

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
March 2007

Fourth annual Eco-Fair set for March 17

ARICH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT — including trees, wetlands and open space — is a hallmark of the city of Minnetonka, setting it apart from many of its suburban neighbors. The city and its residents are committed to protecting this rich heritage. However, knowing how to manage these various resources is not always easy.

If you want to learn more about nurturing and protecting the natural landscape that you own or live near, plan to attend Minnetonka's Eco-Fair Saturday, March 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Exhibits open at 8:30 a.m., with concurrent workshops starting at 9 a.m. Refreshments will be available. Best of all, the Eco-Fair is a free event! Workshops start at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Topics and times are listed below.

Native Plants for Residential Landscaping (9 a.m. and 12 p.m.)

Fortin Consulting presents a whirlwind one-hour class on incorporating native plants into landscapes. Each student will receive a list of native Hennepin County plants; learn to tell which plants are appropriate for their yard; and learn the basics of site preparation and planting of native plants. The class includes many pictures of native plants, from the sun-loving coneflowers to the aquatic pickerel weed to the shade-dwelling bottle brush grass.

Coping With Shade (10:30 am and 12 p.m.)

Tom Tennant, owner of Out Back Nursery will show how to reclaim shady areas with some of the best native wildflowers, grasses, ferns, shrubs, and trees that thrive in various shade conditions. His talk will also focus on how to use native plants in urban and suburban spaces, the benefits of mulching, and successful low-maintenance care for new plantings.



At last year's Eco-Fair, attendees enjoyed a beekeeping demonstration.

Global Warming: Causes, Impacts and Solutions (10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.)

Steve Greenway of The Climate Project presents material from the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. Slides will cover several aspects of global warming, from the causes and effects to potential solutions. Everyone will leave this presentation with a better understanding of what global warming is and a list of actions that will help minimize individual contributions to the problem. For more information visit www.theclimateproject.org.

Managing Woodlands: Buckthorn and Beyond (9 a.m.)

Worried about losing the privacy buckthorn provides? Janet Larson, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist, shows how gradual, prioritized removal is usually much better for a site than an "understory clear-cut." Learn how to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal. Learn about forest structure and re-forestation using native plants indigenous to the Twin Cities. This workshop will emphasize measures to save high-value remnant plant species, erosion prevention, importance of ground cover, and protection from deer. Handouts provided.

Invasive Weeds and Garden Nasties (12 p.m.)

Is that wild rhubarb? Nope, it's burdock! Janet Larson, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist, explains how to identify some of the most common nasty plants and invasive species in the Minnetonka area, like garlic mustard, leafy spurge, thistles, mullien, motherwort and others. Are you wondering what to pull and what to keep in

Eco-Fair continued on page 2

We'd like to hear from you!

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS JUST BEGUN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING THE comprehensive guide plan, a document that will set the stage for future development of the city through 2030.

Many changes will take place between now and then, all of which have implications for city services and programs. Trends include the expected "silver tsunami" that will have more senior citizens than school-age children living in Minnesota for the first time in state history; development pressures and transportation issues that already exist, but will intensify as a predicted one million additional people move into Minnesota by 2030; and concerns about the environment and the pressure to develop alternative energy sources.

As the comp plan process begins, we'd like to hear what you value most about Minnetonka; what issues concern you; and what issues you think city leaders should pay the closest attention to over the next ten years. Please fill out the postage-paid card included in this edition of the *Memo*, and drop it in the mail by March 31, 2007. Watch future editions of the *Memo*, or the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, for ongoing information about the comprehensive guide plan. ☺

Eco-Fair *continued from page 1*

that area that was “let go?” Learn about the life cycles of these weed plants and smart control measures. Handouts provided.

Resolving Wildlife Conflicts
(9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.)

Have some of the wild animals in your neighborhood become pests? Learn how to minimize problems with deer, moles, raccoons, geese, woodpeckers, and other wildlife, and regain some control over your home and yard. DeeAnn Bloom of the Minnetonka Police Department will answer questions about deer and explain the city’s deer management program.

Minnetonka Home Organics Collection Project (9 a.m. and 12 p.m.)

You may have friends participating in or have read about the Wayzata residential organics collection program. A form of this program is coming to Minnetonka later this spring, with the help of a Hennepin County grant designed to assist the city in starting a residential organics program.

Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka recycling coordinator, will explain how the Minnetonka program will work and will explain how to sign up, what material is accepted, and what happens to the material after it is collected.

Butterfly Gardening (10:30 a.m.)

To encourage the growth of butterfly populations, it’s necessary to engage in habitat restoration first. In this class, a master gardener teaches which plants attract varieties of beautiful butterflies. Find out how to select plants for adult and larval feeding, which ultimately encourages the establishment of butterfly species and their return to your garden year after year.

State of the City well-attended

MORE THAN 150 RESIDENTS, business people and elected officials attended Minnetonka’s State of the City event February 7 at the Minnetonka Community Center. Mayor Jan Callison spoke on trends affecting Minnetonka, and how those challenges will be incorporated into work on the new comprehensive guide plan for the city.

In addition, the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce presented its Bravo! Award to Jim Vathing, president of Voyager Bank. ☺

Tree Care for Homeowners
(9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.)

Dave Hanson of Urban and Community Forestry, University of Minnesota, will answer your tree care questions in this session. Learn the most important tree care measures to ensure a healthy tree, including planting, pruning, watering, mulching, staking, and fertilizing. You’ll receive research-based information that you can trust and apply on a tree near you!

Identifying Common Tree Diseases, Insects, and Disorders
(9 a.m. and 12 p.m.)

Concerned about a special tree in your yard that just doesn’t look “right?” Ever wondered if it is a disease or an insect and, if so, what you should do about it? If you reach for fertilizer every time your tree looks sick plan to attend this session, led by Emily Barbeau, city of Minnetonka forester. Learn the investigative steps to discover if you are dealing with a tree disease, a tree insect pest, or a tree disorder. After gaining the diagnostic skills, you’ll look at some of the most common Minnetonka tree diseases,



insects and disorders and learn how to ID them in your

neighborhood. Handouts will be provided so you can apply your new skills in your own yard!

Join city staff and other knowledgeable consultants to learn more about our environment. Remember, it’s free and no reservations are necessary. Come and get ready for spring!

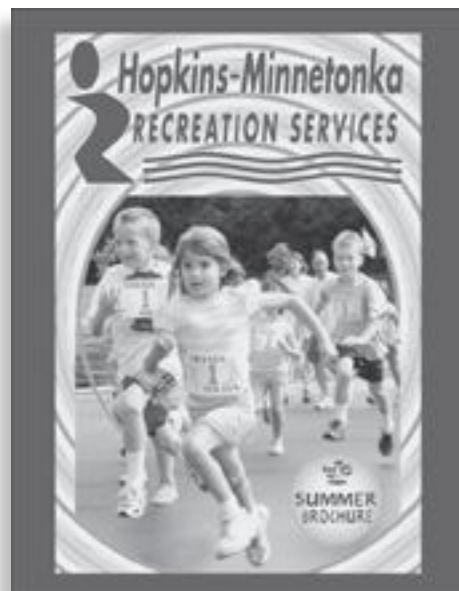
For more information, call Jo Collieran, natural resources manager, at (952) 988-8415

or email jcolleran@eminnetonka.com, or Dean Elstad, trails and recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or email at delstad@eminnetonka.com ☺

Summer registration starts March 5

THE RECREATION SERVICES SUMMER brochure was delivered the first week in March to Minnetonka and Hopkins residents. Registration began March 5 for residents, non-resident registration starts March 19. The brochure is also available online at www.eminnetonka.com.

To register by phone please call (952) 939-8203 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Visa or MasterCard is accepted. Online registration for most programs is available at www.eminnetonka.com. Before registering online, you must have a household PIN and client barcode, issued by Recreation Services. Call (952) 939-8203 for a PIN and barcode. ☺





Trees for sale — order by April 1

THE MAJORITY OF THE ELMs LOST TO DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE been on private property. To encourage replanting, the city of Minnetonka is offering a variety of tree species for residents to purchase at low prices. Several tree sizes are available, so if you have a small vehicle or do not have help at home to unload, you can consider purchasing a bare root tree. This offer is available only to Minnetonka residents, and only two trees per household may be purchased.

Orders must be returned by April 1, 2007. Quantities are limited, so order early to receive your top species choices. Trees must be picked up Saturday, April 28, between 8 a.m. and noon at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. While some assistance will be available to load trees into vehicles, please order a tree you can realistically transport home. A fact sheet and written planting and care instructions for each tree will be provided at pickup. **Unlike a retail nursery, these trees do not have a warranty.**

Check the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com to learn more about the site requirements for each tree, to see photos and to download additional order forms. For questions contact Emily Barbeau, city forester, at ebarbeau@eminnetonka.com or (952) 988-8421.

Natural resources releases annual report

IT'S BEEN A FULL YEAR SINCE THE CITY of Minnetonka created a natural resource division within Minnetonka Public Works, responsible for water resource protection, development review as it relates to natural resources, development inspection and compliance, forestry programs, restoration of the city's native ecosystems, and natural resource education. At the time it was created, Minnetonka was the only metro-area city to have a dedicated natural resource division. Here are a few of the highlights from 2006:

- Trees on **more than 1,200 properties were inspected for evidence of Dutch elm disease or oak wilt.** More than 2,200 diseased elms and 76 red oaks were marked for removal. To replace diseased elms removed in previous years, **more than 60 boulevard trees were planted** in front of residential homes.
- Minnetonka received the **Tree City USA designation** again in 2006 — the city was first designated as a Tree City USA in 1994 by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- For the fourth year, the city partnered with Groveland Elementary School **fifth-grade students to raise and release looper beetles**, a biological control for purple looper. This program, sanctioned by the DNR, has resulted in a reduction in the city's looper population where the beetles have been released.
- More than **780 volunteer hours** were contributed by Minnetonka residents working on natural resource projects, including Arbor Day planting, buckthorn control, and the wetland health evaluation project.

For more information about Minnetonka's Natural Resources Division visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Tree Order Form This offer available only to Minnetonka residents.

Species	Stock type	Height *	Weight	Price	Quantity
Large Shade Trees		* Height at time of purchase			
Bur Oak	Container	6–8 ft.	70 lbs.	\$25	
Swamp White Oak	Container	3–5 ft.	50 lbs.	\$15	
Freeman Maple 'Sienna Glen'	Container	8–10 ft.	70 lbs.	\$20	
	Bare root	10–12 ft.	< 5 lbs.	\$10	
Red Maple 'Northwood'	Container	8–10 ft.	70 lbs.	\$20	
Red Maple 'Burgundy Belle'	Container	4–6 ft.	50 lbs.	\$15	
Red Maple 'Autumn Spire'	Bare root	10–12 ft.	< 5 lbs.	\$10	
Hackberry	Container	8–10 ft.	150 lbs.	\$25	
American Basswood	Container	3–5 ft.	50 lbs.	\$15	
River Birch (clump)	Container	3–5 ft.	50 lbs.	\$15	
Ornamental trees—suitable for planting under powerlines					
Thornless Hawthorn	Container	6–8 ft.	70 lbs.	\$15	
Prairiefire Crabapple	Container	6–8 ft.	70 lbs.	\$15	
	Bare root	6–8 ft.	< 5 lbs.	\$10	
Japanese Tree Lilac 'Ivory Silk' (single stem)	Container	5–6 ft.	150 lbs.	\$25	
Plastic Tree Guard (will protect trunk from deer, rodent and lawn mower damage)		2–4 ft tall with a 2" diameter		\$3	
Totals					

- Quantities are limited and based on availability; our office will notify you if the species you order is sold out.
- Fill in number of each tree type desired — maximum of **two trees per household.**
- Please send order form and check to Minnetonka Public Works, Attn: City Forester, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55305
- Pick up trees on **Saturday, April 28, 2007**, between 8 am and noon. A reminder email or post card confirmation will be sent the week before pickup.

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone number: _____
 Email: _____
 Check # _____
 Amount enclosed: _____

Scrub your water clean with a rain garden

WANT TO KEEP CONTAMINATED water from running into storm drains and polluting lakes, rivers and streams? Then consider installing a rain garden—a depressional basin containing native plants that allows rain and melting snow to seep naturally into the ground.

The city of Minnetonka has partnered with non-profit organization Metro Blooms to present a two-part educational workshop on rain gardens. At the first workshop (Part A), you'll learn how to install a rain garden using native plants that do not require the use of fertilizers or pesticides. A Part A workshop is set for Monday, April 2, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center,

14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Other workshop dates, times and locations are available—visit www.metroblooms.org for the complete list.

At the second workshop (Part B), you may bring your own rain garden plans and questions, then receive advice from landscape design assistants and master gardeners. Each workshop costs \$15.

Participants may receive reimbursement grants of \$65 for buying and installing native plants. Grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis to participants. For \$40, one-hour on-site consultations with landscape design assistants may be scheduled after April 15, 2007.

Register in advance for the Minnetonka rain garden workshop with a VISA or MasterCard at www.metroblooms.org. If you cannot register online send a \$15 check or money order, payable to Metro Blooms, to Pat Gill, 2223 7th St. NE, Minneapolis, MN, 55418.

Mailed registration must include name, address (with zip code), phone number (with area code), e-mail address (if available) and the workshop number (#1–#10) that you wish to attend. Space is limited so register today. For more information, call Pat Gill at (612) 673-3014, or visit www.metroblooms.org. ☺

2007 Summer and Year-round Employment Opportunities

You must be at least 16 years of age to apply.

Recreation Services Summer and Year-Round Jobs (952) 939-8203

Recreation Services offers many part-time jobs throughout the year and summer-only positions. Many positions require working days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

To apply, a completed city application form must be submitted. For an application form, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203, or stop in Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. To apply online or download an application form, visit www.eminnetonka.com (click on Administration, Employment tab, Current Job Openings, Recreation)



Available positions include:

- **Aquatics Program**
Water Safety Instructors, Aides
(Summer/Year-Round)
- **Youth Programs**
Summer Coordinator, Playground Leaders, T-Ball and Baseball Instructors, Tennis Instructors
(June–July/Aug.)
- **Gray's Bay Marina**
Facility Attendants (April–Nov. 1)
- **Williston Fitness Center**
Service Desk Attendant, Child Care, Land/Water Aerobics Instructors, Personal Trainer, Building Supervisor.
Includes free single Williston membership.
Positions are year-round. Call (952) 939-8372 for more information.
- **Shady Oak Beach**
FT/PT — Lifeguards, Maintenance,
(June 8–Aug. 26)
- **Park Attendants**
Hopkins and Minnetonka, FT/PT —
Parks include Valley, Burnes, Glen Lake, Lone Lake, Gro-Tonka (May-Aug./Sept.)

Public Works Summer Jobs (952) 988-8400

All Minnetonka Public Works seasonal positions are 40 hours per week. Flexible scheduling is likely and some positions require working weekends. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

To apply, a completed city application form must be submitted. For an application form, call the JobLine at (952) 939-8212. To apply online or download an application form, visit www.eminnetonka.com (click on Administration, Employment, Current Job Openings, Public Works/Natural Resources).

- **Water & Sewer Utility Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Street Maintenance, Building Maintenance**
Start at \$9.95/hour with potential year-end bonus
- **Natural Resources**
(Must be 18+ years old)
Tree Inspector, Maintenance Technician: \$11.05/hour with potential year-end bonus.
Administrative Assistant: \$9.95/hour with potential year-end bonus.



News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEWS FOR NEIGHBORS APPEARS

quarterly in the *Minnetonka Memo*, with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- The **2006 false alarm report** shows that since implementing an alarm program requiring residents and businesses to register alarms annually, the police department has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of false alarms. This reduction in alarm responses allows officers to spend more dedicated time on directed patrol.
- In January, about 30 reserve officers, family members and police department staff attended the annual **Minnetonka Police Reserve recognition dinner**. Sgt. Kevin Anderson, reserve coordinator, announced that in 2006 the Minnetonka Police reserves donated approximately 3,500 hours to the city. The police department is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals who are willing to give so much of their time to make our community a better place to live and work. The police department is currently recruiting new reserve members. If you are interested in becoming a police reserve contact Sgt. Kevin Anderson at (952) 939-8500.



Cpt. Scott Boerboom and Sgt. Allen Ringate

- In January 2007, Chief Mark Raquet was pleased to announce the **promotions of two officers**: Scott Boerboom, who has been with the department for 10 years, was promoted to captain; and Allen Ringate, who has been with the department for eight years, was promoted to sergeant.
- As one of three finalists for an award presented by the Traffic Advisory Committee, **Officer Kelly Phillips received an honorable mention** for taking the lead in several community traffic initiatives including Safe and Sober, Operation NightCap and Teen Driving Diversion.
- The Minnetonka Police Department now offers **interactive crime maps** on the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, allowing users to view maps showing selected reported crimes in the city.

- The **Annual Block Captain's Meeting** is set for Wednesday, April 25, 2007. Invitations will be mailed in early April.

Minnetonka Police Traffic Unit

Every year, community surveys show that traffic and residential speeding are two of the greatest concerns of Minnetonka residents. As a result, the Minnetonka City Council has made traffic management a high priority for the Minnetonka Police Department. In addition to high visibility, patrol education and enforcement, two officers are dedicated to traffic issues, with the following key priorities:

- Neighborhood problem solving to address concerns and coordination with other city departments.
- Public education and prevention campaigns.
- Traffic enforcement with attention to issues that address citizen concerns and promote accident reduction.

In 2006, Minnetonka police officers issued 5,531 traffic-related citations — more than 100 citations per week.

To see a complete breakdown of the types and number of traffic citations issued each month, visit www.eminnetonka.com. Click on Police, then Special Units, then Traffic Enforcement, then Traffic Citations. ☺

Avoiding car accidents: your help can save lives

IN 2005, MINNETONKA REPORTED 733 vehicle-related crashes. More than a third of these accidents resulted in a person being injured, and five people lost their lives on Minnetonka roads. Here are a few quick facts about vehicle crashes in Minnesota in 2006, as well as tips for avoiding an accident.

- December has the highest number of reported accidents, while April has the least.
- Most accidents occur on Friday; the fewest occur on Sunday. Most occur at 5 p.m.; the fewest at 4 a.m.
- Drinking and driving remains a serious problem in Minnesota and across the nation. In Minnesota in 2006 there were more than 36,000 impaired driving incidents, an eight-percent increase from 2005. However, alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Minnesota have declined steadily over the past 50 years.
- Seat belt use among Minnesotans averaged 84 percent for front-seat occupants; an increase of two percent from the previous year.
- In cases involving airbag deployment, 53 percent of occupants wearing seatbelts sustained no apparent injury, while only 29 percent of occupants not wearing seat belts were uninjured.

To avoid an accident:

- Abide by the posted speed limit and adjust your driving according to weather and road conditions.
- Always buckle up.
- Don't drive if you've been drinking ☺

2007 Property Taxes

Tax Notices

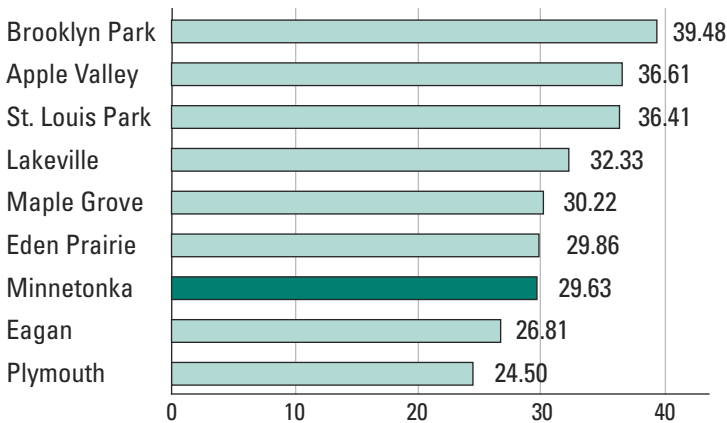
Residents will receive two notices this month related to property taxes. One is the market value notice from the city, which will affect property taxes to be paid in 2008 and is explained on the facing page. The other is the property tax bill for 2007, which is mailed by Hennepin County and must be paid this year.

City Tax Bill

The city of Minnetonka continues to provide quality services at a reasonable price. The city provides a fuller range of municipal services than many other cities, and does not use special assessments to fund road and other improvements. Two-thirds of the city tax increase over the last two years has been dedicated to road improvements. Nevertheless, the city's tax rate remains among the lowest of comparable metro cities. Our residents continue to receive the high quality of services they have come to expect.

City 2006 Tax Rates*

Property taxes can be approximately calculated by dividing the city tax rate (shown in the graph) by 100, then multiplying that number by the tax capacity value. In most cases, tax capacity value is 1% of a home's market value.



* Includes Market Value and HRA levies

Please note: Minnetonka does not use special assessments for improvements.



Help is available for property taxpayers

Several state programs, described below, exist to assist eligible residents with the rising cost of property taxes. For additional information and links to the government agencies that run these programs, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or call the Minnesota Department of Revenue's tax helpline at (651) 296-3781.

Property tax refund program

The first program is the **property tax refund program**, or "circuit breaker." For taxes paid in 2007, homeowners with 2006 household incomes up to \$91,120 are eligible for a refund, and the maximum refund is \$1,700. Some renters with 2006 household incomes up to \$49,160 are also eligible for a refund. The maximum refund that may be available to a renter is \$1,400, and the amount provided also depends upon the total rent paid in 2006. Forms can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and must be filed with the DOR by August 15, 2007.

Special property tax refund program

A second state program is the **special property tax refund program** for homeowners whose property taxes payable in 2007 have increased by more than 12 percent and are at least \$100 over their 2006 taxes. The increase must not be attributable to new improvements, and homeowners must have owned and resided in their home on both January 2, 2006 and January 2, 2007. There is no limit on household income to be eligible under this program. The special property tax refund form is available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and must be filed with the DOR by August 15, 2007.

Senior citizens property tax deferral program

The **senior citizens property tax deferral program** allows people 65 years of age or older, whose household incomes are \$60,000 or less, to defer a portion of their property taxes on their homes. The program limits the amount of property taxes to three percent of the total household income for eligible property owners, and the amount of taxes to be paid each year will not change for as long as the homeowner participates in the program.

However, this is **not a tax forgiveness program — it is a low interest loan from the state.** The deferred tax is paid by the state to the county, and a **lien will be attached to your property.** Annually adjusted interest will be charged on the loan, but will never exceed five percent. Application forms are available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue, and must be filed with the Hennepin County Auditor's Office by July 1 the year before the deferral would begin.

2007 Market Value Notice

(Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2007.)

How is market value determined?

The Minnetonka assessing division maintains records for every property in the city. Adjustments are made to the market values of most properties, based on actual real estate sales from the past year for comparable properties. Approximately one-fifth of the properties are physically inspected each year, and adjustments to these are made based on the results of that inspection. Market value adjustments are also made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements.

What if I don't agree with my property's market value?

If you have questions or concerns about your property's market value notice or the assessment process, please call the Minnetonka assessing staff at (952) 939-8200. The staff can review property records and sales information with you.

Based on this discussion and review, the appraiser may or may not make a change to your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal.

How does the appeal process work?





The value subject to appeal is the estimated market value, not the limited market value. Two avenues of appeal are available. Property owners may appeal directly to the State Tax Court. More common, however, is an appeal through the local Board of Review, and if desired, then to the Hennepin County Board of Equalization.

The Minnetonka City Council convenes each year as the local Board of Review and has local real estate professionals serve as its advisors. To make an appeal to the local board, you should first discuss your property's market value with the Minnetonka assessing staff. After that, you may make an appeal to the local Board of Review by March 28 simply by asking that your property be listed for appeal. However, it is important to know that the local and county boards have the authority to raise or lower an appealed market value.

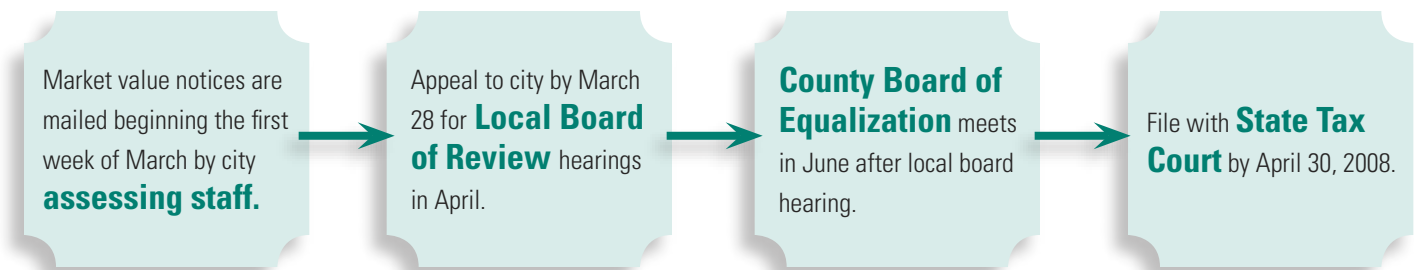
Remember, if you have questions or concerns about your property's market value or about the assessment process, please call the Minnetonka assessing staff at (952) 939-8200.



In early March, Minnetonka property owners will receive their 2007 market value notices. Four value amounts will appear on the notices:

-  **Estimated Market Value**
The assessor's estimate of the total market value of the property.
-  **Limited Market Value**
This "caps" the value on properties where the 2007 value increased significantly over 2006. State law provides for value increases to be capped at 15 percent. The value of new improvements is excluded from the cap. Only 5.5% percent of residential property is still subject to the limited market value law, as it continues to be phased out.
-  **Qualifying Improvement Value**
This figure shows that portion of the value of improvements made to an older home under the former "This Old House" law.
-  **Market Value Subject to Taxation**
This is the net taxable value of the property. For many homeowners, this amount will be the same as the limited market value, not the estimated market value.

Market Value Appeals Process



Street sweeping to start April 2

IN A SURE SIGN OF SPRING, SWEEPING of city streets by Minnetonka Public Works will begin Monday, April 2. Public works staff will sweep streets in two shifts, from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In addition, crews will work ten-hour shifts on Saturday during the sweeping period.

Although crews try to stay out of residential areas in the early morning hours, it is not always possible. In these cases, crews try to minimize the noise and time spent in the neighborhood.

While the street sweeper does a good job cleaning streets, it can't capture all the debris, so we need your help! As the snow melts, identify the catch basins in your neighborhood; then remove and dispose of the accumulated debris and litter. This will help the street sweeping process.

Once sweeping has concluded, flushing of water hydrants will take place starting in late April. Look for information on hydrant flushing in the April *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺

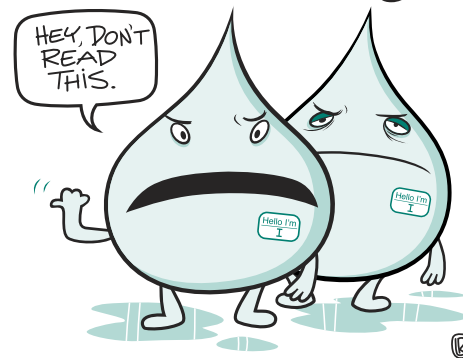
Home inspections for I and I begin

THIS MONTH, HOME INSPECTIONS began in those areas of the city identified as having increased sewer flow after rain events. This is one of the first steps toward reducing Minnetonka's flow of clear water into the Met Council's overburdened sanitary sewer and waste treatment systems, otherwise known as infiltration and inflow (I and I).

If a homeowner is found to have illegal discharge into the sanitary sewer system, the city is providing a matching grant program to assist homeowners in making repairs.

Along with the I and I inspection, each homeowner is receiving a new water meter that features automated reading via radio signal. This allows staff to drive through neighborhoods to check meters rather than stopping at each home to record the meter reading, and will provide residents more timely information on water use and possible leaks in the home, if needed.

All inspections and water meter installations are being conducted by SL-serco company, not by city inspectors. The only task of these outside contractors is to



conduct the I and I inspection and to install a new water meter. All of the contractors involved in inspections in Minnetonka have undergone and passed a background check conducted by the Minnetonka Police Department.

An information meeting regarding inspections and installations was held February 20, and as inspections and installations progress to other areas, the city will hold additional informational meetings. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 988-8400. ☺

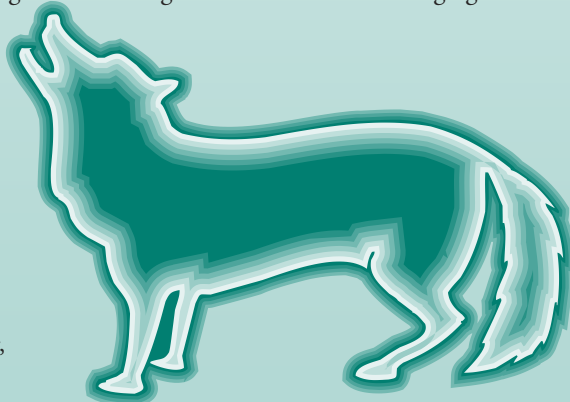
Coping with coyotes

IF YOU'VE SPOTTED A COYOTE IN YOUR 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** 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.

The city of Minnetonka is tracking coyote sightings and will remove coyotes showing signs of illness or injury. 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. ☺



Planning a concrete driveway?

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO INSTALL A concrete driveway at your home, and the road you live on does not have concrete curb and gutter, Minnetonka Public Works reminds you to have the contractor end the concrete driveway two feet short of the road. Residents may then contact Minnetonka Public Works to have an asphalt apron installed in the two-foot gap. This will, for the most part, prevent damage to your driveway from snowplows. If damage does occur the city can then make repairs to the asphalt apron — currently, public works does not repair concrete driveways that are installed to the edge of the street.

Again, this measure is only for residents living on streets without concrete curb and gutter — if you have concrete curb and gutter, the driveway should be tied into it without leaving room for a blacktop apron. For more information, call Jeff Dubay, street maintenance manager, at (952) 988-8414. ☺

“March” in to Minnetonka Senior Services!

IF YOU'RE A MINNETONKA RESIDENT who's 55 or older, don't miss out on the fun and 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 *Senior Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8393.

Here's a sample of what Senior Services has to offer in March and throughout the year! Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes, for more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Senior Golf League

Registration for the Monday daytime golf league starts March 5, with play starting May 21. This is a 12-week league that meets on Mondays, with tee times starting at 10 a.m. Call (952) 939-8203.

Cinnamon Rolls, Coffee

Wednesday, March 7, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy cinnamon rolls and coffee, 25 cents each.

Kenya Travelogue

Friday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.
Join Steve Pieh for a travelogue of Kenya. Event is free, but registration is required. Call (952) 939-8393.

St. Patrick's Day Party

Friday, March 16, noon
Enjoy entertainment by James Shaw. Sign up early, space is limited. Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Welcome Coffee

Wednesday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.
Enjoy a tour and learn more about Senior Services.

Walking Club Info Meeting

Friday, March 30, 10:30 a.m.
Interested in joining a walking club? This meeting will determine days, times, frequency and length of walks. If you can't attend this meeting but would like to join the club, call (952) 939-8393.

Income Tax Assistance

*Wednesdays through April 11, 8:30 a.m. – noon;
Thursdays through April 12, 1 – 3 p.m.* By appointment only — call (952) 939-8393.

Special Interest Groups

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

Services

Services offered at the community 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 and softball.

Classes

Join one of many classes, including defensive driving, oil and watercolor painting, history, bridge, cooking and chess. If you are interested in teaching a class, providing musical entertainment, or volunteering; or if you have new programming or service ideas, please call (952) 939-8393. ☺

Caring Youth Reception is March 22

EACH YEAR, THE CITIES OF MINNETONKA, Hopkins and Golden Valley, in conjunction with the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, host a Caring Youth recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people in grades 7 through 12.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: live in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley; attend school in Hopkins or Minnetonka; and/or volunteer (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley.

This year's event is set for Thursday, March 22, 2007, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. ☺

2007 Caring Youth Reception

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.

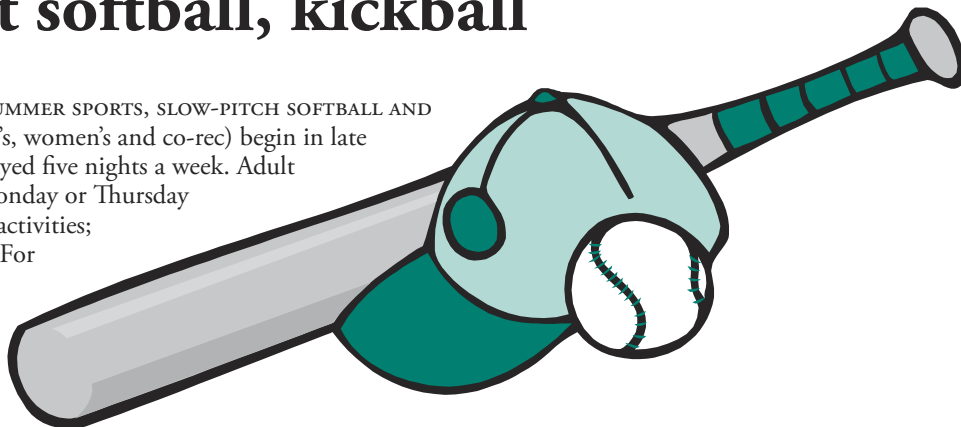
**Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345**

Need emergency home repairs?

IF YOUR HOME IS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY repairs and you meet program income restrictions, you may be eligible for a \$5,000 emergency deferred loan with no interest and no payments. To qualify, your household gross annual income (based on a family of four) must be less than \$39,250 and you must meet certain asset restrictions. For more information call Bill at Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County, (952) 933-9639, ext. 210. ☺

Register for adult softball, kickball

REGISTRATION CONTINUES FOR TWO ADULT SUMMER SPORTS, SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL AND co-rec kickball. Adult softball leagues (men's, women's and co-rec) begin in late April and continue through July, with games played five nights a week. Adult kickball starts in June and is played on either Monday or Thursday evenings. Team registration is required for both activities; individuals may request to be placed on a team. For more information call (952) 939-8203 or visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺



Wanted: History Lovers

MINNETONKA'S HISTORIC Charles H. Burwell House is a treasured city resource, and tours play a critical role in bringing this site to life for visitors.

If you've thought about being a tour guide, consider volunteering at the Burwell House this year. It's a great way to get involved in the community and to share this special site with others.

Tours take place on Tuesdays and Saturdays from June through August, and by special appointment. The house is air conditioned, and tour guides do not wear costumes. Training is provided.

If you enjoy people, love history, and would be available at least once a month during tour season, we'd love to talk with you! For more information, contact Laura Ronbeck, administrative projects specialist, at (952) 939-8219 or lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com.



Choir concert set for March 24

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 24, AT 6:30 P.M., join the Music Association of Minnetonka Youth Choirs as they present their Second Annual Benefit Gala. The evening includes song, raffle prizes, live auction and refreshments, all at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door or from any choir member. For more information call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org.

More than 1,100 attend Kids' Fest

MORE THAN 1,100 KIDS AND THEIR families attended this year's Kids' Fest, sponsored by Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services and held Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Minnetonka Community Center, Williston Center and Ice Arena. Events included dog sled rides, s'more making at an outdoor bonfire, ice sculpting demonstrations, face painting, magic shows and workshops, a circus performance, Valentine's Day card making, ice skating and swimming. Mark your calendars now for next year's Kids' Fest, set for Sunday, February 10, 2008.





2007 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Recyclable material can be put into one of the following two groups. Do not mix the loose paper products and loose containers in the recycling bin.

If an item isn't listed below, it isn't accepted in the recycling program — throw it in the garbage. To avoid litter blowing around your neighborhood, please do **not** place loose papers in the recycling bin. Please have your recycling materials out by 7 a.m.

1 Paper products, including newspaper, miscellaneous paper items and corrugated cardboard

Paper includes the following: newspaper, including all colored comics and ad supplements; glossy magazines and catalogs; direct mail advertising (junk mail); letters, bills, receipts and envelopes; school and office paper; hard- and soft-cover books; telephone directories; toy, gift, shoe and tissue boxes and tubes; laundry detergent boxes; beverage carriers (pop, water, beer); dry food packaging (cereal, cracker, cake, chip, pasta boxes etc. — no items that are stored in the refrigerator or freezer).

Remove all product liners and flatten boxes. Shredded paper is accepted — please place in a paper bag and seal shut with tape or staples. No shredded paper is accepted in plastic bags.

Place acceptable paper items into a paper grocery bag and set out in or next to the recycling bin. Newspaper may be placed in a separate paper bag, bundled, or mixed with the other paper products.

Corrugated Cardboard should be flattened and placed next to or under the recycling container. **No minimum size is required.** Small pieces of cardboard can be placed in the bag with the paper products.

Recycling Hints

Unfortunately, not everything is accepted for recycling.

The following materials are **not** accepted for curbside recycling or at the drop-off center. Throw these materials into your garbage!

- All paper milk or juice cartons or drink boxes
- All plastic items (bags, toys, tubs, trays, pots, pails, packaging peanuts, foam packaging, medicine containers, plastic bottles that contained motor oil or chemicals), **except** for bottles that come to a neck
- Waxy or food-contaminated cardboard boxes (home-delivered pizza boxes)
- All ceramics, ceramic liquor bottles, light bulbs, mirrors, window, plate or auto glass, plates, bowls or other dishes or glass cookware
- Kitchen and bathroom paper products (food wrap, paper towels, tissues, plates, cups, napkins, coffee filters, etc.)
- Gift wrap, wallpaper, photographs, slides or carbon paper
- Non-corrugated packaging such as pizza boxes, and packaging for all refrigerated or frozen foods (i.e. frozen entrees or waffles, cream cheese or butter boxes, yogurt containers, etc.)
- Other household scrap metal (pots, pans, pipes, aerosol or paint cans, etc.)

Since 1989, Minnetonka residents have recycled 98,317 tons of recyclables. Thank you for recycling, your participation does make a difference!

2 Containers, including glass bottles and jars, metal cans, foil and foil trays and plastic bottles with a neck

Rinse all containers until clean. Discard all plastic caps, tops, lids and pumps. Place containers loose into the recycling bin (mixed together) or into paper grocery bags. Place bags in or next to the recycling bin. **Only plastic bottles with a neck are accepted.** Throw all other plastic items (trays, bags, tubs, caps, covers, lids and pumps) in your garbage.

Minnetonka Recycling Drop-Off Center

11522 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka Public Works, southeast corner

Directions: Look for the cream-colored wood sign by the east driveway at Public Works. Enter using the driveway next to the sign. Green recycling drop-off containers are to the right.

The Minnetonka/Hopkins Recycling Drop-off Center accepts the same materials as the curbside program, and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round.

Curbside Collection Tips

Collection day: Recycling collection for residents **west** of I-494 is on **Mondays**. Residents **east** of I-494 have recycling collection on **Tuesdays**.

Recycling holidays: In 2007, the following holidays will delay recycling collection one day: **Memorial Day** (Monday, May 28); **Labor Day** (Monday, September 3); and **Christmas** (Tuesday, December 25), which will only delay collection for residents east of I-494. There is regular recycling collection on Monday, December 24 for residents west of I-494.

Storage of recycling and garbage containers: Your garbage and recycling container must be stored out of public view except for the evening before and the day of collection. (*City of Minnetonka Ordinance Number 835.015.7*)

Set-out time and missed pickup: Recycling materials should be at the curb by 7 a.m. the day of collection, or the night before. If recycling is set out before 7 a.m. and not collected by 6 p.m., let us know by noon the following day. Leave a message on the 24-hour recycling hotline: (952) 939-8202 or call (952) 988-8430 during business hours.

Questions: If you have questions about recycling, please contact the recycling coordinator, Dean Elstad, at (952) 988-8430 or email delstad@eminnetonka.com.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

March
2007

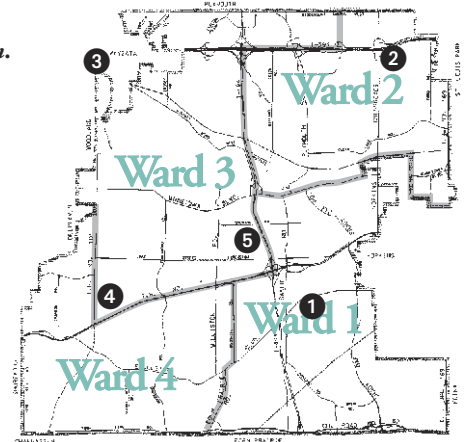
Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	5 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							7 Park Board, 7 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	26 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	29 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							17 Eco Fair, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
							19 Minnetonka History Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							22 Caring Youth Reception, 7 – 8 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Side-yard setback variance and an aggregate side-yard setback variance for an addition to the rear of the home at 4842 Valley Road. (00011.07a)
- 2 Multiple actions for an apartment complex, "Ridgehaven Commons," at the southeast intersection of I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad. (Ward 2)
- 3 Multiple variance for additions to the home at 2823 McKenzie Point Road. (Ward 3)
- 4 Amendment of resolution approving a conditional use permit at 4703-4795 Hwy. 101 (Westwind Plaza) for Untiedt's Garden Market. (88030.07a)
- 5 Preliminary plat to divide the existing property at 13800 Spring Lane Road into four lots. (Ward 3)



Mark your calendar for 2007 city events

SO, YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED KIDS' Fest, and the State of the City—but don't worry, there are still plenty of city events left to attend this year! Mark your calendars now for these exciting activities, and look for more information in upcoming *Minnetonka Memos*.

Eco Fair (see page 1)
March 17, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

Caring Youth Reception (see page 9)
March 22, 7 – 8 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

Silver Skates Ice Revue
May 10, 11 and 12
Minnetonka Ice Arena

Summer Festival and Ice Cream Social
Saturday, June 23
Minnetonka Civic Center & Burwell House

National Night Out
August 7

City-Wide and Fire Department Open House
October 9, 5 – 8 p.m.
Minnetonka Civic Center

minnetonka memo

March 2007



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

City Manager

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Terry Schneider (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com
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Ward 2: Tony Wagner (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com
Ward 3: Brad Wiersum (612) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com
Ward 4: Al Thomas (952) 949-9027 athomas@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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