



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
November 2009*

2009 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners announced

NEARLY 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 following winners:

- **First Place:** Kathy Salaski, *"Morning Walk in Kinsel Park"*
- **Second Place:** Anne Groton, *"Morning Grace"*
- **Third Place:** Tom Anderson, *"Wooded Trail"*

Attendees of the October 6 Fire Department and City Open House event were invited to vote for a People's Choice Award, and the photo receiving the most votes was:

- Kristine Cooley, *"Hummingbird at Feeder"*

In addition, the commission designated a "Judges' Choice" award in each of the three categories: Lifestyle, Natural and Wild Minnetonka.

- **Judges' Choice—Wild Minnetonka:** Larry Wade, *"Painted Turtle"*
- **Judges' Choice—Natural Minnetonka:** JoAnn Ambrose, *"First Chill"*
- **Judges' Choice—Lifestyle Minnetonka:** Mercedes Arnold, *"Summer Fun"*

Finally, the commission gave out several honorable mention awards.

- Flannery Daley, *"Tree Frogs on Branch"*
- Doug Johnson, *"Shady Oak Lake Mist"*
- Fred Leverentz, *"Backyard Visitor"*
- Josefina Montero, *"Sunset of Summer at Shady Oak Beach"*
- Reed Nelson, *"Lake the Director"*

All of the winning photos listed above are displayed on the city of Minnetonka's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Winners will receive their awards at the Monday, November 9, meeting of the Minnetonka City Council. Thank you to everyone who entered this year's contest! ☺



First Place: Kathy Salaski, "Morning Walk in Kinsel Park"



*Second Place:
Anne Groton, "Morning Grace"*



Third Place: Tom Anderson, "Wooded Trail"



*People's Choice: Kristine Cooley,
"Hummingbird at Feeder"*

The ABCs of snow removal in Minnetonka

AUTUMN IS HERE, AND SNOWFLAKES can't be far behind. Here are some reminders 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.

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!

Expensive but easy to get — that's road salt this year, unlike last year when flooding prevented salt shipments from reaching Minnesota.

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. See "X" for more information about the order in which this takes place.

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

Keep 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.

Lack of snow and less moisture in combination with the salt used on roads helped contribute to the white residue seen on Minnetonka roads during the past few winters. The city, as well as the county and the state, are using salt only on the roads in Minnetonka, instead of salt and sand mixture. However, Minnetonka Public Works now uses less than half of the salt that was used a decade ago. Sand has been eliminated because of its negative effect on the city's water resources.

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.

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. Or, 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 to the right. Stay 70 feet (four car lengths) from the snowplow so the driver can see you.

Sod damage resulting from city snowplows will be repaired by the city. The city does not repair sprinklers, fences, or rock gardens that are placed in the city right-of-way. Report sod 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.

Using cruise control in your vehicle can be dangerous when driving on snow- or ice-covered roads.

Vehicles — more than 29, ranging from dump trucks to motorgraders 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 and sanded.

X&*\$@#! — or something similar — might be uttered by a Minnetonka resident watching a snowplow fill in a newly shoveled driveway. Remember, during heavy snowfalls, citywide snowplowing is accomplished in three separate steps, so 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.

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. ❄️

Keep “flushable” wipes out of the sewer

THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE SEEN the introduction of more and more disposable wipe products for a variety of household uses. Many of these products are labeled as not only disposable, but also flushable.

While marketed as convenience items, these products may potentially become a huge inconvenience because they may clog not only the sewer on your property, but also cause blockages and backup problems in Minnetonka’s public sewer system and pump stations.

To understand how these wipes can become a problem, it’s important to know how the sewer system works. Every home has a sewer connection that runs from the home to the public sewer system. This sewer service line is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain so there are no backups of wastewater into the home. From there, the sewage moves into larger collector lines, and pump stations help lift the wastewater across different elevations in the sewer system.

Why are household wipes a problem? Unlike toilet paper, these products don’t break down once they are flushed. They can then cause blockages in your home sewer lines, especially in older pipelines that may have already existing grease, roots or other obstructions, resulting in the backup of sewage into the home. A repair of the service line can leave the homeowner with a nasty repair bill — often not covered by homeowners’ insurance — and an even nastier cleanup.

On a larger scale, when these products make their way into the public sewer system, they collect together and cause clogs in the collector lines and get tangled in lift pumps. When pump stations are clogged, they stop working and require cleaning and repair—

or even replacement — in order to get the sewage moving again.

Avoid a nasty cleanup in your home and help protect the city’s sewer system by never flushing any consumer item that is not toilet paper into the sewer system, regardless of what the packaging promises. Put these items in the trash instead:

- Diapers
- Disinfecting wipes or baby wipes
- Cotton swabs
- Toilet cleaning pads
- Mop refills
- Paper towels
- Moist towelettes
- Feminine hygiene products

Not sure what should or shouldn’t be flushed? Remember this easy reminder: if it’s not toilet paper, and if you didn’t eat it or drink it first, it shouldn’t go in the toilet. When in doubt, don’t flush! For more information, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ♪



Above, a clog in a Minnetonka lift station caused by disposable and “flushable” wipes that were flushed down the toilet. These items should be placed in the trash instead.

Property records available at city hall

ARE YOU PLANNING AN ADDITION OR putting up a fence? Do you need more information on your property or another, including past permits or surveys? You can find this information at the Public Use Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, the room houses a variety of records on city properties. Copies of records are available for \$0.10 per copy. While the room is not staffed, assistance is available should you need it. For more information call (952) 939-8200. ♪

Outdoor ice rinks open in December

SKATING RINKS WITH WARMING houses are available for your enjoyment at seven Minnetonka park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will open Saturday, December 19, and remain open until Monday, February 15. Call the weather hotline number at (952) 939-8355 for information on conditions, closings and updates. ♪

Managing foreclosures in Minnetonka

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS affected all of us in various ways. One of the most devastating is losing a home or business to foreclosure. Stories in local and national news over the past couple years have given much attention to this troubling situation.

Property foreclosures in Minnetonka are low as compared to other metropolitan communities, but the city is certainly not immune. The city began tracking foreclosures in 2007 with 86 that year, followed by 174 in 2008 and 98 to date in 2009. These numbers represent less than two percent of all property in Minnetonka. Some communities, generally those that were more rapidly growing, have experienced foreclosures in the 10 to 20 percent range.

Typically after a home or business is foreclosed, the lending institution becomes the property owner. Institutions may hire a management company to perform property maintenance items like lawn mowing or closing up an unoccupied property. Where regular oversight does not occur, the property will show signs of neglect and, at worst case, can become a public nuisance.

Although there is little the city can do to prevent a foreclosure, the city does become involved in property issues after foreclosure. The city’s role is to prevent the property from becoming a public nuisance by ensuring the property is properly maintained and ready for the winter months when utilities can freeze and result in significant property damage.

Preventing public nuisances also helps reduce the negative secondary impacts to the surrounding neighborhood. The city of Minnetonka has an action plan in place to prevent unnecessary property damage that can result from unoccupied homes and businesses. Coordinated work between various city departments and utility providers helps ensure that foreclosed properties remain assets to the community. For more information about foreclosed properties, please contact Loren Gordon, Minnetonka city planner, at lgordon@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8296. For more information about public nuisance properties, please contact John Weinand, Minnetonka environmental health supervisor, at jweinand@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8272. ♪

Feedback on 2010 Minnetonka budget encouraged

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA TAKES A responsible long-term perspective with financial planning and management. We make decisions with the future in mind to ensure our ongoing ability to provide residents and businesses with the quality of services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price. Despite the significantly greater fiscal challenges the city now faces, the 2010 budget will reflect this consistent commitment.

Fiscal challenges

The lingering economic recession continues to impact city finances. Chief among these are state actions that compound local challenges, as well as diminishing revenues from construction activity and investment income.

As during previous fiscal crises, the state persists in shifting its own fiscal problems on to local governments. Although the city of Minnetonka does not receive direct local government state aid, as do many other cities, the state has once again mandated that Minnetonka fund the state's Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program. As a result, the city will be shorted over \$530,000 in 2010 that it must make up from other revenue sources.

Without any state aid, property taxes are the city of Minnetonka's primary resource for funding police, fire, streets and parks services. Nearly 70 percent of the city's general fund is supported by property taxes, with an additional 20 percent supported by construction permits and licenses, investment income and state MVHC funding. Over the last three years, these key secondary sources of revenue are down by nearly one-half, almost \$2.5 million.

Budget solutions

Consistent with its long-term management philosophy, the city of Minnetonka anticipated these challenges, and has already implemented various measures to reposition itself to ensure its long-term capacity to continue to provide excellent services at a reasonable price.

The city's budget solutions did not simply cut expenses, but rather, involved new ways of doing business, including cooperative service agreements with other agencies, productivity investments that help deliver services for efficiently, and department reorganizations that reposition staff to better serve our constituents, both now and well into the future.

As with any service business, nearly three-quarters of the city's operating budget is related to personnel costs. The

reorganizations and new service delivery structures resulted in a workforce reduction of six percent, which included seven layoffs, half of whom were managers. Additionally, the city renegotiated its multiyear labor contracts to limit future base wage increases to one percent annually.

2010 budget

As a result of these early management actions, the city council adopted a preliminary 2010 general fund budget that is two percent lower than the adopted 2009 budget. Additionally, the council capped property taxes for all city operations and capital investments to an increase of only one percent for 2010. Most significantly, nearly \$2 million or three-fourths of Minnetonka's budget solution involves permanent spending cuts, and none of the one-time gimmicks that would simply postpone and worsen the long-term challenges.

Property taxes

While the effect of these budget reductions on any individual property tax bill will vary by the specific circumstances, the adopted preliminary levy would translate into an estimated two percent increase (\$20) for the average Minnetonka homeowner of a \$310,000 home.

We want to hear from you

The city always encourages public budget input. On Tuesday, November 10, from 7 to 9 p.m., the city will host a special citizen budget academy for residents to learn about the city's finances and provide input on the 2010 budget. Register by contacting Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207 or at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com.

2010 Budget Goals

- **Balances** the budget for the long-term with no one-time gimmicks.
- **Caps** the 2010 budget at 2% below the adopted 2009 budget, and makes \$2 million in permanent spending cuts.
- **Limits** tax increases to 1% for all operating and capital costs, with another 1.2% for the state-mandated fire pension payment.
- **Considers** an additional 0.3% increase for homebuyer assistance and renovation. ☺

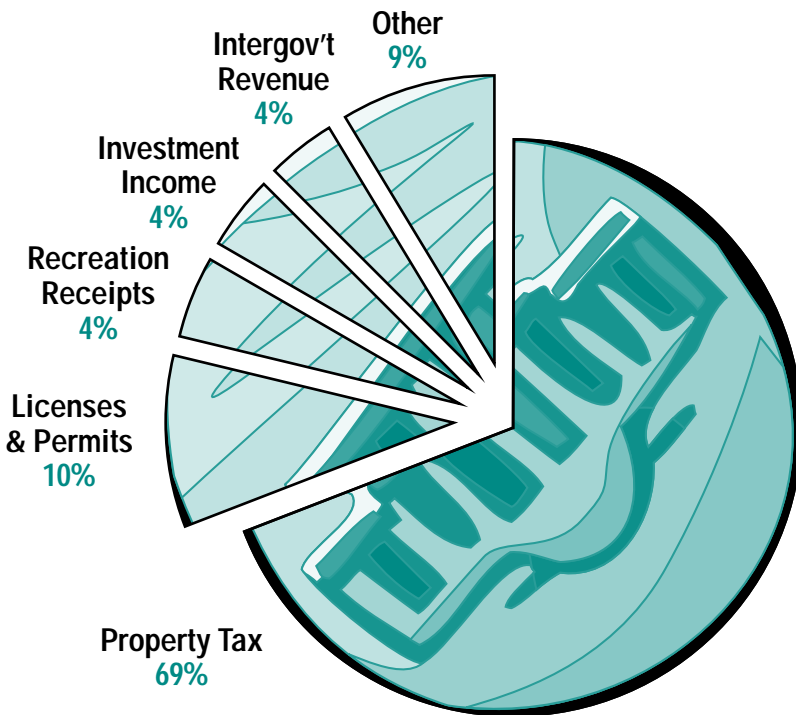
Additionally, the city will hold its public hearing on the budget Monday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. as part of the regular city council meeting in the Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Residents and businesses also have the opportunity to provide feedback via the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. All comments will be shared with the council as budget options are considered prior to adoption of the final 2010 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! ☺

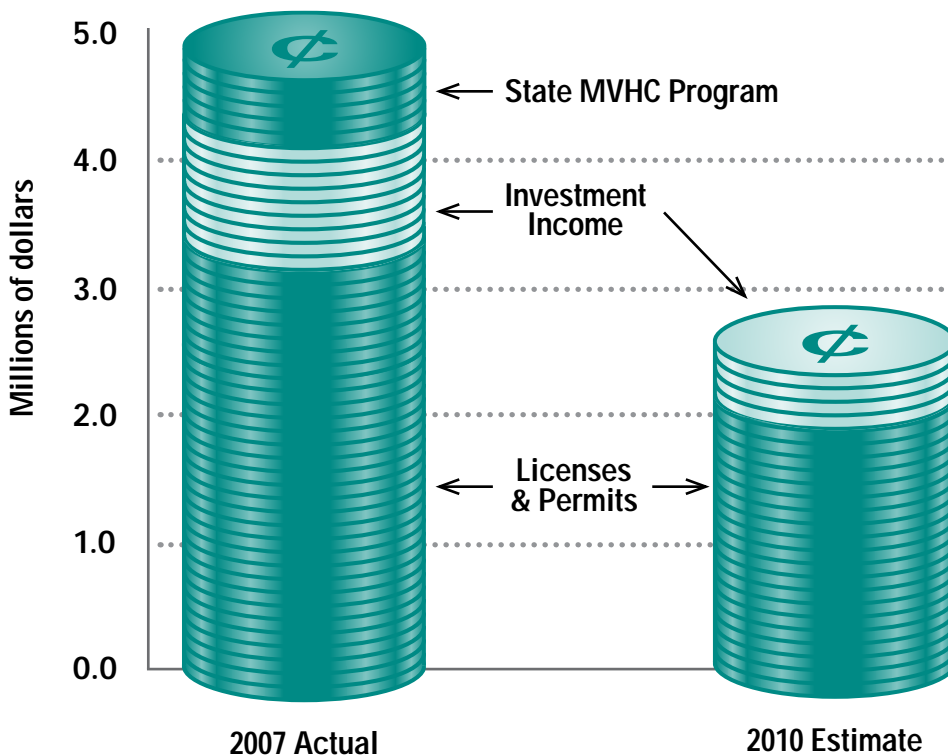


General Fund Operating Revenue

Based on 2008 revenues



Key sources of revenue down



INNOVATION

Energy savings investments

DURING THESE DIFFICULT economic times, the city's longstanding practice of instituting innovative ideas in order to use taxpayer dollars wisely, while still providing excellent service to residents, is more important than ever. Each month, some innovative practices from the city will be highlighted—some of these ideas are new, while others have been in use for years.

City receives \$530,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the city of Minnetonka recently received a \$530,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy. The purpose of the program is to assist grant recipients in creating and implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions; reduce total energy use; and improve energy efficiency.

With this grant, the city has identified several projects to retrofit existing city buildings in order to reduce total energy use and improve efficiency, including:

- Upgrading boiler systems to energy efficient systems at the Minnetonka Community Center and the Police Department.
- Installing occupancy sensors in various city facilities.
- Installing energy efficient air handlers at Minnetonka City Hall, the Minnetonka Police Department, and Minnetonka Fire Station 1.
- Retrofitting parking lot lights at city facilities for energy use reduction.
- Retrofitting lighting in the Minnetonka Community Center banquet room and the Minnetonka City Hall lobby for better efficiency.
- Retrofitting baseball field lights at Big Willow Park and hockey field lighting at Gro Tonka Park, both for energy use reduction.

Shade tree disease control update

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA'S SHADE tree disease control program is currently targeted at managing Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases. The program begins in June, with tree inspectors checking trees across the city and issuing work orders to private property owners, public agencies and businesses when trees are found to be diseased.

From June through September this year, the city's natural resources division issued more than 1,100 work orders to remove 1,764 diseased elm and oak trees within the city of Minnetonka, requiring the property owner to remove the diseased tree in a set amount of time. More than 900 of these work orders have already been re-checked for compliance, with tree inspectors returning to each site to ensure wood has been disposed of or handled correctly, and leaving a door hanger to let residents know they have met the city's requirements.

In November, the forester and tree inspector will continue to recheck every site where diseased trees were given a work order and marked for removal.

Minnetonka's natural resources division staff thanks the residents who have already removed diseased trees this year, and also to 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 Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ♪

MAM hosts pancake breakfast

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka for a morning of entertainment and great food Saturday, November 7, from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Enjoy a pancake breakfast at 9:15 a.m., followed by a program where you'll learn more about the MAM organization and enjoy the talents of local magician Matt Dunn. Reserve your spot by emailing Joyce at mamoffice@musicassociation.org or call (952) 401-5954. Donations gratefully accepted.

Concert set for November 8

Under the direction of Dan Geldert, the Minnetonka Concert Band presents their "To Life!" Concert, featuring music from Fiddler on the Roof and other great works Sunday, November 8, at 3 p.m. at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka. Concert is free, but donations are appreciated. For more information about upcoming concerts, visit www.musicassociation.org or call (952) 401-5954. ♪

Prune oak trees November through March

IF YOUR OAK TREES NEED PRUNING, NOW is the time! Oak trees should only be pruned between November and March, as pruning outside this time makes oak trees susceptible to oak wilt disease, which usually kills them. Late winter is the very best time to prune trees, since insects and diseases are not active.

Oak wilt researchers break up the calendar year into three sections based on the oak wilt risk if a tree is wounded due to storms or pruning:

- **High Risk:** April, May and June
- **Low Risk:** July – October (remember, low risk doesn't mean no risk!)
- **No Risk/Safe:** November-March

The beetles that carry oak wilt disease are most active in April, May and June, making that time period the riskiest for pruning — the beetles will carry oak wilt spores on their bodies to fresh oak tree wounds, introducing disease into the tree. For more information about oak wilt, visit the University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension Service Web site at www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/.

Why prune?

Trees may be pruned for safety, health and aesthetic reasons. In an urban or suburban landscape, the most important reason to prune trees is safety, in order to prevent property damage and personal injury.

In a forested environment, trees fall over from internal decay and "self-prune" by

dropping branches that are decayed or do not get enough sunlight. When these fallen tree parts break down they add nutrients back into the soil that then helps new trees and plants grow. While you accept some level of risk walking through a forest, it is a good idea to reduce the risk of falling trees and branches when they are near a structure or someplace you spend a lot of time in your yard.

If you are considering pruning a mature tree, you should have a very good reason to remove any living branch. Trees use their branches and leaves to create energy, and older trees do not respond as well to removal of their "food factories." Remember, the larger the pruning cut, the less likely the tree is to seal off the wound, making it susceptible to decay (wood rot). Decay leads to strength loss in a tree over time, making it more likely to fall down or break at the area of weakness.

If you plan to prune small, recently planted trees, consider viewing the small tree pruning video presentation available at www.eminnetonka.com — click on "Web streaming" on the right side of the home page, then scroll down to presentations.

If you need to prune branches that require you to stand on a ladder with more than a handsaw, consider hiring a certified arborist. Never hire a tree company that will use climbing irons or is selling their services door-to-door. For more tips on hiring a tree care professional, and a list of tree contractors that work in Minnetonka, visit www.eminnetonka.com. Click on "Public Works" then "Natural Resources" then "Forestry." ♪

Resident donates land for conservation

AS PART OF MINNETONKA'S Living Legacy program, Minnetonka resident Andrew Fuller recently donated a conservation easement to the city, encompassing 6.4 acres of his 7.6 acre parcel of land on McGinty Road. This parcel was identified as being a high-priority parcel for conservation in the city's open space plan and contains a remnant oak forest, three small wetlands and one of the largest ironwood trees in the city of Minnetonka. The donation of the easement will preserve this land as open space into the future. ♪



Andrew Fuller (right) was recognized for his land donation by Mayor Terry Schneider (left) at a city council meeting.



2009 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

Saturdays: November 7 and 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times indicated. Brush larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

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 annual or monthly fee.

Check with your garbage hauler for details.

Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73; **use west entrance.**

Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.

2 Groveland School Parking Lot

Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101

3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center, North Parking Lot

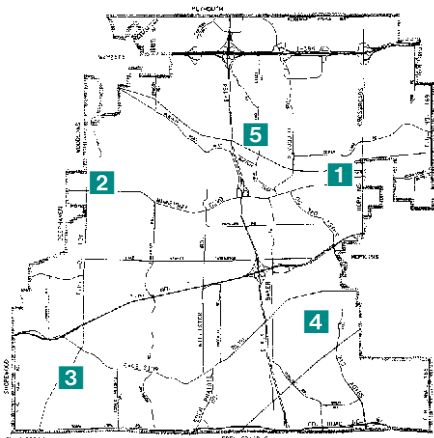
5621 Hwy. 101 (at Hanus Rd.)

4 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot

Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd., upper parking lot

5 Meadow Park Parking Lot

Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites on Saturdays, November 7 & 14.

City staff will assist residents with unloading bags of leaves on Saturdays. Residents will be asked to take empty bags home for reuse or disposal. **Please loosely tie bags for easy emptying.**

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

- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. November 2 and 9
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. November 3 and 10
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 7 and 14

Loads of leaves **must** be covered during transport!

Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields). Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk leaf pile (**bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves**). Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves to make unloading your leaves easier and faster.

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

Brush drop-off ends 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. The brush drop-off ends November 21, 2009.

The brush drop-off is located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Use the west entrance near the Big Willow Park ball fields.

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Please secure your load during transport, do not drag branches on the road and do not cover your taillights. This service is only available to Minnetonka residents and proof of Minnetonka residency is required (driver's license or utility bill).

Please note: trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber or wood scraps are not accepted. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials go into the leaf drop-off program (see accompanying article). No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430. ☞

Sign up for the 2010 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 2010 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over six Tuesday sessions, 7 to 9 p.m., Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2 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 8, 2010. ☞

minnetonka memo

November 2009



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

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Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

November
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	3 General Election (polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4 Joint City Council/Park Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.; Park Board meeting, 7 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.; Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
29	30						10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							11 Veterans Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
							16 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: 2010 budget)
							19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							23 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							26/27 Thanksgiving holiday, <i>city offices closed</i>
							30 Economic Development Authority, 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 Web site. 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. 6

THE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will host its annual Victorian Holiday Open House at the historic Charles H. Burwell House Sunday, December 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. Take a self-guided tour of the Victorian-decorated house and enjoy tea, cider and holiday refreshments.

Limited parking is available on the Burwell site, 13209 E. McGinty Rd, with additional parking across McGinty Road at St. David's Family Center. For more information call Florence Bogle at (952) 938-3758.

General election results available online

RESULTS OF THE CITY'S NOV. 3 General Election, which included the office of mayor and council members at large seats A and B, are available at www.eminnetonka.com.



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