

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Prestigious leadership award for Minnetonka city manager

Throughout her distinguished career, City Manager GERALYN BARONE's steady guidance has been invaluable to Minnetonka's city staff, elected officials and residents. Recently, her outstanding leadership resulted in a well-deserved and prestigious statewide honor.

Barone was presented with the Minnesota Women in City Government (MWCG) Leadership Award on June 27 at an awards ceremony in Duluth. The Leadership Award recognizes exceptional elected and appointed officials who have made a positive impact on their community.



"As a leader, GERALYN focuses first and foremost on team success by breaking down barriers, facilitating interpersonal collaboration and maximizing her staff's potential," Mayor Brad Wiersum wrote in a letter supporting Barone's nomination. "I can honestly say that GERALYN makes me a better leader. She strives to always do right by Minnetonka's residents and she champions her team and our city whenever she can."

Barone has been with the city since 1994 and was appointed to city manager in 2012. Her impact also extends well beyond Minnetonka, as she has served in leadership roles for countless professional organizations, boards and committees.

Congratulations to GERALYN and thank you for your award-winning leadership!



## Minnetonka takes another 'Green Step'

The City of Minnetonka received an award from the League of Minnesota Cities in July for advancing to Step 4 in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary, five-step program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals.

Step 4 recognizes cities that have recorded a year's worth of metrics regarding sustainability best practices in categories such as buildings and lighting, transportation, land use and environmental management. Minnetonka is just one of 21 cities to reach Step 4 or 5.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/green](http://eminnetonka.com/green) to learn more about Minnetonka's efforts to "go green" and ways you can help protect our environment.



City Manager GERALYN BARONE, Mayor Brad Wiersum, Councilmember Rebecca Schack and Assistant to the City Manager McKaia Ryberg accept GreenStep Cities Step 4 recognition.

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## Celebrate Night to Unite Aug. 6

Minnetonka residents are encouraged to schedule block parties, cookouts or events to get to know one another and promote community safety on Tuesday, Aug. 6 as part of the national Night to Unite celebration.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite](http://eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite) for more information, including event ideas and tips.



## Fall recreation program registration begins Aug. 6

Registration for fall recreation programs begins Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 8 a.m. Visit [eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure](http://eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure) to check out program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including fitness classes, kids' programs, athletic leagues and arts and crafts. There is something for everyone!

Visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register) to register online, or call 952-939-8203 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.



# SUMMER FEST

## IS THE BEST



The City of Minnetonka held its 42nd annual Summer Fest Saturday, June 22. A great crowd of 6,600 enjoyed live music, fireworks, food, games, activities and much more.

Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to all the talented people that made it happen. Summer Fest really is the best.





## Drivers must go 'hands-free' Aug. 1

Beginning Aug. 1, 2019 Minnesota drivers can no longer use hand-held cell phones and devices while driving. The state's new "hands-free" law aims to prevent distracted driving and the danger it creates.

Texting, watching videos and other actions were already illegal, but the new law goes a step further. Now, drivers can't hold a phone or device at all, even to make calls or check navigation.

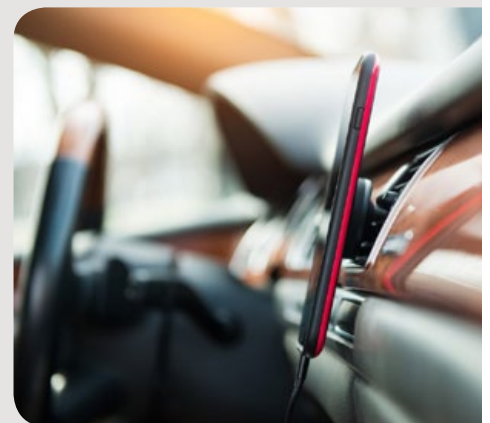
### Here's what you need to know as the new law takes effect.

- Drivers can no longer hold phones, except in emergencies.
- Drivers can use phones only by voice command or single-touch activation without holding it, for uses such as calls, texts, music, podcasts and navigation.
- Drivers cannot use their phone for reading, scrolling, typing, video calling or streaming, gaming, social media, looking at photos or videos or non-navigation apps.
- GPS devices, navigation systems and in-car screens are exempt from the hands-free law.
- The same hands-free rules apply to smart watches.
- Drivers under 18 still cannot make or answer calls while driving, even by voice command or single-touch activation, other than to call 911 in an emergency.
- The first ticket is \$50 plus court fees and following offenses are \$275 plus court fees.



### How to go hands-free

- Don't use your phone when you drive. Put your phone away or use a do-not-disturb app.
- Use a single earphone and microphone headset. Using earphones in both ears at the same time is illegal in Minnesota.
- Pair your phone to your vehicle via Bluetooth.
- Securely mount your phone to your dashboard to use in voice-activated or single-touch mode.
- Connect your phone to your vehicle with an auxiliary cable or cassette adapter.
- Buy a Bluetooth speaker to pair with your phone.



Visit [HandsFreeMN.org](https://www.HandsFreeMN.org) for complete details and frequently asked questions about the new law.



## Ask a city planner

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

### Question:

Do I own the land all the way to the street? What can I do in this area?

### Answer:

The area between the property line and curb is referred to as the "right-of-way." This strip of land is intended to be used for roads, crosswalks, sidewalks, trails, railroads or utilities. An easement is granted to the city over the right-of-way to allow for snow storage and public infrastructure.

Here's what you need to know about the use of your right-of-way:

- **Allowed uses with no approval required:** Turf, shrubs and landscaping that do not obstruct the view of traffic; mailboxes (must meet USPS standards); irrigation systems and underground pet fencing
- **Use that requires a permit:** retaining walls
- **Prohibited uses:** fences, deciduous trees (i.e. maple) within 15 feet of the curb, coniferous trees (i.e. pine) within 20 feet of the curb or anything that interferes with city use

The city has the right to remove any private use of the right-of-way easement, permitted or not, in order to improve the easement or install, repair, maintain, access or remove any public facilities (such as underground utilities). In some cases, this may be at the expense of the property owner. Call 952-939-8246 to ask questions about right-of-way easements.



### Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at [zoning@minnetonka.com](mailto:zoning@minnetonka.com), call 952-939-8290 or visit [eminnetonka.com/planning](http://eminnetonka.com/planning) for more information.

## Stay safe in the heat

August is typically the warmest month of the year in Minnetonka. Keep the following in mind to stay safe in the summer heat!

### Heat exhaustion or heat stroke?

Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are two dangerous conditions that can result from excessive heat exposure. Heat exhaustion is less severe, but it can evolve to the more dangerous heat stroke if not treated. Check out the graphic for symptoms and treatments for both conditions.

HEAT EXHAUSTION		OR	HEAT STROKE	
Faint or dizzy			Throbbing headache	
Excessive sweating			No sweating	
Cool, pale, clammy skin			Body temperature above 103° Red, hot, dry skin	
Nausea or vomiting			Nausea or vomiting	
Rapid, weak pulse			Rapid, strong pulse	
Muscle cramps			May lose consciousness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get to a cooler, air conditioned place</li> <li>• Drink water if fully conscious</li> <li>• Take a cool shower or use cold compresses</li> </ul>			<p><b>CALL 9-1-1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives</li> </ul>	

### Tips to stay cool

Preventing heat-related conditions is the best treatment. When temperatures rise, be sure to stay hydrated; stay in air-conditioned areas; wear light-weight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and use plenty of sunscreen. When working outdoors, pace yourself and take breaks. Never leave kids or pets in a closed, parked vehicle.

### Learn more

Call Minnetonka Fire at 952-939-8331 to learn more about heat safety. The fire department offers free classes and will visit workplaces or community groups.

Visit [ready.gov/heat](http://ready.gov/heat) to learn more about extreme heat and how to stay safe in the sun.

## Free energy bill consultations Aug. 8

Do you want tips to reduce your electric and gas bills? Are you interested in renewable energy options? Would you like to better understand your utility bills? RSVP for a free, 20-minute consultation to cover all this and more.

**Free Energy Bill Consultations**  
**Thursday, Aug. 8, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**(RSVP for 20-minute time slot)**  
**Minnetonka Community Center,**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Bring your utility bills and questions for these free informational sessions with the Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota.

RSVP online at [cubminnesota.org](http://cubminnesota.org) - look for Aug. 8 under "Upcoming Events." Spots are limited. Contact City of Minnetonka Planner Drew Ingvalson at [dingvalson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dingvalson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8293 with questions.

## Metro Transit eliminates bus route 614

Metropolitan Council voted to eliminate Metro Transit bus route 614, which operates between Ridgedale Center and Minnetonka Heights along Highway 101, Minnetonka Boulevard and Plymouth Road.

The final day of service for Route 614 will be Friday, Aug. 16.

Call Metro Transit at 612-373-3333 to learn more or ask questions. Visit [metrotransit.org/bus](http://metrotransit.org/bus) for more information about bus service, to plan your trip or purchase passes.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/transit](http://eminnetonka.com/transit) to learn about all public transportation options in Minnetonka.



## Learn about the benefits of solar energy

Are you interested in "going green" and harnessing solar energy to power your home? The City of Minnetonka will host a free opportunity to learn more about solar energy from the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).

**Solar Energy Presentation**  
**Thursday, Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Learn the benefits of solar energy ownership, including how solar works, available incentives, cost and installation. MREA is coordinating a solar group buy in the Twin Cities, and will share how to participate in that program.

Visit [SolarTwinCities.org](http://SolarTwinCities.org) for more information. Contact City of Minnetonka Planner Drew Ingvalson at [dingvalson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dingvalson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8293 with questions.



## Sign up to sing with Minnetonka Youth Choirs

The Music Association of Minnetonka is now accepting fall 2019 registrations for its youth choirs.

- Grades K-5
- Cost: \$150
- Schedule: Tuesday rehearsals, Sept. 17-Dec. 15
- No audition

Learn more and register at [musicassociation.org/youth-choir.html](http://musicassociation.org/youth-choir.html).



## Tour Burwell House in August

**Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays | 1-4 p.m.**  
**13209 E. McGinty Road | Free (donations accepted)**

The Charles H. Burwell House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is open for tours (no reservations required) throughout August at the days and times listed above. The house is air-conditioned and the main floor is handicapped-accessible. To learn more or schedule a group tour (seven or more) visit [eminnetonka.com/burwell](http://eminnetonka.com/burwell).

# MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring your family and friends for a free, fun night of cinema under the stars! Movies take place at dusk at the outdoor amphitheater on the civic center campus (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.). Bring a blanket or lawn chair.

**Thursday, Aug. 8**

*Incredibles 2*

**Thursday, Aug. 15**

*Small Foot*

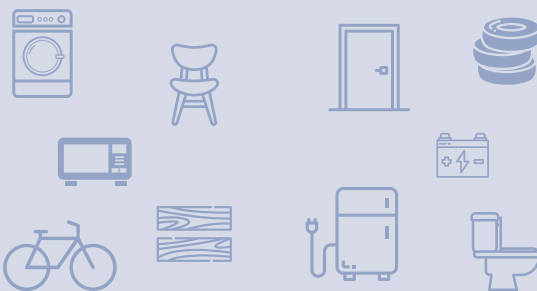
**Friday, Aug. 23**

*Peter Rabbit*

For full summer entertainment schedules and weather updates, visit [eminnetonka.com/summerevents2019](http://eminnetonka.com/summerevents2019) or call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355.

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Public Works**  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Dispose of large household appliances and items at our special drop-off event! Learn more in the September Minnetonka Memo or at [eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day](http://eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day).

## Planting events help city earn 25th-straight Tree City USA honor

The City of Minnetonka has earned the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA distinction for excellence in urban forestry management for the 25th-straight year.

Arbor Day activities are a key part of this program. The city celebrates Arbor Day with planting events and an annual tree sale, which has added roughly 16,000 young trees into our community forest.

This spring, more than 50 trees and shrubs (18 different species) were planted in Victoria-Evergreen Park. Additional plantings will take place this summer at city properties and parks.

These diverse species offer a myriad of benefits including shade, water retention, erosion control and wildlife and pollinator habitat. Improved plant diversity also increases the community's resilience in the face of changing local, regional and global climate conditions.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers and tree sale customers for your important role in Minnetonka's Tree City USA status for a quarter-century (and counting)!



## Use water wisely this summer

On average, Minnetonka residential water use triples from winter to summer. Follow these 10 tips to reduce summer water use.

1. Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks, roads and other hard surfaces.
2. Install a rain sensor on older sprinkler systems to reduce unnecessary watering.
3. Avoid watering when the wind is strong to reduce evaporation.
4. Follow the city's watering restrictions from May through September:
  - Don't water between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
  - Even addresses can water on even-numbered days
  - Odd addresses can water on odd-numbered days
5. Mow high to encourage deeper, more resilient roots.
6. Replace failing turf with native plants.
7. Add mulch around trees and in planting beds.
8. Place watering bags around young trees to water gradually and deeply.
9. Sweep hard surfaces instead of spraying them.
10. Collect rain to water outdoor plants.



AUGUST 2019

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 13** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 15** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** Joint Planning Commission/Economic Development Advisory Commission, TBD
- 26** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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



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Ice Arena B Parking Lot  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

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