Mewsletter from the City of Minnetonka August 2012

State primary election is Tuesday, August 14

M INNETONKA VOTERS WILL SEE FIVE races on the Tuesday, August 14, state primary ballot: U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, one district court and two state Supreme Court seats. No local issues are on the ballot. The purpose of the state primary is to determine the candidates who will advance to the state general election November 6.

For more detailed or specific information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit *www.eminnetonka.com.*

About the state primary

In Minnesota primary elections, voters receive a ballot that lists candidates for all eligible major parties. Minnesota has three major parties: the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, the Independence Party and the Republican Party.

In the primary, voters may vote only for candidates within one party. If voters "cross-over" — vote for a candidate from one party for one office, and a candidate from another party for a different office the ballot is considered defective and the votes on that ballot will not count. If this mistake happens at the polling place, an election judge will advise the voter and offer a replacement ballot.

Know your polling place

After the 2010 United States Census, redistricting was required in order equalize populations among election districts. Minnetonka remains in three state legislative districts, although the boundaries of the districts have changed. As a result of the newly drawn precinct boundaries in the city, voters may find that their polling place location has changed. Hennepin County mailed out a postcard at the beginning of July to all voters in the county informing them of their polling place location.

A map of the city's new precinct lines is available on page 3 of this newsletter. Maps will also be posted at the entrance of every polling location on August 14.

Polls will be open Tuesday, August 14, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Before voting, please check to be sure you are going to the correct polling place. To find out where you vote, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at *www.sos.state.mn.us.* After typing in your residential address, you'll be given information about your polling place location, have the option of printing a map to your polling place, and be able to view a sample ballot for your precinct. You can also call city hall at (952) 939-8200 for polling place information.

Registering to vote

Voter pre-registration for the state primary has closed, but you may still register to vote at your polling place on primary 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 primary election day you must provide ID. The acceptable forms of ID are listed on the city's website at *www.eminnetonka.com.*

Absentee voting

Absentee voting is available through Monday, August 13, for those who are unable to get to the polling place on primary election day due to:

- Absence from the precinct,
- Illness or disability,
- Religious observance, or
- Service as an election judge in another precinct.

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 will be available at both locations Saturday, August 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, August 13, 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 primary 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. Receive an application by calling Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200, through the city website at *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.

State Primary Results

After the primary, a link will be available on the city's website *(www.eminnetonka.com)* to the election results page of the Secretary of State's website *(www.sos.state.mn.us)*. ∞

(See polling place map on page 3)

Pay your municipal utility bills online

TIRED OF DEALING WITH PAPER UTILITY bills from the city? Now you can receive and pay your

receive and pay y municipal utility bills (water and sewer) electronically. You can also choose to pay



your bill online, either one time or on a recurring basis, using a credit card or bank account withdrawal.

It's easy to sign up and it's free! To sign up, grab your latest bill and look for this logo at *www.eminnetonka.com.* Click on the logo and follow the instruction. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200. ∞

Photo contest time!

SEE PAGE 7 FOR ALL THE DETAILS on this year's photo contest. ∾



Melanie Ebert, "Buddy Long Legs" (2010 Photo Contest Entry)

Flashpoints From the Minnetonka Fire Department

IN FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A FLASHPOINT is 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.

A word about house addresses

The Minnetonka Fire Department responds to about 1,600 calls every year. To ensure that we can find your house if you have an emergency, please be sure your house address numbers are well lit and clearly visible from the street.

What If? public education program

In addition to providing helpful tips, the fire department's public educators have taken the "What If?" program on the road to visit events, grocery stores, assisted living homes, businesses and schools. The public educators also provide fire station tours, work with scout



troops, provide activities at the fire station and work with public

educators throughout the state to expand our programs.

The "What if?" program invites you to visit *www.eminnetonka.com* to learn more about the fire and life safety program.

By the numbers

During the second quarter of 2012, the fire department responded to more than 400 calls for service, including several structure fires and mutual aid calls. The department also assisted with the paper mill fire in Sartell, Minn. Also during the second quarter, firefighters attended more than 40 hours of ongoing training, including a joint training exercise with the Bloomington, Edina, Excelsior, Hopkins, Richfield and St. Louis Park fire departments

Fire Department, City Open House is October 9

The 2012 Fire Department and City Open House is Tuesday, October 9, from 5-8 p.m. Mark your calendars now, and look for more information in the September and October *Minnetonka Memos!*

Fire alarm fee reminder

Because there are costs associated with responding to false fire alarm calls, the city charges \$250 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 Police Department welcomes new officers

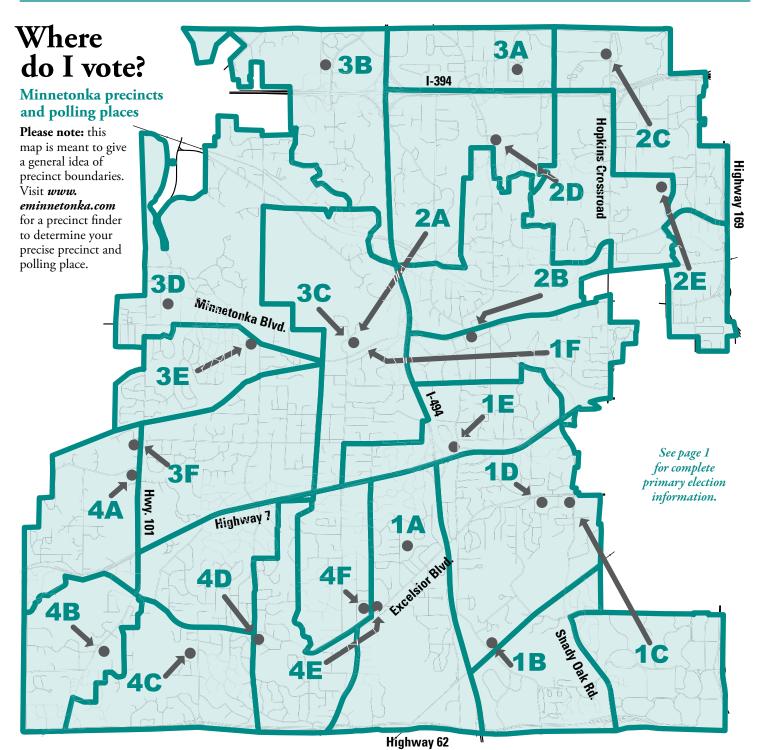
This summer, the Minnetonka Police Department welcomed new police officers and a community service officer. The new hires replaced positions that were open due to retirements. \infty



New police officers are pictured above (from left to right) Ben Williamson, Ryan Smith and Armando Sanchez.



Garrett Gilbertson (above) joined the Minnetonka Police Department as a community service officer.



Precinct locations in Minnetonka

- **1A Glen Lake Elementary School** 4801 Woodridge Road
- **1B** Old Apostolic Luth. Church 5617 Rowland Road
- **1C Cross of Glory Baptist Church** 4600 Shady Oak Road
- **1D Faith Presbyterian Church** 12007 Excelsior Boulevard
- **St Paul's Lutheran Church** 13207 Lake Street Extension
- 1F Minnetonka Comm. Center 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard

- 2A Minnetonka Comm. Center 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
- 2B St. David's Church 13000 St. David's Road
- **2C Oak Knoll Lutheran Church** 600 Hopkins Crossroad
- 2D Ridgedale Henn. Cty. Library 12601 Ridgedale Drive
- 2E Lindbergh Center 24000 Lindbergh Drive

- 3A Ridgepointe 12600 Marion Lane West
- **3B** Freedom Pointe 500 Carlson Parkway
- **3C Minnetonka Comm. Center** 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
- **3D** St. Luke Presbyterian Church 3121 Groveland School Road
- **3E Minnetonka Lutheran Church** 16023 Minnetonka Boulevard
- **3F** Mtka. United Methodist 17611 Lake Street Extension

- 4A Ridgewood Church 4420 County Road 101
- 4B Mtka. School Dist. Service 5621 County Road 101
- 4C Scenic Heights Elementary 5650 Scenic Heights Drive
- **4D** All Saints Lutheran Church 15915 Excelsior Boulevard
- 4E Glen Lake Activity Center 14350 Excelsior Boulevard
- 4F The Glenn 5300 Woodhill Road

Farmers' Market continues Tuesdays

THE MINNETONKA FARMERS' MARKET takes place every Tuesday, from 3–7 p.m., through October 2, in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot, located at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Visit vendors selling produce, meat, canned goods, salsa, maple syrup,



honey, snack mixes, flowers, sauces, apples and crafts. Parking is available in the city hall parking lot or the Ice Arena A parking lot.

Want to be sure you know what's happening each week? Sign up for the farmers' market e-newsletter, delivered to your email each Monday with that week's market news! Visit *www.eminnetonka.com* for information.

Also, don't miss the final performance of this year's Music in the Park, Tuesday, August 7, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus. The River City Jazz Orchestra will perform big band jazz, free of charge. ∞

Host an August birthday party at Williston Center

C LIMB THE LADDER TO ADVENTURE AT Williston Fitness Center's Tree House, and indoor play structure!

Reserve your child's party Monday through Thursday evening in August and save money.

Package includes:

- Two-hour, non-private room, with access to the Tree House
- 10 friends
- Paper products
- Plastic cutlery
- Two table liners
- Williston Fitness Center drawstring backpack

For more information, contact Mary Jo Gardner at (952) 939-8359. ∾

Learn to grow fruit trees and shrubs

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUR own fruit? Have you wondered what varieties are most hardy for a Minnesota climate and where to plant them in your yard? Do you know how to maintain your fruit trees and shrubs to ensure best fruit production?

Learn the answers to these questions and more during a session with Rebecca Koetter, a professional with a passion for edible landscaping. Rebecca previously managed the demonstration plots at the Urban Forestry & Horticulture Research Institute at the University of Minnesota. During her presentation, set for Thursday, September 13, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Minnetonka City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, Rebecca will focus on a few of the most common fruit trees and shrubs, and will also suggest a few interesting varieties to try. The first hour will cover species selection, with the second half covering basic care.

Registration is required and limited to 40. Please RSVP by calling Public Works at (952)988-8400 or register online at *www.eminnetonka.com.* 💊

An update on emerald ash borer

THE BAD NEWS: EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) has been found in portions of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Shoreview.

The good news: it hasn't yet been detected in Minnetonka — although city forestry staff is actively planning for its arrival.

To understand more about the signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer, or to learn what the city is doing to prepare for EAB, visit *www.eminnetonka.com* and search "emerald ash borer." You can also bring your questions to the Minnetonka Farmers' Market on August 28 or September 25, where the city forester will be on hand at an EAB booth.

If you or a neighbor are cutting down a tree, be aware that a federal quarantine is in place making it illegal to take any firewood out of Hennepin or Ramsey counties unless it has been specially treated. To learn more, visit *http://www.mda. state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab/ eabquarantine.aspx* **v**

Take the Great Hennepin County "Recycle Half Challenge"

H ENNEPIN COUNTY RESIDENTS, businesses and organizations create enough waste each year to fill Target Field 11 times, but only 38 percent of that waste is recycled. By 2015, Hennepin County would like to see half of all the waste produced in the county recycled instead. Here's how you can help!

With single-sort carts introduced earlier this year in Minnetonka, recycling is easier than ever. Not only is sorting unnecessary, you can also recycle more of what you buy — including plastic cups and containers (like cottage cheese containers, yogurt cups and party cups), milk and broth cartons and juice boxes.

Are you ready to take the challenge? Visit *www.recyclehalf.com* to sign up for the Great Hennepin County Recycle Half Challenge. Once you've finished signing up, explore the site to see a recycling intervention, test your recycling knowledge and learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle more at home, work and play. ∞



Ask Mike: The care and feeding of Minnetonka's wetlands

MINNETONKA MIKE, THE CITY OF MINNETONKA'S ONLINE request system, is always standing by to help you with any questions, comments or concerns you may have about your city. This month, with a little help from the city's natural resource staff, Mike answers questions about wetlands.

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

I have a swamp in my backyard that I want to clean up. What can I do?

Signed, Stuck in a Swamp



What you're describing sounds like

a wetland. Wetlands are typically a low spot on the landscape where water drains, the soils are normally saturated and there may or may not be standing water. Hydric soils (like peat) form and plants tolerating these wetter conditions thrive. Wetlands are also found on the edges of lakes and creeks.

Wetlands come in many different shapes and sizes. Some are small, woodland, spring-time pools, while others look more like a wet meadow, cattail marsh or open pond. All wetlands provide benefits to us and the natural world by absorbing water to reduce flooding, filtering nutrients and pollutants in storm water, recharging groundwater and providing fish and wildlife habitat.

When urban areas were first developed, storm water was discharged directly into wetlands in order to prevent flooding of streets, homes and businesses. We now know that storm water is polluted water that not only contains high levels of nutrients that can cause algae and other nuisance aquatic weed growth, but also harbors bacteria, sediment and metals.

Wetlands have a delicate ecosystem and are regulated by several different agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and local watershed districts and cities.

The most common questions the city receives about wetlands relate to aeration systems, tree removal, dock access, alteration of vegetation and algae control. The following information will give you some guidance on city regulation. If you have a specific wetland regulation question please contact the city's natural resource staff at (952) 988-8400.

Can I install a fountain in my wetland?

City ordinance prohibits fountains and aeration systems in wetlands. Shallow bodies of water normally do not benefit from aeration systems because the nutrients and sediment never settle out and are continually infused into the water column. Aeration does not reduce algae or duckweed growth, the water movement simply pushes the plant material to the outside edge of the wetland.

Can I remove a tree if it falls into my wetland?

If a tree falls in a wetland, you don't have to remove it. In fact, by leaving it you will create additional wildlife habitat. If you decide to remove it, it must be hauled out by hand, since the use of heavy equipment will damage the wetland. If you chip the tree or branches, be sure not to blow them into the wetland, as it would be considered "fill." Can I install a dock through the vegetation (like cattails) to access the open water portion of my wetland or lake?

Yes, city regulation allows you to install a dock, if you have access rights to the open water portion of the wetland or lake. Contact city staff for more detailed information. Please contact the DNR or Lake Minnetonka Conservation District if you are accessing an area under their regulatory authority. City staff can help you determine whose regulatory authority applies.

Can I cut down trees or remove wetland plants from my wetland?

Cutting of live trees and wetland vegetation is not permitted under city ordinance without first obtaining a wetland alteration permit as approved by the city council. Vegetation that is dead, diseased or noxious may be removed, but it's recommended that you contact city staff first to determine that what you plan to remove is allowed.

Vegetation in a contiguous width not exceeding 10 feet can be cut in order to install or maintain a dock, as approved by city staff. Vegetation can also be removed without a wetland alteration permit if it's part of a city-approved restoration plan.

If your wetland is protected by the DNR, contact the DNR's Aquatic Plant Management Division for details.

I hate the algae. Can I treat my pond?

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The city doesn't regulate the removal of algae or duckweed. Duckweed is a lime-green, pinhead-sized plant that floats on the surface of the water. It's beneficial to wildlife but many people consider it a nuisance because it can form a lime-green coating on the surface of the water.

The Minnesota DNR and/or your local watershed district may have specific regulations for your wetland — contact them to find out more.

If you have a question, comment or concern about the city, let Minnetonka Mike know! Visit *www.eminnetonka.com* and click on Minnetonka Mike's image. Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. Or, call (952) 939-8386 to leave your comment. ∞



John Mielke, Cattail at 10 Below (2011 Photo Contest Entry)



Generations mingle at today's senior centers

e've all heard about the generation gap at the workplace, but at the same time a more subtle generational melting pot is happening at local senior centers, where retiring Baby Boomers are meeting their parents and even their grandparents — three generations of retirees, with each group looking for different resources from their senior center. Some want relaxing, passive activities like bingo or knitting, while others want to bike 20 miles or learn the warrior pose at a yoga class. Others need resources to help stay informed about Medicare or help with maintenance projects so they can stay in their homes.

Whatever you're looking for as a retiree of any age, Minnetonka Senior Services offers it! Below is a sampling of the many classes and activities slated for August and the fall months. Many, many more are listed in the monthly newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*. If you have suggestions or ideas about what you think Minnetonka Senior Services should offer, contact Nicole Gorman at *ngorman@eminnetonka.com* or at (952) 939-8369. We are eager to help you enjoy the Minnetonka Senior Center!

Special Interest Groups

The following groups meet at the center and welcome new participants: Art Drop In, AA, Al-Anon, Billiards, Bingo, Bridge Groups, Chess, Computer, Ham Radio, 500, Red Hat Society, Woodcarving, discussion groups.

Services offered at the Center

Call 952-939-8393 for information Blood Pressure Checks, Health Insurance Counseling, Outreach (Marian Danielson is here on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. Please call for an appointment.) H.O.M.E., Bus Trips, Foot Care, Community Resources.

Fitness Groups

Exercise (M,W,F), Yoga, Zumba Gold and Line Dance.

Defensive Driving Classes

To register for defensive driving classes, please contact the Minnesota Highway Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 or visit *www.mnsafetycenter.org.*

Four-Hour Day Course:

Thursday, August 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Refreshments provided (no meal). Cost: \$20

Big Willow Park Hike

August 10, 9 a.m. Two-mile hike through Meadow Park. Please bring a water bottle and meet at the designated park.

Garden Club

August 13, 1 p.m.

Club members will discuss plant sale results from the farmers' market (members will sell plants at the July 31 and August 7 markets) and plans for next year's sale.

Fall Fitness Fest

August 15, 9:30 a.m. Enjoy the weather outside with some outdoor games including bean bag toss, lasso golf, golf (closest to pin), golf (chipping), croquet and bocce ball. Cost is \$2 payable to MSS by August 10.

Pork Chop Dinner

August 20, 5:30 p.m. The Wright County Pork Producers will be here to make grilled seasoned pork chops. Register early, space is limited. Cost \$7 payable to MSS by August 15.

Single and Ready to Mingle?

August 28, 1 p.m.

Designed for single people to meet other singles who are looking for companionship, with no pressure or expectations! Cost is \$5 payable to MSS by August 22.

Ice Cream Social

August 30, 1 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of socializing with friends over ice cream. Please RSVP for this free event by August 28.

Bike Groups

Tuesdays-Thursdays Bikes 12-20 (long, T&TH) or 8-12(short, W) miles, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. More than 50 routes are planned. Cost is \$5 for season; this fee covers rides with either group.

70 + Softball League

Monday, Wednesday mornings Big Willow Park. Cost: \$15 for season.

Pickleball

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Meadow Park

The Landing Shop

Browse and buy bird houses, kitchen items, home décor, baby items, quilts, books by local authors, handmade purses, plus much more at The Landing Shop. Open Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located at 11280 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka (near I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad).

Prevent deer damage to your young trees

TF DEER ARE FREQUENT VISITORS IN your yard, and you also have a recently planted tree, it's important to protect your tree from mid-August through April with hardware cloth, welded wire or a plastic tree guard.

Deer can damage young, tender trees by rubbing their antlers on the thin-barked stems of deciduous trees. The resulting damage — a shredded tree trunk — kills the living tissue under the bark. It then becomes more difficult for the tree to move water and nutrients, making it susceptible to decay and decline.

Prevent damage to the stem by placing a protective, light-colored plastic tree guard around it or by fencing it off 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. If you choose a tree guard, be sure to remove it in the spring in order to discourage borers and 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. If you forget to check it, and the tree outgrows the stem protection, the wire can girdle and kill the tree — which is just the opposite of protecting it!

For more information visit http://www. myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/2009/12/ tree-stem-protection/ w



Dave Wiemer, Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed (2010 Photo Contest Entry)

City photo contest entries due Friday, September 7

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA AND THE Minnetonka Community Commission are hosting 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*).
- 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

Name

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 *jlarson@eminnetonka.com* or submitted on a CD. Images should be submitted in JPG (high quality) or TIFF 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 7, 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. 9 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...



Trista Johnson, "Princess and the Frog"



Jim Stroner, "Wood Duck Reflection"



Mary Pearson, "Crystal Clear Christmas"

Photo contest entry form

Address	Zip		
E-mail address			
Category: 🗌 Lifestyle Minnetonka	🗆 Natural Minnetonka 🛛 🗆 Wild Minnetonk		
Caption (photo location, description	on of event)		
 Day phone	Age (if under 18)		
	Age (if under 18)		
	Age (if under 18) <i>City employees and th</i> e		
Mail (or drop off) entries to:			

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A publication of the city of Minnetonk 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnet 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday Mayor Terry Schneider(952) 939-8389		
Home: (952) 934-9529		ECRWSS Postal Patron
Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson(952) 939-8200	Minnetonka Mike	

Calendar	S	Μ	т	W	т	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.	
City of Minnetonka				1	2	3	4	 Park Board, 7p.m. Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 	16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.20 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
Minnetonka	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	6 City Council, 6:30 p.m.	(Topic: 2013 Budget)
August 2012	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.; Night for Neighbors, 6–9 p.m.;	21 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.23 Economic Development Authority
Call (952) 939-8200	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Music in the Park, 7–8:30 p.m. 14 Primary Election, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.;	Commission, 6 p.m. 27 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
for meeting locations.	26	27	28	29	30	31		Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.	28 Minnetonka 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* 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. ∾

Nonprofit funding applications available

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS NOW accepting requests for a limited amount of 2013 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; volunteers and in-kind contributions are already used to reduce costs).

Applications are due September 14, 2012. To review the city's policy regarding nonprofit funding, and to download an application, visit *www.eminnetonka.com.* 💊