





minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
February 2006

A message from Mayor Jan Callison



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



City of
minnetonka
CELEBRATING
50
years

January 2006

Dear Fellow Residents:

The start of a new year may bring change to cities as well as to individuals. Certainly this is the case in Minnetonka, where I am honored to serve as the first new mayor since 1994.

Mayor Karen Anderson's departure, after 20 years of strong leadership on the city council, is significant. While her absence will change the council in some ways, in many respects it will remain the same. Existing and returning council members Bob Ellingson, Terry Schneider, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner and Brad Wiersum bring a wealth of experience to the work of the city council. They are joined by newly elected council member Dick Allendorf, who previously served on the council and most recently served on Minnetonka's Planning Commission. As always, the city also is fortunate to have an exceptional professional staff.

But, Minnetonka is more than just city council and staff. Our residents share a strong foundation of community values, and those are unchanged in 2006. Those values include, among others, a commitment to maintaining our vibrant neighborhoods; to protecting our natural environment; and to providing quality public services at reasonable prices. While we may not always agree on the best way to accomplish these goals, I doubt many would argue about their importance.

We are also fortunate in Minnetonka to enjoy an incredible spirit of citizenship and volunteerism. Residents serve on boards and commissions; learn about the city at the Citizenship Academy; monitor the quality of wetlands; volunteer with first-time juvenile offenders; act as neighborhood crime watch captains; participate actively in public issues; and do much, much more.

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to become more active in your community, consider this your invitation. Learn about opportunities with the city through the *Minnetonka Memo*, or by calling the city's volunteer coordinator at (952) 939-8215.

One of my resolutions for 2006 is to provide citizens more opportunities to share their thoughts with council members. I invite you to participate in one of four listening sessions being scheduled for early 2006, to be held in various parts of the city. This is an opportunity for you to meet informally with members of the city council and discuss issues important to you — the only item on the agenda is to hear your thoughts. Details are provided in this issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*, so mark your calendar and join us then.

Finally, while cities, communities and lives may change, we carry the past with us into the future. This year, Minnetonka recognizes the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as a village. The act of incorporating set Minnetonka's physical boundaries and defined its shape. The spirit of Minnetonka — the shared community values, the commitment to service, the sense of volunteerism — has shaped its soul, however. You make Minnetonka what it is today. Come join us in celebrating Minnetonka's anniversary and in other community activities during 2006 — we have much to celebrate!

Sincerely,
Jan Callison
Jan Callison
Mayor of Minnetonka



March listening sessions scheduled

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK WITH YOUR local elected officials? Then plan to attend the scheduled listening session in your ward. Mayor Jan Callison, along with your council ward representative, City Manager John Gunyou and Assistant City Manager GERALYN BARONE will host the listening sessions to hear any questions or comments you have about Minnetonka. Dates, locations and times are listed below. For ward locations, see the map on the back page of this *Minnetonka Memo*.

Ward 1 Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m.
Fire Station 3, 5700 Rowland Rd.

Ward 2 Saturday, March 25, 9:30 a.m.
Fire Station 2, 1815 Hopkins Crossroad

Ward 3 Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Fire Station 5, 15515 Wayzata Blvd.

Ward 4 Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.
Fire Station 4, 17125 Excelsior Blvd.

State of the City event is Feb. 15

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2006 STATE OF the City Address by Mayor Jan Callison Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7:30–9 a.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 10, to Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211.

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Kids' Fest is February 12 in Minnetonka

FEBRUARY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED NATIONALLY AS "We Love Our Kids" month. To help celebrate, Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services will host Kids' Fest Sunday, Feb. 12, from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

A variety of activities, including the kick-off of "Minnetonka Reads," a community-reading effort presented in conjunction with this year's 50th anniversary (*see sidebar*), will be conducted at the Minnetonka Community Center, Ice Arena and Williston Fitness Center. Results of the recent 50th-anniversary coloring contest also will be displayed and winners announced.

Free activities include dog sled rides, bingo, mini golf, batting cage, bonfire and s'more making, face painting, magic classes, and open swimming and ice skating. Please help area families in need by bringing a canned good — donations will be collected at the Minnetonka Community Center.

Proceeds from concession sales will be donated to the Richard Wilson Recreation Services Scholarship Fund. A shuttle will run between all three facilities for ease of transportation. For more information call (952) 939-8203 or visit www.eminnetonka.com.



Kids' Fest Schedule of Events

All events are at the Minnetonka Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

12:30 – 1 p.m.	Bingo
1 – 1:45 p.m.	Minnesota Zoo Zoomobile
1 – 2:15 p.m.	Dog sled rides
1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mini-golf
1 – 4:30 p.m.	Concession sales
1 – 2 p.m.	Amazing Nathan (strolling magician) Batting cage (grades 4 and up) — <i>Williston Fitness Center</i>
1 – 4 p.m.	Ice carving demonstrations Bonfire and s'mores Facepainting Old-fashioned valentines/quilting craft Shady Oak Beach season pass sales Early childhood sensory activities
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Willy Wonka/Oompa Loompa strolling characters
2 – 2:30	Amazing Nathan Magic Show
2 – 4 p.m.	Open swimming — <i>Williston Fitness Center</i>
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	Life as a dog sled musher
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Balloon sculpting and magic classes
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Ice skating/skate rental — <i>Minnetonka Ice Arena</i>
3 – 4 p.m.	Amazing Nathan (strolling magician)
3:30 – 4:15	Bill the Juggler
3:35 – 4:35 p.m.	Dog sled rides
4:15 – 5 p.m.	Bingo

Join Minnetonka Reads

VISIT KIDS' FEST FEB. 12 AND help kick off Minnetonka Reads, a community reading collaborative sponsored by Hennepin County Libraries and the city of Minnetonka in conjunction with the city's 50th anniversary celebration.

Residents of all ages are encouraged to read and share Minnesota author Gary Paulsen's *The Quilt*, which tells the story of a five-year-old boy who, during World War II, goes to live with his grandmother in a rural Norwegian American community in Minnesota. There, the boy learns about life, death and the quilt that is a pictorial record of his family history.

Books will be available for purchase at Kids' Fest. Then, participate in one of the following activities:

- Attend an open house celebrating *The Quilt*, Saturday, Feb. 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Minnetonka Library.
- Join a grandparent/parent and child book discussion Saturday, March 11, at 2 p.m. at the Ridgedale Library.
- Grandparent/parent and child book discussion and meal, Monday, March 13, at 6 p.m. at the Minnetonka Library.
- Attend the Minnetonka Reads finale when the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers perform at the Ridgedale Library Saturday, March 18, at 2 p.m.

Do you belong to a book club? Consider choosing *The Quilt* as your book club selection for the month of February or March. Book club discussion questions will be posted on the Hennepin County Library Web site at www.hclib.org. Thank you to the Friends of the Ridgedale Library and the Friends of the Minnetonka Library, as well as Barnes & Noble Minnetonka, all of whom are helping sponsor this event.



Volunteer Corner

Minnetonka can use your skills!

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED volunteering for the city? If you have even an hour or two of extra time each month, there's a good possibility your talents can be put to work!

Volunteer positions might be for one-time special events; or for short-term or long-term projects. Some positions might involve group participation as well. Current volunteer positions include: Kids' Fest volunteers, history event staff, Juvenile Diversion Program leader, maintenance (cleaning equipment) at Williston Center; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers/transcribers; and storm drain monitor.

To learn more about the latest volunteer opportunities, visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ☺

Senior center offers February events

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW AT THE MINNETONKA Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, in February.

Trained volunteers are available to help explain Medicare Part D, the new prescription drug program. Call (952) 939-8393 for an appointment.

Blood pressure screenings are available from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the first and third Fridays and the second Wednesdays of every month. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information. ☺

Coping with aggressive drivers

AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS — THEY IGNORE traffic signals, speed, tailgate, weave in and out of traffic abruptly and without signaling, and pass on the shoulder or unpaved portions of the road. These drivers may also make threatening hand gestures, scream, honk, and flash their lights at motorists who are in front of them.

These high-risk drivers climb into the anonymity of an automobile and take out their anger on other unsuspecting drivers. Their frustration levels are high and their level of concern for fellow motorists is low. Encountering an aggressive driver can be a distressing experience, so follow these safety tips:

- Make every attempt to get out of the way.
- Don't challenge the driver by speeding up or attempting to hold your own in the travel lane.
- Always wear your seat belt. It will keep you in your seat in case you need to make an abrupt driving maneuver, and it will protect you in a crash.
- Avoid eye contact.



- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- If you have a cell phone and can safely call the police, do so. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, the direction of travel.
- If an aggressive driver is involved in a crash farther down the road, stop a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive, and report the driving behavior that you witnessed.

Do your part to help keep the roads safe by avoiding confrontations with aggressive drivers and supporting efforts by law enforcement to rid the roads of this menace.

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

Visit the Home Remodeling Fair Feb. 26

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE about home remodeling and maintenance? Then visit the 14th annual Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, Feb. 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins.

Sponsored by the cities of Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Hopkins and St. Louis Park, and by Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka Community Education, the Home Remodeling Fair is designed to promote improvements to these communities' housing stock.

Fairgoers can visit more than 75 displays by remodeling contractors, architects, electricians, landscapers, tool rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, and lenders. Minnetonka planning department staff and city inspectors also will be at the fair.

Architects and landscape designers will staff the "Ask the Pro" booth and provide free, no-obligation advice to visitors. Fairgoers are encouraged to bring their photos or sketches.

Seminar topics include kitchen and bathroom remodeling trends; decks and porches; window replacement; wood



floor refinishing; finishing a lower level; preventing cold weather problems; and others. "Do-it-yourselfers" can attend seminars on color coordinating a home, organizing garages, and designing kitchens.

Registration is not required and admission is free. Food will be available at the Wetlands Café.

Fairgoers may park at Eisenhower Community Center or take the free shuttle bus from the Oak Ridge Country Club parking lot, 700 Oak Ridge Road (Directions to Oak Ridge Country Club: From Eisenhower Community Center/Hwy 7, go east on Highway 7 to Oak Ridge Road/5th Avenue, turn left on Oak Ridge Road, parking lot is one block north of Hwy 7 on west side of Oak Ridge Road. Look for signs).

For details and seminar times, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8200. ☺

Use trees to conserve energy

YOU'VE TURNED THE THERMOSTAT down so far that ice is forming in your pet's water bowl, and family members have taken to wearing ski masks and snow pants to bed. So what else can you do to cut your heating bill?

It won't help you right now, but this spring consider planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home to help reduce heating and cooling costs year-round! Here are some quick tips to get you thinking.

To protect a house from cold winter winds, but to avoid blocking winter sunlight that can help heat the house, plant trees or tall shrubs 20 to 50 feet from west-facing windows. Choose an evergreen species, because it will block winter winds from entering the window and will provide the best summer shade.

As an alternative, if you have adequate yard space, consider planting a windbreak—a row of evergreen trees spaced ten to 20 feet apart, planted in rows perpendicular to the primary winter wind direction. Usually a windbreak runs along the west and north sides of a property. (see drawing)

To keep a house cool in the summer, reduce the solar heat entering through windows by planting trees on the west and east sides of the home. Trees planted on the north and west side to protect from winter winds will also shade windows from heat in the summer. Use deciduous shade trees—trees that lose their leaves in the fall—for planting near windows on the east side of the house. You'll reap the summer shade but also get some solar heat gain in the winter. Also, plant a tree

or shrub near the air conditioning unit to block the sun, which may increase the unit's efficiency by up to ten percent.

Avoid planting trees in front of windows on the south side of a home, since they may block the winter solar heat and do not provide summer shade benefits, due to the angle of the sun during the Minnesota summers. However, if you decide to put a tree near your south windows, let in the light by choosing a tree with small leaves and "dappled" shade such as a honey locust, Kentucky coffee tree or an ash.

A few more general tips for planting :

- Plant a tree whose mature height will not interfere with an overhead power line or the structure of your home.
- Plant the tree no closer than ten feet to your home but no further than 50 feet.
- Choose trees and shrubs that fit well in your unique space, light, and soil conditions, and that are resistant to disease and insect damage.
- Since it will be close to your home, plant a tree with strong wood and monitor it in order to maintain its structure and safety. Ask a professional arborist or nursery person if you need help with tree care or selection.

To learn more about planting for energy conservation, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at www.dnr.state.mn.us or the University of Minnesota Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series at www.sustland.umn.edu. ☺

Reducing the city's salt intake

YOU MAY KNOW THAT THE ROAD SALT used during snow removal is harmful to Minnetonka's wetlands and creeks. But did you know how little it takes to negatively affect the city's water resources—a mere teaspoon per five gallons of water?

Salt is also harmful to trees and shrubs, because it causes water and nutrient loss, chloride poisoning, and increased vulnerability to freezing. Once salt is applied, it mixes and dissolves in snow, ice or water. Once dissolved, it never returns to solid form and so cannot be retrieved.

Because of these harmful effects, the city of Minnetonka attempts to limit the amount of salt used on the roadways, while still ensuring public safety.

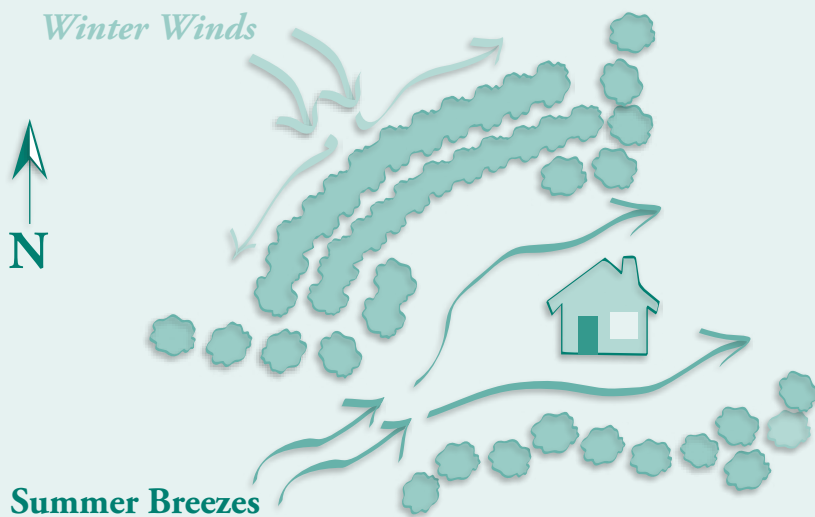
Except for when snowfall is preceded by sleet, roads are plowed before salt is applied. This allows plow drivers to use less salt and also prevents salt that may have been applied from being plowed off the street. The city also applies wetting agents to the salt before applying it to roadways, which makes the salt more effective at colder temperatures. Wet salt works faster than dry salt and stays in place, so less product is wasted. In addition to the environmental benefit, the city saves money by using less salt.

This fall, to continue the reduction of salt use, city staff hosted an educational event for private snow removal companies. Workers for Cadwell Lawn Care and Landscaping Inc., which manages snow removal at the Ridgedale Mall parking lots, attended the event. Owner Chuck Cadwell has used the information gained at this workshop to reduce by half the amount of salt he applies during each snow event. This is a huge cost saving for his clients, and a great benefit to our water resources. Thank you, Mr. Cadwell! ☺

Rent a city facility

IF YOU NEED SPACE FOR A MEETING or a special event, call the city of Minnetonka's facility management office at (952) 939-8390. Available facilities include:

- **Minnetonka Community Center**
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- **Glen Lake Activity Center**
14350 Excelsior Blvd.
- **Westridge Pavilion**
11280 Wayzata Blvd.



(Illustration adapted from material provided by U of MN SULIS)

Dave Kantor receives CAR award

ON JAN. 9, THE MINNETONKA CITY Council awarded Minnetonka resident Dave Kantor a Minnetonka Community Action Recognition (CAR) Award for his volunteer work at the Crown Ridge Apartments Advantage Center in northeast Minnetonka, where he teaches basic computer skills to residents.

According to Advantage Center Program Coordinator Stacey Morgan, who nominated Dave for the award, "Dave does a wonderful job explaining computer concepts in easy-to-understand terms, and works great with our youth and adult residents both. He is consistent and reliable, and a great asset to our program."

Advantage Center, an on-site resource center, is operated by CommonBond, which in 2005 received a \$10,000 grant from the city of Minnetonka's Livable Communities Account to support its social services programming at Crown Ridge.

Minnetonka's unique character comes from the individuals, organizations and businesses that contribute so much to the community. To recognize these contributions, the city created the Minnetonka Community Action Recognition Award program. This program is designed to recognize those one-time, short-term projects that enrich the quality of life in this community, show human connections, preserve natural resources, beautify the community, or exemplify good citizenship.

For a nomination form, visit www.eminnetonka.com (click on City Services, then Award Programs) or contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8207. ☺

Attend a concert

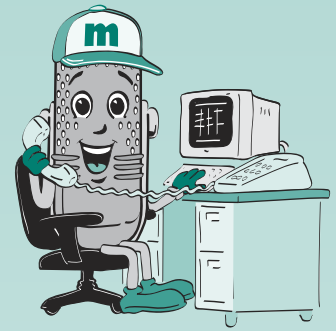
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO DURING the long days of February? Attend a Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) concert! Concerts are held at the ArtsCenter on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, a facility that is owned by the city of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka School District.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Winter Blast with the
Minnetonka Concert Band

Sunday, Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m.
10th Annual Young People's Concert,
featuring the Young Artist Competition
winner and the Minnetonka Symphony

Ask Minnetonka Mike!

MINNETONKA MIKE, THE CITY OF Minnetonka's online request system, is always standing by to help you with any questions, comments or concerns you have about your city. It's been a busy season for Mike, with many interesting questions received from residents! Maybe some of Mike's answers will be of use to you as well.



Bird Flu

Dear Mike:

I've been hearing a lot lately about the bird flu, and I was wondering what role, if any, city of Minnetonka officials would play in responding to a health crisis such as this in our area?

Signed, Concerned Resident

Dear Concerned Resident:

"The city uses an all hazards-type emergency response plan, a flexible plan that allows us to adapt and respond to all types of incidents that may affect Minnetonka and its residents, including a flu pandemic," explains Joseph Wallin, city of Minnetonka fire chief and director of emergency management.

"This plan allows us to coordinate, respond, and collaborate with a wide variety of disciplines, which is essential to any type of emergency or disaster response."

In the event of a health crisis such as avian flu, one site within the city has been identified as a potential mass

inoculation site, and the fire department, along with its response partners, has held a large-scale drill to test emergency management response to a health crisis.

In addition, the Minnetonka Police Department has worked with Hennepin County on a mass immunization plan for Minnetonka and surrounding communities, a specific plan that also involves the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, the National Guard and designated immunization site partners.

Wallin adds that state and county health agencies would take the lead in any sort of health emergency, a model that follows federal response plans.

If you have a question, comment or concern about the city of Minnetonka, let Minnetonka Mike know! It's easy to set up an account. Just visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Minnetonka Mike Online Service Request System." Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. ☺

Visit Minnetonka's Eco Fair March 18

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE about managing urban wildlife; protecting your trees and wetlands during construction; buckthorn removal; controlling invasive species; or landscaping in shady areas?

Then mark Saturday, March 18, 2006, on your calendar and plan to attend the city of Minnetonka's Eco Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

The Eco Fair will include seminars and displays by both city departments and outside vendors. For more information and a full schedule of events, check out the March *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺



Photo by Dana Allen Dezentjé, submitted to the 2004 city of Minnetonka photo contest.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

February
2006

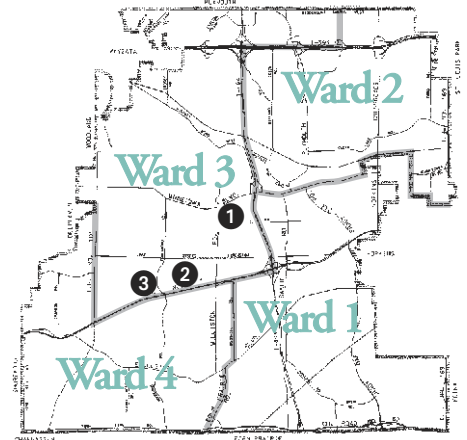
Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	1 Park Board, 7 p.m.	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12 Kids' Fest, 12:30–5 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
26	27	28					15 State of the City, 7:30–9 a.m.
							16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							20 President's Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
							21 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							26 Home Remodeling Fair, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
							27 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in February. 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 Site and building plan review to build a duplex at 14711 Minnetonka Drive. (05101.05a)
- 2 Preliminary plat to divide the existing property at 15616 Highwood Drive into two lots.
- 3 Preliminary plat, site and building plan review, building setback variance and parking lot variances for four two-story office condominiums at 16200 State Hwy. 7. (86092.05a)



2006 official newspaper selected

THE *Lakeshore Weekly News* HAS BEEN SELECTED as Minnetonka's official newspaper for 2005. It will publish the city's legal notices, ordinances and other official information, plus general information about the city. The newspaper is published each Tuesday and is available at many locations, including Minnetonka City Hall and major grocery and retail locations throughout Minnetonka. Call (952) 473-0890 for the pickup location nearest you. ☺



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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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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