

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Tree trouble: Tips on weathering the EAB invasion

Emerald Ash Borer is a tree epidemic 20 years in the making. Though foresters first spotted it in 2009 in St. Paul, they believe EAB arrived as early as 2004. Each year its impact is more noticeable.



"People are seeing more trees in trouble from their own property to forested areas along highways," said Minnetonka City Forester Hannibal Hayes. "The vast majority of these are ash trees."

Hayes says the city has spent nearly as long preparing for the EAB invasion. That includes removing ash in the right-of-way along city streets; treating large, healthy ash on city property; and also planting a diverse mix of trees to lessen the impact of infestation.



Minnetonka's forestry team also uses a wide range of technologies to identify trouble spots and is now working with landowners to remove trees on private property. A state grant helps cover the cost of tree removal in areas that threaten homes.

"We hear a wide range of concerns from safety to aesthetics. It's no fun looking at or taking down a dying tree," Hayes said. "But in open natural spaces dead trees will also provide habitat for many animals, including cavity-nesting birds, bats and insects."

While EAB is the most significant threat, there are other pests and pathogens impacting Minnetonka's community forest. Learn more and find resources at minnetonkamn.gov/forestry.

Private utility work expands across the city

Some projects involve fiber optic installation



At any time throughout the year, private utility companies or their contractors may need to work on installing, upgrading or maintaining their facilities across the city. This includes everything from replacing gas lines and upgrading power lines to installing underground communications cabling.

In recent years, there has been an industry push and competition to provide fiber optic networks to users. In response, many utilities began installing fiber optic cable in Minnetonka. Projects like these are noteworthy because they take place all across the city. The work will occur in the right-of-way along your street or in utility easements. The result will be more options for high-speed internet, also called broadband, for homes and businesses.

It is important to note this work is not being performed by the City of Minnetonka. Utility providers obtain permits, and in typical situations, the city is required by law to allow this work to take place. Before work begins, private utility companies or their contractors are expected to provide property owners with information about the work and share customer service contact information.

If you have questions or concerns about this work, contact the utility or its contractor. If you cannot identify the company, visit minnetonkamn.gov/privateutility or contact the city's Engineering Division at 952-939-8246.

Welcome, Rori!

Minnetonka Police welcome newest K9, partnering with Officer KJ Schlueter

Rori is a two-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois, teaming up with Officer KJ Schlueter to serve the Minnetonka community. "Ror Dog," as she's affectionately called, is currently attending 12 weeks of K9 school before she officially starts her role. For now, she lives for her Chuckit! ball.



Vote in the Aug. 13 primary election

Vote absentee early

- In-person at Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., through Aug. 12
 - Extended hours Saturday, Aug. 9 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Monday, Aug. 12 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- By mail. Ballots must be received by Election Day to count.



Vote on Election Day

- 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13
- Find your polling place and a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections to learn more.

Go behind the scenes with Minnetonka Police

Register to attend the 2024 Minnetonka Police Academy for a unique, in-depth look at Minnetonka Police Department operations.

The police academy is a nine-week course open to people who reside or work in Minnetonka. It covers a variety of police topics, including investigations, crime analysis, forensics, K9, crime prevention, traffic and emergency response.

This popular course will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 25-Nov. 20.

Registration opens Aug. 19 at minnetonkamn.gov/policeacademy. The academy fills quickly and space is limited.



Pay your utility bill online

Save time and register for the city's utility bill and payment service.

Set up automatic bill payments.

Pay your quarterly utility bill automatically on due date or set up a recurring schedule of your choice.

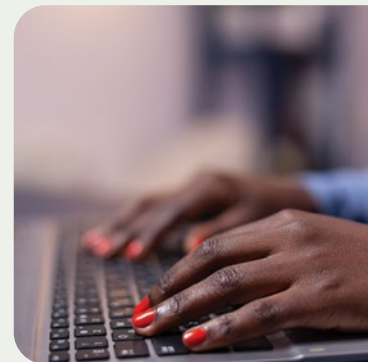
View your bills any time. Check your current balance and make one-time payments.

Enroll in paperless billing. Skip the paper! Set up email reminders and store payment information.

Pay by phone or text. A 24/7 automated payment line is also available (855-945-3661) or sign up to receive notification and pay your bill via text message.

Use a credit card. Credit cards can only be processed online or through automated phone system. Credit cards cannot be processed at city hall.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling to access the online portal and set up your account.



ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK

Enjoy music and movies in the picturesque setting of the Civic Center Park outdoor amphitheater at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.!
All events are free; bring a blanket or lawn chair.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Enjoy a wide variety of music for the whole family every Tuesday evening 6:30-8 p.m.

Aug. 6 Moonlight Serenaders Big Band
Swing, jazz and pop



Aug. 13 The Backyard Band
Rock and country from the 60s to today

Aug. 20 The Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Band
Rock, pop and Caribbean music on the steel drums

Aug. 27 Free and Easy Band sponsored by
Pop music from the 70s to today



MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring your family and friends for a fun night of cinema under the stars! Movies take place approximately 15 minutes after sunset.

Thursday, Aug. 29
Approximate start time: 8:10 p.m.
Wonka
Run time 1 hour, 56 minutes



Check for September movies at minnetonkamn.gov/entertainment.

NexTrex collection pauses Aug. 10

In just under a year and a half, Minnetonka has collected more than 7,000 pounds of recyclable plastic. That work earned the city three benches made of recycled plastic from the Trex Company. You can see them at the front entrance of The Marsh.



While Minnetonka will now pause its participation in the program, several Minnetonka location continues to collect plastic bags and film.

Target

- 13201 Ridgedale Drive
- 4848 County Road 101

Lunds & Byerlys

- 14400 Excelsior Blvd.
- 13081 Ridgedale Drive
- 11400 Hwy 7

Cub Foods

- 4801 County Road 101



SUMMER in the Commons

12590 Ridgedale Drive

EVENING JAZZ

Friday, Aug. 9
6-8 p.m.

- Music
- Food Truck



MINNETONKA MEMO

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 6 Night to Unite, 6 p.m.
- 6 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 9 Summer in the Commons, 6 p.m.
- 13 Primary Election Day, 7 a.m.
- 13 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 13 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 20 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 20 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 City Council, EDAC & Planning Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 26 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Farmers Market, 2 p.m.
- 27 Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
- 27 DEI Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Movies in the Park, 8:10 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

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
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Invest in your home this summer

Thinking about sprucing up your home? Minnetonka offers a variety of loan options through the local nonprofit, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE).

Whether updating a kitchen, bath or installing solar, the city and CEE can help make it possible without breaking the bank. Our loans offer low payments, flexible terms and support from CEE's team of loan officers. Learn more or apply at mncee.org/Minnetonka.



Register for fall fun!

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/recbrochure to browse the program options and choose from an array of activities including kids' programs, tennis lessons, craft opportunities and athletic leagues.

Register online: minnetonkamn.gov/register	
Registration begins	Phone
TUESDAY, AUG. 6, 8 A.M. GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMS	8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday* 952-939-8203
THURSDAY, AUG. 8, 8 A.M. SENIOR PROGRAMS	952-939-8393
TUESDAY, AUG. 20, 8 A.M. ICE SKATING LESSONS	952-939-8310

*Note: The City of Minnetonka is on summer hours through Labor Day.