

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
July 2009

Minnetonka Farmers' Market starts Tuesday, July 7

DON'T MISS opening day of the new Minnetonka Farmers' Market, Tuesday, July 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot, located at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus at 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Visit 38 vendors — nearly half of whom are Minnetonka residents — selling everything from fresh, locally grown produce to homemade salsas and baked goods to craft items. Parking is available in the city hall parking lot or the Ice Arena A parking lot.

Come for the farmers' market and stay for Music in the Park at 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheatre. For weekly performance updates visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Vendors and a short description of their products are listed below. Not all vendors may be at every farmers' market date — check www.eminnetonka.com each week for a list of that week's vendors.

Baldwin's Vegetable Gardens: Produce

Beck's Greenhouse and Vegetables: Produce

Bob and Val Somerville: Framed photographs

Bob's Herbs: Fresh herbs

Boorsma Farm: Produce

Breadsmith: Lemon blueberry bread and muffins, made with fresh blueberries; zucchini bread and muffins; ciabatta; and Greek olive ciabatta made with Kalamata olives

Corn King: Fresh-popped popcorn, bottled water and soda

Crime Stampers, Ink.: Handmade paper crafts

Da's Fresh Cut Flowers: Produce and fresh flowers

Earth Mother Designs: Jewelry and cards

Extra Dough: Caramel corn, candies, nuts, baked goods



Fresh Fields Bakery and Café: Artisan breads, pastries, cookies, muffins

Goofy Girl Cards: Handmade greeting cards

Great Harvest Bread Co.: Fresh whole-grain bread, cookies, pancake and cookie mixes, dog treats

Heidi Peterson: Jewelry

Jerrold Stanton: Jams, pickled vegetables, fresh flowers

John Tomschin: Honey

Johnson Farms: July 7: Fresh swiss chard, greens, radishes

Kara Przybilla: Hemp jewelry, dog leashes

Karen Anderson: Hand-sewn items

Laurel Bonk: Jewelry, silk flower arrangements

Leng Yang: Produce

Levin and Chellen Chiropractic: Donate to the ICA foodshelf, receive a free chair massage!

Long Siding Farm: Organic produce

Long Yang: Produce, fresh flowers

Lucie Passus Vegetables and Fruits: Produce

Mau Family Produce: Produce

Mulberry Militia: Handmade wooden swords

Pao Chou's Vegetables: Produce

Picha Farms: Produce — July 7: Raspberries, zucchinis and cucumbers; possibly tomatoes and cabbages

Randall's Best: Black bean salsa, chips

Salsa Betty: Salsa

Sever's Farm Market: Produce

Sew I Do Creations: Hand-sewn items — July 7: purses/tote bags, magnetic message boards

Skin Solace: Handmade skin care products

Special T's Oh-So-Good Gourmet: All-natural snack mixes

Stableford Farms/Avery's Apples: Produce

Vang Mai Tong: Produce

Whipple Green Gardens: Produce, fresh and dried flowers — July 7: raspberries ∞

Tips for shopping the farmers' market

- Visit the market early for a better selection.
- The market is outdoors, rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
- Bring a stroller or wagon for your child or children. It can also be useful for storing and transporting your purchases.
- Bring a cloth bag or foldable cart to carry your produce.
- If driving, be sure to keep track of your car keys.
- Walk through the entire market before you buy. Make a list of what you want, then return to those vendors to make your purchases.
- Bring change and smaller denominations of money as each farmer is an individual business. Some farmers may accept checks, but cash is preferred.
- If you have questions about certain fruits or vegetables, ask the farmer. Most will be happy to tell you how it was grown and cared for and how to make the best selection. Many will even share a favorite recipe!
- Bargaining is not recommended but asking to buy smaller amounts is acceptable. Most farmers will divide amounts. ∞

Be considerate with recreational fires

THE MINNETONKA FIRE DEPARTMENT has been receiving an unusually high number of complaints this year from people who are concerned about their neighbors' recreational fires. Complaints range from concerns about dry weather conditions and the possibility of brush fires to health concerns from smoke blowing into neighboring homes.

Residents who wish to have recreational fires are required to have a permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department, but that permit does not excuse the holder from being aware of weather conditions or from being considerate of neighbors' concerns about recreational fires and smoke.

The following conditions apply to recreational fire permit holders:

- The applicant is responsible for conducting, controlling and extinguishing the fire.
- The fire must be attended at all times and completely extinguished when finished.
- The applicant must have a means of extinguishing the fire readily available.
- The applicant agrees to extinguish their fire if the smoke is unreasonably offensive or injurious to others as determined by the city.
- The size of the fire shall not exceed 3 feet by 3 feet.
- Fire pits must be a minimum of 10 feet off the property line.

- Wood for burning must be a minimum of three inches in diameter or bigger.
- No trash, brush, leaves or treated lumber may be burned.
- The fire permit is valid only on the property listed, and the fire may not extend beyond the boundaries of that property.
- A recreational fire permit does not relieve the applicant from liability due to damage resulting from the fire or smoke.
- The recreational fire permit is not required to be renewed annually, but may be rescinded or cancelled by the Minnetonka Fire Department at any time.

If you have a concern about a neighbor's recreational fire, please try discussing your concern with your neighbor first before calling the city — most people want to work with their neighbors and are unaware they have negatively affected a neighboring property owner. A simple conversation may be all that is needed to clarify the concern. As difficult as it may seem, people prefer to be approached about a concern first, rather than getting a complaint placed against their property via the city.

If you have questions about recreational fires, please contact the Minnetonka Fire Department at (952) 939-8339. ☺

Appraisals underway for 2010 assessments

SUMMER IS HERE AND IT IS THE TIME of year when the city assessing staff may be in a neighborhood near you! Minnesota Statutes 273.01 and 273.08 require assessors to view and reappraise all properties every five years. The assessing division is in the process of completing that requirement for the January 2, 2010, assessment. Letters are sent in advance to property owners who will be included in this year's review.

The purpose of this assessment is to help facilitate a fair and equitable market value used for property tax assessments. The goal is to maintain realistic and uniform valuations for all types of properties, which benefits the property owner and our entire community.

If you receive a letter, please call the assessing division to schedule an appointment at (952) 939-8220. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. ☺

Applications available for 2010 nonprofit funding

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS NOW accepting requests for a limited amount of 2010 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 August 7, 2009. To review the city's policy regarding nonprofit funding, and to download an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Adult touch football league starts in August

INTERESTED IN AN ALL-PASS, NO-BLOCKING football league for adults? Then Recreation Services has just the thing for you! Five-player football starts the week of August 10 and continues for seven weeks. Games are fast and high-scoring, with little or no contact. Register now through July 27 — space is limited to 12 teams, so don't delay! Games are played weekday evenings at Valley Park in Hopkins and Big Willow Park in Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8203 for registration information. ☺



Student openings available on boards, commissions

IF YOU ARE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND would like to become more involved in your community, consider applying to serve on a city of Minnetonka board or commission. Currently, openings are available on the community commission, park board and police advisory committee.

Applications are due July 31, 2009. Accepted applications are kept on file for one year to fill any unexpected vacancies, with interviews taking place as necessary. For an application, visit www.eminnetonka.com. For more information contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

City repositions for long-term budget balance

IN THE WAKE OF THE GOVERNOR'S unallotment decisions in mid June, cities and counties throughout the state are now making difficult decisions about staffing and service levels to absorb these state cuts. The city of Minnetonka anticipated the cuts more than a year ago, and has already implemented various measures to reposition itself to ensure its long-term capacity to continue to provide residents with the quality services they have come to expect. Read on to learn more about the city's plans to maintain long-term budget balance.

Q. What challenges does the city face?

A. Some budget challenges are associated with the historic economic downturn that is impacting all residents and businesses. For example, the city expects a \$400,000 decline in investment earnings and at least \$250,000 less in building permit revenue. The city faces even greater challenges from the state, including the loss of nearly \$500,000 in Market Value Homestead Credit tax relief; state mandated increases of \$550,000 in pension contributions; and artificial levy limits that effectively freeze taxes at the current level.

Q. How big is the budget shortfall?

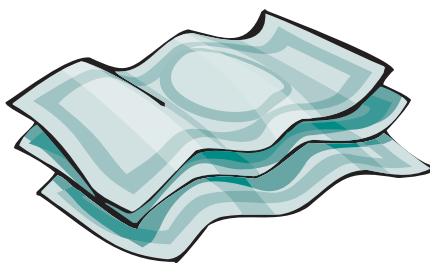
A. With only traditional belt-tightening measures, the city would still face a \$1.2 million projected shortfall for 2010. Unless long-term actions are undertaken, this gap in ongoing revenue and ongoing spending would grow to \$3.1 million by 2014.

Q. How is the city addressing these challenges?

A. The city of Minnetonka manages for the long-term. The challenge is not just about balancing next year's budget; it's about repositioning the city to ensure its long-term capacity to continue to provide quality services at a reasonable price. To allow time for implementation of permanent budget solutions, last fall the city imposed a hiring freeze, reduced employee overtime hours, and placed \$525,000 of capital projects on hold.

Q. What long-term actions is the city taking?

A. To meet the current and future service needs of the community, the city's long-term strategies involve new ways of doing business — cooperative service agreements with other agencies; productivity investments that help



deliver core services more efficiently; and department reorganizations that reposition the city to better serve its constituents in the future.

Q. What personnel changes are being made?

A. Like any service business, the city's major expenses are personnel related. With the recent reorganizations, seven employees were laid off, half of whom were managers. An additional seven vacant positions were permanently eliminated, resulting in a total workforce reduction of about six percent. The city also renegotiated its largest union contract to limit future base wage increases to one percent annually, with an allowance for market adjustments when warranted to remain competitive. While furloughs and wage freezes were considered, these options were ruled out as one-time, arbitrary steps that would introduce major inequities and do little to meet the city's long-term challenges.

Q. How will these changes affect public services?

A. The repositioning strategies are intended to meet four goals: achieve long-term budget balance, sustain direct core services, continue investments in infrastructure, and moderate property tax growth. The department reorganizations were specifically designed to protect direct services to the public, both now and well into the future. With the state no longer a reliable partner, the repositioning will also make city services less vulnerable to unpredictable state actions.

Q. Where can I get more information and provide feedback?

A. City budget information is available and feedback is always welcomed at www.eminnetonka.com or by contacting Finance Director Merrill King at mking@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8253.

Know the rules about election signs

WITH ELECTION SEASON FAST approaching, 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 can be posted any time after August 1, 2009, and must be removed by November 13, 2009.

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 5 square feet, except on collector or arterial streets where up to 32 square feet is permitted.
- 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.
- Signs must not be posted on fences, trees, shrubs, or public utility poles.
- Signs must not be painted on rocks or other natural features.
- Signs must not be located within the right-of-way of state or county roads.

In accordance with state law, signs must contain the following language: Prepared and paid for by [insert name and organization here]; and address.

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.





News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEW 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, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- The Hennepin County Traffic Advisory Committee selected **Officer Darlene Ford** as the **2008 Traffic Officer of the Year**. The annual award is presented to officers making significant contribution towards traffic safety in their community.



Officer Darlene Ford

- In April the police department's **Explorer Post** participated in the 34th Annual Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association State Conference in Rochester, Minn. Minnetonka's team placed third in the firearms competition.

- This summer the police department is again partnering with local Dairy Queen stores to encourage young children to wear bicycle safety helmets. Patrol officers will hand out "DQ Safety Citations" — good for a free ice cream cone — to youth who are wearing bicycle helmets.
- In May, **Sergeant Phil Pesheck** was named the **2009 Glen Lake Optimist Officer of the Year**. Sergeant Pesheck has served in a variety of assignments as both an officer and sergeant during his 22 years with the Minnetonka Police Department. Notably, Sergeant Pesheck has been extensively involved with the Minnesota Patriot Guard since its inception. The Patriot Guard honors fallen soldiers through their presence at funerals and also serve as escorts upon soldier deployment and return from tours of duty. Sergeant Pesheck has personally logged over 3,000 motorcycle miles in support of American troops.



Sergeant Phil Pesheck



MINNETONKA NIGHT FOR NEIGHBORS

JOIN NEIGHBORS ACROSS MINNETONKA Tuesday, August 4, 2009, for the Minnetonka Night for Neighbors celebration. Night for Neighbors will celebrate and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships.

Minnetonka Night for Neighbors is designed to:

- Allow neighbors to get to know one another.
- Build neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together.
- Build awareness of crime prevention and local law enforcement efforts.

If you are interested in coordinating an event for your neighborhood, please register with the Minnetonka Police Department online at www.eminnetonka.com or call Nicole Nelson at (952) 939-8546 to request a mailed registration form.

Make your event "green" this year by following these tips:

- Use paper products made from recyclable products.
- Have people bring their own eating utensils, plates and cups with them to reduce the amount of trash generated.
- Provide containers to recycle cans, bottles, and paper waste from the event. ♻️

Pedestrians? Yield!

TRAFFIC CORNER

REMEMBER, ACCORDING TO MINNESOTA STATE STATUTE, WHERE TRAFFIC-control signals are not in place or in operation, vehicles must stop for pedestrians crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. The driver must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped.

Pedestrians must follow the rules, too. By the same state statute, no pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

During the summer, lots of people are out walking. Caution by drivers and pedestrians both will help ensure a safe outdoor season for everyone! ♻️

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 *Senior 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.

Four-Hour Day Course

July 14, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided but no lunch.

Cost: \$18

Four-Hour Evening Course

July 23, 6–10 p.m.

Refreshments provided. Cost: \$18

Special Events

Intergenerational Picnic

July 16, 12 p.m.

Bring your grandchild or great-grandchild to enjoy a summer afternoon of food and entertainment provided by the Tonka Tale Tellers. Menu includes corn dogs, chips, fruit cup and dessert. After lunch and entertainment, stick around to play Wii with your grandchild! Cost is \$5, due by July 13.

Hot Rod, Street Rod and Muscle Car Show

August 2, 12–4 p.m.

This free event at the Minnetonka Ice Arena parking lot will include a wide variety of cars circa pre-1972. Concessions will be available. If you have a car you'd like to enter in the show, call (952) 939-8393.

Pork Chop Dinner

August 6, 4:30 & 5:30 p.m.

Wright County Pork Producers will cook seasoned grilled pork chops, and Dick Macko will perform. When registering indicate which seating you'd like to attend. Cost is \$7, due by July 27

Senior Hikes in Minnetonka

Monday, July 13, 9 a.m.

Join the senior center for a free two-mile walk. Bring your own water and meet at Minnetonka Middle School East. Maps are available at the senior center front desk. RSVP to (952) 939-8393.

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.

MacPhail and Equine Center Tour

July 24, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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

Afton Cruise

August 11, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$60, includes boat ride, lunch, transportation and escort. Register by July 17.

Mystery Trip

August 25, 7:50 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25, includes tours, lunch, transportation and escort. Register by August 21.

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. ☺

Concert set for July 20

THE MINNETONKA CIVIC Orchestra will perform outdoors at the Centennial Lakes Pavilion in Edina Monday, July 20, at 7 p.m. Call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org for information. ☺



MAM Youth Choirs celebrate 25 years

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka Youth Choirs recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with a surprise banquet honoring Roger Hoel, founder and music director of the Music Association of Minnetonka. The Minnetonka Youth Choirs have enjoyed a rich history of accomplishments and excellence, performing locally and throughout the United States and abroad. For information about joining youth choirs or adult choral/instrumental ensembles in September, visit www.musicassociation.org or call (952) 401-5954.



Pictured above are members of the Minnetonka Youth, Chamber Concert and Cappella choirs with Director Roger Hoel.

Minnetonka Theatre presents Hello, Dolly!

AT TEND 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 stars 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. ☺

Touring Minnetonka's Trails: Discover Kinsel Park

KINSEL PARK IS LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF EXCELSIOR BOULEVARD on Kinsel Road, on the north side of Glen Lake. Classified as a Community Preserve, only two of Kinsel Park's 19.5 acres are developed, including the parking lot, trails, boardwalk, secluded picnic areas, benches and a gazebo.

Kinsel Park is the place to go for observing native plants and trees, birding or having picnics. Several picnic areas are located off the trails, as well as many benches for stopping and enjoying the natural scenery or views of Glen Lake.

Kinsel Park has only 0.6 miles of trails, including a 600-foot boardwalk through the wetland area connecting one side of the park to the other. The boardwalk provides views of the lake as well as wetland plants and wildlife.

Trails

The 975-foot west arm trail starts from the parking lot and includes a loop around the gazebo and the west side of the boardwalk.

The 1200-foot east arm trail starts from the parking lot, reaches the east end of the boardwalk and makes a connection to the neighborhood east of the park.

The 600-foot boardwalk connects the east and west trails.

The parking lot has room for only six vehicles. The two large sediment ponds near the parking lot play an important role in filtering stormwater run-off from Excelsior Boulevard and the surrounding area.

If you go

- Park is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- The park is accessible by vehicle from Kinsel Road, just south of Excelsior Boulevard
- Dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) on the trails, in the play areas and in the parking lot.
- Please pick up after your pet. A Mutt Mitt dispenser is located by the parking lot.

Fun Facts

- Three large, wide-crowned bur oak trees grace the open lawn in the northeast corner of the park, remnants from the oak woodland and savanna of the pioneer days.
- The largest known ponderosa pine tree in Minnetonka stands south of the trail in the southeast corner of the park. Ponderosa pine is native to the western United States, and this large tree was likely planted by a settler.
- The new plantings on the western edge of the park were done as part of an Eagle Scout project through the Natural Resources Division.
- In the 1920's a tour boat operated on Glen Lake. ☞



A reminder about trail etiquette and safety: use common courtesy

WITH SUMMER HERE, MORE PEOPLE are out using the trails, including bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers and dog walkers. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, please review the following etiquette and safety tips for trails. Most of all, respect the rights of others to use the and enjoy the trails.

- Dogs must be on a leash six feet long or less.
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet droppings. Mutt Mitt dispensers with plastic bags to pick up droppings are placed along the trail. Please use them!
- When overtaking fellow trail users, warn them by sounding a bell, horn or whistle and saying "Passing on your left" or "Passing."
- Pass on the left only when safe. Pass in single file.
- Travel on the right. If you stop, move off the trail.
- Obey all traffic signs.
- Stop at road crossings and look for approaching and turning vehicles.
- Signal your turn.
- Yield to slower trail users.
- Proceed at a reasonable speed – 15 mph maximum.
- Watch for children, strollers, dogs on leash, wildlife and other trail users.
- Proceed slowly around blind curves, steep hills, and bridges.

- Watch for wet or slippery surfaces, sand, acorns, rocks or washouts.
- Travel in pairs if possible.
- Trails close at 10 p.m.

Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. Call (952) 988-8400 with comments and concerns or to receive a new trail map. Enjoy the trails! ☞



Save water and money with a rain barrel

MINNETONKA RESIDENTS HAVE A limited-time offer to purchase rain barrels at a discount through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). Rain barrels, which cost \$65, are 32"x24", hold 54 gallons and weigh less than 20 pounds when empty.

Order your rain barrel online through at www.RecycleMinnesota.org. Orders will be accepted until July 27, or until the barrels run out. The pick-up location will be in Minnetonka; however, you do not need to be a Minnetonka resident to order. For questions visit the RAM Web site or contact RAM directly at (651) 641-4589.

Rain barrels are a simple way to collect rainwater for reuse in your yard. Use the check list below to determine if a rain barrel is appropriate for your property:

- **Gutters and downspouts** are needed to direct the runoff into the barrel. You may need to add gutters if you do not have an adequate collection point.
- When full of water, some rain barrels may weigh up to 300 pounds. **A stable and level surface** is required to prevent tipping.
- Rain barrels use gravity to supply water, thus the area you plan to water needs to be below the level of the barrel bottom. Barrels may be **elevated slightly** with solid landscape blocks (remember to keep it stable).

- Most rain barrels, including the barrels sold through RAM, include a built-in outlet that must be directed away from your home's foundation.

To learn more about rain barrels visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.



Keep your cool with water-wise landscaping

CONCERNED ABOUT TRYING TO KEEP your plants watered this summer? Most plants require periodic watering to become established and also need supplemental watering during dry periods. Very few plants are truly drought-tolerant. However, there are some ways to cut down on your water use this summer while maintaining your landscape.

- **Add some shade.** Areas with shade will often tend to stay greener during the summer. Planting trees and tall shrubs can help give your yard a little relief from the summer sun.
- **Capture water.** Use rain barrels and rain gardens to capture water from the roof, driveway and yard. Water plants, not pavement, by turn the downspout toward the lawn to use water that would

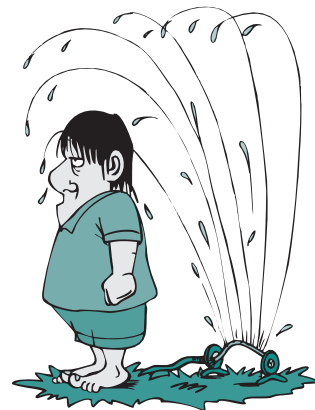
otherwise end up in the street. Be careful not to direct runoff toward neighboring properties.

- **Retain soil moisture.** Spread shredded wood mulch, wood chips, or compost a few inches deep over plant root systems to help hold moisture in the soil by slowing evaporation. Be sure to pull any materials away from the trunk and stem to prevent decay.
- **Choose the right plant for the right space to minimize water use.** If you have some dry areas in your yard, you may want to consider some of the native Minnesota plants listed at www.eminnetonka.com. These plants have adapted to the dryer portions of prairies and woodland edges and require less watering once established.

Summer watering tips for trees and shrubs

SINCE ADEQUATE MOISTURE — ABOUT one inch per week — has not been provided by rain, your trees and shrubs will benefit from summer watering. Drought conditions lead trees and shrubs to become stressed, predisposing them other diseases and insect attacks. In most instances, water and mulch are the two best practices to increase a tree's health. Here are some tips:

- Water slowly to allow water to soak in deeply and to avoid runoff.
- Water to the drip line, indicated by the ends of the branch tips. Most tree roots are within the first foot of soil. Since water does not move horizontally through soil, move the hose around within the drip line 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.
- Root zones that are mulched require less water. Organic mulch, such as wood chips and shredded bark, helps retain soil moisture.
- Trees and shrubs have different watering needs than a lawn, so irrigation systems do not give trees the water they need. Remember, trees need less frequent but deeper watering.
- Feel the soil. After watering the soil around trees should be moist 6 to 8 inches deep throughout the drip line.
- Conserve water by watering in the mornings and evenings — water readily evaporates during the day.
- See the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com for watering regulations, or call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.



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July 2009



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

July
2009

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
			1	2	3	4	3 City offices closed in observance of Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4 Independence Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	7 Minnetonka Farmer's Market, 3–7 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	13 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31		14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Minnetonka Farmer's Market, 3–7 p.m.
							16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							20 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							21 Minnetonka Farmer's Market, 3–7 p.m.
							27 Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							28 Minnetonka Farmer's Market, 3–7 p.m.

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

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's Web site 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 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. ☺

Feedback invited July 13 on Minnetonka Mills Park design

RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE feedback on the design for Minnetonka Mills Park at the Minnetonka City Council meeting Monday, July 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Proposed amenities for the park include walking paths, pedestrian bridges over Minnehaha Creek, restoration of natural areas, landscaping and creek overlooks. The plan, part of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor improvements, was initially introduced at the June 3, 2009, meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board.

A public hearing to consider use of the Community Investment Fund for financing the park and other amenities within the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor will be held Monday, August 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

Residents are welcome to attend either meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may forward your comments to Assistant City Manager GERALYN BARONE at gbarone@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8216. ☺



UPPER MINNEHAHA CREEK CORRIDOR