

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Voters keep ranked choice voting

Minnetonka voters supported keeping ranked choice voting for city municipal elections.

Minnetonka voters were asked whether to repeal ranked choice voting for municipal elections and reinstate the use of a primary (if needed) and general election.

A majority of Minnetonka voters (58.66 percent) voted no on the ballot question, supporting the continued use of ranked choice voting for city elections.

Ranked choice voting is a system where voters rank their candidates in order of preference. It was originally enacted in Minnetonka for the 2021 election.

2023 ELECTION

Four councilmembers elected to city council

Minnetonka voters elected two new members to the Minnetonka City Council. Newcomers Patsy Foster-Bolton (Ward 1) and Paula Ramaley (Ward 3) join incumbents Rebecca Schack (Ward 2) and Kissy C. Coakley (Ward 4) on the council.

The councilmembers will begin serving four-year terms in January.

WARD 1	WARD 2
Patsy Foster-Bolton	Rebecca Schack
1,634 votes (53.91%)	1,568 votes (62.07%)
WARD 3*	WARD 4
Paula Ramaley	Kissy C. Coakley
1,366 votes (40.62%)	1,693 votes (51.51%)

*Ward 3 City Council Candidate David Haeg requested a recount because the margin between candidates was closer than .5 percent. The recount was held after the Minnetonka Memo went to print. Find results on minnetonkamn.gov/news.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections for detailed results.

Café Anna Lisa open at The Marsh



The Marsh is excited to announce the opening of Café Anna Lisa.

The café offers a breakfast and lunch menu that features authentic and delicious homemade soups, fresh seasonal salads, "the best lasagna in the city" and a mix of mouthwatering baked goods.

"Our members have been asking for a restaurant since we opened in May, so we're really pleased to partner with local chef Lisa O'Connell to offer a healthy dining option after a good workout or a place to meet up with friends," said Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea.

The café is open to the public weekdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and features an elevated, fast casual menu. Guests can access the café entrance on the building's west side.

"I am so excited to share with you the opening Café Anna Lisa at The Marsh," said O'Connell, who is known for her Italian pasta sauces, Sauce Anna Lisa. "Sharing food is the easiest way to fill a stomach and reach a soul."

More information at minnetonkamn.gov/themarsh.

2024 budget focuses on public safety

The council will vote on adoption of the final 2024 budget and tax levy. The 2024 budget and levy reflect the council's commitment to public safety by beginning the multiyear implementation of the public safety master plan.

The budget includes adding four police officers, one police sergeant and three full-time firefighter technicians. The new positions will help cover growing call volumes, ensure training meets professional standards and improve emergency response in the northern part of the city. The 2024 budget and levy would also restore funding to the city's capital improvement program (CIP) to prepandemic levels.

In September, the council set the maximum 2024 preliminary tax levy at a no-more-than 7.75 percent increase. The council is anticipated to adopt the final levy Dec. 4.

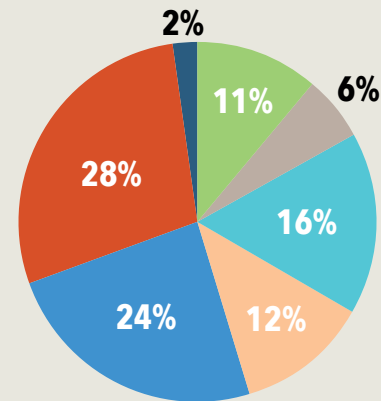
What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median-valued Minnetonka home (\$496,500 for taxes payable in 2024) will see a monthly increase of \$10.50. The exact impact on specific properties depends on the assessed market value of each home. The numbers do not include any proposed increases from other taxing jurisdictions, such as the county and local school district.

Where your money goes

The pie chart shows how the city's current dollars fund the core Minnetonka services. It reflects the city's general, capital improvements and debt services funds.

- Culture and Recreation **6%**
- Debt Service **2%**
- Economic Development and Housing **16%**
- General Government **12%**
- Parks and Natural Resources **11%**
- Public Safety **24%**
- Streets and Highways **28%**



Learn more and provide input

A public meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers to discuss the proposed 2024 budget and final levy.



Learn more about the city's budget process and submit feedback at minnetonkamatters.com/minnetonka-budget.

Winter FARMERS MARKET

The winter farmers market is the perfect place to shop for the holidays! The market features desserts, jams, soaps, cards, crafts, gifts and so much more. Plus, enjoy live music while you shop.

We accept SNAP/EBT and match the first \$10 with Market Bucks, and Produce Market Bucks.

For more information visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket or email farmersmarket@minnetonkamn.gov.



Saturdays
Dec. 9 & Feb. 10
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

City of Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Boards and Commission openings for 2024

Interested in how local government affects change? Looking for a way to serve your community? Serve on a board or commission in 2024 and beyond. Applicants will be reviewed by city council and interviewed in early 2024. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions to learn more about open positions. Applications close Jan. 1.

Board/Commission	Description	Vacancies in 2024
Planning Commission	Advises council on matters related to zoning, building and more.	1
DEI Commission	Advises the council on efforts related to diversity, equity and inclusion	9
Economic Development Advisory Commission	Advises the council regarding economic development and housing redevelopment matters	2
Park Board	Advises council on issues related to parks and trails	1 Student position
Senior Advisory Board	Advises the council on issues related to seniors in Minnetonka	3



Serve on the DEI Commission

Recruitment for the new DEI Commission is now open. Part of the city's strategic profile is to build and foster an inclusive community. The DEI Commission will assist in this mission by advising the City Council on matters related to diversity, equity and inclusion. The committee will be made up of nine community members. Council is looking for residents with a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences, including educators, business owners and more. Learn more about the committee and apply at minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions.

Serve as an election judge

Help ensure a smooth election process for voters by becoming an election judge.

The city is currently seeking civic-minded individuals to serve as election judges for the upcoming elections:

- Presidential nomination primary (March 5)
- Hennepin County Commissioner District 6 special primary (April 30)/general (May 14)

Election judges are a paid position. Applications will be accepted Dec. 11-Jan. 1 at minnetonkamn.gov/jobs.

Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/electionjudges.



GREAT MINNETONKA

YETI HUNT

Dec. 23-Jan. 7 • Big Willow Park

The annual Great Minnetonka Yeti Hunt is on!

Over winter break, stuffed Yeti will be hanging around Big Willow Park. Find each Yeti, unscramble the letters and solve a riddle for a chance to win a prize.



Watch for more hunting info at minnetonkamn.gov/yetihunt.

Enroll in the Minnetonka Academy

Get an inside look into how your city operates at the 2024 Minnetonka Academy. This free program helps residents go behind-the-scenes and learn more about their city. Topics include general government, public safety, recreation and Tonka Town development.



2024 Minnetonka Academy

- Tuesdays, Jan. 30-Feb. 27 from 6-8 p.m.
- Register (#2020201) at minnetonkamn.gov/register by Tuesday, Jan. 23
- Questions? Contact Sarissa Falk at 952-939-8211

Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

Dec. 23- Feb. 19 (weather permitting)

Lace up your skates at our area parks. Outdoor warming houses are available at:

- **Minnetonka rinks:** Boulder Creek, Covington, Glen Lake, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill parks
- **Hopkins rinks:** Burnes, Oakes, Central, Harley, Interlachen and Valley parks

SKATING RINK HOURS

Monday-Friday	4:30-9 p.m.
Saturdays	Noon-9 p.m.
Sundays	Noon-7 p.m.
Holidays	See the website

For weather related updates, rink conditions and closings, please call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355. For more information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/outdoor-ice-rinks.






SAUNA — in the — PARKS

Ages 18 and older

New recreation program invites you to heat up and take a plunge.

Sauna in the Parks will run from Dec. 27-Jan. 2 at Shady Oak Beach.

Ages 18 and older can register for a 1.5-hour session in the Voyager Mobile Sauna, equipped with a wood fire stove, outdoor bonfire and overall glamping ambiance. The lake will be open to registered guests for an optional cold plunge.



“Our recreation department is always cooking up creative ways of engaging our community and getting people using our parks in the winter,” said Recreation Program Manager Jesse Izquierdo. “Activities that build community and are focused on health and wellness are seeing a surge in popularity.”

While saunas have been used for thousands of years, they’re experiencing a resurgence as people see the physical benefits of the practice. “Saunaing” is a fun way to relax with friends while reducing stress, easing pain and improving cardiovascular health.

“Ultimately, we’re hoping this will entice more people to get outside in the winter, embrace the north and build community,” Izquierdo said.

- Individuals and groups may register
- \$25/person (space is limited and will fill fast).
- Daily sauna sessions vary; each session capped at seven people
- Indoor changing facilities will be available
- More info and register at minnetonkamn.gov/saunaintheparks

Fun facts about ‘saunaing’



Saunas are small rooms heated to between 180-195 degrees Fahrenheit.



The Mayans used sweathouses 3,000 years ago.



In Finland, one in three residents regularly use saunas.

*A sauna may not be suitable for everyone. Please consult your physician prior to use.

WINNERS

2023 Minnetonka Annual Photo Contest

Thank you to all who took the time to participate in this year's contest!
After weeks of submissions and voting, the winners have been selected:



Uniquely Minnetonka

Mary Lynn Johnson
"Doubly Blessed Living in Minnetonka"

2nd place

Tara Knife
"ChooChoo Sunset"

3rd place

Levi Black
"Winter Wonderland"

Lifestyle

Mary Berg
"First Father Daughter Fishing Competition"

2nd place

Avery Rich
"Retro MG"

3rd place

Diane Palmersheim
"Simple Pleasures"

Mary Berg says this photo represents pure joy. Her husband is an avid fisherman and this was the first time he got to share his passion with his daughter.





Landscape

Peter Cangialosi
"Dawn over Minnetonka"

2nd place

Laura Egan
"Grays bay Rainbow"

Tied for 3rd place

Cornell Anderson
"Morning Frost"

Kait Taha
"I'll be sittin' when the evenin' comes"

Peter Cangialosi says he is thrilled to win with this photo. It was a quick photo taken from his patio with his cell phone, with no editing.

Animals

Michael Kennedy
"Owl vs. squirrel eye to eye"

2nd place

Molly Nackerud
"Sup"

3rd place

William Thompson
"Mama and babies"



You can view finalist photos on the city's Facebook albums page. Winners will be featured throughout the year on the city website, social media and in print publications. Category winners will also be recognized at the Dec. 18 city council meeting.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m.
- 9** Tree Lighting at the Commons, 4:30 p.m.
- 11** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 12** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 14** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 18** City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 25** Christmas Holiday, city offices closed
- 28** Planning Commission, 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.



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Discover winter fun with Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation

Registration for winter-spring programs opens:

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 8 a.m.

General recreation programs and ice skating lessons

Thursday, Dec. 14, 8 a.m.

Senior programs



Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register to browse the programs and register online or call between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

General Programs	952-939-8203
Ice Skating Lessons	952-939-8310
Senior Programs	952-939-8393

TREE LIGHTING AT THE COMMONS

Gather your friends and family to kick off the season with a tree lighting ceremony at Ridgedale Commons.



DOG COSTUME CONTEST

Saturday, Dec. 9
Ridgedale Commons
12590 Ridgedale Drive

Hot cocoa, crafts, The Corn Dog Company food truck, fire performer, music and more	4:30-6 p.m.
Candy Cane Hunt	5 p.m.
Tree Lighting	5:30 p.m.
Dog Costume contest winners announced	5:45 p.m.