



minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
March 2017

Xcel Energy upgrading majority of Minnetonka streetlights

If you've recently driven through Minnetonka at night, you may have noticed that many of the streets look a little brighter. That's because Xcel Energy is in the process of retrofitting their streetlights with Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting that offers energy savings and enhanced performance.

This project is part of Xcel Energy's multi-year effort to upgrade all Xcel Energy-owned cobra head, high-pressure sodium streetlights throughout the state to LED solid-state units. Xcel Energy is paying all costs associated with the retrofits, including removal and salvage of old lights and installation of the new LED fixtures.

The majority of streetlights in Minnetonka are owned by Xcel Energy and will therefore be retrofitted as part of the project. There are no costs to the City of Minnetonka; however, the new LED lights offer a range of benefits to our community, including:

- **Increased efficiency:** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, LEDs have the potential to cut general lighting energy usage in half through 2030, helping the city to save on energy costs and reduce carbon emissions.
- **Lower maintenance:** Because LEDs have a longer life, they require less maintenance and offer increased reliability.
- **Improved safety:** The highly efficient lighting pattern of LEDs reduces glare and focuses the light directly on the areas to be lit (typically sidewalks and corners). They also contain no mercury, lead or other known disposable hazards.
- **Reduced light trespass:** Unlike conventional streetlights, which spill light away from the street and into neighboring yards and windows, LED light can be directed where it is needed most. LEDs also meet the International Dark Sky Association's requirements for reducing the waste of ambient light.
- **Enhanced controllability:** LED lights turn on instantly and do not require a warm-up period. Additionally, light levels can be controlled depending on lighting needs.

Xcel Energy's installation of LED streetlights began in Minnetonka in February. For more information about this statewide project, visit xcelenergy.com and search "LED lights."

Adopt a park sign this summer

Minnetonka's Adopt-A-Park-Sign program is a wonderful way to volunteer your time and talent to beautify city parks. It's an opportunity for individuals, families or organizations to keep Minnetonka beautiful by planting flowers at the entrances of city parks.

Here's how it works:

- The city collaborates with a local greenhouse to provide annuals/perennials of the volunteer's choice.
- Adopt-a-park-sign volunteers are responsible for planting and maintaining the flowers throughout the growing season.

Please note, last year's volunteers will be given first priority to adopt the sign they cared for in previous seasons.

Park signs and availability will be updated periodically at eminnetonka.com. If you are interested in adopting a park sign or would like more information about the program, please contact Kate Egert at 952-939-8393 or kegert@eminnetonka.com.

Summer job openings

Looking for summer employment opportunities? The city is hiring! Visit eminnetonka.com/job-openings to see full-time and part-time summer opportunities. Many positions involve working evenings, weekends and/or holidays. Positions include:

Recreation

- Athletic instructors and referees
- Beach lifeguards, concession and gate attendants
- Kids' Corner program leader
- Kids' playground leaders
- Preschool program leader
- Marina attendants



Public Works

- Maintenance - Street, Park and Utility

Natural Resources

- Restoration technician
- Tree and natural resources inspectors
- Watering technician

Internships

- Assessing
- Engineering
- Environmental health

To get more information about each position and to apply online, visit the city's website at eminnetonka.com/job-openings. Postings will continue to be updated throughout the spring – check back frequently for the latest opportunities!

All about 911: Tips from Minnetonka dispatchers

Review these tips from Minnetonka's public safety dispatch center to effectively utilize 911.

- Many people have eliminated landlines in their homes. However, cell phones aren't always ideal in an emergency. Batteries go dead and cell towers can fail. Consider adding a landline or a VOIP (such as Vonage or OOMA) that will be more reliable in case of a power failure, and also provide a physical address to dispatchers.



- You may have heard that all charged cell phones — even those without service — will allow a caller to dial 911. That's true, with one important caveat: cell phones without an active service agreement do not provide a valid call back number for dispatchers. This is very problematic and will cause a delay in emergency response. If you have to call 911, ideally do so from a landline or from a cell phone with an active service agreement.
- If using a cell phone to call 911, know your address and location. Cell phones only provide limited location information. Latitude and longitude is provided but the accuracy of that information varies widely. While dispatchers may be able to narrow the latitude and longitude to locate a caller, this takes time — which also delays emergency response.

Reporting non-emergencies

The police department also has a 24/7 hotline at 952-939-8500 for reporting non-emergency incidents.

If you have an after-hours emergency that requires Minnetonka Public Works, such as a water main break, sewer gas odors, sewer backups or broken fire hydrants, call 952-939-8510.

Apply for a small projects home improvement loan

Beginning in April, the city is accepting applications for Small Projects Program home improvement loans. This program offers up to \$5,000 through a 0 percent, no interest, no payment, deferred loan, for homeowners wanting to make eligible home improvements. If you continue to own and live in your home for 10 years after receiving a loan, the loan is completely forgiven.



To be eligible, your gross income must not exceed:

Household Size	Income Limit
1 person	\$46,000
2 person	\$52,600
3 person	\$59,150
4 person	\$65,700
5 person	\$71,000
6 person	\$76,250
7 person	\$81,500
8 person	\$86,750

Applications will be accepted beginning **Monday, April 10** through **Friday, April 21**.

Visit eminnetonka.com/loans to find an application and review program guidelines. Questions? Contact Celeste McDermott at 952-939-8234 or cmcdermott@eminnetonka.com.

Street sweeping begins in late March

Minnetonka Public Works will begin street sweeping the last week of March, weather permitting. For four weeks or until all streets have been swept, crews will sweep streets in 10-hour shifts Monday through Thursday from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m., and in 8-hour shifts on Fridays from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Although crews try to stay out of residential areas in the early morning hours, it is not always possible. In these cases, crews will make every effort to minimize noise.

While the street sweeper does a good job cleaning streets, it can't capture all the debris, so we need your help! As the snow melts, identify the catch basins in your



neighborhood, then remove and dispose of the accumulated debris and litter.

Once sweeping has concluded, flushing of water mains will take place starting in late April.

Brush drop-off site open Saturdays in March

To assist residents who conduct winter pruning, the brush drop-off site at Minnetonka Public Works (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.) will be open every Saturday in March, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The regular brush drop-off program starts Saturday, April 1. For more information, call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400.

News from the Minnetonka Music Association

Minnetonka Concert Band Spring Concert

Sunday, March 26
3 p.m.
Arts Center on 7

The Minnetonka Concert Band, under the direction of Dan Geldert, former director of bands at Minnetonka High School, presents “Old, New, Borrowed, Blue,” a concert of favorites for band including “Lincoln Portrait” by Aaron Copland, “Baroque and Blue” by Claude Bolling, “Rolling Thunder” by Henry Fillmore and more. Free, accessible and fun for all ages!

Join the Spring Chorus à la Carte

Calling all singers who have experience performing in an organized choral group! Join the Minnetonka Music Association’s Chorus à la Carte for an opportunity to sing an award-winning 20th century repertoire with director David Halligan, including “Seal Lullaby” by modern master Eric Whitacre as well as light-hearted swing songs like “Tuxedo Junction.”

Rehearsals: Mondays, 7–9 p.m. beginning March 6 at Minnetonka High School

Performance: Friday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., Arts Center on 7

Fee: \$60 (scholarships available)

Register and learn more at musicassociation.org.

Apply to be part of the 2017 farmers market

Calling all local farmers and artisans! Whether your specialty is baked goods, fresh produce, soaps, salsas, natural skin products or another local product, you’re invited to apply to be part of the ninth season of the Minnetonka Farmers Market.

The 2017 market begins June 13 and runs every Tuesday through Sept. 26 from 4–7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus near Ice Arena B.

Vendor participation can range from one week to the full season – whatever works best for you and your product.



Visit eminnetonka.com/farmersmarket to find an application and get answers to commonly asked questions.

Imagine Minnetonka results presented in March

Throughout the summer and fall of 2016, the City of Minnetonka asked residents to provide feedback for a community-wide visioning and strategic planning project, Imagine Minnetonka. Residents of all ages were asked to share their response to the question: “How do you want your city to look and feel in the next 20 years?”

Hundreds of ideas were submitted at local gathering places and community events, online, via social media, email and mail before the community engagement period concluded in November. Since then, the city has been tabulating the feedback by engaging Rebecca Ryan, the renowned economist and consultant who is spearheading the strategic planning effort. With Ryan’s help, the city has been comparing the information to trends – such as demographics, environmental, economic and others – that will impact Minnetonka’s future.

Ryan is planning to present the Imagine Minnetonka results and her accompanying recommendations to the community at the city council meeting Monday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.). Attend in-person or watch the meeting online via eminnetonka.com. The results will be made available at eminnetonka.com/imagine following the presentation.

Visit eminnetonka.com/imagine for more information about the project. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback during the process!



Summer recreation program registration starts March 7

Registration for summer recreation programs begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 7! Visit eminnetonka.com/recreationbrochure to check out the program options and choose from hundreds of activities. Whether you’re looking for fitness classes, kids programs, craft opportunities or 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 Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services Summer Brochure will also be mailed to all Minnetonka and Hopkins residents. Nonresidents who request a hard copy will be charged \$3. Call 952-939-8203 or email recservices@eminnetonka.com for more information.

Natural Resources Happenings

How to Grow Fruit from Shrubby Plants in Your Backyard

Tuesday, March 7

6:30–8:30 p.m.

**Minnetonka Community Center
Community Room**

Find out what it takes to successfully grow fruits in Minnesota, which fruits are favorites with pollinators, and what varieties are hardy in this climate. RSVP is required.*

Buckthorn Workshop #1: Managing Woodlands, Buckthorn and Beyond

Wednesday, March 8

6:30–8:30 p.m.

**Minnetonka Community Center
Community Room**

Learn ecologically sound techniques to control invasive woody plants—and save time and money along the way. Begins with an introduction to Minnesota's eco-regions and forest structure. RSVP is required (open to non-residents as well).*

Volunteer Buckthorn Cutting at Kelly Park

Sunday, March 12, 2–4:30 p.m.

**Hennepin County Library
17524 Excelsior Blvd.**

meet at east side of parking lot

Help cut buckthorn near the city's largest bur oak tree in Kelly Park. Dress in layers for the weather; wear sturdy boots and eye protection; bring hand saw and/or loppers marked with your name. Signature on release form is required. Some tools and snacks provided. RSVP is required.*

*Call 952-988-8400 or register online at eminnetonka.com/NRevents.

Visit eminnetonka.com/subscribe to receive email and/or text updates about natural resources news and events, or text "mtka nature" to 468-311.

Help reduce harmful runoff

Before Minnetonka was developed, much of the rainfall would have been absorbed by the soil or captured by trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Since the introduction of pavement and other impervious surfaces—such as rooftops, driveways, and buildings that don't absorb water—more rainfall flows over the surface and directly into neighboring wetlands, lakes and creeks. This runoff also picks up more pollutants, which can be harmful to those water bodies.

Fortunately, there are some easy ways to help reduce runoff and the pollutants it carries:

- Clean up leaks, spills, grass clippings and other materials from paved areas before they wash away.
- When possible, direct downspouts into areas of your yard where rainwater can be absorbed.
- Collect roof runoff in rainbarrels for reuse in your yard (this can also save tap water).
- Seed, mulch or plant areas of bare soil (water more readily flows off bare soil).
- Add trees, shrubs and other plants to your landscape to help intercept raindrops and increase soil infiltration.
- Consider building and planting a small raingarden to help capture and absorb runoff.

Also, remember not to blow, rake or deposit clippings, leaves or other debris into the street, drainageways or any water resource. These materials can be carried downstream, block drainage and directly impact the areas in which they are deposited.

Even if you don't have a wetland, lake or creek on your property, these techniques help to increase absorption into the soil and reduce the amount of runoff that leaves your property. Thank you for doing your part to keep our waters clean!

Fast Fact

2,000 square feet of rooftop or pavement generates over 1,200 gallons of runoff from only one inch of rain.

Volunteer to protect Minnetonka's natural resources

Every year, dozens of Minnetonkans donate hundreds of hours to help protect the city's incredible natural resources. Thanks to these dedicated individuals, it is possible for the city to get to many projects beyond what staff could otherwise accomplish.

Although the City of Minnetonka is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers, more are always needed!

Help is especially needed in the following areas throughout the spring and summer:

- Invasive species control
- Park restoration (especially in Reich, Victoria-Evergreen, Tower Hill, Orchard and Hilloway parks)

More Information

If you or your group is interested in lending a hand to help protect Minnetonka's natural resources, please call Restoration Specialist Janet VanSloun at 952-988-8423.



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Programs and services for those 55+
March 2017 Newsletter

Income Tax Assistance

This free tax program is designed to help moderate to low income individuals with basic taxes.

Appointments can be made at Senior Services or by calling 952-939-8393. Appointments are required and no walk-ins are allowed.

- Mondays and Thursdays through April 13
- Appointment times: 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Your Life, Your Story, Your Legacy

Wednesday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Your life story and those of your ancestors shape the lives of your children and future generations. Learn practical ways to collect, prioritize, organize and preserve the life stories, photographs, family history and unique heirloom documents.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180402-01)

Community Connections: Helping Grandkids Pay for College

Monday, March 27, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Learn way to help pay for college for grandkids. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Free! (Course #2180409-01)



Enjoy light refreshments and socializing before taking in local entertainment. Live it up, reserve your seat today!

Roe Family Singers

Wednesday, March 22, 10:30 a.m.

Join the Roe Family Singers and tap away to this good-time, old-time hillbilly band from the Mississippi-headwaters community of Kirkwood Hollow, MN. Performances feature banjo, autoharp, guitar and washboard!

Sponsored by Brookdale Minnetonka Carlson Parkway.

Cost: \$3 (Course #2100301-02)

Wellness Series presented by Minnetonka Medical Center and North Memorial Medical Center

Total Wellness: Session I

Friday, March 3, 10-11 a.m.

Focusing on Total Wellness and March's Colorectal Cancer Awareness month.

Presented by Dr. Cherkasky

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180801-02)

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Screenings

Tuesday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. – noon

North Memorial Heart and Vascular Institute is offering Peripheral Arterial Disease PAD screening for individuals age 50 or older with diabetes. This screening obtains pulses and blood pressures through the surface of the skin. You will be told if your screening test is positive or negative. Appointments are required, sign up for your 30-minute appointment!

Cost: Free! (Course #2180801-03)

Advanced Care Planning

Tuesday, April 4, 10-11 a.m.

Learn about advance care planning and the importance of having conversations with your family, loved ones, and health care provider. We'll go over how to select a Health Care Agent, and Directive document. A notary will be available to help you complete one that captures your goals and wishes. Presented by Maureen Tyrav.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180801-17)

Monthly Party: St. Patrick's Day

Friday, March 17, noon

Celebrate with us!

Menu: Corned beef, cabbage, potato, irish soda bread from Great Harvest, baby carrots and ranch.

Sponsored by: Home Care Assistance

Cost: \$7 due Monday, March 13
(Course #2100103-01)

Balance Screenings

Monday, March 13, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Are you feeling unsteady? Are you fearful of falling? You can take action to reduce your risk of falling. Appointments are required for a 15-minute time block.

Free! (Course #2180406-01)



Summer Registration

(April–August)

Tuesday, March 7

Register online, over the phone, or in person

Limited scholarships are available for Minnetonka Residents age 55+

- Online: eminnetonka.com/register
- Phone: 952-939-8393
- In person: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Lunch and a Movie: Arrival

Friday, March 31, noon

This movie received, eight Oscar nominations, including best picture. An elite team led by expert linguist Louise Banks, is brought together to investigate. As mankind teeters on the verge of global war, Banks and the team race against time for answers.

Menu: Pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, chips and a treat

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, March 28
(Course #2100203-01)

Fitness for the Mind and Heart:

Jackie Mielke

Color Me Healthy!

Tuesday, March 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

This program identifies the vibrations of each color in the rainbow spectrum and how we can apply that information to improve our health and wellness in body, mind and spirit.

Cost: \$12 (Course #2180403-02)

Focusing the Mind, Calming the Self

Wednesday, March 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Learning and practicing the art of centering and grounding the self is the basis of this session. This helpful method can assist in managing stressful events in our lives and be an overall benefit for our physical, emotional and mental health.

Cost: \$12 (Course #2180403-03)

Fitness Programs

For a complete listing and program descriptions please visit eminnetonka.com/register or pick up a fitness flyer at the community center.

Program	Instructor	Dates	Day	Times	Fee	Course #
Over 50 and Fit	Jean McSwiggen John Nally Julie Fleischhacker	Jan. 1–Dec. 31	M, W, F	9–10 a.m.	\$12 (annually)	4090702-02
Basic Mat Pilates	Elizabeth Kelly	March 8–April 26	W	6:15–7:15 p.m.	\$48	2090904-02
Chair Yoga	Elizabeth Kelly	March 8–April 26	W	5–6 p.m.	\$48	2090101-06
Dance Series: Swing	Tricia Wood	April 1–22	S	10–11 a.m.	\$52	2091001-01
Dance Series: Ballroom and Latin	Tricia Wood	April 1–22	S	11 a.m.–noon	\$52	2091001-02
Intermediate Yoga	Elizabeth Kelly	March 8–April 26	W	7:30–8:30 p.m.	\$48	2090201-06
Line Dance: Beginner	Tricia Wood	March 2–30	TH	12:30–1:30 p.m.	\$40	2090601-02
Line Dance: Beginner	Tricia Wood	April 6–27	TH	12:30–1:30 p.m.	\$32	2090601-03
Line Dance: Intermediate	Tricia Wood	March 2–30	TH	1:45–2:45 p.m.	\$40	2090602-02
Line Dance: Intermediate	Tricia Wood	April 6–27	TH	1:45–2:45 p.m.	\$32	2090602-03
T'ai Chi Chih: Beginning	Susan Sobelson	March 20–May 8	M	10–11 a.m.	\$40	2090301-02
T'ai Chi Chih: Intermediate	Susan Sobelson	March 20–May 8	M	11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	\$40	2090302-02
T'ai Chi for Health and Wellness	Ron Erdman-Luntz	April 20–May 25	TH	6–7 p.m.	\$54	2090401-03
Therapeutic Pilates	Dr. Sarah Petrich	March 13–April 24	M	8:30–9:30 a.m.	\$54	2090901-02
Zumba Gold	Renee Rahimi	April 3–May 8	M	12:45–1:45 p.m.	\$36	2090501-02
Zumba Gold Toning	Renee Rahimi	April 5–May 10	W	12:30–1:30 p.m.	\$36	2090501-04

Fitness Highlights

Line Dance

New Instructor: Tricia Wood

Line dancing is not just your boot scootin' boogie anymore. Participants will do the samba, twist, tango, Charleston and more! Taught by Tricia Wood of Dance and Entertainment Studios.

T'ai Chi for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Tai Chi short-form movements have many health benefits and are fun to learn. The slow, circular movements help to improve balance and relaxation. Must be able to walk comfortably for an hour.

Basic Mat Pilates

Elizabeth Kelly

Pilates is a method of exercise that consists of low-impact flexibility, muscular strength and endurance movements. Pilates emphasizes the core with the use of the abdominals, lower back, hips and thighs.



Athletic Activities

Indoor Pickleball

October - May

Try the fun and social game of pickleball. Limited racquets and balls are available.

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:30–10 a.m.
- Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30–9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, 1–3 p.m.
- Free for Williston, Silver Sneakers and Silver and Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

Williston Fitness Center
14509 Minnetonka Drive

History Programs

British History: British Authors Terry Kubista

ursdays, March 2-23, 1-3 p.m.

Join an interesting and lively discussion around these British author's works and lives: Jane Austen, Agatha Christie, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns.

Cost: \$28 (Course #2180101-03)

War Planes

Al Pike

Tuesdays, March 7-28, 10 a.m.-noon

View the PBS documentary on warplanes covering a century of flight from a crude instrument of wood and wires into a weapon of modern combat. This is a four-week class with the first three classes meeting at the Minnetonka Community Center. The last session participants will meet in Eden Prairie for a tour of the Wings of the North Museum.

Cost: \$12 (Course #2180205-01)

Persian Gulf War

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, March 8, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dive into components of the Persian Gulf War, Aug. 2, 1990 – Feb. 28, 1991. The Gulf War was code named Operation Desert Shield for operations leading to the buildup of troops and defense of Saudi Arabia. Operation Desert Storm was a war waged by coalition forces from 34 nations led by the United States against Iraq, in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Cost: \$5 (Course # 2180203-01)

British History: London's East End Terry Kubista

ursdays, April 6-27, 1-3 p.m.

London's East end has gone through harder times and more devastation than any other area of London. We will follow this area through four decades of war, peace, and recovery.

Cost: \$28 (Course #2180101-04)

Save the Date!

- Chow the the Chief
Tuesday, April 11, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Volunteer Social
Tuesday, April 18, noon
- Seniors Expo
ursday, May 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Education Programs

Defensive Driving

Register through MN Highway Safety Center, 1-888-234-1294, or visit mnsafetycenter.org for all classes.

4-hour renewal sessions:

- \$22, Tuesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- \$22, Tuesday, March 14, 5:30-9 p.m.
- \$22, Tuesday, March 28, 5:30-9 p.m.

Computer Basics II:

Abbey Key

Tuesdays, March 14 and 21, 10 a.m.

This easy and fun introduction to the world of computers will cover electronic devices, navigating basic programs and include ample time for questions and practicing.

Cost: \$16 (Course #2180501-02)

Navigating Medicare

ursday, March 16, 1-3:30 p.m.

Learn to navigate Medicare Parts A,B,C and D coverage, supplemental plans and Part D Plans. Presented by Senior Community Services.

Cost: \$10 (Course #2180411-01)

Electronic Device Help:

Hopkins High School Seniors

Monday, March 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Hopkins High School seniors will offer free one-on-one training on cell phones, digital cameras, iPads, iPods, etc. This is a great way to learn about technology from helpful students. Reservations required.

Free! (Course #2180404-01)

Leisure Programs

Full Moon Hike to Jidana Park

Steve Pieh

ursday, March 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Start the night with a relaxed walk to Jidana Park. Enjoy refreshments and roasting hot dogs by the campfire underneath the full moon. Meet at the main entrance of the Minnetonka Community Center.

Cost: \$4 (Course #2190801-01)

Mahjongg

Carole Harris

*Wednesdays,
April 12-May 24
10 a.m.-Noon*

Learn to play the intriguing game of Mahjongg, a game of chance and skill. Played previously? Refresh your skills.

Cost: \$63 (Course #2190201-01)



Day Trips*

U Dah! A Scandinavian History Tour



Tuesday, April 4

Ole and Lena guide a riding tour to discover how and why immigrants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland came as pioneers to St. Paul and Minneapolis. Learn about many famous sites including the Mindekirken Church and the Norway House. Enjoy lunch and shopping at the Bokhandel Gift Shop. End the trip with a guided tour of the Turnblad Mansion and the American Swedish Institute.

Menu: Smorgasbord of traditional Swedish dishes including meatballs, gravlax, potatoes, cucumber salad and more.

Cost: \$73 includes tours, meal, transportation and guide (Course# 2110103-01)

Estimated trip time: 9:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Register or cancel by: Friday, March 3

Grotto of the Redemption



Wednesday, May 17

A young seminarian who almost died from pneumonia prayed to the Virgin Mary to help him; and if she did, he promised to build her a shrine. Father Paul Dobberstein lived and took more than 40 years to build "The Grotto of the Redemption" in West Bend, Iowa. Stop for coffee and a snack at Whiskey River in St. Peter. Arrive in West Bend, take a guided tour of nine separate grottos, each portraying a scene in the life of Jesus Christ. The largest man-made grotto in the world has the largest collection of precious stones, gems and minerals found in one location. After the tour peruse museum on your own, then have a late lunch at the Wagon Wheel. The ride home includes a stop at reststop near Albert Lea.

Menu: Marinated chicken breast, baby red potatoes, coleslaw, corn, tea biscuits, dessert and coffee.

Cost: \$73 includes tours, meal, transportation and guide (Course# 2110104-01)

Estimated trip time: 7:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Register or cancel by: Friday, April 7

*For a complete listing of day trips search trips on our website or pick up a flyer at the community center. Trips meet in the community center lobby

Interest Groups

Interest groups are coordinated and led by seniors in the community. All groups meet at the Minnetonka Community Center, unless noted otherwise. For a complete list of groups go to eminnetonka.com/interestgroups.

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.

"Nests and Eggs" with Matt Schuth, Naturalist at Arboretum

Book Club

3rd ursday, 1 p.m.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

"Butterflies" with Christine Petersen, City of Minnetonka Natural Resources

Woodcarvers

ursdays, 10 a.m.

Group members share ideas and work independently



11280 Wayzata Blvd.

763-591-4868

Purchase items handcrafted by Minnetonka residents ages 55 and older. Seasonal crafts and gifts have arrived!

- Winter hats, gloves and scarves
- Baby clothes and toys
- Jewelry and accessories
- Handbags and wallets
- Doll furniture and clothes
- Household items and more!

Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Thursdays until 8 p.m.

Email Updates

Stay up-to-date on the latest events! Receive weekly email updates on senior happenings! Send your email address to spieh@eminnetonka.com.

Receive the script and calendar via email by subscribing to email alerts at eminnetonka.com/seniorservices.

Services

Blood Pressure Screenings

1st and 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 a.m., Free!

Provided by volunteer nurses.

Happy Feet

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$37

Provided by nurses specializing in foot care. For appointment call 763-560-5136.

Senior Community Services

Senior Outreach Social Worker

Lisa Engdahl

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Free!

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance and more. Call 952-939-8393 for an appointment.

Medicare Counseling

1st and 3rd Mondays, Free!

Discuss Medicare, supplemental insurance, Part D coverage, billing issues, resources and more! Call 952-939-8393.

HOME

Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) is available for Minnetonka residents 60 and older. For information call 952-746-4046 or visit the Community Center on Fridays, 9 a.m.–noon. Some of the chores HOME can help with include the following:

- Snow removal
- Changing light bulbs
- Housekeeping
- Changing furnace filters



Minnetonka Senior Services

Connections. Activities. Lifelong Learning.

Contact and Registration Information

Register in person, over the phone, online or by mail.

✉ 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.,
Minnetonka, MN 55345



eminnetonka.com/register



952-939-8393

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Administrative Staff

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Mission

To develop and promote programs and services in our community to meet the diverse needs of those 55+.

Program Locations

Meet at Minnetonka Senior Services unless otherwise noted.

Cancellation Information

Program Cancellations

Refunds will only be made if registration is withdrawn before the advertised deadline. If no deadline is given, registration must be withdrawn at least two business days prior to the start date of the program. Partial credit will be considered if injury or serious illness occurs. In such case, a physician's verification may be required.

Trip Cancellations

Refunds are assessed a \$5 administrative fee and only granted prior to the registration deadline or in the event that a replacement is found.

Protect your elm and ash trees

Dutch elm disease (DED) continues to kill hundreds of trees in Minnetonka every year. And while emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been found in Minnetonka, it is in Plymouth and Minneapolis—just a few miles from the city’s borders. That’s why the city is providing information on how to purchase the injections used to prevent the spread of these two diseases.

There are many compelling reasons to preserve these large shade trees:

- Mature trees provide invaluable ecosystem services—from preventing erosion and providing wildlife habitat to absorbing carbon dioxide and stormwater runoff.
- Tree canopy provides cooling shade, which can reduce energy use in buildings and extend the life of pavement.
- Trees increase privacy, reduce noise and add to property values.
- Dead ash trees become very brittle, which in turn creates a risk to roadways or buildings.

In addition to encouraging residents to protect their trees from DED and EAB, the city is also working to protect trees on public property.

Take advantage of a citywide bulk discount

A citywide bulk discount is available through Rainbow Treecare for the treatment of ash and elm trees on private property and in the roadside right-of-way. See the graphs for average treatment costs. Contact Rainbow Treecare directly at 952-767-6920 to take advantage of the discount and get specific details.

Please note, injection treatments are also available for purchase from other tree care companies. Contact your preferred company for details.

ASH INJECTIONS

What are the average costs?



Treatment Costs*
\$97 for 2 years protection

Tree & Stump Removal Costs*
\$1,000-\$1,700

*Based on Minnetonka’s average ash tree size of 17” trunk diameter. Removal costs are estimates based on easy-to-access sites.

ELM INJECTIONS

What are the average costs?

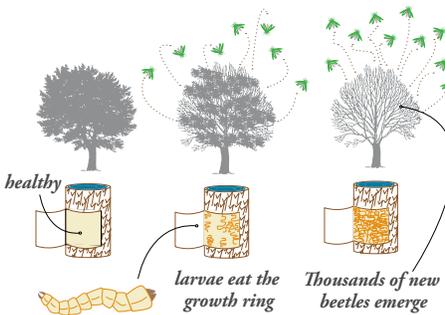


Treatment Costs*
\$304 for 3 years protection

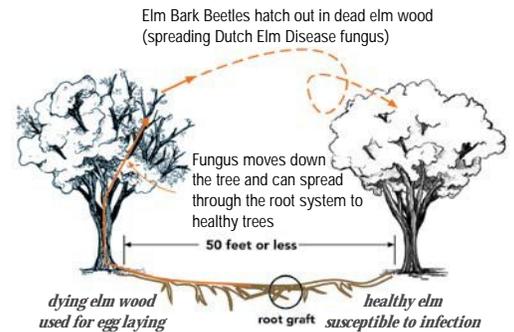
Tree & Stump Removal Costs*
\$1,600-\$1,900

*Based on Minnetonka’s average elm tree size of 19” trunk diameter. Removal costs are estimates based on easy-to-access yard sites.

How EAB kills a tree:



How does Dutch elm disease spread?



TREATED



UNTREATED

Ash injection is done every other year.



TREATED



UNTREATED

Elm injections are repeated every three years.

A note of caution: If you purchase chemicals to do a soil drench rather than paying a professional to inject your tree(s), please read the product instructions carefully. This method should never be used near storm drains or open water, and is not recommended on slopes. Also, because the chemical may be absorbed by other plants in the vicinity, a soil drench should not be done near flowering plants that are visited by pollinators.

2017 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 "circuit breaker." For taxes paid in 2017, homeowners with 2016 household incomes up to \$108,660 are eligible for a refund, and the maximum refund is \$2,660. Some renters with 2016 household incomes up to \$58,880 are also eligible for a refund. The maximum refund that may be available to a renter is \$2,060 and the amount provided also depends upon the total rent paid in 2016. 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, 2018.

Special property tax refund program

A second state program is the **special property tax refund program** for homeowners whose property taxes payable in 2017 have increased by more than 12 percent and are at least \$100 over their 2016 taxes. The increase must not be attributable to new improvements, and homeowners must have owned and lived in their home on both Jan. 2, 2016 and Jan. 2, 2017. 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, 2018.

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 2018 and is explained on the facing page. The other is the **property tax bill** for 2017, 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 ten 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.

2017 homeowner's property taxes

The City of Minnetonka accounts for about one-fourth of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The remainder is comprised of taxes for your school district (33 percent), county (34 percent), and other jurisdictions (7 percent).

Market Value Appeals Process

Market value notices are mailed in March by city assessing staff.

Appeal to city by March 31 for local Board of Appeal and Equalization hearings in April.

County Board of Equalization meets in June after local board hearing.

File with State Tax Court by April 30, 2018.

2017 Market Value Notice

(Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2018.)

Minnetonka home values continue upward

The Minnetonka real estate market continues to stay strong. Last year, overall home values were up 2.3 percent and they continue to increase this year at just over 2 percent. Townhouses are up over 7 percent and condominiums are up just over 12 percent. Commercial properties are experiencing modest increases depending on the type of property while those in the industrial sector are seeing increases of over 9 percent. It's important to remember that individual properties may vary greatly, and that adjustments vary by market, thus some properties may experience increases or decreases significantly different than the average.

Market values based on 2016 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 2017 property values are based on market information from 2016.

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 March 31 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.

Remember, if you have questions or concerns about your property's market value or about 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 2017 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 2016.

● 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.

