

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
April 2007*

Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 10, 11, and 12

MINNETONKA ICE ARENA'S ALL SEASON SKATING SCHOOL IS PROUD TO present the 33rd Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Highways and Byways." More than 300 skaters of all levels from Minnetonka and surrounding areas are featured this year. Show times are Thursday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.; Friday, May 11, 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 12, 5 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for school-aged children, and free for pre-school children. As always, senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to the Thursday evening 6:30 p.m. performance. Don't forget to bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.

If you're interested in skating lessons, summer skating lessons for both youth and adults are held Monday evenings starting June 11. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information or a registration brochure, or visit www.eminnetonka.com for an electronic version of the brochure. ☺



Last year, more than 2,000 spectators enjoyed the Silver Skates Ice Revue. Don't miss this year's show!

On April 30, learn more about the comprehensive guide plan

AS REPORTED IN LAST MONTH'S *Minnetonka Memo*, the city has begun the process of updating the comprehensive guide plan, a document that will set the stage for future development of the city through 2030.

As a first step, we've asked residents to tell us what they value most about their community, and residents have had the chance to comment in a variety of ways: a postage-paid reply card in the March *Minnetonka Memo*; an online survey at www.eminnetonka.com; and through the annual community survey, which was recently completed.

Now, we'd like to share with you what we've learned. Join city staff and elected officials at a **community open house Monday, April 30, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. You'll hear the results of the various surveys, learn more about the update of the comprehensive guide plan — and have an opportunity to share your thoughts on the future of the community. For more information, call (952) 939-8200.



It's easy to be green!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN SPRING WORK IN YOUR YARD OR GARDEN or start that construction project at your house, be sure to read the first-ever natural resources section in this edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*, brought to you by city of Minnetonka natural resources staff.

We hope you'll save this special resource and refer back to it whenever you need tips on protecting and preserving the natural resources on your property, and the natural environment we all enjoy and value in Minnetonka.

For more information about natural resources, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, or call the city of Minnetonka natural resources division at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Nominate someone for a CAR award

MINNETONKA'S UNIQUE CHARACTER COMES FROM THE individuals, organizations and businesses that contribute so much to the community. To recognize and celebrate these contributions, the city of Minnetonka has created the Minnetonka Community Action Recognition Award program. This program is designed to recognize those one-time, short-term projects that enrich the quality of life in this community, show human connections, preserve natural resources, beautify the community, or exemplify good citizenship.

For a nomination form, visit www.eminnetonka.com (click on City Services, then Award Programs) or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207. ☺

Ask Minnetonka Mike

MINNETONKA MIKE, THE CITY OF Minnetonka's online request system, is always standing by to help you with any questions, comments or concerns you have about your city. Maybe some of Mike's answers will be of use to you as well!

Dear Mike:

We're all concerned about energy costs as well as the effect of energy use on the natural environment. What is the city doing to address these concerns?

Signed, Concerned Resident

Dear Concerned Resident:

The city of Minnetonka and its residents have always taken great pride in protecting and enhancing the natural environment, a value that is reflected in the city's motto, "Where quality is our nature." For 2007, the city has adopted a goal of reducing its energy use by ten percent, including use of natural gas, electricity and gasoline. Here are a few of the initiatives and measures undertaken by the city to minimize its energy "footprint." Look for more information about the city's environmental initiatives in upcoming editions of the *Minnetonka Memo*.

- Minnetonka is one of nearly 400 Minnesota cities to join the **Minnesota Energy Challenge**. Among these cities, Minnetonka is currently ninth in amount of energy saved, preventing nearly 1.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere while saving about \$75,000. For more information visit www.mnenergychallenge.org.
- In 2006, the city purchased a **hybrid vehicle** and plans to purchase more as the need arises.
- An **electric Zamboni** was purchased in 2006 to replace the existing, well-worn propane model previously owned by the city and used in indoor ice arenas. The electric model is more energy efficient, and the costs and emissions from propane were eliminated.



- City vehicles currently use a **gasoline/ethanol fuel blend**. In 2007, to reduce the city's overall consumption of fossil fuels and support fuel alternatives, the city plans to use a **bio-diesel blend** made from vegetable oil.
- Three **outdoor hockey rinks are lit with "Structure Green" lighting**, allowing the city to use one-third fewer kilowatts with the same amount of light as standard lighting. This is a cost savings of about \$3,000 per year, and also reduces offsite spill light by 50 percent, helping to eliminate light pollution.
- **Traffic signal lights have been converted to LED** (light emitting diodes), which use less energy while emitting nearly the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs.
- In 2007, one of the **ice arena cooling towers** will be replaced with a more environmentally friendly and efficient tower.
- **Lift station pumps and water treatment plants** incorporate high energy efficient motors and variable speed drives, which use less energy.
- City facilities **turn thermostats down** in the winter and up in the summer to save on heating and cooling costs.

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If you have a question, comment or concern about the city of Minnetonka, let Minnetonka Mike know! It's easy to set up an account. Just visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on Minnetonka Mike. Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. ☺

Visit a MAM concert!

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka will host its 15th Annual Spring Senior Choral Festival Sunday, April 22, at 2 p.m. at the ArtsCenter on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka, featuring the Minnetonka Senior Chorale and area guest choirs. Admission is free.

Join the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with the Bravo Series for young people, Sunday, April 29, at 3:30 p.m. at Wayzata Community Church, 125 Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata. Selections will highlight instruments and sections of the orchestra. A repeat performance is set for Sunday, May 6, at 3:30 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 301 Cty. Rd. 19, Excelsior. Free admission.

For more information about either of these concerts, call (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org. ☺

Calling all area artists!

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA IS EXCITED TO announce the addition of a fine arts fair to this year's Burwell House Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, set for Saturday, June 23, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each year, nearly 3,000 people visit this event on the property of the Burwell House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Artists are invited to complete an application, available at www.eminnetonka.com or by contacting Jacquie Larson, community relations manager, at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 939-8207. Applications are due by May 15, 2007. Entry fee is \$35, and is non-refundable regardless of whether or not the artist is accepted to the fair.

All applications will be reviewed by a jury, and artists will be notified by May 30, 2007, whether or not they have been accepted to the fair. For this year only, there will be no fee charged for a 10'x10' booth space, but artists are responsible for supplying their own tables, chairs, tents or other items needed for display.

The city of Minnetonka thanks Ken and Melissa Herren of Your Art's Desire, Minnetonka, for their technical assistance with the development of the art fair, and for their ongoing participation in making this event a success. ☺

Hopkins Crossroad to close in late April

THIS SPRING, HENNEPIN COUNTY WILL close County Road 73 (Hopkins Crossroad) to remove and reconstruct the bridge located between County Road 5 (Minnetonka Boulevard) and Cedar Lake Road, just north of Minnehaha Creek.

Construction is expected to begin in late April and will include a complete road closure to allow removal and reconstruction of the bridge, which spans the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. Construction is expected to continue into the fall, with a planned reopening of the roadway in November 2007.

Utility relocation work, including burial of overhead utilities, will precede the project. City noise ordinances will be followed, and all driveways and entrances will remain open.

The posted detour route (see map) will be Cedar Lake Road to Highway 169 to Minnetonka Boulevard.

For more information, contact Dan Allmaras at Hennepin County at (612) 596-0402, or Lee Gustafson, Minnetonka city engineer, at (952) 939-8200. ☺

Know who to call about potholes

IT'S SPRING, AND MANY MOTORISTS WANT to know who to call about potholes on their local streets. Various roads running through Minnetonka are owned by the city, county or the state, and it's important to contact the appropriate maintenance agency if you have a concern about potholes or other road conditions. If you are unsure of which office to call, or you are calling about a city-owned street, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400 or Minnetonka Mike.

MnDOT

(651) 582-1550

www.dot.state.mn.us

(keyword search: pothole)

I-394, I-494, State Hwy. 7 and State Hwy. 169

Hennepin County

(612) 596-0299

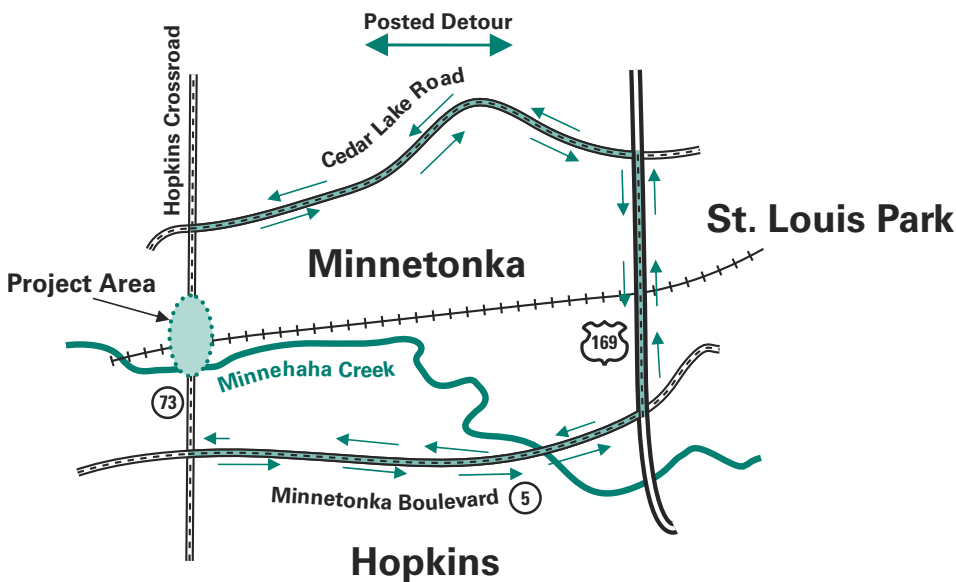
www.co.hennepin.mn.us

(keyword search: pothole)

Excelsior Boulevard (CR 3), Eden Prairie Road/Woodhill Road (CR 4), Minnetonka Boulevard (CR 5), Gleason Lake Road (CR 15), McGinty Road (CR 16), Baker Road (CR 60), Plymouth Road (CR 61), Crosstown (CR 62), Hopkins Crossroad (CR 73) and County Rd. 101.

Parking lots

If you have concerns about the conditions of parking lots at shopping centers or in other commercial areas, please contact a business owner near the parking lot to express your concern. These lots are privately owned and not maintained by the city. Any questions about parking lots at city-owned facilities may be directed to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺



Celebrate May Day!

THE MINNETONKA HISTORY

Commission invites you and your family to create May baskets and dance around the Maypole Friday, April 27, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for the Burwell House furnishings fund. All supplies will be provided. Register by Friday, April 20, to ensure enough supplies will be available. Contact Laura Ronbeck at Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8219, and provide your name, phone number and age group (adult or child) for each person who will attend. ☺



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.

This month, the Minnetonka Fire Department is proud to debut ReadyMinnetonka, a program designed to increase emergency preparedness among residents and businesses.

Recent natural catastrophes across the U.S. have made it clear that, in the face of a large-scale disaster, it isn't enough just to have a well-trained fire and police department. Instead, the city of Minnetonka believes the key to emergency preparedness is for the city to partner with residents, schools and businesses so that everyone can contribute to the solution, and be better prepared to cope in an emergency.

So, what does this mean for you? ReadyMinnetonka lays out four simple, easy-to-follow steps to help you, or your business or organization, to be better prepared to cope with an emergency. The steps include:

1 Get informed and determine your risk.

Learn what emergencies are most likely to happen in Minnetonka. Understand how your proximity to railroads, highways, industrial areas, etc., and your family situation (children, older adults, pets) may affect your emergency preparedness needs.

2 Make a plan.

Meet with all household members to discuss emergency plans. Determine two meeting places — one near your home, in case of fire, and one outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after an emergency. Make sure your address is easily visible, and know where utility shutoffs are located.

3 Assemble a 3-, 5-, or 7-day kit to meet your needs.

The bare minimum contents of an emergency kit should include enough water and non-perishable food for three days; a non-electric can opener;

necessary prescription medication; a flashlight with extra batteries; a NOAA weather radio with extra batteries; and enough cash.

4 Maintain the kit and update your plan.

Hold fire and evacuation drills every fall; hold weather shelter drills every spring; replace stored food and water every six months; review your plan and kit every year. Batteries should be changed as follows: smoke detectors, every six months; carbon monoxide detector, every fall; and weather radio, every spring.

Want to learn more about ReadyMinnetonka? Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more details on each of the steps, including what should be in your emergency kit! ☺

READY
minnetonka

Pop Quiz

How prepared are you for an emergency? Find out with the ReadyMinnetonka quiz at www.eminnetonka.com — ten quick questions will assess your emergency readiness!

Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 9 to 13

EACH DAY OF SEVERE WEATHER Awareness Week, set for April 9 to 13, 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 9: Thunderstorms, Hail, Wind, Lightning

Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds, and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota each year. Lightning kills and injures more people than any other summer weather threat. In 2004, 90 Minnesotans lost buildings and belongings due to lightning fires; and 62 lightning fires took place in homes and businesses, resulting in more than \$2.7 million in damages.

April 10: Severe Weather Warning Systems

Severe weather warnings are prepared and issued to the public by the National Weather Service. The two most common severe weather warning systems are the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA weather alert radio.

April 11: Heat Waves

High temperatures can quickly cause heat exhaustion, especially in children and elderly people. Heat-related deaths outpace fatalities in several severe weather categories: based on a ten-year average from 1992-2001, excessive heat claimed 219 lives each year, while floods killed 88; tornadoes, 57; lightning, 52; and hurricanes, 15.

April 12: Tornado Drill Day

Today, the National Weather Service will simulate a tornado watch, starting at 9 a.m. Two tornado drills are planned: the first is a statewide drill at 1:45 p.m., with all jurisdictions activating warning systems and allowing schools, businesses and hospitals to practice sheltering plans. The second drill, at 6:55 p.m., is voluntary and will allow families and second-shift workers to practice.

April 13: Flash Floods

On average, five flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June. Half of flash-flood fatalities occur in vehicles. ☺

Natural Resource Notes

WELCOME TO THE FIRST-EVER NATURAL RESOURCES PULLOUT section, a special resource we hope you'll save and refer back to whenever you need tips on protecting and preserving the natural resources on your property, and the natural environment we all enjoy and value in Minnetonka.

Inside, you'll find tips on lawn care, wetland health, composting, tree care and more; as well as easy ways to "go green" and surprising facts about the environment and energy conservation.

If you would like more information about any of the articles listed inside, please visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, or call the city of Minnetonka natural resources division at (952) 988-8400. ♻️

Spring 2007



10 easy ways to be green

KERMIT THE FROG ONCE SANG THAT it wasn't easy being green, but if you're a Minnetonka resident, being green is as simple as these ten steps!

- 10 **Plant a garden** to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
- 9 **Drink tap water.** If you want better-tasting water, buy a water filter.
- 8 **Plant a tree.** The net cooling effect of one healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- 7 **Save a tree.** If every U.S. household replaced one roll of toilet paper with a roll made from recycled paper, 424,000 trees would be saved.



- 6 **Reduce.** Then re-use and recycle. Really! Buy less stuff; buy items with less packaging; buy quality; pass along used items to consignment or charity; then recycle as much as you can.
- 5 **Run your clothes washer on cold** when possible—it uses 85 percent less energy than hot water.
- 4 **Air dry your clothes** like grandma used to do. Use clothes lines outdoors; collapsible drying racks indoors. This is a great way to humidify indoor air during the winter.
- 3 **Replace incandescent light bulbs** with compact fluorescent bulbs, which use about 70 percent less energy and last ten times longer.
- 2 **Reduce driving speed** to conserve fuel.
- 1 **Drive less.** Carpool more; bike more; walk more; and use mass transit when you can.

Energy Conservation

- 92 percent of consumers agree that business, government, and consumers have an equal responsibility to reduce energy use. *Alliance to Save Energy, 2003 Consumer Market Research.*
- Your energy bill is one bill you **can** control: In 2005, the average household spent almost \$1,900 on home energy bills. Save up to 50 percent each year by making smart energy choices.
- 90 percent of the energy that goes into an incandescent light bulb is wasted as heat—that's why they are hot to the touch.
- Families that replace the four most-used 75-watt incandescent bulbs with 23-watt compact fluorescent bulbs can save more than 2000 kilowatt hours and \$190 over the life of the bulbs. If all U.S. households did this, it would save as much energy as is consumed by some 38 million cars in one year!
- Laptop computers typically use less than half the power of a desktop model.
- Using your microwave instead of a conventional oven or cook top can reduce energy consumption by 70 percent.

Tackling new construction or landscaping? Think green first!

WHEN PLANNING A NEW PROJECT, first think about how it may affect your property's natural resources.

Here are some tips to help your project run smoothly:

- To prevent tree loss, eliminate damage within the critical root zone, which extends about one foot from the trunk of the tree for every inch of trunk diameter. Install orange construction fence to prevent soil compaction, fill, and excavation in this area.
- Before you begin, install and bury silt fence four to six inches into the soil, downslope of the area of exposed soil to prevent soil erosion. Maintain until groundcover is established.
- Cover exposed stockpiles, steep slopes, and other areas of potential erosion

with tarps, wood chips, straw mulch, or temporary seed (such as oats or annual ryegrass) to help control erosion.

- Establish permanent groundcover as soon as possible to prevent erosion problems, minimize maintenance, and protect water quality.
- Keep the roadway free of dirt, mud and rock.
- Consider using green building techniques such as eco-friendly construction materials, energy- and water-efficient designs and appliances. Also, recycle and reuse construction debris.
- Contact the city for permit requirements and let your contractor know you care about your community's natural resources. ♻️

Landscaping for energy conservation

- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in the fall) give protection from the summer sun and permit winter sunlight to reach and warm your home. Plant deciduous trees on the east and west sides of your home. Be sure to shade the AC unit.
- Create a windbreak on the north and/or northwest side of your home with evergreen trees and shrubs to stop chilling winter winds.

Build a rain garden in your very own yard

NEEED A SOLUTION TO THE WET SPOT IN your yard? Capture that water and use it to your advantage with a rain garden!

Rain gardens are shallow depressions planted with attractive vegetation that captures storm water and allows it to infiltrate into the ground rather than run off the surface. Because they filter pollutants before they reach groundwater, rain gardens help keep drinking water clean.

To create your own rain garden, follow these steps:

- Find a spot away from your foundation where water tends to flow from your home or yard. Note which direction it flows—you will need to maintain this direction for any overflow from the rain garden during a heavy storm.

Avoid locations under trees and near underground utility lines. Remember, before you dig, call Gopher State One Call at (651) 454-0002—a free service.

- Check your soil by digging small test pits at different depths and filling them with water until the soil is saturated. If the soil doesn't drain well, you might need to find a different spot.
- Create a basin by digging no deeper than what will drain in 72 hours. Keep the garden relatively level and shallow—four to eight inches deep. Use the excess soil to berm the downslope edge.
- Prepare the bed by tilling peat moss or compost deep into the soil to reduce compaction and help root growth.
- Select plants that will tolerate occasionally wet soils. Many native species have deep roots that increase infiltration, so are well suited to rain gardens. Consider using plants that will attract birds and butterflies.
- Install wood mulch around the plants to minimize weeding. Avoid lining with a weed barrier. ♻️

Native Species for Rain Gardens

Wild Flowers

- Turtle head
- Cardinal flower
- Blue Lobelia
- Joe-pye weed

Shrubs

- Black chokeberry
- High-bush cranberry
- Red-osier dogwood

Grasses

- Indian grass
- Fox sedge

At Minnetonka's Civic Center campus, shown at right, storm water is directed into rain gardens where it infiltrates into the ground and provides needed water to the native plants, shrubs and trees that inhabit these green spaces.



Reduce lawn care, increase lawn chair time

WANT MORE TIME IN YOUR LAWN CHAIR this summer? Then consider replacing a portion of your lawn with native plants, which are adapted to local climates and soil and require little or no care once established. Add a small patch of native prairie, a clump of trees and shrubs, or a wildflower garden to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Here are a few more ways to reduce yard work:

- Add **wood mulch** around your shrubs, trees, and plantings to help control weeds; reduce the need to water; and encourage root growth. Keep the mulch layer under four inches deep to avoid suffocating the root systems. Keep mulch away from trunks and stems to prevent decay.
- Use **fabric weed barriers** under landscape stone, not plastic.
- **Reseed** thin spots in the lawn. Dead grass adjacent to driveways or roads may be the result of winter salt spray or runoff. Replant these areas with salt-tolerant vegetation or turf grass.
- **Set mower to three inches.** Cutting higher reduces the need for water and fertilizer and helps control weeds. Use a mulching mower if possible.

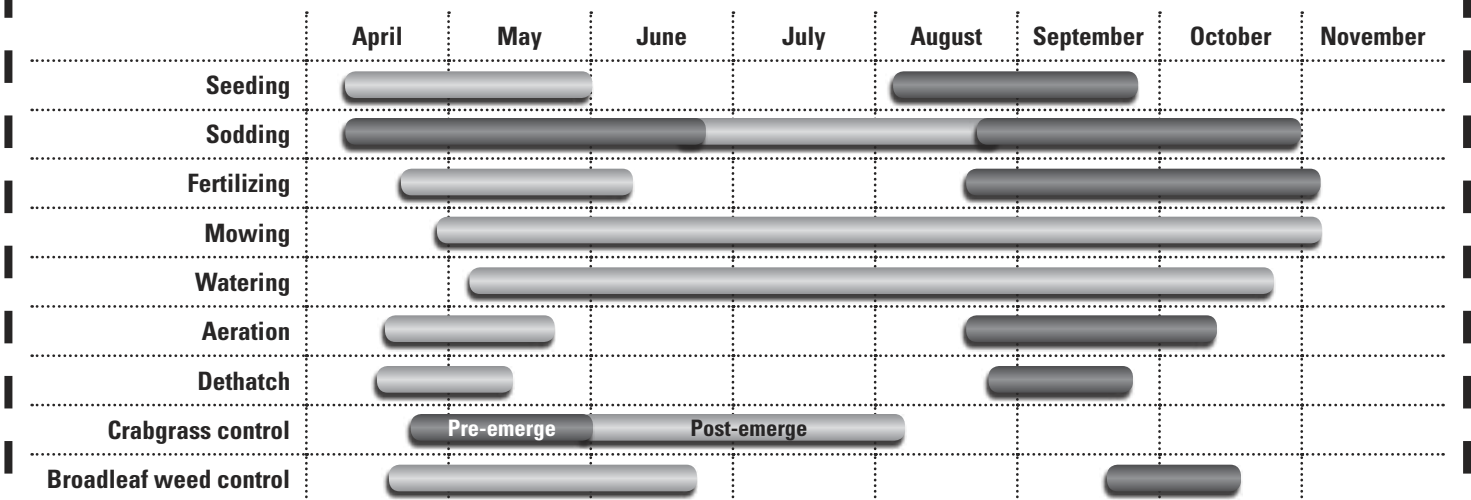
- **Repair bare or eroded areas** with sod or seed. Prevent erosion with straw mulch or erosion control blanket.
- **Rake leaf litter** from your lawn to allow the grass to grow. Properly dispose of the litter — do not rake it into the street, as this damages lakes and wetlands.
- Consider **pulling or smothering weeds** rather than applying herbicide. Use a layer of decaying leaf litter to kill undesired vegetation — adding a few sheets of newspaper below the leaves will speed the process.
- **Test your soil** before applying fertilizer. Consider an organic fertilizer if needed. Never apply fertilizer before the grass is growing and avoid applying fertilizer during mid-summer when growth is slow. Too much fertilizer, combined with water runoff, can encourage weed growth and lawn diseases in addition to harming lakes, creeks, and wetlands. For more information about lawn care and soil tests visit the University of Minnesota Extension Web site at www.extension.umn.edu. For testing info, call the U of M soil lab at (612) 625-3101. ♻️

Lawn care

- Lawn mowers emit 11 times the pollution of a new car for every hour of operation. (*U.S. EPA*)
- The cost of maintaining a turf lawn is roughly three times the cost of maintaining prairie grass and wildflowers or six times the cost of maintaining a tree and shrub woodland. (*Great River Greening*)
- Approximately 17 million gallons of gasoline are spilled each summer while attempting to fuel lawn care equipment. (*U.S. EPA*)
- Installing native vegetation by seed costs roughly half the cost of installing turf by seed and one third the cost of sod. (*U.S. EPA*)
- The Federal Highway Administration estimates that one hour of lawnmower use emits as much ozone-producing emissions as six to 10 hours of automobile use — about 340 miles of driving. (*Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*)

Lawn Care Guide

Post this information in your garage or shed for handy reference.



[Light bar] Indicates time of year when this lawn practice can be done.
 [Dark bar] Indicates best time of year to carry out this lawn practice.

This information provided courtesy of the cities of Burnsville, Apple Valley, and Lakeville; Minnesota Department of Agriculture; University of Minnesota; Dakota County Master Gardeners; Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; Metropolitan Council; Dakota County Environmental Education Program.

Spring into action

Spring is the very best time of year to plant a tree. If you need more reasons than that, here are six good ones!

- 1 Trees save energy and money.** Trees on the east and west sides of a home provide shade in the summer and well-placed evergreens on the north and northwest side of a home provide shelter from wind in the winter.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, three well-situated trees planted around a Twin Cities home can cut that home's utility bill by eight cents on the dollar. If your average utility bill is \$100 per month, that means up to \$96 per year saved in heating and cooling expenses.

- 2 Trees improve air quality.** Trees produce oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, and trap air pollutants like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

A U.S. Forest Service study showed that one tree removes an average of 226 to 911 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. One acre of trees produces enough oxygen each day for 18 people.

- 3 Trees increase your property value.** Money doesn't grow on trees, but your front yard tree could increase the value of your property.

- 4 Trees reduce storm water runoff and water pollution and prevent erosion.** Tree canopies catch rain water and tree root systems store it. Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent it from polluting water bodies during wind or rain events.

Per week, little trees need a minimum of five gallons of water, and larger trees need more, as much as five gallons per trunk inch!

- 5 Trees build emotional well-being and add beauty to your life.** Most people would agree that trees add value to our lives in many other ways that can sometimes be difficult to quantify.

In studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, patients who had windows with a view of trees had shorter hospital stays. Trees can also improve a sense of community, reduce stress and add beauty to your life!

Wildlife Food Facts

- Songbirds have winter and summer foods. Winter foods include seeds and nuts and summer foods are insects and fruits.
 - Bur oak, white oak and bicolor oak are the number-one plant for wildlife, including mammals and birds.
 - The top five woody plants for songbirds are:
 - Wild Cherry (Black & Choke)
 - Blackberry
 - Dogwood
 - Serviceberry
 - Sumac
 - Wintergreen is a small groundcover native to MN that produces a bright red berry and stays green all winter. It also is a source of the refreshing flavor that bears its name. (Source: MN Conservation Volunteer)
- 6 Trees provide habitat and food for animals.** There is a reason you see more wildlife when you are in a wooded, natural area. Large trees provide shelter and food for many native songbirds and animals.

and plant a tree!

Before you spring into action and start planting, keep these items in mind.

- **Choose healthy trees.**
Look for well-formed, wound- and disease-free trees. If the tree looks questionable, leave it at the store.
- **Choose trees that are native to the area,** or at least *well-adapted* to Minnesota, and resistant to insects and diseases.
- **Plan for the tree's mature size before you choose it.**
Measure the available area in your yard and pay attention to structures, driveways, roads, gutter down-spouts, your neighbor's fence, etc.
- **Call utilities before you dig** to locate water, cable, gas or other underground lines. Gopher-State One Call will do it for you free of charge. Call (651) 454-0002 or visit www.gopherstateonecall.org.
- **Look up to make sure you aren't planting under power lines.** Choose ornamental trees or shrubs when you want screening near lines. For ideas, visit Xcel Energy's site at www.mnpower.com/treebook/.
- Don't plant within 20 feet of the road edge; do plant at least 25 feet away from road intersections (corners) to **ensure visibility for drivers.**
- **Dig a hole three times as wide as the tree's container.**
When you loosen the soil around the hole where the tree will be planted, you make it easier for the new tree to spread its roots into the soil and settle in!
- **Don't plant the tree too deep** — planting too deep can lead to circling roots that may strangle the tree trunk at the base. A good guideline is to find the first set of woody roots before you plant the tree, and keep them within the first one to three inches of soil after planting.
- **Plan to spread a three-inch layer of wood mulch around the base of the tree,** being sure not to pile it around the stem. Organic mulch holds moisture in the soil and moderates soil temperatures, while replenishing soil nutrients to help the tree grow.
- **Give the tree water** until it establishes and in periods of drought. Lawn irrigation isn't adequate — plan to water the tree with a low-flow hose and less-frequent deep root watering. Newly planted trees and mature trees need watering in times of drought.
- **Remember to prune the tree** during its childhood to ensure a strong adulthood. The best time to prune a tree is when it is young because you choose the strongest branches, and remove the weak, diseased, crossing ones. Small, proper cuts are the key. Use a sharp hand pruner for the best results.
- **Learn more about tree planting and care** by visiting the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or calling Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ♻️

The buzz about birds

The prank of the “snipe hunt” is based on a small brown bird with a long bill found throughout Minnesota. There is a snipe hunting season, but this little bird is too alert ever to be caught by hand as the pranksters suggest.

The first birds to appear in Minnesota in the spring are the:

- American kestrel
- Bluebird
- Eastern phoebe
- Horned lark
- Red-winged blackbird
- American robin

(Source: MN DNR)

Forest Floor Facts

- Large-leaved aster (a common woodland species) is also known as “lumberjack's toilet paper” due to its large leaves that can be used when nature calls.
- The ground pine, common in northern Minnesota, resembles a small Christmas tree, but is not actually a tree and rarely reaches 12 inches in height. Early ancestors of the species stood as tall as 100 feet.
(Source: MN Conservation Volunteer)

We all have waterfront property!

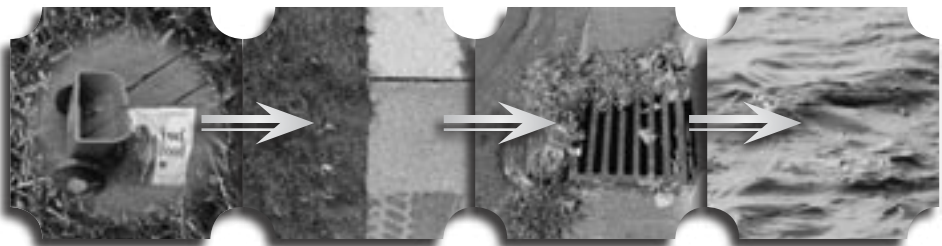
IF YOU LIVE NEAR A STORM DRAIN, THEN you live on waterfront property! Anything that enters a storm drain, from water runoff to grass clippings to pet waste, goes directly to the local lake, creek or wetland — not a wastewater treatment facility. And, pet waste, grass clippings, lawn fertilizer and tree leaves and seeds are all sources of phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes, creeks and wetlands green with algae.

Here's how you can help keep bad stuff out of the storm drain, and keep lakes, creeks and wetlands clean.

- Phosphorus attaches to soil, so prevent erosion and keep soil from washing into the street.
- Remove leaves from the street. Rake leaves, seeds, and grass clippings out of

the street and gutter. Compost on site or bag for collection by your garbage hauler (if they offer that service).

- Fertilize your lawn, not lakes, creeks or wetlands. The majority of Minnetonka's lawns are naturally high in phosphorus and will remain healthy without adding more, so choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. Sweep spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces. And remember, compost and manure (pet waste) contain phosphorus too.
- Keep the pavement clean. Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks and streets.
- Be a responsible pet owner and scoop the poop. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria. ♻️



Fertilizer

Lawn and Pavement

Storm Sewer

Lakes, Creeks, and Wetlands

Using buffers to protect wetlands

A BUFFER IS AN AREA OF UNDISTURBED NATIVE VEGETATION ADJACENT TO A LAKE, CREEK or wetland. Native vegetation buffers are an integral part of lake, creek and wetland ecosystems, providing a wealth of benefits to water quality, including the following:

- Increasing soil stabilization via deep-rooted plants that keep soils in place during flooding or water fluctuation.
- Filtering sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants before they drain into the lake or wetland.
- Deterring geese from invading yards, since the tall grass may hide a predator such as a dog or fox.
- Providing food and shelter for song birds, frogs, and turtles.
- Protecting lakes and wetlands from our lawn care practices. ♻️

Volunteer for healthy wetlands

IF YOU HAVE EVER WANTED TO wade in a wetland, get your hands muddy, and discover plants and animals that live in murky shallows, we want you! The city is once again partnering with Hennepin County to implement the Wetland Health Evaluation Project (WHEP), which uses biological criteria to assess the health of different Minnetonka wetlands.

Adult volunteers work on a team with other city residents, under the direction of a team leader, to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. A science background or any previous monitoring experience is not necessary to participate—you will receive training on wetland monitoring protocol, including plant and insect identification.

The time commitment is about 40 to 50 hours total from May through August, which includes all training, fieldwork, and lab work. All equipment, except waders, is provided. If you are interested in volunteering, or for more information, contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988-8422, or at aschwartz@eminnetonka.com. ♻️

Wetland wonders

- **Did you know** Minnetonka has 13 lakes, three major creeks, and about 400 wetlands?
- **Did you know** that one pound of phosphorus, commonly found in grass clippings and leaves, can result in 300 pounds of algae?
- **Did you know** that many species of frogs and turtles need upland habitat for egg laying and hibernation?



A wetland buffer

Getting rid of garlic mustard

MUCH OF MINNETONKA DOES HAVE garlic mustard, with some areas “hot zones” for Minnesota’s invasive herbaceous counterpart to the woody buckthorn invasion of shady woods and edge habitats. Garlic mustard grows in the ground layer where buckthorn grows and can invade high-quality forests as well as disturbed areas.

Why is garlic mustard bad?

Like other invasive species not indigenous to this continent, garlic mustard has spread through native habitats in 31 states, growing rapidly and out-competing native plants. It has no known natural predators here, so in a few years it can form a monoculture, causing wildflowers, sedges, and other native plants to decline and disappear.

Life cycle and control

Understanding this plant’s life cycle allows a wise use of time and effort in controlling it. Garlic mustard is a biennial, meaning it lives for two years. Control of this plant is most important during the second year when the plant flowers and produces seed. Seeds remain viable in the soil for about five years, so the key to reducing the spread of garlic mustard populations is the prevention of seed dispersal and prevention of new plant establishment. This means taking regular walks to scout for it. Remove new infestations first, prior to seed production.

Here are some tips:

- Uprooting plants is labor intensive, but easy when the soil is moist.
- Second-year plants pulled out by the roots in April and May, before seed pods are produced, can be left in the woods. They will die if all soil is removed from the roots.
- By July, most second-year plants will be dispersing seed from one- to three-inch slender pods. Bagging and disposing of seed pods before they open will reduce the population of new garlic mustard seedlings in future years.
- Garlic mustard turns brown and dies at the end of its second year, after seed is produced. Don’t pull it after seed is dispersed, it’s too late.



Want to learn more?

Attend a **garlic mustard workshop** Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center. See photos and specimens of the many stages of this plant’s growth. Learn more about control methods and the most critical control period before this plant goes to seed. Handouts provided. Registration is required—call (952) 988-8400.

- In late summer, garlic mustard moves to new areas by seed on the boots of hikers; on the hooves of deer; in the fur of dogs and wildlife; and within the crevices of hikers’ clothes which trap seeds. Please keep foot traffic out of garlic mustard areas in late summer when plants are full of seed.
- Large infestations can be prevented from producing seed by repeated weed-whacking.

Visit www.eminnetonka.com for a more detailed fact sheet on controlling garlic mustard. 🌿

Controlled burns set for this spring

SEVERAL PRAIRIE AND WOODED natural areas in Minnetonka parks are scheduled for controlled burns this spring, which restore health and vigor to grasslands and control the growth of weeds and underbrush in wooded areas.

Burns are conducted by professionals, and the Minnetonka Fire Department is aware of each burn. Burns are expected to take place in April and May, weather permitting, at Victoria-Evergreen, Lone Lake and Green Circle Parks and at Gray’s Bay Marina.

For more information contact Janet Larson, natural resource specialist, at jrlarson@eminnetonka.com or at (952) 988-8463. 🌿

Learn about native habitat restoration

YOU’RE INVITED TO TAKE A GUIDED PLANT WALK IN A MINNETONKA PARK WHERE native habitat restoration is underway. Tours are set for the following dates, times and locations listed below.

Purgatory Park

Tuesday, April 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Lone Lake Park

Tuesday, May 1, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Big Willow Park

Tuesday, May 8, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Registration is required and limited to 15 people for each group — call (952) 939-8203 or register online through Recreation Services at www.eminnetonka.com. 🌿

Minnetonka receives organics collection grant

RESIDENTIAL ORGANICS, SUCH AS food scraps, non-recyclable paper products and frozen food packaging, make up between 25 and 30 percent of the residential solid waste stream. Collecting this material for composting instead of incinerating it or dumping it in a landfill is the next big step in handling refuse as a resource rather than throwing it away — and Minnetonka recently received a grant to help make this happen.

To encourage residential refuse haulers to offer weekly organics material collection, Minnetonka recently received a Waste Abatement Incentive Grant from Hennepin County. The grant assists with the cost of new carts used for the organic materials, as well as for marketing and publicizing the program. While a few metro-area communities are collecting residential organics, Minnetonka is the first to attempt organics collection with an open-hauling refuse system.

Participating refuse companies will offer weekly organics collection to their

customers. In an open hauling system like Minnetonka's, the hauler sets the price and collection details. The additional cost to add the extra weekly organics collection will vary from household to household depending on the hauler, size of container, and frequency of garbage collection.

Factors affecting the increased price of adding weekly organic collection include:

- Lowered fees for discarding organics (\$15 per ton versus \$34 per ton for garbage)
- Possible reduced container size for remaining garbage
- Possible reduced service for remaining garbage to every other week collection
- State and county fees are not applied to the organic program portion of the monthly garbage bill.

With weekly organics collection, many homes will be able to reduce their garbage collection to the smallest container the company offers, and have garbage collection only every other week!

Acceptable organic material includes food scraps, including meat and bones; soiled and non-recyclable paper products (napkins, paper towels, tissues, paper plates and cups); cold and frozen food packaging; pizza boxes; milk and juice cartons; waxed bags and cardboard; coffee filters and tea bags; vacuum cleaner bags and contents; dryer lint; and house plants.

The material will be taken to Hennepin County sites and then hauled to a permitted composting site. The finished compost is used in landscaping and road construction projects.

If your residential refuse hauler is participating in this pilot program, you will receive information from the company on how to sign up. Call your hauler if you don't find this information.

If you have any questions, please contact Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or delstad@eminnetonka.com. ♻️

Get a compost bin dirt cheap

BACKYARD COMPOSTING IS AN EASY way to turn yard and kitchen waste into a rich material that can be used to fertilize, suppress weeds, and hold moisture in the soil.

To help encourage composting, Hennepin County has partnered with Lakewinds Natural Foods in Minnetonka to sell compost bins at a reduced cost of \$30. Each bin, made of recycled black plastic, features a 13-cubic-foot capacity; a sturdy, easy-to-open lid; and two harvesting doors. Only one bin may be purchased per household.



Bins are available two ways:

- Pick one up at Lakewinds Natural Foods, 17501 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Pre-order bins by May 3 by stopping in or by calling the store at (952) 473-0292, or by registering online at www.hennepin.us, keyword search "compost bin." Payment may be made at the time of pickup, on or after May 19, during regular store hours.
- Starting May 23, bins will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-serve basis Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hennepin County's Drop-Off Facility in Brooklyn Park. No pre-order is necessary. Bins are available while supplies last.

For general questions about the compost bin sale, see www.hennepin.us, keyword search "compost bin," or call Hennepin County Environmental Services at (612) 348-9266. ♻️

Fun facts about frogs

ACCORDING TO ED BEAULIEU OF Aquascape Designs, in his article published in *Cabin Life Magazine*:

- Adult frogs not only breathe with lungs, but also absorb oxygen and water through their skin.
- A group of frogs is called an army; a group of toads is a knot.
- A frog's tongue is attached in the front of its mouth, and covered with a sticky substance which proves handy for catching insects.
- The song of the chorus frog sounds like someone rubbing their finger across a comb; the American toad's song resembles a long, high-pitched trill; and the green frog sounds like a banjo.

(Source: MN DNR)



2007 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

Saturdays: April 28, May 5, May 12
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

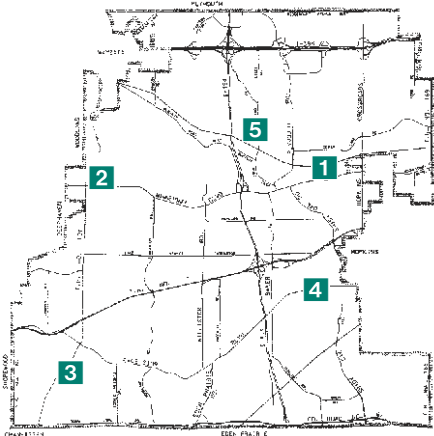
Minnnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of the five drop-off sites on the dates and times show below. Brush larger than ½ inch in diameter **will not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

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. The garbage hauler yard waste collection programs typically run mid-April through mid-November.

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 the 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.
- 5 Meadow Park Parking Lot**
Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites
on Saturdays, April 28, May 5 and May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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. Loosely tie bags for easy emptying.

BULK LEAVES — will be accepted at Minnetonka Public Works
only on the following days and times:

- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5, May 12
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15

Loads of leaves **must** be covered during transport!

Residents will unbag and unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile — please bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves. Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves — it makes unloading your leaves easier and faster.

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.

2007 Brush Drop-off Program

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents opens Saturday, April 14, and will remain open until November 17. The site will be open 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 28) and Labor Day (Sept. 3).

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.

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.

Recycling Holidays

In 2007, two holidays remain that delay recycling for the entire city: Memorial Day (May 28) and Labor Day (September 3). 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. For Christmas (Tuesday, December 25), only residents east of I-494 have collection delayed to Wednesday, December 26. Residents west of I-494 will have regular collection on Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24).

Caring Youth recognized March 22

TWENTY-TWO CARING YOUTH WERE RECOGNIZED THURSDAY, MARCH 22, AT THE Minnetonka Community Center during the 2007 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. ☺



This year's winners (nominators in parentheses) are: Aaron Achartz (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Sarah Albert (*Minnetonka United Methodist Church*); Liz Bayer (*Ridgedale YMCA*); Mitch Bayer (*Jewish Family and Children's Service of Mpls.*); Jane Bergquist (*We Can Ride, Inc.*); David Cherne (*St. Therese Southwest*); Paul Devitt (*ICA*); Sean Gogerty (*Church of St. Therese Deephaven*); Vlad Gruin (*The Depot Coffee House*); Rachel Hersman (*Hopkins Catholic Youth Ministry*); Hannah Hoogland (*Hopkins North Junior High*); Goldi Johnson (*Speak the Word Church*); Kayli Kirkegaard (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Heather McCarthy (*Gethsemane Lutheran Church*); Sean McDonald (*Teens for World Peace*); Grace Mevissen (*Children's Hospital and Clinics*); Kristina Ortmann (*Girl Scout Council of Greater Mpls.*); Andy, Casey and Kelly Pearson (*Golden Valley Library*); Lauren Wiig (*Minnetonka High School*); and Carl Wilcoxon (*Oakland Avenue United Methodist Church*).

Make your picnic reservations now

PLANNING A GROUP GET-TOGETHER this summer and need a location? Recreation Services manages picnic shelters at eight sites, including Gro Tonka, Lone Lake and Shady Oak parks in Minnetonka, and Burnes, Central, Valley, Maetzold and Oakes parks in Hopkins.

A permit is required to reserve a picnic shelter at a park facility for groups of 25 or more. Picnic shelters may be reserved between 11 a.m. and dark (no later than 9 p.m.), daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Summer weekend dates fill up quickly, so now is the time to make plans and reservations!

For information about each facility's amenities, hours of availability, fees and an application form, visit www.eminnetonka.com, or call (952) 939-8203. ☺

Sign up for Hot Topics

SUBSCRIBE TO HOT TOPICS, THE CITY'S free electronic newsletter that is sent out each Friday. You'll learn about construction projects, special events, upcoming meeting, recreation services offerings and much more! It's easy to sign up — visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Sign up for our e-newsletter." For more information call (952) 939-8207 or email jlarsen@eminnetonka.com. ☺

City garden plots available now

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GARDEN, BUT don't have space available where you live? Land has been set aside for the sole purpose of allowing gardening by Minnetonka and Hopkins residents. The Minnetonka gardening site is located at Excelsior Boulevard and Purgatory Creek, while the Hopkins site is at Valley Park (Westbrooke/Nine Mile Creek area).

Fee is \$10 for each 20'x20' plot. The cities of Minnetonka and Hopkins till the land each spring and stake the corners of each plot around the middle of May. Register in person at Minnetonka or Hopkins city halls — sign up early as these plots go fast! Call (952) 939-8203 for more information. ☺

Citizen Academy graduates recognized

AT THE MONDAY, March 5, meeting of the Minnetonka City Council, 23 Minnetonka residents were recognized for their participation in the 2007 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, police department, and recreation facilities in Minnetonka and Hopkins.

Don't miss out on next year's fun — mark your calendars now for the 2008 Minnetonka Citizen Academy, set for Tuesdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2008. Watch the *Minnetonka Memo* later this year for registration deadlines. ☺



The 2007 Citizen Academy graduates are pictured with Mayor Jan Callison (far left). Graduates are, from left, Carol Wandersee, Carole Wieden, Raymond Vaughn, Marie Moilanen, Madalyn Loe, Tom Hardin, Anne Vanborne, Jay Vanborne, Allie Cronk, Wade Cofer, Kathy Steiner, Bonnie Cofer, Bruce Rorem, Susan Brandt, Ward Jones, John Brandt, and Jeanette Cope. Not pictured are Jennifer Truran, John Podolinsky, Julie Mart, Janet Larson, Courtney Wieden, and Christine Cherryhomes.

Let senior services put a spring in your step

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 or call (952) 939-8393.

Here's a sample of what Senior Services has to offer in April and throughout the year! Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes, for more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Defensive Driving Classes

Tuesday, April 10, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thursday, April 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 To register, call the Minnesota Safety Council at (651) 228-7306

A Delicate Dance: Dining with Dignity

Wednesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.
 Alzheimer's Disease presentation. Cost is \$5; refreshments provided. Space is limited, so sign up early. Call (952) 939-8393 for details.

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Monday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.
 Enjoy entertainment by Coda. Space is limited, so sign up early. Call (952) 939-8393 for details.

Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, April 25, 8–10 a.m.
 Cost is \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call (952) 939-8393 for details.

Crime Prevention and Safety

Wednesday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.
 Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet and Crime Prevention Analyst Nicole Nelson will present a program on crime prevention and safety. Program is free; please register by April 23. Refreshments provided. Call (952) 939-8393.

Ladies' High Tea

Thursday, May 3, noon
 Put on your best bonnets and bring your favorite china cup to the Ladies' High Tea. Josephine Diedrich will play the harp. Space is limited, so sign up early. Call (952) 939-8393 for details.

Income Tax Assistance

Wednesdays through April 11, 8:30 a.m. – noon; Thursdays through April 12, 1-3 p.m. By appointment only – call (952) 939-8393.

Special Interest Groups

The following groups meet at the community center and welcome new participants: Art Drop In, Adopt-A-Highway, AA, Al-Anon, billiards, bingo, bird club, bridge, chess, choir, computer, book clubs, ham radio, quilting, Red

Hat Society, writing groups, singles, Readers Theater, woodcarving, and various discussion groups.

West Metro Senior Softball League (55 and over)

Area residents age 55 and over are invited to participate in a slow-pitch softball program this summer, with a 55-and-over division and a 70-and-over division. For information or registration for the 55-and-over division call Bob Hartshorn at (612) 922-8687; for the 70-and-over division call Jack Cracraft at (952) 922-1941.

Services

Services offered at the community center include blood pressure checks, health insurance counseling, legal counseling, outreach, HOME, bus trips, hearing screening, flu shots, income tax assistance, foot care and community resources.

Fitness Groups

Need to get fit? Consider one of the many fitness groups: exercise (M, W, F), tai chi, yoga, line dancing, biking and softball. A new walking group will be starting soon – if you're interested call (952) 939-8393.

If you are interested in teaching a class, providing musical entertainment, or volunteering; or if you have new programming or service ideas, please call (952) 939-8393. ☺

Water main flushing starts April 16

MINNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS WILL flush city water mains weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting April 16 and continuing through May 4. 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 16, 5:30-7 a.m.

Ridgedale business area

April 23, 5-7 a.m.

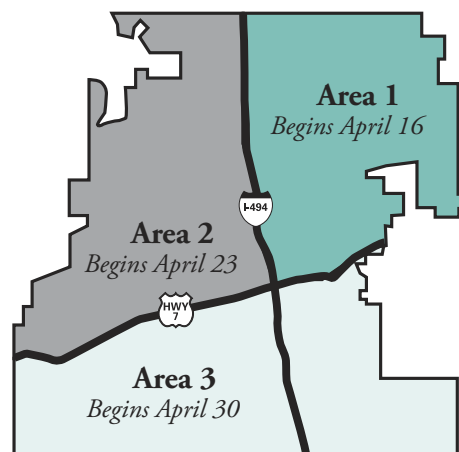
Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway

May 4, 12 a.m.-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. ☺



Park renewal meetings scheduled

PARK RENEWAL MEETINGS FOR BIG Willow and Guillian parks, which were cancelled in March due to inclement weather, have been rescheduled for the following dates and times. Both meetings will take place in the Minnetonka City Council chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Guillian, Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Big Willow, Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Plans for both parks are scheduled to go before the Minnetonka Park Board August 1, 2007.

In addition, at the Wednesday, May 2, meeting of the Park Board, there will be a public meeting at 7 p.m. regarding the possibility of creating a park at 13608 Spring Lake Road.

For more information contact Perry Vetter, parks and trails division manager, at pvetter@eminnetonka.com or (952) 988-8412. ☺

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2007

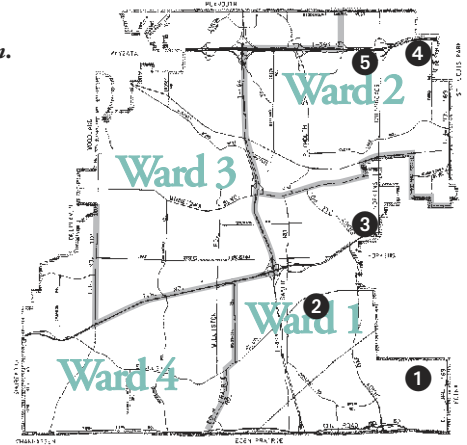
Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	11 Board of Review, 6:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	12 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
29	30						16 Joint meeting, Minnetonka History Commission, Minnetonka Historical Society, 6:30 p.m.
							18 Boards and Commissions Dinner/ Comp Plan Discussion, 5:30 p.m.
							23 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Board of Review, 6:30 p.m.
							26 Police Advisory Commission, 5:30 p.m.; Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							30 Comp Plan Community Open House, 5–7:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively 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. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Site and building plan review to reconfigure parking lots and add office space to the Opportunity Partners building, 5500 Opportunity Court. (07011.07a)
- 2 Side yard and aggregate side yard setback variances for an addition to the rear of the home at 4842 Valley Road. (00011.07a)
- 3 Conditional use permit for a temporary greenhouse in the Lund's Country Village parking lot, 11400 State Hwy. 7, for Linder's Greenhouses, Inc. (90044.07a)
- 4 Items concerning a building addition, including drive-up banking service, to the existing General Mills Federal Credit Union building, 9999 & 10001 Wayzata Blvd. (03012.07a)
- 5 Sign plan review for necessary traffic controls and facility identification signage for the Metro Transit Parking Ramp, 11201 Cty. Rd. 73. (05033.07a)
- 6 Variances and site plan review to replace two existing pylon signs with two monument signs for Lindsay Can-Am, 17603 Minnetonka Blvd. (94014.07a)



Theft from vehicle signs available

THE MINNETONKA POLICE DEPARTMENT is selling "Prevent Theft from Vehicle" signs that may be posted on private property in Minnetonka. These signs, measuring 12'x15' and stating "Prevent Theft Remove Valuables from Vehicles," are ideal for businesses, condos,

townhomes, apartments, churches or any other property with a parking lot that is vulnerable to thefts from vehicles. Cost is \$15 per sign. To purchase a sign, call Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546.



minnetonka memo

April 2007



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

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..... jcallison@eminnetonka.com
Meetings with the mayor may be
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Ward 3: Brad Wiersum.... (612) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com
Ward 4: Al Thomas (952) 949-9027 athomas@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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