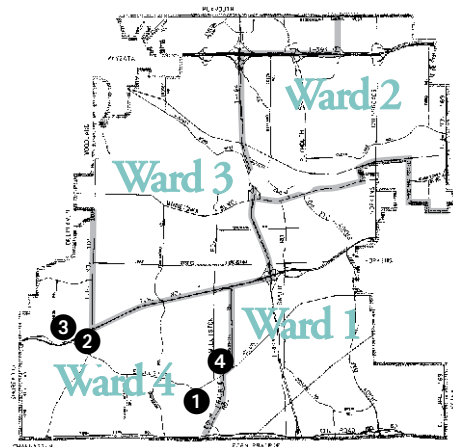
Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings 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.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following projects are scheduled for February planning commission meetings, but are subject to change. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information.

- 1 Preliminary plat to divide an existing residential property at 15407 Lake Shore Avenue into two, single-family lots. (07046.08a)
- 2 Conditional use permit for a drive-up window at 17601 Hwy. 7. (89064.08c)
- 3 Preliminary plat to divide an existing residential property at 18200 Old Excelsior Boulevard into two, single-family lots. (08047.08a)
- 4 150-unit senior and assisted living project on the site commonly known as Glen Haven Center, site A phase III of the Glen Lake redevelopment project. (05091.08e)

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 Web site. 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.



Note: The above map is provided for general reference only. Space constraints do not allow for a larger, more detailed map. To see a specific address in detail, please use an Internet-based mapping service.

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memo February 2009



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#### Mayor

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Home: (952) 934-9529  
tschneider@eminnetonka.com  
Meetings with the mayor may be  
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

#### City Manager

John Gunyou . . . . . (952) 939-8200

#### Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson . . . . . (952) 939-8200

E-mail: . . . . . comments@eminnetonka.com

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#### Council

At Large: Dick Allendorf . . . (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com  
To be named

Ward 1: Bob Ellingson . . . . . (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com

Ward 2: Tony Wagner . . . . . (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com

Ward 3: Brad Wiersum . . . . . (612) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com

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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