



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
November 2007*

Comprehensive Guide Plan open house is Nov. 8

A CITIZEN STEERING COMMITTEE AND city staff are continuing work on the comprehensive guide plan, a document that will set the stage for future development of the city through 2030.

The first step, affirming community values, has already been completed and included the 2007 resident survey, conducted in early March; a comment card included in the March *Minnetonka Memo*; a Web site survey; a focus group of civic and business representatives; a work session of the city council and its advisory boards; and a public open house. All of the information received from these public input opportunities was shared with the comprehensive plan steering committee. Changes to the community values were presented to and adopted by the Minnetonka City Council in May (see sidebar for a complete list of the community values).

The second step will be to identify issues and opportunities for the city of Minnetonka, which will influence policy development. To assist in this process, the city is assembling inventories of land use, traffic, demographics, housing, natural resources, and public service information.

All of this information will help determine where the city wants to go, and how it will get there — and as part

of this information gathering process, city staff would like to hear from you about what issues the city faces and what future opportunities are on the horizon for the community. Plan to attend a comprehensive guide plan open house Thursday, Nov. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the community room at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8200. We hope to see you there! ☺



At the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Oct. 9, the comprehensive guide plan committee hosted a booth where children were invited to draw a picture of their neighborhood. Minnetonka resident Alexander Kimball was chosen as the winner. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Minnetonka's Community Values

Natural Environment

- Protect and improve our water resources and woodlands
- Facilitate open space preservation
- Respect the natural environment while managing growth

Public Safety

- Foster community involvement and individual responsibility
- Enhance personal and business safety
- Ensure hometown security by collaborating with others

Transportation

- Enhance resident and business mobility with quality roads and transit
- Meet local and regional needs through leadership and collaboration
- Expand and increase usability of our trails and sidewalks

Development

- Guide development and redevelopment to ensure community vitality
- Balance individual property rights with the public interest
- Promote use of green technology and sustainable development
- Promote a quality and affordable life-cycle housing stock

Building Community

- Foster open communication within the community
- Promote activities that encourage understanding and involvement
- Embrace our proud history while valuing diversity and inclusiveness

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 are available on the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.

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.



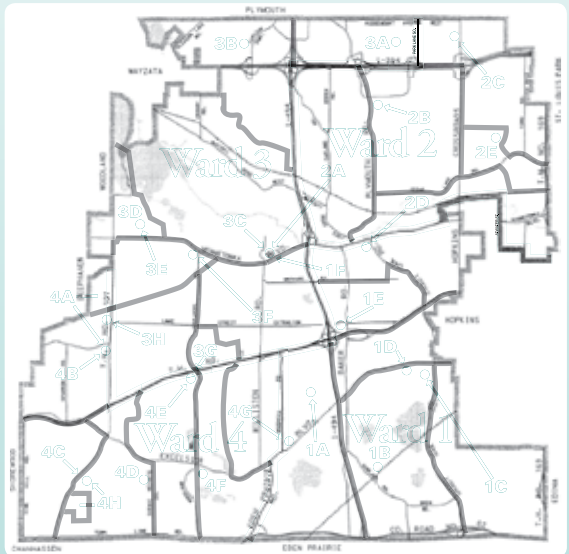
Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

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, visit www.eminnetonka.com. 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:

- 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)

City council candidate forum available online, on TV

IF YOU MISSED THE MINNETONKA CITY Council candidate forum, hosted by the League of Women Voters in early October, you can watch it at your convenience via videostream at the city of Minnetonka Web site, www.eminnetonka.com. A link to the videostream is provided on the home page, under "Top Stories."

If you prefer to view the forum on television, tune into cable channel 16 on the following days and times: Wednesdays, 12 p.m.; Thursdays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. ♻

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.

Remove election signs by Nov. 16

Remember, according to the city's zoning regulations, temporary political campaign signs must be removed by November 16. For more information about election sign rules, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

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:



- 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.



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.



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 of Minnetonka's 2008 budget

City taxes go down for most homeowners

THE MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL recently directed staff to develop a 2008 budget that caps the increase in property tax revenue at three percent for basic city services, plus an additional 1.7 percent for new public safety initiatives. The impact to most homeowners will be a **reduction** in their city property taxes.

How will the city's 2008 budget affect your property tax bill?

Property taxes will go down for the average Minnetonka homeowner. While overall 2008 city tax revenue would increase by a total of 4.7 percent, city property taxes on the median value home are projected to decrease by 2.6 percent. 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.

What will your 2008 property taxes buy?

Property taxes support basic city services.

Eight out of every ten dollars of your city property taxes go to maintaining streets and providing police and fire protection — about \$32 a month for streets and \$32 for public safety. Since user fees fund many city services, most of the remainder of your city tax bill is for parks.

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 five years.

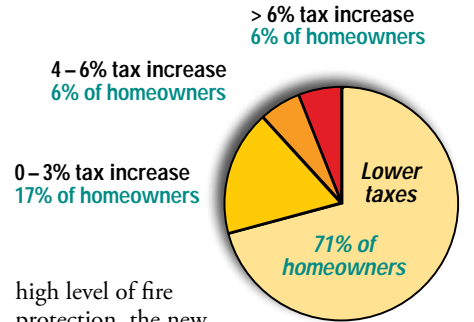
To maintain quality services at a reasonable price, the city council directed that **2008 property tax growth for basic services be limited to three percent.** Steps are also being taken to control cost pressures. For example, an aggressive energy conservation program adopted last year has already reduced usage by eight percent.

The city council further directed that the 2008 budget continue to reflect residents' highest budget priorities — police, fire service, and streets — as expressed in our annual citizen survey. The 2008 budget will maintain the previously increased investment levels in road **rehabilitation.** Combining both major road reconstruction with a unique thin overlay program, all 250 miles of local streets in the city will be revitalized over ten years.

The council also directed that the city enhance public safety services. To meet our residents' continued concern with speeding, the city adopted a new **traffic enforcement** strategy beginning this year. The 2008 budget will enhance the three-pronged approach, which combines education, enforcement and engineering strategies, by adding an additional dedicated traffic enforcement officer. The additional resources will provide for increased traffic contacts, proactive truck and trailer enforcement, and expanded educational efforts.

In line with council budget directions, the 2008 budget also includes resources to support the development of a strategic **fire service** strategy. To maintain our current

2008 Homeowner Tax Changes



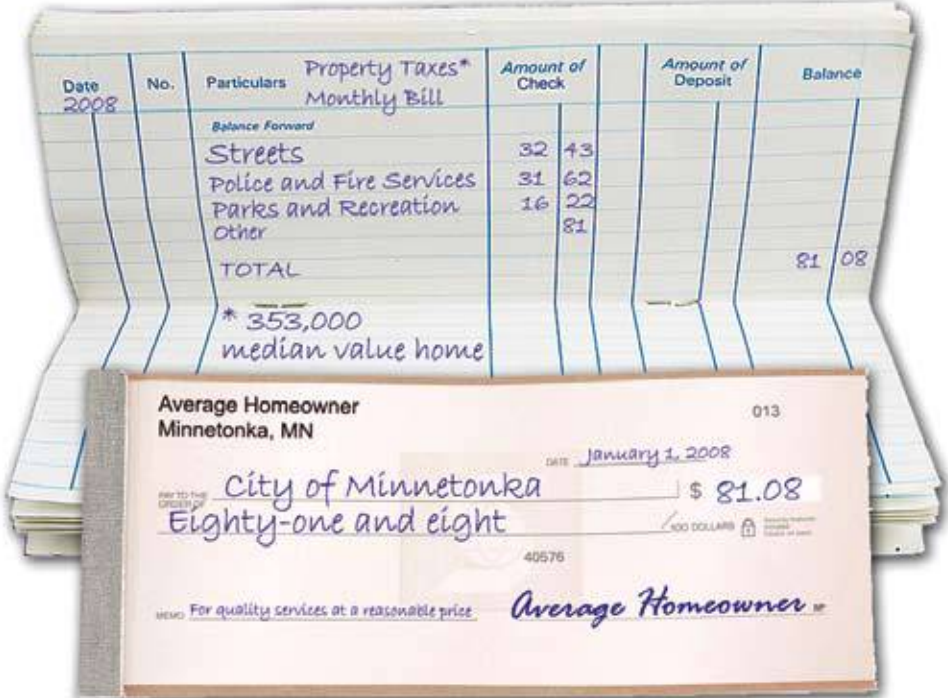
high level of fire protection, the new plan will likely include the adoption of a 24-hour duty crew model similar to what is currently used by a number of other metro area fire departments.

The city of Minnetonka takes a responsible long-term perspective with financial planning and management. We make decisions with the future in mind to ensure our ongoing ability to provide residents and businesses with the quality services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price. The 2008 budget will reflect this consistent commitment.

City budget or tax questions can be addressed to Minnetonka Mike at mike@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8586, or to finance director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8200.

Your input is always welcome and appreciated! ☺

City of Minnetonka
Budget Hearing
Monday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 939-8200



Update on tree pruning, diseased trees

NOVEMBER THROUGH MARCH IS the ideal time to prune oaks — pruning outside this time makes oak trees extremely susceptible to oak wilt disease and is not recommended. This is also a great time to prune other trees, since insects and diseases are not active.

If you will be pruning branches that require more than a handsaw, or large landscape trees, consider hiring a tree care professional. However, never hire a company that is selling pruning services door-to-door. For tips on hiring a tree care professional, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on “Public Works,” then “Natural Resources,” then “Forestry.”

The city of Minnetonka’s natural resources division thanks the many residents who removed elm trees with Dutch elm disease and red oak trees with oak wilt this year, and also to the residents who treated their trees to prevent these diseases. Your diligence is appreciated, and since these tree diseases spread across many property lines, your role in helping protect Minnetonka’s community forest is crucial! For more information about the shade tree disease control program, call Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ∞

Listening session for proposed shoreland ordinance is Nov. 27

IN JULY, MINNETONKA’S LAKESHORE AREA property owners were notified that the city is considering the adoption of new environmental protections to preserve and enhance the lakeshores of our community. Supported by the shared values of our residents, the city has long been a leader in protecting the woodland and water resources that make Minnetonka special.

Resident feedback from that initial notification and subsequent public testimony was considered by the city’s planning commission when they reviewed the draft shoreland ordinance in July and August. At the conclusion of those meetings, commissioners requested that staff research various additional technical issues prior to consideration of the new ordinance by the city council. That research is now taking place.

Additional public input is also being solicited on the implications of the draft ordinance, especially regarding the unique circumstances of the developed shoreland on Grays Bay and Libbs Lake. The mayor and other council members will be holding an informal listening session on Tuesday, November 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center.

The purpose of this session is to provide an open forum where property owners and others can share their insights and opinions about the proposed shoreland ordinance.

The input received at the listening session will be taken into account as possible changes are considered in the draft ordinance. Constructive feedback from the residents of our community is always welcomed and appreciated by the staff and council.

The proposed ordinance is available at www.eminnetonka.com. If you are unable to attend, but would like to provide comments, please submit information through the online web survey form, or by letter to the City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka MN 55345, or by contacting the planning department at (952) 939-8290. ∞

Please do not transport firewood!

AS YOU PREPARE FOR AUTUMN BONFIRES or to heat your home with wood, please do not transport firewood from or into Minnetonka. Instead, buy or collect firewood locally. When traveling, purchase firewood in the area you are visiting, then burn it all before you leave — don’t bring it home to Minnetonka.

Why? At any given time, firewood can harbor a variety of insects and diseases that can harm Minnetonka’s trees and forests, including emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, oak wilt, Dutch elm disease and Asian long-horned beetle. While Minnesotans are familiar with Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases, emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle have yet to be identified in Minnesota.

Gypsy moth is currently only a problem in northeastern Minnesota — not in Minnetonka.

Please help prevent or stall the introduction of these pests to Minnetonka — don’t transport firewood. For the latest information on transporting and labeling firewood in Minnesota, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/dealers.htm. ∞



Buckthorn woodworking workshop is Nov. 15

THE PESKY BUCKTHORN TREE HAS a useful feature that’s often overlooked: the wood. If you’d like to learn more about creative ways to use the wood, attend a workshop Thursday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions Room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Local woodworkers will display many of their handcrafted items, including a trellis, arbor, unique birdhouse stand, small tables, cooking utensils, items turned on a lathe and more; and you’ll learn how these one-of-a-kind

creations were made from the hard, and sometimes colorful, wood of European buckthorn. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com. ∞



 2007 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

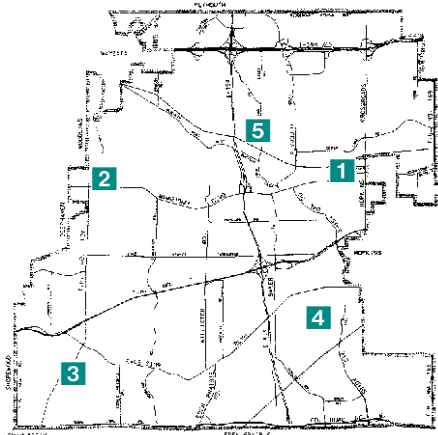
Minnnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than **½ inch** in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

Saturdays: November 3 and 10
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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, 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. Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Nov. 5 (closed Nov. 12 for Veteran's Day)
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. 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. ☺

Recycling and the holidays

Looking ahead, please be aware of the following holidays and how they may or may not affect your recycling pickup:

- **Veteran's Day (Nov. 12)** does not affect recycling pickup, but the brush and leaf site will be closed that day.
- **Christmas Day (Dec. 25)** and **New Year's Day (Jan. 1, 2008)** do **not** affect residents whose recycling is picked up on **Monday (west of I-494)**, but residents with **Tuesday** pickup (east of I-494) **will** be delayed one day for each holiday, to Wednesday, Dec. 26, and Wednesday, Jan. 2. ☺



The ABCs of city snow removal

Always ready to plow snow — that's the motto of the Minnetonka Public Works snow removal crew! By November 1, snow removal crews have been assigned and all equipment is prepped and ready to roll in event of a snowfall (see "V").

Backing up is something snowplows do many times during snow removal operations. Please give them space to do their jobs.

Clear snow from your driveway, but don't push it into or across the street. City ordinances require that snow be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to your property.

Discourage kids from playing in or tunneling through the large piles of snow left behind by plows. Snow piles can collapse and trap children, while passing snowplows could hit the pile and injure children hiding inside.

Every snow operation requires city crews to clear 1,100 miles of roadway — the equivalent of driving to Nashville, Tennessee!

Frost patrol starts in December and continues through February. Public Works employees are on the roads at 5 a.m. five days a week to check for frost and light snow. Should they find these conditions, chemical controls are applied to increase traction and promote melting.

Garbage cans and recycling containers should be set out behind the curb line so they won't be knocked over by snowplows or snow coming off the plow.

Heavy or even average snowfall requires a three-day operation to clear (in this order) streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks. Removal of snow from city streets (see "I") is the first priority, and since the amount of personnel and equipment working on the parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks is smaller, it takes more time to clear these areas.

In an average snowfall, the goal is to clear streets and cul-de-sacs within 10 hours.

Just about every day — that's how often chemical control trucks work during a normal winter, with major efforts occurring about 25 times per year.

Keep parked vehicles off city streets between 2 and 6 a.m., in accordance with city ordinance. Illegally parked vehicles may hinder snowplows from fully clearing streets.

Lack of snow and less moisture in combination with the salt used on roads helped contribute to the white residue seen on Minnetonka roads during last year's winter season. The city, as well as the county and the state, is using only salt on the roads in Minnetonka, instead of sand. However, Minnetonka Public Works last year used the least amount of salt it ever has, and less than half of what was used 10 years ago. Sand has been mostly eliminated because of its negative effect on water resources.

Mailboxes that are physically hit and damaged by city snowplows will be repaired. However, mailboxes that break from the force of snow coming off the plow will not be repaired.

No county or state highways or private roads are plowed by city personnel — only city roadways.

Over the new Hopkins Crossroad bridge to grandmother's house you go — but go carefully! Bridges can be notoriously slick in the winter, even when surrounding roadways are not.

Put in curb markers to show the edge of your lawn or driveway. The city provides free markers to residents — stop by Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., or Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., to pick up your markers. Remember, installation is easier when the ground isn't frozen!

Questions about snow removal? Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. Or, if your concern doesn't require an immediate response, contact Minnetonka Mike at www.eminnetonka.com.

Respect snowplows, both as a pedestrian and as a motorist. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speed and the driver's field of vision is severely limited. Never pass on the right, since plows are pushing snow to the right. Stay 70 feet (four car lengths) from the snowplow so the driver can see you.

Sod damage resulting from city snowplows will be repaired by the city. The city does not repair sprinklers, fences, or rock gardens that are placed in the city right-of-way. Report sod damage through Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or through Minnetonka Mike at www.eminnetonka.com. Repairs usually are made in May and June.

The exact time snow removal begins depends on when the snowfall ends. In most cases, plowing operations begin between midnight and 4 a.m., but the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall and its intensity. Usually two inches or more of snow accumulation triggers the start of city-wide snow removal.

Using cruise control in your vehicle can be dangerous when driving on snow- or ice-covered roads.

Vehicles — more than 29, ranging from dump trucks to motorgraders to pickups — have been prepped by Minnetonka Public Works and are ready for snow removal service this winter (see "A").

Weather forecasts are useful in preparing for the conditions. Keep up on forecasts. Drive carefully, even if the streets have been plowed.

X&*\$@#! — or something similar — might escape the lips of a Minnetonka resident watching a snowplow fill in a newly shoveled driveway. Remember, during heavy snowfalls, citywide snowplowing is accomplished in three separate steps:

- The first pass provides an initial access path down the streets.
- Full-width plowing can occur a couple of hours later after all streets have received a first pass.
- Final cleanup occurs the next day and includes intersection cleanup, snow and ice control and plowing where vehicles were parked.

You'll save precious minutes in event of a fire by adopting a hydrant and keeping it clear of snow throughout the winter.

Zones are assigned to each snowplow driver. Most drivers stay in that area for the entire winter, allowing him or her to become very familiar with the roadway features in a specific area. Mainline, or collector, streets are plowed first with residential streets and cul-de-sacs plowed last. ❄️

Take a stand against crime— join Neighborhood Watch

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, BLOCK WATCH, Town Watch, Business Watch, Crime Watch—whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

Why Neighborhood Watch?

- It works. Throughout the country, decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported in communities with active Watch programs.
- Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.
- Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

How does a Neighborhood Watch start?

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, a community organization, a business, or a law enforcement agency can establish a Watch. Together they can:

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and community problems.

- Contact the Minnetonka Police Department for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interest; establish the purpose of the program; and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed.
- Select a Neighborhood Watch Captain who is responsible for relaying information to members.

Who can be involved?

Any community resident can join. Even the busiest of people can belong to a Neighborhood Watch—they too can keep an eye out for neighbors as they come and go.

What does a Neighborhood Watch do?

- They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors.
- Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activity that raises their suspicions to the police.

What are Watch member responsibilities?

- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Be alert! Report suspicious activities and crimes to the police department.
- Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer.

National Night Out coloring contest winners

IN SEPTEMBER, NATIONAL NIGHT OUT coloring contest winners Sloan Sprau (K–3 category, pictured at top) and Audrey Erickson (4–6 category, pictured at bottom) received a ride to school courtesy of Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet, as well as a certificate honoring their achievement. ☺



What are the major components of a Watch program?

- Communication with neighbors, ranging from a weekly e-mail to a monthly newsletter to a neighborhood electronic bulletin board; as well as maintaining regular contact with your police department crime prevention liaison.
- Special events are crucial to keep the program going and growing. Host talks or seminars that focus on current issues crime in schools, teenage alcohol and other drug abuse, or domestic violence. Adopt a park or school playground and paint over graffiti. Sponsor a National Night Out block party, holiday dinner, or volleyball or softball game that will provide neighbors a chance to get to know each other.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch in Minnetonka, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, Minnetonka Police Department, at (952) 939-8546 or at nnelson@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Provisional drivers and cell phones

PROVISIONAL LICENSE HOLDERS, TYPICALLY THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED THE age of 16 but are under the age of 18, are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle while using a cell phone. This includes cell phones with hands-free devices, as well as using a cell phone for text messaging. Provisional license violations may include a fine and may lead to the loss of the license until the holder turns 18.

The only exception to this rule is use of a cell phone during emergency situations or for the purpose of reporting a crime, such as reporting a possible impaired driver, reporting a crime in progress, or when the safety of the driver or another is in immediate jeopardy. ☺

**TRAFFIC
CORNER**

Open House a success for all ages

MORE THAN 3,000 RESIDENTS attended this year's Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, held Tuesday, Oct. 9. Attendees enjoyed music, refreshments, facepainting, fire truck rides, and more! If your children enjoyed this event, be sure to mark the city's next event, Kids' Fest, on your calendar—it's Sunday, Feb. 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. Photos courtesy of Jason Stenvold. ☺



Rain or shine, the game goes on — even in mud



Almost 700 boys and girls in grades one through eight and 120 adult volunteers participated in this year's Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services fall youth soccer season.



Enjoy these upcoming Senior Center 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, the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Mills Landing Gift Shoppe

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gift? If so, visit the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Wednesday–Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information visit the store Web site at www.millslandingshoppe.com, or call (952) 933-5214.

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Courses

Thursday, November 8, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Refreshments provided but no lunch.

Featured Speakers

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Colonel Snelling and the 5th Regiment

Friday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.
Register by Nov. 1. Cost is \$5.

Caregiving Talk

Thursday, Nov. 15, 1 p.m.
Learn about caregiving techniques for people with Alzheimer's disease.

Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Thanksgiving Party

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 12 p.m.
Enjoy a turkey dinner and entertainment by Cliff Brunzell and the Golden Strings. Cost is \$7, due by Nov. 6.

Girl's Night Out

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Make holiday floral arrangements. Cost is \$18, due by Nov. 8.

1920's Style Show

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1 p.m.
Cost is \$5 and includes refreshments.

Scrooge the Musical, Minnetonka Community Theater

Saturday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Discounted tickets are \$7.50 and may only be purchased at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Available Trips

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra

Friday, Nov. 9
The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra performs 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. Program includes comedy routines, special features, traditional Christmas carols and live animals. Cost is \$62, which includes ticket, lunch, transportation and escort.

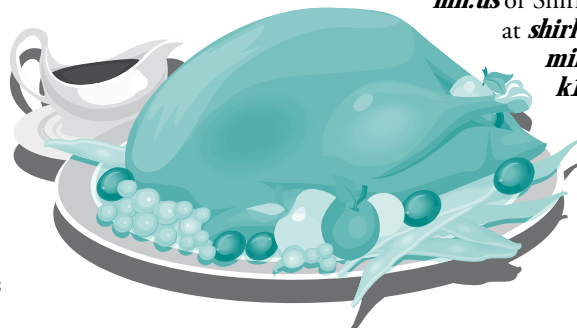
Eat. Talk. Connect! November 12–16

RESearch shows that children who share at least three meals weekly with their families benefit in many ways, from reduced use of drugs and alcohol to greater academic success to experiencing less stress and depression.

The Minnetonka and Hopkins school districts are hosting a one-week *Eat. Talk. Connect!* campaign Nov. 12–16. During this week, family members who live in the same household are encouraged to sit down together for breakfast, lunch or dinner, and have a conversation.

For more information email Cathy Rude at cathy_rude@hopkins.k12.mn.us or Shirley Snyder at shirley.snyder@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.

or Shirley Snyder at shirley.snyder@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.



Seminar for aging drivers is January 26

THE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT invites drivers over the age of 55, and their family members, to attend a special free seminar Saturday, January 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. You'll learn how the effects of the natural aging process may affect your driving ability, how to adjust your driving habits during the aging process, and how to evaluate when it may be time to hand over the keys.

For more information or to register, call Minnetonka Senior Services at (952) 939-8393.

Boards, commissions openings available

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO become more involved in the city of Minnetonka, consider applying to serve on a board or commission. In January 2008, openings on the planning commission will be available. In addition, various opportunities may be available for student representatives.

Applications are due December 15, with interviews taking place in January. Accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies, with interviews taking place as necessary. For an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com. For more information, contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211.

Will Steger speaks about climate change

ARTIC EXPLORER WILL STEGER WILL present his eyewitness account of climate change at a community climate change awareness event Sunday, Nov. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bet Shalom Congregation, 13613 Orchard Road, Minnetonka. The event, sponsored by ICA community congregations, is free but donations will be accepted. Bring non-perishable foods for the ICA food shelf. Call (952) 476-6126 for information.

Don't miss this symphony of holiday events!

Victorian Holiday Open House

Visit the Charles H. Burwell House Sunday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. for a Victorian Holiday Open House, sponsored by the Minnetonka Historical Society. The event is free and open to the public, and includes self-guided tours of the house, holiday decorations, classical music and refreshments. The Burwell House is located at 13209 E. McGinty Road in Minnetonka, with parking available at St. David's Family Center. For more information call Florence Bogle at (952) 938-3758.



Music Association of Minnetonka

All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Toast to the Holidays

Saturday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

Enjoy food, fun and entertainment with the Choral Reflections of Minnetonka. Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Tickets \$20 by reservation only. Call (952) 401-5954.

Songs of the Season

Friday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy holiday music from the Minnetonka Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections of Minnetonka, Youth Concert Choir and Youth Chamber Choir at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

28th Annual Messiah Community Sing-Along

Saturday, Dec. 8, 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Chamber Orchestra. Ridgewood Church, 4420 Hwy. 101 South, Minnetonka.



Sounds of Youth

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Youth Cappella, Concert and Chamber Choirs. Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

14th Annual A Child's Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Youth Chamber Choir, Youth Concert Choir and guests. Wayzata Community Church, 125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Youth Chamber Choir, Youth Concert Choir and Northfield Children's Choir. Central Lutheran Church, 333 12th Street S., Minneapolis.

Juletide

Sunday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus and Youth Chamber Choir. Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Chorus and Youth Chamber Choir. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie. ☺

Sign up for the 2008 Citizen Academy

WHAT'S THE ROLE OF THE CITY council? What are the city's zoning and subdivision regulations? What recreational opportunities does the city offer? These are just a few of the questions you'll be able to answer after attending the 2008 Minnetonka Citizen Academy.

This free program takes place over five Tuesday evening sessions — Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 — at Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the sessions, you'll hear from various city departments including police, fire, administration, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Graduates receive special city council recognition.

To enroll, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is Jan. 8, 2008. ☺

County Road 101 project nears completion

HENNEPIN COUNTY'S THREE-YEAR reconstruction of County Road 101 from Hwy. 7 to Minnetonka Boulevard is set to be substantially complete by November 6, 2007.

Upgrades included installation of right turn lanes at almost all intersections, the addition of center left turn lanes, and installation of a new signal light at Ridgewood Road.

In addition, various utilities took advantage of the roadwork to bury electricity, cable, gas, fiber optic and telephone lines underground, and the city of Minnetonka completed upgrades to water and sanitary sewer pipes and connections.

"I compare this project to the renovation of an old house," explained Lee Gustafson, Minnetonka's city engineer. "The more you get into the project, the more items you find need to be done, which extends the amount of time the project takes."

Drivers and pedestrians traversing County Road 101 will find a number of

safety improvements, from the dedicated right and left turn lanes to new signals at intersections to new sidewalks and a new trail that will, when finished, run along the east side of the road from Cub Foods to Minnetonka Boulevard. Eventually, this trail will connect with Grays Bay and continue into Wayzata.

A number of improvements are also underway at the intersection of County Road 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard, including roadway improvements, business access adjustments, streetscaping improvements and sidewalk and trail additions and improvements.

Homeowners along County Road 101 who have received new sod as the project concludes are reminded to follow the maintenance procedures sent to them by the city to ensure the sod survives the winter and thrives once spring arrives.

For more information about the County Road 101 project, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Engineering," then "Street Management," then "Street Projects." ☺

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

November
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.
					6	General Election (<i>no city meetings</i>)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					7	Special City Council meeting, 6 p.m. (<i>Topic: Canvass election results</i>); Joint meeting, City Council and Park Board, 6:05 p.m.; Park Board, 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					8	Comprehensive Plan Open House, 5 p.m. (see page 1); Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.; Charter Commission, 7 pm.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					12	Veterans Day (<i>city offices closed</i>)
25	26	27	28	29	30	
					13	Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
					19	City Council, 6:30 p.m.; History Commission, 6:30 p.m.
					22	Thanksgiving holiday (<i>city offices closed</i>)
					23	Thanksgiving holiday (<i>city offices closed</i>)
					26	City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (<i>Topic: 2008 Budget</i>); Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.

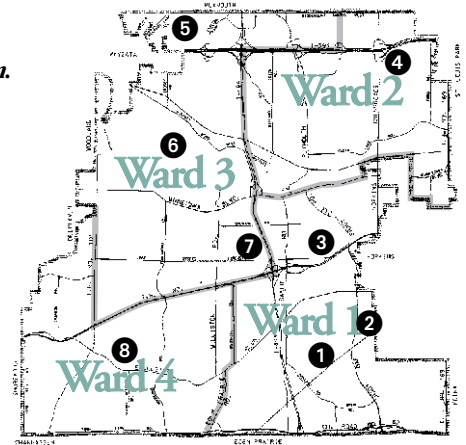
All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in November. 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 Conditional use permit to run a business from a home at **5315 Dominick Drive**. (07025.07b)
- 2 Conditional use permits and setback variances for reconstruction of **Shady Oak Road**. (07059.07a)
- 3 Front yard setback variance at **12301 Woodbine Road**. (04086.07a)
- 4 Multiple items concerning construction of two office buildings, 3.5 stories and five stories, and associated parking structures at the **southwest southeast corner of the I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad** intersection. (06071.07b)
- 5 Rezoning and preliminary plat with variances to divide the existing property into two residential lots at **15549 Ranchview Court**. (06009.07a)
- 6 Conditional use permit to construct a telecommunications facility at **15407 McGinty Road**. (07057.07a)
- 7 Rezoning and preliminary plat with variances to divide the existing property into two residential lots at **3919 Haven Road**. (00023.07a)
- 8 Front yard setback variance from 35 to 25 feet at **5348 Oak Drive**. (07058.07a)



CHECK OUT THE ONLINE EDITION OF THE *MINNETONKA MEMO* AT EMINNETONKA.COM

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