

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



City council to consider franchise fee increase to fund trails

Throughout the city’s 2016 “Imagine Minnetonka” community visioning process, Minnetonka 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.

With that feedback in mind, the Minnetonka City Council will consider adopting two new ordinances this fall – one to increase existing electric franchise fees by \$1 per month (*in addition to a \$1 increase to fund utility line burial*) and one to add a new gas franchise fee of \$4.50 per month for residential customers. Commercial properties would also see an increase. These new fees will generate approximately \$1.8 million per year for the construction of new trails and sidewalks along some of the city’s busiest roads.

If adopted, these additional funds would allow the city to build an estimated eight new trail segments over the next 10 years; projected locations include Ridgedale Drive,

Minnetonka Boulevard, Hopkins Crossroad and Excelsior Boulevard.

The funds generated by this increase would not be used for any other purpose.

Next steps

The ordinances are tentatively scheduled to be introduced to the council Aug. 27, 2018. The council is tentatively scheduled to act on the proposal Sept. 17, 2018. Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings and provide feedback. If adopted, the increased fees would be effective Jan. 1, 2019 and would show up as “city fees” on utility bills.

More information

Visit eminnetonka.com/trailfunds for more information, and stay tuned to the city’s website and the *Minnetonka Memo* for updates. Contact Finance Director Merrill King at 952-939-8253 or mking@eminnetonka.com with questions.

Wagner steps down from Ward 2 council seat

The Minnetonka City Council will experience another change in 2018 as Ward 2 Councilmember Tony Wagner announced he will step down from his seat in July. Wagner is relocating within Minnetonka – outside Ward 2 – and therefore can no longer serve as the ward’s council representative.

Wagner was in his fourth term as the Ward 2 council member and also served on the Minnetonka Planning Commission.

At its June 18 meeting, the city council voted to fill the vacancy via a special appointment process. Ward 2 residents interested in serving are encouraged to apply by noon on Monday, July 16. Visit eminnetonka.com/2018ward2 or stop by city hall to apply and get more details regarding the special appointment process.



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Stay tuned for a chance to review police and fire facility concept



The City of Minnetonka continues to explore a plan to build a new central fire station and repurpose the existing police and fire facilities into a remodeled police station, and soon residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on the project.

The city will begin public engagement efforts this summer to share a concept plan and solicit feedback. Meeting dates will be added to the project page eminnetonka.com/policefire2020 – as they're finalized. Stay tuned for details and sign up for email or text notifications to stay informed.



Why are facility upgrades needed?

In the decades since each facility was built, both the police and fire departments have evolved significantly to address the city's safety and security needs. The proposed facility upgrades will ensure both departments and their facilities are well-positioned to serve the city for years to come.

"Our fire department has doubled in size since the current station was built 45 years ago," said Minnetonka Fire Chief John Vance. "A new facility would significantly improve efficiency and enable us to implement vital health and safety improvements."

"Between the growth of our force and the dramatic changes to how we do our job, our current facility isn't meeting our needs," said Minnetonka Police Chief Scott Boerboom. "A facility upgrade is needed to ensure we have the space and tools we need to perform our duties."

Project history

The Minnetonka City Council first began to study the need for updated facilities in 2016. The council took the first step in pursuing the project when it voted to approve the city's 2018-22 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) on June 12, 2017. Since, the city has been working with architects to develop the concept plan for the new and repurposed facilities.



Financial impacts

The project is expected to cost approximately \$25 million. To fund the upgrades, the city would likely sell General Obligation capital improvement bonds, which would result in a less-than-one-percent levy increase, starting in 2020 and sustained for 30 years.

Next steps

Feedback received from the community meeting will be used to revise the concept before it is brought before the planning commission and city council. A formal approval process won't begin until later this fall.

Stay informed and learn more

Visit eminnetonka.com/policefire2020 for more information, including why improvements are needed and an approximate timeline and next steps.

Text [@mtka pf2020](tel:468311) 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.

City Hall renovations scheduled to begin in late 2018

The City of Minnetonka will embark on a project in late 2018 to remodel existing city hall office spaces, meeting rooms and conference rooms. Interior office spaces have received only minor updates since the city first furnished the space 35 years ago, and renovations are needed to accommodate growth, improve security and efficiency and ensure staff remains well-equipped to continue to provide excellent customer service.



"We're excited about the opportunity to improve our existing spaces in city hall," said City Manager GERALYN BARONE. "The renovations will allow us to better utilize our space to serve the residents of Minnetonka, along with numerous other benefits such as improved safety and energy efficiency."

Construction is scheduled to begin in November after the state general election and is expected to last six to eight months. City hall will remain open throughout the remodel, but some services may be temporarily relocated. Full details will be available prior to construction.

Visit eminnetonka.com/cityhallproject for more information and to sign up for project updates via email or text message. Look for additional details on the project page and in future editions of the *Minnetonka Memo*.

Sergeant Karen Thoele receives police department's top honor

Minnetonka Police Sergeant Karen Thoele has received the department's highest honor the 2018 Glen Lake Optimist Officer of the Year award - which recognizes outstanding contributions to the department and community over the past year.

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



In her 22 years with Minnetonka Police, Thoele has excelled in a variety of roles and has developed strong relationships with the community and school districts. She was nominated for her fair and professional demeanor, her willingness to take on tough assignments and the positive way she leads by example and represents the department and city.

Park board advances mountain bike trail concept to city council

At its June 6, 2018 meeting, the Minnetonka Park Board voted to recommend approval of a concept plan to add mountain bike trails to Lone Lake Park. The city council is scheduled to review the concept plan and take action at its Monday, July 9 meeting.



If the council approves the plan, a timeline and next steps will be established. If the council does not approve the plan, trails will not be added to Lone Lake Park at this time.

More information

Visit eminnetonka.com/mountainbiking to view the concept plan and find more details including park selection criteria, background information, public meeting recaps, frequently asked questions and more.

Vote in the state primary election Aug. 14

The state primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 14. Federal, state, county and judicial offices may be included in the primary; however, no local issues will be on this year's ballot. The purpose of the primary election is to determine the candidates who will advance to the Nov. 6 state general election.

A sample ballot will be posted in the Minnetonka City Hall lobby and at eminnetonka.com/elections as soon as it's available.

Absentee voting began Friday, June 29. Voters can apply to receive a ballot in the mail at hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting, or vote in-person at city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Learn more at eminnetonka.com/voters.

Student election judges needed

Students ages 16 and older can apply now to serve as a student election judge for the 2018 state primary and general elections. This is a paid opportunity with training provided, and it gives students a great opportunity to give back and learn more about how government and elections work. Election judges open and close the polls, assist votes, check in voters with electronic poll books and uphold voting laws.

Find more information and apply at eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges, or contact Mac Leydon at mleydon@eminnetonka.com.

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 27

Minnetonka Night to Unite (formerly Night for Neighbors) is Tuesday, Aug. 7 from 6-9 p.m. Residents are encouraged to join this national celebration and schedule block parties, cookouts or events to get to know one another and promote community safety.

Neighborhood representatives are asked to register Night to Unite events so Minnetonka Police and Fire, Public Works and other city officials can visit. The first 100 neighborhoods to register are scheduled to receive a visit – sometimes including police and fire vehicles or big trucks! *Please note: Visits are not guaranteed.*

Register your party and learn more at eminnetonka.com/night-to-unite by July 27, or call Karen Hendrickson at 952-939-8543.



Financial assistance available for home repairs

The City of Minnetonka's Small Projects Program offers a forgivable loan for eligible home repairs for low- and moderate-income households. This year, the maximum loan amount has increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and the program is now administered by Hennepin County.



There are no monthly payments and the loan is completely forgiven if you remain in your home for 10 years. If you sell the home, no longer live in it or transfer the title within 10 years, the loan must be repaid with no interest or a low interest rate.

Applicants will be placed on a waiting list and notified when 2018 funds are available.

For more information including eligible repairs, income requirements and a link to the county's online form visit eminnetonka.com/housing/home-improvement-loans. Contact Rob Hanson at rhanson@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8234 for questions or assistance with your application.

Practice solicitor safety this summer

During summer months, the number of solicitors, canvassers and door-to-door sales representatives increases throughout the city. These are allowed in Minnetonka, but every resident and business has the right to prohibit solicitors from their property.



Here are some helpful facts and tips about solicitors:

- For-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. Licensed for-profit solicitors will have a photo ID issued by the city. Ask for ID before making a purchase, and always ask for receipts and the cancellation policy.
- Charitable organizations do not need a license, but are requested to register with the city. It's always best to make donations directly to an organization.
- ☑ Any residence or business may post a sign prohibiting solicitation.
- ☑ The city has a list of approved/registered solicitors online at eminnetonka.com/solicitors.

Contact the Minnetonka Police Department at 952-939-8500 with complaints about door-to-door salespeople or solicitors.



Tour Burwell House in July

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. 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.

Entertainment in the Park



Enjoy free music and movies all summer at the civic center campus outdoor amphitheater (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.). View dates, times and a full list of performances at:

eminnetonka.com/summerevents2018

Register for Fall Youth Soccer League by July 13

The Hopkins-Minnetonka Fall Youth Soccer League is a great opportunity for area kids entering grades K-8 to learn the sport, make friends and have fun! Registration for the 2018 season is open until July 13.



All teams play games on Saturdays, and grades 3-8 play an additional game each Tuesday or Thursday. Practices begin the week of Aug. 20, and the season will conclude Oct. 13. Learn more and register online at eminnetonka.com/register or call 952-939-8203 to register by phone.

Volunteer coaches needed

If you have soccer experience and enjoy working with children, contact Recreation Services at 952-939-8203 for more information.

Kids can learn the Power of Produce at Farmers Market

Tuesdays | 3-4 p.m.
Minnetonka Civic Center Campus
Ice Arena B Parking Lot

Bring your kids to the Minnetonka Farmers Market to give them a head start on healthy eating habits thanks to our Power of Produce (POP) club! The POP club offers a fun opportunity for kids ages 4-12 to learn about and try different fruits and vegetables each week.



Thanks to a partnership with South Lake Pediatrics, POP club members can receive a \$2 voucher each week to purchase fresh produce at the market and learn to make their own smart shopping decisions. Stop by the information tent to sign up and get your weekly vouchers.

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



Look out for oak tree diseases

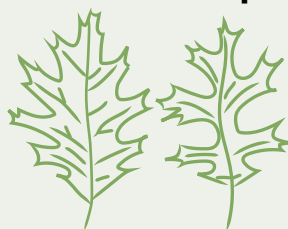
Every summer, state-certified tree inspectors survey Minnetonka for red oak wilt, which frequently occurs in trees with fresh wounds (typically from storm damage or pruning). Oak wilt spreads from beetles carrying the fungus and shared root systems with neighboring trees.

Symptoms tend to appear in mid-summer. Diseased red oaks decline and die within a few weeks.

Red vs. white oaks

Not sure which kind of oak is growing in your yard? Check the leaves. Both white and red oaks have finger-like projections around the edge, but a white oak's leaves are smooth and rounded, while a red oak's are sharply pointed.

Red Oak Group



Northern Red Oak

Northern Pin Oak

White Oak Group



Bur Oak

White Oak

Controlling oak diseases

Timely removal of diseased trees is the best way to control red oak wilt. Call 952-988-8407 if you have a diseased red oak or see one in the community. Symptoms include:

- ☑ Rapid wilting from the top down
- ☑ Individual leaves wilt and lose their green color from the tip and edges inward
- ☑ Leaves on the ground around the tree

Tips to prevent oak wilt

- ☑ Avoid pruning between April 1 and Oct. 31
- ☑ Treat healthy adjacent trees and remove diseased trees in a timely manner
- ☑ Consult a professional arborist about how to use treatments to prolong the life of trees with white oak wilt or bur oak blight (BOB)

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

July 2018

Pollinator Field Day

Wednesday, July 11, 4-7 p.m., rain or shine

Lone Lake Park

5624 Shady Oak Rd.

Follow signs to lakeside (lower) and overflow parking areas

Purchase native plants that benefit local landscapes (bring cash or check and a box to transport), learn about pollinator life cycles and habitat needs and participate in activities and crafts. Bring a water bottle, as there is a fountain on-site.

Watch out for poison ivy

☑ Leaves of three, let it be ☑ is an important rhyming reminder to avoid poison ivy. Symptoms can appear after even a light brush against poison ivy leaves, stems or roots.

Learn to recognize and avoid poison ivy. This plant is common in grassy fields and forests, and along woodland edges (including trails) typically low to the ground. As the rhyme states, there are three leaflets on each compound leaf. Poison ivy's leaves have smooth edges, while raspberry and blackberry vines and Virginia creeper all look similar, but have saw-toothed leaves.

Wash skin with soap and cold water after any possible poison ivy exposure. Consult a physician about treatment if allergy symptoms develop. Wear protective clothing in risky areas, and wash exposed clothes separately.

Report poison ivy along city-maintained trails or areas to Janet Van Sloun at 952-988-8423.



Virginia creeper (left) vs. Poison ivy (right)

MINNETONKA MEMO

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City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** City Offices Closed, Fourth of July
- 9** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 19** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** 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 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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Donate to the recreation fund and invest in our youngest residents

Studies show that dynamic, well-designed recreation programs, like those offered by Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services, help young people achieve physical, emotional and social wellness. Organized activities like these play a key role in youth development. And they're a whole lot of fun, too.

We need your support to ensure the city's recreation programs remain inclusive and available to all local youth.

Please consider donating to the Richard Wilson Recreation Scholarship Fund, which directly supports recreation enrollment fees for qualifying families in Hopkins and Minnetonka. Your donation, no matter the size, will give a young person the chance to be a teammate, learn a new skill, grow their confidence, nurture their empathy and laugh out loud.

Give online at eminnetonka.com/register and click [Donations](#), or call 952-939-8203.

Thank you for supporting youth in our community.