

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



ELECTION 2023

What does a councilmember do?

This November, Minnetonka voters will head to the polls with the city’s four ward councilmember seats up for election. Candidate filing opens Tuesday, Aug. 1.

Responsibilities

The Minnetonka City Council is the governing body of the city. The council includes a mayor, two at-large councilmembers and four Ward councilmembers, each representing a geographic area of the city.

The council is responsible for setting city policy, approving the annual budget and tax levy and establishing the city’s strategic plan. Councilmembers also represent the city at public events and act as liaisons for various boards and commissions. The council appoints the city manager as the chief administrative officer of the city to oversee the city’s daily operations.

Expectations

All municipal seats are nonpartisan. In setting policy, councilmembers make decisions through respectful dialog and collaboration that meet the needs of residents and constituents.

Time and Compensation

Serving as a councilmember is a time commitment. Councilmembers attend at least three weeknight meetings or study sessions per month, which typically last an average of three hours. In addition, councilmembers must be familiar with city issues, dedicate time to read council meeting agenda packets (typically 200 to 300 pages), follow up with questions and respond to resident inquiries. Effective Jan. 1, 2024, councilmembers receive an annual salary of \$18,000.

Eligibility

To run for Minnetonka City Council, you must be:

- Eligible to vote in Minnesota
- At least 21 years old upon assuming office
- Not running for another office in the upcoming election
- A Minnetonka resident at least 30 days before the general election

How to file

- Candidate filing is open Aug. 1-15.
- To appear on a ballot, you must file in-person at city hall during the open filing period.
- More information, including a filing packet, is available at minnetonkamn.gov/candidateinfo.



Planning Our Parks
PURGATORY PARK

Planning Our Parks: Purgatory Park Master Plan

Purgatory Park is a 155-acre gem and regional destination for walkers, nature lovers and bird watchers. Throughout the summer, the city will host pop-up events to gather comments and feedback for the master plan.

Visit minnetonkamatters.com/purgatory-park-master-plan to subscribe for updates.

Construction projects across the community

Tonka-Woodcroft Improvements

1 This is year two for street reconstruction, curb and gutter, water and sewer repair and placement across the neighborhood along Minnetonka Boulevard.

Scheduled for completion: Fall 2023



Minnetonka Boulevard Trail

2 A multi-use paved trail along the north side of Minnetonka Boulevard from Woodlawn Avenue to Tonkawood Road. The project will improve safety, connectivity and mobility along the corridor.

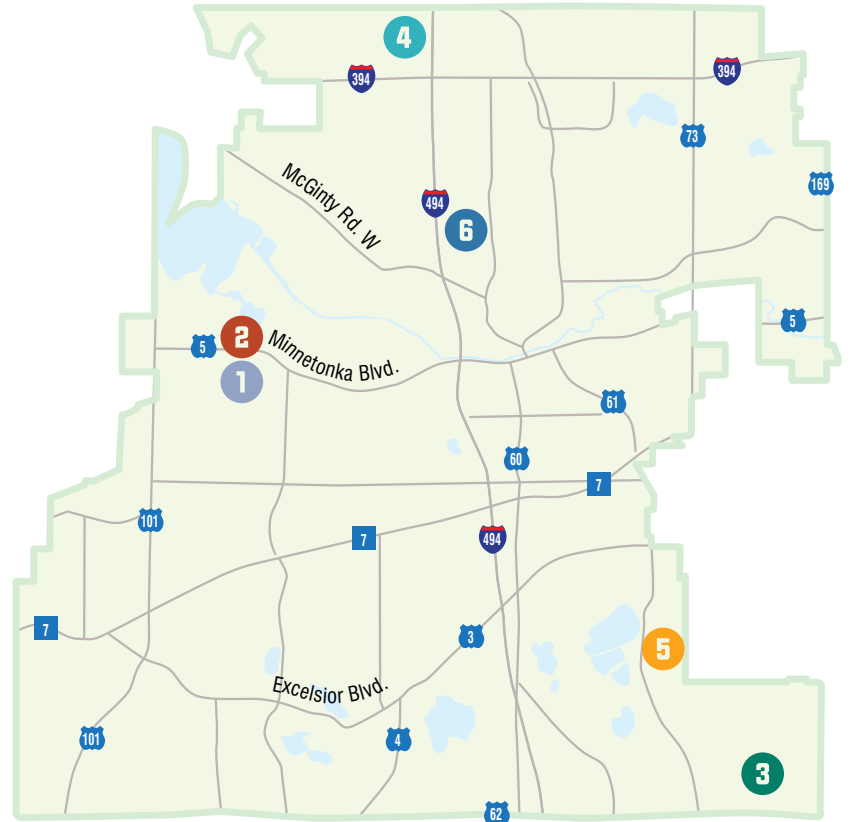
Construction begins: Fall 2023



Opus Bridges Improvements

3 Ten bridges are being replaced along with road and utility rehabilitation. This project is coordinated with Green Line light rail construction underway in the area.

Scheduled for completion: Fall 2023



Carlson/Cheshire Parkway Watermain Rehabilitation

4 Watermain rehabilitation along Carlson and Cheshire Parkways followed by street rehabilitation.

Scheduled for completion: Fall 2023



Smetana Road Trail

5 A multi-use paved trail built in collaboration with the City of Hopkins along Smetana Road between Sanibel Drive and Westbrooke Way.

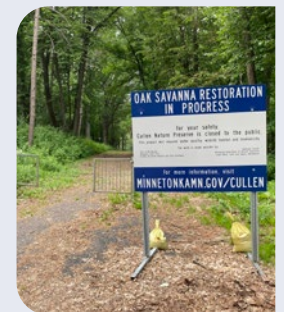
Construction begins: Spring 2023



Cullen Preserve Restoration

6 This is a multi-year habitat restoration project. Current work is focused on restoring oak savanna by removing buckthorn and seeding in grasses and wildflowers. Future work will enhance the wetlands and remaining woodlands on the property.

Restoration: Ongoing



Visit minnetonkamn.gov/projects for details, contacts and subscriber updates.

All city-run projects undergo a public approval process.

New Americans Academy breaks down barriers

Moving to a new country can come with a lot of challenges - and questions.

The Minnetonka Police Department and Minnetonka Community Education partnered this spring to offer a New Americans Academy to help people new to the United States learn more about the community.



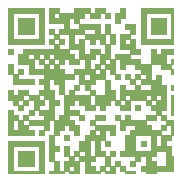
The six-week program introduced participants to law enforcement, helped them understand their rights and shared information about area resources. Topics included visits from Minnetonka police, fire and recreation; information about elections and voting; and connections with local community resources, such as Sojourners and ICA Food Shelf.

"When you're new here, you might not know what those resources are, and by going through this course, you're able to get ... questions asked that you may not have been able to ask before," said Minnetonka Community Engagement Officer Chad Fierst.

For participants, the class was an opportunity to break down barriers, especially with law enforcement, and feel more connected to the community. Melina Arboleda says the experience helped her feel more comfortable with police officers.

"I feel like this program helped me understand police are humans, too. They are friendly. They protect us," Arboleda said. "This is a good program the city has. We can meet each other and we can share."

Listen to Officer Fierst and Arboleda talk more about the experience on the city website.



Register your 2023 Minnetonka Night to Unite party at minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite by July 18! Be sure to bring your camera for our annual photo contest!

Minnetonka police names officer of the year

The Minnetonka Police Department has named Officer Chad Fierst as the 2023 Glen Lake Optimist Officer of the Year.

Fierst currently serves as the department's community engagement officer, helping build bridges between community members and city officials. He recently teamed up with Minnetonka Community Education to create a New Americans Academy for people new to the United States.



"Chad has a positive attitude and is continuously finding ways to better himself and improve police department services," said Administrative Manager Karen Hendrickson. "He truly cares about doing a good job, helping his co-workers and providing a service that is integral to the relationship between police and the community."

Fierst, who joined the department in 2012, has served in a variety of roles with the Minnetonka department, including as a member of the traffic unit, a retail detective and advisor with the Police Reserves.

Congratulations, Officer Fierst!

Pay your utility bill online

Save time and register for the city's utility bill and payment service.



Set up automatic bill payments

Pay your quarterly utility bill automatically on 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 also 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 the automated phone system. Credit cards cannot be processed at city hall.

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

CODE CORNER Sheds and accessory structures

A **shed** is a type of accessory (detached) structure.

No building permit is needed for a shed that is 200 square feet or less, but a shed must:

- Be placed behind the front building line of the house or 50 feet from the front property line; and
- Meet all other minimum require setbacks and maximum area requirements for accessory structures.



An **accessory structure** is an uninhabited structure greater than 200 square feet, located on the same lot, subordinate to and associated with the principal structure. Depending on which district (R-1, R-2 or R-3) you reside in, specific uses rules (permitted, accessory or conditional) will apply.

For clarity and a complete explanation of the rules, code and ordinances that apply to your property, contact the city's planning division at 952-939-8290 or zoning@minnetonkamn.gov.

When you decide to proceed, you will need a permit. Call the building division at 952-939-8394 or email permits@minnetonkamn.gov to confirm you have all of the needed information for the permit application process.



Burwell House Tours

Free guided tours of the historic Charles H. Burwell House are available.

Tour Schedule

Now-Aug. 29:

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

Sept. 2-30:

Saturdays and Sundays, 1 - 4 p.m.

For more information about tours, visit minnetonkamn.gov/burwellhouse.



Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.

Now-Sept. 26

NEW LOCATION!

Ridgedale Commons
12590 Ridgedale Drive

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket for more information.

Steve Malecha set to retire in June

The 32-year veteran hangs it up this summer

The 1991 Halloween blizzard is a moment many Minnesotans remember, but few people had their entire lives changed by the storm. Steve Malecha is one of those folks. Thirty-two years ago, he was working as a cement contractor. His company laid him off due to the unprecedented weather.



"Working on the road, we always talked about working for a city," Malecha said. "I looked in the newspaper, saw the City of Minnetonka and I applied."

Out of 372 applicants, Malecha was selected. Malecha spent his first winter in Minnetonka working maintenance at the ice arena but quickly transitioned to the street division.

From curb and gutter repair, utility digs and, of course, snowplowing, Malecha has had to wear many hats over the last three decades. "You name it, I've done it."

In 2010, Malecha was promoted to street field supervisor. Today, he's in charge of 18 public works employees, managing schedules and assigning duties.

What's the most difficult time of year for scheduling? You guessed it: winter.

"When we have a snowstorm...I make sure every route is full, and every cul-de-sac route is full," Malecha said.

Even with all that responsibility Malecha doesn't really think of himself as a boss, though. "I never looked as myself as a supervisor," he said. "I'm just a guy that keeps stuff somewhat organized."

That sense of humility has made an impression on his coworkers and managers. "Steve's a real easy going guy," said Public Works Director Will Manchester. "The crews love him, and they work well together."

Nevertheless, Minnetonka Public Works will continue their work without Malecha, and while the next person will, as Manchester says, have big shoes to fill, Steve's humility has provided great opportunities for the next group of leaders and leaves the city in a good place.

Malecha, on the other hand, is looking forward to retirement. It will include extended trips at his family cabin. He'll take special note of the first snowfall this winter.

"I won't have to get my boots on and clear the drive at 4 a.m.," Malecha said. "For the first time in years, I can just let it snow."

MORC is hard at work at Lone Lake Park

While many Twin Cities mountain bikers dream of escaping to destination trail systems, access to local, purpose-built trails offers a fun and easy way to keep the legs fresh, close to home.

Completed in November 2020, the five miles of singletrack mountain bike trails at Lone Lake Park are helping grow the sport and build something new.

“Access builds community,” said Eric Ekstrand, dirt boss of the local Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) chapter. “And in a powerful way, the Lone Lake Park mountain bike trail has done just that. It’s difficult to quantify, but the new trail has brought a community together.”

The City of Minnetonka and the local chapter of MORC maintain and manage the trail. Approximately 160 dedicated build volunteers contributed more than 1,000 hours to the trail construction process.



Last year, 66 MORC volunteers contributed nearly 500 hours toward trail maintenance and 200 hours for park restoration.

If time and sweat weren’t enough, these same volunteers partnered with Unmapped Brewery in Glen Lake to create the

Cycle Unmapped bike group with bikers of all ages and skill levels. Since opening the trail, Cycle Unmapped has grown to more than 70 weekly bikers who meet on Thursday nights to ride the trail.

The city appreciates the dedication of all our Minnetonka MORC volunteers. “Without the work of our partner volunteers, none of this would be possible,” said Minnetonka Program Manager Jesse Izquierdo.



Interested in getting involved or learning more about the trail?

- morcmtnb.org
- minnetonkamn.gov/lonelakembt
- Cycle Unmapped on Facebook



Register for fall soccer by July 14

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Fall Youth Soccer League is a great opportunity for kids ages 5-14 to learn the sport, make friends and have fun.

Separate boys and girls teams are formed by age and desired practice day and location. All teams play games on Saturdays, and ages 8-14 play an additional game each Tuesday or Thursday. Practices begin the week of Aug. 21, and the season will conclude by Oct. 14.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register or call 952-939-8203 to register by July 14.

Volunteer coaches needed

If you have soccer experience and enjoy working with children, call 952-939-8203 for more information.

Help us celebrate and protect pollinators

In 2022, the City of Minnetonka was named one of five Monarch Champion cities in North America through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program. Cities achieve this title by completing 24 or more action steps that educate and engage residents, protect and create habitat, and enact local policy changes.

Help us build on this effort by taking steps on your own property. Take the Polli-Neighbor Pledge!

TAKE THE POLLI-NEIGHBOR PLEDGE



- 1** Choose diverse native plants to provide food for pollinators in all their life stages
- 2** Include milkweed - it's the only food monarch caterpillars can eat
- 3** Use fewer yard chemicals - they can harm or kill pollinators
- 4** Provide winter habitat, such as leaf piles and bare soil patches



Join us to celebrate pollinators!

July is Minnetonka's seventh-annual Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month, and we've planned some great events to celebrate!

Planting for Pollinators workshop

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30-8 p.m. at Ridgedale Library. Natural Resources staff will show how to help pollinators thrive through planting! Visit bit.ly/42u2Sta for details.

Advance registration is required.

Stories and Art with Phyllis Root

Tuesday, July 18, 10 a.m. at Ridgedale Library. Phyllis Root is the author of "Planting a Pocket of Prairie" and other delightful children's books. Learn more at bit.ly/3NYG3cC.

Natural Resources at the Farmers Market

Tuesday, July 25, 3-7 p.m. - Meet Natural Resources staff at the Farmers Market to learn how pollinators connect to the food web.

"Wings of Life" movie screening and pollinator art activity

Saturday, July 29, 11 a.m. at Ridgedale Library. Learn more at bit.ly/3O2JZca.

Anytime - Become a citizen scientist!

Contribute to research about butterflies simply by submitting your monarch photos! Learn more at bit.ly/3nPWZHI.

Visit our partners throughout July

Big thanks to our partners who will provide information and activities this month

Ridgedale Library

12601 Ridgedale Drive

Base Camp Coffee & Provisions and Unmapped Brewing Co.

14625 Excelsior Blvd.

Lakewinds Food Co-op

17501 Minnetonka Blvd.

Tonkadale Greenhouse

3739 Tonkawood Road

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** Fourth of July, city offices closed
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 11** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 11** Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 13** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 15** Summer in the Commons, 10 a.m.
- 17** City Council & Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 24** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 31** City Council & Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/participate to learn how to also take part 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.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

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952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

Mayor

Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907
bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov

Council

At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399
dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov

Kimberly Wilburn 952-222-8142
kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 1: Brian Kirk 952-451-6251
bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
rschack@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 3: Bradley Schaeppi 612-770-7447
bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670
kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov

City Manager

Mike Funk 952-939-8200
mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

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.



July 11

Eden Prairie Community Band

sponsored by



July 18
22nd Row

sponsored by

avidor
Minnetonka



July 25

Westwind Swing Band

sponsored by

WESTRIDGE
OF MINNETONKA

