



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
October 2004*

★ City-wide Open House ★

PLEASE JOIN US in celebrating our Minnetonka community at the 11th annual city-wide open house Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. You'll find interesting and fun activities for everyone both inside and outside, in city hall, in the community center and in the police and fire departments.

- Department tours
- City vehicle and equipment displays
- Strolling characters
- Fun activities for the kids – bring your cameras!
- Free treats for all
- Musical entertainment
- Senior woodcarving demonstrations



- Information on city departments, boards, and commissions
- Information from non-profit participants



For additional information, call (952) 939-8200 or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com (click on Hot Topics, then Upcoming Events). □

★ Fire Department Open House ★



MINNETONKA FIREFIGHTERS and Sparky the Fire Dog invite you and your family to attend the Minnetonka Fire Department open house Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Fire Station #1 next to city hall. Activities include free fire truck rides



(must be at least four years of age), demonstrations and fun learning activities for the entire family. Free hot dogs and pop also will be available.

Over the past few weeks, members of the Minnetonka Fire Department have



visited area grade schools to promote this year's fire prevention theme, "Test Your Smoke Alarms!"

Sparky hopes you'll join him at the open house and reminds you to check your smoke detectors regularly. □

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 5 - 8 P.M. • MINNETONKA CITY CENTER

Council sets guidelines for 2005 budget

THE CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY set guidelines for the 2005 budget, which will be adopted later this year. State revenue cuts continue to challenge our ability to provide basic services.

During recent years, we've had to absorb annual state revenue cuts of up to a million dollars within artificially imposed tax levy limits. Specifically, the city of Minnetonka enacted spending caps to save \$3 million over five years and cut capital projects by about 10 percent.

These cuts have impacted basic city services. Minnetonka residents are particularly concerned about public safety, street and park maintenance. To meet these citizen expectations, the preliminary 2005 budget increases by about four percent, with nearly nine of every ten new dollars used to restore these service priorities.

The city of Minnetonka always takes a responsible long-term perspective with financial planning and management. We don't just patch things together to get through one year. We make decisions with the future in mind to ensure our ongoing capacity to provide quality services to our residents and businesses.

Unfortunately, considerable uncertainty exists for 2005. For the past two years, the state has required the city to pay for the state Market Value Credit (MVC) property tax relief program. The state has promised to resume its responsibility for this \$800,000 unfunded mandate beginning in 2005.

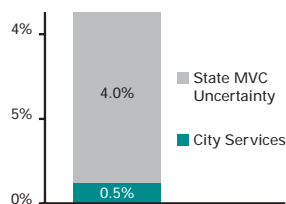
If the state fulfills its pledge, city taxes would only need to increase by one-half of one percent. However, with the state still facing another billion-dollar deficit next year, this likelihood is very uncertain. Worse yet, we will not know until half way through next year whether the state funds will be provided.

Since it would not be responsible to spend these state funds until their receipt is certain, city taxes must increase by 4.5 percent. This increase is among the lowest of comparable cities in the region. If any of the promised state funds are actually received in late 2005, their use will be determined during the 2006 budget discussions.

The November *Minnetonka Memo* will include detailed information on the proposed budget, as well as likely property tax impacts on our residents and businesses. The city of Minnetonka will hold a public hearing on the proposed final levy on December 6 prior to formal budget adoption on December 20. The city believes strongly that our citizens should be provided accurate information on how we are managing their tax dollars.

The failure of the state to resolve its budget problems continue to pose serious challenges to all local governments, and Minnetonka is no exception. Fortunately, our tradition of responsible, long-term fiscal management enables us to continue to provide quality public services at a reasonable price. □

2005 City Property Tax Increase



General Election set for Tuesday, November 2

THE GENERAL ELECTION is set for Tuesday, Nov. 2, with federal, state, and county offices to be on the ballot. 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 and click on "Election 2004".

What's on the ballot?

Offices on the General Election ballot are:

- President/Vice President
- U.S. Representative (District 3)
- State Representative (Districts 33B, 42A and 43B)
- County Park Commission (District 4)
- County Commissioner (District 6)
- Judicial races
- Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District 4
- Hennepin Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor 1, 3, and 5

No local issues are on the General Election ballot.

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. Absentee ballots for the General Election should be available Friday, Oct. 1.

How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

- *In person*: Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will be available at the Minnetonka City Hall on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Monday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m. to 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. 2, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

If you haven't voted since precincts changed in 2002 due to redistricting, your polling place may have changed. Also, the city made some minor polling place changes this year to better serve voters. Voters affected by these changes will receive a mailed notice from Hennepin County listing the new polling location. A map is provided to give you a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling location, visit www.emminetnka.com and click on "Election 2004," 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. **General Election** *continued on page 3*

General Election *continued from page 3*

tered to vote; 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. See the table with this article for more information about required identification.

Where will election results be available?

Because there are no local issues, results will be available through the elections section of the Secretary of State’s web site at www.sos.state.mn.us.

What is the city’s role in the election?

Although no local issues are on the ballot, 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 sent to Hennepin County. The city extends its thanks to all of the wonderful election judges who maintain the integrity of the voting process.

Where can I find General Election information?

Because the General Election is set for Tuesday, Nov. 2 — very close to the first of the month — all General Election information is provided in this *Minnetonka Memo*. Be sure to visit www.eminnetonka.com or contact city hall at (952)939-8200 for the latest updates.

We encourage you to get out and vote on November 2. Contact city hall at (952)939-8200 if you need assistance.

Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Legend:
 Ward Boundary Legislative District Boundaries
 Legislative District Precinct Lines
 Precinct Numbers
 LD
 Polling Locations

Polling Locations

<p>1A Glen Lake Elementary School 4801 Woodridge Rd.</p> <p>1B Old Apostolic Lutheran Church 5617 Rowland Rd.</p> <p>1C Cross of Glory Baptist Church 4600 Shady Oak Rd.</p> <p>1D Faith Presbyterian Church 12007 Excelsior Blvd.</p> <p>1E St. Paul’s Lutheran Church 13207 Lake St. Ext.</p> <p>1F Minnetonka Community Church 13215 Minnetonka Dr.</p>	<p>2A Minnetonka Community Center 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.</p> <p>2B Ridgedale Hennepin County Library 12601 Ridgedale Dr.</p> <p>2C Oak Knoll Lutheran Church 600 Hopkins Crossroad</p> <p>2D The Episcopal Parish of St. David Church 13000 St. David’s Rd.</p> <p>2E Lindbergh Center 2400 Lindbergh Dr.</p> <p>3A Ridgepointe 12600 Marion Lane W.</p> <p>3B Epoch Assisted Living 500 Carlson Parkway</p> <p>3C Minnetonka Community Center 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.</p> <p>3D/3E St. Luke Presbyterian Church 3121 Groveland School Rd.</p>	<p>3F Minnetonka Lutheran Church 16023 Minnetonka Blvd.</p> <p>3G Redeemer Bible Church 16031 Woodland Curve</p> <p>3H Minnetonka United Methodist Church 17611 Lake St. Ext.</p> <p>4A/4B Ridgewood Church (formerly Mtka. Baptist) 4420 Co. Rd. 101</p> <p>4C Clear Springs Elementary School 5701 Co. Rd. 101</p>	<p>4D Scenic Heights Elementary School 5650 Scenic Heights Dr.</p> <p>4E Redeemer Bible Church 16031 Woodland Curve</p> <p>4F All Saints Lutheran Church 15915 Excelsior Blvd.</p> <p>4G Glen Lake Activity Ctr. 14350 Excelsior Blvd.</p> <p>4H Clear Springs Elementary School 5701 Co. Rd. No. 101</p>
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Consult the map above to determine your correct polling location. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.

What ID do you need to vote?

Voters registering to vote on Election Day must provide proof of residence.

You may show ONE item from Table A or TWO items from Table B (valid photo ID plus valid utility bill).

TABLE A

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.
- Late notice sent from the Elections Office. Place this notice with the registration application.
- Prior registration in the same precinct—voter’s former address listed in the polling place roster.
- Current students
 - Student ID or dated registration or fee statement with valid address in the precinct; or student ID if on a dorm list provided by Election Headquarters.

OR

TABLE B

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



Natural Resource Notes

Autumn: the first step in the long battle against buckthorn

WHILE MANY TREES and shrubs are displaying brilliant colors and preparing for the long winter; buckthorn — the nemesis of many a Minnetonka homeowner — remains dark green and hearty. That makes autumn an ideal time to identify and remove this invasive plant.

What is buckthorn?

This non-native nuisance plant has invaded most of our woodlands and competes with native plants for light, moisture and nutrients. Once established, the dense shade produced by a buckthorn thicket does not allow native plants to regenerate, thus reducing both plant and animal diversity in that area.

What is the city doing to control buckthorn?

Since 1996, the city of Minnetonka has been working on restoration of natural resources in many parks. A large component of that program — involving 150 of the 250 acres currently being restored — is the removal and control of buckthorn. The largest buckthorn projects are at Purgatory, Lone Lake, Big Willow and Victoria-Evergreen parks.

How can I remove buckthorn?

The size of the project and the size and density of the buckthorn will determine the removal method used. City buckthorn projects typically involve two or more acres, with densely growing buckthorn that is sometimes 10 inches in diameter and 25 feet tall. The best way to remove and control buck-

thorn of this size is to cut it down. Then, prevent resprouting by treating the cut stump with herbicide.

For smaller-sized projects — buckthorn plants less than 2-1/2" in diameter — the entire plant may be removed by digging or pulling.

What herbicide do I use?

Herbicides are critical in the battle against buckthorn. Remember: proper use, timing and application to the target plant produces results that help improve ecological systems, but improper use and application harms the environment, so take care when using these chemicals.

Herbicides must contain triclopyr or glyphosate in certain concentrations to be effective against buckthorn. These are often sold under the trade names Garlon 4, Garlon 3A, Ortho Brush B Gon and Roundup. Local stores may not carry these products, so check at co-ops or agricultural supply stores.

What do I do with the cut buckthorn?

From mid-April through mid-November during scheduled days and times, cut or pulled buckthorn may be hauled to the city brush drop-off site, located at the Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

What happens next?

Now that the dense shade produced by the buckthorn has been eliminated and sunlight can once again reach the ground, desirable woodland grasses and wildflowers will sprout in the area where the

buckthorn once grew. However, it's inevitable that many of the dormant buckthorn seeds also will germinate and many buckthorn seedlings will appear as well. This is normal and expected. On small sites, pull the seedlings as you see them. If pulling isn't practical, use a glyphosate- or triclopyr-based herbicide and do a foliar spray in early October when desirable plants have gone dormant but buckthorn is still green. Beware: glyphosate kills anything green that it contacts and triclopyr kills green broadleaved plants, but not grasses.

How long will it take the area to recover?

The first two to three years after buckthorn removal are the hardest. The site will look bare and there may even be exposed soil that can erode. For a sloping site with bare soil, consider planting inexpensive annual ryegrass as a cover crop until more desirable plants grow.

It's easy to be overwhelmed by the amount of work involved in buckthorn removal and natural resource restoration. Remember, these are long-term projects measured in years and decades, not weeks or even months. Develop a plan that is achievable. Be satisfied with doing a little at a time. With patience and persistence, you can achieve your goal of buckthorn removal and restoration.

For the full text of this article, with more information about herbicides and removal methods, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Hot Topics." □

Exciting October performances set at ArtsCenter

BROADWAY TUNES, DANCE, visual art and cappella vocals — it's all at the ArtsCenter of Minnetonka in October. The ArtsCenter is co-owned by the Minnetonka School District and the city of Minnetonka and is located at 18285 Hwy. 7 in Minnetonka.

Belting Out Broadway — Saturday, Oct. 2

A sassy musical review of the best of Broadway, local Twin Cities actors will

sing tunes from Chicago, Les Miserables, Cabaret, Wicked and many others. Call TicketMaster at (651) 989-5151 for more information.

Impulse — Saturday, Oct. 9

Impulse, a fabulous cappella vocal quartet, will be live in concert singing high-energy tunes that mix gospel, doo-wop and contemporary sounds. Part of the proceeds will go to the Minnetonka

ArtsCenter. Call (952) 401-5748 for more information.

Bertram Weston — Wednesday, Oct. 13

Bertram Weston, a well-known deaf, African-American dancer, will present an Art Dance Mosaic. He presents dance work, usually to young audiences, that explores cultural diversity in today's culture.

ArtsCenter continued on page 6



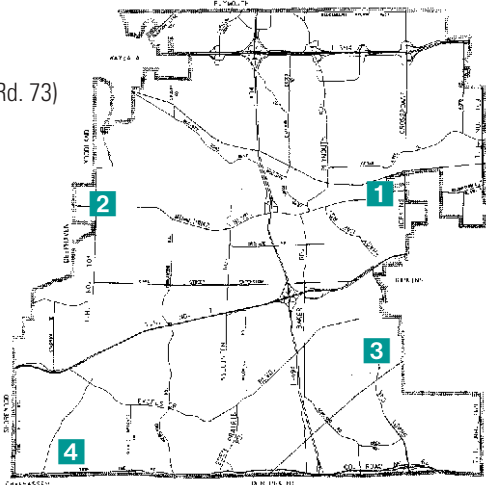
Fall Leaf Drop-off Program HT

Minnnetonka residents may bring bagged leaves, yard and garden materials to one of the four drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than 1/2" in diameter will not be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the Brush Drop-off article.)

SATURDAYS: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. • October 23, 30 and November 6, 13

SATURDAY LEAF DROP-OFF SITES

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**
(11522 Minnetonka Blvd., 1/4 mile west of Co. Rd. 73)
- 2 Groveland School Parking Lot**
(17310 Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101)
- 3 West Oaks Community Church Upper Parking Lot**
(11901 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 Saturday dates: Oct. 23, 30 and Nov. 6, 13.

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

BULK LEAVES: Truck and trailer loads of bulk leaves accepted only at the Public Works facility during brush drop-off hours

(Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) on the following dates: Oct. 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 30; and Nov. 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16 and 20. Loads of leaves **MUST** be covered during transport.

The Public Works facility is located at 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Enter on the west side of the building across from the Big Willow ball fields. Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile (*bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves*). Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves — it makes unloading your leaves easier and faster.

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option.

All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yardwaste on the same day as garbage collection for a reasonable annual or monthly fee. Check with your garbage hauler for details.

Information about composting and yardwaste management is available from Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217.

Brush drop-off ends in November

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents will end Nov. 20, 2004.

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

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

Please note: Trash, grass, loose leaves, lumber, or wood scraps are not accepted. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials go into the leaf drop-off program. (The brush is ground into the mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.)

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

Celebrate a safe Halloween!

THE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT has provided the following safety tips for parents as well as trick or treaters. Parents, please share this information with your children.

For trick or treaters:

- Do your trick or treating while it is still light outside.
- Have a responsible older person to accompany you.
- Be sure your costume is bright and reflective, and that you can easily walk in it.
- Wear a reflective blinker light or glow-in-the-dark neon. Consider makeup instead of a mask.
- Stay in your own neighborhood and go only to those homes where you know the people.
- Never enter a stranger's home or take a ride from a stranger
- Carry a flashlight so you can see and be seen easily.

For parents:

- Know the route your child will be taking.
- Be certain there is adult supervision present (both trick or treating and at parties).

Halloween continued on page 6

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

October
2004

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

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

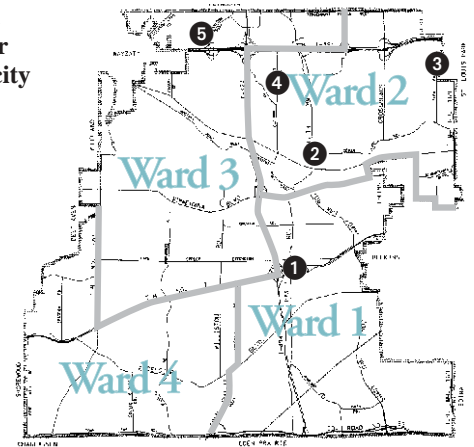
- Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.**
- 4 City Council regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 - 5 Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, 5–8 p.m.
 - 6 Park Board, 7 p.m.
 - 7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
 - 12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.

- 12 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
- 13 Joint Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 18 City Council regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in October. Because of early deadlines for this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, not all October items may be included here. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Conditional use permit and site plan review for parking lot expansion at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 13207 Lake St. Ext. (Ward 1, Sec. 22)
- 2 Front yard setback variance from 40 to 25 feet for a new home at 2845 Plymouth Road. (Ward 2, Sec. 11)
- 3 Preliminary plat for a two-lot subdivision at 1724 Ford Road. (Ward 2, Sec. 1)
- 4 Preliminary plat and variance for a lot division at 1927 Essex Road. (04051.04a)
- 5 Site and building plan review for Wildwood Condominiums at 408 Parkers Lake Road. (Ward 3, Sec. 4)



ArtsCenter *continued from page 4*

Richard James Cunningham: A Celebration of His Life and Art
— through Nov. 11

This exhibit showcasing the art work of Richard James Cunningham, long-time art teacher in the Minnetonka schools, is in the art gallery through Nov. 11. For more information visit www.richardjamescunningham.com. □

Halloween *continued from page 5*

- Leave your outside light on.
- Keep pets inside.
- Advise your children not to eat any treats until you have examined them. If something doesn't look right, throw it away.
- Remember, children look forward to the good things about Halloween. It is your responsibility to alert them to the possible dangers and show them how to avoid accidents. □



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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