

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
April 2015

## Silver Skates Ice Revue is April 30, May 1 & 2

**M** Skating School is proud to present the 41st Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Ice Dreams." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities are featured again this year. Show times are:

- Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2, 2 p.m.

General admission for each performance is \$6, with free admission for children under 5. Senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to the Saturday afternoon performance. Don't forget to bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.

### Summer skating lessons

Interested in skating lessons? Summer skating lessons for both children and adults are held Monday evenings starting June 8. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for more information. ☺



Ice Revue is April 30 - May 2

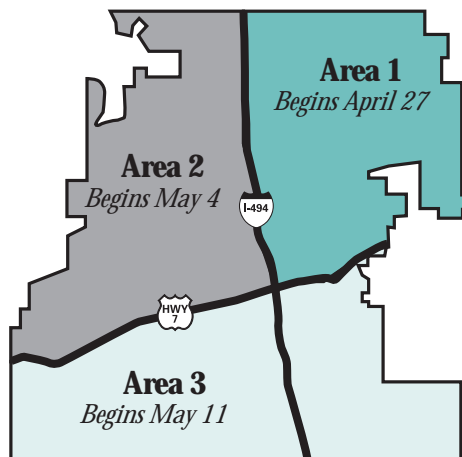
## Water main flushing starts Monday, April 27

**M** flush water mains throughout the city from April 27 through May 14, weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. See map at right to determine dates in your area.

- **Area 1** Begins April 27
- **Area 2** Begins May 4
- **Area 3** Begins May 11

Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

- **April 27** Ridgedale business area:  
*5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
- **May 4** Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway: *5 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
- **May 14** Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way:  
*3 a.m. - 3 p.m.*



Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions.

During the flushing period it is normal to experience some discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the **cold** water in your laundry tub. If you experience problems, please contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Coming soon: new recreation registration system

**S** swim lesson registrations, Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services customers will find a new, easier way to register online. RecTrac will provide a better mobile experience, increased accessibility to information and services online and improved search functions. Look for more information on how to use the new software at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Watersheds offer cost-share grants

**A** your property that would protect, restore and conserve water or stabilize shoreline and stream bank? Local watershed districts are offering cost-share grants to cover a portion of homeowners' costs for these projects.

### Riley-Purgatory-Blue Creek Watershed District (due April 15)

The Riley-Purgatory-Blue Creek Watershed District cost-share program offers funding assistance for efforts to protect, restore and conserve water resources within the Riley-Purgatory-Blue Creek Watershed District. For more information visit [www.rpbcwd.org](http://www.rpbcwd.org)

### Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (applications accepted year-round)

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District offers cost-share grants for shoreline and streambank stabilization. For more information visit [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org). ☺

## Burwell House volunteers needed

**M**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.

The 2015 tour season starts Saturday, June 6, and continues through August 29. Tours are available Tuesdays, 12-3 p.m. and Saturdays, 12-4 p.m. Tours are also available by special appointment, dependent on volunteer availability.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a tour guide, please attend a spring tour guide open house event Tuesday, April 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., or Tuesday, April 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Burwell House. You'll take a tour of the house and learn what it takes to become a tour guide. High school students are welcome to volunteer at the house.

To RSVP or to volunteer as a tour guide, contact Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207 or [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com).

## Community alerts test set for April 14

**A**of Minnetonka's Citizen Alert Notification System. This notification system enables the city to provide you with critical information quickly however you choose – phone, email, text message and more.

### Test is April 14

The evening of Tuesday, April 14, a test of the Citizen Alert system will be conducted. If you have not signed up for the system, you'll receive a phone call on the number listed in your White Pages information. If you have opted in to the system, you'll receive notification via the methods you selected.

Register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (click on the icon on the home page). Be sure to record your username and password when signing up, as you'll need this information to make any changes in the future. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.

## Work to begin on County Road 101 from Hwy 62, to Hwy 7 in Minnetonka

**T**his quickly approaching. One of the first projects to kick off this spring will be the County Road 101 project from Hwy. 62 to Hutchins Drive, just south of Hwy. 7 in Minnetonka, which will include widening County Road 101 to include a continuous center left turn lane as well as the addition of an 8-foot bike trail and 6-foot sidewalk. Improvements will be made to the storm sewer system within the corridor and new traffic signal systems will be installed at the Hanus Road and Old Excelsior Boulevard intersections.

Covington Terrace, Covington Lane, Covington Road, Kathleen Drive, Conifer Trail, Tracy Lynn Terrace, Jennifer Lane, Spring Lane, and Old Excelsior Boulevard will be reconstructed in conjunction with the county project. These streets will be reconstructed with improvements to the storm sewer system, spot repairs to the sanitary sewer system and water mains, and the addition of concrete curb and gutter.

Follow project updates on Twitter: @safer\_101 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for more details.

## Water main replacements slated this year

**A** *Minnetonka Memo* articles, the city's infrastructure is aging. This is evident with the rising number of water main breaks and sewer backups that have been experienced in recent years.

The city is taking a proactive approach to address this issue. With every local road reconstruction project, staff are reviewing and evaluating the condition of the underground public utilities. Sanitary sewers are televised to look for deficiencies such as severe sags or cracks in the pipe. Water main break records are reviewed with gathered soils information to determine if the water main is at a high risk for failure due to corrosive soils. This information is used to recommend the necessary improvements to protect and prolong the city's infrastructure, both the streets and the utilities.

The 2015 Rehabilitation Project, highlighted in the March Memo, has over 80 documented water main breaks and the underlying soils were found to be corrosive. As a result, all water mains within the project will be replaced. This will increase the reliability of the water main and will help minimize the need to dig up the new street to fix breaks. No repairs were found to be necessary for the sanitary sewer.

Streets included in the 2015 project are Laurel Road, White Birch Road, Indian Road West, Council Circle, Tribal Trail, Totem Trail, Tonkawa Trail, Oakland Place, Crowne Hill Road, Crowne Hill Lane, Forest Meadow Drive, Forest Meadow Circle, Meadow Circle, Blenheim Way, Blenheim Circle and Kemrich Circle.

For more information and updates on this project, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

(Continued from page 16)

When calling 9-1-1:

- Help can be sent while you talk. Inform the dispatcher if you wish to remain anonymous or if you want to speak to the squad that responds to your call.

### Pay phone/TTY users

9-1-1 calls from pay phones are free. TTY users should press any key EXCEPT the space bar after dialing 9-1-1.



# minnetonka script

Programs and services for those 55+  
April 2015 Newsletter

## Tax-Free Investing

**Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m.**

Join us for an educational presentation on the benefits and considerations of choosing investments with tax advantages. It's not what you make, it's what you keep!

**Supported by: Edward Jones**

**Cost:** \$2 Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 8 (Course#36879)



## Volunteer Social

**Tuesday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.**

Join us for our annual volunteer social. Enjoy tasty bites and beverages while mingling with other Minnetonka Senior Services volunteers. Enjoy a brief program at 2 p.m.

**Free!** Please RSVP by Friday, April 10 (Course #36991)

## Tech Fair

**Wednesday, April 22, 1 - 3 p.m.**

Save the date for the Computer Club's annual event. Drop-in to this free event featuring educational presentations, demonstrations and hands-on learning!



## Lunch and a Movie:

*Male cent*

**Friday, April 24, 12 p.m.**

A classic fairy tale, retold. Learn the story of *Sleeping Beauty* from Maleficent's point of view and the cruel blow that created the vengeful fairy.

**Menu:** Ham buns, bean salad, fruit & a treat

**Cost:** \$5 due Tuesday, April 21 (Course #36885)

## e Author's View of Scotland

**Monday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a presentation on the time of Robert the Bruce, and the Battle of Bannockburn, including photographs from the author's visits to Scotland to research her time travel series, *The Blue Bells Chronicles*, which tells the story of a modern American musician and a medieval Highlander who switch places in time. Also included, a display of and brief talk on some of the medieval weaponry and the musical instruments found in the stories, including harp, trombones and a medieval lute.

**Cost:** \$2 Please RSVP by Friday, April 17 (Course#36115)

## Bears: Black, Brown and Polar Stan Tekiela

**Monday, April 27, 10:30 a.m.**

is talk is based on the book and covers some of the most amazing aspects of bears.

is presentation is packed with amazing images of three species of bear found in North America: black, brown and polar bear. Stan will explain in his fun and entertaining way all about the different kinds of bears along with telling some of the most amazing stories of his adventures in the wild to capture these incredible images. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

**\$2** (Course #36988)

## Sips & Songs

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

**Steven**

**Marking: Sinatra Tribute**

**Wednesday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cost:** \$3 (Course #35603)

*Sponsored by: Avinity Senior Living*

## SENIORS Expo

**9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, May 7**

Save the date for the Seniors Expo! Event features exhibitors, presentations, health screenings, activities, fitness demonstrations, refreshments and prizes. Event is open to the public and free of charge.

### Presentations:

- Nutrition: Foods to Reduce Pain and Inflammation, 10 a.m.
- Minnetonka Senior Services: How to Register Online, 11 a.m.
- Can the Clutter: Downsizing, 12 p.m.

### Sponsored by:

Augustana Care, WestRidge of Minnetonka, Legacy Care Home, Can the Clutter & Brookdale Senior Living Solutions

## Cinco De Mayo

**Tuesday, May 5, 12 p.m.**

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo!

**Menu:** Taco bar & dessert.

**Sponsored by: WestRidge of Minnetonka**

**Cost:** \$7 due Thursday, May 1. (Course #35632)

## Lunch and a Movie:

*e Hundred-Foot Journey*

**Friday, May 15, 12 p.m.**

A war between eateries develops when chef Hassan Kadam opens a successful Indian restaurant called Maison Mumbai in the South of France.

**Menu:** Chicken salad croissant sandwich, fruit, chips and a cookie.

**Cost:** \$5 due Tuesday, May 12 (Course #36987)

## Fitness Programs

### Over 50 & Fit

**Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.**

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

- Annual Fee: \$12 (Course #35680)

### Tai Chi Chih

**Susan Sobelson**

**Mondays, May 4 – May 25**

Continue to practice a series of 19 easy-to-learn movements and one pose. Moving meditation can improve balance, flexibility, reduce stress, increase energy and more.

- Beginner Review (Course #36986)  
\$25, 10 – 11 a.m.

### Continuing Line Dance

**Annette Fragale**

Learn to hitch and vine and dance in a line! No partners needed. Six previous lessons needed for continuing beginning level course; 50 previous lessons required for intermediate course.

- Continuing Beginner (Course #35658)  
\$25, Thursdays, April 9 – May 14,  
12:30–1:30 p.m. (no class 5/7)
- Intermediate (Course #35659)  
\$25, Thursdays, April 9 – May 14,  
1:45–2:45 p.m. (no class 5/7)

### Tai Chi for Health and Wellness

**Ron Erdman-Luntz**

**Thursdays, April 16 – May 28**

(no class 5/21), 6 – 7 p.m.

Tai Chi short-form

movements have many health benefits and are fun to learn.

The slow circular movements

of Tai Chi help to improve balance and relaxation. Must

be able to walk comfortably for an hour. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- \$54 (Course #36184)



## Register Early

Programs can fill well in advance or may be cancelled due to low enrollment. Registering early is the best way to secure a spot in programs and events.

## Yoga

These gentle classes are geared toward the older adult, with lots of stretching and warm-ups. Yoga postures help increase flexibility. 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.**

### Chair-Supported Yoga

**Nancy Holasek**

**9:45 – 10:45 a.m.**

Most of the class takes place while seated on a chair.

- Tuesday, April 28 – May 26  
\$30 (Course #35637)
- Thursday, April 30 – May 28  
\$24 (Course #35638) (no class 5/7)

### Intermediate Yoga Class

**Nancy Holasek**

**11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

This class includes standing and balance postures. Students should have the ability to get down to and up from the floor for postures completed while on the belly or backside of the body.

- Tuesday, April 28 – May 26  
\$30 (Course #35643)
- Thursday, April 30 – May 28  
\$24 (Course #35644) (no class 5/7)

### Evening Yoga

**Mary Ann**

**Wednesdays, April 1 – 29**

- Chair Yoga, 6:15 p.m.  
\$30 (Course #36166)
- Intermediate Yoga, 7:30 p.m.  
\$30 (Course #36168)



### Community Ballroom Dance

**Friday, April 24, 7 – 9:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a community ballroom dance featuring *the Castaways*. Free dance lesson at 6:15 p.m.

- Call for tickets: (952)988-4070
- \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door.

**Eisenhower Community Center,  
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins.**

## Athletic Activities

### Indoor Pickleball

**October – May**

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

- Tuesdays & Fridays, 8 – 10 a.m.
- Thursdays, 8 – 9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Free for Williston Silver Sneaker and Silver & Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

**Williston Fitness Center  
14509 Minnetonka Drive**

### Minnetonka Bike Club

**Kick-off Meeting:**

**Thursday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.**

The goal of the club is to provide moderate exercise under safe conditions and to encourage social interaction and friendship. These groups accommodate different levels of ability. More than 50 trail rides are scheduled, with a majority on designated bike trails. More information at [www.mtkabikers.org](http://www.mtkabikers.org). To register call (952) 939-8393.

- \$11 (Course #36144)

### 70+ Softball

**Mondays & Wednesdays, Apr. – Oct.  
9 a.m. at Big Willow Park.**

Slow-pitch softball is played with modified rules allow for competitive play without the risk of serious injury. Registration accepted throughout the season.

- \$15 (Course #36145)

### 50+ Golf League

**Mondays, May 11 – August 31  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

A great way to meet new people, this informal 16 week co-ed Monday morning league plays at four area golf courses: Glen Lake, Braemar, Baker and Eagle Lake. Participants rotate with different players each week. Registration deadline is April 13, 2015. Space is limited to 36 golfers. Visit us or call Minnetonka Senior Services (952)939-8393 to register. (No league play 5/25)

- \$230 (Course #36148)



# SPRING 2015 **Natural Resources**

## TIPS FOR SPRING YARD CARE

Spring is one of the best times to work in your yard. Not only does it mean winter is over, but it also means new growth, a chance to try new ideas and prepare for the summer. Below are just a few tips to consider this year while tackling your spring routine.

### **SEED OR SOD**

Fix bare spots in your lawn before they erode or bake in the summer sun. Consider adding mulched planting beds to reduce the amount of lawn you need to water and maintain this summer.

### **PLANT NOW**

Take advantage of the cooler weather and spring rains to help water new plantings. Consider native species to help reduce watering and maintenance. Choose the right native plant for the right spot with help from the Blue Thumb plant selector tool ([www.bluethumb.org/plants](http://www.bluethumb.org/plants)).

### **WEED EARLY!**

Pulling weeds is easier when the ground is still moist and gives your desired plants a chance to grow. Consider smothering large weed patches with several sheets of newspaper and a layer of mulch or leaves for later planting.

### **MULCH TREES & SHRUBS**

Mulching helps retain soil moisture and makes it easier to mow around them. Pull mulch back from around the trunks and stems to prevent decay and rodent damage.

### **WATER WISELY**

A simple rain gauge can help avoid overwatering. Consider a rainbarrel for watering garden beds, hanging baskets, planters, and more around your yard.

### **REUSE YARD WASTES**

Mulching grass clippings into your lawn, composting leaves for your garden plants, and chipping branches for mulch can actually benefit your yard as well as reduce waste. If you don't have your own chipper, use the city brush drop and free mulch available at Minnetonka Public Works.



## STOP PRUNING OAKS NOW

April marks the time when you must stop pruning oak trees in order to avoid the fatal oak wilt disease. Keep in mind that November through March is the best time to prune your oak trees. This is also the best time to prune other trees, since insects and diseases are not active.

If you need to cut a living branch or remove an oak tree from April-October, it's important to spray the pruning cut or top of the stump immediately with latex or acrylic spray paint. Sap beetles that carry oak wilt spores on their bodies are attracted to the scent of freshly cut oaks. The paint creates a barrier so spores cannot be transmitted into the tree or root system.

Remember, new oak wilt disease sites start with a wound to an oak during the high risk season, but once infected, oak wilt is spread from tree to tree primarily through shared root systems of oak trees.

Oak wilt researchers break up the calendar year into three periods based on the risk of oaks contracting the disease if they are pruned or wounded by storms.

- **April, May, and June: high risk**
- **July-October: low risk (remember, low risk doesn't mean no risk!)**
- **November-March: no risk/safe**

For more information on oak wilt, visit <http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/>. If you have questions about oak wilt disease, contact Emily Ball, city forester, at (952) 988-8421.

# CONSERVE WATER in your yard

You wouldn't expect to see someone watering their yard with bottled water, yet each year in the Twin Cities metro area roughly 20% of drinking water is used outdoors for lawns and landscaping, swimming pools, washing cars, etc. While most of these uses can not be avoided, there are definitely ways to stretch out water's usefulness, conserve some of this valued resource, and probably even save a little on the water bill in the process.

## LAWN CARE

There are certainly benefits to maintaining a healthy lawn, including preventing weeds, controlling soil erosion, and providing open areas to recreate or relax. However, you don't need to "baby" your lawn to keep it green.

- Avoid cutting grass lower than 2 inches and consider setting your mower higher in the summer to minimize evaporation from the soil.
- Keep the mower blade sharp to prevent water loss from frayed cuts.
- Seed bare spots or overseed thin spots with fine fescue mixes, which require less watering.
- Plug-aerate in the fall to help absorb and retain soil moisture.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn unless needed (especially in the summer), as fertilizing promotes grass growth which requires more water.

## REUSE RUNOFF

Rainfall is one of the easiest and cheapest sources of water for your yard. Reusing it also helps reduce runoff into wetlands, lakes, and creeks.

- Use a simple rain gauge to avoid overwatering when nature already has you covered.
- Direct downspouts onto your lawn or toward planting beds.
- Install rain barrels to use roof runoff long after it has stopped raining (and you don't even have to worry about leaving the water on by accident).
- Wash your car, boat, pets, etc. on your lawn.

## PLANT/DESIGN WITH WATER IN MIND

One way to reduce water usage in your yard is to do a little "re-landscaping". Transforming areas of existing turf into plantings can reduce the amount of water needed to keep these areas lush in the summer.

- Add or expand existing mulched planting beds and choose species that will help reduce water use once established.
- Plant trees and shrubs to help provide some shading to the soil (reducing evaporation) and protect smaller plantings from the summer sun.
- Install patches or strips of native grasses and wildflowers by seed or live plantings that generally require no watering once established as well as add some beauty to your yard in fall and winter.
- If you are feeling even more ambitious, read up on some of the benefits of raingardens and how to build one.

## WATERING TIPS

Water deeply as needed for better root growth rather than using shallow, frequent watering.

- Eliminate overspray onto paved areas and fix leaky hoses, heads, and lines.
- Use sprinklers or heads that provide low, flat sprays to get more water to the ground rather than high mists that can blow away or evaporate.
- Check out the "Tips for Spring Yard Care" earlier in this section.

Also, don't forget to keep an ordinary push broom in your tool arsenal for cleaning up pavement rather than washing with a hose.

## New ash treatment program available soon

In an effort to preserve the character and canopy cover of Minnetonka neighborhoods, this summer the city will offer a special program to residents that will extend a bulk discount on the injection treatments used to prevent emerald ash borer (EAB). The insect has not yet been found in Minnetonka but it is within six miles of the city's eastern border at Lakewood Cemetery near Lake Calhoun. Watch for details in the May Minnetonka Memo. Questions? Call the city forester at (952) 988-8421.

# PLANT A DIVERSITY of plants, shrubs and trees

Are you aware of the importance of planting a diversity of trees, shrubs and plants in your yard? Although many designers gravitate to symmetry and repetition of a few similar species of a similar age and size over a planted landscape (often most extreme on commercial sites), experience has taught us that this is not the most ecologically sound method to follow in order to cultivate a resilient system. It also severely limits the amount of food and cover offered to wildlife.

## YOU CAN CREATE A RESILIENT LANDSCAPE WHEN YOU:

- Plant different types of trees, shrubs and plants
- Move away from rows or large areas planted with the same genus of a plant. An example of a tree genus is an oak. Instead of a row of oaks, choose oaks, birch and basswood, for example. The same rule applies to shrubs and perennials.
- Favor native species because they are adapted to local conditions, often require less water to sustain, and have life cycles that are timed with the animals living in the area. In addition, although native plants can be aesthetically impacted

by native insect attacks, they are often kept in check over time due to the presence of natural predators.

## YOU CAN PROVIDE FOOD AND COVER TO A VARIETY OF WILDLIFE WHEN YOU:

- Plant with an intention to vary the food sources available in your yard such as fruit, acorns, seeds, grains, and nectar.
- Vary the sizes of plants in your yard. Plants provide structure in your landscape and provide different types of cover. Each bird or mammal will prefer a different type of cover. For example, if you merely planted perennial flowers in your yard, you would miss out on important cover for many birds, who rely on large shrubs and small trees to hide from predators.

You can start today by drawing a map of your yard and determining what species or vegetation types may already be overplanted. Contemplate which of birds and other wildlife you'd like to attract. Make incremental steps each spring and diversify your yard over time, making it more resilient and attractive for wildlife.

## PLANT NATIVE SPECIES for pollinators, songbirds and habitat

It is easy to create new habitats that attract pollinators and songbirds to your property while reducing the need to seed, mow, fertilize and water turf grass. Native species planted in the shrub and ground layer of a wooded edge or an opening where a tree was removed can provide food and cover for songbirds, pollinators, and a range of wildlife.

Spring flowers of native woody plants such as American hazel, elderberry, serviceberry, choke cherry, dogwoods, nannyberry and American plum provide nectar and pollen for valuable insect pollinators. The plants' differing heights and thicket-forming expansion create cover, nesting places and feeding areas for songbirds.

A host of native plants attract native insects that feed on them. The insects are critical high-protein food for summer nesting songbirds and their young. Spring-pollinated flowers give rise to fruits that ripen in summer and fall and attract migratory songbirds to stop along their journeys late in the season.

Habitat on your land can be created or expanded in small or large steps by planting into a curved edge on the perimeter of one or more sides of your lot or by converting difficult areas into mulched areas. Two easy places to start are the shady areas where grass won't grow or the slope that is hard to mow.

By putting down a thick layer of wood mulch, habitat is created for insects and soil organisms that recycle detritus. Mulch is a place where leaves and twigs can fall and be left for amphibian

habitat. Wood logs can be used to rough-terrace a slope, hold mulch and leaf-litter in place, slow water flow and increase water infiltration for new plantings.

Existing turf grass does not need to be removed; it can provide valuable organic matter in your chosen planting areas as it decomposes in place. When your bed lines have been selected, cover the grass with five or six inches of wood chips. This depth allows water to infiltrate but not the sun, killing the grass in place and allowing the top soil to be saved and improved

Woody plantings with a ground layer of continuous mulch can provide habitat and benefits to a host of species in the food web. They can co-exist nicely alongside turf areas or replace them completely. When considering what to plant, match the native plant to the area with the right amount of light. In areas with regular deer visits, welded wire plant protection cages may be necessary. Also consider tree guards to protect the lower stems from rodent damage.

Want to learn more? Talk to the native plant experts at the city's Native Plant Market, Wednesday, June 3, at Minnetonka City Hall. More to come in the May and June Minnetonka Memos and at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



# Join the stewardship challenge!

You might have heard the phrase “environmental stewardship,” but what does that really mean? Humans (and all other living things) rely upon Earth’s natural environment to supply food, water, clean air and countless other resources. At the same time, we affect the environment by using resources and creating waste. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes stewardship as “the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment.” By that definition, each of us—individuals, communities, businesses, and governments alike—can be stewards. Small changes go a long way toward sustaining our natural environment and its resources.

Join the Stewardship Challenge! Look through the list below and check off any actions you have already taken. Consider adding one or two others over the coming year. This is just a sampling of ideas—can you think of others? As you’ll see, the city of Minnetonka also works to preserve and protect our shared environment. For more information on all of these topics, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



## BACKYARD CONSERVATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION

### RESIDENTS CAN...

- Leave some naturally occurring woody debris on the ground in woodlands to slow erosion on slopes, retain soil moisture, and provide cover for amphibians, songbirds, and small mammals.
- When cleaning up your yard in the fall, leave hollow-stemmed plants standing and expose small patches of soil—these are critical overwintering habitat for native bees.
- Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that require less water and provide food for pollinators and wildlife.

### THE CITY...

- Actively restores native woodlands and prairies on more than 300 acres of Minnetonka parkland.
- Removes buckthorn, garlic mustard or other invasive species to encourage the growth of remnant native plants and plant communities that are disappearing across the region.
- Designates restoration areas in which to plant local types of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that are beneficial to pollinators, songbirds, and other wildlife.



## COMMUNITY FORESTRY

### RESIDENTS CAN...

- Prune in winter, when trees are dormant, to reduce stress on trees and shrubs and to prevent the spread of diseases.
- Diversify tree species when planting to prepare for emerald ash borer and other pests or diseases that can kill trees.
- Cut the root ball of potted trees into a box shape so that they can establish a healthy root system that grows outward instead of in a circle, which can eventually girdle a tree.

### THE CITY...

- Plants a variety of tree species in parks in order to increase diversity and ensure the community forest is more resilient to pests and diseases.
- Will treat more than 150 ash trees on city property over the next two years to protect them from emerald ash borer.
- Uses research-based best management planting practices to promote the growth and long-term survival of trees.



## WILDLIFE

### RESIDENTS CAN...

- Reduce the chance of a coyote encounter by keeping pet food indoors, properly disposing of trash, and hazing coyotes (shouting, waving arms to look larger, etc.) to scare them away.
- Prevent birds from colliding with windows by hanging reflective ribbon in front of the glass to alert birds of the barrier, or install screens to reduce reflection and glare.
- Build and hang boxes as roosting habitat for bats—every night, these good neighbors consume large numbers of moths, beetles, mosquitoes and other pest insects.

### THE CITY...

- Promotes the native plants that provide food and shelter to a wide variety of species.
- Where possible, leaves dead trees standing for the benefit of woodpeckers and other wildlife.
- Fences or installs guards on young trees after planting to prevent damage by browsing deer and rodents.



## WATER CONSERVATION

### RESIDENTS CAN...

- Check toilet tanks and irrigation systems for slow or small leaks that can waste large amounts of water, and consider updating toilets, fixtures, and appliances with more water-efficient models.
- Install rain barrels to collect rainwater that flows over rooftops, or divert downspouts onto planted areas.
- Cut grass to no shorter than three inches (especially in the summer)—this promotes deeper root growth and reduces evaporation, so the grass needs less water.

### THE CITY...

- Inspects for leaks in the public water main system, and mails out more than 500 postcards monthly to inform homeowners of potential water leaks based on water meter data.
- Is upgrading its irrigation systems to include smart controllers, which use weather data to evaluate irrigation needs and automatically control how much water is provided.
- Minimizes water use by mulching young trees to hold moisture near their roots and using water bags to ensure a measured supply of water reaches the root system.



## SURFACE WATER PROTECTION

### RESIDENTS CAN...

- Pick up pet waste from backyards, parks and trails to prevent this significant source of nutrients and diseases from being washed into local waterways in stormwater runoff.
- Dispose of yard wastes properly, sweep up spills, and limit fertilizer use. These nutrients are washed into storm drains and promote the growth of weeds and algae in surface waters.
- Avoid mowing to the edge of lakes, creeks, and wetlands and consider adding native plantings along shorelines to help filter and absorb runoff.

### THE CITY...

- When possible, incorporates raingardens into city projects to collect and filter stormwater that would otherwise flow untreated through storm drains into local waterways.
- Fully sweeps all city streets each spring, and conducts periodic sweeping as needed to clean up water pollutants such as road salt, leaves and sediments before they reach surface waters.
- Retains buffers of unmowed vegetation around water resources on city property (generally mowing only in common areas or for public access), and restores buffers in some areas.



2015 APRIL & MAY

# ECO WALKS & TALKS

Look for these walks and talks  
over the next two months!

## Shallow Lakes Forum

April 25, 2015  
8:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Landscape Arboretum, McMillon Auditorium,  
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318

Shallow lakes are the most common type of lake in Minnesota and are found throughout the landscape. They provide multiple benefits from wildlife habitat to recreation, which makes the management of shallow lakes complex.

Plants are often seen as a nuisance in lakes, but can play an essential role in the health of shallow lakes. The 2015 Shallow Lakes Forum will focus on both aquatic and terrestrial plant management and what you can do to help promote water quality.

RSVP required. Go to [www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu) to register. A \$15 fee is required. Enter your registration as an affiliate of a sponsor organization.

## Garlic Mustard Workshops

April 30 & May 13  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Minnetonka Community Center  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

Garlic mustard is the most invasive herbaceous species in the ground layer of Minnetonka's woods and wild places. It can overwhelm remnant native wildflower and sedge populations. If you are restoring your woodland, then garlic mustard is the plant to know. Learn multiple methods for controlling this invader at the right time so your efforts are not wasted and it doesn't grow again each year. Join Janet Van Sloun, city of Minnetonka restoration specialist, and get a jump start controlling this plant when the time is right. Please RSVP at 952.988.8400.

**Remember to pick up your pre-ordered trees!**

## Tree Sale Pick-Up

Friday, May 1, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Minnetonka Public Works  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

(Enter the east driveway by the recycling drop-off center) Trees must be picked up on one of the designated pick-up days. If you'll be out of town on these dates please ask your neighbor, friend or family member to pick up the trees on your behalf. All unclaimed trees will be planted in a Minnetonka park. Keep your confirmation post card(s) you receive in the mail to present to city staff.

Confirmation post cards will be sent to participants about two weeks prior to the event. You will receive one post card for each tree or trio ordered. If a neighbor, friend or family member is picking up your tree(s) please be sure to give them your confirmation post card(s). Questions? Call Emily Ball, City Forester, at (952) 988-8421.



# Spring Bird Walk

Saturday, May 16

8:30 -11:30 am

Lone Lake Park, 5624 Shady Oak Rd

Meet at lower parking lot (by picnic shelters)

The habitat of Lone Lake Park offers a refuge for woodland songbirds and waterfowl. Learn to locate and identify birds found along its trails with George Skinner and Anne Hanley, Minnetonka residents and Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter members. Remember to bring your binoculars and field guide if you have them (some binoculars will be available to borrow), and dress appropriately for the weather. The walk will be held rain or shine and is open to all skill and age levels. Please RSVP at (952) 988-8400.



# May Plant Walks

Walk in Minnetonka parks that have had more than ten years of habitat restoration activity. The city's restoration specialist will lead you through a remnant Big Woods forest in Purgatory Park, thriving choke cherry thickets and wildflower areas in Big Willow Park, and new prairie areas and an old-growth nannyberry thicket in Lone Lake Park. We hope to find some uncommon species like downy arrowwood, blue cohosh, and maybe an orchid. Learn about restoration practices the city is using and how to identify the invasive bad-guys as well. RSVP is required and limited to 15 for each walk. Register at (952) 988-8400.

Park	Date	Time	Meeting Location
Purgatory - north	Thursday, May 7	5:30 – 7:00 pm	17315 Excelsior Blvd. Meet at the picnic shelter near the main parking lot. We will hike north into the big woods.
Big Willow - north of RR	Thursday, May 21	5:30 – 7:00 pm	North entrance. Park in small lot on east side of Creek Rd. West, 230 ft. south of Cedar Lake Rd. Meet at trail immediately north of lot.
Lone Lake - southwest	Wednesday, May 27	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Meet at the Rowland Rd. entrance parking lot. We will look at new prairie areas and hike Nine Mile Ridge

Rain or shine. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.

**Remember to pick up your pre-ordered rain barrel or compost bin!**

## Rain Barrel Pick Up

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Monday, May 4, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

City of St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center  
7305 Oxford Street, St. Louis Park

Please note that these are the only dates and times available to pick up your order. If you would still like to order a barrel or bin, please check [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org) for availability and pickup locations. All sales are pre-order only through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). No rain barrels or compost bins will be sold at the pickup event. Questions? Visit the RAM website or email RAM at [ram@recycleminnesota.org](mailto:ram@recycleminnesota.org).



# Volunteers needed for garlic mustard removal

Groups such as businesses, churches, associations, Scout troops or clubs are needed to help pull garlic mustard in some of Minnetonka's high-quality park habitat restoration areas in May and June. Individual volunteers are needed, too. While searching for this unwanted plant, volunteers will see native plants that are being restored. Since we have been pulling this invasive species for several years, most areas are not densely populated. Training provided onsite. Individuals, please call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 to be placed on a garlic mustard email list. Groups, please contact Natural Resources at (952) 988-8400.



Ted Nearman and geocache volunteers pulled garlic mustard in Purgatory Park 2014

Master Naturalist Debbie Johnson finds a wild rose while pulling garlic mustard in Minnetonka Mills Park

# Monitoring Minnetonka's Wetlands

What hangs out in cattails, enjoys wading in the water, gathers insects and has a bill? If you said a Minnetonka wetland volunteer wearing a baseball cap, you are absolutely correct! Each year residents monitor wetlands around the city as part of the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) coordinated by Hennepin and Dakota counties. Minnetonka joined the program in 2002 and residents have been volunteering ever since.

## What's involved?

Volunteers identify the plants and macroinvertebrates (insects and other small animals without backbones) present in four to five wetlands pre-selected each year. The volunteers use sampling methods and protocols designed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to determine index scores for each wetland based on the species diversity and richness (numbers) found. Training is provided and the team monitors each site under the direction of a team leader.

## What wetlands are monitored?

With more than 500 wetlands in Minnetonka, there is no shortage of wetlands from which to pick. Some wetlands have been selected for the program because they are a unique type, like a tamarack swamp, or they may serve as a representative sample of a more common wetland type such as a cattail marsh with deep open water. However, some others have been selected due to potential or real impacts in recent or past history that may add to our knowledge about how wetlands respond to natural or human-caused changes.

## What have the volunteers taught us?

First, we have learned there is a consistent and reliable group of residents each year who are concerned and interested enough to devote their valued free time to learn and collect information about the wetlands in Minnetonka. We have also learned that the wetlands in Minnetonka are not always what they appear or what one might expect from the shoreline. Volunteers have found a number of different native wetland plant species growing among cattails and other more obvious species that would otherwise have gone unnoticed. They also have documented a variety of invertebrates present that play an important part of the wetland ecosystem (and that are much appreciated by hungry frogs and other wildlife).

Prior to the program's inception, it was often presumed most wetlands in the metro area would be at the low end of the scoring range. Although wetlands rarely score as excellent, only a few have ever received ratings of poor, and most of the wetlands monitored score in the moderate range. However, in addition to providing a general assessment of the wetland's overall health, the volunteers also collect an invaluable historical record of what is present at each site. It is important to note that the biological information gathered by the volunteers each year is the only information available of its kind for local wetlands.

## Interested?

Contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988.8422 or at [aschwartz@eminnetonka.com](mailto:aschwartz@eminnetonka.com). Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (search "Wetland Monitoring") or go to the Hennepin County website at [www.mnwhep.org](http://www.mnwhep.org) for more information about the program. No science background or any previous monitoring experience needed to participate.

## Art Programs

### Composition and Still Life

*Gin Weidenfeller*

*Wednesdays, April 22 & 29*  
*1 – 3 p.m.*

Explore the role of composition in planning a still life drawing or painting. Address placement of objects, use of positive/negative space, and applying the basic elements of composition, i.e. rhythm, contrast, balance, focus, etc. Draw or paint using a variety of methods and materials, such as watercolor, water-soluble colored pencils, graphite and charcoal.

- \$40 (Course #35665)

## History Programs

### British History: Royal Kingdoms II

*Terry Kubista*

*ursdays, April 2 – 23*  
*1 – 3 p.m.*

While celebrating the art and architecture of England's palaces, castles, abbeys and cathedrals, we will delve into the events, pageantry and traditions that connect the people, land and the crown.

- \$28 (Course #35672)

### British History: Scotland Fever

*Terry Kubista*

*ursdays, May 7 – 28*  
*1 – 3 p.m.*

A return to the capital city of Edinburgh is in order here. The course will be supplemented by discussions on the Clans and Castles of Scotland.

- \$28 (Course #35673)

### World War I in the Rest of the World

*Dan Hartman*

*Wednesday, April 8*  
*10:30 a.m.*

Considered to have helped define the 20th century the War will be viewed in an attempt to understand changes around the world from Arabia to the Far East and in America. Also discussed is the Paris Peace Treaty of 1919 and its effects that led to World War II.

- \$3 Please RSVP by Monday, April 6 (Course #36139)

## Education Programs

### Defensive Driving

Attend and save 10% 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 [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org) for all classes.

#### Four hour renewal sessions:

- \$20, *ursday, April 9,*  
*9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*
- \$20, *ursday, April 30,*  
*9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

#### Eight hour session:

- \$24, *Tuesday, May 5 & ursday, May 7,*  
*5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.*

### Navigating Medicare

*Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.*

Learn to navigate Medicare Parts A, B & D. Offered in cooperation with Senior Community Services and open to those considering retirement and to current Medicare users.

- \$10 *due Monday, April 6.*  
*(Course #36886)*

## Leisure Programs

### Mah Jongg

*Carole Harris*

*Wednesdays, April 8 – May 20*  
*10 – 12 p.m.*

Learn to play the intriguing game of Mah Jongg, a game of chance and skill. The Chinese ruling class developed this game of tiles in the time of Confucius, but it has been modernized, simplified and Westernized for all to enjoy. Played previously? Refresh your skills.

- \$54 (Course #35678)

### Continuing Bridge

*Lee Solee*

*Mondays, April 20 – May 18*  
*1 – 3 p.m.*

Continue learning to bid and score during the challenging game of bridge. Please bring a deck of cards.

- \$30 (Course #36112)

## Interest groups

For more information on these groups and a calendar of events, please visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or stop by the community center.

### Bird Club

*1st Friday, 10 a.m.*

Craig Mandell: *Birds of Brazil*

### Book Club

*3rd ursday, 1 p.m.*

*e Roundhouse* by Louise Erdrich.

### Computer Group

*Fridays, 10 a.m.*

For more detailed information about meetings visit [mscig.wordpress.com](http://mscig.wordpress.com).

### Cribbage

*ursdays, 10 a.m.*

New members welcome!

### Garden Club

*2nd Monday, 1 p.m.*

Bees by Dewey Hassig.

### Literary Book Club

*4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.*

*Our Man in Havana* by Graham Greene.

### Wood Carvers

*ursdays, 10 a.m.*

Group members share ideas and work independently.

### Tale Spinners

*Tuesdays, 1 p.m.*

New members welcome!

### Wood Carvers

*ursdays, 10 a.m.*

New members welcome!



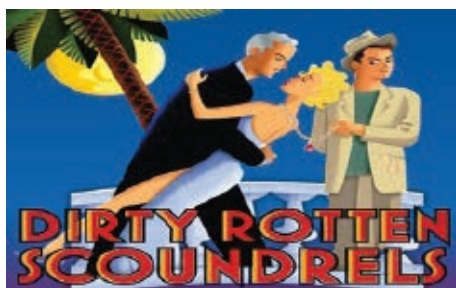
**11280 Wayzata Boulevard**  
**(763) 591-4868**

*Handcrafted items by*  
*Minnetonka residents 55*  
*and older.*

Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.,  
ursdays until 8 p.m.



## Senior Day Trips



### *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels:* Old Log Theater

**Wednesday, May 20**

Have lunch at Old Log Theater before the matinee show. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels is a hilarious series of schemes, masquerades and double-crosses that keep the audiences laughing.

**Menu:** Build your own burger and chicken sandwich buffet with fixings, beverages and cookies.

**Course# 36170**

- **Cost:** \$70 includes play, lunch, transportation & escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Apr. 24.

### Shred Event

**Friday, May 8**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

First Shred will be at the Minnetonka Ice Arena B shredding paper on site.

#### *e Details:*

- \$5 for up to eight full paper grocery bags. Plastic bags are not accepted.
- Please bring exact cash or checks payable to Minnetonka Senior Services.
- The truck will be on site for two hours only.
- Wait in line in your car at the ice arena, we'll take it from there.
- All proceeds benefit Minnetonka Senior Services Scholarship Fund.

**Minnetonka Ice Arena**

**3401 Williston Road**

*(far north end of the city campus)*

### E-mail Updates

Stay up-to-date on the latest events! Receive weekly e-mail updates on senior happenings! Send your e-mail address to [spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com).

## Services

### Blood Pressure Screenings

**1st & 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays**  
**9:30-11:30 a.m. Free!**

Provided by volunteer nurses.

### Happy Feet

**1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Fridays,**  
**9 a.m. - 3 p.m., \$35**

Provided by nurses specializing in foot care.

For appointment call (763) 560-5136.

## Senior Community Services

### Senior Outreach Social Worker

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays, Free!**

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance, and more with Mary Ann, [m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org). For appointment call (952) 939-8393.

### Health Insurance Counseling

**1st & 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+. For more information call (952) 746-4046.

### CareNextion

[www.carenexion.org](http://www.carenexion.org)

is 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 [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org).

- **Cape Cod** (June 20 - 28)  
Cost: \$1490 per person, double occupancy.
- **Mackinac Island** (June 25 - 29)  
Cost: \$900 per person, double occupancy.

## Contact & Registration Information

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

### Minnetonka Senior Services

**(952) 939-8393**

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

[www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)

### Office hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Administrative Staff

**Kate Egert**

[kegert@eminnetonka.com](mailto:kegert@eminnetonka.com)

### Senior Services & Activities Manager

**Steve Pieh**

**(952) 939-8366**

[spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com)

### Senior & General Programs Manager

**Janelle Crossfield**

**(952) 939-8369**

[jcrossfield@eminnetonka.com](mailto: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 cancelling prior 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.

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



## 2015 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

April 4 – May 16\*

### Public Works Facility

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73  
Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields)

The Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd accepts leaves and yard waste from Minnetonka residents. You must present proper identification to the site monitor to verify you are a Minnetonka resident (driver's license, state I.D., or Minnetonka utility bill). No loads of leaves will be accepted from commercial lawn services without proof of residency of the address the leaves are from.

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option! All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste for a fee (either an annual, monthly, per cart or per bag fee). Check with your garbage hauler for details. State law requires proper compostable bags for curbside collection of bagged yardwaste — **regular plastic bags are not allowed**. Some companies offer yard waste carts, eliminating the need for using bags.

**LEAVES** — Truck and trailer loads of leaves will be accepted only at Minnetonka Public Works and only during brush drop-off hours on the following dates:

- **Mondays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 6, 13, 20 and 27
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 7, 14, 21 and 28
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 4, 11, 18 and 25



\* See *May Minnetonka Memo* for May spring leaf drop-off dates.

**The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free.** Residents will unload and/or unbag their leaves and yardwaste onto the large bulk pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal — including paper and compostable bags. Please bring proper equipment, such as a stout pitch fork, to unload your truck or trailer load of leaves.

The suggested method is to use many layers of tarps between layers of about a foot of leaves. Use a tarp to gather up and move a pile of leaves from your yard to your trailer or vehicle. Continue using lots of small tarp loads, layering the leaves and tarps until the vehicle is full. This makes unloading your leaves easier and faster at the site. All you need to do is flip off the tarps between the layers of leaves. Sticks and branches smaller than ½ inch in diameter are acceptable with leaves; anything larger goes to the brush pile. (See the brush drop-off article at top right.) **Loads of leaves must be covered during transport!**

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430. ☺



## Brush drop-off opens April 4

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. starting Saturday, April 4. Brush drop-off will end November 21.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on the following three holidays: Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 4; and Labor Day, September 7.

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency is required to drop-off brush (driver's license or utility bill).

**Please note:** trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted. Do not bring these materials with your brush.

**Do not** put grass, loose leaves, dirt or sod in with the brush pile. Loose leaves, pine needles, straw, plant and garden materials, and yard waste go in the separate leaf drop-off area, when available. The brush drop-off and leaf drop-off programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials.

No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

Call (952) 988-8430 during business hours or leave a message any time. ☺

## Organics collection in Minnetonka

Interested in home organics collection? Two refuse haulers offer this service in Minnetonka: Randy's Sanitation and Recycling, and Vintage Waste Systems, Inc. An additional fee is charged for weekly organics collection, which may be offset by switching to a smaller garbage container. For more information call Randy's at (763) 972-3335 or Vintage at (952) 472-0401.

Organics collection includes food scraps, food-soiled paper products and other compostable items. Organics make up about 25 percent of the residential waste stream, and collecting this material for composting keeps it from being incinerated or dumped into landfills. ☺

A publication of the city of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

<b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 .....tschneider@eminnetonka.com	<b>Council</b> <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com Patty Acomb... (952) 807-8635 pacomb@eminnetonka.com
<b>City Manager</b> Geraldyn Barone.....(952) 939-8200	<b>Ward 1:</b> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200	<b>Ward 2:</b> Tony Wagner... (612) 382-5212 twagner@eminnetonka.com
<b>E-mail:</b> ..... comments@eminnetonka.com <b>Internet:</b> ..... www.eminnetonka.com	<b>Ward 3:</b> Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com
<b>Minnetonka Mike</b> .....(952) 939-8586 .....mike@eminnetonka.com	<b>Ward 4:</b> Tim Bergstedt... (952) 934-1769 tbergstedt@eminnetonka.com
<b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b> ..... 9-1-1 <b>Non-emergency</b> .....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1	

ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

April  
2015

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	April calendar 27 – City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6 – City Council, 6:30 p.m. 30 – Economic Development Advisory Commission 6 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	8 – Park Board, 7 p.m. 9 – Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 30 – May 1 & 2 – Silver Skates Ice Revue (see page 1)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	14 – Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m. 20 – City Council, 6:30 p.m. May 1 & 2 – Tree sale pick-up (see Natural Resources insert)
26	27	28	29	30			23 – Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change – please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and via live videostreaming on [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Cable channel replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or any time at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 12-18

The Center will celebrate National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week during the week of April 12. Last year, Minnetonka's public safety dispatchers answered 19,000 emergency 911 calls in addition to 43,469 calls for service.

The communication center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Eight full-time and three part-time dispatchers as well as one full time manager work for the center. Dispatchers answer both emergency and non-emergency calls from landline and wireless phones. They are trained to talk callers through critical situations, provide guidance in non-emergency situations, coordinate response of emergency personnel and serve as a lifeline for the community.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week allows the opportunity to recognize the Minnetonka public safety dispatchers for their hard work, dedicated service and vital role they play in the Minnetonka public safety system.

Use 9-1-1 to:

- Report a situation which requires a police officer at the scene.
- Call an ambulance for medical assistance.
- Report a fire, a crime in progress or suspicious activity (e.g. alarms, shots fired, shouts for help, sounds of glass breaking, unfamiliar person carrying items from a house).

When calling 9-1-1:

- Stay calm and briefly describe the problem.
- Give the full address where the problem is occurring, including apartment number. Be as specific as possible.
- Answer the dispatcher's questions and stay on the line until the dispatcher terminates the call.

(continued on page 2)