

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Temporary at-large member joins council March 4

The Minnetonka City Council will welcome a new temporary at-large member at its March 4, 2019 meeting.

The council decided to fill a vacancy - created when At-Large Council Member Patty Acomb was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives - with a temporary appointment followed by a special election on Nov. 5, 2019.

The council solicited applications for the temporary appointment and conducted interviews Feb. 19. The council had not yet named the temporary appointment when the *Minnetonka Memo* went to print.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/2019atlarge](http://eminnetonka.com/2019atlarge) for up-to-date details. Contact Assistant City Manager Perry Vetter at 952-939-8216 or [pvetter@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pvetter@eminnetonka.com) for questions or more information.



## Council approves design for police and fire facilities

The city council approved a plan to improve the city's police and fire facilities at its Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 meeting. The plan includes a new fire station on the city campus, and to repurpose existing police and fire facilities into a remodeled police station.



The city will now solicit bids for construction. A public hearing on the financing of the project will take place at the Monday, March 18, 2019 council meeting.

The design approval followed an extensive public input process and plan review by both the planning commission and city council.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/policefire2020](http://eminnetonka.com/policefire2020) for complete project details, including why improvements are needed and project history, and to sign up to receive project updates by email or text.



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CENTER INSERT

# Focus on fire safety during spring cleaning

Spring cleaning is a perfect opportunity to ensure your home's fire safety. Follow these tips while you're cleaning this spring.



- Test your smoke alarms, replace batteries and replace any alarms that are 10 years old or older.
- Test your carbon monoxide alarms, and replace any alarms that are seven years old or older.
- Check your dryer vents and clean the hosing.
- Clean clutter inside and outside your home.
- Check the cords on your appliances. Repair or replace any that are cracked or frayed.
- Practice your home fire escape plan.

**For more information and free resources, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov).**



# Register your alarm system

All homeowners and businesses must register alarm systems with the Minnetonka Police Department and pay a \$10 fee each year.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/alarm-registration](http://eminnetonka.com/alarm-registration) to learn more and download the application, or stop by the police department (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) to pick up an application and a brochure.

Return completed applications with the \$10 fee to the Minnetonka Police Department. Call 952-939-8500 for questions or more information.



## MINNETONKA POLICE EXPLORERS

# Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 3 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center | \$5



Enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage at the Minnetonka Police Explorers Post 884 annual Pancake Breakfast.



The police explorer program is for young adults ages 14-20 who have an interest in law enforcement. All proceeds will help fund trips to competitions throughout the year.

For more information about the police explorers or pancake breakfast, contact Minnetonka Police Officer Matthew Palumbo at 952-939-7641.



## Minnetonka Farmers Market now accepting 2019 applications

The Minnetonka Farmers Market is accepting applications from vendors and community groups for the 2019 market season. Participation can range from one week to the full season. Visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket) to learn more and apply.

The 2019 farmers market begins June 11 and runs each Tuesday afternoon through Sept. 24 on the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus near Ice Arena B. New in 2019, there will be additional markets on select Wednesdays at Unmapped Brewing in June, July and August. Stay tuned for more information.

## Register for summer recreation programs starting March 12

Registration for summer recreation programs begins Tuesday, March 12 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, craft opportunities and athletic leagues. There's 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 through Friday.

## Adopt a park sign this summer

Minnetonka's Adopt-a-Park-Sign program is a wonderful way to volunteer and keep Minnetonka beautiful! Individuals, families or organizations can sign up to plant flowers at the entrances of city parks.



Here's how it works:

- The city collaborates with a local greenhouse to provide annuals or perennials of the volunteer's choice.
- Adopt-a-Park-Sign volunteers are responsible to plant, water and maintain the flowers.

Please note, 2018 volunteers will receive first priority to adopt their sign again in 2019. To adopt a sign or learn more, contact Kate Egert at 952-939-8354 or [kegert@eminnetonka.com](mailto:kegert@eminnetonka.com) or visit [eminnetonka.com/adoptaparksign](http://eminnetonka.com/adoptaparksign).

# SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA

AGES 1-8

Saturday, April 20

10-11:30 a.m.

\$10

Minnetonka Community Center

Calling all egg hunters to our annual spring event featuring a scavenger hunt, photos with the bunny, dancing, face painting, crafts, treats and games. Please bring a basket for egg hunting! Size: Max. 150 kids.



Register for course 2200401-01 at [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register).

No same day registration. Advance registration is required, and children must be accompanied by an adult.



## 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:

After my spring cleaning efforts, I need to have a garage sale. Where can I put my garage sale sign?

### Answer:

According to federal law, a city must treat a garage sale sign the same as any temporary sign advertising products, businesses, a 5K race or special event. By ordinance, these types of signs:

- Must be at least five feet from the edge of a public street and can't obstruct driver visibility.
- Can't be on the right-of-way of county or state roads or municipal state-aid streets.
- Are limited to one per property.
- May only be displayed from 6 a.m. on Thursday to 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Can't be larger than six feet tall or three square feet.

### 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 [minnetonka.com/planning](http://minnetonka.com/planning) for more information.

## Attend a spring concert March 24

**Sunday, March 24 | 3 p.m. | Free**  
**Arts Center on 7 | Minnetonka High School**  
**18285 Hwy 7**

The Music Association of Minnetonka invites all ages to the fun, free spring concert! The Minnetonka Concert Band, directed by former Minnetonka High School band director Daniel Geldert, will perform renditions of Copland's "Appalachian Spring," Grofé's "Grand Canyon Suite," Sousa's "Foshay Tower March" and more.



## Burwell House Tour Guides Needed

Do you like local history and giving back to your community? Volunteer to be a tour guide at the historic Burwell House!

### Volunteer guidelines

- Must be high-school-aged or older
- Guides can work as little or as often as they like, but typically volunteer for two three-hour shifts each month.

To apply or learn more, visit [minnetonka.com/Burwell](http://minnetonka.com/Burwell) or call 952-939-8200.

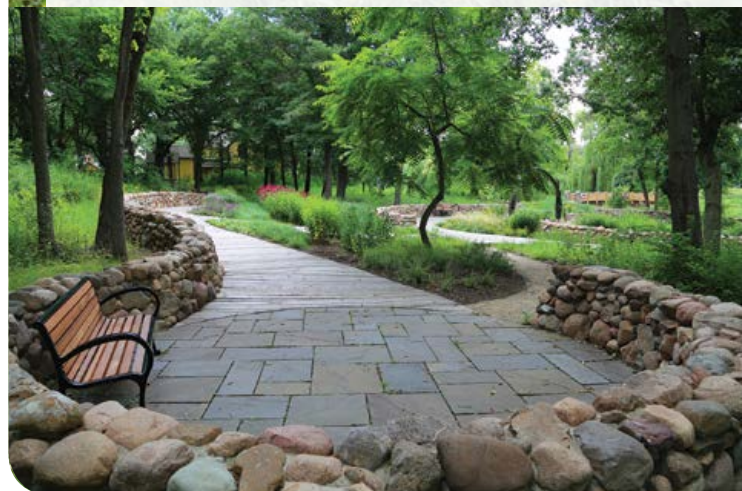
### 2019 tour schedule

#### June-August

- Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays
- 1-4 p.m.

#### September

- Saturdays and Sundays
- 1-4 p.m.



# Protect your shade trees

As trees come out of winter dormancy, so do bacteria, fungi and insects, including some that can seriously harm your trees. Follow these recommendations to keep your shade trees healthy.

## Inject to protect elms and ash

Injection treatments protect against Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer (EAB) and promote the continued good health of larger elm and ash trees. Contact a tree care company for details; find a list at [eminnetonka.com/treecareprofessionals](http://eminnetonka.com/treecareprofessionals).

## Prune at the right time

Pruning during the growing season removes part of the tree's live crown. That stress can hamper a tree's growth or promote disease and insect pests.

Follow this timeline for pruning oak and ash trees:

April-September	HIGH RISK (don't prune)
October-November	Moderate risk (use caution)
December-March	Best time to prune

Please note, unusual weather patterns can extend these risk periods in a given year. If you must prune an oak tree (example: removing a hazardous branch) during the risk periods **immediately** cover the cut with acrylic latex paint.

## Properly manage firewood

Metro area counties are under a firewood quarantine. Follow these guidelines.

- **Do not save elm wood.** Dispose of all elm wood at the city brush drop-off site, or chip it to use as mulch.
- **Ash and red oak wood may be stored if properly stacked and dried.** Call 952-988-8436 for instructions.
- **Keep firewood local.** There is a large fine for moving firewood out of a quarantined county. If you plan to travel, purchase certified firewood at your destination.



# NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

March  
2019

Visit [eminnetonka.com/NRevents](http://eminnetonka.com/NRevents) or call 952-988-8400 to register (required) for these events.

## Volunteer Buckthorn Cutting

Saturday, March 9 | 9:30 a.m.-noon

Cullen Preserve, 2510 Oakland Road

Cut buckthorn and arrange brush to decompose on-site. Additional information (including a map and parking instructions) will be emailed.

## Buckthorn Workshop

Thursday, March 14 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Learn ecologically sound techniques to control invasive woody plants.



# 2019 Property Taxes

## Help is available for property taxpayers

Several state programs exist to assist eligible residents with the rising cost of property taxes. For additional information, visit [eminnetonka.com/assessing/property-tax-refund-programs](http://eminnetonka.com/assessing/property-tax-refund-programs) or call the Minnesota Department of Revenue's tax helpline at 651-296-3781.

### Property tax refund program

The property tax refund program is also known as the "Homestead Credit Refund for Homeowners and Renters." For taxes paid in 2019, homeowners with 2018 household incomes up to \$113,150 are eligible for a refund up to \$2,770. Some renters with 2018 household incomes up to \$61,320 are also eligible for a refund up to \$2,150 depending on total rent paid in 2018. There are additional eligibility allowances for renters and homeowners over age 65, those who are disabled and for the number of dependents. Forms are available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue and must be filed by Aug. 15.

### Special property tax refund program

The special property tax refund program benefits homeowners whose 2019 property taxes have increased by more than 12 percent and are at least \$100 more than their 2018 taxes. The increase must not be attributable to new improvements, and homeowners must have owned and lived in their home on both Jan. 2, 2018 and Jan. 2, 2019. There is no limit on household income to be eligible and the maximum refund is \$1,000. Forms are available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and must be filed by Aug. 15.

### Senior citizens property tax deferral program

The senior citizens property tax deferral program allows people 65 years of age or older, whose household incomes are \$60,000 or less, to defer a portion of their property taxes on their homes they've lived in and homesteaded for the last 15 years. The property cannot be subject to a reverse mortgage, a life estate or any state or federal liens. Any other liens against the property must be less than 75 percent of the property's estimated market value. The program limits the amount of property taxes to three percent of the total household income for eligible property owners, and the amount of taxes to be paid each year will not change for as long as the homeowner participates in the program.

**This is not a tax forgiveness program – it is a low interest loan from the state.** The deferred tax is paid by the state to the county, and a **lien will attach to your property.** Annually adjusted interest will be charged on the loan. Application forms are available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue, and must be filed with the Hennepin County Auditor's Office by July 1 the year before the deferral would begin.

### Foreclosure prevention counseling

The city provides foreclosure prevention counseling through Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County. Call 952-933-1993 for information.

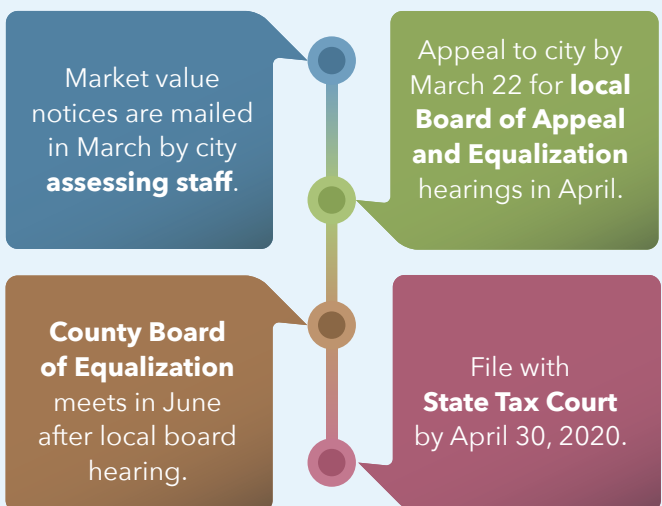
## Tax notices

Residents will receive two notices this month related to property taxes. One is the **market value notice** from the city, which will affect property taxes to be paid in 2020 and is explained on the facing Page 7. The other is the **property tax bill** for 2019, which is mailed by Hennepin County and must be paid this year.

## 2019 homeowner's property taxes

The city accounts for a little more than one-fourth of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The remainder is comprised of taxes for your school district (32 percent), county (33 percent) and other jurisdictions (seven percent).

## Market Value Appeals Process





# 2019 Market Value Notice

*Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2020.*

## **Minnetonka home values continue to increase**

The Minnetonka real estate market continues to stay strong. Home values in Minnetonka are up four percent on average this year compared with just over seven percent last year. Townhouses in the city saw average market growth at six percent, while condominiums experienced increases just under eight percent. Commercial values saw modest average growth of two percent, and industrial values increased by just over six percent. It's important to remember that individual properties may vary greatly, and adjustments vary by market. Thus, some properties may experience an increase in value while other may experience a decrease.

## **Market value based on 2018 data**

Property tax in Minnesota is a complicated process strictly governed by Minnesota state law. Although the City of Minnetonka administers the assessment, the city's work is overseen by Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The state-mandated schedule requires that 2019 property values are based on market information from 2018.

## **How is market value determined?**

The city's assessing division maintains records for every property in Minnetonka. Adjustments are made to the market values of most properties based on actual real estate sales of comparable properties from the past year. At least 20 percent of all properties are physically inspected each year, and adjustments to these are made based on the results of those inspections. Market value adjustments are also made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements.

## **What if I don't agree with my property's market value?**

If you have questions or concerns about your property's market value notice or the assessment process, call 952-939-8220. Assessing staff can review property records and sales information with you.

Based on this discussion and review, the appraiser may or may not make a change to your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal.

## **How does the appeal process work?**

The value subject to appeal is the taxable market value. Two avenues of appeal are available. Property owners may appeal directly to the State Tax Court. More common is an appeal through the local Board of Appeal and Equalization and then to the Hennepin County Board of Equalization.

The Minnetonka City Council convenes each year as the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization and has local real estate professionals serve as its advisors. To appeal to the local board, you should first discuss your property's market value with city assessing staff. After that, you may appeal by March 22 by asking that your property be reviewed for appeal. However, it is important to know that the local and county boards have the authority to raise or lower an appealed market value.

If you have questions or concerns about your property's market value or the assessment process, call 952-939-8220.

## **What do these numbers mean?**

In March, Minnetonka property owners will receive their 2019 market value notices.

### **Estimated market value**

This is the assessor's estimate of the total market value of the property, or what the property would likely sell for on the open market during the year ending September 2018.

### **Disabled veterans exclusion**

Qualifying disabled veterans may be eligible for a valuation exclusion on their homestead property, which would reduce the amount subject to taxation.

### **Taxable market value**

This is the value that your property taxes are actually based on after all reductions, exemptions and deferrals are removed.

### **Homestead market value exclusion**

This applies to residential homesteads and the house, garage and one acre of land for agricultural homesteads. The exclusion is a maximum of \$30,400 at \$76,000 of market value, and decreases by nine percent for value over \$76,000. The exclusion phases out for properties valued at \$413,800.



# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 7** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 18** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** Planning Commission, 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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## 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) coordinators and 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](http://eminnetonka.com/employment).