

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



2021 Election Results

Minnetonka voters elected a new member of the city council during the 2021 municipal election. Kimberly Wilburn won a majority after four rounds of tabulation using the Ranked Choice Voting system. Mayor Brad Wiersum and Councilmember Deb Calvert were both re-elected having won a majority of first choice preferences.

Mayor

Brad Wiersum
6,897 votes for 60.77%.

At-Large Councilmember, Seat A

Deb Calvert
5,881 votes for 51.81%.

At-Large Councilmember, Seat B

Kimberly Wilburn
5,205 votes for 51.08%



The mayor and both at-large councilmembers will begin serving four-year terms in January. This is the first year Minnetonka used a Ranked Choice Voting system where voters are asked to rank candidates in order of preference – first choice, second choice and third choice. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections for detailed results, including a chart that illustrates round-by-round results.

Minnetonka Community DEI Survey

Minnetonka's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force invites to you to share your experiences about community life and interactions with city staff and department. The **Minnetonka Community DEI Survey** will help the task force recommend short and long-term goals and action for the city council to adopt.

Use the following link or QR to complete the survey. The survey and more information about the work of Minnetonka's DEI Task Force is available at minnetonka.gov/dei.



<https://tinyurl.com/xwtrkpy5>

IN THIS ISSUE



2022 Levy and Budget
PAGE 2



Work begins on Ridgedale
Commons Park
PAGE 7



Senior Script
CENTER INSERT

2022 budget summary and public hearing

In September, the city council adopted a preliminary property tax increase of no more than 5.6 percent for 2022.

The council will vote on adoption of the final 2022 budget and levy at its Dec. 6 meeting.

What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median-valued home in Minnetonka (\$405,400 for taxes payable in 2022) will increase by approximately \$97.

What's new in 2021?



The 2022 budget focuses on public safety. 2.2 percent of the 5.6 percent levy increase is directed towards hiring nine full-time firefighters to supplement our existing paid-on-call staffing. "Increasing our full-time staffing will allow us to remain proactive and reduce response time of fire crews first arriving on the scene," said Fire Chief John Vance.

Another focus of the 2022 budget is reinstating a portion of the levy dedicated to capital projects and equipment purchases that were suspended in 2021 in a direct effort to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers given the uncertainty of the pandemic. The reinstatement of the capital portion of the levy equates to 2.3 percent.

Learn more and provide input

To review the Sept. 16 meeting materials and learn more about the 2022 budget, visit minnetonkamn.com/budget.

To provide feedback on the 2022 budget:

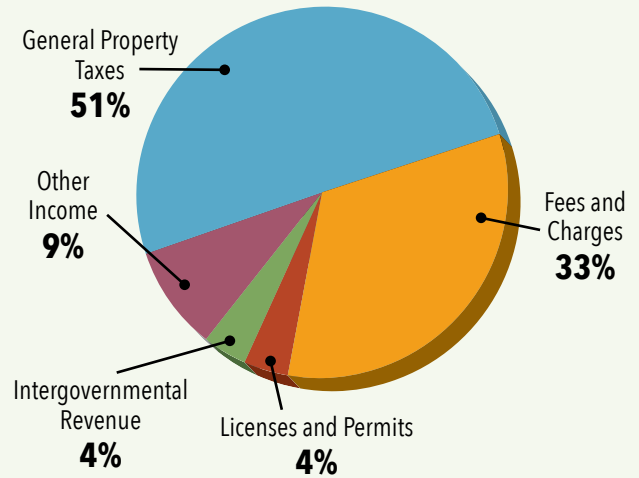
- Submit feedback online at minnetonkamn.gov/request.
- Attend the Monday, Dec. 6 city council meeting.
- Email Finance Director Darin Nelson at dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov.

**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.*

2022 City Budget Overview

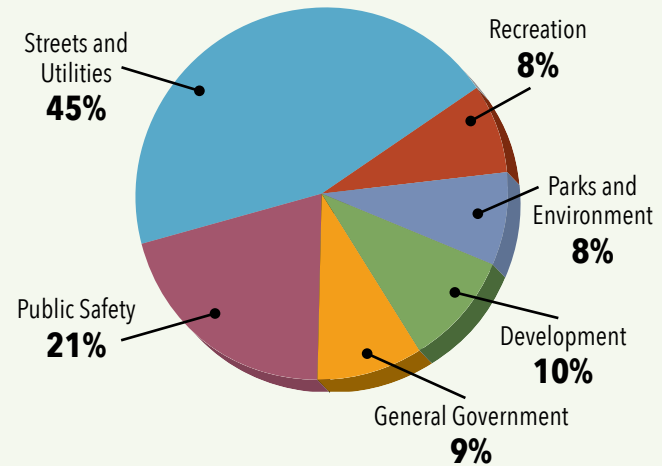
Here's how we're funded

Projected 2022 Revenue



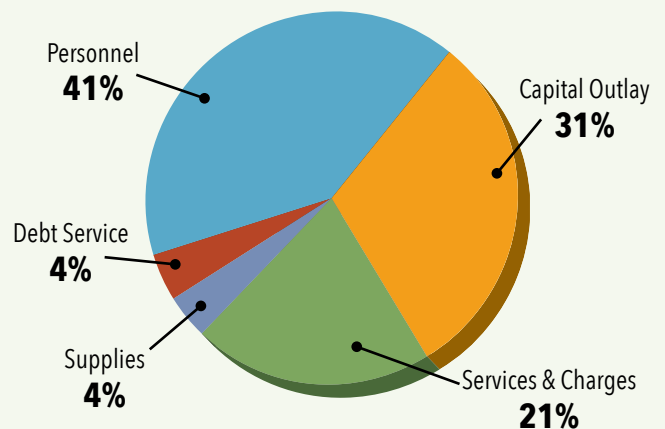
Here's how it's spent

Projected 2022 Expenses



Here's how it's allocated

Expenditures by Category



Save energy and stay comfortable

Schedule an energy audit to save energy and money while making your home more comfortable. The Home Energy Squad provides expert advice to homeowners, whether your goal is to lower utility bills or plan larger home improvement projects. The **city will pay half of the \$100 fee** for Minnetonka residents who sign up for a visit by the end of the year.



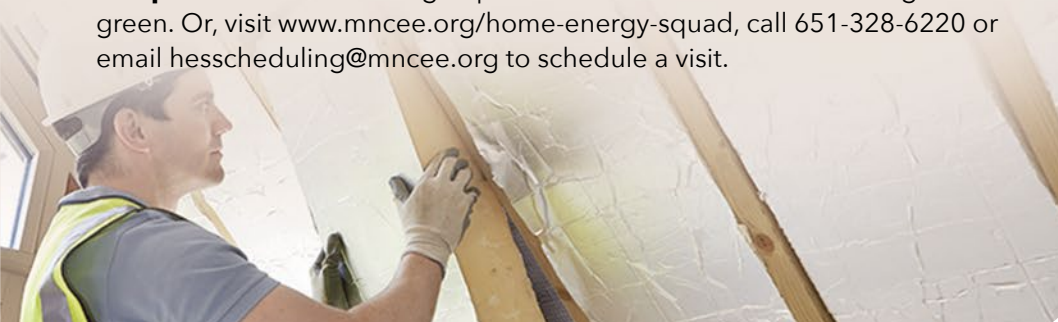
Energy Improvements in Minnetonka:

Marilyn, a Minnetonka homeowner, was hoping to make her 1980s home less drafty. After requesting a bid for window replacement, she realized the project was above her budget. She then scheduled a Home Energy Squad visit to find out where her home was losing the most heat. The auditors recommended adding additional attic insulation to cost-effectively improve comfort throughout the home. After completing the insulation work, she earned a rebate from CenterPoint Energy. "The result was a warmer home last winter, and some great advice" said Marilyn.

Home visits include:

- Products such as LED lightbulbs, weather stripping and a programmable or smart thermostat installed during the visit so you can save energy right away
- Inspection of your insulation, heating equipment and water heater
- A customized report with recommendations of low-cost solutions as well as larger energy efficiency projects
- Free support after the visit to find qualified contractors and earn rebates

Attend the **Sustainable Minnetonka webinar on Tuesday, December 7 at 6 p.m.** to learn more - sign up to attend at www.minnetonkamn.gov/green. Or, visit www.mncee.org/home-energy-squad, call 651-328-6220 or email hesscheduling@mncee.org to schedule a visit.



Free assistance for Minnetonka businesses



The Open to Business program offers free, one-on-one, confidential business consulting to help businesses grow and prosper. The program also helps businesses access technical assistance and provides small business loans to emerging entrepreneurs who face challenges with the commercial banking system. Advising services are available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.



To learn more, visit opentobusinessmn.org or contact program advisor John Endris at 612-789-7337 or info@mccdminn.org

WINTER CONCERT

Join us for festive orchestral music of the season.

Saturday, December 18, 3 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

Free and open to all



Winter-Spring recreation program registration begins

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 8 a.m.
General Recreation Programs

Thursday, Dec. 16, 8 a.m.
Senior Programs

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register to browse the program options or call between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

952-939-8203 (General Programs)

952-939-8393 (Senior Programs)

Choose from an array of activities including kids' programs, tennis lessons, craft opportunities and athletic leagues. There is something for everyone!



Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

Dec. 18-Feb. 21 (weather permitting)

Outdoor skating rinks with warming houses are available at seven Minnetonka park locations and six Hopkins park locations.

For weather-related updates, rink conditions and closings, please call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355.

For more information and COVID-19 related updates, visit minnetonkamn.gov/outdoorrinks.

Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve—Friday, Dec. 24: Noon-5 p.m.

Christmas Day—Saturday, Dec. 25: CLOSED

Winter Break—Dec. 27-Jan. 30: Open weekdays Noon-9 p.m.

New Year's Eve—Friday, Dec. 31: Noon-7 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Monday, Jan. 17: Noon-9 p.m.

President's Day—Monday, Feb. 21: Noon-9 p.m.

Skating Rink Hours

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Noon-7 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9 p.m.	4:30-9:45 p.m.	Noon-9:45 p.m.

Minnetonka Rink Locations

- Boulder Creek
- Covington
- Glen Lake
- Gro Tonka
- McKenzie
- Meadow
- Spring Hill

Hopkins Rink Locations

- Burnes
- Oakes
- Central
- Harley
- Interlachen
- Valley

Natural Resources volunteers make a world of difference!

Volunteers contribute hundreds of hours and lots of good-hearted energy to Minnetonka’s natural resources programs every year.

2021 project highlights include:

- **Forestry volunteers** planted 28 young trees of 14 species in Covington Park, increasing diversity and resilience in Minnetonka’s community forest.
- **Friends of Minnetonka Parks** recruited residents and scheduled restoration efforts, such as buckthorn removal, at Big Willow, Hilloway, Lone Lake, Meadow, Purgatory and Victoria-Evergreen parks.
- **Geocachers** have done invasive species removal in Minnetonka parks since 2014.
- **Girl Scout Troop 16537** of Hopkins and Plymouth maintained plant cages, dug up garlic mustard and motherwort, and cut prickly ash in spring.
- **Mountain Bike Trail Advocates** showed up every month to assist with prairie maintenance and whatever other work was most pressing at Lone Lake Park.
- **Minnesota Master Naturalists** collected native wildflower and grass seeds for National Public Lands Day, then weeded and planted seeds in new park locations. Since 2013, they have also adopted a portion of Minnetonka Mills Park for ongoing maintenance.



1,600
 hours of service per year, on average

+

\$28.54
 per hour

=

\$17,000
 annual value of volunteer work

Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers!



WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Enjoy live music, kids’ activities, and visit with Santa from 9-11 a.m.



Stroll through the winter market for local foods, crafts and gifts from 45 local vendors, plus live music and free kids activities.



Saturday, Dec. 4
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center (indoors)
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Upcoming Winter Markets: Jan. 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,
 Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., March 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information or to become a vendor, visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket, or email farmersmarket@minnetonkamn.gov. Cash, Credit, Debit, P-EBT, SNAP/EBT, and Winter Market Bucks accepted.

Practice holiday-season fire safety



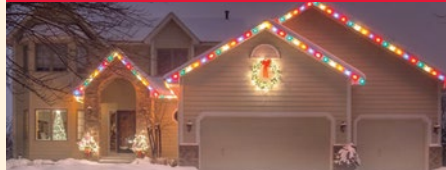
In addition to festive gatherings and decorations, the holiday season also brings increased fire risk. Follow these tips to ensure a fun and safe holiday season!

DECORATIONS

Choose flame-resistant materials. Keep away from lit candles, fireplaces, stoves, windows and doors.



LIGHTS



Hang with clips instead of nails. Ensure indoor- and outdoor-only lights are used in the proper setting. Replace lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Turn off lights before leaving or going to bed.

ENTERTAINING

Ensure all smoke alarms are working properly. Tell guests about your home's fire escape plan. Never leave the kitchen while cooking; if you have to step away, turn off the stove and remove pans from burners.



Learn more about fire safety at [nfpa.org/education](https://www.nfpa.org/education).

Keep your home safe during holiday travel

- Ask a neighbor to watch your home.
- Install a security system.
- Use a timer for your lights, and change the times for different rooms within your home.
- Have your walk ways and driveway shoveled or plowed while away.
- Put a hold on your mail, or have a neighbor collect it daily. This goes for online purchase deliveries as well.
- Do not share vacation whereabouts on social media. Wait until you have returned - plus, you can add those amazing photos.
- Contact the Minnetonka PD for a home check - we'd be happy to help!





Work begins on Ridgedale Commons Park

Landscaping and construction crews have begun work on Minnetonka's newest park. That includes planting giant 25-foot white pines and laying the footings for the building. Ridgedale Commons will include a plaza and grassy lawn with the ability to host events and ice skating, a garden room with pollinator-focused plants, an interactive fountain, a wooded lounge area and a park building with restrooms, warming house and rentable space.



Minnetonka Police team up with Vantage students

The Minnetonka Police Department is working with a team of students from Minnetonka High School to find innovative solutions to public safety challenges. Vantage is a yearlong program where students receive high school and college credit for assisting local entities. The 5-member team has made a couple of visits to the police department and will work closely with Capt. Rachel Meahan and her team. They will focus on strengthening connections to youth and diversity, as well as use of social media and other tools to recruit new officers from the community.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 2** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Sustainable Minnetonka Webinar, 6 p.m.
- 9** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 11** Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m.
- 14** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 25** Christmas Day, city offices closed

City meetings will be held in person with the option to participate virtually. 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

Acting City Manager

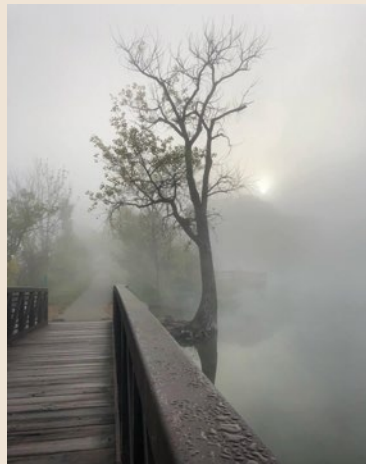
Mike Funk 952-939-8200
mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

**ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON**

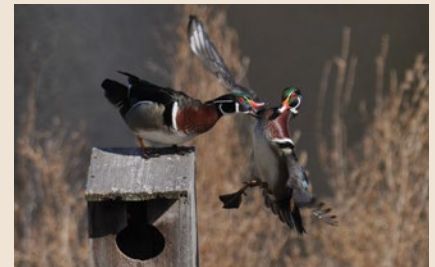
2021 Minnetonka Photo Contest

WINNERS

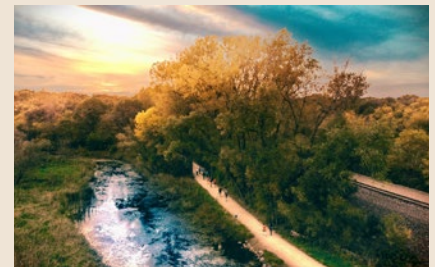


Winner: *Foggy Sunrise*

Taken by Richie Gitler on a path near Shady Oak Lake



Second Place: *Wood Ducks*
Taken by Marlene Smith near Windsor Lake



Third Place: *Big Willow*

Taken by Levi Black using a Mavic drone near Big Willow Park

You can view more of the photos at MinnetonkaMatters.com. They will be featured throughout the year on city website, social media and in print publications.