

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
April 2014

## Pick up your pre-ordered trees April 25 & 26

**D**o you have a city tree sale? Be sure to mark your calendar now and pick them up on April 25 or 26. Pick-up times are as follows:

- Friday, April 25, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tree pick-up is at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Follow the signs to the east driveway (recycling drop-off center). Please note: this is a different location than Minnetonka City Hall. A few other reminders:

- Trees must be picked up on one of the designated pick-up days (April 25 or 26). Unclaimed trees will be planted in a Minnetonka park.
- You pick the date that works for you — Friday or Saturday.

- Keep your yellow confirmation post card to present to city staff.

Confirmation post cards will be sent to participants two weeks prior to the event as an additional reminder.

- If you'll be out of town on April 25 and 26, ask your neighbor, friend or family member to pick up the trees on your behalf.
- Be sure to give them your yellow confirmation post card.

If we have a warm spring, and you notice that trees in your yard are already starting to leaf out, we recommend you bring a tarp or sheet to protect your new trees. This helps prevent stressful water loss through the opening buds and leaves as they travel down the road in an open truck bed or trailer.

Questions? Call Emily Ball, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 1, 2 and 3

**M**innetonka Skating School is proud to present the 40th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "40 Years of Favorites." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities are featured again this year.



Show times are:

- Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 3, 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 9. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for more information. ☺

## Celebrate 40 years of music April 13

**C**elebrate the Music Association of Minnetonka's (MAM) 40th anniversary with a concert Sunday, April 13, at 3 p.m. at Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Boulevard, Wayzata.



Join current and former city officials and special guests in celebrating Minnetonka's history of supporting the fine arts and community music. The Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra will perform works by Strauss, Elgar and Shostakovich. Joining the orchestra will be members of the Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections, Senior Chorale and Youth Choirs, performing the 4th movement ("Ode to Joy") of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. The mass choir will be led by soloists Wendy Lukaszewski, soprano; Leanne Kampfe, alto; David Nordli, tenor; and Tom Dreeze, bass. The Minnetonka Civic Orchestra also will perform.

Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. MAM welcomes interested musicians of all ages and capabilities. Email [mamoffice@musicassociation.org](mailto:mamoffice@musicassociation.org) about auditions and rehearsal times, or call (952) 401-5954. For more information about MAM visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org) or "like" MAM on Facebook (search "Music Association of Minnetonka"). ☺

### Inside this edition:

**L**ook for pollinators to your yard, along with other valuable natural resource information, in this year's Natural Resource Notes, pages 9 – 15. ☺

## Mark your calendars

**Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest is June 4, 3 – 7 p.m.**

# Flashpoints

## From the Minnetonka Fire Department



**F** of these items, call the fire department at (952) 939-8598.

### Recreational fires

All recreational fires (campfires) within the city of Minnetonka require a burning permit from the city and can be obtained for no cost at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Once issued, the permit does not have to be renewed annually, but may be rescinded or cancelled by the Minnetonka Fire Department at any time. The person signing the application is responsible for conducting, controlling and extinguishing the recreational fire. The burning permit is valid only for the property for which it is issued.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and think about where smoke may be drifting to open windows and entering homes. Make sure your fire is constantly attended and have an extinguishing method such as a garden hose readily available.

### Recycle fire extinguishers

Expired or empty residential fire extinguishers are collected at Minnetonka Fire Department Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Fire calls

During the first quarter of 2014, the fire department responded to more than 400 calls for service.

First-quarter calls included five structure fires, four vehicles fires, two brush fires, 186 medicals, 34 lift assists, nine gas leaks, 20 mutual aid requests, 27 good intent calls, 59 false fire/CO alarms, and 12 extrications (vehicle, water/ice and elevator).

New this year, the fire department is checking for working smoke alarms on most calls for service and replacing detector batteries if needed.

### Fire alarm fees

The Minnetonka Fire Department is still primarily a paid-on-call fire department and there are costs associated with response to false fire alarm calls. There is a \$250 charge for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm, except fire sprinkler or water flow alarms and for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system.

### Fire training

The average firefighter in Minnetonka attended more than 82 hours of training during the first quarter of 2014 — seven hours a week. Below are a few highlights from training.

- Refresher training on ice rescue and initial training on the new engine.
- Presentation by the Minnetonka Police Department on assisting with law enforcement rapid-entry teams, followed by participation in a simulated rapid-entry rescue.
- The annual SKYWARN refresher, with information from the National Weather Service on severe weather spotting. This is required to maintain Minnetonka's StormReady certification.
- Participation in the January Family Fire Day event.

### Prevent flooding at your home

Minnetonka Fire offers the following tips to help prevent flooding, storm or fire damage at your home this spring.

- Clear neighborhood sewer drains of winter debris.
- Keep window wells, gutters and downspouts clear of debris.
- Remove excess snow from the home's foundation.
- Make sure your sump pump is operational. Move valuables from lower levels.
- Monitor local weather. Avoid driving through flooded areas.
- Rake leaves, dead limbs and twigs. Clear all flammable vegetation.
- Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures, dead branches that extend over the roof and vines from the walls of homes.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy and also prepare/update a list of your home's contents.



### Severe Weather Awareness Week:

Each day of Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 21 – 25, focuses on a different topic. As recently as 2011, Minnesota led the nation in number of tornadoes reported. Take the time now to ensure you and your family are ready for these severe weather events.

**April 21:** Severe Weather Warnings and Systems — Weather information, advisories, watches, and warnings are prepared by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen and distributed through Wireless Emergency Alerts (via smartphones), the Emergency Alert System (via local media), NOAA's all-hazard weather radios and outdoor warning sirens in case of tornado warnings.

**April 22:** thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds, and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota every year.

**April 23:** On average, five flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June. Southeastern Minnesota was hit hard by flash-flooding in August 2007. Half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.

**April 24:** The National Weather Service will simulate a tornado watch starting at 9 a.m. Two tornado drills, with simulated tornado warnings and sounding of the outdoor warning sirens, will occur at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

The first allows schools and businesses to practice sheltering plans while the second allows families and second-shift workers to practice their plans.

**April 25:** Heat-related fatalities outpace deaths in several other weather categories. Based on national averages from 1992-2001, excessive heat claimed 219 lives each year while annually floods killed 88; tornadoes, 57; lightning, 52; and hurricanes, 15.



## Antiques appraisal event is April 15

**T**hosts its antiques appraisal Tuesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Assessments will be conducted in the “Antiques Roadshow” style, with each exhibitor telling the story of their item for the audience. The public is welcome.

Registrations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.minnetonka-history.org](http://www.minnetonka-history.org) for a registration form. Please include your name, phone number, e-mail address, description and/

or picture of the item with a check for \$7 per item to Minnetonka Historical Society Antiques Appraisal, c/o Jacque Larson, City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Limit 2 items per household. Walk-ins will not be accepted — you must be registered to participate in the appraisal process. Due to time limitations, appraisers cannot review stamps, sports cards, weapons, coins, dolls or fine jewelry. Please bring only items you can carry safely yourself — transport assistance will not be provided. ☺

## City offers workshop on property issues

**T**good neighbors,” but the reverse can also be true. Property conditions like untrimmed trees, deteriorating fences, backyard junk and property line disputes often result in soured neighborhood relationships. Attend a workshop Wednesday, May 7, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Minnehaha Room at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, to learn about the options available to address property issues between neighbors. The city’s attorneys will explain

the difference between private property disputes and city ordinance violations and the remedies available in civil and criminal court proceedings. Community development staff will provide information on the city’s code enforcement procedures, protecting the identities of people who make complaints, and mediation services that are available to residents. Registration is required and limited to 40. Please RSVP by calling (952) 939-8394 or email [bnitz@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bnitz@eminnetonka.com). ☺

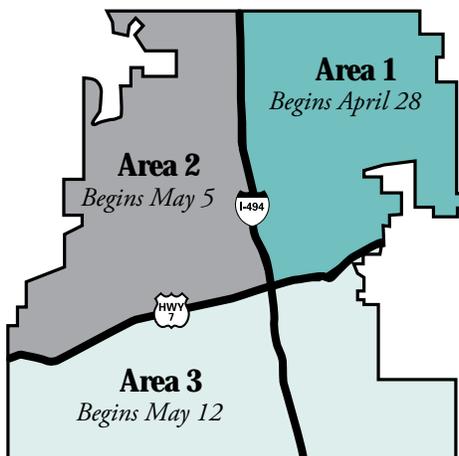
## Water main flushing starts Monday, April 28

**M**flush water mains throughout the city from April 28 through May 15, 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 28
- **Area 2** Begins May 5
- **Area 3** Begins May 12

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

- **April 28** Ridgedale business area: 5:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **May 5** Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway: 5 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **May 15** 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. ☺

## Burwell House tour guides needed

**M**Burwell House is a treasured city resource and tours led by volunteers play a critical role in bringing this site to life.

Tours take place Saturdays, Tuesdays and Wednesday evenings from June through August; on Saturdays in September; and by special appointment. Tour guides also work with elementary school students each spring as they learn about Minnetonka’s history by visiting the Burwell House. The house is air conditioned, and tour guides do not wear costumes. Training is provided.

To learn more about becoming a tour guide, attend a spring tour guide open house event: Tuesday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m., or Tuesday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m. Open houses are one hour and take place at the Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road. Take a tour of the house and learn what it takes to become a tour guide.

Volunteering at the Burwell House is a great way to get involved in the community. For more information, contact Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or [lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com](mailto:lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com), or Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207 or [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Pick up your rain barrel, compost bin

**I**compost bin for pick up at the St. Louis Park location, don’t forget to pick it up May 3, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., or May 5, 5 – 7 p.m.! Please note that this is the only date and time to

pick up your order. Pickup location is Tree Trust, 2231 Edgewood Avenue South, St. Louis Park.

If you would still like to order a barrel or bin, please check the Recycling Association of Minnesota website at [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). ☺



## Special events and programs

### A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier

**Tuesday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.**

This presentation addresses what an average soldier did during the Civil War. Learn about uniforms, food rations, daily drill and duties, how to load and fire a musket and other aspects of camp life including medicine, punishment, past times. Presenter is Dr. Stephen Johnson, a local Civil War re-enactor and Civil War enthusiast who volunteers his time to speak with groups.

**Cost:** \$2 (Call for availability)

**Course #33064**

### Downsizing: Don't Let Your Treasures Become Trash!

**ursday, April 3, 1 p.m.**

Learn ways to approach the sometimes daunting task of downsizing a lifetime of belongings. Jan Lehman, owner of Can the Clutter®, is a professional specializing in helping individuals downsize.

**Cost:** \$2 due Tuesday, April 1.

**Course #33066**

### Traveling Naturalist: Killer Whales

**Monday, April 7, 1 p.m.**

Melanie Shipman presents facts and stories about killer whales.

**Cost:** \$2 due ursday, April 3.

**Course #33067**

### Lunch and a Movie: "Gravity"

**Friday, April 11, 12 p.m.**

Dr. Ryan Stone is a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky. But on a routine spacewalk, disaster strikes. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving Stone and Kowalsky completely alone. The deafening silence tells them they have lost any link to Earth and any chance for rescue. But the only way home may be to go further out into the terrifying expanse of space.

**Cost:** \$5 due Wednesday, April 9.

**Course #33378**

### Volunteer Recognition

**ursday, April 17, 1:30 – 3 p.m.**

**(brief program at 2 p.m.)**

Minnetonka Senior Services would like to thank volunteers for their dedication that allows our center to excel. Enjoy socializing with other volunteers at this year's social. Assorted appetizers and dessert catered by Nelson's. Call senior services at (952) 939-8393 to RSVP by Monday, April 14.

- Free (Course #33379)

### Recovery for 60+

**Monday, April 21, 10:30 a.m.**

Drug addiction is growing right along with the elderly population. What kind of drugs are older adults addicted to? What are some myths and misconceptions about addiction and seniors? How many drinks a day can a senior have before it really starts to affect his or her health and well-being? Do people over 60 abuse drugs like heroin and meth? Will the Boomers see and approach alcohol and drug use any differently than their parents? Learn the answers to these questions and leave with an understanding of the current issues surrounding aging and addiction.

**Cost:** \$2 due Wednesday, April 16.

**Course #33380**

### Prevent Caregiver Stress, Burnout

**Tuesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.**

Learn to identify signs and symptoms of caregiver burnout, how to recognize the difference between stress and burnout, ways to evaluate your stress level and associated risks, specific steps caregivers can take to better manage stress and tools caregivers can use to prevent burnout. Presenter is Jim Tift, a community services coordinator at Tubman Elder Care and Rights Center.

**Cost:** \$2 due Wednesday, April 16

**Course #33381**

### Life-Saving Training with Minnetonka Fire fighters

**ursday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.**

A simple, easy-to-learn action has the power to save lives, perhaps that of your spouse or friend. The Minnetonka Fire department presents a free life-saving bystander CPR/AED class, which teaches CPR skills and AED use to greatly increase rates of survival for cardiac arrest victims. Leave the class with both knowledge and a wallet reminder card of the steps to take in an emergency.

- Free (Course #33382)

### Community Connections

**Monday, April 28, 10:30 a.m.**

In partnership with the Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers, Minnetonka Senior Services offers Community Connections. April's topic is uncommon facts about common birds presented by wildlife photographer and writer Stan Tekiela.

**Cost:** \$2 due Friday, April 25.

**Course #33383**

### Cub Foods Bratwurst Stand

**ursday April 17 – Saturday April 19, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Senior Center office for more information. Please stop by the stand to support our center!

### Tunisia in the Mid-60's

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

Minnetonka resident Fred Leverentz shares a slide presentation of his Peace Corps experiences in Tunisia during the mid-60's. See cultural treasures that have since been destroyed by modernization.

**Cost:** \$2 due ursday, April 24

**Course #33387**

## Classes

### Beginning & Intermediate Yoga Nancy Holasek

These gentle yoga classes are geared toward the older adult, with lots of stretching and warm-ups. The 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 ★★

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

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

- Tuesday, April 1 – 22 \$25  
(Course #32237)
- Thursday, April 3 – 24 \$25  
(Course #32239)

#### Intermediate Yoga Class ★★★

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 1 – 22 \$25  
(Course #32240)
- Thursday, April 3 – 24 \$25  
(Course #32242)

### Evening Yoga Nancy Holasek

Wednesdays, April 2 – 23, \$25

Evening yoga classes have the same descriptions as the daytime classes.

- Chair Yoga, 6:15 p.m. ★★  
(Course #32238)
- Intermediate Yoga, 7:30 p.m. ★★★  
(Course #32241)

### Mah Jongg Carole Harris

Wednesdays, April 9 – May 21,  
10 a.m. – 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 back in the time of Confucius, but it has been modernized, simplified and Westernized for all to enjoy. Played previously? Refresh your skills.

- \$55 (Course #32279)

### Zumba Gold ★★★ Jan Gamble

1 – 2 p.m.

Zumba Gold is a dance fitness class which uses the exciting Latin and international dance rhythms of the original Zumba class and modifies them for beginner participants and others who may desire a less intense, low-impact workout. Using dance and fitness moves, experience a complete body workout while learning the basic steps to salsa, meringue, cha-cha and other rhythms. No dance experience is necessary. This class is open to both men and women but partners are not necessary. Comfortable clothing and workout shoes are recommended. Bring water — you will sweat!

#### Mondays

- April 7 – May 5 (Course #32272) \$25

#### Wednesdays

- April 2 – May 7 (Course #32273) \$30

### Line Dance Eileen Ronning

Wednesdays, April 3 – May 15

#### Continuing Beginner: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Must have completed 8 previous lessons.

- \$35 (Course #32261)

#### Intermediate: 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Must have completed 50+ previous classes.

- \$35 (Course #32262)

### Sketch and Paint Studies Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays April 30 – May 14,  
1 – 2:45 p.m.

Learn some drawing methods and explore a variety of materials. Draw with pen and ink, graphite pencil and wash with watercolor. Explore conte crayons, charcoal and colored pencils to blend shapes and color on toned paper. Draw with a brush to make monochromatic, expressive paintings. Draw or paint plant, flora, nature, city scapes and other subject matter. Be inspired by examples from major artists' work. Supplies available for classroom use; however, please bring your own supplies if you have them.

- \$60 (Course #32281)

### British History Terry Kubista

Wednesdays, April 3 – 24 1 – 3 p.m.

Topics include: Victoria's Children — what happened to Victoria's children? One became King of England but what about the other eight? Royal children of Britain: Past & Present; the coronation of 1953; and Royal Weddings: Pomp & Circumstance Illustrated.

- \$30 (Course #32276)

### Canadian History and Life 101: Economy, Foreign Affairs and Future

#### Dick Sadler

Wednesdays, April 2 – May 28,  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This is a beginner's class: historical and biographical perspective will be gained from the Canadian Broadcasting Corp's DVD series, *Canada, A People's History*; the pursuits and culture of the people will be explored through various texts. The course facilitator, himself a fledgling among things Canadian, welcomes all interested in learning together about Maple Leaf country over coffee and exchange. This class meets every other Wednesday.

- \$30 (Course #32278)

### Bridge II Lee Solee

Mondays, April 21 – May 19, 1 – 3 p.m.

For those who want to continue learning the challenging game of bridge. Please bring a deck of cards, as they are required for this class.

- \$30 (Course #33376)

### Monday Morning Golf League

Mondays, May 5 – August 25.

New longer season! This is an informal 16-week co-ed Monday morning league plays at four area golf courses: Glen Lake, Fred Richards, Braemar and Eagle Lake. Participants are rotated with different players each week.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people. Registration deadline is April 11. Space is limited to 36 golfers.

- \$230 (Course #32285)

# Events & Trips

## Upcoming Events

### Minnetonka Bike Club: Information/Kick-Off meeting

*Thursday, April 3, 9:30 a.m.*

The Minnetonka Bike Club is entering its sixth season. The goal of the club is to provide moderate exercise under safe conditions and to encourage social interaction and friendship. The club has three groups to accommodate different levels of riding ability. Over 50 trails are scheduled with a majority on designated bike trails. There is an \$11 annual registration fee to belong to this club. For more information visit [www.mtkabikers.org](http://www.mtkabikers.org). New members are welcome!

### Community Dance

*Friday, April 25, 7-9:30 p.m.*

*with dance lessons from 6:15-7 p.m.*

Come move your feet to Tim Patrick and his Blue Eyes six-piece combo at the community ballroom dance.

**Cost:** \$13 per person and pre-registration is required. Cost will be \$15 at the door.

**Location:** Eisenhower Community Center.

**To Register:** Call (952)401-6800 or visit [www.minnetonkacommunityed.org](http://www.minnetonkacommunityed.org)

### Cinco de Mayo

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

Enjoy a traditional Mexican cuisine catered by Nelson's.

**Cost:** \$5 due Monday, April 28.

**Course #33388**

### Minnetonka Tech Fair

*Thursday, May 8, 1-3 p.m.*

If you are thinking about purchasing a new computer, want to know how to set up a new computer, or if you need help with an existing computer or tablet come to this special event. Members from the Minnetonka Seniors Computer Interest Group will present. Coffee and treats will be provided. RSVP by Tuesday, May 6.

**Course #33389**

### Community Shred Event

*Friday, May 9, 1-3 p.m.*

A shredding truck will be here for all your shredding needs.

**Cost:** \$5 for up to five grocery bags, max of 10 bags. Payment is due at event.

## Defensive Driving Classes

Please call the MN Highway Safety Center toll free at 1-888-234-1294, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register, or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org) for all defensive driving classes. Four-hour renewal courses cost \$20. Eight-hour courses cost \$24 and are offered two times per year. Pay the instructor at the time of the class with a check or exact cash. Checks payable to MN Highway Safety Center. Save 10% on your car insurance by taking these classes!

### Day course (four-hour renewal)

- Tuesday, April 8, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 22, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Evening course (four-hour renewal)

- No evening courses offered in April.

### Evening course (eight-hour renewal)

- See website for upcoming May dates.

## Income Tax Help Available

Complicated and time-consuming tax returns will not be completed at this site. The purpose of this income tax site is for simple, basic returns. Call to see if appointments are still available.

### Mondays, April 7, 14

Appointment times: 12:30, 1:45 & 3 p.m.

### Wednesdays, April 3, 10

Appointment times: 12:30, 1:45 & 3 p.m.

## Day Trips

### Shell Lake, Wisconsin ★★

*Friday, May 23*

Tour the Museum of Woodcarvings created by Joseph T. Barta, the Railroad Memories Museum in Spooner, Crystal Lake Cheese Factory and enjoy lunch at the Dinner Bell Restaurant.

### Course #33390

- **Cost:** \$58 includes tours, lunch, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 8:00 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, May 2

## Extended trips

For a further information and a full list of extended trip offerings and brochures, call Senior Community Services at (952) 541-1019 or visit [www.seniorcommunity.org](http://www.seniorcommunity.org) and click on programs and go to senior tours.

### Pella, Iowa, Tulip Time Festival (May 2-5)

Cost: \$525 per person, double occupancy.

### Shippshewana, Indiana (May 19-23)

Cost: \$700 per person, double occupancy.

## The Landing Shop

Browse and buy handmade items crafted by Minnetonka residents 55 and older. Items available for sale include wooden toys, doll clothes and furniture, baby items, clothing, aprons, paintings, cards, books and more.



The Landing Shop is located at 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, at the northwest corner of I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad/Cty. Rd. 73 in Westridge Market. Shop is open Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Interested in selling your handmade items at the shop? Shop consignors must be at least 55 years old and reside in Minnetonka. Consignors may volunteer at the shop. Questions, call Kathy at (952) 939-8391.

## Activity level scale

The following scale is an approximate guide of the activity level and physical ability required for a class or trip.

### Activity scale

- ★ — Passive
- ★★ — Moderate
- ★★★ — Active
- ★★★★ — Brisk
- ★★★★★ — Vigorous

## Registration

### Ways to register

- **Walk-in**  
Pay with cash, check or credit card (Visa, Discover & MasterCard)
- **Mail-in**  
Send registrations to Minnetonka Senior Services, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345. Include your name, address, phone number and the name of the program, class or trip.
- **By phone**  
Registrations are accepted at (952) 939-8393, with a credit card.
- **Online**  
For more information, call the center at (952) 939-8393.

### Cancellation information

- **Class cancellations**  
Requires at least two business days prior to the start date of the class. Some classes may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.
- **Trip cancellations**  
Requires cancelling prior to the registration deadline. If a cancellation is made after the payment deadline, the participant is refunded/credited everything but \$5 (administration fee) only if a replacement is found.

### Trip registration

Participant can register up to four spaces on a trip. Trips are subject to change. If change occurs, participants will be notified.

## Contact us...

### Minnetonka Senior Services

(952) 939-8393

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

### Senior Services & Activities Manager

**Steve Pieh**

(952) 939-8366

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

### Secretary

**Kathy Kline**

(952) 939-8393

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

## 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 center.

### Bird Club

**Friday, April 4, 10 a.m.**

Featured Speaker: Kevin Smythe

Topic: Birding Optics and Viewing Nature.

### Bulls & Bears Investment Club

**Monday, April 7 & 21, 1 p.m.**

### Garden Club

**Monday, April 14, 1 p.m.**

Featured Speaker: Bob from Tonkadale

Greenhouse. Topic: Gardening in containers and small spaces.

### Tonka Tale Tellers

**Monday, April 14, 10 a.m.**

### Book Club

**Wednesday, April 17, 1 p.m.**

*Plainsong* by Kent Haruf

### Literary Book Club

**Tuesday, April 22 7:15 p.m.**

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

## Services

### Over 50 & t

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

Annual Fee: \$12 (Course #32119)

### Blood Pressure Screenings

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

### Happy Feet

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

To schedule or cancel an appointment, call (763) 560-5136. Cost: \$35.

### Weekly E-mail Updates

To receive weekly e-mail updates on center happenings, send your e-mail address to [spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com).

### Volunteer Opportunities

Please call senior services at (952) 939-8393 for more information or to volunteer.

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

### Senior Community Services

Services listed below are provided by Senior Community Services, a local non-profit.

- **CareNextion**  
Free, easy-to-use online tool and complimentary phone service for caregivers and their families. For more information visit [www.carenextion.org](http://www.carenextion.org) or call (612) 770-7005.
- **Senior outreach**  
Available by appointment on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Mary Ann Lundberg at (952) 939-8393 or [m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:m.lundberg@seniorcommunity.org)
- **Health insurance counseling**  
Available by appointment on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month.
- **H.O.M.E.**  
Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (H.O.M.E.) is available for Minnetonka residents 60+. For more information call (952) 939-8363.

Group	Meeting day	Information
Advisory Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
AA/AI-Anon	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.	All ages welcome. New members welcome.
Billiards	Every afternoon - time varies	See calendar page for times.
Bingo	Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m.	
Bird Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 10 a.m.	April 4–Kevin Smythe, Birding Optics and Viewing Nature.
Book Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.	April 17– <i>Plainsong</i> by Kent Haruf
Bulls & Bears Investment Club	1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 1 p.m.	
Social Bridge	Wednesdays at 12:45 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> place and grand slam prizes awarded.
Bunco	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1 p.m.	Don't know how to play? They will teach you.
Duplicate Bridge	Thursdays at 6 p.m.	Partners needed.
Card Games	Mondays at 1 p.m.	Rummikub & Hand and Foot, alternating Mondays. See calendar page for game dates.
Chess	Thursdays at 12 p.m.	If you have general knowledge of chess, join us.
Chorale	Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.	New members welcome.
Computer Interests	Fridays at 10 a.m. Website: <a href="http://mscig.wordpress.com">mscig.wordpress.com</a>	This group examines topics of interest. Experience ranges from beginner to expert.
Craft Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
Cribbage	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Bring your cribbage boards and a deck of cards.
500 Card Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Mtka Community Garden Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 1 p.m.	April 14–Speaker: Bob from Tonkadale Greenhouse. New members welcome!
Literary Book Club (Formerly Great Books)	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:15 p.m.	April 22– <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe
Ham Radio	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
The Landing Shop	Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.	The Landing Shop is located at 11280 Wayzata Blvd. Phone (763) 591-4868. The Landing shop sells handmade items crafted by Minnetonka residents 55+.
Mah Jongg	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
Pickleball	Monday-Friday, times vary.	Courts at Meadow Park will be available for outdoor play contingent on weather. For more information call 952-939-8393.
Poker	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	Join us for a good game of poker.
Scribblers	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Attention all writers (amateur to professional), if you enjoy writing poems, storytelling, fiction or short stories come join us and share your work with fellow writers. New members welcome!
Single Mingle Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at The Depot	Various events scheduled monthly. Stop by the center to pick up a listing of events. New members welcome.
Tonka Tale Tellers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	This group travels to elementary schools within the area to tell and animate stories.
Tale Spinners	Tuesdays at 1 p.m.	This group offers rapport and support for seniors interested in writing memoirs, fiction, etc.
Wood Carvers	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Group members work independently but also share ideas with one another.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Poker Club 10:00                      Craft Committee 10:00                      Civil War Soldier 10:30                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Canadian History 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Bike Club Kick-O Mtg 9:30                      Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      British History 1:00                      Downsizing Presentation 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Bird Club 10:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      B&amp;B Investment Club 1:00                      Traveling Naturalist 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Defensive Driving 9:00                      Yoga 9:45                      500 Cards 10:00                      Advisory Board 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Senior Outreach 1:00</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Mah Jongg Class 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      500 Cards 6:30                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Tapestry Tour 9:30                      Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Legal Assistance 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      British History 1:00                      Bunco 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Lunch &amp; Movie 12:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Ham Radio 10:00                      Tonka Tale Tellers 10:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Garden Club 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Rummikub 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Poker Club 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Single Mingle Club Mtg @                      e Depot in Hopkins 1:30</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Mah Jongg Class 10:00                      Canadian History 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Book Club 1:00                      British History 1:00                      Billiards 3:00                      Volunteer Recognition 1:30                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00</p> <p><i>*Cub Foods event runs April 17 - 19 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.</i></p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Recovery for 60+ 10:30                      B&amp;B Investment Club 1:00                      Bridge II 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Health Insurance 6:00</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Defensive Driving 9:00                      Yoga 9:45                      500 Cards 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Senior Outreach 1:00                      Prevent Caregiver Stress 6:30                      Literary Book Club 7:15</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Mah Jongg Class 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Billiards 2:00                      Yoga 6:15                      500 Cards 6:30                      Int. Yoga 7:30</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Scribblers 10:00                      Legal Assistance 10:00                      Life-Saving Training 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Billiards 3:00                      Bunco 1:00                      British History 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Oil Painting 1:00                      Community Dance @                      Eisenhower in Hopkins 6:15</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tai Chi Chih 10:00/11:30                      Community Connections 10:30                      Bridge II 1:00                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Rummikub 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Bingo 12:45                      Tale Spinners 1:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Mah Jongg Class 10:00                      Canadian History 10:00                      Chorale 10:15                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Tunisia in the Mid-60's 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Zumba Gold 1:00                      Sketch and Paint Studies 1:00                      Billiards 2:00</p>		

 2014 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

April 1 – May 17\*

## 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 7, 14, 21, and 28
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 5, 12, 19 and 26



\* 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 1

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 Tuesday, April 1. Brush drop-off will end November 22.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on the following two holidays: Memorial Day, May 26; and Labor Day, September 1.

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. 

# Natural Resource Notes

## Oak pruning season ended in March

**A** stop pruning oak trees in order to avoid the fatal oak wilt disease. If you need to cut a living branch or remove an oak tree from April through October, it's important to spray the pruning cut or top of the stump immediately with latex 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 through the branch wound or stump into the roots. 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.

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. Oak wilt researchers break up the calendar year into three sections 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 [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). If you have questions about oak wilt disease, contact Emily Ball, city forester at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Shallow lakes forum offered April 12

**T** Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, along with several other sponsors, are offering a shallow lakes forum called "The Benefits of Being Shallow" Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chanhassen. A shallow lake is 15 feet or less in depth and at least 50 acres in size. You'll learn how a shallow lake works, how to determine its health, what regulations affect these lakes and how to engage neighbors and friends in protecting shallow lakes. Cost is \$10 online or \$15 at the door. Register at [www.minnehahacreek.org/shallow-lakes](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/shallow-lakes). Light breakfast provided. ☺

## Volunteers needed to pull garlic mustard

**C**ity is asking groups such as Scout troops, businesses, churches, associations or clubs to help pull garlic mustard in some of the city's park 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 on site. Call Janet Van Sloun at (952) 988-8423 to learn more. ☺



Garlic mustard

## Keep leaves and yard waste out of street

**P** rake leaves, grass clippings, or other yard wastes or debris into the street while attending to home and yard care chores.

In addition to creating a potential hazard, these materials will wash from the roadway onto the nearest wetland, lake or creek where they can impair water quality. Also, as these materials decompose over time, they release nutrients into the water that are then available for weed and algae growth.

Dispose of yard wastes properly through the services offered by your garbage hauler, using the city drop-offs when available (see page 10), or other legal alternatives such as composting, private drop-off sites, etc.

Check out the "Complete Yard Care" guide in the Backyard Conservation section at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for tips on maintaining your yard while helping to protect local natural resources, while possibly saving a little time and effort as well. ☺

## Help monitor the city's wetlands

**I** volunteering to monitor the health of Minnetonka's wetlands? Each year adult volunteers wade through wetlands in Minnetonka to learn more about the plants and insects that live there and to provide an assessment of the wetland's overall health. All monitoring is done as a team and training is provided. You do not need a science background or any previous monitoring experience to participate. Training generally starts in May with monitoring primarily in June and July. This is a great opportunity to learn about and help Minnetonka's wetlands!

To volunteer, contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988-8422 or [aschwartz@eminnetonka.com](mailto:aschwartz@eminnetonka.com). For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (search "wetland monitoring") or visit [www.mnwhep.org](http://www.mnwhep.org) ☺



# Give these non-native invasive wild flowers the heave-ho

These species are commonly found growing

wild in Minnetonka. While they look showy and are listed in older wildflower

books, they replace higher-value native species and should be removed.

## Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiac*)

- Native to central Asia and southeast Europe and widely naturalized around the world; has a history of medicinal uses.
- Grows in part sun to shade in disturbed and untended areas.



Motherwort basal leaves

- Herbaceous perennial that grows into a clump greater than one foot in diameter and up to three feet tall over time.
- Basal leaves are opposite on a square stem, maple-like, palmately-lobed with deep wrinkled veins in the upper surface; leaves on the flower stalk differ from basal leaves and are v-shaped, decreasing in size up the stem.
- Flower stalks do not occur the first year and increase in number as the plant forms a clump over time. Small pink to lilac irregular, fused-tube flowers with two lips are born in the upper stem leaf axils and form a whorl around the stem in July.
- After the flowers fall, four-chambered spiny seed cups become visible around the stem with seeds that ripen black.

**Control:** Pull or dig the mature, compact, fibrous-rooted plant with a hand trowel. Prior to mid-summer the whole plant can be composted or put out with the yard

waste. In summer and fall, cut and bag any seed capsules from the flowering stem for the trash.



Motherwort flowering stem

## Bitter Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*)

- Native to Europe and Asia and widely naturalized around the world.
- Grows in sun to full shade.
- Herbaceous perennial vine that can become semi-woody near its base; trails over other plants with tendrils one to



Bitter Nightshade leaves and red fruit

six feet high; will produce shallow roots where it touches the ground.

- Leaves alternate on the stem, look like common lilac (without teeth on the margin) and can have one or two lobes at the base. Foliage is poisonous to humans.
- Half-inch diameter purple flowers bloom in loose clusters of three to 20 in summer; five purple petals form a star shape with a yellow pointed center.
- Green oval berries ripen bright red in late summer and fall. They are soft, full of white seeds, spread by birds and poisonous to humans.

**Control:** Pull the shallow-rooted plant out of moist ground slowly because the main roots can break easily. Put the berries in the trash. The rest of the plant can be composted or put out with yard waste.



Bitter Nightshade flowers

**European Bell ower/ Creeping Bell ower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)**

- Native to Europe, introduced as an ornamental. Invades woods, stream banks, shorelines, gardens, lawns, alleyways and cracks. It creates a wide-spreading ground cover in lawns arising from a network of root tubers and a colony of flowering stems where it is not mowed.
- Herbaceous perennial that can creep to form very large patches.



*Creeping Bell ower ground cover: 85% of these leaves are the invasive bell ower; a few wild owers are in the background.*

- Leaves are 1- to 3-plus inches long, heart-shaped to bluntly pointed with coarse teeth; emerge early in spring; can form a ground cover.
- Flower stems up to three feet tall can emerge without basal leaves from another part of the inter-connected root system. Bluish-purple flower bells bloom from mid stem upward, in July and August. Each flower can produce up to 100 tiny seeds.
- Roots are white tubers about 3 to 7 inches deep, connected to the soil



*Creeping Bell ower in garden. Broadleaves in adjacent turf are bell ower, too.*

surface and other tubers by thinner trailing roots that break when the plant is pulled, leaving the tuber intact to re-sprout again and again. Creeping roots become intertwined with other plants.

**Control:** Challenging. Dig out tubers with a garden fork or hand trowel. Fragments are easily missed among the roots of other plants, so basal leaves do return. Leaves among desired plants can be daubed with herbicide in a wick applicator. This is time consuming and needs to be repeated. Pull flower stalks and bag for the trash so seeds won't disperse. Look for more information on this species in July on the city website.



*Creeping Bell ower with rock mulch*

**Canada istle (*Cirsium arvense*)**

- Herbaceous perennial 2 – 5 feet tall that spreads by underground roots to form colonies in full sun; can spread up to 12 feet in one season.
- One of the founding plants on the first prohibited noxious weed list issued by the state in the 1800s. It remains on the list today in Minnesota and 42 other states.



*Canada istle emerging from asphalt*

- Leaves smooth with prickly margins, deeply lobed and attached directly to the stem.
- Lavender-purple flowers bloom in July on the top of upper branched stems, later giving rise to tufts of seed heads.

**Control:** Required by law to prevent its spread by seed and propagating parts. It can be hand pulled with thick gloves (first pull in the flower bud stage) repeatedly throughout the season for multiple years



*Canada istle seed tufts*

to run the plant out of energy. It can also be weed-whacked in the summer flower bud stage followed by a fall herbicide spray of the short re-sprouts. Control may take several years.



*Canada istle flowers*

# Natural resource stations offers a wide variety of spring walks and talks

The natural environment by participating in a series of workshops and plant walks offered by natural resource division stations. Dates, times and topics are listed below. Register for workshops and plant walks by visiting [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400, unless otherwise indicated.

## May guided plant walks

Walks take place in a Minnetonka park where native habitat restoration is underway. Walk with the city's restoration specialist and learn about recent restoration activities. Identify wildflowers where buckthorn has been removed, and see some now-uncommon woody species that are

being restored. Discuss the importance of a diversity of native plant species for the native insect pollinators and songbirds, and identify some of the invasive "bad guys."

- Walks are held rain or shine. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.
- Recommended equipment: water bottle, binoculars and notebook.
- Meet at location specified in table.

RSVP is required and limited to 15 for each walk. Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or register online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



The 2014 Native Plant Sale is June 4, 3 – 7 p.m.

## 2014 Schedule: Eco Walks and Talks

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
April 25	Friday	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Tree Sale Pick-Up*	Minnetonka Public Works 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.
April 26	Saturday	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.		
				* All trees must be pre-ordered <b>before</b> the pick-up event.
April 30	Wednesday	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Garlic Mustard #1	Community Room Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
May 3	Saturday	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Pick-Up*	Tree Trust 82231 Edgewood Ave S, St. Louis Park
May 5	Monday	5 – 7 p.m.		
				* All rain barrels and compost bins must be ordered <b>before</b> the pick-up event through <a href="http://www.recycleminnesota.org">www.recycleminnesota.org</a>
May 7	Wednesday	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #1	<b>Minnetonka Mills Park</b> Meet at Burwell House parking lot, 13207 McGinty Road E.
May 8	Thursday	6 – 9 p.m.	Invasive Species Workshop	Community Room, Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard  Hosted by the city of Minnetonka and Eden Prairie. Learn more at <a href="http://www.edenprairie.org/livinggreen">www.edenprairie.org/livinggreen</a> .
May 14	Wednesday	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Garlic Mustard #2	Minnehaha Room Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
May 17	Saturday	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Spring Bird Walk	<b>Lone Lake Park</b> Meet at lower lot by picnic shelters, event held rain or shine.
May 21	Wednesday	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #2	<b>Purgatory Park</b> Park on Stodola Road. Meet at dead end circle (west of 17124 Stodola Road).
May 28	Wednesday	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #3	<b>Lone Lake Park</b> Meet at lower parking lot, 5624 Shady Oak Road.

# Pollinators are important — help them thrive in your yard

Many think of pollinators, but native pollinators also include wasps, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, ants, flies and bats. Pollinators are any animal or insect that collects pollen from one plant and moves it to another plant to allow for seed production. Without pollinators about 80% of plants could not produce the fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts we eat. You can also thank pollinators for the beautiful flowers we experience every year. Flowers, nectar, fragrance, and bright colors evolved in plants because they attracted animals that could help the plants to reproduce.

Due to their great importance in producing native plants and crops for humans and wildlife, protecting pollinators is essential. Unfortunately, the populations of many pollinators are declining, primarily due to habitat loss and pesticides. While farm land previously provided some benefit to pollinators, changing farming practices have increased the use of pesticides, reduced the use of cover crops, favored a monoculture of crops, and virtually eliminated clover along roadsides. Many farmers are also using land that was set aside for preservation in the Conservation Reserve Program to instead produce high-value crops like corn and soybeans.

You can do many simple things to help pollinators by creating a habitat for them in your own yard. Refer to the list at right and add some plants to your yard that pollinators love for food and shelter. Native plants are the best choice to encourage native pollinators since they evolved together. One great opportunity for finding

native plants is the city's Native Plant Market planned for June 4, 3–7 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall.

When purchasing garden plants ask if any pesticides have been used on them, as these can linger in the plant and harm pollinators. Also be aware of the location and amount of any pesticides you are applying in your yard. Only apply pesticides when other alternatives have been explored first as part of an integrated pest management approach. Don't spray pesticides on blooming plants and trees that pollinators are likely to visit. Keep in mind that in order to control many diseases and insects, timing is crucial, so consult a certified pesticide applicator if you are unsure about the pest's lifecycle.

Create nesting spots for solitary bees out of twigs, boards, or logs. Consider joining a citizen science project by reporting what types of bees you see in your yard to help researchers keep track of changes in population and range. ☺



Bee and butterfly on native thistle.  
(courtesy Je Cordes)

## Tips for buying healthy native plants

Easier in the past few years as the number of suppliers and available species have grown. Most species also can be purchased as potted plants, starter plugs or seed. Be sure you're happy with your purchases by following these tips:

- Check the species name (e.g. *Acer rubrum*) when you buy or order your native plants. Common names (e.g. Red Maple) may be used to refer to a number of different species which may be very different than what you intended to buy.
- Buy local. Purchasing native species originating from local sources increases the likelihood the plants are adapted to

the local environment and to local pollinators.

- Be wary of plants treated with insecticide as these insecticides may pose harm to the pollinators you hope to attract.

Find a list of native plant suppliers at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) (search "native plant suppliers"). Also, be sure to visit the Minnetonka Native Plant Market Wednesday, June 4, from 3–7 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, where you can purchase a wide variety of native plants directly from the participating vendors. Look for more information in the May *Minnetonka Memo*. ☺

## Attract pollinators with these plants

### Flowers:

- Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*)
- Meadow blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*)
- Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Scarlet bergamot (*Monarda didyma*)
- Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)
- Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Scarlet runner bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)
- Pink everlasting (*Sedum alboroseum*)
- Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)

### Trees and Shrubs:

- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.)
- Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Apple or Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)
- Cherry (*Prunus* spp.)
- Sumac (*Rhus* spp.)
- Wild roses (*Rosa* spp.)
- Raspberries and blackberries (*Rubus* spp.)
- Basswood (*Tilia americana*)



Owlet Moth caterpillar

# Plant these wild flowers to attract pollinators to your garden

**W** herbaceous wildflowers will do the trick. The first three species are generally

suited for planting along or just outside the edge of a wetland, lake, or creek. They also may be suited to the bottom of rain gardens

or other areas with moist soils and will tolerate occasional flooding. ♪

## Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

- Large pink flower clusters mid-summer (3 to 5 feet tall)
- Prefers full sun, but will tolerate some shade
- Provides late-season nectar for a large range of insects including butterflies, hummingbird moths, and several species of bees
- Larval host plant for Monarch butterflies — Monarch larva/caterpillars rely exclusively on the foliage of milkweed species (such as Common, Butterfly, and Swamp Milkweeds). The adult butterflies also feed on the flower nectar.



Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.

## New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

- Compound purple flowers from late summer through early fall (2 to 6 feet tall)
- Prefers full to part sun and will also tolerate slightly drier conditions.
- Provides both nectar and pollen to visiting insects late in the growing season.
- A preferred nectar source for butterflies since the contrasting flowers are easy to spot at a distance. Each flower head contains multiple florets on which to feed, and the large flower head provides an easy landing and resting place.



Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.

## Fragrant Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

- This species is better suited to upland, drier sites such as prairie, butterfly, or wildflower gardens, shallow rain gardens and dry woodland edges.
- Blue-violet, five-parted tubular flowers born in whorls around a spike. Blooms in July and August.
  - Full- to half-day sun; average to sandy dry soil.
  - Provides pollen for medium and large-sized bees and nectar for smaller bees and butterflies.
  - Fragrant anise aroma when the leaves or flowers are crushed; plant will self-seed about, but is not invasive.



Fragrant Giant Hyssop flowers

## Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)

- Single, white flowers from spring into summer (1 to 2 feet tall)
- Aggressive, native groundcover for full sun to part shade that can fill large areas or isolated patches with moist soils, including woodland edges and openings.
- Generally not a good garden species. Can spread rapidly and crowd out other lower-growing species, but is easily mowed if it spreads into lawn areas.
- Provides a reliable spring/summer pollen source for many species of pollinating insects, including bees.



Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.

## Did you know?

**Y**ou can attend natural resource workshops online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). See the list of classes on page 14. New workshops are announced throughout the year on the city's website. Not online? Call (952) 988-8400 to register. ♪

# More trees and shrubs to delight pollinators

**A** more flowers and fruit when planted in full sun. Many can tolerate partial shade.

## Trees

Plant these two trees to attract pollinators.

### Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

- Fragrant white flowers bloom in mid-May – June feed several bee species
- Foliage supports 456 species of caterpillars that become moths & butterflies



*Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.*

### Basswood (*Tilia Americana*)

- White & yellow sweet smelling flowers bloom July-August
- Excellent source of pollen and nectar for bees, flies, and moths
- Foliage supports 150 species of caterpillars that become moths & butterflies



*Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.*

## Shrubs

Attract pollinators with these shrubs:

### Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

- Compact forming shrub, good for replacing buckthorn in the woods
- Fragrant white flowers bloom in early May-mid June, feeding several bee species



*Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.*

### Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp*)

- Tall shrub/small tree, plant on wooded edges after removing buckthorn or in your full sun ornamental landscape
- White flowers bloom in late April – June attracting bees and flies



*Photo courtesy of Pollinators of Native Plants © 2014 Heather Holm.*

# Protecting ash trees and pollinators

**A** (EAB) has not yet been found in Minnetonka, many homeowners are opting to protect their trees due to the city's close proximity to nearby infested sites. If you are planning to use any of the homeowner formulations on your ash trees, please protect pollinators by following these guidelines.

Some treatments available to homeowners must be applied to the soil in a drench around the tree. Prior to applying the drench, all mulch and grass must be removed to ensure the chemical can be absorbed by the tree roots. When the chemical is applied to the soil, the ash roots will absorb it and distribute it throughout the stem, branches and twigs of the tree, offering protection from EAB attack.

Ash trees are wind-pollinated, so their flowers are not visited by pollinators. However, if flowering trees and shrubs are planted around the ash tree you plan to protect, they should be transplanted to another location in the year before the ash tree is treated. Otherwise, those flowering trees and shrubs will also absorb the chemical which will then be present in the leaves, nectar and pollen, presenting a toxic hazard to pollinators.

The most commonly used homeowner treatment contains an active ingredient called imidicloprid, and all but one brand (Optrol) are only effective on ash trees with a trunk smaller than 15 inches in diameter (or 48-inch circumference) at 4.5 feet off the ground. If your tree is larger, you must hire a professional who can apply a more concentrated dose. If you opt to hire a professionally certified pesticide applicator, they can provide the option of a stem treatment, which keeps the treatment within the tree.

For more information on EAB, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Just a minute... for our email newsletter!

**T**he newsletter offers a quick-to-read format that works well on mobile devices. Learn what's new and important each week: subscribe to the *Minnetonka Minute* at [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com).

# minnetonka memo

April 2014

PRESORTED  
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

**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

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ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

April  
2014

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
		1	2	3	4	5	2 Park Board, 7 p.m. 24 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 28 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: Capital Improvements Program)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m. 29 Annual Neighborhood Watch meeting, 7 p.m. (by invitation only)
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30				

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 replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream 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.

## Celebrate spring April 19

**C** Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 19, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Children 10 and under can enjoy face painting, spin art, musical entertainment, a jelly bean counting contest, games and a scavenger-style egg hunt that takes place both indoors and out. The spring bunny will be on hand, so be prepared to take photos. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Don't forget your basket for collecting eggs!

Registration is required by April 15 and is limited to 150. Same-day registration is not available. Cost is \$8 per child, course #31621. Call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register.

## Attend an election judge info session

**T** in the state general election. The city relies on a dedicated group of election judges to ensure the process goes smoothly for every voter.

Serving as an election judge is a great way to meet your neighbors and to protect one of our most cherished freedoms — the right to vote. Judges are needed for both the state primary election August 12 and for the state general election November 4. This is a paid opportunity and training is provided.

Learn more about what's involved in being an election judge at an information session Wednesday, April 23, 7–8 p.m. or Thursday, April 24, 10–11 a.m. Both sessions will take place in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. For more information visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219.