

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Tessa Vacek named city's employee of the year

Senior Human Resources Specialist Tessa Vacek was recently presented with the 2019 Spirit of Minnetonka Award, given annually to the city's employee of the year. Vacek, who has worked for the city since 2015, received the award in recognition of her dedication to excellence.



Vacek's contributions over the past year included expert management of employee benefit offerings, helpful orientations for new employees and phenomenal customer service. She has a friendly disposition and always treats coworkers and residents with compassion and respect.

Congratulations to Tessa on this well-deserved recognition!



Council temporarily appoints Carter to at-large seat

The Minnetonka City Council selected Susan Carter to temporarily fill the at-large seat vacated when Patty Acomb was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives.



Acomb's new role resulted in her resignation from the council in January. The council decided to temporarily appoint a replacement until November, when a special election will fill the seat for the remainder of the term.

The council solicited applications and conducted interviews with finalists Feb. 19. Carter was selected from a pool of six finalists. She took the oath of office March 4, and will serve on the council until the results of the Nov. 5, 2019 election are certified.

Visit eminnetonka.com/2019atlarge for complete details. Stay tuned for more information about the special election.



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City to be fully powered by solar later this year

In January, the Minnetonka City Council approved a contract to build additional solar gardens through Xcel Energy's Solar Garden program. Once the gardens are operational, all city buildings, street lights and water systems will be powered by solar energy, making Minnetonka one of the few cities in the state - and the entire country - fully powered by the sun.

The city currently receives 50 percent of its power from solar. The additional gardens are expected to be up and running by the end of 2019.

Major environmental and financial benefits

By moving to full solar power, the city will significantly reduce its carbon footprint. Powering city resources with 100 percent solar power is comparable to planting 800 trees or removing 700 cars from the road each year. More than 350,000 gallons of gas or 8,500 barrels of oil would be required annually to generate the same amount of energy.

Minnetonka's solar emphasis carries a major financial benefit as well - it's projected to save an estimated \$13 million over a 25-year period.

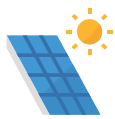
Additional initiatives

The city's solar subscriptions are part of a larger sustainability effort dating back more than a decade. Here are some other ways the city has mitigated its environmental impact.



- Minnetonka participates in the Green Step Cities program, which is an initiative that encourages energy-use reduction and innovation. The city advanced to step three in the five-step program in 2018 and is working toward step four. The city has met 41 best-practice actions.
- Energy-efficient initiatives and improvements are incorporated into all city facility renovation and building projects.
- The city's public works facility has been Energy Star certified for three years, which means the building saves energy, money and generates fewer greenhouse gas emissions than typical buildings.

Solar power - by the numbers



100%

of city's energy will be from solar power later this year



\$13 million

The estimated amount of money solar power will save the city over 25 years



15 million

kilowatt hours needed to power the city each year



500

The number of homes that could be powered by city's annual solar energy use



700

The city's solar use equals removing 700 cars from the road



350,000

Gallons of gas it would take to generate the same amount of energy

DID YOU KNOW?



Recreational fire permits must be renewed annually.

Permits are free, valid until Dec. 31 each year and must be applied for or renewed online. Natural gas and propane fire pits and fireplaces do not require a permit.

Visit eminnetonka.com/firepermit to apply or renew. Call the fire department at 952-939-8598 with questions.



Chris Dagner receives fire department's top honor

Minnetonka Firefighter Chris Dagner has received the department's highest honor - the Chief Kenny Johnson Award. The award, which is also referred to as the "Firefighter of the Year" award, is named for Minnetonka's founding fire chief who originated the department motto, "Service before self." Each year a recipient is selected who personifies this important adage.



Dagner is a dedicated leader whose versatility is a major benefit to the department. He expertly fights fires, operates the trucks and equipment and acts as a diplomatic leader with keen problem-solving skills. Dagner is known for his patience and calm demeanor. His peers describe him as a true definition of the department motto.

Congratulations to Dagner on this outstanding, well-deserved honor!

Water main flushing begins Monday, April 15

Minnetonka Public Works will flush water mains throughout the city from Monday, April 15 through Friday, May 10. Flushing will take place weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. See the map to determine dates in your area.

Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

April 18

Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive and Culligan Way
3 a.m.-3 p.m.

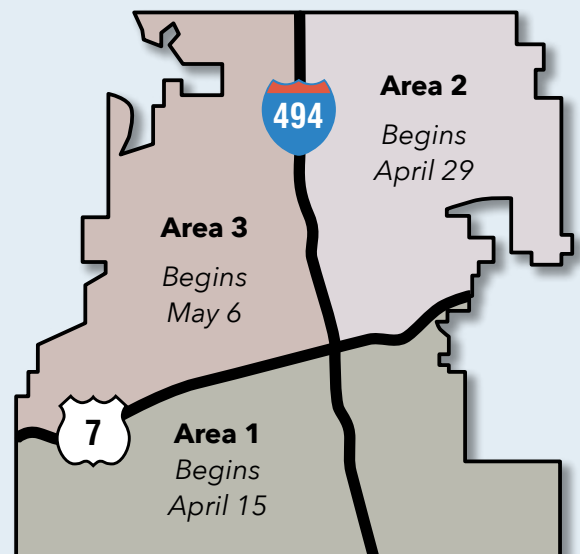
April 29

Ridgedale business area
5:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 6

Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center and Carlson Parkway
5 a.m.-5 p.m.

The flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather. During the flushing period it is normal to experience some discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the **cold** water in your laundry tub. Contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 with problems or questions.



Provide feedback on proposed elimination of bus route 614

Metro Transit has proposed to eliminate bus route 614, which serves Minnetonka along Highway 101 between Minnetonka Boulevard and Plymouth Road. The route consistently averages fewer than five passengers per hour, which is below the minimum standard of 10 passengers per hour.



Attend a public hearing

Learn more and provide feedback at a public hearing on Monday, April 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ridgedale Library, Room 174. There will be a short presentation at 12:15 p.m.

Provide feedback

Email, call or write with feedback on this proposed change by April 25.

- Email comments to service.development@metrotransit.org
- Call customer service at 612-373-3333
- Mail comments to Steve Mahowald, Heywood Office Building and Garage, 560 Sixth Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

Join the conversation and stay connected to latest news, events and updates!



Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans

The City of Minnetonka seeks applicants for a home improvement loan program and another that assists first-time homebuyers.

Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program

This program offers low-interest home improvement for Minnetonka residents through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 with a 10-year term and a three percent interest rate. Income and asset limits apply.



Visit eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans to learn more about program guidelines - including loan terms, property eligibility and eligible improvements - and how to submit applications to the CEE.

Welcome to Minnetonka loan program

The city partners with the CEE to offer low-interest loans to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments and closing costs. Loans are up



to \$10,000 with a one percent interest rate and the homebuyer must contribute at least 25 percent of the total down-payment or closing costs; income and asset limits apply.

Visit eminnetonka.com/welcometominnetonka to learn more about loan terms, eligible properties, additional requirements and how to submit applications to the CEE.

More information

For questions or more information contact City of Minnetonka Economic Development Coordinator Rob Hanson at rhanson@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8234.



Ask a city planner

In each issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*, our planners answer a common question to help residents learn more about the planning process and available city resources.

Question:

Can I install a free library at the end of my driveway?

Answer:

Yes, as long as the lending or free library is located outside the right-of-way. For most properties, this means the library can't be at the very end of the driveway or right along the street. This ensures the library is clear of snowplows and street maintenance equipment.

If you're not sure where your property lines are, the city offers a free metal detector loan program to help residents locate them.

Call 952-939-8290 with questions or for more information.

Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at zoning@eminnetonka.com, call 952-939-8290 or visit eminnetonka.com/planning for more information.



Join the Minnetonka Historical Society for Trivia Night

Wednesday, April 17 | 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Unmapped Brewing Company

How much do you know about the history of Minnetonka's Glen Lake neighborhood? Join the Minnetonka Historical Society for a fun and educational evening of trivia. Learn about the area and have a chance to win exciting prizes! Trivia is free and all ages are welcome.



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to sign up for email and text updates on city news, events, projects and much more.

Sign up for adult sports leagues

Sign up for adult sand volleyball and kickball leagues by Friday, May 3. Space is limited. Visit eminnetonka.com/register or call 952-939-8203 to register.

Adult sand volleyball leagues

- Co-rec and women's leagues of varied competition levels run May-July.
- Learn more at eminnetonka.com/adultvolleyball.

Adult co-rec kickball leagues

- Co-rec leagues run Wednesday and Thursday nights from May to July, plus playoffs for top four teams.
- Learn more at eminnetonka.com/sports/Kickball.



Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 2-4



Minnetonka Ice Arena's skating school is proud to present the 45th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Enchanted Icings." The revue features more than 200 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities. The arena gets cold - bring a coat or blanket!

Show times

- Thursday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 4, 2 p.m.

Admission

- Ages 5 and up: \$6 per performance
- Ages 4 and under: free
- Senior citizens: free on Saturday, May 4

Enjoy the sound of symphony April 28

Sunday, April 28 | 3 p.m. | Free
St. Joseph Church | 8701 36th Ave. N. | New Hope

The Music Association of Minnetonka invites all ages to an outstanding afternoon with the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Stirling. The spring concert will feature Beethoven's Leonore Overture No. 3 and Borodin's lively and heroic Symphony No. 2.



Leaf and brush drop-off sites open April 1

Each spring and fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works facility. Residents must present a driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill. Commercial tree and lawn services must prove materials came from a Minnetonka address.

REGULAR HOURS AND LOCATION

Mondays and Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Public Works Facility
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

The brush and leaf drop-off site will be closed May 27, Sept. 2 and Nov. 11 in observance of holidays.

LEAF DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 1-MAY 18

Leaf Drop-off Site Guidelines

- **Accepted:** leaves; yard waste such as grass, weeds, pine cones, needles, straw, plants and garden materials; sticks and branches **smaller than one half-inch in diameter**
- **Not accepted:** bags of any kind - residents **must** take all bags home, including compostable bags; sod, dirt, trash, concrete, wood; noxious weeds, including garlic mustard and thistle; sticks and branches **larger than one half-inch in diameter** must go to the separate brush drop-off
- Remember to bring proper equipment to unload (i.e. pitchfork, shovel, etc.)
- Items **must** be covered during transport.



BRUSH DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 1-NOV. 23

- **Accepted:** trees and branches up to eight feet in length (no diameter restrictions)
- **Not accepted:** stumps, dirt, sod, trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps
- All yard waste (including loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plants and garden materials) must be placed in the separate leaf drop-off area when it's open.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit eminnetonka.com/yardwaste to learn more, or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

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City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, 6:15 p.m.
- 1** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 3** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 9** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 11** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 15** Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, 6 p.m.
- 15** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 24** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 25** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Visit eminnetonka.com or call **952-939-8200** for the latest information. Meetings are available live and on-demand at eminnetonka.com/tv.



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Apply now for summer jobs

The City of Minnetonka has numerous exciting summer seasonal opportunities for high school and college students, or anyone looking for a great part-time job. We're currently accepting applications for the following positions, which offer valuable experience and training in a fun atmosphere.

Recreation

- Lifeguards and swim instructors
- Shady Oak Beach staff
- Grays Bay Marina attendants
- Kid's Corner leaders
- Park Adventures (playgrounds) leaders
- Inclusion specialists

Public Works

- Parks, streets and utilities maintenance
- Tree inspectors
- Restoration and watering technicians

For more information or to apply online, visit eminnetonka.com/employment.