

Meet Minnetonka's K9 police team

FROM 6 P.M. TO 4 A.M. EACH NIGHT, they patrol the streets of Minnetonka, helping to protect residents. After their shift, they head home for a well-earned nap, playtime and some high-protein kibble.

They are Bodee and Astro, the two German shepherd police dogs who work and live with Minnetonka Police Department Officers Troy Denneson and Ryan Piper.

Imported from a breeder in Czechoslovakia, Bodee and Astro joined the police department in February 2003. Before taking on active duty, they and their partners spent 13 weeks – five days a week for ten hours a day – training with the St. Paul Police Department's K9 unit.

Their training isn't over after that. For example, both dogs and their handlers recently completed a three-week drug detection course taught by Janet Ballard, one of the nation's most recognized police dog trainers and a former Minnetonka K9 officer.

"I always wanted to be a police officer, and I've always enjoyed dogs," said Officer Piper. "You have to be very dedicated to work with a K9, as both the initial and ongoing training are intense. In addition, we care for the animals in off hours, including grooming, feeding and playing with them."



Officer Ryan Piper and Astro

"The primary purpose of a police dog is as a locating tool," says Officer Denneson. "Bodee and Astro are also highly trained in obedience and tracking, building searches and drug detection – work that occupies the bulk of their time on-duty. To them, it's all a game, because we use positive reinforcement to train them."

This year, Bodee and Astro captured first and second place, respectively, for rookie dogs in the United States Police Canine Association's regional competition, which included more than 150 dogs and their handlers from the western half of Minnesota and parts of the Dakotas.

Both officers have their own K9 patrol car specially outfitted for the dogs. The backseats have been removed and replaced with a flat, rubber floor, similar to a kennel, and a large bowl of water is available to Bodee and Astro at all times. A cage runs between the front and rear sections of the car and also covers the two rear side windows.

"Bodee is a working dog, but he is also a part of my family," said Officer Denneson.

Each car is equipped with a gauge that pages the officer if the temperature inside the car rises to dangerous levels, then automatically rolls down a window to provide ventilation. And, should Officer Denneson or Officer Piper find themselves in a sticky situation and need their dog immediately, a "bail-out system" allows the officer to remotely open the side door of the car and release the dog.

One of the K9 units is on patrol each night of the week. A typical night shift might involve conducting drug detection sweeps; going on building searches where suspicious activity was reported; or helping out another jurisdiction that doesn't have its own K9 unit.

While it's tempting to pet Bodee or Astro should you see them, remember they are working dogs, similar to those that accompany physically challenged people. Both officers say that, as a safety measure, they don't allow the general public to pet



Officer Troy Denneson and Bodee

Bodee or Astro. However, that doesn't mean the dogs don't get their share of affection.

"Bodee is a working dog, but he is also part of my family," said Officer Denneson, who is married and has two young children. "My daughter loves to play with him, and my wife often feeds him."

"Astro lives indoors at my house, but he doesn't have bed privileges," jokes Officer Piper. "He's been trained to sleep in a crate."

While K9s can work for as long as they are physically able, most retire around the age of 6 or 7. The Minnetonka Police Department's policy has been to offer K9 officers the opportunity to adopt their K9 partners once the dog is retired.

K9 police team continued on page 2

Inside...

Citizenship academy	page 2
Caring Youth	page 2
Shady Oak cemetery	page 2
State of the City	page 3
What pet owners need to know	page 7
Coping with coyotes	page 7
Wireless Internet update	page 7

Do you know a Caring Youth?

HT

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

Each year, the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, in conjunction with the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts, host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people. This year's event is set for Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

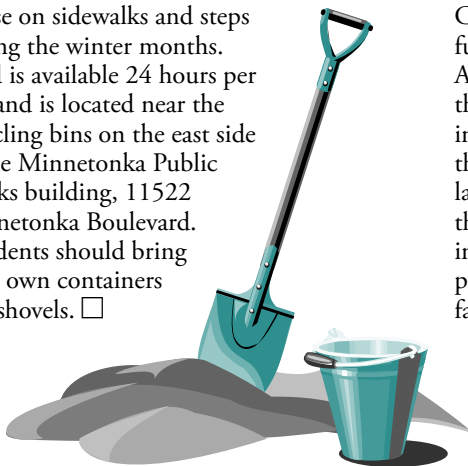
To qualify for the award, a Caring Youth must meet at least one of the following criteria:

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

Students may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 4, 2005. For more information or a nomination form, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. □

Sand available to residents

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS SAND available for residents to use on sidewalks and steps during the winter months. Sand is available 24 hours per day and is located near the recycling bins on the east side of the Minnetonka Public Works building, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Residents should bring their own containers and shovels. □



Get to know your city—sign up for the 2005 Citizenship Academy

WHAT'S THE ROLE OF THE city council? What are the city's zoning and subdivision regulations? What recreational opportunities does the city offer? These are just a few of the questions you'll be able to answer after attending the 2005 Minnetonka Citizenship Academy.

This free program runs for four Tuesdays – March 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the four sessions, you'll hear presentations from various departments of the city including police, fire, administration,

planning, community development, engineering, public works, recreation, legal and finance. Graduates receive special city council recognition upon completion of the program.

To enroll, please contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207, or via email at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. The deadline for registration is February 11, 2005. □

Bill Lurth recognized for community service

ON NOV. 22, THE MINNETONKA City Council awarded Bill Lurth a Minnetonka Community Action Recognition Award for his long history of volunteering with the Minnetonka Senior Center. In addition to preparing a soup and sandwich lunch each Wednesday for a few dozen seniors, Lurth also provides volunteer attorney services at the senior center. At right, Mayor Karen Anderson presents Bill Lurth with the award certificate.

The Minnetonka Community Action Recognition Award was created to recognize and celebrate the contributions of individuals, organizations and business that contribute so much to the unique character of Minnetonka. Visit www.eminnetonka.com to complete and submit a nomination online, or call (952) 939-8207. □



K9 police team *continued from page 1*

“We consider Bodee and Astro another tool in our belt when it comes to fighting crime,” said Sgt. Steve Kniss, who supervises the K9 unit. “When you have a uniformed officer along with a police dog, their presence is enormous, and often a deterrent to criminals.”

“Being involved with the K9 program has made me a better, more polished police officer, because I have to stay constantly aware of the changing laws that apply to what Astro and I do,” said Officer Piper.

Officer Denneson agrees. “Because K9 work is a specialized field within the police department, when we are called to help in a situation we have to take the lead,” he explains. “That has helped make me more confident and able to manage difficult situations.”

If you're interested in seeing Bodee and Astro in action, plan to attend one of the two annual demonstrations by the K9 unit: one at the June Summer Festival and the other at the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House in the fall. □

City purchases Shady Oak Cemetery

AT ITS MONDAY, DEC. 6, MEETING, the city council accepted the Shady Oak Cemetery Association's donation of land and funds necessary to maintain the cemetery. As part of the agreement, the city will allow the sale of cemetery plots for one year, or 24 individual plots, whichever comes first. After that time the city may use the undeveloped land for park purposes in conjunction with the adjacent Lone Lake Park. For more information about purchasing cemetery plots call Diane Weidler, city of Minnetonka facilities secretary, at (952) 939-8364. □

2005 State of the City

By Mayor Karen Anderson

AS WE APPROACH MINNETONKA'S 50th anniversary as a city, we have an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made as a community—progress made possible by the thoughtfulness of the city leaders and residents who came before us. Just as we are the recipients of their foresight, we must ponder the future legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren and beyond.

I often have the opportunity to visit with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, school children and other young people who are interested in learning more about local government and civic leadership. I'm always impressed by the curiosity and enthusiasm shown by these boys and girls, and it makes me feel very good about the work we have done at the city to ensure that the future is indeed bright for our young people. The decisions we make now will reach into the future, providing hope and opportunities for our children and grandchildren. I'm also assured by their thoughtfulness that these young people will guard our legacy as they take the reins from us in leading our community.

Let me tell you about how the actions of the past year, and the years before that, have helped ensure that Minnetonka is poised for the future.

Natural Environment

Our natural resources continue to be our most distinguishing feature, and the one feature of our city our residents cherish the most. From the headwaters of Minnehaha Creek to the many wetlands and forested areas, Minnetonka provides an oasis of natural beauty amid a major metropolitan area. In this, we are the beneficiaries of the forward thinking city leaders and residents of the 1960s, who passed a referendum enabling the city to purchase much of the parkland we are now in the process of renewing—and much time and effort has been spent over the past year and decade ensuring that those features remain for future generations. This work reflects a community value expressed in our annual surveys as well as by the voters who

approved the park renewal and open space preservation referendum in 2001.

The Minnehaha Creek visioning and planning process, initiated by the city council in late 2004, promises to be one of the most important, far-reaching environmental initiatives of the decade. The process will focus on the entire length of the creek as it winds through the city from Headwaters Park at the Gray's Bay Dam on the west to Highway 169 on the east. There will be particular focus on integrating the creek's environmental, recreational, historic and economic resources, especially in the Minnetonka Mills corridor. The goal is to establish the Minnehaha Creek corridor as the focal point of the Minnetonka community and enhance its value as a true community asset.

The city council also approved a new master plan for the Civic Center Park, located near the geographic center of the city. The plan accommodates a new water treatment plant, construction of which has been underway since this summer; an athletic playfield; a trail connection to Jidana Park; and a realigned roadway. The plan will be implemented in stages over the next several years.

The highlight of the year for open space preservation was the agreement reached between the city and Ann Cullen Smith, allowing for preservation of her 30-acre site on Oakland Road. We are so appreciative of Ann's generosity and foresight in striving to protect the land she has cared for and loved for so long.



The Minnehaha Creek visioning and planning process will focus on integrating the creek's environmental, recreational, historic and economic resources.

Eleven parks have been completed as part of the park renewal process, which began in 2002. The most recent renewals include Gro Tonka and McKenzie parks as well as Libbs Lake Beach. Next slated for renewal are Tower Hill, Big Willow, Guillian, Groveland, Wilson and Lone Lake parks, and the Glen Lake athletic fields. Just entering the bid process are Glen Moor, Woodgate, Knollway, Spring Hill, Boulder Creek, Junction and Hilloway parks.

December 2004 also marked the city council agreement with the Shady Oak Cemetery Association to accept the donation of the Association's land and the funds necessary to maintain the cemetery. The city will allow the sale of plots for one year, or 24 individual plots, whichever comes first. After that time, the city may use the undeveloped land for park purposes in conjunction with adjacent Lone Lake Park.



In December, the Shady Oak Cemetery Association donated its land and funds to the city.

The use of conservation development techniques to better protect environmentally sensitive property has become common practice as the city grants development approvals. For example, Portico, a 24-acre site located on the former Jim and Susan Cargill property off Crosby Road, includes 13 acres of conservation easement, where the natural setting will be preserved and protected from future development.

The growth of the city's trail system over the past 20 years is a notable success. From one mile of trail in 1986, the system has grown to 37 miles of designated bike lanes; 33 miles of constructed loop trail; and 30 miles of neighborhood connections and sidewalks. The trail system is a popular community asset, well used and commended by our residents. Plans for an additional 5.5 miles of loop trail and eight miles of neighborhood connections are currently unfunded, but remain in future plans should funds become available.

Public Safety

The city's highest priority is the safety and security of people in our community. That priority is reflected by public safety's position as the largest portion of the city budget. However, our police and fire departments are proactive and successful in bringing outside resources into the city to improve public safety, now and into the future.

The police department received more than \$700,000 in grant money this year for a variety of purposes, including installation of 800 MHz radios and video systems in squad cars, which will allow our police officers to communicate easily with every other public safety agency in the metro area; installation of a video surveillance system at Ridgedale Mall; a juvenile diversion program and school liaison costs; and traffic enforcement. These added

resources will improve communications within the city and with other jurisdictions; promote partnerships with nearby police departments; and contribute to the safety and security of residents, school children and visitors to our community.

The fire department received nearly \$300,000 in grants from the Department of Homeland Security to replace old equipment, helping to ensure the safety of firefighters and allowing personnel to provide the highest level of firefighting service to the community. The fire department currently has the largest and best-equipped technical rescue unit and staff in the state, allowing for trench and structural collapse rescue. In 2004 the fire department placed a new pumper truck into service and refurbished two of its five ladder trucks, allowing excellent service to all areas of the city at a great cost savings to taxpayers.

In my role as the National League of Cities' representative on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's State and Local Senior Advisory Committee, I have the privilege of working with Secretary Tom Ridge (soon to be succeeded by a new Homeland Security Secretary) and other state and local leaders in promoting

partnerships among "first responders" and focusing on prevention of terrorist events. But I also have the opportunity to share our city's success stories in working with others to provide the best public safety services of any city of our size in the entire United States.

Development

Although the city is nearly fully developed, we continue to see improvements in many commercial and residential areas and redevelopment of some of the older areas of the city. Reinvestment continues to be the major theme for commercial and industrial properties, as owners change or improve their properties and invest for the future.

In 2004, building permits were issued for \$124 million of construction work, the highest amount since 2000. Over half of that amount was for additions and remodeling of commercial property. Some prominent commercial developments in the past year included the Cloud 9 condos; Sunrise Assisted Living facility; remodeling and improvements at Siemens and Cargill offices; and construction of a new water treatment plant for the city.

Permits for 41 new single-family homes were issued this year. Those homes, excluding the land cost, ranged in value from \$202,000 to just over \$1 million, with an average new house cost at \$503,000. This average home cost is down slightly from the 2003 average of \$517,000, but still up significantly from the 2002 average of \$416,000.

With these home costs, it's still a fact that many of those who work for employers within the city cannot afford to live here—and many of our children cannot afford to return to Minnetonka to live and raise their own young families. To ensure that Minnetonka remains an attractive community for businesses and people into the future, the city council's support of affordable housing in the community becomes even more important.

In 2004 we continued to make good progress toward our affordable housing goal, reaching the 70-percent mark of our 2010 goal of 356 new affordable homes. In addition, another 254 existing affordable homes have been preserved. This year's emphasis was on scattered-site affordable housing, adding a few units in developments throughout the city rather than concentrating the housing in any one area.

For 2005, nearly 80 affordable housing units are planned through such projects as Wyldewood condos, the Cloud 9 condos and the Deephaven Cove townhomes.

Between 1994 and 2004, the total market value of property in Minnetonka more than

doubled, increasing from \$3.07 billion to \$6.98 billion. This ten-year increase included \$865 million in new construction, with the rest attributed to appreciation in value of existing properties.

In this area as well we can see how the actions of past generations affect us now—the ordinances passed in Minnetonka's infancy as a city to govern sign placement and building standards and development in general have served us well, saving the city from the visual clutter and dense development so prevalent in other suburbs.

Transportation

Ask any metro-area resident what issues are most affecting his or her quality of life, and one of the responses is sure to be the dramatic increase in metro traffic over the past few years. Minnetonka is not exempt from these issues, and we are engaged in several projects designed to reduce the stress of traffic congestion for current and future residents.

Most prominently, the Minnesota Department of Transportation began the long-awaited I-494 reconstruction in August, with completion scheduled for summer 2006. Work involves expanding the highway to three lanes in each direction between Hwy. 5 in Eden Prairie and I-394 in Minnetonka. In addition, 14 bridges crossing I-494 will be reconstructed. Check out www.eminnetonka.com for weekly updates on traffic restrictions on I-494, or call the Project Information Hotline at (952) 908-2929.

Reconstruction of County Road 101 between Highway 7 to just past Minnetonka Boulevard will begin in the spring of 2005 and continue for three years. This project will primarily include widening the road to three lanes, including installation of a continuous center left turn lane; providing right turn lanes at all intersections; and installing a bike path on the east side of the road. All of these measures will help make the road safer for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, the project includes reconstructing a portion of Minnetonka Boulevard and aesthetic improvements to the intersection of Hwy. 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard.

In 2007, Shady Oak Road will be completely reconstructed and widened from two to four lanes from Bren Road to Excelsior Boulevard, helping alleviate traffic concerns in that area. In December, the Hopkins and Minnetonka city councils met jointly to begin discussing a vision for Shady Oak Road between Excelsior Boulevard and Hwy. 7, a project planned for 2008. The hope is this area can be revitalized and improved as part of realigning and improving the road.

However, new and improved roads alone won't solve the traffic problem, and in order to position the city for the future we must pursue ways of improving existing public transit and implementing new commuting strategies.

The city continues to work cooperatively with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit to ensure residents have an adequate level of public transportation. Because of those partnerships, this year we've been successful in halting proposed deep cuts in service that would have affected several apartment buildings—both affordable and senior housing—and service to the Hopkins Transit Center.

In its first two years, Dial-a-Ride use has surpassed the Metropolitan Council's expectations—in 2003-04, 10,000 people used the service. With the Minnetonka Senior Center no longer providing van service, all ride requests are now directed to Dial-a-Ride, increasing use even more.

Light rail transit is in the discussion phase as well. Since 2002, the city has been part of a Hennepin County study to look at possible rail alternatives from Minneapolis to Eden Prairie, through St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Minnetonka. It's exciting to see the initial response the first LRT line from Minneapolis to Bloomington has enjoyed, and we will be watching its continued progress closely to gauge how well such a system may work in our community.

Public Services

Care and attention to our basic city services are vital to maintaining our healthy quality of life and living up to our commitment to provide quality services at a reasonable price. The replacement of a water treatment plant, as well as the installation of two new wells, will allow the city to provide an additional 5.5 million gallons a day of water to residents and businesses, thus alleviating water shortages and reducing the need for watering bans for the next 10 to 15 years. However, as good stewards of our natural resources, we'll continue our water conservation program.

Rather than build a new water tower, the city is renovating the Tanglen water by raising it approximately seven feet, saving taxpayers \$750,000 in new construction costs. The improved tower is scheduled to be functional by July 2005 and will provide an additional 500,000 gallons of water storage to the city.

Minnetonka marked 15 years of curbside recycling service in 2004. Over the years, residents have recycled more than 85,000 tons of newspaper, glass, tin, aluminum, plastic, paper and cardboard. The environmental ethic continues strong throughout our community, and demonstrates the commitment our residents have to thinking beyond themselves to the impact their actions have on future generations.



A new water treatment plant being built on the civic center campus will allow the city to provide an additional 5.5 million gallons a day of water to residents and businesses.

Where quality is our nature

Minnetonka's motto is "Where quality is our nature" and this applies not only to the things we do but the people who do them. From city council to boards and commissions to city staff to residents, we're blessed with good people committed to doing the good work of the city.

Our city council members, board and commission members and residents all are dedicated to making the city the best it can be. One example of that effort is the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting, received by the city annually for the past 20 years. Recently, the International City/County Management Association recognized Minnetonka's web-based citizen request system (Minnetonka Mike), which allows residents to voice their concerns and tracks the city's response to those requests, as a "best practice" for local government.

Minnetonka residents are involved in their community and want their voices to be heard, a fact exhibited when voter turnout rates topped 85 percent for the 2004 presidential election. More than 20,000 people attended the city's two largest events, the Summer Festival in June and the Fire Department and City Wide Open House in October. Kid's Fest in February and the ECO-Fair in March will provide more opportunities to connect as a community.

Our city finances remain stable and strong. Responsible financial management, including cuts and reprogramming during the years of state budget crises, led to a 2005 property tax increase that is among the lowest for comparable cities in the metro area. Importantly, the city has retained its Aaa bond rating.

In gratitude

It's easy to think of community, of Minnetonka, as little more than a geographical area on a map, but it is so much more than that. Our community is a vital entity kept alive and defined by the people who live and work within it and who contribute to its well-being—and by the people who came before us and built the strong foundation upon which our community rests.

I'd like to thank all of the people who have invested so much of their time, energy and spirit to ensure that Minnetonka is the best it can be. Members of the Minnetonka City Council make tough and sometimes courageous decisions. Our city manager and professional staff are dedicated to great customer service and best practices throughout the organization. Members of the city boards and commissions and neighborhood watch groups all add a commitment to the city to their already full and active lives. The people who serve business groups, school programs, sports activities for kids and adults and service groups all add to our community success story.

Each person at some point in his or her life ponders the legacy he or she will leave behind. A few will leave behind tangible reminders of their short stay here, reminders which will be known for centuries to come: buildings, great works of art or literature or music, monuments, or memories of extraordinary service to humanity. Most of us will not have the opportunity to leave behind a legacy such as that.



Several thousand residents enjoyed the 2004 Fire Department and City-Wide Open House.

But here is the legacy you can leave behind: the legacy of service to your community, the legacy of doing everything you could—no matter how small the contribution—to make the community in which you live a better place, a place that your descendants for decades to come will be proud to return to, proud to call home, proud to imitate in other places they settle. Your contribution might be as small as making the decision to recycle or as large as deciding to run for public office—but it all matters. The ongoing contributions and commitment of residents, elected officials and city staff will take Minnetonka from a community that is not just poised for the future, but to a community that is moving forward into the future with great success.



Members of the 2005 Minnetonka City Council include, from left, Al Thomas, Tony Wagner, Karen Anderson, Bob Ellingson, Jan Callison, Terry Schneider, and Brad Wiersum.

What every pet owner needs to know

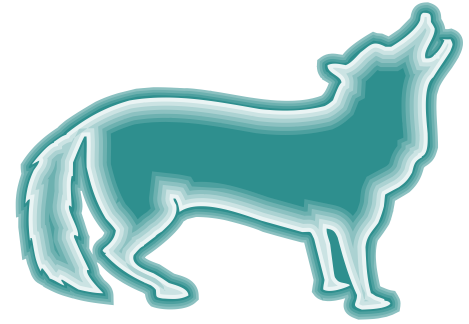
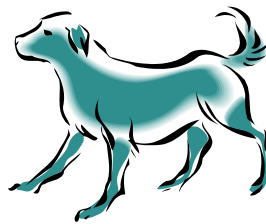
DO YOU OWN A DOG OR CAT? HELP ensure that you and your pet remain on friendly terms with your neighbors by remembering to follow these simple rules:

- ☞ The city does not require dog licenses, but does require all dogs to wear an ID tag. This tag should contain as much information as possible, but the minimum requirement is the owner's phone number. ID tags are recommended, but not required, for cats.
- ☞ Have dogs and cats vaccinated for rabies and keep proof of the vaccination.
- ☞ Clean up your dog's feces and dispose of them. This helps control the spread of parasites from dog to dog, and also keeps the waste out of the city's storm water.
- ☞ A multiple animal location permit is required if you have more than two dogs over the age of six months. The permit costs \$10 per year and expires May 31 of each year.
- ☞ The city requires that all dogs be leashed when in parks or on trails. A dog can be under voice command in neighborhoods only if it is at heel, directly beside its owner. As a matter of common courtesy, please keep your pet off other people's property.
- ☞ If an animal bites you or your pet bites someone else, you are required

to report it to the Minnetonka Police Department. In most cases, no action will be taken against the dog or owner other than the required quarantine.

- ☞ Every dog barks, but a dog that barks excessively and continuously will be considered a nuisance. This includes the creation of any noise by any dog that can be heard from a location outside the premises. Excessive barking is described as "repeated noise over at least a 10-minute period with one minute or less lapse of time between each animal noise during that 10-minute period."
- ☞ Animals that are picked up by an officer and cannot be returned home due to lack of ID tags, chronic history of running at large or other circumstances will be impounded. To report your animal missing, or to pick up your pet, call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500.

The city of Minnetonka's animal control is run by the Minnetonka Police Department and generally has community service officers working from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. If you have any questions about pet ownership in the city of Minnetonka, call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500. □



Tips for coping with coyotes

HT

IF 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, and 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 all 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 any sign 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. For more information about identifying coyotes and the city's policy on wildlife management, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

An update on wireless Internet service

AS REPORTED IN LAST MONTH'S *Minnetonka Memo*, for the past year city staff members have been exploring the possibilities for providing wireless Internet service ("WiFi") to residents.

One provider indicated that Minnetonka's topography presents challenges for a community-wide WiFi network and may result in unreliable service. In addition, the extremely high cost of initial setup – in addition to ongoing costs of maintenance, replacement and staff time – makes this a risky investment.

An emerging technology, WiMax, offers more promise for Minnetonka. WiMax uses existing towers, such as cell phone and water towers, rather than blanketing an area with antennas on light poles and other high fixtures. Additionally, it can provide mobile functionality, which is expected to be available in 2006.

Recently expanded coverage by Qwest means there are fewer underserved broadband Internet service areas in the community, lessening the urgency of providing wireless service. Accordingly, the city will not be taking any affirmative action on wireless Internet at this time. City staff will monitor the technology as it develops and reconsider the options as necessary. □

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

January
2005

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

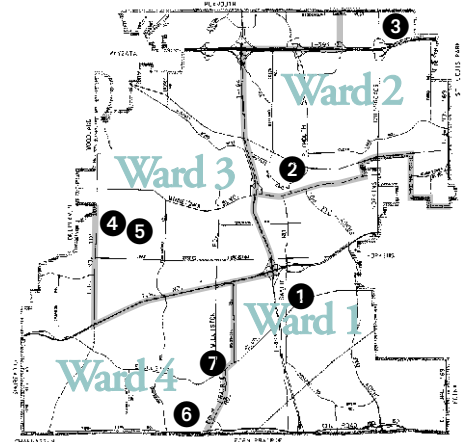
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 3 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 12 Joint Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
30	31					

17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
city offices closed
19 State of the City, 7:30–9 a.m.
20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
24 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
27 Policy Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Conditional use permit and site plan review for construction of a convenience store, service/repair area, and car wash at **13118 Excelsior Boulevard**. (86165.04a)
- 2 Preliminary plat to reconfigure three lots into two buildable lots at **12918 Rutledge Circle, 12910 Rutledge Circle, and unassigned Rutledge Circle**. (04005.04b)
- 3 Buildable area, side yard setback, and front yard setback variances for construction of a new home at **18 Westwood Circle**. (no number assigned)
- 4 Front yard setback variance for a garage addition at **3926 Vandan Road** (no number assigned)
- 5 Variance for a porch addition at **3941 Dartmouth Drive**. (04083.04a)
- 6 Variance to relocate an existing driveway at **6043 Fairwood Circle**. (04074.04a)
- 7 Guide plan amendment from low-density residential to institutional; rezoning from R-1, low-density residential, to PUD, planned unit development; preliminary plat; and site and building plan review with a parking stall variance for a senior housing structure at **5431/5439 Williston Road**. (04037.04a)



Correction: Please note that public fingerprinting for INS documentation is not provided by the Minnetonka Police Department, as reported in the December 2004 *Minnetonka Memo*. We apologize for any inconvenience.

HT Hot Topics HT

ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH HT are listed as Hot Topics on the city Web site, www.eminnetonka.com. Please refer to the site for additional information on these selected topics. For more information, call Minnetonka Mike, (952) 939-8586, leaving your name and address.

minnetonka
memo January 2005



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Mayor Karen J. Anderson (952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 938-2808 kanderson@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling the mayor's office, (952) 939-8389.	Council <i>At Large:</i> Janis Callison . . (952) 935-7010 jcallison@eminnetonka.com Terry Schneider (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson . . (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner . . . (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum . . (952) 930-3681 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> Al Thomas (952) 949-9027 athomas@eminnetonka.com
City Manager John Gunyou (952) 939-8200	Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson (952) 939-8200	POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1 Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com	
Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON