

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Innovations keep Minnetonka firefighters safe

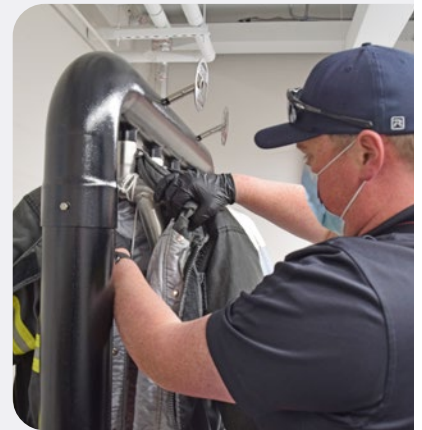
For generations, we have saluted the bravery of firefighters who rush into burning buildings and handle all types of other emergencies. Now the profession is paying a lot more attention to the risks they face when they arrive back home. Minnetonka's new Central Fire Station features decontamination stations to keep firefighters safe when the emergency has ended.



Firefighters can be exposed to a toxic mix of chemicals through inhalation and skin absorption especially when furnishings and synthetic materials burn in a structure. They emit polycyclic aromatic hydro carbons or PAHs which are known to cause cancer. Minnesota recently ruled the death of a St. Paul fire captain was incurred in the line of duty after linking his cancer to his many years as a firefighter.



When Minnetonka designed its new fire headquarters, the city took steps to include an innovative series of stations where firefighters can safely clean turnout gear and dispose of other hazardous materials. The station features distinct zones or spaces. A hot zone is where contaminants could be isolated, such as a room where turnout gear would be washed and cleaned. A cold zone would be the firefighter living space where the goal is to keep contaminated materials out of the area. A warm zone in between would be a transition area where firefighters can shower and leave behind their contaminated clothing.



Learn more about this project at [MinnetonkaMatters.com](https://www.MinnetonkaMatters.com).

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# Serve your city this summer

## Join our team with a summer job

We want you to enjoy your summer and get the satisfaction that comes with serving your friends and neighbors who call this city home. Whether you want to work outside in the natural beauty of our community or support families through our child and youth recreation programming, Minnetonka has great summer job opportunities for everyone.

- ✓ Higher starting wages
- ✓ Environmental stewardship
- ✓ Flexible hours
- ✓ Supportive management
- ✓ Outdoor work



### Recreation

- Lifeguards and swim instructors
- Shady Oak Beach staff
- Gray's Bay Marina attendants
- Kid's Corner day camp staff
- Recreation inclusion specialists
- Park Adventures staff
- Park attendants



### It's easy to learn more and apply

Have a question about these opportunities?  
Would you like to learn more?

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/jobs](https://minnetonkamn.gov/jobs).



### Public Works & Natural Resources

- Civil engineering interns
- Tree inspectors
- Habitat restoration
- Watering technicians
- Parks, streets and utilities maintenance



### Summer Job Fairs

Learn more about our summer positions and why working for the city is where you want to be this summer!

**Wednesday, March 23 5-7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 29 1-3 p.m.**

Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.



# Council to redraw ward, precinct boundaries

This month, the Minnetonka City Council is updating its ward and precinct districts in line with state redistricting.

Redistricting is the redrawing of election district boundaries. The process occurs every 10 years, following a federal census, to adjust for changes in population.

In February, the Minnesota State Legislature released updated boundaries for Minnesota's congressional and state legislative districts. The city council is responsible for approving Minnetonka's ward and precinct boundaries changes by March 29.

## Key Dates

**March 7:** Public hearing on the proposed ward and precinct boundaries

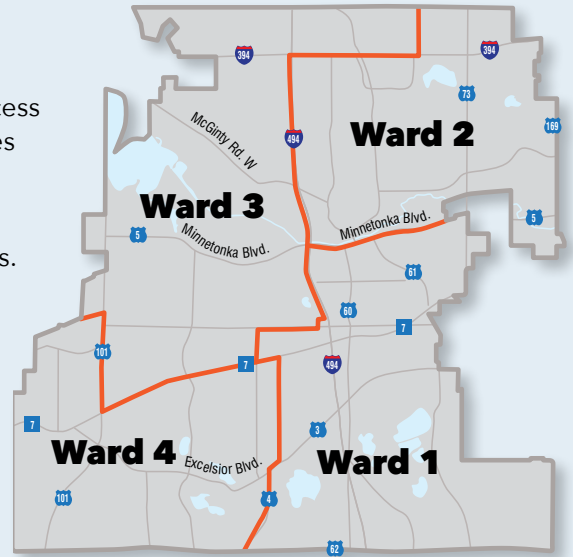
**March 1-11:** Email feedback on the proposed changes to [publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov)

**March 21:** City council to approve ordinance adopting boundaries

**Spring 2022:** Voters whose ward or precinct has changed to be notified by mail

**Aug. 9:** New ward and precinct boundaries in effect for primary election

Learn more and view the proposed boundaries at [minnetonkamn.gov/wards](http://minnetonkamn.gov/wards).



*A new proposed Ward map will be available on the city website in March.*

## State of the City Address

**Wednesday, April 20 | 8 a.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**

Join Mayor Brad Wiersum for the 2022 State of the City Address. Mayor Wiersum will share a video update and take questions from the audience. The event will also include other city presentations and speakers from the Rotary Club of Minnetonka and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce.

If you prefer to watch online, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/state-of-city](http://minnetonkamn.gov/state-of-city).

Prior to the event, you can also submit questions online or by calling Sarissa Falk at 952-939-8211.



## Minnetonka begins city manager search

The city has begun its search for the next city manager. The Minnetonka City Council hired GovHR USA, an employment firm with experience leading nationwide searches for local government executives. The position became open last fall following the retirement of GERALYN BARONE, who served as city manager for nine years. The search will include recruitment and interview phases with opportunities for the public to meet and interact with finalists.



Stay up to date on the latest city news and subscribe to receive regular email updates at [minnetonkamn.gov/news](http://minnetonkamn.gov/news)



# Fire department to host sensory-friendly open house

As part of the city's commitment to grow as an inclusive community, the Minnetonka Fire Department is hosting a sensory-friendly open house Saturday, April 23. This event is designed for families with special needs, including children who have autism and other sensory disorders, as well as those with physical challenges that can make attending heavily crowded events difficult. The Autism Society of Minnesota will host a booth with resources for parents, including information on free identification beacons.

This free event, which begins at 10 a.m., is an opportunity for families to interact with fire and police personnel in a calm and non-threatening environment, so that we may learn from each other and have fun while doing so.



**Saturday, April 23**  
**10 a.m.-noon**

Minnetonka Central Fire Station  
14550 Minnetonka Blvd.



## Highlights

- Sensory-friendly firetruck and squad car displays (no lights or sirens)
- 15-foot inflatable slide
- A visit from a working therapy dog
- Light refreshments
- A supportive group of attendees and city staff

Learn more at [minnetonkamn.gov/fire](http://minnetonkamn.gov/fire).

## Minnetonka Police join Neighbors by Ring

**The Minnetonka Police Department is teaming up with Ring for Public Safety to invite residents to share security video footage that may assist in the investigation of neighborhood crime.**

The department recently joined the Neighbors app, which allows public safety agencies to use push notifications that invite people living near a crime incident to share potentially relevant surveillance video.

Video sharing is 100-percent voluntary. Minnetonka Police do not have access to any user information or surveillance video unless forwarded by the owner.

"This tool will allow us to more quickly collect security camera footage that may assist in our investigations," said Capt. Andy Gardner. "It invites residents to take an active role in solving neighborhood crimes by sharing video that could lead to an arrest."

You do not need to be a Ring customer to use the Neighbors app.

For more information about the program, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/police](http://minnetonkamn.gov/police).



Neighbors by Ring

Keep informed of what's happening with the Minnetonka Police Department by following the new PD Notebook blog at [minnetonkamn.gov/pdnotebook](http://minnetonkamn.gov/pdnotebook).



# Winter Farmers Market

Saturday, March 12

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.



The final Minnetonka Farmers Market of the winter season is Saturday, March 12. Stop by to stock up on delicious ingredients, sweet treats, and beautiful handmade cards and gifts. Enjoy live music and kids activities. SNAP/EBT and winter Market Bucks are accepted. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) for more details.



## Seeking summer farmers market vendors

The summer Minnetonka Farmers Market will run each Tuesday from June 7 to Sept. 27 on the city's civic center campus. We're accepting applications for vendors who grow food or make items, including fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat, pickles, desserts, soap, art, handmade jewelry and more.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) for details and application materials.



**OPEN TO ALL AGES**

Minnetonka Concert Band, under the direction of Dan Geldert, presents "Dance Flavors." Join us for an afternoon of concert band music that will make you want to dance! Featuring everything from swing to polka to fandango.

**Sunday, March 20**  
**3 p.m.** **FREE**

Arts Center on 7  
Minnetonka High School  
18285 Hwy. 7

**Music Association  
of Minnetonka**

## Summer recreation program registration begins

- Tuesday, March 8** General Recreation Programs
- Thursday, March 10** Senior Programs
- Tuesday, March 22** Ice Skating Lessons

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) to check out program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including summer camps, swimming lessons, skating lessons, fitness classes, arts and crafts, athletic leagues and senior programs. There's something for everyone!

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) to register online, or call between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- General Programs: 952-939-8203
- Senior Programs: 952-939-8393
- Ice Skating: 952-939-8310





# Support Minnetonka's beautiful, sustainable and healthy environment

Each month we share ideas on how residents can support our natural environment. Minnetonka's park, trail and drain adoption programs are just one way you can encourage sustainability.



## Adopt a Park or Trail

Minnetonka is home to dozens of parks and natural areas, as well as a growing network of trails. Every year, volunteer groups help keep them clean and report maintenance and repair needs.



## Adopt a Park Sign

Minnetonka's **Adopt a Park Sign** program is another great way to get outside and keep Minnetonka beautiful! Individuals, families, neighborhood groups or organizations can sign up to plant flowers at the entrances of city parks.

- The city partners with Tonkadale Greenhouse to provide annuals or perennials.



- Volunteers plant, water and maintain the flowers throughout the season, beginning in late May or early June.

2021 volunteers will receive first priority to adopt their sign again in 2022.

To volunteer or learn more, contact Kate Egert at 952-939-8354 or [kegert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kegert@minnetonkamn.gov).



## Minnetonka volunteers

Laura Laumann began planting flowers at the entrance to her neighborhood park when it was first created more than 40 years ago. Watch her story at [minnetonkamatters.com/volunteers](http://minnetonkamatters.com/volunteers).

Learn more about these programs and other ways you can help support our healthy environment at [minnetonkamatters.com/volunteers](http://minnetonkamatters.com/volunteers).



# Natural Resources Happenings

## Buckthorn Workshop

Thursday, March 10

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center, Community Room

The best time to control buckthorn is early spring. Learn tips that will save you time and money as you tackle this invasive plant on your property. Advance registration is required at [minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents) or call 952-988-8400. Masks are encouraged.



## Resilient Yards Workshop

Learn strategies to make your yard more resilient to climate change and other stressors in this two-part virtual workshop. Advance registration is required at [bluethumb.org](http://bluethumb.org).

Part 1: Video - Thursday, April 1 - You'll receive a video about resilient landscapes and prompts to think about applying resiliency strategies on your property.

Part 2: Webinar - Thursday, April 7, 6:30-8 p.m. Join city staff, Blue Thumb and local experts for Q&A and small breakout sessions to discuss goals for your property.

## Reduce runoff to protect water quality

In a mature forest, up to 90 percent of snowmelt and stormwater is absorbed into the soil, where it can be used by plants or filter down to recharge groundwater. This runoff has a very different fate in developed areas like Minnetonka, where much of the landscape is covered by buildings, roads and parking lots. Instead of soaking in, much of the runoff flows over hard surfaces and into storm sewers.

As it passes over these surfaces, runoff picks up a wide variety of pollutants - loose soil, grass clippings and leaves, road salt, pet waste and much more. These organic and chemical pollutants reduce water quality and harm aquatic life in freshwater habitats.

### How can you help protect water quality?

- Sweep up unmelted road salt and sand. You can store road salt in a sealed container, or contact Public Works at 952-988-8400 to learn disposal options.
- Clear organic debris from storm drains and curb lines near your home. Learn more at [Adopt-a-Drain.org](http://Adopt-a-Drain.org).
- Direct downspouts toward your lawn or landscape beds and away from hard surfaces.
- Plant native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees that increase water absorption into the soil and require less maintenance.
- Maintain lawn mowers and other equipment to prevent oil and gas leaks.
- Limit, or eliminate, the use of fertilizers and pesticides in your yard.



## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 3** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 14** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 15** Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 17** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings](http://minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings) to learn how to participate remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at [minnetonkamn.gov/tv](http://minnetonkamn.gov/tv).

For up-to-date information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/calendar](http://minnetonkamn.gov/calendar) or call 952-939-8200.



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**ECRWSS  
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## Summer fun begins at Shady Oak Beach

Shady Oak Beach has just about everything a family could want under the hot summer sun. Enjoy our big sandy beach, a spring-fed swimming area staffed with lifeguards as well as games, concessions and canoe, kayak and paddle boat rentals.

A Shady Oak beach pass is a great value, especially for Minnetonka residents. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) to buy or renew your pass today.