

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



May is BIKE MONTH

Celebrate all things biking with these upcoming events and activities

Bike Month BINGO

May 1-31

Bike and Roll to School Day

Wednesday, May 8

National Bike Week

May 13-19

National Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 17

Mountain Bike Opener

Kick off the start of the mountain bike season at Lone Lake Park. The city and the Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) will offer a day of bike fun, featuring vendors, mountain bike demos, group rides and clinics.

Saturday, May 18
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lone Lake Park
5624 Shady Oak Road



Completing community connections

Minnetonka's Trail Improvement Plan prioritizes future development

During the winter that barely was, utility work continued on the Hopkins Crossroad Trail. Now, as construction season gets moving, the new trail will take shape on the mile-long segment from Cedar Lake Road to Wayzata Boulevard. Once completed, it will help connect three nearby schools, bus stops and the Cedar Lake Village Center. That's the point, according to Matt Kumka, the city's parks and trails project manager.

"Minnetonka's Trail Improvement Plan helps us see the big picture, which is to give people more daily transportation options beyond cars and trucks," said Kumka. "But we also use it to identify and prioritize specific segments that are easier to construct and are likely to be heavily used."

The city's plan is an inventory of dozens of possible trail segments. Each one is ranked based on a range of factors including cost effectiveness and community access. So, while construction continues on Hopkins Crossroad, design and site preparation is already underway on projects scheduled for Minnetonka and Excelsior Boulevards.

"Those projects also rank high on our list because they follow heavily traveled roads and help complete important community connections in the Groveland and Glen Lake areas," Kumka said.

Minnetonka established a dedicated source to fund trail and sidewalk construction when it adopted a franchise fee in 2018. The fee generates approximately \$1.8 million each year. The city council is scheduled to review the fund later this year.

View the Minnetonka Trail Improvement Plan at minnetonkamn.gov/trails.



Vote May 14 at Minnetonka Community Center

A special election for Hennepin County Commissioner District 6 will be Tuesday, May 14. The special election will fill a vacancy on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The entire city of Minnetonka is represented by Hennepin County District 6.

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

- **Hours:** 7 a.m.-8 p.m. If you're in line at 8 p.m. you're allowed to vote.
- **Location:** Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- **Ballot:** View a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
- **Registration:** Voters can register at the polls with proper proof of residence.

VOTE ABSENTEE BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- Vote absentee in person May 6-13, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the community center
- Extended hours are Saturday, May 11 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Monday, May 13 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Mail-in ballots will also be accepted at the city hall front desk up until 8 p.m. on election night.

All Minnetonka voters will vote at the **Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**, for in-person absentee voting and on Election Day.

For information about the special election, visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections.

The 2024 August primary and November general elections will return to your normal voting place. More info: pollfinder.sos.mn.us

Dulac receives Spirit of Minnetonka award

At the City of Minnetonka, Network Administrator Jeff Dulac is the go-to guy. His expertise, can-do attitude and myriad of accomplishments earned him the 2023 Spirit of Minnetonka award.

"Jeff is so deserving of this award," said Public Works Director Will Manchester. "He's one of the most committed people I've ever seen at the city."

Dulac started in 1995 as a 16-year-old cablecaster. Two years later, he joined the Management Information Systems Department. He jokes he knows all the secrets around the city, having been involved in nearly every infrastructure and IT project over his 28 years.

"It's not uncommon, because of his years of service, for individuals to say, 'Hmmm. I'm not sure where to find that. I'm going to call Jeff,'" said IT Manager Patty Latham.

Today his focus includes maintaining the city network and project management for the seven-member IT division. He most recently helped get the new public safety facility and The Marsh on the city's IT infrastructure.

Dulac appreciates the family environment he's known at Minnetonka, as well as the opportunities to grow professionally.

"My job has many facets from audio/visual to network management," he said. "Each day, the city has given me the ability to innovate, learn and take reasonable risks while working with current technologies. The value that the city places on technology is key and that is what keeps me engaged throughout the months, days and years."

The Spirit of Minnetonka recipient is chosen each year by the Employees in Action committee. Dulac and nine other employees were recognized for their achievements at the annual employee recognition event in March.



Jeff Dulac

ABOVE AND BEYOND
Denise Heimerman | Administration
EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE
Brad Rolling | Fire Department
INNOVATION
Det. Samantha Thompson | Police Department
LEADERSHIP
Kelly O'Dea | Recreation Services
TEAMWORK
The Marsh Team | Recreation Services

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

WORKSHOPS



Resilient Minnetonka

Beautify your yard, create habitat for pollinators and improve resilience to climate change and other stressors. Learn more and apply at minnetonkamaters.com/resilient-minnetonka.



In-Person Workshop

Garlic Mustard

Tuesday, May 7

6:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

Get tips and strategies to control this invasive plant on your property. Advance registration required at minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Habitat Restoration

Work with others to reduce the impact of invasive species in our parks, and try out new skills you can apply on your own property.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents for specific dates and locations.

Tree Stewards

Learn about tree biology, planting and maintenance, and use your skills in city parks. Volunteers will meet on May 4 and commit at least 12 hours this year. Contact Diana Preisen at dpreisen@minnetonkamn.gov.



Step to it CHALLENGE

Sign up for the free Step to it Challenge and jump start your fitness!

Join Minnetonka for a friendly competition across Hennepin County. A free, four-week challenge for people of all ages and abilities. Get motivated to move and track your activities with your community.

- Challenge is May 1-28.
- **Sign up online** at step toit.org.
- **Track your activities** online or manually. Convert almost any activity to steps when you enter it in your activity account.
- **Follow along with your community.** The top stepper in each age group wins Minnesota Twins tickets.
- **Build healthy habits** and stay active all year long.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 The Marsh Anniversary, 9 a.m.
- 6 City Council & EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 11 Reuse Swap Event, 10 a.m.
- 13 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Special Election Day, 7 a.m.
- 16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 City Council & EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 21 Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday, city offices closed

City meetings are held in person. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings to learn how to participate 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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 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

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Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670
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City Manager
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Swap out those old shorts and shoes at the Reuse Swap

Get a brand new spring wardrobe at the Minnetonka Reuse Swap Event on May 11. Join us from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center and build a new look from gently used items that are freely given or exchanged. Have items you want to share? Sign up at minnetonkamn.gov/swapsignup.



DETAILS

- Gently used clothing and shoes only
- Five box donation limit
- Linens, towels, undergarments and swimsuits will not be accepted.

Register for these popular programs at minnetonkamn.gov/register

Safety Camp
Wednesday, June 26

Park Adventures
Week-long programs
June 10-July 18



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

May 3-4, Minnetonka Public Works | hennepin.us/collectionevents

Save the Date

EVENT	DAY	LOCATION
Drop-Off Day	June 1	Minnetonka Public Works
Farmers Market	Tuesdays beginning June 4	Ridgedale Commons
Music in the Park	Tuesdays beginning June 25	Civic Center Park
Summer Fest	June 22	Civic Center Park
Night to Unite	Aug. 6	Registration opens in June