

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
April 2013

Attend the Silver Skates Ice Revue May 2, 3 and 4



Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School is proud to present the 39th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "A Spectrum of Skating." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities are featured again this year. Show times are:

Thursday	May 2	6:30 p.m.
Friday	May 3	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	May 4	2:00 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 10. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information. ☺

Pick up pre-ordered trees

Did you order a tree through the city tree sale? Be sure to mark your calendar now and pick them up on April 26 or 27. Pick-up times are as follows:

- Friday, April 26, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday, April 27, 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 26 or 27). 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 26 and 27, 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 Jo Colleran, natural resources manager, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Inside this edition:

You'll find two exciting features in this month's *Memo*. One is an annual spotlight, while the other is a new addition that will run monthly in the *Memo*.

- Find a wealth of information in this year's Natural Resources Notes special section, contained on pages 4 – 10.
- The Minnetonka Senior Services newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*, has traditionally been sent via regular mail to those who request it. Due to escalating postage costs, and to reach a wider audience, the *Minnetonka Script* has become part of the *Minnetonka Memo*. Find this month's *Script* — filled with exciting events, workshops, classes, trips and more — on pages 11 – 14. ☺



2012 Photo Contest: Trista Johnson, "No Wake"

Flashpoints

From the Minnetonka Fire Department



In firefighting lingo, a flashpoint is the temperature at which combustible materials can burst into flame. Flashpoints in this quarterly feature, however, are not so volatile — rather, they are the initiatives and events that serve as the catalyst for the excellent service provided every day by the Minnetonka Fire Department to city residents and businesses. For more information about any of these items, call the fire department at (952) 939-8598.

Recreational fires

As spring approaches, please be very careful with recreational fires. Residents should consider the weather before burning; a day with high winds or dry conditions may not be the best time to have a fire. Make sure your fire is constantly attended and you have an extinguishing method readily available.

Recreational campfires require a permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department, which can be obtained at www.eminnetonka.com. Even with a permit, the burning of brush, trash and leaves is not allowed. For those who have enjoyed campfires over the years, please visit www.eminnetonka.com to stay informed of the latest conditions of use for a recreational fire permit.

In addition, please remember that smoke and the smell of smoke often carries into neighboring homes, even on calm days. In addition to the fact that

not everyone likes the smell of a campfire (especially inside their home), smoke is also an irritant for those with chronic respiratory issues such as asthma, or other health problems. Beyond minding the conditions of the recreational fire permit, consider your neighbors as well.



Fire extinguisher recycling

Expired or empty residential fire extinguishers can be dropped off at the Minnetonka Fire Department,

14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4:30 p.m. Collected extinguishers will be sent to a local extinguisher servicing company for proper recycling.

Fire Responses

During the first quarter of 2013, the fire department responded to about 326 calls for service. The department's duty crew now handles most of the routine calls, while available members of the city's 80 paid-on-call firefighters assist with structure fires.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

Each day of Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 15 – 19, focuses on a different topic and provides the perfect opportunity to ensure you and your family are educated about and ready for these severe weather events.

- **April 15:** Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota every year.
- **April 16:** Severe weather warnings, watches and advisories are prepared by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen and distributed through the Emergency Alert System (via local media), weather radios and outdoor warning sirens (tornado warnings).
- **April 17:** Floods and flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June. Half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.
- **April 18:** Tornado Drill Day. 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 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 19:** 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 floods killed 88, tornadoes — 57, lightning — 52 and hurricanes — 15 each year.

Take steps to prevent flooding

Spring is finally here and now it is time to put winter behind us. Minnetonka Fire has some tips to prepare your home for spring flooding, storm or fire damage at your home or business.



- Clean neighborhood sewer drains of winter debris.
- Keep window wells, gutters and downspouts clear of debris.
- Remove excess snow from the house foundation.
- Make sure your sump pump is operational. Move valuables out of 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 your home.
- 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.

Fire alarm fee reminder

The Minnetonka Fire Department is still primarily a paid-on-call fire department, and it costs money to report to false fire alarms. For each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm, except fire sprinkler or water flow alarms, there is a \$250 charge. There is no charge for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system.

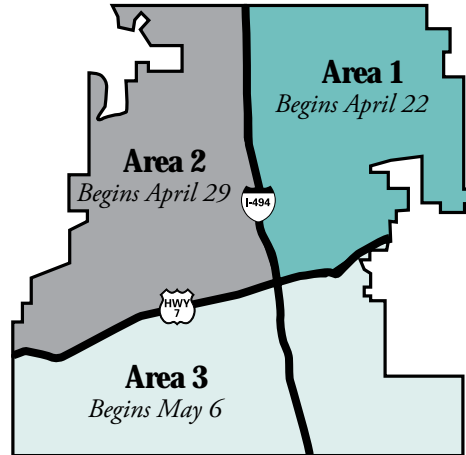
Water main flushing starts Monday, April 22

Minnnetonka Public Works will flush water mains throughout the city from April 22 through May 10, weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. See map to determine dates in your area.

- **Area 1** Begins April 22
- **Area 2** Begins April 29
- **Area 3** Begins May 6

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

- **April 22** Ridgedale business area: *5:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
- **April 29** Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway: *5 a.m. – 5 p.m.*
- **May 9** 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. ☺

Williston Center hosts open house

Wondering what all the fuss is about at Williston Fitness Center? Come and out at a free open house Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Williston Center is located at 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka.

Schedule of Events

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- Free admission and refreshments
- Batting cages (one token per child)
- Splashpad
- Tree House
- Free childcare

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pedal and Ride for Parkinson's will kick off the season with a 10-mile Fun Bike Ride, so bring your bike.

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pedal and Ride for Parkinson's will have bikes on display and available to demo. To schedule a bike demo, call Mary Jo at (952) 939-8359. ☺

Support Minnetonka crime prevention fund

The Minnetonka Crime Fund is a program sponsored by citizens, businesses and civic organizations designed to assist the Minnetonka Police Department in crime prevention. The Crime Fund is a non-profit, tax-exempt community effort that is separate from the police department. The fund is solely supported by tax-deductible contributions from residential, retail, and commercial sources, as per section 501(c) (3).

The Minnetonka Police Department Crime Fund promotes strong community partnerships and is run by a volunteer board of directors. The Minnetonka Police Chief is a board member and makes recommendations to the committee based on department and community needs. The board of directors ultimately decides how funds are to be administered.

Minnetonka's crime prevention programs include CounterAct, a drug and violence prevention program for fourth graders; Minnetonka Night for Neighbors; Neighborhood Watch; and a variety of safety education programs for children, adults and seniors. The Crime Fund also provides reward money for information



leading to an arrest or conviction in a criminal case and for purchasing specialized crime prevention equipment.

Each year, a quarter of Minnetonka households and businesses will receive a mailing about donating to the Minnetonka Crime Fund. The first of these mailings will go out this April. Please take a moment to consider how your tax-deductible contribution can help these programs and the community. Donations may also be sent to: The Minnetonka Crime Fund, PO Box 1255, Minnetonka, MN 55345. ☺

Attend an April tour guide open house

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

If you are interested in learning about becoming a tour guide, please attend one of our spring tour guide open house events: April 23 at 10:30 a.m., or April 30 at 6 p.m. Open house are one hour and take place at the Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road. You'll receive a tour of the house and learn what it takes to become a tour guide.

For more information, or to RSVP for one of the open house events, contact Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or lrnbeck@eminnetonka.com, or Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207 or jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Natural Resource Notes

An update about Emerald ash borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a green iridescent insect native to Asia, has already wreaked havoc in cities across the nation. While in its native habitat the EAB does little damage to otherwise healthy ash trees that have a natural defense mechanism to the bug, the effect on ash trees in the United States has been devastating.

Since its discovery in Michigan and Canada in 2002, EAB has destroyed millions of trees from Maryland to Wisconsin and Missouri to Quebec. EAB was first detected in Minnesota in 2009 in St. Anthony Park in Saint Paul and has since been found in Shoreview, at the Fort Snelling Golf Course near the Minneapolis Airport, in three separate neighborhoods in St. Paul, in Houston and Winona counties, and in two separate areas in Minneapolis.

The most recent, and nearest find to Minnetonka, was on February 1, 2013, in Lakewood Cemetery near Lake Calhoun.

Since the insect can fly a considerable

distance and identification of an infested ash tree could take years before any signs are seen and confirmed, it is important to stay vigilant to your ash tree's condition. Insecticide treatments can reduce the risk of damage to ash trees.

It's also important not to import rewood from or move rewood out of the quarantined counties (Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, and Winona County), unless it's certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Quarantines are in place and being enforced in these communities to slow the spread of the insect.

If you would like to determine if you have an ash tree in your yard, learn more about this insect and what the damage looks like, and be informed about recent updates, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx. For management information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info/les/Howtoprotectashtrees3-04.pdf. ☺

Stop pruning oaks

April marks the time oak tree pruning should end, in order to avoid fatal oak wilt disease. If you need to cut a living branch or remove an oak tree from April–October, it's important to spray the pruning cut or top of the stump immediately with latex spray paint.

November through March is the best time to prune oak trees, as well as 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 (but not “no risk”)
- **November – March:** No risk/safe

For more information on oak wilt, visit www.eminnetonka.com. If you have questions about oak wilt disease, contact Jo Colleran, natural resources manager, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Rain gardens provide big water benefits for a small investment

Rain gardens are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff before it reaches lakes, creeks, and wetlands, while also beautifying your yard.

A rain garden is essentially a shallow depression dug into the soil, then planted with species that will tolerate occasional standing water. They are not wetlands or ponds—a properly designed and built raingarden should only hold water for one to two days following a significant rainfall.

Rain gardens can tolerate a fairly wide variety of plants and many look very similar to an ordinary mulched and planted landscape bed once completed. A wide variety of flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs can be planted in a rain garden.

Rain gardens won't solve all the issues related to stormwater runoff or pollutants. Like all planting beds, they require some occasional weeding and general maintenance. However, keep in mind that even a small 10' x 10' rain garden that is 6 inches deep is large enough to hold and absorb one inch of rainfall from

600 square feet of rooftop (roughly the size of a two-stall garage), or the equivalent of 374 gallons.

Be certain to visit www.eminnetonka.com as well as www.Blueumb.org for more information and how-to videos about building a rain garden in your yard. There's an app for that too: try the free rain garden app from the Connecticut NEMO program at <http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/app/raingarden.htm>. ☺



Photo used courtesy of Blue umb. Photographer Adrian Danciu.

Rain garden tips

- Check your soil with a small test hole to see how well it will absorb water before you start designing your new garden.
- Avoid building a rain garden in areas that are already often wet or will not absorb water unless you can amend the soil to infiltrate or know for certain it is not a wetland (constructing a raingarden within a wetland would not be functional or legal).
- Rain gardens are meant to help protect our wetlands and not impact them or become one.
- Make certain any overflow from the rain garden is not directed toward your neighbor's or your own house's foundation. ☺

Seeing the community forest for the trees

What is a community forest? It's more than just trees. It's a healthy ecosystem with diverse species of trees, shrubs and plants, along with soil organisms, birds, wildlife, reptiles, amphibians, insects and decaying trees and plant material.

As a key component of Minnetonka's green infrastructure, trees provide a wide variety of benefits, like reducing noise and air pollution, assisting in saving energy and providing habitat for wildlife. In addition, the forest helps to reduce soil erosion, increase water infiltration and reduce water runoff and water contamination.

That's good news for surface waters. Water is a vital resource for all living things and it's important to help keep surface waters clean. Healthy, living trees, if placed in the correct location, help slow down runoff and trap pollutants before they enter the water. The larger the tree, the more benefits it provides for surface water protection and water conservation. For example, a 45-inch cottonwood can process about 6,298 gallons in a year (US Forest Service i-Tree tool).

So, what can you do to ensure that Minnetonka's forest and waters remain healthy?

- Keep the gutter and storm drains free of sediment and organic debris.

- Safely dispose of old and unused chemicals.
- Strategically plant more trees and maintain a diversity of trees on your property.
- Provide proper care and management to trees by watering, mulching and pruning. ♪



2012 Photo Contest: Dale Antonson, "Ancient Oak by Purgatory Creek"

Storm water meeting set for May 9

Residents who want to learn more about the city's water resources and storm water quality are invited to the city's annual storm water informational meeting on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

After a brief presentation about the city's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), Low Impact Development (LID) and impaired waters, staff will answer

questions and take comments regarding the city's current programs and future plans for storm water.

Copies of the SWPPP can be reviewed at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) or on the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com. For more information call Liz Stout, water resources engineer, at (952) 939-8233. ♪

Five ways to protect area water quality

Follow these five quick and easy tips to protect water quality in your neighborhood.

- **Sweep or blow grass clippings back on the lawn.** Grass clippings decompose quickly, releasing phosphorus and nitrogen that can promote the growth of algae and weeds in water resources. One year of grass clippings left on the lawn = one free fertilizer treatment.
- **Pick up pet waste.** In addition to being unsightly, pet waste contains nutrients and potentially harmful microorganisms that can affect surface waters. Dispose of pet waste in a proper waste receptacle.
- **Keep paved surfaces clean.** Sweep or soak up spills from fertilizers and other chemicals immediately before they reach the street and local storm drain or outlet, and reuse or properly dispose of as appropriate. Shovel, sweep or rake (rather than hose) soil, mulch and other yard wastes and materials before they wash away.
- **Direct water runoff onto lawn or planting beds.** Turn downspouts into your yard rather than down the drive if possible (but avoid turning toward a neighbor's or your house's foundation). Look for other ways to keep your runoff on your property with rain gardens, planting beds/berms, rain barrels, or other ideas.

- **Adopt a storm drain.** Clearing garbage, twigs, leaves and other debris from around the storm grate not only keeps water from backing up into the street but also keeps these materials from washing into the local wetland, lake, or creek. Dispose of with trash or yard waste as appropriate. ♪

Keep pollutants out of the storm drain

Don't dump! Storm water basins carry water with nutrients and pollutants directly to ponds, creeks, lakes and rivers. Dispose of used or leftover chemicals properly. Disposing of chemicals in the street or storm drain is harmful to our water resources and is illegal. Check www.hennepin.us/dropo or call (612) 348-3777 for information about the two free Hennepin County sites available for disposing of household chemicals such as pesticides, gasoline, oil, paint, solvents, and others. The Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection event is May 16, 17 & 18 at Minnetonka Public Works. See the May *Minnetonka Memo* for details. ♪



Follow the tips and ideas in this year's Natural Resources Notes, and you'll help protect Minnetonka's water quality! (2012 Photo Contest, Carolyn House, Nature's Best at Purgatory Park)

Be aware of coal-tar sealant hazards

Coal-tar seal coat is a type of sealant used to maintain and protect driveway and parking lot asphalt pavement. Coal tar, a byproduct of coal processing, contains high levels of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). As the sealant erodes, the PAHs can be washed into local lakes, ponds, creeks or wetlands.

PAHs are of concern because of their harmful effects on humans and the environment. They are persistent organic compounds, and several PAHs are known or probable human carcinogens and also toxic to aquatic life.

In one study, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies found the amount of PAHs in storm water runoff was 65 times higher from parking lots sealed with coal-tar sealant, as compared storm water from unsealed parking lots.

Additionally, PAHs from coal-tar sealcoat may accumulate in the sediment of stormwater ponds, requiring expensive disposal of the dredged PAH-contaminated sediment.

The good news is that steps are already being taken to decrease the use of coal-tar sealants:

- MnDOT, Hennepin County and the city of Minnetonka don't use coal-tar based sealants on roads.
- One of the nation's larger franchisers for pavement and driveway seal-coating services, Eagan-based Jet Black International, has said they are voluntarily phasing out coal-tar sealers.
- Most major retailers, local hardware stores and commercial applicators have already started making the transition away from coal-tar-based sealers to asphalt-based sealers.

To learn more about coal-tar sealants visit www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/coaltar.pdf or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at www.pca.state.mn.us and search "coal tar sealant." ☺



MnDOT, Hennepin County and the city of Minnetonka have eliminated coal-tar sealants for road maintenance.

The benefits of native grasses to landscapes

Native warm-season perennial grasses, once abundant in prairies all across western, central and southern Minnesota, provide many benefits to landscapes in rural, suburban and urban areas alike:

- Most native prairie grasses have deep roots that can grow up to fifteen feet below ground, and those roots provide benefits that improve soil structure, increase water infiltration and reduce runoff.
- About one-third of the root system of each prairie plant is replaced by new root growth each year, so as dead roots decompose, vital organic matter and nutrients are returned to the soil.
- Prairie grasses are tough, low-maintenance plants to consider for sunny areas where you'd like to reduce soil erosion or mowing and reap the added benefit of beautiful plants that provide habitat and food for small animals, frogs, toads, birds, butterflies and other insects.

Native prairie grasses are fully adapted to grow in our Midwestern landscape because they've been here for thousands of years. However, nearly all of the original prairies in the state have been replaced by agriculture, shallow-rooted nonnative forage grasses, turf grasses and development. Because native grasses play an important role in ecosystem restoration, efforts are being made to bring back these beneficial plants in prairie restoration projects and reintroductions. Work is taking place in parks, along roadsides, farms, open fields, corporate campuses and in areas as small as a private rain garden.

You can help restore native grasses to the landscape too! Consider planting them in any sunny, open area on your property. A sunny slope that's difficult to mow is a great place to start. Other good places for native grasses are near fences, among flowers in a garden, on the upper slope of a rain garden or as a shoreline buffer on the edge of a pond, creek or lake.

Many native prairie grasses such as big bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass and prairie cord grass grow over five feet tall. The tall species are best suited to large landscape areas, because the plant can "lodge" (top over in the wind). In yards and gardens try to use the shorter prairie grasses listed below. These are clump grasses that grow from 6 inches to three feet tall.

Native grasses have evolved with prairie fires and are rejuvenated by it.

Cutting down the tops of prairie grasses in the early spring can be a substitute for reseed. The tops can be used as a clean mulch around other plants to help retain soil moisture in the summer.

Try these drought-tolerant native grasses suitable for sunny areas.

- **Blue grama** (*Bouteloua gracilis*) up to 8 inches tall
- **Junegrass** (*Koeleria macrantha*) up to 2 ft. tall
- **Prairie dropseed** (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) 2 to 3 ft. tall
- **Side-oats grama** (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) up to 3 ft. tall
- **Little bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) 2 to 4 ft. tall

Find native prairie grasses at Minnetonka's Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest Wednesday, June 5, at the Minnetonka City Hall parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard (see the *May Minnetonka Memo* for more information) or find a native plant provider listed in the Natural Resources section at www.eminnetonka.com.

Did you know?

The deep rich black soils of Minnesota prairies are a result of thousands of years of prairie plant root growth and mortality. Prairie soil is some of the best soil in the world for growing crops, which is why more than 90% of Minnesota's prairie has been converted into agricultural uses. ☺



Consider native grasses for your yard.

Pick up rain barrels, compost bins

If you ordered a rain barrel or compost bin, don't forget to pick it up on April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.! Please note that this is the only date and time to pick up your order. Pickup is at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard.

If you would still like to order a barrel or bin, please check the Recycling Association of Minnesota website at www.recycleminnesota.org for availability and pickup locations. All sales are pre-order only through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). No rain barrels or compost bins will be sold at the pickup event.

Questions? Visit the RAM website or email ram@recycleminnesota.org ☺



Garlic mustard workshops in May, June; volunteers needed to pull plants in parks

Garlic mustard is the most invasive herbaceous species in Minnetonka's woodlands, yards and road edges. Control of this non-native plant is as important as buckthorn control; it can take over a wooded area and crowd out native plants in only a few years.

In order to choose the best control method during the garlic mustard growing season, it's important to know when seeds form, mature and disperse. Look for this plant on your property late April to early May. If you have garlic mustard, plan to pull the plants during the first two weeks in May.



Garlic mustard

The city has been working to control garlic mustard in high quality natural areas for more than seven years. Take advantage of our experience to help save time, money and frustration with this plant. Come to a workshop to find out why timing is critical, and what you can do in May and June before seed dispersal in July.

The sooner you get started, the less work you will have to do later.

Free repeat workshops are scheduled in May and June to help you understand this very invasive plant (see table of workshops on page 10). Attend the first workshop and get a head start by removing the plant before it produces seed. Workshops are scheduled during this plant's peak growth. RSVP is required and handouts will be provided. Call (952) 988-8400 or register on line at www.eminnetonka.com.

Volunteers needed to pull garlic mustard in parks

The city's natural resources restoration station is in great need of Scout troops, businesses, churches, associations or clubs to help pull garlic mustard in some of our most lovely 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 will be provided on site. Please call Janet Van Sloun at (952) 988-8423 to learn more. ☺

Help monitor the city's wetlands

Want to wade in a wetland and discover the plants and animals that live in the murky shallows? Volunteer with the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP), a partnership with Hennepin County that uses biological criteria to identify the health of different wetlands within the community.

Adult volunteers work in the field on a team with other city residents to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. You don't need a science background or any previous monitoring experience to participate. Volunteers work under the direction of a team leader and receive training on wetland monitoring protocols as well as plant and insect identification.

The time commitment is 40-50 hours total from May through August. This includes training, fieldwork, and lab work. All equipment is provided (some waders may be available). Just show up and learn!

If you're interested, contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988.8422 or by email at aschwartz@eminnetonka.com. ☺



Volunteer to monitor wetlands.

Mark your calendar for Eco Fun Fest

The Native Plant Market & Eco Fun Fest is set for Wednesday, June 5, 3-7 p.m., in the Minnetonka City Hall parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. See the May *Minnetonka Memo* for details. ☺

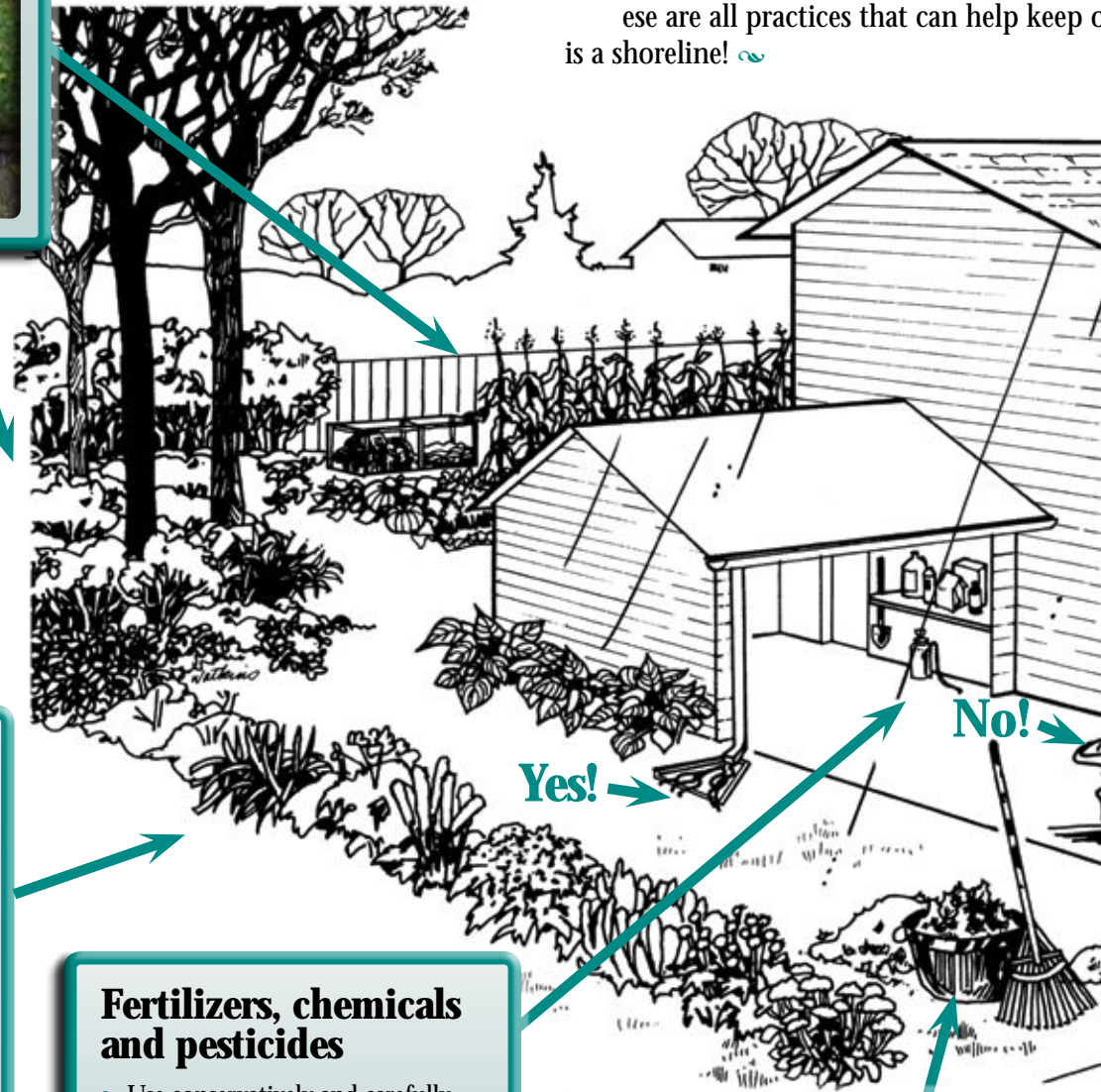
Every curb is a s prevent storm w

Water quality is a concern for everyone. You can help keep your water clean by starting in your own yard. A storm can carry with it any fertilizer, herbicide, oil, sediment, or any other material such as goose droppings. All of these items may contain phosphorus, which can pollute our waters.

Additionally, planting or maintaining areas like rain gardens, rain barrels or just turning your lawn generally reducing unnecessary areas of hard pavement. These are all practices that can help keep our water clean. It is a shoreline! ∞

Natural areas & gardens

- Filter storm water and runoff.
- Use nutrients from leaves and grass clippings in these areas.
- Direct or extend your gutter downspouts toward these areas.
- Need to order a rain barrel or compost bin? See page 7.



Swale depression or rain garden

- Collects and filters runoff directed toward it.
- Native plantings can loosen soil for deep infiltration.
- Can reduce mowing, watering and chemical use.
- See page 4 for more information.

Fertilizers, chemicals and pesticides

- Use conservatively and carefully.
- Clean up spills.
- Store in a dry sheltered place.
- Dispose of unwanted product in proper facility.

Keep out of street

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Soil
- Pet waste

Artwork courtesy of the University of Wisconsin-Extension Environmental Resources Center. Illustration by Carol Watkins.

Shoreline: Help water pollution

Everyone. You can help keep our waters clean. Any runoff that leaves your property will contribute to sediment, pet wastes, decomposed yard waste, oil, grease, loose gravel, spilled chemicals, or litter. These can carry bacteria or pollutants that are harmful to

streams. Plantings of native vegetation, capturing runoff from your downspouts to a vegetated area and permeable surface can help slow water discharge. This helps keep our waters clean. Remember that every curb



Benefits of trees



Trees provide many benefits when planted and cared for properly:

- Roots absorb runoff and nutrients and hold soil in place.
- Canopy softens the impact of heavy rain.

Other benefits of trees:

- Provide summer shade and cooling.
- When planted in the proper location, trees can reduce home cooling costs in the summer and buffer cold winds in winter.
- Provide food & habitat for birds, wildlife and pollinator insects.

Concerned about Emerald Ash Borer?

- Avoid using soil-applied treatments or sprays for your ash tree if it is adjacent to a lake, creek, wetland, or any area that drains to water resources such as the street, drainage ditch, or channel.
- See recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at www.eminnetonka.com for guidance on treatment applications.
- More information on page 4.

Storm water basin

Don't dump here! Carries water with nutrients and pollutants directly to ponds, creeks, lakes and rivers. See article on page 5 for more details.

Pavement runoff

- Direct gutter downspouts away from pavement.
- Clean up fertilizer granules.
- Prevent oil and gas drips.
- Sweep up excess salt in winter.
- Consider non-coal-tar-based driveway sealants (see article on page 6).

Welcome spring and summer with Eco Walks and Talks

This year, you can participate in a series of workshops and plant walks offered by Minnetonka's natural resource division staff. Other workshops are also offered through various community organizations. See the table for dates, times and topics. Register for workshops and plant walks by visiting www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 988-8400, unless otherwise indicated.

About the 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. Look for and identify wild flowers 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.



Don't miss the June 5 Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest.

2013 Schedule: Eco Walks and Talks

Date	Time	Event	Location
April 18	6 – 8:30 p.m.	Water Smart Landscaping	Eden Prairie Community Education, Central Middle School, Rm. 405 \$9, www.epcommunityed.org
May 2	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Garlic Mustard #1	Community Room Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
May 8	6 – 8:30 p.m.	Aquatic Invasive Workshop	Hosted by the city of Eden Prairie at the Eden Prairie Outdoor Center www.edenprairie.org/parksbrochure (p. 73)
May 9	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #1	Purgatory Park Park on Stodola Rd. Meet at dead end circle (west of 17124 Stodola Rd.)
May 16	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #2	Jidana Park Meet at parking lot, 3333 Jidana Lane
May 18	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Spring Bird Walk	Lone Lake Park Meet at north parking lot, 5624 Shady Oak Road
May 22	5 – 7 p.m.	Arbor Month Planting	Kinsel Park 14017 Kinsel Rd. (see May <i>Minnetonka Memo</i>)
May 23	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Garlic Mustard #2	Community Room Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
May 30	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Plant Walk #3	Hilloway Park, 12415 Hilloway Rd. West, park south side of street only.
June 5	3 – 7 p.m.	Native Plant Market & Eco Fun Fest	Minnetonka City Hall parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard (see May <i>Minnetonka Memo</i>)
June 5	5 – 6 p.m.	Plant Walk #4	Civic Center "marsh woods" Activity at Native Plant Market & Eco Fun Fest
June 12	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Garlic Mustard #3	Community Room Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Sept. 19	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Buckthorn Workshop #2	Minnehaha Room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Oct. 10	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Buckthorn Workshop #3	Minnehaha Room, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard

Special events and programs

Recycling and You

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

Learn about new materials that are recyclable in Minnetonka and Hennepin County and options for recycling items not collected at the curb, including prescription drugs.

Cost: \$2 due Monday, April 1.

Course #29440

Can you dig it? A travelogue of Native American archaeology

Friday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy a slide show and short history of the Parkin, Ark., late Mississippian mound and village site. Learn about tools used to excavate the site, artifacts found, research, a site description, and exhuming an undisturbed burial.

Cost: \$2 due Wednesday, April 3.

Course #29441

Traveling Naturalist: Looney Tunes

Monday, April 8, 1 p.m.

Melanie Shipman, who has served as an environmental educator for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and is currently co-director of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, gives a presentation about Minnesota's best ambassadors, the common loon!

Cost: \$2 due Thursday, April 4.

Course #29439

Travelogue to Hadrian's Wall Path

Monday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.

Minnetonka resident Fred Leverentz shares his travels of hiking Hadrian's wall path across England, from the North Sea to the Irish Sea.

Cost: \$2 due Friday, April 12.

Course #29463

Historical Travelogue of the Korean War

Wednesday, April 17, 10:30 a.m.

Military historian Dan Hartmann has taught college and community education classes.

Cost: \$2 presentation, \$6 presentation & lunch due Friday, April 12.

Course #29437

Lunch and a movie: "Anna Karenina"

Friday, April 19, 12 p.m.

Oscar winner Tom Stoppard penned this adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's classic novel, starring Keira Knightley as a 19th-century Russian aristocrat who enters into a passionate and forbidden love affair with the well-heeled Count Vronsky. **Menu:** Assorted salads, fruit & dessert.

Cost: \$5 due Wednesday, April 17.

Course #29464

Volunteer recognition

Tuesday, April 23, 1:30 – 3 p.m. with a brief program at 2 p.m.

Minnetonka Senior Services would like to thank all of the volunteers for their dedication and helping hands that allows our center to excel. Enjoy socializing with other volunteers at this year's social. Assorted appetizers and dessert catered by Nelson's.

RSVP by Tuesday, April 16.

Course #29445

Life saving training with Minnetonka firefighters

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

The Minnetonka Fire Department will provide a free life-saving bystander CPR/AED class. Participants will leave the class with both knowledge and a wallet reminder card of the steps to take in an emergency. RSVP by Friday, April 26. Free.

Course #29442

Women's health: It's about choices

Wednesday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.

Stress, nutrition, and exercise are three areas which affect women's overall health and well-being. Kristie Russett presents tips and strategies to manage health and well-being.

Cost: \$2 due Monday, April 29.

Course #29465



Stop by our brat stand at Cub April 19–21 to help support senior services!

To shred or not to shred?

Tuesday, May 7, 10:30 a.m.

This presentation is an overview of what to shred and not shred. A shredding truck from Shred-It will be here on Thursday, May 23 from 1–2 p.m. Take advantage of this great opportunity.

Cost: \$5 (includes May 23 shredding) due Thursday, May 2.

Course #29466

Cinco de Mayo Party

Monday, May 6, 12 p.m.

Join us for a Cinco de Mayo party, including a Mexican buffet.

Cost: \$6 due Wednesday, May 1.

Course #29467

James Shaw Presents

Wednesday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.

Come enjoy the forgotten songs of yesterday. Hear music from World War II and the early 1950's, including artists Rosemary Clooney, Elvis, Bing Crosby.

Cost: \$2 due Monday, May 13.

Course #29468

Monday Morning Golf League

Mondays, May 13 – August 26 (No league play May 27), 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. tee times

This is a 15-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.

Cost: \$210 due Monday, April 15.

Space is limited to 36 golfers.

Course #28676

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 build strength, stamina, and increase flexibility and range of motion. Guided breath-work and visualization help to release, relax, and restore the body, and calm the mind.

Chair-Supported Yoga ★★ 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., \$20

Most of the class takes place while seated on a chair. Some standing and balance postures are done, using the chair as a prop or support if necessary.

- Tuesday, April 2 – 23 (Course #28679)
- Thursday, April 4 – 25 (Course #28681)

Intermediate Yoga Class ★★★ 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., \$20

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. Many seated postures are also done on the floor. **Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.**

- Tuesday, April 2 – 23 (Course #28682)
- Thursday, April 4 – 25 (Course #28684)

Evening Yoga *Nancy Holasek*

Wednesdays, April 3 – 24, \$20

These evening Yoga classes have the same descriptions as the daytime classes, please see the information above. Please bring a yoga mat or towel to class.

- Chair Yoga ★★ (Course #28680)
- Intermediate Yoga ★★★ (Course #28683)

British History: England Explored *Terry Kubista*

Wednesdays, April 4 – 25, 1 – 3 p.m.

Wales is beautiful in spring. Visit some of the concerns of the Welsh economy as well as walking the countryside to experience its beauty and problems.

- \$25 (Course #28674)

Line Dance *Annette Fragale*

Wednesdays, April 11 – May 16, \$30

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

- Beginner ★★, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (Course #28662)
- Intermediate ★★★, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. (Course #28663)

Art Class: Composition & still life *Gin Weidenfeller*

Wednesdays, April 17 & 24, 1 – 2:45 p.m.

Explore the role of composition in planning a still life drawing or painting. Examples of studies address the placement of objects, use of positive/negative space, and applying basic elements of composition. Draw or paint using a variety of materials and methods. **Materials will be provided.**

- \$40 (Course #28668)

Zumba Gold ★★★ *Jan Gamble*

1 – 2 p.m., \$18

Zumba Gold offers a complete body workout while learning the basic steps to salsa, meringue, cha-cha and other rhythms. No dance experience is necessary. Comfortable clothing and workout shoes are recommended. Bring water, you will sweat!

Mondays

- April 1 – 29 (Course #28658)
- May 6 – June 10, no class 5/27 (Course #28660)

Wednesdays

- April 3 – May 1 (Course #28659)
- May 8 – June 5 (Course #28661)

Tai Chi ★★★

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m., \$48

The slow circular movements of Tai Chi help to improve balance and relaxation. The mind is calm, the body moves in balance, breathing comfortably, you are quietly aware and alert. Come learn the

Tai Chi short form, these wonderful movements have many health benefits and are fun to learn! **Prerequisite:** Able to walk comfortably for an hour. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- May 2 – June 13 (Course #28673)

Tai Chi Chih *Monica Campbell*

Monday, April 8 – May 13, \$26

Tai Chi Chih is a series of 19 easy-to-learn movements and one pose. This moving meditation may improve balance and flexibility, reduce stress, increase energy and more.

- Beginner ★★ (Course #28646) 10 – 11 a.m.
- Intermediate ★★★ (Course #28646) 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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 for all defensive driving classes. Four-hour renewal courses cost \$20. Eight-hour courses cost \$24 and are offered three 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. Sign up early for these classes. Save 10% on your car insurance by taking these classes!

Day course (four-hour renewal)

- Tuesday, March 5, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Evening course (four-hour renewal)

- Thursday, March 28, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.



*Take a trip down Minnehaha Creek
May 9 or 14 (details at right).*

Trips

St. Paul Sinners & Saints ★★

Wednesday, April 17

Meet a costumed gangster guide and venture through the streets of St. Paul. Explore its roaring hoodlum heyday with crooks, crime and corruption in the 1920's and 1930's. Revel in an almost-like-home cooked lunch at Key's Café. Menu includes turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, vegetables, cranberries, bread, beverage and dessert.

After lunch, enjoy a guided tour of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, situated on the highest point in St. Paul. Designed by the architect E.L. Masquerary to resemble the medieval cathedrals of Europe, the first services at the Cathedral were held March 28, 1915.

Course #28653

- **Cost:** \$60 includes lunch, tour, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 8:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 2:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Fri., March 29

Mason City Architecture ★★★

Thursday, May 16

Mason City, Ia., is full of architectural wonder. Enjoy rolls and coffee at Trumble's in Albert Lea. Tour the Historic Park Inn, designed by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1910.

The Park Inn hotel is the last Wright designed hotel in the world and has been completely renovated. Savor a lunch of chicken salad croissant, wild rice soup, beverage and dessert at the historic Decker Home B&B, built in the 1890's. After lunch, visit the Architectural Interpretive Center to tour the Stockman House. After the tour, visit the local ice cream shop. Pit stop at the Trails Travel Center.

Course #28654

- **Cost:** \$70 includes lunch, tours, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 7:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, April 26

Canoe Minnehaha Creek ★★★

Enjoy a relaxing two-mile canoe trip between the Gray's 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 are comfortable in a two-person canoe. Meet at the community center. **Cost:** \$10 includes canoes, lunch, transportation & escort
Registration deadline: Until full

Course #28671

- **Course:** Thursday, May 9, 9:30 a.m.

Course #28672

- **Course:** Tuesday, May 14, 12:30 p.m.

St. Paul Saints Game ★★

Wednesday, June 26

Spend an entertaining afternoon at Midway Stadium enjoying the weather, great baseball and good food. As part of the baseball experience, participants will receive \$10 Saints Bucks to purchase lunch. The group will have in-club reserved seats for a game between the Saints and the Lincoln Saltdogs.

The St. Paul Saints baseball team is a member of the North Division of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball.

Course #28655

- **Cost:** \$55 includes lunch, game, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 11:45 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 4:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, May 17.

Glensheen Mansion ★★★

Thursday, July 25

Enjoy a casual buffet style meal at the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth. Spend time in the museum gift shop. Revel in the mansion's beauty with a docent-led tour of the basement, first and second floors and the carriage house. Pack your binoculars, there is a possibility of catching a glimpse of the tall ships that come in for the "Parade of Sails." There will be a stop for fast food on the way home (on your own).

Course #28656

- **Cost:** \$72 includes lunch, tour, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 8:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 7 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, June 14.

Mankato Magic ★★★★★

Wednesday, July 31

Visit the Viking's training camp (schedule permitting), lunch at Charley's, tour the Hubbard House and the Betsy-Tacy Houses. More information to come in future *Scripts*.

Course #28657

- **Cost:** \$58 includes lunch, tours, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 8:15 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, July 5

Extended Trips

For further information on the extended trips listed below, call Senior Community Services at (952) 541-1019 or visit www.seniorcommunity.org and click on Travel-Extended Tours. Stop by the center to pick up a brochure.

Ireland (April 15)

Cost is \$3,000 per person, double occupancy for 11 meals and nine days.

Savannah (April 17-25)

Cost is \$1,350 per person, double occupancy.

Music Cities (April 23-30)

Cost is \$1,150 per person, double occupancy.

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/trip that you are registering for.
- **By phone**
Registrations are accepted over the phone 952.939.8393 with a credit card.
- **Online**
For more information, call the center.

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

Senior & General Programs Manager

Nicole Gorman

952.939.8369

ngorman@eminnetonka.com

Secretary

Kathy Kline

952.939.8393

kkline@eminnetonka.com

Interest groups

There are 23 other special interest groups ranging from cards to theater. For more information on these groups and a calendar of events, please visit www.eminnetonka.com or stop by the center.

Bird Club

April 1, 10 a.m.

Featured speaker: Dan Tallman

Book Club

April 18, 1 p.m.

I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced by Delphine Minoui

Great Books

April 23, 7:15 p.m.

The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy

Parkinson's Support Group

April 2, 4 p.m.

Topic: Parkinson's exercise prescription

Single Mingle Club

Happy Hour at Wild Boar

April 9, 4:30 p.m.

Monthly meeting at the Depot

April 16, 1:30 p.m.

Services

Over 50 & Fit

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.

Annual Fee: \$12

Blood Pressure Screenings

1st & 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Happy Feet

1st, 2nd & 3rd Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To schedule or cancel an appointment, call 763.560.5136. Cost: \$35.



Join the bike club Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for biking fun!

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.carenexion.org or call 612.770.7005.
- **Senior outreach**
Available by appointment on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Marian Danielson at 952.939.8393 or m.danielson@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.

 **2013 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

Public Works Facility

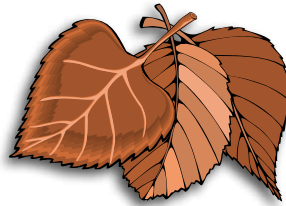
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73
 Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields)

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 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 6, 13, 20 and 27



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 Monday, April 1. Brush drop-off will end November 17, 2013.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on the following two holidays: Memorial Day, May 27; and Labor Day, September 2.

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, so it's important they stay separate.

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

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

Multiple carts for pickup?

If you find yourself with multiple carts at the curb for pick-up on the same day — recycling, garbage, yard waste, etc. — be sure to leave at least two feet of space between carts to enable the collection truck's lifting arm to grab the cart.



minnetonka memo

April 2013



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

Mayor Terry Schneider (952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	Council <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com Patty Acomb... (952) 807-8635 pacomb@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
City Manager Geralyn Barone (952) 939-8200	Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson (952) 939-8200	POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1
E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com	Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2013

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	6	3 Park Board, 7 p.m.
							18 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.; Annual Neighborhood Watch Event, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							9 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							24 Joint City Council/Boards and Commissions, 6:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	15 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
28	29	30					29 Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 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 replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream 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.

Staying informed about city projects

The city regularly receives applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the city's website. If you'd like to stay informed, visit "MyMinnetonka" at www.eminnetonka.com — click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for information. ∞

Bus service public hearings set for April 1, 3

Metro Transit, in cooperation with the city of Minnetonka, recently concluded a study to identify potential bus service changes in the city. These changes include a new route that would service the city from Minnetonka Heights in southwest Minnetonka to the Ridgedale area, as well as changes to express bus routes that service the southern half of the city.

Metro Transit has scheduled public hearings on these service changes for the following dates and locations:

April 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hennepin County Hopkins Library
22 11th Avenue North, Hopkins

April 3, 7 – 8 p.m.

Hennepin County Ridgedale Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka

The public is invited to attend and provide input on these changes. The complete report and information concerning the public hearings can be viewed at www.metrotransit.org/minnetonka-study. ∞

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