

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
May 2009

Register now for Minnetonka Summer Festival events

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY TO THE Minnetonka Summer Festival Saturday, June 27, for children's rides, a petting zoo, ice skating, musical entertainment and much more! It all takes place on the grounds of the Minnetonka Civic Center campus.

Also on June 27, don't miss the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social at Burwell House, complete with free tours, entertainment, antique market, fine arts fair and food concessions.

The day will conclude with the annual fireworks display — a grand finale to the day's events. A detailed schedule of events will be published in the June *Minnetonka Memo*.

Registrations are being accepted now for the following athletic events held in conjunction with the Summer Festival.

8K Race, Two-Mile Fun Run and Children's Tot Trot

Starting at 7:30 a.m. June 27, this certified 8K race course travels through a beautiful

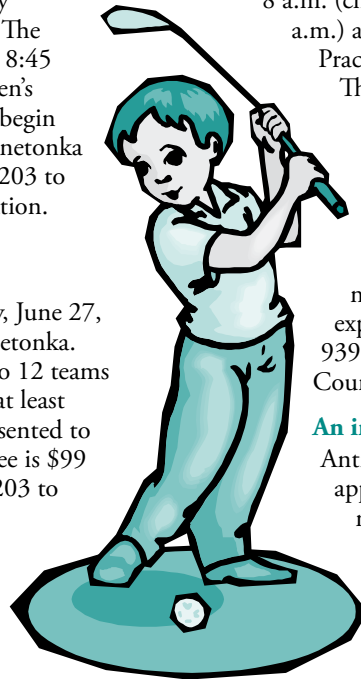
wooded area that is generally flat, with some rolling hills. The Two-Mile Fun Run starts at 8:45 a.m. followed by the Children's Tot Trot at 9:45 a.m. Races begin and end in front of the Minnetonka Ice Arena. Call (952) 939-8203 to register or for more information.

Softball Tournament

This one-day men's softball tournament is held Saturday, June 27, at Big Willow Park in Minnetonka. The tournament is limited to 12 teams with each team guaranteed at least three games. Awards are presented to the top three teams. Entry fee is \$99 per team. Call (952) 939-8203 to request a registration form.

Adult/Child Golf Tournament

A family-oriented golf tournament will be held Saturday, June 27, at



8 a.m. (check-in between 7:00–7:15 a.m.) at the Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center in Minnetonka.

The tournament uses a shotgun start, with special contests throughout the tournament. The entry fee of \$30 per team includes a meal at the Minnetonka Summer Festival. Children must be 8–15 years of age and experienced golfers. Call (952) 939-8203 to register and refer to Course #16911.

An invitation to antique vendors

Antique vendors are invited to apply to be part of the antique market at the Burwell House Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social Saturday, June 27, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications and exhibit guidelines are available at www.eminnetonka.com or call

Chuck Donley, antique market coordinator, at (952) 988-9797. ☺

Park Board considers Mills Park plan June 3

LAST YEAR, RESIDENTS WERE INVITED TO attend neighborhood meetings and a community open house regarding a shared vision for the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor. A portion of this project is the creation of the Minnetonka Mills Park.

The Minnetonka Park Board will consider a refined master plan for the Minnetonka Mills Park at its Wednesday, June 3, regular meeting, set for 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. For more information about the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor vision visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Please note: This park project is unrelated to the Minnetonka Mills Corridor Development Initiative, which concerns planning and development throughout the Minnetonka Mills area. See page 2 for more information on that project. ☺

Join the four-week Step To It Challenge

DO YOU HAVE A COMPETITIVE SPIRIT? Do you want a fun and easy way to get in shape this spring? Then join the four-week Step To It Challenge from May 18 through June 14!

Show your pride, friends at your side!

The challenge is a fun, light-hearted way to connect with family, friends, and neighbors and get moving again after a long winter. Twelve cities will compete to see which one has the most active residents. Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins will honor the winning city and the ten most active residents from each participating city at a 2009 Twins home game.

How does it work?

As a Step To It participant, keep a running total of the steps you take during the challenge using a pedometer or an activity conversion chart. Other activities such as biking, skateboarding, tai chi, or even mowing the lawn also count toward

overall steps. The Step To It Challenge Web site, www.steptoit.org, allows you to record your steps online. You may also report your scores to Jennifer Nagel of Hennepin County by fax at (612) 348-7548 or by calling (612) 348-5618. Best of all, it's **free!**

Challenge cities

If you live or work in Minnetonka, you're eligible to participate. Other participating cities are Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, Hopkins, New Hope, Plymouth, Osseo, Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park.

Registration

Complete a registration form and return it by mail to the address found on the form, or register online at www.steptoit.org. Registration forms will be available at the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services office and the Minnetonka Community Center. ☺

Ask Minnetonka Mike

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 answers questions about the recent activity at the Ridgedale water tower, which is receiving a new coat of paint.

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

I drive I-394 every day and noticed the giant "shower curtain" that comes and goes around the water tower located near Ridgedale Center. What's going on?

Signed, Water Tower Watcher



Dear Water Tower Watcher:

First, a lingo lesson — while everyone uses the term water towers, if you want to sound like a water insider, call them “water storage facilities.” Why? Because “tower” refers to a very specific type of water storage facility — there are also in-ground and above-ground water storage facilities, and in the case of the Ridgedale water storage facility, hydropillars. The Ridgedale hydropillar holds two million gallons of water — enough to fill three Olympic-size swimming pools! Minnetonka's nine water storage facilities encompass all of the types listed above and together store 12 million gallons of water.

The Ridgedale hydropillar is made of steel, which is highly susceptible to corrosion both inside and out. To protect the facility, it's completely repainted every 10 to 15 years. The aesthetics of a new paint job, while significant, are only a side benefit.

The process of repainting the the Ridgedale tower involves several steps. First, the tower is taken out of service and emptied, so the painting is occurring between April and July, before the heaviest water use of the year. During this time, the other water storage facilities in the city take over duties from the Ridgedale facility, so that residents see no change in water pressure or supply. Workers construct apparatus on the top of the facility so that a curtain enclosure can be winched to the top to contain the materials used in repainting the tower, then lowered when work isn't taking place.

In an interesting wrinkle, the tower is also used by two cell phone companies for their transmitting equipment, with more than 46,000 calls routed through the tower equipment each day. A mobile cell truck, parked at the site of the water tower, was deployed by these companies to handle the call volume while the tower is being repainted.

Next up, the tower is blasted both inside and outside with metal blasting media to remove the old paint as well as any rust or corrosion. Because corrosion can happen so quickly when water meets bare steel, a chemical is mixed into the blasting media to protect the steel until a primer coat can be applied. All of the blasting media is recaptured on site and recycled for reuse.

Once the blasting is complete, it's time to paint! Seems easy, but the paint must be applied in exactly the right conditions to guarantee its longest lifespan. As the paint is applied, it is continually inspected to ensure it meets the contract specifications. And what color paint is used, you wonder? It's called “cloud,” and was chosen because it blends into the sky and lessens the obtrusiveness of the facility on the landscape. Finally, the city of Minnetonka logo is repainted on the side of the facility.



If you have more questions about the repainting of the Ridgedale water storage facility, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

If you have a question, comment or concern about the city of Minnetonka, let Minnetonka Mike know! It's easy to set up an account. Just visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on Minnetonka Mike. Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. ☺

Stay informed: sign up for MyMinnetonka at www.eminnetonka.com

Mills CDI meetings continue on May 19

TRADITIONALLY, THE DEVELOPMENT process works like this: a developer visits city hall and applies for a permit and neighbors receive notice of the intended development and a date for public hearing. At this point, plans are often complete and neighbors are asked to provide input on designs that are already under consideration. Once the public hearing is held, a decision is made.

For the community's historic Minnetonka Mills area, the city is trying a new planning process. This spring, before any developer application or designs are submitted, the city of Minnetonka is partnering with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) through the Corridor Development Initiative to explore new ways to consider development for the Minnetonka Mills area north of Minnetonka Boulevard.

The Corridor Development Initiative (CDI) is a proactive process to assist in the planning, design, and development along major corridors. The idea is to engage residents in playing an active part in directing development by first providing education on market realities and financial considerations of development. Then, residents can more effectively participate in shaping development goals.

The first workshop was held April 14. All residents are invited to participate in any or all of the remaining CDI workshops, set for May and June.

Workshop II: Development Opportunities

Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 p.m.
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room
12990 St. Davids Road

Workshop III: Developer Discussion

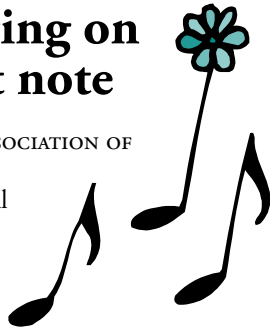
Tuesday, June 2, 6-8 p.m.
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room
12990 St. Davids Road

Workshop IV: Framing the Recommendations

Tuesday, June 16, 6-8 p.m.
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room
12990 St. Davids Road

For more information contact Julie Wischnack at (952) 939-8282 or jwischnack@eminnetonka.com or Elise Durbin at (952) 939-8285 or edurbin@eminnetonka.com. ☺

Start spring on the right note



THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka will present several concerts in May. Dates, times and locations are listed below. For more information call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org.

Welcome Spring Concerts

Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus

Program: Davidson — *The Young Lutheran's Guide to the Orchestra*; Bruckner — *Symphony No. 4, "Romantic"*

Sunday, May 3, 7:30 pm

Wayzata Community Church
125 Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata

Sunday, May 10, 7:30 pm

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
715 Minnetonka Mills Road, Hopkins

Gems and Treasures Concert

Minnetonka Concert Band, directed by Dan Geldert

Thursday, May 7, 7:30 pm

Arts Center on 7
18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka

Music for Spring Concert

Minnetonka Symphony Chorus, Choral Reflections of Minnetonka, and Chamber Choir

Friday, May 8, 7:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church of Hopkins
241 5th Ave N, Hopkins

Friday, May 15 at 7:30 pm

Messiah Methodist Church
17805 County Road 6, Plymouth

16th Annual Varen: Voices of Spring

Minnetonka Youth Cappella, Concert and Chamber Choirs

Saturday, May 16, 7:30 pm

Cross View Lutheran Church
6645 West McCauley Trail, Edina

Contacting an elected official

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE USEFUL SHOULD YOU WISH TO CONTACT AN elected official. Minnetonka is in the 3rd Congressional District; State Senate Districts 33, 42 or 43, depending on where you live; Legislative Districts 33B, 42A or 43B depending on where you live; 6th County Commission District; and 4th Park Commission District.

2009 MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Terry Schneider
O (952) 939-8389
H (952) 934-9529
tschneider@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, At Large

Dick Allendorf
H (952) 933-6231
dallendorf@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, At Large

Amber Greves
H (952) 931-3960
agreves@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, Ward 1

Bob Ellingson
H (952) 931-3065
bellingson@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, Ward 2

Tony Wagner
H (952) 512-1817
twagner@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, Ward 3

Brad Wiersum
C (612) 817-3713
bwiersum@eminnetonka.com

Council Member, Ward 4

James Hiller
H (952) 974-1003
jhiller@eminnetonka.com

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Comm. Jan Callison
A2400 Government Center
300 S. 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487
O (612) 348-7886
jan.callison@co.hennepin.mn.us

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Tim Pawlenty
130 State Capitol Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-3391
tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

State Senate Districts

Sen. Gen Olson – 33
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building Rm. 119
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-1282
sen.gen.olson@senate.mn

Sen. David Hann – 42
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building Rm. 127
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-1749
H (952) 975-0933
sen.david.hann@senate.mn

Sen. Terri Bonoff – 43
75 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building Rm. 325
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-4314
sen.terri.bonoff@senate.mn

State Legislative Districts

Rep. Connie Doepke – 33B
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
215 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-4315
rep.john.berns@house.mn

Rep. Maria Ruud – 42A
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
515 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-3964
rep.maria.ruud@house.mn

Rep. John Benson – 43B
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
517 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
O (651) 296-9934
rep.john.benson@house.mn

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Senate

Sen. Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
klobuchar.senate.gov
1200 Washington Ave. S #250
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Phone: (612) 727-5220

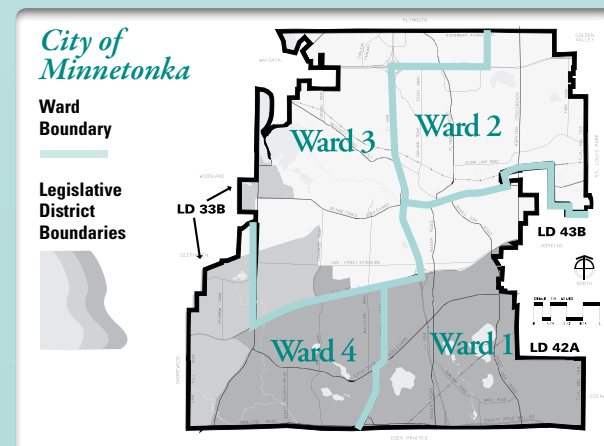
U.S. House

Rep. Erik Paulsen
126 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
<http://paulsen.house.gov>
250 Prairie Center Dr., Suite 230
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: (952) 405-8510

OTHER

Three Rivers Park District

Dale Woodbeck
3000 Xenium Lane N
Plymouth, MN 55441-1299
O (763) 559-6730
comissioners@threeriversparkdistrict.org



Touring Minnetonka's trails: Discover Opus

COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS “OPUS,” this square-mile of planned development is located in the southeast part of Minnetonka and bounded by Highway 169, Shady Oak Road, Highway 62 and Smetana Road. A unique one-way looped roadway system and a trail system connect the residential, hotel, commercial, light industrial and office buildings, as well as Green Circle Park or “Annie’s Pond.” The trail system was originally designed as a secondary road system, but now provides a great opportunity for recreation and exercise to the thousands of employees and residents working and living in Opus—as well as an occasional (albeit illegal) escape route for frustrated motorists hopelessly baffled by the one-way road system.

History

Prior to the council approval of the Opus II development in 1978, this area had acres of farms growing raspberries. An 1890 plot map of the area shows the names Feltl, Dvorak, Bren and Smetana, early settlers who are now remembered by their namesake streets. Even the St. Margaret Cemetery, located in the southwest part of

Opus, is on the 1890 map. Prior to its redevelopment, there was a plant nursery area for the city and a trailer park in the area.

Opus trails

The almost six miles of trails in Opus are paved. Trails typically cross the roadway under the bridges, so there are just a few at-grade crossings in the entire maze of trails. All the buildings have connections to the trail system. During the winter season, the main trails are plowed after a snowfall of two inches or more.

Trail connections

Access the Opus trails in two places: Smetana Road just east of Feltl Road and Shady Oak Road at Red Circle Drive. Four parking spots are available on Green Circle Drive on the east side of Green Circle Park.

If you go

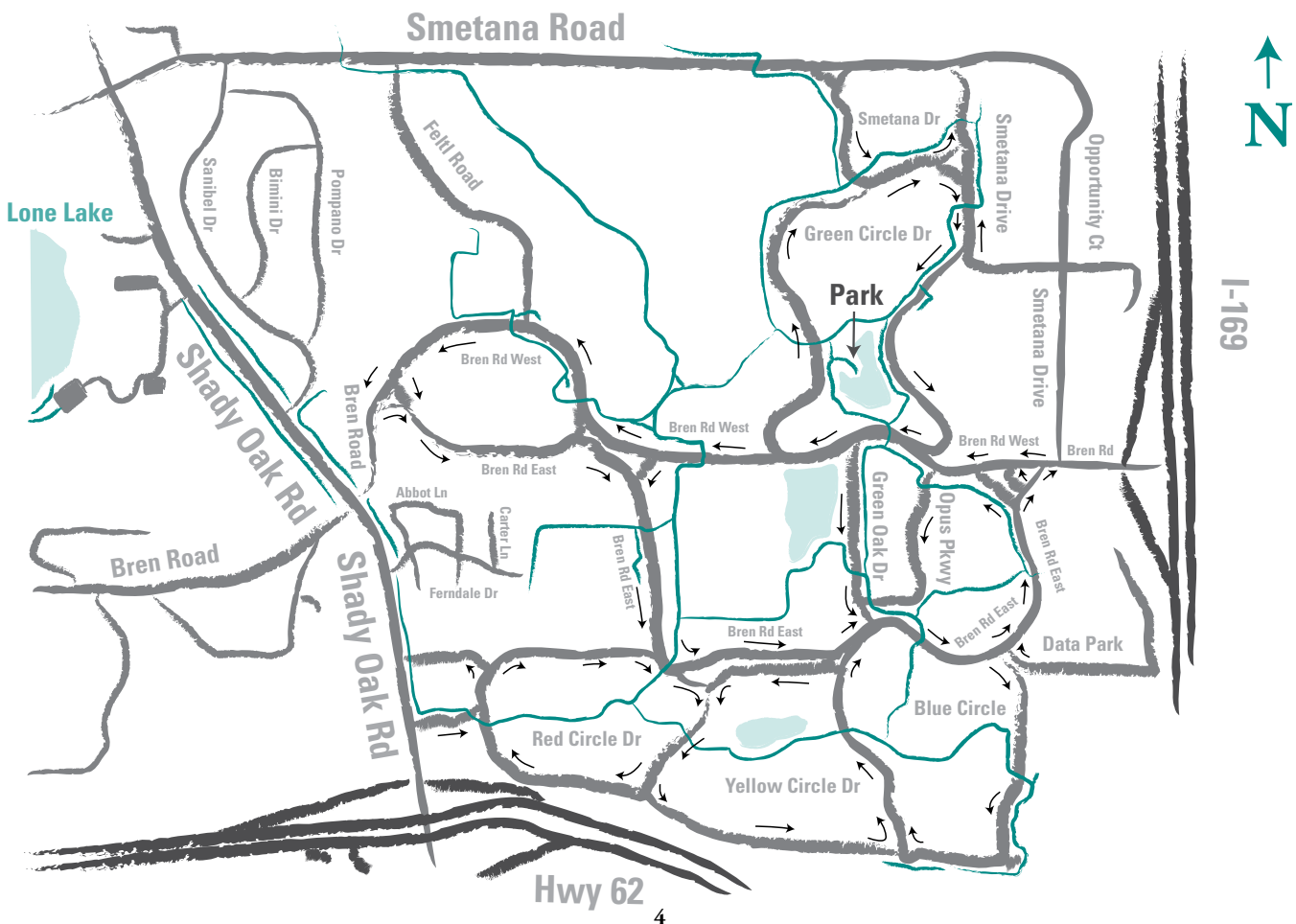
- Trails are open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Benches are occasionally located along the trails.

- Four parking spots are available on the east side of Green Circle Park.
- Green Circle Park has a gazebo on the peninsula and a 0.3 mile path around the pond.
- Dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) on the trails, in the play areas and the parking lot.
- Please pick up after your pet. Mutt Mitt dispensers are available along the trail.

Please Note: This year the city will begin repaving portions of the Opus Trails. The project will take place over over three years to lessen the budget impact and to use city staff instead of outside contractors.

Please look for signs warning of upcoming trail repair, and use caution if you come upon signs announcing trail repaving. Be sure to choose a different route that day, as trucks will be on the trails hauling materials. Once a trail has been blacktopped, it is safe to walk or ride a bike on it.

You may sign up for an email alert or RSS feed by visiting the "Parks and Trails" section on the "Projects" page and looking for "Opus Trails Repaving" at www.eminnetonka.com.



Music in the Park starts June 9

THE BEAUTIFUL AMPHITHEATER ON THE MINNETONKA CIVIC Center campus is the site for this summer's annual Music in the Park concert series. Concerts are held Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and feature local performers playing a wide variety of music. Bring along a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an evening of free entertainment for the whole family!

A special performance has been added to this year's Music in the Park line-up—the Minnetonka Community Theatre will perform "Snoopy" on June 23.* Don't miss this special event!

- **June 9**—James Moors (Folk)
- **June 16**—Blue Feelin' (Blues)
- **June 23**—Minnetonka Community Theatre—"Snoopy"
- **June 30**—Mark Yannie Trio (Jazz)
- **July 7**—Don King Blues Band & Friends (Blues)
- **July 14**—Lehto & Wright (Celtic, Folk Rock)
- **July 21**—Brio Brass (Brassy Jazz)
- **July 28**—The Blue Drifters (Bluegrass, Jazz, Folk)
- **August 4**—Todd Menton (Celtic, Eclectic Folk)

New this year, the Minnetonka Farmer's Market will debut Tuesday, July 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Ice Arena parking lot, and will continue every Tuesday through September 22. So stop in early, do some shopping, then settle in at the amphitheatre for excellent musical performances!

* *Additional performances of "Snoopy" will be held on the following dates and times: Tuesday, June 23—10 a.m.; Wednesday, June 24—7 p.m.; Thursday, June 25—2 p.m.* ☺

Canoe Minnehaha Creek

RECREATION SERVICES NOW OFFERS AN EASY AND ENJOYABLE WAY to canoe Minnehaha Creek this spring and early summer. Through July 10, canoes and a shuttle service are available for rent Saturdays and Sundays. Friday evenings are also offered from June 5 through July 10. Canoeists may choose to use their own equipment and access the shuttle service only; or reserve both canoes and shuttle for the complete package.

All trips begin at the Minnehaha Creek Headwaters, with two routes available: Route #1 includes a 4.5 mile trip to Hopkins Crossroad (County Road 73), or take Route #2 and travel eight miles to Creekside Park in St. Louis Park. Costs for rental and shuttle services are as follows:

Route #1

- **Canoe and shuttle: \$40** (*additional canoes: \$20 each*)
- **Shuttle service only: \$20**

Route #2

- **Canoe and shuttle: \$70** (*additional canoes: \$40 each*)
- **Shuttle service only: \$30**

When renting a canoe, paddles and life vests are also included. All trips are subject to adequate water levels in Minnehaha Creek. Advanced registration is highly recommended as space is limited. To register, please call Recreation Services during regular business hours at (952) 939-8203. ☺

Farmer's Market debuts July 7

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO ATTEND THE NEW MINNETONKA Farmer's Market, starting Tuesday, July 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. and continuing every Tuesday through September 22! The market will take place in the parking lot of the Minnetonka Ice Arena A, located at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus at 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Many vendors have applied to sell at the farmer's market, with a wide variety of products from fresh, locally grown produce to homemade salsas and baked goods to craft items. Come for the farmer's market and stay for Music in the Park at 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheatre, just next to the Ice Arena! For updated weekly information visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Kid's activity volunteers needed

If your youth organization would like to volunteer to provide a children's activity at one of the farmer's market dates, please contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207 or Laura Ronbeck, administrative projects specialist, at (952) 939-8219.

Reserve your picnic spot now

MINNETONKA FACILITIES STAFF RESERVE SPACE AT BOTH Minnetonka and Hopkins picnic shelters, located in Burnes, Central and Valley parks in Hopkins, and Lone Lake, Gro-Tonka and Shady Oak parks in Minnetonka.

Park systems in both communities provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to enhance your picnic. A description of each facility's amenities and hours of availability, fees, and application forms, as well as guidelines, are available online at www.eminnetonka.com. Summer weekend dates fill quickly, so be sure to request your reservation as far in advance as possible. For more information, call (952) 939-8390. ☺

Watercraft inspections continue

THE LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IN PARTNERSHIP with the Lake Minnetonka Association, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Three Rivers Park District, plans an aggressive invasive species inspection program for incoming watercraft at public watercraft access points around Lake Minnetonka in 2009.

Nine of 11 lake public accesses will be staffed with inspectors from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holidays. In addition, video monitoring is planned from opening fishing weekend and continuing for five months at the Grays Bay and Maxwell Bay public accesses.

Take these steps to protect Lake Minnetonka and other waters:

- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment and remove any aquatic plants, animals and mud before leaving the water access.
- Drain the water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells and bait containers before leaving the water access.
- Before transporting boats or recreational equipment, spray with high pressure, rinse with hot water and let dry for at least five days to remove or kill species that many not be visible.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.

For more information on how you can help stop aquatic hitchhikers, visit www.lmassociation.org, www.lmcd.org or www.dnr.state.mn.us. ☺

Spotlight on the Senior Citizen Advisory Board

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS SEVEN boards and commissions made up of residents appointed by the Minnetonka City Council. This year, each *Minnetonka Memo* features information about one of these boards and commissions. This month, we introduce the Senior Citizen Advisory Board!

Made up of 15 members, the Senior Citizen Advisory Board is responsible for advising the city council on the needs and status of seniors in the city and recommending ways in which those needs may be met. The board determines and assesses existing resources in the city which may be used by seniors to meet their needs; and evaluates proposed programs, grants and other governmental activities which may affect seniors. Finally, the board works with city staff and the senior center coordinator to recommend policies, goals and objectives for operation of Senior Services.

Members serve two-year terms and meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. For a complete list of Senior Citizen Advisory Board members visit www.eminnetonka.com—click on Your Government, then Boards and Commissions, then Senior Citizen Advisory Board.

Applications are accepted year-round for openings that may occur on city boards and commissions. For more information about a specific board or commission, or for an application, contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

Summer skating lessons start June 8

SIGN UP FOR SUMMER SKATING LESSONS with the Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School! The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers instruction for skaters entering kindergarten through adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310, or visit the city of Minnetonka web site at www.eminnetonka.com. The eight-week summer session begins June 8, 2009. Register now as space is limited! ☺

Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN AND friendship at Minnetonka Senior Services! Located at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, Senior Services offers a wide variety of classes, programs, and activities for active older adults. For more information, or to sign up for the free monthly newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes, for more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities. All class registration and payments should be directed to Minnetonka Senior Services. VISA or MasterCard are now accepted. Payment must be submitted at the time of registration for classes, trips or programs.

Defensive Driving Classes

Call the Minnesota Highway Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 to register.

Eight-Hour Initial Course

May 12 & May 14, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Required for anyone who has not yet taken a defensive driving course. Refreshments provided but no lunch. **Cost:** \$20

Four-Hour Day Course

May 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided but no lunch. **Cost:** \$18

Four-Hour Evening Course

May 19, 6–10 p.m.

Refreshments provided. **Cost:** \$18

Special Events

Senior Hikes in Minnetonka

May 5, 9 a.m.

Enjoy a two-mile hike around Libbs Lake. Bring your own water and meet at the park, 16515 Park Lane. RSVP to (952) 939-8393.

Cinco de Mayo Party

May 5, 12 p.m.

Entertainment by the Mariachi Band.

In Step With Our Parents

May 7, 14 & 21, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

This three-part educational series is for family caregivers of elderly parents. Gain a better understanding of your role as a caregiver and how to navigate the issues related to caregiving.

Cost: \$10, due by May 5. Refreshments and materials provided.

Adopt a Highway

May 13, 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed—meet at the senior center. Supplies and refreshments provided.

Navigating Medicare

May 14, 7 p.m.

Thinking about or preparing to retire? Family member with Medicare coverage? Already have Medicare and want an update? Learn about Medicare, including Parts A, B and D coverages. This is an educational opportunity, not a sales pitch, and is offered in cooperation with Senior Community Services, a non-profit agency. **Cost:** \$10, due by May 10.

Over-85 Party

May 18, 12 p.m.

Entertainment by the Velvet Tones. Call (952) 939-8393 for information.

12-15 Mile Bike Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 a.m.

Join this new bike group for 12- to 15-mile rides starting at various metro locations. Annual fee of \$5. Call (952) 939-8393 for details.

St. Cloud's Granite and Gardens

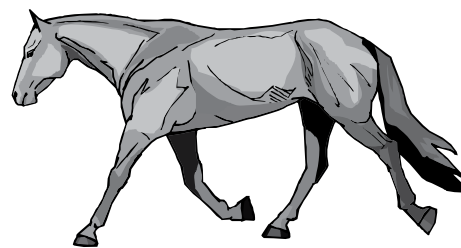
June 30, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$54, includes tours, lunch, transportation and escort. Register by June 12.

MacPhail and Equine Center

July 24, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$48, includes tours, lunch, transportation and escort. Register by July 3.



News from Senior Services

- Want to receive a weekly email notifying you of upcoming events at senior services? Call or email Nicole Gorman at (952) 939-8369 or ngorman@eminnetonka.com and provide your email address.
- Stop by the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, to browse through a collection of homemade gifts. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.millslandingshoppe.com or call (952) 933-5214 for more information. ☺

Take the 2009 Commuter Challenge

WANT TO TRY SMARTER WAYS OF getting to work and be involved in a friendly competition at the same time? Then take the Commuter Challenge!

Between April 1 and June 30, visit www.494corridor.org to pledge to take the bus or train, carpool, vanpool, telework, bike or walk. Challenge a friend to do the same, or form a team with co-workers, family, friends or neighbors.

Join Bike2Benefits

Saddle up for your commute! Join Bike2Benefits and see how rewarding it is to

commute with pedal power. Ride your bicycle to work once a week over eight weeks—it's that easy! Complete the program and you could win great prizes. For more information, visit www.bike2benefits.org.

The Commuter Challenge and Bike2Benefits are sponsored by Metro Transit and the region's transportation management organizations (TMOs): 494 Commuter Services, Commuter Connection, St. Paul Smart Trips and Anoka County. ♪

Dos and don'ts for pet owners

BE SURE YOUR PET IS A GOOD CITIZEN and remember these dos and don'ts. For more information contact the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500.

- **Do** make sure your pet wears an ID tag. While the city of Minnetonka no longer requires dog licenses, it does require that all dogs wear an ID tag. The ID is not a license and no fee is paid to the city. The tag should contain as much information as possible, but at minimum the owner's phone number, with address and name if space allows. ID tags are not required, but are recommended, for cats.
- **Do** have your dog vaccinated for rabies and keep proof of the vaccination.
- **Do** pick up after your pet. Not only does picking up your dog's feces help control the spread of parasites from dog to dog, it also keeps the city clean and helps protect water quality.
- **Do** apply for a multiple animal location permit if you have more than two dogs. The permit expires annually on May 31 and costs \$10 per year.
- **Don't** let your dog run loose. A dog that isn't under restraint can chase after a wild animal or another dog and be hit by a car, not to mention the concern of one dog attacking another or biting a person. The city of Minnetonka requires that all dogs be leashed when in the maintained portion of parks or on trails.
- **Do** report all animal bites. If an animal bites you or your pet bites someone else, you are required to report it to the Minnetonka Police Department. This is for the safety of pets and humans alike.

In most cases, no action will be taken against the dog or owner except for the required quarantine.

- **Don't** let your dog be a nuisance. Every dog barks and makes noise, but no one likes a nuisance barker. A dog is considered a nuisance if it barks excessively or continuously, 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."
- **Do** call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 if your pet is missing. Animals that are picked up by an officer and cannot be returned home will be impounded. You may pick up your pet by calling the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500. Impound and boarding fees will apply.
- **Do** remember the city only deals with those wild animals that are sick or injured. If you need information on how to remove a wild animal, please consult the phone book for a pest control company. ♪



Minnetonka Theatre presents *Hello, Dolly!*

ATTEND A PERFORMANCE OF "HELLO, Dolly!" presented by Minnetonka Theatre July 17 through August 1 at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka.

The production will star Greta Grosch as Dolly Levi, as well as Jen Burleigh-Bentz and John Trones. The remainder of the cast will be made up of local actors, singers, dancers and community members, under the direction of R. Kent Knutson.

Performances are July 17-18, 23-25, 30-31 and August 1 at 7:30 p.m., and July 26 and 29 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call (952) 401-5748 or visit www.minnetonkatheatre.com to purchase tickets.

Register now for new kid's program

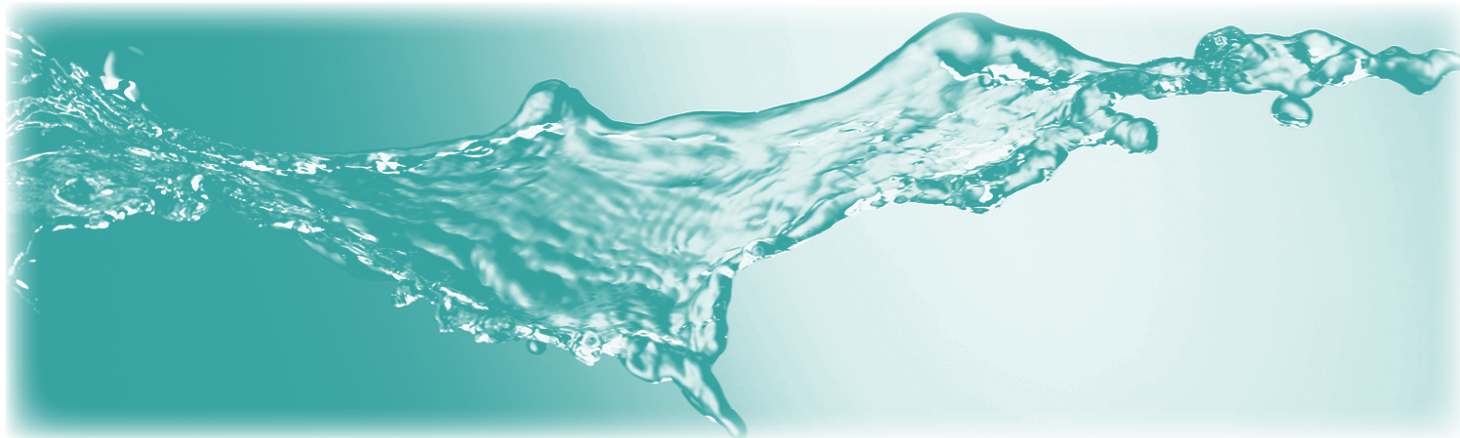
THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR Kid's Corner, a new 11-week active day program hosted by Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services to meet the needs of area families with children in grades 1 through 5.

Based at Williston Fitness Center, the Kid's Corner summer program will offer field trips, sporting activities, arts and crafts, and much more. Field trips include visits to the Science Museum of Minnesota, Pump It Up, Gale Woods Farm, Minnesota Zoo, St. Louis Park Aquatic Park, Grand Slam, Shady Oak Beach, Como Zoo, Crystal Cave, and a Minnesota Twins Game.

Kid's Corner will run Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., June 8 through August 21. Cost is \$135 per week, with a minimum of ten weeks required. Find complete program description and registration information in the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services summer brochure. Call (952) 939-8203 for more information. ♪



2008 Minnetonka Drinking Water Report



THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS ISSUING the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2008. Each of the past 11 years, Minnetonka Public Works has distributed this annual report to summarize drinking water quality for the previous year; advance residents' understanding of drinking water; and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

This report fulfills an obligation the city's water utility has to provide accurate and timely information about your drinking water and the city's water system. If you have questions about your drinking water, please contact Jim Malone at jmalone@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 988-8400. For information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Water source

The city of Minnetonka operates 18 wells ranging in depth from 405 to 575 feet that draw water from the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

Other possible sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Before a water source is used for a supply, it is tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters. Test results for the city of Minnetonka water supply are listed on the next page. The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future

contamination incidents.

If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call (651) 201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (press 5) during normal business hours. The report may also be viewed online at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/sup/swa.

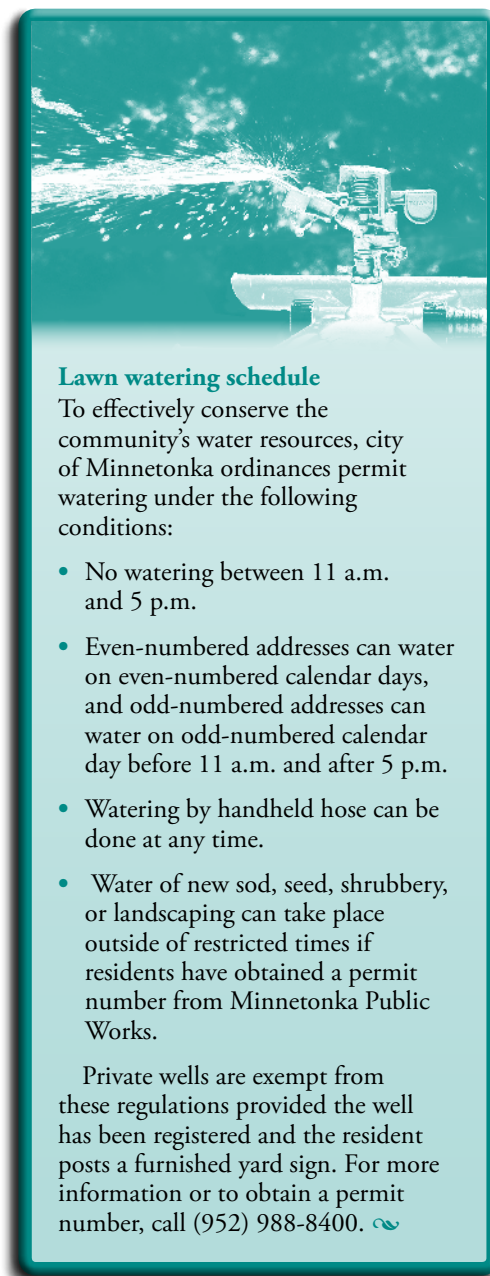
Are contaminants a concern?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Drinking water regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. ☺



Lawn watering schedule

To effectively conserve the community's water resources, city of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

- No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar day before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- 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 resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call (952) 988-8400. ☺

Laboratory Results for Minnetonka Tap Water: 2008

The results contained in the following table indicate an exceedance of a federal standard, while some other contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2008. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.)

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Water Testing Terms and Definitions

MCLG — Maximum Contaminant Level Goal

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL — Maximum Contaminant Level

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MRDLG — Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

MRDL — Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

AL — Action Level

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level

This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which ten samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest

result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) *Note:* In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l — PicoCuries per liter

A measure of radioactivity.

ppb — Parts per billion

This can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

ppm — Parts per million

This can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

nd — No Detection

N/A — Not Applicable

Does not apply.

Average/result

This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Range (2008)	Average/result	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters	pCi/l	0	15.4	N/A	10.7	Erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	ppm	2	2	N/A	0.15	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries, erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium	pCi/l	0	5.4	N/A	5.4	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	1.1–1.2	1.2	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic acids (HAAS)	ppb	0	60	N/A	3.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Nitrate (as nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	nd–0.55	0.55	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
TTHM (total trihalomethanes)	ppb	0	80	N/A	4.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radon	pCi/l	--	--	N/A	26	Erosion of natural deposits

Radon is a radioactive gas which is naturally occurring in some groundwater. It poses a lung cancer risk when gas is released from water into air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes or clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when it is ingested. Because radon in indoor air poses a much greater health risk than radon in drinking water, an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4,000 picoCuries per liter may apply in states that have adopted an Indoor Air Program, which compels citizens, homeowners, schools, and communities to reduce the radon threat from indoor air. For states without such a program, the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 300 pCi/l may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an Indoor Air Program once the Radon Rule is finalized.

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MRDL	MRDLG	Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Avg.	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.3 (Lowest)–0.8 (Highest)	0.69	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	AL	MCLG	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper	ppm	1.3	N/A	1.49 *	5 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppm	15	N/A	3	0 out of 30	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

* Sampled water is in exceedance of the action level for copper. Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. We have taken actions to make the water less likely to absorb materials such as copper from your plumbing.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The city of Minnetonka is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If there are concerns about lead in the water, consider having the water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Unregulated contaminants

Some contaminants do not have Maximum Contaminant Levels established for them. These unregulated contaminants are assessed using state standards known as health risk limits to determine if they pose a threat to human health. If unacceptable levels of an unregulated contaminant are found, the response is the same as if an MCL has been exceeded; the water system must inform its customers and take other corrective actions. In the table that follows are the unregulated contaminants that were detected:

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	Range (2008)	Average/result	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium	ppm	5.8–10	10	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate	ppm	2.43–18.3	18.3	Erosion of natural deposits

Building community: Tips for communicating with your neighbors

MUCH LIKE FAMILY, IN MOST CASES, YOU can't choose your neighbors. So, do the next best thing, and work on developing good relationships with your neighbors. The value in neighborly interaction should not be overlooked — it helps prevent crime and encourages a happy and safe neighborhood.

The city of Minnetonka deals with approximately 500 nuisance complaints each year, many of which might have been resolved sooner and more amicably with a friendly neighbor-to-neighbor discussion. During these frustrating economic times it is just as important to work with your neighbors and talk through concerns about maintaining our properties. If you find that you no longer have a neighbor due to foreclosure, and you have a concern about the vacant property, please contact John Weinand, environmental health supervisor, at (952) 939-8272.

It doesn't take much to strengthen neighborhood relationships. It could be

as simple as an offer to mow the lawn, put out and take in recycling and garbage containers, or watch pets and keep an eye on the empty house while neighbors are on vacation. If you know a neighbor who is sick, elderly or disabled, consider asking that person if there is something small you might do to help occasionally.

These simple acts of kindness can lay the groundwork for honest conversations about preserving Minnetonka's clean and attractive neighborhoods. If you have a neighborhood concern, try these tips for communicating with your neighbor:

- Be honest, be kind, and be tactful. (Your neighbors have feelings too.)
- Focus on the situation or behavior and the effects on the neighborhood.
- Offer solutions and help in addressing the situation or project.
- Look for "win-win" solutions.

Most people want to work with their neighbors and are unaware they have offended a neighboring property owner with their situation or behavior. A simple conversation is usually all that is needed to clarify the concern. As difficult as it may seem, people prefer to be approached about concerns first, rather than getting a complaint placed against their property via the city.

Sometimes, it helps to have a neutral party lead the discussion between neighbors. In these cases, the city of Minnetonka provides a free mediation service to talk through neighborhood concerns. This service has been used by many neighborhoods and works very well. For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

As the weather warms and more people are outside, take that first step to get to know your neighbors — for yourself and for your community. ☺

Tree sale enjoys third successful year

THIS YEAR, RESIDENTS PURCHASED 1,640 trees through the city's third annual tree sale program, with 861 Minnetonka households and town home associations also participating.

Thirteen tree species were offered in order to promote species diversity and reforestation in the Minnetonka community forest. A diversity of trees makes a yard and the community forest more resilient, since most forest pests are very selective and tend to thrive on specific tree species.

The large shade trees offered this year included bur oak, disease-resistant elm, basswood, ginkgo, Freeman maple, and swamp white oak. Flowering trees and shrubs included Minnesota-strain redbud and serviceberry, suitable for planting under power lines.

Thank you to all the residents who participated in the program! ☺



Don't miss these May natural resource events!

Celebrate Arbor Month

Thursday, May 14, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Glen Moor Park
5700 W. Glen Moor Road

This event will focus on the importance of long-term tree maintenance, versus simply planting new trees. Help city of Minnetonka natural resource staff plant trees to replace others that recently died, and mulch and protect existing trees from future deer and rodent damage. Along with having fun digging in the soil and enhancing the environment at Glen Moor Park, learn tree care and pruning tips to apply in your own yard. Water, snacks and planting supplies will be provided. Participants will receive a Tree City USA t-shirt, tree seedlings and tree care information packets. Dress for the weather and bring your own gardening gloves. Event is free of charge and all ages are welcome. For more information call Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8421.

Spring Bird Walk

Saturday, May 16, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Lone Lake Park, 5624 Shady Oak Road

Celebrate the sights and sounds of spring with a morning bird walk along the trails of Lone Lake Park. Walk leaders Anne Hanley and George Skinner, Minnetonka residents and Minnesota River Valley Audobon Chapter members, will play bird calls and

point out interesting species along the way. Walk is open to all ages and skill levels. Meet at the parking lot north of the soccer field. Bring binoculars if you have them — if not, some will be available to borrow. Dress appropriately for the weather. RSVP required — call (952) 988-8400.

Spring Plant Walks

Thursdays, May 7, 14 & 21
5:30–7:30 p.m.

Various locations (see below)

Take a guided plant walk in a Minnetonka park where native habitat restoration is underway. Walk with the city's restoration specialist and look for wildflowers. See new native woody plantings and remnant native shrubs that are being restored. Learn about restoration practices the city is using and how to identify the invasive bad guys. RSVP is required and limited to 15 for each walk. Call (952) 988-8400.

Locations:

- **May 7: Big Willow Park**
Meet at the parking lot at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.
- **May 14: Jidana Park**
Meet at the parking lot at 3333 Jidana Lane
- **May 21: Lone Lake Park**
Meet at the lower parking lot by swings, 5624 Shady Oak Road ☺

Purge the invasive scourge of leafy spurge

FROM LATE MAY INTO SUMMER, FREEWAY embankments are often awash in yellow-green blooms. While these bright blocks of color may be a pleasant sight after months of winter, unfortunately, it's yet another non-native, invasive species — leafy spurge.

A deep-rooted herbaceous perennial plant from Eurasia, leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) was first recorded in the U.S. in 1827, and now ranges across North America. It covers millions of acres in the Great Plains and is listed as a noxious weed in 22 states. The presence of leafy spurge reduces native habitat and species diversity and decreases productivity of grazing land up to 75 percent. It spreads rapidly and is extremely difficult to control. Leafy spurge blooms from late spring to mid-summer and thrives in dry, full-sun conditions. Roadsides, disturbed sites, prairies, savannas, open woodlands — this hard-to-control plant loves them all.

Identifying leafy spurge

- **White milky sap**, a key identifier, is found in all parts of the plant. It's toxic to cattle and can cause skin dermatitis.
- **Leaves** are linear without a leaf stem or marginal teeth, are oblong to pointed, and alternate on the stem. Flowers are umbrella-shaped clusters with paired yellow-green bracts that look like petals.
- **Stems** are smooth and round, between six and 36 inches tall, and branch near the top. Reddish-brown roots are deep and extensive with large nutrient reserves and emit a substance that can inhibit the growth of other plants. New plants grow from pink root buds.

- **Seeds** explode from seed capsules and travel up to 15 feet. They are durable and remain viable in soil for five to ten years.

Controlling leafy spurge

Reducing leafy spurge requires a combination of control methods:

- **Hand-pulling and digging** may be used to control small patches, but is successful only if the entire root system is removed. Use long sleeves and gloves, as sap can cause dermatitis.
- Since no native insects eat this non-native plant, the search began in the 1960s to find insects from the plant's home range to act as a **biological control**. Research and testing resulted in the approval of 15 insects for release in North America. July 2008 marked the beginning of bio-control in Minnetonka, when two species of spurge-eating insects were released in Purgatory and Tower Hill Parks. Results won't be evident for several years.
- Small patches can be **chemically controlled** with herbicide to prevent spread, but annual maintenance will be necessary for years because new plants emerge from seed and deep roots. Contact your county extension agent for herbicide recommendations.
- **Prescribed fire** can be used to increase native plant competition in natural areas, but will not kill leafy spurge.

For more information visit www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact/spurge.htm. ☺

Keeping trees healthy

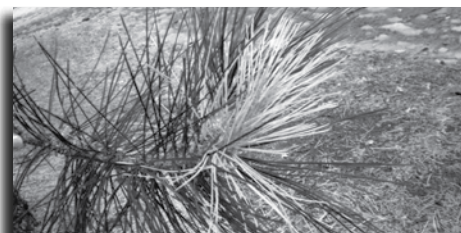
TREES ARE NOW IN FULL BLOOM, AND here are few tips to keep them healthy.

Remove tree wraps

Thin-barked trees need protection from deer and rodents from early fall through winter, but now is the time to remove guards or wraps from young trees. Tree leaves photosynthesize, but so do the tissues in the stem, so exposing it to light will help the tree make more energy. Hardware cloth may be kept on through the summer, but now is the time to check the tree to ensure it hasn't outgrown the cloth, or you risk girdling the tree.

Bug off!

Most insects and diseases are active now, so stop pruning trees until fall or winter in order to decrease the chance of attacks.



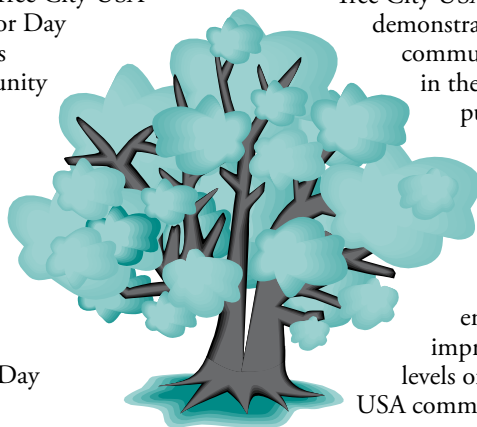
Evergreen or ever-brown?

If your pine tree has brown branches scattered throughout the tree, it may have Diplodia, an increasingly common fungal disease found on many species of pine tree, including Austrian, ponderosa, red, Scots, and mugo pines. It is often found on older trees that have been weakened or stressed, or after a wounding event like hail damage or pruning when spores are active. Now is a good time to diagnose and treat your pine if you notice many brown branches. Learn more from the U.S. Forest Service, or call a certified arborist to look at your tree. You could also bring a sample to the University of Minnesota Plant Disease Clinic for confirmation, since evergreen diseases can be tricky to diagnose without a microscope. Keep in mind that proper mulching and watering are often the best treatments for trees, but once a disease sets in, it is sometimes important to follow additional treatments.

Look at pictures and learn more about Diplodia at www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/diplodia/diplodiafidl.htm. For sampling at the University of Minnesota, visit <http://pdc.umn.edu/>. To find a certified arborist, start at www.eminnetonka.com/public_works/natural_resources/forestry/hiring_tree_care_prof.cfm. Those companies with certified arborists are denoted with a star. ☺

Minnetonka named Tree City USA

FOR THE 15TH YEAR, MINNETONKA has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. Cities must meet four standards to become a Tree City USA community: have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.



Minnetonka is also the recipient of a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the areas of education and public relations, tree care workshops, planning and management and improved ordinances. The Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. ☺

On the trail of runoff: Where stormwater goes and why it matters

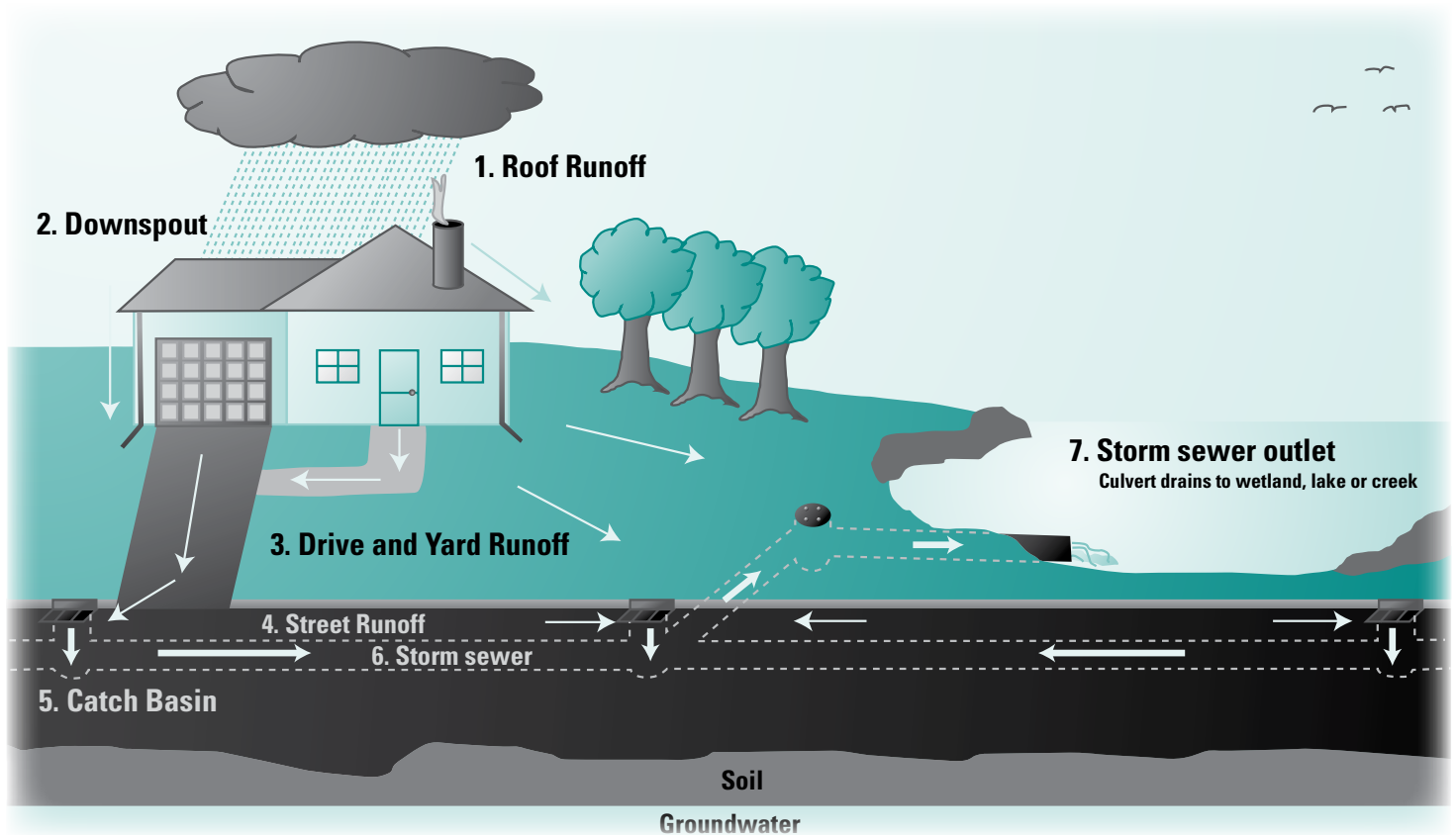
WHY SHOULD YOU CARE WHERE stormwater comes from and where it ends up? Because not only are storm sewer systems efficient at conveying stormwater from streets, parking lots, and other low areas to prevent flooding and keep roadways safe for travel, they're also great at transporting runoff that contains pollutants. Sediment, excess nutrients, chemicals, yard waste, and pet waste can fill water resources, impair water clarity, promote weed and algal growth, and harm aquatic plants and animals.

While stormwater (water from rain and snowmelt) has always existed, the amount of stormwater runoff (water that flows across the land surface) in Minnetonka has increased significantly as the land was developed, creating more impervious surfaces—hard surface areas that prevent water from absorbing into the ground.

Help reduce runoff as well as keep our waters clean by learning more about runoff and following some of the brief tips listed below.

1. Rain that falls on buildings generally flows quickly off the rooftop to the ground or into a gutter and downspout system intended to direct water away from the foundation.
2. Directing downspouts toward your lawn, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation, rather than down your driveway, can help reduce stormwater runoff by slowing the water and allowing it to be absorbed into the soil. Avoid redirecting runoff towards adjacent properties or your home.
3. Runoff from paved surfaces will carry with it any chemicals or other materials left on the surface such as soil, loose gravel, sand, radiator fluid, fertilizer, grass clippings and pet waste. Keep paved surfaces clean and vehicles maintained to prevent leaks and materials from washing into the street. Avoid applying fertilizers and herbicides to your lawn just before it rains.
4. Roadways often serve as collection points for stormwater runoff, so avoid blowing grass clippings and leaves into the street. Any material that washes into the street is passed downstream.
5. Catch basins support the metal storm grates in roadways and drain water from the pavement while allowing traffic to pass overhead. Catch basins typically are connected to large pipes below the ground. Removing accumulated debris such as trash, leaves, and twigs from around the catch basin grates can help prevent flooding and keeps these materials out of the storm sewer.
6. The individual networks of pipes and structures (such as catch basins) that capture and convey stormwater is the storm sewer system. Most people only see very small portions of storm sewer systems, such as the storm grates, access covers, and culvert ends, as much of the system is underground.
7. Most storm sewer systems discharge directly to the nearest lake, creek, or wetland. Unlike sanitary sewers, the water in storm sewers is not treated before it is discharged, because storm sewer systems are intended to carry stormwater (rainwater and snow melt), not septic or other waste materials.

Some neighborhoods may not have underground storm sewer systems at all. Instead, water is directed along the surface through drainage channels or along the roadway itself, while some newer developments may use drainage ponds or infiltration basins (rain gardens) to help lessen the effects of increased stormwater before discharging it into a lake, creek or wetland. ♻️



 2009 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

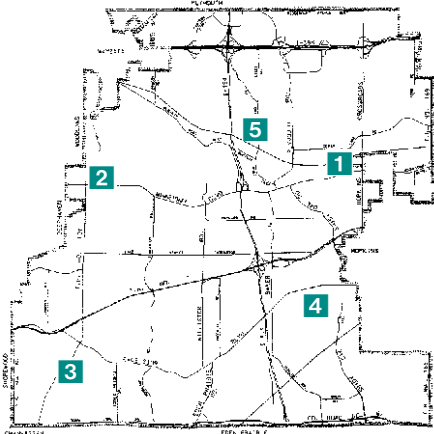
Minnnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on Saturday, May 9. Brush larger than 1/2 inch in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

**Saturday: May 9
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, **please use that option!** All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as your garbage collection for a reasonable annual or monthly fee. The garbage hauler yard waste collection programs typically run mid-April through mid-November. **Check with your garbage hauler for details.**

Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., 1/4 mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73; **use west entrance.**
Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.
- 2 Groveland School Parking Lot**
Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101
- 3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center, North Parking Lot**
5621 Hwy. 101
- 4 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot**
Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd., upper parking lot
- 5 Meadow Park Parking Lot**
Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites on Saturday, May 9

City staff will assist residents with unloading bags of leaves on Saturdays. Residents will be asked to take empty bags home for reuse or disposal. **Please loosely tie bags for easy emptying.**

BULK LEAVES — Truck and trailer loads of bulk leaves will be accepted only at Minnetonka Public Works and only during brush drop-off hours on the following dates:

- **Monday:** Noon to 8 p.m. **May 11**
- **Tuesday:** Noon to 8 p.m. **May 12**
- **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **May 16**

Loads of leaves **must** be covered during transport!

Enter on the west side of the building across from the Big Willow ball fields. Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile — **(bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves).** Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves to make unloading your leaves easier and faster.

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from the recycling coordinator at (952) 988-8430. ♻️

Brush drop-off now open

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents opened April 13, and will remain open through November 21. Hours are Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.

The brush drop-off site will be closed Memorial Day (May 25), Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (Sept. 7).

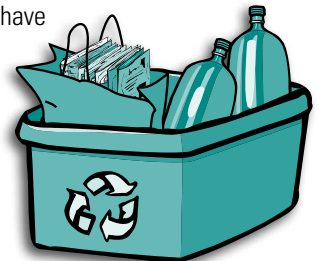
Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency is required to drop-off brush (driver's license or utility bill).

Please note: trash, grass, loose leaves, dirt, sod, lumber, fencing, or wood scraps are not accepted. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

For more information call the recycling coordinator at (952) 988-8430. ♻️

Holiday delays recycling

The Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25, will delay recycling collection by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, May 26, and residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesday, May 27. Recycling will be affected by only one other holiday this year, Labor Day on September 7. ♻️



Keep streets and storm drains clean

Minnnetonka City Ordinances (see below) prohibit blowing and/or leaving grass clippings or other organic materials in the street. Please mention this to your lawn service.

845.010 Public Nuisances Affecting Peace, Safety and General Welfare.17.

Prohibits the intentional discharge of items such as leaves, grass clippings, solvents, antifreeze, oil, fireplace ashes, paint, and cement rinsings into a street, storm sewer system, or water resource such as a wetland, creek, pond or lake. ♻️



2009 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Hennepin County Community Collection for Unwanted Garden and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Thursday, May 14

Friday, May 15

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd
East entrance by recycling center

Can't wait until May? Tired of waiting in lines? Saturday, May 16, is the busiest day, with longer waits in line. Consider bringing your household hazardous waste to one of the permanent facilities during the week (see article below).

The HHW drop-off is open to any Hennepin County resident and only accepts items from households. No hazardous waste or problem materials can be accepted from businesses, including home businesses or non-profit organizations.

New this year: Gas Cylinders

Acceptable: Propane tanks less than 40 lbs.; specialty gases on a case-by-case basis if less than 59 lbs.

Unacceptable: Propane tanks greater than 40 lbs; gases requiring special management; all gases greater than 59 lbs.; and all gas cylinders from businesses

The following HHW and problem materials are accepted:

- Paint, stains, paint strippers, wood preservatives, thinners, gasoline (container

will not be returned), lighter fluid, insecticides, herbicides, solvents, acids, adhesives, caustics, degreasers, rodent poisons, moth balls, spot remover, chemistry sets, photo chemicals, mercury, drain or oven cleaners, floor finishes, metal or furniture polish, aerosol cans, fire extinguishers, driveway sealer. *This is not a complete list. Call (612) 348-3777 for more details.*

- Fluorescent or HID (high intensity discharge) lamps and ballasts (maximum 10 bulbs)
- Household batteries (flashlight, D, C, AA, AAA, 6 and 9 volt cells)
- Lead acid vehicle batteries
- Rechargeable batteries and rechargeable appliances
- Electronics: television, stereo console, computer, printer, monitor, VCR, or radio

There is no charge for dropping off HHW or the above listed items.

The following items are **not accepted** at the community HHW collection: appliances, copiers, motor oil and motor oil filters, some compressed gas cylinders (see above), explosives, radioactive materials, infectious waste or household garbage.

For more information, call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777. ♻️

Year-round HHW drop-off sites

Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities:

1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington
8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park

There is no charge to drop off residential HHW.

Facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

There is no charge to drop off residential HHW, but there is a limit to the annual quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit www.hennepin.us or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

Household hazardous waste includes such items as paint, stain, thinners, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, gasoline, oil filters, aerosol cans, fire extinguishers, fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats,

switches and thermometers containing mercury, rechargeable appliances and batteries.

Also accepted for no charge are consumer electronics (TVs, radios, stereos, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, computers, monitors and printers).

Household appliances (microwaves, water heater, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

Minimum charge for loads of junk (only at Brooklyn Park site) is \$16. The fee and acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430, or Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777. ♻️

Adopt a sign at a city park

Minnetonka's Adopt-A-Sign program has been a great way for individuals, families, or organizations in the community to share their gardening talents with others by planting flowers around city park signs.

This year, the city will again provide an allotment for volunteers to use in order to choose annuals of their choice to plant and maintain through the 2009 growing season. Last year's volunteers will be given first priority to adopt the sign they cared for in 2008. If you are interested in adopting a park sign or would like more information, please contact Kathy Kline, facilities and senior services secretary, at (952) 939-8390, or by email at kkline@eminnetonka.com. ♻️



2009 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Special one-day drop-off

Minnetonka residents may drop off the materials listed below. The charge for dropping off each item, if any, is listed in parentheses.

- **Air conditioner or water softener (\$20)**
- **Appliances (\$12 each)**
Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cooktop, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier, dehumidifier.
- **Batteries (No charge)**
All car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6- and 9-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).
- **Bicycles (No charge)**
Bicycles brought to the special drop-off will be given a second chance by Re-Cycle (612-209-6669)
- **Carpet & padding (\$1/sq. yd. for carpet and \$1/sq. yd. for padding)** Determine the number of square yards of carpet or room size the carpet came from. Roll carpet or pad and tape or tie rolls. Rolls must not exceed six feet in length and 12 inches in diameter.
- **Copier or fax machine (\$35)**
- **Doors (\$2 and up, depending on size)**
- **Electronics (\$1 for any item, including TVs up to 32"; \$5 for TVs larger than 32")**
TV, stereo console, computer, printer, monitor or radio.
- **Fluorescent lamps (No charge)**
Up to ten fluorescent bulbs will be accepted per vehicle. No lamps will be accepted from business or commercial use. Please transport lamps in a manner to avoid breakage, but don't tape bulbs.
- **Furniture: Chairs (\$5 – small, \$10 – large); loveseat (\$15); couch/sofa (\$20); hide-a-bed (\$30); sectionals, dressers, chests, tables and other furniture (\$5 and up depending on size)**
- **Lumber (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)** No railroad ties, concrete or shingles.
- **Mattresses and box springs:** Single or twin size (**\$8 per piece**); double, queen or king (**\$12 per piece**)
- **Propane tanks:** Small (**\$1**); Large — over a two-pound tank (**\$6**)

**Saturday, June 6,
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.
East entrance by recycling center

- **Scrap metal — clean (no charge)**
Clean scrap metal means all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous materials must be removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.
- **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5)**
For example, lawn chairs with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines must be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers, trailers, or other large items.
- **Tires:** Car, trailer or light truck (**\$3 each**); tires on rim (**\$5**); tractor or truck tire on split rim (**\$20**)
- **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**
- **Windows (\$2 and up, depending on size)**

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka.

NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please note: There will **not** be a charitable organization at the Special Drop-off accepting clothing and household goods.

Local charitable organizations that accept clothing and household goods include the following:

- **Bethesda Thrift Shop**
913 Mainstreet, Hopkins
(952) 939-0988
- **Goodwill Industries**
1025 Hill Street, Hopkins
(952) 935-2760
- **ARC Hennepin-Carver**
Pickup route information: (612) 866-8820
- **Value Village Thrift Store**
2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope
(763) 544-0006
- **Vietnam Vets**
Pickup route information: (651) 778-8387

For more information, call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Shredded paper: secure & recyclable

In the Minnetonka recycling program, shredded paper is gladly accepted. Please place it in a paper bag, then tape or staple the bag closed. Do not place shredded paper in plastic bags.

Identity theft is a growing concern. Whether from the garbage can or the recycling bin, someone intent on stealing personal information can come up with documents that help them create havoc for the victim.

Here are some ways you can protect yourself:

- Use a cross-cut paper shredder to shred all discarded financial documents, including pre-approved credit card applications, insurance forms, bank checks and statements.
- Put the shredded paper in a paper bag and staple or tape it shut before putting it into

your recycling container. This prevents the paper from littering your neighborhood.

- For more information about protecting yourself from identity theft, call Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka Police crime prevention specialist, at (952) 939-9546. Information is also available on the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com/police/crime_prevention/identity_theft.cfm.

Or, contact the Identity Theft Resource Center at 1-858-693-7935 or online at idtheftcenter.org.

If you have too much shredded paper at home for your recycling bin, you may bring your shredded materials to the Community Drive-Thru Shredding Event Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Groveland Elementary School, 17310 Minnetonka Boulevard. Cost is \$5 per box or bag of shredded paper. Boxes will be returned to you.

minnetonka memo

May 2009



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

Mayor Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	Council <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com Amber Greves... (952) 931-3960 agreves@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) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
City Manager John Gunyou.....(952) 939-8200	Minnetonka Mike(952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200	POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1
E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com	Non-emergency(952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

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Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

May
2009

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

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

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 Web site by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Project updates

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 Web site. 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. ☺

Burwell House Saturday tours start May 16

AGAIN THIS YEAR, THE CHARLES H. Burwell House will open the tour season early! Visitors may tour the house Saturdays only in May, from noon to 4 p.m., starting May 16.

Regular tour hours start June 9 and continue through August 29, with the house open Tuesdays from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. Special group tours also can be arranged.

This year, the city would like to offer Wednesday evening tours, but guides are needed for those hours, as well as other days and times. If you are interested in volunteering as a tour guide, contact Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or lronbeck@eminnetonka.com.

The Burwell House, located at 13209 East McGinty Road, has been meticulously restored and furnished to its 1894 state, and is listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. Take a guided tour and learn about Minnetonka's early history, the Burwell family, flour milling and Victorian times. New acquisitions and exhibits are always being added. In addition, the Burwell House is air conditioned so individuals may comfortably tour the home even on the hottest of summer days!

Plan a picnic along Minnehaha Creek, add a tour to your bike trip on the trail system, or bring guests for one of the best historic house museums in the area! And, mark your calendar now for the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, held on the Burwell House grounds Saturday, June 27—check out the June *Minnetonka Memo* for specific times and activities.

For more information about Burwell House tours, or to schedule a special group tour, call (952) 939-8219 or email lronbeck@eminnetonka.com. ☺