

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Happe wins Ward 3 Special Election

Mike Happe won the City of Minnetonka's special election Tuesday, April 10 to fill the vacant Ward 3 city council seat. The council certified the election result Monday, April 16 and Happe was sworn in Monday, April 23.

Happe replaces Brad Wiersum, who vacated the seat in January when he was sworn in as Minnetonka's newest mayor. Wiersum had been the Ward 3 council member since 2003.

## Ridgedale area improvements begin

A construction project to reduce congestion in the Ridgedale area began in April and will continue through late fall. Though the project will require temporary lane closures, the work will result in improved streets, sidewalks and aesthetics in the area.



Learn more or sign up for updates about the Ridgehaven Lane/Ridgedale Drive Improvement Project at [eminnetonka.com/ridgehaven](http://eminnetonka.com/ridgehaven).

## Review mountain bike trail concept plan at an open house

The City of Minnetonka is developing a concept plan to analyze the feasibility of adding mountain biking trails to Lone Lake Park. Attend an open house on Thursday, May 17 to review the plan and provide feedback.



**Thursday, May 17, 2018**

**7:29 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 1 p.m. | 5:27 p.m.**

**Minnetonka Community Center | Council Chambers**

After an extensive public input process, the Minnetonka Park Board outlined the conditions necessary for a park to adequately support mountain biking trails. That criteria was used to analyze all city parks, and Lone Lake Park was the only park that met the requirements. The park board then directed city staff to develop a concept plan for mountain biking trails in Lone Lake Park.

The park board will review the study and concept plan and take public comment at its June 6 meeting. If the park board approves the project, it will advance to the city council. 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, public meeting recaps, frequently asked questions and contact information and to subscribe to receive email and text updates.

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## Minnetonka commended for fire prevention efforts

The City of Minnetonka was recently recognized by the State Fire Marshal for the number of sprinkler saves building fires



controlled by sprinkler systems in the city. Minnetonka had five sprinkler saves in 2017, which was the fourth-highest total in Minnesota.

Of the five Minnetonka sprinkler saves, two were in apartments, one was in a townhouse, one was in an industrial building and one was in a school.

**“Sprinklers are the first line of defense when a fire breaks out in a building – when seconds matter – and they can prevent a fire from growing and spreading until the fire department arrives to fully extinguish the fire,” said Minnetonka Fire Chief John Vance. “We’re thrilled so many Minnetonka residents and businesses recognize the importance of having these life-saving systems.”**

There were a record 101 sprinkler saves in Minnesota in 2017, which far exceeded the state’s previous record of 80.

## Sign up for emergency alerts

The City of Minnetonka’s emergency notification system provides the city with a high-speed telephone calling and text messaging system capable of delivering customized messages directly to homes, businesses and mobile phones. All landlines in Minnetonka are automatically included, but residents and businesses are encouraged to add mobile numbers and alternate contact information to the system.



To review, update and add information to the emergency alert system:

- Visit [eminnetonka.com/emergencyalerts](http://eminnetonka.com/emergencyalerts)
- Log in to the system or register for a new account
- Enter a Minnetonka home or work address
- Enter a main telephone number
- Follow the instructions for editing/adding contact information

For questions or more information, call 952-939-8200 or visit [eminnetonka.com/emergencyalerts](http://eminnetonka.com/emergencyalerts).

## Don’t forget to renew recreational fire permits

Do you plan on having recreational wood-burning fires this summer? Don’t forget to apply for a free fire permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department online at [eminnetonka.com/firepermit](http://eminnetonka.com/firepermit).



New in 2018, recreational fire permits must be renewed annually and are valid only until Dec. 31 in the year the permit was issued. Natural gas and propane fire pits and fireplaces do not require a permit.

Contact the Minnetonka Fire Department at 952-939-8598 for questions or more information and visit [eminnetonka.com/firepermit](http://eminnetonka.com/firepermit) to renew permits and find complete details, including regulations, recommendations, safety tips and educational materials.







## Burwell Tour Guide Open House

**Tuesday, May 1 | 10:30-11:30 a.m.**  
**13209 E. McGinty Road**

Thinking about becoming a Burwell Tour Guide? Attend the last tour guide open house of 2018 to receive a tour and learn what it takes. Visit [eminnetonka.com/burwell](http://eminnetonka.com/burwell) for more information.

## Election Judge Informational Session

**Wednesday, May 2 | 9:30 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Learn more about becoming an election judge at this informational session. Judges are needed for the Nov. 8 general election, and must be 16 and older. All precincts will use electronic poll books. Learn more at [eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges](http://eminnetonka.com/elections/election-judges).



## Tree inspections begin June 1

Every summer, certified tree inspectors scout Minnetonka for Dutch elm disease (DED) and oak wilt (OW) and mark diseased trees for removal on public and private property.

### Common symptoms of DED include:

- ☑ Wilting leaves that turn yellow or brown
- ☑ Death of whole branches, usually begins in the upper crown and spreads downward

Elm inspections begin June 1 and red oak inspections typically begin in mid-July.



If a tree is marked on your property, please comply with the removal directions and timeline. You can also request a tree inspection on your property, or anonymously report a diseased tree. Call 952-988-8407 to provide the address and symptoms.

To keep streets safe, the city also removes hazardous trees in the right of way (ROW) and prunes trees or shrubs that limit visibility along the road. Call 952-988-8407 to request a ROW tree or sightline inspection.

### Who's on my property?

State statute authorizes certified tree inspectors to: ☑ enter and inspect any public or private property that might harbor forest pests or shade tree pests ☑ Minnetonka ☑ forestry staff wear bright orange vests marked with the city logo and ☑ Minnetonka Tree Inspector ☑

## Dispose of household hazardous waste at Hennepin County's collection event

**Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12  
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](http://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](http://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](http://hennepin.us/choose-to-reuse)) for easy ways to keep usable items out of the trash and find quality belongings without buying new. Locate reuse resources; find places to sell, donate, buy, repair, rent and share items; find local events and learn more about numerous topics to help reuse items and create less waste.

## New organics recycling customers get first year free in 2018

The City of Minnetonka has once again received grant funds from Hennepin County to provide one free year of curbside organics recycling to the first 115 Minnetonka residents who sign up in 2018. The free year of service is only available to first-time organics customers with curbside garbage collection. To qualify, service must begin in 2018.



There are many benefits to recycling organic waste. It is more cost-effective, environmentally friendly and plays an important part in diverting waste from landfills.

Follow these steps to get a free year of service:

- 1 Contact Randy Environmental Services at 763-972-3335.
- 2 Randy will invoice the City of Minnetonka for the organics collection service. The city pays the hauler directly. Residents will not be billed.

### More information

To learn more about organics recycling, recyclable items and the benefits, visit Hennepin County's website at [hennepin.us](http://hennepin.us) and search [organics recycling](#) or visit [eminnetonka.com/organicsrecycling](http://eminnetonka.com/organicsrecycling). For questions, call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8414.

### Free compostable bags and containers available

As part of the grant program, the city will provide a limited supply of compostable bags and kitchen containers to all organics customers at no charge. Stop by Public Works at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. to get a container and 25 bags.

## Dispose of unwanted items at June 2 drop-off event

Mark your calendar for Minnetonka's special one-day drop-off event Saturday, June 2, 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](http://eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day) for details or watch for more information in the June issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*.





## FEATURED RECREATION PROGRAMS

### Safety Camp

Thursday, June 14

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

\$25 | Course: 3151901-01

Minnetonka Police and Fire are offering a hands-on, interactive camp for kids in grades 3-5 (Fall 2018). This one-day program includes personal safety, fire safety, K9 demonstrations, a ride in the bucket of a ladder truck and more.

### Pine Tar Academy Baseball Camps | June 18-21

Grades 3-6 | Big Willow Baseball Fields

9:11:30 a.m.

\$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.

Grades 7-12 | Hopkins High School Baseball Field | 1:30 - 4 p.m.

\$159 | Course: 315020401-01

Learn what it takes to be a high school or college player from former MLB scout Kevin Nunn. Players will have skills assessed, learn hitting and arm care/throwing routines, run through pro-style workouts and receive a worksheet with individual stats and practice routines.



*Shady Oak Beach  
season passes  
now available*

Renew or purchase your Shady Oak Beach season pass for 2018 to enjoy unlimited entry to the beach at great rates!

### Season Pass Purchase Options

- ☑ 2017 pass holders can renew online at [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register). Existing cards will be reactivated for use in 2018.
- ☑ Call 952-939-8203 or stop by Minnetonka City Hall, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- ☑ Stop by Shady Oak Beach starting June 8, or at one of the following preseason sale dates and times:
  - May 22, 24, 29 and 31, 4-7 p.m.
  - May 26 and June 2, noon-5 p.m.
  - May 27 and June 4, 3-5 p.m.
- ☑ For rates and complete details, visit [eminnetonka.com/shady-oak-beach](http://eminnetonka.com/shady-oak-beach).

5200 Shady Oak Road ☑ Open June 8 ☑ Aug. 19



Saturday, June 23

Williston Fitness Center

Swim in the indoor pool and run and bike on surrounding roads and trails!

### Cost

Before June 2: \$25

June 2 - 8: \$30

No same day registration.

Fee includes a T-shirt and participation medal.

Course: 3161501-01

### Distances

AGES	START TIME	SWIM DISTANCE	BIKE DISTANCE	RUN DISTANCE
6-7	8 a.m.	50 yards	1 mile	.5 miles
8-9	8:20 a.m.	100 yards	2 miles	1.25 miles
10-12	8:40 a.m.	150 yards	4 miles	1.25 miles

Prerequisite: Must be able to swim unassisted in deep water.

## Farmers Market Returns June 12

Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. | June 12-Sept. 25

**Minnetonka Civic Center Campus  
Ice Arena Parking Lot B**



The Minnetonka Farmers Market returns June 12 and will run each Tuesday through Sept. 25 on the city's Civic Center Campus. Mark your calendar to visit the market for fresh vegetables, meat and dairy products. Re-connect with favorite returning vendors, welcome new vendors and products, enjoy live music and local artisans and connect with community groups.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket) for more information and to subscribe to weekly updates.



### Power of Produce

The Power of Produce (POP) Club returns in 2018 to offer kids ages 3-12 a fun opportunity to learn about new fruits and vegetables at the farmers market. Made possible through a partnership with South Lake Pediatrics, kids can stop by the information tent to receive a \$2 token each week to purchase produce and learn about healthy eating habits.



## Step to it Minnetonka!

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

How does it work?

- ☑ Participate as an individual or with a group.
- ☑ Log your activity daily or weekly from May 1-28 in an online account.
- ☑ Convert other activities to steps by using the online step conversion chart.

The Hennepin County community with the most collective steps on May 28 wins!

The individual with the highest total number of steps in their age bracket from each city will win Minnesota Twins tickets and special recognition at a 2018 Twins game.

Registration is now open! Learn more and sign up today at [steptoit.org](http://steptoit.org).

## Celebrate spring with Minnetonka orchestras

The Music Association of Minnetonka will celebrate spring with four free, all-ages orchestra performances.

### Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra

Of Kings and Queens: Celebration music fit for royalty by Tchaikovsky, Grieg, Mendelssohn and more!

- ☑ Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m.,  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie
- ☑ Sunday, May 6, 3 p.m., Wayzata Community Church

### Minnetonka Civic Orchestra

Beethoven's 5th Symphony and young artist Joseph Caswell performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3

- ☑ Friday, May 4, 7 p.m.,  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka
- ☑ Sunday, May 13, 3 p.m.,  
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka





# NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS May 2018

## Garlic Mustard Workshop\*

Wednesday, May 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Community Room, Minnetonka Community Center

Learn why garlic mustard is so hard to control and the best timing and methods for removal.

## Habitat Restoration Volunteer Opportunities\*

Wear work clothes and sturdy footwear and bring a hand trowel, pruners, garden gloves, insect repellent and water, and knee pads are helpful. Volunteers must sign a release form. All events take place from 5:30-8 p.m.

Date	Location	Meeting Location
Monday, May 7	Former Cullen Smith property	2510 Oakland Road gate^
Wednesday, May 9	Minnetonka Mills Park	Burwell House parking lot, 13207 McGinty Road E.
Monday, May 14	Former Cullen Smith property	2510 Oakland Road gate^
Monday, May 21	Former Cullen Smith property	2510 Oakland Road gate^
Wednesday, May 23	Kelly Park	17500 Excelsior Blvd.
Wednesday, May 30	Purgatory Park	Stodola Road entrance

^There is no posted address or building.

## Pollinators and Plants\*

Tuesday, May 8  
6:30-8 p.m.  
Community Room,  
Minnetonka Community Center



Learn about pollinators (with a focus on monarch butterflies) and how to select plants to attract them.

## Spring Bird Walk\*

Saturday, May 19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.  
Lone Lake Park (lower parking lot)

Celebrate spring with an all-ages morning bird walk (rain or shine) around Lone Lake Park. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them.

## Tree Sale Pick-Up

Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19  
9 a.m.-noon  
Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.



Pick up all trees ordered through the city's online sale. Trees not picked up will be planted in Minnetonka parks. Order confirmations were mailed in late April. Please bring the letter and enclosed colored tab(s).

\*Registration is required at 952-988-8400 or [eminnetonka.com/NRevents](http://eminnetonka.com/NRevents).

## Help protect surface waters

After it rains or the snow melts, the water flows over paved surfaces, downhill toward storm sewers and directly into local wetlands, lakes and creeks.

This runoff picks up a wide variety of pollutants on its journey, including loose soil, grass clippings, leaves, road salt, chemicals, pet waste and much more. These pollutants are harmful to aquatic vegetation and wildlife.



Take action this spring to help protect Minnetonka's surface waters:

- ☑ Sweep up leaves, grass clippings, pet waste and other materials instead of washing them away with a hose.
- ☑ Reseed bare spots in your lawn to prevent soil from washing away.
- ☑ Clear debris from storm drains and curbs near your home.
- Plant native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees that absorb water into the soil and require less fertilizer.
- ☑ Maintain lawn mowers and other equipment to prevent oil and gas leaks.

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 7** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 9** Park Board Tour, 5:15 p.m.
- 10** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 24** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 28** Memorial Day, City Offices Closed

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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**2018**

**SUMMER  
FEST**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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

## Study will examine extensions, additions to regional trails

Three Rivers Park District, in coordination with the City of Minnetonka and other west metro cities, is studying preferred routes for future regional trails in the west metro area, including:

- 📍 **A north-south corridor between Bryant Lake and French Regional Parks.** This trail will run through Plymouth, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie to connect the two parks, and will connect to other parks, trails and destinations, including Minnetonka City Hall.
- 📍 **An extension of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail.** This will connect the eastern-most end of the existing trail in Wayzata to both Minnetonka City Hall and the proposed north-south trail corridor.

Community input will help guide the location and configuration of the trail, and engagement events will include workshops, listening sessions and open houses.

Learn more about the plan and community engagement opportunities at [trpd-westmetrotrails.com](http://trpd-westmetrotrails.com).

Contact Minnetonka Assistant City Engineer Phil Olson at [polson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:polson@eminnetonka.com) with questions.