

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



FROM QUANTICO TO MINNETONKA 10-week academy offers a unique perspective on policing

This fall, Minnetonka Police Capt. Rachel Meehan learned firsthand that when it comes to policing, borders don't really change the job.

"All of the departments, we have the same issues - whether it's recruitment, retention or keeping our officers safe and healthy."

Meehan recently graduated from the FBI National Academy, a 10-week leadership program featuring senior law enforcement officers from around the world. Hosted at FBI headquarters, the academy is a chance to network with and learn from senior police leaders, as well as receive training from FBI instructors on current issues in law enforcement.

During her time at the academy, Meehan attended graduate-level classes on topics related to community engagement, breaking barriers, conflict resolution and critical incident decision-making. The classes were an opportunity to share ideas, techniques and experiences for improving policing.

"They encouraged everyone to have a say and talk about our own experiences," Meehan said.

The FBI National Academy is the world's premier leadership course for law enforcement with less than 1 percent of officers nationwide invited to attend, said Chief Scott Boerboom.

For Meehan, the academy was an opportunity to connect with other female police leaders, still a relatively small demographic in law enforcement. It also reinforced how well Minnetonka police responds to current issues, thanks to our high-quality staff and supportive community.



FBI Director Christopher Wray, left, congratulates Minnetonka Police Capt. Rachel Meehan as one of 198 graduates of the recent FBI National Academy.

While the FBI covers the cost of the training, the experience is a big commitment for attendees and departments. However, Boerboom said the opportunity to network, connect and learn from other officers cannot be rivaled.

"The knowledge and the exposure to leaders, like Rachel, throughout the entire world is extremely valuable," he said. "What she brings back to our community puts us in a great position."

Meehan is the third current Minnetonka officer to graduate from the academy, alongside Boerboom and Sgt. Steve Kniss.



SOUNDS OF BLACKNESS

Feb. 15 | 6:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center



Limited tickets available.

Five ways to build healthier soil

1 Don't leave soil bare, especially on slopes. Exposed soil erodes easily, polluting the air and water. To hold it in place, plant native perennials that grow deep roots.



2 Add organic compost to support the whole soil ecosystem, rather than using fertilizers - they only feed plants.



3 Protect soil and the roots and living things within it: don't dig, scrape or otherwise disturb the soil unless you really need to.



4 Avoid pesticides, which harm soil organisms as well as pests. Healthy soil produces healthier plants, which can fight off more pests and diseases.



5 Use road salt properly and sparingly. Salt can dry the soil and limit plants' ability to absorb the water and nutrients they need to grow.



Absentee voting continues for presidential primary

The Minnesota presidential nomination primary election is Tuesday, March 5. Vote for major-party candidates absentee by mail or in person.



Apply for an absentee ballot online to vote by mail.



Vote absentee in-person at city hall
Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Direct balloting opens
Feb. 16.



Extended hours
Saturday, March 2
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Monday, March 4
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections to learn more.

NexTrex recycling update

Plastic bag recycling has been so popular the city has already received a new park bench made from recycled material. However, some items are considered contaminated and cannot be accepted. Please follow this guide as you use bins at city hall, the Williston Fitness Center and Cub Foods.

Common Accepted Items	Contaminated Items Not Accepted
Clean bread bags	Candy wrappers/bags
Clean produce bags	Crinkly snack bags
Case overwrap	Frozen food bags
Clean cereal box liners	Grape bags
Clean mulch/soil bags	Pet food bags
Bubble wrap	Dirty mulch/soil bags

Register your rental property with the city

Minnetonka has a new program to better support rental property landlords and tenants with information and resources. The program requires a free annual registration and registered properties receive a certificate to post in rental units. The ordinance also requires all rental units have an appointed rental manager. Register your rental property beginning Feb. 3 and learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/rentalregistration.



Electric Vehicle Workshop, Feb. 29

Join your friends and neighbors for electric vehicle workshop at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29. Jukka Kukkonen of Shift2Electric will talk about the latest technologies at the Minnetonka Community Center. If you own an EV, drive it there and show it off after the event.



Sign up for adult softball

Registration for the city's many adult softball leagues begins in February. Play starts in April with co-rec, men's single games, men's doubleheaders and women's leagues.



REGISTRATION OPENS

Feb. 5

Returning teams

Feb. 12

New teams

Start or grow your business with us

Minnetonka partners with Hennepin County's Elevate HennepinSM to bring expert advising and business resources to Minnetonka businesses at no cost.



Meet with an Open to Business advisor to help you get the assistance you're looking for. Open office hours are available virtually on the second Monday of every month. Assistance is available in Spanish and English.

“ I am so grateful for this program and the opportunity to get help expanding my business. The level of support and thoughtfulness is very impactful, and I know they genuinely care.

Tai Nguyen, owner of KT Nails in Minnetonka



Learn more at [opentobusinessmn.org](https://www.opentobusinessmn.org).

Make your dream home remodel a reality!

WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Sunday, Feb. 25
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

FREE EVENT

Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

Are you contemplating a remodeling project for your home in 2024 but aren't sure where to start? Join us at the free West Metro Home Remodeling Fair.

More than 80 exhibitors will showcase the latest trends and will be available to answer questions. There are also free remodeling consultations, seminars and much more. Don't forget to bring photos.

Learn more at [homeremodelingfair.com](https://www.homeremodelingfair.com).

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Kids Fest, 11 a.m.
- 5 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 10 Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m.
- 12 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 19 Presidents Day, city offices closed
- 22 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair, 10:30 a.m.
- 26 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Electric Vehicle Workshop, 7 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

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
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: Patsy Foster-Bolton 952-491-0407
pbolton@minnetonkamn.gov

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

Ward 3: Paula Ramaley 952-222-0105
pramaley@minnetonkamn.gov

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

City Manager

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

KIDS' FEST

FREE
EVENT

Sunday, Feb. 4
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center



Dog sled rides • Ice sculptures • Face painting
• Horse-drawn trolley rides • And more!

The event includes both indoor and outdoor activities. Please dress accordingly.



Stop by the Winter Farmers Market for 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.



Saturday, Feb. 10
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket