

minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
January 2006

Celebrate Minnetonka's 50th anniversary

IN 2006, MINNETONKA MARKS ITS 50TH year of incorporation as a village. Many anniversary activities will take place in conjunction with existing city events such as Kids' Fest and Summer Fest, but other activities will be available as well, such as a community reading collaborative, coloring contest, self-guided historical tours and an August Jubilee event on the actual date of Minnetonka's incorporation as a village!

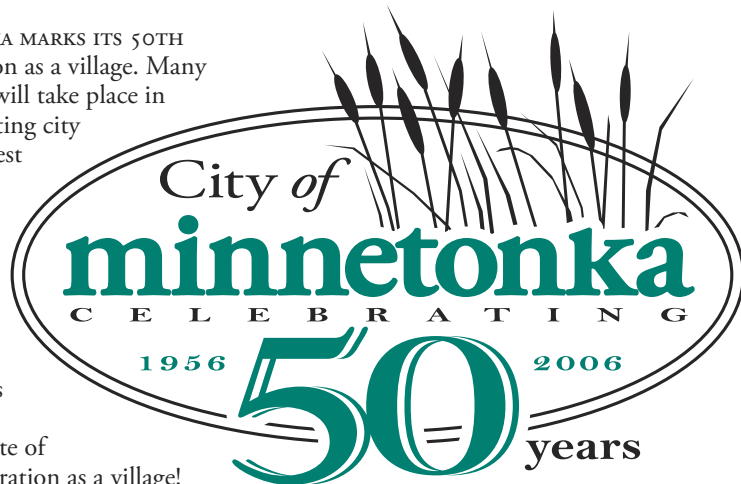
Take a look at what's happening in 2006, and come celebrate with us!

Kids' Fest

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006, 12:30–5 p.m.

This event, hosted annually by Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services in honor of We Love Our Kids Month, will include all the usual activities (listed in the winter recreation brochure) as well as the following anniversary-related activities:

- Come help kick off Minnetonka Reads, a community reading collaborative sponsored by Ridgedale Library, Minnetonka Library, and the city of Minnetonka. The event runs from Feb. 12 through March 18, with residents young and old encouraged to read and to share Minnesota author Gary Paulsen's *The Quilt*. Purchase a book and pick up information about the many Minnetonka Reads activities planned for March.
- Contribute your memories of Minnetonka, and write a "letter to the future" for a 50th anniversary time capsule.



Summer Fest

Saturday, June 24, 2006

Minnetonka's biggest city get-together will showcase not only a renewed Civic Center campus, but also Minnetonka's 50th anniversary of incorporation as a village. Take a trip back in time through the last five decades as you visit displays about Minnetonka's history; and have another chance to write a message to the future, and offer suggestions for what objects should be included in the time capsule.

Minnetonka Jubilee

Tuesday, August 22, 7–8:30 p.m.

On August 22, 1956, Minnetonka officially became a village. Come enjoy this program, featuring speakers, musical entertainment, historical displays and a multimedia presentation of the city's most recent five decades. View the contents of the time capsule, which will be stored at city hall to be reopened at the city's 100th anniversary in 2056. It all takes place at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

Other activities

Can't make it to one of the events, or want to do more? Here are some other ways to celebrate Minnetonka's 50th anniversary:

- Participate in Minnetonka Reads, a community reading collaborative for Minnetonka residents of all ages. Read Minnesota author Gary Paulsen's *The Quilt*, then choose an activity to learn more about the book and Minnetonka's history. The Minnetonka Reads kickoff event takes place at Kids' Fest, Sunday, Feb. 12. Learn more about the event and purchase a book. Books also are available at local bookstores and for checkout at the Ridgedale and Minnetonka libraries.
- In January, kids can participate in an art contest, hosted by the *Lakeshore Weekly News* and the city of Minnetonka. Submissions and the winning entries will be displayed at Kids' Fest in February.
- In the spring, pick up a new city trails map at Minnetonka City Hall and take a self-guided tour of the city's most interesting historical areas.
- From June through September, take a tour of the historic Charles H. Burwell House, located in the Minnetonka Mills area at 13209 East McGinty Road. This is also the site of the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, held each year in conjunction with Summer Festival. The 2006 ice cream social is set for Saturday, June 24, 2006. ☺

New mayor, council members sworn in Jan. 9

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS-AT-LARGE DICK ALLENDORF AND TERRY SCHNEIDER, and Mayor-Elect Jan Callison, will be sworn in to office Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at 6:25 p.m., just prior to the start of the 6:30 p.m. city council meeting.

Returning council members include Robert Ellingson, Ward 1; Tony Wagner, Ward 2; Brad Wiersum, Ward 3; and Al Thomas, Ward 4. Each of these positions will be up for reelection in 2007. All council positions, including that of the mayor, are four-year terms. ☺

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Volunteer Corner

Calling all volunteers!

HAVE YOU EVER GIVEN ANY THOUGHT to volunteering for the city? If you have extra time, there's a good chance the city can use your talents!

Volunteers will use their skills to work with city staff on various projects. Jobs could be one-time only, short-term, or long-term. Some may involve group participation. Current volunteer positions include history event staff, Juvenile Diversion Program leader, Williston Center maintenance, Minnetonka Mike mascot, oral history interviewers/transcribers, and storm drain monitors.

For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ☺

Learn more about storm water Jan. 23

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE CITY of Minnetonka's annual storm water informational meeting Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, at 5 p.m. in the Boards and Commissions room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

After a brief presentation about the city's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), staff will answer questions and take comments regarding the city's current programs and future plans for storm water. Copies of the WRMP and SWPPP may be examined at the engineering department in city hall during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

For more information contact Jennifer Posma, assistant city engineer, at jposma@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8234. ☺

Learn more about your city at the Citizenship Academy in February

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CITY GOVERNMENT? THEN PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2006 Minnetonka Citizenship Academy.

This free program takes place over four evening sessions — Feb. 7, 15, 21 and 28 — at Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the sessions, you'll hear presentations from various departments of the city including police, fire, administration, planning, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Graduates receive special city council recognition upon completion of the program.

To enroll, contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207 or at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 10, 2006. ☺

Openings available on boards, commissions

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, the following openings will be available:

- Three openings on the **Community Heritage Commission**, which serves as an advisory body on matters related to the preservation of Minnetonka's historic structures, records, maps, photographs and artifacts. Meets six times per year.
- One opening for a youth representative on the **Economic Development Authority (EDA)**, which advises the city council regarding economic development, housing and redevelopment matters, and exercises certain powers as authorized by the council. Meets the second Tuesday evening of each month.
- One opening on the **Planning Commission**, which assists and advises the city council in administration of the city zoning ordinance and conducts public hearings on matters as required by the zoning ordinance and subdivision and any other matters referred by the council or by ordinance. Meets Thursday evenings twice a month.

Applications for the above openings are due by Jan. 13, 2006, with interviews to take place in January. Accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies, with interviews taking place as necessary. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information or, for an application, contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

Senior Center offers winter classes

THIS WINTER, TAKE A CLASS AT THE Minnetonka Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

A number of winter classes begin in January, with topics ranging from the history of the Suez and Panama canals, to Minnesota history in the Civil War, to Tai Chi and yoga, to painting classes. Call (952) 939-8393 for registration.

If you're 55 or older, save 10 percent on your auto insurance over the next three years by taking a Defensive Driving Class. Classes will be offered at the senior center in January and February. Call (952) 939-8393 for dates and times.

To receive the *Minnetonka Script*, a free monthly publication highlighting senior center classes, trips, meals, volunteer opportunities and various programs and services, call (952) 939-8393. ☺

Make fitness a part of your new year

MAKE THE WILLISTON FITNESS CENTER part of your New Year's resolution, and sign up today for a three-month or annual membership, with no initiation fees or start-up costs!

Membership includes access to five indoor tennis courts, a basketball and volleyball court, four baseball/softball batting cages, a 25-yard swimming pool, land and water aerobic classes, weight machines, cardio equipment, free weights, a whirlpool and a sauna.

For more information call (952) 939-8370 or stop by the Williston Fitness Center, located at 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka. ☺

City staff reorganized to better focus on natural resources

YEAR AFTER YEAR, COMMUNITY SURVEYS SHOW THAT NATURAL RESOURCES ARE ONE OF the amenities residents value most about Minnetonka. Last fall, in order to focus more attention on parks, trails and other natural resources in the city, existing city staff members were reorganized into two divisions—a parks and trails division and a natural resources division—within the Minnetonka Public Works department.

“While most cities have a parks department and a few employ foresters, we’re not aware of any city that has elevated natural resources management to this level of importance,” said John Gunyou, Minnetonka city manager. “Bringing our talented employees together who were previously spread among several departments will be more efficient, and allow us to better care for our newly renewed parks, extensive trail system and valued forestry and water resources.”

The parks and trails division, headed by Perry Vetter, is responsible for all parks and trails planning, development and maintenance, as well as the city recycling program. Vetter was previously with the city’s recreation department and has helped manage the city’s Parks Renewal program since 2001. He has a bachelor’s degree in recreation management.

The natural resources division, headed by Jo Colleran, is responsible for forestry, open space restoration, woodland resources, water resources (wetlands, creeks and lakes), development review and environmental enforcement and education. Colleran was previously environmental resources coordinator for the city, a position she held for four years. She has a bachelor’s degree in biology with an environmental emphasis, and is also a certified arborist and wetland ecologist.

Look for future articles in the *Minnetonka Memo* regarding a wide variety of environmental topics, as well as updates on the progress of the Parks Renewal program. Should you have any questions about natural resources in the city, call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 and you will be directed to the correct person. ☺

Nominations due Feb. 3 for Caring Youth awards

IF YOU KNOW A YOUNG PERSON IN GRADES 7 through 12 who shows an ongoing awareness of others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating him or her for a 2006 Caring Youth award.

Each year, the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, in conjunction with the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people. This year’s event is set for Thursday, March 23, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Live in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley;
- Attend school in Hopkins or Minnetonka; and/or
- Volunteer (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley.

Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 3, 2006. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. ☺

Safeguard your tax information

TAX SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE, AND ALONG WITH IT A PRIME OPPORTUNITY FOR identity theft. Follow these tips to safeguard your personal information.

Your tax forms contain personal information that could be used to claim your identity, such as Social Security numbers, bank account routing numbers, income information and home address. So, if you send in your returns via the U.S. mail, always use a secured mailbox or a post office.

Remember, the Internet provides a way for hackers to enter your computer and gather personal information. If you are preparing tax returns on your home computer, be sure firewalls and security measures are in place and functioning properly. Turn off computers when not in use. Use all precautions you would normally use for opening charge accounts with online businesses, and be sure when purchasing online that the information you send over the Internet is being encrypted or scrambled.

This information is provided by Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst with the Minnetonka Police Department. Call (952) 939-8546 for more information. ☺

Anderson to be honored Jan. 25

KAREN J. ANDERSON, WHO LAST YEAR DECIDED NOT TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION AFTER 12 years as mayor of Minnetonka, will be recognized for her many years of service to the city at an open house Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Please come and join the Minnetonka City Council, boards and commissions members, city staff, elected officials, business people and residents in saying farewell and thank you! Hors d’oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP to ktelega@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8211. ☺

Annual security alarm registration due Jan. 1

CITY ORDINANCES REQUIRE ALARM systems to be registered with the police department by Jan. 1 of each year, for an annual fee of \$10.

The purpose of the ordinance is not to discourage or eliminate the use of police and fire alarm systems, but to provide standards, requirements and sanctions for the ten percent of alarm users who cause 90 percent of the city’s false alarm activity.

Alarm systems are only as effective as those who are trained to use them. When properly operated and maintained, alarm systems can contribute to increased safety, crime prevention and apprehension of criminals.

Alarm registration pamphlets have been sent to alarm owners on record. If you did not receive one, call (952) 939-8500 or visit the Alarm Registration page for an online application. Upon receipt of the \$10 registration fee, new 2006 alarm stickers will be sent. ☺

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

January
2006

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				

2 New Year's Day observed, city offices closed

4 Park Board, 7 p.m.

9 City Council, 6:30 p.m. (new council member swearing-in, 6:25 p.m.)

10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.

11 Joint Recreation Board, 7 p.m.

12 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, city offices closed

19 Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m.

23 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

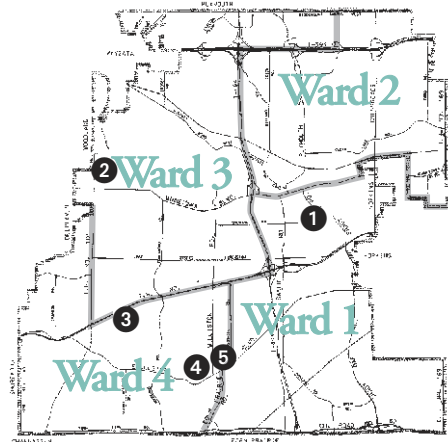
25 Farewell to former Mayor Karen J. Anderson, 7-9 p.m.

26 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.; Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Variances for an addition to the house at 3715 Huntingdon Drive. (05098.05a)
- 2 Multiple variances to build a new house at 16915 Gray's Bay Boulevard. (98042.05a)
- 3 Preliminary plat, site and building plan review, and an amendment to existing conditional use permit, at 4731, 4735 and 4725 Clear Springs Road for Community Involvement Programs, Inc. This organization, which provides housing for single adults with mental illness, is proposing to remove the farm house and barn on their property and build four new residential buildings. The number of residents would be increased from 20 to 21.
- 4 Guide plan amendment from low-density residential to institutional; rezoning from R-1, low-density residential, to PUD, planned unit development; preliminary plat; and site and building plan review with a parking stall variance at 5431/5439 Williston Road. (04037.04a)
- 5 Three-phased Glen Lake Redevelopment Project in the vicinity of 14400 Excelsior Boulevard. (05091.05a)



State of the City event set for Feb. 15

MINNETONKA RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2006 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 10, to Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. Check the February *Minnetonka Memo* for more information. ∞

Get the latest news

SUBSCRIBE TO HOT TOPICS, THE CITY'S free electronic newsletter that is sent out each Friday. It's easy to sign up — visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Sign up for our e-newsletter." For more information call (952) 939-8207 or email jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. ∞

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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2006 Minnetonka City Council

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