

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
April 2008

## Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 1, 2 and 3

MINNETONKA ICE ARENA'S ALL SEASON SKATING SCHOOL IS proud to present the 34th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Lights on Broadway." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding areas are featured this year. Show times are:

**Thursday** May 1, 2008 6:30 pm  
**Friday** May 2, 2008 6:30 pm  
**Saturday** May 3, 2008 3:00 pm

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for school-aged children and free for preschool children. As always, senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to Thursday night performance. We look forward to entertaining you! Don't forget to bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.

### Skating lessons start June 9

Interested in skating lessons? Summer skating lessons for both youth and adults are held Monday evenings starting June 9. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information and for a registration brochure or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and find a downloadable version of this brochure on the Ice Arena page. ☺



*Don't miss this year's Silver Skates Ice Revue!*

## Caring Youth recognized at March reception

TWENTY-THREE CARING YOUTH WERE RECOGNIZED THURSDAY, MARCH 13, AT THE Minnetonka Community Center during the 2008 Caring Youth Recognition event. The cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins, and Golden Valley, and the Minnetonka and Hopkins school districts, sponsor this annual program that recognizes young people in grades 7 through 12 who have given outstanding service to others. This year's program was made possible through the generous financial support and participation of the Glen Lake Optimists. For more information about this year's Caring Youth award winners, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺



**This year's winners (nominators in parentheses) are:** Tyrone Bryant (*Speak the Word Church International*); Jessica Crelly (*Blair's Tree of Hope*); Sarah Dye (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Allison Greenstein (*Adath Jesberun Congregation*); Troy Goemer (*Timber Bay*); Evan Griggs (*We Can Ride, Inc.*); Gullikson (*The Depot Coffee House*); Aron Larson (*Ridgedale YMCA*); Emily Larson (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Kristen Lunde (*Minnetonka United Methodist Church*); Morgan Mahowald (*Golden Valley Library*); Robyn Pokorny (*Girl Scouts of America*); Eshaan Rao (*Tanglen Elementary Chess Club*); Kathryn Schmidt (*St. Luke Presbyterian Church*); Curtis Shavers (*Hopkins North Junior High*); Sarah Strandberg (*Angel Foundation*); Maddie Smart (*Gatewood Stepping Stones*); Alison Tsuchiya (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Allison Vos (*Carolyn Oldre's Day Care*); Jess Weisman (*Common Bond*); and Ethan Lang, Ryan Lehrman and Lilli Torrison (*St. David's Child Development and Family Services*).

# Flashpoints

## From the Minnetonka Fire Department



**I**N FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A FLASHPOINT is the temperature at which combustible materials 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.



### ReadyMinnetonka

In the year since the launch of ReadyMinnetonka, 63 Minnetonka paid-on-call firefighters and officers have completed the requirements to be presenters for the ReadyMinnetonka program — giving 86 presentations to almost 2,000 people in the community.

The city's Web site, [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), continues to prominently feature the ReadyMinnetonka information. The program's four basic steps are:

1. Get informed and determine your risk
2. Make a plan
3. Assemble a 3-, 5-, or 7-day kit to meet your needs
4. Maintain the kit and update your plan

For more information about these steps and the ReadyMinnetonka program, or to be added to the listserv for emergency alerts, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call the Minnetonka Fire Department at (952) 939-8334.

### Fire training update

The average Minnetonka firefighter attended more than 45 hours of training during the first quarter of 2008 — more than three hours per week.

This quarter's training included:

- Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART), a class in basic domestic animal first aid taught by veterinarians and attended by more than 150 firefighters from Edina,

Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park. The class teaches firefighters how to render basic aid to animals they might encounter on emergency scenes, after human life and safety needs are addressed.

- A presentation by the Regional Poison Center on toxicology and hazardous materials.
- The annual SKYWARN refresher, required to maintain Minnetonka's StormReady certification. A National Weather Service meteorologist presented severe weather spotting information.

### Alarm Reminder

If your home or business is monitored by a private alarm monitoring company, and that company initiates an automatic fire alarm to the Minnetonka Fire Department, be prepared to pay the city a \$250 service fee.

"Our fire department has a general duty to respond to emergencies that occur within the city," said Minnetonka Fire Department Chief Joe Wallin. "Fire alarm systems

with central station service are a contract between a private party and a vendor, resulting in a service being performed by an uncompensated third party — the Minnetonka Fire Department. This level of services constitutes 'special duty,' which is not available to everyone unless they contract with a private alarm company."

This fee does not apply to general 9-1-1 calls, alarm calls where the first notification of the alarm is a 9-1-1 call from the affected property, or alarm calls originated by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

### New equipment

In April, the fire departments anticipate the delivery of two new pieces of equipment.

- Air Two is a mobile air cascade system for filling air bottles on fire and hazardous materials scenes. It will be located at Station 2 on Hopkins Crossroad.
- Ladder Four, a 75-foot aerial ladder truck, will be based out of Station 4 on Excelsior Boulevard. ☺

## Severe Weather Awareness Week starts April 21

**E**ACH DAY OF SEVERE WEATHER Awareness Week, April 21 – 25, focuses on a different topic. Take the time to ensure you and your family are educated about and ready for these severe weather events.

### April 21: Thunderstorms, Lightning and Wind

Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds, and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota each year, with lightning killing and injuring more people than any other summer weather threat.

### April 22: Severe Weather Warning Systems

Weather information, advisories, watches and warnings are prepared by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. The three most common methods of passing on this information are the Emergency Alert System (local media); NOAA's all-hazard weather radio; and outdoor warning sirens (tornado warnings).

### April 23: Heat

High summer temperatures can quickly cause medical heat issues such as heat cramps or exhaustion, or heat stroke. Children and the elderly are especially susceptible to these potentially life-threatening conditions.

### April 24: Tornado Drill Day

Today, the National Weather Service will simulate a tornado watch, starting at 9 a.m. Two tornado drills, with simulated tornado warnings and the sounding of outdoor warning sirens, will occur at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. The first allows schools and businesses to practice sheltering plans while the second allows families and second-shift workers to practice their plans.

### April 25: Flash Floods

On average, five flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June — remember last August's flash flooding in southeastern Minnesota. Half of flash-flood fatalities occur in vehicles. ☺

# Visit these Minnetonka Senior Services events

**I**F YOU'RE A MINNETONKA RESIDENT who's 55 or older, 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](http://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.

## New Special Interest Groups

The following new special interest groups started in February:

- Join a Men's Discussion group Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Topics will be of a non-political, non-religious nature. Refreshments provided.
- Glen Keener will provide digital camera one-on-one help Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. in half-hour segments. Call (952) 939-8393 for an appointment. Bring your camera to your appointment.

- The senior center is trying to start up four new special interest groups in 2008: garden club, bowling group, recipe club and card club. If any of these groups interest you please call (952) 939-8393.

## Daytime golf league starts May 19

A 12-week, Monday morning golf league starts May 19. This league plays at three local executive courses. Register by April 18. For more information call (952) 939-8393.

## Save your books!

The Minnetonka Senior Center needs unwanted books for its first-ever book and pie sale, to be held September 18. So start saving books!

## Defensive Driving Classes

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

### Four-Hour Day Courses

Tuesday, April 8, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 24, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments

provided but no lunch.



## Special Events

Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

### Welcome Coffee

Wednesday, April 9, 9:30 a.m.

Tour the Senior Center and learn about programs and participants.

### Meet the Author

Thursday, April 10, 10 a.m.

Judy McCabe, author of *Thoughts for Home*, will reflect on homes, families and our homeland. Cost is \$2, due by April 8.

### Volunteer Recognition Party

Monday, April 14, 12 p.m.

Enjoy a special luncheon and entertainment by the Grace Notes, a women's trio. RSVP by April 9.

### Hike Minnetonka parks and trails

Join the Minnetonka Senior Center on monthly, two-mile hikes from 9-10 a.m. Bring your own water and meet at designated park listed below.

- **Thursday, May 15:** Meadow Park
- **Tuesday, June 17:** Big Willow Park
- **Tuesday, July 15:** Civic Center to the Minnetonka Mills Dairy Queen
- **Tuesday, August 19:** Purgatory Park
- **Tuesday, Sept. 16:** Lone Lake Park

### Nintendo Wii

Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m.

Get active with the Nintendo Wii gaming system! Questions? Call (952) 939-8393. ☺

# Water main flushing starts April 14

**M**INNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS WILL flush city water mains weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting April 14 and continuing through May 8. Please see the accompanying map to determine the dates in your area.

Aside from the dates listed on the map, flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

**April 14, 5:30–7 a.m.**

Ridgedale business area

**April 28, 5–7 a.m.**

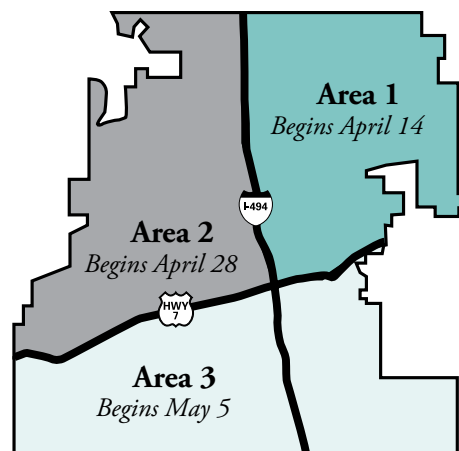
Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway

**May 8, 3–7 a.m.**

Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way

Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions. During the flushing period it is normal to experience some

discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water in your laundry tub. If you experience problems, please call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺



## Need emergency home repairs?

**I**F YOUR HOME IS IN NEED OF emergency repairs and you meet program income restrictions, you may be eligible for a \$5,000 emergency deferred loan with no interest and no payments. To qualify, your household gross annual income (based on a family of four) must be less than \$39,250 and you must meet certain asset restrictions. For more information call Bill at Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County, (952) 933-9639, ext. 210. ☺



## Volunteers help keep ice rinks open

**I**N 2005, THE MINNETONKA PARK BOARD began exploring options for increasing the operating hours for the city's outdoor ice rink program. Because it costs about \$20,000 annually to operate each ice skating rink location, increasing the locations or hours of operation were not options considered by the park board.

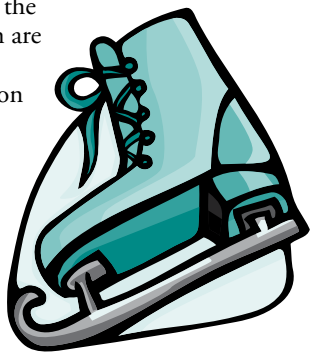
Instead, the board decided on a pilot program designed to use volunteers to open warming houses during times when paid seasonal staff are not scheduled.

The initial attempt at this new volunteer program took place at Spring Hill Park during the 2005–06 season. To find volunteers, a mailing about the program was mailed to all residents who lived within 400 feet of the park. As a result, four residents volunteered, completed an orientation, and were assigned keys to the warming house building at Spring Hill Park. While the weather conditions were poor for making ice, the program proved to be successful, with the facility open an additional 22 hours that first winter.

For the 2006–07 season, the Outdoor Ice Rink Volunteer program was expanded to any city park locations that had interested volunteers. After recruitment information was mailed, six volunteers at three park locations came forward and volunteered a total of 37 hours during the season.

The recently completed 2007–08 season has proven to be the most successful season yet, benefitted in part by ideal weather conditions for making and maintaining outdoor ice. In all, ten volunteers participated in the program at Boulder Creek, Meadow, McKenzie and Spring Hill parks, combining to open the warming houses an additional 124 hours above normal scheduled hours. Recreation Services Director Dave Johnson values the time donated by the volunteers this winter at \$1,300.

Any residents interested in volunteering for the 2008–09 season are encouraged to contact Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203, or send an email to [djohnson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:djohnson@eminnetonka.com). ☺



## An update on park board projects

**T**HE MINNETONKA PARK BOARD HAS several major projects underway and welcomes resident input. Read on for more information!

### Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor

*April 2 and May 7*

Neighborhood meetings and a community open house were held in February on the shared vision of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor. A portion of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor project is the creation of the Minnetonka Mills Park. The Park Board hosted a review and input session on the park plan at its April 2 meeting and will consider recommendations at its May 7 meeting. For information on the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor concept visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

### Park Regulations Review

*May 7*

The Park Board has been reviewing the park regulations and is asking for resident input on proposed changes. At its May 7 meeting, the board will review the regulations and focus on updating the sections pertaining to the leash ordinance, geocaching, tobacco use limits and the use of motorized equipment in park and trail areas.

### Off-Leash Dog Area

*May 7*

With more than 36% of Minnetonka households owning at least one dog, there has been strong support for dedicating an area within the city to allow dogs off-leash.

The Park Board will discuss a study on off-leash areas during its May 7 meeting.

### Oakhaven Park

Last fall the Park Board and then the City Council approved a master plan for the development of Oakhaven Park. The new park was planned after receiving a resident petition and after the city obtained a vacant lot that was owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The 2.8-acre parcel of land at 13608 Spring Lake Road was reconveyed to the city at no cost. The resulting \$300,000 in savings to the city made the development of the park financially feasible. This summer a new playground, swings and play court will be constructed at the site, allowing recreational opportunities for a neighborhood area currently lacking in park and trail amenities.

### Gro Tonka Park – Hockey Rink Project

This summer, the Gro Tonka Park hockey rink will receive a new surface and upgraded dasher boards. A full-court basketball court also will be overlaid on the rink, allowing for multiple uses throughout the season. The reconstruction will take place in late July, after the summer youth playground program, and will be ready for skating season.

To request further information on these topics contact Perry Vetter, parks and trails manager, at [pvetter@eminnetonka.com](mailto:pvetter@eminnetonka.com) or at (952) 988-8412. ☺

## Dos and don'ts for fertilizing your lawn

**B**EFORE YOU FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN this spring, first consider testing the soil to find out what your soil needs. Most Minnetonka lawns already contain high levels of phosphorus. State law restricts the sale and use of fertilizer containing phosphorus, which is the middle of the three numbers on a bag of fertilizer (for example, 10-10-10). Look for a **zero** in the middle spot. Newly seeded or sodded lawns may use phosphorus for the first growing season, or if a soil test shows low phosphorus levels.

Here are a few more dos and don'ts for fertilizer use:

- **Don't** fertilize until the grass is actively growing — usually mid-May.
- **Do** read and follow manufacturer's instructions on the fertilizer bag.
- **Do** rinse the spreader over the lawn, not on a driveway or other hard surface.
- **Don't** fertilize before a heavy rain, or apply fertilizer to wet grass. Do water thoroughly after application.
- **Do** fill fertilizer spreaders on hard surfaces where spills can be swept up. Don't wash fertilizer spills into the street.
- **Do** close the gate on the spreader when crossing hard surfaces such as driveways, walkways and patios.
- **Do** use a drop spreader near shorelines — they are more precise, but slower than rotary spreaders.
- **Do** avoid getting fertilizer into natural drainage areas or pathways where it can be carried to surface water.
- **Do** leave a buffer of natural vegetation near shorelines to prevent erosion and retain nutrients. ☺

 **2008 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

# Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

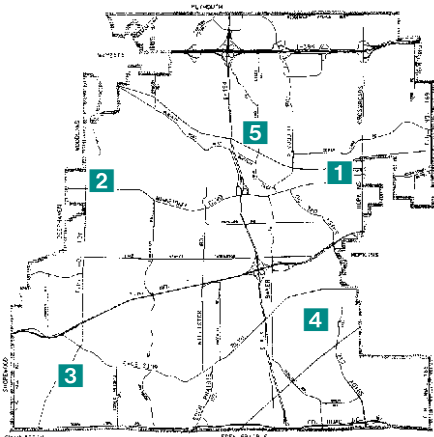
Minnnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than **½ inch** in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

**Saturdays: April 26, May 3 & 10  
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. **Check with your garbage hauler for details.**

## Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ 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 Saturdays, April 26, May 3 and May 10


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:

- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13

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 Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430. 

## Brush drop-off opens April 12

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents opens Saturday, April 12, and will remain open through November 15. 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 26), Labor Day (Sept. 1) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

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 Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.

## Recycling and the holidays

Two holidays will delay recycling one day in 2008: Memorial Day (May 26) and Labor Day (September 1). The week of those two holidays, residents west of I-494 will have collection on Tuesdays and residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesdays.

## 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.



# 36 residents complete Citizen Academy **Fighting graffiti: how you can do your part**

**A**T THE MONDAY, MARCH 3, MEETING of the Minnetonka City Council, 36 Minnetonka residents were recognized for their participation in the 2008 Citizen Academy, hosted by the city of Minnetonka. During the five Tuesday night sessions, these residents heard presentations from every city department, and toured the Minnetonka Public Works facility and police department, as well as recreation facilities in Minnetonka and Hopkins.

Don't miss out on next year's fun — mark your calendars now for the 2009 Minnetonka Citizen Academy, set for Tuesdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2009. Watch the *Minnetonka Memo* later this year for registration deadlines. ☺



**The 2008 Citizen Academy graduates are (from left)** Don Grabanski, Mary Ann Erpelding, Anne Malm Hossfeld, Kaare Faber, Ann Dreier, Bruce Collins, Sandy Brandt, Steve Eliason, Linda Eliason, Caroline Thomas and Dorothy Welch. Not pictured are Barbara Adrian, JoAnn Bennett, Chris Bjork, Barbara Campion, Kevin Campion, Bob Cohen, Julie Cole, Blair Erickson, Bob Ertz, Karen Filla, Allison Kobs, Paul Kobs, Shana Mengelkoch, Barbara Meyers, John Meyers, Mary Paulus, Martha Rustad, Steve Soegaard, Marliss Sorlien, Don Wesenberg, Don Wilbur, Bruce Wilson, Lindy Wilson, Ed Wons and Larry Zidel.

**G**RAFFITI IS VANDALISM AND IS CREATED to be seen by others, so the best thing you can do if it appears on your property is to report it, and then paint it out thoroughly and immediately. City of Minnetonka Ordinance 950.015 states, "It is unlawful for any person to apply graffiti to any natural or man-made surface on any publicly-owned property or, without the permission of the owner or occupant, on any privately-owned property."

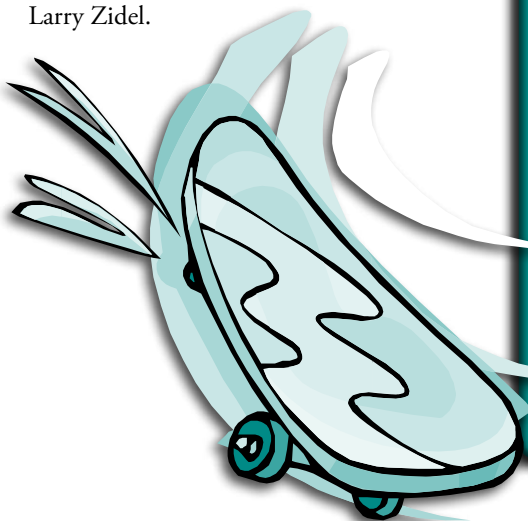
It is the policy of the Minnetonka City Council that all graffiti be removed within three days of when the graffiti is observed. It is the responsibility of private property owners to remove graffiti from their property. The city can provide a list of contractors who do this kind of work.

Call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 to report graffiti or call 9-1-1 immediately if you observe graffiti in progress.

### Preventing graffiti

The best way to fight graffiti is to prevent it in the first place. If graffiti does occur, cover it as quickly as possible. Here are a several graffiti-fighting strategies:

- Join an existing local chamber of commerce or merchant's association to develop strategies to deal with graffiti.
- Paint over graffiti and repair vandalism immediately. The best way to remove graffiti is to paint the entire wall (or up to seven feet high), making a straight line across the top with a color that matches the wall. This leaves no trace of graffiti and does not draw the attention of the vandals. If that is not possible, use a closely matched color blocked over the graffiti in neat, square shapes.
- Make every effort to keep the appearance of your residence clean and neat. An exterior appearance that suggests apathy and neglect attracts vandals. Litter, broken fences, overgrown landscaping, and poor lighting all send a message to vandals that property owners are not attentive or do not care.
- Report vandalism to the police.
- Incorporate shrubs, thorny plants, and vines to restrict vandal access to residence walls, fences, sheds, garages, and other graffiti targets.
- Add or improve lighting around your property to promote natural surveillance. Consider installing additional lighting in areas that are dark and often hit with graffiti. ☺



## Skateboards and motorized scooters

# TRAFFIC CORNER

**I**T'S SPRING TIME, AND EVERYONE wants to be outside! If you have a skateboard or a motorized scooter, please remember the following rules.

- Skateboards and motorized scooters cannot be operated on a sidewalk except when necessary to enter a property from the roadway.
- Skateboards and motorized scooters should stay to the right hand side of the roadway unless making a left turn or overtaking objects such as pedestrians, animals, road hazards, etc.
- Motorized scooters may operate on bicycle paths, lanes, trails and bikeways, unless otherwise indicated.
- Minimum age for motorized scooter and skateboard operators is 12 years old, and protective headgear is required for anyone under age 18. Passengers are prohibited no matter the age.
- When using a skateboard or motorized scooter, it's important to remember that the motor vehicles sharing the road with you are much bigger and can't always see you, so use caution at all times.

Bottom line is, skateboard and motorized scooter operators share the same rights and obligations as bicyclists and are required to follow the same basic traffic rules as motor vehicles. Keeping your travels safe, no matter what the mode, makes an enjoyable ride for us all! ☺



## Register for a rain garden workshop

**I**F YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW to manage yard runoff by installing a rain garden, consider attending a Metro Blooms rain garden workshop Thursday, June 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. You'll learn how to design and install rain gardens using native plants, ornamental grasses, trees and shrubs; as well as learning about eco-friendly lawn care. Workshop is \$10 per household.

To register by mail, send a check payable to Metro Blooms to Noelle Hechtman, 3629 Quebec Avenue South, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Include your name, address and zip code, phone number with area code, email address, and the workshop number (A15 for the June 5 session in Minnetonka). Space is limited so register early. Additional workshops are available now through mid-June at locations around the metro area — for a complete list of dates and locations visit [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org). Workshops are sponsored in part by the city of Minnetonka. ☺

## Reducing chemicals in your yard

**W**ITH CONCERNS ABOUT THE USE OF pesticides and herbicides on gardens and lawns, many people are reducing their use of chemicals and finding alternatives. Many lawn care companies now use non-toxic methods to keep lawns healthy. Consider these non-toxic alternatives:

- Create healthy soil by leaving clippings on the lawn and mulching leaves.
- Water infrequently but deeply to promote deep root growth.
- Mow high — two to four inches to discourage weed growth. Keep mower blade sharp.
- Aerate lawn in the spring and fall.
- Pull weeds by hand. After weeding gardens, apply a thick layer of mulch.
- Learn to live with some weeds.

If you do use pesticides, read the product label and follow all precautions. A healthy lawn needn't be high maintenance: leave the grass clippings on the lawn to save work and money and puts nitrogen back into the lawn. Learn more about reducing chemicals in your yard at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Contacting an elected official

**T**HE 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.

### 2008 MINNETONKA CITY COUNCIL

#### Mayor

**Jan Callison**  
O (952) 939-8389  
H (952) 935-7010  
[jcallison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcallison@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, At Large

**Dick Allendorf**  
H (952) 933-6231  
[dallendorf@eminnetonka.com](mailto:dallendorf@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, At Large

**Terry Schneider**  
H (952) 934-9529  
[tschneider@eminnetonka.com](mailto:tschneider@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, Ward 1

**Bob Ellingson**  
H (952) 931-3065  
[bellingson@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bellingson@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, Ward 2

**Tony Wagner**  
H (952) 512-1817  
[twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, Ward 3

**Brad Wiersum**  
C (612) 817-3713  
[bwiersum@eminnetonka.com](mailto:bwiersum@eminnetonka.com)

#### Council Member, Ward 4

**James Hiller**  
H (952) 974-1003  
[jhiller@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jhiller@eminnetonka.com)

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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### STATE GOVERNMENT

**Governor Tim Pawlenty**  
130 State Capitol Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 296-3391  
[tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto: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  
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**Sen. Terri Bonoff – 43**  
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Capitol Building Rm. 325  
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### State Legislative Districts

**Rep. John Berns – 33B**  
100 Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Blvd.  
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St. Paul, MN 55155  
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**Rep. Maria Ruud – 42A**  
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**Rep. John Benson – 43B**  
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### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

#### U.S. Senate

**Sen. Norm Coleman**  
320 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[coleman.senate.gov](http://coleman.senate.gov)  
2550 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
Phone: (651) 645-0323

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

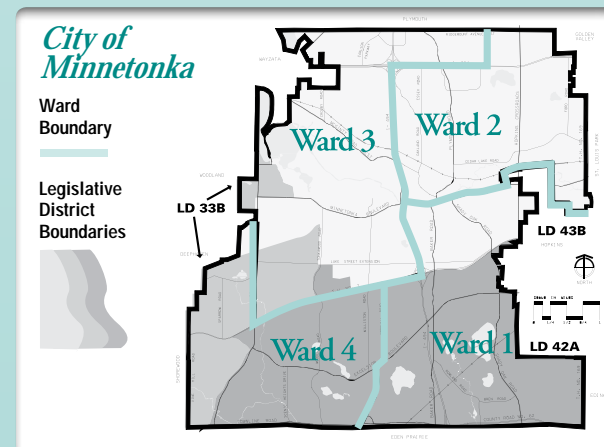
#### U.S. House

**Rep. Jim Ramstad**  
103 Cannon Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.house.gov/ramstad](http://www.house.gov/ramstad)  
1809 Plymouth Road #300  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
Phone: (952) 738-8200

### OTHER

#### Three Rivers Park District

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



# Calendar

## City of Minnetonka

### April 2008

Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.

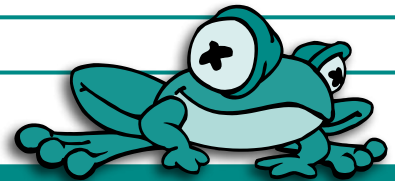
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
		1	2	3	4	5	1 Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee, 5:30 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2 Park Board, 7 p.m. 3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	9 Boards and Commissions training, 6:30 p.m. 14 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: Capital Improvement Plan)
27	28	29	30				16 Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m. 17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 21 Local Board of Review, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Minnetonka History Commission, 6:30 p.m. 24 Police Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m. 28 Minnetonka Community Commission, 6:30 p.m. 29 Neighborhood Watch Appreciation Event, 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](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 Thursday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

At press time, no new developments were scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in April. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Monday prior to each commission meeting.



## Spring into April with these music events

**T**HE 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](http://www.musicassociation.org).

### Welcome Spring Concerts

*Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus*

**Sunday, May 4, 7:30 pm**  
Wayzata Community Church  
125 E. Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata

**Sunday, May 11, 7:30 pm**  
Arts Center on 7  
18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka

### Music for Spring Concert

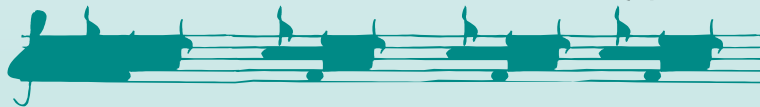
*Symphony Chorus and Choral Reflections*

**Friday, May 16, 7:30 pm**  
Messiah Methodist Church  
17805 County Road 6, Plymouth

### Voices of Spring Concert

*Youth Cappella, Concert and Chamber Choirs*

**Saturday, May 17, 7:30 pm**  
Cross View Lutheran Church  
6645 West McCauley Trail, Edina



# minnetonka memo

April 2008



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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

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..... Home: (952) 935-7010  
..... [jcallison@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jcallison@eminnetonka.com)  
Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

#### City Manager

John Gunyou.....(952) 939-8200

#### Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200

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#### Council

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Ward 2: Tony Wagner..... (952) 512-1817 [twagner@eminnetonka.com](mailto:twagner@eminnetonka.com)  
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Minnetonka Mike..... (952) 939-8586 [mike@eminnetonka.com](mailto:mike@eminnetonka.com)

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency..... 9-1-1

Non-emergency..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

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