

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
August 2013

## Municipal primary election is Tuesday, August 13: Get ready to vote!

**M**race on the August 13 municipal primary election ballot — Council Member At Large Seat B. Four candidates — Patty Acomb, Brian Grogan, Dan Martin and Rick Ranta — filed to run for Council Member At Large Seat B. The purpose of the primary election is to determine the two candidates who will advance to the November 5 general election November 5.

Polls will be open August 13 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Read on to ensure you are prepared for municipal primary election day!

### Polling place changes

Two of the city's polling places have changed since last year's elections. Voters in these two precincts were mailed postcards in July notifying them of the changes, as follows:

- **Ward 4 Precinct D voters**, who voted in 2012 at All Saints Lutheran Church, will vote at Redeemer Bible Church, 16031 Woodland Curve. This church had long been used as a polling place and was big enough to host two city precincts. The building was under construction in 2012 and so was not available for the 2012 elections. The remodeling is now complete so the building once again will be used as a polling place.
- **Ward 4 Precinct E voters**, who voted at the Glen Lake Activity Center in 2012, will now vote at All Saints Lutheran Church, 15915 Excelsior Blvd.

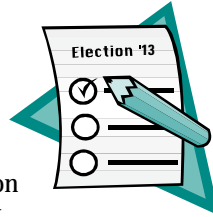
### Polling locations

To find out where you vote, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us). Type in your residential address to receive your polling place location. You'll also have the option of printing a map to your polling place, and can view a sample ballot for your precinct. You can also call city hall at (952) 939-8200 for polling place information. A map showing the city's 23 polling places is available at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Voter registration

Pre-registration for the Primary has closed but you may still register to vote at your

polling place on Election Day. You will need to register to vote if you have never registered, if you have changed your name or address, or if you have not voted in four years. To register on Election Day you must provide ID. The acceptable forms of ID are listed at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



### Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available through Monday, August 12, for those who are unable to get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct; illness or disability; religious observance; or service as an election judge in another precinct. You may vote absentee two ways:

- **In Person**  
Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours are available at both locations Saturday, August 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, August 12, until 5 p.m.
- **By Mail**  
Absentee voting may also be done by mail. *Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count.* Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

The first step to vote absentee by mail is to complete an application. Applications may be obtained by calling City Hall at (952) 939-8200, through [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), or by faxing a request to (952) 939-8244. Upon receipt of an application, the city will mail a ballot with instructions.

### New voting equipment

At all Hennepin County polling places, including Minnetonka, voters will see a new vote tabulator machine when casting ballots this fall. While the basic voting process remains the same — voters complete a paper ballot and insert it into the vote

tabulator — the advanced optical scan vote tabulator with improved features will enhance the voting process. For more information about the new voting equipment call the city clerk at (952) 939-8200.

### Municipal primary results

For primary results, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for a link to the election results page of the Secretary of State's website.

City staff is available to help you with any questions you may have about the Municipal Primary or the November 5 General Election. Call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### November 5 general election

The November ballot contains the mayor's seat as well as the two at-large council member seats. Mayor candidates are Terry Schneider and Grace Sheely. Council Member At Large Seat A candidates are Dick Allendorf and Angela Grihn.

Because only two candidates filed for each of these seats, these offices do not appear on the August municipal primary ballot, but go directly to the November ballot along with the two top vote getters for Council Member At Large Seat B.

All three school districts in the city — Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata — will have school board seats on the November ballot. Filing for school board seats began July 30 at the school district offices. ∞

## Wait a minute!

**T**his newsletter has been redesigned with a new easy-to-read format that works well on mobile devices. Learn what's new and important each week: subscribe to the *Minnetonka Minute*, at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ∞

# Flashpoints

## From the Minnetonka Fire Department



**I**s the temperature at which combustible materials can burst into flame. The 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.

### Stay safe as you age

Public educators from “What if?” with Minnetonka Fire want to help Minnetonka’s older residents prepare for the future and prevent emergencies. Follow these suggestions to stay safe and to help ensure you can enjoy an independent life style for years to come!



- Avoid slips, trips and falls:
  - Use rubber mats to hold area rugs in place
  - Install and use grab bars
  - Maintain a clutter-free home
  - Consider a 911 alert device
- Be safe when cooking:
  - Use a timer
  - Cover all stove or grease fires with a lid. **Never use water!**
  - Keep cooking areas clean.
  - Keep pot handles turned inward
- Need assistance with home maintenance? Contact the HOME program at Minnetonka Senior Services: (952) 939-8363.

Minnetonka fire and city staff provide follow-up visits to many residents who have experienced a 9-1-1 call to share resources to get you back on your feet after an emergency. Help prevent an emergency by scheduling a preventive visit at your convenience, which includes a home safety check. Call Jim or Sara at (952) 939-8331 for more information.

### Fire Responses

During the second quarter of 2013, the fire department responded to about 450 calls for service. The three-person duty crew handles most of the calls, while about 40 paid-on-call members report to every structure fire. More significant events this quarter included structure fires on Ashbourne Road, Cedar Knoll Court and Vine Hill Road; mutual aid to Excelsior for a large boat fire on Robinson’s Bay of Lake Minnetonka; and deploying fire department command staff to Shakopee for the Rahr Malting/Koda Energy Plant fire.

### Open House is October 8

The Fire Department and City Open House is Tuesday, October 8, from 5 – 8 p.m. Fireworks, rescheduled from the June 22 cancelled Summer Festival event, will take place at 8 p.m.

### Fire alarm fee reminder

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. In 2004, the

Minnetonka City Council implemented a \$250 charge for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm except fire sprinkler or water flow alarms. There is also no charge for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system.

### Minnetonka is HeartSafe

Minnetonka is proud to be the 20th community in Minnesota to become designated as HeartSafe. Minnetonka joined in this ongoing effort to prevent death from sudden cardiac arrest by increasing community and public awareness; by educating the public on how to administer CPR; and by placing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) wherever people live, work and play.



## Solicitors and peddlers must register with the city

**T**he Department asks residents to be aware of unusual or suspicious activity and to report unauthorized solicitors and peddlers to the city. For-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by the issuing of this license. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a city-issued photo ID.

Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license, unless they pay their solicitors. However, the city does request that charitable organizations register. To assist police, please be aware of the following:

- Ask solicitors to show their photo ID, issued by the city of Minnetonka. According to city ordinance, the photo ID must be prominently displayed

by attaching it to the front of the outermost clothing between the waist and the neck.

- Check the city of Minnetonka Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for an updated list of registered and licensed entities. (Click on Community Development, then Licenses, then Solicitors, Peddlers and Canvassers.)
- If you have a complaint about a door-to-door salesperson or soliciting party, immediately contact the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500.
- Every resident and business has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property.

## Fall recreation registration starts Aug. 5

**T** brochure was published online July 26 at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). It will not be mailed to homes. Residents who wish to receive a printed copy of the brochure may call (952) 939-8203 or email [recservices@eminnetonka.com](mailto:recservices@eminnetonka.com). A black-and-white copy of the brochure will be printed out by staff and mailed to your home. Non-residents requesting a printed copy will be charged \$3 to cover mailing costs. Registration for residents starts August 5 and for non-residents August 19. Below are a couple of featured fall programs. Call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Mini Sport Sampler Camp

Mini-Sport helps children ages 4 – 6 explore baseball, soccer, soft-lacrosse and flag football in a fun and non-competitive setting. Coaches are committed to helping the young athletes start on the right foot, as they take their first steps into sports.

Participants should bring shin guards (recommended), two snacks and a water bottle, and tennis or soccer shoes. \$65

- **Session I:**  
Wednesdays, Sept. 18 – Oct. 9, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Civic Center Fields (Behind City Hall)
- **Session II:**  
Wednesdays, Oct. 23 – Nov. 13, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Williston Fitness Center

### Youth Flag Football

is recreational program for first and second graders, teaches football fundamentals in a fun, non-threatening environment. Coaches will teach basic football skills and positions through small group drills, and then form teams for organized scrimmages. Participants receive a t-shirt. No equipment needed. \$45. Sundays, Sept. 8 – Oct. 6, 4 – 5:15 p.m., Big Willow football field. ☺

## Minnetonka adds new bus route Aug. 24

**S** will have a new bus route to provide weekday and Saturday service from southwest Minnetonka to the Ridgedale area.

Locations served by Route 614 include the Minnetonka Heights apartments, Minnetonka Library, the 7-Hi shopping center, the Minnetonka Boulevard and County Road 101 retail area, Minnetonka City Hall, Minnetonka Mills Park/Burwell House, Hennepin County Service Center

and Library and Ridgedale Mall.

Service on Route 614 will be provided from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays. Route 614 will also allow riders to make connections to other bus routes that serve downtown Minneapolis.

For more information on the route, including a route map, fares and connections to other bus routes, visit [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org). ☺

## Help trees thrive with these summer drinks

**K** summer with these watering tips.

- Water trees when rainfall amounts are under an inch a week.
- Water slowly without runoff. Use low-flow or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers.
- Water to the ends of the branch tips, since most tree roots are within the first foot of soil. During watering, move the hose around within the drip line of the tree.
- Avoid watering open wounds, leaves or needles. Too much moisture can lead to fungal growth.
- Don't depend on irrigation systems to give trees the water they need.
- After watering the soil should be moist 6 – 8 inches deep throughout the drip line.
- Place 2 – 4 inches of wood mulch under the drip line of the tree to help retain moisture in the soil. Avoid volcano mulching, where piles are formed against the base of the trunk.
- The city offers free mulch to residents at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Pull into the east driveway and look for the wooden bin. ☺

## Visit the farmers' market Tuesdays

**V** Market Tuesdays, 3 – 7 p.m., through October 1 at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, Ice Arena B parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Nearly 40 vendors offer a wide variety of products including produce, honey, meats, herbs, banana bread, artisan breads, pretzels, apples, spices, sauces, salsa, fresh-cut flowers, lollipops, canned goods, soaps, skin care products, cleaning products and an assortment of unique crafts. The days of summer go by fast — don't miss out on the farmers' market! ☺



## Host a TreeHouse birthday party

**L** economical idea for your child's birthday party? Consider booking a party at the Williston Fitness Center's indoor playground, the TreeHouse. Reserve your child's party for a Monday through Thursday evening in July and August and save money!

For more information about birthday party packages and costs, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Mary Jo Gardner at (952) 939-8359. ☺

## Calling all music lovers

**I** or listening, the Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) invites you to participate in their organization as a musician or an audience member.

For more information on joining one of MAM's performing groups, or for a concert schedule, call (952) 401-5954 or visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org). ☺



## Prevent deer damage to young trees

**P**shredding effects of deer antlers by placing guards on trees from mid-August to April every year, especially if you frequently see deer in your yard.

Place a protective light-colored plastic tree guard around the tree, or fence it completely with welded wire or hardware cloth. If you choose the welded wire fence, be sure to use hardware cloth around the base of the tree as well to protect the stem from rodent damage in the winter.

Once the tree guard is on, make sure it fits all the way around the tree and will be tall enough to protect the bark from a rutting deer. Remove the tree guard in the spring to discourage borers and to allow the tree trunk to capture light and photosynthesize. Welded wire fence and hardware cloth may be left on all year, but check it in the spring to ensure the tree hasn't outgrown it, which can result in the tree dying from "girdling." For more information visit [www.myminnisotawoods.umn.edu/2009/12/tree-stem-protection/](http://www.myminnisotawoods.umn.edu/2009/12/tree-stem-protection/)

## A reminder about city watering rules

**T**water resources, city of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

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

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

## What about BOB (bur oak blight)?

**L**ookout for BOB — bur oak blight. Previously found mainly in Iowa and southern Minnesota, BOB has recently been detected in Hennepin County and Ramsey County, with one of the first discoveries in Minnetonka.

It's unclear if this is a new fungal disease; an introduced disease to the region; or a native disease that has proliferated due to heavy wet rains in the spring and dry hot summers experienced over the past few decades.

Although BOB doesn't kill an infected tree, successive years of severely infected leaves weaken the tree's defenses, allowing for secondary pests and diseases to kill the tree. Visible BOB symptoms appear from late July to August, starting at the lower canopy, where infection is usually most severe, and progressing upward into the crown.

Look for these telltale signs:

- Wedge-shaped areas of discoloration and dead leaf tissue.
- Black pimple-like dots at the leaf base.
- Leaves that are wilted or appear scorched (see photo at right).
- Veins on underside of infected leaves turn from green to purplish-brown, while the veins on the upper side of infected leaves appear darker than normal.
- Dead leaves remain attached throughout the winter.
- Extensive branch dieback, as a result of recurrent severe infection.

Watering your tree regularly will help maintain the strength of your tree and prevent secondary pests. Provide your tree with sufficient water when less than 1" of rain per week is received.

Consider consulting a certified arborist to inject your bur oaks with fungicide the spring after a moderate to severe infection. Injection should take place after the leaves have fully expanded, but before BOB symptoms develop. After the initial injection, BOB treatments should take place every other summer.

If you are unsure if the symptoms you see are observing are oak wilt or BOB, a city tree inspector to will be able to help you identify which disease your tree has during the months of May through September. Or, you can send in a sample to the University of Minnesota's Plant Disease Clinic or hire a private certified arborist.

For more information, visit:

- [www.myminnisotawoods.umn.edu/2010/09/bur-oak-blight-bob-in-minnesota/](http://www.myminnisotawoods.umn.edu/2010/09/bur-oak-blight-bob-in-minnesota/)
- [www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2012/9-12/buroakblight.html](http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2012/9-12/buroakblight.html)
- [www.public.iastate.edu/~tcharrin/bob\\_print.pdf](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~tcharrin/bob_print.pdf)



## Pick up after your pet: Time to SCOOP!

**P**heard it before, and hopefully you know you should do it, but we all need a reminder occasionally.

Pet waste left on lawns, sidewalks and even in the woods can wash into lakes, creeks and wetlands, carrying bacteria and nutrients with it that promote the growth of weeds and algae and pollute waters. As pet waste decays, it consumes oxygen and may release compounds and microorganisms that can harm aquatic life.

SCOOPing is easy. Just follow these five simple tips:

- Stock up on small plastic bags.

- Carry the bags in your pocket whenever you are with your pet.
- Open the bag and invert it over your hand to avoid contacting the deposit directly or use a scooper. Carry a small bottle of sanitizer to help clean your hands.
- Only dispose of the waste in household garbage or in a proper waste receptacle. Never throw it down a storm drain.
- Picking up after your pet is about being a good neighbor and a responsible pet owner, and setting a good example for others to follow.

## Special events and programs

### Burwell House & Boardwalk

*Tuesday, August 6, 1 p.m.*

Join one of our public works employees to learn about the newly completed boardwalk project at the Burwell House. Also take a tour of the Burwell House. RSVP by Monday, August 5.

**Course #30211**

### Costumes of China

*Wednesday, August 7, 10:30 a.m.*

Xuefen Yu (aka: Phenix) has returned from her winter visit to China and will be presenting costumes of China. With China's long history, vast land and 56 nationalities, there are many different cultures, customs and costumes.

**Cost:** \$2 due Friday, August 2.

**Course #29638**

### Lunch and a Movie: "Les Misérables"

*Friday, August 9, 12 p.m.*

The musical version of Victor Hugo's epic tale of love and sacrifice is set in 19th-century France. Jean Valjean, who for decades has been hunted by the policeman Javert after he breaks parole, agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's daughter, Cosette. The fateful decision changes their lives forever. **Menu:** Salad bar & dessert.

**Cost:** \$5 due Wednesday, August 7.

**Course #29639**

### Community Connections

*Monday, August 12, 10:15 a.m.*

In partnership with the Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers, Minnetonka Senior Services is offering community connections. In August, students from the West Junior High Genius Bar will host an open forum on social media. Bring questions! RSVP by Friday, August 9.

**Course #30212**

### Moving & You

*Wednesday, August 14, 10:30 a.m.*

Licensed Realtor Renee Johnson and Cindy Amberger, a professional organizer will

present housing options for those 55 and older and tips for decluttering.

**Cost:** \$2 due Monday, August 12.

**Course #30213**

### Pork Chop Dinner

*Monday, August 19, 5:30 p.m.*

Enjoy an evening of good food, conversation and entertainment. The center will be grilling seasoned pork chops, applesauce, coleslaw and baked beans and dessert. Listen to the musical talents of accordionist Dick Macko. Thank you to Texas Terrace Care Center for providing dessert.

**Cost:** \$7 due Wednesday, August 14.

**Course #29640**

### Lunch and Learn Series

*Wednesday, August 21, 12 p.m.*

In conjunction with Encore Senior Home Care, Minnetonka Senior Services presents a lunch and learn series. August's featured speaker is Deborah Richman, associate program director with the Alzheimer's Association. Deborah will discuss the ten warning signs of Alzheimer's.

**Cost:** \$5 due Monday, August 19.

**Course #29641**

### Dream Interpretation

*Wednesday, August 28, 10:30 a.m.*

Do you ever wake up remembering a dream and wonder what it could possibly mean? Here's your chance to find out! Learn a dream interpretation technique and ask questions about the dream world.

**Cost:** \$2 due Monday, August 26.

**Course #29642**

### Community Connections

*Monday, September 16, 10:15 a.m.*

In partnership with the Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers, Minnetonka Senior Services is offering community connections. September's topic is understanding Medicare benefits. RSVP by Friday, September 13.

**Course #30214**

### Book and Pie Sale

*Tuesday, September 10, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

The annual book and pie sale is provided by Minnetonka Senior Services in conjunction with the Senior Advisory Board.

Most books are \$1. From 4 – 5 p.m. there will be a book blow-out sale: \$2.50 for all you can fit into a bag.

- **Book donation drop-off times:** Friday & Monday, September 6 & 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Acceptable donations:** hard-and soft-cover books, CDs and DVDs in good condition.
- **Book & pie sale info:** most books are \$1. Blow-out sale from 4 – 5 p.m. fill a bag for \$2.50. Pies by the slice and sloppy joe meals will be available for purchase.

### Senior Open House

*Thursday, September 12, 3 – 7 p.m.*

Minnetonka Senior Services, in conjunction with the Senior Advisory Board, will host an open house. Bring a friend or neighbor and explore the opportunities available at the center for active adults. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided.

### Finding Balance in Nature

*Monday, September 16, 10:30 a.m.*

Improve your mental health by walking with naturalist Larry Wade. Learn several techniques for connecting with nature and creating more balance in your life. Meet in the lower level parking area at Lone Lake Park. Please bring a journal or clipboard and a camera. Register early, space is limited!

**Cost:** \$5 due Friday, September 13.

**Course #30215**

### Pillsbury Family of Minnesota

*Monday, September 16, 7 p.m.*

Come hear *StarTribune* columnist Lori Sturdevant as she chronicles the Pillsbury family's pioneering role in making Minneapolis the milling capitol of the world. **Cost:** \$2 due Friday, September 13.

**Course #30216**

# Classes

## Line Dance

### Eileen Ronning

**ursdays, August 15 – September 12, \$25**

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 #30217)
- Intermediate ★★★, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
(Course #30218)

## Tai Chi ★★★

### Ron Erdman-Luntz

**ursdays, 6 – 7 p.m., \$32**

The slow circular movements of Tai Chi help to improve balance and relaxation. 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.

- August 1 – 22 (Course #29521)

## Fall Registration

Registration for senior classes, programs and trips located, below and to the right of this box, begins August 5 at 8 a.m. for Minnetonka residents and August 6 for non-residents.

## 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., \$20**

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

- Tuesday, September 3 – 24 \$20  
(Course #29557)
- Thursday, September 5 – 26 \$20  
(Course #29559)

## 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.

- Tuesday, September 3 – 24 \$20  
(Course #29560)
- Thursday, September 5 – 26 \$20  
(Course #29562)

## Evening Yoga

### Nancy Holasek

**Wednesdays, September 4 – 25, \$20**

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

- Chair Yoga, 6:15 p.m. ★★  
(Course #29558)
- Intermediate Yoga, 7:30 p.m. ★★★  
(Course #29561)

## Line Dance

### Eileen Ronning

**ursday, September 26 – October 17, \$20**

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 #29605)
- Intermediate ★★★, 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.  
(Course #29606)

## Tai Chi ★★★

### Ron Erdman-Luntz

**ursdays, 6 – 7 p.m., \$48**

The slow circular movements of Tai Chi help to improve balance and relaxation. 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.

- September 12 – October 17  
(Course #29603)

## Tai Chi Chih

### Monica Campbell

**Mondays, September 9 – November 4, \$40**

Tai Chi Chih is a series of 19 easy-to-learn

movements and one pose. Moving meditation may improve balance and flexibility, reduce stress, increase energy and more.

- Beginner ★★ (Course #29594)  
10 – 11 a.m.
- Intermediate ★★★ (Course #29595)  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## 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

- September 23 – October 28  
(Course #29586)

## Wednesdays

- September 25 – October 30  
(Course #29587)

## British History

### Terry Kubista

**ursdays, September 12 – 26, 1 – 3 p.m.**

William Shakespeare will be the discussion topic for September's class.

- \$20 (Course #29582)

## Botanical & Floral Art

### Gin Weidenfeller

**Wednesdays, September 18 – October 2, 1 – 2:45 p.m.**

Explore contemporary and traditional methods in drawing, watercolor and mixed media to depict realism or abstract life studies of plant forms. Draw or paint from live floral specimens applying your individualistic style and interpretation to capture a likeness or symbolic essence. Be inspired with examples of major contemporary and traditional artists' work. Students, who have watercolor supplies, please bring them. All drawing materials are furnished for classroom use.

- \$60 (Course #29632)



# Classes Continued & Trips

## Beginning Bridge

**Lee Solee**

**Mondays, September 16 – October 21, 1 – 3 p.m.**

For those who want to learn bidding, scoring and playing the challenging game of bridge. Bring a deck of cards.

- \$35 (Course #29590)

## Bridge Workshop

**Lee Solee**

**Monday, September 9, 1 – 3 p.m.**

Are you an intermediate bridge player and have questions? If so, join instructor Lee Solee for a bridge workshop.

- \$10 (Course #29591)

## Canadian History & Life 101

**Dick Sadler**

**Wednesdays, September 18 – December 4, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

“Canadians know everything about America, but Americans know nothing about Canada,” says University of Calgary’s Bart Beaty. “It’s like looking through a one-way glass. We can see them, but America doesn’t see us.” 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. This class meets every other Wednesday.

- \$30 (Course #29581)

## Writing Class

**Larry Wade**

**Mondays, September 23 – October 28, 1 – 2 p.m.**

Writing a memoir, autobiography or biography? This class will examine six areas of writing: main topics of your life, early years to age five, childhood, teen-age years, twenties and later adult life. From this class, students will get one edited paper by the instructor, per person. Peer editing amongst students is also encouraged.

- \$30 (Course #30219)

## Harvest Sampler ★★★

**Tuesday, September 17**

In Cadott, Wisc., take a horse-drawn carriage ride to a rustic cabin for lunch. Menu includes baked chicken breast, assorted breads, baked beans, beverage and dessert. Sample Yellowstone cheeses. Taste wine and apples at Autumn Harvest. Lastly, stop at the Leinie Lodge for shopping and sample their handcrafted beer.

**Course #30220**

- **Cost:** \$56 includes lunch, tours, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 8 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 5:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, August 30

## Historic St. Peter ★★★

**Tuesday, October 8**

Explore the Hillstrom Museum of Art on the Gustavus Adolphus Campus. Visit the Christ Chapel and the Paul Granlund sculptures. Enjoy lunch at Whiskey River Emporium. Menu includes half sandwich, cup of homemade soup, beverage and dessert. Hear the history of St. Peter on a guided riding tour.

**Course #30221**

- **Cost:** \$50 includes lunch, tours, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 9:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 4 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, Sept. 13

## Science Museum: Maya ★★★

**Tuesday, October 29**

Enjoy lunch at Tavern on Grand. Menu includes a walleye basket (alternative is chicken, request at the time of registration). Following lunch arrive at the Science Museum to watch the film, *Mystery of the Maya* in the Omnitheater and then tour the exhibit *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed*.

**Course #30222**

- **Cost:** \$58 includes lunch, film, tour, transportation & escort.
- **Pick-up time:** 10:30 a.m.
- **Estimated return time:** 3:30 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, October 4

## Extended trips

For 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.

## 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 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. Save 10% on your car insurance by taking these classes!

### Day course (four-hour renewal)

- Thursday, August 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Evening course (four-hour renewal)

- Thursday, September 17, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

## Free Rivers Park Sampler

**Sunday, September 8, 12 – 5 p.m.**

Free Rivers Parks is bringing a sampling of its educational programs to residents in Hopkins and Minnetonka! Join Free Rivers program staff at Shady Oak Beach and at the Hopkins Depot for experiences in public education activities you can enjoy at your regional parks. Program is free for all ages. Pick up a flyer at the center.

This program is offered in collaboration with the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Department, the Hopkins Activity Center and Free Rivers Parks.

## 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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Adopt-a-Highway 9:00                      Yoga 9:45                      Carvers 10:00                      Int. Yoga 11:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Bunco 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Fall Registration 8:00                      Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Rummycube 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Poker Club 10:00                      Craft Committee 10:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Burwell House 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Parkinson's Support 4:00</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Costumes of China 10:30                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Carvers 10:00                      Chess 12:00                      Bunco 1:00                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Lunch &amp; Movie 12:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Tonka Tale Tellers 10:00                      Ham Radio 10:00                      Comm. Connections 10:15                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Garden Club 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Nature &amp; Novels 2:00</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      500 Cards 10:00                      Advisory Board 10:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Moving &amp; You 10:30                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Billiards 1:00                      Yoga Drop-In 6:15/7:30                      500 Cards 6:30</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Defensive Driving 9:00                      Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Carvers 10:00                      Cribbage 10:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Ames Arabians Trip 9:00                      Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Blood Pressure 9:30                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Let's Go Fishing 12:30                      Rummycube 1:00                      Health Insurance 1:00                      Billiards 1:00                      Nature &amp; Novels Activity 2:00                      Pork Chop Dinner 5:30</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Poker Club 10:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Billiards 1:00                      Senior Outreach 1:00                      Single Mingle Club Mtg @                      e Depot in Hopkins 1:30</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Billiards 1:00                      Yoga Drop-In 6:15/7:30</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Carvers 10:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Bunco 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00                      Tai Chi w/Ron 6:00</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Happy Feet 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Art Drop In 9:00                      Hand &amp; Foot 1:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      500 Cards 10:00                      Bingo 12:45                      Billiards 1:00</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Mah Jongg Group 10:00                      Dream Program 10:30                      A.A./Al-Anon 10:30                      Social Bridge 12:45                      Billiards 1:00                      500 Cards 6:30                      Yoga Drop-In 6:15/7:30</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Yoga Drop-In 9:45/11:00                      Carvers 10:00                      Chess 12:00                      Beg. Line Dance 12:30                      Bunco 1:00                      Int. Line Dance 1:45                      Billiards 3:00                      Duplicate Bridge 6:00</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Exercise 9:00                      Computer 10:00                      Billiards 1:00</p>



Group	Meeting day	Information
<b>Advisory Board</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
<b>AA/Al-Anon</b>	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.	All ages welcome. New members welcome.
<b>Billiards</b>	Every afternoon - time varies	See calendar page for times.
<b>Bingo</b>	Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m.	
<b>Bird Club</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at 10 a.m.	Bird club will not be meeting in August.
<b>Book Club</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.	Book club will not be meeting in August.
<b>Social Bridge</b>	Wednesdays at 12:45 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> place and grand slam prizes awarded.
<b>Bunco</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1 p.m.	Don't know how to play? They will teach you.
<b>Duplicate Bridge</b>	Thursdays at 6 p.m.	Partners needed.
<b>Card Games</b>	Mondays at 1 p.m.	Rummycube & Hand and Foot, alternating Mondays. See calendar page for game dates.
<b>Chess</b>	Thursdays at 12 p.m.	If you have general knowledge of chess, join us.
<b>Chorale</b>	Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m.	Chorale will not be meeting in August.
<b>Computer Interests</b>	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.
<b>Craft Committee</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	
<b>Cribbage</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.	Bring your cribbage boards and a deck of cards.
<b>500 Card Club</b>	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.
<b>Mtka Community Garden Club</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 1 p.m.	Topic: Peonies. New members welcome!
<b>Great Books</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:15 p.m.	Great books will not meeting in August.
<b>Ham Radio</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
<b>The Landing Shop</b>	Open Wednesday - Saturday from 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+.
<b>Mah Jongg</b>	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.	New members welcome.
<b>Nature, Novels &amp; Non-fiction</b>	Book Discussion – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2 p.m. Activity – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 2 p.m.	August 12– <i>Canoeing with the Cree</i> by Eric Sevareid
<b>Parkinson's Support</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 4 p.m.	August 6– Topic: Healthy Mind/Healthy Body.
<b>Pickleball</b>	Monday-Friday, times vary.	Outdoor play available at Meadow Park. For more information call (952) 939-8393.
<b>Poker</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10 a.m.	Join us for a good game of poker.
<b>Scribblers</b>	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Scribblers will not be meeting in August.
<b>Single Mingle Club</b>	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 August's events. New members welcome.
<b>Tonka Tale Tellers</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10 a.m.	This group travels to elementary schools within the area to tell and animate stories.
<b>Tale Spinners</b>	Tuesdays at 1 p.m.	Tale Spinners will not be meeting in August.
<b>Wood Carvers</b>	Thursdays at 10 a.m.	Group members work independently but also share ideas with one another.

## 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or stop by the center.

### Parkinson's Support Group

*Tuesday, August 6, 4 p.m.*

Topic: Healthy Mind/Healthy Body

### Community Garden Club

*Monday, August 12, 1 p.m.*

Topic: Insects and your garden.

### Nature, Novels & Non-fiction

*Monday, August 12, 2 p.m.*

*Canoeing with the Cree* by Eric Sevareid

### Single Mingle Club

**Monthly meeting at the Depot**

*Tuesday, August 20, 1:30 p.m.*

### Tonka Tale Tellers

*Monday, August 12, 10:30 a.m.*

This group meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday. New members welcome.

## Services

### Over 50 & Fit

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

Annual Fee: \$12 (Course #28578)

### Blood Pressure Screenings

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

*9:30 a.m. to 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. to 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 to [spieh@eminnetonka.com](mailto:spieh@eminnetonka.com).

### Volunteer Opportunities

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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Contact Marian Danielson at (952) 939-8393 or [m.danielson@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:m.danielson@seniorcommunity.org)
- **Health insurance counseling**  
Available by appointment on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Garden club minds city owners

**T** Minnetonka's Community Garden Club volunteered to plant and maintain more than 1,500 flowers and grasses in eight beds and 40 pots in the following locations:

- Lone Lake and Minnetonka Mills parks, as well as signs at Gro Tonka Park and pots at Burwell House
- Minnetonka Civic Center complex, e Landing Shop, the Glen Lake Activity Center, Williston Fitness Center and Minnetonka Public Works
- Guillems Field, Big Willow, Glen Lake ballfields and the Glen Lake Girls Athletic Field

Planting typically takes several days to



*Garden club members have tended the gardens at the city hall entrance.*

complete, on site for the beds and at Public Works for the pots. Once pots are planted public works staff deliver them to their locations. Throughout the growing season, garden club members water plants every three days and weed and feed once a month. Thank you to community garden club members for helping to keep our parks and facilities beautiful! ♪

## A word about protecting water resources

**A** enjoyed wetlands, lakes, creeks and rivers one way or another. You may have listened to the calls of frogs and red-winged blackbirds, watched turtles basking in the sun on a fallen log, spotted the local muskrat collecting cattails, or been surprised by the startling squawk of a black-crowned night heron.

In addition to providing food and shelter to birds and wildlife, wetlands provide many practical benefits and important functions.

They filter sediment and pollutants before they are discharged downstream, absorb stormwater runoff to help reduce flooding and recharge groundwater supplies.

Anything deposited into or adjacent to a wetland can affect its ability to function, and wetlands are often connected to other water resources such as ponds, lakes and creeks. Protect these valuable resources with these simple tips.

- **Leave a buffer.** Keep wetland vegetation undisturbed and maintain an unmowed buffer of vegetation along the edge. Consider adding some native wildflowers such as Canada anemone, Cardinal flower, blue lobelia, joe-pye or New

England aster color as well as to attract pollinators. See [www.bluethumb.org](http://www.bluethumb.org) for more native plant ideas.

- **Dispose of yard waste properly.** As yard waste decomposes, it releases nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that can promote nuisance weed and algae growth. Yard debris acts as fill material, reducing the storage capacity of the wetland as well as its ability to absorb water into the soil. Use your curbside hauler or city drop-off sites as available.
- **Don't blow it.** Blow leaves and grass clippings back out of the street and dispose of them properly. Keeping grass clippings on the lawn keeps the nutrients on the lawn — and out of the water.
- **Enjoy it while you can** (before the return of winter). Look for and try to identify the insects and small animals in and around the wetland. Try to see how many different plants (or birds) you can find on your property. Remember, the duckweed and water meal that you may see on the surface feeds waterfowl as well as pulls nutrients from the water. ♪

## Learn more about Emerald ash borer

**L** Emerald ash borer (EAB) at an open house Wednesday, August 7, 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. For more information call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

- **5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** — Exhibits featuring local tree care companies. Residents can ask questions of the exhibitors, who will also serve on the panel later in the evening.
- **6:30 – 7:15 p.m.** — City forester presents information on EAB in Minnetonka, including what the city is doing to prepare for the arrival of EAB.
- **7:15 – 8 p.m.** — Panel discussion. Several consulting arborists will help residents better understand what they can do to prepare for EAB on their property.
- **8 – 8:30 p.m.** — Follow-up questions. Residents can ask panelists questions individually.

Attend this event to get answers to some common questions, such as:

- How do I identify an ash?
- What does EAB look like?
- Can I save my ash tree?
- What is the current status of EAB in the state and in Minnetonka?
- What is the city doing to prepare for the arrival of EAB?
- What are the first steps that I should take to prepare for the arrival of EAB?
- What should I use if I'm worried about pesticides and water quality?
- Should I be concerned if I don't have ash trees on my property?
- What should I do if I don't have ash trees on my property? ♪



*Adult Emerald ash borer*



## Just for Kids Nature News: The Magic of Fireflies

They were kids, out on a warm midsummer night surrounded by hundreds of fireflies, catching them in a jar then falling asleep to their blinking lights.

There's a magical quality to fireflies (lightning bugs), but the magic doesn't come from pixie dust.



Firefly larva

### Flies, bugs or beetle?

Fireflies are not flies or bugs but actually a type of beetle. The adults live only long enough to mate and lay eggs, usually one to two weeks. Females lay up to 100 eggs under leaves and the larvae hatch in about a month. Surprisingly, the eggs of some species of firefly glow dimly in the soil.

### Adult firefly's life

Most of a firefly's life is spent underground as a larva. In fact, some firefly larvae live underground for almost two years. They are found under leaves and mulch in moist soil. The larvae are predatory and feed on earthworms, slugs and snails. Many species of larval fireflies have lights and have been called "glowworms." In late spring or early summer of the next year, the larvae makes a mud chamber and forms its pupae. While in the mud chamber, over two to three weeks, the larvae transforms into an adult flying beetle.

### About that glow

The greenish glow or "bioluminescence" of adult fireflies comes from a light-producing organ in its abdomen. The light is produced by a chemical reaction in its body and the

reaction is triggered by oxygen from the breath of the firefly. So, a firefly can control its flashing pattern with its breath.

Each species of firefly has a specific flashing pattern that helps it locate a mate. While watching fireflies, you may see the male flash once and then flash again 5 to 10 seconds later. Typically a male will fly just above the grass flashing for a female of its species. It will continue this flashing until a female hiding in the grass flashes back to it. Some species flash twice instead of once.

It all sounds so simple: a male firefly flashes and a female waiting in the weeds flashes back. But there's danger in the weeds! Some female fireflies are predatory and copy the blinking pattern of another species in order to attract the male to her — with unfortunate consequences for the male.



Adult firefly

### Firefly numbers fall

While this summer has been a spectacular firefly season, this hasn't been the case in the last ten years. Have you noticed fewer and fewer fireflies? Researchers are seeing firefly populations

disappearing around the United States.

### What you can do

It's not really clear what's causing the drop in firefly numbers, but there are several things you can do to create a friendlier environment for fireflies and other neighborhood creatures.

- Keep your yard friendly to fireflies and other creatures by using natural fertilizers. Chemical fertilizer may harm the ground-dwelling firefly larvae. Spraying pesticides or herbicides in your yard may kill adult fireflies and adversely affect ground-dwelling creatures like slugs which are food for firefly larvae.
- Don't over-mow your lawn. Frequent mowing may disturb local adult firefly populations. Leave an area of your yard natural because adult fireflies like to hide in tall grass/vegetation for protection.

- Build a small pond. Fireflies like standing water and moist areas and tend to congregate in these areas.
- Don't scrape the woods clean. Firefly larvae live underground and feed on creatures that live in the leaf litter. Rotting logs and leaf piles are also excellent microhabitats for fireflies.
- Turn off outside lights. Too much light pollution can disrupt the mating behavior of fireflies. If they are unable to find mates, then they won't complete their life cycle and lay eggs.
- If you catch fireflies in a jar make sure you release them so they can find a mate.
- Make a brochure about fireflies. Give it to your neighbors and alert them about the plight of fireflies. Tell them some interesting facts about fireflies and let them know what they can do to make their property better for fireflies.
- Participate in a firefly study near your home. Visit <https://legacy.mos.org/re-watch/home>

### June/July firefly watching

- Track a firefly and make a map of where you see the firefly go.
- Try to find female flashers in the grass.
- Keep track of the number of flashes a firefly makes and the amount of time between flashes. How many different flashing patterns (species) can you find? What is the most common type of firefly?
- Catch some fireflies in a jar, enjoy them for a few minutes and then release them, so they can find a mate and complete their life cycle.

### September firefly watching

- Look in a damp leaf pile for firefly larvae.
- Once you find one, look at its light-producing organ with a magnifier.
- How many different species of larvae can you find under the leaves?

# City photo contest entries due Friday, September 6

The annual photo contest in conjunction with the Fire Department and City Open House. Below are this year's contest rules.

- Photographers must be residents of Minnetonka.
- Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Your submission of the photo and entry form is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo.
- Photos must be appropriate for posting in city government publications. Photos containing recognizable people must be accompanied by a signed model release form (available online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)).
- Entries may be digital images or color or black-and-white prints. You are encouraged to submit a digital image. See specific rules regarding digital images.
- Prints must be labeled with name and address. If submitting multiple entries, number each print to match a corresponding

entry form (see form below).

- Up to three entries may be submitted.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
  - **Lifestyle Minnetonka** (cityscapes, people, activities)
  - **Natural Minnetonka** (landscapes, plants)
  - **Wild Minnetonka** (animals, pets)
- Photos will not be returned and become the property of the city of Minnetonka to be used in city publications.

### Digital Images

Digital images should be emailed to [jlarrison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jlarrison@eminnetonka.com) or submitted on a CD. Images should be submitted in JPEG (high quality) format. Please submit digital images at the original size and resolution at which they were taken.

### Image Modifications

Minor digital enhancement is allowed, but images that have been significantly modified

or appear unnatural will be disqualified.

### Deadline

All photos must be submitted by Friday, September 6, at 4:30 p.m.

### Awards

A first-, second-, and third-place entry will be selected. In addition, a People's Choice Award will be chosen by attendees at the Oct. 8 Open House. Winning photos will be published on the city website and in the *Minnetonka Memo*; and a certificate of appreciation will be presented to the winners at a city council meeting. ∞

## A look at three of last year's entries...



Brittany Main, "Hanging Ten on the Lake"



James Kirby, "Fingerpainting with the Clouds"



Abigail Key, "I've Always Wanted to Travel"

## Photo contest entry form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Category:  Lifestyle Minnetonka  Natural Minnetonka  Wild Minnetonka

Caption (*photo location, description of event*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail (or drop off) entries to:

Minnetonka Photo Contest  
City of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

**City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.**  
**Questions? Call (952) 939-8207.**

# minnetonka memo

August 2013



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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

<p><b>Mayor</b> Terry Schneider ..... (952) 939-8389 ..... Home: (952) 934-9529 ..... tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.</p> <p><b>City Manager</b> Geraldyn Barone ..... (952) 939-8200</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jacque Larson ..... (952) 939-8200 E-mail: ..... comments@eminnetonka.com Internet: ..... www.eminnetonka.com</p>	<p><b>Council</b> <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</p> <p><b>Minnetonka Mike</b> ..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com</p> <p><b>POLICE-FIRE: Emergency</b> ..... 9-1-1 <b>Non-emergency</b> ..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1</p>
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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

August  
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	1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 5 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6 Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.; Night for Neighbors, 6–9 p.m.; Music in the Park, 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Municipal Primary, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.; Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m. 19 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: 2014 Budget) 20 Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 26 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 27 Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.

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

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and 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.

## Staying informed about city projects

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](http://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 by the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information. ☺

## Apply now for 2014 nonprofit funding

Accepting requests for a limited amount of 2014 nonprofit funding. Last year, in addition to funds for affordable housing, the city provided social services allocations of \$23,000, spread among several agencies. A competitive process will consider the following criteria:

- **Community-wide benefit:** meets an important city-wide need and serves a proportionately high number of Minnetonka residents;

- **Access to funding:** reasonable efforts must be made to raise funds from other sources; and
- **Cost effectiveness:** services are not duplicated and volunteers and in-kind contributions are already used to reduce costs.

Applications are due September 13, 2013. To review the city's policy regarding nonprofit funding and for an application visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺