

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## New park adds to Ridgedale's transformation

Kathy (KT) Towers and her rescue dog Roscoe have watched in anticipation from their Avidor townhome as Ridgedale Commons has come to life over the past few years.



"The park is so beautiful to look at," Towers said. "It has come full circle. With a beautiful building, the mall and now a park. We have everything."

As Towers and Roscoe already walk around the grassy lawn, they are setting foot in a community that has transformed from a retail center into a neighborhood of the future. The vision for that transformation began more than 15 years

ago, when famed University of Minnesota architect Ralph Rapson and his design center had an idea for connecting the green space surrounding the mall as a way to fuse natural and urban together.

To better understand who would want to live there and how to encourage new development, Minnetonka worked for several years with urban planners and architects to create what has come to be known as the Ridgedale Vision.

"The idea has been to develop a place that is transformative and diversify the uses so that the Ridgedale area remains vital, relevant and exciting" said Julie Wischnack, Minnetonka's community development director.

Fifty years ago, Ridgedale was a new mall on what was then the edge of the Twin Cities. Today, it is home to 5,000 people, 650 apartment units have been built and a network of trails easily connects it to the rest of the city and transit. Ridgedale Mall itself is considered one of the top performing retail centers in the country because it attracts more than 1.3 million visitors per month. But the transformation is not complete.

"We have a commitment to this work," said Wischnack. "It took a long time to create an auto-centric suburban space, and it will take years for it to fully evolve into a walkable, sustainable part of our community."

### Upcoming Events at RIDGEDALE COMMONS

#### Grand Opening-Ribbon Cutting Thursday, June 1; 4:30 p.m.

Remarks and ribbon cutting begin at 4:45 p.m.

Celebrate the official opening of the city's newest park with remarks, a ribbon cutting, music and refreshments.

*Sponsored by Nothing Bundt Cakes and Jones Coffee*

#### Minnetonka Farmers Market Tuesdays, June 6-Sept. 26; 3-7 p.m

Your favorite summer farmers market is now at Ridgedale Commons. Enjoy fresh produce, baked goods, homemade crafts live music and free kids activities every Tuesday this summer.

#### Outdoor Yoga in the Park

**Saturdays, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5 and Aug. 19; 8:30-9:30 a.m.**

Enjoy fresh air summer yoga out at the lawn. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle. No registration required.

#### Summer in the Commons

**Friday, June 16: Michael Handler, 6-8 p.m.**

**Saturday, July 15: Power of 10 Jazz Quartet 10 a.m.-noon**

**Wednesday, Aug. 16: Todd 'n' Tina, 2-4 p.m.**

Fun, family-friendly events featuring live music, entertainment, food trucks and yard games.

*Sponsored by Avidor Minnetonka*



#### More information:

- Ridgedale Commons
- Ridgedale Village Center Study
- Ridgedale Public Realm Guidelines



2023 MINNETONKA

Saturday, June 24

# SUMMER FEST

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

## ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!

### 4 p.m. Tot Trot

This free event for ages 2-8 starts 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

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

### 4-9 p.m. Inflatables Bungee Trampolines Human Foosball Sports Challenge Vertical Climbing Wall Water Wars Train Rides Arts & Crafts 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

5:30-6:30 p.m. Okee Dokee Brothers

6:55 p.m. Welcome by Mayor Wiersum

7-10 p.m. Synergy **FEATURE SHOW**

## SUMMER FEST

### Pickleball Tournament

Don't miss the annual Summer Fest Pickleball Tournament! Women's and men's doubles begin at 9 a.m. and mixed doubles at 1:30 p.m. You may play in both a men's/women's division, as well as a mixed doubles division. This is an unsanctioned event.

**June 24**  
**9 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.**  
**Lone Lake Park**

Course: 3201101  
\$60 per team/event

**Bike to Summer Fest:** Bike racks will be available.

ATM available on site.

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

Weather Hotline: 952-939-8355

Schedule and event are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the city website for any event status changes.

# Safe 7 Summer

## Traffic campaign focuses on Highway 7 corridor

Highway 7 is a major artery through Minnetonka and the west metro. This summer, local law enforcement agencies are teaming up to make sure everyone who travels the corridor gets home safe.



Led by the Minnetonka Police Department, Safe 7 Summer is a traffic safety campaign aimed at educating motorists about common safety issues in the corridor. Agencies will focus on speeding, red light running, distracted driving, seatbelt violations and DWI enforcement.

Historically, Highway 7 and its interactions have the highest rate of traffic crashes in Minnetonka.

"The intersection at Highway 7 and County Road 101 has seen 150 crashes in the last 10 years. That's more than a crash a month, which is the highest of any other intersection in Minnetonka," said Capt. Jason Tait.

The department is teaming up with police departments from St. Louis Park, Hopkins, South Lake Minnetonka and Minnetrista, as well as the Minnesota State Patrol. They will be hosting coordinated events to crack down on traffic violations and using social media and billboards to reach local drivers.

"By highlighting the risky traffic behaviors that have made the Highway 7 corridor hazardous, our ultimate goal is to reduce crashes and ensure everyone gets home safe this summer," Tait said.

Safe 7 Summer runs Memorial Day through Labor Day. Follow the @MtkaPD on Twitter or subscribe for updates at [minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe](https://minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe).

# SAFE 7 SUMMER

Let's all get home safe.



## Night to Unite is a neighborhood tradition

Every August, for more than 30 years, the neighbors of Arthur Street have gathered in the same driveway the first Tuesday of the month for an ice cream social. It's a tradition that's outlasted the original homeowners.

"We just demanded the new [home]owners continue it," said organizer Barb DeGroot chuckling. "They've been great about it."

The Arthur Street block party is one of more than 150 Minnetonka Night to Unite events. Hosted by the Minnetonka Police Department, the annual celebration is a chance for neighbors to gather and get to know one another and promote community safety.



"Night to Unite is a highlight of the year for our department and officers," said Police Chief Scott Boerboom. "It is a great opportunity for us to meet and talk with our residents – and have some fun, too."

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 Night to Unite photo contest with special categories for officer interaction, pets and more. We will also be collecting items for ICA Food Shelf.

For DeGroot, who grew up in the Arthur Street neighborhood and now lives next door to her childhood home, the ice cream social is a walk down memory lane. The neighborhood is a mix of new families and "a few oldsters," who have lived there more than 50 years. DeGroot said the original homeowner Dorothy Butkowski even still returns for the party when she can.

"We just have a lot of nice people," DeGroot said. "The new families are friendly, mixing well with long-term residents, and they're carrying on the neighborhood traditions."

## 2023 Minnetonka Night to Unite Tuesday, Aug. 1 | 6-9 p.m.

Register and find party planning tools at [minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite](https://minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite)



## City seeks feedback for Flood Risk Management Map

Staff is looking for input regarding updated floodplain maps.

These maps outline the risk of flooding for properties in Minnetonka. Residents can see the new interactive maps and provide their feedback at [minnetonkamatters.com/flood-risk-management](https://minnetonkamatters.com/flood-risk-management). Feedback on the floodplain map and ordinance updates collected on Minnetonka Matters will be provided to City Council prior to their review.

Floodplain maps show what areas are most at risk during a heavy rainfall event. These maps typically illustrate what areas would likely flood during a "100-year storm." Consistent with watershed districts in the area, the city's floodplain maps have been updated for recently adopted precipitation information from the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration, updates to infrastructure and more.

Comments will be accepted until July 24 at:



# MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy free, live music at the outdoor amphitheater at Civic Center Park from 6:30-8 p.m. every Tuesday evening.

**June 20**  
**Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra**

**June 27**  
**Power of 10**  
(10-piece Stevie Wonder style)

sponsored by  
**avidor**  
Minnetonka

# SHADY OAK BEACH

OPENS JUNE 10

Renew or purchase your 2023 Shady Oak Beach season pass and enjoy unlimited entry to the beach at great rates!  
Open June 10-Aug. 20.



### How to get your Shady Oak Beach season pass:

- Call 952-939-8203, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Purchase or renew online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](https://minnetonkamn.gov/register)
- Stop by Shady Oak Beach during beach operation hours.
- Existing cards will be reactivated.

For rates and complete details, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/beach](https://minnetonkamn.gov/beach).

# Sorenson named Firefighter of the Year

Kenny Johnson Award given annually at Minnetonka Fire Department Banquet.

Fire Lt. Dan Sorenson has been named the 2023 Kenny Johnson Award winner. The award is given annually to Minnetonka's Firefighter of the Year.



"It's one of the most prestigious awards. I'm just very honored to get the award, honestly," Sorenson said.

Much of Sorenson's 23-year career with Minnetonka Fire Department has been at Fire

Station 4 near Purgatory Park. Traditionally, this station was the first to respond to emergencies around the city.

"They're very dedicated [at Station 4], and that's because Dan sets the tone," said Fire Chief John Vance. "We can count on him."

According to Sorenson, being a firefighter keeps him grounded, calling the job his "life-checker."

"When you think that things are going bad for you, there's always somebody else out there that things are going worse for," Sorenson explained. "It brings a lot of satisfaction to fix something, or somebody, and make someone's day better that might not have been going so well."

**Congratulations, Dan Sorenson.**

## Code Corner Deck Season

Summer is here, and the No. 1 project the Minnetonka building inspections team sees this time of year is building or repairing a deck.

Decks require building permits. Before beginning your project, use this checklist:

### 1. Set of plans, including:

- Foundation plan showing size, number and spacing of footings.
- Framing plan showing ledger size, ledger flashing, joist hangers, lag bolts size and spacing, joist, beam and post size and spacing.
- Cross section and elevation plans showing footing depth, spindle spacing, guard rail install, connections to post and dwelling.

**2. Survey**, an official drawing of your property with the home and proposed project identified. A survey must be signed by a licensed and registered land surveyor and include legal description, lot dimension, easements, existing and proposed structures.

### 3. Verify your contractor's license, insurance and bond.

If you are hiring a contractor, use the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry license lookup. It is a good practice to obtain multiple estimates and not make any payments until a contract is signed. Do not make a final payment before a city building inspector has performed a final inspection and closes the permit.

For more information, contact the city's division at 952-939-8394 or [permits@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:permits@minnetonkamn.gov).

## 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.
- Always supervise children and they are using safe, professionally made fireworks.
- If something goes wrong, even something small, don't hesitate - call 911 immediately!



# Mosquito season is upon us

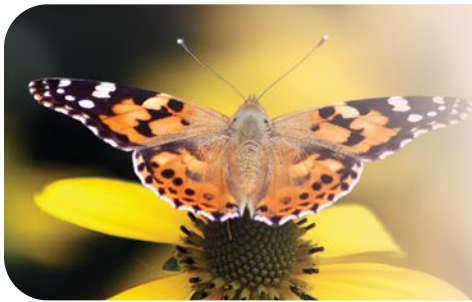
Mosquitoes are pesky, and they sometimes carry diseases that impact humans, pets or wildlife. But eradicating all mosquitoes isn't the best way to manage those problems. Hundreds of animal species, from frogs to songbirds, gorge on mosquito larvae in the water or adults in the air.



The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) manages mosquito populations on public land in Twin Cities. The organization identifies problem breeding areas and treat larvae by hand or helicopter. MMCD uses naturally occurring bacteria and hormones that prevent larvae from maturing. This strategy limits the use of harmful chemicals and reduces mosquitos by an average of 75 percent.

Mosquitos don't need much water to reproduce. There are some easy steps you can take to reduce mosquito populations in your yard without the use of chemicals:

- Identify spots in your yard that collect water. Remove the water and clean them regularly.
- Replace water in pet bowls and birdbaths daily.
- Herbs such as basil, rosemary and mint produce essential oils that deter mosquitoes.
- Create and protect natural habitats that support predators that eat mosquitoes.



## Minnetonka is a Monarch Champion

Since 2017, Minnetonka has been a part of the National Wildlife Foundation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Minnetonka has been named a 2022 Monarch Champion, completing 26 of 29 action steps. Learn more about the pledge at [minnetonkamn.gov/monarch](https://minnetonkamn.gov/monarch)

## Register for NR Events this Summer



Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents](https://minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents) to learn more.

*Join us*

PURGATORY PARK MASTER PLAN  
**OPEN HOUSE**

**June 14**

**5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Community Center Banquet Room**

# Minnetonka 2022 Drinking Water Report

Minnetonka works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water to ensure that tap water is safe to drink for most people.

City staff work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants that may pose health concerns. Each year a report is prepared that provides information about the city's water system and how it compares to state and federal standards.

In an effort to conserve paper, we have made the 2022 Drinking Water Report available on the city's website at [minnetonkamn.gov/water](https://minnetonkamn.gov/water). The public may download and print a copy of the water report from the website or pick up a paper copy at Minnetonka Public Works at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. during normal business hours.



## 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 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.



## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Community Drop-off Day, 8 a.m.
- 5 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 7 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Senior Advisory Board. 10 a.m.
- 13 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday, city offices closed
- 20 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 20 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 24 Minnetonka Summer Fest, 4 p.m.
- 26 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Farmers Market, 3 p.m.
- 28 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/participate](http://minnetonkamn.gov/participate) to learn how to also take part 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**

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

952-939-8200 | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

### Mayor

Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907  
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### Council

At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399  
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Ward 1: Brian Kirk 952-451-6251  
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Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735  
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Ward 3: Bradley Schaeppi 612-770-7447  
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Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670  
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### City Manager

Mike Funk 952-939-8200  
[mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov)

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## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

### Dispose of unwanted furniture, building supplies and more.



**Saturday, June 3 and  
Saturday, Sept. 9  
8 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Minnetonka Public Works  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/dropoff](http://minnetonkamn.gov/dropoff) to find out what you can drop-off for free or for a small charge.