

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Celebrate summer across the community

From Ridgedale Commons to Civic Center Park and Shady Oak Beach, Minnetonka offers a full season of free and affordable events and activities.



Minnetonka Farmers Market turns 15

While the Minnetonka Farmers Market is still new to Ridgedale Commons, it has helped local vendors share produce, baked goods and crafts with the community for 15 years. The market moved to Ridgedale Commons last summer and now features as many as 60 vendors.

June 4-Oct. 1
Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m.

Ridgedale Commons
12590 Ridgedale Drive

- Shopping
- Power of Produce
- Community booths
- Storytime
- Live music
- Water feature



Date Night at the Commons
June 14, 6-8 p.m.

Carnival at the Commons
July 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Evening Jazz at the Commons
Aug. 9, 6-8 p.m.



Enjoy fresh-air summer yoga on the lawn at Ridgedale Commons. Bring a yoga mat and water bottle. No registration required. A free class open to all.

Saturdays
8:30-9:30 a.m.

June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27
Aug. 10 & 24

SHADY OAK BEACH

Opens June 8

Renew or purchase your Shady Oak Beach season pass and enjoy unlimited entry at great rates! Open June 8-Aug. 18.

How to get your Shady Oak Beach season pass:

- Call 952-939-8203, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Purchase or renew online at minnetonkamn.gov/register
- Stop by Shady Oak Beach during beach hours

Existing cards will be reactivated.

For rates and complete details, visit minnetonkamn.gov/beach.



ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK

All events are FREE

Enjoy music and movies for the whole family throughout the summer at Civic Center Park, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

MUSIC

IN THE PARK

Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

June 25 Brio Brass

July 2

Ouijam

sponsored by

July 9

Westwind Big Band

avidor
Minnetonka

2024 MINNETONKA

Saturday, June 22

SUMMER FEST

Civic Center Park ■ 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. ■ 4-10:30 p.m.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!

4 p.m. Tot Trot

This free event for ages 2-8 starts near the amphitheater and finishes in front of the ice arena. No registration is required. All participants will receive a medal at the finish line.

Tot Trot Race Times

Ages 2-3	4:05 p.m.
Ages 4-5	4:10 p.m.
Ages 6-8	4:15 p.m.

4-5:30 p.m. Fire Department Open House

- Caricature artists
- Airbrush tattoos
- Wacky hair artists
- Arts and crafts
- Carlson's Lovable Llamas
- Inflatables
- Bungee trampolines
- Human foosball
- Sports challenge
- Ninja Anywhere Ninja Rig
- Vertical climbing wall

4-10 p.m. Food Vendors

A variety of food and beverages available to purchase

Beer and wine sales provided by the Minnetonka Rotary

10 p.m. Fireworks!



MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

5:45-6:30 p.m. Koo Koo 

6:55 p.m. Welcome by Mayor Wiersum

7-10 p.m. Free and Easy **FEATURE SHOW**


Pickleball Tournament


Women's and men's doubles begin at 9 a.m. and mixed doubles at 1:30 p.m. You may play in both a men's/women's division, as well as a mixed doubles division. This is an unsanctioned event.

June 22 Course: 3201101
9 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. \$60 per team/event
Lone Lake Park





More info:

 Bike racks will be available.

 Restrooms are available in Ice Arena A & B and on the Summer Fest grounds.

 Weather Hotline: 952-939-8355

 Schedule and event are subject to change or cancellation. Please check the city website for any event status changes.

 Sensory tent available

Event sponsor



Fox appointed fire chief

Kevin Fox will lead the Minnetonka Fire Department 30 years after he joined the service as one of its paid on-call firefighters.

"Throughout our rigorous selection process, it became abundantly clear that Kevin's skills and experience are precisely what our department needs to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," said Minnetonka City Manager Mike Funk.



The Minnetonka Fire Department is in the midst of implementing its new Public Safety Master Plan, which includes the addition of new career positions and increased station staffing during peak hours. The department responded to a record 5,700 calls last year.



A safe space to meet up

Buying or selling? Meet up in a safe swap spot at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Look for the green sign in front of the police department building for a safe place to exchange internet purchases with live video recording.

The police department partnered with OfferUp to provide this community service.



Election 2024

Election 2024 season kicks off this month with the start of absentee voting for the primary election.

Important dates

- **Primary election | Aug. 13**
Absentee voting begins June 28
- **General election | Nov. 5**
Absentee voting begins Sept. 20

Vote absentee

- **By mail**
Learn how to apply for an absentee ballot and vote by mail at minnetonkamn.gov/elections.
- **In-person**
Starts June 28 at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., during normal business hours.

Register to vote

Now is a great time to pre-register to vote. Find all the info at sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote.

Keep informed

- Subscribe to receive email or text notifications at minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe
- Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections
- Call 952-939-8205



Summer Hours reminder!

Minnetonka city offices close at noon Fridays through Labor Day. Summer hours do not affect recreation facilities and programs or any fire, police or public works services.

Minnetonka 2023 Drinking Water Report

Minnetonka works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water to ensure that tap water is safe to drink for most people.

City staff work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants that may pose health concerns. Each year a report is prepared that provides information about the city's water system and how it compares to state and federal standards.

In an effort to conserve paper, we have made the 2023 Drinking Water Report available on the city's website at minnetonkamn.gov/water. The public may download and print a copy of the water report from the website or pick up a paper copy at Minnetonka Public Works at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. during normal business hours.



Take our water service line survey

Minnetonka needs your help to inventory all service lines connected to the public system.



Take a photo of your pipes and share it through our survey tool. This is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirement to determine which materials exist in public water systems.



Learn more and find out how to identify the materials used on your service line by visiting minnetonkamn.gov/service-line-survey.



Go directly to the survey by scanning this QR Code.

Minnetonka PFAS Update

The Environmental Protection Agency announced new drinking water standards to limit exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals. The new standards set maximum contaminant levels and enforceable limits for specific PFAS using an approach that determines a Health Risk Index (HRI) calculation. Drinking water at or below an HRI of 1 has little or no risk for health concerns.

In conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health, all 18 of Minnetonka's drinking water wells have been tested for PFAS. All samples were within the MDH health-based guidance values and resulted in an HRI below 0.5, well below the level of concern.



Additional details can be found on the MDH PFAS dashboard

Trees and Drought

Although this season is off to a wet start, drought has placed significant stress on vegetation in our yards and natural areas. Trees and shrubs might not wither and die back as quickly as flowers and turfgrass, but they are equally vulnerable to water stress.

Here are a few tips to give your trees and shrubs a fighting chance.

- Be proactive: Water regularly with a soaker hose or garden hose set very low to ensure deep, slow irrigation.
- Add a mulch “donut” around each tree to hold that water in the ground.
- Watch for leaf discoloration or wilting. These are early signs that the plant needs more water.
- As a tree or shrub becomes more stressed, pests or disease can set in. You might see an increase in woodpecker activity or dieback, especially toward the tree’s crown. At this point, it’s best to contact a certified arborist for advice.
- If possible, wait until winter to prune.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/NRyou for more information.



Tree showing signs of distress.

Photo credit: Robert L. Anderson,
USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

NATURAL RESOURCES EVENTS

Bringing Nature Home reverse book group

Thursday, June 20

6:30-8 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

We’ll review the key points of Douglas Tallamy’s book, “Bringing Nature Home”, and talk about taking action on those ideas. Register at bit.ly/4aUeXLZ.



Urban Habitat workshop

Thursday, July 11

6:30-8 p.m.

Ridgedale Library - Rohlf Room

12601 Ridgedale Drive

Learn how your property can support diverse vegetation that feeds pollinators, songbirds and other wildlife. Brought to you in collaboration with Ridgedale Library.

Advance registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents.

Tennis for all

Williston to add wheelchair tennis

This summer, Williston Fitness Center is welcoming more athletes to the game of tennis by offering a new wheelchair tennis program.



That's exciting news for adaptive tennis player, and Williston regular, Kate Aquila. "The joy of sports for all abilities makes a huge difference, not only for health and well-being, but for connecting with the community."

Aquila, who grew up playing tennis, recently came back to the game through Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute's adaptive tennis program. Playing under coach and Paralympian Jon Rydberg,

Aquila was one of several players who participated in a demonstration day for Williston's coaching staff in January. The event, held in partnership with Courage Kenny, introduced coaches to the dynamics and body mechanics of playing from a wheelchair.

"The coaches were able to understand more fully some of the challenges a wheelchair tennis player might encounter and still the extent to which [adaptive tennis is] very similar," Aquila said.

Tennis is one of the most integrated adaptive sports, said Aquila, noting the primary difference is wheelchair players get two bounces. However, wheelchair tennis facilities are rare, noted Williston Tennis Manager Felicia Raschiatore, who saw an opportunity to bring tennis to more athletes.

"[While chatting with Aquila] a light bulb went off in my head: Minneapolis-St. Paul should have more than one wheelchair tennis program," she said. "We are very excited to add wheelchair tennis to our current program."

To help get the program off the ground, Courage Kenny donated two adapted-tennis wheelchairs. The city also received a grant from USTA Northern to purchase two youth chairs.

In addition to playing adaptive tennis, Aquila plays adaptive hand-cycling, pickleball and golf through Courage Kenny. She can also often be found swimming laps in the Williston pool thanks to the facility's pool hoist that makes it easy for her to swim independently.

"One of the things I love about coming to Williston, I feel it's genuinely an inclusive place for the community," she said. "Williston goes above and beyond ... and it reflects the ethos of [staff] that they want to create more sport and activity for all."

Wheelchair Tennis at Williston

For youth and adults (ages 8+)

Open to all levels

Tuesdays, June 11-Aug. 13, 4:30-6 p.m.

\$10/class

Sign up at minnetonkamn.gov/register or call 952-939-8370

Burwell House Tours

Free guided tours are available June through September.

Tour Schedule

June 1-Aug. 31

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

Sept. 1-29

Saturdays and Sundays
1-4 p.m.

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



Toolkit helps improve equity and inclusion in city activities

Minnetonka's Internal Equity Committee, a group of employees from across departments, have built an equity toolkit. This quick questionnaire is used by teams to ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion is considered in events, activities and programs put on by the city.

"The equity toolkit is important because it helps us actively think about how our work and how individuals are impacted by it," said Senior DEI Coordinator Jayce Alexander. "With it, we're able to create practical frameworks and strategies as we work to foster inclusive environments for all."

The city has tested the toolkit on several programs already, including the annual tree sale. Additions to the program helped identify and prioritize areas in the city that lack tree coverage. These areas tend to have more residents of color. Staff also added a tier of lower priced trees to make the sale more accessible across the community.

In addition, the Police Department used the toolkit to review its discrimination policy.

"This work is central to the city's vision of making Minnetonka a more inclusive community," said Alexander.



Internal Equity
COMMITTEE

'Neighbors' art installation now on display at Minnetonka Community Center

See Minnesotans from a new perspective at the "Neighbors" art installation now at Minnetonka Community Center. Painted by Minnetonka artist Barbara Lidfors, these life-sized paintings celebrate diversity and commonality in Minnesota.

The subjects of Lidfors' paintings are real-life Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds. "The painting process brings their movements to a standstill, giving us time to engage with them and consider their lives and stories," a statement from the artist reads.

Residents are invited to check out the paintings, which will be displayed at the community center through December.



City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Community Drop-off Day, 8 a.m.
- 3 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 5 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Yoga in the Park, 8:30 a.m.
- 10 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 11 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 14 Summer in the Commons, 6 p.m.
- 18 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 19 Juneteenth holiday, city offices closed
- 20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Minnetonka Summer Fest, 4 p.m.
- 24 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 25 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.

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



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

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ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

From mattresses
to mowers,
dispose
of unused
household goods
at the Special
Community
Drop-off Day.



New in 2024

Donate items to Better Futures Minnesota. The organization will accept working appliances and useable building materials.

Better Futures has the right to refuse unusable materials. Donations will be accepted until capacity is reached.



Saturday, June 1
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

More info at minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday