

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
February 2012

## City special election is Tuesday, February 14

VOTERS WILL HAVE THE RARE opportunity this month to cast a ballot in the middle of winter. A special election to fill the vacant Council Member, At Large Seat B is set for February 14. The seat became vacant when former Council Member Amber Greves resigned the position in December.

If you have questions about the election, read on for the answers.

### What are the hours to vote, and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote. All voters will vote at their regular polling location, but it is possible that a few polling places will be located in different rooms than normal. Please look for signs when you get to your location.

**Lindbergh Center voters:** Please note that the Hopkins boys' basketball team has a home game on February 14 at 7 p.m., so please plan accordingly for parking at that time of the evening.

Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place—it will save you time. To find your specific polling place, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

### 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 to vote, if 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. For more information about these forms, see the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### 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.

### How do I vote absentee?

Absentee voting for the special election is available through Monday, February 13. Voters may vote in person at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended absentee voting hours are available Saturday, February 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday, February 13, until 5 p.m.

Voters may also absentee vote by mail by requesting an absentee ballot application at (952) 939-8200. Applications may also be downloaded from the election section at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count.

A sample ballot is available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Where will election results be available?

Results will be available on the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Additional information

For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Visit Minnetonka Kids' Fest Sunday, February 12



HOPKINS-MINNETONKA RECREATION Services hosts Kids' Fest Sunday, February 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

All activities are free and include dog sled rides, bingo with prizes, magic shows, face painting, ice sculpture demonstrations, s'mores by the fire, crafts, entertainment, open swimming, ice skating and indoor playground time at the Williston Treehouse, and more.

Please bring canned goods to help area families in need. Collections will be received at the Minnetonka Community Center.

For ease of parking, a free van shuttle will run every 15 minutes among the three facilities at which activities take place: the Minnetonka Community Center, the Ice Arena and Williston Fitness Center, located at 14509 Williston Drive, Minnetonka. Visitors may park at any of these facilities for the afternoon.

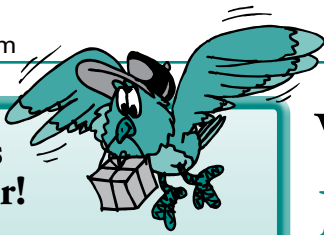
For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or call (952) 939-8203.

(see Kids' Fest Schedule on p. 3)

## State of the City event is Feb. 29

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2012 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY MAYOR TERRY Schneider Wednesday, February 29, from 7:30–9 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. A continental breakfast will be served. Please RSVP by February 15 to Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211.

## Follow us on Twitter!



GET YOUR NEWS DELIVERED VIA "tweets!" You can receive news releases, project updates, meeting agendas and minutes, and much more, by following the city on Twitter @MinnetonkaMN. ☺

## Caring Youth Award nominations due February 3

IF YOU KNOW A YOUNG PERSON IN grades 7 through 12 who shows an ongoing awareness of others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating him or her for a 2012 Caring Youth Award.

Each year the cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts and the Glen Lake Optimists host a Caring Youth Recognition event to honor the contributions of caring young people. The 2012 event is set for Thursday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Nominees must be in grades 7 through 12, and volunteer work must be unpaid and not a requirement for a class, co-curricular program or an award received through another organization. In addition, the nominee must live, attend school or volunteer in Golden Valley, Hopkins or Minnetonka.

Young people may only be nominated by the organization they are serving. For more information, including nominations guidelines and forms, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. Nominations for the 2012 Caring Youth awards are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, February 3. ☺



## Visit the Home Remodeling Fair Feb. 26

MINNETONKA residents are invited to the 20th annual West Metro Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, February 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins.

Sponsored by the cities of Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Hopkins and St. Louis Park, as well as Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minnetonka community education, the Home Remodeling Fair is designed to promote improvements to these communities' housing stock.

Fairgoers can visit more than 75 displays by remodeling contractors, architects, electricians, landscapers, tool rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, and lenders. Minnetonka planning department staff and city inspectors will also be at the fair.

Architects and landscape designers will staff the "Ask the Pro" booth and provide free, no-obligation advice to visitors; fairgoers are encouraged to bring their photos or sketches.

Seminars topics include kitchen and bathroom remodeling trends, decks and porches, window replacement and retrofitting options, landscaping, "green" remodeling products and others. Do-it-yourselfers can attend seminars on kitchen design, ceramic tiling and more.

Advance registration is not required and admission is free. Food concessions will be available at the Wetlands Café. There will be face painting for the kids, games and prizes.

WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR



Celebrating 20 Years

Fairgoers may park at the newly expanded Eisenhower Community Center parking lot. For more information, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com), or call (952) 939-8200. ☺

## Home Remodeling Fair features \$1,000 contest

DO YOU HAVE THE BADDEST bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county? The 2012 Home Remodeling Fair (HRF) is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the HRF is sponsoring "Operation Rescue Room," a contest to put \$1,000 in the hands of the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to this year's fair.

To enter, contestants must submit one photo of their room along with a 100-word description of the intended project. Complete rules and entry forms are available at [www.HomeRemodelingFair.com/Rescue](http://www.HomeRemodelingFair.com/Rescue). Entry deadline is Feb 17, 2012.

Judging will take place at the Home Remodeling Fair Sunday, February 26. Contestants must be present to win.

For more information, visit [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com). ☺

## Use caution and consideration this winter

IF YOU LIKE TO SKATE, FISH OR WALK on frozen lakes, ponds or other bodies of water, remember that cold temperatures don't guarantee safe ice. Ice can shift and underwater springs can cause ice to be unstable. Know the condition of your lake or pond, use caution and be safe.

In addition to watching out for your own safety, be considerate of the environment and of your neighbors. Pick up trash, clean

up after your dog and be aware of others who are using the lake or pond.

If you snowmobile on a permitted lake, (check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information) please be aware of people who are snowshoeing, cross country skiing or ice skating. Travel at a safe speed and distance from people, pets and objects, and avoid damaging cattails and other wetland vegetation. ☺

## Lake Rose Park gets a new look

RESTORATION OF NATIVE HABITAT IN LAKE ROSE PARK MADE BIG advances in 2011 due to a \$6,000 cost-share grant from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. The grant helped pay to plant native tree seedlings, shrubs and wildflowers on a steep slope extending to the Lake Rose shoreline, which will slow runoff and erosion on a slope where buckthorn was removed in 2008. Here's a short history of the project.

### 2005–2010

Buckthorn removal began with a few neighborhood volunteers working a little at a time from 2005 through 2007. In March 2008, neighbors and the city organized to cut a large stand of buckthorn on the shoreline of Lake Rose and the steep west-facing slope that descends to the undeveloped shoreline. In 2009, contractors cut more buckthorn and followed up with prescribed fire and herbicide applications in the fall. Volunteers have pulled garlic mustard each spring since 2008.

### 2011 grant projects

In May 2011, volunteers and city staff worked three days to plant 750 bare-root native trees and shrubs, including oaks, hickories, cherries and dogwoods.

In September, volunteers spent three days planting 19 species of wildflowers and sedges on the woodland slopes. After the last planting, wildflower seeds were collected from areas of plenty and direct-seeded close to the plantings.

Besides neighborhood volunteers, several very loyal roving volunteers came to this secluded park from other areas of the city. Boy Scout Adam Hauge organized a group of Scouts to continue erosion prevention work around individual plants and to build plant protection cages for some of the young oaks and hickories. College student Ashley Mecum visited the park weekly throughout the summer to make improvements to each seedling's spot. She removed weeds, cut back vines, and placed sticks on the slope. All woodland debris was recycled on site as mulch for the new seedlings.

For a pictorial history of the project and more extensive information on all of the methods involved, visit [bit.ly/LkRose](http://bit.ly/LkRose) or scan the QR code below.



*Volunteer Ashley Mecum worked more than 120 hours ensuring tree seedling survival.*

### Volunteer opportunities

Maintenance of our new plantings and removal of invasive species will continue through 2012 and beyond. If you would like to help, please call Janet Van Sloun, restoration specialist, at (952) 988-8423.



## Kids' Fest Schedule of Events

*Kids' Fest is Sunday, February 12. All events are at the Minnetonka Community Center unless otherwise indicated. Activities and performances are subject to change without notice. For more information see page 1 of this newsletter or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).*

- 1–2:30 p.m. Dog sled rides (first come, first served)
- 1–2 p.m. Open play at the Treehouse —  
*Williston Fitness Center*  
Amazing Nathan (strolling magician)
- 1–4 p.m. Shady Oak Beach season pass sales  
Early childhood sensory activities (Hopkins ECFE)  
Fire simulator station —  
*Minnetonka Fire Department*  
Arts and crafts with  
The Minnetonka Center for the Arts
- 1–4:30 p.m. Bonfire and s'mores
- 1–5 p.m. Facepainting  
Ice carving demonstrations  
Mini-Hops tumbling activities  
Dance instruction: hip-hop, creative moves  
Wheat grass gardens creatures and bread—  
*Great Harvest Bread—Minnetonka*
- 1:15–2 p.m. Bill the Juggler Show
- 1:30–5 p.m. Concession sales
- 2 & 3 p.m. Snowshoe nature walk (limited snowshoes available; leaves from community center)
- 2–4 p.m. Open swimming— *Williston Center*  
Strolling characters
- 2:15–3 p.m. Amazing Nathan Magic Show
- 2:30–4:30 p.m. Free ice skating/skate rental — *Ice Arena*
- 3:15–4 p.m. Tricia and the Toonies
- 3:15–4:45 p.m. Dog sled rides (first come, first served)
- 4:15–5 p.m. Bingo — win great prizes!



*Photo courtesy of Joanie Michaud*

# 2012 city tree sale orders due March 1: Don't miss out!

**D**O YOU HAVE A YARD FULL OF ASH trees? The city's annual tree sale can help you diversify your yard and establish other trees before emerald ash borer arrives in Minnetonka.

Be sure to turn in your order form as soon as you decide on trees, since quantities are limited and based on nursery availability. The most popular species sell out within a few days. The earlier your order is received, the better your chance of getting your top selections.

Learn more about the sale, and about the trees offered, at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Tree pick-up

Trees **must** be picked up on designated dates or you **forfeit the tree and the money** you paid for it. Leftover trees will be planted in a Minnetonka park.

**Friday, April 27, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**  
**Saturday, April 28 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Public Works, East Driveway**  
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305

**(952) 988-8400**

Species	Initial Height	Fall color	Sun or shade?	Significant features	Mature Height	Mature Spread
<b>Large shade trees</b>						
<b>American Basswood</b>	4'	Yellow	○ ● ●	Tiny fragrant flower, excellent for pollinators, very adaptable tree, can tolerate wet areas	75 – 90'	40 – 50'
<b>Bur Oak</b>	9'	Yellow/Brown	○	Requires very little pruning to develop strong branch structure, very adaptable tree, best wildlife tree	60 – 80'	60 – 80'
<b>Hackberry</b>	6'	Yellow	○ ●	Looks similar to an elm tree but without disease, small purple berries for birds, can tolerate wet and dry areas	50 – 75'	50'
<b>Kentucky Coffeetree</b>	6'	Yellow	○	Pod can provide winter interest, architectural bark, fern-like leaves produce dappled shade, a unique tree used in many Minnetonka parks	50 – 60'	40 – 50'
<b>River Birch (clump)</b>	6'	Bright Yellow	○ ●	Golden brown exfoliating bark, clump type has multiple stems and drooping branches, can tolerate wet and dry areas	40 – 50'	30 – 40'
<b>Sugar Maple</b>	8'	Yellow/Red/Orange	○ ● ●	Must keep mulched and moist soil through maturity, no heavy clay, no grass next to stem, good tree for woods, creates dense shade	50 – 75'	50'
<b>White Oak</b>	8'	Scarlet/Purple	○	Requires very little pruning to develop strong branch structure, more sensitive than bur oak, good tree for woods	60 – 80'	60 – 80'
<b>Small ornamental or understory woodland trees</b>						
<b>Eastern Redbud (Minnesota strain)</b>	5'	Yellow	○ ●	Showy pink flowers, must keep mulched and moist soil	20 – 30'	20 – 25'
<b>Pagoda Dogwood</b>	4'	Red	● ●	White flowers, won't thrive in hot and dry sites, great replacement for buckthorn in woods	15 – 20'	20 – 25'
<b>Serviceberry (clump)</b>	4–6'	Orange/Red	○ ●	Clump type has multiple stems, edible fruit for birds and humans, white flowers	20 – 25'	15'
<b>Conifers</b>						
<b>Balsam Fir</b>	2–3'	Green	○ ● ●	Survives shade, fragrant needles, often used for holiday trees and greenery	50 – 75'	20 – 30'
<b>Canadian Hemlock</b>	4'	Green	●	Needs protection from the winter sun and drying winds, must keep mulched, slow growing	30 – 40'	15 – 25'
<b>Tamarack</b>	3–5'	Bright Yellow	○	Loses needles each fall, new needles in spring, can tolerate moist to wet soils, must keep mulched in dry soils	40 – 80'	15 – 30'
<b>Supplies</b>						
<b>Plastic Tree Guard</b>	4'			Protect young tree stems from deer and more! Use on trees up to 3" in diameter. Not suitable for conifers or clump trees.		

# Tree Order Form

## Due March 1

This offer available only to **Minnetonka residents**. You may order **two** trees per property.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
House number Street Zip code

**Daytime phone number:** ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Last name on check:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Order form, check, and postcard must be received by March 1, 2012 at:**

Minnetonka Public Works (7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)  
 Attn: City Forester  
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305

Orders will also be accepted at city hall, but will be processed at public works within two business days.

- Before you mail the order, please confirm:**
- Filled out order form completely?
  - Checked [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to see if selections are sold out?
  - Enclosed check payable to City of Minnetonka for exact amount?
  - Filled out and enclosed postcard for city to mail your confirmation?
  - Checked your calendar to make sure someone can pick up your trees on April 27 or 28?
  - I will plant the trees in Minnetonka. I will water and care for the trees I purchase.

Species	Price	Quantity	Subtotal Due
<b>Large shade trees</b>			
American Basswood	\$33		
Bur Oak	\$33		
Hackberry	\$33		
Kentucky Coffeetree	\$33		
River Birch (clump)	\$33		
Sugar Maple	\$33		
White Oak	\$33		
<b>Small ornamental or understory woodland trees</b>			
Eastern Redbud (Minnesota strain)	\$33		
Pagoda Dogwood	\$33		
Serviceberry (clump)	\$33		
<b>Conifers</b>			
Balsam Fir	\$33		
Canadian Hemlock	\$33		
Tamarack	\$33		
<b>Supplies</b>			
Plastic Tree Guard <small>(will protect trunk from deer, rodent and lawn mower damage — not suitable for conifers)</small>	\$2		
<b>Total (Limit two trees per property; unlimited tree guards):</b>			<b>\$</b>

- Ordering Trees**
- This offer is open to Minnetonka residents only. The city is offsetting the cost of the trees for residents; the intent of the sale is to reforest the city of Minnetonka. Please refrain from buying trees for cabins or others who do not live in the city.
  - You may order up to two trees per property.
  - Orders will be processed for single family homeowners. If you represent a townhome or condo association, you must contact the city forester prior to placing your order. Orders will not be accepted from apartment building residences.
  - Unlike a retail nursery, these trees do not have a warranty.

**Some species offered are in limited supply, and others are very popular, complete one of the options below in case your selections are sold out:**

If one or both of your selections is sold out, what species should we substitute to fill your order?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If my first choice(s) are not available, please mail my order & check back to me.

## Garden plot rentals available March 5

**I**F YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GARDENING BUT don't have the property or the space for a garden plot, then a community garden plot might be the answer for you!

Recreation services offers garden plots for rent each year to residents of Hopkins and Minnetonka, for the sole purpose of gardening. For residents of both cities, plots are available for rent starting March 5. Non-residents may purchase plots starting March 12. Minnetonka gardeners who purchased a plot last year and already established proof of residency, may register by phone and pay with a credit card. Visa, MasterCard or Discover is accepted. When calling, you must know which plot you want and be prepared with a second or third choice. Otherwise, registration is in-person, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Proof of residency is required. These plots fill quickly!

### Minnetonka

The city of Minnetonka garden site is located at Excelsior Boulevard and Purgatory Creek. Minnetonka plots are available for rent at the recreation department at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. There is a limit of two plots per household. Fees are \$25 for each 20'x20' plot. For more information, call (952) 939-8203.

### Hopkins

The city of Hopkins provides a garden site area in Hopkins Valley Park in the Westbrooke/Nine Mile Creek area, where residents can rent a 20'x20' garden plot. Hopkins plots are available for rent only at Hopkins City Hall, 1010 First St. S., Hopkins. Due to the high demand for plots, there is a limit of two plots per household. The new fee is \$20 for one plot, and \$50 for two plots. For more information, call (952) 935-8474. ☺

## February activities for older adults

**D**O YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN engaging and lively activities that provide mental and/or physical exercise, and provide social interaction? Then plan to attend one of the exciting activities offered each month for adults, all of which are advertised in a weekly email as well as a free monthly publication, the *Minnetonka Script*. Subscribe to one or both of these publications by visiting [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or contact Nicole Gorman at [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8369. For general information about any of the activities listed below, call (952) 939-8393.

### Pickleball at Williston (new!)

*Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,  
7:30–10 a.m.*

**Williston Fitness Center  
14509 Minnetonka Drive**

Pickleball uses a plastic ball and a wooden racket slightly larger than a ping pong paddle and is played on a court roughly half the size of a tennis court. Two pickleball courts, striped onto the basketball court area, are available at the Williston Fitness Center. This is not a league – come when you wish, with no advanced sign up. Rackets are provided for you to try the game. Try this activity for some winter exercise. Volunteers will teach you the rules and how to play the game.

Cost: Free for Williston or Silver Sneakers Members. Non-members: \$4 per session (includes use of locker room and shower).

For Minnetonka senior residents, the monthly Williston Center membership rate is \$25. With most health insurance companies giving discounts on health club memberships if you attend at least 12 times a month, the cost is reduced even more.

### Special Events

#### Jidana Campfire Hike

*February 4, 5:30 p.m.*

Enjoy a hike under the full moon, from the Minnetonka Community Center to Jidana Park. Enjoy roasting hot dogs and s'mores around the campfire. Cost is \$4. Call (952) 939-8203 to register.

#### Introduction to Calligraphy

*February 7, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.*

Learn basic techniques, lettering styles and the various tools used in calligraphy. Cost is \$20, due by Feb. 2.

#### Your Life, Your Story, Your Legacy

*February 8, 10:30 a.m.*

Learn how to assemble one's legacy and historical information. Cost is \$2, due by Feb. 6

#### Valentine Party

*February 16, 12 p.m.*

Enjoy a meal and the musical talents of Mary Hall. Cost is \$7, due by Feb. 9.

#### Navigating Medicare

*January 19, 6:30–9 p.m.*

Class will cover Medicare Parts A, B & D. Materials provided. Cost is \$10, due by Jan. 17.

#### Income Tax Appointments

Call (952) 939-8393 for appointment availability.

### Defensive Driving Classes

To register, call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org). AAA members receive \$3 off class registration by providing member number and expiration date.

#### Four-Hour Course

*February 23, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.*

Refreshments provided (no meal). Cost: \$20 ☺

## Winter tree pruning drop-off opens in March at Public Works

**T**HE CITY FORESTER RECOMMENDS November through March as the ideal time to prune oaks, as they are least susceptible to oak wilt disease during these months. This is also a great time to prune other trees, since insects and diseases are not active.

To assist residents who conduct proper winter pruning, the drop-off site at the

Minnetonka Public Works facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.) will be open Saturdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The site will **not be open weekdays** in March. The regular brush drop-off program starts Monday, April 9.

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Christmas trees (without plastic

bags, stands or decorations) will also be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency — driver's license or Minnetonka utility bill — is required to drop off brush.

Please note: trash, grass, leaves, dirt, sod, lumber, fencing, or wood scraps are **not** accepted.

No brush or trimmings will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services. ☺

## Tips to stay safe in your home this winter

AS WINTER drags on, heating bills pile up and homeowners begin searching out alternative heat sources. In addition to the traditional fireplace burning wood or man-made logs, wood burning stoves and space heaters have become increasingly popular. When not managed properly, all of these heating methods may cause an unwanted fire in your home.

The Minnetonka Fire Department's public educators offer these tips to help you keep your home safe from fire this winter. If you have any questions about these tips, call the Minnetonka Fire Department at (952) 939-8331.



- Burn stoves hot twice daily to prevent creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build a large fire in the fireplace.
- Be sure the fire is out before you go to sleep.
- Never shut the flue with hot ashes in the fireplace.

### Furnaces

- Have your furnace inspected regularly and have repairs made by a certified specialist.
- Keep trash and combustibles away from the heating unit.
- Conduct a visual inspection of the entire furnace area, including walls, flue pipes and seams, and chimney exterior.

### General safety tips

- Never place hot ashes inside or near your home, including in your garbage can.
- Never use a stove top or an oven to heat your home or kitchen.
- Don't overload a circuit with a space heater.
- Don't use electrical heaters in a bathroom or any other area in which the unit may come in contact with water.
- Never try to thaw frozen pipes with a torch or other open flame—use a hair dryer instead.
- Be sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms work properly. Install fresh batteries twice a year. ☺

### Kerosene heaters

- Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup and ensure the emergency shutoff works.
- Never use fuel-burning appliances without proper ventilation—the fumes may be deadly.
- Use only the recommended fuel, and re-fuel the device outside the home.

### Wood stoves and fireplaces

- Be sure wood stoves and fireplaces are properly installed.
- Have chimneys inspected annually.
- Don't use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Use a fire-resistant screen in front of the fireplace.

## Sign up now for community alerts



GET ALERTED ABOUT EMERGENCIES OR important community alerts by signing up for the city of Minnetonka's Citizen Alert Notification System. This notification system enables the city of Minnetonka to provide you with critical information quickly however you choose—phone, email, text message and more.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, cell, or business phone, email, text messages, hearing impaired receiving devices, and more. Multiple members of your household can sign up to be notified via their own devices as well.

You pick where, you pick how you're notified.

### Please note:

If you had signed up for the city's community alert system prior to December 30, 2011, please take the time to sign up again to ensure your information is up to date. You now also have more options for notification methods, and can add multiple members of your household.

Register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (click on the icon on the home page). Be sure to make note of your login information and password. You can sign in to your account at any time to make changes. If you need assistance, call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207.

### Test call set for Feb. 22

During the evening of Thursday, February 22, the city will test the Citizen Alert Notification to ensure the system would work properly in event of an emergency. All resident and business lines in the city of Minnetonka will receive a phone call. When you answer, there will be a short voicemail message indicating the call is a test. After the message, please follow the instructions to confirm receipt of the call. Please do not call back the number shown on your caller ID. If you have questions before or after the test, please call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. ☺



## About passing on the shoulder

MOST DRIVERS KNOW THAT PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE BY USING THE shoulder or turn lane is illegal, but many don't realize that it's still illegal even when the car in front of them is stopped to make a left turn into a street or driveway, and even if the shoulder is paved.

Why is this? Because passing on the shoulder or in a turn lane is dangerous—when drivers do so, other drivers can't see them or judge their intentions, and the driver who is passing doesn't always know why the front car stopped. The drivers being passed may have stopped for someone who is walking or for an object in the road. Driving on the shoulder also jeopardizes the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists who may be using the shoulder.

The next time you're driving, remember the law and help make the roadways safer for everyone. ☺

TRAFFIC CORNER

# minnetonka memo

February 2012



PRESORTED  
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

<p><b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 .....tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.</p> <p><b>City Manager</b> John Gunyou.....(952) 939-8200</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200 E-mail:.....comments@eminnetonka.com Internet:.....www.eminnetonka.com</p>	<p><b>Council</b> <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com ..... Open seat ..... (to be filled by Feb. 14 special election) <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson .... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner..... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum.... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller ..... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com</p> <p><b>Minnetonka Mike</b>..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com</p> <p><b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b>..... 9-1-1 <b>Non-emergency</b> ..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1</p>
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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

February  
2012

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
			1	2	3	4	1 Park Board, 7 p.m.      16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.      20 Presidents Day ( <i>city offices closed</i> )
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.      23 Economic Development Authority Commission, 6:30 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	12 Kids' Fest, 1–5 p.m. ( <i>see pages 1 &amp; 3</i> )      27 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.; Community commission, 6 p.m.
26	27	28	29				13 City Council, 6:30 p.m.      29 State of the City, 7:30 a.m.
							14 Special Election ( <i>see page 1</i> )

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change — please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## 2012 official newspaper selected

THE MINNETONKA SUN-SAILOR HAS BEEN selected as Minnetonka's official newspaper for 2012. It will publish the city's legal notices, ordinances and other official information, plus general news about the city. Legal notices will also be available online at [www.mnsun.com](http://www.mnsun.com). The newspaper is delivered each Thursday to Minnetonka homes, and is available for pickup at several locations, including Minnetonka City Hall. ☺

## Gray's Bay boat slip lottery set for Feb. 16

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL HOLD a lottery drawing February 16 for 2012 Gray's Bay Marina boat slip vacancies and for the waiting list. Only Minnetonka residents are eligible for these slips.

Slips are approximately 10-1/2 feet wide and can accommodate boats up to a maximum of 24 feet in total length. Cost per slip for the 2012 boating season is \$3,900.

Applications must be received at Minnetonka City Hall no later than 4 p.m. Wednesday, February 15. The lottery will take place at Minnetonka City Hall Thursday, February 16, at 2:30 p.m. Applicants do not need to be present.

To receive a lottery application form call (952) 939-8390, e-mail [mweseloh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mweseloh@eminnetonka.com), or download information from the city website at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺



The paper in this newsletter was manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas).

