

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
July 2011

Minnetonka Farmers' Market returns for third season

DON'T MISS THE 2011 MINNETONKA Farmer's Market Tuesdays, July 5–Sept. 27, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Visit nearly 40 local vendors selling a variety of items. Parking is available in the city hall parking lot or the Ice Arena A parking lot.

Not all vendors may be at every farmer's market date—check www.eminnetonka.com each week for a vendor list.

- **Karen Anderson:** Handsewn items
- **Avery's Apples:** Produce
- **Baldwin's Vegetable Gardens:** Produce
- **Beck's Elk River Greenhouse and Vegetables:** Bedding plants, produce
- **Bee Happy Honey:** Honey
- **Boorsma Farm:** Produce
- **Da's Fresh Cut Flowers:** Flowers
- **Dee J's Johnson Farms:** Produce
- **Goofy Girl Cards:** Handmade greeting cards
- **Gracie's Pantry:** artisan canned goods
- **Great Harvest Bread Co.:** Fresh whole-grain bread, cookies, pancake and cookie mixes, dog treats
- **Hazelwood Creek Farm:** Flowers, canned goods, produce
- **Irresistibles LLC:** oilcloth totebags, handsewn items
- **LC Vegetable Garden:** Produce
- **LN Etc:** Handsewn items and jewelry
- **Leng Yang:** Produce
- **Levin and Chellen Chiropractic:** Donate to the ICA foodshelf, receive a free chair massage or chat with the doctor.
- **Long Siding Farm:** Certified organic produce
- **Long Yang:** Produce, fresh flowers



- **Lucky Penny Farm:** Handmade personal care products
- **M&M Agate:** Agates and handcrafted rock products
- **Made by Alejandro:** Leather crafted items
- **Mai Tong Vang:** Produce
- **Mau Family Produce:** Produce
- **Mean Green Hot Sauce:** Hot sauce
- **Minnetonka Senior Garden Club:** (Aug. 23 & 30 only) Member-grown plants—proceeds benefit Senior Center.
- **Nina Wong:** Asian sauces
- **Pam's Pepper Jam:** Canned jams
- **Pao Choua Vue:** Produce
- **Heidi Peterson:** Jewelry
- **Picha Farms:** Produce
- **Plum Creek Maple:** Maple syrup
- **Quilts to Live By:** Handmade quilts
- **Randall's Black Bean Salsa:** Salsa
- **Ridgeroll Farms/Three Willows Farm:** All-natural beef, chicken, pork, lamb
- **Shimanski Orchard:** Apples
- **Skin Solace:** Natural skin care products
- **Tuesday Beaders:** Jewelry
- **Turtle Bread Company:** Bread and pastries
- **Wagz N Purz:** Treats and toys for dogs and cats 🐾

No city primary election this fall

NO PRIMARY IS REQUIRED IN THE city this fall due to the number of candidates who filed for the four ward council positions. Two candidates filed for Ward 1, one candidate filed for Ward 2, one candidate filed for Ward 3, and two candidates filed for Ward 4. All the candidates will go directly on the November 8 general election ballot.

Absentee voting

Absentee ballots for the general election will be available for voters 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

How do I vote absentee?

Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail. Absentee ballots will be available beginning on Friday, September 23. Absentee voting continues through November 7.

- **In person:** Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended absentee voting hours will be available at both locations Saturday, November 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, November 7, 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 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.

For more information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com. 🌐



News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEWSPER FOR NEIGHBORS APPEARS quarterly in the *Minnetonka Memo* with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- Want to make a **comment about a contact you had with a Minnetonka police officer?** Visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Police," then "Police Response," then "Officer Comments." Your feedback will be sent directly to Police Chief Mark Raquet.
- The Minnetonka Police Department **hired Officer Joe Mace** in May. Mace grew up in White Bear Lake and graduated from White Bear Lake High School. He attended college at Minnesota State-Mankato and completed his police training at Hibbing Vo-Tech.



Officer Joe Mace

Night for Neighbors is August 2

On Tuesday, August 2, from 6 to 9 p.m., Minnetonka residents are invited to join hundreds of other neighborhoods across Minnetonka in the tradition of an evening of getting to know your neighbors. All neighborhoods are encouraged to participate, with a city representative visiting many of the registered events. See the city's website at www.eminnetonka.com for online registration, or pick one up at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka

About the "grandparents scam"

In recent months a new scam has emerged that targets mainly seniors or grandparents. The scam involves a phone call where the caller is claiming to be the grandchild and in urgent need of money due to an accident, an arrest or other problem. The caller will ask the grandparent to wire money to a foreign country. Many grandparents who are eager to help put aside their reservations and fall victim to this scam.

How it works

The consumer receives a phone call initiated with a phrase like, "Hi Grandma/Grandpa! Do you know who this is?" The "grandchild" describes some type of emergency, often in a foreign country, and begs the grandparent to immediately wire money. By claiming they are embarrassed or there is no time to talk to others, the con artist tries to dissuade the grandparent from contacting the grandchild's parents or friends.

Avoiding the scam

- Verify the caller's identity. Contact a family member who could confirm the caller's story. Try contacting the real grandchild at a number you know is accurate.
- Resist pressure to act quickly. This scam depends upon a relative's compassion for someone outweighing any concern about potential scams. The various excuses created by fraudsters almost always involve an emergency and a desire for secrecy, because they know if you contact another family member, you will become aware of the scam.
- Only wire transfer money if you are certain of the caller's identity, particularly if the caller wants you to wire the money to a foreign country. Remember, if you wire money, it may be impossible to retrieve the money once it is picked up at the other end. The money is virtually untraceable, and law enforcement agencies have little success in recovering wired funds.
- If you receive a fraudulent phone call like this, promptly call the police. ☞

Pick up after your pet

IF YOU'RE OUT WALKING YOUR PET, BE sure to pick up animal waste no matter where it lands. While the city's ordinance previously only required pick up on public property such as parks, pet owners are now required to pick up animal waste on other people's private property as well.

In addition, the revised ordinance requires pet owners to have with them a means at all times to pick up pet waste, such as a plastic bag.

These city ordinance modifications were passed by the city council in June, making Minnetonka's requirements for pet poo pick-up similar to surrounding communities. ☞

Be fireworks safe

INDEPENDENCE Day may be over, but summer is still a prime time for fireworks. The Minnetonka Fire Department's "What if?" program suggests following these fireworks safety tips.



- Only use fireworks that are legal in Minnesota.
- Always keep water handy.
- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Never re-light a "dud." Wait 15 minutes soak it in water, then discard.
- Only people over the age of 12 should be allowed to use sparklers.
- Alcohol and fireworks don't mix. Have a designated person light the fireworks.
- Always use common sense.
- Keep at a safe distance.
- Be considerate of your neighbors. ☞

The ABC's of being a good neighbor

BARKING DOGS, SMOKY CAMPFIRES, possible hazard trees and trash or recycling containers left in public view—these are some of the most common complaints expressed by Minnetonka residents about their neighbors. While they may seem like minor issues to you, please be considerate of your neighbor's environment by complying with these city ordinances.

About trees, trash and recycling bins

If you are concerned that your neighbor has a **tree that is a hazard** to your property, first talk to your neighbor and explain what you can see from your property. Their sightline view may not be the same, or it might be in a part of their yard they do not use frequently. For more information about hazard trees visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Public Works," then "Natural Resources," then "Forestry," then "Identify Hazard Trees."

City ordinance requires that all **trash and recycling bins** be stored out of public view, either inside a garage or behind a screened enclosure, except for the evening before and the day of trash and/or recycling collection. While your bins may be out of sight for you, they may not be for your neighbors.

Barking dogs

Sometimes pet owners will put their dogs outside while they conduct household tasks or run errands. If the dog starts barking, no one is available to let it back inside. It's important to monitor your dog and be sure it isn't barking continuously while outside—even if you can't hear it, your neighbors most likely can. City ordinance prohibits excessive barking, which is defined as repeated noise over at least a ten-minute

period with one minute or less lapse of time between each animal noise during that ten-minute period. This ordinance is enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. Call the police department at (952) 939-8500 to report a barking dog.

Campfires

Recreational fires (campfires) in the city require a permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department. Even with a permit, the burning of brush, trash or leaves is not allowed. For those who have enjoyed recreational fires over the years, consider visiting the city website to stay updated on all of the current conditions of use for a recreational fire permit.

In addition, please remember that smoke and the smell of smoke often carries into neighboring homes, even on calm days. In addition to the fact that not everyone likes the smell of a campfire (especially in their home), smoke is also an irritant for those who have chronic respiratory issues such as asthma, or other health problems. Beyond minding the conditions of the recreational fire permit, consider your neighbors as well.

Take a moment

If you recognize yourself in any of these items, but think your neighbor hasn't noticed or isn't bothered, you may want to reconsider—it's more likely your neighbor hasn't complained because they don't want to cause hard feelings. Please, take a few minutes to consider your behavior and to think about what kind of neighbor you'd like to be so that Minnetonka's neighborhoods can be pleasant for all. ☺

Know the rules about election signs

DURING ELECTION SEASON, IT'S important for Minnetonka residents to be aware of the city's zoning regulations related to posting political campaign signs. Temporary political campaign signs could be posted any time after June 16, 2011, and must be removed by November 18, 2011.

Signs may not be posted on publicly owned land. On private land, the following rules for temporary political signs apply:



- Signs must be no larger than 6 square feet on local streets such as residential roads and cul de sacs, or 32 square feet on major streets such as county and state roads.
- Signs must be at least five feet from the edge of a public street.
- Signs must not obstruct driver visibility at intersections.
- Signs must have the approval of the underlying property owner. If the sign is located within city right-of-way, the consent of the adjacent property owner is required.
- Signs must not be posted on fences, trees, shrubs, or public utility poles.
- Signs must not be located within the right-of-way of state or county roads.

On election days, the following rules apply to posting signs near polling places:

- On private property, signs must be 100 feet from the door where voters will enter.
- For public property, signs must not be within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property.

If you have questions or complaints about campaign signs, please call the planning division at (952) 939-8290. ☺

Sanitary sewer pipe inspection underway

IF YOU'VE SEEN THIS VEHICLE STOPPED for a period of time in your neighborhood this summer, don't be alarmed. The van and operator are using video cameras and monitors to examine the condition of public sanitary sewer lines in the city. Once the televising operation is done, the city will receive a report and can then develop a plan for any necessary cleaning, repair or replacement of sanitary sewer pipes. If you have questions about this operation, call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺



Sanitary sewer pipe inspection is underway

Music in the Park continues Tuesdays

THE MUSIC IN THE PARK CONCERT series takes place Tuesdays, 7–8:30 p.m., at the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. July and August concerts include the following.

- **July 12**—Eden Prairie Community Band (*45-piece band*)
- **July 19**—Tom Hunter Quartet (*blues, Jazz*)
- **July 26**—Jumpin' Jehosafats (*Dixieland, gospel and all that jazz*)
- **Aug 2**—Blue Feelin' (*acoustic blues*)

Depending on weather, rescheduled concerts may take place after August 2—please check www.eminnetonka.com for an updated schedule.



Apply now for nonprofit funding

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS NOW accepting requests for a limited amount of 2012 nonprofit funding. Last year, in addition to funds for affordable housing, the city provided social services allocations of \$28,000, spread among several agencies.

A competitive process will consider the following criteria: community-wide benefit (meets and 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 9, 2011. To review the city's policy regarding nonprofit funding, and to download an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Recycle plant pots

IF YOU HAVE EMPTY PLASTIC POTS OR trays, don't let them end up in a landfill. Instead, recycle them at a local garden center. Some businesses will accept pots, trays and hanging baskets all season, while others only accept them on specified dates. Visit www.gardenminnesota.com.

Participate in the Get Out, Get Active program

ACTIVE LIVING HENNEPIN COUNTY (ALHC) presents its "Get Out, Get Active" Incentive Program, which encourages residents to learn more about the various active living resources located throughout Hennepin County.

The incentive program is divided into three sessions, with eight to nine activities each. If residents take part in five of the activities per session, they can turn in a participation card to be entered in a prize drawing for a Three Rivers Park District Activity Pass—up to a \$150 value! Four winners will be randomly selected by a drawing after each session.

Get Out—Get Active brochures can be picked up at Minnetonka City Hall, Shady Oak Beach, or the Williston Fitness Center; or accessed on line at www.hennepin.us/activeliving. Find out about the locations, facility hours, and public transportation



options; fees may apply to activities and public transportation. Participation cards can be dropped off or mailed in—more details are available online.

The city of Minnetonka is an active participant in the ALHC initiative along with 11 other cities, Three Rivers Park District, Hennepin County and other interested organizations. All partners work together to increase opportunities for active living in our communities through policy change, infrastructure planning, marketing and communications, mentoring new and potential organizations, and hosting workshop events.

Tour Burwell House through September

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH with Minnesota's past this summer? There's no need to travel far—make plans to visit Minnetonka's own Charles H. Burwell House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a treasure loaded with stories about Minnetonka's early history.

The Burwell House is open for tours Tuesdays, 12–3 p.m., Wednesdays, 6–8 p.m. and Saturdays, 12–4 p.m., through August 31. The house will be open Saturdays only, 12–4 p.m., in September

(September 6, 13, 20 and 27), before closing for the season.

Tours are free and no reservations are required—just stop by the house at 13209 E. McGinty Road, Minnetonka. Parking is available on the grounds, the main floor of the house is handicap accessible, and the entire house is air-conditioned. Want to bring a group for a special tour? Arrange a time by calling Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or email lronbeck@eminnetonka.com.



Local conservation district, watershed commission need board members

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN REPRESENTING Minnetonka on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Board of Directors or the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, apply now. Both have one position to fill, with terms running to 2013.

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) was created under enabling legislation in 1967 and is governed by a Board of Directors composed of one member appointed by the city councils of the 14 cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. In general, the Board reviews various license application requests, considers studies of lake issues, takes measures to control Eurasian Watermilfoil and other exotic species, and considers other related lake-management issues. License applications reviewed by the Board include Special Event Permit; Multiple Docks; District Mooring Areas; Deicing; Charter Boats; and Beer, Wine, and Liquor approvals for related charter boats. For more information visit www.lmcd.org.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Protecting the quality of lakes, streams and wetlands is one of the primary responsibilities of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC). Regular meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday (except in November) of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley. In November the meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and the meeting times and dates are posted on the BCWMC's calendar. For more information, visit www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

To apply for either position, please fill out a city of Minnetonka boards and commissions application, available at www.eminnetonka.com (click on "Your Government," then "Boards and Commissions"). ☺

Learn more about the Japanese beetle

HAVE YOU NOTICED SOMETHING devouring your plant leaves? It could be the Japanese beetle, a serious pest of turf and 400 species of ornamental plants and trees including serviceberry, grapes, roses and basswood.

This non-native invasive insect was accidentally introduced from Japan and has no native predators. It feeds on leaves,



Japanese beetle consuming a leaf.

flowers and fruits, causing aesthetic damage and possibly weakening a plant over time. Adult beetles are present from late July through September.

To help deter the Japanese beetle, consider these measures:

- Reduce the size of your lawn to limit the population since the baby beetles, or grubs, live under the turf. To be effective, the hand picking of beetles or use of pheromone traps and chemical treatments must be carefully timed.
- Consider planting species that are not susceptible to the Japanese beetle, like red and white oaks, red maple, balsam fir, Canadian hemlock, yew and others.

For more information, visit the U of MN Extension bug identification website at www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/insectgallery/index.html or www3.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG7664.html. ☺

2011 recycling dates

RECYCLING AND DROP-OFF DATES FOR the remainder of 2011 are listed below. All events are at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Please check the *Minnetonka Memo* or visit www.eminnetonka.com for event updates and details. Clip and save these dates for a handy reference!

Special Drop-Off

September 17, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fall Leaf Drop-Off

Opens September 26

Expanded Fall Leaf Drop-Off

November 4, 6, 13, 18, 20
(closed Nov. 11, Veterans Day)
Fridays, 12–6 p.m.; Sundays, 12–4 p.m.

End of Fall Brush, Leaf Drop-Off

November 20

Recycling Collection One-Day Delays

July 4 (Independence Day)
September 5 (Labor Day)

Brush Drop-Off Holiday Closures

July 4 (Independence Day)
September 5 (Labor Day) ☺

Photo contest entries due Sept. 9

THE MINNETONKA COMMUNITY Commission will host the annual photo contest again this year, in conjunction with the October Fire Department and City Open House. Deadline is Friday, September 9, by 4:30 p.m. Complete rules, categories and entry form will be published in the August *Minnetonka Memo*. In the meantime, keep those cameras busy taking great photos of Minnetonka! ☺



2010 Photo Contest, Judge's Choice, Natural Minnetonka: Tom Anderson, "Boulders in the Creek"

Water plants and trees wisely this summer

MOST OUTDOOR WATER USE — 80 TO 90% — is for lawn irrigation. However, having a beautiful landscape doesn't mean having to use a lot of water. Follow these tips to save water without sacrificing curb appeal.*

- If you step on your lawn and the grass springs back, it doesn't need to be watered. Watering plants too much and too often results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease, and stormwater runoff.
- Water in the early morning (4–7 a.m.) when the sun is low or down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool. You can lose as much as 30% of water to evaporation by watering midday.
- Save water from storms with a rain barrel, then use that water for irrigation or other outdoor water uses.
- Use water from the air conditioning condenser, dehumidifier, bath or sink on plants or in the garden. When using household wastewater, be careful not to use water that contains bleach, automatic dishwashing detergent or fabric softener.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off.
- Check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

To keep trees and shrubs healthy, consider these watering tips.

- Remember, trees need less frequent, deep watering. Irrigation systems do not give trees the water they need.
- Water to the drip-line (the ends of the branch tips). Most of the tree roots are within the first foot of soil depth. Water does not move horizontally in the soil, so move the hose around within drip line of the tree to reach the entire root zone.
- Avoid sprinkling open wounds on tree trunks, or onto leaves and needles. Instead of a sprinkler, try a hose on low-flow or soaker hoses.
- Less water is needed if the root zone is mulched. Organic mulch like wood chips and shredded bark helps retain soil moisture.
- The best way to tell if a tree needs water is to feel the soil — after watering the soil should be moist 6–8 inches deep throughout the drip line.

Irrigation systems can help you water much less and more wisely, if you follow these guidelines.*

- Adjust your irrigation system regularly to conform to seasonal weather conditions. A good rule of thumb — when you adjust your thermostat, adjust your irrigation controller water schedule too.
- Set the sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only — not the street or sidewalk.
- Schedule each individual zone to account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure and soil type. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in the system.
- Fix obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly.
- Use a rain precipitation sensor, which turns off your system in rainy weather and helps compensate for natural rainfall. This inexpensive device can be retrofitted to almost any system.
- Install a climate or soil moisture “smart” controller that evaluates weather and soil conditions, then automatically adjusts the irrigation schedule.
- Install low-volume micro-irrigation, such as drip, micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers or bubbler irrigation. These devices irrigate slowly and minimize evaporation, runoff and overspray.

Watering guidelines

As a final reminder, in order to conserve water this summer, please adhere to the following watering guidelines for the city of Minnetonka:

- No watering from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days, before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by handheld hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit number from Minnetonka Public Works.
- Private wells are exempt from these regulations, provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call (952) 988-8400.

* Information taken from *WaterSense*, a partnership program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov/watersense

Nine Mile Creek hosts summer classes

THE NINE MILE CREEK WATERSHED District is hosting the following summer workshops. Registration is required. To register or for more information, contact Claire Bleser at cbleser@ninemilecreek.org or call (952) 358-2276. For more information about the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, which includes portions of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield, visit www.ninemilecreek.org.

Floodplain in Action

July 13, 6:30 p.m.

Braemar Golf Course Clubhouse, Edina
Braemar Golf Course is a floodplain and also a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Nature Journaling

August 10, 6:30 p.m.

Lone Lake Park, Minnetonka

Learn more about nature journaling with professional writer Christine Petersen. Bring your paper, pen and camera.

9 Mile Creek

W A T E R S H E D D I S T R I C T

Ask Mike: All about the dos and don'ts of 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, Mike addresses wetland questions.

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

Dear Stuck:

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 in these areas and plants that tolerate 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 habitat for fish and wildlife.

When urban areas were developed, storm water was discharged directly into these areas in order to prevent flooding of streets, homes and businesses. We now know that storm water is polluted water normally containing bacteria, sediment and metals, as well as high levels of nutrients that can cause algae and other nuisance aquatic weed growth.

Wetlands have a delicate ecosystem and are regulated by several different agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Board of Soil and Water 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 call the city's natural resource staff at (952) 988-8400.

Can I install a fountain in my wetland?

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. For these reasons, city ordinance does not allow fountains and aeration systems in wetlands.

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

If a tree falls in a wetland its removal is not required, and leaving it creates additional wildlife habitat. If you decide to remove it, it must be hauled out by hand, as heavy equipment will damage the wetland. If you decide to chip the tree or branches, use the resulting mulch for landscaping in your yard. Please do not deposit the chips back into the wetland, as it would be considered "fill," which is not allowed.

Can I install a dock through the vegetation (like cattails) to access the open water portion of my wetland or lake?

Yes, 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.

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

Vegetation that is dead, diseased or noxious may be removed. Cutting of live trees and wetland vegetation requires a wetland alteration permit. With city staff approval, vegetation in a contiguous width not exceeding 10 feet can be cut in order to install or maintain a dock. In addition, vegetation may be removed without a wetland alteration permit if it is part of a restoration plan approved by city staff.

The city's natural resources staff is always on hand to assist residents in determining what may or may not be



removed around wetlands. Call (952) 988-8400 for assistance.

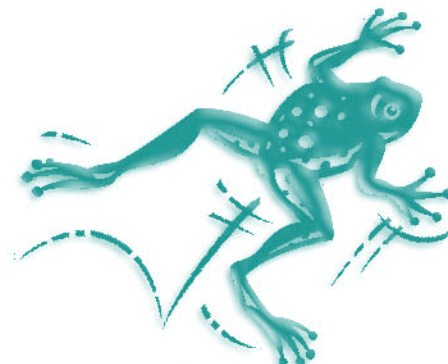
If your wetland is a DNR-protected wetland contact the DNR's Aquatic Plant Management Division for details.

I hate the algae. Can I treat my pond?

The city of Minnetonka does not regulate the removal of algae or duckweed. Duckweed is a lime-green, pinhead-sized plant that floats on the surface of the water. It is 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.

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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. ☺



**Protect
Our
Water
Quality!**

minnetonka memo

July 2011



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

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Ward 1: Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com
Ward 2: Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com
Ward 3: Brad Wiersum... (612) 723-3907 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com
Ward 4: James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike.....(952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency..... 9-1-1
Non-emergency.....(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

July
2011

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
					1	2	4 Independence Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	6 Park Board, 7 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
31							11 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							28 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

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

Fall recreation brochure online only July 29

THE RECREATION SERVICES FALL brochure will be posted online July 29 at www.eminnetonka.com and will not be mailed to homes.

Residents may request a printed copy of the brochure after July 29 by calling (952) 939-8203. A black-and-white copy of the brochure will be printed by the recreation department and mailed to your household. Non-residents requesting a copy of the brochure will be charged \$3 to cover mailing costs.

Only the fall 2011 brochure will be online only—the winter and summer brochures will continue to be printed and mailed.

We welcome your feedback and appreciate your patience and cooperation as we strive to enhance services, reduce printing costs and become a more environmentally friendly organization. Please let us know what you think by calling (952) 939-8203 or by emailing recservices@eminnetonka.com. ∞

**Remember: The fall recreation brochure will not be mailed.
Look online July 29 at www.eminnetonka.com.**

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

