

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
November 2008*

Reflections Award *nominations due November 14*

Dorks to make Minnetonka a great community? Then consider nominating that person or organization for a 2009 Reflections Award!

The biennial Reflections Award program was created in 1997 to recognize individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions reflect positively on Minnetonka. The Minnetonka Community Commission reviews applications and recommends awards to be presented by the Minnetonka City Council.

To be considered for the 2009 awards, to be presented at a council meeting in January 2009, the city must receive a completed application by November 14, 2008. For an application, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com; pick one up at city hall; or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207, and one will be mailed to you. ~

Buckthorn workshop set for Nov. 6

In another has been scheduled! If you have buckthorn on your property, plan to attend "Managing Woodlands: Buckthorn and Beyond," presented by Janet Van Sloun Larson, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist, Thursday, Nov. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the community room at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Handouts are provided, and the workshop is free. Please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Participants will learn:

- Why gradual, prioritized removal is usually much better than an "understory clear-cut" if garlic mustard is present.
- About forest structure and re-forestation using native plants indigenous to this region.
- How to save high-value remnant plant species.
- The importance of ground cover.
- How to prevent erosion on slopes and protect plants from deer.
- How to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal. ~



City of Minnetonka receives award for Web site

At the Webmasters (NAGW) conference, the city of Minnetonka's Web site www.eminnetonka.com received first place in the 2008 Pinnacle Awards for city Web sites in the medium category (pop. 50,001 – 100,000), edging out competitors Lawrence, Kan. and Bowling Green, Ky.

The city of Minnetonka's Web site was developed entirely in-house. Judges gave Minnetonka the nod for its XHTML strict compliance, organization and function, as well as its attractive

design and the "ever-adorable Minnetonka Mike."

NAGW's Pinnacle Awards are given to local governments for Web site excellence. This year's awards drew more than 60 entrants from NAGW members, competing in three categories based on population. Judges reviewed Web sites based on team size, content, organization, design, function, accessibility, standards and interactivity. ~





News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

Night for Neighbors 2008 coloring contest winners announced

Coloring contest winners received a ride to school courtesy of Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet, as well as a certificate honoring their achievements. See photos at right.

Nicole Nelson receives award

The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association (MCPA) named Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka crime prevention analyst, the recipient of this year's Rose Griep Legacy Award.

Named after Rosie Griep, a past president of the MCPA who was very active in advancing crime prevention efforts throughout the state, the award recognizes recipients for significant contributions to crime prevention efforts for at least ten or more years. Additional criteria include the scope of the contribution, originality of ideas and programs, and effectiveness of programs.



Nicole Nelson

Nelson joined the Minnetonka Police Department in 2005, and prior to that worked in crime prevention for the city of Minneapolis.

In his nominating letter, Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet noted, "She has dramatically increased the number of local neighborhood watch groups, and has established an e-mail group program for all in order to disseminate time-sensitive information. She organizes and hosts our annual Block Captains appreciation event and is responsible for providing informative personal safety tips for our city newsletter."

See photos at right.



Raphael Lewis (left) was the winner in the grade 2 – 4 category, and was driven to Glen Lake Elementary School by Chief Raquet.



Tatiana Pike (right) was the winner in the K – 1 category. She graciously transferred her prize to older brother Warren Pike (left), who was driven to Scenic Heights Elementary School by Chief Raquet.

Preventing vehicle theft one car at a time

It is tempting to leave your car running while making a quick trip into a store or the house. This practice is not only illegal but also greatly increases the likelihood that your vehicle will be stolen.

To protect your car

- Don't leave your keys in your car.
- Close your windows and lock your doors whenever you leave your car, regardless of how long you plan to be gone.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Keep your car in a garage if you have one.
- Don't store valuables or packages in your car.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity to the police.

While in your car

- Keep your doors and windows locked, no matter how short the distance or how "safe" the neighborhood.
- When you're coming to a stop, leave enough space to maneuver around other

cars. If you sense trouble, this will allow you the room needed to get away.

- If a suspicious-looking person approaches your car, drive away carefully.
- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, help by driving to the nearest phone or using your cell phone to call the police for help.

Auto theft facts

- More than two-thirds of all auto thefts occur at night.
- Auto theft happens fast. An expert auto thief can break into and steal a car in less than a minute. An unoccupied car, with its engine running, can be taken in seconds.
- While some vehicles are definitely stolen to be sold or dismantled for parts, the large majority are simply used as temporary transportation by common criminals. Thus, most vehicles are recovered within a few weeks to a month and with relatively little damage.

Avoiding **TRAFFIC** auto-deer collisions

CORNER

W occurring between October and December, a higher number of deer are on the roads this time of year, which means it's a good time for drivers to be on the alert to avoid vehicle-deer collisions.

While attentive driving is always the best deterrent for such accidents, here are a few other tips for avoiding a collision with a deer:

- Use high-beam headlights as much as possible to illuminate deer hiding on the road.
- Do not rely on car-mounted "deer whistles," which studies show do not affect deer.
- Be aware of "deer crossing" signs, which are placed in areas where deer are common.
- Deer are most active between 6 and 9 p.m., and often travel in herds.

If a collision with a deer seems unavoidable, it's best not to swerve in an attempt to avoid the animal, which could increase the risk of injury and cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle. ☺

Burwell tour season ends; Victorian holiday open house set for Dec. 7

T Road, closed for the season at the end of September, after a very successful season of tours and special events! Thank you to everyone who toured the house this year or attended the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social in June.

Upcoming Events

The Minnetonka Historical Society hosts its annual Victorian holiday open house Sunday, December 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors may enjoy free self-guided tours of the festively decorated house, musical entertainment, and refreshments in the adjacent cottage. Limited parking is available on-site and also at St. David's Family Center, located at 3395 Plymouth Road, Minnetonka, just across from the Burwell House.

New acquisitions

The city is pleased to announce the addition of another furnishing to the Burwell House—an antique grandfather clock donated by a former Minnetonka resident. After a thorough cleaning and reconditioning, the working clock was installed in the house in September. Be sure to check it out the next time you visit the Burwell House! ☺



Keeping fit through the fall

G you maintain healthy habits when the weather gets cold. Many new sessions began the first week of November, so don't delay, sign up today! Some fees may apply. Check out the full schedule online at www.eminnetonka.com—click on the Williston Center link for upcoming schedules. To register, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203.

- **New! Zumba-Cardio Dance:** A fusion of Latin-American dance moves combined with current hip-hop moves that are easy to learn and fun, too! *Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.*
- **Pilates for beginners and intermediate levels:** Stretch, strengthen, and tone your muscles while improving posture and balance. Class minimum and maximum numbers are required, so don't miss your chance, register now! **Beginner class:** *Wednesdays, 9 a.m.;* **intermediate class:** *Mondays, 6:30 p.m.*
- **Core Conditioning:** This 25-minute class will focus on your mid-section and work your abs as well as your low back and glutes! Instructors change frequently to challenge your body. *Saturdays, 9:30am.*
- **Pump It Up:** A 55-minute class that focuses on muscle conditioning. This overall body workout is a great way to gain strength and tone. *Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 p.m.*
- **T'ai Chi:** A non-competitive, self-paced and gentle exercise. Our instructor will guide you through a defined series of postures in a slow, graceful manner. Great for all abilities. Try the class once for \$5, or join for a session. *Tuesdays, 3 p.m. or Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m.*
- **Weight Training for Older Adults:** Certified personal trainers guide you through exercises appropriate for your health goals. Gain strength, tone muscles, decrease body fat and increase cardiovascular function. *Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.* ☺

Williston Center offers running club

J " " Williston Center and start training now for a spring half or full marathon!

Unlike traditional programs, this program takes a holistic approach to distance running, including integrated core, strength, and flexibility training; one-on-one personalized coaching with a certified distance running coach; educational clinics with specialty experts; team racing; and social outings.

Club meets three times per week: *Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m.* For more information contact Head Coach Nancee at (612) 741-1909. To register, contact Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. ☺



Minnetonka's preliminary 2009 budget

T 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 services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price. The 2009 budget will reflect this consistent commitment.

Projected increase in city property taxes cut back

The Minnetonka city council has directed staff to develop a 2009 budget that will reduce projected property tax growth by at least \$600,000 (by one-fourth).

A significant challenge will be met by reducing less essential positions through attrition, freezing non-personnel costs at current levels, continuing the city's aggressive program to reduce energy use, putting \$500,000 of approved capital projects "on hold," and restructuring fees so that development pays its own way.

City of Minnetonka Budget Hearing

Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

(952) 939-8200

How will the 2009 budget affect your property tax bill?

With the planned reductions, the average homeowner will see a tax increase of around \$40 in their city tax bill. This increase of less than four percent is well below both the CPI (5.0%), and government inflation index (6.2%). However, city taxes only represent about one-fourth of your total property taxes. Hennepin County and school districts each account for another

one-third of total taxes, and other smaller jurisdictions make up the remainder.

What will your 2009 property taxes buy?

Property taxes support basic city services. Eight out of every ten dollars of your city property taxes go to maintaining streets and providing police and fire protection — about \$29 monthly for police, \$10 for fire, and \$32 for streets. The total monthly bill for city services is equivalent to what an average household spends on their family cell phone plan.

Questions?

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! ☺

EDA to hold public hearing on possible HRA levy

Minnetonka Community Development Authority (EDA) is holding a hearing to gather public input regarding a possible HRA levy to fund the city's community development activities. Following public input, the EDA will make recommendations to the city council regarding the possible amount and use of the levy, which would be in addition to the city's general tax levy.

In September, the Minnetonka City Council set a preliminary HRA levy maximum of \$200,000, which would represent about \$8 per year for the average Minnetonka homeowner. When the final decision is made in December, the levy can be lower than this amount, but not higher.

The reason the city is considering an HRA levy, which is already commonly used by many other communities, is to

provide an ongoing source of funding for the housing and community development projects that will provide needed housing choices as the community continues to evolve. As one example of past activities, the city has supported the efforts of the non-profit West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust (WHALT). More information on this successful program is available at www.homeswithinreach.org

The EDA hearing will be held **Wednesday, November 12, at 6 p.m.** in the council chambers at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, and your participation is both encouraged and welcomed. For more information, contact Julie Wischnack, AICP, community development director, at (952) 939-8282 or email jwischnack@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Sign up for the 2009 Citizen Academy

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 2009 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over six Tuesday evening sessions — Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, and March 3, 2009 — 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. New this year, 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 9, 2009. ☺

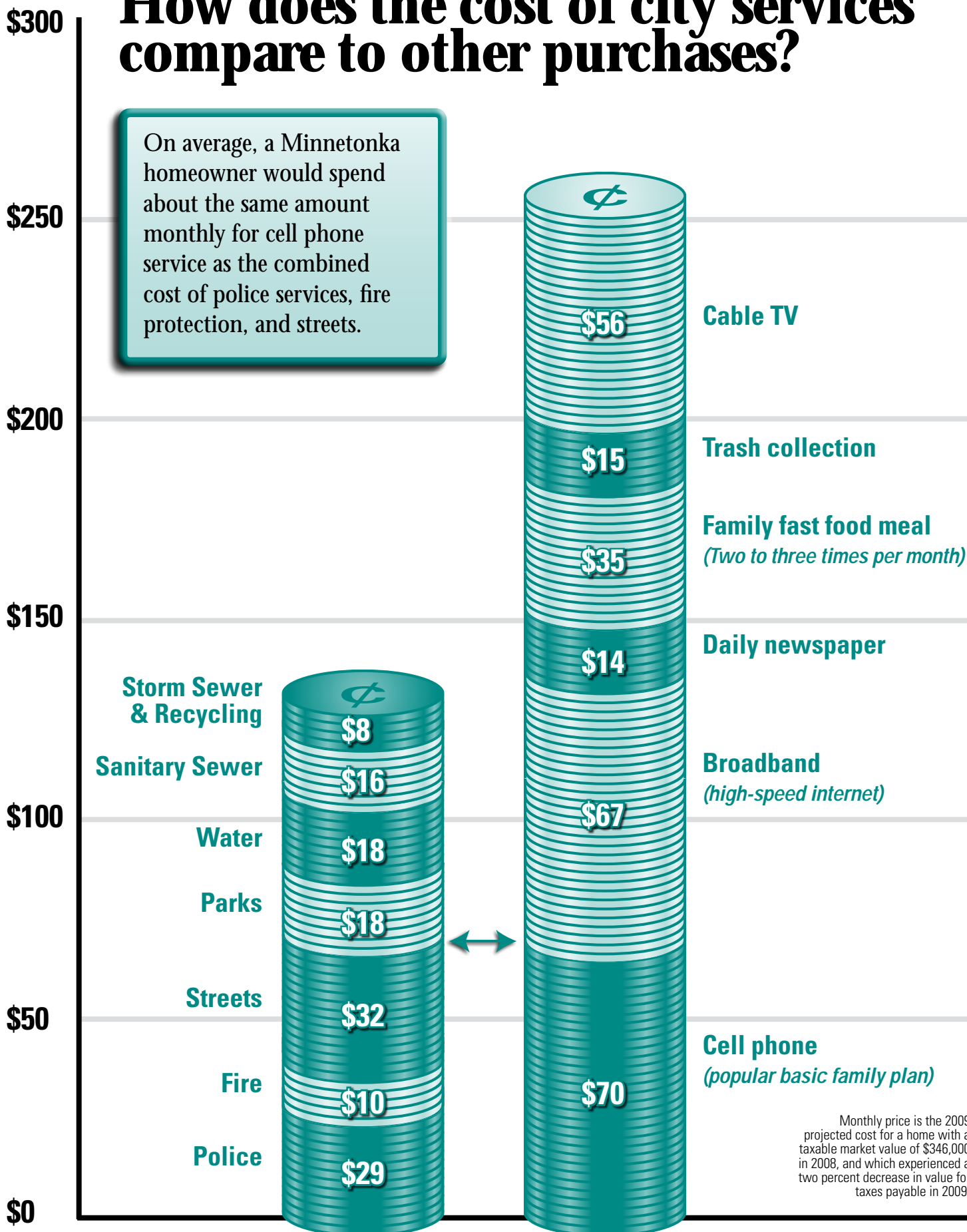
Want to stay informed? Sign up for MyMinnetonka!

Sign up for the city by signing up for a MyMinnetonka account. You get to choose what types of updates you want to receive, and when that information is updated on www.eminnetonka.com, it will be

immediately delivered to your email inbox. Available updates include news, meeting information, jobs, new projects, and even updates on individual projects. Learn more and sign up by visiting www.eminnetonka.com/MyMinnetonka.cfm. ☺

How does the cost of city services compare to other purchases?

On average, a Minnetonka homeowner would spend about the same amount monthly for cell phone service as the combined cost of police services, fire protection, and streets.



Monthly price is the 2009 projected cost for a home with a taxable market value of \$346,000 in 2008, and which experienced a two percent decrease in value for taxes payable in 2009.

 2008 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

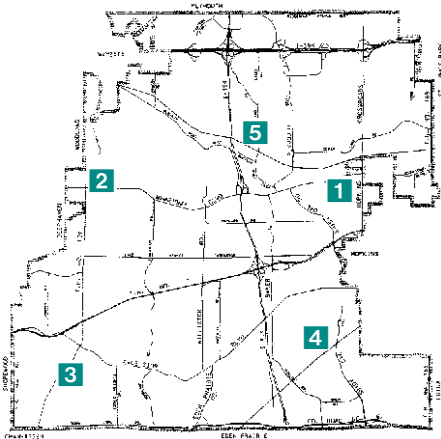
Saturdays: November 1, 8 and 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than **½ 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., ¼ 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 1, 8 & 15.

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:

- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 1, 8, 15, and 22
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Nov. 3, 10, and 17
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Nov. 4 and 18 (closed Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day)

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 closes Nov. 22

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 site will be closed Veteran's Day, Nov. 11.** Brush drop-off ends November 22, 2008.

The brush drop-off is located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. 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. Proof of Minnetonka residency (driver's license or utility bill) is required to drop off brush.

Please note: trash, metal, concrete, lumber, fences, or wood scraps are **not** accepted.

Do not bring these materials with your load of brush. **Do not** put grass, weeds, loose leaves, dirt, sod or other non woody materials in with the brush pile. Find the appropriate disposal option for the unacceptable items. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

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

Mark your calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming eco-events:

Nov. 6
City of Minnetonka Buckthorn Workshop
(see page 1)

Nov. 15
America Recycles Day
(www.americarecyclesday.org)

Feb. 2009
Watch for tree sale forms in the *Minnetonka Memo!*

March 14
City of Minnetonka Eco Fair

June 6
Special One-Day Drop-Off Event ☺

Did you know?

S program began in May 1989, residents have recycled 108,571 tons of materials — that's 217,142,960 pounds! Thanks for recycling, it does make a difference! ☺

Congratulations to this year's photo contest winners

M 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 October 20 to evaluate the entries, and chose the following winners:

- **First Place (\$75 prize):** Gail Anderson, *"Minnehaha Creek at Big Willow"*
- **Second Place (\$50 prize):** Tracy Ashley, *"Fairy on the Trail"*
- **Third Place (\$25 prize):** David Niemi, *"Spring Fawn in Backyard"*

Attendees of the October 7 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:

- Kate Johnson, *"Puppy"*

In addition, the commission designated a "Judges' Choice" award in both the Natural Minnetonka and the Minnetonka Lifestyle categories. A winner was not chosen in the Enhanced Minnetonka category due to lack of entries. Each of these winners will receive a city of Minnetonka 50th anniversary limited edition watercolor print.

- **Judges' Choice — Natural Minnetonka:** Jerry Johanning, *"Loon and Baby"*
- **Judges' Choice — Minnetonka Lifestyle:** Mercedes Arnold, *"My First Rock Bass"*

Finally, the commission gave out several honorable mention awards. Each of these winners will receive a city of Minnetonka 50th anniversary watercolor poster.

- Nancy Craver, *"March Meltdown"*
- Anne Groton, *"Joey's New Bike"*
- Dana Kromer, *"Gray's Bay Sunset"*
- John Piepkorn, *"End of the Season"*
- Mary Jo Rubin, *"Critter Getter (Owl in Tree)"*
- Megan Schadow, *"Want to Come Out and Play?"*
- Jennifer Wood, *"Fire in the Sky on a November Night"*

All of the winning photos are displayed on the city of Minnetonka's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Winners will receive their awards at the Monday, November 10, meeting of the Minnetonka City Council.

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's contest! ☺



First Place winner: Gail Anderson,
"Minnehaha Creek at Big Willow"



People's Choice winner: Kate Johnson,
"Puppy"



Second Place winner:
Tracy Ashley, *"Fairy on the Trail"*



Judge's Choice, Natural Minnetonka:
Jerry Johanning, *"Loon and Baby"*



Third Place winner: David Niemi,
"Spring Fawn in Backyard"



Judge's Choice, Minnetonka Lifestyle:
Mercedes Arnold, *"My First Rock Bass"*

e ABCs of snow removal in Minnetonka

F 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.

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 — that's the way to describe road salt this year. Flooding in Iowa and points south prevented barges from reaching Minnesota with the usual salt shipments. That means salt is in short supply, and what is available is costing nearly twice as much as in past years.

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 events 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, helps contribute to the white residue seen on Minnetonka roads 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 completely 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 chemicals 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, chemical control 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. ∞

Plan your end-of-year musical entertainment!

N Association of Minnetonka (MAM) provides enriching musical experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Consisting of nine performing ensembles with more than 250 performing members, this non-profit organization may be the largest community music association in the country. Approximately 50 free concerts are held each year in and around the community. The following concerts are slated for November and December. All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted. Call (952) 401-5954 for information.

Songs of the Season

Minnetonka Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections of Minnetonka, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir

Two performances:

Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church of Hopkins
 241 Fifth Ave., Hopkins

Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Minnetonka United Methodist Church
 Cty. Rd. 101 & Lake St. Ext., Minnetonka

29th Annual Messiah Community Sing-Along

Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra

Soloists: *Wendy Lukaszewski, Soprano; Suzanne Kennedy, Alto; Leanne Kampfe, Alto; David Nordli, Tenor; Gregory Douma, Bass*

Saturday, December 13, 3:30 p.m.
Ridgewood Church
 4420 Cty. Rd. 101 South, Minnetonka

Sounds of Youth

Minnetonka Youth Choirs: Cappella, Concert and Chamber choirs

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
 301 Cty. Rd. 19, Excelsior

15th Annual "A Child's Christmas"

Minnetonka Youth Concert and Chamber Choirs and Guests

Two performances:

Sunday, December 14, 3:30 p.m.
Wayzata Community Church
 125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

Saturday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church
 333 12th St., Minneapolis

Juletide

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra

Two performances:

Sunday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
 715 Minnetonka Mills Rd., Hopkins

Sunday, December 21, 3:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

Sixth Annual Toast to the Holidays

Food and Fun with the Choral Reflections of Minnetonka

By reservation only. Tickets: \$20. Call (952) 401-5954.

Saturday, December 20, 7 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
 14600 Mtka. Blvd., Minnetonka

Understanding the calendar of street operations

When in January? When are streets swept and water mains flushed? When does roadside mowing take place? Why can't a ditch be mowed in November, if the weather is still nice?

The city of Minnetonka's streets division follows a calendar each year that indicates

when certain activities take place, many of which are weather dependent. Paving and pothole patching are dependent not only on the weather but also on the availability of blacktop material, which is only produced in the warmer months in Minnesota. Still others are linked to when public works switches its seasonal equipment from

summer to winter operations, and back again.

The grid below shows when street operations take place throughout the year. If you have questions about street maintenance, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Roadside Mowing												
Tree trimming and removal												
Pothole patching												
Paving												
Street sweeping												
Storm water drainage												
Sign repair												
Seasonal equipment prep												
Blacktop plant open												
Water main flushing												

It's time to prune your oak trees!

In November through March is the time to do it, since insects and diseases are not active. Pruning outside this time makes oak trees susceptible to oak wilt disease.

Oak wilt researchers break up the calendar year into three sections based on the degree of risk for oak wilt, if oak trees are wounded due to storms or pruning:

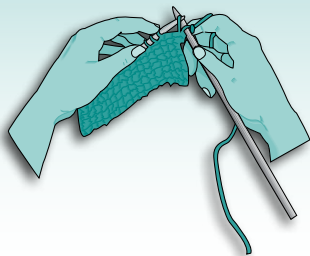
- **High Risk:** April, May and June
- **Low Risk:** July, August, September, October (*remember, low risk doesn't mean no risk!*)
- **No Risk/Safe:** November, December, January, February, March

Pruning oaks during the high-risk months is dangerous to the health of your oak trees because the beetles that carry oak wilt are most active during this time, carrying oak wilt spores on their bodies to fresh oak tree wounds and introducing disease into the tree. For more information on oak wilt, visit the University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension Service Web site at www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/.

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 its 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 and click on "Public Works" then "Natural Resources" then "Forestry," or call the natural resources division at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Mills Landing Gift Shoppe

Stop by the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, to browse a collection of homemade gifts. 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. ☺



An update on shade tree disease control

Tree disease control program is currently focusing on managing Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases. When a property is found to have one or more diseased trees, a work order is issued for removal of the diseased tree.

From June through September this year, the city's natural resources division issued more than 1,200 work orders for diseased trees, and re-checked 650 of those orders for compliance. During re-checks, tree inspectors ensure the wood has been disposed of or handled correctly, then leave a door hanger letting the property owner know the city's ordinance requirements have been met.

In November, the city forester and tree inspectors will continue to recheck every site where work orders were issued and diseased trees marked for removal.

The natural resources division thanks 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 shade tree disease control program, contact Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Don't miss these senior events in November!

Defensive Driving Classes
 friendship at Minnetonka Senior Services, located at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Day Course

Thursday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Refreshments provided but no lunch. \$18 per course.

Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Agnes Daluge's Heroic Exports of WWII

Monday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m.
 Come listen to the story of Agnes Daluge, an undercover teenager during WWII, as told by her husband Willard Daluge of Eden Prairie. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$2, due by Nov. 5.

HOME Presentation

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m.
 Attend this free information session regarding the HOME program.

Adopt-a-Highway

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m.
 Volunteers are needed. Please meet at the community center. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Call (952) 939-8393 with questions.

Thanksgiving Party

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 12 p.m.
 Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal of roast turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, stuffing, dinner rolls and dessert. Entertainment provided by CODA. Cost is \$7, due by Nov. 10.

Meet the Author

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.
 Meet Author Judy McCabe. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$2, due by Nov. 17. ☺

Open House a success

A refreshments, facepainting, fire truck rides, and the opportunity to visit with city staff at this year's Fire Department and City Open House October 7. Below, Minnetonka Police Investigator Mark Stock shows off some of the police department's Emergency Response Team equipment to a young resident.

If your children enjoyed this event, be sure to mark the city's next event, Kids' Fest, on your calendar — it's Sunday, Feb. 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. ☺



Going green without going crazy: some quick and easy tips

B compost. Paper or plastic. Organic or non-organic. Trash or recycling.

Every day, consumers who want to do something to protect the environment are confronted with a dizzying array of choices, and the best choice is not always clear. However, reducing your impact on natural resources doesn't have to be difficult or expensive. Here are ten easy ways to help the environment, which may save you time and money while also helping to improve the environment.

Conserve water

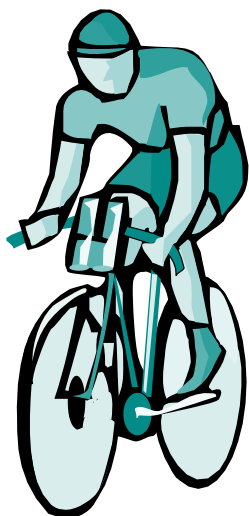
- **Fix your leaks.** Leaking appliances, pipes, and faucets waste water and energy.
- **Insulate pipes** so you don't have to run the water as long before it gets hot.

Conserve energy

- **Let the sun shine in.** Open your drapes to allow the sunlight to warm your home, then close them in the evening or where you receive no direct sunlight to minimize heat loss due to drafts.
- **Adjust your thermostat.** Turning your thermostat down when you leave or go to sleep during the winter can lead to noticeable savings on your heating bill. Programmable thermostats are inexpensive, easy to install, and will adjust the temperature for you.

Cut fuel costs

- **Share rides.** Consolidate shopping trips and invite friends to join you. Fewer trips mean less fuel used.
- **Bus, bike, or walk.** Save yourself the stress of driving if you can. Some of the websites that offer free directions for vehicles also offer routes for pedestrians and public transportation.
- **Drive smarter.** Keep your car well-tuned, your tires properly inflated, and avoid aggressive driving habits. You can learn more at www.fueleconomy.gov.



- **Prevent spills.** Use small, manageable containers to fuel your lawnmowers and other yard equipment. Approximately 17 million gallons of fuel each year is wasted when filling small engines alone.

Shop smart

- **Choose to reuse.** Reusable containers and bags can save money in the long run and mean less material wasted.
- **Avoid junk mail.** Millions of tons of junk mail end up in landfills each year. Check out www.reduce.org to learn how to cut down on unwanted mail.

Shop healthy

- **Choose fresh foods.** Fresh fruits and vegetables require less processing and consume fewer resources than most packaged goods. Select produce grown during the current season when you can.
- **Buy locally.** Co-ops and farmers' markets are great places to look for locally-grown foods and can make grocery shopping fun.



Become involved

- **Expand your knowledge.** Attend seminars and event such as the Minnetonka EcoFair. Look for books, brochures, and websites from reliable sources.
- **Contribute to your community.** Join volunteer groups or other local organizations interested in improving the natural resources in your neighborhood.

Dispose of used items properly

- **Get the lead out.** Did you know that cathode-ray TVs and computer monitors can contain as much as eight pounds of lead? Most electronics such as VCRs, DVDs, and computers contain some degree of heavy metals and must be disposed of at proper collection facilities where the metals may be removed and recycled.
- **Mercury is rising.** Fluorescent light bulbs (both compacts and tubes) contain mercury that can be recycled if taken to your local hazardous waste facility. It is illegal to dispose of fluorescent light bulbs containing mercury in your household trash.

Keep a safe and healthy home

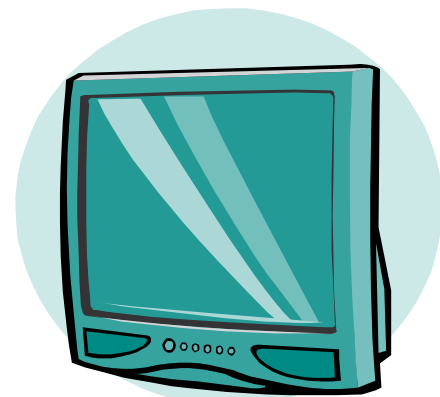
- **Don't fume.** Look for paints and adhesives with low or no VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and try to schedule your indoor painting projects during the warmer months when you can open windows for ventilation.
- **Keep it clean.** Common household products such as vinegar, baking soda, soap and detergent (and let's not forget elbow grease) can be just as effective in some situations as other cleaners that may contain more harmful chemicals.

Landscape wise

- **Pick the right plant.** Choosing plants for the right conditions in your yard (shady/sunny, wet/dry, clay/sandy, etc.) can mean less water, fertilizer, pesticides, and other long-term care. Native species can require less care when established, as they are adapted to local conditions.
- **Plant for energy savings.** Tree that lose their leaves can help shade your home in the summer but allow sunlight in the winter months. You can use evergreens to help block winter winds.
- **Compost and mulch.** Proper mulching around plants helps control weeds. Using compost can help rebuild topsoil by improving moisture retention and adding nutrients.

Control runoff

- **Keep pavement clean.** Materials such as fertilizer, soil, grease, etc. can wash into the storm sewer where it is discharged in the local creek, lake, or wetland.
- **Capture runoff.** Rain gardens can help infiltrate water into the ground and rain barrels provide free water from your roof that can be used in your yard. Be certain to direct your overflow with care to avoid your foundation or adjacent properties.



Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

November
2008

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
						1	4 State General Election, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.; Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	10 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	11 Veterans Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
30							12 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							17 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (<i>Topic: 2009 Budget</i>); History Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							24 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							27 Thanksgiving holiday, <i>city offices closed</i>
							28 Thanksgiving holiday, <i>city offices closed</i>

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.

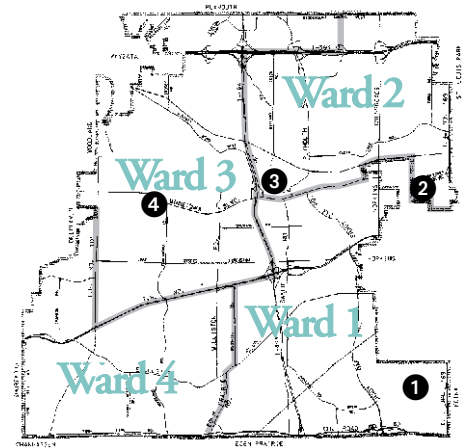
Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's Web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

- 1 Sign plan review for Opus Northwest Construction at **10350 Bren Road West**. (97096.08a)
- 2 Rezoning and preliminary plat for a two-lot, residential subdivision at **10323 34th Circle West**. (08022.08b)
- 3 Rezoning and preliminary plat for Terratonka, an eight-lot, residential subdivision at **3100 Forest Lane** and **3200** and **3218 Eldorado Trail West**. (92018.08a)
- 4 Conditional use permit for a garage in excess of 1,000 square feet at **3532 Tonkawood Road**. (08049.08a)

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.



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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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