

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Tracking the budget: Your tax dollars at work

Preparing Minnetonka’s city budget is an eight-month process that starts with the five-year capital improvements program and wraps up with adoption of the final budget and tax levy in December.

To create the budget, the city council and staff use data to ensure the budget aligns with the city’s strategic priorities. The goal is to provide innovative, responsive and quality city services while maintaining our Aaa bond rating.

RECENT BUDGET INVESTMENTS

Improved fire response

The city has invested in improving its fire response, reducing the time a crew arrives on scene. In 2022, the department hired nine new full-time firefighters to create a 24-hour-staffed department with support from 70 paid-on-call firefighters. The department staffs two stations full-time, providing widespread coverage across the city. Since last year, the department’s response time has been reduced by approximately one minute.



Preservation of natural environment

The city council has invested in preserving the natural environment by setting aside park stewardship dollars to fund restoration. These dollars come from the city’s operations budget and include the city’s new forestry mower for eliminating invasive buckthorn.



Infrastructure investment

Capital improvement funds are a major part of the budget. The street improvement fund is 13 percent of the city’s total tax levy. Capital improvement projects are essential for maintaining roads, water, sewer, storm sewer and the equipment necessary to maintain them.



A more sustainable future

Sustainability is one of the city council’s five strategic priorities. The city has installed EV chargers at city facilities, offering residents an accessible option to charge their electric vehicles.



Recreation and wellness

In support of a healthy community, Minnetonka continues to invest in our parks and trails with new playgrounds at Meadows Park, Gro-Tonka Park and Linner Park. The city council also uses dedicated franchise fees to maintain Minnetonka’s extensive trail network.



Looking ahead to the 2024 budget

The bulk of the city’s operations budget is driven by set costs – personnel, insurance, utilities and fuel. In recent years, COVID-response funds have helped minimize inflationary pressure and lessen tax levy increases. The city must build back its levy to meet future budgetary needs.

Learn more and share feedback at minnetonkamatters.com and future city council meetings. 

Aug. 21

Study session
2024 preliminary levy

Sept. 18

Public meeting
Anticipated set of
2024 preliminary levy

November

Property owners
receive proposed
2024 tax notices

Nov. 20

Study session
Discuss 2024
budget proposal

Dec. 4

Public meeting
Council adopts
final levy

City to host catalytic converter marking event

Minnetonka Police and Public Works departments are teaming up to host a marking event to deter the increasingly common theft of catalytic converters.



Wednesday, Aug. 23
3-7 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.



All vehicle makes and models are eligible to participate. Appointments are required.

Online registration opens Monday, Aug. 7 at minnetonkamn.gov/catalytic-converter.

During the event, the city will use special stickers and etching paint to mark converters with unique identification numbers. The marking kits are provided through a state program administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Filing now open for Minnetonka City Council

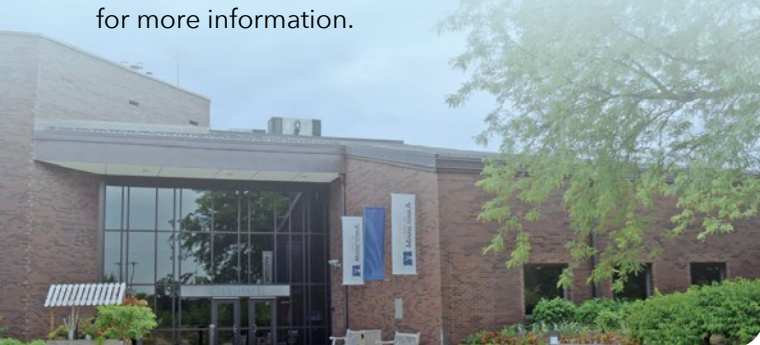
Candidate filing for November's four city council ward seats is open

Tuesday, Aug. 1 through Tuesday, Aug. 15.

To appear as a candidate on this year's ballot, you must file in-person at city hall during business hours. The required Affidavit of Candidacy form is available on the city website and at city hall.

Any candidate who wishes to withdraw their name after having submitted their Affidavit of Candidacy must do so by Thursday, Aug. 17 at 5 p.m. After that date, candidates may not withdraw, and their name will be printed on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/candidateinfo for more information.



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Electric vehicles



Feel
The power of a battery operated lawnmower



Hear
How affordable these items can be



Sept. 5
3-7 p.m.
Ridgedale Commons,
12590 Ridgedale Drive,
and JCPenney parking lot

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK

Enjoy theater, music and movies in the picturesque setting of the Civic Center Park outdoor amphitheater at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.! All events are free; bring a blanket or lawn chair.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a wide variety of music for the whole family every Tuesday evening 6:30-8 p.m.

Aug. 1 Jeff Dayton
(Former Glen Campbell Band leader)  sponsored by **ORCHARDS OF MINNETONKA**
INDEPENDENT | ASSISTED LISTING | MEMBER CARE

Aug. 8 River City Jazz Orchestra
(Classic big band)  sponsored by **MANDARIN YANG**

Aug. 15 Sawyer's Dream
(Vocal harmony, Americana)

Aug. 22 Salsa del Soul
(Nine-piece Latin Salsa)  sponsored by **MINNWEST BANK**

Aug. 29 Dirty Shorts Brass Band
(New Orleans-style jazz)  sponsored by **PET STUFF**

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring your family and friends for a fun night of cinema under the stars! Movies take place approximately 15 minutes after sunset.

Thursday, Aug. 31

(approximately 8:15 p.m.)

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

Friday, Sept. 8

(approximately 7:55 p.m.)

Puss In Boots: The Last Wish

Friday, Sept. 15

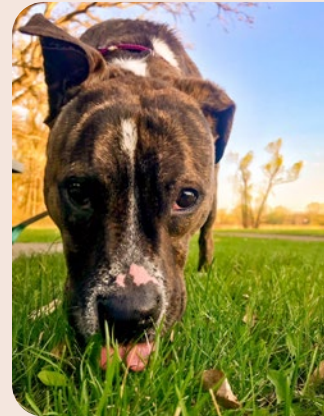
(approximately 7:40 p.m.)

Minions: The Rise of Gru

Pick up after your pets

Pets are a wonderful part of the family, but their waste can be a serious problem.

Pet waste left on the ground is picked up by runoff (rain, snowmelt and other flowing water) and carried into storm sewers that lead to local lakes, streams and wetlands. Bacteria, viruses and parasites in pet waste pose a health threat to people, pets and wildlife. The waste also feeds algae, reducing water quality and appearance.



There's a simple solution:

- Keep track of your dogs so you know where they poop.
- Bring bags when you walk, or grab one from a MuttMitt station (there are more than 60 in Minnetonka parks and along trails).
- Pick up the poop wherever your pups go and put it in the trash.

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

Plants and Pollinators Camp

Aug. 23-25, 6-7:30 p.m. at Lone Lake Park

Register at minnetonkamn.gov/register; course fee is \$79

This outdoor camp teaches young nature and garden enthusiasts (ages 10-14) how to design a mini-planting that helps pollinators flourish.

Volunteer with us!

Try out new skills and meet fellow Minnetonka residents working to protect our natural environment. Fall events begin in mid-September. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents for specific dates, locations and registration.

Buckthorn Workshops

Wednesday, Sept. 13 OR Thursday, Oct. 5

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

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 or call 952-988-8400.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Night to Unite, 6 p.m.
- 2 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 14 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Summer in the Commons, 2-4 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Joint City Council, EDAC and Planning Commission, 5:30 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.



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ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Register for fall recreation fun

Registration Begins

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 8 a.m.
GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMS

Thursday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m.
SENIOR PROGRAMS

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 8 a.m. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register
ICE SKATING LESSONS to browse the program options.



Share your feedback on these community projects

Community Facilities Study

The study will analyze current uses and future opportunities of four city recreation facilities: The Marsh, Williston Fitness Center, Minnetonka Community Center and Glen Lake Activity Center.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Help the city draft its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan as we prepare for current and future climate impacts and work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Purgatory Park Master Plan

Plan the future of Purgatory Park, including its trails and open spaces. Take our survey and add a pin to our map through September.



Visit MinnnetonkaMatters.com
to share your thoughts and ideas.