

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Election Day is Nov. 5

The 2019 municipal election is Tuesday, Nov. 5. There are five city council seats on the ballot - all four ward seats and a special election for one at-large seat. The Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata school districts also have school board positions on the ballot.

Here's what you need to know to cast your vote.

- **Hours:** 7 a.m.-8 p.m. If you're in line at 8 p.m. you're allowed to vote.
- **Locations and ballot:** Find your polling place and view a sample ballot at [pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us).
- **Registration:** Voters can register at the polls with proper identification. Learn more at [eminnetonka.com/voters](http://eminnetonka.com/voters).
- **Location changes:** Ward 2 Precinct D voters will once again vote at Ridgedale Hennepin County Library. Ward 4 Precinct C voters will vote at Bethlehem Lutheran Church instead of Scenic Heights Elementary School.
- **Results** will be available at [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com).



To cast your ballot before Election Day, visit the Minnetonka Community Center (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) for in-person absentee voting. Visit [eminnetonka.com/election2019](http://eminnetonka.com/election2019) for dates, times and details. Call 952-939-8200 or email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com) to learn more or to ask questions.

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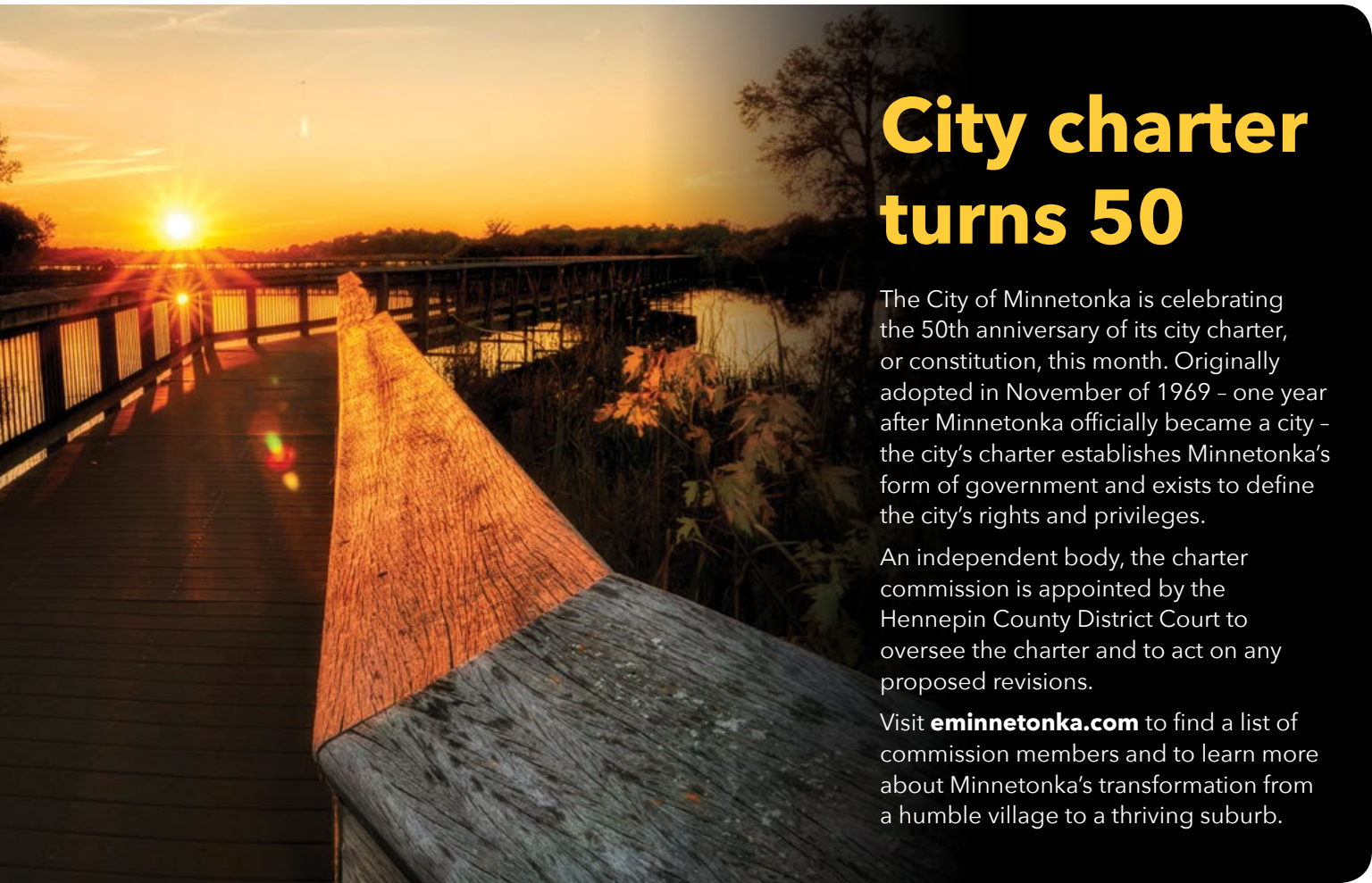
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# City charter turns 50

The City of Minnetonka is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its city charter, or constitution, this month. Originally adopted in November of 1969 – one year after Minnetonka officially became a city – the city’s charter establishes Minnetonka’s form of government and exists to define the city’s rights and privileges.

An independent body, the charter commission is appointed by the Hennepin County District Court to oversee the charter and to act on any proposed revisions.

Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) to find a list of commission members and to learn more about Minnetonka’s transformation from a humble village to a thriving suburb.

## Nominate a deserving resident or group for the Reflections Award

Do you know an individual, business or program that consistently works to make Minnetonka a great community? Nominate them for the 2019 Reflections Award!

The Reflections Award – created by the city in 1997 – recognizes individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions reflect positively on Minnetonka.

Nominations are due Friday, Nov. 22. To learn more and download the application, visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com). Call 952-939-8200 with questions.



# Minnetonka becomes a 'Partner in Energy'

The City of Minnetonka's ongoing passion to protect the environment has led to its involvement in an important initiative - Xcel Energy's "Partners in Energy" program.

This program - a collaboration between the city, Xcel Energy and the Minnetonka community - will assess citywide energy use and result in an Energy Action Plan that will guide the city for years to come.

"We're excited to join the Partners in Energy program and begin the formal process of developing an Energy Action Plan," said City Manager Geralyn Barone. "This program is another important step in our dedication to protect the natural resources that make our city so special."



## Energy Action Plan

The completed Energy Action Plan will:

- Summarize existing energy consumption in Minnetonka
- Identify energy reduction goals
- Outline strategies to meet those goals

It's expected to take approximately six months to develop the plan. It will take additional time to implement the plan and measure its success and sustainability.

There is no cost to the city to participate in the program.

## Community collaboration

Three groups will work together to create the plan and put it into motion.

- Residents, businesses, students, non-profits and community groups will serve on an "Energy Action Plan Team."
- Xcel will provide a facilitation team and additional resources.
- City staff will facilitate discussion, keep the community informed and put the plan into action.

## Stay informed

The community will have opportunities to provide feedback on the plan as it's developed and when it's presented to the city council. Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) and search "Partners in Energy" to stay informed and to subscribe to email and text updates.

Visit [xcelenergy.com/partnersinenergy](http://xcelenergy.com/partnersinenergy) for additional program information.

## Other sustainable initiatives

Partners in Energy is just one of many city initiatives to improve Minnetonka's sustainability. Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) and search "sustainability" to learn more.

# Vote for your favorite Minnetonka photo on Facebook



**The 2019 City of Minnetonka Photo Contest submissions are in, and we need your help to choose the winners!**



Voting will take place Nov. 1-8 on the city's Facebook page. Follow us at **facebook.com/cityofminnetonka**

for your chance to choose the winners!

We'll post an album with all the submissions on Friday, Nov. 1. To vote, simply "like" your favorites by Friday, Nov. 8. The photos with the most "likes" will earn first, second and third place and honorable mention Honors.

## Awards

Winning photos will be featured on the city's website and social media accounts, in the Minnetonka Memo and displayed in the community center.

Please note, all entries become the property of the City of Minnetonka and may be used in city publications.

## Communications staff wins national award

This year, the city's communications staff was charged with developing a multi-faceted marketing campaign to help the fire department improve its recruiting efforts. Not only was the campaign successful – it was recently recognized as one of the best marketing and communications plans in the nation.



Senior Communications Coordinator Justin Pelegano led the project and accepted the first-place award at the annual 3CMA (City-County Communications and Marketing Association) conference in September.

More than 700 entries from cities and counties across the nation were submitted in the contest.

Congratulations to Justin and the entire communications team, and thanks for your award-winning work!

## New city website coming in November

The City of Minnetonka is moving ... to a new online home!

In mid-November the city will transition from **eminnetonka.com** to a new address – **minnetonkamn.gov**. The new-and-improved site will feature a new design, content and organization.

### Stay informed

To receive important city news via text – including when the new website is live – text **"MTKA News" to 468-311**, or visit **eminnetonka.com/news** to subscribe to email or text updates.

Look for full details about the new site in the December edition of the Minnetonka Memo.



## Police and Fire Facility Project update

It's been 45 years since the Minnetonka Central Fire Station was built, and 30 years since the Minnetonka Police Station was constructed. In the decades since, both departments have evolved to address the city's safety and security needs and are therefore in need of updated facilities.

This fall, the city will solicit a second round of bids for the public safety facility project, which was approved by the city council in January. Initial bids came in higher than expected due to significant increases in construction costs.



The project was initially approved and bid with a \$25 million budget. After the initial bids were rejected, the city worked with a construction management consultant to advise the bid process. The city council approved a budget increase to \$30 million in September 2019. The additional \$5 million will be funded by a state sales tax exemption and general, utility and cable TV funds, which will not require a levy increase.

The council is expected to review the new round of bids in early December. Stay tuned for details.

Construction is expected to begin in May 2020 and last up to two years.



### Learn more

Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) and search "public safety facility" for complete project details, and to sign up to receive updates by email or text.

## City council sets 2020 property tax levy limit

Each September, in accordance with state law, the Minnetonka City Council is required to set a maximum preliminary tax levy before approving the following year's budget.

At its Sept. 16 meeting, the city council adopted a preliminary property tax increase of no more than 7.76 percent for 2020.

### What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$378,500 for taxes payable in 2020) will increase by approximately \$95\* next year.

### What's new in 2020?

The proposed 2020 budget includes new bond payments for the police and fire facility improvements; funding to support the fire department's paid-on-call staffing model; a change to ensure the city's compensation structure is competitive in a tight labor market; an additional maintenance position to care for the city's expanding trails and parks and funds to support new sustainability efforts.

### Learn more and provide input

To review the Sept. 16 meeting materials and learn more about the 2020 budget, visit [eminnetonka.com/budget](http://eminnetonka.com/budget).

To provide feedback on the 2020 budget:

- Submit feedback online at [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)
- Attend the Monday, Dec. 2 city council meeting
- Call Finance Director Darin Nelson at 952-939-8253.

*\*The exact impact on specific properties will depend on the assessed market value of each home. These numbers do not include the proposed increase from other taxing jurisdictions such as the county and local school district.*

### 2020 Budget Process

- Aug. 19, 2019: Council discussed levy proposal
- Sept. 16, 2019: Council sets preliminary levy
- Nov. 25, 2019: Council to discuss budget proposal
- Dec. 2, 2019: City council public hearing

## Drop off leaves through Nov. 23

Each fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Residents must present a driver's license, state ID or utility bill. Commercial services must prove materials came from a Minnetonka address.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/yardwaste](http://eminnetonka.com/yardwaste) to learn more or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

## NOVEMBER LEAF DROP-OFF SITE HOURS

Saturdays	7 a.m.-3 p.m.	Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23
Sundays	Noon-4 p.m.	Nov. 3, 10, 17
Mondays	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	Nov. 4, 11, 18
Tuesdays	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	Nov. 5, 12, 19
Fridays	Noon-6 p.m.	Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22



## Don't miss Burwell's annual holiday open house

**Victorian holiday decorations, self-guided tour, refreshments available!**

**Where:** Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road

**When:** Sunday, Dec. 1 from 1-4 p.m.

**Hosted by:** Minnetonka Historical Society

**Cost:** Free (donations accepted)

**Parking:** St. David's Center, 3395 Plymouth Rd. Handicap limited parking available at the Burwell House.



### November tours

Tour the Burwell House on Sundays in November from 1-3:30 p.m.



## Commit to be fit

Make changes that will last in the Williston 8-Week Weight Loss Challenge.

Jan. 12 - March 7

Cost: \$249/\$299

Williston Fitness Center

Max: 50 participants

### Program includes:

- Five one-on-one personal training sessions
- Weekly group boot camp Saturdays at 7 a.m.
- Nutrition workshops and presentations
- Additional classes and benefits

### Register

- Course ID: 2063801-01
- Online at [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register)
- Call 952-939-8203

## Plan to prune trees this winter

Winter is the best time to prune because trees – along with potentially harmful insects and diseases – are dormant and it's easier to see a tree's structure after leaves have fallen.

Young trees and fruit trees especially benefit from late-winter pruning, which can improve the tree's shape and fruit production.

Branches should be pruned if they are diseased, broken, too long or crowding each other. As you prune, remember these guidelines:

- Don't remove more than a quarter of the existing branches.
- Individual branches should not exceed half the trunk diameter.
- Use the right tools for the job, including bypass hand pruners, folding hand saws, pole saws and bypass loppers. Avoid anvil pruners, which damage the wood.

The University of Minnesota Extension website has additional information to help you prune this winter. Visit [extension.umn.edu](http://extension.umn.edu) and search "pruning."



## Right-of-way pruning begins in November

The city will begin pruning trees and shrubs along the right-of-way (ROW) in November to improve sightlines, ensure safe streets and prepare for upcoming street construction projects. Crews will continue to prune through March 2020. There is no cost to property owners. Prior to pruning, we'll notify property owners by mail.

Call 952-988-8421 to ask questions or learn more.



### Who performs the work, and what does it entail?

City staff supervise the project and crews. Goals are:

- Raise tree canopies to 16-18 feet above the road to provide clearance for large vehicles.
- Create a safe work zone for street construction.
- Remove dead or broken branches that pose a risk to the road.
- Remove vegetation that blocks sightlines or road signs.

### How does the city decide to remove a tree?

ROW trees must be removed if they pose a risk to the road or can't be properly pruned. Ash trees may be removed to minimize the threat of emerald ash borer.

### How can ROW tree conflicts be avoided?

- Don't plant within six feet of the street.
- Keep vegetation shorter than 30 inches tall at intersections.
- Plant evergreen trees (pine, spruce, etc.) more than 20 feet from the street.
- Plant deciduous trees (those that drop leaves in the fall) at least 15 feet from the street.

## Sign up for natural resources news



Learn more about Minnetonka's abundant natural resources and how you can help protect them!

Visit [eminnetonka.com/natural-resources](http://eminnetonka.com/natural-resources) to subscribe to our email and text message notifications and receive monthly news, tips and events.

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 11** Veterans Day, city offices closed
- 12** Charter Commission, 7 p.m.
- 13** Joint City Council and Park Board, TBA
- 14** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 18** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 25** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 28** Thanksgiving Day, city offices closed
- 29** Thanksgiving observed, city offices closed

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com) or call **952-939-8200** for the latest information. Meetings are available live and on-demand at [eminnetonka.com/tv](http://eminnetonka.com/tv).



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# WINTER FARMERS MARKET



Stroll through the winter market to purchase honey, jams, winter vegetables, free-range meats, sweet treats, gifts and more. It's a great stop before the holidays!



**Saturday, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.



For more information, or to become a vendor, visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket) or call 952-939-8301.