

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



CITY OF MINNETONKA PRESENTS

# ROCK

AT RIDGEDALE

Featuring

**The Johnny Holm Band**

**Saturday, Sept. 22**  
**5:10 p.m.**

Ridgedale Center Parking Lot  
(south of JC Penney)

The City of Minnetonka and Ridgedale Center have teamed up for an exciting new event that offers a free night of family fun for all ages!

Enjoy games, activities, giveaways and live music by local rock and roll favorite The Johnny Holm Band. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and Metro Transit will offer free ride passes.

### More Information

Visit [eminnetonka.com/rockatridgedale](http://eminnetonka.com/rockatridgedale) for more information, food and beverage details and more.

### Schedule of Events

- 5:17 p.m. DJ
- 5:28 p.m. Kids games and activities
- 7:10 p.m. The Johnny Holm Band



## Schack appointed to Ward 2 council seat

At a special meeting on July 30, the Minnetonka City Council selected Rebecca Schack to fill the Ward 2 city council seat. Schack, who has served on the city's planning commission and comprehensive guide plan steering committee, replaces Tony Wagner, who relocated outside the ward. She was one of four finalists interviewed. Schack was appointed and took the oath of office at the Monday, Aug. 6 council meeting.

The council decided to appoint Wagner's replacement since there were less than two years remaining on the term. Visit [eminnetonka.com/2018ward2](http://eminnetonka.com/2018ward2) for more details.

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# Capture the best of Minnetonka



## Enter your photo in the annual city photo contest

Have you taken a great Minnetonka photo over the past year? Enter it in the City of Minnetonka's annual photo contest for a chance to have your photo featured by the city!

### Entry information and contest rules

To enter, email your photo to [webmaster@eminnetonka.com](mailto:webmaster@eminnetonka.com). The city will begin accepting submissions Friday, Sept. 7. All entries must be received by Friday, Sept. 21, at 4:30 p.m.

All photos must be taken in Minnetonka. Photographers may submit one photo. Visit [eminnetonka.com/photocontest](http://eminnetonka.com/photocontest) to view complete contest rules.

### Facebook fans to choose winners

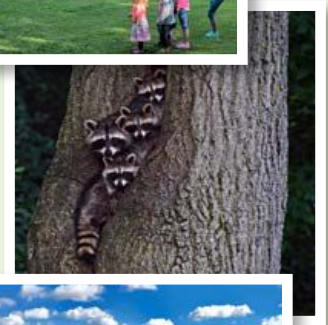
Voting will take place on Facebook the week of Oct. 5-12. The photos with the most likes will earn First, Second and Third Place and Honorable Mention honors.

Follow the city at [facebook.com/cityofminnetonka](https://facebook.com/cityofminnetonka) for your chance to vote!

### Awards

Winning photos will be featured on the city's website, social media accounts and in the *Minnetonka Memo*.

Please note, all entries will become the property of the City of Minnetonka and may be used in city publications.



## Learn about the benefits of solar energy

Are you interested in "going green" and harnessing solar energy to power your home? The City of Minnetonka will host two free opportunities in September to learn more about solar energy from the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).

### Solar Energy Presentations

**Wednesday, Sept. 12 and Wednesday, Sept. 26 | 6:30 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Learn the benefits of solar energy ownership, including how solar works, available incentives, cost and installation. MREA is coordinating a solar group buy in the Twin Cities area, and will also share how to participate in that program.

Visit [SolarTwinCities.org](http://SolarTwinCities.org) for more information. Contact City of Minnetonka Planner Drew Ingvalson at [dingvalson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dingvalson@eminnetonka.com) or 952-939-8293 with questions.



## Absentee voting begins Sept. 21

This year's state general election is Tuesday, Nov. 6. Absentee ballots will be available Sept. 21 at Minnetonka City Hall and Hennepin County Government Center during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Hennepin County oversees all absentee voting by mail. Complete an application at [hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting](http://hennepin.us/residents/elections/absentee-voting). Once an application is received, Hennepin County will mail a ballot and instructions.

Absentee ballots must be received at Hennepin County by Election Day for the vote to count.

### Polling places

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

### More information

If you have any questions about the election please call 952-939-8200 or email [elections@eminnetonka.com](mailto:elections@eminnetonka.com).

## Moody's assigns highest financial rating to City of Minnetonka

Moody's Investors Services recently assigned its highest rating of Aaa to the City of Minnetonka and its bonds. This outstanding rating reflects the city's very strong financial profile, its large and diverse tax base and its moderate debt burden.

Nationally, only eight percent of cities receive Moody's Aaa rating. Minnetonka is one of only 12 cities in Minnesota to achieve this top score.

The bond rating ensures the city pays the lowest possible interest rates on debt.

## City council to discuss franchise fee increases on Sept. 17

The Minnetonka City Council will consider adopting two new ordinances to increase utility franchise fees to fund the construction of new walking and biking paths at the Monday, Sept. 17 council meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend to provide feedback.

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 walking and biking paths, which would allow the city to build an estimated eight new segments over the next 10 years along busy Minnetonka roads.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/trailfunds](http://eminnetonka.com/trailfunds) for more information or contact Finance Director Merrill King at 952-939-8253 or [mking@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mking@eminnetonka.com) with questions or comments.

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

## Take a short survey on new park by Sept. 23

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 and connected to Crane Lake.

The city would like your input in order to create a vibrant and welcoming community gathering space. Please visit [eminnetonka.com/newpark](http://eminnetonka.com/newpark) to take a brief online survey regarding potential park usage. The valuable information you provide will inform design of the space.

The survey will remain online until Sunday, Sept. 23.

After you've completed the questionnaire, don't forget to sign up for email or text notifications about the project on our website.



Tentative Park Location

# Fall leaf drop-off site opens Sept. 1

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



## Leaf Drop-off Site

The leaf drop-off site is open between Sept. 1 and Nov. 17. Friday and Sunday hours aren't offered until November.

Mondays:	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Sept. 10, 17, 24
Tuesdays:	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25
Saturdays:	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

## Brush Drop-off Site

The brush drop-off site is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Nov. 17.

## Guidelines and more information

Bring a driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill to verify residence and equipment for unloading leaves and brush. Keep leaves and yard waste separate from brush and drop each in their respective areas. Bags cannot be left at the drop-off site, including compostable bags.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/yardwaste](http://eminnetonka.com/yardwaste) for full guidelines (including acceptable materials), more information and to sign up for recycling and yard waste updates. Call 952-988-8430 with questions.



# Drop off unwanted items Sept. 8

Do you have unwanted appliances, tires or other household items taking up valuable space? Bring them to the city's Special Community Drop-off Day!



**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Public Works**  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

**Accepted items:** appliances, batteries, bicycles, carpet and padding, doors, fluorescent bulbs, furniture, lumber, mattresses and box springs, propane tanks, scrap metal, tires, toilets, non-metal sinks and windows

**Not accepted:** electronics, garbage, hazardous waste, **copiers and fax machines (new in 2018)**

**Payment:** There is a charge for all items except batteries, bicycles, fluorescent bulbs and clean scrap metal. Cash and checks payable to the City of Minnetonka are accepted.

**More Information:** For complete details, including a more detailed list of accepted items and prices, visit [eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day](http://eminnetonka.com/special-drop-off-day).





**Tuesday, Oct. 9**

**5-8 p.m.**

**Civic Center Campus  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Join the city for an informative glimpse into what it takes to operate a community of more than 50,000 residents. See the October edition of the *Minnetonka Memo* for full details.

## Help firefighters find your house

**Make sure your house number is clearly visible**

When the Minnetonka Fire Department responds to a house call, it's important they find the right place as quick as possible. Residents can help by ensuring house numbers are easily visible from the road at all times day and night.



Here are some tips to help us find your house:

- Ensure numbers are well-lit at night
- ☑ Make sure numbers are large enough to be easily read from the street
- ☑ Numbers should contrast the color of your siding
- ☑ If your house isn't clearly visible from the street due to trees or other obstructions, clearly post your house number on your mailbox or near the street.

Our firefighters sincerely hope they never have to find your home in a hurry, but if they do, following these tips will help them get there as quick as possible. Those extra seconds they save could mean all the difference!



## Safe Driving Class

Want to learn more about traffic laws, traffic stop do's and don'ts, the dangers of distracted driving and much more? Attend the Minnetonka Police Department's Safe Driving Class!

**Saturday, Oct. 13 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**City Hall | Minnehaha Room**  
**14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Visit [eminnetonka.com/safedrivingclass2018](http://eminnetonka.com/safedrivingclass2018) to register or for more information.

## Getting to the root of early fall color

Minnetonka's community forest and the surrounding region usually approach peak autumn color by the end of September, but some trees flare with color and lose their leaves much earlier (like the maple shown here, photographed in late July). Encircling, or "stem-girdling" roots are the most likely culprit.



Stem-girdling roots wrap around the base of the trunk instead of growing outward into the surrounding soil. This limits the tree's access to water and nutrients, and restricts the flow of fluids between the roots, stem and leaves. The tree grows like a telephone pole, with no flare at the base and unusually small leaves.

Stressed trees lose their leaves in drought or may not leaf out after a difficult winter. They are more vulnerable to insect pests and disease, and because their root systems are weak, these trees are more likely to fall in windstorms.

Follow these tips to help prevent this issue:

- ☑ Plant trees properly
- ☑ Maintain trees until established

If you suspect an older tree has stem-girdled roots, contact an arborist to help improve the tree's health. Find arborists online at [msa-live.org](http://msa-live.org). Visit [dnr.state.mn.us/treecare](http://dnr.state.mn.us/treecare) for more information on proper tree care.

## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

September  
2018

### Buckthorn Workshop

Thursday, Sept. 27

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center  
Community Room

Learn best practices to control buckthorn and improve the ecological health of your property. Native replacement plant information and handouts will be included. RSVP is required by phone (952-988-8400) or online ([eminnetonka.com/NRevents](http://eminnetonka.com/NRevents)).



## Water until the ground freezes

Trees and shrubs require water to survive the winter and have a productive spring growing season. Continue watering until the ground starts to freeze and follow these guidelines to prepare your plants for winter.

- Water when there is less than one inch of rainfall per week.
- Water the entire root zone ☑ from the trunk to the farthest branch tips.
- Use a hose on low-flow or a soaker hose rather than a sprinkler.
- ☑ Move hoses to keep water where it can be absorbed by tree and plant roots. Avoid runoff onto paved surfaces.
- Water around (not on) trees. Excess moisture on open wounds, leaves or needles can cause fungi to grow.
- Follow city watering restrictions: until Sept. 30, water before 11 a.m. or after 5 p.m. Even-numbered houses water on even-numbered days, and odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days.



## Minnetonka Concert Band welcomes prolific guest

**Minnetonka Concert Band with special guest Kenni Holmen**  
**Sunday, Sept. 23 | 3 p.m. | Free**  
**Minnetonka High School Main Stage**

The Minnetonka Concert Band and director Dan Geldert will be joined by saxophone star Kenni Holmen at its fall concert. A 1976 Minnetonka High School graduate, Holmen returns to his alma mater after touring with Prince for two decades. He has also performed with Tony Bennett, Celine Dion, Dizzy Gillespie and Doc Severinson.



Holman frequently performs locally at the Dakota Jazz Club and with touring Broadway shows, and has played his spectacular rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at Minnesota Timberwolves games. Don't miss this free opportunity to see his talents up close!



### Tour Burwell House in September

**September | Saturdays and 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 on September weekends from 1-4 p.m. 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](http://eminnetonka.com/burwell).

## Featured Recreation Programs

### Adult Volleyball Leagues

Participate in women's, men's, co-rec or four-player co-rec leagues. Teams compete at specified competition levels over the 10-week season, which begins in late September. Space is limited. Visit [eminnetonka.com/adultvolleyball](http://eminnetonka.com/adultvolleyball) for more information.

### Youth Basketball League

#### Grades 2-6

**Registration Deadline: Friday, Sept. 28**

This in-house recreational league is a great opportunity for new and experienced players to develop their basketball skills, character and build new friendships. Boys and girls teams are formed by grade level.

Games for all ages are Saturdays, between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hopkins West Junior High. Grades 3-6 will have one night of practice each week, and second graders will practice Saturdays before each game. Volunteer coaches are needed.

To register, or for complete league details, call 952-939-8203 or visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register).

### Parent's Night Out

#### Ages 4-10

**Oct. 5 and Nov. 16, 5:30-10 p.m.**

**\$27 for first child, \$17 for each additional child in same household**

Need a night away from the kids? Kids will enjoy an evening with a pizza dinner, swimming, Treehouse playtime, games and a movie. Children must be potty-trained, and 4 and 5-year-olds will be restricted to the zero-depth splash pad pool.

Call 952-939-8203 or visit [eminnetonka.com/register](http://eminnetonka.com/register) to register or for more information.

# MINNETONKA MEMO

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 3** City Offices Closed, Labor Day
- 4** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 5** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 11** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 13** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 17** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 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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## What's for dinner at the Minnetonka Farmers Market?

**Tuesdays | 3<sup>07</sup> p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Civic Center Campus**  
**Ice Arena B Parking Lot**

In addition to fresh produce, community group booths, live music and fun kids activities, the Minnetonka Farmers Market is also a great spot for a one-of-a-kind family dinner!

Each week we host up to three food trucks at the market from a rotating roster that includes Urban Sub, Fro Yo Soul, Kona Ice, Med Box Grill, Original Hockey Mom Brownies, Roberts BBQ & Grill and Russell's Traveling Kitchen. Atacama Catering, a market favorite, also has ready-to-eat Latin-fusion cuisine each week.

Visit [eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket](http://eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket) for more information, a complete list of vendors and food trucks and to subscribe to regular updates. The 2018 market season concludes on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

