

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Social worker program helps tackle rise in mental health calls

In recent years, Minnetonka Police Department has seen an uptick in mental health calls. In 2021, the department's Mental Health Unit responded to 400 mental health calls, up from 168 in 2011.

To improve outcomes for mental health calls, the city expanded its participation in the Hennepin County embedded social worker program, which places licensed social workers in local police departments.

"The program gives officers another resource, as opposed to walking away and wishing we had more to offer," said Officer Scott Marks, a licensed social worker.

Dan Sweeney joined the department in a full-time capacity in January. He provides after care by helping connect clients to social services, such as mental health support, substance use treatment and housing and employment assistance.

"I believe that my role as a mental health provider is to begin by listening to understand each person's unique situation, to encourage, empower, challenge, collaborate and problem solve," Sweeney said. "The goal is to regain a sense of safety, stability and hope."

Sweeney took a route to social work. The former junior high science teacher was working in health care when he saw a need in the recovery field. He returned to school to become a drug and alcohol counselor and later earned his master's degree in clinical social work.

Minnetonka has participated in the Hennepin County embedded social worker program since it was created in 2019. The program has expanded to 21 departments, and this year, Minnetonka shifted from a shared, part-time social worker to Sweeney's full-time position.

The embedded program is a vital part of the department's efforts to better respond to mental health crises by helping connect residents with resources and providing additional training for our Minnetonka officers.



## Celebrate National Bike Month!

Whether you're new to biking or an experienced cyclist, May is the perfect month to get out and discover Minnetonka's trail system. Get rolling with these events:

- Bike and Roll to School Day: Wednesday, May 4
- Bike to Work Week: May 16-22
- Bike to Work Day: Friday, May 20

Stop for a snack on your way to work at one of our energizer stations:

- Trail adjacent to civic center campus in Minnetonka
- Along the trail at Maetzold Park in Hopkins
- Bike Scavenger Hunt: Throughout May

Check out [minnetonkamn.gov/bikemonth](https://minnetonkamn.gov/bikemonth) for more details.

## New name for high school athletic center

The Hopkins High School athletic center, Lindbergh Center, has a new name – the Royals Athletic Center.

This change became official when the Hopkins School Board and Minnetonka City Council voted to approve the new name at their respective board meetings in March.



The renaming process began last June when the Hopkins Schools administration established a committee for renaming the Lindbergh Center. A diverse steering committee composed of staff from Hopkins Public Schools and the City of Minnetonka determined a process that allowed the community to choose a new name for the center.

This process included two surveys to select a new name using ranked choice. The final survey received more than 600 responses from the community, and the name Royals Athletic Center received the most votes.

The Minnetonka City Council also adopted an ordinance to change the name of the address of Hopkins High School and the Royals Athletic Center from Lindbergh Drive to Royals Drive.

## Kick start a springtime exercise program with the four-week Step to it challenge.

Step to it is an activity challenge that motivates people of all ages and abilities to become more physically active May 1-28.

- Participate as an individual or with a group. Open to everyone!
- It's not just about walking. Almost any activity will be converted to steps when you enter it in your activity account.
- Log your activity daily or weekly in your online Step to it account or keep track manually.
- Best of all, it's FREE!



Step to it  
**MINNETONKA!**

Register now at [steptoit.org](http://steptoit.org).

## May is Wildfire Awareness Month

You might think wildfires can't occur in Minnetonka, but the DNR defines a wildfire as any fire requiring suppression, burning any forest, brush, grassland, cropland or other vegetative material. While these types of fires are typically small in Minnetonka, they still accounted for 25 percent of our fire calls last year.

Wildfires are most often caused by improper disposal of cigarettes both from moving vehicles or while on foot. Others are caused by hot embers or ash escaping open fires. In Minnetonka, residents are only allowed to conduct recreational fires and must have a recreational fire permit. Residents cannot burn for the trash, brush, vegetation, furniture or treated lumber.

These types of wildland fires are all preventable; please be responsible. For more information, and to get your recreational fire permit visit [minnetonkamn.gov/firepermit](http://minnetonkamn.gov/firepermit).



## Protect shade trees

Healthy trees are a benefit to our community. Here are tips to protect ash, elm and oak trees from pests and diseases.

### Inject elms and ash

Injection treatments reduce the risk of emerald ash borer (EAB) and Dutch elm disease. This is especially important now that EAB has been found in Minnetonka. Call Rainbow Treecare (952-922-3810) to request the city's bulk discount rate, or contact an arborist of your choice.



Ash tree with injection tag

### Prune at the right time

Pruning during the growing season (April – November) can increase the risk of oak wilt and EAB. The best time to prune is winter (December – March).

If you must prune an oak tree, immediately cover the cut with shellac or water-based paint. Properly dispose of all wood at the city's brush drop, or chip it to use as mulch.

### Keep firewood local

Metro-area counties are under a firewood quarantine. Visit [mda.state.mn.us/firewood](http://mda.state.mn.us/firewood) to learn more.

## Let us help with your home improvement project

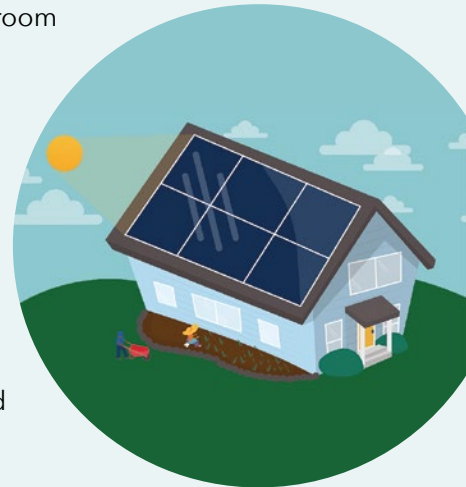
Summer is right around the corner. It's time to start thinking about what home improvement projects you want to tackle this year.

Whether remodeling your kitchen, installing solar panels or new siding, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and the City of Minnetonka can help you make it happen through a variety of financing options. Some ideas to get you thinking are:

- Remodeling your kitchen or bathroom
- Replacing your roof or siding
- Upgrading your windows
- Siding or roofing repairs
- Installing solar panels
- Replacing your old A/C unit

CEE's loans offer low monthly payments and flexible terms. Loans are only available while funds last, so beat the summer rush and get started on your home improvement projects early this year.

Find more information about CEE and the City of Minnetonka's loans at [minnetonkamn.gov/loans](http://minnetonkamn.gov/loans) or call 952-939-8234.



## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS



### Native plant sale

#### Open May 1 through mid-September

This year's online native plant sale offers native plants and seed mixes to bring diversity and beauty to your yard. Minnetonka property owners are eligible for a discount through this initiative. Register at [minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents) to receive a promotional code (one per Minnetonka household, while funding lasts).

### Join Miles for Monarchs and Minnetonka

#### Open May 1 through October

Track the miles you walk, run, bike and more this year to help the Minnetonka team collectively complete 2,100 miles – the distance monarchs migrate from Minnetonka to Mexico every year. Learn more and register at [bit.ly/Miles2022](http://bit.ly/Miles2022), using the group name "Miles for Monarchs and Minnetonka."



## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 6 & 7** Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, 9 a.m.
- 9** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 11** Park Board Tour with City Council, 5:30 p.m.
- 12** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 16** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 17** Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** EDAC, 6 p.m.
- 23** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 30** Memorial Day Holiday, City Offices Closed

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/participate](http://minnetonkamn.gov/participate) 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.



CITY OF  
MINNETONKA

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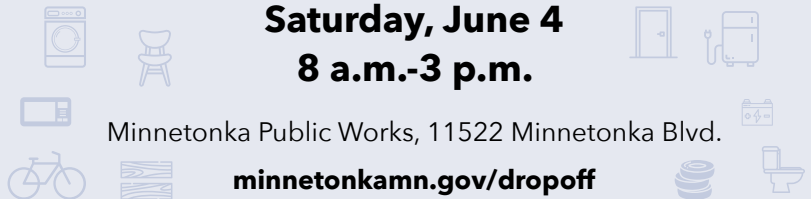
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**ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON**

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

**Saturday, June 4  
8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

[minnetonkamn.gov/dropoff](http://minnetonkamn.gov/dropoff)

## 2022 MINNETONKA SUMMER FEST

**Saturday, June 25**

**4-10:30 p.m.**  
**Civic Center Campus  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

[minnetonkamn.gov/summerfest](http://minnetonkamn.gov/summerfest)



**Tuesday, Aug. 2**

Registration for Minnetonka Night to Unite opens June 1.

The annual celebration is Tuesday, Aug. 2 from 6-9 p.m.

More info: [minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite](http://minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite)