

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka

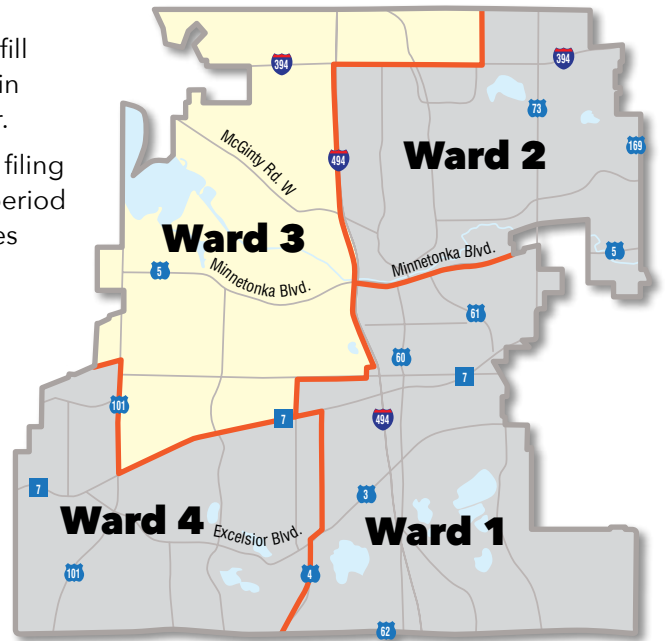


Minnetonka to hold special election for Ward 3 council seat

At its Wednesday, Jan. 24 meeting, the Minnetonka City Council called for a special election to be held Tuesday, April 10, 2018 to fill the vacant Ward 3 city council seat. The Ward 3 seat was vacated in January when Brad Wiersum was sworn in as Minnetonka's mayor.

Only Ward 3 residents will vote in the special election. Candidate filing will begin in late February, and there will be an absentee voting period that begins in March. The following is a timeline of important dates regarding the special election:

- Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Candidate filing period begins
- Tuesday, March 6 - Candidate filing period ends
- ☐ Thursday, March 8 ☐ Last day for candidates to withdraw
- ☐ Thursday, March 15 ☐ Absentee voting begins
- ☐ Thursday, March 22 ☐ Notice of election and sample ballot published
- ☐ Tuesday, April 10 ☐ Special election held
- Monday, April 16 - City council certifies election result
- Monday, April 23 - Elected council member takes oath of office



In order to run, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- ☐ Eligible to vote in Minnesota
 - Age 21 or older when assuming office
- ☐ Must reside in Ward 3 (with residence established at least 30 days prior to the election)

More information

Stay tuned to eminnetonka.com/elections for more information. Contact City Clerk David Maeda at 952-939-8218 or elections@eminnetonka.com with questions.

Candidate forum

The League of Women Voters Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins will hold a candidate forum on Tuesday, March 20 from 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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Minnetonka Farmers Market now accepting 2018 applications

The Minnetonka Farmers Market is now accepting applications from vendors or community groups for participation in the 2018 market season. Visit eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket to complete an application or find answers to commonly asked questions. Participation can range from one week to the full season, depending on what works best for the applicant and their products or services.

The 2018 farmers market begins June 12 and runs each Tuesday afternoon through Sept. 25 on the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.) near Ice Arena B. Vendors will offer baked goods, beef, poultry, fresh produce, olive oils, salsa, hand-made items and more as the market celebrates its 10th season serving the community.



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 throughout the growing season.

Please note, 2017 volunteers will receive first priority to adopt their sign again in 2018. To adopt a sign or learn more about the program contact Kate Egert at 952-939-8354 or kegert@eminnetonka.com. More information is available online at eminnetonka.com/adoptaparksign.

Summer recreation program registration begins March 13

Registration for summer recreation programs begins Tuesday, March 13 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.

The summer brochure will be mailed to all Minnetonka and Hopkins residents. Non-residents can request a hard copy for a \$3 fee. Call 952-939-8203 or email recservices@eminnetonka.com for more information.



BURWELL HOUSE tour guides needed

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

2018 tours begin June 2 and continue through Aug. 26 each Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. In September, the house is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. High school students are welcome to volunteer.

Tour guides typically volunteer for three hour shifts twice each month, but can volunteer as little or as often as they like.

To apply, or for more information, visit eminnetonka.com/burwell. Email questions to elections@eminnetonka.com.

Election judges needed

The City of Minnetonka 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.

Election judges must:

- ☑ Be at least 18 years old
- ☑ Be able to read, write and speak English
- ☑ Attend a required training session
 - Declare party affiliation

Those not eligible include:

- ☑ Candidates in the election
- ☑ Anyone living with a candidate on the ballot
- ☑ Spouses, parents, children or siblings of another election judge at the same polling location

Find more information and apply online at eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges. Email questions to elections@eminnetonka.com.

FEATURED RECREATION PROGRAMS

Mommy, Can You Fix My Hair?

Monday, March 19 | 6-8 p.m. | \$50
New Reflections Salon | Ridgedale Center

Course Number: 2152301-02



Professional local hairstylists teach mothers and mother-figures how to care for and fix their daughters' hair (ages 4-12). Learn, in detail, easy, hands-on styling tips and tricks for all hair types. Practice braiding, ponytails, buns, easy up-dos and flat ironing. Participants will receive a take-home kit. There must be one parent per child, no exceptions. There will be a class for dads and daughters on April 16.

Science Explorers: Emergency Room

Monday, March 26 | 9:30 a.m. - noon
\$25 | Glen Lake Activity Center
Course Number: 2040507-01



Participants in grades K-5 become student doctors and learn about the human body and basic first aid through a variety of hands-on activities. Prepare for mock emergency situations and create a basic first aid kit. Plus, learn how the body keeps itself healthy.

Kidcreate Studio: April Fools Day Fun

Friday, March 30 | 9 a.m. - noon
\$31 | Glen Lake Activity Center
Course Number: 2040208-01



Get silly in preparation for April Fools Day by crafting hilarious homemade pranks. This class is sure to tickle the funny bone! Please pack a nut-free snack and drink for each child (ages 4-9).

Spring Eggstravaganza

Saturday, March 31 | 10-11:30 a.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
Course Number: 2200401-01

This annual spring event is for children ages 1-8. Enjoy face painting, spin art, musical entertainment, games and a scavenger-style egg hunt that takes place both indoors and outdoors.

Take photos with the bunny and bring a basket for collecting eggs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration is required.



To register call 952-939-8203 or visit eminnetonka.com/register.

Minnetonka Police assist with Super Bowl law enforcement

The Minnetonka Police Department had a total of 12 sergeants, detectives and officers assist with the many law enforcement needs associated with Super Bowl LII, which was held Sunday, Feb. 4 in Minneapolis.

Selected Minnetonka personnel worked a combination of the following duties: Human Trafficking Task Force, downtown Minneapolis foot patrol, security at the three NFL hotels and security at Winter Park in Eden Prairie, which was the practice site for the New England Patriots.

Officers had the opportunity to purchase a custom Minnetonka Police Super Bowl badge (pictured) for use during duty and to display following the event. All officer wages were reimbursed by the Minneapolis Host Committee.



Spring cleaning helps fire prevention

Spring is finally right around the corner, along with the tradition of spring cleaning. In addition to helping with organization and clutter, spring cleaning can also help reduce the risks of fire in the home.

The Minnetonka Fire Department recommends starting spring cleaning around water heaters, furnaces and any other appliances that are high-risk for fire potential. Ensure these areas are clear of combustible products and stay clear year-round and store all items the recommended distance of three feet away.

This easy addition to a spring cleaning check list can go a long way to preventing a fire. Learn more about fire safety and prevention at eminnetonka.com/fire.

NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

March 2018

Buckthorn Workshop: Managing Woodlands, Buckthorn and Beyond

Wednesday, March 7 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center | Community Room
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Learn ecologically sound techniques to control invasive woody plants, and save time and money. The program begins with an introduction to Minnesota's eco-regions and forest structure. Space is limited and registration is required at 952-988-8400 or eminnetonka.com/NREvents.



Volunteer Buckthorn Cutting at the Ann Cullen Smith Property

Saturday, March 17 | 9:30 a.m.-noon

2510 Oakland Road (no building or posted address)

Restoration has begun on the 30-acre site donated to the city by Ann Cullen Smith in 2015. Help cut buckthorn under the direction of Minnetonka Restoration Specialist Janet Van Sloun. Registration is required in case of inclement weather; call 952-988-8400 or visit eminnetonka.com/NREvents. Additional information (including a map and parking instructions) will be emailed prior to the event.

MINNETONKA POLICE EXPLORERS

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 11 | 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.



Protect your shade trees

The March landscape still looks wintry, but longer and warmer days will soon bring plants out of dormancy and wash the city in green. Take the following steps to protect shade trees from disease and insect pests.

Stop pruning in spring

Pruning during the growing season removes part of the tree's live crown, which sustains the tree's growth. Leaves can also make it harder to see a tree's structure for effective pruning.

During the warm months, pruning can also spread disease. New oak wilt infections, for example, begin when sap beetles (carriers of the oak wilt fungus) are attracted to fresh pruning cuts and broken tree limbs. Infection may occur within moments after a tree is wounded.

Pruning ash trees during the summer also increases the risk of emerald ash borer.

While emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been found in Minnetonka, it is in the neighboring communities of Plymouth, Eden Prairie and Minneapolis. **Do not prune or remove ash trees between May and September**, when emerald ash borers are most active.

Consider injections

Homeowners are encouraged to make a plan for preserving their own large, healthy elm and ash trees on private property and in the right-of-way. Injections of chemical pesticides can greatly help tree preservation. A citywide bulk injection discount is available through Rainbow Treecare; call 952-767-6920 for more information. Or contact your preferred tree care company for details on injection treatments.

Avoid soil drench treatments

A soil drench involves pouring diluted pesticides onto the soil at a tree's base.

While it can be less expensive up front, data shows this method is less effective than injection and carries potential risks to pollinators and surface waters.



Follow this timeline for pruning oaks:

Months	Level of Oak Wilt Risk
April-June	HIGH RISK (don't prune)
July-Oct.	Low Risk (use caution)
Nov.-March	No Risk*

**Unusual weather patterns can extend the risk period for oak wilt disease in a given year.*



Firewood 101

Follow these guidelines to reduce the spread of diseases when replenishing winter woodpiles or gathering firewood for summer campfires.

Do not save elm wood for firewood in Minnetonka.

Instead, dispose of elm wood at the city brush drop-off site, or chip it to use as mulch.

Ash and red oak wood may be stored, but only if properly stacked and dried.

Call the forestry office at 952-988-8436 for instructions.

Do not transport wood outside the metro area.

Hennepin County is one of 16 Minnesota counties currently under a firewood quarantine intended to prevent the spread of insect pests (like Emerald Ash Borer and gypsy moth) and diseases that can devastate local woodlands and urban forests. Purchase MDA-, USDA- or DNR-approved firewood from local vendors when traveling. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture cautions: Moving uncertified firewood out of quarantined counties is illegal and is punishable up to a \$7,500 fine per violation per day.

2018 Property Taxes

Help is available for property taxpayers

Several state programs, described below, exist to assist eligible residents with the rising cost of property taxes. For additional information and links to the government agencies that run these programs, visit the city's website at eminnetonka.com or call the Minnesota Department of Revenue's tax helpline at 651-296-3781.

Property tax refund program

The first program is the property tax refund program, or [Homestead Credit Refund for Homeowners and Renters](#). For taxes paid in 2018, homeowners with 2017 household incomes up to \$110,650 are eligible for a refund, and the maximum refund is \$2,710. Some renters with 2017 household incomes up to \$59,960 are also eligible for a refund. The maximum refund that may be available to a renter is \$2,100 and the amount provided also depends upon the total rent paid in 2017. There are additional eligibility allowances for renters/homeowners over age 65; those who are disabled; and for the number of dependents. Forms can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and must be filed with the DOR by Aug. 15, 2019.

Special property tax refund program

A second state program is the **special property tax refund program** for homeowners whose property taxes payable in 2018 have increased by more than 12 percent and are at least \$100 over their 2017 taxes. The increase must not be attributable to new improvements, and homeowners must have owned and lived in their home on both Jan. 2, 2017 and Jan. 2, 2018. There is no limit on household income to be eligible under this program and the maximum possible refund is \$1,000. The special property tax refund form is also available from the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR) and also must be filed with the DOR by Aug. 15, 2019.

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. 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.

However, 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, but will never exceed five percent. 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 of Minnetonka 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 2019 and is explained on the facing page. The other is the **property tax bill** for 2018, which is mailed by Hennepin County and must be paid this year.

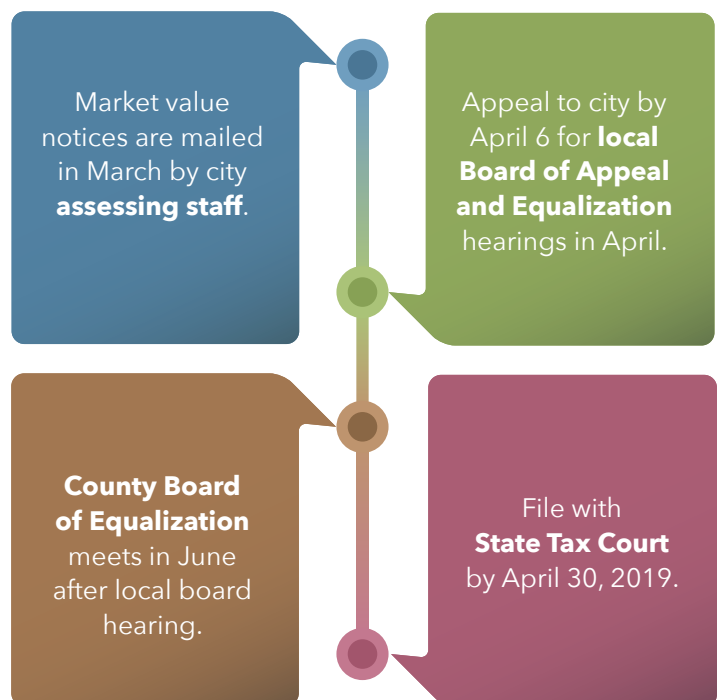
City tax bill

The City of Minnetonka continues to provide quality services at a reasonable price. The city provides a wider range of municipal services than many other cities, and does not use special assessments to fund road and other improvements. More than seven of every 10 dollars in city property taxes paid support streets and public safety, and most of the remainder is spent on parks and natural resources. Nevertheless, the city's tax rate remains among the lowest of comparable metro cities. Our residents continue to receive the high quality of services they have come to expect.

2018 homeowner's property taxes

The City of Minnetonka 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 (32 percent), and other jurisdictions (eight percent).

Market Value Appeals Process





2018 Market Value Notice

Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2019.

Minnetonka home values continue upward

The Minnetonka real estate market continues to stay strong. Home values in Minnetonka are up over seven percent on average this year compared with just over two percent last year. Townhouses in the city saw growth at 10 percent while condominiums saw increases around nine percent. Commercial (nearly two percent) and industrial (just over two percent) property values saw only modest change. 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 2017 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 2018 property values are based on market information from 2017.

How is market value determined?

The Minnetonka Assessing Division maintains records for every property in the city. Adjustments are made to the market values of most properties, based on actual real estate sales from the past year of comparable properties. At least 20 percent of all properties are physically inspected each year, and adjustments to these are made based on the results of that inspection. 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, please call the assessing staff at 952-939-8220. The 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?

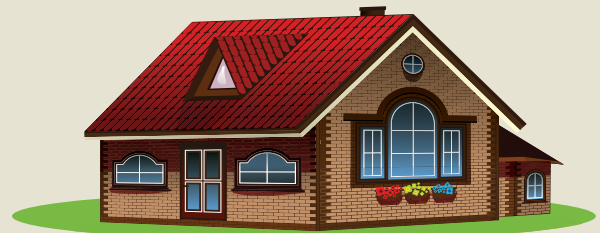
The value subject to appeal is the taxable market value. Two avenues of appeal are available. Property owners may appeal directly to the State Tax Court. More common, however, is an appeal through the local Board of Appeal and Equalization, and if desired, then to the Hennepin County Board of Equalization.

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 make an appeal to the local board, you should first discuss your property's market value with the Minnetonka assessing staff. After that, you may make an appeal to the local Board of Appeal and Equalization by April 6 by asking that your property be listed 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, please call the Minnetonka assessing staff at 952-939-8220

What do these numbers mean?

In March, Minnetonka property owners will receive their 2018 market value notices.



Estimated market value

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 2017.

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

Applies to residential homestead and to 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 then 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

- 1** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 13** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 15** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 26** City Council Study Session, 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.



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ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Spring concert offers something for everyone

Sunday, March 25 | 3 p.m. | Free
Arts Center on 7
Minnetonka High School | 18285 Highway 7

Conductor Daniel Geldert and the Music Association of Minnetonka Concert Band return for their spring concert, *A World of Bits and Pieces*. The performance will offer something for everyone with short selections from eight different countries: England, Italy, Russia, Finland, Cuba, Hungary, Brazil and the United States. The concert is free and accessible for all ages.

Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

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