

# minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
August 2009*

## Minnetonka City Council adopts social host ordinance

**T**HE MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY ADOPTED A SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE, which became effective June 26, 2009. The purpose of the ordinance is to discourage underage consumption of alcoholic beverages by making the host of an underage drinking party criminally responsible. A violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor.

The ordinance provides that it is a crime for a person to host or allow a party where an underage person consumes alcoholic beverages if:

- the host knew that alcohol or alcoholic beverages were going to be present at the party; and
- the host knew that an underage person was going to attend, or was likely to attend; and
- the host failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by an underage person.

Reasonable steps that a person can take to avoid responsibility include:

- directing, on a one-time basis or as a standing order, that no consumption of alcohol and alcoholic beverages is allowed; or
- controlling access to alcohol and alcoholic beverages; or
- checking identification of attendees to determine age; or
- supervising the activities of underage persons at the gathering either in person or through a responsible adult.

A person can be responsible under the ordinance even if the person is not present at the party. However, an absent person is not responsible if the person did not know that a gathering would occur, or did not know that alcoholic beverages would be present, or did not know that an underage person was likely to be present. Parents who have alcoholic beverages in their homes are not responsible under the ordinance if they have issued a standing order that alcohol is not to be consumed by underage persons while in their home. A copy of the full ordinance can be found on the city's Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



## Farmers' Market continues through September 22

**N**EW LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE continues to arrive at the Minnetonka Farmers' Market Tuesdays through September 22 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.

Nearly 40 vendors are at the market, selling everything from 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, with performances taking place through August 18. For a performance schedule visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for a weekly update on the market, or sign up for the email update list by emailing [jl Larson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jl Larson@eminnetonka.com).



*Customers browsing at the Minnetonka  
Farmers' Market, Tuesdays, 3 - 7 p.m.*

## Southwest LRT open house is Thursday, August 13

**T**HE TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PHASE of the Southwest Transitway LRT study is complete, and Hennepin County is seeking feedback on the proposed alignments prior to making a decision on the preferred alignment. An open house in Minnetonka is set for:

**Thursday, August 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**  
Marriott Southwest Hotel, 5801 Opus Parkway

Also, from 6:30-8 p.m. that evening in a separate room, an open house will be held on the Station Area Study to review land uses within a half-mile radius around proposed LRT station sites on the LRT 3 alignment through Minnetonka (this includes the Shady Oak Road and Opus stations). A formal presentation will be made on the Station Area Study at 7 p.m.

Information on the Southwest Transitway Station Area Study, as well as the Southwest Transitway LRT Study, can be found on the city's Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

# Municipal utility fee changes effective July 1

AT ITS JUNE 22, 2009, MEETING THE Minnetonka City Council increased municipal utility (water, sewer, and storm water) fees effective July 1, 2009. Changes to the fees are as follows:

- Water rates increased by 2.8 percent, in order to bring rates into line with operating costs.
- Sewer rates were increased by five percent to correspond to the increases passed on to the city by the Met Council for sewage treatment.
- Storm water fees were increased to ensure revenues cover the costs of the city's storm water system infrastructure as well as federally mandated analysis and reporting on water quality. The city's topography and development history require storm water system improvements to be made in conjunction with street reconstruction programs. Storm water fees support these improvements as well as projects to correct residential street flooding, included in the city's five-year Capital Improvement Program.

In order to encourage water conservation and to reduce the overall costs of the water system for all customers, the tiered rate structure for both residential and commercial customers continues. The table at right shows the rate increases for 2009.

All other account fees, late payment, state of Minnesota testing fees and meter maintenance fees remain the same. ∞

Rate changes	Rate per 1,000 gallons	
	Old	New
<b>Residential water rate</b>		
Tier 1 (0–25,000 gallons)	\$1.70	\$1.75
Tier 2 (25,001–40,000 gallons)	\$1.95	\$2.00
Tier 3 (40,001–70,000 gallons)	\$2.45	\$2.52
Tier 4 (70,000+)	\$3.40	\$3.50
<b>Residential sewer rate</b>		
Standard rate	\$2.79	\$2.95
Minimum billing amount	15,000 gallons	
Senior discount	Actual consumption	
<b>Commercial/industrial water</b>		
Base rate	\$1.70	\$1.75
Summer surcharge (May–September)	\$1.95	\$2.20
<b>Commercial/industrial sprinkler accounts</b>		
Sprinkler I (0–75,000 gallons)	\$1.95	\$2.00
Sprinkler II (75,001–175,000)	\$2.45	\$2.52
Sprinkler III (175,001+)	\$3.40	\$3.50
<b>Storm water</b>		
Open space, undeveloped (acre/month)	\$2.30	\$2.44
Single family, 2–3 family, residential (unit/mo)	\$5.10	\$5.42
Churches, schools, government (acre/month)	\$13.77	\$14.63
Apartment, condos (acre/month)	\$15.30	\$16.26
Commercial, industrial (acre/month)	\$38.56	\$40.98

## Want to reduce your risk of identity theft? Follow these three easy steps

THE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THESE three steps to help reduce your risk of identity theft.

### Freeze credit reports

Consumers in Minnesota may freeze their credit reports, which denies identity thieves access to the consumer's credit history and prevents them from obtaining new credit cards or loans under the consumer's name. Victims of identity theft can have their credit reports frozen for free, while non-victims can proactively freeze their credit report for a \$5 fee. For information contact Nicole Nelson, Minnetonka Police Department crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

### Reduce telemarketing calls

Place your number on the national "do not call" list. Register up to three phone numbers, including your cell phone number, by calling 1-888-382-1222 or by visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Phone numbers will remain on the registry for five years. Telemarketers covered by the National Do Not Call Registry have up to 31 days from the date you register to stop calling you.

However, not all telemarketing calls are blocked—the following are exempt from the Do Not Call law:

- Political calls
- Nonprofits soliciting contributions on their own behalf
- Calls from companies that only conduct surveys
- Calls from companies with which you have an existing business relationship.

### Reduce junk mail

The three major credit bureaus sell lists of individuals who meet certain credit criteria, which often results in pre-approved credit card offers for those individuals. Stop pre-approved credit card offers by removing your name from these lists. For the three major credit bureaus—Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion—call the "Opt Out" hotline at 1-888-5OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit "Opt Out" online at [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com). ∞

# Flashpoints



## From the Minnetonka Fire Department

**I**N FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A FLASHPOINT is the temperature at which combustible materials may burst into flame. The flashpoints in this quarterly feature, however, are not so volatile — rather, they are the initiatives and events that serve as the catalyst for the excellent service provided every day by the Minnetonka Fire Department to city residents and businesses. For more information about any of these items, call the fire department at (952) 939-8598.

### Emergency preparedness and notification

The city's ReadyMinnetonka program was officially launched in April 2007. Since then, more than 100 programs have been delivered to more than 1,900 people. Free ReadyMinnetonka Preparedness Programs can be requested for neighborhood groups, civic organizations and businesses by calling (952) 939-8334 or emailing [ready@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ready@eminnetonka.com)

The biggest part of citizen preparedness programs such as ReadyMinnetonka is information and communication. To this end, the city has some options available to help citizens stay informed, including the ReadyMinnetonka email list and CodeRED. Read on for more information.



### ReadyMinnetonka email list

The ReadyMinnetonka email listserv was developed to allow subscribers another means by which to receive information about significant events, usually weather-related, which could affect the city. This listserv is not designed to be a replacement for warning sirens, monitoring the media, or NOAA weather radio, but as an adjunct to these systems. The email alerts from this listserv are only issued for events that could affect Minnetonka. Subscribe to this service free of charge by sending an email to [ready@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ready@eminnetonka.com).

## CODERED®

### Register for CodeRED

In 2009, the city of Minnetonka implemented CodeRED, a notification system that allows city officials to deliver urgent pre-recorded emergency telephone messages to targeted areas or to the entire city at a rate of 1,000 calls per minute. Sometimes referred to as “reverse 9-1-1,” this high-speed telephone emergency notification service can be used in the event of severe weather, hazardous materials spills, illness outbreaks or pandemics, or other emergencies.

While CodeRED begins with an existing database of telephone numbers, no one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included. The following individuals are invited to add their information to the database.

- All businesses
- Residents with unlisted phone numbers
- Residents who have changed their phone number or address within the last year
- Residents who use a cell phone as their primary phone
- Residents who recently moved but kept the same listed or unlisted phone number
- Residents who wish to receive text and/or email messages in addition to telephone calls
- Residents who wish to opt out

For more information about CodeRED or about preparing for emergencies, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Fire department responses

During the second quarter of 2009, the fire department responded to 735 calls for service, compared to 155 calls for the same period last year. The three-person duty crew handles most of the calls, while about 40 paid-on-call firefighters show up for every structure fire. Calls included four structure fires, five car fires, 23 brush fires, 510 medicals and 32 lift assists, 26 vehicle crashes with injuries, one water rescue,

four elevator rescues, two missing persons searches, nine natural gas leaks, one carbon monoxide incident, 12 mutual aid requests and 39 false fire alarms.

Significant events included structure fires on Eastwood Road, Hedberg Drive, Lake Street Extension, and Plymouth Road; an apartment fire on Cedar Hills Boulevard; mutual aid to Hopkins for a commercial mall fire; a water rescue on Gray's Bay; and a carbon monoxide incident at an Atrium Way condominium building.



*The Minnetonka Fire Department responded via mutual aid to a May mall fire in Hopkins.*

### Pulse oximeter added

In July, the fire department duty crew began using a pulse oximeter. This device, about the size of a small medicine bottle, determine a patient's pulse rate and blood oxygen saturation by sending lightwaves through the patient's fingertip. The resulting information is useful for the responding paramedics and for continuing patient care.

### Firefighter training

The average firefighter in Minnetonka attended more than 45 hours — three hours per week — of training during the second quarter of 2009. Highlights included quarterly joint operations training with the Edina, Hopkins and St. Louis Park fire departments, and graduation of the ten-member fire department rookie class from initial fire training.

### Mark your calendars now!

The Fire Department and City Open House is set for Tuesday, October 6, 2009, from 5 – 8 p.m. ☺

## Love to sing or play a musical instrument?

**T**HE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka (MAM) invites singers and musicians of many ages to join its community programs. Concert season is September through June. For more information, visit [www.musicassociation.org](http://www.musicassociation.org), call (952) 401-5954, or email [mamoffice@musicassociation.org](mailto:mamoffice@musicassociation.org). Opportunities include:

### Youth ensembles

- Cappella Choir for boys and girls in grades 3–5
- Concert Choir for girls in grades 6–9
- Chamber Choir for girls in grades 9–12

### Adult Ensembles

- Symphony Chorus and Choral Reflections of Minnetonka for men and women singers of all ages
- Senior Chorale for ages 55 and older
- Symphony Orchestra for auditioned instrumentalists
- Civic Orchestra for non-auditioned instrumentalists
- Concert Band for musicians who prefer a shorter concert season ☺

## Music in the Park concerts continue

**T**HREE CONCERTS REMAIN IN THIS summer's Music in the Park concert series, held Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater on the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Bring along a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an evening of free entertainment for the whole family!

- **August 4**— Todd Menton (*Celtic, Eclectic Folk*)
- **August 11**— Blue Feelin' (*Blues*)
- **August 18**— Lehto & Wright (*Celtic, Folk Rock*)

The Minnetonka Farmers' Market also takes place Tuesdays through September 22, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Minnetonka Ice Arena B parking lot. So stop in early, do some shopping, then settle in at the amphitheatre for excellent musical performances! ☺

## Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors

**D**ON'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](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Fall registration starts Thursday, Aug. 6, at 8:30 a.m. for residents; and Friday, Aug. 7, for non-residents. All class registration and payments should be directed to Minnetonka Senior Services at (952) 939-8393. VISA or MasterCard are now accepted. Payment must be submitted at the time of registration for classes, trips or programs. Upcoming classes include history, yoga, line dance, watercolor, tai chi chih, beginning bridge, oil painting, intro to photography, and navigating Medicare.

### Defensive Driving Classes

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

### Four-Hour Day Course

*August 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.*  
Refreshments provided but no lunch. Cost: \$18

### Four-Hour Evening Course

*Sept. 10, 6 – 10 p.m.*  
Refreshments provided. Cost: \$18

### Special Events

#### Parkinson's Presentation

*August 5, 12 p.m.*  
Minnetonka Community Center and Golden Living Center-Hillcrest of Wayzata have partnered with Rose Wichmann, center manager at Struther's Parkinson Center, for this presentation about Parkinson's disease. Information includes support and resources for families and loved ones. The presentation kicks off a monthly support group to meet at the community center. Lunch will be provided.

#### 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.

#### Big Willow Park Hike

*August 7, 9 a.m.*  
Call (952) 939-8393 if you plan to attend. Bring water and meet at Big Willow Park.

#### Adopt-a-Highway

*August 12, 9 a.m.*  
Volunteers needed. Meet at the center—supplies and lunch provided. Call (952) 939-8393 to sign up.

#### Late Bloomer Plant Sale

*August 25 & September 8, 3–7 p.m.*  
The Minnetonka Senior Services Garden Club will sell perennials from their own gardens at the Minnetonka Farmers' Market Tuesdays, August 25 and September 8, 3–7 p.m., at Ice Arena B parking lot, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Proceeds will benefit senior services programs.

#### Picnic Grill Out

*August 27, 12 p.m.*  
Enjoy a picnic of hamburgers, potato salad, fruit and dessert. Entertainment by pianist Christy Omohundro. Stay afterwards for a free presentation on Dial-a-Ride, including how to use it and how to transfer to other transportation. Cost for lunch and entertainment is \$5, due by August 21.

#### Mystery Trip

*August 25, 7:50 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.*  
Cost of \$25 includes tours, lunch, transportation and escort. Payment deadline is August 21.

#### Moonlight Canoe Trip

*September 3, 7:30 – 9 p.m.*  
Enjoy an evening canoe trip on Shady Oak Lake. Cost of \$6 includes canoe rental, light refreshments and staff. Payment deadline is Sept. 1.

### 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](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) and provide your email address. ☺

### Mills Landing Gift Shoppe

**S**TOP 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](http://www.millslandingshoppe.com) or call (952) 933-5214 for more information. ☺

# Photo contest entries due Monday, September 14

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA AND THE Minnetonka Community Commission will once again host the annual photo contest in conjunction with the Fire Department and City Open House. Below are this year's contest rules!

- Photographers must be residents of Minnetonka.
- Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Do not submit a photo taken by someone other than you. Your submission of the photo and entry form is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo.
- Photos must be appropriate for posting in city government publications. Photos containing recognizable people must be accompanied by a signed model release form (available online at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com)).
- Entries may be digital images or color or black-and-white prints. You are encouraged to submit a digital image — only digital images will be considered for the People's Choice Award. See specific rules regarding digital images.

- Prints must be 4x6 or 5x7 inches and labeled with name and address. If submitting multiple entries, number each print to match a corresponding entry form (see form below).
- Up to three entries may be submitted.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
  - **Lifestyle Minnetonka** (cityscapes, people, activities)
  - **Natural Minnetonka** (landscapes, plants)
  - **Wild Minnetonka** (animals, pets)
- Photos will not be returned and become the property of the city of Minnetonka to be used in city publications.

### Digital Images

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

Images must be in natural color or black and white — sepia tone and duotone images are not eligible.

### Image Modifications

Minor digital enhancement is allowed, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified.

### Deadline

All photos must be submitted by Monday, September 14, at 4:30 p.m.

### Awards

A first-, second-, and third-place entry will be selected. No cash prizes will be awarded, but winners will receive a small gift. In addition, a People's Choice Award (digital images only) will be chosen by attendees at the Oct. 6 Open House. Winning photos will be published on the city Web site and in the *Minnetonka Memo*; and a certificate of appreciation will be presented to the winners at a city council meeting. ☺

## *A look at two of last year's entries...*



Anne Groton, "Joey's New Bike"



Gail Anderson, "Minnehaha Creek at Big Willow"

## Photo contest entry form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Category:  Lifestyle Minnetonka  Natural Minnetonka  Wild Minnetonka

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail (or drop off) entries to:

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

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

## INNOVATION

### Saving tax dollars one idea at a time

**D**URING THESE DIFFICULT economic times, the city's longstanding practice of instituting innovative ideas in order to use taxpayer dollars wisely, while still providing excellent service to residents, is more important than ever. Each month, some innovative practices from the city will be highlighted. While some are new, others have been in use for years.

#### Building permits available online

Not only can residents apply for various building permits online at the city's Web site [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), but the city's building inspectors use computers in the field to file inspection reports electronically and to manage their inspection schedules more efficiently. This streamlines the process of issuing permits, saving time and money for residents, contractors and city staff alike. Minnetonka remains one of only a handful of communities using this process, and is often approached by other cities for information about online inspections.

#### Garden Club maintains city flowers

The Minnetonka Garden Club, affiliated with the Minnetonka Senior Center, was established in 2008 and currently has 30 members. This spring, 10 members helped prepare planting beds and pots then planted more than 1,200 plants on city property. Throughout the summer, nine members have volunteered to weed, feed and water flowers at a variety of locations several times a week, including at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, Westridge Pavilion, the Burwell House, and the Mills Gazebo. In addition, three garden club members have adopted four park signs — in Gro-Tonka, Mini-Tonka, and Victoria-Evergreen parks — as part of the city's adopt-a-sign program. They planted and continue to maintain the flowers and plants around these signs. By taking on these responsibilities, the garden club is ensuring that the beauty of city property is maintained, while allowing public works staff to focus on other maintenance projects. ☺

## Minnetonka prepares for Emerald ash borer

**T**HE EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) WAS discovered and confirmed in St. Paul, Minn., on Thursday, May 14, marking the first time EAB has been found in Minnesota.

EAB is a non-native invasive insect from Asia that kills all native Minnesota ash trees. According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), there is no evidence to date of resistance against EAB that has been found in any native North American ash populations. In areas where EAB has become established outside of its native range, such as Michigan, ash tree mortality rates approach 100 percent. Insecticide treatments are available that can in some situations protect individual trees from EAB attack. The damaging agent is the larvae of the insect, which kill ash trees as they feed on the living tissue under the bark. Sometimes the symptoms can be very subtle.

The city of Minnetonka has been participating in the MDA's voluntary early detection program for the last three years, and will continue to cooperate with the lead state and federal agencies in order to help slow the spread of the insect. While EAB not yet been detected in Minnetonka, the city is taking action now to prepare a comprehensive plan in order to effectively manage the pest once it arrives. The plan will include sections on topics such as prioritizing ash tree removals on public property, budget impacts, replanting, and wood waste considerations.

At this time, the city encourages residents to learn more about EAB, its symptoms and

its common insect "lookalikes" by visiting the city's Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). The city's Web site summarizes and refers residents to the best sources of information about EAB, including agencies leading research, education and detection efforts: the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Minnesota.

Residents may also contact a local consulting certified arborist for inspection and treatment options. Most reputable companies employing certified arborists will be familiar with the insecticide treatments available. One type is applied as a soil drench; another option is an injection. Most treatments must be repeated on an annual basis. More detailed information on the treatments is available on the city's Web site.

It is not necessary to remove healthy ash trees at this time, though you should start diversifying the tree species in your yard if you have mostly ash trees now. The city has a list of suitable ash tree replacements on the forestry section of the city Web site.

Also on the city Web site, find a list of tree contractors, with companies who have certified arborists on staff denoted by an asterisk. Homeowners may also contact the MDA's "Arrest the Pest" hotline at (651) 201-6684 after learning more about the pest. Due to the volume of requests for information from the public, it is important that residents read some information about EAB prior to contacting state and local agencies. ☺

## It's not easy being green water

**T**HE INCREASINGLY GREEN APPEARANCE of many bodies of water throughout the summer may not be pretty, but all that floating vegetation plays an important part in maintaining a healthy environment for fish and other aquatic animals.

From cattails and lily pads to watermeal and leafy pondweed, aquatic vegetation provides several important building blocks for water ecosystems, including providing fish with hiding spots from the sun and predators; providing nesting and egg-laying habitat, food, and oxygen; preventing erosion by reducing waves and stabilizing soil with their roots; slowing water flow and allowing sediment to settle rather than spreading through the water or downstream; and capturing phosphorus and nitrogen and preventing it from being released into the water.

Algae also plays a necessary role in most aquatic ecosystems, but large amounts may limit the amount of sunlight available to other aquatic plants. Help prevent excess algae by:

- Keeping paved surfaces clean.
- Absorbing and capturing runoff.
- Picking up after pets.
- Disposing of yard wastes properly.
- Using fertilizers only as needed.
- Planting or maintaining native vegetation along water edges.

If you want to plant or remove vegetation in a wetland, lake or creek, check with the city first for any applicable regulations. ☺

## I lost it... at Williston Fitness Center!

**T**HE YEAR IS SLIPPING BY QUICKLY — how are you doing on that new year's resolution, made way back in January, to improve your health and perhaps lose some weight? If the answer is "not well," it's not too late! Consider joining the Williston Fitness Center's nine-week weight loss program, which includes:

- Four nutrition and/or healthy living seminars
- 90 minutes of personal training
- Two group training sessions
- Weekly weigh-ins
- For non-members, a ten-week Williston membership (*Sept. 13–Nov. 21, 2009*)

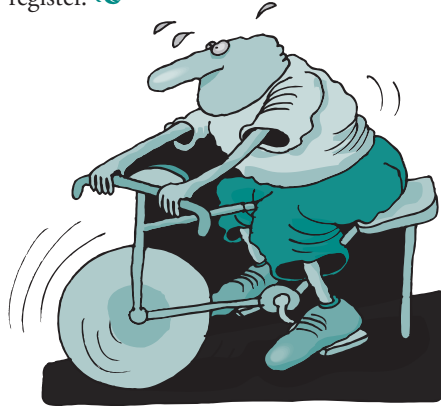
Sessions are coordinated by health professionals, but the program requires participants to work on food choices and to exercise outside of meetings.

Program kick-off meeting is Sunday, September 13, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Nutritional seminars and group trainings take place Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Weekly wellness consultant meetings are scheduled individually and take place



Mondays between 6 and 8 a.m. or 5 to 7 p.m. Personal training appointments are scheduled individually with trainers.

Cost is \$189 for Williston members; \$269 for non-member Minnetonka and Hopkins residents; and \$289 for non-member, non-residents. Space is limited, so sign up today! Call Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203 to register. ♪



## "Green" home completed on Spring Lane

**A** NEW "GREEN" HOME WAS RECENTLY completed on Spring Lane in Minnetonka as a joint project of Hennepin Technical College, the non-profit Neighborhood Energy Connection, and the city of Minnetonka. Hennepin Technical College carpentry, cabinetry, landscaping, and architectural drafting students, along with professionals, designed and constructed the home on city-owned property.

Home construction began last August and focused on sustainable design both inside and out. Interior features include

high-performance insulation and windows; off-peak utilities; a high-efficiency furnace and water heater; low-flow showers and toilets; low-VOC paints and adhesives; a site orientation that allows for passive solar heating; and ready hookup for future solar panels. External sustainable features include rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavers, and native, drought-resistant landscaping. Efficient framing methods were used throughout the construction process, allowing for a reduction in waste. Of the waste that was generated, more than 70 percent was recycled.

Now, Leaders in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) certification is being sought for the home. LEED certification is an international green building certification where a building is rated in areas such as water efficiency, energy, building materials, indoor environmental quality and others. If certification is successful, the Spring Lane home will be the second in Minnetonka to receive LEED certification, and one of only 17 LEED-certified single-family residential homes in the state of Minnesota.

The city plans to put the house up for sale sometime this fall. ♪



*The recently constructed green home on Minnetonka's Spring Lane.*

## Tour a local native landscape garden

**I**F YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GROWING NATIVE plants or converting your yard to a native landscape, join Heather Holm for an open house tour of her 2/3-acre residential yard that includes prairie, mesic, woodland and dry woodland areas. The yard has approximately 190 different forbs and grasses, and 65 trees and shrubs. Last year, six 55-gallon rain barrels were installed. This spring, a 25'x100' portion of the property was restored to an oak woodland brushland community through a Nine Mile Creek Watershed District cost share grant.

This open house tour, available only Thursday, August 13, from 6:30–9 p.m., or Saturday, August 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is free and open to the public. The property is located at 15327 Lake Shore Avenue, Minnetonka. ♪

## Labor Day delays recycling collection, brush drop-off closed

**T**HE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY MONDAY, Sept. 7, will delay recycling by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, Sept. 8, while residents east of I-494 will have recycling collection Wednesday, Sept. 9. The brush drop-off at Minnetonka Public Works will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. ♪

## Sign up now for fall ice skating

**S**IGN UP FOR FALL 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 ages three through adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visiting the city Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

The 12-week fall session begins September 15, 2009. ♪



# minnetonka memo

August 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

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

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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

August  
2009

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
						1	3 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.; Night for Neighbors, 6–9 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5 Park Board, 7 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	6 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m.
30	31						17 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m. 18 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m. 20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 24 Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. 25 Minnetonka Farmers' Market, 3–7 p.m. 31 Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: 2010 Budget)

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

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com)—click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information. ☺

## No municipal primary in 2009

NO PRIMARY IS REQUIRED IN THE CITY this fall based on the number of candidates who filed for the three positions. One candidate filed for mayor, and two candidates filed for each at-large council position, so all the candidates will go directly on the November 3 General Election ballot. Candidate names are available at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Absentee voting will be available if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct; illness or disability; religious observance; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

### How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting absentee:

- **In person:** Voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning October 2. Extended absentee voting hours also will be available Saturday, October 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, November 2, until 5 p.m.
- **By mail:** Absentee voting also may be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

For more information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).