

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
August 2008*

Police Explorers: Learning law enforcement and life skills

WEARING A UNIFORM, HELPING WITH traffic stops, administering first aid and volunteering at city events.

It's all in a day's work for Minnetonka's Police Explorers, youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who volunteer with the Minnetonka Police Department and in the process experience a firsthand look at the world of law enforcement.

"When I joined, I was amazed to learn how much Explorers are allowed to do within the police department," said Mike Hupp, 21, who joined the program as a sophomore at Minnetonka High School and is now a senior at the University of St. Thomas. "This program has been a great stepping stone for me, helping me to make choices about college and my career direction." Hupp is studying for a degree in criminal justice and sociology, and ultimately hopes to teach criminal justice at the college level.

Meeting once a week on Wednesday evenings, Explorers work in teams with police officer advisors on 13 different scenarios, from arrest and search to bomb scene response to domestic crisis intervention to traffic stops. Explorers also provide volunteer services to the city about twice a month, including directing traffic at city events, participating in Minnetonka Night for Neighbors (formerly National Night Out), and assisting when dignitaries such as President Bush and Vice President Cheney have passed through Minnetonka.



Police Explorers Mike Hupp, Brian Flynn, Bailey Stiever, and Claire Schwitzer.

For some Explorers, the on-the-job experience has led to a realization that law enforcement isn't for them. "I wanted to be a police officer," explained Bailey Stiever, 18, who graduated from Hopkins High School this spring and joined the Explorers as a freshman. "The work I do with Explorers is so different from anything I've experienced. I've enjoyed it, but seeing firsthand what a career in law enforcement means, I've decided I can't see doing it for the rest of my life." Stievers plans to attend the University of Puget Sound in Washington this fall.

However, Stiever may have helped shape the future career of another Explorer, Claire Schwitzer, 18, who as a result of her experiences plans to work in some aspect of law enforcement. "When I was a sophomore, Bailey persuaded me to join the Police Explorers. I knew I wanted to volunteer in the community, and Explorers fit the bill perfectly." Schwitzer is a sophomore at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., studying political science, psychology and criminal justice, and hopes to pursue a law enforcement career at the federal level.

In addition to routine meetings and volunteer work, the Explorers participate in state conferences, where they compete against other Explorer Posts in the 13 different scenarios. The Minnetonka Police Explorers are a perennial top performer, taking first or second place in many

competitions. Every two years, the Explorers travel to a national conference where they test their skills against Explorers from across the nation. Over the past several years, conferences have been held in Georgia and Arizona and this year, the Explorers will travel to Colorado.

All agree that no matter where their career path takes them, their Explorer experience will serve them well in life. "Even if you're not interested in a career in law enforcement, participating in Explorers teaches you leadership and dedication," said Stievers. "It also helped me get into college — participating in Explorers is somewhat unique and helped set me apart from other applicants."

Brian Flynn, 18, joined the program three years ago and was recently hired as a seasonal community service officer for the Minnetonka Police Department, patrolling park trails on bicycle. He will attend Winona State University this fall, and plans to study criminal justice and law enforcement, with the intent to become a police officer.

"I like helping people, and I wanted a career where I could be out in the community," explained Flynn. "Joining Explorers helped set my career path in motion. It's a great program to learn how to help people, and also how to be cool-minded in tough situations."

Police Explorers, continued on page 7.

Interested in Explorers?

YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES of 14 and 21 are invited to join the Minnetonka Police Explorers. Explorers meet each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, and interested youth are invited to attend. If you'd like more information about the program, call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 and ask to speak with any of the Police Explorer advisors: Officers Jason Tait, Shannon Odegaard or Scott Marks. ☺

Flashpoints

From the *Minnetonka Fire Department*

IN 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.



New mobile breathing air supply truck, housed at Fire Station 2.

- The Minnetonka Fire Department recently acquired a mobile breathing air supply truck, which provides on-scene refilling of air bottles and a host of other firefighter relief services for events large or small. This is the only truck of its type in the southwest metro area, and, within six hours of being placed in service at Fire Station 2 near Hopkins Crossroad, the truck was working at an apartment fire in St. Louis Park.
- The average firefighter in Minnetonka attended more than 45 hours of training — three hours per week — during the second quarter of 2008. Training topics included annual live fire and high-rise fires refreshers; school bus extrication; tour of the new United HealthCare headquarters; and EMS training focusing on diabetic emergencies. In addition, the Minnetonka Fire Department provided a trench rescue class for the Forest Lake Fire Department.
- Eleven members of the fire department's rookie class graduated from their initial fire training by completing live fire scenarios in St. Paul.

- During the second quarter of 2008, the fire department responded to 143 calls for service. About 15 volunteer firefighters show up for every regular call, while about 40 volunteers show up for every structure fire. Calls included six structure fires, one car fire, four brush fires, 12 medicals, one water rescue, 13 gas leaks, one carbon monoxide incident, three mutual aid requests and 37 false fire alarms.
- Mark your calendars now — the 2008 Minnetonka Fire Department and City-Wide Open House is set for Tuesday, October 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Watch for more information in upcoming *Minnetonka Memos*.

An update on ReadyMinnetonka

Started in April 2007, ReadyMinnetonka is built on best practices tailored for Minnetonka residents and has been designed to target city households through three different avenues: schools and community-based groups, residential neighborhoods, and businesses and commercial groups.



All of Minnetonka's paid-on-call firefighters and officers have completed the requirements to be presenters for the ReadyMinnetonka program and in the first half of this year have delivered 15 presentations to more than 600 people.

In addition to the presentations, a ReadyMinnetonka email listserv has been operational for nearly a year, and was developed as another way to receive information about significant events, usually weather-related, which may affect the city. This listserv is not designed to be a replacement for warning sirens, monitoring the media, or NOAA weather radio, rather as an adjunct to these systems. Currently, there are 75 subscribers who in turn forward the emails to about 900 people as conditions warrant.

To be added to the listserv, or for more information about ReadyMinnetonka, call (952) 939-8334 or email ready@eminnetonka.com.



Minnetonka firefighters demonstrate trench rescue techniques.

2008 state primary set for Tuesday, September 9

FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND JUDICIAL offices may be on the ballot for the state primary Tuesday, September 9. No local issues are on this year's ballot. The purpose of a primary is to determine the candidates who will advance to the November 4 General Election.

City staff is available to help you with election information. For more detailed or specific information, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Election Information."

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available for those who are unable to get to the polling place on Election Day due to:

- Absence from the precinct,
- Illness or disability,
- Religious observance, and/or
- Service as an election judge in another precinct.

Absentee voting may be done in person or by mail. Absentee ballots will be available beginning Friday, August 8.

In Person

Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will also be available at both locations Saturday, September 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, September 8, until 5 p.m.

By Mail

Absentee voting may also be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

The first step to vote absentee by mail is to complete an application. Applications may be obtained by calling city hall, visiting www.eminnetonka.com, or by faxing a request to (952) 939-8244. Upon receipt of an application, the city will mail a ballot with instructions.

Pre-registering to vote

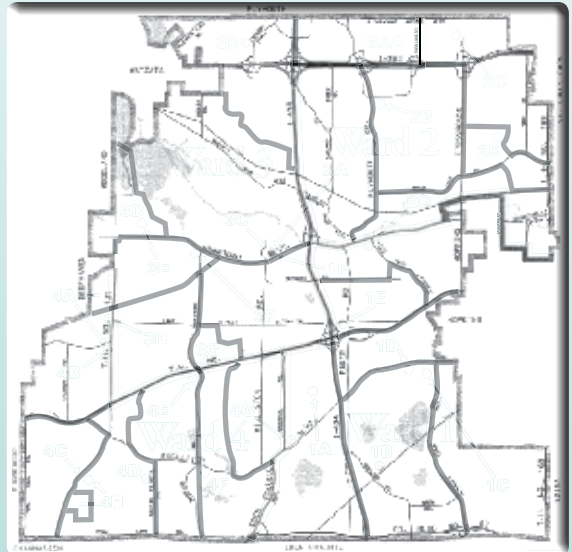
Minnesota allows voters to register to vote on Election Day at the polls. However, the lines can be long, so it is to your advantage to register before Election Day. Pre-registration for the primary election closes

Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary **Precinct Numbers** 4A
Precinct Lines **Polling Locations** •

Polling Locations

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|--|
| 1A | Glen Lake Elementary School
4801 Woodridge Road | | |
| 1B | Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
5617 Rowland Road | | |
| 1C | Cross of Glory Baptist Church
4600 Shady Oak Road | | |
| 1D | Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Boulevard | | |
| 1E | St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension | | |
| 1F | Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | | |
| 2A | Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | | |
| 2B | Ridgedale Hennepin County Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive | | |
| 2C | Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
600 Hopkins Crossroad | 3D/ | St. Luke Presbyterian Church |
| 2D | The Episcopal Parish of St. David's Church
13000 St. David's Road | 3E | 3121 Groveland School Road |
| 2E | Lindbergh Center
2400 Lindbergh Drive | 3F | Minnetonka Lutheran Church
16023 Minnetonka Boulevard |
| 3A | Ridgepointe
12600 Marion Lane W. | 3G | Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve |
| 3B | Freedom Pointe
500 Carlson Parkway | 3H | Minnetonka United Methodist Church
17611 Lake Street Extension |
| 3C | Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | 4A/ | Ridgewood Church (formerly Minnetonka Baptist)
4420 County Road 101 |
| | | 4B | 4420 County Road 101 |
| | | 4C | Minnetonka District Service Center
5621 County Road 101 |
| | | 4D | Scenic Heights Elementary School
5650 Scenic Heights Drive |
| | | 4E | Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve |
| | | 4F | All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Boulevard |
| | | 4G | Glen Lake Activity Center
14350 Excelsior Boulevard |
| | | 4H | Minnetonka District Service Center
5621 County Road 101 |



August 19 to allow the county time to update the precinct voter lists for Election Day. Contact city hall for a voter registration application form if you would like to pre-register. You will need to register if:

- You have never registered.
- You have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted.
- You have not voted in four years.

Other Election Information

Polls will be open for the state primary Tuesday, September 9, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Results will be posted on the Minnesota Secretary of State's Web site at www.sos.state.mn.us and the Hennepin County Web site at www.hennepin.us.

There have been two polling place changes since 2007: Voters in Ward 4 Precinct C and Ward 4 Precinct H will now vote at the Minnetonka District Service Center at 5621 County Road 101.

Notices will be sent to those affected voters in August. All other polling locations in the city have remained the same.

To find your polling location, please visit www.eminnetonka.com or call city hall at (952) 939-8200.

This promises to be a busy election season, and we encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Please let us know how we can help you in this process. ∞



Making sense of tree myths: letting the truth take root

DO ANY OF THESE TREE myths sound familiar to you?

Myth #1

Newly planted trees should be staked and braced immediately.

Once a tree is properly planted, with the first woody roots within the first two inches of soil, evaluate whether or not the tree will stand upright. Use staking and bracing only if the tree stem is rubbery and will not remain upright in a moderate wind. Studies have found that trees need to move and sway in the wind in order to form "reaction wood," which creates larger and thicker cell walls than other types of wood. To learn more about staking and bracing trees, visit the University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension page at <http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/urban.com/StakingandGuying.html>.

Myth #2

A tree planted in a yard surrounded by turf grass has the same chance at good health as a tree surrounded by wood-based mulch.

Grass roots out-compete tree roots for water and nutrients, creating a chronic stressor for trees. Furthermore, the watering requirements for grass are different than those for trees. Watering with a sprinkler every day for grass and plants encourages shallow root systems in the nearby trees. This becomes a problem for trees when the watering decreases, or if temperatures increase or decrease in short amounts of time.

A better practice is to place mulch around the tree's drip line, which conserves soil moisture, improve the soil structure as it



breaks down, and encourage fine root development in the tree. Apply mulch two to four inches deep, keeping the mulch ring a few inches away from the trunk. Do not pile mulch around the trunk of the tree. Remember, trees need less frequent, but deeper, watering. After watering a tree, the soil should be moist six to eight inches deep.

Myth #3

Be sure to paint all tree wounds

Trees have their own self-contained system to protect themselves. When a tree is wounded or pruned, it responds by creating boundaries

around the wound to resist the spread of decay organisms throughout the tree, which can eventually cause rotten areas that create holes and structural weaknesses in the tree. The boundaries also separate the decayed wood from new, healthy wood.

The only time a wound should be painted is on oak trees damaged during the high-risk season (April to June) for oak wilt disease. It is best to save any work on or around oak trees until November through March, the no-risk time period for oak wilt disease. However, if storm damage or an accident occurs and you have to paint a wound on an oak tree, use a water-based paint, and do so within 15 minutes of damage to avoid oak wilt disease. If you are conducting construction activities near oak trees in your yard, it is best to have a water-based spray paint on hand in the event that a piece of equipment creates a wound on a tree.

For more information about tree care, visit the University of Minnesota Forest Resources Extension Web site at <http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/index.html>.

Purple loosestrife control expands in Minnetonka

MINNETONKA'S PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BIO-CONTROL PROGRAM expanded this June with the release of 2,000 loosestrife-eating beetles at a city-owned site south of Minnetonka High School.

Purple loosestrife is a European plant that arrived on the east coast of the U.S. in the late 1800s. The purple-flowering, hardy perennial plant has invaded wetlands in forty states and all Canadian border provinces. Loosestrife has degraded wetlands by choking out native plants resulting in diminished species diversity and wildlife habitat. Bio-control of purple loosestrife began in Minnesota in 1992 and in Minnetonka in 2002. Currently, release projects are a cooperative effort involving the Minnetonka natural resources division, Groveland and Scenic Heights elementary schools and Fortin Consulting.

Biological control of loosestrife involves the release of insects that feed exclusively on the invasive species.

First, loosestrife plants are collected and grown in net-covered pots inside kiddie pools in order to raise loosestrife-eating beetles. Beetles are then collected from former beetle-release sites and reared under nets in the pools. Once the beetles have mated and multiplied, the plants and beetles are set out in a new location plagued by the loosestrife plant. After seasons of feeding and multiplying, the beetles can cause the plants to quit flowering and decline in size. These conditions do not eradicate loosestrife, but bring it under control, since it is no longer propagating itself.

Beetles have been released in two new Minnetonka wetlands per year for the past three years. This year, the program expanded to include direct transfer of beetles from a collection wetland in South St. Paul to the land south of Minnetonka High School. Pot-reared plants and beetles were released in Big Willow Park as well.

For more information visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>.



Beetles are raised, then released to feed on loosestrife.

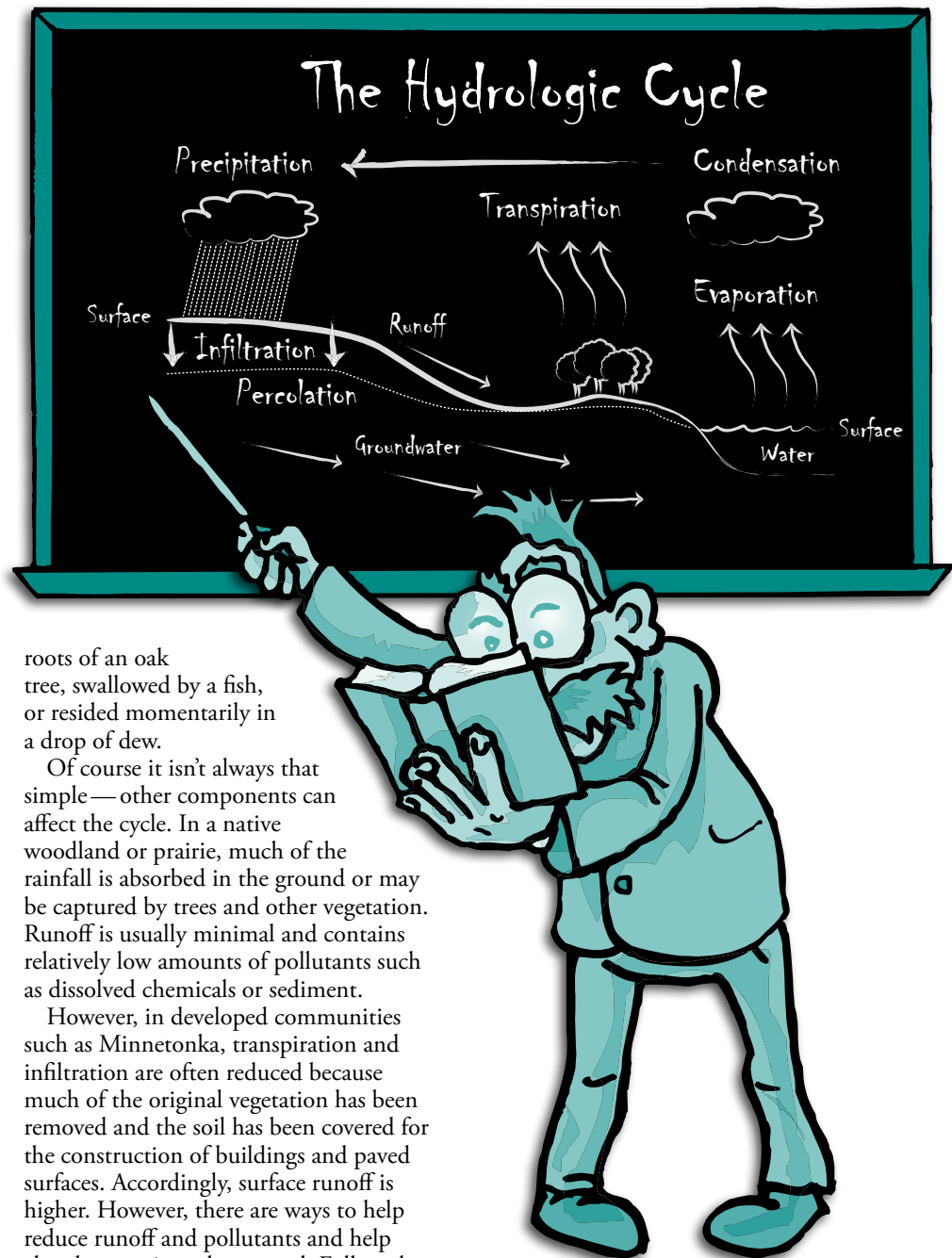
Understanding the circle of water: the hydrologic cycle

MOST PEOPLE APPRECIATE THE VALUE of a cold glass of water or a dip in the pool on a hot summer day. Water is one of the most fundamental necessities to daily life, and one of the most abundant resources on the planet. However, most of the world's water is salt water, while much of the remaining fresh water is frozen in ice sheets and glaciers. Overall, less than one percent of the world's water is actually available for human consumption. Most of this water is found in rivers, lakes, and groundwater, although some of it is in the air around us. We know that we all use water, but where does our water come from?

The answer is the hydrologic cycle, the system by which water is continuously cleaned and reused by the earth's systems. As with any cycle, there is no set starting point; however, there are a few main components that make up the cycle.

1. Water is absorbed into the ground by infiltration. Some of the water may pass (percolate) through holes and small cracks. Vegetation can help increase the amount of water that is absorbed. Water absorbed into the soil can collect underground, forming groundwater.
2. Water that is not absorbed by the soil will wash off the surface. Runoff can help refill our lakes, creeks, and wetlands (surface waters), but it also can carry pollutants and increase the potential for flooding.
3. Through evapotranspiration, clean water vapor is released into the air directly by plants (transpiration) or by heat from the sun on the water's surface (evaporation).
4. Warm air can hold more water vapor than cool air, which is why we often have humid days in the summer and dry days in the winter. As warm moist air cools, it forms small water droplets — condensation — that may appear as clouds or fog.
5. As water droplets condense they may form larger droplets that eventually become heavy enough to fall as rain or snow, called precipitation.

Basically, you can think of the hydrologic cycle as a big water purification system that operates world-wide and free of charge. Any water that enters the system can be recycled. For example, the water molecules in your glass once may have been drawn up by the



roots of an oak tree, swallowed by a fish, or resided momentarily in a drop of dew.

Of course it isn't always that simple — other components can affect the cycle. In a native woodland or prairie, much of the rainfall is absorbed in the ground or may be captured by trees and other vegetation. Runoff is usually minimal and contains relatively low amounts of pollutants such as dissolved chemicals or sediment.

However, in developed communities such as Minnetonka, transpiration and infiltration are often reduced because much of the original vegetation has been removed and the soil has been covered for the construction of buildings and paved surfaces. Accordingly, surface runoff is higher. However, there are ways to help reduce runoff and pollutants and help absorb water into the ground. Follow these five simple tips to help keep the hydrologic cycle functioning smoothly.

- **Capture and absorb** water into the soil with a rain garden or native vegetation. Trees and shrubs have extensive root systems that can help increase infiltration.
- **Use proper** watering practices when needed. Consider installing a rain barrel to re-use water from your roof.
- **Fix or replace** leaking plumbing or appliances. A dripping faucet wastes water and energy.
- **Avoid using** chemicals and fertilizers in your yard where possible and apply them properly when needed to avoid waste and runoff.
- **Cover** exposed soil, which tends to absorb less water and can add sediment and nutrients to surface runoff. ♻️

Don't miss these August Senior Services events!

IF 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.

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.

Mills Landing Gift Shoppe

Stop by the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, to browse a collection of homemade gifts. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information visit the store Web site at www.millslandingshoppe.com, or call (952) 933-5214.

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 those books!

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Day Course

Tuesday, August 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Refreshments provided but no lunch.

Special Events

Registration for fall classes and trips begins Thursday, August 7. Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Minnetonka Police Chief Presents Minnetonka Night for Neighbors

Tuesday, August 5, 1 p.m.
Tour a squad car and enjoy a tasty treat. Free.

Highway Clean Up

Wednesday, August 6, 9 a.m.
Volunteers needed for highway clean up. Meet at the community center at 9 a.m., and after clean up enjoy a picnic lunch at Burwell House.

Tell Me What It's Worth

Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 a.m.
Enjoy a presentation from LaVerna Leipold on antiques and collectibles. The audience is invited to participate by bringing in their own items. Leipold taught antique classes for 30 years, and she has been the co-owner of a gift, antique and lamp business in downtown Excelsior for 37 years. Refreshments included. Cost is \$2, register by August 4.

Maximizing Safety in Your Home

Wednesday, August 13, 10:30 a.m.
Presented by Jessica Weiche, director of rehabilitation services at Hillcrest. Cost is \$2, register by August 11.

Pork Chop Dinner

Monday, August 18, 4:30 p.m. (first seating)
& 5:30 p.m. (second seating)

The Wright County Pork Producers will grill seasoned pork chops, to be served with coleslaw, baked beans, applesauce, roll, and coffee. Dessert provided by Sunrise Assisted Living of Minnetonka. Dick Macko will perform. Cost is \$7, register by

August 11 and specify seating choice. Register early — space is limited and tickets will not be sold at the door!



Picnic Grill Out

Thursday, August 21, 12 p.m.
Enjoy a picnic grill out of corn dogs, sweet corn and root beer floats. Entertainment provided by Johneyo, nationally recognized yo-yo extraordinaire. Bring your grandchildren! Cost is \$4, register by August 19.

Author, Author, Author

Tuesday, August 26, 1 p.m.
Learn firsthand how to write a book and how to self-publish. Meet local authors, hear them read, buy books and have a tasty treat. Cost is \$2, register by August 22.

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.

- **Tuesday, August 19:** Purgatory Park
- **Tuesday, Sept. 16:** Lone Lake Park

Special Interest Groups

Nintendo Wii

Tuesdays, 9–11 a.m.
Get active with the Nintendo Wii gaming system! Questions? Call (952) 939-8393.

Digital Camera Help

Tuesdays, 9–11 a.m.
Glen Keener will help you with your digital camera during half-hour segments. Call (952) 939-8393 to schedule an appointment. Make sure to bring your camera with you!

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.
Enjoy a variety of speakers, discussions, hands-on events and tours.

Men's Discussion Group

Mondays, 10 a.m.
Enjoy stimulation conversation each week.

Sheephead Card Game

Wednesdays, August 6 and 26,
9:30–11:30 a.m.
Learn the game of Sheephead. Call (952) 939-8393 to sign up for these free classes.

500 Cards Daytime Group

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

Trips

Lake Minnetonka Boat Cruise

Monday, August 4, 10:40 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.
Includes tour, lunch, transportation and escort. Cost is \$36.

Minnesota Twins Game

Wednesday, August 20, 11:30 a.m.
Includes ticket, hot dog and soda, transportation and escort. Cost is \$33. ♡



Know when to report suspicious activity

AFTER A CRIME, IT'S NOT UNCOMMON to talk with witnesses who saw something suspicious, but didn't call police because they didn't realize that what they had seen was suspicious, or because they assumed someone else would call, or because they didn't want to bother the police.

The Minnetonka Police Department needs your help in reporting suspicious activity. Call the police immediately if you think a situation or circumstance is suspicious. Do not worry that you are bothering the police — that's what we're here for! And, don't be embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded.

If in doubt, call. It's better to err on the side of safety. The following activities should be reported to the police by dialing 9-1-1. This is not a complete list — use your own judgment when determining whether or not to call.

- Someone needing police, fire, or medical assistance
- Alarms sounding or breaking glass

- Someone loitering around cars or going car to car peering into them
- Slow-moving vehicles, or vehicles at night without lights, driving aimlessly
- Apparent business transactions being conducted from a vehicle
- Someone being forced into a vehicle
- Abandoned vehicle parked on the block
- Someone seen with a weapon
- Someone loitering, entering or leaving a business before or after hours

While some, if not all, of the above situations could have innocent explanations, the police would rather prevent illegal activity than be called to investigate a crime after it is committed. Please remember, timely reporting is important. Dial 9-1-1 as soon as you witness suspicious activity! For more information, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546. ☺

Police Explorers, continued from Page 1

The Minnetonka Police Explorers has become a hiring resource for the Minnetonka Police Department, as nearly ten percent of the officers currently serving started out as Explorers. Two former Explorers, Officers Shannon Odegaard and Jason Tait, now serve as advisors to the program along with Officer Scott Marks.

"Being an Explorer is not so much about wanting to be a police officer as it is about the life skills you gain through the program," emphasized Officer Odegaard, who joined the Minnetonka Explorers in 1997. "Participants learn leadership skills, how to work with many different types of people, and also form friendships with people they might not have otherwise met."

Officer Tait, who joined the Explorers in 1995, said that he sometimes still relies on the skills he learned in Explorers. "Police officers have to handle a wide variety of things and need to know a little bit about everything. One minute you might be dealing with someone who wants to harm you, and the next minute you're trying to help someone. All of the scenarios Explorers work on result in skills that can last a lifetime."

Ultimately, Officers Odegaard and Tait agree they are advisors for the program because they wanted to give back to the program that helped them get started in their own law enforcement careers.

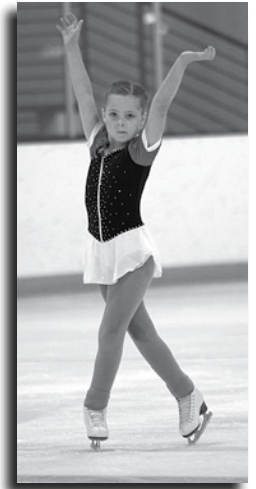
"The Explorers teach you how to be a good person. You learn respect and leadership skills. It's nice to give back to the program that gave me so much," said Officer Odegaard. ☺



Explorer Mike Hupp handcuffs a volunteer during a state Explorer competition.

Sign up now for skating lessons!

SIGN UP NOW 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 age 3 and up, including adults. Class information and registration materials are available by calling the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or by visiting the city of Minnetonka Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. The 12-week fall session begins September 9, 2008. Register now as space is limited! ☺



Need music in your life? Listen in!

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka will hold an open house for its youth and adult choir ensembles on the following dates in August. All open houses will take place at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka (adjacent to Minnetonka High School).

- Learn more about the Cappella Choir (girls and boys in grades 3-6), the Concert Choir (girls in grades 6-9), and the Chamber Choir (girls in grades 9-12) Monday, August 25 at 7 p.m.
- The adult Symphony Chorus and Choral Reflections of Minnetonka invite you to an information/audition night Tuesday, August 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information about the open house or joining the Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra, Concert Band or Senior Chorale, contact (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org ☺



Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

August
2008

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
					1	2	5 Minnetonka Night for Neighbors
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	6 Park Board, 7 p.m. 7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	11 City Council, 6:30 p.m. 18 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m. (Topic: 2009 Budget)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
31							

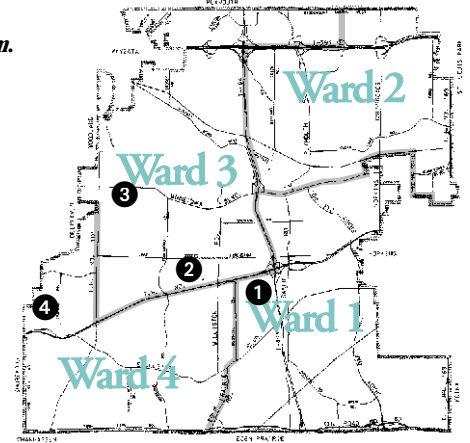
All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in August. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for T-Mobile to place a 90-foot low-profile monopole at the **Glen Lake Elementary School** as a telecommunications facility. (96011.08a)
- 2 Items concerning redevelopment of existing property at **15400 and 15306 Hwy. 7 and 15401 and 15409 Highwood Drive**. (91005.08a)
- 3 Variance for deck and porch addition to the home at **3440 Larchwood Drive**. (08028.08a)
- 4 Items concerning a nine-lot subdivision at **18601 and 18617 Woolman Drive**. (08029.08a)



Labor Day delays recycling collection; brush drop-off closed

THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY, SEPT. 1, WILL DELAY RECYCLING COLLECTION BY one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection on Tuesday, Sept. 2, while residents east of I-494 will have collection Wednesday, Sept. 3. The brush drop-off at Minnetonka Public Works will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day. ♻️

minnetonka memo August 2008



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