

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
December 2008

Residents invited to apply for council seat

T Callison to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners results in a vacancy of her seat in January 2009. In accordance with the city charter, on November 24 the Minnetonka City Council voted to appoint at-large council member Terry Schneider as mayor to fill the remainder of her term, which ends in December 2009.

The city council intends to appoint a resident of the community to fill the vacancy in Schneider's at-large council seat, which also ends in December 2009. This is an opportunity to give something back to your community by becoming a member of your city's decision-making body. The only

requirements are that you be a qualified voter and a resident of Minnetonka.

Information has been made available in the local newspapers and on the city's Web site. The deadline to submit an application is December 30, 2008. To obtain an application or for additional information, including specific meeting dates, check our Web site at eminnetonka.com or contact Karen Telega at (952) 939-8211 or ktelega@eminnetonka.com.

The city council will review applications in early January and interview finalists in mid-January. A replacement is expected to be named in late January, and the appointee will be sworn in at the next city council meeting following the announcement. ☺

Openings available on boards and commissions

I become more involved in the city of Minnetonka, consider applying to serve on a board or commission. In January 2009, one opening on the Park Board and three openings on the Senior Advisory Board will be available. In addition, openings are available for high school students on the Economic Development Authority, Park Board and Police Advisory Commission.

Applications are due December 12, with interviews taking place in January 2009. Accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies, with interviews taking place as necessary. For an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com. For more information, contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8211. ☺

Sign up for the 2009 Citizen Academy

W 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 2009 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

The free program takes place over six Tuesday evening sessions — Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, and March 3 — 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. **While registration is open to both residents and non-residents, Minnetonka residents will be given priority should demand exceed the spaces available.** ☺

Truth in Taxation hearing is Dec. 8

M property owners are invited to participate in the city's annual Truth in Taxation budget hearing, set for Monday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the city council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. For more information about the proposed 2009 budget, please see page 3 of this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, or see the October and November *Minnetonka Memos*, which also contained budget information. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information. ☺



Photo courtesy of Jerry Johanning, "Frosty Morning," 2008 Photo Contest.

End your year on a high note with a December MAM concert!

N Association of Minnetonka (MAM) provides enriching musical experiences for people of all ages and abilities. The following concerts are slated for December. All concerts are free unless otherwise indicated, but donations are gratefully accepted. Call (952) 401-5954 for more 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

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

Juletide

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra
Program includes: Anderson "Sleigh Ride"; Evans/Louer "Silver Bells"; Herbert "Babes in Toyland"; Bach "Aria No. 39, Cantata 4"; Berlin "White Christmas"; Anderson "Christmas Festival"; and Tchaikovsky "Nutcracker Suite, op. 71a"

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 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

Need a gift idea?

H Williston Fitness Center offers gift certificates in any denomination for the following:

- Membership (no initiation fees) and guest passes
- Tennis court rentals
- Tennis lessons with USPTA-certified professionals
- Baseball/softball batting cage tokens and cage rentals
- Instruction from nationally certified personal trainers
- Group fitness classes (new this season — Zumba!)
- Much, much more!!

For more information or to purchase a gift certificate, call (952) 939-8370 or visit the Williston Fitness Center, 14509 Minnetonka Drive.

Skating rinks open December 20

S Minnetonka park locations. Weather permitting, rinks will open Saturday, December 20, and remain open until Monday, February 16. Call the weather hotline number at (952) 939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

Minnetonka Rink Hours

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Boulder Creek	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Covington	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Gateway	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Glen Lake	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Gro Tonka	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
McKenzie	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Meadow	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.
Spring Hill	12-5 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	12-5 p.m.

Winter Break (12/22-12/23, 12/26-1/2), **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** (1/19), **President's Day** (2/16) **Hours:** 12-9 p.m.

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

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

Sign up for winter skating lessons

S Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School! The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers instruction for skaters age 3 and up, including adults. For class information and registration materials call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visit www.eminnetonka.com.

The 12-week winter session begins January 6, 2009. Space is limited, so register now!



2009 city budget increase below inflation, cut from preliminary levels

At its November 17 study session, the Minnetonka city council discussed a 2009 operating **budget held to a 3.0 percent increase**, which is well below the consumer inflation index of 5.0 percent and government inflation index of 6.2 percent. The budget cuts \$700,000 (31 percent) from the city's projected tax growth, which is **\$100,000 less than the preliminary levy and \$125,000 less than allowed under state levy limits**.

Options to reduce the projected budget growth are limited. Unlike private businesses, the city cannot unilaterally choose its client base, the services it wishes to sell, or even the geographic market areas it serves. Nonetheless, budget reductions will be achieved in 2009 with a hiring freeze; holding non-personnel costs at 2008 levels; using the city's aggressive energy conservation program to cap electric and heating costs; and putting \$525,000 of approved capital projects on hold.

All new operating funding is allocated to public safety, streets and parks, which continue as the city's highest priorities. The largest of these is the annual costs for a fire service duty crew program. A new 24-hour, 365-day duty crew of three firefighters comprised of the city's existing paid-on-call firefighters will help maintain adequate fire response times and boost recruitment and retention.

HRA levy being considered

In addition to the city budget for operating and capital operations, the city council is also considering a recommendation of the Minnetonka Economic Development Authority (EDA) to adopt a Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy for 2009. If adopted, revenues from the new levy would be used to support affordable housing and redevelopment goals of the city. The potential \$200,000 property tax would represent about \$5 annually for an average taxpayer.

Your input is welcome!

Additional information is available on the city's web site at www.eminnetonka.com so that interested citizens can learn more about the city's budget and property tax system and provide feedback. A formal **city budget hearing** will be held Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Questions can always 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.

An explanation of your tax bill

City property taxes will increase by \$37 (3.7 percent) for the average Minnetonka homeowner (on an average \$346,000 home). Like school districts, a portion of your city property tax bill is voter approved. More than \$42 of the 2009 total city taxes on the average bill will pay the debt service for the park renewal and open space referendum bonds.

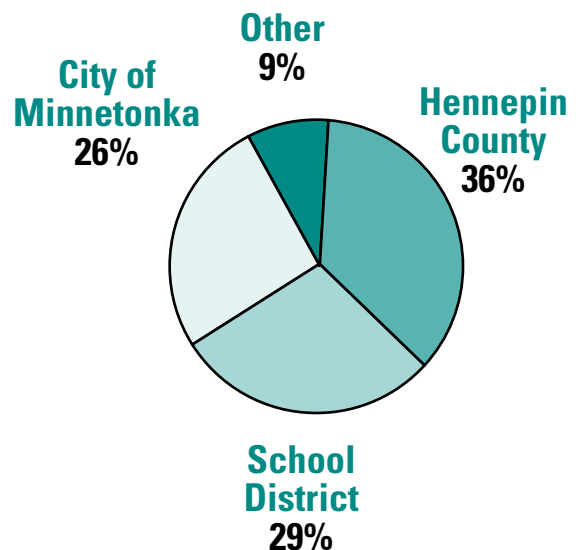
Proposed 2009 Property Taxes

(average \$346,000 Minnetonka home)

	2008	2009
County	\$1,373	\$1,384
City	996	1,033
School (based on Hopkins School District)		
Voter approved	822	766
Other	331	367
School Total	1,153	1,133
Metro Districts	89	88
Other Districts	183	200
Solid Waste Fee	56	38
Total	\$3,850	\$3,876

2009 homeowner's property taxes

The city of Minnetonka accounts for about one-fourth of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The remainder is comprised of taxes for your school district (29 percent), county (36 percent), and other jurisdictions (9 percent).





News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

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.

- In September the police department's **Emergency Response Team (ERT)** participated in the annual Camp Ripley training hosted by the Minnesota Tactical Officers Association. Conference events included scenario-based training, firearms training, a sniper rifle competition and a physical agility competition. The Minnetonka Police Department took second place in the physical agility competition and third place in the sniper rifle competition.
- On October 10, the police department's traffic unit, along with Plymouth and Maple Grove officers, focused on **seat belt violations** during traffic details in several Minnetonka locations. Officers made 185 stops, issuing 106 citations and 79 warnings. Of the 106 citations, 38 were for seatbelt violations.
- During the week of December 7, the cities of Minnetonka, Bloomington, Crystal, Edina, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Maple Grove, New Hope, Plymouth and Rogers will be joined by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department and the Minnesota State Patrol in a week-long traffic initiative, "**Communities Protecting Our Future**," designed to protect future generations. Please help by obeying the posted speed limits, buckling up and **always** using a designated driver.
- This police department has joined with seven other police agencies in an attempt to **combat graffiti**. St. Louis Park has developed a web-based "graffiti database" that allows detectives to search for and enter common "tags" by area graffiti artists. Research shows that taggers are transient and remarkably identifiable by their tags.
- If you'd like to receive crime alerts and crime prevention tips via email, **sign up for ePrevent!** For more information or to sign up, visit www.eminnetonka.com. Click on "Police," then "Crime Prevention," then "ePrevent." ∞

Tips to help prevent business robbery

Employee plays a part in making businesses safe. Proper training can help minimize, or in some cases, avoid a robbery. Being aware is the greatest defense.

During opening and closing

- Verify the credentials and service provided by any external personnel arrivals.
- Near business close hours, be observant of all guests entering and exiting the premises. Greet people as they enter the business.
- When leaving the business at closing, leave in pairs or groups.
- Always be alert to your surroundings and call 9-1-1 if you observe suspicious activity.

If a robbery occurs

- Stay calm — immediate and quick reactions can alarm the robber(s).
- Be cooperative — do exactly what the robber(s) demands and give them what they want.
- Activate an alarm if it's safe to do so.
- Be a careful observer so you can provide good information later.
- If any note (demand letter) is given, retain it for law enforcement. Try to

handle the note or any evidence a little as possible.

What to observe

Try to take note of the following characteristics of the robber(s) so you can provide a description to law enforcement:

- Height, weight, age, clothing
- Identifying features (tattoos, scars, facial hair, glasses, limp)
- Native to area (speech, tone, accent, language)
- Treat (verbal, written, weapon)
- Direction/method of flight (car, bus, on foot, etc)

After a robbery

- Call the police immediately.
- Lock all doors and ask witnesses to remain until officers arrive. If a witness must leave, first obtain their name, address and phone number.
- Do not discuss the robbery with others but write down a description of suspects and events that took place during the incident.
- Protect the crime scene and do not touch anything. ∞

Officer Denneson receives Life Saving Award

Officer Denneson recently received the department's Life Saving Award for his actions earlier this summer in responding to a woman who was poised to jump from a highway overpass. After arriving on the scene, Officer Denneson talked with the woman and was able to gain her confidence. The woman was on her cell phone, and agreed to let Officer Denneson speak to the person on the phone. As she handed over the phone, Officer Denneson grabbed her arm and pulled her over the ledge and onto the bridge deck. His quick assessment and compassionate management of the crisis brought a potentially fatal situation to a safe conclusion. ∞



Police Chief Mark Raquet presents the Life Saving Award to Officer Troy Denneson.

Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors

D friendship at Minnetonka Senior Services! Located at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, Senior Services offers a wide variety of classes, programs, and activities for active older adults. For more information, or to sign up for the free monthly newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

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

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Day Courses

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Four-Hour Evening Course

Thursday, Jan. 22, 6–10 p.m.

Refreshments provided. \$18 per course.

Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Intro to Scrapbooking

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 3:45 p.m.

If you've wanted to scrapbook but don't know where to start, this informational session is for you. Register for this free event by Nov. 28.

Bird Club Event

Friday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

Nationally known birding speaker Al Batt will discuss the best of humor in his birding commentary.

Eight-Ball Pool Tournament

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m.

Join an eight-ball pool tournament hosted by the Minnetonka Senior Center. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$2, due by Dec. 8.

Medicare Part D

Thursday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m.

Learn the many options to consider when choosing the best plan. Event is free, but registration is required.

Holiday Gala

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 12 p.m.

Enjoy a meal of lasagna, caesar salad, mixed vegetables, garlic bread, and brownies a la mode. Entertainment provided by the Minnetonka Senior Chorale. Cost is \$6, due by Dec. 11.

Scrooge — e Musical

Saturday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m.

Discount tickets for seniors 55+ may be purchased at the senior center.

Analog/Digital TV Transition

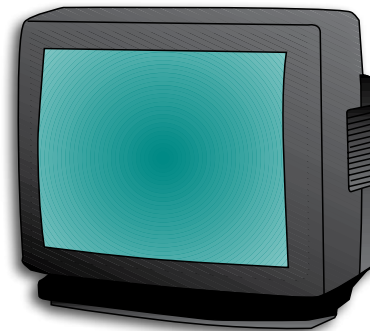
On February 17, 2009, all TV signals will be broadcast exclusively in digital format (*see article at right*). If you currently use cable or satellite service, you don't need to purchase a converter box or do anything at this time. If you have an analog TV and plan to keep it, trained volunteer help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

Victorian holiday open house is Dec. 7

T hosts its annual Victorian holiday open house Sunday, December 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Charles H. Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road, Minnetonka. 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. ☺



Photo courtesy of Dana Dezentje, "Burwell Winter," 2008 Photo Contest



Are you ready for the switch to digital TV?

F broadcasters have sent their shows to your TV using analog signals. After February 17, 2009, all analog signals will be gone and TV stations will use only digital signals.

In addition to offering better picture and sound quality and more programming choices, the transition to digital opens up valuable broadcast space and so will improve public safety for everyone by allowing police, fire and other public safety departments to communicate more easily with each other in emergency situations.

If your TVs are hooked up to cable or satellite, or if you have a digital TV with an antenna, you will continue to receive programming after the switch.

If you have an analog-only TV with a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears," you will not be able to watch most TV stations after February 17, 2009, unless you purchase a converter box.

Converter boxes attach to your analog TV and let you continue to receive free television. With the converter box, you'll receive a better picture and more channels.

If you have a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears" you have should work with the new digital converter box. New converter boxes can be purchased at retail stores and cost between \$40 and \$70. To defray the cost of the converter boxes, the federal government is offering two \$40 coupons per household to help pay for up to two boxes.

For more information about the digital transition, visit www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. For information about converters and coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-388-2009.

Recycling analog TVs

If you decide to purchase a new digital TV, remember that your analog TV may not be discarded in the trash — it must be recycled.

The city of Minnetonka will host its next special one-day drop-off in June 2009, and charges a small fee for recycling electronics. For other recycling options, visit www.hennepin.us — search "drop-off." ☺

Learning more about emerald ash borer

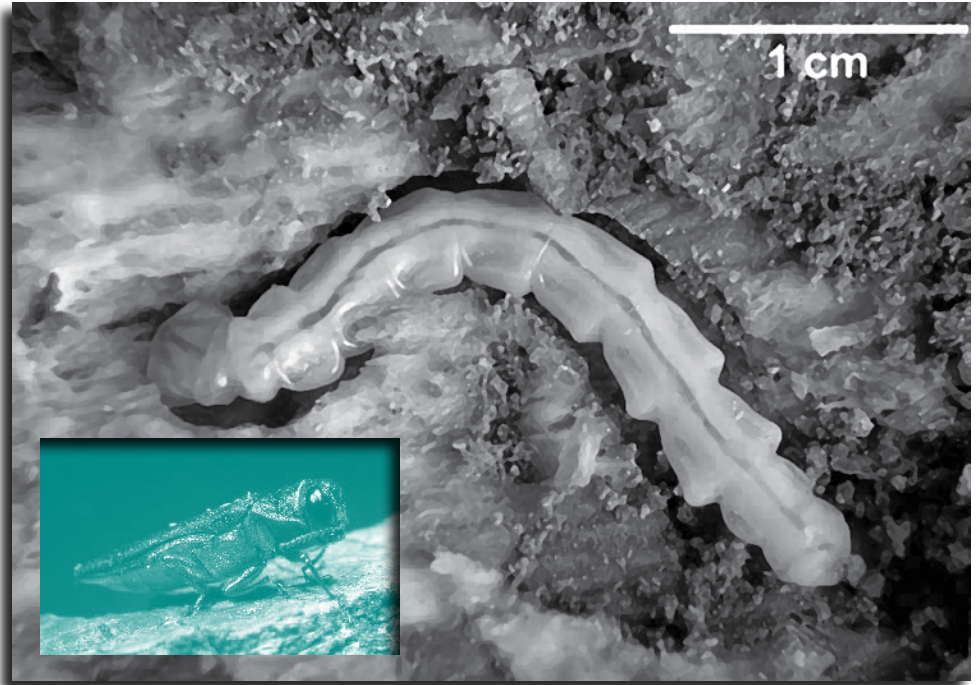
Iand if you've heard about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), this update is for you. If you haven't heard of EAB, take a moment to learn about the insect that has killed ash trees in ten states, including neighboring Wisconsin, as well as two Canadian provinces.

EAB is a wood boring beetle that most likely came to the United States in untreated ash wood from Asia. The insect moves fairly slowly on its own, but its spread has been accelerated by humans transporting firewood. The damage is caused by the larvae, which feed underneath the tree bark. While it will feed on all ash species, it has not been found to affect other tree species.

In states where EAB has been found, scientists have determined that the identification of the insect has lagged more than five years behind its actual introduction. According to a recent Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) report, EAB has never been found in Minnesota. In an attempt to identify EAB early should it arrive in Minnesota, MDA entomologists plan to investigate all reports of possible EAB infestations. To help in this effort, the EAB First Detector training program will train volunteers who will then be on call to help diagnose suspect infestations.



This tree exhibits EAB damage.



Above, emerald ash borer larva feeds on a tree. Inset: an adult emerald ash borer.

The city of Minnetonka has participated in the MDA's two forms of early detection: traps and trap trees. MDA staff placed a purple prism trap at the city's brush drop for several months this summer. The trap contains a chemical that mimics an ash tree in stress, which attracts EAB. Several ash trees on city property have been "girdled" by MDA staff in order to create trap trees for the insects. After a season or more, public works staff cut down the trees and the forester works together with MDA staff to peel the bark and look for EAB larvae. While it's time-consuming work, it's worth the effort to detect this pest early.

According to MDA staff, the insect will be found in Minnesota eventually. In the meantime, here are some **dos** and **don'ts** about emerald ash borer.

- **Do** diversify your landscape by planting many different species of trees in order to buffer future ash tree loss. Carefully selected replacements are offered through the Minnetonka's city-wide tree sale. For more ideas visit the University of Minnesota's Forest Resources Extension Web site at <http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/>.
- **Don't** move firewood around. If you do nothing else, be sure not to move firewood between other states because this can accelerate the movement of the

insect. To learn what other states are doing in response to EAB, visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

- **Don't** remove all the ash trees in your yard. Recently, the city forester has received calls from residents who have been pressured by tree companies to remove their ash trees. Some companies have gone so far as to tell residents that they will be fined by the city if they do not remove their ash trees. Neither the city nor the state nor professional tree companies are advising this. If it becomes appropriate to remove ash trees, you will be advised by MDA staff through press releases and city of Minnetonka communication.
 - **Do** be aware of dying ash trees. Learn to distinguish EAB symptoms from construction damage. Consider signing up for the MDA's First Detector training program. Share what you know with your friends and neighbors.
 - Chemical treatments may be appropriate when EAB is found in Minnesota, but the research is still in its early stages and the MDA isn't recommending it yet.
- If you are interested in learning more about EAB and the state's readiness plan, visit the Department of Agriculture Web site at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm>. ∞

Storm water meeting set for January 21

R about the city's Water Resources Management Plan and storm water pollution are invited to the city of Minnetonka's annual storm water informational meeting Wednesday, January 21, at 5 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

After a brief presentation about the city's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) and Storm Water Pollution

Prevention Program (SWPPP), staff will answer questions and take comments regarding the city's current programs and future plans for storm water.

Copies of the WRMP and SWPPP may be examined at the engineering department in city hall during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) or on the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. For more information call Liz Stout, water resources engineer, at (952) 939-8233. ☺



Coping with coyotes: a few *Do*s and *Don't*s

In backyard lately, you're not alone. The light winters of the past few years have helped increase the population of "prey animals" such as rabbits, squirrels and mice. Along with those increased populations comes a parallel rise in the number of predators, such as coyotes.

Here are some tips for avoiding problems with coyotes:

- ***Don't*** feed coyotes!
- ***Do*** prevent coyote access to food by securing all garbage containers, wildlife feeders, pet food and other food sources.
- ***Don't*** feed any wildlife — it can draw coyotes to your property.
- ***Don't*** leave cats and small dogs outside without supervision.

- ***Do*** vaccinate all pets for diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian. Coyotes can carry the same diseases that can affect household pets.
- ***Do*** harass any coyotes that do not immediately run from people. Frighten the coyote by shouting, clapping, or making other startling sounds. Motion-detecting lights are also a good deterrent.
- ***Don't*** encourage coyotes to become at ease with humans.

If you see a coyote, or to request a copy of the brochure "Living with Coyotes," contact DeeAnn Bloom, community service officer, Minnetonka Police Department, at (952) 939-8500. ☺

Start planning now for spring trees!

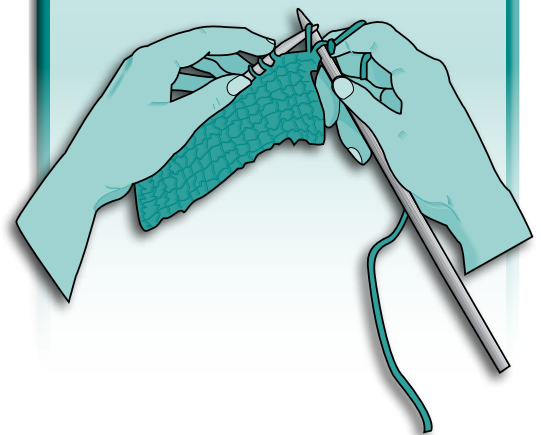
D third annual spring tree sale program, designed to encourage residents to replant after losing trees to age or disease. Look in the February 2009 *Minnetonka Memo* for the order form, and to learn more about each tree species. A wide variety of hardy disease- and insect-resistant tree species are offered for sale, in order to promote health and diversity in Minnetonka's community forest. ☺

Natural resource volunteers give 1,500 hours

The division thanks the many volunteers who helped to improve the quality of Minnetonka's natural resources. About 1,500 hours have been donated by residents to weed, plant, mulch and monitor the city's natural resources. Activities include garlic mustard pulls, planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, and lake and wetland monitoring. We couldn't do it without your help. Thank you for all of your time and enthusiasm! ☺

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. ☺



Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

December
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	6	3 Joint Meeting, City Council and Park Board, 6 p.m.; Park Board, 7 p.m.	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	9 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
	28	29	30	31				8 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (Truth in Taxation hearing)
								22 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
								25 Christmas, city offices closed

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change — please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

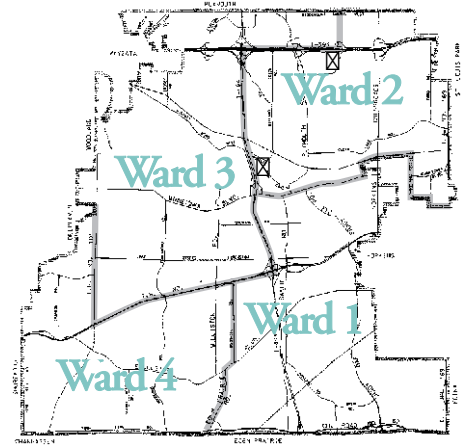
Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's Web 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 December 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.

- ☒ Rezoning and preliminary plat for Terratonka, an eight-lot, residential subdivision at **3100 Forest Lane** and **3200** and **3218 Eldorado Trail West**. (92018.08a)
- ☒ Twelve-month extension of previous approvals for Trader Joe's, **12441 Wayzata Boulevard**. (07050.08a)

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.



minnetonka memo

December 2008



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka
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