

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Nov. 3 is Election Day

The 2020 general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and it's our goal that every eligible Minnetonka voter can cast their ballot safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote early

- **Absentee in-person** at the Minnetonka Council Chambers
 - Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 - Direct balloting: Begins Tuesday, Oct. 27
 - Extended hours: Saturday, Oct. 31 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Monday, Nov. 2 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- **Absentee by mail** - learn how at minnetonkamn.gov/election
 - Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by Nov. 10 to count.
 - Completed ballots can also be dropped off during absentee in-person voting.

Vote on Election Day

- 7 a.m.-8 p.m. (If you're in line at 8 p.m., you're allowed to vote.)
- Find your polling place and a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
- Learn how to register at the polls at minnetonkamn.gov/voters.

COVID-19 precautions

- Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.
- We'll have masks, hand sanitizer and pens for each voter.
- Election staff will follow CDC guidelines, wear personal protective equipment and disinfect surfaces regularly.

Minnetonka votes to adopt or reject ranked choice voting

On the 2020 ballot, Minnetonka voters will be asked to consider how city elections (mayor and city council) are conducted.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting to learn more.

2020 polling location changes

Several polling locations have temporarily changed for the 2020 general elections due to COVID-19.

PRECINCT	2020 LOCATION	PREVIOUS LOCATION
Ward 1, Precinct E	Williston Fitness Center 14509 Minnetonka Drive	Bet Shalom 13613 Orchard Road
Ward 3, Precinct A	Hennepin County Ridgedale Library 12601 Ridgedale Drive	RidgePointe 12600 Marion Lane West
Ward 3, Precinct B	Minnetonka Ice Arena A 3401 Williston Road	New Perspective 500 Carlson Parkway
Ward 4, Precinct F	Glen Lake Activity Center 14350 Excelsior Blvd.	The Glenn Minnetonka 5300 Woodhill Road

Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/election to learn more. Contact us at elections@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-939-8200 to ask questions.

IN THIS ISSUE



City council approves new sustainability commission
PAGE 2



2021 levy, budget and utility fees
PAGE 2



Winter farmers market
PAGE 4

City council approves new sustainability commission

In October, the Minnetonka City Council approved an ordinance to create a new sustainability commission to further the city's efforts to protect and preserve the environment.

This new commission will:

- Review and provide input on sustainability proposals.
- Act as a sustainability ambassador to the community.
- Serve as a resource for existing city advisory groups.

Stay tuned for more details and how you can apply to serve on the sustainability commission. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/green to learn more about the city's sustainability efforts and how you can help.

Mark your curb for winter snow removal

Help us prepare for winter snow removal by placing curb markers along the edge of your lawn or driveway. It's a huge help to our snowplow drivers.

Free curb markers are available at city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) and public works (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.). Please act quickly! They're much easier to install before the ground freezes.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/snowplowing for complete snow removal details, and look for information in the December Minnetonka Memo. Call Public Works at 952-988-8400 to learn more or ask questions.



City council sets 2021 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. 21 meeting, the city council adopted a preliminary property tax increase of no more than 3.5 percent for 2021.



What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$390,000 for taxes payable in 2021) will decrease by approximately \$5* next year.

What's new in 2021?

The goal of the budget is to reduce the 2021 levy from prior projections without burdening future years. New initiatives include \$150,000 for diversity, equity and inclusion; \$127,000 for elections (pending 2020 election results) and \$50,000 to expand sustainability efforts. Adjustments to the Capital Improvement Program and a change in the city's health insurance provider allowed the city to reduce the levy increase by more than two percent.

Learn more and provide input

To review the Sept. 21 meeting materials and learn more about the 2021 budget, visit minnetonkamn.com/budget.

To provide feedback on the 2021 budget:

- Submit feedback online at minnetonkamn.gov/request.
- Attend the Monday, Dec. 7 city council meeting. This meeting may be held virtually; stay tuned for updates.
- Email Finance Director Darin Nelson at dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov.

**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.*

Cook up fire safety this season

The holiday season is almost here, and that means more time preparing big meals for family gatherings. Did you know cooking mishaps were the leading cause of structure fires in Minnesota in 2019, causing nearly \$6 million in damages?

These reminders from the Minnetonka Fire Department will help you cook up a healthy serving of fire safety in the kitchen this winter.

- Never leave the kitchen while cooking. If you have to step away, turn off the stove and remove pans from burners.
- Keep flammable items - oven mitts, towels, wooden spoons, etc. - at least three feet from the stove, and avoid wearing loose-fitting clothes.
- Cover pan fires with a tight-fitting lid and turn off the heat.
- Ensure your smoke alarms are working properly on each level and in each bedroom.



Drop off leaves through Nov. 21

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.

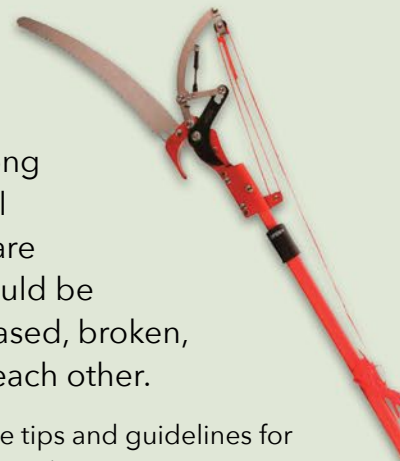
Visit minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste to learn more or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

NOVEMBER LEAF DROP-OFF SITE HOURS

Saturdays	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Nov. 7, 14, 21
Sundays	Noon - 4 p.m.	Nov. 8, 15
Mondays	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Nov. 2, 9, 16
Tuesdays	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Nov. 3, 10, 17
Fridays	Noon - 6 p.m.	Nov. 6, 13, 20

Time to prune trees

Tree pruning is an important part of home maintenance. Plan to prune in the winter, when trees - along with potentially harmful insects and diseases - are dormant. Branches should be pruned if they are diseased, broken, overlong or crowding each other.



Follow these tips and guidelines for successful pruning.



- Use the right tools, including eye protection, gloves, bypass hand pruners, folding hand saws, pole saws and bypass loppers. Avoid anvil pruners, which damage the wood.
- If pruning requires a ladder or chainsaw, call a professional.
- Don't remove more than a quarter of a tree's branches.
- Individual branch width should not exceed half the trunk diameter.
- Know your property lines, and consult state law before pruning or removing your neighbor's trees. Notify the city, county or state about pruning needs on someone else's property.



Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/NRyou.

Right-of way pruning begins soon

The city will prune trees and shrubs along the right-of-way from November to March to improve sightlines, clear dead and broken branches and prepare for upcoming construction projects. We'll notify property owners by mail if we'll be pruning in your neighborhood. Call 952-988-8421 to ask questions or learn more.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** Joint City Council and Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 9** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** Charter Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 11** Veterans Day, city offices closed
- 12** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 19** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** Thanksgiving Day, city offices closed
- 27** Thanksgiving observed, city offices closed
- 30** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.

City meeting will be held virtually until further notice. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings to learn how to participate remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

For up-to-date information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call 952-939-8200.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

Mayor

Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907
bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov

Council

At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399
dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov

Susan Carter 952-381-4477
scarter@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 1: Brian Kirk 952-451-6251
bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
rschack@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 3: Bradley Schaeppi 612-770-7447
bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670
kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov

City Manager

Geralyn Barone 952-939-8200
gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov

Newsletter Editor

Matt Higgins 952-939-8200
mhiggins@minnetonkamn.gov

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Drive-thru the Minnetonka Winter Farmers Market

Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

In 2020, the Minnetonka Winter Farmers Market will be a drive-thru experience to keep shoppers safe and socially distant. Pre-order your items or shop in-person with contactless pickup from the safety of your vehicle!

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket to learn more, place a pre-order and subscribe to updates. Follow the city on social media for market highlights.



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Insurance counseling for seniors

Minnetonka seniors – do you have questions about Medicare? Maybe you're looking for a new medical insurance plan, or a breakdown of your options? Never fear! Minnesota's Senior LinkAge Line provides free, independent counseling.

Call 1-800-333-2433 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) for unbiased help comparing plans so you can choose the one that best fits your needs.

