

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
March 2016

Summer job openings



Looking for summer employment opportunities? The city is hiring! Visit eminnetonka.com/job-openings to see full- 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
- Kid's Corner program leader and assistants
- Kid's playground leaders
- Marina attendants

Public Works

- Street, Park and Utility maintenance

Natural Resources

- Restoration technician
- Tree and Natural Resources inspectors
- Watering technician

Internships

- Engineering, Environmental Health, Assessing and Administrative Services

To get more information on open positions 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!

Order rain barrels, compost bins

The City of Minnetonka is partnering with the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) to provide rain barrels and compost bins to residents at a discount. Rain barrels and compost bins offer great opportunities to reuse rainwater and to compost yard and kitchen wastes.

Pre-order your bin or barrel online at RecycleMinnesota.org. Select the St. Louis Park event location to place your order. Cost is \$74 plus tax for a rain barrel and \$59 plus tax for a compost bin. Orders will be accepted online until sold out.



Pick-up is Saturday, May 7 from 8 a.m. to noon and Monday, May 9 from 5–7 p.m. at the City of St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center (7305 Oxford St., St. Louis Park).

RAM also offers sales throughout the spring at other locations. If you cannot pick up your order on May 7 or 9, please choose another distribution event that offers different pick-up dates. Mark your calendar with the date and location you select. No refunds are available. You do not need to be a Minnetonka resident to order.

Visit the RAM website at recycleminnesota.org or contact RAM at ram@recycleminnesota.org for more information.

Adopt a city park sign this summer

Minnetonka's Adopt-A-Park-Sign program is a great way for individuals, families and organizations in the community to come together and share their gardening talents with others by planting flowers around city park signs.

The city collaborates with a local greenhouse to provide annuals/perennials of the volunteer's choice to plant and maintain during the 2016 growing season. Last year's volunteers will be given first priority to adopt the sign they cared for in 2015.

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.

Street sweeping begins in late March

Street sweeping by Minnetonka Public Works will begin the last week of March, weather permitting. For four weeks or until all streets have been swept, public works 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 try to minimize the noise and time spent in the neighborhood.



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. This will help the street sweeping process. Once sweeping has concluded, flushing of water mains will take place starting in late April.

Burwell House tour guides needed

Minnetonka's historic Charles H. Burwell House at 13209 E. McGinty Road is a treasured city resource, and tours led by volunteers play a critical role in bringing this site to life for visitors of all ages.



Volunteers are needed to conduct tours during regular season hours, which are as follows:

- Noon–3 p.m. Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from June 4 through Aug. 28
- Noon–3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in September

Volunteers are also needed to give tours to elementary school students each spring, and to guide large groups through the house at special times throughout the year.

Training is provided. The house is air conditioned and tour guides do not wear costumes. High school students are welcome to volunteer.

Learn more at an Open House

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a tour guide, please attend an open house event Tuesday, April 26 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. or Tuesday, May 3 from 10:30–11:30 a.m. at the Burwell House.

Volunteering at the Burwell House is a great way to connect with the community and to share this special site with others. To volunteer as a tour guide, or to RSVP to the open house event, please contact Moranda Zimmer at 952-939-8219 or mzimmer@eminnetonka.com. To learn more about the Burwell House, visit eminnetonka.com/history/burwell-house.

Kid's Corner summer day program registration opens March 1

Are you in need of a fun and active summer day program for your school-aged child? Will your child be in first, second, third, fourth or fifth grade during the 2016/2017 school year?

Based at Williston Fitness Center, the Kid's Corner programs gives kids a chance to enjoy swimming, field trips, sporting activities, arts and crafts and much more. Plus, the program features one off-site field trip per week and participants walk to surrounding locations such as the Minnetonka Ice Arena and neighborhood parks several times a week.

The program is offered from 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday, from June 6–Aug. 26 (closed July 4).

Children must be dropped off between 7–9 a.m. and picked up between 3–5:30 p.m. Children are required to bring their own cold lunch and snacks daily.

Registration Lottery

Space is limited. There are 33 spots in the program and early registration is granted to returning families. Registration for remaining openings is done via lottery – registration for the lottery begins Tuesday, March 1 and ends at 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 11. All registrations received during this period will have an equal opportunity to be selected. Please note, the lottery is only open to Hopkins and Minnetonka residents. Call Recreation Services at 952-939-8203 starting March 1 to register.

Lottery selection will take place Monday, March 14 at 10 a.m. in the Minnehaha Room at Minnetonka City Hall. Those registered for the lottery will be notified of their status following the selection – attendance is not required. Registration for the lottery is free. If chosen for a spot in the program, you will be contacted and charged the \$150 registration fee.

Kid's Corner Fees

Registration Fee: \$150
 June 1 Charge: \$550
 July 1 Charge: \$550
 August 1 Charge: \$400*

*The \$150 registration fee is deducted from the August charge.

Protect your mail, protect your identity

Your identity can be stolen in many ways, including by stealing your mail. Protect your mail by following these steps:

- Don't put outgoing mail in your mailbox. Drop off mail in a blue USPS collection mailbox, at the post office or give mail directly to your carrier.
- Don't leave mail in the mailbox overnight.
- If possible, install a mailbox with a locking mechanism.
- Pick up new checks at the bank instead of having them mailed.
- If you are going to be out of town, have the post office hold your mail or have a trusted neighbor pick it up daily.
- If you travel frequently, consider renting a post office box.
- Keep track of your credit card billing cycle – if you do not receive a credit card bill when expected, contact your credit card company.
- Consider electronic banking and direct deposit to reduce the amount of personal financial information in your mail.
- Opt out of receiving pre-approved credit and insurance offers by calling 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit optoutprescreen.com.
- Use a paper shredder to destroy unwanted mail that contains financial, medical or personal information. Then recycle it: place shredded paper in a paper bag, secure the top, and throw it in your recycle cart.



If you see suspicious people or activity at a mailbox in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1.

Apply now to be an election judge in 2016

Not only is serving as an election judge a great way to meet your neighbors, it is also one of the highest forms of civic duty, as election judges are responsible for protecting the integrity of one of our most cherished freedoms—the right to vote. Election judges ensure polling place activities are administered impartially, fairly and honestly.

Election judges are needed for both the August state primary (Tuesday, Aug. 9) and the November presidential general election (Tuesday, Nov. 8). This is a paid opportunity.

New in 2016

For the first time this year, all Minnetonka precincts will be using electronic poll-books, which is iPad technology that replaces the current paper voter check-in process. The technology will help to speed up lines, assist election judges through registration, reduce registration errors and capture accurate polling place activity data. General iPad training will be provided, along with hands-on training before Election Day.

Also for the first time this year, 16- and 17-year-old high school students are invited to serve as student election judges.



Attend an Information Session to Learn More

Attend one of the following information sessions to learn more: Wednesday, April 27 from 7–8 p.m.; Thursday, April 28 from 10–11 a.m.; or Wednesday, May 11 from 10–11 a.m. These sessions take place in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Visit the elections page at eminnetonka.com/elections to learn more about eligibility requirements and to find an application. Call Moranda Zimmer at 952-939-8219 for more information.

Get free business advice

Want to start a new business or expand an existing one but not sure where to start? Through Minnetonka's Open to Business program, a collaboration of the city of Minnetonka and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD), you can meet with a business advisor for free!

You'll receive one-on-one counseling from expert staff, customized to meet the needs of small business owners and operators. You can get advice on finances, marketing, strategic planning, small business loans, regulatory compliance, real estate analysis, networking and more.

To schedule an appointment or for more information contact Rob Smolund at MCCD at 612-789-7337, ext. 260.

Music Association of Minnetonka Annual Gala Benefit: March 18

Join the Music Association of Minnetonka for their annual gala Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center (14600 Minnetonka Boulevard). Enjoy an evening celebrating their 42nd year as the community destination for all who love music!

Bring your dancing shoes for the big band's Glenn Miller tribute and enjoy a concert band performance of music inspired by Broadway, film and television. Evening highlights include: delicious hors d'oeuvres, drinks and a silent auction featuring items such as a "Wall of Wine" and a round of golf for two at the Minikahda Country Club. Support helps the Music Association of Minnetonka offer scholarships to children and adults and perform dozens of free concerts every year.

Tickets are available at musicassociation.org or 952-401-5954.



Antiques appraisal show is April 19

Are you a fan of Antiques Roadshow? Do you have a family heirloom that's been sitting in the closet for years, and you want to find out what it's worth? If so, mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 19, when the Minnetonka Historical Society hosts its popular Antiques Appraisal Show at 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Community Room, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Assessments will be conducted in the "Antiques Roadshow" style, giving each an opportunity to tell the story of their item. Assessments will be captured on the big screen so the audience can enjoy an up-close view. Two professional appraisers will provide oral appraisals of the objects. The public is welcome to attend.



Space is limited! Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first-served basis beginning March 1. Visit minnetonka-history.org for a registration form (available March 1). In order to provide the appraisers in advance with the best information about your item, please include your name, phone number, email address, description and/or picture of the item with a check for \$12 per item to: Minnetonka Historical Society Antiques Appraisal c/o The City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Limit two items per household. Because of time limitations, appraisers cannot review stamps, sports cards, weapons, coins, dolls or fine jewelry. Please bring only items you can carry safely yourself – transport assistance will not be provided. Call 952-930-9696 with questions.

MARCH 2016

Natural Resources Happenings

Learn to Grow Fruit from Shrubby Plants in Your Own Backyard*

Wednesday, March 9

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Minnnetonka Community Center, Shady Oak Room

Join local consultant Rebecca Koetter to learn about growing fruit in your own backyard. Learn about plants that are so small you won't need a ladder to harvest the fruit, others that can produce fruit in partial-sun or shade environments, and some plants that are so new to the market you may never have heard of them.

Buckthorn Workshop*

Thursday, March 10

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Minnnetonka Community Center, Community Room

Join City of Minnetonka Restoration Specialist Janet Van Sloun to learn ecologically-sound techniques to effectively control invasive woody plants. Learn best practices for woody invasive species control: how to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal; measures to save and protect high-value remnant native plants; how to reduce erosion on slopes; and re-planting using native species indigenous to the Twin Cities.

Workshop is offered in March to allow up to five weeks of stump-treatment control before the buds break in spring.

Buckthorn Cutting at Kelly Park*

Sunday, March 13

2–4:30 p.m.

Kelly Park

See the city's largest known bur oak on park property and help control buckthorn. Volunteers will cut second-growth buckthorn with loppers, hand saws or bow saws; bag black berries with seeds; de-limb branches and more.

Dress in winter layers that may be shed if necessary. Wear sturdy winter boots for working on a woodland slope, snow pants or long underwear, safety glasses and thick winter work gloves. Optional: bring hand saw or lopper clearly labeled with owner's name. The city will provide a limited number of tools, instructions, snacks and drinks. All volunteers will be required to sign a release form.

Pet Waste Pick-Up Event

Saturday, March 19

10 a.m.–noon

Big Willow Park

Pet waste is a significant source of water pollution in urban areas. Join Natural Resources staff to pick up the poop at Big Willow Park. Bring boots, plastic bags, a scooper, a sense of humor – and your pooch! Snacks and warm drinks provided at the information station, located off the small parking lots near Minnetonka Boulevard.

Questions? Contact Natural Resources staff at 952-988-8407.



*Registration is required. RSVP online at eminnetonka.com/natural-resources/natural-resources-events or call Public Works at 952-988-8400.



minnetonka script

Programs and services for those 55+
March 2016 Newsletter

Reflections on Aging

Dr. Bruce McBeath

Wednesday, March 2, 11 a.m.

Leaving adulthood to enter elderhood brings major changes: saying goodbye to professional identifications, structured time and routines. It can bring new struggles with loneliness, feelings of insignificance, identifying new meaning in our lives and more. Join other senior centers across the state in listening and interacting with Dr. Bruce McBeath in a joint teleconference effort.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180411-01)

Lunch and a Movie:

Mr. Holmes

Friday, March 11, Noon

Long retired to a country farmhouse, 93-year-old Sherlock Holmes reflects on his career and remains haunted by the unsolved case that caused him to call it quits.

Menu: Chicken chow mein and a treat.

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, Mar. 8.

(Course #2100203-01)

Prohibition: A Grand Misadventure

David Jones

Monday, March 14, 10:30 a.m.

In 1920, the United States entered a period during which the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors was banned. As it turned out, the US also entered a period of lawlessness and corruption, unequalled in its history.

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

One on One Tech Support:

Handheld Devices

Abbey Key

Thursdays, March 17 and 24,

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Bring in your questions and handheld device(s) and spend a half hour with Minnetonka Senior Services Instructor Abbey Key. She can assist beginning and intermediate users of: digital cameras, cell phones, iPads, iPods, laptops and Kindles.

Cost: \$2

(March 17 Course #2180601)

(March 24 Course # 2180602)

Monthly Party: St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 17, Noon

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us.

Menu: Corn beef, cabbage, potato, Irish soda bread and dessert.

Sponsored by: Homewatch CareGivers

Cost: \$7 due Monday, March 14

(Course #2100103-01)

Community Connections: Decluttering

Monday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.

Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180409-01)

Coffee with Natural Resources

Monday, April 11, 11 a.m.

Everyone knows that landscaping can increase your home's curb appeal, but, did you know that by using sustainable and natural landscaping techniques you are also conserving water? Join Natural Resources Manager Jo Colleran and learn how to reduce water use and how to protect our lakes, wetlands and creeks. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180401-01)

Grief, Loss, Transition and Downsizing

Marcie Spears

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Join Marcie Spears of Organizing Angel and learn how to downsize your things in the midst of emotional situations. Go from stuck and overwhelmed to hopeful and confident. Gain the tools you need to reclaim your space. Topics include: "How will I know when I'm ready?" and "How do I do it my way?"

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180405-01)

Summer Registration

(April–July)

Residents: Tuesday, March 8

Non-Residents: Thursday, March 10

- Register online, over the phone, by mail or in person.
- Online: eminnetonka.com/register, first-time users can call for username and password.
- Phone: 952-939-8393, payments can be made with Visa, MasterCard or Discover.
- Mail: 14600 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55345
- In person: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Scholarships

- Limited scholarships are available for Minnetonka residents age 55+.
- Scholarships are kept confidential.
- No questions are asked regarding details of finances.
- Up to three scholarships per brochure totalling nine per year.
- Up to 50 percent for programs.
- Up to 50 percent on one day trip per year.

Income Tax Assistance

This free tax program is designed to help moderate to low income individuals with basic taxes. Please call senior services at 952-939-8393 to schedule an appointment. Hurry! Space is limited.

- Mondays and Thursdays, Feb. 8 – April 14.
- Appointment times available include: 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Bring your photo ID, last year's taxes and social security card.

Fitness Programs

Over 50 and Fit

Volunteer Instructors

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.

Join this social group and enjoy music and fitness three days a week!

- Annual Fee: \$12
(Course #4090702-01)

Therapeutic Pilates

Dr. Sarah Petich

Mondays, April 4–May 9

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Pilates is a great low-impact, gentle, but challenging, full-body workout that focuses on improving posture, flexibility and core strength. Work on posture alignment techniques, core strengthening exercises, flexibility, balance and breathing techniques. Taught by a physical therapist certified in Pilates and Postural Restoration. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat to class.

- \$54 (Course #2090901-03)

Tai Chi Chih

Susan Sobelson

Mondays, April 4–May 23

Experience a form of “moving meditation” with benefits for body, mind and spirit. This series of 19 easy-to-learn movements creates a sense of calm and can improve balance, mental clarity and energy levels. Permission of instructor required for intermediate level.

- Beginner, \$40, 10–11 a.m.
(Course #2090301-02)
- Intermediate, \$40, 11:30–12:30 p.m.
(Course #2090302-02)

Tai Chi for

Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Thursdays, April 7–May 12, 6–7 p.m.

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. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- \$54 (Course #2090401-03)



Evening
Program

Yoga

Chair-Supported Yoga

Most of chair-supported yoga takes place while seated on a chair and includes plenty of stretching and warming up. Guided breath work and visualization help to release, relax and restore the body and calm the mind. Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

- March 8–April 26
\$48 (Course #2090101-04)

- May 10–June 28
\$48 (Course #3090101-01)

Thursdays, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

- March 10–April 28
\$48 (Course #2090101-05)

- May 12–June 30
\$48 (Course #3090101-02)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 p.m.

- March 9–April 27
\$48 (Course #2090101-06)

Zumba Gold

Renee Rahimi

Ditch the workout and join the party! Zumba Gold is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program featuring easy-to-follow rhythms and a variety of upbeat music. It is a low-impact, less intense form of Zumba designed for beginners and active older adults. Working out has never been so much fun!

Mondays, 12:45–1:45 p.m.

- April 4–May 16
\$35 (Course #2090501-02)

Wednesdays, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

- April 6–May 18
\$35 (Course #2090501-06)

Line Dance

New Instructor: Tricia Wood

Thursdays, March 31–April 28

Get a great workout and learn to hitch, vine and dance in a line! No partners needed.

- Beginner, \$35, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
(Course #2090601-03)

- Intermediate, \$35, 1:45–2:45 p.m.
(Course #2090602-03)

Intermediate Yoga

Intermediate yoga includes standing and balancing postures. Guided breath work and visualization help to release, relax and restore the body and calm the mind. Participants should have the ability to get up and down from the floor to complete postures while on the belly or backside of the body. Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – noon

- March 8–April 26
\$48 (Course #2090201-04)

- May 10–June 28
\$48 (Course #3090201-01)

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – noon

- March 10–April 28
\$48 (Course #2090201-05)

- May 12–June 30
\$48 (Course #3090201-02)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

- March 9–April 27
\$48 (Course #2090201-06)

Athletic Activities

Adult Golf League (50+)

Mondays, May 2–Aug. 29

A great way to meet new people, this informal 16-week co-ed league plays at four area golf courses: Glen Lake, Braemar, Baker and Eagle Lake. Participants are rotated with different players each week.

- \$230 due April 13, (No league play 5/30 & 7/4)
Tee times: 9:30–10:30 a.m.
(Course #3120401-01)

Indoor Pickleball

October–May

Try the fun and social game of pickleball. Limited supplies 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, SilverSneakers and Silver and Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

Williston Fitness Center
14509 Minnetonka Drive

Education Programs

Foods to Reduce Pain and Inflammation

Tuesday, March 29
12:30–2:30 p.m.

Food choices affect pain and inflammation levels. During this two-hour session learn how to heal your body with real food. Topics include sugar, processed carbohydrates, omega-3 fats and minerals. Take home recipes and begin your anti-inflammation eating plan.

- \$22 (Course #2180301-01)

Defensive Driving

Attend and save 10 percent on car insurance! Pay the instructor at class with a check or exact cash. Register through MN Highway Safety Center, 1-888-234-1294, or visit mnsafetycenter.org for all classes.

4-hour renewal sessions:

- \$22, Tuesday, March 1, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- \$22, Monday, March 14, 5:30–9:30 p.m.
- \$22, Tuesday, March 29, 5:30–9:30 p.m.

History Programs

British History: Short Tales

Terry Kubista

Thursdays, March 3–24
1–3 p.m.

Join us for a few short and fun tales: Victoria's grandchildren at war with each other, the true story of St. Patrick, and some strange stories of the royals.

- \$28 (Course #2180101-03)

The Fall of Western Europe in WWII

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, March 9
10:30 a.m. – noon

Take a look at World War II in Europe up to Germany's evasion of the Soviet Union. Germany annexed Austria and Sudetenland in 1938, invaded Poland in 1939 and invaded the Low Country in Western Europe in 1940 ending with the Fall of France.

- \$3 (Course #2180202-01)

Art Programs

Watercolor with Pen and Ink

Sandra Muzzy

Tuesdays, March 1–15
1–4 p.m.

Watercolor and ink work well together with their versatile and unique properties. They can be delicate or bold, detailed or loose. Work with inks, assorted pens and water soluble materials to create various effects, expand your painting repertoire and experiment with fun, versatile and accessible painting techniques.

- \$84 (Course #2130301-01)

Watercolor Studies: The Painting Process

Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays, April 13–20
1–3 p.m.

Refine painting techniques and skills including strokes, creative marks, ratios, washes and concepts. Merge technique with expressing creativity to create spring paintings.

- \$40 (Course #2130101-01)

Leisure Programs

Mahjongg

Carole Harris

Wednesdays, April 6–May 18
10 a.m.–Noon

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

- \$56 (Course #2190201-01)

Hike to Jidana Park

Steve Pieh

Monday, March 10, 11–1:30 p.m.

Hike along Minnehaha Creek to Deer Island. Enjoy roasting brats and sipping coffee by the campfire. This two-mile round-trip walk will begin at the Minnetonka Community Center.

- \$4 (Course #2190802-01)



Interest Groups

Interest groups are coordinated and led by seniors in the community. All groups meet at the Minnetonka Community Center unless noted otherwise.

AA/Al-Anon

Wednesdays, 10:30a.m.

All ages welcome.

Billiards

Monday–Wednesday and Friday.

Time varies, please see calendar page.

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.

Speaker: Frank Taylor, Raptor Specialist

Book Club

3rd Thursday, 1 p.m.

Letters from the Sky by Jessica Brockmole

Duplicate Bridge

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

New members welcome!

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

Propagation.

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

The Shining Girls by Lauren Beukes

New! Oil Painting Drop In

Fridays, 1 p.m.

New members welcome!

Shutterbugs

3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m.

All levels of photographers welcome!

Wood Carvers

Thursdays, 10 a.m.

Group members share ideas and work independently.

Genealogy Club

Thursday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.

If you enjoy researching genealogy and learning about your lineage, this is the club for you! Share your findings with other genealogy enthusiasts and learn about new resources to research your family tree. This club plans to meet on a Thursday morning once or twice a month. Attend the first organizational meeting to learn more. RSVP by calling 952-939-8393.

Senior Day Trips

Asian Art and Cuisine

Tuesday, April 12

Enjoy lunch at Ping's Szechuan Restaurant featuring award-winning Asian cuisine including Szechuan, Cantonese, Mandarin and Hunan dishes. After lunch tour the Minneapolis Institute of Art featuring the exhibit: Gifts of Japanese and Korean Art from the Mary Griggs Burke Collection. This collection of St. Paul native Mary Griggs Burke is long considered the finest private collection of its kind outside of Japan. Bring pocket money for the store and coffee shop.

Menu: All-you-can-eat buffet with hot tea, water and Hawaiian donuts.
(Course# 2110104-01)

- **Cost:** \$67 includes tours, meal, transportation and guide
- **Estimated trip time:** 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, March 18



Serving in Minnesota

Thursday, May 19

Discover the stories and contribution of Minnesota citizens who have served and sacrificed from our state's earliest years to the present in all branches of service. Enjoy lunch at the Black and White restaurant in downtown Little Falls before learning about the town from a local guide who will take you on a public art tour.

Menu: Soup and sandwich with beverage and dessert.

(Course# 3110101-01)

- **Cost:** \$66 includes tours, meal, transportation and guide
- **Estimated trip time:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, April 15

Contact and Registration Information

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

Minnetonka Senior Services

952-939-8393

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

eminnetonka.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Administrative Staff

Sue Svec

ssvec@eminnetonka.com

Kate Egert

kegert@eminnetonka.com

Senior Services and Activities Manager

Steve Pieh

952-939-8366

spieh@eminnetonka.com

Senior and General Programs Manager

Janelle Crossfield

952-939-8369

jcrossfield@eminnetonka.com

Program Locations

Meet at Minnetonka Senior Services unless otherwise noted.

Registration 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**
Full refund requires canceling prior to advertised deadline. Cancellations after deadline are refunded after a \$5 fee per registration, only in the event a participant is found to fill the space.

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 Fridays,

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$36

Provided by nurses specializing in foot care.

For appointment call 763-560-5136.

Senior Community Services

Senior Outreach Social Worker

Lisa Egdahl

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Free!

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance and more. For appointment call 952-939-8393.

Health Insurance Counseling

1st and 3rd Mondays, Free!

Discuss Medicare, Social Security, long-term care, resources and more! For appointment 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.

CareNextion

carenextion.org

This online communication tool brings together the support needed to help live a vital and engaging life.

Extended Trips

For information call Senior Community Services at 952-767-7899 or visit seniorcommunity.org.

- **Pella Tulip Festival** (May 5–8)
Cost: \$790 per person, double occupancy.
- **Shishewana** (May 11–15)
Cost: \$1019 per person, double occupancy

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

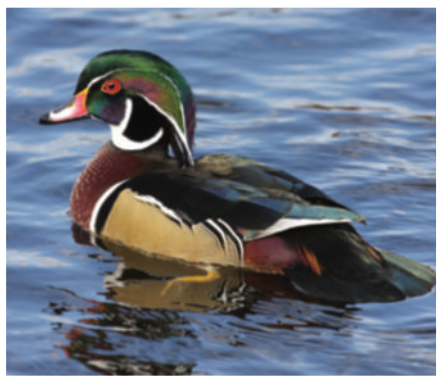
Brush drop-off site open Saturdays in March

The city forester recommends November through March as the ideal time to prune trees—especially oaks. To assist residents who conduct winter pruning, the brush drop-off site at Minnetonka Public Works (11522 Minnetonka Boulevard) will be open every Saturday in March, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The regular brush drop-off program starts Saturday, April 2. For more information, call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400.

Watersheds offer cost-share grants

Are you considering a project on your property that will protect, restore and conserve water around your home or business? Consider applying for a cost-share grant through your local watershed district. Cost-share grants cover part of the cost for qualifying projects that improve water quality.



Visit eminnetonka.com and search “know your watershed” to view watershed district boundaries within Minnetonka and find out which district you belong to. The following districts are offering cost-share program grants:

- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District: ninemilecreek.org (due March 2)
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: minnehahacreek.org (due June 30)
- Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District: rpbcd.org (first round due April 15, second round due June 15)

Please don't feed wildlife

Wildlife is so abundant in Minnetonka that close encounters are inevitable. While many residents enjoy seeing animals in their natural habitat, overfamiliarity can be harmful for people and wildlife alike.

Putting out food encourages animals to gather, which can promote the spread of disease. Deer and other wildlife that are fed in one yard don't respect property lines—they wander into neighboring properties, and may damage the landscape as they go.

Tempting coyotes, turkeys, deer and other animals to approach teaches them (wrongly) that humans are not a threat. At the same time, it tricks people into believing that the animals are tame. But wild animals really are wild. Especially in the breeding season, “tame” critters may become bold or aggressive.

With a little forethought, you can enjoy Minnetonka's wildlife without risking harm to your family or those wild neighbors.

- **Discourage wild animals from approaching** by waving your arms and making noise. “Hazing” reminds wild creatures to avoid humans.
- **Keep birdfeeder areas clean.** Use feeders designed to help keep seed off the ground, and clean up any spilled seed daily.
- **Mount bird feeders** away from trees and shrubs when possible, and install baffles on pole-mounted feeders.
- **Temporarily discontinue feeding birds** if other animals become a nuisance.
- **Feed pets indoors** whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet and livestock feed where it is inaccessible to wildlife.
- **Secure compost and garbage containers**, and eliminate garbage odors.

Share this information with friends and neighbors to preserve the wild nature of our community.

Help reduce harmful runoff

The quality of water in lakes, creeks and wetlands is directly related to the amount of “runoff” – or excess rain, snowmelt and other water that flows across the surface of the ground – that flows into them. Because houses, streets, businesses and other hard surfaces have been added to the natural landscape, excess water does not have a chance to absorb into the soil, and instead, flows across the land, picking up pollutants and anything else in its path. Runoff that does not absorb into soil eventually finds its way to nearby lakes, creeks and wetlands where the pollutants become part of the water. Fortunately, there are ways to help reduce runoff and the subsequent pollutants before it reaches these water resources. Below are just a few ways to get started.

Native Vegetation

Preserving or planting buffers of native vegetation helps to reduce runoff by slowing the water and giving it a chance to absorb. Most native species have deep root systems that not only help prevent erosion, but allow water to penetrate more deeply into the soil. Of course, with the wide variety of species to choose from, planting native vegetation also helps to improve your landscape and possibly attract more songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Raingardens

Raingardens can be planted with just about anything that will tolerate occasional pooled water, which may include trees and shrubs to flowers and ornamental grasses. Most small raingardens can be built and planted in a weekend using just hand tools.

Other ways to reduce runoff include:

- Direct downspouts toward your lawn or landscape beds (but not toward your neighbor's property)
- Fix areas of compacted soil
- Install rain barrels
- Replace pavement with pervious pavers

Thank you for doing your part to keep our waters clean!

2016 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 2016, homeowners with 2015 household incomes up to \$107,930 are eligible for a refund, and the maximum refund is \$2,640. Some renters with 2015 household incomes up to \$58,490 are also eligible for a refund. The maximum refund that may be available to a renter is \$2,050 and the amount provided also depends upon the total rent paid in 2015. 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, 2017.

Special property tax refund program

A second state program is the **special property tax refund program** for homeowners whose property taxes payable in 2016 have increased by more than 12 percent and are at least \$100 over their 2015 taxes. The increase must not be attributable to new improvements, and homeowners must have owned and lived in their home on both Jan. 2, 2015 and Jan. 2, 2016. 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, 2017.

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 2017 and is explained on the facing page. The other is the **property tax bill** for 2016, which is mailed by Hennepin County and must be paid this year.

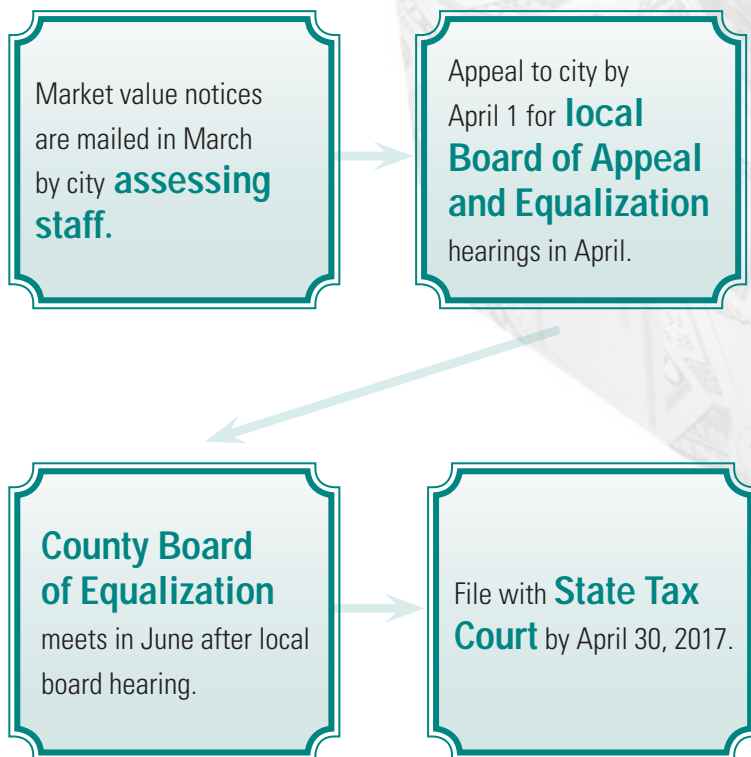
City Tax Bill

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.

2016 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



2016 Market Value Notice

(Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2017.)

Minnetonka home values continue upward

The real estate market continues to stay strong for the second year in a row. Last year, home values in Minnetonka were up just over 5 percent and they continued to increase at approximately two percent this year. Townhouses and condos saw growth similar to single-family homes. The commercial property sector saw only an overall modest change. It's important to remember that individual properties may vary greatly, and that adjustments vary by market, thus some properties may experience increases in value while others may experience a decrease.

Market values based on 2015 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 2016 property values are based on market information from 2015.

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 Minnetonka 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 1 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 2016 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 2015.

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.

"This Old House" Exclusion

This figure shows that portion of the value of improvements made to an older home under the former "This Old House" law. This program expired with the 2003 assessment. However, property may still be receiving the value exclusion under this program.

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

March 2016

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

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Non-emergency 952-939-8500 or 9-1-1	

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

March
2016

Call 952-939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call 952-939-8200 for meeting locations.
		1	2	3	4	5	2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	14 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31			17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							21 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
							23 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
							28 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							31 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change – visit eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and can be viewed live and on-demand at eminnetonka.com. The meetings are rebroadcast on channel 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at noon.

Agendas for council meetings are available at eminnetonka.com by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Join the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission

The City of Minnetonka is currently seeking applicants to serve on the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission. Applicants must have a desire to serve their community in a volunteer capacity and be willing to contribute the number of hours necessary for this commitment. Commission members are appointed to three-year terms. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, or for more information, please contact Will Manchester, director of engineering, at 952-939-8232.



Take the HWY 169 Mobility Study survey

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Scott County and the Metropolitan Council are evaluating cost-effective options for improving transit and reducing congestion on Highway 169 between Shakopee and Golden Valley – and they would like your feedback.



Visit dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy169study to take the short mobility study survey and learn more.

The paper in this newsletter was manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas).

