

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
January 2008*

A message from Mayor Jan Callison

City of
minnetonka

14600 Minnetonka Boulevard Minnetonka, MN 55345 952-939-8200 Fax 952-939-8244

January 2008

Last month, shortly after the shoreland ordinance listening session, a local reporter telephoned me. Truthfully, I never hang up the phone after talking to a reporter without wishing I had said something different, been clearer or given a more complete response. But her questions about leadership and decision-making stayed with me even beyond those initial thoughts and have prompted me to share these ideas here.

When we have difficult issues like the shoreland ordinance, redevelopment projects or road reconstructions, how should decisions be made? We know the answer that we learned in school: listen to the people! But what happens when the people don't all say the same thing (and some don't speak at all), when not everyone has the same information, when human nature focuses us on our interests today rather than the needs of the future and when time often proves that our worst fears often don't come to pass? How do we make decisions then?

Ultimately decision-making is a give and take between elected representatives and citizens, a process of empowering as well as leading. Sometimes — although not often enough — the decisions are easy. Most times, though, they are hard — hard for those who look to their elected representatives to speak just for them and hard for those to whom more than one person is speaking. Decision-making under those circumstances requires balancing and weighing, careful listening to all sides and clear articulation of the reason why the decision is being made. But underneath it all, it also requires a foundation of community support and acceptance.

We find that acceptance and support in a very public way in Minnetonka. Proposals are made, their merits are considered in public meetings and finally a decision is made. In the best case, a conversation occurs. In the worst case, the discussion itself is the enemy. Good community dialogue requires the ability to listen as well as to speak, especially in a culture that seems to value loud, angry voices. One of the most serious responsibilities of government is to encourage the public exchange of views in a healthy, respectful way. I hope that you find that to be true in Minnetonka.

Best wishes in 2008!

Jan Callison
Jan Callison
Mayor of Minnetonka

Minnetonka... where quality is our nature

State of the City event is Feb. 6

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2008 State of the City Address by Mayor Jan Callison Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 30, to Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

Sign up for the 2008 Citizen Academy

WHAT'S THE ROLE OF THE CITY council? What are the city's zoning and subdivision 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 2008 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over five Tuesday evening sessions — Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 — at Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the sessions, you'll hear from various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Graduates receive special city council recognition upon completion of the program.

To enroll, email Jacques 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 Jan. 8, 2008. ☺

Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department



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

A reminder about fire alarm fees

If your home or business is monitored by a private alarm monitoring company, and they initiate an automatic fire alarm to the Minnetonka Fire Department, be prepared to pay the city a \$250 service fee.

“Our fire department has a general duty to respond to emergencies that occur within the city,” said Minnetonka Fire Department Chief Joe Wallin. “Fire alarm systems with central station service are a contract between a private party and a vendor, resulting in a service being performed by an uncompensated third party — the Minnetonka Fire Department. This level of services constitutes ‘special duty,’ which is not available to everyone unless they contract with a private alarm company.

“Because the Minnetonka Fire Department is primarily a paid-on-call department, there are definite costs associated with each call for service, in contrast to a full-time department which has a fixed payroll cost whether responding to calls or not,” concluded Chief Wallin.

The \$250 fee reflects the average additional cost incurred for each response to a fire alarm. In the event that the fire alarm system is the first notification of a true fire emergency, the fire chief may waive the service fee. From January to November 2007, the Minnetonka Fire Department responded to 175 fire alarms, none of which resulted in actual fire damage.

This fee does not apply to general 9-1-1 calls, alarm calls where the first notification of the alarm is a 9-1-1 call from the affected property, or alarm calls originated by an automatic fire sprinkler system. For more information call Deputy Chief Bob Eastham, Minnetonka Fire Department, at (952) 939-8311 or email beastham@eminnetonka.com.

2007 service calls

Through November 2007, the fire department responded to 510 calls for service, which included 22 building fires; 55 other fire calls; 32 medical calls; 18 rescue calls; 32 natural gas leaks; 47 other hazardous condition calls; 39 service calls, such as smoke removal; seven requests for mutual aid from neighboring cities; 660 “good intent” calls, such as reports of smoke; 175 fire alarm calls and 17 other.



ReadyMinnetonka

Officially launched in April of 2007, the city’s emergency preparedness program is designed to reach all aspects of the city’s demographics through outreach services to neighborhoods, schools, community-groups, and businesses. Now that we’re in the thick of winter, ReadyMinnetonka offers the following cold weather tips.

Be prepared

- Keep ahead of the winter storm by listening for the latest weather statements, watches and warnings, and understand what those terms mean.
- Be equipped for the worst. Carry a winter survival kit in your car, especially when traveling in rural or open areas. Try to travel with others.

Winter driving

- Yield to snowplows, and give them plenty of room to operate.
- If you become stranded in your vehicle, stay with it until help arrives. Do not try to walk for help during a blizzard, as you could easily get lost in whiteout conditions.

Outdoor activities

- Dress in layered clothing and avoid overexertion during winter storms or extreme cold.

- Shoveling snow is very hard work and may induce a heart attack — so take it easy while shoveling.
- If you will be snowmobiling, avoid alcohol. Most snowmobile deaths are alcohol related. Take a snowmobile course offered by the DNR or check with your snowmobile dealer.

Home Safety

- Heating devices are a major cause of residential fires in Minnesota. Turn off portable heating devices when you are away from home or retire for the evening. Have a working, UL-listed smoke alarm on every level of your home and in every bedroom.
- Have your fireplace and chimney professionally inspected before winter.
- Carbon monoxide is most likely to accumulate inside homes during winter. Check your heating systems and ensure your home has proper ventilation. Install a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector that sounds an alarm.

For more information about ReadyMinnetonka or to be added to the ReadyMinnetonka Alerts listserv, email ready@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8334.

Need emergency home repairs?

IF YOUR HOME IS IN NEED OF emergency repairs and you meet program income restrictions, you may be eligible for a \$5,000 emergency deferred loan with no interest and no payments. To qualify, your household gross annual income (based on a family of four) must be less than \$39,250 and you must meet certain asset restrictions. For more information call Scott Zemke at Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County, (952) 697-1335.

Don't miss out on these great winter events!

WINTER IS LESS THAN HALF OVER, and there's still plenty of fun to be had! Don't miss these great January and February events.

Birding workshop

January 22, 2008

Looking for a cure for cabin fever? Learn how to identify your backyard birds, as well as migratory birds in the spring, at a "Birding for Beginners" workshop Tuesday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Anne Hanley and George Skinner, Minnetonka residents and Audubon Society members, will share knowledge of bird identification, behavior, bird songs and calls, as well as information about free birding trips.

Space is limited, so if you plan to attend please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.



Driving safely, aging gracefully

January 26, 2008

Driving is a key to independence from the moment we receive our first driver's license, and most of us want to hold onto that key as long as possible. However, the effects of aging may impair your ability to drive safely.

The Minnetonka Police Department invites drivers over the age of 55, and their family members, to attend a special free seminar Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. You'll 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.

Join the Minnetonka Police Department at this seminar, and help ensure the road to your golden years may still be driven by you! For more information or to register, call Minnetonka Senior Services at (952) 939-8393.



Caring Youth nominations due

January 30, 2008

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 2008 Caring Youth Award.

Each year the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, and the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people. This year's event is set for Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

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; and/or
- 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 Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207.

Kids' Fest

February 10, 2008

Mark your calendars for the 11th Annual Kids' Fest Sunday, February 10, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, Ice Arena and Williston Fitness Center. Activities will include dog sled rides, dancing, magic, face painting and much more. For a complete schedule of activities, see the February *Minnetonka Memo*.



Home Remodeling Fair

February 24, 2008

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring more than 75 contractor exhibits, seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth is set for Sunday, February 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. More information will be in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit www.homeremodelingfair.com.

Share your musical talent!

Start the new year on the right note by joining a Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) instrumental or choral ensemble! Visit www.musicassociation.org to learn more about the Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphony Chorus, Senior Chorale, Choral Reflections of Minnetonka or three Youth Choirs. For more information call (952) 401-5954.

Save money on gifts at Mills Landing

Bring in this article and receive 10% off one item during the month of January at the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information visit the store Web site at www.millslandingshoppe.com, or call (952) 933-5214.

Ask Minnetonka Mike: Identifying “hazard” trees

MINNETONKA MIKE, THE CITY OF Minnetonka’s online request system, is always standing by to help you with any questions, comments or concerns you may have about your city. This month, Mike addresses a resident’s question about hazard trees.

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

Now that the leaves are gone, I notice some large holes in my tree where old pruning cuts were made. I watch woodpeckers near the holes, and there is always sawdust on the ground at the base of the tree. Should I fill the holes with something or should I remove it? The tree looked healthy this summer, but now I worry it may be sick or even dangerous. What should I do?

Signed, Tree Watcher

Dear Tree Watcher:

You have some great questions! I’ve prepared some information that I think will help you identify what’s happening with your tree. Read on to learn more.

Wood decay

A hole in a large branch or tree trunk is associated with wood decay. Decay starts soon after a tree is wounded, allowing an entry point for fungal pathogens. As the wood rots, it breaks down and can eventually form a hole where healthy wood once existed. The woodpeckers are attracted to the decaying wood because it provides a food source of beetles, ants, and centipedes.

Tree defense

Similar to a human’s immune system, trees have a defense system called compartmentalization that seals off as much decay as possible in the tree. Keeping a tree in good health helps a tree’s defense system, but there are instances when the amount of decay in a tree may make it unstable. Tree experts do not recommend filling a hole because it does not help the tree compartmentalize and may actually harm the tree.

Tree health vs. tree condition

If your tree is healthy, it may have a vigorous growth rate, large green leaves, and be free of pests. The health of a tree is different from its condition, though, which has more to do with the structure and stability of the tree. It sounds like the condition of your tree is compromised if there are holes in the tree — but it may also be healthy.

Do I have a “hazard” tree?

The next step is to determine if the tree is a danger to you or to a neighbor. The U.S. Forest Services says that a tree is a hazard if there are structural defects in the roots, stem, and branches that may cause the tree or tree part to fail, where such failure may cause property damage or personal injury. Said simply, a tree with structural problems is only a hazard if it has the potential to strike a “target.”

What else should I look for?

Survey the trees directly around your home, shed, patio or other areas where you spend time each winter. Keep in mind your tree may not present a hazard to your property, but may pose a risk for your neighbor. Remember, there must be structural defects plus a target to make it a hazard. A dead tree with bark falling off presents a fairly obvious risk if it is in close proximity to a structure. The wood will be brittle as it dries and can become soft as the wood decays.

Walk around each tree and look for holes (cavities) in large branches and the trunk; cracks in the stem, or between branches; and/or leaning or soil mounding at the base of the tree.

What should I do if I think I have a hazard tree?

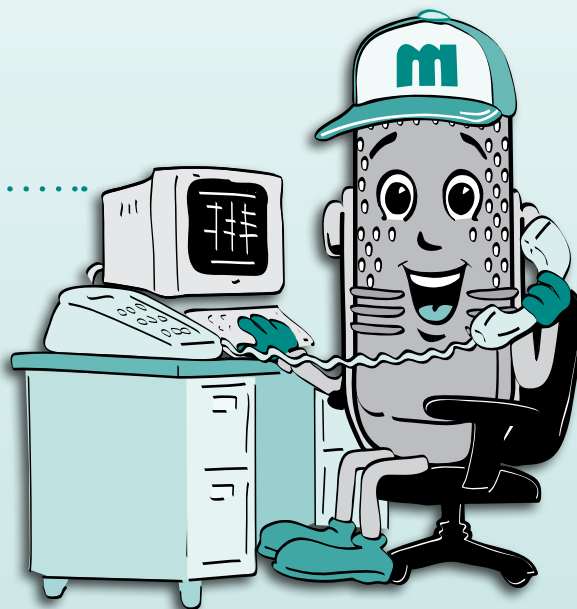
When you find one or more defects on a tree, seek a consultation with a certified arborist in order to determine the level of risk the tree poses to failing, or hitting a target. Many factors contribute to a trees’ risk, including the species, age, and site on which it is growing. It is important to consult an expert because, in certain instances, your risk can be lowered and the tree saved by taking a few steps.

Is a dead tree always a hazard tree?

A standing dead tree, or “snag,” is not a hazard unless it has a chance of falling apart onto a target. Keep standing dead trees in wooded parcels for wildlife food, cover, and nesting. As the tree rots, it will become incorporated into the soil and add nutrients for other trees and plants to use. An exception to this rule is if the bark is still intact on a tree identified by the city as having Dutch elm disease or oak wilt.

What should I do if the hazard tree is my neighbor’s?

Be neighborly. Talk to your neighbor and explain what you can see from your property. Their



sightline view may not be the same, or it might be in a part of their yard they do not use frequently. Ask your neighbor to mitigate the risk the tree poses to your property. Take a photo of the tree and write your observations in a letter to your neighbor, and keep a copy for yourself. Consider having a certified arborist look at the tree to evaluate the risk. If a conflict arises, consider using a mediation service. To learn more about trees and the law, read Minnesota Trees and the Law online at http://fr.cfans.umn.edu/extension/urban_com/MinnesotaLawsAndTrees.html.

What is the city’s role with hazard trees?

The city removes hazard trees from city properties, but does not require residents to remove hazard trees from private property. If there is a conflict with a hazard tree along a property line, it is considered a civil issue to be resolved between residents.

If you have a question about your own tree, the city forester can help you decide whether or not you should take action on your property.

To learn more about hazard trees, read: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_haz/ht_haz.htm.

If you have a question, comment or concern about the city, let Minnetonka Mike know! Just visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on “Minnetonka Mike Online Service Request System.” Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. ☺

Reducing sand and salt use on Minnetonka roads

OVER THE PAST FEW WINTERS, THE CITY of Minnetonka has changed the way it controls ice on city streets. Read on for more information about the city's new ice-control regimen.

Is sand still used by the city?

About four years ago, the city virtually eliminated the use of sand in its daily winter road maintenance operations, for a couple of reasons. First, while sand can help provide traction over existing ice, it does not actually melt ice or prevent its formation. Second, much of the sand applied to streets, parking lots, and sidewalks eventually washes into the nearest waterway, where it can fill wetlands, lakes, and creeks, or obstruct the flow of water through storm sewers. The city still keeps a small amount of sand on hand for instances when immediate traction is needed (such as ice storms) or when temperatures are too low for salt to be effective.

What are those sticky stripes on the street?

Right before it snows, residents may notice sticky lines on the street. This is an anti-icing solution containing magnesium chloride (MgCl₂), which the city applies to most major streets just before a predicted snowfall. The "stickiness" is actually from corn syrup used in the solution. Anti-icing prevents snow from bonding with the pavement which in turn helps reduce ice formation and facilitates removal by the snow plows. Anti-icing solution also helps reduce the total amount of salt needed to keep our roadways clear.

What's the white residue on the streets after the snow has melted?

The white residue is dried salt solution and may remain on the roadway for several days after the ice and snow have melted. It is not the result of increased salt use but rather an increase in the amount of salt that remains in the street. The city pre-treats its dry salt with a magnesium chloride solution before applying it to the road, which help the salt adhere to the pavement. This also increases the effectiveness of the dry salt by providing the moisture that is needed to melt the ice and by lowering the temperature at which the salts will work. Because the residue left behind is temporarily bonded to the pavement, it can also help prevent ice formation during the next snowfall and can reduce the need for additional applications. Without pre-treatment, you likely wouldn't see the residue on the street, but there would be more salt by the side of the road or in the adjacent vegetation.

I heard that salt use can negatively affect natural resources. In what other ways is the city reducing the use of salt?

It's true that chlorides from road salts accumulate in the environment over time and can have long-term negative effects on natural resources. While anti-icing and pre-treatment have resulted in large reductions of salt use on Minnetonka roads, the city has taken additional steps to reduce salt use. Those steps include calibrating equipment, installing applicator controls that adjust according to the speed of the truck, and measuring pavement temperature to determine the correct amount of salt to apply and avoid salt waste. In addition, the city applies most of its road salt after the snow plows have finished their first pass so the salt isn't plowed right off the street.

How you can help

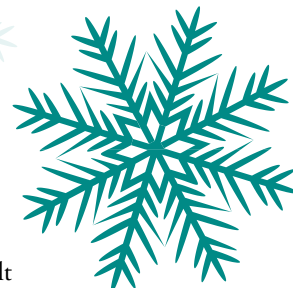
If possible, avoid using salt, but if safety concerns require you to control ice on your drive or walkways, follow these tips to help minimize salt use.

- Remove snow from paved surfaces as soon as possible, since most ice is formed by the pressure of foot and vehicle traffic. Remember that city plows usually make two passes to clear the width of the road; thus, you may want to wait for the second pass before you clear areas by the street or note that you may need to clear them twice.
- Considering using non-chloride salts or deicers to help prevent natural resource impacts. Non-chloride deicers have been

effective in the Minnetonka City Hall parking lot and have helped prevent damage to the plantings in the adjacent rain gardens.

- Apply liquid salts or dissolve rock salt in a brine solution rather than applying dry salt. Salt will not melt ice until it is dissolved in a liquid.
- Apply salts to the upslope side of the pavement and allow it to flow across the ice rather than covering the entire surface. Products applied on the lower edge are often wasted.
- Don't apply salt if the pavement temperature is too low. Rock salt is generally not very effective below 15 degrees F and most other salt blends are rarely effective below 0 to -5 degrees F.
- Use salt-tolerant vegetation adjacent to paved surfaces if you have problems with salt damage. Salt-tolerant plants and seed mixes are available at most nurseries.

Remember, when it comes to salt, more is not better! If it isn't melting, adding more salt likely won't melt the ice any faster. Applying too much salt can actually reduce the ability of the salt to melt the ice. ❄️



City names Snowplow Operator of the Year

THIS YEAR, THE MINNETONKA PUBLIC Works department debuted its "Snowplow Operator of the Year" program, designed to become an annual event. The award is based on a point system, with points awarded or deducted for plowing efficiency, resident compliments/complaints, snowplow damage and accidents. Availability for major snow events is also a consideration.

This year's inaugural winner is Minnetonka snowplow operator Chris Houserman, who has been with Minnetonka Public Works since January 2006, and was presented with the award for his work during the winter of 2006.



Each Snowplow Operator of the Year Award recipient will have his or her name engraved on a permanent plaque displayed at Minnetonka Public Works. ❄️



News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEWSPAPERS FOR 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, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

Tips to improve your home security

Whether left for five minutes or five weeks, your home is vulnerable whenever it's unoccupied. While you can't be home all the time, you can devise a home security program that works for you around the clock.

The Minnetonka Police Department provides free security inspections to help identify key areas of your home or business that may be vulnerable. For an appointment, call Nicole Nelson at (952) 939-8546.

Here are some tips to get you started on improving security at your home or business.

Landscaping

- A house number that is readily visible will save emergency workers precious time. Be sure your house number is visible from the street, day and night.
- Burglars prey on privacy, so consider chain link or wrought iron instead of "privacy" fencing that completely obscures activity.
- Trees and shrubbery should be trimmed to six inches below windows and at least three feet away from doors. Rose bushes or other thorny bushes serve as a good deterrent.
- Large landscape rock (golf-ball size or larger) can be used to damage your property. Small landscape rock (smaller than golf ball size) is decorative, unlikely to cause much damage, and makes noise when a person walks on it.

Locks and strike plates

Use deadbolt locks, which have a bolt that must be activated by a key or thumb turn. It offers good security because it is not spring activated.

- A single-cylinder deadbolt is activated with a key on the exterior side of the door and a thumb turn piece on the interior side. Install this lock where there is no breakable glass within 40 inches of the

thumb turn piece. Otherwise, a burglar can break the glass, reach inside and turn the thumb piece.

- A double-cylinder deadbolt is key activated on both sides of the door. It should be installed where there is glass within 40 inches of the lock. Double-cylinder deadbolt locks can hinder escape from a burning home so always leave a key in or near the lock when someone is home. Double-cylinder deadbolt locks are only permitted in single-family homes, townhomes and first-floor duplexes used exclusively as residential dwellings.

In order to be good security devices, both single- and double-cylinder deadbolt locks should meet these criteria:

- The bolt must extend a minimum of one inch and be made of case-hardened steel.
- The cylinder guard must be tapered, round and free spinning to make it difficult to grip with a pliers or wrench. It must be solid metal — not hollow casting or stamped metal.
- There should be at least a five-pin tumbler system or equivalent locking device.
- The connecting screws that hold the lock together must be on the inside and made of case-hardened steel. No exposed screw heads should be on the outside.
- The connecting screws must be at least one-fourth inch in diameter and go into solid metal stock, not screw posts.

A heavy duty strike plate helps strengthen door frames better than a regular strike plate.

A strike plate is the jamb fastening that receives the deadbolt in the locking position. The heavy duty plate uses four or six three-inch screws; while regular plates use two three-quarter-inch screws. The longer screws go through the frame into the jamb making it harder for someone to split the frame when kicking the door. A heavy duty strike plate will strengthen the door jamb and reinforce the lock.

Lighting

- Motion detector lights are very effective in deterring crime, and also light up your driveway or entry doors when you are leaving or coming home.
- Dusk-to-dawn lighting is a strong deterrent against criminal activity, while lighting up your entry doors and possible obstacles.
- Landscape lighting is low-voltage lighting that can highlight your property line, light up your sidewalk and also light up the exterior of your windows — making your home a less attractive target to night-time burglars.
- Interior lighting using light timers makes a home look occupied. Good lights to leave on are bedroom and/or bathroom lights.
- Radios and televisions are also good items to have on timers. If a radio playing a talk station is heard from the outside of a home, it gives the appearance that a conversation is being carried on and someone is home. The perception of someone being home greatly reduces the possibility of a burglary. ☺

Stop before turning right on red

IN ORDER TO MAKE A LEGAL RIGHT TURN AT AN INTERSECTION CONTROLLED by a traffic light, and when the traffic light is red, the driver of a vehicle must bring the vehicle to a complete stop before entering the intersection. While executing the turn, the driver must yield to all pedestrians and other traffic.

Want to read more traffic tips? Visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Police," then "Special Units," then "Traffic Enforcement," then "Traffic Tips." ☺

TRAFFIC CORNER

City welcomes new K9 Ringo

IN NOVEMBER, MINNETONKA Police Department Officer Troy Denneson and his new K-9 partner, Ringo, graduated from the St. Paul Police Department's Police Service Dog program. The intensive, ten-week program covered obedience, agility, tracking, article searches and criminal apprehension. Officer Denneson and Ringo are now certified by the United States Police Canine Association for patrol duties, and join their fellow K9 team of Officer Ryan Piper and Astro in patrolling Minnetonka. Congratulations to Officer Denneson and Ringo! 🐾



Cross-country skiing now available at Glen Lake Golf Course

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS partnered with Three Rivers Park District and Hennepin County to provide a cross-country ski trail for the 2007-08 season at the Glen Lake Golf Course, 14350 County Road 62, Minnetonka.

Using the golf course's natural landscape, the planned 2.5-kilometer cross-country trail will provide skiers of all levels and abilities with a dedicated trail groomed exclusively for both ski skating and traditional skiing.

A season or daily ski pass will be required for use of the Glen Lake trail. Season ski passes for the Glen Lake trail may be purchased for \$30 on site or in advance by calling Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. Daily ski passes may be purchased on site for \$4. In addition, Three

Rivers Park District season passes will be honored at the Glen Lake location. Visit www.threeriversparkdistrict.org for more information.

In addition to the ski trail, the golf center will be open for ski rental, concession sales and restrooms.

The ski season is set for December 15–March 15. Please note, the Glen Lake ski trails will not be lit, and snow will not be made at this location — availability of ski trails will be dependent on the weather. Ski trails and golf center will be open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, or to purchase a ski pass, call Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. 🐾

2008 official newspaper selected

THE LAKESHORE WEEKLY NEWS HAS been selected as Minnetonka's official newspaper for 2008. It will publish the city's legal notices, ordinances and other official information, plus general news about the city. The newspaper is distributed each Tuesday and is available free of charge at many locations, including Minnetonka City Hall and major grocery and retail outlets throughout Minnetonka. Call (952) 473-0890 for the pickup location nearest you. 🐾



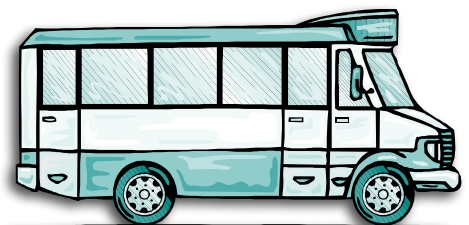
Lake Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride available to residents of all ages

THE LAKE MINNETONKA DIAL-A-RIDE bus service provides curb-to-curb service to entertainment, shopping, appointments and other transit hubs in and around the cities of Deephaven, Greenwood, Excelsior, Minnetonka, Mound, Navarre, Shorewood, Spring Park, and Tonka Bay. Lake Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride is available for riders of all ages and is handicap accessible.

The service operates Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reservations should be made at least 24 hours in advance, although same day reservations may be accommodated if space is available. Fares are \$2 each way. For more information, or to schedule a reservation, please call (952) 401-1749.

The Lake Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride is provided by Midwest Paratransit Services as a service of the Metropolitan Council. 🐾



CDBG funding requests due January 14

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS NOW accepting requests for 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Completed Request for Funding forms and cover letters are due back to the city of Minnetonka no later than Monday, January 14, 2008.

The Minnetonka City Council will hold a public hearing and review the 2008 CDBG funding requests at its Monday, February 11, 2008 meeting. This meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Council

Chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Please return your Request for Funding form and cover letter by Monday, January 14, 2008 to Stephanie Scott-Sims, City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

If you would like to be sent an electronic editable form or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at (952) 939-8283 or scottssims@eminnetonka.com. 🐾

Calendar

City of Minnetonka

January 2008

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	1 New Year's Day (<i>city offices closed</i>)
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	7 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31			8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							14 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (<i>Topic: boards and commissions interviews</i>); History Commission and Minnetonka Historical Society Joint Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
							16 Work session of the city council, comprehensive guide plan steering committee and boards and commissions members, 6:30 p.m.
							17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (<i>city offices closed</i>)
							28 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							29 2008 Citizen Academy, 7–9 p.m.
							31 Police Advisory Commission, 5:30 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.

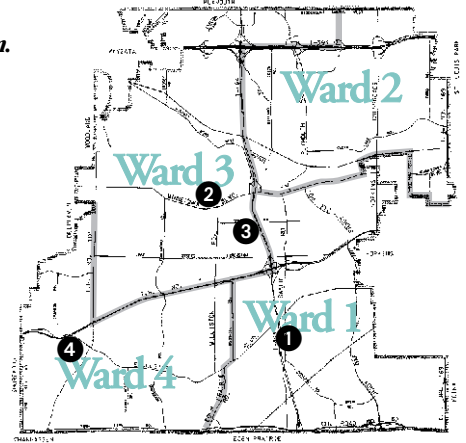
Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's Web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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in January. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Preliminary plat, wetland/floodplain rezoning and alteration permit for construction of a new house at **5121 and 5125 Baker Road**. (07017.07c)
- 2 Conditional use permit for a licensed child care center for up to 35 children at **11213 Minnetonka Boulevard**. (07062.07a)
- 3 Items concerning a two-lot subdivision of the existing property, including preliminary plat, variances, and wetland alteration at **3919 Haven Road**. (00023.07a)
- 4 Side yard setback variance from 25 to 15 feet for an addition to the existing house at **5474 Tamarack Circle**. (07063.07a)

Correction: The November 2007 *Minnetonka Memo* incorrectly reported the location of the proposed Crossroads Corporate Campus, which is at the southeast corner of the I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad intersection.



CHECK OUT THE ONLINE EDITION OF THE MINNETONKA MEMO AT EMINNETONKA.COM

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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