



minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
May 2015

Visit the Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest Wednesday, June 3

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT the Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest Wednesday, June 3, 3-7 p.m. at the Minnetonka City Hall parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Read on to learn what you'll find at this great annual event.

Native Plant Market

This is a great opportunity to find a variety of native plants, as well as plants suitable to attract pollinators. All plants sold at this event were grown without the use of pesticides that are damaging to pollinators. Cedar Hill Natives, Dragonfly Gardens, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Natural Shore Technologies, Naturally Wild and Prairie Restorations will be selling a

variety of native plants. Payment is accepted via cash or check, and be sure to bring a box to make it easier to carry your plants home. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for plant lists by vendor. (If you don't see the plants you are seeking, call the vendor and ask if they grow or can bring your request.)

Eco Fun Fest

Get up close to live raptors from The Raptor Center, or visit with a member of the Herpetology Society and meet different reptiles, enjoy a puppet show or watch your kids as they learn how to climb a tree with a rope and saddle. Guardians will need to sign a liability waiver for their child to participate in tree climbing.

Master naturalists, tree care advisors and watershed district representatives will be available to answer plant, tree and surface water questions. Hot dogs, chips, and healthy snacks will be available for sale.

Things to bring:

- Cash or check for plant purchases
- A box to carry away your new plants
- Your own water bottle to reduce waste
- Rain gear if rain is predicted. This event will take place rain or shine.

See a schedule of events on page 3 of this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺

Stay informed about road construction

FROM CITY TO COUNTY TO STATE projects, there's little doubt that getting around the west metro suburbs this summer will be a challenge. Help minimize frustration by staying aware of the various projects taking place and by taking advantage of the many ways to stay informed of changes to construction that may affect your commute. Below are just a few of the projects in the immediate area that may affect Minnetonka residents.

I-494 Rehabilitation Project: 2014-2016

MnDOT will be repairing and reconstructing the concrete pavement on I-494 between I-394 in Minnetonka and the I-94/494/694 interchange (Fish Lake Interchange) in Maple Grove. Visit www.dot.state.mn.us and search "494 rehabilitation" for more information and to sign up for notifications.

Hwy. 12 Project: August-October 2015

MnDOT will construct an auxiliary lane on eastbound Hwy. 12 between Hennepin County Road 15 and the eastbound Hwy. 12 ramp to I-494 in Minnetonka. Visit www.dot.state.mn.us and search "hwy. 12" for more information and to sign up for notifications.

I-394 Resurfacing Project: June-November 2015

MnDOT will be resurfacing I-394

between Hwy. 100 in Golden Valley and I-94 in Minneapolis. Visit www.dot.state.mn.us and search "I-394 resurfacing" for more information and to sign up for notifications.

Shady Oak Road Reconstruction: 2014-2016

Hennepin County is reconstructing Shady Oak Road (CSAH 61) in Minnetonka and Hopkins. The project extends from Excelsior Boulevard (County Road 3) to 1500 feet north of Highway 7. Visit <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/shady-oak-rd-construction> for more information and to sign up for notifications.

County Road 101 (Bushaway Road) Reconstruction Project: 2014-2016

Hennepin County is reconstructing County Road 101 (Bushaway Road) in Minnetonka, Woodland and Wayzata. The project extends from north of Minnetonka Boulevard (County Road 5) to Highway 12 at Wayzata Boulevard. Visit www.hennepin.us/countyroad101 for more information and to sign up for notifications.

County Road 101 (Hwy. 62 to Hutchins Drive) Reconstruction Project: 2015-2017

Hennepin County and the city of

New ash treatment program available

TO HELP PRESERVE THE CHARACTER and canopy cover of Minnetonka neighborhoods, this summer the city will offer a special, first-time program that will extend a bulk discount on the injection treatments used to prevent emerald ash borer (EAB). While the insect has not yet been found within the city of Minnetonka, it is within six miles of the city's eastern border at Lakewood Cemetery near Lake Calhoun. There will also be an opportunity for discounts on preventative treatments to prevent Dutch elm disease, which still kills over 1,000 trees each year in the city.

The primary focus of the program are trees in the street right-of-way boulevard areas, which are owned by the underlying property owner. Tree inventory results indicate there are about 6,000 ash growing in these areas. The city has a shared interest in the trees because if they become infested with EAB, they will die and become a safety risk to the street. Beyond neighborhood character, aesthetics and safety concerns, mature street trees provide a variety of ecosystem services to the city like reducing storm water runoff and extending the life of pavement due to cooling shade.

If you are interested in participating, watch for details in the *Minnetonka Memo* and on the city website at www.eminnetonka.com. You may also contact the city forester at (952) 988-8421. ☺

Register for choir camp June 15-19

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka hosts Literally, Music: Songs and Stories, a choir camp June 15-19 for students entering 3rd to 8th grade in the fall of 2015.

Solve the mystery of how words and music come together, in this brand-new, week-long choir camp for young people. Professional storytellers will bring characters to life, and gifted music directors will help participants share their own ideas about stories through singing songs and playing Orff instruments.

No auditions required; all interested singers welcome. Camp runs 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, with care available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring lunch. Snacks and beverages provided. Children with food allergies are encouraged to bring their own snacks.

Cost is \$250; \$300 with before- and after-care. Call (952)939-8203 for an ID and password, then go online to <https://recserv.hopkinsminnetonka.com> to register. ☺

Enjoy a spring concert

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) hosts several concerts in May. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Interested musicians of all capabilities are invited to contact MAM at mamoffice@musicassociation.org. For more information call (952) 401-5954.

Concerts this month include:

Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Music for Spring: Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections, Chamber, Concert, and Cappella Choirs. Minnetonka United Methodist Church, 17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka

Saturday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Varen Concert: Chamber, Concert and Cappella Choirs. Zion Lutheran Church, 241 5th Ave N, Hopkins

Sunday, May 10, 3 p.m.

Welcome Spring! Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra. Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Boulevard East, Wayzata ☺

Avoid distracted driving with these tips

EACH YEAR IN MINNESOTA, DISTRACTED driving is a factor in one in four crashes, resulting in at least 70 deaths and 350 serious injuries.

Tips to Avoid Distracted Driving

- Turn off cell phones or place them out of reach to avoid the urge to dial or answer.
- Pre-program favorite radio stations for easy access. Adjust mirrors and heat/AC before traveling.
- Designate a passenger to serve as a co-pilot to help with directions. If driving alone, map out destinations in advance, and pull over to study a map.
- Try to avoid food and beverages (at least messy foods).
- Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle; do not

underestimate how distracting it can be to tend to children while driving.

- Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior.

Minnesota's "No Texting While Driving" Law

- It's illegal for drivers to read, compose and/or send text messages and emails, or access the Internet using a wireless device while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic—including stopped in traffic or at a traffic light.
- Cell phone use is banned for school bus drivers.
- Cell phone use is not allowed for teen drivers during their permit and provisional license stages. ☺

Stay safe when using trails and roads

MINNETONKA TRAILS ARE SHARED by bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers and dog walkers. Follow these tips for a safe and enjoyable trail experience.

- Pass on the left, and only when safe. Pass in single file.
- When overtaking fellow trail users warn them by activating a bell, horn or whistle and saying, "Passing on your left" or "passing."
- Yield to slower trail users.
- Proceed at a reasonable speed (15 mph maximum speed on trails).
- Dogs must be on a short leash (six feet or less).
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. Dispensers with bags for picking up pet waste are placed along the trail. Please use them!
- Travel on the right side of the trail. If you stop, move off the trail.
- Obey all traffic signs.
- Stop at road crossings and look for approaching and turning vehicles.
- Signal your turn.
- Proceed slowly around blind curves, steep hills and bridges.

- Watch for wet or slippery surfaces, sand, acorns, rocks or washouts.

- Travel in pairs if possible.
- Trails close at 10 p.m.

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. For comments or concerns about the trails, or to receive a trails map, call (952) 988-8400.

When biking on the road:

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic.
- Walk your bike across busy intersections
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Obey traffic laws, including stop signs and traffic lights.

When walking on the road:

- If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk on the road, walk facing (against) traffic.
- Wear bright-colored clothing.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep away from parked cars so drivers can see you
- Cross only at intersections or crosswalks never in the middle of the block.
- If walking a pet, pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. ☺

City saves money with lighting projects

DID YOU KNOW THAT GENERALLY, lighting accounts for more than a third of an energy bill? Upgrading to more efficient light bulbs and shutting off lights when they're not in use is one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

The city of Minnetonka has undertaken several lighting upgrade projects to reduce energy use. While a majority of the upgrades involve converting to more efficient fixtures and bulbs, the city has also included several major delamping projects. Delamping is the physical removal of a light bulb from a fixture. When done correctly, delamping will not look like a bulb has simply burned out. A great example of this is the tennis building in the Williston Center. The center bulb was removed from each of the 47 fixtures following an upgrade to more efficient lighting. Additionally, lights in the



Williston Center parking lot were replaced with LED fixtures. Together these two projects will save a significant amount of energy and money!

Look for more information in coming months about additional projects the city has undertaken to save energy and money and how you can do the same in your home. ☺

Minnetonka are partnering to reconstruct

Road construction

(continued from page 1)

County Road 101 from County Road 62 to Hutchins Drive in Minnetonka. Improvements to County Road 101 are needed to address deteriorating pavement, utility and drainage concerns, flooding, non-motorized accommodations and storm water quality conditions. Visit www.eminnetonka.com and search "safer 101" for more information and to sign up for notifications. You can also follow the project on Twitter: @safer_101

2015 City Street Rehabilitation

Each year the city of Minnetonka rehabilitates a portion of its streets as part of its Local Street Construction Program. The 2015 Rehabilitation Project includes three miles of streets and utility repairs in various neighborhoods within the city. Visit www.eminnetonka.com and search "2015 street rehabilitation" for more information and to sign up for notifications. ☺

Native Plant Market & Eco Fun Fest schedule of events

(continued from page 1)

Native Plant Market

3–7 p.m.

See page 1 for vendor names. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for a complete list of native plants by vendor.

Live Raptors

Minnesota Zoo

4–6 p.m.

See native birds of prey.

Puppet Shows

Three Rivers Park District

4 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Learn about nature with your kids.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Minnesota Herpetological Society

3–7 p.m.

Visit and touch some cold-blooded creatures.

Information Tent

3–7 p.m.

- Blue Thumb display
- Wild Ones
- Master Naturalist
- Tree Care Advisors
- Multiple tree care companies
- Tree house Horrors
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- Riley Purgator Bluff Creek Watershed District
- Hennepin County Environmental Services
- Larry Wade, Local Naturalist
- Heather Holm, native plant & plant expert

Tree Climbing Activity*

Minnesota Society of Arboriculture

3:30–7 p.m.

Kids can learn to climb a tree with a rope and saddle.

** Guardian signature on liability waiver required for participation.*



Win a native plant starter garden!

Sign up at the event. ☺

2014 Minnetonka Drinking Water Report



THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS ISSUING the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2014. Each of the past 17 years, Minnetonka Public Works has distributed this annual report to summarize drinking water quality for the previous year; advance residents' understanding of drinking water; and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

This report fulfills an obligation the city's water utility has to provide accurate and timely information about your drinking water and the city's water system. If you have questions about your drinking water or for information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please contact Jim Malone at jmalone@eminnetonka.com or (952) 988-8400.

Water source

The city of Minnetonka provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 18 wells ranging in depth from 405 to 575 feet that draw water from the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

Generally, sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Before a water source is used for a supply, it is tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters. Test results for the city of Minnetonka water supply are listed on the next page. The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents.

If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call (651) 201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. The report may also be viewed online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Are contaminants a concern?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Drinking water regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. ♪



Lawn watering schedule

To conserve the community's water resources, city of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

- No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar day before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by handheld hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery, or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit number from Minnetonka Public Works.

Private wells are exempt from these regulations provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call (952) 988-8400. ♪

Laboratory Results for Minnetonka Tap Water: 2014

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2014. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.)

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Testing Terms and Definitions

MCLG — Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL — Maximum Contaminant Level

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDLG — Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

MRDL — Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

AL — Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level

This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which ten samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) *Note:* In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average

of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l — PicoCuries per liter

A measure of radioactivity.

ppb — Parts per billion

This can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm — Parts per million

This can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd — No Detection

N/A — Not Applicable

Does not apply.

Average/result

This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Range (2014)	Average/result	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters	pCi/l	0	15.4	5.7–12	9.65	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium (3/14/2012)	ppm	2	2	N/A	.15	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/l	0	5.4	3.6–5	4.57	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	.92–1.1	1.13	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	0	60	nd–1.1	1.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	ppm	10.4	10.4	nd–.06	.06	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (total trihalomethanes)	ppb	0	80	.5–1.6	1.6	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MRDL	MRDLG	Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Avg.	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	.3 (Lowest)–.5 (Highest)	.4	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	AL	MCLG	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (7/25/2013)	ppm	1.3	1.3	1.28	2 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead (7/25/2013)	ppb	15	0	1.9	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The city of Minnetonka is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If there are concerns about lead in the water, consider having the water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Water Drinking Act. Results may be available by calling (651) 201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Shade tree disease control programs start June 1

ELM, OAK AND SELECT ASH INSPECTIONS are part of the city's shade tree disease control program, aimed at keeping Dutch elm disease and oak wilt at bay and detecting emerald ash borer as early as possible. Seasonal tree inspectors certified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and overseen by the city forester survey the entire city each summer looking for trees that are showing signs of these diseases and insects. They systematically scout the entire city neighborhood by neighborhood. Scouting for Dutch elm and oak wilt continues until late September, when it starts to become difficult to identify the diseases by their leaf symptoms.

If you see a tree you believe to have Dutch elm, oak wilt or emerald ash borer, you may report it starting June 1 by calling (952) 988-8407. Be prepared to give the address and a detailed description of the tree's location. We will accept inspection requests and in order to use the tree inspectors' time most efficiently we will schedule these inspections when we are scouting the neighborhood. The person who reports a diseased tree can remain anonymous—and the caller's name is not considered public information.

If a diseased tree is found on private property, the inspector will knock on the door to identify themselves before inspecting the tree. Both Dutch elm and oak wilt diseases are regulated by a city ordinance. Emerald ash borer has not yet been found in the city of Minnetonka.

If an elm tree or oak tree is found to have either of these diseases, it is important to act promptly with removal or the suggested treatments in order to protect other elms and oaks on your property and throughout the city.

If a tree is marked, what should I do?

If a tree has been identified as having Dutch elm disease or oak wilt, the city paints an orange ring around the tree. Each underlying property owner is notified by a notice on the door on the day the tree is marked, and through a follow-up letter in the mail. Both diseases have different management strategies, so be sure to read the letter carefully in order to protect your other trees.

When a tree is marked in a person's yard, it is the property owner's responsibility to hire and pay for the costs associated with tree removal. If it is along the road edge

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Eco Walks and Talks continue in May

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA'S NATURAL resources division continues its Eco Walks and Talks series with the following offerings in May. Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions take place at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Raingardens and Beyond

Tuesday, May 5, 6-9 p.m.

Help keep our lakes and rivers clean and recharge our precious groundwater while creating a beautiful and pollinator-friendly habitat in your yard. Participants receive an overview of rain gardens and native plants; one-on-one design assistance from Metro Blooms Landscape Designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners; and information about cost share programs and how you can apply. Presented by Metro Blooms. Limited space available. Register at metroblooms.org or call (651) 699-2426. Cost: \$15

Garlic Mustard Workshop

May 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Garlic mustard is the most invasive herbaceous species in the ground layer of Minnetonka's woods and wild places. It can overwhelm and out-compete remnant native wildflowers and sedges. If you are restoring your woodland, then garlic mustard is the plant to know. Learn multiple methods for controlling this invader, with the right timing, so your efforts are not wasted. Join Janet Van Sloun, City of Minnetonka Restoration Specialist, and start controlling this plant now when the time is right. RSVP at (952) 988-8400 or www.eminnetonka.com.

Spring Bird Walk

May 16, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Lone Lake Park, 5624 Shady Oak Rd. Meet at lower parking lot. 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 members of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. 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. RSVP at (952) 988-8400 or www.eminnetonka.com. Also, look for an upcoming bird walk at the Minnetonka Civic Center to be announced in June.

Join a plant walk May 7, 21 & 27

Take a 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; walks limited to 15 people. RSVP at (952) 988-8400 or www.eminnetonka.com.

- Thursday, May 7, 5:30-7 p.m. Purgatory Park, 17315 Excelsior Boulevard. Meet at the picnic shelter near the main parking lot. We'll hike north into the big woods.
- Thursday, May 21, 5:30-7 p.m., Big Willow Park. Park in small lot on east side of Creek Road West, 230 ft. south of Cedar Lake Road. Meet at trail immediately north of lot.
- Wednesday, May 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Lone Lake Park. Meet at the Rowland Road entrance parking lot. We'll look at new prairie areas and hike Nine Mile Ridge.

Coming soon...

Don't miss these events planned for June! Look for more information in the June *Minnetonka Memo* and online at www.eminnetonka.com.

- June 13: Bird Walk at the Minnetonka Civic Center
- June 17: Invasive Weeds & Wild Nasties Workshop, Minnetonka Community Center ☺





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Programs and services for those 55+
May 2015 Newsletter

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 Friday, May 1

(Course #35632, 3100102-01)

SENIORS Expo

Thursday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

We're updating!

Minnetonka Recreation Services and Senior Services are transitioning to a new recreation software program during the month of May. During this transition you may notice two course numbers for the same program, be asked new questions regarding your household and online accounts. We appreciate your patience during this transition. Thank you.

Shred Event

Friday, May 8

1 – 3 p.m.

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

The 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 civic center campus)

Cell Phone Q & A

Hopkins High School Students

Monday, May 11, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Students from Hopkins High School will be at the Minnetonka Community Center to provide one-on-one help with your cell phone. Refreshments provided.

Cost: Free! Please RSVP by Friday, May 8.
(Course#37000, 3180403-04)

Cruise the World: Senior Housing

Thursday, May 14, 9:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Board the "cruise line" to view five levels of senior housing each featuring food and fun from various ports of call:

- Legacy Homes: delicacies of Japan
- Golden Living Center Hillcrest of Wayzata: food and flavor of Italy
- Meridian Manor Assisted Living: traditional dishes of France
- Emerald Crest Memory Care: tempting treats of the Caribbean Islands
- Westridge Independent Senior Living: mouth-watering offerings from Mexico

Proceeds go to Minnetonka Senior Services.

Cost: \$5 due Thursday, May 7.
(Course #36999, 3180404-04)

Please Welcome...

Join us in welcoming Facilities Clerk Kaylee Wallin. Kaylee has worked for the city of Minnetonka Recreation Division since 2007.

Lunch and a Movie:

The 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, 3100201-01)

Container Gardens

Monday, May 18, 10:15 a.m.

Spring is here! Join a Master Gardener with the University of Minnesota to discover fun ways to create container gardens. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Cost: Free! Please RSVP by Friday, May 15.
(Course #37001, 3180405-01)

Golden Years Gala

Tuesday, May 19, 12 p.m.

May is Older Americans month and this special celebration honors those 85 and older.

This event is open to all ages. Participants 85 and older receive a flower; 90 and older receive a flower and free registration. **Flowers courtesy of RidgePointe of Minnetonka.**

Menu: Meatloaf, potato, veggie, roll & dessert.

Cost: \$7 due Tuesday, May 12.
(Course #36151, 3100101-01)

Write Your Story

Wednesday, June 3, 10:30 a.m.

Writing stories for children and grandchildren seems daunting. Learn about three distinct levels of one's life history and how it contributes to a legacy passed on within a family with Jeff Baker (MBA, MATS), owner of Sagis Legacy. Topics include: writing, styles of autobiography, structure, flow of crafting stories and more!

Cost: \$2 Please RSVP by Tuesday, June 2.
(Course #36150, 3180401-01)

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, 4090701-01)

Tai Chi Chih

Susan Sobelson

Mondays, May 4–June 1 (no class 5/25)

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, \$20, 10–11 a.m.
(Course #36986, 3090301-01)
- Intermediate, \$20, 11:30–12:30 p.m.
(Course #36994, 3090301-02)

Continuing Line Dance

Eileen Ronning

Thursdays, June 4–25

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

- Beginner, \$24, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
(Course #35658, 3090601-01)
- Intermediate, \$24, 1:45–2:45 p.m.
(Course #35659, 3090601-02)

Tai Chi for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Thursdays, June 4–25, 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.

- \$36 (Course #37002, 3090401-01)



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

Most chair-supported yoga takes place while seated on a chair.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

- June 2–July 7
\$36 (Course #36176, 3090101-03)
- July 21–August 25
\$36 (Course #36178, 3090101-05)

Thursdays, 9:45–10:45 a.m.

- June 4–July 9
\$36 (Course #36177, 3090101-04)
- July 23–August 27
\$36 (Course #36179, 3090101-06)

Mary Ann

Wednesdays, 6:15–7:15 p.m.

- May 6–27
\$30 (Course #36167, 3090101-08)
- June 3–July 8
\$36 (Course #36185, 3090101-09)

Intermediate Yoga

Intermediate yoga includes standing and balance postures. Participants 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.

Nancy Holasek

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- June 2–July 7
\$36 (Course #36180, 3090201-03)
- July 21–August 25
\$36 (Course #36182, 3090201-05)

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- June 4–July 9
\$36 (Course #36181, 3090201-04)
- July 23–August 27
\$36 (Course #36183, 3090201-06)

Elizabeth Kelly

Wednesdays, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

- May 6–27
\$24 (Course #36169, 3090201-08)
- June 3–July 8
\$36 (Course #36186, 3090201-09),

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.

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

The goal of the club is to provide moderate exercise under safe conditions and to encourage social interaction and friendship. Three 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. To register call (952) 939-8393.

- \$11 (Course #36144, 4120101-01)

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, 3120201-01)

Art Programs

Botanical and Floral Art

Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays, May 13 & 20
1–3 p.m.

Explore contemporary and traditional methods in drawing, painting and mixed media, i.e. watercolor, graphite/colored pencils, charcoal. Learn how to use glazing, gradated, and wet'n'wet washes, color blending, light and shadow contrasts to capture a likeness or an abstract expression of live plant/floral specimens.

- \$40 (Course #35666, 3130103-01)

History Programs

British History: Scotland Fever

Terry Kubista

Thursdays, 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, 3180101-01)

Operation Barbarossa to Stalingrad: World War II

Dan Hartman

Wednesday, May 13
10:30 a.m.

Operation Barbarossa was the largest military operation in history both in manpower and casualties. Its failure was a turning point in the Third Reich's fortunes. Most importantly, the operation opened up the Eastern Front. The Battle of Stalingrad, a turning point in World War II, was the major battle in which Nazi Germany and its allies fought the Soviet Union for control of the city. Marked by constant close quarters combat and disregard for military and civilian casualties, it is among the bloodiest battles in the history of warfare.

- \$3 Please RSVP by Monday, May 11. (Course #36140, 3180201-01)

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@minnetonka.com.

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 for all classes.

Four hour renewal sessions:

- \$20, Thursday, May 21, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- \$20, Thursday, May 28, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Eight hour session:

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

Navigating Medicare

Wednesday, June 3, 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, June 1. (Course #37003, 3180501-01)

Leisure Programs

Essential Oil Creations:

Pest Repellant

Wednesday, May 27
1–2 p.m.

Discover nature's way to keep bugs away, a refreshing alternative to harsh chemical products! Create your pest repellant while learning the benefits of essential oils. Provided by Wyndmere Naturals.

- \$6 Please RSVP by Monday, May 25. (Course #36201, 3190401-01)

Minnehaha Creek Canoe Trip

Enjoy a relaxing two-mile canoe paddle between Grays Bay Dam and I-494, with a picnic stop at Jidana Park. Relax in front of a campfire at Jidana and roast hot dogs. The trip is intended for people who have canoeing experience and can enter and exit the canoe safely on their own. Meet at the community center

- \$10, Tuesday, June 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Course #36146, 3190101-01)
- \$10, Wednesday, June 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Course #36147, 3190101-02)

Interest groups

For more information on these groups and a calendar of events, please visit www.eminnetonka.com or stop by the community center.

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.

Tom Anderson: *What's in a Bird Song*

Book Club

3rd Thursday, 1 p.m.

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline.

Chorale

Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

New singers welcome!

Craft Committee

1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Create decor for monthly parties.

Games and Cards

Mondays, 1 p.m.

1st & 3rd is Rummikub. 2nd & 4th is Hand and Foot.

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

U of M Landscape Arboretum.

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

Racing in the Rain: My Life as a Dog by Garth Stein.

Shutterbugs

3rd Tuesday, 10 a.m.

All levels of photographers welcome!

Tonka Tale Tellers

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Tell tales at elementary schools.



11280 Wayzata Boulevard
(763) 591-4868

Handcrafted items by
Minnetonka residents 55
and older.

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



Senior Day Trips

Gull Lake Luncheon Cruise

Thursday, June 18

Take a trip to the beautiful Brainerd Lakes area and enjoy the sleek North Star yacht featuring a glass-enclosed main deck and upper deck patio. Take in scenic views during a two hour luncheon cruise. Bring a thermal cooler bag for a stop at Thielen's Meat Market, known for quality fresh and smoked meats and world famous home-smoked bacon.

Menu: Sandwich and salad buffet, cookie and beverage.

(Course# 36171, 3110104-01)

- **Cost:** \$69 includes cruise, lunch, transportation & escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 9 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, May 15.



Viking Village & Mankato

Wednesday, July 29

Visit the Viking Village Training Camp, celebrating their 50th anniversary. Guests may sit in the bleachers or stand along the fence to watch the Vikings practice session. Bring spending cash for vendor stands and the gift tent. Enjoy the "special of the day" lunch at Charley's Restaurant before heading to the Betsy-Tacy Houses. Experience the legacy of Maud Hart Lovelace, beloved author of the famed children series. Tour the childhood home of Maud Hart Lovelace and her best friend Frances 'Bick' Kenney.

(Course# 36172, 3110101-01)

- **Cost:** \$59 includes tours, lunch, transportation & escort
- **Estimated trip time:** 8 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Thursday, July 2.

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*. 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.

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 *www.seniorcommunity.org*.

- **Canadian Rockies** (July 7 - 28)
Cost: \$1850 per person, double occupancy.
- **Alaska Circle** (July 13 - 20)
Cost: \$3000 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

Office hours:

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

Administrative Staff

Kaylee Wallin

kwallin@eminnetonka.com

Kate Egert

kegert@eminnetonka.com

Senior Services & Activities Manager

Steve Pieh

(952) 939-8366

spieh@eminnetonka.com

Senior & 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 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+.

Make your lawn welcoming for pollinators with these plants

MANY OF US SEE THE DANDELION AS nothing more than a persistent weed. We relish the opportunity to pull or spray those golden-faced flowers as quickly as they pop up in the yard. But that hasn't always been the case. Traditionally, Native Americans and Chinese healers used dandelion to treat stomachaches and other ailments. Settlers added dandelion leaves and roots to their diets, understanding—even without scientific studies to confirm it—that this plant is loaded with healthful vitamins and minerals.



Even if you never make a dandelion-green salad, recent research suggests another compelling reason to respect the humble dandelion: it's a great food source for pollinators. When native bees emerge from winter hibernation, they've used up their energy stores and must quickly find food to survive. Honeybees remain active in their hives through cold weather, but in early spring they also require easy food sources to begin reproducing and making honey. Common dandelion blooms before most other flowering plants. This adaptation frustrates many gardeners—but it can be a lifesaver for pollinators.

This spring, consider sparing some of the dandelions in your lawn. Native bees and other pollinators will repay you by pollinating countless other flowering plants in the neighborhood. Nationwide, pollinators contribute \$29 billion per year in agricultural services. The value of their services in nature? Priceless. Yet pollinator populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and multiple other hazards. Take a look at some additional low-growing plants that can be mixed into your lawn for the benefit of bees and other pollinators. You can purchase the native species from local native plant growers, or visit the city's native plant market on June 3. (For more information about that event, see page 1 in this issue.)

Wild violet (*Viola sororia*, *V. canadensis*, and *V. pubescens*)



More than 20 species of violet are native to Minnesota's woods and prairies. You may already have some of these small plants in your lawn. Look for the delicate white, purple, or yellow flowers that bloom in early spring, sometimes even earlier than dandelions. The larger lower petal of each violet is marked with tiny parallel lines. Using their ultraviolet vision, bees see these lines more clearly than we do. Like the lights of an airport landing strip, the lines point toward stores of nectar and pollen inside the flower.

Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)



This clumping, grasslike plant is native to our area and grows especially well in shady or dry areas. Some homeowners have chosen to replant lawns entirely in sedges because the clumps form a rich green carpet similar to turf but requiring very little mowing. The flowers, almost too small to see, are wind-pollinated—but multiple insects visit to eat the protein-rich pollen. Among them are syrphid flies, which also eat aphids that can damage plants. The Pennsylvania sedge is also an important host and food for skipper butterfly caterpillars.

Dutch white clover (*Trifolium repens*)



Until the 1950s, clover was commonly seeded into grass mixes. Clover, like other legumes, produces nitrogen that acts as a natural fertilizer. For this reason, it makes a nice fill in sparser-growing patches of turf. White clover is not native to Minnesota. Still, the small, tubular flowers appeal to long-tongued bees (like bumbles, honeybees, and mason bees) as well as skipper butterflies.

Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*)



This member of the mint family was imported from Eurasia. Long used in the kitchen, it adds flavor in salads and soups. Like the other plants on this list, self-heal is a short perennial that will regrow in your lawn year after year and can survive mowing. The flower's shape—like an open mouth with the tongue sticking out—suggested to traditional healers that the plant would treat sore throats. Self-heal snakes along the ground and sends up fragrant, colorful flowers that poke their heads just above the grass, allowing bees and butterflies to easily visit. ♪

Take a walk on the wild side with these woodland wildflowers

WANDER THROUGH A FOREST DURING the month of May and you may find beautiful wildflowers. Spring wildflowers grow in rich woodland soil. Each species has its peak blooming time between mid-April and late May, when light is filtered by newly sprouting leaves. Most of these delicate flowers last no more than two weeks. Get to know these jewels of the forest! They may be growing in your own neighborhood.



Bellwort has yellow, bell-shaped flowers. It grows up to 18 inches high, forming clumps that increase in size each year. Native Americans and settlers used bellwort to treat sore throats and canker sores.

Bloodroot has beautiful white flowers and the leaves have an unusual shape. Bloodroot spreads by seed and has thick, orange roots. If undisturbed, this plant may form a dense mat covering 200 square feet or more. Native Americans used the colorful roots as a dye.



Hepatica is one of the first wildflowers to bloom. This plant grows low to the ground. Its flowers can be white, blue or pink, and the leaves have three rounded sections. In the Middle Ages, hepatica was used to treat liver ailments, cough and lung disease.



Violets are one of the most common and familiar wildflowers in the woods. They grow low on the woodland floor and can spread to cover large areas. An ancient Rome, violets were used to treat headaches. There are more than 20 species of violets in Minnesota. Some are not native—they were brought here from other parts of the world.



Wild ginger forms a ground cover that spreads by underground stems. The flower blooms near the ground,

allowing ants and other crawling insects to fertilize it in early spring when bees and other pollinators are not yet active. In summer, ants carry wild ginger seeds to new locations.

Migrating hummingbirds are attracted to the red flowers of the **columbine**. Look for pointed petals on the back of the flower, which look a bit like the clawed foot of an eagle. Columbine spreads primarily by seed. Native Americans ground up the seeds and used them as a love potion.



The “tri” in **trillium** means three. It refers to trillium’s three-part leaf and the three petals on its flower. Trillium can spread by sending out

underground stems. It also produces seeds, though they do not grow for several years. Large clumps of trillium can be over 25 years old.

Jack-in-the-pulpit can reach 3 feet in height. A club-shaped spike is located inside this plant’s funnel-shaped flower. Early settlers thought it looked like a tiny preacher giving a sermon

from his pulpit. “Jacks” produce clusters of seeds inside red fruit, which ripens in the fall. The flesh of the fruit must rot before the seeds will grow.



Wild geranium grows up to two feet tall. The plant has also been called “crane’s bill” because the seed capsule looks like a bird’s beak. Native Americans brewed geranium tea to reduce the pain of

toothaches. Early settlers used the leaves and roots for tanning hides.

Article submitted by Larry Wade, a Minnetonka naturalist and educator. Illustrations by Jeanette Dickinson and Amelia Ladd. If you want to learn more about woodland wildflowers, take the spring wildflower quiz at www.oldnaturalist.com/spring-wildflowers-quiz

Shade Tree Disease

(continued from page 6)

within the right-of-way, the city will pay for half of the tree removal. When grinding is appropriate, the city will also pay for half of the stump removal. When the tree is in a park or other municipally owned property, the city of Minnetonka will pay for the full removal cost. The notification on the door and mailed letter will explain how you should take action.

How does this relate to other tree diseases?

Many residents ask why the city doesn’t regulate other tree diseases or damaging insects. The answer is that at this time, there aren’t any other diseases or insects in Minnetonka that are considered “epidemic.” Emerald ash borer would meet the criteria to be listed as epidemic, but at printing it has not yet been found in Minnetonka. We’re actively planning and preparing for emerald ash borer with the knowledge of the devastating damage it’s had in other cities. Some of the criteria that could make a tree disease (or insect infestation) epidemic include that it’s economically catastrophic, has far-reaching effects on the landscape (not just one person’s yard) and it’s difficult or nearly impossible to control. Because the city engages in active management of Dutch elm and oak wilt disease each year, it helps to mitigate a full epidemic. Call (952) 988-8407 for more information. For more information on common tree diseases, visit the University of Minnesota Extension page at www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/diagnostics/index.html

 **2015 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

Spring Leaf Drop-off ends May 16

Public Works Facility

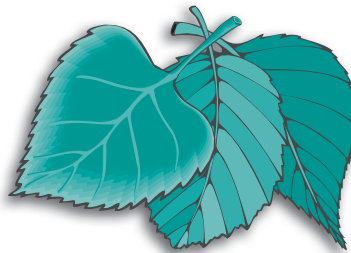
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73
Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields)

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 yardwaste carts, eliminating the need for using bags.

Leaves and non-woody yard waste (grass, weeds, pine cones and needles, garden trimmings, fruit, etc.) are accepted from Minnetonka residents on the following dates and times:

- **Mondays:** 12 to 8 p.m. May 4, 11
 - **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. May 5, 12
 - **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2, 9, 16
- Expanded Friday and Sunday hours:**
- **Fridays:** 12 to 6 p.m. May 1, 8, 15
 - **Sundays:** 12 to 4 p.m. May 3, 10




The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free — loose leaves only. 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 by calling (952) 988-8430. 

Brush drop-off now open

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.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25.

Branches up to 12" in diameter are 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, available until May 16. The brush drop-off and leaf drop-off programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials, so it's important they stay separate.

No brush is accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

Call (952) 988-8430 for information. 

Memorial Day delays grey week recycling

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, will delay the grey week recycling collection areas by one day. Residents west of I-494 (south of Highway 7 and west of County Road 101 up to LRT Trail) will have recycling collection on Tuesday, May 26. Residents east of I-494 (south of Minnetonka Boulevard) will have collection on Wednesday, May 27. 



2015 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Special one-day drop-off

Saturday, June 6

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.
 East entrance by recycling center

Minnetonka residents may drop off the materials listed below. The charge for dropping off each item, if any, is listed in parentheses.

• **Appliances (\$10 each)**

Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cooktop, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier, dehumidifier, air conditioner, water softener

• **Batteries (No charge)**

All car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6- and 9-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).

• **Bicycles**

(No charge)

Bicycles brought to the special drop-off will be given a second chance by Re-Cycle (612-216-2072).

• **Carpet & padding (\$1/sq. yd. for carpet and \$1/sq. yd. for padding)**

Determine the number of square yards of carpet or room size the carpet came from. Roll carpet or pad and tape or tie rolls. Rolls must not exceed six feet in length and/or up to 12 inches in diameter.

• **Copier or fax machine**

(\$35, higher fee for larger items)

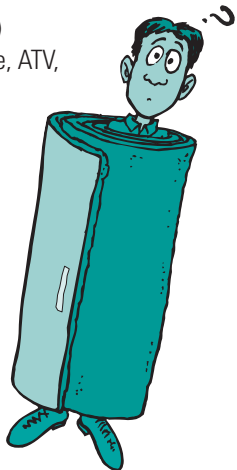
• **Doors (\$2 and up, depending on size)**

• **Electronics**

(no longer accepted, see box at top right)

• **Fluorescent lamps (No charge)**

Up to ten fluorescent bulbs will be accepted



per vehicle. No lamps will be accepted from business or commercial use. Please transport lamps in a manner to avoid breakage. Don't tape bulbs!

• **Furniture:** Chairs (**\$5 – small, \$10 – large**); loveseat (**\$15**); couch/sofa (**\$20**); hide-a-bed (**\$30**); sectionals, dressers, chests, tables and other furniture (**\$5 and up depending on size**)

• **Lumber (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)** No railroad ties, concrete or shingles.

• **Mattresses and box springs: (\$15 per piece for all sizes).** Mattresses are dismantled and acceptable materials recycled by the PPL Industries mattress recycling program.

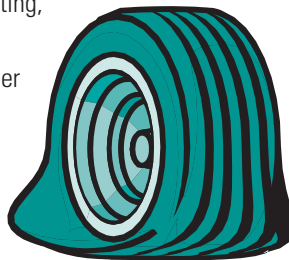
• **Propane tanks:** Small (**\$1**); Large — over a 2-lb. tank (**\$5**)

• **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5); clean (no charge)**

Dirty scrap metal: lawn chairs with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines **must** be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snowblowers, or other large items.

Clean scrap metal: all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous materials have been removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.

• **Tires:** Car, trailer or light truck (**\$4 each**); tires on rim (**\$8**); tractor or truck tire on split rim (**\$30**)



• **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**

• **Windows (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)**

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka.

NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Electronics not accepted

Electronic items are no longer accepted at the special drop-off events. This includes TVs; radios; stereos; speakers; CDs, VCR and DVD players; camcorders; cell phones; telephones; laptops; computers; printers and monitors. Drop-off options for electronics include the the Hennepin County permanent drop-off sites (page 15); or any Best Buy or Staples store. ♻️

Please note: Charitable organizations will **not** be at the special drop-off accepting clothing and household goods.

Local charitable organizations that accept clothing and household goods include the following:

• **ARC Hennepin Carver**

Pickup route info: (612) 866-8820

• **Bethesda Thrift Shop**

4749 Cty. Rd. 101, Minnetonka
(952) 939-0988

• **Families Helping Each Other**

(no furniture)
www.ftheo.org
(612) 235-9336

• **Goodwill Industries**

13820 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka
(952) 544-6648

• **Salvation Army**

Pickup route info: (612) 332-5585

• **Value Village Thrift Store**

2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope
(763) 544-0006

• **Vietnam Vets**

Pickup route information: (651) 778-8387

For more information, call Dean Elstad at (952) 988-8430 or visit www.eminnetonka.com. Fall special drop-off will be Saturday, September 13. ♻️

 2015 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Community Collection

Thursday, May 14
Friday, May 15
Saturday, May 16
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
 11522 Minnetonka Blvd
 East entrance by recycling center

Important:
Electronics are not accepted at this event. Options for disposal of electronics include the year-round drop-off sites (see details below) as well as Best Buy or Staples stores.



The HHW drop-off is open to any Hennepin County resident and only accepts items from households. No hazardous waste or problem materials can be accepted from businesses, including home businesses or non-profit organizations.

The following HHW and problem materials are accepted free of charge:

Household, lawn and garden products: Adhesives, aerosols, batteries, cleaners, drain cleaner, driveway sealer, fire extinguishers, flammable products, paint (limit three 5-gallon pails), paint thinners, solvents and strippers, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, photographic and hobby chemicals, poisons, pool chemicals, rechargeable tools, ballasts, stains, wood preservatives.

Mercury-containing items: Fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps (maximum 25), thermometers, thermostats.

Electronics: No longer accepted at this event. See sidebar at left or visit <http://bit.ly/1jZDeCN>.


Auto and fuel wastes: Diesel fuel, fuel additives, gasoline (containers will not be returned), kerosene, starter fluid, vehicle lead-acid batteries, waxes. No motor oil or oil filters.

Gas Cylinders

- **Acceptable:** Propane tanks less than 40 lbs., specialty gases on a case-by-case basis if less than 59 lbs.
- **Unacceptable:** Propane tanks greater than 40 lbs.; gases requiring special management; all greater than 59 lbs., and all gas cylinders from a business.

There is no charge for dropping off HHW or the above listed items.

The following items are **not accepted** at the community HHW collection: appliances, asbestos, **electronics**, photocopiers, motor oil and motor oil filters, tires, empty paint cans, some compressed gas cylinders (see above), explosives, radioactive materials, infectious waste, unused medicines or household garbage.

For more information, call (952) 988-8430 or Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777. 

Year-round HHW drop-off sites

Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities:



1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington
8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park
There is no charge to drop off residential HHW.



Facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.


There is no charge to drop off residential HHW, but there is a limit to the annual quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit www.hennepin.us or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

Household hazardous waste includes such items as aerosol cans; auto wastes (including gasoline, used oil and oil filters); batteries; cleaners; fire extinguishers; herbicides; fluorescent, CFL and HID lamps; paint; pesticides; stain; solvents; thermometers; thermostats and switches containing mercury; thinners; and rechargeable appliances and batteries.

Consumer electronics **are accepted at no charge** (TVs, radios, stereos, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, computers, monitors and printers). Photocopiers are not accepted.

Household appliances (microwaves, water heater, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

The fees and list of acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff.

For more information call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777 or visit the website at www.hennepin.us/dropoffs. 

minnetonka memo

May 2015

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

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

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

May
2015

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
					1	2	4 – Local Board of Adjustment & Equalization, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	21 – Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7 – Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 11 – City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	12 – Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m. 13 – Park Board Tour, 5 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	18 – City Council, 6:30 p.m. 25 – Memorial Day, city offices closed 28 – 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 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. 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. 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.

Transit open houses May 2, 6

LEARN WHAT'S NEW ABOUT TRANSIT IN MINNETONKA DURING two meetings in May. On Saturday, May 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Ridgedale Library, Metro Transit will host an open house on Route 614. Saturday service for Route 614 is being considered for elimination in August. Come discuss your concerns and share your ideas with Metro Transit staff.

Wednesday, May 6, 6-8 p.m., the cities of Minnetonka and Hopkins will host an open house on the Shady Oak LRT station. The cities are working to create a joint vision for the station area and a series of ideas for what this area may become will be presented. The public is invited to view these ideas and provide feedback. The open house will be held at the Hopkins Fire Station, 101 – 17th Avenue South, Hopkins. ☺

Yield for pedestrians!

REMEMBER, ACCORDING TO STATE STATUTE, WHERE TRAFFIC control signals are not in place or in operation, vehicles must stop for pedestrians crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped. There are rules for pedestrians too – by the same state statute, no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield. ☺

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

