

# minnetonka memo

*A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka  
March 2006*

## Third annual Eco-Fair set for March 18

**A**RICH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT — INCLUDING TREES, WETLANDS and open space — is a hallmark of the city of Minnetonka, setting it apart from many of its suburban neighbors. The city, as well as its residents, is committed to protecting this rich heritage. However, knowing how to manage these various resources is not always easy.

If you want to learn more about nurturing and protecting the natural landscape that you own or live near, plan to attend Minnetonka's Eco-Fair Saturday, March 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Exhibits open at 8:30 a.m., with concurrent workshops starting at 9 a.m. Refreshments will be available. Best of all, the Eco-Fair is a free event! Workshops start at 9, 10:05 and 11:10 a.m. and at 12:15 p.m. Topics and times are listed below.

### 🌿 **Native plants for home landscaping and gardening (9 a.m.)**

Native plants — they're well adapted to this area and grow with minimal care. Environmental firm Fortin Consulting will provide tips on finding and using native plants in your yard. You'll also learn a little about identifying and removing invasive species.

**Minnetonka Eco-Fair  
Saturday, March 18, 2006  
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center**

### 🌿 **Design your yard with native plants (11:10 a.m.)**

Environmental firm Fortin Consulting will help you design a landscape plan for your yard that incorporates native plants. Get the most out of this workshop by bringing a sketch showing the dimensions of your yard, as well as existing trees and plants.



### 🌿 **Coping with shade (11:10 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.)**

This session covers the values of trees, suggested trees to plant for shade canopy, understory trees and shrubs, perennials (primarily focused on native with some horticultural varieties), value of annuals, design considerations, installation and maintenance techniques, and discussion. There will be examples of plants that work in the shade.

### 🌿 **Introduction to Minnesota birds (11:10 a.m.)**

Do you know how to identify the birds in your backyard? A representative of the Minneapolis chapter of Audubon Minnesota will show you some Minnesota birds and teach you some of the tools of bird identification. This is a great introduction if you've ever had thoughts of becoming a "birder."

### 🌿 **Introduction to Minnesota water fowl (12:15 p.m.)**

Do you know how to identify the water fowl on the lakes and ponds? Learn some basic identifying features that will allow you to distinguish the different water fowl. A representative of the Minneapolis chapter of Audubon Minnesota will show you some Minnesota ducks and teach you some of the tools of bird identification.

**Third Annual Eco-Fair,  
continued on page 4**



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## 2006 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

### Recyclable material can be put into one of the following two groups:

*Do not mix the loose paper products and loose containers in the recycling bin.*

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

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

Remove all product liners and flatten boxes. Shredded paper is accepted — please place in a paper bag and seal shut with tape or staples.

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

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

### Curbside Collection Tips

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

**Recycling holidays:** In 2006, the following holidays will delay recycling collection one day: Memorial Day (Monday, May 29); Labor Day (Monday, September 4); and Christmas (Monday, December 25). Independence Day (Tuesday, July 4) will delay collection only for residents east of I-494. Residents west of I-494 will have regular recycling collection on Monday, July 3.

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

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

**Thank you for recycling:** Your participation does make a difference! Since 1989, Minnetonka residents have recycled 92,024 tons of recyclables. For more information about recycling, contact Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or email [delstad@eminnetonka.com](mailto:delstad@eminnetonka.com).

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

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

#### Telephone directories

Old telephone directories may be placed in paper grocery bags with the other paper products. Please **do not** use the plastic bag directories may be delivered in as plastic bags are not accepted in the curbside recycling program. Plastic bags may be thrown into the garbage or dropped off at Byerly's, Cub Foods, or Lunds as part of their plastic bag recycling program. For more information, visit [www.itsinthebagmn.org](http://www.itsinthebagmn.org). Directories without the plastic bag are also accepted at the Recycling Drop-off Center.

### Recycling Hints

#### Remember, not everything is accepted for recycling.

The materials accepted in the recycling program are products wanted by industries and mills as feedstock to make new items. Contamination by items that are not accepted for recycling is a problem. Placing unacceptable materials in your recycling bin is like throwing a bright red towel in with a load of white laundry — it ruins the whole effect!

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

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

# Join Minnetonka Reads

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN 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. The event runs through March 18.

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.

*The Quilt* may be borrowed from Hennepin County Library, or purchased from Barnes and Noble Minnetonka and other bookstores. Participate in one of these remaining activities in March:

- Join a grandparent/parent and child book discussion Saturday, March 11, at 2 p.m. at the Ridgedale Library. Sign up at [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org).
- Grandparent/parent and child book discussion and meal, Monday, March 13, at 6 p.m. at the Minnetonka Library. Sign up at [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org).
- 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 March. Book club discussion questions will be posted on the Hennepin County Library Web site at [www.hclib.org](http://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. ♪



# Water main flushing begins April 17

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS water resources. To help protect those resources, this spring the city is experimenting with the timing of street sweeping and hydrant flushing.

Hydrant flushing prevents rusty water from entering homes. As the hydrants are flushed, any debris, sediment, or litter that is on the street is washed into the nearest wetland, pond, lake or creek.

Streets are swept every spring to pick up debris, sediment and litter that remains after the snow melts. The street sweeper needs water in order to function, so traditionally the street sweeper would follow the hydrant flushing route so water could be provided without causing rusty water in the neighborhood.

This year, the city will begin with street sweeping and then move on to hydrant flushing, rather than flushing first followed by sweeping. This will prevent debris, sediment and litter from entering the neighborhood pond or wetland. Areas have been identified where street sweepers can obtain water without causing rusty water. The city is hopeful this experimental program will be successful.

### How you can help

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

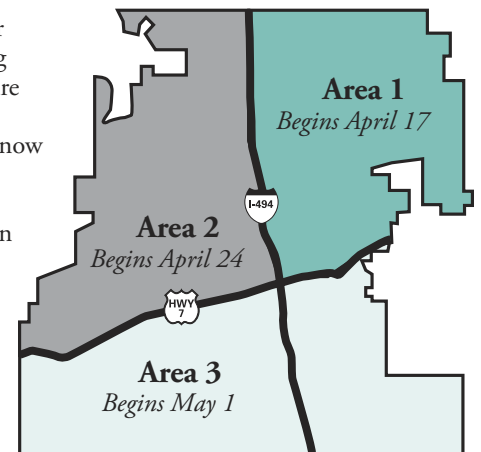
### Flushing schedule

Minnetonka Public Works will be flushing city water mains weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning April 17 and continuing through May 5. See the accompanying map to determine dates in your area.

Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

- Ridgedale business area — April 17, 3 to 7 a.m.
- Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway — April 24, 5 to 7 a.m.
- Hwy. 7/101 area — April 26, 4 to 7 a.m.
- Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way — May 4, midnight to 7 a.m.

Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions. During the flushing period it is normal to experience some discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water in your laundry tub. If you experience problems, please call the utility division at (952) 988-8400. ♪



## Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-Off Center

The Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-Off Center is located in the southeast corner of Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Look for the cream-colored wood sign by the east driveway at Public Works and use the driveway next to the sign. The green recycling drop-off containers are to the right as you enter.

The center accepts the same materials as the curbside program and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round.



## Brush drop-off opens April 15

The Minnetonka Public Works brush drop-off site, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., will re-open April 15 at 7 a.m. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.



### Third Annual-Eco-Fair *continued from page 1*

#### ♣ **Keeping the wildlife at bay** **(10:05 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.)**

Is something digging up your lawn, eating your favorite plants, or just creating havoc in your yard? Mike Tucker will share some of his techniques for dealing with woodpeckers, skunks, geese, moles, rabbits, and other wildlife. Also, find out which plants are less likely to become an afternoon snack for deer.

#### ♣ **Invasive species—A to Z (11:10 a.m.)**

From ash borers to zebra mussels, discover which invaders are here and what pests may be on their way. Non-native plants and animals pose a threat to our ecology and economy. Discover ways you can help control the spread of these unwelcome guests.

#### ♣ **Chemical “free” lawn care—almost!** **(9 a.m. & 10:05 a.m.)**

Learn about your lawn, what makes it grow, how to improve your turf, which grasses to plant, how to maintain and improve your soil and other interesting facts about grasses and your “turf.”

## A few tree tidbits

FROM *The Forest Story*, PUBLISHED BY the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, here are a few fun facts about trees.

- Believe it or not, the trunk of your tree never grows upward. If you were to place a marker on the trunk of a young tree, it would always remain in the same place. It is the buds on the branches that cause each limb of the tree to grow, making the tree taller. The limbs also spread to receive more sunlight.
- A 100-foot tree will take in approximately 8,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and exhale 6,000 pounds of oxygen during its growing process.
- In 60 years, a 100-foot tree will take more than 5 million pounds of water (600,000 gallons) from the soil and “breathe” it into the air. The tree itself will absorb only about 2,900 pounds (350 gallons) within its own life system. ♡



#### ♣ **Turn runoff into wildflowers** **(10:05 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.)**

Rusty Schmidt will share his knowledge of rain garden construction and other infiltration techniques that will help improve water quality and beautify your yard. Learn how to turn your downspouts, puddles, and soggy spots into an attractive opportunity. Also, discover how materials like pervious pavers can be used to create unique driveways and patios that will soak up water as it rains.

#### ♣ **Managing woodlands during and after buckthorn** **(9 a.m. & 11:10 a.m.)**

Just because it's been cut down doesn't mean everything is back to normal. Learn how to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal and best removal techniques for the site. Learn about forest structure and re-forestation using native/indigenous plant species. Emphasis will be on protective measures for high-value remnant species, erosion prevention, protection of ground cover species, provenance of native plant materials, and protection from deer.

#### ♣ **Introduction to Minnesota fish** **(9 a.m. & 10:05 a.m.)**

Learn to identify several Minnesota fish, where to find them and how water quality links to fish populations. If you're a Minnesotan who doesn't know fish species or are interested in learning more how our activities on land affect our finny friends in the water, this is a must-attend. If you have a kid who wants to fish, there will be suggestions on shore-fishing locations and tips to get you started.

#### ♣ **How to grow and maintain happy trees** **(11:10 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.)**

This session is an overview of essential tree care: selection, planting, mulching, staking, pruning, watering, fertilizing and more. PowerPoint slides and actual tree branches will be used to demonstrate proven and research-based techniques and methods. Emphasis will be on doing the right tree-care procedures at the start to avoid problems later on.

#### ♣ **Filling spaces: Choosing the right replacement tree for the right spot** **(9 a.m. & 10:05 a.m.)**

What will get your tree: storms, disease, insects or simply old age? Trees at some point fail and have to be removed. Then you're faced with the excitement or challenge of picking out a good replacement tree for the landscape.



There are Minnesota's native trees, those species that are tried and true. What about those specimen trees? We'll take a look at 30 small, medium and large trees to consider for landscapes in your own back yard, some great options to choose from when it is time to replant!

#### ♣ **Home composting (9 a.m.)**

If you're tired of piling up plant debris and shrub debris, which need to be disposed of, here is a class that offers some alternatives. Learn which yard and garden practices reduce the amount of plant waste and provide opportunities to reuse the materials in your landscape. The class also covers composting and how to use finished compost.

#### ♣ **Every curb is a shoreline** **(10:05 a.m. & 11:10 a.m.)**

Presents an overview of current water quality issues. This session features a 20-minute slide show and a discussion on water quality issues relating to landscaping and lawn care.

#### ♣ **Edible landscaping** **(9 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.)**

Picture this: a small, lovely garden for your home or apartment that includes the delicate touch of fern-like carrot leaves, flowering pea plants, colorful heads of kale, and climbing beans that double as a lush shade screen for a patio or deck. Learn about growing plants that provide edible flowers and leaves: nasturtiums, daylilies, columbines, dianthus, and rosehips. With a little planning, a small garden provides tremendous eating and beauty. Topics include plant selection, watering, fertilizing, and pest control.

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

For more information, call Jo Colleran, environmental resources coordinator, at (952) 988-8415 or email [jcolleran@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcolleran@eminnetonka.com), or Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or email at [delstad@eminnetonka.com](mailto:delstad@eminnetonka.com). ♡

## Join in the fun at the Senior Center!

ATTEND ONE OF THE BELOW MARCH events at the Minnetonka Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information.

### St. Patrick's Day Party

Friday, March 17, 12 p.m.

Enjoy an Irish meal and musical entertainment by the Minnetonka Senior Choral. Cost is \$6—sign up early for this popular event!

### Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, March 23, 8 to 10 a.m.

Advance tickets, \$3; \$4 at the door.

### Hiding in the Open: A Holocaust Memoir

Tuesday, March 28, 10 a.m.

Sabrina Zimering tells her story of growing up in Poland during World War II, and of her escape. Cost is \$2; registration due by March 22.

### Golf League

A 12-week, Monday morning golf league is forming now and will begin play in mid-May. Call (952) 939-8203 for information. Play will take place on three nine-hole executive courses. ☺

## Want weekly news about the city?

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE WEEKLY UPDATES about what's going on in Minnetonka, sign up for *Hot Topics*, the city's free electronic newsletter that is sent out each Friday. You'll get information about road construction projects, city council meetings, crime alerts and recreation offerings. Here are some sample headlines from the last few editions of *Hot Topics*:

- State of the City set for Feb. 15
- Tips for saving energy
- The latest on Glen Lake
- I-494 construction update
- Coloring contest winners announced
- Snow removal help for seniors
- Summer activities registration starts soon

So, if you want to be "in the know" about your city, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Sign up for our e-newsletter."

For more information, call (952) 939-8207 or email [jlarrison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jlarrison@eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Everyone wants to be needed...

...and the city of Minnetonka needs you! Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet people, share special talents, and serve the community. Current opportunities include history event staff; juvenile diversion program leader; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers/transcribers; and storm drain monitor. New positions are added as they become available. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ☺

Volunteer Corner



## Burwell House tour guides needed

TOURS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN interpreting the historic Charles H. Burwell site to the public, and volunteers make this happen. Visitors frequently comment about the excellent tour experiences provided by Burwell guides.

Being a guide is a great way to become involved in the community and share this wonderful resource with others. If you enjoy people, have a love of history and would be available at least once a month during the tour season, this is the volunteer opportunity for you. Regular tours take place from June through September on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Specials tours may also be scheduled by appointment.

Training and resource materials are provided. For more information, contact Laura Ronbeck at [lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com](mailto:lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8219. ☺



## Jo Colleran named Spirit of Minnetonka winner

JO COLLERAN, NATURAL RESOURCES manager, was named winner of the Spirit of Minnetonka award at a recent Minnetonka city employee recognition event. This award is presented to an employee whose actions and accomplishments during the past year have embodied the city's shared values and who is viewed as the overall "Employee of the Year."

Jo has worked for the city of Minnetonka for nearly five years, first as an environmental resources coordinator. In October 2005, she was named head of the newly formed natural resources division, which is responsible for forestry, open space, woodland resources, water resources, wetlands, shore land, environmental enforcement and education. Jo has a bachelor's degree in biology with an environmental emphasis from The College of St. Catherine. She is also a certified arborist and wetland ecologist. ☺



*Jo Colleran, natural resources manager*

# 2006 Property Taxes

## Many factors affect your property tax bill

The amount of property taxes on a home is not determined simply by the home's current market value and the tax rates of the city, county and school district. It is also closely defined by a complex set of state laws governing the property tax structure; city services and costs; and state funding streams — all of which are subject to change by the legislature.

### Unfunded State Mandates

One example of legislatively imposed costs is that Minnesota is one of the few states that require cities to pay state sales taxes on any purchases. This law adds about \$300,000 annually to the city's expenses paid with property taxes.

Another state mandate is that cities like Minnetonka are required to finance the state's Market Value Credit (MVC) Program, a program that affects the property taxes on some homes. Since 2003, the city of Minnetonka has been required to levy between \$600,000 to \$800,000 annually to pay for the program, and this mandate was recently extended through 2006.

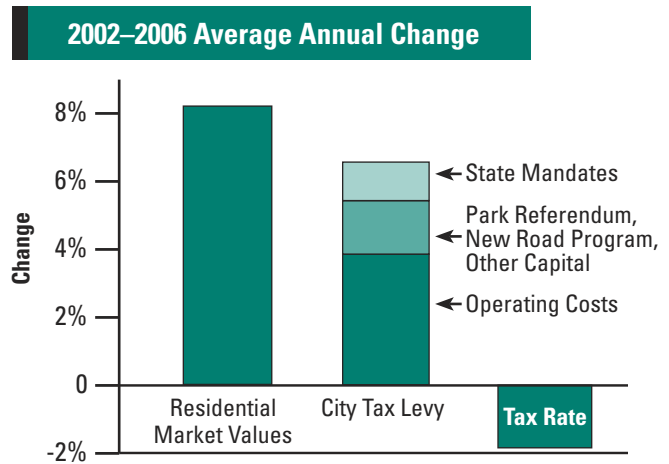
### Shifting Tax Burden

Over the past decade, residential property market values have risen at a much greater pace than commercial property values, thereby increasing the residential share of the total tax base. For example, between 2002 and 2006, residential property market values went up a cumulative 41 percent, while commercial values rose only six percent.

As a result, homeowners have had to bear an increasingly greater proportion of the property tax burden. If commercial property values had risen at the same rate as residential values over that period, city property taxes for 2006 on the average \$330,000 home would have been \$70 lower.

### Tax Bill Changes

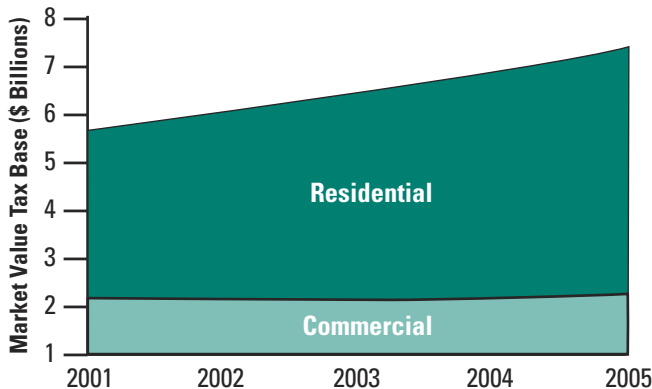
Between 2002 and 2006, the market value on the average residential property in Minnetonka rose by more than eight percent annually, while the city's tax levy only rose by an average of about six percent. More than one percent of that increase was directly related to the state mandate to fund the MVC program, and another two percent was associated with the voter-approved park and open space referendum, the new road reconstruction program and other capital projects. At the same time, the city's tax rate fell by an average of nearly two percent annually.



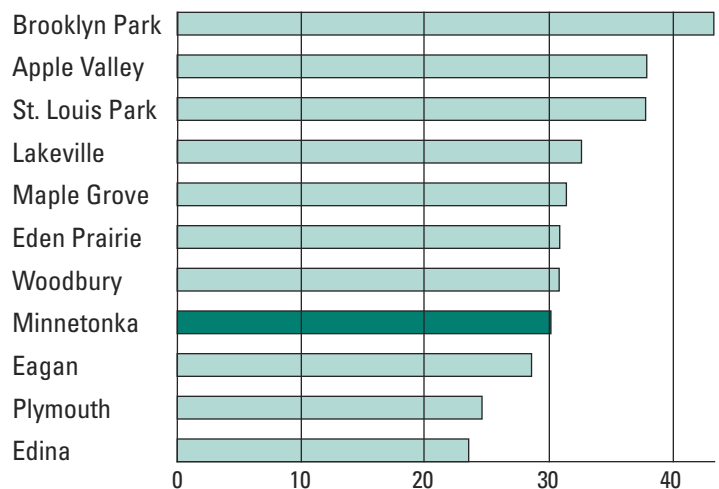
### Quality Services at a Reasonable Price

The city of Minnetonka provides a fuller range of municipal services than many other cities, and does not use special assessments to fund road and other improvements. Nevertheless, the city's tax rate remains among the lowest of comparable metro cities. Our residents continue to receive the quality services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price.

### City of Minnetonka Property Market Values



### City 2006 Tax Rates\*



\* Includes Market Value and HRA levies

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

# 2006 Market Value Notice

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

## How is market value determined?

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

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

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

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

## How does the appeal process work?

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

The Minnetonka City Council convenes each year as the local Board of Review and has local real estate professionals serve as its advisors. To make an appeal to the local board, you should first discuss your property's market value with the Minnetonka assessing staff. After that, you may make an appeal to the local Board of Review by March 31 simply by asking that your property be listed for appeal. However, it is important to know that the local and county boards have the authority to raise or lower an appealed market value.

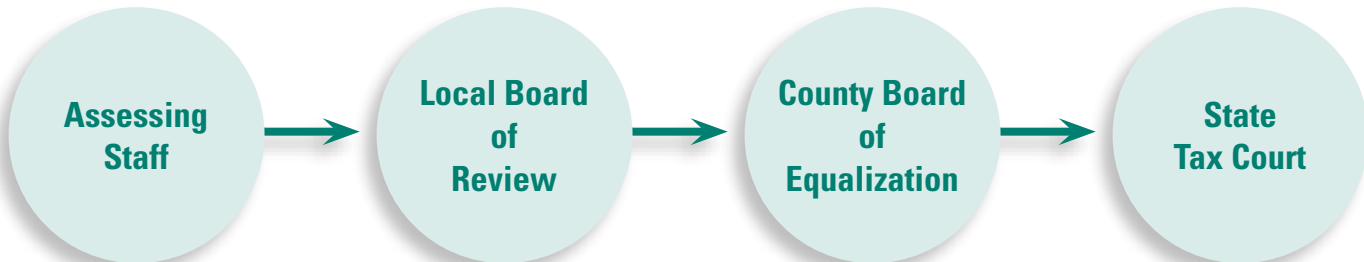
Remember, if you have questions or concerns about your property's market value or about the assessment process, please call the Minnetonka assessing staff at (952) 939-8200.



In early March, Minnetonka property owners will receive their 2006 market value notices. Four value amounts will appear on the notices:

- Estimated Market Value**  
The assessor's estimate of the total market value of the property.
- Limited Market Value**  
This "caps" the value on properties where the 2006 value increased significantly over 2005. State law provides for value increases to be capped at 15 percent. The value of new improvements is excluded from the cap. Only 22 percent of residential property is still subject to the limited market value law, as it continues to be phased out.
- Qualifying Improvement Value**  
This figure shows that portion of the value of improvements made to an older home under the former "This Old House" law.
- Market Value Subject to Taxation**  
This is the net taxable value of the property. For many homeowners, this amount will be the same as the limited market value, not the estimated market value.

## Market Value Appeals Process





# More than 1,600 attend Kids' Fest

**T**HE 10TH ANNUAL KIDS' FEST, sponsored by Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services and held Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Minnetonka Community Center, was the best-attended ever with more than 1,600 children and their families enjoying the many free activities. Events included dog sled rides, s'more making at an outdoor bonfire, ice sculpting demonstrations, face painting, magic shows and workshops, Valentine's Day card making, ice skating, swimming, and quilting fun. Mark your calendars now for next year's Kids' Fest, set for Feb. 11, 2007. ♡

*Photos courtesy of Jason Stenvold, Minnetonka resident and volunteer photographer for the city.*





## More than 150 attend State of the City

**M**ORE THAN 150 RESIDENTS AND business people attended this year's State of the City event February 15 at the Minnetonka Community Center. Mayor Jan Callison spoke on Minnetonka's accomplishments in 2005, as well as challenges for 2006.

In addition, the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce presented its Bravo! Award to Dan Duffy of Daniel K. Duffy Architects. He is also a member of the city of Minnetonka's Economic Development Authority. ♪



## Mark your calendars for 2006 city events

**S**O, MAYBE YOU MISSED KIDS' FEST, AND State of the City, and former Mayor Karen Anderson's farewell reception. But don't worry — there are still plenty of city events left to attend this year! Mark your calendars now for these exciting activities, and look for more information in upcoming *Minnetonka Memos*.

### Eco-Fair (see page 1)

March 18, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center

### Caring Youth reception (see page 11)

March 23, 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center

### Silver Skates Ice Revue

May 4, 5 and 6  
Minnetonka Ice Arena

### Summer Festival and Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 24  
Minnetonka Civic Center & Burwell House

### National Night Out

Aug. 1

### 50th Anniversary Jubilee

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Arts Center on 7

### City-Wide and Fire Department Open House

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 5 to 8 p.m.  
Minnetonka Civic Center



## 2006 Seasonal and Summer Employment Opportunities

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

Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services offers many part-time jobs throughout the year and during the summer. Many positions require working days, evenings, weekends, and holidays. Recruitment and staffing for spring and summer jobs is taking place now — it's never too early to apply!

**To apply**, a completed city application form must be submitted. For an application form, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or download an application and apply online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (click on Inside City Hall, Employment, Seasonal/Temporary). Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.



Available positions include:

- **Aquatics Program**  
Water Safety Instructors, Aides (Summer/Year-Round)
- **Youth Programs**  
Playground Leaders, T-Ball Instructors, Tennis Instructors (June-July/Aug.)
- **Gray's Bay Marina**  
Facility Attendants, Coordinator (April-Nov. 1)
- **Williston Fitness Center**  
Child Care (must be 18+), Land Aerobics Instructor, Water Aerobics Instructor. *Includes free Williston membership.* Call (952) 939-8370 for more information.
- **Shady Oak Beach**  
FT/PT — Lifeguards, Concession, Gate Attendants, Maintenance, Coordinator (May 31-Aug. 27)
- **Park Attendants**  
Hopkins and Minnetonka, FT/PT — Valley Park, Burnes Park, Glen Lake Park, Lone Lake Park, Gro-Tonka Park (May-Sept./Oct.)

### Public Works Summer Jobs (952) 988-8400

All Public Works seasonal positions are 40 hours per week. Flexible scheduling is likely and some positions require working weekends.

**To apply**, a completed city application form must be submitted. For an application form, call Public Works at (952) 988-8400 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or download an application and apply online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (click on Inside City Hall, Employment, Current Job Openings, Seasonal-Public Works). Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

- **Water & Sewer Utility Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Street Maintenance**  
Start at \$9.70/hour with year-end bonus
- **Natural Resources**  
**Tree Inspector:** \$10.80/hour with year-end bonus. Must be 18+ years old.



# News for Neighbors

## From the Minnetonka Police Department

**N**EWSP FOR NEIGHBORS IS A NEW feature that will appear quarterly in the *Minnetonka Memo*, with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- On February 8, members of the **Police Reserve Unit** were thanked by the Minnetonka Police Department for their community service. The Reserve Unit members assist the community by performing a variety of supplemental responsibilities, such as traffic control, handicapped parking enforcement, house checks, public fingerprinting, impound assistance and vehicle shuttles. In 2005, more than 4,600 hours of community service were donated by these dedicated individuals.
- The police department recently received **driver's license verification lights** from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Safe and Sober Project. These lights work with the state's new driver's licenses — when held at eye level to view the driver's license, black outlined loons appear, proving the authenticity of the license.
- The police department conducted a **Safe and Sober DWI enforcement** campaign from Dec. 16 through 31, arresting 23 drivers for DWI during that time. This was the second DWI enforcement campaign since the state's 0.08 alcohol-concentration limit went into effect Aug. 1, 2005. Of the 23 drivers arrested for DWI, three registered below 0.10 on preliminary breath tests and two registered at or above 0.20.
- In January, five **police school liaison officers** and their supervisor, Sgt. Tim Mulcrone, attended the Minnesota Juvenile Officer's Conference in Duluth. The conference provides

an opportunity for officers to receive valuable training on juvenile issues that affect their school assignments.

- Police department employees Sgt. Phil Pesheck and Cheryl Bischof recently received **employee awards**, Pesheck for his 18-month pursuit of a Homeland Security grant for critical infrastructure protection; and Bischof for her positive attitude in learning the duties of her new position as well as taking over her supervisor's duties for an extended period.
- The **2005 false alarm summary** demonstrates a continual decrease in the number of false intrusion alarms, as well as fire alarms, since 2003.



- A **new K-9** joined the police department in January, when Officer Ryan Piper took possession of an 18-month-old German shepherd named Krieger. In March, Officer Piper and Krieger will participate in a training session sponsored by the St. Paul Police Department. ♪



### Are your kids ready for an emergency?

**T**HE MINNETONKA FIRE Department announces that the Department of Homeland Security has launched "Ready Kids", a family friendly tool to help parents and teachers educate children ages 8 to 12 about emergencies. Visit the Ready Kids Web site at <http://www.ready.gov/kids/home.html>.

### Coping with coyotes

**I**F YOU'VE SPOTTED A COYOTE IN YOUR backyard lately, you're not alone. The light winters of the past few years have helped increase the population of "prey animals" such as rabbits, squirrels and mice. Along with those increased populations comes a parallel rise in the number of predators, such as coyotes.

Here are some tips for avoiding problems with coyotes:

- **DON'T** feed coyotes!
- **DO** prevent coyote access to food by securing all garbage containers, wildlife feeders, pet food and other food sources.
- **DON'T** leave cats and small dogs outside without supervision.
- **DO** vaccinate all pets for diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian. Coyotes can carry the same diseases that can affect household pets.
- **DO** harass any coyotes that do not immediately run from people. Frighten the coyote by shouting, clapping, or making other startling sounds. Motion-detecting lights are also a good deterrent.
- **DON'T** encourage coyotes to become at ease with humans.

The city of Minnetonka is tracking coyote sightings and will remove coyotes showing signs of illness or injury. If you see a coyote, please report it to DeeAnn Bloom, community service officer, Minnetonka Police Department, at (952) 939-8500. ♪



## Ask Minnetonka Mike!

**M**INNETONKA 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 winter for Mike, with many interesting questions received from residents! Maybe some of Mike's answers will be of use to you as well.



### Dog Parks

Dear Mike:

*I have visited off-leash dog parks in other cities and would love it if Minnetonka had a dog park as well. Is this an amenity the city might offer?*

*Signed, Kay Nein*

Dear Kay:

Minnetonka park ordinances currently allow dogs to be unleashed in the natural areas of the parks as long as they are under voice command. Dogs are not allowed in the maintained areas of parks and must be leashed while on trails. With more than 1,000 natural acres in the city park system, dog owners looking for a place to let their dogs run have plenty of options. However, this may not be the answer for those looking for socialization with other dogs or for those who are concerned their dog may run away from an unenclosed area.

About two years ago the Minnetonka Park Board reviewed the possibility of a dog park within the park system. Of concern to the park board was finding an appropriate location for a dog park

without eliminating an existing amenity such as a play area, athletic field or natural area. As each neighborhood park is renewed as part of the five-year parks renewal program begun in 2002, neighborhood residents are surveyed about their preferences for amenities within their park. While some residents have expressed a desire to have a dog park, so far no one wants that dog park to be in their neighborhood park—especially if it means losing an existing amenity.

Three Rivers Park District has dog parks in four of their park reserves: Elm Creek, Cleary Lake, Lake Sarah and Crow-Hassan. Permits are required. For more information or for park locations visit [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org)

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](http://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. ☺

## Paying for emergency home repairs

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA OFFERS AN emergency rehabilitation program for homes needing immediate repairs, such as furnace or water heater replacement, gutters and roof repairs. This program is a deferred loan without payments or interest. Repayment of the loan is required only if the home is sold within the following ten years or title is transferred. Participants must meet certain program income and asset guidelines. For more information, call Bill O'Meara, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin, at (952) 933-9639, ext. 210. ☺

## Door-to-door sales in Minnetonka

**M**ANY LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATIONS GO door-to-door to sell their products or ask for donations. However, there may be "enterprising" individuals whose goals are less than honorable. The city of Minnetonka Ordinance for Peddlers, Solicitors and Canvassers (Section 630) requires peddlers and solicitors to have a permit.

When a peddler or solicitor knocks on your door, ask to see their permit or picture identification. If the person is unable to produce the permit or identification badge, immediately call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 and report the violation.

Regulations are as follows:

- For-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have photo identification issued by the city. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by the issuing of this license.
- Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license, unless they pay their solicitors. However, the city does request that charitable organizations register.
- Every resident and business has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property.
- For more information or to find the application for a permit visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Caring Youth Reception is March 23

**E**ACH YEAR, THE CITIES OF MINNETONKA, HOPKINS AND GOLDEN VALLEY, IN CONJUNCTION with the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people in grades 7 through 12.

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

This year's event is set for Thursday, March 23, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. ☺

**2006 Caring Youth Reception  
Thursday, March 23, 6:30–8 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard  
Minnetonka, MN 55345**



# Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

March  
2006

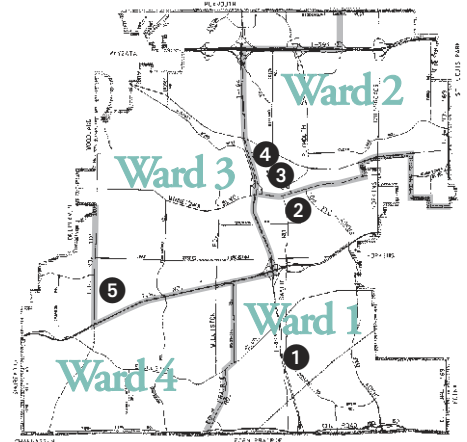
Call (952) 939-8200  
for more  
information.

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

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Variances to remodel the home at 5339 Minnetoga Terrace. (06000.06a)
- 2 Items concerning a new building on the property at 13000 St. Davids Road for the Episcopal Parish of St. David. The building would be used by Intercongregational Communities Association, Inc. (ICA) as a food shelf/distribution center. (92053.06a)
- 3 Preliminary plat, with variances, to divide property at 3212 Wentworth Trail into three lots.
- 4 Preliminary plat to divide the existing property at 13533 Wentworth Trail into three lots.
- 5 Amendment to an existing conditional use permit for an outdoor nursery at the southwest corner of Westwind Plaza. (88030.06a)



## Meet your mayor and council ward representative at listening sessions

**W**OULD 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, times and locations are listed at right (please note, the date for the Ward 2 listening session has changed from what was previously announced in the February *Minnetonka Memo*.) For ward locations, see the development map above. ☺

- Ward 1 *Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m.*  
Fire Station 3, 5700 Rowland Rd.
- Ward 2 *Saturday, April 8, 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.

minnetonka  
memo *March 2006*



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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

### Mayor

Janis Callison ..... (952) 939-8389  
..... Home: (952) 935-7010  
..... [jcallison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcallison@eminnetonka.com)  
Meetings with the mayor may be  
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

### City Manager

John Gunyou ..... (952) 939-8200

### Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson ..... (952) 939-8200

E-mail: ..... [comments@eminnetonka.com](mailto:comments@eminnetonka.com)

Internet: ..... [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)

### Council

*At Large:* Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 [dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)  
Terry Schneider..... (952) 934-9529 [tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 1: Bob Ellingson ... (952) 931-3065 [bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 2: Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 [twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 3: Brad Wiersum... (952) 930-3681 [bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)  
Ward 4: Al Thomas ..... (952) 949-9027 [athomas@eminnetonka.com](mailto:athomas@eminnetonka.com)

Minnetonka Mike ..... (952) 939-8586 [mike@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com)

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency ..... 9-1-1

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

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON