

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Ward 3 residents to vote in special election April 10

A special election will be held Tuesday, April 10 to fill Minnetonka's vacant Ward 3 city council seat. **Only Ward 3 residents will vote in the special election.** To vote, one must be registered, a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day and a resident of Minnesota for 20 days.

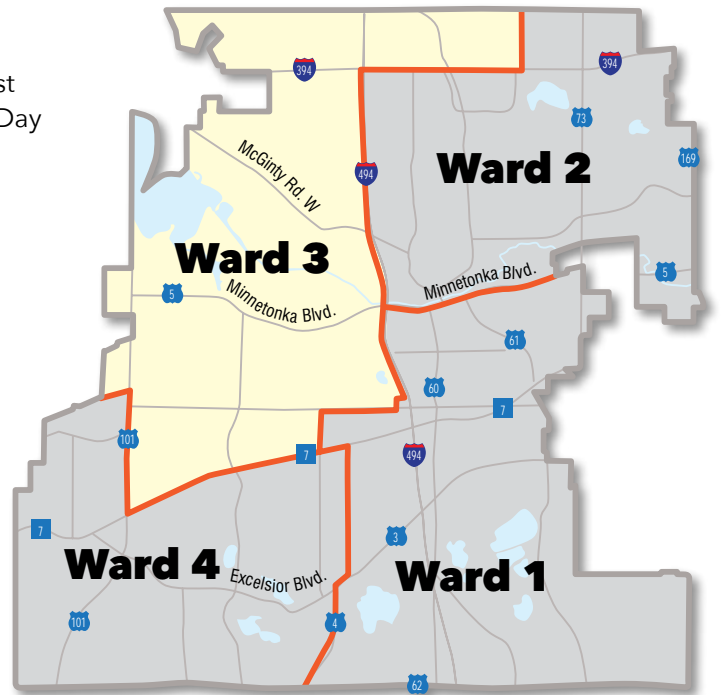
The Ward 3 seat was vacated in January when Brad Wiersum was sworn in as Minnetonka's Mayor.

### Candidates

- ☐ Elena Imaretska
- ☐ Mike Happe
- ☐ Brooks Johnson
- ☐ Keith Waxelman
- ☐ Kim Wilson

### Voter registration

Registration is required for those who have never voted or registered, or have changed their name or address. Voters can register at the polls on Election Day with proper identification. To check registration status or to find a list of acceptable forms of identification visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).



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## Susan Thomas wins Spirit of Minnetonka award

The 2018 Spirit of Minnetonka Award ☐the city's employee-of-the-year award ☐was presented to Assistant City Planner Susan Thomas. A city employee since 2002, Thomas received the Spirit of Minnetonka award in recognition of her dedication to excellence.

Thomas is known by other city employees to turn every task into an opportunity. She selflessly gives her time and talent, takes calculated risks, easily adapts and is a model of high character. She truly embodies the ☐Spirit of Minnetonka!☐



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# Public outreach and Steering Committee help shape Minnetonka's future

## Comprehensive Guide Plan Spotlight

What do residents hope Minnetonka looks like in 25 years? That's the question city staff has been asking as it prepares to update Minnetonka's comprehensive guide plan—an important planning document that will guide future development decisions.

The 18-month update process is nearing its halfway point, but recent efforts have focused on two areas—public outreach and input from the 2040 Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee. Feedback from both the general public and the steering committee are a vital component to ensure Minnetonka's residents have a say in the city's future.

### Public outreach

In January and February, city staff held 14 outreach sessions to solicit feedback and input. Staff visited with residents at coffee shops, sporting events, Ridgedale Mall, happy hours, the community center and community events.

“Public engagement is an important part of this process,” said Steering Committee Member Madeline Seveland. “The city's public outreach is refreshing; the city went out into the community rather than asking the community to come to city hall.”

Residents who missed out will have additional opportunities to provide input. Another round of community outreach is planned for the spring and summer once the plan is in draft form. Stay tuned to [eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan](http://eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan) for updates.

### Steering committee

Monthly steering committee meetings began in June 2017 and will continue into summer 2018. The committee has discussed and provided input on policy direction regarding land use, transportation, parks, open space, and natural and physical infrastructure systems. The committee has also analyzed the accommodation of regional population and employment growth projections and will ensure the plan is consistent with similar regional policies.

The 15-person steering committee has focused on housing and commercial densities, quality single-family neighborhoods, preparation for a changing climate, movement and mobility, maintaining a diversity of housing type and price point, and preservation and enhancement of the city's extensive water and natural resources.

### More information

To learn more about the process to prepare the 2040 Comprehensive Guide Plan visit [eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan](http://eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan). Subscribe to receive email and text updates and stay tuned for public meeting dates and further opportunities to provide input.

## QUOTABLE

*Here's what steering committee members are saying about the comprehensive plan update.*

“Until participating in this planning process, I never really thought about all the moving parts such as land, housing, transportation, parks and trails, water resources and natural areas that all combine to make Minnetonka a great place to live.”

—Lance Reschke

“The systematic approach to update the plan is good, and it helps to understand the interconnected issues. Ultimately, this plan is about balancing the broader community interests which can be tricky when issues intersect with one another.”

—Brian Kirk

“This is a great opportunity for all people to participate in local government decision-making. Planning Minnetonka's future is open to all.”

—Matt Henry

“It's been incredibly eye-opening to be part of the Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee. I'm genuinely impressed by the significant amount of thoughtful discussion and community engagement that goes into every part of the planning. I am truly thankful my husband and I picked such a great city to raise our family.”

—Melissa Johnston



## City considers adding mountain bike trails to Lone Lake Park

Following an extensive public input process, the Minnetonka Park Board has directed City of Minnetonka staff to develop a concept plan for adding mountain bike trails to Lone Lake Park.



A desire for mountain biking trails was a common theme throughout 2016. Imagine Minnetonka community-wide visioning process. In 2017, city staff started to explore the feasibility of adding mountain bike trails to Minnetonka parks and conducted an extensive public input process to gather community feedback. In early 2018, resident feedback helped shape criteria that outlined the conditions necessary for a park to adequately support mountain biking trails. That criteria was used to analyze all city parks, and only Lone Lake met the requirements.

### Next steps

Between now and May 2018, staff will conduct a feasibility study and create the formal concept plan, which will detail the exact trail location and length. Residents will have an opportunity to review the concept plan and provide feedback at an open house at city hall Thursday, May 17.

The park board will review the concept plan and hear feedback at its June 6 meeting. If the park board votes to move forward with the concept, it will advance to the city council for final approval. If the council approves, a timeline and next steps will be established.

### More information

Visit [eminnetonka.com/mountainbiking](http://eminnetonka.com/mountainbiking) for more details including park selection criteria, background information, open house details, public meeting recaps, frequently asked questions and contact information and to subscribe to receive email and text updates.

## Street sweeping under way

Minnetonka Public Works will begin street sweeping in late March, weather permitting. For four weeks or until all streets have been swept crews will sweep streets in 10-hour shifts Monday through Thursday (5 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and in eight-hour shifts on Fridays (5 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Crews try to stay out of residential areas in the early morning, but it is not always possible. In these cases, crews will make every effort to minimize noise.



While the street sweeper does a good job cleaning streets, it can't capture all the debris, so we need your help! As the snow melts, identify the storm sewer grates in your neighborhood, then remove and dispose of the accumulated debris and litter.

## Apply now for summer seasonal employment opportunities

The City of Minnetonka is now accepting applications for summer seasonal employment positions. There are several great opportunities for high school and college students, or anyone interested in gaining valuable experience and training.

The city is especially seeking applicants for a trio of fun, engaging leadership opportunities. The Supervised Playground Leader, Summer Adventure Leader and Kid's Corner Leader positions plan, organize and lead activities for children ages 4-12.

### Recreation Positions:

- ☐ Supervised Playground Leader
- ☐ Summer Adventure Leader
- ☐ Kid's Corner Leader
- ☐ Beach Lifeguard
- ☐ Beach Concessions-Gate Attendant
- ☐ Grays Bay Marina Attendant
- ☐ Farmers Market Assistant

### Public Works Positions:

- ☐ Park, Street and Utility Maintenance
- ☐ Tree Inspector
- ☐ Restoration Technician
- ☐ Watering Technician

For more information or to apply online, visit [eminnetonka.com/employment](http://eminnetonka.com/employment).

# Water main flushing begins Monday, April 23

Minnetonka Public Works will flush water mains throughout the city from Monday, April 23 through Thursday, May 10. Flushing will be done weekdays from 5:30 a.m. until 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 23

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

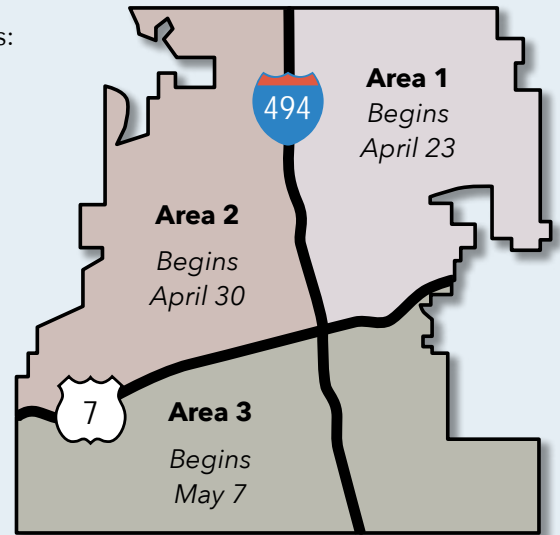
## April 30

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

## May 11

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

Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions.



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 **cold** water in the laundry tub. Contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 with problems or questions.

## Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans

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

### Small Projects Program

The city is accepting pre-applications for the Small Projects Program home improvement loans, which offers a limited number of forgivable loans up to \$5,000 for eligible home repairs. Full applications will be available this spring.

After 10 years the loan is forgiven, but if the property is sold or the title is transferred within 10 years, the full loan amount is due at the time of sale. Eligibility is based on maximum income limits and intended improvements.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans](http://eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans) to learn more about program guidelines including eligible and ineligible improvements, loan terms and income limits and to download a pre-application.

### Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program

This program offers low-interest home improvement financing - with more lenient income restrictions than the Small Projects Program 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, but are more lenient than the Small Projects Program.

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.

### 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](http://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](mailto:rhanson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8234.

## Burwell House Tour Guide Informational Sessions

Minnetonka Historic Charles H. Burwell House  
13209 E. McGinty Road

Interested in becoming a Burwell House volunteer tour guide? Learn more and take a tour at one of these informational sessions:

- Tuesday, April 24, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.

The 2018 tour season runs from June 2 to Aug. 26 with tours from 12 p.m. each Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays in September from 12 p.m. High school students are welcome to volunteer.

To apply, or for more information, visit [eminnetonka.com/Burwell](http://eminnetonka.com/Burwell) or email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com).



## Election Judge Informational Sessions



Learn more about becoming an election judge at one of these informational sessions, both held in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.).

- Wednesday, April 25 | 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 2 | 9:30 a.m.

The city seeks election judges for both the Aug. 14 state primary election and the Nov. 6 state general election. This is a paid opportunity and training is provided.

Find more information and apply online at [eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges](http://eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges).  
Email questions to [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com).

## Special Election

Continued from page 1.

### When and where to vote

Voting will take place Tuesday, April 10 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters in line by 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote. Ward 3 polling locations include:



- Ridgepointe, 12600 Marion Lane W.
- Brookedale, 500 Carlson Parkway
- Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- St. Luke Presbyterian Church, 3121 Groveland School Road
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
- United Methodist Church, 17611 Lake St. Extension

### Absentee voting

Absentee ballots can be cast in-person at city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.). Hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours Saturday, April 7 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Monday, April 9 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Absentee ballots can also be cast by mail. Mailed ballots must be received by Hennepin County on or before Election Day to count. Visit [eminnetonka.com/voters](http://eminnetonka.com/voters) to download an absentee ballot application and learn more.

### Results

Unofficial voting results will be available on Election Night on [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com). The results will become official when certified by the city council at its April 16 meeting.

### More information

For more information and links to voter registration, polling places and more, visit [eminnetonka.com/elections](http://eminnetonka.com/elections). For questions, email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com) or call 952-939-8200.

## FEATURED RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Intro to Fly Fishing

**Adults | Tuesday, April 17**

**5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Course Number: 3152401-01**

**Women Only | Tuesday, May 15**

**5:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Course Number: 3152401-02**

**\$35 | Shady Oak Beach Park**

Cast into action with this three-hour introduction to the world of fly fishing. This hands-on class will teach proper casting technique, fly presentation and equipment overview. A portion of the class will be spent fishing; all equipment is provided. This class is for ages 14 and up; 14- and 15-year-old participants must be accompanied by a paying adult.



### Science Explorers: Buggy for Bugs

**Thursday, April 19**

**9:30-11 a.m.**

**\$39 | Glen Lake Activity Center**

**Course Number: 2040504-01**

Kids ages 3.5-6 are invited to learn more about the creepy crawlers of the insect world. The class will investigate the two types of metamorphosis, discover how bugs survive and do a number of fun, hands-on construction projects.



**To register call 952-939-8203 or visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register).**

## Lt. Lee Christopher receives fire department's top honor

Minnetonka Fire Lieutenant Lee Christopher 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.

Christopher has been a Minnetonka firefighter for five years and a lieutenant for the last three. He received the award for his contributions as a positive leader who sets clear expectations and ensures everyone knows their role. He is an excellent mentor and is quick to help new firefighters acclimate to the highs and lows of public safety.



## Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 3-5

Minnetonka Ice Arena's All-Season Skating School is proud to present the 44th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, “Rock the Rink.” More than 200 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities are featured again this year.

### Show times

**Thursday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 5, 2 p.m.**



### Admission

General admission for each performance is \$6, with free admission for children under 5. Senior citizens are granted free admission to the Saturday afternoon performance. Bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.

## Music Association of Minnetonka Choir Day Camp

**June 11-15 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Ages: Entering grades 3-8**

**Arts Center on 7 at Minnetonka High School**

Music and intrigue abound in this week of singing, games and performance. Care before and after camp is available. Register at [musicassociation.org](http://musicassociation.org) or call 952-401-5954.

# Leaf and brush drop-off sites open April 2

Each spring and fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

## REGULAR HOURS AND LOCATION

**Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 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 28, Sept. 3 and Nov. 12 in observance of holidays.

## LEAF DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 2-MAY 19

### Leaf Drop-off Site Guidelines

- ☑ A driver's license, state ID or utility bill must be presented to verify residency.
- ☑ Leaves and yard waste such as grass, weeds, pine cones, needles, straw, plants and garden materials are accepted.
- ☑ Sticks and branches smaller than one-half inch in diameter are also accepted; larger materials must go into the separate brush pile.
- ☑ Bags of any kind cannot be left at the drop-off site. Residents must take all bags home (including compostable bags) after depositing leaves and yard waste.
- ☑ Leaves are not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- ☑ Remember to bring proper equipment, like a stout pitch fork, for unloading leaves
- ☑ Loads of leaves must be covered during transport.



## BRUSH DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 1-NOV. 18

### Brush Drop-off Site Guidelines

- ☑ Any diameter branch or log up to eight feet in length is accepted.
- ☑ Stumps, dirt, sod, trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted.
- ☑ Brush is not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- ☑ All yard waste must be disposed of in the leaf drop-off area. The brush drop-off and leaf drop-off programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials; it is important they stay separate.

For more information, call Public Works at 952-988-8400 or visit [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com).

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 4** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 10** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 12** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 16** Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, 6:15 p.m.
- 16** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 23** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 30** Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, 6:15 p.m.
- 30** 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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952-939-8200 | [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)

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### Register for summer adult sports leagues

Get into the action! Make the most of summer by registering for one of Minnetonka's adult sports leagues. Options include adult softball, kickball, soccer and basketball leagues and a new this year sand volleyball. Learn more at [eminnetonka.com/sports](http://eminnetonka.com/sports).

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 **City of Minnetonka**

