



minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
November 2005

General Election set for Tuesday, November 8

THE 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.

What's on the ballot?

Municipal offices on the general election ballot are:

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

All three school districts in the city of Minnetonka (Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata) will have school board offices on the ballot, and the Hopkins and Wayzata school districts will have questions on their ballots. Voters should check with their school district office for the latest information about school referendums.

Sample ballots are available at www.eminnetonka.com.

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.

Continued on page 2

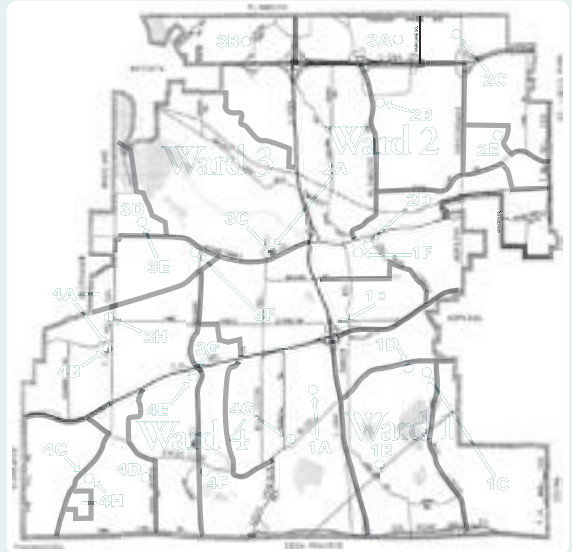
Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary Precinct Numbers 4A

Precinct Lines Polling Locations •

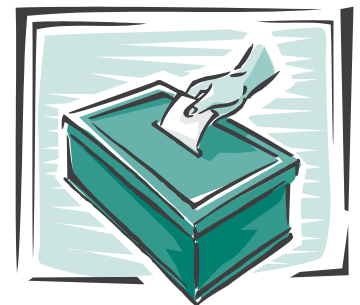
Polling Locations

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1A Glen Lake Elementary School
4801 Woodridge Road | 3D/ St. Luke Presbyterian Church
3E 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/ Ridgewood Church
4B (formerly Minnetonka Baptist)
4420 County Road 101 | 4H Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 County Road North101 |
| 1F Minnetonka Community Church
13215 Minnetonka Drive | 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 Epoch Assisted Living
500 Carlson Parkway | | |
| 3C Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | | |



Special election set for Nov. 22; candidate's forum is Nov. 14

A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE office of state senator for Minnesota Senate District 43 has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 22. Senate District 43 encompasses 13 of Minnetonka's 27 precincts, mostly in the northern half of Minnetonka, and also extends into Plymouth. A candidate's forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, is set for Monday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. at Wayzata Central Middle School, 305 Vicksburg Lane, Plymouth. Please visit the city Web site, www.eminnetonka.com, for ongoing information about this special election. ∞



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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 be available Saturday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 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.

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 with this article to give you a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling location, visit www.emminetonka.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.

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 elections judges; provides polling place supplies; answers questions; and ensures voter results are tabulated. This process works smoothly due to our outstanding election judges.

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

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 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.



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

An update on Parks Renewal

IN 2001, MINNETONKA VOTERS PASSED a \$15 million parks and open space bond referendum. Half of the money was earmarked for the renewal of the city's 42 parks, with the other half to be used for open space preservation within Minnetonka. Four years later, many of the city's parks have been renewed, including Beachside, Covington, Crane Lake, Ford, Glen Moor, Gro Tonka, Junction, Knollway, Libbs Lake Beach, Linner, McKenzie, Meadow, Mini Tonka, Orchard, Pioneer, Purgatory, Sunrise Ridge, Victoria-Evergreen and Woodgate.

Below is an update on the status of the parks remaining to be renewed:

Big Willow, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Delayed due to Minnehaha Creek Corridor/Minnetonka Boulevard planning.

Boulder Creek, 5948 Stoneybrook Drive

The hockey rink was installed in October, with plans to install lights for the rink in November.

Civic Center Park, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Athletic playfield was seeded and irrigation installed; field will be ready for play by the summer of 2007. Other work continues and is scheduled for completion by summer 2006.

Elmwood-Strand, 3610 Elmwood Place

Construction set for summer 2006.

Glen Lake, 5240 Glenview Drive

Master plan approved by Park Board; city council review set for Jan. 9, 2006.

Groveland, 16710 Cottage Grove Avenue

Master plan approved by Park Board; city council review set for Jan. 23, 2006.

Guilliam, 12101 Minnetonka Blvd.

Delayed due to Minnehaha Creek Corridor/Minnetonka Boulevard planning.

Hilloway, 12415 Hilloway Road

Restoration work, including buckthorn removal, continues. This park also is serving as a garlic mustard control test site for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Jidana, 3333 Jidana Lane

A trail connection to the Civic Center Park is set to be installed and ready for use by spring 2006.

Kinsel, 14017 Kinsel Road

Stormwater retention work is completed, allowing park renewal planning to move forward.

Lone Lake, 5624 Shady Oak Road

Water quality improvements were substantially completed this fall, with final work set for spring 2006. In addition, the parking lot was expanded, almost doubling the amount of available parking spaces. Park

renewal planning is set to begin in 2006.

Minnehaha Creek Headwaters, 16501 Gray's Bay Blvd.

Boardwalk construction is set to be done by summer 2006.

Reich, 18601 Beaver Trail

Master plan was approved by the Minnetonka City

Council. Construction and bid documents are being prepared.

Spring Hill, 16714 Seymour Drive

Work to be completed this fall includes hockey rink and play equipment installation and storm drainage work. The remainder of the work will be done in early summer 2006.

Westwood, 9 Westwood Road

Master plan approved by Park Board; city council review set for Jan. 23, 2006.

Wilson, 4230 Victoria Street

Master plan approved by Park Board; city council review set for Jan. 9, 2006.

Parks scheduled for future planning and construction are Green Circle, Lake Charlotte, Lake Rose, Mayflower, Mooney and Oberlin. For more information about the Parks Renewal process, visit www.eminnetonkaparksrenewal.com or contact Perry Vetter, project manager, city of Minnetonka, at (952) 939-8316, or pvetter@eminnetonka.com.

Volunteer Corner

Volunteer opportunities available

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS several volunteer positions available, including history event staff; Juvenile Diversion Program leader; Williston Center grounds and equipment maintenance; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers and transcribers; photographers; and storm drain monitor. For more information visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Volunteer Opportunities," or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215.

Sign up for the 2006 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 2006 Minnetonka Citizenship Academy.

This free program takes place over four evening sessions in February—Feb. 7, 15, 21 and 28—at the Minnetonka City Hall. Throughout the 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, email Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8207. Please provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Registration deadline is January 10, 2006.

City of Minnetonka's 2006 Budget

What will your 2006 property taxes buy?

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 \$1 million in 2003, and the state continues to impose additional requirements on the city without providing funding.

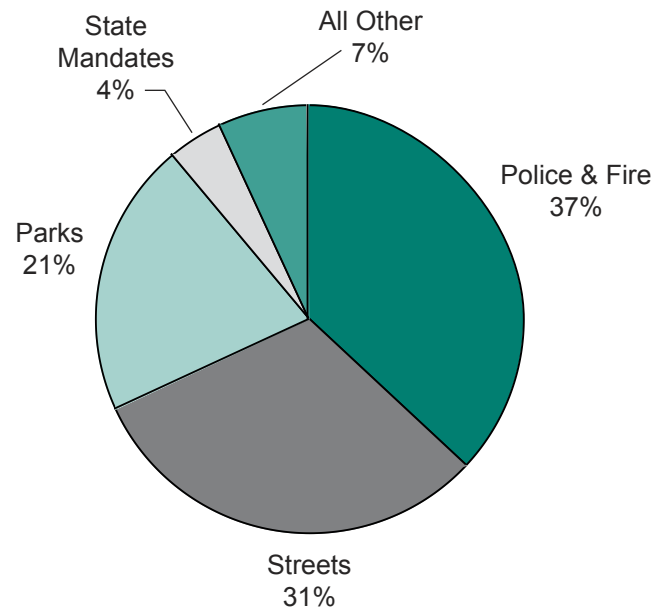
In total, state-imposed mandates will cost Minnetonka property taxpayers about \$1 million in 2006. Unlike other states, Minnesota requires cities to pay state sales taxes. Minnetonka also is required to finance the state's Market Value Credit Program and to significantly contribute to the financial bailout of the state-managed public pension program.

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.

The council also directed that the 2006 budget continue to place a priority on public safety and street maintenance. Most notably, a major road revitalization program will redo every local street in the city during the next decade.

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

How your property taxes are spent



An explanation of your 2006 property tax notice

The city accounts for about one-fourth of your total tax bill. The tax notice you receive does not distinguish between the components of the increase.

**City of Minnetonka
Budget Hearing**

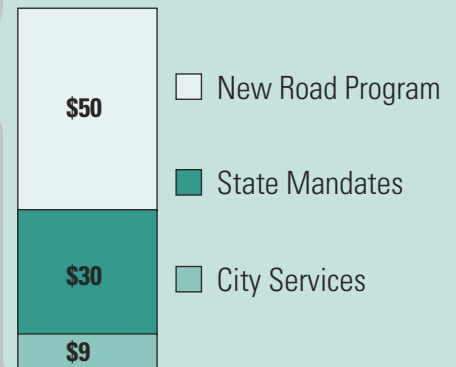
Monday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
(952) 939-8200

Proposed 2006 Property Tax For an average Minnetonka home (\$330,000)

	2005	2006
County	\$1,299	\$1,335
City	877	966
School*		
Voter approved	784	843
Other	202	304
School Total	986	1,147
Metro Districts	96	95
Other Districts	137	148
Solid Waste Fee	48	53
TOTAL	\$3,443	\$3,744

*Hopkins School District

City Property Tax Increases



Now is the time to protect your trees from winter threats

NOVEMBER IS HERE, BUT IT'S NOT TOO late to protect young trees against the four biggest wintertime threats: deer, sun scald, root injury, and snow and ice damage.

Deer

Deer can damage young, tender trees by eating the young shoots and top ends of evergreen trees and by rubbing their antlers on the thin-barked trunks of deciduous trees.

Prevent trunk damage with a light-colored tree guard that fits all the way around the tree and is tall enough to protect the bark from rutting deer.

Deer also like to eat the succulent tops of small evergreen seedlings. Protect these tender shoots with a bud cap, attached to trees in late October and early November. Cut a sheet of white copy paper into four equal sheets. Wrap one piece of paper around the bud and staple it in place, being sure to catch a few needles in the staple so the cap will stay on throughout the winter. The bud should be one-half inch below the top of the paper. Staple bud caps on pines until they are six feet tall and out of the reach of most deer. For more

information and photos of bud caps, visit http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/forestry/mankato/bud_cap.html.

Sunscald

Sunscald happens on cold winter days when the sun heats the tree bark and tricks the living tissue into becoming active. When temperatures drop at night, the bark temperature plummets and kills the active tissues. This results in long scars or cracks on the south or southwest side of a tree.

Sunscald occurs most often on young trees that have not created a thick insulating bark, but it may also happen to species that are naturally thin barked for the first few winters. Trees susceptible to sunscald include cherry, crabapple, honey locust, linden, maple, mountain ash and maple.

Prevent sunscald by using light-colored tree guards or tree wrap to reflect the sun. Be sure to remove wrap in the spring or monitor it throughout the growing season — wrap that is too tight can cut off the flow of nutrients to the tree, eventually killing it. After about five winters, trees shouldn't need wrapping.

Root injury

Tree roots can be injured during winters when cold, freezing temperatures occur and there is no snow cover to insulate the roots. To ensure insulation regardless of snowfall, place wood-based mulch around the base of newly planted trees. While leaves will work, they don't stay in place as easily as mulch.

Snow and ice damage

Now is a great time to have large trees pruned to prevent winter snow and ice damage. An arborist can evaluate trees and determine if they have any weak branch attachments or multiple leaders, making the trees more susceptible to breaking when loaded with ice and snow. The fall and winter months are ideal for tree work because many forest and shade tree insects and pathogens are inactive. To find a certified arborist, visit <http://www.isa-msa.org>.

For more information about preventing sunscald, root injury and snow and ice damage, visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG1411.html>. ☺

Boards and commissions positions available

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE CITY, CONSIDER applying to serve on a board or commission. In January, openings will be available on four boards and commissions:

- The **Community Heritage Commission** serves as an advisory body on matters related to the preservation of Minnetonka's historic structures, records, maps, photographs and artifacts. There are about six formal meetings each year, and commission members also work events such as the Ice Cream Social in June.
- The **Economic Development Authority (EDA)** advises the city council regarding economic development and housing and redevelopment matters, and exercises certain powers as authorized by the council. Meetings are on the second Tuesday evening of each month.
- The **Park Board** consults with the city council and city staff in matters relating to park land, park facilities, programs and finances. Meetings are on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Park Board members also serve on the Joint Recreation Board with Hopkins Park Board members. This group meets four times a year to review recreation programs and budgets.
- The **Planning Commission** assists and advises the city council in administration of the City Zoning Ordinance and conducts public hearings on matters as required by the zoning ordinance and subdivision or any other matters referred by the council or by ordinance. Meetings are on Thursday evenings twice a month.

The city accepts applications at any time for these and the other boards and commissions, including **Charter Commission**, **Police Advisory Committee**, **Senior Citizen Advisory Board** and ad hoc committees. Applicants are interviewed primarily in January but after that time as necessary, and accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies on these boards and commissions. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information or, for an application, contact Karen Telega at (952) 939-8211 or ktelega@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Prevent firearm injuries to children

FIREARMS STORED IN HOMES, ESPECIALLY when not secured properly, pose a significant risk of injury and death to children. Younger children, who often don't realize the gun is real or that it is loaded, are most likely to be injured either by shooting themselves or a playmate while playing with a gun they found in the home.

To keep children and adolescents safe and to help prevent firearm-related injuries, restrict access to guns either by keeping guns out of the home or keeping the gun in a locked cabinet or drawer. Guns should always be stored unloaded, with the bullets locked separately. Make sure that children do not have access to the keys used to lock the guns and bullets.

The use of a gun trigger lock can further protect children from accidental injury. Finally, teach children not to handle guns without adult supervision and don't allow them to play with realistic toy guns.

Free firearm safety kits, furnished by Project ChildSafe, are available at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling (952) 939-8500. ☺



2005 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Fall Leaf Drop-off Program

Saturdays: 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.

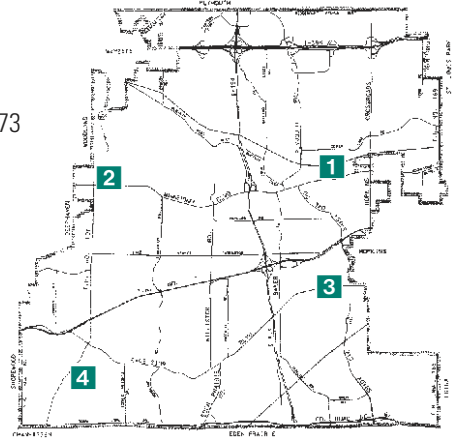
Please note: trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber or wood scraps are not accepted. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials should be directed to the leaf drop-off program. Brush drop-off materials are ground into mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.

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 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. November 5, 12, and 19**
- **Mondays: Noon to 8 p.m. November 7 and 14**
- **Tuesdays: Noon to 8 p.m. November 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. ♪

Looking for recycling information?

The 2006-07 *Recyclopedia*, developed to help residents manage their solid waste properly and to encourage wise use of natural resources through reuse, waste and toxicity reduction, and recycling, will be mailed to Minnetonka homes in late November. Please save your copy for future reference.

The *Recyclopedia* includes pollution prevention tips; garbage transfer station locations; resources for businesses; water quality and lawn care information; recycling, reuse and safe disposal information for various materials; and tips on buying recycled products.

If you do not receive a copy and would like one, call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 or pick one up at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. ♪



Minnetonka Mike learns about city snow removal

EVERY YEAR, MINNETONKA RESIDENTS have lots of questions about snow removal. Minnetonka Mike decided to strap on his snowshoes and head over to Minnetonka Public Works to interview Jeff Dubay, who oversees the city's snowplowing efforts during the winter months. Over a cup of hot chocolate Jeff shared almost everything he knows about snowplowing.

MM: Thanks for talking with me today, Jeff. I always enjoy visiting Public Works!

JD: My pleasure, Mike. More marshmallows for your hot chocolate?

MM: Yes, please! Before we get to snow questions, let's talk about ice — a condition that often is a worry even before the snow flies. I assume city crews use sand to control ice and snow?

JD: Actually, no. The only time we use sand is during freezing rain, and then only to provide traction — it doesn't melt the ice. Before a storm, we treat the main roads with a liquid anti-icer, which prevents the snow from bonding to the pavement and allows us to easily plow the road down to the surface. After a storm, we spread salt that's been treated with a corn-based liquid. This treated salt is much more efficient than untreated salt at melting ice and snow — it works to temperatures of 20 below zero at the pavement surface, while untreated salt only works to 20 degrees — and so allows us to spread much less salt on the road.

MM: Very innovative! If the roads get icy overnight, how early can residents expect roads to be treated?

JD: Starting in December and continuing through February, our Public Works employees are on the roads at 5 a.m. five days a week to check for frost and light snow. If they find these conditions, they spread treated salt to speed melting and improve traction.

MM: So, each year it seems I get questions about how much snow has to fall before snowplowing begins. Can you tell us about that?

JD: Sure. We begin city-wide snow removal after two or more inches of snow have accumulated. In most cases, we start plowing between midnight and 4 a.m., although the exact time depends on the predicted start and end of the snowfall and its intensity. Our goal in an average snowfall is to clear the streets and



cul-de-sacs of snow within ten hours. Remember, every snow operation requires city crews to clear 1,100 miles of roadway!

MM: Wow. That's about as far as I have to drive to visit my buddy Phanatic in Philadelphia! Say, one complaint I hear from residents is that just as they finish up shoveling, thinking that street plowing is complete, along comes another snowplow that dumps more snow in their driveway. When is the best time to shovel your driveway to avoid this?

JD: In a heavy snowfall, it takes a snowplow three passes to completely clear the streets. Mainline streets are plowed first and residential streets and cul-de-sacs plowed last. The first pass provides an initial access path down streets; full-width plowing starts a couple of hours later after all streets have received a first pass; followed by final cleanup the next day. Final cleanup includes intersection cleanup, application of treated salt, and plowing where vehicles were parked. A good time to shovel would be somewhere in between the second and third pass.

MM: When do you clear trails, sidewalks and other areas?

JD: Plowing of trails, sidewalks and parking lots begins right away, but with a limited number of people since clearing the streets is our first priority.

MM: After a snowfall, I sometimes hear from residents who think the snowplow damaged their mailbox or boulevard. What should they do?

JD: We'll repair sod damage resulting from city snowplows, but we don't repair sprinklers, fences or any private improvements installed in the city right-of-way. Mailboxes that are physically hit by city snowplows will be repaired, but mailboxes damaged by the force of the snow coming off the plow will not be repaired. Residents can report damage through Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or through Minnetonka Mike at www.eminnetonka.com. Sod repairs usually are made in May and June.

MM: What can residents do to help prevent damage from plows?

JD: Snowplow drivers are assigned to zones within the city, with drivers staying in that area for the entire winter. This allows drivers to become very familiar with the roadway features in their own area. To help drivers even more, consider installing curb markers to show the edge of your lawn or driveway. We provide free markers to residents — just stop by city hall at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard or the Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard.

MM: Is there anything else residents can do to help snowplow operations?

JD: Sure, I have a few tips for residents I'd like to share. First, follow city ordinance and keep parked cars off city streets between 2 and 6 a.m., because illegally parked cars can really slow down our plows. Call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 if you're concerned about an illegally parked vehicle.

Save precious minutes in the event of a fire by adopting a hydrant and keeping it clear of snow throughout the winter.

When clearing snow from your driveway, please don't push it into the street. City ordinance requires snow to be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to your property. This applies to contractors too, so if you hire someone to plow your driveway, please be sure they are aware of this ordinance.

Finally, place garbage cans and recycling containers behind the curb line so they won't be knocked over by snowplows, or by snow coming off the snowplow.

MM: Who can residents call if they have questions about snowplowing in the city?

JD: Residents can call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400, or contact you, Mike, at www.eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8586. For general weather information, visit www.rwis.dot.state.mn.us.

MM: Fantastic. Say, can I have a couple of those marshmallows to go?

JD: No problem. See you in the spring!

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

Calendar

City of Minnetonka

November 2005

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

2 Park Board, 7 p.m.

3 Charter Commission, 6:30 p.m.

8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.;
General Election, polls open
7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

11 Veteran's Day, *city offices closed*

14 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

15 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.

17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

21 Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m.

24/25 Thanksgiving holiday, *city offices closed*

28 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

Meet Minnetonka's new crime prevention analyst

NICOLE NELSON JOINED THE Minnetonka Police Department in October as a crime prevention analyst. She comes to Minnetonka from the Minneapolis Police Department, where she served for eight years as a crime prevention specialist for the Northeast and University of Minnesota neighborhoods.

In her role at the Minnetonka Police Department, Nicole will be responsible for community outreach and crime prevention education, including working with neighborhood watch groups and organizing the annual National Night Out event. In addition, she will provide crime data analysis to aid police department officers and investigators in their day-to-day activities.

Nicole may be reached at nnelson@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8546. ☺



Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka crime prevention analyst

Victorian holiday tea set for December 4

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BURWELL House Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. for a Victorian holiday tea hosted by the Minnetonka Historical Society. The event is free and open to the public. The Burwell House is located at 13209 East McGinty Road in Minnetonka. Parking will be available at St. David's Family Center. For more information call Florence Bogle at (952) 938-3758. ☺



Burwell House, site of Victorian holiday tea

No new developments in November

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO COME BEFORE THE MINNETONKA PLANNING Commission in November. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

minnetonka memo

November 2005



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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Mayor	Council
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.	At Large: Janis Callison . . (952) 935-7010 jcallison@eminnetonka.com Terry Schneider (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com Ward 1: Bob Ellingson . . (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com Ward 2: Tony Wagner . . . (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com Ward 3: Brad Wiersum . . (952) 930-3681 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com Ward 4: Al Thomas (952) 949-9027 athomas@eminnetonka.com
City Manager	Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
John Gunyou (952) 939-8200	POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1
Newsletter Editor	Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
Jacque Larson (952) 939-8200	
E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com	
Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

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