

# minnetonka memo

*A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka  
October 2005*

## Minnetonka Fire Department seeks firefighters

**E**LLA PARKER IS A MOTHER, A PROFESSIONAL dog groomer, and a tree trimmer. Her hobbies include bicycling, kayaking, canoeing and playing soccer.

Ella Parker is also a lieutenant with the Minnetonka Fire Department, serving at Station 4 as a paid-on-call firefighter. She has been with the department for nearly nine years.

"I read in a local newspaper that the fire department was recruiting. I'm athletic and like to be challenged, and I thought firefighting sounded interesting," Ella recalls.

After passing the agility test and interview process, Ella joined the department. Three years ago she was promoted to lieutenant and is engine company officer at Station 4, in charge of the crew and driver on the first engine to leave the station for a call.

"Being with the department has taught me to be more confident. I've learned a number of skills, and find it very rewarding to learn something new every day," Ella said. "My three children are extremely proud that their mom is a firefighter, and it's taught my two daughters they can do anything they want to do."

The Minnetonka Fire Department, established in 1959, employs 80 paid-on-call firefighters — firefighters who are not full-time, but are paid based on the calls to which they respond — and seven full-time firefighters among its five fire stations. Firefighters are required to live within five minutes of the fire station to which they are assigned.

"Every potential recruit must first pass an agility test, then an interview panel with fire department officers," explained Deputy Chief Bob Eastham. "After that, a background check and career evaluation are conducted. If all those items check out, recruits then are interviewed by Chief Joe Wallin and finally pass a physical exam before being hired."

Once hired, firefighters undergo 100 hours of training over a 15-week period and must successfully complete a one-year probationary period.

Minnetonka firefighters generally stay with the department for a long time — eleven and a half years is the current average years worked.

"I can't honestly think of a firefighter who has left our department because he or she was unhappy with the work," said Deputy Chief Eastham. "Firefighters will leave due to retirement or because they have to move out of the city for work or family reasons, not because they don't like the department or the work."



*Minnetonka Fire Lt. Ella Parker*

Assistant Chief Jim Flanders, who coordinates training for the department, laments that sometimes the department invests in training young people as firefighters, only to lose them as their families grow and they are unable to find affordable housing in Minnetonka.

"We train an awful lot of firefighters who move on to fire departments in Forest Lake, East Bethel, Champlin, and other smaller towns where the housing costs are lower," said Flanders.

In addition to being required to respond to at least 25 percent of the calls received at their assigned station, firefighters also must attend 75 percent of the weekly training drills. These training drills, offered on Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings in order to accommodate firefighters' schedules, last three to four hours.

Minnetonka's five fire stations answer approximately 800 calls per year, with each station receiving between 170 and 200 calls annually. While a structure fire might take three hours, an alarm call might take only 30 minutes.

"Between the training drills and fire calls, my firefighting responsibilities take up about five to ten hours a week," estimates Lt. Parker.

In addition to fighting fires, Minnetonka firefighters respond to fire alarms, technical rescue incidents, vehicle extractions, hazardous material incidents, and medical situations, and take part in educating the public about fire safety.

According to Deputy Chief Eastham, a successful firefighter is outgoing, intelligent and a go-getter — someone who is not afraid to get his or her hands dirty, and who enjoys teamwork.

"Teamwork is important," said Eastham. "Firefighters arrive as a team, work at the scene as a team, and leave as a team. However, we also value diversity. Most of our paid-on-call firefighters have other, full-time jobs in professions ranging from accounting and engineering to more traditional blue-collar jobs. Each of those people view situations differently and can bring innovative ideas to the table."

"The Minnetonka Fire Department is like a second family to me," said Lt. Parker. "Lots of the things I've done here have enabled me to build my confidence and to see me through significant challenges in my personal life."

"Firefighting is a way to give back to the community, and it's an extremely rewarding profession," said Deputy Chief Eastham. "I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing."

The Minnetonka Fire Department is currently accepting applications for paid-on-call firefighters. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Employment Opportunities," then "Current Job Openings," then "Becoming an On-Call Firefighter;" or call Sandy Streeter, Minnetonka Fire Department, at (952) 939-8330. ☺

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# General election set for Tuesday, November 8

**T**HE GENERAL ELECTION IS SET FOR Tuesday, Nov. 8. The ballot will include municipal offices as well as school district items. So that your voting experience will be as trouble free and efficient as possible, we have provided the answers to questions most often asked by voters. For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Elections 2005."

### What's on the ballot?

Municipal offices on the general election ballot are:

- Mayor
- Council at Large, Seat A
- Council at Large, Seat B

Other local issues on the ballot include:

- All three school districts in the city of Minnetonka (Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata) will have school board offices on the ballot.

- At press time, we do not know if any school districts will have referendums on the ballot. Voters should check with their school district office for the latest information about school referendums.

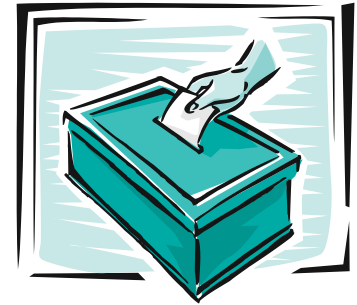
Sample ballots will be available on the city's Web site by October 10.

### What are the hours to vote, and where do I vote?

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

A map is provided below to give you a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling location, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Election 2005." Then click on "Precinct Finder."

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 information about these forms, see Table A.

### 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.

### How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

- **In person:** Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will also be available on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Monday, Nov. 7, until 5 p.m.
- **By mail:** Absentee voting also may be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

### Where will election results be available?

Results will be available on cable channel 16, and on the city's Web site.

### 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 — we salute them!

Contact city hall at (952) 939-8200 if you need assistance. ☺

## Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary

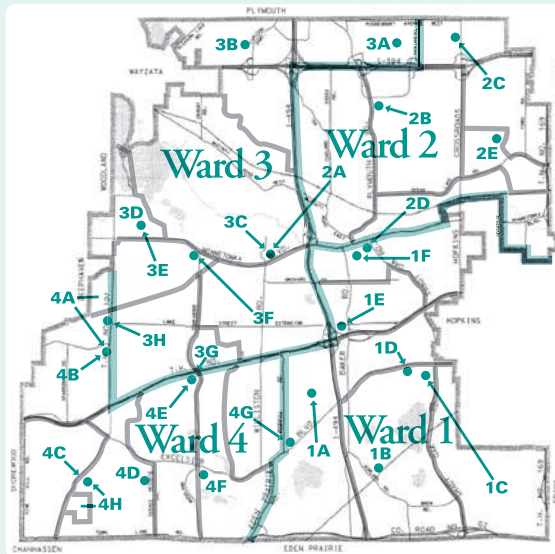
Precinct Numbers 4A

Precinct Lines

Polling Locations •

### Polling Locations

- 1A** Glen Lake Elementary School  
4801 Woodridge Road
- 1B** Old Apostolic Lutheran Church  
5617 Rowland Road
- 1C** Cross of Glory Baptist Church  
4600 Shady Oak Road
- 1D** Faith Presbyterian Church  
12007 Excelsior Boulevard
- 1E** St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
13207 Lake Street Extension
- 1F** Minnetonka Community Church  
13215 Minnetonka Drive
- 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** Epoch Assisted Living  
500 Carlson Parkway
- 3C** Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard



- 3D/3E** St. Luke Presbyterian Church  
3121 Groveland School Road
- 3F** Minnetonka Lutheran Church  
16023 Minnetonka Boulevard
- 3G** Redeemer Bible Church  
16031 Woodland Curve
- 3H** Minnetonka United Methodist Church  
17611 Lake Street Extension
- 4A/4B** Ridgewood Church (formerly Minnetonka Baptist)  
4420 County Road 101
- 4C** Clear Springs Elementary School  
5701 County Road 101
- 4D** Scenic Heights Elementary School  
5650 Scenic Heights Drive
- 4E** Redeemer Bible Church  
16031 Woodland Curve
- 4F** All Saints Lutheran Church  
15915 Excelsior Boulevard
- 4G** Glen Lake Activity Center  
14350 Excelsior Boulevard
- 4H** Clear Springs Elementary School  
5701 County Road North101

# 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)

# Follow the election sign rules

## On Election Day show one of the following items:

- 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.
- Voucher—oath of voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant’s address in the precinct.
- A voucher card must be signed by the person vouching for the voter and by an election judge.
  - 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.

# TABLE A

**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

### 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

# TABLE B

WITH A PRIMARY ELECTION BEHIND US and the general election set for Nov. 8, it’s important for Minnetonka residents to be aware of the city’s zoning regulations related to posting political campaign signs. Temporary political campaign signs could be posted any time after Aug. 1, 2005, and must be removed by Nov. 18, 2005.

Signs may not be posted on publicly owned land. On private land, the following rules for temporary political campaign signs apply:

- Must have the approval of the underlying property owner.
- Must be five feet from the edge of a public street.
- Must not be posted on trees, shrubs or public utility poles.
- Must not obstruct driver visibility at intersections.
- Must not be painted on rocks or other natural features.
- Must not exceed a maximum sign area of five square feet on local roads and 32 square feet on collector or arterial streets.

In accordance with state law, signs must contain the following language:

- Prepared and paid for by [insert name or organization here]
- Address

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, the following rules apply to posting signs near polling places: on private property, signs must be 100 feet from the door where voters will enter; and signs must be 100 feet from the edge of any public property line.

If you have questions or complaints about campaign signs, please call David Abel, Minnetonka Planning Department, at (952) 939-8293. ☺

## Get the inside scoop

WOULD YOU LIKE A WEEKLY E-MAIL update on what’s happening in the city of Minnetonka? Then subscribe to *Hot Topics*, the city’s free electronic newsletter that is sent out each Friday. It’s easy to sign up—visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on “Sign up for our e-newsletter.” For more information call (952) 939-8207 or email [jlanson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jlanson@eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Happenings at the Arts Center on 7

ACTIVITIES AROUND THIS FALL AT THE newly renamed Arts Center on 7, formerly known as the ArtsCenter of Minnetonka.

The ArtsCenter Advisory Committee, composed of 13 representatives from the city of Minnetonka, the Minnetonka School District and the community, agreed to change the name to avoid confusion with another similarly named organization in a neighboring community.

Marketing and advertising students at Minnesota State University – Mankato participated in a contest to develop a new name, logo and marketing materials for the facility. Arts Center on 7 was the name chosen by the advisory committee, along with the logo accompanying this article.

The Arts Center on 7 is co-owned by the city of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka School District, and is located at 18285 Hwy. 7 in Minnetonka.

The Music Association of Minnetonka will host two concerts in October at the Arts Center on 7:

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.  
**Minnetonka Concert Band**  
*Dan Geldert, conductor*
- Sunday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
**Chamber and Symphony Orchestras**  
*Roger Satrang Hoel, conductor*

Also at the Arts Center, Minnetonka Community Theatre will present Roger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" Dec. 16, 17 and 18, with tickets now on sale Sept. 26. For those who have the acting bug, auditions are set for Nov. 1 and 2. Actors ages 6 through 75 are needed.

For more information call the box office at (952) 401-5748 or visit [www.minnetonkatheatre.com](http://www.minnetonkatheatre.com). Reserved seats are \$10, but seating is limited. ☺



ARTS CENTER ON 7

## Council sets guidelines for 2006 budget

THE MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL recently set guidelines for preparing the city's 2006 budget, which will be adopted later this year.

The city of Minnetonka continues to take 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.

In recent years, basic services have been reduced to absorb state revenue cuts and state-imposed costs. The city's operating and capital spending was cut by nearly one million dollars in 2003, and the state continues to impose additional requirements on the city without providing funding.

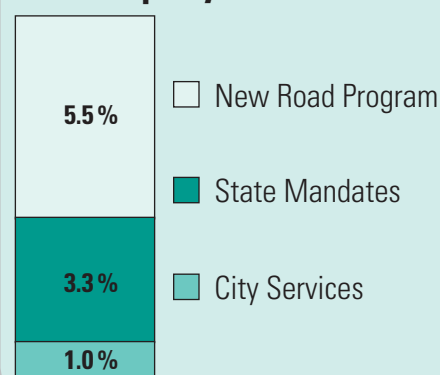
In total, state-imposed mandates will cost Minnetonka taxpayers nearly \$800,000 in 2006. As another example, mandated assessments to bail out the state-managed public pension system will cost the city more than one million dollars over the next five years.

To absorb these unfunded costs and still meet our citizens' service and tax expectations, the city council directed that \$250,000 of budget reductions be made to limit 2006 budget growth to historical levels—about four percent annually.

This means that property taxes will increase by one percent to cover basic city services, with an additional 3.3 percent necessary to pay for state-imposed costs.

The council also directed that the 2006 budget continue to place a priority on public safety and street maintenance. Most notably, the council adopted a major road revitalization program earlier this year to restore and maintain local streets. The details of this program were outlined in the August *Minnetonka Memo*.

### 2006 Property Tax Increases



Every local street in the city will be overlaid or reconstructed during the next decade.

When fully implemented, the program will invest an additional \$2 million annually in the city's streets, and will cost the average homeowner about \$6.75 a month. To help lessen the impact on taxpayers, the program will be phased in over the next two years.

The new road revitalization program will increase property taxes an additional 5.5 percent in 2006, for a total of 9.8 percent.

The city of Minnetonka believes that taxpayers should be provided with timely and accurate information on how we are managing their tax dollars. The November *Minnetonka Memo* will include detailed information on the proposed 2006 budget and property taxes. The city will hold a public hearing on the proposed levy on Monday, December 5, prior to formal budget adoption on December 19.

Budget or tax questions can be addressed to Minnetonka Mike at [mike@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com) or (952)939-8586 or to Merrill King, finance director, at [mking@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mking@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8200. ☺

## Senior center hosts three October events

- **Flu shots will be available Thursday, Oct. 27, from 9 a.m. to noon** for people age 65 or older. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information, or see the October *Senior Script* newsletter.
- The Minnetonka Senior Center will **celebrate its 25th anniversary Tuesday, Oct. 25**, with a special noon meal and entertainment from Cliff Brunzell and the Golden Strings. Please register for this special event at the senior center office, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. This promises to be a popular event, so don't delay in signing up!
- Attend a **workshop on Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage Monday, Oct. 10, at 10 a.m. or Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m.** This coverage will be available to Medicare beneficiaries starting in January 2006. Topics will include the Part D benefit (available to Medicare beneficiaries starting in January 2006) and a comparison of prescription coverage currently available from your Medicare supplement or employer retiree plan versus Part D coverage. Call (952) 939-8393 to register. ☺



## 2005 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

**Saturdays: October 22 and 29 and November 5 and 12 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Minnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of the four drop-off sites on the dates and times show below. Brush larger than one-half inch in diameter **will not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. For more information, see the brush drop-off article.

If you have other means of disposing of your leaves, such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, **please use that option.** For a reasonable annual or monthly fee, all garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as garbage collection. **Check with your garbage hauler for details.**

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217. ♻️

## Brush drop-off program ends Nov. 19

The brush drop-off site is available at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, on Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Nov. 19. Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted.

This service is only available to Minnetonka residents and a valid I.D. is required.

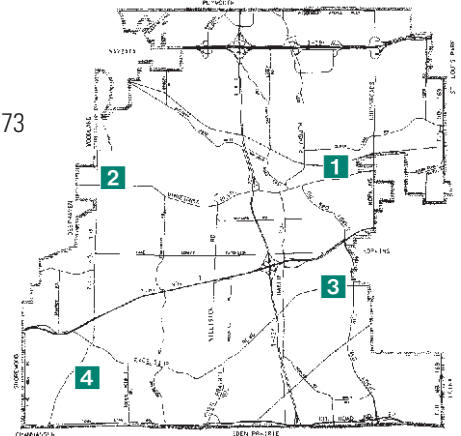
Please note: trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber or wood scraps are not accepted. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials should be directed to the leaf drop-off program. Brush drop-off materials are ground into mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.

No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217. ♻️

## Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

- 1 Minnetonka Public Works back lot**  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., 1/4 mi. west of Co. Rd. 73
- 2 Groveland School Parking Lot**  
17310 Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101
- 3 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot**  
Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd.
- 4 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center North Parking Lot**  
5621 Hwy. 101



**BAGGED LEAVES** accepted at all sites on **October 22 and 29 and November 5 and 12.**

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 tie bags loosely for easier emptying.

**BULK LEAVES** will be accepted at **Public Works only during brush drop-off hours:**

- **Saturdays: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and November 5, 12, and 19**
- **Mondays: Noon to 8 p.m. October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and November 7 and 14**
- **Tuesdays: Noon to 8 p.m. October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1, 8, and 15**

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

Truck and trailer loads of bulk leaves will be accepted **only** at the Minnetonka Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. 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 — please bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves. Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves — it makes unloading your leaves faster and easier. ♻️

## Help protect Minnetonka's water resources

So you've finished raking up all your leaves, mowing the lawn and cutting down brush. Now you have to figure out what to do with all that yard waste. Dumping it all in your local wetland or pond might seem like the easiest thing to do — but it's not the right thing to do.

Why? Because yard waste doesn't decompose easily, so when dumped in wetlands it can quickly fill the environment and kill the natural vegetation. Yard waste also causes an increase in nutrients such as phosphorous, which in turn promotes weed and algae growth. For these reasons, the city prohibits the dumping of leaves, grass clippings and brush in the wetlands. To help residents

properly dispose of yard waste, the city hosts leaf and brush drop-off programs (information on these programs can be found in the accompanying articles on this page).

Help protect Minnetonka's water resources by disposing of yard waste properly, including keeping it out of the street. Contact your garbage hauler for collection, take it to the city's fall leaf drop-off, or start a compost pile. And don't forget to keep your storm drains clear of debris — clean storm drains keep yard waste from entering wetlands and ponds, and also help prevent street flooding. Thank you for helping to protect our water quality! ♻️

# Get up to speed on road projects

**S**EVERAL STATE, COUNTY AND CITY ROAD construction projects in and around Minnetonka will continue into the fall and beyond. Read on to learn more about the progress of each of these projects.

## **I-494 Reconstruction (MnDOT)**

Reconstruction of I-494 from Hwy. 5 in Eden Prairie to I-394 in Minnetonka began in August 2004 and is expected to finish in early fall of 2006. Work includes the addition of one travel lane in each direction and reconstruction of 14 cross street bridges.

Current updates include:

- The I-494 north and south ramps leading to I-394 east, as well as the ramp from I-394 east to I-494 north, will be closed through October so that reconstruction of the eastbound I-394 collector-distributor road can be completed.
- Northbound I-494 traffic between Hwy. 5 and Minnetonka Blvd., along with the rest of the I-494 southbound traffic between Minnetonka Blvd. and Hwy. 7, will be shifted onto new pavement in early October.
- The Oakland Road bridge is scheduled to open in mid-October, one month ahead of schedule. That work includes completion of Ridgedale Drive construction.
- The Orchard Road bridge will not reopen for motor vehicles until the spring, although it should be open for pedestrian traffic starting this fall.
- All sound walls should be completed by the end of the year.

I-494 traffic restrictions are posted weekly at the city's Web site, [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## **County Road 101 (Hennepin County)**

In June, Hennepin County began the reconstruction of County Rd. 101 from north of Hwy. 7 to north of Minnetonka Boulevard, and on Minnetonka Boulevard from just west of County Rd. 101 to Woodlawn Avenue. Work is expected to last three years, until the summer of 2008.

The new County Rd. 101 will include a three-lane section from south of Lake Street Extension to Minnetonka Blvd., including a northbound, southbound and continuous center turn lane, as well as a new bike trail along the east side of County Rd. 101 from Minnetonka Blvd. to the Super Target intersection; upgrades at County Rd. 101 and Minnetonka Blvd. intersection; addition of retaining walls along the length of the project; upgrades to storm and sanitary sewers; traffic signal upgrades at the Super Target intersection, Lake Street Extension and Minnetonka Blvd.; and a new signal at Ridgewood Road.

## **Minnetonka Blvd. and Hopkins Crossroad intersection (Hennepin County)**

According to Hennepin County engineers, this project is on schedule, with plans to re-open the intersection in late November 2005. Improvements include installation of a traffic signal, upgrades to water main and sanitary sewer lines, and burial of overhead utility lines. Work on the Hopkins Crossroad bridge between Cedar Lake Road and Minnetonka Boulevard, originally scheduled for this fall, has been postponed until 2007.

Visit [www.hennepin.co.mn.us](http://www.hennepin.co.mn.us) for more information on county road projects.

## **Want to know more about city construction projects?**

**I**F YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT construction projects in the city—from roads, to sewer and water utilities, to drainage and storm sewer—visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on “Hot Topics,” then “Projects” to find out everything you want to know. Each project is listed by the street on which it is taking place. You'll find project maps, newsletters, schedules and contact information for city staff if you have questions. Each project page is updated frequently, so you'll find up-to-the-minute information when you visit. ☺

## **Baker and Excelsior (city of Minnetonka)**

The year-long reconstruction of the Baker Road and Excelsior Boulevard intersection was completed in September. The intersection now has dedicated right and left turn lanes and a continuous through lane at each leg of the intersection, as well as a new signal system. These modifications will improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

## **Hwy. 7 and Williston Road (city of Minnetonka)**

A portion of Williston Road north of Hwy. 7 to Karyl Drive closed Aug. 10 and will remain closed through mid-November, 2005.

This project includes constructing a new frontage road between Highwood Drive and Williston Road; eliminating Highwood Drive's intersection with Williston Road and replacing it with an intersection to the new frontage road; and reconstructing Williston Road from Hwy. 7 to about 660 feet north of the highway. Other planned work includes utility relocations, installation of additional storm sewer, realignment of streets and adjustments to street elevations, concrete curb and gutter, bituminous paving and signal upgrades at the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Williston Road. ☺



*The reconstructed intersection at Baker Road and Excelsior Boulevard opened in September.*

# School's open — be sure to keep safety in mind



WITH YOUR COOPERATION, THE Minnetonka Police Department hopes to make the 2005-06 school year safe for everyone. Remember to obey speed zones in and around schools; yield to pedestrians in crosswalks; watch for bicyclists; and buckle up those seatbelts!

In addition, don't forget to obey all school bus stop arm laws. Minnesota statute number 169.444 states that when a school bus is stopped on a street or highway and is displaying an extended stop-signal arm and flashing lights, drivers are prohibited from doing the following:

- Stopping closer than 20 feet from the bus.
- Passing the bus on the right, even if there is an available lane to the right.
- Passing the bus from any direction, including oncoming, unless the bus is stopped on the opposite side of a separated highway.

A violation of the law is a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of 90 days in jail and a fine up to \$1,000. If school children from the bus are standing outside the bus

at the time of the offense, the violation becomes a gross misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of one year in jail and a fine up to \$3,000.

A police officer does not have to be present at the time of the violation in order for prosecution to occur. School bus drivers or citizens who obtain a license number and driver description from a vehicle seen violating a stop arm may report that information to police. Police officers may make probable cause arrests of drivers within four hours of a reported violation.

As the new school year begins, please keep in mind the safety of children and follow the laws designed to protect them. ☺

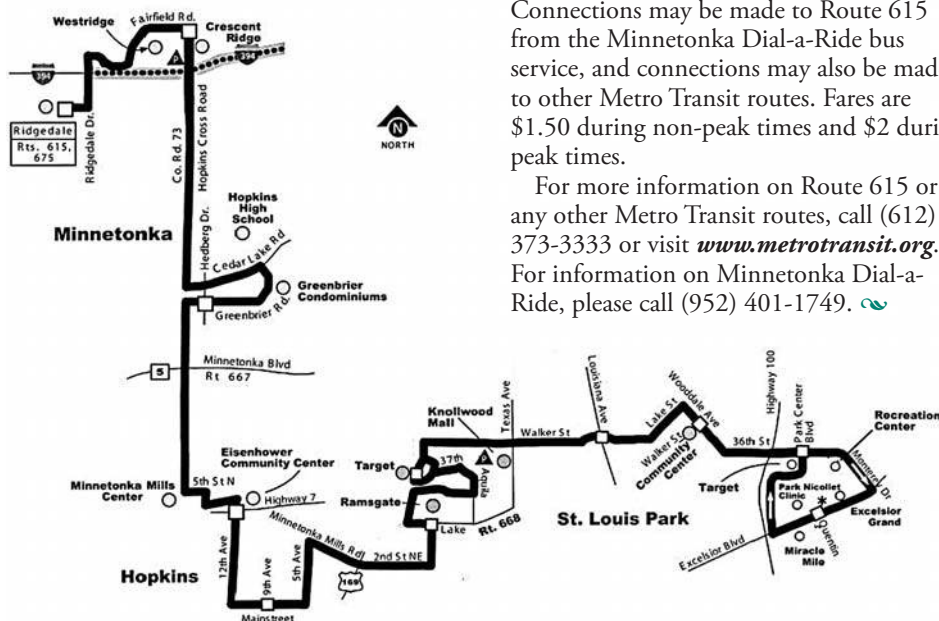
## New bus route for Minnetonka commuters

IN SEPTEMBER, METRO TRANSIT BEGAN offering Route 615, a new bus route in Minnetonka that replaces route 614 and route 605. Route 615 provides handicap-accessible local service rides from Ridgedale

to downtown Hopkins, Knollwood, and to the Excelsior Boulevard/Highway 100 area in St. Louis Park.

The route runs hourly on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and every two hours on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Connections may be made to Route 615 from the Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride bus service, and connections may also be made to other Metro Transit routes. Fares are \$1.50 during non-peak times and \$2 during peak times.

For more information on Route 615 or any other Metro Transit routes, call (612) 373-3333 or visit [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org). For information on Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride, please call (952) 401-1749. ☺



## Volunteer Corner



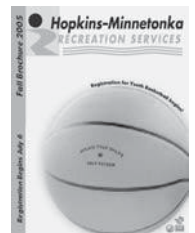
### Minnetonka needs you!

BEING A VOLUNTEER IS A GREAT WAY to learn new skills, meet people, share special talents, and become involved in providing services to the community. Opportunities include history event staff, Juvenile Diversion Program leader; maintenance (cleaning equipment) at Williston Center; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers/transcribers; storm drain monitor; and photographers. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (click on Volunteer Opportunities), or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ☺

## Sign up for adult fall and winter sports

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PLAYING A fall or winter sport, now is the time to sign up! Registration for indoor soccer can be done individually or as a team. Five-player basketball and the winter session of volleyball accept only team registration. If you prefer an open gym activity, Minnetonka Recreation Services offers badminton, volleyball, and basketball during the evening. No advance registration is required for open gym programs, only a \$4-per-night user fee.

These opportunities and many others are listed in the fall Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Brochure, mailed to homes this summer. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8354. ☺



# Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

October  
2005

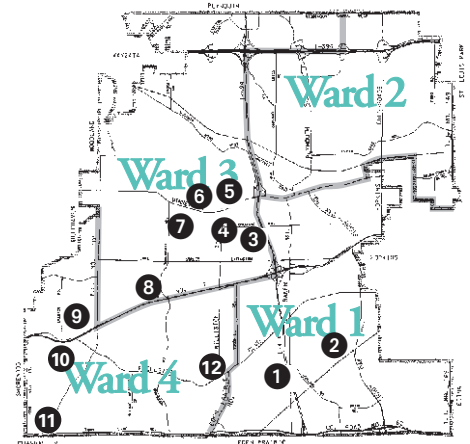
Call (952) 939-8200  
for more  
information.

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

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in October. 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 Preliminary plat for a four-lot subdivision at 5516 Glenavon Avenue.
- 2 Preliminary plat for a two-lot subdivision, with a front yard setback variance, at 4848 Valley Road. (89047.05a)
- 3 Preliminary plat with variances for a three-lot subdivision at 13800 Spring Lake Road. (05001.05a)
- 4 Lot division to divide the existing lot at 14708 Woodhaven Road.
- 5 Sign plan review for the Civic Center campus for the city of Minnetonka.
- 6 Consideration of connecting the Civic Center trail to Jidana Park.
- 7 Lot division to divide one lot into two at 15809 Sunset Road.
- 8 Preliminary plat and master development plan, with variances, for an office condo development at 16200 State Hwy. 7.
- 9 Site plan review for an addition to the Wendy's Restaurant at 4912 County Rd. 101.
- 10 Site and building plan review to add a second level to the pressbox at 18301 State Hwy. 7. (97001.05a)
- 11 Front yard setback variance for an attached garage to the existing house at 6105 Concord Hill Lane. (05073.05a).
- 12 Guide plan amendment from low-density residential to institutional; rezoning from low-density residential to 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)



**Protect  
Our  
Water  
Quality!**

# minnetonka memo

October 2005



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

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kanderson@eminnetonka.com  
Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled  
by calling the mayor's office, (952) 939-8389.

### City Manager

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

### Newsletter Editor

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

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### Council

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Ward 4: Al Thomas . . . . . (952) 949-9027 athomas@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike . . . . . (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency . . . . . 9-1-1  
Non-emergency . . . . . (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

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