



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
October 2007*

Fire Department and City-Wide Open House is Oct. 9

DON'T MISS OUT ON A GREAT CHANCE to meet city staff and learn more about local government, as well as mingle with your friends and neighbors, at the Minnetonka Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

You'll find interesting, fun and free activities for everyone both inside and outside, in city hall, in the community center and in the police and fire departments. Kids four and over can ride in city fire trucks, and everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with department tours, strolling characters and entertainment. **Be sure to bring a digital camera so you don't miss out on this year's great photo opportunities!**



Yearly favorites!

- Ride in a fire truck. 4 and older only. (5-8 p.m., Fire Station)
- Sit inside heavy equipment from the public works department, and have your picture taken. Don't forget to pick up an ice pop! (5-8 p.m., Community Center)
- Enjoy entertainment from the Reflections Chorale. (6:30-7:30 p.m., Community Center)
- Visit the House of Germs and learn how to stay healthy! (5-8 p.m., Community Center)
- Find the four strolling characters and guess this year's theme! (5-8 p.m.)
- Browse displays from city departments and boards and commissions; as well as businesses and non-profits. (5-8 p.m., Community Center)
- See woodcarving demonstrations (5-8 p.m., Community Center)
- Snack on free refreshments, including hot dogs and pop (Fire Station) and cookies, popcorn, and lemonade. (Community Center)



New activities!

- Enjoy Latin American music from the Pachamama Band, a six-piece ensemble featuring voices, strings, wind and percussion instruments. Sponsored by the Minnetonka Community Commission. (Council Chambers)
- Bring your digital camera to the Minnetonka Police Department and pose with a life-size photo of K9 Krieger. (5-8 p.m., police station lobby)
- Get moving with Step Up to Health activities sponsored by Recreation Services. (5-8 p.m., Community Center)
- View photo contest entries and vote for your favorite. (5-8 p.m., Council Chambers)
- Visit the comprehensive plan steering committee display, where kids can draw a map of their neighborhood. (5-8 p.m., Council Chambers)



Help restore habitat in Purgatory Park

AUTUMN IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO identify native woody plants in a thicket of buckthorn — and cooler temperatures and fewer insects make working in the woods more pleasant.

A buckthorn cut is scheduled for this winter in Purgatory Park, and you can help Minnetonka natural resources staff find and tie ribbon flagging on native woody plants to be preserved. Learn how to identify chokecherry, nannyberry, three species of dogwood, and other remnant woodland treasures that have become hard to find outside of parks and preserves.

Attendance at the October 4 buckthorn workshop (below) is encouraged but not required for volunteer participation — at the workshop you'll learn some of the techniques to be used at the park. On-site training will be provided. To volunteer call Janet Larson at (952) 988-8423 or email jrlarson@eminnetonka.com. ∞

Get into shape at Williston Fitness Center

THE END OF SUMMER DOESN'T HAVE to mean the end of your fitness routine. Check out what the Williston Fitness Center has to offer this fall.

Williston memberships

Get into shape for the winter months! Whether it's skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, or overall fitness, membership at Williston will help boost your spirit and your fitness. Pool use and various aerobics classes are included in the memberships. Call (952) 939-8370 or stop by for more information. Williston Fitness Center is located at 14509 Minnetonka Drive, just south of Minnetonka Boulevard between Williston Road and Baker Road.

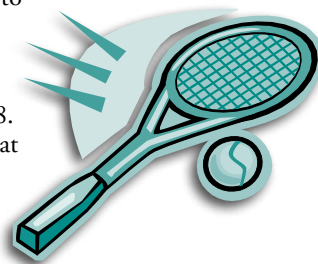
Aerobics

The Williston Fitness Center has continuing group fitness classes for teens and adults. Classes include hot shoes, cardio mix, cardio dance, strictly step I and II, body blast, pump it up, kickboxing, Pilates, yoga,

weight training for older adults, and more. Check out the schedule online at www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8203 to register.

New tennis management at Williston

Are you ready to get back into tennis this fall or winter? New clinics and special events have been added to the tennis program at the Williston Fitness Center, including new tennis pros available for private and group lessons. Openings are still available in some of the in-house women's leagues and junior group lessons. For more information or to register contact Felicia Tebon, tennis manager (952) 939-8368. Get into shape at Williston! ∞



Got buckthorn? Learn to fight off this invader!

IF YOU'RE STILL STRUGGLING WITH buckthorn removal, you're not alone. Learn more at a free workshop, "Managing Woodlands: Buckthorn and Beyond," Thursday, Oct. 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

This free workshop, presented by Janet Larson, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist, will emphasize measures to save high-value remnant plant species, erosion prevention on slopes, importance of ground cover, and protection from deer. You'll also learn:

- Why gradual, prioritized buckthorn removal is better than clear cutting.
- How to avoid the most common buckthorn removal errors.
- How to use native plants indigenous to the region in reforestation.

Handouts will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Follow these quick tips for removing buckthorn:

- **Don't** clear cut buckthorn — gradual removal is best.

- **Do** prioritize which buckthorn plants to remove first. Not all buckthorn is equal.
- **Do** give native species more room to grow by removing nearby buckthorn. Mark your native species with ribbon. In the fall, native species will turn color while buckthorn remains green.
- **Don't** confuse female buckthorn plants with chokecherry, black cherry and nannyberry plants, all of which bear black fruit.
- **Do** treat freshly cut buckthorn stumps when the temperature is above freezing.
- **Do** cut buckthorn when the ground is frozen, when working in areas where wildflowers grow.
- **Do** visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com for more information about buckthorn.

Now that the buckthorn is cut, what do you do with it? Here are some ideas:

- Place buckthorn logs flat on the ground to decompose. This is especially useful on slopes to slow water movement and prevent erosion.



Buckthorn arbor made by Minnetonka volunteer buckthorn buster Dan Saufferer

- Make a buckthorn walking stick, trellis, arbor, fence or garden gate.
- Chip the brush (without berries) on site and use the chips for mulch.
- Bring the brush to the Minnetonka Public Works brush drop-off (see page 8). While you are not required to separate the branches with black berries from the rest of the brush, it is appreciated. A separate drop-off pile for buckthorn with berries is located at public works, near the salt shed. Ask the gate attendant for directions.

Kids, are you ready to be home alone?

BEING AT HOME WITHOUT YOUR PARENTS may sound like a great idea, but do you know how to stay safe when your parents aren't there? Test your knowledge with this pop quiz, and learn what to do when you're home alone. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. Should you tell anyone that you are home alone after school?

- A. Yes, but only tell your friends.
- B. No, never tell anyone that you are home alone.
- C. Yes, if someone comes looking for your parents. Tell them your parents are away, so they will know when to come back.
- D. A and C

2. When you come home from school, you should call your parent or a designated neighbor immediately to let them know you are there. True or false?

True or false?

3. It is important for your parents to teach you how to properly use the door and window locks as well as the alarm system. True or false?

4. In case of an emergency, what's important to know about your home?

- A. Directions to your house.
- B. Which trusted neighbor has a spare key.
- C. Your address and phone number.
- D. All of the above

5. If you arrive home from school alone and find the front door open, you should:

- A. Go inside as usual and close the door.
- B. Go inside and call your parents.
- C. Go to a neighbor's house and call 911.
- D. B then C

6. If you see someone lurking outside your house, who should you tell?

- A. Police
- B. A parent
- C. Another trusted adult
- D. All of the above

7. You should always leave a door or window unlocked, so if you forget your key, you can get into your house. True or false?

8. What's the best way to handle phone calls when you're home alone?

- A. Don't answer. Let the answering machine/voicemail pick up the call.
- B. Tell the caller your parent is busy, and take a message.
- C. A or B

9. It's safe to accept rides from adults, even strangers. True or false?

10. Which is a correct reason to call 911?

- A. To complain about a noisy neighbor.
- B. To report a lost or found animal.
- C. To report that power or another utility is off at your home.
- D. To report a situation that threatens human life or property and requires immediate help from police, fire, and/or emergency medical services.

Answers: 1. B; 2. True; 3. True; 4. D; 5. C; 6. D; 7. False; 8. C; 9. False; 10. D

Keep watering trees through the fall season

THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT, IN ADDITION to last year's dry conditions, has taken a toll on many trees. Like humans, once trees become stressed they are more susceptible to a number of secondary insects, diseases, and disorders. However, watering your trees into the autumn until the ground freezes will increase tree vigor and reduce the chance of winter damage.

Unlike lawns, trees thrive on less frequent, deep watering in order to maintain soil moisture at an optimum level. Consider purchasing a soaker hose or drip watering tape, and a soil probe. The hoses can be positioned around the drip line of a tree and will deliver water slowly over the tree's entire root zone. The soil probe can be used to take a core from the soil around a tree to see how fast water is moving into the soil. This information will help you decide how long to let the hose run since watering requirements will vary depending on the type of soil you have in your yard.

In order to keep the first eight to 12 inches of soil moist, but not saturated, follow these guidelines.

New trees

(one to four years in your landscape)

- Water by rain or hose two times a week for the first growing season.
- Use 1.5 to 2.5 gallons per inch diameter each time you water.
- For the next two to three years, supply water at least once a week.
- Water the root area with a radius of three to six feet around a tree's stem, depending on the size of the tree.
- Plan for one year of transplant shock per inch of stem caliper. For example, a two-inch caliper balled and burlap tree will be in transplant shock for two years. Plan to water it with about four gallons of water twice a week, when there is no significant rainfall.
- A layer of wood mulch around the tree's drip line will conserve soil moisture.

Established trees

(five to 150-plus years in your landscape)

- Supply water at least once a week.
- Use 1.5 to 2.5 gallons per inch diameter each time you water.
- Water around the critical radius of the rooting zone, defined as the diameter of the tree trunk times 1.5 feet.
- Water around the tree's entire root zone, not just the area next to the trunk.
- A layer of wood mulch around the tree's drip line will conserve soil moisture. ♻️



Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department

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

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week has been officially observed during October since 1920, when President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. This period traces its roots to October 1871, when two fires — the Great Chicago Fire and the Peshtigo, Wisc. Fire — killed more than 1,400 people, destroyed 16 towns and blackened 1.2 million acres.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan." The city encourages residents to take this theme a step further by practicing both of the

ReadyMinnetonka emergency plans — a fire escape plan and an emergency plan.

Creating a fire escape plan is simple. Walk through your home with your family and agree on two ways out of every room. Explain how to check doors for heat prior to opening them. Then determine an outdoor location, such as a tree, boulder or mailbox, where the family can meet once they have left the residence. Now that you have presented the plan, practice it by sounding a smoke detector and having everyone evacuate to the meeting place. For fire prevention tips, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

It's important to have a family emergency plan as well, which is also simple to create. Hold a family meeting to discuss how to respond to various kinds of emergencies, such as flooding, power outages, storms, etc. Then, take the following steps:

- Determine a storm shelter. This should be a small, windowless room on the lowest level of your residence.
- Teach everyone when and how to call 9-1-1.

- Post 9-1-1 and other emergency numbers, such as poison control, by every phone.
- Show competent family members how to shut off gas, electricity, and water at the main switch/valve.
- Choose a meeting place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- Choose two contacts, one local and one out-of-state, for family members to call in case of an emergency.

To learn more about ReadyMinnetonka and how you can prepare for emergencies, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, email ready@eminnetonka.com, or call (952) 939-8334.

You may also email ready@eminnetonka.com to be added to the ReadyMinnetonka listserv, which will notify residents and businesses via email of significant events affecting the city. The listserv is designed to act as another notification method, in addition to your NOAA weather radio and related equipment. ∞

Minnetonka firefighters, police respond to I-35W bridge collapse

WHILE MINNETONKA RESIDENTS are well aware of the August 1 collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minneapolis, residents may not know that responders from Minnetonka helped in the rescue effort. Five Minnetonka Police Department officers and three reserves responded to assist with perimeter control, while the Minnetonka Fire Department sent a dozen firefighters and both of the city's technical rescue units.

Each technical rescue unit contains specialized rescue equipment that is useful not only in structural collapse situations but also in trench collapses, rope rescues, and confined space emergencies. All members of the fire department are trained at the operations level for technical rescue, while a number are trained as technicians.

The city's technical rescue units joined Edina and Minneapolis crews on the south end of the bridge, and assisted in rescue operations until they were released early the morning of August 2. ∞



Cleanup work continues at the site of the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis. Photo courtesy Jason Stenvold.

 2007 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

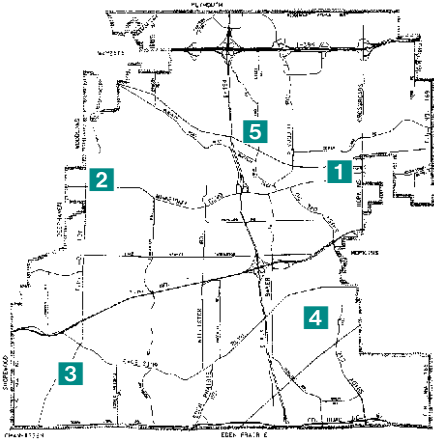
Saturdays: October 20 and 27, November 3 and 10
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than **½ inch** in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, **please use that option!** All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as your garbage collection for a reasonable annual or monthly fee. **Check with your garbage hauler for details.**

Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73; **use west entrance.**
 Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.
- 2 Groveland School Parking Lot**
 Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101
- 3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center, North Parking Lot**
 5621 Hwy. 101
- 4 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot**
 Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd., upper parking lot
- 5 Meadow Park Parking Lot**
 Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites on Saturdays, October 20 & 27 and November 3 & 10.

City staff will assist residents with unloading bags of leaves on Saturdays. Residents will be asked to take empty bags home for reuse or disposal. **Please loosely tie bags for easy emptying.**

BULK LEAVES — Truck and trailer loads of bulk leaves will be accepted only at Minnetonka Public Works and only during brush drop-off hours on the following dates:

- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 1, Oct. 8, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 (closed Nov. 12 for Veteran's Day)
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13

Loads of leaves **must** be covered during transport!

Enter on the west side of the building across from the Big Willow ball fields. Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile — **(bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves).** Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves to make unloading your leaves easier and faster.

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.

Brush drop-off ends Nov. 17

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents ends Nov. 17, 2007.

On Mondays and Tuesdays the site is open from noon to 8 p.m. On Saturdays, the site is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted.

This service is available only to Minnetonka residents and a valid I.D. is required. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

Please note: Trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber, or wood scraps are not accepted. **Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials go into the leaf drop-off program.** (The brush is ground into the mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.)


For information about composting and yard waste management, call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.

Stuff to get rid of?

WHILE IT MIGHT BE TEMPTING TO place that velour loveseat at the side of the curb with a "free" sign and hope it disappears, the sight of these castaways lingering at curb's edge is not always so appealing to neighbors — not to mention that the outdoor elements may quickly transform these reusable items into garbage, useless to anyone.

Instead, consider listing your reusable items with the Twin Cities Free Market, located online at www.twincitiesfreemarket.org. Funding for the service is provided by the city of St. Paul and several metro-area counties, including Hennepin County. In addition, there are many commercial Web sites, such as Craig's List (www.craigslist.org) at which you may list your unwanted, but usable, free items.

For more information about businesses that trade, repair, buy, resell or accept donations of unwanted clothing and household goods, visit Hennepin County's Choose to Reuse Directory — visit www.hennepin.us and enter keyword search: choose to reuse directory.

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

General election set for Tuesday, November 6

THE GENERAL ELECTION IS SET FOR Tuesday, Nov. 6. Below are answers to the questions most frequently asked by voters. For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.

What's on the ballot?

The ballot will include Minnetonka City Council seats in all four of the city's wards. At-large positions are not up for election this year. Candidates are:

- **Ward 1:** Bob Ellingson (*incumbent*)
- **Ward 2:** Tony Wagner (*incumbent*)
- **Ward 3:** Kevin Ray Smith and Brad Wiersum (*incumbent*)
- **Ward 4:** James Hiller and Al Thomas (*incumbent*)

In addition, this year's ballot will include school board elections in the Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata school districts, as well as two referendum questions for the Minnetonka School District.

Sample ballots will be available on the city's Web site by October 19.

What are the hours to vote, and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

Please see the map accompanying this article for a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling place, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State Web site at www.sos.state.mn.us and click on "Voter and Election Information/Where Do I Vote."

Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place — it will save you time.

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. You will need to register if you have never registered to vote; if you have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted; or if you have not voted in four years.



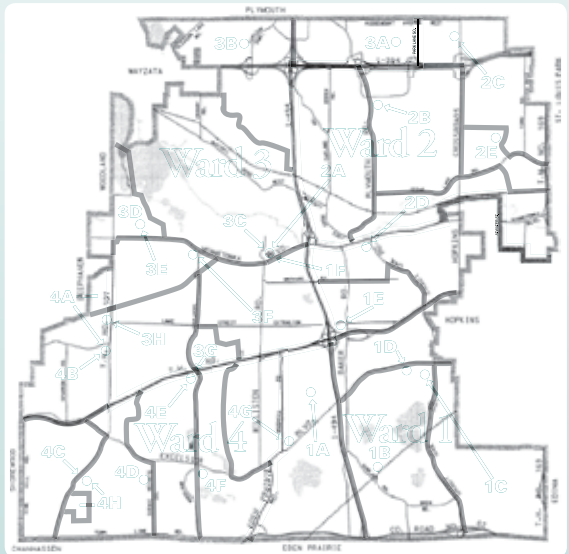
Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary **Precinct Numbers** 4A

Precinct Lines **Polling Locations** •

Polling Locations

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1A Glen Lake Elementary School
4801 Woodridge Road</p> <p>1B Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
5617 Rowland Road</p> <p>1C Cross of Glory Baptist Church
4600 Shady Oak Road</p> <p>1D Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Boulevard</p> <p>1E St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension</p> <p>1F Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard</p> <p>2A Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard</p> <p>2B Ridgedale Hennepin County Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive</p> <p>2C Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
600 Hopkins Crossroad</p> <p>2D The Episcopal Parish of St. David's Church
13000 St. David's Road</p> <p>2E Lindbergh Center
2400 Lindbergh Drive</p> <p>3A Ridgpointe
12600 Marion Lane W.</p> <p>3B Freedom Pointe
500 Carlson Parkway</p> <p>3C Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard</p> | <p>3D/ St. Luke Presbyterian Church
3121 Groveland School Road</p> <p>3E</p> <p>3F Minnetonka Lutheran Church
16023 Minnetonka Boulevard</p> <p>3G Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve</p> <p>3H Minnetonka United Methodist Church
17611 Lake Street Extension</p> <p>4A/ Ridgewood Church (formerly Minnetonka Baptist)
4420 County Road 101</p> <p>4B</p> <p>4C Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 County Road 101</p> | <p>4D Scenic Heights Elementary School
5650 Scenic Heights Drive</p> <p>4E Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve</p> <p>4F All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Boulevard</p> <p>4G Glen Lake Activity Center
14350 Excelsior Boulevard</p> <p>4H Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 County Road North101</p> |
|--|--|---|



What identification is needed to register?

Minnesota state law requires specific forms of identification to register at the polling place. For more information about these forms, see tables A and B. A person registered in your precinct who knows you can also vouch for you on Election Day.

Who can vote absentee?

Absentee voting is available if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct; illness or disability; religious observance; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting absentee, beginning October 5, 2007:

- In person at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended voting hours are available Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 5, until 5 p.m.

- By mail by requesting an absentee ballot application at (952) 939-8200. Applications may also be downloaded from the election section at www.eminnetonka.com. Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal delivery.

Where will election results be available?

Results will be available on the city's Web site.

What is the city's role in the election?

The city plays a key role in the election process. City staff recruits and trains election judges; provides polling place supplies; answers questions; and ensures voter results are tabulated. This process works smoothly because Minnetonka has excellent and dedicated election judges. If you need further information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200. ☺

What ID do you need to vote?

Voters registering to vote on Election Day must provide proof of residence.

You may show **one** item from Table A or **two** items from Table B (valid photo ID plus valid utility bill)

Primary election results announced

CITY OF MINNETONKA WARD 4 residents participated in a primary election Sept. 11, 2007, to select the two Minnetonka City Council candidates whose names will appear on the November 6 general election ballot. Of the four candidates, James Hiller and Al Thomas (incumbent) received the most votes, and will advance to the general election.

Because Wards 1 and 2 each had only one candidate file — incumbent Bob Ellingson in Ward 1 and incumbent Tony Wagner in Ward 2, and Ward 3 had only two candidates file — Kevin Ray Smith and Brad Wiersum (incumbent), these wards were not included in the primary and will go directly on the general election ballot.

Just over 8 percent — 707 — of the 8,830 registered voters in Ward 4 cast ballots in the primary election. ☺

Follow the city election sign rules

WITH ELECTION SEASON UPON us, remember to follow the city's zoning regulations related to political campaign signs.

On private land, signs must not exceed five square feet (except on collector or arterial streets where up to 32 square feet is permitted); must be at least five feet from the edge of a public street; must not be posted on fences, trees, shrubs, or public utility poles; must not obstruct driver visibility at intersections; must not be painted on rocks or other natural features; and must not be located within the right-of-way of state or county roads. Signs may not be posted on publicly owned land.

In accordance with state law, signs must contain the following language: Prepared and paid for by [insert name or organization here]; and address.

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, the following rules apply to posting signs near polling places: on private property, signs must be 100 feet from the door where voters will enter; and signs must be 100 feet from the edge of any public property line.

If you have questions about campaign signs, please call Jeff Thomson, Minnetonka planning division, at (952) 939-8293. ☺

On Election Day you must have one of the following: **TABLE A**

- Valid Minnesota driver's license or learner's permit (or receipt for either) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Tribal ID showing current name, picture, signature, and address in precinct.
- A voucher card signed by the person vouching for the voter and witnessed by an election judge. A voucher is the oath of a voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant's address in the precinct.
 - The voucher must have personal knowledge of the person for whom they are vouching.
 - A voter who is vouched for **cannot** vouch for another voter at this election.
 - Challengers **cannot** serve as vouchers.
 - A voucher may vouch for up to 15 voters.
 - Voucher **must** leave the polling place as soon as the vouching process is complete.
- Late notice sent from the City Clerk.
- Prior registration in the same precinct — voter's former address listed in the polling place roster.
- Current students
 - Student ID or dated registration or fee statement with valid address in the precinct.

OR

On Election Day voters may register by a combination of one picture ID from **Column 1** along with one type of utility bill from **Column 2**. **TABLE B**

Column 1

Approved photo IDs must contain voter's name and photo. It may contain voter's old address or have no address.

- MN driver's license
- MN state ID
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID
- Student ID from MN post-secondary school
- Tribal ID

Column 2

Approved utility bills must contain name, current address in the precinct, and date due within 30 days before/after Election Day.

- Cable TV
- Electric
- Gas
- Phone
- Garbage
- Water/sewer
- Cell phone

City council sets directions and priorities

THE MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL recently set priorities and guidelines for preparing the city's 2008 budget, which will be reviewed and adopted later this year.

The city of Minnetonka takes a responsible long-term perspective with financial planning and management. Decisions are made with the future in mind to ensure our ongoing ability to provide residents and businesses with the quality services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price.

Cost pressures

Like all service businesses, the city continues to experience budget pressures. Energy and fuel costs are escalating, and technology expenses continue to rise as the city improves service to the public. The city must also absorb many unfunded mandates, such as a bailout of the state pension system that will cost more than one million dollars over the next five years.

Unfortunately, options are limited. Unlike private businesses, the city cannot unilaterally choose its client base, nor the services we sell, nor even the geographic market areas we serve.

Nevertheless, measures are being taken to control costs. For example, an aggressive energy conservation plan adopted last year has already resulted in an eight percent reduction in usage. The city also recently renegotiated its health insurance contracts to better manage rapidly escalating expenses.

Budget pressures

- ↑ **Energy and fuel** costs
- ↑ **Technology** expenses to improve city services
- ↑ **Unfunded mandates**, such as state pension bailout

Measures to control costs

- ↓ **Energy conservation** plan reduced use by **8%**
- ↓ Renegotiated **health insurance** contracts

Council budget direction

- Highest priorities are **streets and public safety**
- Tax increase for basic services limited to **3%**
- Additional **1.7%** for **traffic enforcement and fire protection**

Budget guidelines

To meet resident and business expectations for both service quality and taxes, council recently directed that the **2008 property tax increase for basic services be limited to three percent**. This target will cover both operating and capital expenses, with any budget changes met by reallocating normal growth in existing resources.

The council also directed that streets and public safety will continue as the highest priorities. Beginning in 2006, substantial investments are being made in **road rehabilitation**. City resources were more than doubled to fund road reconstruction throughout the community over the next decade. The city also initiated a unique thin overlay program that lays 15,000 tons of asphalt annually to stabilize deteriorating pavement and prolong the life of streets until major reconstruction can take place.

For next year, the council directed an expansion of public safety services, which will require an additional 1.7 percent tax increase over and above the three percent base property tax increase for 2008. Last year's successful **traffic management program** will be expanded to further public education and increase traffic contacts by another 20 percent. Based on a recent community survey, the city's three-pronged traffic strategy has already cut the number of residents who view speeding as a very serious problem by one-half.

Council also directed that a **Future Fire Service Strategy** be developed. The highly regarded Minnetonka Fire Department will be examining the services it provides, weighing the expectations of residents and businesses, and developing strategies to ensure the cost-effective provision of fire protection services to meet both current and future needs.

Property taxes

Under the council guidelines, the total 2008 levy will be among the lowest increases in recent years:

This increase would also be the **lowest tax increase of comparable cities in the metro area**, and well below the 2008 increase projected for both the state (8.8%) and metro area (8.0%).

Various factors affect the property taxes actually paid by individual homeowners, including changes in market value, state law and city, county and school budgets. Although 2008 city property tax revenue will increase 4.7 percent with the preliminary levy, **city property taxes will decrease 2.6 percent for the median Minnetonka homeowner**. This is due to the greater relative growth in commercial property value and decertification of another TIF district in the city.

Preliminary estimates indicate that **seven of ten Minnetonka homeowners will pay lower city property taxes**, and another 17 percent will pay less than three percent more. City property taxes will only increase for properties that experienced an increase in value last year, most often due to location or the state's Limited Market Value program phase out.

Property tax changes

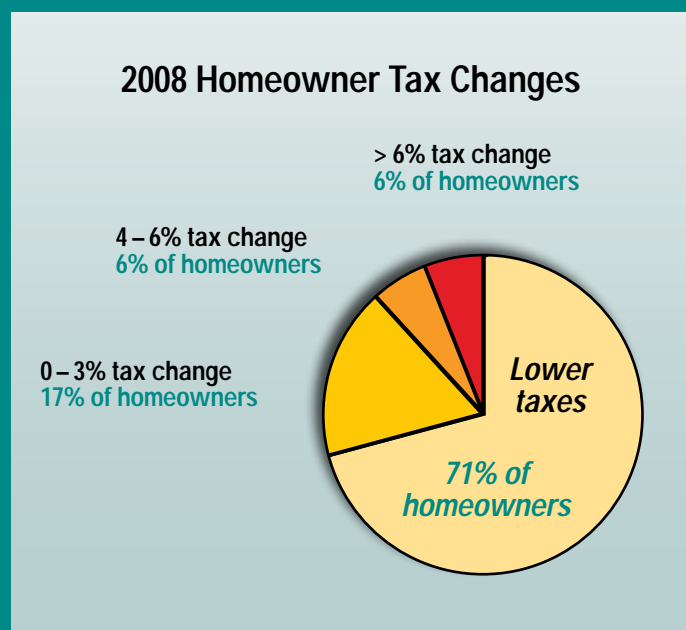
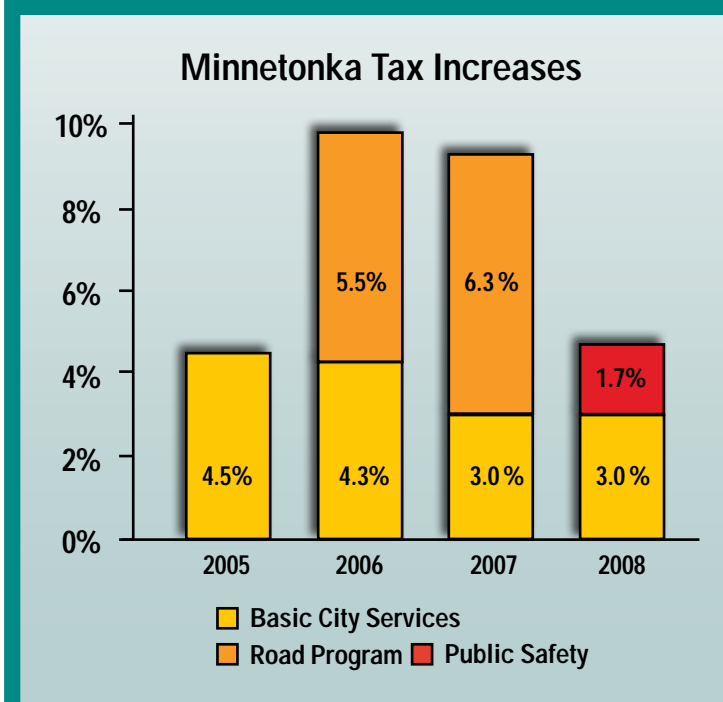
- ↑ City revenue increases **4.7%** for basic services, public safety
- ↓ Average homeowner's taxes **decrease by 2.6%**

Responsible fiscal stewardship

As a result of responsible long-term financial planning, the city of Minnetonka continues to be better positioned than many other communities to deal with recurring budget pressures and legislative mandates. Council's 2008 budget guidelines will again ensure the city's ongoing stability and quality delivery of services.

The city of Minnetonka always encourages public budget input. In addition to the Truth-in-Taxation hearing in December, residents and businesses have an opportunity to **provide feedback** via the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Comments will be shared with council as budget options are considered. ☺

for 2008 city of Minnetonka budget



Have a conflict? Try mediation

The police reserves need you!

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS AN agreement with Community Mediation Services, Inc. (formerly North Hennepin Mediation Program) to assist local residents and business owners with an alternative method for resolving disagreements. Mediation is a voluntary process that brings disputing parties together in a neutral setting to resolve issues. It has been used effectively for conflict between agencies and citizens; builders and homeowners; businesses and consumers; divorced parties; family members; juveniles; landlords and residents; neighbors; and victims and offenders.

Meeting room space for the mediation process is provided in the Minnetonka Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. At the mediation session, the mediator facilitates the discussion, asks questions, and writes up any agreement the parties reach. The mediators are not judges and do not impose a solution. The parties themselves decide on the actual agreement. More than 90 percent of voluntary mediations result in an agreement, and of those, 90 percent abide by the agreements.

Anyone can open a case. If interested, contact Community Mediation Services, Inc. by phone at (763) 561-0033; by fax at (763) 561-0266; or via email at staff@mediationprogram.com.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING with the Minnetonka Police Department? Then consider serving in the police reserve unit.

The Minnetonka police reserve unit assists full-time police officers in performing community service tasks, and also may provide trained assistance during natural disasters or other emergencies. They are also called upon to assist in traffic direction and crowd control at community sporting events, parades, and other special events.

The Minnetonka Police Department aims to maintain about 15 active reserve members at all times. The men and women of the police reserves represent a wide range of age groups and careers, but share one common trait: a willingness to donate a portion of their spare time in order to be trained and ready when assistance is needed for the public's safety, and a desire to be actively involved in the community.

To be considered for membership in the police reserve program you must:

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization.
- Possess a valid Minnesota driver's license and have a good driving record.
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalency certificate.

- Be in good physical condition with no disabilities restricting active body functions.
- Have no felony conviction record.
- Undergo fingerprinting and a complete criminal history background check.
- Pass an exam by an oral board of review.

Each reserve officer must complete a minimum of 40 hours of field and classroom training before being sworn in as a regular member of the unit. Training is sponsored by Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and is typically one day a week for ten consecutive weeks, February to April.

Required monthly meetings and training sessions are held throughout the year and provide hands-on experience in many areas, including: community relations and crime prevention, CPR and advanced first aid, radio dispatch and computer operation, firearms safety, defensive tactics, search and seizure, defensive driving, police report writing and traffic and crowd control.

For more information, contact Officer Kevin Anderson, police reserve coordinator, at (952) 939-8500. Applications are available online at www.eminnetonka.com.

Enjoy fall music with MAM

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MINNETONKA kicks off the 2007-08 season with the Minnetonka Concert Band performance of "Windspiration — Music to Lift the Spirits" Wednesday, October 3 at 7:30 at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

Celebrate Halloween with the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra at a "Spooktacular" concert Saturday, Oct. 27, at 3:30 p.m. (stop in after the Fall Family Festival — see p. 12) and Sunday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka.

Concerts are free, but donations are accepted.

For more information call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org



www.musicassociation.org

Keep your windshield clear!

FUZZY DICE, AIR FRESHENERS, AND STUFFED ANIMALS MAY DRESS UP THE inside of your vehicle, but did you know that in Minnesota it is illegal to operate a vehicle with objects of any kind hanging from the rear view mirror?

According to Minnesota statute, any object suspended between the driver and the windshield is illegal. The only exceptions are sun visors, rear view mirrors and toll collection devices. In addition, it's illegal to operate a vehicle with a cracked or discolored windshield, if it limits or obstructs proper vision.

With frosty days upon us, remember that operating a vehicle with a frost-covered windshield is also illegal. Motorists in a hurry often scrape the snow and ice from only a small portion of the windshield and use this "porthole" to drive. This practice is not only dangerous, but may also earn you a traffic citation.

Remember, the most important function of your windshield is to allow you to navigate safely, so find another place for the fuzzy dice, fix your windshield if it's cracked or discolored, and during the winter months, always keep an ice scraper in your car!



Minnetonka Senior Services hosts October events

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, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8393.

Here's a sample of what Senior Services has to offer in October and throughout the year! 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

Please call the Minnesota Safety Council at (651) 228-7306 to register.

Four-Hour Courses

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Refreshments provided but no lunch.

Monday, October 22, 6-10 p.m.
Refreshments provided.

Featured Speakers

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

China Presentation

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 1 p.m.
Travel to China with Karen Maghan as you watch this country unfold on the big screen. Register by Oct. 8.

Oriental Rug Making

Thursday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.
Bonnie Carlson will present the techniques, designs and history of oriental rug making.

Recycling Program

Friday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.
Learn about household hazardous waste and make your own non-toxic cleaner to bring home. Lunch included. Cost is \$2 for take-home cleaner, spray bottle, presentation and lunch. Register early, space is limited.



Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Welcome Coffee

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m.
Enjoy a welcome coffee, take a tour of the Senior Center and learn about its programs.

Anniversary Party

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 12 p.m.
Entertainment by Paul Heffron and Don Show. Cost is \$7. Register by Oct. 5 — space is limited.

Girls' Night Out

Thursday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.
Learn how to draw. Free.

Spooktacular Concert

Saturday, Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 28, 3:30 p.m.
Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra presents classical music. Musicians will be in costume, and audience members are encouraged to wear costumes as well. Refreshments provided. Free.

Flu Shots

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Cost is \$25 unless you have Medicare Part B or another qualifying health insurance plan. The person receiving the immunization will be responsible for payment at time services are rendered, or, if eligible for Medicare Part B or prior approved health insurance plan reimbursement. Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency will bill Medicare or the health insurance company on the participant's behalf. The participant is required to have his or her Medicare insurance card/voucher at the time the immunization is given for Medicare or health insurance plan billing to apply. Please wear short sleeves.

Halloween Party

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 12 p.m.
Entertainment by Jack Frost, playing "Bones." Cost is \$6. Register by Oct. 24 — space is limited.

Available Trips

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Landmark Center Tour

Thursday, Oct. 25
Join us for a tour of the Landmark Center followed by lunch at the Landmark Center Café, then enjoy a concert in one of the center's courtrooms. Cost is \$20, includes tour, concert, lunch, transportation and escort.

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra

Friday, Nov. 9
Abado directs the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in performing Schubert and Schumann at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie. Enjoy pastries and coffee before the concert. Cost is \$20, which includes ticket, transportation and escort.

Country Christmas Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 8
After a meal at the Chart House Restaurant, travel to Celebration Church for a performance of Christmas music with a country flair. The toe-tapping steppers will brighten your holiday along with a cast of 60, and a live band of ten outstanding musicians on guitar, fiddle and harmonicas. Program includes comedy routines, special features, traditional Christmas carols and live animals. Cost is \$62, which includes ticket, lunch, transportation and escort. ♪

Metro Transit's Express Route 675 expands service

METRO TRANSIT HAS IMPROVED service on Express Route 675, which operates seven days a week between the west metro and downtown Minneapolis. Highlights of improved service include the following:

- All Route 675 trips now serve Oakland Road and Ridgedale Drive. In addition, weekday frequency has been improved, with buses serving Ridgedale every 30 minutes between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- All Route 675 trips serve new stops at General Mills, replacing limited weekday service offered in that area. In addition, buses now stop in the parking lot at General Mills, so that customers no longer have to cross Betty Crocker Drive to reach the bus.
- Route 675 trips serving Interchange Office Towers now travel on Ford Road for a more direct route. Finally, all Route 675 trips now travel in both directions on Wayzata Boulevard in Wayzata.

For help planning a trip, call a transit expert at (612) 373-3333 or use the online trip planner at www.metrotransit.org. ♪

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

October
2007

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3	Park Board, 7 p.m.	16	Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
4	Comp Plan Steering Committee, 5:30 p.m.	20	Fall Drop-Off, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (see page 6).
8	City Council, 6:30 p.m.	22	City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 5:30 p.m.
9	Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, 5 – 8 p.m.	25	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
11	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.	27	Fall Drop-Off, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (see page 6).
		28	Fall Family Festival (see p. 12)

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in October. 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 Floodplain setback variance for a living space addition at **2830 Mayflower Avenue**. (07049.07a)
- 2 Rezoning and preliminary plat to divide two existing, residential properties into seven lots at 2700 and 2714 **Oakland Road**. (07019.07a)
- 3 Conditional use permit for outdoor seating and an amendment to the existing conditional use permit to increase indoor seating at Café Cabernet, **17523 Minnetonka Boulevard**. (93011.01a&b)
- 4 Rezoning and preliminary plat to divide an existing residential property into two lots at **15407 Lake Shore Avenue**. (07046.07a)

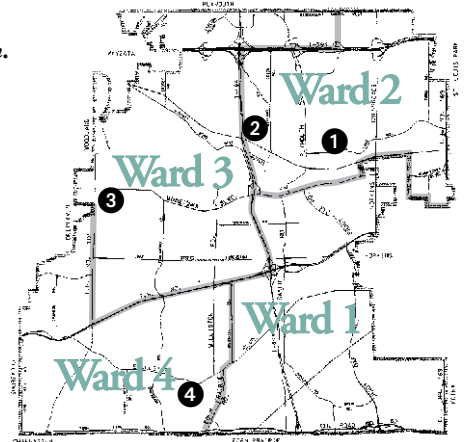
Attend the fall family festival October 28

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF OUTDOOR fall fun Sunday, October 28, from 1 – 3 p.m. at the Minnetonka outdoor amphitheater! Don't miss entertainment by The Splatter Sisters, an interactive, fun-filled musical show. Other onstage entertainment will include storytelling by Scratch and Scrith of the WonderWeavers.

In addition, enjoy hayrides, pumpkin painting, games, treats, hot apple cider by the fire and more. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. All pre-registered participants will receive a treat

bag. The cost of the event is \$6. Children under age 2 and adults are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call the Recreation Services Department at (952) 939-8203. Refer to course #12460.

After the festival, enjoy a 3:30 p.m. "Spooktacular" concert by the Music Association of Minnetonka's Symphony Orchestra at the Minnetonka Community Center. Orchestra members will be in costume, and audience members are invited to dress up as well. See page 10 for more information. ♪



minnetonka memo

October 2007



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

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