

minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
October 2006

Fire Department, City-Wide Open House is October 10

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR MINNETONKA COMMUNITY AT the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. You'll find interesting, fun and free activities for everyone both inside and outside, in city hall, in the community center and in the police and fire departments.

Activities include:

- Department tours
- City vehicle and equipment displays
- Strolling characters
- Free treats
- Musical entertainment
- Senior woodcarving demonstrations
- Information on city departments, boards and commissions
- Information from non-profit participants

At the fire station, children four years of age and older can enjoy free fire truck rides, demonstrations and fun learning activities for the entire family. Free hot dogs and pop also will be available. This school year, members of the Minnetonka Fire Department are visiting each elementary school in Minnetonka to present a new comprehensive education program called "Be Safe — Be Prepared." Read more about this program on page 3 of this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺

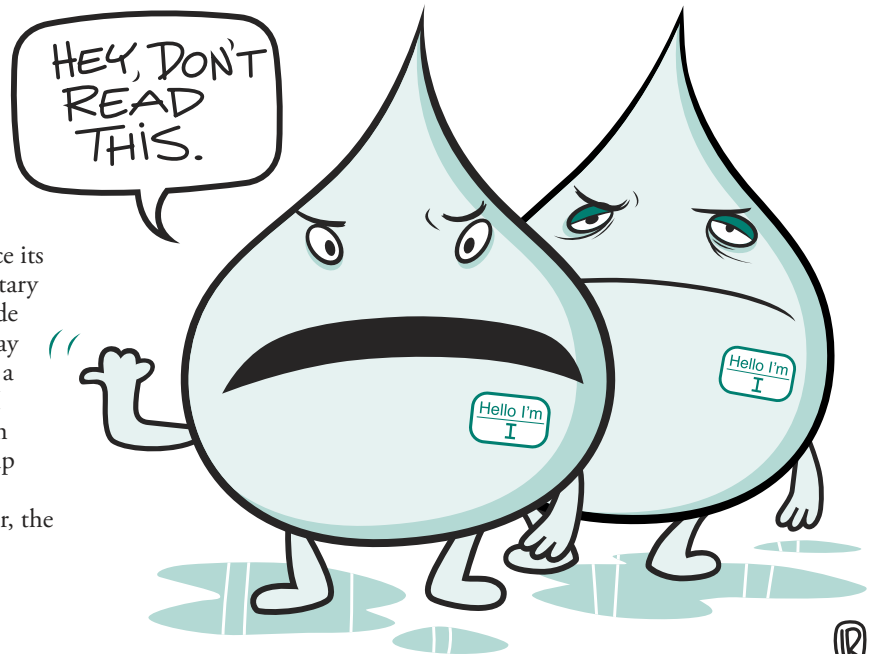


Don't be a drip — give I and I the boot!

DO YOU HAVE INFILTRATION AND INFLOW (I AND I) at your home?

Learn more about the city of Minnetonka's efforts to reduce its flow of clear water into the Met Council's overburdened sanitary sewer collection system at the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. Kids can play with an environmental model showing how water flows over a landscape, while adults can hear more about the city's I and I program, water meter replacement plans and a grant program designed to help residents make needed changes to their sump pumps or foundation drains.

Join us at Open House and find out how, working together, the city and residents can give I and I the boot! ☺



Why not WiFi?

RECENTLY, THE MINNEAPOLIS CITY Council approved installation of a wireless high-speed Internet network using wireless fidelity technology (WiFi), and now St. Louis Park is planning development of WiFi as well. This news has some Minnetonka residents asking if the city also plans to pursue this technology.

Most cities, if they are thinking about WiFi at all, are only in the discussion stages—and many simply aren't interested. Concerns range from the appropriateness of public involvement in private business to the ability of a public agency to technically and financially compete against major providers. WiFi in Minnetonka faces several additional disadvantages:

- **Minnetonka does not operate its own electric utilities.** To date, the only Minnesota cities that have deployed WiFi systems have the financial advantage of owning the street light poles where transmitters are located.
- **Minnetonka does not have an extensive fiber network.** To deploy WiFi, a significant amount of money would have to be invested—at the expense of other projects—to extend the fiber network.
- **Minnetonka's heavy tree coverage** is problematic for WiFi reception, a technology that was developed primarily for use in buildings. While WiFi transmits below the tree canopy, it would require significantly more towers to do so than in an area with fewer trees. It's worth noting that WiMax, the next generation of technology, would face the same challenge—its taller towers would have to penetrate the heavy leaf cover.
- **Minnetonka's low density development and topography** would make it difficult to deploy the recommended 35 to 40 WiFi access points per square mile. In addition, the lack of existing street lights as well as curving streets, cul-de-sacs, hills and residential building materials would affect the reliability of reception.
- **Minnetonka residents already have relatively good access to cable and DSL service,** meaning potential WiFi providers in Minnetonka would be faced with the need to provide more equipment for relatively few subscribers—a further complication to the business model.

As reported in the January 2005 *Minnetonka Memo*, the city of Minnetonka will continue to monitor this technology as it evolves. ☺

Council sets priorities for 2007 budget

THE MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL recently set priorities and guidelines for preparing the city's 2007 budget, which will be adopted later this year.

The city of Minnetonka takes a responsible long-term perspective with financial planning and management. We make decisions with the future in mind, thus ensuring our ongoing ability to provide residents and businesses with quality services at a reasonable price.

Like all service businesses, the city is experiencing budget pressures. State revenue cuts and unfunded mandates, soaring energy and health insurance costs continue to challenge our ability to provide basic services. But unlike private businesses, we cannot unilaterally choose our client base, the services we provide, or the geographic market areas we serve.

To meet our citizens' expectations for both service quality and taxes, the city council directed that roads and public safety continue as the city's highest priorities, and that projected 2007 budget growth be reduced by \$300,000. The council also directed that any new programs be funded through the reallocation of existing resources, that strict energy conservation measures be adopted, and that non-personnel costs be limited to one-half the rate of inflation. Several new programs are planned:

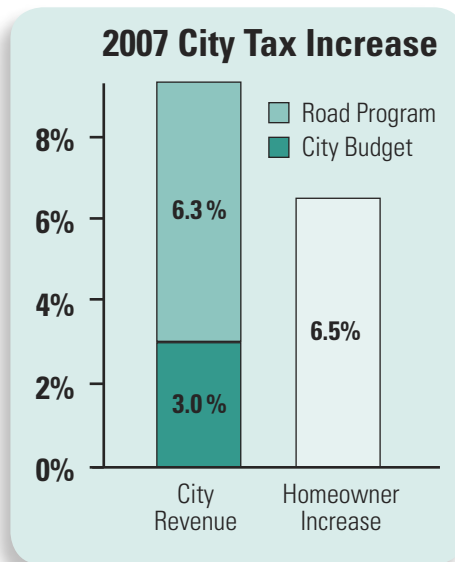
- Funding will more than double for the new road revitalization program, which is designed to stabilize, repair and maintain the city's 250 miles of local streets. A cost-effective thin overlay process is being used to stabilize deteriorating pavement and prolong the life of city streets as major road reconstruction takes place.

- A new traffic management program will work with neighborhoods to raise awareness and encourage personal responsibility to make changes in driving habits. Additional traffic enforcement and design strategies will be undertaken in areas with high levels of speeding violations.
- Working with neighborhood groups, firefighters will help prepare residents and businesses to deal with emergencies. ReadyMinnetonka guides will help participants evaluate risks and assemble preparedness kits.
- The city's natural resources program will be refocused to strengthen development oversight, restore natural areas and enlist residents in our efforts to maintain the health of Minnetonka's urban forest. Cost sharing programs will support private reforestation, shade tree treatment and stewardship.
- A new program will reduce stormwater infiltration and inflow into the city's sanitary sewer system to avoid overloading regional treatment plants and Met Council surcharges. City-wide inspections are planned, with incentives offered to encourage corrections.

Under the council guidelines, city property tax revenue will increase 9.3 percent in 2007, with 6.3 percent dedicated to road revitalization. Revenue for operating and other capital needs will be held to a 3.0 percent increase, well below the growth in comparable cities. After decertification of a TIF district, total city taxes for the average Minnetonka homeowner will increase by 6.5 percent, with two-thirds going for road repair.

The city of Minnetonka believes that taxpayers deserve timely and accurate information on how we are managing their tax dollars. This year, new opportunities are available for interested residents and businesses to learn more about the city's budget and property tax system, ask questions and provide input.

Citizens may attend one of two budget sessions: Saturday, October 21, at 10 a.m. or Tuesday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the City Council Chambers. A separate session is planned for businesses on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 8 a.m. in the Boards and Commissions room at City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Feedback can also be provided on the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or by contacting Merrill King, finance director, at mking@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8200. ☺



Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department



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

“Be Safe — Be Prepared”

This school year, the Minnetonka Fire Department presents a new comprehensive education program to every elementary grade school classroom in Minnetonka, making school children more aware of fire hazards and better prepared for emergencies.

Written jointly by the Minnetonka Fire Department and Gatewood Elementary School Principal Donna Montgomery, “Be Safe — Be Prepared” teaches children what they can do to prepare themselves in case of the emergencies they are most likely to encounter. Also new this year, each individual classroom will receive a presentation designed specifically for their grade level, rather than a large multi-grade assembly.

Parents, you can help reinforce what the children have learned at school. Young children should know what to do in an emergency. Make sure your children learn their address and phone number. Your children also should know where you work and your cell phone number.



Above, a volunteer (right) tries on turnout gear as Minnetonka Fire Marshal Phil Minell (left) gives a “Be Safe — Be Prepared” presentation to school children.

During a fire, a child may waste valuable time looking for parents, siblings, pets, or toys, rather than escaping. Help avoid this possibly tragic circumstance by practicing a fire drill at home and identifying a meeting place.

Here are a few more fire prevention and emergency tips:

- Ensure smoke detectors work.
- Never empty hot or cold fireplace ash into a cardboard box or paper bag.
- Make sure candle holders can contain melted wax.
- Inspect and clean fireplace chimneys.
- Keep areas around furnaces and water heaters free of clutter.
- Practice a fire drill at home and designate a specific meeting place for the family.
- Addresses should be visible from the street.
- Children should know their address and your cell phone numbers.
- Establish an emergency contact person outside the area.
- Purchase an emergency weather radio.
- Keep a working flashlight on hand, with extra batteries.
- Carefully follow disposal instructions for paint, varnishes, and oils to minimize the chance of spontaneous combustion.

In memory of Minnetonka’s first fire chief

Kenneth W. Johnson, a charter member and first chief of the Minnetonka Fire Department, passed away peacefully Sept. 6, 2006, at the age of 83. Kenneth served the Minnetonka Fire Department for 21 years as chief, assistant chief and firefighter. He was also very active in the Minnetonka Senior Center. He is survived by his wife, Laverne; five children; 16 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Memorials are preferred to the Minnetonka Firefighters Relief Association or to the Minnetonka Senior Center. ☺

The History of Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn’t the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area ‘like a tornado,’ some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they’d been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls.

Reproduced from NFPA’s Fire Prevention Week Web site, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2006 NFPA.

General election set for Tuesday, Nov. 7

THE GENERAL ELECTION IS SET FOR Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Below are answers to the questions most frequently asked by voters. For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com (click on "Election 2006").

What's on the ballot?

The ballot will include U.S. senator, U.S. representatives, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, state senators, state representatives and judicial offices, as well as a proposed constitutional amendment to the motor vehicles sales tax (see page 5 for more information). There are no municipal or school board offices or issues on this year's ballot.

Sample ballots will be available on the city's Web site by October 13.

What are voting hours and locations?

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

Please see the map accompanying this article for a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling place, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Election 2006," or call (952) 939-8200.

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

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

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

What identification is needed to register?

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

Who can vote absentee?

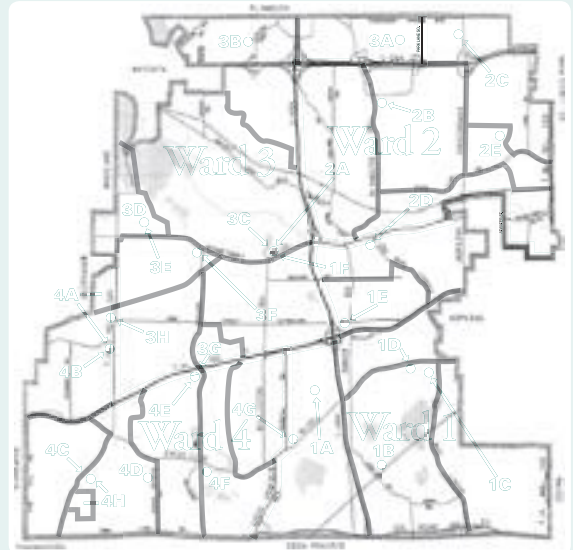
Absentee voting is available if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct; illness or disability; religious observance; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary	Precinct Numbers	4A
Precinct Lines	Polling Locations	•

Polling Locations

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



How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

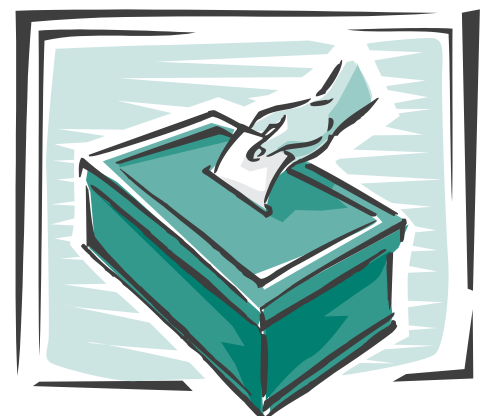
- In person at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended voting hours are available Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 6, until 5 p.m.
- By mail by requesting an absentee ballot application at www.eminnetonka.com or by phone at (952) 939-8200. Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal delivery.

Where will election results be available?

Results will be available on the city's Web site, www.eminnetonka.com.

What is the city's role in the election?

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



What ID do you need to vote?

Voters registering to vote on Election Day must provide proof of residence. You may show **one** item from Table A or **two** items from Table B (valid photo ID plus valid utility bill)

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

- Valid Minnesota driver’s license or learner’s permit (or receipt for either) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Tribal ID showing current name and address in precinct.
- A voucher card signed by the person vouching for the voter and witnessed by an election judge. A voucher is the oath of a voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant’s address in the precinct.
 - The voucher must have personal knowledge of the person for whom they are vouching.
 - The voucher card must be placed with the registration card.
 - A voter who is vouched for **cannot** vouch for another voter at this election.
 - Challengers **cannot** serve as vouchers.
 - A voucher may vouch for an unlimited number of persons.
 - Voucher **must** leave the polling place as soon as the vouching process is complete.
- Late notice sent from the Elections Office. Place this notice with the registration application.
- Prior registration in the same precinct—voter’s former address listed in the polling place roster.
- Current students
 - Student ID or dated registration or fee statement with valid address in the precinct; or student ID if on a dorm list provided by Election Headquarters.

OR

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

Column 1

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

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

Column 2

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

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

TABLE B

MVST question on the November ballot

AT THE NOVEMBER 7 GENERAL election, Minnesotans will have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment to dedicate all of the revenue from the existing motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) to highway and transit improvements. Currently, only 54 percent of the MVST revenue is used for transportation purposes.

Passage of the amendment would provide another \$300 million per year for highway and transit systems throughout the state. In Minnetonka, the amendment would result in another \$200,000 annually for city streets, after the initial five-year phase-in period.

The wording of the proposed amendment has resulted in some people assuming it would increase the motor vehicle sales tax, which is not the case. No additional revenue will be collected if this amendment passes. Conversely, if it doesn’t pass, the revenue collected will not be reduced. This amendment merely changes the distribution of MVST revenue.

A final note: in Minnesota, passing an amendment to the constitution requires a majority vote of all people voting, so, if a voter leaves this question blank on the ballot that is considered a “no” vote. ☺

Openings available on boards and 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 2007, openings on the Minnetonka Park Board, Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority will be available. Applications are generally due in mid-December, with interviews taking place in January. Accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies, with interviews taking place as necessary. Look for more information in future *Memos*, or visit www.eminnetonka.com. For an application, contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

Celebrate a safe Halloween!

THE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT provides the following Halloween safety tips for parents and trick or treaters. Don't forget to pick up a trick-or-treat bag, courtesy of the Minnetonka Police Department, at the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. (see front page for details).

- Costumes should be short and snug. Baggy sleeves, big capes and puffy skirts may catch fire if they brush against candle flames.
- Shoes should fit. Big, floppy clown or adult shoes may trip you up.
- Costume props can hurt you badly if you fall. Be sure swords, knives, etc. are made of flexible plastic or rubber.
- Make sure masks fit properly and the eyeholes allow you to see fully. Consider painting your face instead.
- Be sure drivers can see you in the dark. Attach reflective tape or glow sticks to your costume.
- Don't go it alone while trick or treating. Kids under 13 should be with an adult; older kids should go with buddies.
- Cross the street at crosswalks and intersections. Stop at street corners. Look left, right and left again before crossing, and don't cross between parked cars. Remember, never step into the street without looking for oncoming vehicles.
- Pick only wrapped candy when you trick or treat. Ask your parents to check all treats to be sure they are safe.
- Finally, be safe and have fun! ☺

Adults, sign up for open gym!

ADULT OPEN GYM OPPORTUNITIES in volleyball, basketball and badminton begin in October and continue through the winter months. Basketball is on Wednesday evenings; volleyball is available Tuesdays and Sunday evenings; and badminton is set for Wednesday and Friday nights. Advance registration is not required; just show up and pay at the door. For more information call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 or visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺

Spotlight on: *the Minnetonka Park Board*

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, Minnetonka's various boards and commissions will be featured in the *Minnetonka Memo*. This month, we are pleased to introduce the Minnetonka Park Board!

With seven members and a recently added student representative, the Minnetonka Park Board's goals are to protect natural resources and open space; to renew and maintain parks; to provide quality athletic and recreational facilities; and to enhance long-term park board development.

Recent accomplishments by the park board include development of the use policies for the two new athletic fields on the Minnetonka Civic Center campus; development of a new parks and trails map; and ongoing involvement in the parks renewal process. In the future, look for redesigned trail signs and additional trail segments, all initiated by the park board.

The park board meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Park board members also represent the city on a Joint Recreation Board with the city of Hopkins, which meets four times a year.

For more information about the park board, or if you are interested in being considered to serve on the board, call (952) 939-8200. ☺



Members of the Minnetonka Park Board are (left to right) Jahn Anderson, Paul Lehman, Tim Goodyear, Freinde Mills, Bruce Gefvert, Cathy Rude, Denny Lambert, and student representative Cody Dick.

Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride fares increase

MINNETONKA DIAL-A-RIDE IS A DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICE OPERATED BY Senior Community Services, using two small lift-equipped buses to transport residents on a first-come, first-served basis within the city of Minnetonka boundaries.

Effective Oct. 1, 2006, Dial-a-Ride fares will increase to **\$3 per one-way trip**; for **group trips** the fare will be **\$3 round trip, per person** — note the 50 percent savings by organizing and participating in a group trip!

Dial-a-Ride hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (952) 401-1749 at least 24 hours in advance to schedule your individual or group trip. Pay by cash, check, or, starting in October, a prepaid punch card. For \$25, you'll receive ten \$2 punches and eight \$1 punches — a \$3 savings! Call (952) 401-1749 in October to purchase the punch card. ☺

October fun with MAM

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MINNETONKA (MAM) WILL HOST TWO OCTOBER concerts. Both concerts are free, although donations to MAM are welcome. Call (952) 401-5954 for more information

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Concert Band, directed by Dan Geldert
Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka
All ages can enjoy this concert.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m.

After attending the Fall Family Festival (see p. 8), bring the whole family to the Minnetonka Community Center for musical Tricks and Treats with the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra and Friends. Come in costume and be prepared to meet some interesting-looking musicians who will greet you with slightly scary but mostly silly musical treats! ☺





2006 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

Saturdays: Oct. 21 & 28, Nov. 4 & 11
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

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

Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73; **use west entrance.**

Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.

2 Groveland School Parking Lot

Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101

3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center, North Parking Lot

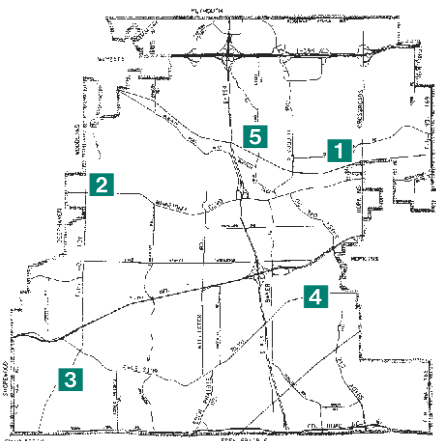
5621 Hwy. 101

4 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot

Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd., upper parking lot

5 Meadow Park Parking Lot

Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites on Saturdays, October 21 & 28 and November 4 & 11.

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

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

- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 3, Oct. 10, Oct. 17, Oct. 24, Oct. 31, Nov. 7, Nov. 14

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

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

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

Brush drop-off ends Nov. 18

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents ends Nov. 18, 2006.

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

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

Please note: Trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber, or wood scraps are not accepted.

Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials go into the leaf drop-off program. (The brush is ground into the mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.)

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

Still have buckthorn?

Just because buckthorn has been cut down doesn't mean everything is back to normal. If you own a small or large woodland lot, and you still have buckthorn, plan to attend "Managing Your Woods: Buckthorn and Beyond," presented by Janet Larson, Minnetonka natural resources specialist, Thursday, Oct. 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the boards and commissions room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

You'll learn how to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal; best removal techniques for the site; forest structure; and reforestation techniques using native/indigenous plant species. Emphasis will be on protective measures for high-value remnant species, erosion prevention, protection of ground cover species and protection from deer. Handouts will be provided. Reservations are required — call (952) 988-8400 by Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

October
2006

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4	Park Board, 7 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9	City Council, 6:30 p.m. (special session, 6 p.m.)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, 5–8 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	11	Joint Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
29	30	31					12	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							16	City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							17	Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							23	City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							26	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

Attend the fall family festival October 29

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF outdoor fall fun Sunday, Oct. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minnetonka amphitheater, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Entertainment includes music, puppets and juggling by KidPower with Rachael, and storytelling by Scratch and Scritch of the WonderWeavers.

Other activities include hayrides, pumpkin painting, games, treats, a costume contest (not required), hot apple cider by the fire and more. All pre-registered participants will receive a treat bag.

Cost is \$6 per child; Children under age 2 and adults are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203. ☺



October events at the senior center

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF the following October events at the Minnetonka Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information.

Fire Prevention Week

Wednesday, Oct. 18, noon

Minnetonka Fire Marshal Phil Minell will talk about the history of the Great Chicago Fire, Fire Prevention Week and how to prepare for disasters. Cost, \$4 (includes lunch).

Flu Shots

Thursday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. – noon

Call (952) 939-8393 for information.

26th Anniversary Party

Thursday, Oct. 26

Entertainment by the Sanok Dixieland Band, with a meal. Cost, \$5; reservation deadline is Oct. 20. ☺

minnetonka memo

October 2006



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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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