

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Candidates file for 2019 municipal election

There are five city council seats up for election in 2019 - all four Ward seats and a special election for one at-large seat. Filings for these seats closed June 4. Since no more than two candidates filed for any seat there will not be a primary election.

The following candidates will appear on the general election ballot Tuesday, Nov. 5. Absentee voting will begin Friday, Sept. 20.

- **Ward 1:** Brian Kirk
- **Ward 2:** Jonathan Kerslake, Rebecca Schack
- **Ward 3:** Mike Happe, Bradley Schaeppi
- **Ward 4:** Kissy Coakley, Paul Lehman
- **At-Large Seat B (special election):** Susan Carter

### Polling location changes

Please note, two polling locations have changed.

- **Ward 2 Precinct D** will once again vote at Ridgedale Hennepin County Library.
- **Ward 4 Precinct C** voters who previously voted at Scenic Heights Elementary school will vote at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Glen Lake, 5701 Eden Prairie Road.



### Learn more

Visit [eminnetonka.com/elections](http://eminnetonka.com/elections), call 952-939-8200 or email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com).

## Communications manager and team honored



City of Minnetonka Communications and Marketing Manager Kari Spreeman has made a huge impact on the city's communications and marketing strategies. Recently, she was honored as the state's Communicator of the Year.

Spreeman was honored by the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators. "Kari exemplifies the very best of what we as communicators seek to do day-in and day-out," the MAGC board said during the award presentation. "We can think of no one more deserving of this year's award."

In addition, the Minnetonka Memo and Senior Script were named the state's top newsletter, and the city also took the top prize for its fire fighter recruitment communications and marketing plan.

Congratulations to Kari and her team, and thank you for your excellent work for our city!

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## Officer Tim Olson receives police department's top honor

Minnetonka Police Officer Tim Olson has received the department's highest honor - the 2019 Glen Lake Optimist Officer of the Year award - which recognizes contributions to the department and community over the past year.



The Officer of the Year models the city's shared values, provides leadership and demonstrates commitment to the department and community through performance and professionalism.

Olson has excelled in countless roles since joining the department in 2003, and has been recognized for his work as a K-9 officer. He recently received recognition from the Carver County Sheriff's Department for assistance in tracking a domestic assault suspect, and he received a top award at the 2017 K-9 regional trials.

Known for his professional and polished demeanor with the public, Olson excels in team setting and has been an invaluable member of the SWAT team and drug task force. He consistently mentors younger officers and routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty to educate and protect the community.

## Follow these fireworks safety tips

Ensure you're celebrating safely (and legally) this July with these fireworks safety tips from the Minnetonka Fire Department.



- Fireworks that fly or explode are illegal in Minnesota - don't buy or use them!
- Legal fireworks in Minnesota include sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.
- Always supervise children during firework use and set a good example for safe behavior.
- Only use fireworks on private property, they're illegal on public property (including parks and beaches).
- Alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
- Use a metal bucket with water to extinguish all fireworks - including sparklers - before throwing out what's left.
- Wear shoes at all times while fireworks are present.
- Homemade fireworks and explosives are not only illegal - they're extremely dangerous. Ensure your children are using safe, professionally made fireworks. Be suspicious and ask questions if they request or purchase obscure household items.
- If something goes wrong, even something small, don't hesitate - call 911 immediately!



## Register your Night to Unite event by July 22

Minnetonka Night to Unite is Tuesday, Aug. 6 from 6-9 p.m. Residents are encouraged to join this national celebration and schedule block parties, cookouts or get-togethers to get to know one another and promote community safety.

Register your neighborhood's Night to Unite event so Minnetonka Police and Fire, Public Works and other city officials can visit. *Please note: Visits are not guaranteed.*

Register your party by July 22 and learn more at [eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite](http://eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite), or call Karen Hendrickson at 952-939-8543.



# Pollinator Field Day



July 10, 4-7 p.m.  
Lone Lake Park

Enter at 5624 Shady Oak Road

Follow signs to lakeside (lower) parking area; overflow parking will be available as marked

Join the City of Minnetonka for Pollinator Field Day.

The event includes:

- **A native plant sale to benefit local landscapes**
  - Cash or checks accepted
  - Bring boxes to transport plants
- **Educational presentations from experts on:**
  - Monarch butterflies
  - Citizen science projects
  - How plants, trees, lawns and clean water impact pollinators
- **Hands-on activities and demonstrations**
- **Healthy snacks**
- **and more!**



Pollinator Field Day will take place rain or shine. Bring a water bottle, as there is a fountain on-site.

## Emerald Ash Borer found in Minnetonka

City foresters have confirmed that two trees along Minnetonka's southeast border are infested with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

### EAB Management

The City of Minnetonka has been preparing for the arrival of EAB since 2010. As part of those preparations, the city has taken several important steps, including:

- The removal of approximately 1,500 ash trees from city property and the right-of-way
- Planting 850 new trees utilizing a wide variety of tree species
- Preventative treatment of 170 ash trees on city property

### Next Steps

Minnetonka's natural resources division will scout for other infested trees throughout the summer, and will educate neighboring property owners about their management options. There is still plenty of time for property owners to prepare for EAB.






### More Information & FAQs


Visit [eminnetonka.com/eab](http://eminnetonka.com/eab) for answers to frequently asked questions about the signs and symptoms of EAB, what you can do to help mitigate the problem, and more.

## Help stop the spread of invasive plants

Invasive plants are non-native plants that aggressively grow, spread and displace other beneficial native plants. Garlic mustard and buckthorn are prevalent in Minnetonka, but residents should also keep an eye out for these other species.

- **Asian bittersweet:** Long, woody vine with green leaves that turn yellow in fall, tiny greenish-white flowers and pea-size fruits that change from green to bright red with a yellow capsule; found smothering trees and shrubs. 
- **Common tansy:** Stands roughly three feet high with flat-topped clusters of button-shaped yellow flowers; may cover acres, especially in disturbed sites with full sun. 

- **Narrowleaf bittercress:** Forms a rosette of leaves (3-11 leaflets with rounded lobes) close to the ground in its first year; bolts and flowers (6-20 sharply toothed leaflets) in its second year; flourishes in shady and wooded areas. 

- **Valerian:** also called Garden Heliotrope; 3-6 feet tall with clusters of pinkish-white, five-petaled flowers; wind catches hairs attached to the seeds; found in sun and shade along roadsides, ditches and woodland edges. 

If you find any of these invasive plants, consider removing and replacing with native plants. Call 952-988-8423 for more information.

## Free energy bill consultations July 9

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**  
**Tuesday, July 9, 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 July 9 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.

## Construction begins on Southwest Light Rail

Construction has begun on the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT)



project, which will extend the METRO Green Line to connect Minnetonka to Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Eden Prairie.

The line is expected to open in 2023 with one station in Minnetonka and two just outside the city's borders.

Residents will begin seeing the following construction activity along the line:

- Removal of trees, vegetation, roots, shrubs and stumps
- Fence installation and construction material delivery
- Surveying and staking
- Erosion control
- Locating utilities and removal or relocation by utility companies

Portions of trails in Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Hopkins are closed for up to three years.

### Stay informed

Metropolitan Council manages this project. Visit [SWLRT.org](http://SWLRT.org) to sign up for weekly construction updates and learn more. Call the project's 24-hour hotline, 612-373-3933, to report urgent construction issues.

## 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**  
**Tuesday, July 9, 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.

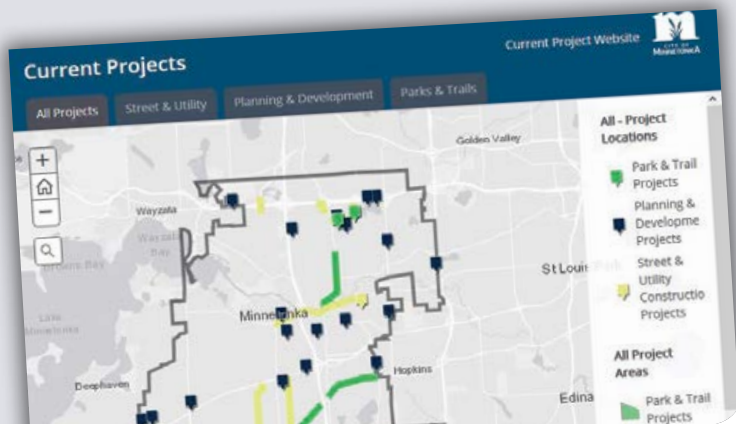


## Check out our new interactive projects map

Between new developments, infrastructure improvements and trail upgrades, construction is a constant in Minnetonka. Now, we have an easy way for you to learn more about each project.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/current-projects](http://eminnetonka.com/current-projects) to view a new interactive map that features location and construction details for every city-led project in Minnetonka. Click on each icon for full project details.

Subscribe to email/text updates about many of our projects on each project page or at [eminnetonka.com/subscribe](http://eminnetonka.com/subscribe).



## Organics collection now offered at recycling center

Organics Collection is now offered at the city's recycling center, open 24/7 at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Residents and businesses may drop off **ONLY** the following items in the designated organics dumpster. They must be bagged in a paper or certified compostable bag.

- Food
- Food-soiled paper (plates, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, egg cartons)
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls
- Houseplants and flowers
- Certified compostable products

Call 952-988-8400 to learn more or ask questions.

## Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans

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

### Welcome to Minnetonka loan program

The city partners with the Center for Energy and Environment (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](http://eminnetonka.com/welcometominnetonka) to learn more about loan terms, eligible properties, additional requirements and how to submit applications to the CEE.

### Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program

This CEE program offers low-interest home improvement loans to Minnetonka residents. 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](http://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.



### More information

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

# ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PARK



Enjoy free music and  
movies all summer!

**Civic Center Park  
Outdoor Amphitheater  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

View dates, times and a full list of performances at:  
[eminnetonka.com/summerevents2019](http://eminnetonka.com/summerevents2019)



## ONE RUN can change your day. MANY RUNS can change your life.

### Join Williston's Run Club

An experienced coaching staff leads runners  
of every pace and ability!

**June 3-Nov. 2**

**#3060502-1:** M/W (6 p.m.); Sa. (7:30 a.m.) - \$25

**#3060502-2:** Saturdays Only (7:30 a.m.) - \$12.50

**#3060502-3:** Tu/Th (6 a.m.) - \$20

For more info, email us at [willistonrunclub@gmail.com](mailto:willistonrunclub@gmail.com).



## Tour Burwell House in July

**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 throughout July 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).

## Register for youth soccer by July 12

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Fall Youth Soccer League is a great opportunity for kids entering grades K-8 to learn the sport, make friends and have fun!

Separate boys and girls teams are formed by age and desired practice nights and location. All teams play games on Saturdays, and grades 3-8 play an additional game each Tuesday or Thursday. Practices begin the week of Aug. 19, and the season will conclude Oct. 15.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/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.

## 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).



Get  
**CONNECTED.**



Stay  
**INFORMED.**



Be  
**INVOLVED.**



Visit  
[eminnetonka.com/subscribe](http://eminnetonka.com/subscribe)

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

JULY 2019

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** Fourth of July, city offices closed
- 8** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10** Pollinator Field Day, 4 p.m.
- 18** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 25** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 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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**Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.**  
**June 11-Sept. 24**

Minnetonka Civic Center Campus  
Ice Arena B Parking Lot  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket)  
for more information and to subscribe  
to Farmers Market updates.

Follow the City of Minnetonka on  
Facebook and Twitter for weekly highlights.

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