

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Stay informed about summer construction

The city will conduct several important projects in 2019 to improve infrastructure and connectivity. Visit our website for complete details and to sign up for email/text updates.

- **Ridgedale Drive** (eminnetonka.com/ridgedaledrive)
Two-year project beginning in 2019 to improve the road, utilities, traffic flow and walkability along Ridgedale Drive between Plymouth Road and I-394; Ridgedale Center and surrounding businesses will be open and accessible during construction.
- **Carlson Parkway** (eminnetonka.com/carlsonparkway)
Pavement and intersection improvements between Oakland Road and Twelve Oaks Center Drive
- **Mill and Overlay** (eminnetonka.com/2019mill-overlay)
Resurfacing and spot improvements of Highland Road and Scenic Heights Drive
- **Plymouth Road Trail** (eminnetonka.com/plymouthtrail)
Completion of a two-year project to add a new trail along Plymouth Road from the Ridgedale area to Minnetonka Boulevard



Run for city council in 2019

There will be five Minnetonka City Council seats up for election in 2019 - all four Ward seats, and a special election for one at-large seat. Here's what you need to know to run for any of these seats:



- Candidate filing period: May 21-June 4
- File in-person at city hall, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., extended hours until 5 p.m. on June 4
- Fee: \$5
- Candidates must be a Minnetonka resident, age 21 or older and a qualified voter. Ward candidates must live in that ward.

Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. If more than two candidates file for any seat, there will be a primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Visit eminnetonka.com/elections for more information. Call 952-939-8200 or email elections@eminnetonka.com with questions.

School board election

The Hopkins, Minnetonka and Wayzata school districts will have school board positions on the ballot. Contact your school district office for more information or questions about filing.

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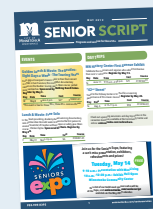
What are those blue lights?

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New organics recycling customers get free year in 2019

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Senior Script newsletter
CENTER INSERT

What are those blue lights?

Earlier this year, the city added small blue lights to three busy intersections to help officers safely identify and enforce red light violations. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about these new lights.



Where are they located?

- Hwy 7 and Shady Oak Road
- Hwy 7 and Tonkawood/Woodland Roads
- Hwy 7 and Williston Road

What is their purpose?

The goal is to improve safety and reduce crashes at these intersections.

How do they work?

The blue lights turn on when the traffic signal turns red. They're positioned so officers can more easily see if a vehicle runs a red light, and they allow officers to monitor traffic from safer locations, angles and distances. If an officer observes a violation, they're in a much safer position to begin pursuit.

The lights do not include cameras and do not send signals or information to officers off-site. They are simply a visual tool for officers who are monitoring the intersections.

Are these only in Minnetonka?

No. Cities throughout the metro area have been using these lights for more than 10 years.

Questions?

Call the police department at 952-939-8500.

City embarks on study to improve public space in Opus area

The city is conducting a study to improve public spaces in the Opus area, which is located near Hwy 169, Hwy 62 and Shady Oak Road.

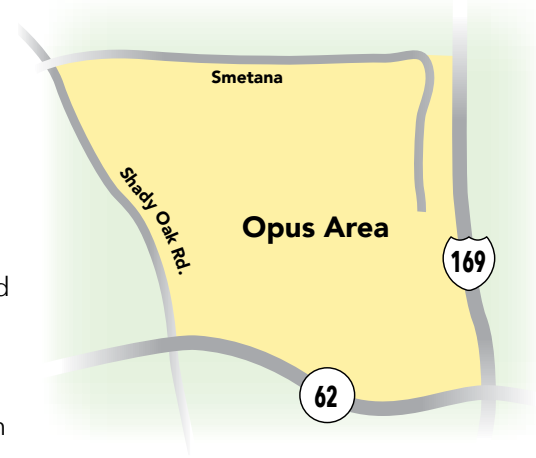
Goals of the study include:

- Develop guidelines for a new public space
- Enhance the existing trail network and its design
- Maximize accessibility to the future light rail station

There will be multiple opportunities for public input.

About the Opus area

Opus is a mixed-use community that features residential apartments, major employment centers, a unique one-way road network, six-miles of off-road trails and open natural areas. Established nearly 40 years ago, Opus is experiencing revitalization sparked by the impending arrival of light rail transit, which will run through the area and include a station.



The area is currently home to more than 15,000 employees and 4,000 residents. New development will feature more than 1,000 new units of housing, over half of which will be affordable housing for individuals, families and seniors.

Stay informed

Visit [eminnetonka.com/opuspublicspace](https://www.minnetonka.com/opuspublicspace) for more information and to subscribe to receive email updates.



Drop off leaves, yard waste and brush

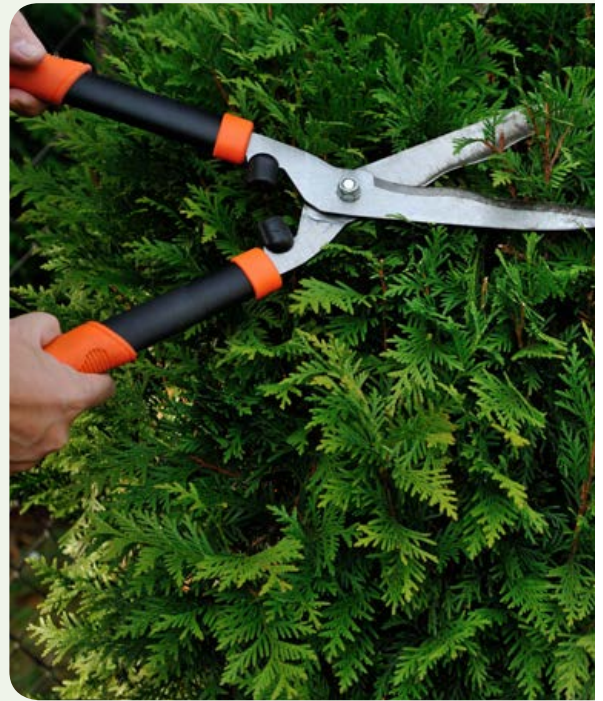
Each spring, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works facility. Residents must present a driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill. Commercial tree and lawn services must prove materials came from a Minnetonka address.

Leaf and yard waste site closes May 18

The leaf and yard waste drop-off site is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The site will close for the season on Saturday, May 18, and will be open again this fall (Sept. 23-Nov. 23).

Brush drop-off open through November

The brush drop-off site is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. from April 1 to Nov. 23.

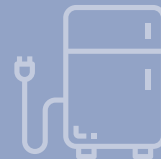


Learn more

Visit [eminnetonka.com/yardwaste](https://www.minnetonka.com/yardwaste) for more information, including accepted items at each site and drop-off guidelines. Call 952-988-8400 with questions.



SPECIAL
COMMUNITY
DROP-OFF DAY



Mark your calendar for Minnetonka's special one-day drop-off event Saturday, June 1, from 8 a.m.–3 p.m. at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Dispose of appliances, fluorescent lights, carpet, lumber, mattresses, scrap metal and more. Visit [eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day](https://www.minnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day) for details or watch for more information in the June issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*.

Summer recreation opportunities for all ages

Call 952-939-8203 or visit eminnetonka.com/register to sign up for these outstanding opportunities!

Adult Basketball League

Wednesday evenings, June 5-July 31
Hopkins West Jr. High
\$380 per team | Course: 3010101-01



Register by May 23 for this fun, five-player officiated league. Upper and lower divisions with playoffs for the top four teams in each.

Pine Tar Academy Baseball Camp

June 17-20, 9-11:30 a.m. | Grades 3-6
Big Willow Baseball Fields | \$139 | Course: 3150202-01

Fundamentals - hitting, fielding, pitching and base running - will be emphasized to help players improve individual skills and reach their potential. There will be individual and group skills competitions and scrimmages. All participants receive a camp T-shirt.



Summer Fest Pickleball Tournament

Saturday, June 22 | Lone Lake Park
\$20 plus \$5 per division | Course: 3201101-01

Play in the inaugural Summer Fest Pickleball Tournament on the new courts at Lone Lake Park. This is an unsanctioned event. Women's and men's doubles begin at 8 a.m. and mixed doubles start at 1:30 p.m.



Step to it Minnetonka!

Join friends and neighbors for this free, four-week challenge to make Minnetonka the most active community in Hennepin County!

- The challenge runs May 1-28.
- Participate as an individual or with a group.
- Log your activity online daily or weekly.
- Almost any activity can be converted to steps.

The community with the most collective steps on May 28 wins, and the top four individuals in each age bracket will receive Minnesota Twins tickets and recognition at the game. Participants can win other prizes as well.

Registration is now open! Learn more and sign up today at steptoit.org.

Celebrate spring with the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra

This spring, the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra will perform several favorites at a pair of free concerts under the direction of Laura Mac Lean.

Sunday, May 5 | 3 p.m.
Minnetonka United Methodist Church

Saturday, May 11 | 3 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka



Dispose of household hazardous waste

Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.



This event is open to any Hennepin County resident. Items are not accepted from businesses, including home businesses or non-profit organizations. Most household items and products - including auto and fuel wastes, gas cylinders, lawn and garden products and mercury-containing items - are accepted. Electronics and other select items are not accepted.

For more information - including a complete list of accepted items, visit hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/collection-events or call Hennepin County at 612-348-3777.

Utilize year-round drop-off sites

Hennepin County residents may bring household hazardous waste to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities in Bloomington or Brooklyn Park. Visit hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/drop-off-facilities for location details, hours, accepted materials and fees.

'Choose to Reuse'

Visit Hennepin County's "Choose to Reuse" website (hennepin.us/choose-to-reuse) for easy ways to keep usable items out of the trash and find quality belongings without buying new.

New organics recycling customers get first year free in 2019

Recycling organic waste has numerous benefits. It's environmentally friendly, cost-effective and helps divert waste from landfills.



To encourage curbside organics recycling, the city and Hennepin County are offering a free year of service to a limited number of new customers. Approximately 80 free recycling grants are still available for 2019. To receive a free year of service:

1. You must use Randy's Environmental Services or Ark Disposal as your garbage collector.
2. Contact Randy's (763-972-3335) or Ark (763-898-5226) directly to begin curbside organics recycling service.
3. The city will pay the hauler directly; residents will not be billed.

More information

To learn more about organics recycling and its benefits, visit eminnetonka.com/organicsrecycling or call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8414.

Free compostable bags and containers available

The city has a limited supply of compostable bags and kitchen containers, available to all organics customers at no charge. Stop by Public Works at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. to get a container and 25 bags.

Learn about U.S. history

Join the Minnetonka Historical Society and local expert Lorraine Kretchman for a fascinating look at the circumstances and medical conditions of the seven U.S. presidents who died in office. Call 952-930-3962 for more information.

Tuesday, May 7 | 7 p.m.
Community Center
Free for all ages





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:

Do I need a permit to install a pool or spa? If so, what are the requirements?

Answer:

• Permits

Kiddie pools and pools less than 75 square feet and 24 inches in depth **do not** require a permit. All other pools and spas (in- and above-ground) **do** require building and plumbing permits, and sometimes an electrical permit.

• Location

Pools and spas must be at least 15 feet from property lines, and can't be in the front yard.

• Fencing

All pools and spas must be enclosed by a five-foot tall, non-climbable fence. Fence openings must be four inches or less. Fence gates must be self-closing and self-latching.

Have a question?

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



Call before you dig

Spring is here - and so are outdoor projects. If you're planning to do any landscaping projects or digging in your yard, it's essential to learn where your underground utilities are located to avoid injuries, damages, fines, service disruptions and costly repairs.



Follow these steps for each project or dig.

- Call **811** or visit **call811.com** several days before you plan to dig.
- Provide 811 with your contact information, the type of work you'll be doing and where you plan to dig.
- Utility companies will be notified of your intent to dig, and representatives will visit your property (typically within 2-3 business days) to mark the location of your underground utility lines.
- Once lines are marked, your project can begin. Respect the marked areas and dig carefully.
- Repeat these steps for each project - erosion or root growth can shift lines, so be sure to call before each dig.

Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

Join the conversation and stay informed!



Protect elm trees in our community forest

Healthy, beautiful American elm trees are still an iconic part of Minnetonka's community forest, but Dutch elm disease has significantly impacted elms over the past 50 years. Here's how you can identify and help protect this important species.

How to identify American elm

- Bark: spongy-textured
- Leaves: staggered along the branch with a pointed tip, jagged edges and uneven base
- Flowers: greenish-yellow
- Fruit: small papery wafers that blow off in June



Dutch elm disease symptoms

- Wilting leaves that turn yellow or brown
- Death of whole branches, usually begins at the top and spreads downward

Dutch elm disease inspections and removal

Beginning in early June, certified tree inspectors scout public and private property.

Infected elms are marked and property owners are provided with removal instructions and a 30-day timeline to remove. Please comply quickly to limit the spread of this disease.

Call 952-988-8407 to request an elm inspection or report a diseased elm in the city. Please provide the address and symptoms.

Thank you for protecting our valuable community forest!

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

May 2019

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

Garlic Mustard Workshop

Monday, May 6 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

Learn the best methods and timing to control this very invasive species.

Habitat Restoration Volunteer Opportunities

Help pull garlic mustard and learn how to safely compost on-site. All events listed below are from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Location	Date	Meeting Location
Reich Park	May 1	South Lane, east of Reich Road
Cullen Preserve	May 2, 7, 15, 23, 29	2510 Oakland Road gate
Burwell House meadow	May 14	13207 McGinty Road E. parking lot
Purgatory Park	May 21	Stodola Road entrance

Tree Sale Pick-Up

Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18
9 a.m. to noon

Public Works | East Driveway
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Did you order a tree during the city's annual tree sale in February? Don't forget to pick them up at these dates and times. Bring the confirmation letter and tabs you received in the mail in late April.

Trees that are not collected on these dates will be planted in Minnetonka parks. No refunds will be given.

MINNETONKA MEMO**City of Minnetonka Calendar**

- 2** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Park Board Tour, 5 p.m.
- 8** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 13** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 27** Memorial Day, City Offices Closed

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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2019 Minnetonka **SAVE THE DATE!**
SUMMER
FEST Saturday, June 22



Look for full details in the June edition of the Minnetonka Memo.

Minnetonka Farmers Market returns in June

The Minnetonka Farmers Market's 10th season begins Tuesday, June 11, and will run 3-7 p.m. each Tuesday through Sept. 24 on the city's civic center campus.

Join us each week to shop for local produce, enjoy live music and artisans, eat at food trucks and visit with community groups. Kids ages 4-12 are invited to join the Power of Produce club and receive a \$2 voucher each week.

Visit eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket to subscribe to weekly updates and find more information, including a complete list of vendors.

Please note: The pop-up markets at Unmapped Brewing Co. advertised in the summer recreation brochure have been canceled.

