

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
July 2007*

Planning for Minnetonka's future

Alice: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go?"

Cheshire Cat: "That depends on where you want to get to."

Alice: "I don't much care where..."

Cheshire Cat: "Then it doesn't matter which way you go."

— From Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*

UNLIKE ALICE AND THE CHESHIRE CAT, the city of Minnetonka and its residents care where the city is going, and how it's going to get there. For that reason, Minnetonka has been conducting comprehensive planning since 1962. Now, it's time to develop a new comprehensive plan, which will guide Minnetonka's development and public service through the year 2030.

To provide input on the development of the comprehensive plan, the Minnetonka City Council has appointed a steering committee of people who reflect the

city's demographics, various geographic areas, household types (seniors, young families, singles, homeowners, renters, etc.) and tenure in the city, from new to long-time residents. For more information on the steering committee, visit www.eminnetonka.com — click on "Development," then "Planning" then "Comprehensive Guide Plan Updating."

The comprehensive plan will be prepared in three steps, which fall broadly under the headings of "Where do we want to go?" and "How will we get there?"

Planning for the future continues, page 2

Residents celebrate opening of Headwaters Park

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, SEVERAL hundred Minnetonka residents as well as officials from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed and city of Minnetonka gathered at the Minnehaha Creek Headwaters at Gray's Bay to celebrate improvements to the site.

Recent additions include a 920-foot boardwalk spanning the wetlands that mark the start of Minnehaha Creek; a viewing deck that has been placed over the

control structure for Minnehaha Creek and Gray's Bay; and, most recently, ten new interpretive signs about the history and ecology of the site.

Wander around the Headwaters and view a map of Minnehaha Creek's 22-mile winding route from Lake Minnetonka to the Mississippi River; learn how the Gray's Bay dam controls the water level of Lake Minnetonka and the flow of Minnehaha Creek; explore the four wetland zones of the Headwaters; find out how shore land restoration is taking place; and learn more about the history of Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek.

The new signs are provided by the city of Minnetonka, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club.

You are invited to visit the new trail, deck, and interpretive displays of the Headwaters, located at 16501 Gray's Bay Boulevard, while exploring the beauty of preserved wetlands in this unique area. ♪



2007 community survey highlights

HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM this year's community survey, conducted by Decision Resources, Inc.

- Minnetonka residents remain very satisfied with their quality of life, and the city ranks among the top four communities across the metropolitan area. Of those surveyed, 48% rated their quality of life as "excellent," while another 50% rated it as "good."
- In general, 79% of those surveyed think Minnetonka does "about the right amount" in protecting the environment, while 16% state it does "too little," and one percent rate the city as doing "too much."
- Of those surveyed, 76% believe the city has been successful in maintaining a balance between the rights of individual property owners to reasonably develop their properties with the desire of the community to preserve the natural environment and its surroundings.
- Minnetonka residents award seven city services a positive rating of 85% or higher: police services, park maintenance, fire protection, recycling service, snow plowing, water and sanitary sewer services, and recreational services and programs.
- Concerns about safety again prove lower than in other communities. Only four percent say there are areas in the community where they feel unsafe.
- In the next ten to 20 years, residents suggest two issues for city leaders to consider: 27% suggest "protect open space" and 16% say "limit growth."

To read complete survey results, or to view the presentation given at the May 7, 2007, city council meeting, visit www.eminnetonka.com. ♪

Planning for the future *continued from page 1*

Where do we want to go?

First, the city has focused on affirming community values, which fall into the five general categories of natural environment, public safety, transportation, development and community building.

This process included the 2007 resident survey; a comment card in the March *Minnetonka Memo*; a Web site survey; a focus group of business and civic representatives; a work session of the city council and its advisory boards; and a public open house. All of the information received from these public input opportunities was shared with the comprehensive plan steering committee, then presented to the city council for approval in May. The results were as follows:

• Natural Environment

By far the most highly rated value, residents enjoy the city's natural setting, want to protect open space, and have an obvious desire to limit growth. City leaders are also concerned about growth, although more in the sense of managing, rather than limiting, the growth. An environmentally conscientious message was evident, with recommendations to "go green" and conserve energy.

• Public Safety

Another highly rated value, residents and city leaders seem quite content with the status quo for public safety. Looking to the future, high satisfaction ratings with the city's handling of public safety indicate the need for continued vigilance in providing sufficient resources for these services.

• Transportation

Although not the most highly rated value, roads and traffic are a concern to residents and leaders alike. Especially of interest is the desire for a more "walkable" community, particularly given the shifting age demographics, and the development of light rail transit, which could result in the development of commercial nodes and more affordable housing options.

• Development

Although residents highly value preserving open space, community leaders understand the need to balance this with the protection of individual property rights. Development issues center on the potential for in-fill development and increased density, as well as life-cycle housing to meet the needs of both an aging population and young families.

• Building Community

Residents and leaders alike share a strong awareness of the looming "silver tsunami" and a desire to prepare for its effects on the community, including partnering with schools to ensure their continued viability.

How will we get there?

The second step is policy development. The city will assemble inventories of land use, traffic, demographics, housing, natural resources, and public service information. All of this information will help determine where the city wants to go, and how it will get there.

The final step is assembly of the comprehensive document, which will include a future land use plan for the entire city and for geographic focus areas; functional plans for sewer and water, storm water and housing; strategic service plans for transportation, parks and recreation and public safety; and implementation plans.

How you can get involved

One of the key activities of the comp plan update is public involvement. The city invites residents, business owners and others with an interest in Minnetonka to learn about and participate in the creation of the comprehensive plan in the following ways:

• Stay Informed

Read the monthly *Minnetonka Memo*, visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com, watch cable channel 16, or sign up for the weekly Hot Topics e-newsletter

(also at www.eminnetonka.com).

All of these outlets will contain periodic information about the comp plan process and provide ways to offer feedback and suggestions to the steering committee and city council.

• Visit an open house

Mark your calendar for October 25, 2007, when a public open house will include presentation of the comp plan development process, review of background information, and presentation of draft issues and opportunities. Additional open houses will take place in March and June 2008.

• Participate in a focus group

At least three focus groups, consisting of individuals who are knowledgeable about the topic areas, will be convened in late 2007 and early 2008. Focus groups have been suggested for the following topics: housing, business, senior services, staff services, family services, and schools and social service agencies. Other topics may arise as the comp plan process continues.

• Attend a formal public hearing

As required by law, Minnetonka will hold formal public hearings prior to adoption of the plan. These hearings will take place at planning commission and city council meetings to ensure all interested parties have a say in the process. Please watch www.eminnetonka.com for information about the dates of these formal public hearings. ☺

Move over for emergency vehicles!

MOVING OVER ONE LANE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES PARKED ON THE shoulder is not just a courtesy — now it's the law!

Designed to give emergency vehicles room to work on the portion of the roadway they are occupying, the "move over" or "Ted Foss" law (MN state law 169.18, subd. 11) requires that, "When approaching and before passing an authorized emergency vehicle that is parked or otherwise stopped on or next to a street or highway having two or more lanes in the same direction, the driver of a vehicle shall safely move the vehicle to a lane away from the emergency vehicle to leave one lane vacant between the vehicles they are driving and parked emergency vehicles on the road."

In Minnesota, an emergency vehicle is defined as a tow truck, fire truck, police car or ambulance. So, the next time you see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road, move over and give them some room! ☺

TRAFFIC CORNER

Do you live near a lake or a creek? These changes may affect you!

IF YOU LIVE WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF A lake or 300 feet of a creek, then changes to the city of Minnetonka's shoreland ordinance may affect you! The ordinance is being amended to incorporate changes required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and will regulate all land surrounding lakes and creeks in order to protect and enhance their quality.

Below are some highlights of the proposed changes.

Who does it affect?

The definition of a shoreland district has changed and will now include all land within 1,000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a creek. Previously, the ordinance only applied to land within 300 feet of a lake, and did not include creek property.



at the Williston Fitness Center

MINNETONKA'S WILLISTON FITNESS Center needs land and water aerobics instructors, as well as front desk staff.

Land and water aerobics instructors must have prior experience and/or Group Fitness certification. Hours are: mornings, afternoons, and evenings, Mondays through Saturdays. Starting pay is \$17-19.50, depending on qualifications. Immediate start date.

What's new in the ordinance?

The ordinance contains new sections on roads, parking areas, stairway landings, lifts, and controlled accesses. The new ordinance will allow more yard-type uses (sport courts, pools, fences) closer to the shore than is currently allowed.

It also outlines requirements for a shoreland buffer area for every creek and lake property, including new developments, redevelopment, and when the city requires a buffer as part of a variance, conditional use permit or site plan review.

Where can I find more details?

For a detailed guide to the proposed changes, a map, and the text of the proposed ordinance, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. The ordinance is tentatively scheduled to be heard before the July 26, 2007, meeting of the Minnetonka Planning Commission. ♪

Front desk staff must be 17 years of age or older. Hours range Mondays through Saturdays 5:30 a.m. – 11 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Starting pay ranges \$7.50 – \$9 depending on qualifications. Anticipated start date is August 1.

For more information contact Karyn MacNeill, Williston Center assistant manager, at (952) 939-8372 or at kmacneill@eminnetonka.com. ♪

Are your trees and shrubs thirsty?

IF RAINFALL IS INADEQUATE (LESS THAN one inch per week), your trees and shrubs will benefit from summer watering. In most cases, water and mulch are the two surest ways to ensure a tree's strength. Last summer's drought conditions left many trees and shrubs in a stressed condition going into winter. Follow these summer watering tips:

- The best way to tell if your trees need water is to feel the soil.
- Water low, slow and deep, avoiding water runoff.
- Water to the dripline — the ends of the branch tips.
- Avoid sprinkling open wounds on tree trunks. Moisture provides a friendly environment for decay.
- If the root zone is mulched, less water is required. Organic mulch — such as wood chips, shredded bark, etc. — helps retain soil moisture.
- Trees and shrubs have different watering needs than a lawn. Irrigation systems may not give trees the water they need.
- Conserve water by not watering during the day when water readily evaporates. Evening and morning are best.
- See the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com for watering restrictions, or call Minnetonka Public Works 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 (CAR) 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 or contact Jacquie Larson at (952) 939-8207 or jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. ♪

Fall recreation registration starts July 6

THE FALL 2007 HOPKINS-MINNETONKA Recreation Services brochure will be delivered the first week of July to Hopkins and Minnetonka residents, local libraries, and community education offices. Registrations starts July 6 for residents and July 20 for non-residents.

Register by telephone Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by calling (952) 939-8203. Visa or MasterCard is accepted.

Register or view the brochure online at www.eminnetonka.com. A household personal identification number (PIN) and client barcode is required to register online. For a PIN or barcode, call (952) 939-8203. ♪



Don't miss out on these fun summer opportunities!

SUMMER IS LESS THAN HALF OVER, and there's still plenty of fun to be had! Here are some ideas for entertainment in July and August.

Music in the Park

Tuesdays, at 7 p.m., through August

Attend a Music in the Park concert Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Bring along a blanket or chair, and enjoy local performers playing a wide variety of music for the whole family! Remaining performances include:

July 10

Erin Rogue (*Irish, blues*)

July 17

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown—presented by the Minnetonka Community Theatre with the generous financial support of Lunds and Byerly's (see related article)

July 24

Don King Band (*blues, jazz, rock*)

July 31

Signe Hensel (*jazz*)

August 7

Minnetonka Civic Orchestra (*classical*)

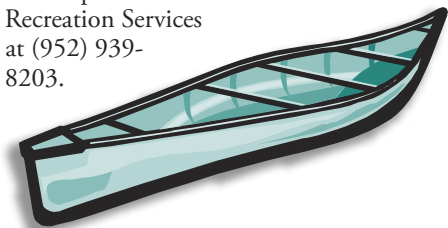
August 14

Mark Yannie Trio (*jazz*)

Boundary Waters guided tours

July, August, September

Have you ever wanted to take a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) but never had the group, gear, or know-how to do it? Here's your chance! Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services is offering four guided trips to the BWCA this summer and fall. While swimming ability and reasonable physical condition are essential, paddling skills and camping experience are not. Trips will be led by two guides with more than 30 years of BWCA trip experience between them. Trip dates are July 6 to 11; August 17 to 21; September 6 to 10; and September 16 to 20. Trips vary in difficulty. For more information, call Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services at (952) 939-8203.



"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

July 12, 13, and 17

This summer, the Minnetonka Community Theatre presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," the stage version of the popular 1971 Broadway play and cartoon classic, at the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Bring the whole family and enjoy a summer afternoon or evening of theater! All performances are offered free of charge, thanks to the generous financial support of Lunds and Byerly's. Performance dates and times are Thursday, July 12, 2 p.m.; Friday, July 13, 6 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 17, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



Burwell House tours

Tuesdays & Saturdays through Labor Day

Do you have out-of-town guests visiting this summer? Need something for your kids to do? Looking for a special activity for your group? Take a tour of Minnetonka's historical treasure, the Charles H. Burwell House, and learn about Minnetonka's early history, the Burwell family, flour milling and Victorian times!

Located at 13209 E. McGinty Road, the Burwell House has been meticulously restored and furnished to its 1894 state, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One luxury you'll enjoy that the Burwells didn't, however, is air conditioning, making the home comfortable on even the hottest of summer days! Make a day of it and combine your tour with a picnic along the banks of Minnehaha Creek, or ride your bike along the trail and make a stop at the house.

Tour hours are Tuesdays, noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Can't make those times? We'll be happy to arrange a special tour for individuals or groups. Call Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or email lronbeck@eminnetonka.com for information.



Tools for Change:

A History of Minnehaha Creek

Wednesday, July 25, 7:30 p.m.

In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), Minnesota regional historian Deborah Morse-Kahn will present a lecture on the early history of Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek Wednesday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. For more information call (952) 939-8207.

In addition, throughout the month of July, visitors to the Minnetonka Community Center may view "Tools for Change," MCWD's traveling history exhibit featuring century-old photographic images of life and historic tools from Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or www.minnehahacreek.org.

"Damn Yankees"

July 12-15, 18-21

Faust meets professional baseball in "Damn Yankees," a classic Broadway family musical presented by Minnetonka Community Theatre in July. Light, fast-paced and devilishly clever, "Damn Yankees" is a home-run hit whose all-American subject matter and irreverent sense of humor have brought many a sports fan into the theatre. This show includes a catchy score filled with rousing production numbers and popular favorites like "Heart" and "Whatever Lola Wants." Performances are July 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and July 15, 18 and 21 at 1 p.m. at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7. For ticket information call (952) 401-5898 or visit www.minnetonkatheatre.com.





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.

- More than 300 fifth-grade Minnetonka school district students completed 2006-07 **CounterAct instruction**, taught by the Minnetonka Police Department. The program's goal is to give students the skills to resist drug and alcohol use.
- In March, the **Minnetonka Explorer Post** and its members were recognized in three categories at the Northern Star Council's annual Exploring Banquet. Officer Kelly Phillips received the Explorer Advisor of the Year award; Explorer Eric Gunderson was named Explorer of the Year; and the entire Minnetonka Explorer Post received a Marketing Award for their recruiting video. Year after year, the Minnetonka Explorer Post has been recognized as one of the best in the state, and the program continues to be strong thanks to its members and advisors.
- On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the Minnetonka Police Department traffic unit participated in **Operation Night Cap**, a statewide initiative to keep impaired drivers off the roads. A total of 339 vehicles were stopped with 185 citations written and 34 people arrested for DWI.
- On May 12, the police department traffic unit presented "**Driving Safely While Aging Gracefully**" to a group of 60 seniors. The class is intended for drivers over the age of 55 who are interested in learning how to adjust their driving habits as grow older.
- The police department **summer trail patrol** started June 1 and will continue through the end of August, with a goal of visibility, education and interaction with trail system users.
- The second month of the police department's **supplemental traffic enforcement** effort is complete and was very successful. During May, officers made 241 traffic contacts and wrote 84 citations. By comparison, in April officers initiated 142 traffic contacts and wrote 61 citations.
- On May 19 the police department's traffic unit, along with the Coon Rapids Police Department and South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety, conducted a **car seat inspection clinic** at Minnetonka Fire Station #2, during which officers inspected and installed 19 car seats. Officers advised parents on proper installation and how to inspect their own car seats to ensure safety. The police department had new car seats available for families with out-of-compliance seats; three of those were given out at no charge. ☺

Join your neighbors and celebrate National Night Out August 7

ON AUGUST 7, FROM 6 TO 9 P.M., MINNETONKA RESIDENTS ARE invited to join thousands of other communities across America in supporting National Night Out, a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Town Watch Association.

Each year the National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

All neighborhoods are encouraged to participate. A representative from one of the following – the Minnetonka Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works or HCMC Ambulance will visit the first 80 parties to register. Visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com for a registration form, pick one up at the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.; or call Nicole Nelson at (952) 939-8546 and request that a registration form be mailed to you. Forms must be turned in by Friday, July 13, to the Minnetonka Police Department.

Minnetonka residents in kindergarten through grade six are invited to participate in this year's National Night Out coloring contest, sponsored by the Minnetonka Police Department. A winner will be chosen in each of two categories: kindergarten through third grade, and fourth through sixth grade. Entries must be postmarked by Friday, August 17, and winners will be notified by August 31. The two winners will receive a ride to school with a police officer. For the entry form and complete rules, visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

July
2007

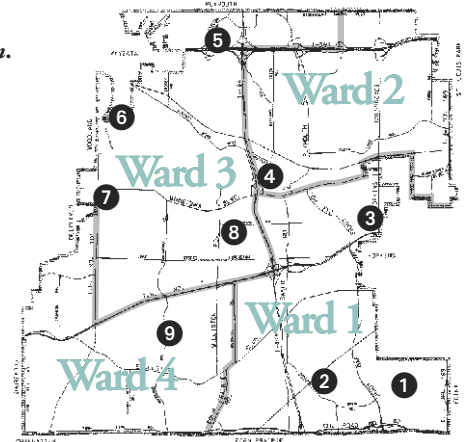
Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	4 Independence Day, city offices closed
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9 Community Commission, 5:30 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	12 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
29	30	31					16 Joint Minnetonka History Commission, Minnetonka Historical society meeting, 6:30 p.m.
							19 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.
							23 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							25 Tools for Change, History of Minnehaha Creek, 7:30 p.m. (see article)
							26 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in July. 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.

- Items concerning construction of a new office building at 5700, 5720 and 5740 Green Circle Drive and 10350 Bren Road West. (97096.07a)
- Items concerning construction of a senior co-op building at 5709 Rowland Road. (07023.07a)
- Items concerning an addition to the existing convenience store at 3864 Hopkins Crossroad. (86088.07a)
- Revision of previously approved preliminary plat at 13535 Wentworth Trail. (07005.07a)
- Conditional use permit for Carlson Real Estate to move more than 1,000 cubic yards of earth. (87001.07a)
- Variances to build a new house at 16930 Gray's Bay Boulevard. (04023.07a)
- Conditional use permit for outdoor seating and an amendment to the existing conditional use permit to increase indoor seating at Café Cabernet, 17523 Minnetonka Boulevard. (93011.07a&b)
- Front yard setback variance for a detached garage at 14333 Oakwood Road Extension. (07030.07a)
- Conditional use permit for a detached garage over 1,000 square feet in area and 12 feet in height at 4915 Highland Road. (07031.07a)



Please, keep grass clippings out of the street

DO OUR LAKES, PONDS AND CREEKS A FAVOR — KEEP YOUR GRASS CLIPPINGS OUT OF THE street! Grass clippings equal phosphorus, and one pound of phosphorus equals 300 pounds of algae! If you don't mow your own lawn, but you or your homeowner's association hires a lawn care company, please ask them to keep grass clippings out of the streets. ♻️



Protect
Our
Water
Quality!

minnetonka memo July 2007



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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Mayor

Janis Callison (952) 939-8389
..... Home: (952) 935-7010
..... jcallison@eminnetonka.com
Meetings with the mayor may be
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

City Manager

John Gunyou (952) 939-8200

Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson (952) 939-8200

E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com

Internet: www.eminnetonka.com

Council

At Large: Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com
Terry Schneider..... (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com
Ward 1: Bob Ellingson (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com
Ward 2: Tony Wagner..... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com
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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