

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY



Grant Theft Auto

Minnetonka PD dedicate extra time to vehicle thefts




When it comes to stolen vehicles, Minnetonka Police Det. Pat Eggleston knows crime doesn't usually stop there. "Nine times out of 10, [car thieves are] using a stolen car to go commit another crime."

Thanks to a state grant, Minnetonka is continuing its crack down on auto thefts by dedicating an investigator solely to auto theft recovery and prevention. And it's paying off.

Minnetonka Police have seen a 60-percent drop in vehicle thefts since last summer, and they've recovered all but three vehicles reported stolen since January 2023.

The proactive approach uses an extensive network of investigators and crime analysts from agencies across the metro to more swiftly help identify suspects and recover stolen vehicles. "The quicker we can get them into custody, it means they're not going to come out here [and commit more crimes]," Eggleston said. "It's taking the reins off and very proactive policing."

Last summer, when Minnetonka saw an increase in vehicle thefts, the majority could be attributed to a small group of offenders, Eggleston said. However, thanks to solving a couple big cases, Minnetonka's auto theft caseload has dropped dramatically.

	2023	2024 YTD
 Vehicle thefts reported in Minnetonka	50	19
Recoveries by Minnetonka Police	26	16

The department also received a grant toward auto theft prevention technology, which has been instrumental in recovering numerous vehicles over the years, particularly in the Ridgedale area, Eggleston said.

Now, with the added benefit of a dedicated investigator, Minnetonka is playing a bigger, more proactive role in addressing auto theft and the more dangerous crimes to which it often leads.

"The time I'm allowed to assist in solving vehicle thefts has for sure helped reduce the number of thefts and other crimes happening in our community," Eggleston said.



Take Minnetonka's fire safety assessment

Each year, Minnetonka families reduce the risk of fires and accidents in their homes by taking a short safety assessment. Now you can do it online by visiting Minnetonka Matters. A short survey will help you determine the greatest risks to your home and show you how to take simple steps to correct potential problems.

Visit MinnetonkaMatters.com/FireSafety to get started.





Minnetonka police names Officer of the Year

The Minnetonka Police Department has named Officer Ryan Hodge as the 2024 Glen Lake Optimist Officer of the Year.

Hodge joined the department in 2007 and has excelled in several assignments within the department, including as an investigator and long-time SWAT team member. He consistently demonstrates exceptional performance, dedication and professionalism.

“Officer Hodge embodies the true essence of what this award represents.”
-Deputy Chief Jason Tait

In his nomination, Hodge was recognized for his spirit of mentorship, generously sharing his knowledge, expertise and experience with his colleagues as a use of force instructor and field training officer. He partnered with a fellow officer to develop a two-week recruitment academy focusing on firearms, defensive tactics and reality-based training scenarios.



Hodge was also recognized for his video work and efforts to establish a department drone program.

“Beyond his exemplary performance and mentorship, Officer Hodge is a true ambassador for our department,” said Sgt. Jerame Kuyper. “His interactions with the community are characterized by professionalism and empathy, fostering positive relationships and trust between law enforcement and the public we serve.”

Hodge was recognized by the Glen Lake Optimist Club June 11. Congratulations!

Minnetonka Pride Celebration



Saturday, July 13
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Ridgedale Commons

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 at minnetonkamn.gov/rentalregistration.



MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a wide variety of music for the whole family every Tuesday evening.

June 25-Aug. 27 | 6:30-8 p.m.



July 2 **Ouijam**

Folk, acoustic rock and blues

July 9 **Westwind Big Band**

Big band music from yesterday and today

July 16 **Capital Sons**

Original rock and rock cover songs



July 23 **Power of 10**

Everything from R&B, pop and rock



July 30 **Salsa del Soul**

Dance music from the Spanish-speaking Caribbean



EVERYTHING ELECTRIC



Join the City of Minnetonka for Everything Electric on July 16 from 2-6 p.m. at Ridgedale Commons. We'll have many electric vehicles to test drive, various solar options, e-bike vendors, electric yard equipment and information on how to increase your energy efficiency to save money on your bills.



Enjoy booths and food trucks from the Minnetonka Farmers Market, including Chicks on Wheels and Trickster's Tacos.

Meet me at the market!



**Through Oct. 1
Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m.**

Ridgedale Commons
12590 Ridgedale Drive

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket for more information.

Register for fall youth soccer

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Fall Youth Soccer League is a great opportunity for kids ages 5-14 to learn the sport, make friends and have fun!

Boys and girls teams are formed by age and desired practice day and location.

- All teams play games on Saturdays.
- Ages 8-14 play an additional game Tuesday/Thursday.
- Practices begin the week of Aug. 19.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register or call 952-939-8203 to register by July 12.

Volunteer coaches needed

If you have soccer experience and enjoy working with children, call 952-939-8203 for more information.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 2 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Independence Day, city offices closed
- 8 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 9 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 9 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Yoga in the Park, 8:30 a.m.
- 16 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 16 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Summer in the Commons, 11 a.m.
- 22 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 23 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 27 Yoga in the Park, 8:30 a.m.
- 29 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 30 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 DEI Commission, 6:30 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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PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

**ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON**

**Register your party for
Night to Unite**

Minnetonka neighborhoods, get ready to party at Night to Unite Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Hosted by the Minnetonka Police Department and sponsored by Minnetonka Crime Prevention Association, the annual celebration is a chance for neighbors to gather and get to know one another and promote community safety.

Block party registration is open. Parties must register to receive visits from Minnetonka Police and Fire, Public Works and other city officials. *Please note: Visits are not guaranteed.*

This year, the police department will host a Night to Unite photo contest, We ♥ Our Officers, so be sure to snap your best pics!



Tuesday, Aug. 6 | 6-9 p.m.

Register and find party planning tools at minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite

Celebrate Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month

Minnetonka is proud to be a leader among North American cities that educate and empower residents to protect pollinators and their habitat. Visit minnetonkamatters.com/pollinator-month for events and activities.

