

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
September 2008

2008 state primary set for Tuesday, September 9

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

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 is currently underway and may be done in person or by mail.

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 be available at both locations Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, Sept. 8, until 5 p.m.

By Mail

The first step to vote absentee by mail is to complete an application, which may be obtained by calling city hall, visiting www.eminnetonka.com, or faxing a request to (952) 939-8244. Upon receipt of an application, the city will mail a ballot with instructions. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count — please allow sufficient time for mail delivery.

Registering to vote

Pre-registration for the Primary Election closed August 19 to allow the county time to update the precinct voter lists for Election Day. However, Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day.

Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary

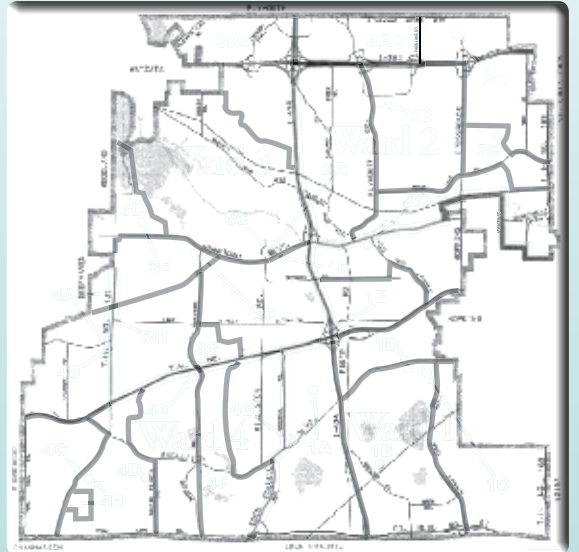
Precinct Numbers 4A

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) |
| | | 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 |



You will need to register if:

- you have never registered;
- if you have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted;
- or if 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 were 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. ♪

Looking ahead to the Nov. 4 election

ELECTION DAY IS SET FOR TUESDAY, November 4. Federal, state, county and judicial offices will be on the ballot. Information about absentee voting is below. Look for more information about Election Day in the October 2008 *Minnetonka Memo*.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available for those who are unable to get to the polling place on Election Day — Tuesday, November 4 — due to:

- absence from the precinct;
- illness or disability;
- religious observance;
- or service as an election judge in another precinct.

Absentee ballots for the November 4 State General Election will be available beginning October 3. Residents can absentee vote in person at city hall or the downtown Hennepin County Government Center, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will be available Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday, November 3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Absentee voters can also vote by mail. Visit the city's Web site to download the absentee application or call city hall at (952) 939-8200. The completed application can be mailed or faxed to Minnetonka City Hall and the ballot will then be mailed out. The voted ballot must be returned in time for it to be counted on Election Day.

Options are available for voters who will be out of the country and wish to cast an absentee ballot. For more information on the overseas absentee voting process, call city hall at (952) 939-8200.

Turnout for the November General Election is expected to be extremely high nationwide. Voters can expect to encounter lines throughout the day, although voter turnout is usually lightest during the late morning and afternoon hours. To avoid frustration, be sure you know your correct polling location. Visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 for poll locations.

Since 2007, two polling places have changed: voters in Ward 4, Precincts C and H will now vote at the Minnetonka District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka. Notices were sent to affected voters in August. ☺

What ID do you need to vote?

Voters registering to vote on Election Day must provide proof of residence.

You may show **one** item from Table A or **two** items from Table B (valid photo ID plus valid utility bill)

On Election Day you must have one of the following: **TABLE A**

- Valid Minnesota driver's license or learner's permit (or receipt for either) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Tribal ID showing current name, picture, signature, and address in precinct.
- A voucher card signed by the person vouching for the voter and witnessed by an election judge. A voucher is the oath of a voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant's address in the precinct.
 - The voucher must have personal knowledge of the person for whom they are vouching.
 - A voter who is vouched for **cannot** vouch for another voter at this election.
 - Challengers **cannot** serve as vouchers.
 - A voucher may vouch for up to 15 voters.
 - Voucher **must** leave the polling place as soon as the vouching process is complete.
- Late notice sent from the City Clerk.
- Prior registration in the same precinct — voter's former address listed in the polling place roster.
- Current students
 - Student ID or dated registration or fee statement with valid address in the precinct.

OR

On Election Day voters may register by a combination of one picture ID from **Column 1** along with one type of utility bill from **Column 2**.

Column 1

Approved photo IDs must contain voter's name and photo. It may contain voter's old address or have no address.

- MN driver's license
- MN state ID
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID
- Student ID from MN post-secondary school
- Tribal ID

Column 2

Approved utility bills must contain name, current address in the precinct, and date due within 30 days before/after Election Day.

- Cable TV
- Electric
- Gas
- Phone
- Garbage
- Water/sewer
- Cell phone

TABLE B



News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEW FOR NEIGHBORS APPEARS QUARTERLY IN THE MINNETONKA Memo, with news for you about happenings in the Minnetonka Police Department. If you have questions about these items, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.

- For the fourth year in a row, Minnetonka Police Department staff participated in the **Law Enforcement Torch Run** to benefit the Special Olympics. Approximately 20 employees ran, walked and biked an eight-mile course through the city, picking up the torch from the Plymouth Police Department then handing it off to the Eden Prairie Police Department. Over the past four years, the Minnetonka Police Department has raised \$5,000 for Special Olympics. A special thank you to Detective Andy Gardner, who has coordinated the event from the start, and to his wife, Mary Jo Gardner, for organizing the picnic after the run.
- In July, the **Minnetonka Police Explorers** traveled to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo., to participate along with 3,500 Explorers from all 50 states in the 2008 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference. Minnetonka's very young group of explorers continued to impress their advisors as they earned awards in two events this year, placing fifth in the Crime

Prevention Competition and fourth in the Crime Scene Search event. In addition to those awards, Explorer Brian Flynn earned a Chairman's Twenty Award for his marksmanship in the 9mm pistol shoot. The Minnetonka Explorer advisors are Officers Scott Marks, Jason Tait and Shannon Odegaard.

- The Minnetonka Police Explorers Post 884 will host its annual First Nighter event **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**, at 6 p.m. at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Police Explorers is an exciting program for young adults ages 14-20 who have an interest in law enforcement. Attend the First Nighter and see what the program is all about! For more information call (952) 939-8500.
- More than 140 neighborhoods registered for the August 5 **Minnetonka Night for Neighbors** event, with visits by the Minnetonka Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Works, as well as city council members, Hennepin County Ambulance, McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog. Donations were received from Cub Foods, Davanni's, Brunswick Zone, Lunds, Target, Caribou Coffee, CenterPoint Energy and Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America. ☺

Safety tips for children who are home alone

WORKINGS PARENTS EVERYWHERE SHARE THE ANXIETY, frustration and even fear involved in leaving children alone when school lets out. What do you do when children are too old for day care, but far from grown up? To help determine if your child is ready to stay home alone, ask if your child can:

- Be trusted to go straight home after school?
- Easily use the telephone, locks and kitchen appliances?
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- Stay alone without being afraid?

Before leaving a child alone, teach them:

- How to reach you. Make sure important numbers are posted by the phone. Consider one of the new kid-friendly cell phones with parental control.
- To check in with you or a neighbor immediately after arriving home.
- How to dial 9-1-1.



- To never accept gifts or rides from people they do not know well.
- How to use the door and window locks, and alarm system, if you have one.
- To never let anyone into the home without your permission.
- To never let anyone at the door, or on the phone, know that

they're alone. Instruct them not to answer the door and/or to say that "Mom or Dad can't come to the phone right now."

- To carry a house key with them in a safe place.
- How to escape in case of a fire.
- To let you know about anything that frightens them or makes them feel uncomfortable

Most importantly, talk about staying home alone with your children and listen to their concerns and ideas. Work out rules about having friends over,

homework, household chores and television. And remember, staying at home alone when the child is ready can build self-esteem, responsibility and practical skills. ☺

Fire Department and City Open House is October 7

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL HOST its annual Fire Department and City Open House Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. This popular event offers an informal and entertaining way to meet city staff and learn more about local government. Kids four and over can ride in city fire trucks, and everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with department tours, strolling characters and entertainment. See the October *Minnetonka Memo* for a complete schedule of events, or visit www.eminnetonka.com.



Start your cameras for the 2008 photo contest!

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA AND THE Minnetonka Community Commission will once again host a photo contest this year in conjunction with the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House. Read on for 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).
- Entries may be color or black-and-white prints or digital images. If you submit prints, you are encouraged to also submit a digital image, if possible. Specific rules regarding digital images are listed below.
- Prints must be 4x6 or 5x7 inches. Do not send negatives. Attach a label to the back of each print with your name and address. Do not write on the photo itself. 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:
 - **Minnetonka Lifestyle** (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc.)
 - **Natural Minnetonka** (landscapes, plants, animals, etc.)
 - **Enhanced Minnetonka** (photos significantly altered by editing software, such as a photo collage, etc.)
- Photos, regardless of the medium, will not be returned. Please do not send your only copy of a photo. All photos become the property of the city of Minnetonka and may be used on the city's Web site and in city publications.

Digital Images

Digital images should be emailed to jarson@eminnetonka.com or submitted on a CD. Please note that some photo files may be too large to be emailed. 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. Black and white images will be accepted, but sepia tone and duotone images are not eligible. Digital images will not be returned.

Image Modifications:

Minor digital enhancement is allowed, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified, unless they are entered in the "Enhanced Minnetonka" category.

Deadline

All photos and digital images must be submitted by Wednesday, October 1, 2008,

at 4:30 p.m. and will be displayed at the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Awards

A first-, second-, and third-place entry will be selected. First-prize winner will receive \$75; second-prize winner will receive \$50; and third-prize winner will receive \$25. In addition, a "People's Choice" award will be chosen by attendees at the Oct. 7 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...



Jerry Johanning, "Minnetonka Feels Safe"



Kyle Gallagher, "At the 'World Series'"

Photo contest entry form

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Category: Minnetonka Lifestyle Natural Minnetonka Enhanced 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.

Rings and buds, scars and branches — how a tree grows

YOU NOTICE YOUR TREES GROWING LARGER EACH YEAR, BUT HAVE you ever stopped to wonder how they grow? For example, if you hang a bird feeder on a low branch, does the feeder slowly move out of reach as the tree gets taller? Why or why not? It's important to understand how a tree grows, because it should influence how you care for your trees.

Tree growth is essentially the increase in size and numbers of leaves, stems and roots, which contain meristematic tissues — areas where actively dividing and growing cells are located. The seasons influence growth in different parts of the tree, with buds and branches growing in the spring; the cambium, or trunk, in the summer. Roots grow in both the spring and the fall, which is why these are the best times of the year to plant a tree!

How roots grow

Roots grow in length and diameter each year in order to take full advantage of the water and nutrients in soil. They also form lateral, or side, roots. Most roots are within the first foot of soil, so when soil is compacted by heavy machinery or roots are cut or damaged, the growth process can be stunted.

The water and nutrients absorbed by roots are transported upward to the branches and leaves. Through photosynthesis, leaves capture light and use the water and nutrients to create food for the tree. Some of the food is used for growth and maintenance of existing tissues, while any surplus is stored for use later, such as during the winter. Because of its central role in supplying food to the tree, the health of the root system will affect the way the rest of the tree grows.

How buds grow

As buds grow, they form branches. You can monitor how fast a tree is growing by looking at the previous year's growth. First, start at the tip of the branch and look along it toward the trunk, until you locate the bud scale scar. This is the end of last year's growth, and looks like concentric lines around the circumference of the branch. Then continue to trace the branch back to the trunk, or to the larger branch it's connected to, and you'll find several bud scale scars. When these scars are close together (within a couple inches), it means the tree is now growing fast and may be stressed.



Bud scale scars show the end of the previous year's branch growth.



Branch showing twig growth rate for one year.

So if you hang a bird feeder on a branch, will it grow out of reach as the tree matures? The answer is no, because once a tree branch is formed, it stays at the same height, but continues to grow longer and wider. Branches will also increase in diameter, so be sure to monitor anything fastened to or hanging on a tree branch. As a tree branch continues to grow, the string of your bird feeder will “girdle” it, restricting the flow of water and nutrients.

Have you ever wondered what to do with the sprouts, or branches, along the trunk of a tree? When the tree's canopy has been damaged, these sprout from latent or dormant buds that exist under the bark of tree trunk. Also called epicormic suckers, they are the tree's attempt to make sugars for the tree. Certain species are more susceptible to suckers, they may also form on a tree that is overpruned. Typically, you should not remove all the sprouts on a tree, especially if it has been recently pruned and is a mature tree. The tree is trying to tell you it needs more leaves to help it create and store food.

How trunks grow

A tree trunk's growth is measured in diameter, with annual growth in rings. When a tree is cut down, you can count the annual growth rings in order to measure the tree's age. If the growing season had ideal rain and conditions, you may find wider rings, indicating greater diameter growth. In drought years, rings may be very slim, indicating slower diameter growth.

Underneath the bark is the cambium, a tissue associated with diameter growth in tree branches, trunks and roots. Because this living layer is a sheath just underneath the bark throughout the tree, it can be easily be damaged by objects, such as lawn mowers, knocking into the trunk. To protect tree health and promote growth, avoid damaging the cambium.

Summary

If you keep in mind how trees grow, and monitor your own trees, you'll have a better shot at detecting a problem in your tree before it's too late. ∞

Using technology to stay informed about your city: video, MyMinnetonka, RSS, and more!

IN THE JULY 2008 *Minnetonka Memo*, it was announced that several new technology tools have been introduced that allow residents to be better informed about city projects, meetings, events and news.

If you haven't already, visit www.eminnetonka.com and check out the live and on-demand online videostreaming feature. You can watch city council and planning commission meetings live via computer from wherever you are, or access past meetings and jump right to the point in the meeting you'd like to watch. Not sure at which meeting an issue was discussed? Use the search function provided to locate exactly what you're looking for, then watch it!

Another way to stay updated on what's happening in the city is to sign up for a MyMinnetonka account. You get to choose what types of updates you want to receive, and when that information is updated on www.eminnetonka.com, it will be immediately delivered to your email inbox. Options include:

- **City news**

Receive each news item as a separate email the moment it is posted on the site, or receive digest emails with summaries of the previous day's news items.

- **Jobs**

Choose what type of job notifications you'd like to receive, including full-time jobs, part-time jobs, summer public-works/natural resources jobs, and recreation jobs (summer, seasonal, and year-round).

- **Meetings**

Email notifications are available for the city council and all of the boards and commissions, such as the planning commission, park board, and economic development authority. Meeting notices, agenda packets, minutes, and links to videos of the meetings will all be sent straight to your inbox.



- **Projects**

Want to receive a notice whenever a new project is being considered by the city? Just sign up! You can also sign up for notices on individual projects, which can include project updates, staff reports, meeting notices and outcomes, newsletters, links to video of the discussion of the project in a meeting, and more!

Through MyMinnetonka, you can also provide feedback on projects during the public comment period—your comments will be incorporated into staff reports for consideration by the planning commission or city council. If you have an account, all you need to do is login to provide feedback; otherwise, you can provide feedback with just your name and address. Either way, you can choose whether your address will appear along with your feedback in the staff reports.

Feeds, sometimes called RSS, are another great way to receive up-to-the-minute project, meeting, news updates, and job notices from the city. Many feed readers are available, and current versions of most web browsers typically have built-in feed readers.

Detailed information for using the MyMinnetonka system, including a video tutorial, and instructions on setting up feeds, are available at www.eminnetonka.com under "Top Picks."

Also available is the *Hot Topics* e-newsletter, a compendium of city news sent out via email each Friday to subscribers.

You can also subscribe to the online versions of the *Minnetonka Memo*, the city's monthly newsletter, and the *Minnetonka Script*, sent out each month by Minnetonka Senior Services. Both are available as a PDF, and with the *Memo*, all the articles are also posted online each month as news items. The online version of the *Memo* provides handy links to the resources mentioned in each article.

To sign up for *Hot Topics*, the *Minnetonka Memo*, and/or the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com, and links are available on the left, under "Publications." Follow the instructions on each page to subscribe.

For more information about any of these tools, contact Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8207. For technical assistance, contact Marc Drummond, web technologies coordinator, at mdrummond@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8384. ☺

An update on the Southwest LRT

IN EARLY 2007, THE HENNEPIN COUNTY Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) completed an alternatives analysis study for light rail transit (LRT) in the southwest metropolitan area, which concluded that light rail is feasible and that several alignment alternatives should move forward for further study.

The next phase of study is about to begin and now is the time to join the conversation about the proposed LRT line, which would serve Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis. As part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement phase, the HCRRA will be hosting meetings to give the public an opportunity to review and comment on the

three LRT routes under consideration. The meetings are tentatively planned for late September, but meeting dates have not yet been formalized.

Additionally, the city and the HCRRA are just beginning a separate study to look at land uses around the proposed station areas, including the Opus Business Park and in the southeast corner of the Shady Oak Road and Excelsior Boulevard intersection. As this study moves forward, there will be opportunities for public input.

To check the meeting schedule for both studies, to learn more about the projects, or to sign up for email alerts, visit www.southwesttransitway.org ☺

Shop at Mills Landing!

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. ☺

Adults and youth — join an ensemble!

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MINNETONKA begins its 35th concert season this month and invites musicians of all ages to join an ensemble.

Adults may join the Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphony Chorus, Senior Chorale and/or Choral Reflections of Minnetonka, while children in grades 3–12 have the opportunity to join one of three youth choirs.

For more information call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org



Register now for fall adult team sports

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL AND WINTER adult basketball, adult volleyball and adult indoor soccer (team or individual registration) through Minnetonka Recreation Services. In addition, Recreation Services offers three adult open gym programs: basketball, volleyball, and badminton. For more information call (952) 939-8203 or visit www.eminnetonka.com/recreation/activities/sports.cfm. Space is limited so don't delay!

Join the youth basketball league

BE A PART OF LOCAL TRADITION BY joining the Hopkins-Minnetonka Youth Basketball League, an in-house recreational league for boys and girls in grades 2–6 living in the Hopkins-Minnetonka area. Separate boys' and girls' teams are formed by school and grade. Games will be played on Saturdays starting December 6, and concluding on January 31 for second graders and February 21 for grades 3–6. Grades 3–6 will have one weekday evening practice. The cost is \$50 for Grade 2 and \$90 for Grades 3–6. Register by October 3 and receive a \$20 early bird discount! To register, call (952) 939-8203.

Buckthorn workshop is September 25

STILL HAVE BUCKTHORN? YOU'RE NOT alone. If you have buckthorn on your property, plan to attend "Managing Woodlands: Buckthorn and Beyond," presented by Janet Van Sloun Larson, city of Minnetonka natural resource specialist, Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the community room at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Handouts are provided, and the workshop is free. Please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

Participants will learn:

- Why gradual, prioritized removal is usually much better for a garlic mustard site than an "understory clear-cut" if garlic mustard is present.
- The importance of ground cover.
- How to save high-value remnant plant species.

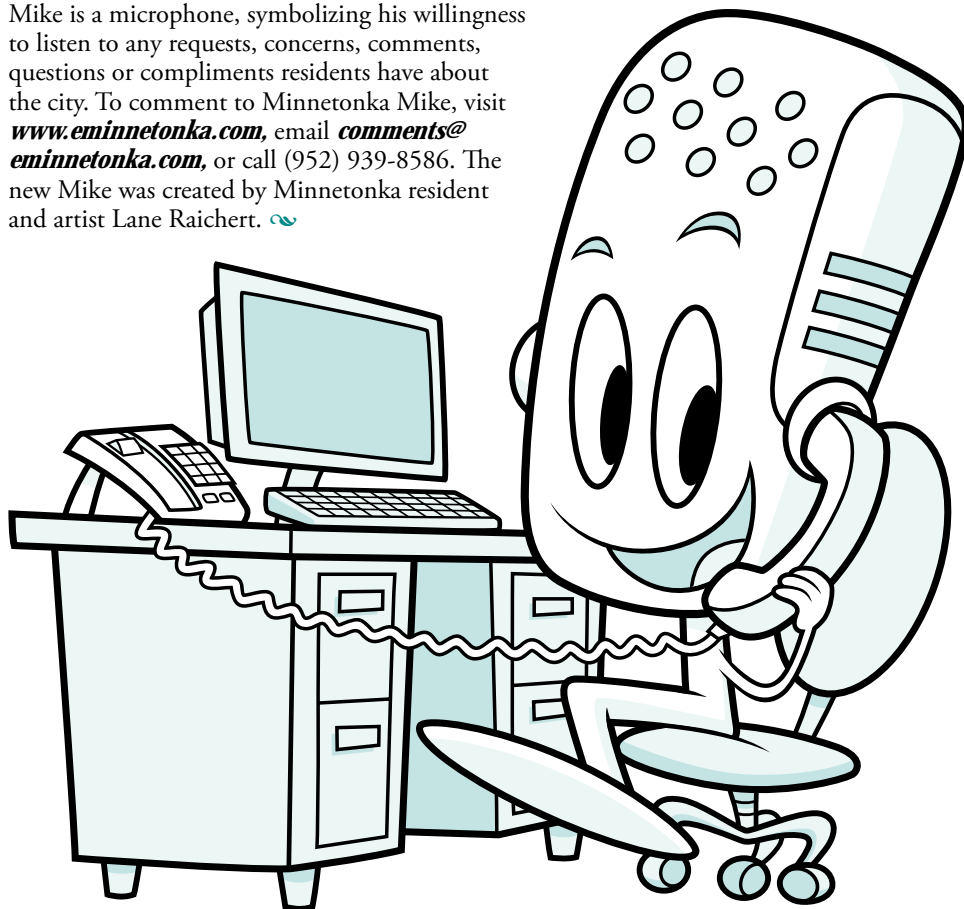
- How to prevent erosion on slopes.
- How to avoid the most common errors made during buckthorn removal.
- About forest structure and re-forestation using native plants indigenous to this region.
- How to protect plants from deer.



A close-up look at buckthorn leaves and fruit

Minnetonka Mike gets a makeover

AFTER 10 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AS CITY MASCOT, IT WAS TIME FOR MINNETONKA Mike to undergo a facelift! You'll notice his shape has been streamlined, and he's received a modern computer and telephone. And yes, Mike is a microphone, symbolizing his willingness to listen to any requests, concerns, comments, questions or compliments residents have about the city. To comment to Minnetonka Mike, visit www.eminnetonka.com, email comments@eminnetonka.com, or call (952) 939-8586. The new Mike was created by Minnetonka resident and artist Lane Raichert.



September events for Minnetonka seniors

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 *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

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

Services offered at the center include blood pressure checks, health insurance counseling, outreach, HOME, bus trips, hearing screening, foot care and community resources. Call (952) 939-8393 for information.

The following groups meet at senior services and welcome new participants: art drop in, adopt-a-highway, AA, Al-Anon, billiards, bingo, bridge, chess, computer, book clubs, ham radio, 500, quilting, Red Hat Society, writing groups, singles, readers theater, woodcarving and discussion groups.

Defensive Driving Classes

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

Four-Hour Day Course

Thursday, Sept. 4, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided but no lunch. \$18

Four-Hour Night Course

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6–10 p.m.

Refreshments provided. \$18

Eight-Hour Day Course

Saturdays, Sept. 13 & 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided but no lunch. \$20

Special Events

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

Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine

Thursday, Sept. 4, 10:30 a.m.

Learn what acupuncture is and what it does. Refreshments provided. Cost is \$2, due by Sept. 2.



Book and Pie Sale

Thursday, Sept. 18,

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

You're invited to senior services' first-ever book and pie sale. Donations of books, CDs and DVDs for the sale will be accepted and may be dropped off between Friday, Sept. 12 and noon on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Pie will be available for purchase, with free coffee.

Healthy Easy Meals for One or Two

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments provided. Cost is \$2, due by Sept. 18.

Hike Minnetonka parks and trails

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 9–10 a.m.

Join the Minnetonka Senior Center on a two-mile hike at Lone Lake Park. Bring your own water and meet at Lone Lake Park. Free.

Special Interest Groups

New Widowers Friendship Breakfast

Tuesday, September 2, 8:30 a.m.

Meet at the Perkin's Restaurant on I-394 and Louisiana Avenue, near Menard's. Call (952) 540-6335 or (952) 540-6294 for information.

Nintendo Wii

Tuesdays, 9–11 a.m.

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

500 Cards Daytime Group

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

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of speakers, discussions, hands-on events and tours.

Digital Camera Help

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Glen Keener will help you with your digital camera during half-hour segments. Call (952) 939-8393 to schedule an appointment. Bring your camera to your appointment!

Poetry Group

1st Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Enjoy readings from a variety of poets, sharing, and writing poetry.

Trips

Lake Calhoun Chain Canoe Trip

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.

Cost is \$7, includes lunch, beverage, paddles, canoe, life jackets, transportation and escort.

Carver Park Hike

Thursday, Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$2, includes beverage, transportation and escort.

Renegades on the Rails

Thursday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$68, includes lunch, train ride, transportation and escort.

Old Log Theater "Unnecessary Farce"

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 11:05 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Cost is \$45, includes lunch, show, transportation and escort.

Fall Festival at the

Waconia Lakeside Ballroom

Wednesday, Oct. 22,

10:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

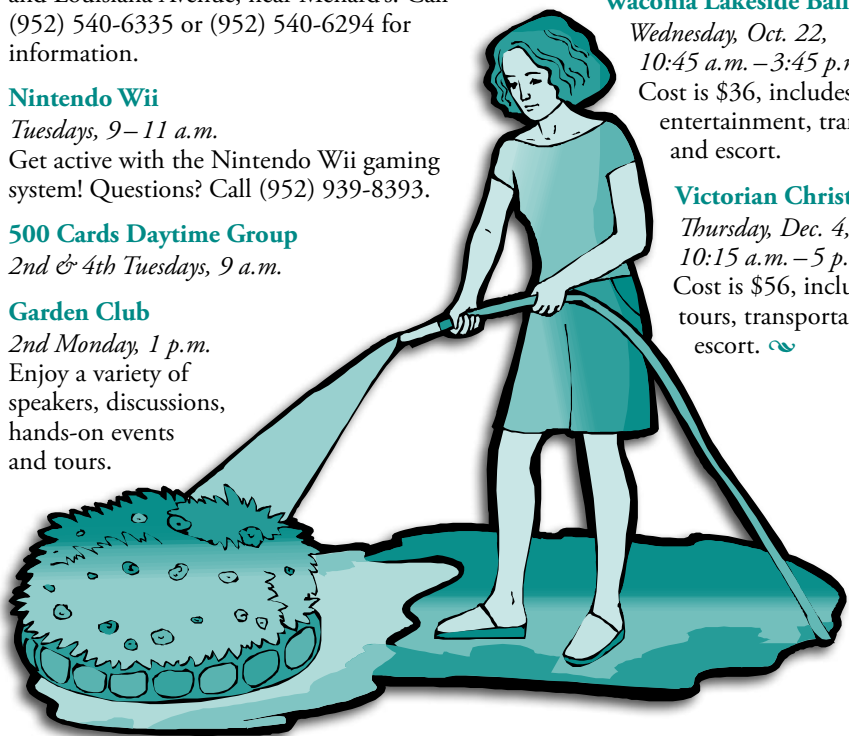
Cost is \$36, includes lunch, entertainment, transportation and escort.

Victorian Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 4,

10:15 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Cost is \$56, includes lunch, tours, transportation and escort. ♪





2008 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Special one-day drop-off

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

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

Saturday, Sept. 13

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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

- **Scrap metal — clean (no charge)**
Clean scrap metal means all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous materials must be removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.
- **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5)**
For example, bikes with tires, lawn chairs with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines must be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers, trailers, or other large items.
- **Tires: Car, trailer or light truck (\$3 each); tires on rim (\$5); tractor or truck tire on split rim (\$20)**
- **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**
- **Windows/doors (\$2 minimum, based on \$25/cubic yd.)**

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

Brush drop-off open through Nov. 22

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The brush drop-off site will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1. Brush drop-off ends November 22, 2008.

The brush drop-off is located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Use the west entrance near the Big Willow Park ball fields.

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Please secure your load during transport, do not drag branches on the road and do not cover the taillights. Proof of

NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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

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

- **Bethesda Thrift Shop**
913 Mainstreet, Hopkins
(952) 939-0988
- **Goodwill Industries**
1025 Hill Street, Hopkins
(952) 935-2760
- **ARC Hennepin-Carver**
Pickup route information
(612) 866-8820
- **Salvation Army**
Pickup route information
(612) 332-5855
- **Value Village Thrift Store**
2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope
(763) 544-0006
- **Vietnam Vets**
Pickup route information
(651) 778-8387

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

Minnetonka residency (driver's license or utility bill) is required to drop off brush.

Please note: trash, metal, concrete, lumber, fences, or wood scraps are not accepted. DO NOT bring these materials with your load of brush. DO NOT put grass, weeds, loose leaves, dirt, sod or other non woody materials in with the brush pile. Find the appropriate disposal option for the unacceptable items. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430. ☺

 **2008 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

Year-round HHW drop-off sites

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

1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington
8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park
There is no charge to drop off residential HHW.

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

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

As of March 1, 2006, there is a limit to the annual quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit www.hennepin.us or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

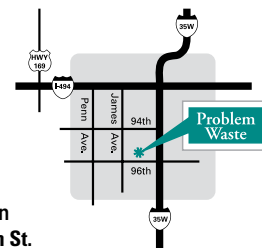
Household hazardous waste includes such items as paint, stain, thinners, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, gasoline, used oil, oil filters, aerosol cans, fire extinguishers, fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats, switches and thermometers containing mercury, rechargeable appliances and batteries.

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

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

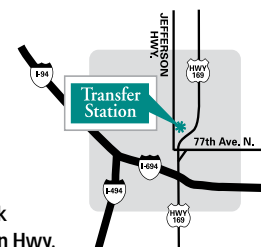
Minimum charge for loads of junk (only at Brooklyn Park site) is \$16. The fee and acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff. **Checks or cash only.**

Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off



Bloomington
1400 W. 96th St.

Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off

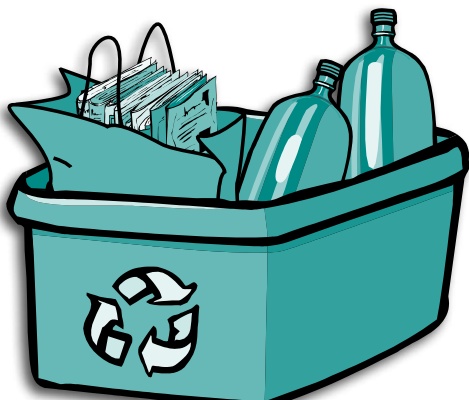


Brooklyn Park
8100 Jefferson Hwy.

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

Labor Day delays recycling collection

The Sept. 1 Labor Day holiday will delay recycling collection in Minnetonka by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, Sept. 2, while residents east of I-494 will have recycling collection Wednesday, Sept. 3.



Sign up for organics recycling today!

Last year, Minnetonka received a Waste Abatement Incentive Grant from Hennepin County to encourage residential refuse haulers to offer organics collection to their customers.

Since the program was announced, hundreds of families have signed up for weekly collection of organics, diverting many tons of organic materials. Organics make up about 25 percent of the residential waste stream. Collecting this material for composting keeps it from being incinerated or dumped into landfills. It is a valuable resource used in landscaping and road construction projects.

Organics collection includes the following materials: food scraps (fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and bones, bread, pasta and baked goods, egg shells, dairy products and coffee grounds), food-soiled paper products (paper towels and napkins, paper plates and cups, milk and juice cartons, pizza boxes, egg cartons, packaging from frozen and refrigerated foods,

waxed paper and paper containers, coffee filter and tea bags), and other compostable items (full vacuum cleaner bags, dryer lint, tissue and cotton balls, floral trimmings and house plants).

There is an additional fee for the weekly organics collection. However, with weekly organics collection, many homes will be able to reduce their garbage collection to the smallest container the company offers. For further savings, some haulers offer every-other-week collection of the garbage!

If you are interested in beginning organics collection, call one of the following refuse haulers:

Randy's Sanitation and Recycling
 (952) 972-3335

Vintage Waste Systems, Inc. (952) 472-0401

Waste Management, Inc. (952) 890-1100

For general information on organics recycling, contact Dean Elstad, Minnetonka recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or via email at delstad@eminnetonka.com.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

September
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	6	1 Labor Day, <i>city offices closed</i>
7	8	9	10	12	12	13	3 Park Board, 7 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	9 State Primary Election, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
28	29	30					15 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							16 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							18 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Police Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m.
							29 City Council, 6:30 p.m.; Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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


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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The city regularly receives applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. At press time, no new projects were scheduled for September. To learn about new projects in the city, provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects, visit "MyMinnetonka" at www.eminnetonka.com/MyMinnetonka.cfm. For more information visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8200.

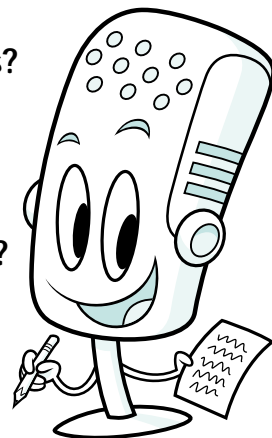
Learn the history of Bennett Family Park

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF BENNETT Family Park Thursday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center community room, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

In the 1950s, the first Little League baseball teams in Minnesota began playing at Bennett Park, located at 3717 County Road 101, just south of Minnetonka Boulevard. Longtime Minnetonka resident Fred Hanus and other community members will share their memories of the park. This presentation is hosted by the Minnetonka Historical Society. 



Compliments?
Questions?
Concerns?
Complaints?
Suggestions?
Comments?
Thoughts?
Ideas?



Tell Mike!

Visit eminnetonka.com

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..... jcallison@eminnetonka.com
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Ward 4: James Hiller..... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

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

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

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