

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Tom Pletcher named Minnetonka's employee of the year



It's 5 a.m. in Minnetonka. While the sun slowly creeps up on the east edge of town and residents begin to stir out of bed, Utility Supervisor Tom Pletcher has already settled into his desk. In fact, most days, he's already been up for a few hours.

"I don't know if anyone can beat him into the office," said Public Works Director Will Manchester. "If they do, he's not happy about it."

Pletcher supervises a team of 14 employees who oversee the water and sewer systems in the city. These teams monitor and test drinking water, clean sewers and maintain more than 280 miles of water systems that keep water flowing

to homes and businesses in Minnetonka. "I've got a great crew," Pletcher said. "We get more compliments than complaints, and in this world, that's tough."

Not all of his job is fun. When water mains break or sewage systems back up, Pletcher needs to be ready to assemble a crew. "When we go to those scenes, we are there to relieve the problem, and we do everything we can to prevent the problem in the first place," he said.

In April, Pletcher received the Spirit of Minnetonka Award, given annually to the city's employee of the year. In his role, Pletcher is on call nearly 24 hours a day, seven days a week. His expertise is crucial to his team and the city as a whole. "If an operator has a question or something they haven't seen, Tom is the one that gets that phone call," said Utility Manager Mike Kuno. "His dedication to the job and the city is just incredible."

Pletcher, who has worked in Minnetonka since 1996, isn't someone looking for credit for his work, said Kuno.

"I've joined some good company," Pletcher said when asked about winning the Spirit of Minnetonka Award. "I thanked my team for making me look good. They are the ones doing quality work."

Pletcher is also thankful that he didn't have to give a speech at the awards ceremony. "I don't like to win awards, and now I don't have to worry about winning it again," he said with a chuckle.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY



Drop off unwanted items June 4

Get rid of unwanted appliances, tires or other household items at our Special Community Drop-off Day!

Saturday, June 4

8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Learn more: For complete details visit minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday.

Please note hazardous materials are not accepted at this event.

Payment: There is a charge for most items. Cash and checks payable to "City of Minnetonka" are accepted.

Avoid lines: Come later in the day to miss the rush.

Summer projects begin

The city will conduct several road and trail projects this summer to improve infrastructure and connectivity. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/projects to learn more and to sign up for email/text updates.



Burwell House

13209 E. McGinty Road



Free guided
tours!
No reservation
required.

June 4–Aug. 31

Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1–4 p.m.

Sept. 3–25

Saturdays and Sundays 1–4 p.m.



Minnetonka Farmers Market returns June 7

**Tuesdays, 3–7 p.m.
June 7–Sept. 27**

Minnetonka Civic Center Campus
Ice Arena B Parking Lot
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Find locally produced groceries, farm products and handmade crafts at the Minnetonka Farmers Market, including: fresh eggs, meats, breads, vegetables, fruits, flowers, pickles, jams and dinner-to-go from local chefs. Plus, live music, community booths and free kids activities each week!

New this season

Buy \$10, get \$30!

SNAP/EBT participants will get their first \$10 in tokens matched with Market Bucks and an additional \$10 of the new Produce Market Bucks, each week.

Power of Produce Club (POP Club) is expanding

Sponsored by South Lake Pediatrics, POP Club is now for kids ages 4–17! Sign up at the farmers market to receive a \$2 voucher to spend on fresh produce, each week.



Learn more at
minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket

Enjoy the show at ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket. All events at the outdoor amphitheater on the civic center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

THEATER IN THE PARK

The talented fourth- and fifth-graders of Minnetonka schools will perform "Matilda Jr.," a witty ode to the power of imagination.

**Thursday, June 16 & Friday, June 17
10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Offering a wide variety of music for the whole family every Tuesday evening, June 21–Aug. 30.

**June 21: Bavarian Musikmeisters
June 28: Capri Big Band
6:30–8 p.m.**



Dive in to fun at Shady Oak Beach

Shady Oak Beach is the summer's coolest place to catch some rays and make a splash.

**Shady Oak Beach
5200 Shady Oak Road
Beach season runs: June 10–Aug. 21**

**Purchase your
Shady Oak
Beach pass!**

For hours, rates, rentals and more, visit minnetonkamn.gov/beach.

2022 MINNETONKA

Saturday, June 25

SUMMER FEST

Civic Center Grounds ■ 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. ■ 4-10:30 p.m.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!

4 p.m. Tot Trot

This free event for ages 2-8 takes place on the road near the amphitheater and finishes in front of the Ice Arena (approximately 2 blocks; distance dependent upon age). No registration required. All participants receive a medal at the finish line.

Tot Trot Race Times

Ages 2-3	4:05 p.m.
Ages 4-5	4:10 p.m.
Ages 6-8	4:15 p.m.

4 - 5:30 p.m. Fire Department Open House and vehicle display

4-8 p.m. Log Rolling Demos Caricature Artists

4-9 p.m. Inflatables: Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Course, Bungee Trampoline, Cliff Jump and more!

Human Foosball

Sports Challenge

Vertical Climbing Wall

Ninja Rig and Warp Wall

Water Wars

Train Rides

Cannonball Air Blaster

Arts and Crafts with Park
Adventures staff

Airbrush Tattoos

Wacky Hair Artists

4 - 10 p.m. Food Vendors: A variety of food and beverages available to purchase

Beer and wine sales provided by the Minnetonka Rotary

10 p.m. Fireworks!

MAIN STAGE


5:45-6:30 p.m. **The Big Epic Show**
Hip-hop and comedy show for children and families.


6:55 p.m. **Welcome by Mayor Wiersum**

7-10 p.m. **Pop Rocks**
High energy music show featuring
today's hits and timeless classics.

**FEATURE
SHOW**

Bike to Summer Fest: Bike racks will be available.

 An ATM will be available on-site.

 Restrooms are available in Ice Arena A & B, City Hall and on the Summer Fest grounds.

 Weather Hotline: 952-939-8355

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Don't miss the annual Summer Fest Pickleball Tournament! Women's and Men's doubles begin at 8 a.m. and mixed doubles at 1:30 p.m. Feeling ambitious? Play in both a Men's/Women's division, as well as a mixed doubles division.

8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Lone Lake Park

Course: 3201101
\$60 per team/event



Save time! Pay your utility bill online

- **Set up automatic bill payments.** Pay your quarterly utility bill automatically on the due date or set up a recurring schedule of your choice.
- **View your bills any time.** Check your current balance and make one-time payments.
- **Enroll in paperless billing.** Skip the paper! Set up email reminders and store payment information.
- **Pay by phone or text.** A 24/7 automated payment line is available (855-945-3661) or sign up to receive notification and pay your bill via text message.
- **Use a credit card.** Credit cards can only be processed online or through automated phone systems. Credit cards cannot be processed at city hall.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling to access the online portal and set up your account.

Save money this summer and conserve!

A dry summer can have a big impact on your fall utility bills. Summer daily water use in the city is two to three times the average winter daily water use due to irrigation.

Take steps early to conserve water and avoid bigger quarterly bills later:

- Repair or upgrade your irrigation system to prevent leaks.
- Skip automatic irrigation systems that do not take into account weather and heavy downpours.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Most lawn grass needs only one inch of water per week.
- Select lawn grasses that use less water and can tolerate drought.
- Know the city's lawn watering schedule. Water early in the morning or late at night to avoid burn off from the sun. Learn more on page 6.

Election 2022

Redistricting leads to polling location changes

Some Minnetonka voters will be casting their ballots in new locations this year, after the Minnetonka City Council adopted new ward boundaries and polling places in March.

The boundaries were redrawn as part of the redistricting process, which occurs every 10 years following the federal census. The process adjusts election districts to balance for population changes.

Use the state's pollfinder tool at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us to confirm your precinct and polling location. All voters will receive a postcard in July notifying them of their polling location.

Register to vote

Now is a great time to pre-register to vote. Find all the info at sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote.

Vote by mail or in person

Learn how to apply for an absentee ballot and how to vote by mail at minnetonkamn.gov/election.

Important dates

- Primary election | Aug. 9
Absentee voting begins June 24
- General election | Nov. 8
Absentee voting begins Sept. 23

In-person absentee voting will be available at city hall during normal business hours.

Keep informed

- Visit minnetonkamn.gov/election
- Call 952-939-8205

Free business consultations available

Open to Business returns for free virtual consultations to help you start, manage or operate a business. The program assists current and prospective entrepreneurs with access to the technical assistance and financing options they need to succeed. Appointments are available the second Monday of each month. Assistance is available in English and Spanish. Learn more and sign up at minnetonkamn.gov/opentobusiness.



Protect elms and oak trees in our community forest

Large oak trees and American elms are an iconic part of Minnetonka's beautiful community forest. But epidemic diseases – especially Dutch elm disease and oak wilt in red oaks – have a big impact every year. Here's how to identify and protect these important native species.

Dutch elm disease

American elm leaves have jagged edges, a pointed tip and an uneven base. Infected elms show these symptoms:



- Wilting leaves that turn yellow or brown.
- Dieback of branches, usually starting at the top of the tree.

Oak wilt in red oaks

Red oak leaves are sharply pointed. **White oak** leaves are rounded. Watch red oaks for these symptoms:



- Rapid wilting from the top down.
- Loss of dark leaf color from the edges inward.
- Leaves appear drab and wet, and they fall to the ground below the tree.

Tip for reducing the risk of Dutch elm disease and red oak wilt:

- Avoid pruning oaks between April 1 and Oct. 31.
- Have healthy elms injected. Call Rainbow Treecare (952-922-3810) to ask about the bulk discount for Minnetonka, or talk to your preferred contractor.
- Contact the forestry office at forestry@minnetonkamn.gov to request an elm or red oak inspection anywhere in the city. Please provide the address and symptoms.
- If a diseased elm or red oak is marked on your property, carefully follow the timeline and instructions provided. Contact the forestry office with questions well before your deadline.
- The city doesn't manage diseased white oaks. Contact a certified arborist for advice or search for contractors at msa-live.org/homeowner-resources.

Follow these fireworks safety tips

Ensure you're celebrating safely (and legally) this July with these safety tips from the Minnetonka Fire Department.



- Fireworks that fly or explode are illegal in Minnesota. Don't buy or use them!
- Legal fireworks include sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.
- Homemade fireworks and explosives are not only illegal, they're extremely dangerous.
- Always supervise children and ensure they are using safe, professionally made fireworks. Be suspicious and ask questions if they request or purchase obscure household items.
- Wear shoes at all times while fireworks are present.
- Only use fireworks on private property; they're illegal on public property including parks and beaches.
- Use a metal bucket with water to extinguish all fireworks, including sparklers, before throwing out what's left.
- If something goes wrong, even something small, don't hesitate – call 911 immediately!
- Did you know sky lanterns are illegal in Minnesota? Once released, you'll have no control over the open flame carrying the lantern into the sky.

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

June 2022

Celebrate Minnetonka pollinators

Are you planting for pollinators this year? Tell us your story at minnetonkamatters.com and select Building a Resilient Yard.

Miles for Monarchs and Minnetonka

Walk, swim, paddle or pedal as many miles as you can between May and October to help our Minnetonka Miles for Monarchs team will collectively travel 2,100 miles- the same distance Monarchs travel to their wintering sites in Mexico. Register at bit.ly/Miles2022.

2021 Minnetonka Drinking Water Report

The City of Minnetonka is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021. Each of the past 21 years, Minnetonka Public Works has distributed this annual report to summarize drinking water quality for the previous year; advance residents' understanding of drinking water; and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

This report fulfills an obligation. The city's water utility has to provide accurate and timely information about your drinking water and the city's water system. If you have questions about your drinking water or for information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please contact Tom Pletcher at tpletcher@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-988-8427.

Water source

The City of Minnetonka provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 18 wells ranging in depth from 444 to 575 feet that draw water from the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

Generally, sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Before a water source is used for a supply, it is tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters. Test results for the City of Minnetonka water supply are listed on the next page. The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents.

If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. The report may also be viewed online at health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Are contaminants a concern?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Drinking water regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

To learn more visit minnetonkamn.gov/drinkingwater.

Lawn watering schedule

To conserve the community's water resources, City of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions between May 1 and Sept. 30:

- No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by handheld hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery, or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit number from Minnetonka Public Works.

Private wells are exempt from these regulations provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call 952-988-8400.



Laboratory results for Minnetonka tap water: 2021

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2020. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.)

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Testing Terms and Definitions

MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

AL – Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level

This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which ten samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.)

Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l – PicoCuries per liter
A measure of radioactivity.

ppb – Parts per billion
This can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm – Parts per million
This can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd – No Detection

N/A – Not Applicable
Does not apply.

Average/result

This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Range (2021)	Highest/Average	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha	pCi/l	0	15.4	4.9-7.3	7.3	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	pCi/l	0	5.4	1.7-3.7	3.7	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	0.5-0.9	4	0.67-0.71	.71	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	N/A	60	8.2-10.4	10.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
THM (total trihalomethanes)	ppb	N/A	80	23.2-26.3	36.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MRDL	MRDLG	Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Avg.	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	ppm	0.1-4.0	4	0.33-0.6	0.6	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant (units)	Units of measure	Comparison Value	Range	Average/result
Barium	ppm	2	N/A	0.14
Sodium	ppm	20	11.1-14.8	14.8
Sulfate	ppm	500	3.07-5.18	5.18
Xylenes	ppm	10	0.00-0.00	0

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	AL	MCLG	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (8/18/21)	ppm	1.3	0	0.94	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (8/18/21)	ppb	15	0	1.0	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Minnetonka is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If there are concerns about lead in the water, consider having the water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Community Drop-off Day, 8 a.m.
- 7 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 9 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 14 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 16 EDAC, 6 p.m.
- 20 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Farmers Market & Music in the Park, 3 p.m.
- 23 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Minnetonka Summer Fest, 4 p.m.
- 27 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Farmers Market & Music in the Park, 3 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/participate 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.



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Register your Night to Unite block party

Celebrate community at the annual Minnetonka Night to Unite celebration Tuesday, Aug. 2 from 6-9 p.m.

Block party registration opens June 1. Parties must register to receive visits from Minnetonka Police and Fire, Public Works and other city officials. *Please note: Visits are not guaranteed.*

This year, the police department will host a block party theme contest and the annual Night to Unite photo content with special categories. We will also be collecting items for ICA Food Shelf.



Register your party and find party planning tools:
minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite

