

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Learn more about Minnetonka at our Citizen Academy

Do you want to learn more about your city and how it operates? Sign up for the 2020 Minnetonka Citizen Academy!

The academy is a free program held every-other-year that gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at the city and its operations.

Sessions are held each Tuesday from Jan. 28 to March 3 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at city hall.

### Register by Jan. 17

Register online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) (course number 2020201) or call 952-939-8203.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/news](http://minnetonkamn.gov/news) to learn more.



## Minnesota switches to presidential primary in 2020

The process to select major-party presidential candidates will look different in Minnesota in 2020. Instead of caucus straw polls, the state will hold a nomination primary election on Tuesday, March 3.

The move to a presidential primary will ensure more people are able to participate in the nomination process via absentee voting, same-day registration and special opportunities for those serving overseas.

### Absentee voting begins Jan. 17

Anyone can vote absentee online, by mail or in person in the presidential primary beginning Jan. 17. Vote absentee in-person at city hall, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/elections](http://minnetonkamn.gov/elections) to learn more about the presidential nomination primary, absentee voting and the 2020 election. Email questions to [elections@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:elections@minnetonkamn.gov).



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# 2020 utility rates

In December, the Minnetonka City Council voted to adjust residential and commercial utility rates for 2020. The adjustments maintain service delivery and fund necessary improvements to the city's utility infrastructure.

## 2020 residential utility rates

	2019	2020
<b>Water (per 1,000 gallons)</b>		
Tier 1 (0-18,000 gallons)	\$3.07	\$3.19
Tier 2 (18,001-40,000 gallons)	\$3.50	\$3.63
Tier 3 (40,001-70,000 gallons)	\$4.38	\$4.54
Tier 4 (70,000+ gallons)	\$6.08	\$6.31
<b>Sewer</b>		
Base fee	\$68.41/quarter	\$70.98/quarter
<b>Stormwater</b>		
Single family, 2-3 family, residential (unit/month)	\$7.08	\$7.29
<b>Recycling</b>		
Residential monthly rate	\$4.40	\$4.58
<b>State meter testing fee</b>		
Annual fee per meter	\$6.36	\$9.72

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling) for commercial rates and more information.

## Why do utility rates increase?

Funds from utility fees help the city proactively improve and replace important infrastructure, including water and sewer mains. Due to aging infrastructure, the city averages close to 100 water main breaks each year, which result in damage, service interruptions and expensive repairs. Improving and replacing this infrastructure keeps service running smoothly, avoids major headaches and is more cost-effective for all involved.

Storm sewer rate increases help fund storm water-related infrastructure improvements, typically done in conjunction with street reconstruction projects, and federal water quality mandates.

## More information

Visit [minnetonka.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonka.gov/utilitybilling) to pay your bill online, find rates and learn more. Contact Finance Director Darin Nelson at [dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov) or 952-939-8200 to ask questions.



## Reduce water consumption

Minnetonka residents pay a base fee for water and sewer utilities, and incur additional charges based on usage. If you want to save money and help the environment, check out these ideas to reduce your water consumption.

- Don't let water run when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Use a dishwasher instead of handwashing, and only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Showers account for 30 percent of home water use. A low-flow shower head and shorter showers can make a big difference.
- Fix leaks. A constantly dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons a day.
- Don't use running water to thaw foods.



**Sunday, Feb. 9**  
**11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**

This free event has dog sled rides, ice sculptures, a DJ, face painting and much more.

Look for complete details in the February Minnetonka Memo and on [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov).

## Christmas tree disposal options

Minnetonka residents have two options for live Christmas tree disposal.

- Check with residential garbage collectors for tree pick up and recycling options. There may be an additional fee.
- Trees are accepted at the city's brush drop-off site, open five Saturdays in March, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Public Works facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.). Until then, plant Christmas trees in a snowbank as a habitat for birds.



## Caring Youth award nominations due Jan. 10

If you know a young person in grades 7-12 who cares for others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating them for a 2020 Caring Youth Award.

Nominees must live in - or volunteer in - Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley, or attend school in Minnetonka or Hopkins. They must be nominated by the organization they serve.

The nomination deadline is Friday, Jan. 10. For more information, including nomination guidelines and forms, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/caringyouth](http://minnetonkamn.gov/caringyouth) or contact Hopkins Schools Youth Programs Coordinator Lisa Walker at [Lisa.walker@hopkinsschools.org](mailto:Lisa.walker@hopkinsschools.org).

Nominees and winners will be recognized at the Caring Youth Recognition Event on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center.



# Adopt a fire hydrant this winter

Our fire department depends on quick and easy access to fire hydrants throughout the city. This winter, please lend a helping hand and "adopt a fire hydrant" in your neighborhood!

After a snowfall, shovel out a fire hydrant near your home to ensure it's easily accessible. This will save our fire department precious time in an emergency.



## Did you know?

Minnetonka has more than 3,500 fire hydrants. The space between each hydrant is approximately 500 feet.

## Year-round

Though snow is the main perpetrator in our climate, consider adopting your hydrant year-round. In the summer, trim plants nearby to keep hydrants easily visible and accessible.

## Thank you!

The Minnetonka Fire Department thanks you for your help with hydrants. With teamwork, we can keep our community safe!

# Serve on the Minnetonka Crime Prevention Association board

Are you passionate about Minnetonka's safety and want to give back to your community? Volunteer to serve on the Minnetonka Crime Prevention Association's (MCPA) board of directors!

The MCPA is a non-profit organization sponsored by residents, businesses and civic organizations. The association works with - but is separate from - the Minnetonka Police Department on crime prevention initiatives to enhance our community's safety. It also provides critical financial support of those endeavors.

The MCPA's volunteer board of directors includes residents and business leaders and meets 4-to-6 times per year.

Contact Karen Hendrickson at [khendrickson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:khendrickson@minnetonkamn.gov) to learn more and ask questions.



# Family Fun Day

at Fire Station 1

FREE



**Saturday, Jan. 25**  
**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Minnetonka Fire Station 1**  
**14550 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Meet Minnetonka firefighters, check out fire trucks and take a turn on our 20-foot inflatable slide! To top it all off, we'll be serving delicious firehouse chili and hot cider. For more information, please call 952-939-8331.

## Inspect your home's insulation

Has your heating bill increased substantially? That could be a sign that the insulation in your home is deteriorating and needs to be improved or replaced. Here are other signs insulation improvements may be needed.



- **Water or moisture in your attic**
- **Giant icicles** - These often indicate you're losing heat through your roof and need new attic insulation.
- **Cold walls, floors, ceilings** - If these are cold or damp to touch, you may need new insulation.
- **Temperatures vary** - Different room-to-room temperatures and drafts can be a sign insulation is failing in certain areas.
- **Insulation conditions** - Insulation that is crumbling or breaking apart should be replaced.
- **Pests** - Mice or bugs can indicate an opening letting in cold air.

Investigate your insulation or contact a professional if any of these are present in your home. If home improvements are needed, please remember a permit may be required. Email us at [permits@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:permits@minnetonkamn.gov) to ask questions and learn more.

MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MINNETONKA

## Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

**Saturday, Feb. 1**  
**8-10:30 a.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**  
**\$5**

Enjoy live choral and instrumental music and a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and all the fixings to support the Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM).



WEST METRO **HOME REMODELING FAIR**



**Sunday, Feb. 9**  
**10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Eisenhower Community Center**  
**1001 Highway 7, Hopkins**

**FREE EVENT**

A free event featuring free remodeling consultations, seminars, more than 75 exhibitors and more. Learn more at [homeremodelingfair.com](http://homeremodelingfair.com).

### Enter remodeling contest by Jan. 31 to win \$1,000

Enter the Operation Rescue Room contest for a chance to win \$1,000 toward remodeling a room. Fair visitors vote for the room most in need of a rescue; must be present to win. Entries are due Monday, Feb. 4. Enter online, learn more and see previous winners at [homeremodelingfair.com](http://homeremodelingfair.com).



# WILLISTON



## WEEK Weight Loss Challenge

Our fitness professionals will help you achieve your fitness goals! Learn to let go of old habits and replace them with healthy ones. The challenge kicks off Jan. 12.

Program includes:

- Five private personal training sessions
- Four one-hour nutrition classes
- Eight weekly group boot camp classes on Saturday mornings at 7 a.m.
- Twelve group fitness classes for Weight Loss Challenge participants only
- Small Group TRX/Cardio tennis for Weight Loss Challenge participants only
- Weigh-ins, including BMI measurement and chest/waist/hip measurements
- Food demonstration by Lisa O'Connell
- Female and male winners, based on largest percentage of weight loss

Dates	Time	Member/ Nonmember Fee	Course
Jan. 12-March 7	Various Times	\$249/\$299	2063801-01

Location: Williston Fitness Center

Size: Max. 50

Register online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) or call 952-939-8370.

## Sign up for youth baseball and softball clinics

Ages 7-13

Cost: \$119

Williston Fitness Center

Four-week hitting, fielding or fielding/throwing clinics with Pine Tar Academy will improve skills and build confidence. Find dates and times and register online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) (course number 2150201).



## Light up the Night Dance

Ages 5-11



Dance the night away, enjoy pizza and dessert, and capture great memories! Dads, grandads, uncles, or any special adult - all are welcome to accompany their special girl. Semi-formal attire is recommended.

Friday, Feb. 7

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

Cost: \$40

Register for a pair: 2200301-01

\$10 for each additional daughter: 2200302-01

# Prepare for our tree sale

Each February, our online tree sale gives residents a chance to purchase lovely and diverse trees at reasonable prices. The selection changes each year in an effort to improve pest and disease resistance, promote pollinator-friendly species and to increase our community forest's resilience to climate change.



Here are important dates for the 2020 sale:

**Late January** Available species will be featured in the February issue of the Minnetonka Memo.

**Jan. 28** Tree Sale Preview Event – See “Natural Resources Happenings” for details

**Jan. 29** Preview available species, prices and set up or check your online account at [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov).

**Feb. 3** Online sales begin at 8 a.m. Buy early – some items sell out fast!

**May 15-16** Pick up trees at Minnetonka Public Works (pickup only, no trees available for purchase).

## Note for repeat customers

If you have purchased two or more times previously, please wait a few days to give other property owners priority.

## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents) or call 952-988-8400 to register (required) for these events.

January  
2020

### Right-of-Way Pruning and Pizza

Jan. 15 | 5-7 p.m.

Community Center, Minnetonka Mills Room

Enjoy pizza and learn about the annual right-of-way pruning program, including how and why it's done and how it may affect your property.

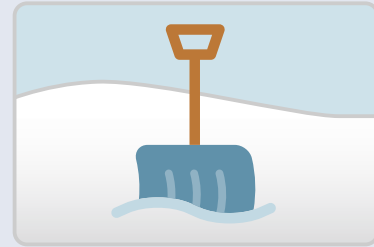
### Tree Sale Preview

Jan. 28 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Community Center

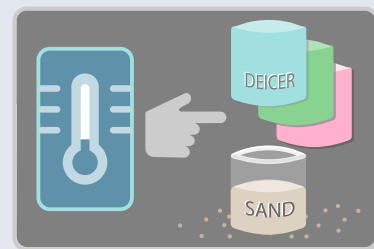
Learn about each species offered, determine which would work best in your yard and receive expert tips from the city forester.

# PLEDGE TO BE SALT SMART



## 1. Shovel

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.



## 2. Select

Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction when it's too cold, or a different de-icer.



## 3. Scatter

Use salt only where critical. Aim for three inches of space between salt granules.



## 4. Sweep

Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Graphics courtesy [cleanwatermn.org](http://cleanwatermn.org)

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** New Year's Day, city offices closed
- 6** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 13** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, city offices closed
- 23** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 27** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 30** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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



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952-939-8200 | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

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# WINTER FARMERS MARKET



- Shop for local foods, crafts and gifts from 40+ vendors
- Face painting, live music and more!



**Saturday, Jan. 11**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

For more details, or to become to be a vendor, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) or email [farmersmarket@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@minnetonkamn.gov).