

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
January 2007

## A message from Mayor Jan Callison

City of  
**minnetonka**

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

January 2007

Last month, I attended the National League of Cities conference, an annual event that brings together elected and appointed officials throughout the United States. One of the speakers touched a chord as she discussed the challenges facing municipal leadership in the 21st century. Her thoughts reflected some that I have had during my first year in office.

The speaker, Sally Helgeson (author of "The Web of Inclusion"), described a "revolution in human expectations," driven by sweeping demographic, economic and technological changes. She observes a culture increasingly organized around the question, "What about me... my family... my neighborhood?" She portrays citizens as more and more willing, with the help of sophisticated technological tools, to push back on issues that are important to them. In response, she urges governments to be transparent; include a broad variety of viewpoints; build towards the long-term; and develop leadership skills for instances where values aren't shared.

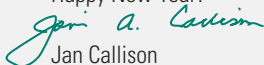
As I listened to her I wondered if her observations are true of Minnetonka. Have we seen the impact of this century's demographic, economic and technological changes, and is the city of Minnetonka prepared to respond?

We certainly have a citizenry which is engaged around issues affecting them directly, whether it's the redevelopment of a neighborhood like Glen Lake or the reconstruction of a road like Shady Oak. You communicate clearly and directly with the city and with your elected representatives. You expect information, and decisions that are thoughtful and balanced. And I can personally state that very few of you are willing to accept the answer, "Because city hall knows best."

But if Minnetonka's citizens appear to fit at least some of Helgeson's observations, what about our government? Are we transparent, inclusive, focused on sustainability and skilled at finding common ground? The answer is probably, "Sometimes." We have tried new ways to engage citizens and to share information, such as last winter's listening sessions (a success, based upon citizen turnout and response) and this fall's additional budget sessions (a failure). We have created a new Web site, begun to stream municipal meetings, and tried to be proactive at disseminating information about activities that affect residents directly, such as providing road construction and redevelopment updates. We have provided open opportunities for citizen engagement through additional community and neighborhood meetings. And we have continued to manage Minnetonka for the long term. But we know that not all residents are satisfied by these measures and outcomes.

In 2007, the city will begin the process of updating its Comprehensive Guide Plan. This plan is our community road map, specifically in terms of guiding land use and development. But I hope that our next comprehensive plan will be more than that. I envision a document that lays out community expectations in a variety of areas, such as the environment, housing, transportation and issues of quality of life. Creating that vision successfully will require a process that is consistent with Helgeson's observations: transparent, inclusive, focused on the long term, and based upon common ground. City staff will be laying out such a process over the next several months. I hope you will look for opportunities to participate as we go forward.

Happy New Year!

  
Jan Callison

Mayor of Minnetonka

*Minnetonka... where quality is our nature*

### State of the City event is Feb. 7

**Y**OU'RE INVITED TO THE 2007 State of the City Address by Mayor Jan Callison Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 7:30–9 a.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 2, to Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211. ☺

### Sign up for the 2007 Citizen Academy

**H**OW IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HELPING residents prepare for emergencies? What recreational opportunities does the city offer? Where, exactly, is the siren button on a police car? Learn the answers to these pressing questions and more at the 2007 Minnetonka Citizen Academy!

This free program takes place over five Tuesday evening sessions from 7 to 9 p.m. — Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 — 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 Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is Jan. 17, 2007. ☺

# Flashpoints

## From the Minnetonka Fire Department

**I**N 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.

### School programs conclude

As soon as school started in September, the Minnetonka Fire Department began presenting the “Be Safe Be Prepared” fire prevention program to every grade-school classroom in Minnetonka. The fire department finished in early December, after presenting 158 programs to more than 3,700 grade-school children.

### Station 4 says goodbye to Big Al

In his 28 years of experience, Big Al never met a fire that couldn't be beaten with his knock-out punch. We're not talking about a giant of a person, but instead a giant of a truck — Ladder #4, a 1978 Ford 1250 GPM pumper with an attached 50-foot TeleSquirt.

The story of Big Al is one of careful stewardship of resources; innovation; and enthusiastic support by the Minnetonka City Council. Typically, ladder trucks come with a hefty price tag, costing around \$500,000. But Big Al was built by Minnetonka firefighters for a mere \$51,000!

Big Al started life as two different fire trucks — a used pumper and a used ladder truck were disassembled; the worn parts of each truck were discarded; then it was all reassembled into one working ladder truck. And it was all accomplished by Minnetonka's own firefighters!

Now at the end of its lifespan,

Big Al is scheduled to be replaced in 2007. The fire department will miss Big Al, as it has served the city well.



*Big Al at a structure fire*



*Minnetonka Firefighter Ted Juern helps a student practice a “second way out” at Glen Lake Elementary School.*



### Make a resolution to be ready!

The New Year inspires us to discard the bad habits of previous years and start fresh. In 2007, the Minnetonka Fire Department resolves to commit resources and staff helping Minnetonka residents be ready for emergencies of all kinds.

You can help the fire department by making your own resolution to be more prepared for emergencies. This spring, watch for ReadyMinnetonka, a new program to help residents and businesses prepare for emergencies. The fire department is busy putting the final touches on the program, first introduced at the October Open House.

## Fast facts about the fire department

- The Minnetonka Fire Department started in 1959.
- Eighty paid-on-call firefighters and seven full-time firefighters staff the city's five fire stations.
- Minnetonka has eight fire engines (pumpers) and five ladder trucks.
- One rescue truck carries a 40-foot crane.
- In 2006, the fire department responded to more than 600 emergency calls.
- All of the city's firefighters train together once a week for three hours.
- The fire department maintains all of its own equipment.
- The city's fire trucks are refurbished as they age.
- The average age of the city's ladder trucks is more than 28 years.
- \$0.25 a day — that's the average cost per Minnetonka household for fire protection.



*The fire department conducts training every Tuesday. Recently, the department's technicians participated in the annual hazardous materials operations training, where they practiced procedures for dealing with an acid spill.*

## Storm water meeting set for Jan. 22

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE CITY OF Minnetonka's annual storm water informational meeting Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at 5 p.m. in the boards and commissions room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

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).

For more information call Steve Lillehaug, assistant city engineer, at (952) 939-8234. ☺

## Tips for avoiding false alarms

FALSE ALARMS, FRIVOLOUS 9-1-1 calls, and pranks such as phony bomb threats are overwhelming the emergency response system nationwide. These incidents are more than an inconvenience—they monopolize the time and energy of emergency personnel, at the expense of real life-or-death emergencies.

In 2006 the Minnetonka Police Department received 2,396 calls for alarm service, and less than one percent of those resulted in actual crimes or medical situations. Every alarm call requires two responding officers and a dispatcher for approximately 20 minutes.

### Preventing false alarms

Anti-theft alarms were designed to protect lives and property. When properly installed, used, and maintained, alarms can bring a sense of security and peace of mind. When misused, they are a liability. False alarms are usually accidental, most often caused by user error (using incorrect keypad codes, failing to train users, failing to secure doors and windows), poor installation, and faulty equipment.

There are many steps alarm owners can take to prevent false alarms:

- Lock doors and windows properly.
- Properly train all users (e.g., babysitters, children, relatives, visitors, etc.).
- Know what to do if you accidentally set off the alarm system.
- Place the alarm monitoring center's phone number near the phone or control panel.
- Do not keep codes or passwords with instructions in unsecured places.
- Make sure your emergency contact names and phone numbers are updated with the alarm-monitoring center. Register your alarm annually with the Minnetonka Police Department.

- If you have a local alarm (those without monitoring companies), post emergency contact phone numbers near the front door of the premises.
- Before activating an alarm system, securely close and lock all windows and doors, and make sure pets, fans, plants, and balloons are away from motion sensors.
- Service and maintain the system (including batteries) properly.

### False alarms and the law

According to Minnetonka City Ordinance 915.030, all businesses and homeowners must register their alarm system; the annual cost is \$10. If the police department responds to an unregistered alarm system, a notice will be left at the location.

After the police respond to three false alarms the response can be suspended in addition to a \$50 charge for the third false alarm. Response to panic, medical, hold-up or fire alarms will never be suspended. ☺

## City introduces redesigned Web site

IN LATE NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING several months of research, development, design and testing, the city introduced a new and improved Web site! Here are just a few of the new features you'll find at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Improved navigation

You'll find the same great information as on the previous site, but organized in a more useable fashion. Dropdown boxes, local and global navigation, an improved search engine and quick links—it's all designed to quickly get you to the information you want.

### Inviting design

A nature-inspired color palette and more photos make the site more appealing

## Meet Minnetonka's new police chief

MEET MINNETONKA'S NEW CHIEF OF Police Mark Raquet at a reception Monday, Jan. 8, from 6–6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center! Cake and coffee will be served.

Chief Raquet succeeds former Chief of Police Joy Rikala, who retired Dec. 31, 2006. Chief Raquet has been with the Minnetonka Police Department for 22 years, starting as a patrol officer and most recently as captain.

Chief Raquet earned a bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University and a master's degree from Concordia University. He has also completed the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., an invitation-only professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders.



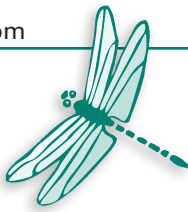
*Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet*

and readable—so you'll spend more time learning about your city!

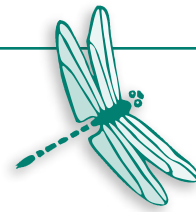
### Increased access

From testing the site to ensure it would function on a variety of browsers to incorporating features for those with disabilities, the redesigned [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) should be useable for everyone.

For more information or for comments, contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207 or [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com), or Marc Drummond, web technologies coordinator, at (952) 939-8384 or [mdrummond@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mdrummond@eminnetonka.com). Enjoy the new site! ☺



# Natural Resource Notes



## Natural resource restoration continues in Minnetonka parks

**I**N A TIME WHEN MANY SUBURBAN communities are nearly fully developed and natural habitats are becoming uncommon, Minnetonka continues to actively pursue natural resource management and restoration in its parks.

Approximately 260 acres in Minnetonka have undergone initial restoration and are being actively managed. Of those, 190 acres are in six large parks: Lone Lake, Purgatory, Hilloway, Victoria Evergreen, Big Willow, and the Civic Center. More than thirteen new acres will be added in 2007.

An ecological, system-based approach to natural resource restoration and management is used in Minnetonka. General goals are to improve species diversity and ecosystem health; preserve natural and historic integrity; stabilize soils; and establish partnerships among staff, citizen volunteers, and agencies to continue sustainable programs.

So, what's new with natural resource restoration?

### Protecting Natives

Have you seen colored ribbon flagging around plants in the parks? White and yellow ribbon indicate remnant native plants to save and protect; blue paint and flagging indicate invasive species to be removed.

### Deer Exlosures

In the fall of 2005, deer "exclosure" test plots were established in Lone Lake, Big Willow, and Victoria Evergreen parks. These fenced 30'x 30' areas are surrounded by posts and black synthetic mesh. New native plants, including dogwoods, hazelnut, choke cherry and nannyberry, were planted in 2006. Plants in unprotected plots will be compared to those inside the exclosures to compare species success under different growing conditions.

### Burning

Woods and prairie were burned in Lone Lake Park in late November to control invasive species and invigorate native plants. Deer enclosure test plots were avoided.

### New buckthorn control sites, techniques

Crews are busy cutting new areas of buckthorn at the Minnetonka Civic Center, Lone Lake parking drive, Big Willow woods west of the soccer field, and the city-owned woods west of Burwell House. Public works staff are clearing invasive species and improving sightlines and safety along trails in Purgatory, Kinsel, and Covington parks, the Opus complex, and along Minnetonka



*20 acres in Lone Lake were burned Nov. 21, 2006*

Boulevard near Minnehaha Creek.

New buckthorn control techniques are being tried on these sites, with some buckthorn being used onsite for wood chip mulch or erosion control on slopes.

Even after buckthorn has been removed, seedlings continue to grow, so ongoing maintenance is essential. Contractors are spot spraying and cutting invasive re-growth during critical periods of each growing season. Since not all parks are being restored at this time, volunteer help will be critical to the success of these ongoing restoration projects.

### Volunteers Needed

Since the city hired a natural resource restoration specialist last year, new volunteer programs are expanding. New volunteers will be involved in micro-managing areas with valuable remnant native plant species. Volunteers will plant; find native plants to "release" from buckthorn and other invasive competitors; install cages around special remnant plants to protect them from deer and rabbit browsing; collect seeds to directly sow in weed-free areas, and monitor parks for garlic mustard and other pesky plants. Volunteers can be matched to a park close to their home. To volunteer, call Janet Larson at (952) 988-8423.

If you'd like to see the progress for yourself, see the summer recreation services brochure for spring 2007 plant hikes to be led by natural resources staff in restored parks. ♪

## About the stewardship program

**I**N 1995 THE MINNETONKA PARK Board and the City Council initiated the Natural Resources Stewardship Program (NRSP), which focuses on improving and restoring degraded natural resources within city parks. The work has included removal of buckthorn and non-native, invasive species from woodlands, prairies, and wetlands to allow native plants to become re-established. Buckthorn removal projects have been ongoing in six of the city's larger parks since 1998, starting with Lone Lake. Prairie systems have been restored in Lone Lake, Green Circle, and Purgatory parks. Wetland restoration has been undertaken on a small scale.

Minnetonka's policy on restoring and managing natural areas states that existing parks are top priorities for stewardship. Once restoration efforts near completion and maintenance programs are sustaining native plant communities, the program will be expanded to include other open space areas. Prioritization of future sites will be at the discretion of the city council, park board, and city staff based on ecological review of each site. This review will begin in 2007.

Restoration projects and long-term management are occurring in more than a dozen park areas. Positive results are evident at all sites and residents have been pleased with the city's commitment to preserving and restoring natural resources. Many individuals have taken the restoration techniques used in the city parks and applied them to their own properties. New volunteers have come forward to assist with restoration in city parks.

This combined private and public land management increases the probability of successful restoration of an ecosystem that extends beyond property lines. ♪

# An update on parks renewal

**I**N 2001, MINNETONKA VOTERS PASSED a \$15 million parks and open space bond referendum. Half of the money was earmarked for the renewal of the city's 42 parks, with the other half to be used for open space preservation within Minnetonka. Four years later, many of the city's parks have been renewed, including Beachside, Boulder Creek, Civic Center, Covington, Crane Lake, Ford, Glen Moor, Gro Tonka, Groveland, Hilloway, Jidana, Junction, Knollway, Libbs Lake Beach, Linner, McKenzie, Meadow, Minnehaha Creek Headwaters, Mini Tonka, Orchard, Pioneer, Purgatory, Spring Hill, Sunrise Ridge, Victoria-Evergreen, and Woodgate.

Below is an update on the status of the parks remaining to be renewed.

## Big Willow, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Scheduled to be planned in 2007; planning process will focus on the athletic and playground areas. The planning meetings for the Big Willow neighborhood have been scheduled as follows.

- **First Meeting:**  
*Thursday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.*
- **Second Meeting:**  
*Thursday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.*

Both meetings will be held in the city council chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

## Elmwood-Strand, 3610 Elmwood Place

Construction will begin this spring, with completion by early summer.

## Glen Lake, 5240 Glenview Drive

The south end of the retaining wall that was built at the east side of the new parking lot is being modified to better accommodate the spectator area for the lower youth baseball field, as well as walkway improvements. Tiered seating will be constructed on the sloped area behind home plate. These improvements will be ready for the 2007 season.

*Glen Lake Plaza* will be renovated in the summer of 2007, with the new design expected to have a more natural-looking water feature to replace the existing, inoperable fountain.

*Glen Lake Elementary* will have its warming house replaced this winter, but ice rinks will remain open while the work is being done.

## Guilliam, 12101 Minnetonka Blvd.

Scheduled to be planned in 2007; planning process will focus on the athletic areas. The planning meetings for the Guilliam neighborhood have been scheduled as follows:

- **First Meeting:**  
*Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.*
- **Second Meeting:**  
*Thursday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.*

Both meetings will be held in the city council chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

## Kinsel, 14017 Kinsel Road

Planning has been moved up from 2008 due to Glen Lake neighborhood redevelopment. The planning meetings for the Kinsel Park neighborhood have been scheduled as follows:

- **First Meeting:**  
*Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.*
- **Second Meeting:**  
*Thursday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.*

Both meetings will be held in the city council chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

## Lone Lake, 5624 Shady Oak Road

The planning meetings for the Lone Lake Park neighborhood have been scheduled as follows:

- **First Meeting:**  
*Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.*
- **Second Meeting:**  
*Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.*

Both meetings will be held in the city council chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

## Reich, 18601 Beaver Trail

The tennis and basketball courts and retaining wall are complete. Playground equipment will be installed in 2007.

## Westwood, 9 Westwood Road

Playground meetings are complete, construction set to begin in spring 2007.

## Wilson, 4230 Victoria St

Playground meetings are complete, construction set to begin in spring 2007.

Parks scheduled for future planning and construction are Lake Rose, Mayflower, and Oberlin. For more information about the parks renewal process, visit [www.eminnetonkaparksrenewal.com](http://www.eminnetonkaparksrenewal.com) or contact Perry Vetter, parks and trails manager, city of Minnetonka, at [pvetter@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pvetter@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 988-8412. ☺

# Tell us about your favorite big tree

**D**O YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BIG TREE in your neighborhood or in a Minnetonka park? Minnetonka has some beautiful wooded areas with pre-settlement trees, and some private properties have big trees that were planted many years ago.

Minnetonka's natural resources division is starting a "big tree register." We need your help finding the city's big trees. Tell us the location of a really big tree you've found, and we will measure and identify it. Our big tree register has just begun, so there are only a few species and diameters recorded so far.

Minnetonka's largest cottonwood tree found to date measures 82 inches in diameter, while the largest oak measures 37 inches.

There are many trees we have no records for yet, like red maple, sugar maple, bitternut hickory, ironwood, butternut, black walnut, green ash, black ash, American elm, red elm, and all conifer species.

To nominate a really big tree, send an email with the subject line "Minnetonka Big Tree" to [jrlarson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jrlarson@eminnetonka.com) or [ebarbeau@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ebarbeau@eminnetonka.com), and we'll send you an electronic questionnaire. If you have questions, call Janet Larson at (952) 988-8423 or Emily Barbeau at (952) 988-8421. ☺



*Minnetonka's largest cottonwood found to date is 82 inches in diameter.*

## You're invited to the Minnetonka Senior Center!

**I**F YOU'RE A MINNETONKA RESIDENT who's 55 or older, don't miss out on the fun and friendship at the Minnetonka Senior Center! Located at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, the senior center offers a wide variety of classes, programs and activities for active seniors. For more information about the senior center, or to sign up for the free monthly newsletter, the *Senior Script*, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8393.

Here's a sampling of what the senior center has to offer! Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes or for more information, or to learn about various volunteer opportunities at the center.

### Scrabble Tournament

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:30-8 p.m.  
Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

### Winter Party

Thursday, Jan. 18, 12 p.m.  
Enjoy entertainment by Jim Berner, who will perform a variety of music.

### Snowshoe Walk

Monday, Jan. 29, 10:30 a.m.  
Provide your own snowshoes and enjoy a walk from the community center to Jidana Park, where you'll warm up around a campfire. Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

### Welcome Coffee

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m.  
Join us for a tour of the senior center.

### Income Tax Assistance

Wed's, Feb. 7–April 11, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Thursdays, March 1–April 12, 1–3 p.m.  
By appointment only—call (952) 939-8393 to schedule.

### Special Interest Groups

The following groups meet at the center and welcome new participants: Art Drop In, Adopt-a-Highway, AA, Al-Anon, billiards, bingo, bird club, bridge groups, chess, choir, computer, book clubs, ham radio, quilting, Red Hat Society, writing groups, singles, Readers Theater, woodcarving, and discussion groups.

### Services

Services offered at the center include blood pressure checks, health insurance counseling, legal counseling, outreach, HOME, bus trips, hearing screening, flu shots, income tax assistance, foot care, and community resources.

### Fitness Groups

Need to get fit? Consider one of the many fitness groups: exercise (M, W, F), tai chi, yoga, line dancing, biking, summer softball, and daytime and evening open gyms at the Williston Center.

### Classes

Join one of many classes, including defensive driving, oil and watercolor painting, history, bridge, cooking and chess.

If you have ideas for new programming, please share those ideas with the staff by calling (952) 939-8393. See you at the senior center! ☺

## Apply now for Gray's Bay boat slip

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL HOLD a lottery drawing to fill boat slip vacancies and the waiting list for Gray's Bay Marina. Only Minnetonka residents are eligible for these slips, which are 10-1/2' wide and can accommodate boats up to a maximum of 26 feet in total length. Cost per slip for the 2007 boating season is \$3,524.

Applications must be received at Minnetonka City Hall no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5. The lottery will take place at the Minnetonka Community Center on a date and time to be determined. To receive a lottery application form, call the Minnetonka facilities division at (952) 939-8390, email [mweseloh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mweseloh@eminnetonka.com), or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## 2007 official newspaper selected

**T**HE LAKESHORE WEEKLY NEWS HAS BEEN selected as Minnetonka's official newspaper for 2007. 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. ☺

## Water management commissioner position open at Bassett Creek

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS AN opening for a commissioner and an alternate commissioner on the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission, representing the city of Minnetonka regarding Bassett Creek watershed issues and the water management plan. Office terms are three years. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the city of Golden Valley. Interested candidates should fill out a city of Minnetonka boards and commissions application (*located online at [www.eminnetonka.com/your\\_government/boards\\_commissions.cfm](http://www.eminnetonka.com/your_government/boards_commissions.cfm)*).

For more information, contact Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211, or visit [bassettcreekwmo.org](http://bassettcreekwmo.org). ☺

## Meet Dial-a-Ride driver Janice McKinley

**J**ANICE MCKINLEY HAS BEEN DRIVING for Senior Community Services, which operates the Dial-A-Ride program, since 1994. She loves the variety in her job, working with seniors, and being out and about in the Minnetonka community.

Janice's has great enthusiasm for working with seniors, saying, "I have become good friends with my regulars, and learn many interesting things from them."

Janice only has one complaint about her job, "I would like my job even more if I didn't have to deal with the mixed bag of driving conditions that Minnesota offers us every winter."

Contact Minnetonka Dial-A-Ride at (952) 401-1749 to schedule a ride. Fare is \$3 per individual per one-way trip; group trips are \$3 per person, per round trip. ☺



## Home Remodeling Fair is Feb. 25

**A** FREE HOME REMODELING FAIR featuring more than 75 contractor exhibits, seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth is set for Sunday, February 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, electricians, tool rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, lenders and others. Minnetonka planning department staff and city inspectors will also be at the fair. Advance registration is not required and admission is free. More information will be in the February *Minnetonka Memo*, or visit [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com). ☺



## Make your picnic reservations now!

**J**ANUARY MIGHT SEEM LIKE A STRANGE time to think of picnics, but resident non-profit organizations may reserve a picnic shelter for 2007 starting January 2, 2007. Hopkins and Minnetonka residents can reserve a picnic shelter beginning February 2, 2007.

Groups applying for non-profit status must submit non-profit documentation with their application form (i.e., 501(c)3, etc.) Groups considered to be non-profit include churches; civic organizations; public schools in the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts; parochial and private schools located within Hopkins or Minnetonka; and athletic associations.

Hopkins and Minnetonka city residents can reserve a picnic shelter beginning February 2, 2007. Requests for local businesses who desire to be included under the Resident Group rate must include their request on their official company letterhead.

For more information about picnic shelter reservations, or for application forms, visit [www.eminnetonka.com/recreation/facilities/picnic\\_shelter\\_reservations.cfm](http://www.eminnetonka.com/recreation/facilities/picnic_shelter_reservations.cfm). ☺

## It's time for exercise at Williston Center

**F**EELING LIKE YOU NEED A LITTLE exercise after the holidays? Consider fitness classes at the Williston Center, 14509 Minnetonka Drive.

For a fee, both members and non-members of Williston Center can join the following classes. Call (952) 939-8203 for more information or to register. (M=Member, NM=Non-member)

**Cardio Dance:** Mon., 12-12:45 p.m.; \$30 M, \$64 NM

**Pilates:** Mon., 6:30 p.m.; \$30 M, \$64 NM

**Hot Shoes:** Tues. and/or Thurs., 9:35 a.m.; \$51 once a week; \$63 twice a week

**Weight Training for Older Adults:** Tues. and Thurs., 10:15 a.m.; \$15 M, \$50 NM

Classes that are free to members and available to non-members for a small fee include the following.

**Cardio Combo:** Mon. and Wed., 6:05 a.m.; \$69 NM

**Body Sculpting:** Mon. and Wed., 5:30 p.m.; \$106 NM

**Pump It Up:** Tues. and Thurs., 12 p.m.; \$89 NM

**Boot Camp:** Wed., 12 p.m.; \$39 NM

**Cardio Challenge Plus:** Wed., 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Saturdays, 8:30-9:45 a.m.; \$55 NM

**Body Tone:** Thurs., 6:05 a.m., \$55 NM

**Circuit:** Fri., 6:05 a.m., \$55 NM ☺

## Play ball with the Pine Tar Academy

**B**ASEBALL SEASON IS QUICKLY approaching, and the Pine Tar Academy at the Williston Fitness Center is ready to keep every ball player one step ahead! The following programs and clinics are available:

### Winter Clinics

**Cost:** \$109/person

Clinics begin in mid-January and focus on hitting, pitching or fielding. To register, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Friday Night Fever

**Cost:** \$10/person for Williston members; \$12 for non-members

Unlimited hitting with quality instruction, offered 6 to 9 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month, through February.

### Private Lessons/Packages

**Cost:** One-hour lessons start at \$65; packages start at \$125.

Some lesson packages include t-shirts, batting tokens, and a personalized wooden bat! To set up a private lesson or package, call the Pine Tar Academy office at (952) 939-8378. ☺

## Minnetonka company recognized for outstanding commuting program

**C**ARLSON REAL ESTATE COMPANY, headquartered in Minnetonka, was honored recently with a Commuter Choice Award for its outstanding commuting program that includes on-site events and comprehensive bicycle amenities.

Carlson partners with 494 Commuter Services, a free program that assists in finding alternative commuting options for people who work or live in Minnetonka, Plymouth, Eden Prairie, Edina, Richfield and Bloomington.

Another Minnetonka company, St. Jude Medical, also was nominated for offering preferred parking for carpoolers and hosting successful commuting events.

If you or your company would like free assistance and resources for alternative commuting, visit 494 Commuter Services at [www.494corridor.org](http://www.494corridor.org) or contact Kate Diercks, Director of Outreach, (612) 750-4494 or [kate@494corridor.org](mailto:kate@494corridor.org) ☺



# Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

January  
2007

Call (952) 939-8200  
for more  
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1 New Year's Day, city offices closed
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3 Park Board, 7 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	8 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	9 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m., Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
28	29	30	31				11 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, city offices closed
							22 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Minnetonka Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.; Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							30 2007 Citizen Academy, 7-9 p.m.

## 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Wetland setback and buffer variance and floodplain alteration permit to reconstruct a driveway at 16443 McGinty Road. (Ward 3)
- 2 Amendment to an existing conditional use permit for reconfiguration and addition of a new softball field and conditional use permit for a public recreational use in a required wetland buffer at Minnetonka High School, 18301 Hwy. 7. (Ward 4)

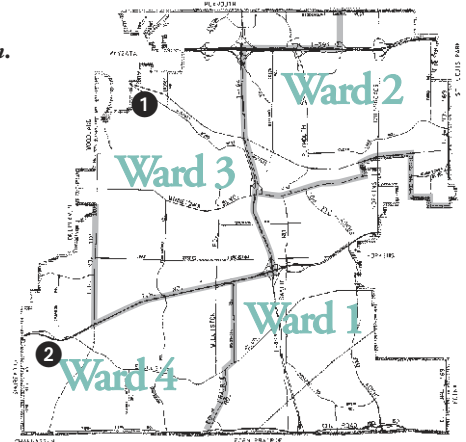
## Disposing of holiday trees

**Y**OUR HOLIDAY TREE IS LONG PAST its prime and dropping needles everywhere. It's time to dispose of it, but how? Here are some options:

- Check with your residential refuse hauler for tree pick up and recycling services. Haulers may have a specific time or limited days that they collect trees. Check the last bill they sent or call your hauler. Depending on the refuse company and your level of service, there may be an additional fee.

- Trees will be accepted at the city brush drop-off, opening in mid-April.
- Some private nurseries and private compost sites accept trees, for a fee.

For more information, call Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430. ♪



Protect  
Our  
Water  
Quality!

# minnetonka memo

January 2007



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

### Mayor

Janis Callison ..... (952) 939-8389  
..... Home: (952) 935-7010  
..... [jcallison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcallison@eminnetonka.com)  
Meetings with the mayor may be  
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

### City Manager

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

### Newsletter Editor

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

E-mail: ..... [comments@eminnetonka.com](mailto:comments@eminnetonka.com)

Internet: ..... [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)

### Council

At Large: Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 [dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)  
Terry Schneider..... (952) 934-9529 [tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 1: Bob Ellingson ... (952) 931-3065 [bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 2: Tony Wagner ... (952) 512-1817 [twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 3: Brad Wiersum ... (612) 817-3713 [bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 4: Al Thomas..... (952) 949-9027 [athomas@eminnetonka.com](mailto:athomas@eminnetonka.com)

Minnetonka Mike ..... (952) 939-8586 [mike@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com)

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency ..... 9-1-1

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

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