

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



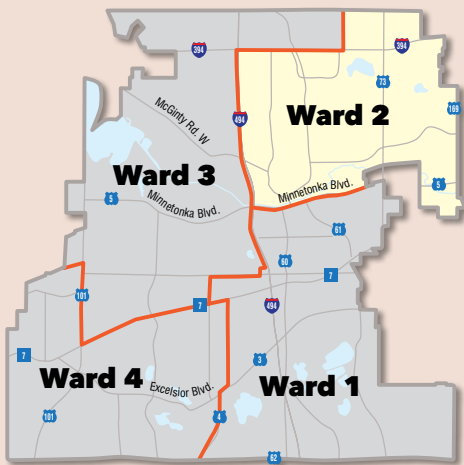
New Ward 2 council member to be appointed in August

Former Ward 2 City Councilmember Tony Wagner relocated outside the ward in July and therefore can no longer serve as its representative. At its June 18 meeting, the city council voted to fill the vacancy via appointment process.

Applications were due July 16. The council was scheduled to select finalists to interview July 23 (after this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo* was sent to the printer) and will conduct interviews at a special city council meeting July 30. Their selection will be appointed and take the oath of office at the Monday, Aug. 6 council meeting.*

Visit eminnetonka.com/2018ward2 for complete details about the Ward 2 appointment process, including applicant names, a detailed timeline and frequently asked questions.

**If the council determines a second round of interviews are needed, those will be conducted Aug. 13 and the appointment will take place Aug. 27.*



Minnetonka recognized for sustainability efforts

The City of Minnetonka received an award from the League of Minnesota Cities in July for advancing to Step 3 in the GreenStep program, which recognizes cities for their efforts in resource conservation and innovation.

Councilmember Deb Calvert, City Manager GERALYN BARONE and Mayor Brad Wiersum accept GreenStep Cities Step 3 recognition.



"This award is a great achievement for Minnetonka," said Mayor Brad Wiersum. "By being part of the program, Minnetonka and our peers are helping to make Minnesota more resilient for the future while also helping our cities thrive economically."

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a free, continuous improvement program based on best practices that focus on cost savings, energy use reduction and civic innovation.

Overall, the city has met 41 best practice actions, including recent efforts to add a sustainable purchasing policy and provide resources to businesses to assist with personalized energy, environmental assistance and sustainability audits.

Minnetonka has been a member of the GreenStep Cities initiative since 2013 and is now on Step 3 of 5. There are 122 participating cities, and Minnetonka is one of 42 to advance past Step 2.

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Senior Script Newsletter

2018 SUMMER FEST

The City of Minnetonka held its 41st annual Summer Fest Saturday, June 23 at the city's civic center campus and Burwell House. Live music, fireworks, food, games and activities – combined with perfect weather – made for a fantastic celebration.



Fall recreation program registration begins Aug. 7

Registration for fall recreation programs begins Tuesday, Aug. 7 at 8 a.m. Visit eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure to check out the program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including fitness classes, kids' programs, craft opportunities and athletic leagues. There is something for everyone!

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

Council, planning commission to review police and fire facility concept plan

For more than a year, city staff and officials have been working with an architect to develop a plan to construct a new fire station on the city campus and to repurpose the existing police and fire facility into a remodeled police station.

The public review process for the proposed facility upgrades is under way. The planning commission is scheduled to review the concept plan and provide feedback Thursday, Aug. 2 and the city council is scheduled to discuss the plan Monday, Aug. 27. Residents are invited to attend both meetings and provide comment.

The concept plan was first unveiled to the public at a July 16 community meeting.



Project history

It's been 45 years since the Minnetonka Central Fire Station was built and 30 years since the Minnetonka Police Station was constructed. In the decades since, both departments have evolved to address the city's safety and security needs.

Stay informed and learn more

Visit eminnetonka.com/policefire2020 for more information, including why improvements are needed, next steps, important dates and an approximate timeline. Text "mtka pf2020" to 468-311 to subscribe to project updates, or sign up for email or text updates online.

To provide feedback or ask questions, contact Assistant City Manager Perry Vetter at 952-939-8216 or pvetter@eminnetonka.com.

Provide feedback on franchise fee increases to fund trails

Soon, the Minnetonka City Council will consider adopting two new ordinances to increase utility franchise fees to fund the construction of new trails. Residents are encouraged to attend one of the following city council meetings to provide feedback.

Monday, Aug. 27

Ordinances tentatively scheduled to be introduced

Monday, Sept. 17

Council tentatively scheduled to act on the proposal

The electric and gas franchise fees would increase by \$5.50 per month* for residential customers. The fees would generate \$1.8 million per year solely for the construction of new trails and sidewalks, which would allow the city to build an estimated eight new trail segments over the next 10 years.



Throughout the city's 2016 "Imagine Minnetonka" community visioning process, residents expressed a strong desire for more sidewalks and trails to better connect the community and increase safety for pedestrians and bicycles. The city's 2018 community survey underscored that theme, with 85 percent of residents indicating support for the use of municipal funds to expand and improve the city's trails and sidewalks.

Visit eminnetonka.com/trailfunds for more information or contact Finance Director Merrill King at 952-939-8253 or mking@eminnetonka.com with questions.

**The council will also consider a \$1 increase to fund utility line burial.*

Mountain biking decision delayed

The City of Minnetonka was informed on July 5, 2018, that a petition was filed requesting the city to conduct an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed mountain biking trail in Lone Lake Park.

The city council's July 9, 2018 review of the concept plan was postponed to allow the council to first review the EAW request, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 6, 2018.

More information

Stay tuned to eminnetonka.com/mountainbiking for updates on the EAW request and the council review of the concept plan. Also visit the project page to subscribe to project updates, view the concept plan and find more details.

Pedestrian safety is a two-way street

As Minnetonka continues to become more pedestrian and bike friendly, it's imperative that walkers, bikers and vehicles safely share the road. Here are some important facts and safety tips to keep everyone safe on our streets.



www.mndot.gov/peds

m MINNESOTA

Did you know?

- ☑ ALL intersections are crosswalks, whether they're marked or not.
- ☑ Pedestrians have the right of way once they step from the curb.
- ☑ A majority of pedestrian-vehicle accidents occur at intersections on low-speed roadways.

Pedestrian safety tips

- ☑ Clearly show your intention to cross.
- ☑ Make yourself visible to drivers.
- ☑ Cross at marked crosswalks and intersections; do not cross mid-block.

Driver safety tips

- ☑ Stop for crossing pedestrians at every intersection, even those without crosswalks, stop lights or stop signs.
- ☑ Do not pass a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian.
- ☑ Proceed once pedestrians have completely crossed your vehicle's lane.

For more pedestrian safety information and tips, including a link to an extensive list from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, visit eminnetonka.com/crosswalks.

City to develop new park in Ridgedale area

As part of the ongoing revitalization and reimagining of the Ridgedale area, the City of Minnetonka will develop a new, two-acre community park adjacent to Ridgedale Center.

City planners are in the initial stages of outreach and engagement for the park and we'd like your input in order to create a vibrant and welcoming community gathering space. In the next few weeks, the city will launch an online survey with the goal of gathering feedback regarding potential park usage. This information will serve to inform design of the space.

To be informed when the survey is live, please visit eminnetonka.com/newpark and sign up for email or text notifications about the project. There you will also find more information about the planning process.



Tentative Park Location

Join our team!

Check out employment opportunities
with the City of Minnetonka
at eminnetonka.com/employment.

Make beautiful music with the Music Association of Minnetonka

Musicians and music lovers are invited to join the Music Association of Minnetonka for its 45th season. Rehearsals and free concerts begin in September. Visit musicassociation.org for more information and a performance calendar.



Opportunities include:

- ☑ **Senior Chorale:** Singing and service for age 55 and up
- ☑ **Civic Orchestra:** Openings for string players, no auditions
- ☑ **Symphony Orchestra:** Audition openings for string players
- ☑ **Chorus a la Carte:** Choral experiences for adults
- ☑ **Concert Band:** Auditioned concert band
- ☑ **Youth Choir:** For kids who love to sing



Tour Burwell House in August

August | Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays | 1st 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 August at the days and times listed above. The house is air-conditioned and the main floor is handicapped-accessible. To schedule special group (seven or more) tours or learn more, visit eminnetonka.com/burwell.

Vote Tuesday, Aug. 14 in the state primary election

The state primary election is Aug. 14. There are partisan primary elections for two U.S. Senate seats, District 3 U.S. Representative, governor and state attorney general. There is one non-partisan primary election ☑ county sheriff ☑ on the ballot. A sample ballot is posted at eminnetonka.com/elections and in the Minnetonka City Hall lobby.

Change to Ward 2 Precinct D polling location

Ward 2 Precinct D voters who previously voted at Ridgedale Library will vote at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.



Absentee voting and direct balloting

Cast your absentee ballot in-person at city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Voters can apply to receive a ballot in the mail at hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting.

Absentee voters may place their ballot directly into the ballot tabulator at city hall Aug. 7-10 and Aug. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Direct balloting will also be available at city hall on Saturday, Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn more

For questions or more information about the August primary or November general elections, call 952-939-8200 or email elections@eminnetonka.com.

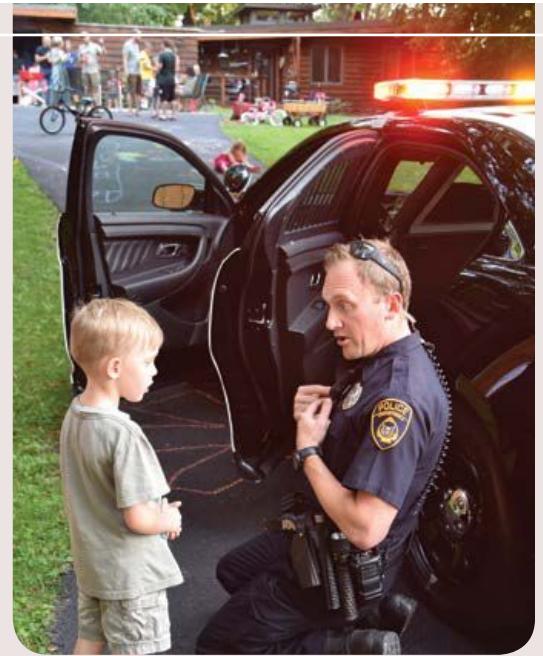
Celebrate Night to Unite Aug. 7

Minnetonka residents are encouraged to schedule block parties, cookouts or events to get to know one another and promote community safety on Tuesday, Aug. 7 as part of the national Night to Unite celebration.



Events that registered with the city by July 27 may receive visits from Minnetonka Police and Fire, Public Works and other city officials, including police and fire trucks, ambulances and big public works trucks. Visits are not guaranteed.

Visit eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite for more information, including event ideas and tips, ICA Food Shelf food drive contest information and a flyer to promote your neighborhood's event. Contact Karen Hendrickson at 952-939-8543 or khendrickson@eminnetonka.com with questions.



Movies in the Park

Bring your family, friends and a blanket or lawn chair for a fun, free night of cinema under the stars at the outdoor amphitheater (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.)! Movies begin at dusk. If there is inclement weather, the movies will be shown inside the community center at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 8

Despicable Me 3

Wednesday, Aug. 15

Sherlock Gnomes

Thursday, Aug. 23

Coco

Dispose of unwanted items at Sept. 8 drop-off event

Mark your calendar for Minnetonka's Special Community Drop-off Day Saturday, Sept. 8 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 for details or watch for more information in the September issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*.



Minnetonka named Tree City USA

The City of Minnetonka has earned the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA distinction for excellence in urban forestry management for the 24th-straight year. To earn the honor, a city must meet four standards:



Have a tree board or department

Minnetonka's natural resources division includes a city forester, forestry technician, seasonal tree inspectors and administrative staff.

Pass a tree care ordinance

Dutch elm disease has declined significantly since passage of the city's shade tree disease control ordinance, and oak wilt is holding steady. The ordinance was recently amended to address management of future plant pests, including emerald ash borer (EAB).

Budget at least \$2 per capita for community forestry

The city far exceeds this standard in its financial commitment to protecting and maintaining a healthy urban forest.

Celebrate Arbor Day

The city holds an annual tree sale, which has added roughly 15,000 young trees into the community, and an Arbor Day planting event that annually puts more than 100 new trees in city parks.

Reduce summer water consumption

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

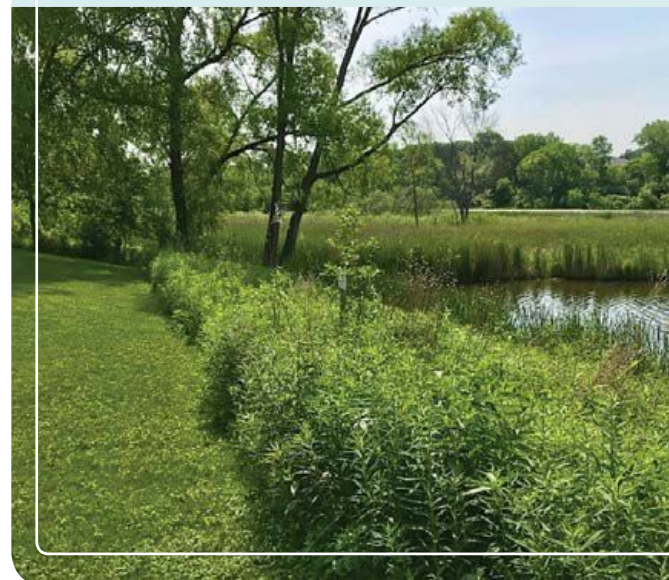
- Cover swimming pools.
- Wash vehicles at the car wash or hand wash on the lawn to prevent soapy runoff.
- Routinely inspect irrigation systems to avoid clogged sprinkler heads and misdirected spray. Ensure water isn't falling on hard surfaces.
- Follow summer watering restrictions: From May 1-Sept. 30 lawn watering is not allowed between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Even-numbered houses must water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days.
- Apply for water conservation funding: Check if your watershed district offers cost-share grant funds for installation of rain barrels, rain gardens, porous pavers, green rooftops or shoreline buffers, which reduce the need for irrigation and prevent polluted runoff.

Plant buffers to deter geese

Minnetonka's abundant lakes, creeks and wetlands attract a wide variety of wildlife, including Canada geese, Minnesota's largest waterfowl species. Canada geese thrive wherever shorelines offer food and possible nest sites, and prefer open spaces with a clear view of potential predators.



Though geese are valuable wildlife, large flocks can be problematic in urban areas. To discourage geese from gathering on your property, consider planting vegetated buffers between the yard and water. Buffers made of native grasses, cattails, wildflowers and shrubs form a living wall that geese prefer to avoid. Once established, buffers offer a wide range of additional benefits, including erosion and pollution control, pollinator habitat and privacy.



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City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 2** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 6** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Joint Planning Commission/Economic Development Advisory Commission, TBD
- 13** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 16** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 27** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

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Celebrate National Farmers Market Week

Tuesdays | 3-7 p.m.
Minnetonka Civic Center Campus
Ice Arena B Parking Lot



National Farmers Market Week is Aug. 5-11, 2018! Mark your calendar for the Tuesday, Aug. 7 market and celebrate with us while you shop for locally-sourced food, enjoy live music, connect with community groups and eat at food trucks!

This week-long celebration is led by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and supported by the Farmers Market Coalition. The week highlights the values of farmers markets, which provide fresh, nutritious local produce; and offer farmers a chance to sell directly to consumers and earn fair prices. The Minnetonka Farmers Market embraces these values and invites you to experience them for yourself on Aug. 7, and every Tuesday through Sept. 28!



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

