

minnetonka memo

*A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
April 2006*

Police reserves recognized for ongoing dedication

ON MARCH 27, THE MINNETONKA City Council awarded Minnetonka Community Action Recognition awards to Tom Heater and Billy Girard, both members of the Minnetonka Police Reserve, for their outstanding community service. The council also recognized the dedication of the entire Minnetonka Police Reserves.

Minnetonka Police Reserves

Begun in 1975, the 15-member Minnetonka Police Reserve includes men and women of all ages and professional backgrounds who wish to give back to their community in a meaningful way. The police reserves contributed more than 4,637 hours of community service to the city and the police department in 2005.

Services provided by the police reserves include traffic direction, handicapped parking education and enforcement, police department tours, public fingerprinting, house checks for out-of-town residents, impound vehicle assistance, shuttling police cars, accident and scene backup, and park patrol. By providing all of these services, the police reserves allow police officers to respond to more serious calls. ♻️

Two police reserve members earn awards

Billy Girard

Billy Girard has been a member of the Minnetonka Police Reserve since 1976, donating more than 8,500 volunteer hours since 1980. His many duties over the years have included training and mentoring new reserve members; maintaining reserve records; conducting tours for the public; enforcing handicapped parking regulations; providing traffic direction at local events; and performing numerous duties for the patrol division, including conducting house checks and shuttling cars to and from city facilities.



Billy Girard

Tom Heater

Tom Heater has been a member of the Minnetonka Police Reserve since 1997, providing weekly public fingerprinting at the Minnetonka Police Department for teachers, stockbrokers, potential adoptive parents, and many others. In addition, Heater provides traffic direction during the hazardous waste and brush drop-off programs at Minnetonka Public Works and routinely spends Friday and Saturday nights assisting with vehicle impounds and conducting house checks for out-of-town residents, thus allowing police officers to respond to other calls for service.



Tom Heater

Minnetonka Police Reserve is looking for volunteers

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING with the Minnetonka Police Department, consider serving as a police reserve officer — applications are accepted throughout the year.

The Minnetonka police reserve unit assists full-time police officers in performing community service tasks; assists in traffic direction and crowd control at various community events; and also may provide trained assistance during natural disasters or other emergencies.

The men and women of the police reserves represent a wide range of age groups and careers, but share two common traits: a willingness to donate a portion of their spare time in order to be trained and ready when assistance is needed for the public's safety, and a desire to be actively involved in the community.

To be considered for the reserve program, applicants must:

- Be 21 years of age or older;
- Be a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization;
- Possess a valid Minnesota driver's license and have a good driving record;
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalency certificate;
- Be in good physical condition with no disabilities that restrict active body functions;
- Exhibit no illegal use of drugs or excessive use of alcohol;
- Have no felony conviction record;
- Submit to fingerprinting and a complete criminal history background check;

- Be willing to commit a minimum of 120 volunteer hours annually. Monthly mandatory meetings and training hours are applied toward the 120 hours.
- Pass an exam by an oral board of review.

Minnetonka Police Reserve,
continued on page 8

Inside...

Spring leaf drop-off	page 2
Silver Skates Ice Revue	page 3
Planning for construction	page 4
Caring youth recognized	page 5
Wetland health volunteers	page 6
Who to call about potholes	page 7
Property tax learning session	page 7



2006 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

Saturdays: April 29, May 6, May 13
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka residents may bring **bags** of leaves, yard and garden materials to one of the five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than ½ inch **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 signs.

2 Groveland School Parking Lot

Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101

3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center North Parking Lot

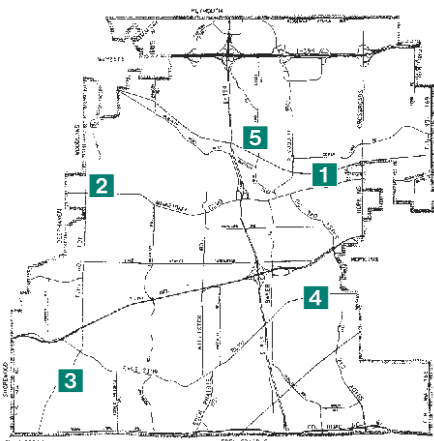
5621 Hwy. 101

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 29, May 6 and May 13, 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 15, April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20
- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16

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.

2006 Brush Drop-off Program

Weather permitting, the 2006 Minnetonka brush drop-off site will open Saturday, April 15, at 7 a.m. at the Minnetonka Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Brush drop-off will end November 18, 2006.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on the following holidays: Memorial Day (Monday, May 29); Independence Day (Tuesday, July 4); and Labor Day (Monday, September 4).

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. This service is only available to Minnetonka residents and a valid I.D. is required.

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

Minnetonka 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 2006, the following holidays will delay recycling collection one day: Memorial Day (Monday, May 29); Labor Day (Monday, September 4); and Christmas (Monday, December 25). Residents west of I-494 will have collection on Tuesdays and residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesdays the week of these three holidays. Independence Day (Tuesday, July 4) will delay collection only for residents east of I-494 to Wednesday, July 5. Residents west of I-494 will have regular collection Monday, July 3.

Prevent criminals from recycling your identity

IN THE COURSE OF A BUSY DAY YOU MAY WRITE A CHECK AT THE grocery store, charge tickets to a ball game, rent a car, mail your tax returns, purchase a new television or apply for a credit card. With each transaction and purchase you reveal bits of personal information such as bank and credit card account numbers, income, social security number, name, address and phone numbers, not to mention the possessions you acquire — a gold mine of information for an identity thief.

The city of Minnetonka encourages residents to be conscientious recyclers. However, placing some recyclable items on your curb for pick-up can place your personal information in the wrong hands. Minimize your risk but keep on recycling with these tips:

- Shred only the portion of paper items with your name, address and other information specific to you and your household. The rest of the paper item can be recycled without being shredded
- Keep shredded plastic cards out of the paper shreds.
- Shredded paper should be placed in a paper grocery bag, then secured by either stapling or taping the bag shut. Or, place magazines on top of the shredded paper in order to avoid littering the neighborhood with paper.
- Corrugated cardboard boxes are easily recycled — just flatten and place at the curb. To prevent advertising the purchase of a new electronic item, cut one side of the box and turn the box inside out, then place it under your recycling bin at the curb.
- Shredded paper or corrugated cardboard boxes may also be brought to the Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Center at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for your convenience.

For recycling information, contact Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or at delstad@eminnetonka.com.

For crime prevention information, contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst, at (952) 939-8546 or at nnelson@eminnetonka.com.

Recycling event reminders

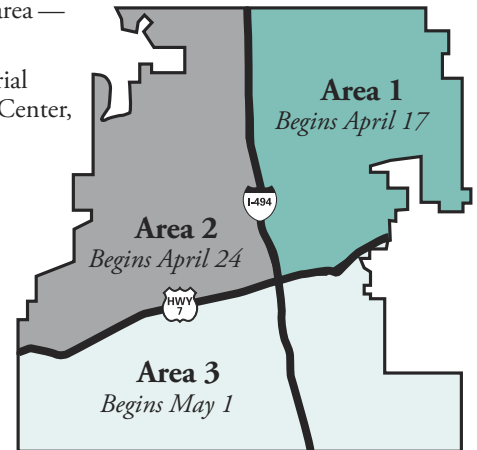
- The **Living Green Expo**, May 6 & 7 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, is a family-friendly event featuring workshops, exhibitors and activities on green living choices, technologies, and ideas. Visit www.livinggreen.org for more information.
- The **Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection** event is set for May 18, 19 and 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Call (612) 348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us for more information.
- The **Special Drop-Off** event is set for Saturday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Look for more information in the May *Minnetonka Memo* and at www.eminnetonka.com.

Water main flushing starts April 17

MINNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS WILL BE FLUSHING CITY WATER mains weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning April 17 and continuing through May 5. See the accompanying map to determine dates in your area.

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

- Ridgedale business area — April 17, 3 to 7 a.m.
- Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway — April 24, 5 to 7 a.m.
- Hwy. 7/101 area — April 26, 4 to 7 a.m.
- Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way — May 4, midnight to 7 a.m.



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 the utility division at (952) 988-8400.

Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 4, 5, and 6

MINNETONKA ICE ARENA'S ALL SEASON SKATING SCHOOL IS proud to present the 32nd Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "A Year on Ice." More than 300 skaters of all levels from Minnetonka and surrounding areas are featured this year. Show times are Thursday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.; Friday, May 5, 7 p.m.; and Saturday, May 6, 5 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for school-aged children, and free for preschool children. As always, senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to



our Thursday night performance at 6:30 pm. We look forward to entertaining you! 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 beginning June 12, 2006. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 or visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information and for a registration brochure.

Consider natural resources when planning for construction

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING A CONSTRUCTION project on your property, don't forget your natural resources! Trees provide shade in the summer and wind protection in the winter, while wetlands and waterways collect rainwater to help prevent flooding and provide clean drinking water. Before beginning any new projects, talk to your contractors about preserving your trees and other natural resources. Proper planning and protection will benefit you and your property. Here are a few further tips:

Observe water flow

Be sure your project design will not affect the water flow on your property. For example, if the water in your front yard currently flows toward the street, it should still flow to the street when the project is complete.

Also, explore how changes in your home or yard may affect neighboring property, both during and after construction.

This may be a good time to relocate a problematic downspout, install a rain garden, or plant a buffer of native plants to improve water quality and ensure cordial relations with your neighbors.

Prevent erosion

Before starting any earth work, install silt fence down slope of the project area to prevent sediment from washing onto neighboring property, into the street, or into an adjacent wetland, pond, lake, or creek. Bury the lower four to six inches of the silt fence into the soil to prevent sediment from washing underneath the fabric.

Install silt fence down slope of any stockpiles or cover them with a tarp or mulch to control erosion. If equipment will be accessing your yard from the street, a temporary rock entrance may be needed in order to keep the street clean. Clean up any sand, soil, rock or other materials that are tracked or washed into the street to prevent it from being carried into the storm drain, where it would pass into the nearest pond or wetland and reduce the function of these resources.

Establish groundcover as soon as possible to prevent continuing erosion problems. Covering exposed soil with straw, wood mulch, or compost will help control erosion until seeds or plants are grown. Crops such as annual rye, oats, and winter wheat grow rapidly and may be used to temporarily stabilize an area until it is landscaped. On



This photo shows several erosion control techniques.

slopes where erosion is more of a problem, consider installing erosion control blanket or sod. For small projects, Biolog, or straw log, may be an effective alternative to silt fence. To prevent exposing a large area to heavy rains, work on your yard in sections. For large landscape projects, contact the city for a grading permit.


Protect trees

To prevent tree loss, protect the critical root zone, which extends at least one foot from the trunk of the tree for every inch of trunk diameter. Most of the roots vital to a tree's survival are located within the top few inches of soil. Design your project to minimize construction and grade changes within the critical root zone. If you must remove a portion of the root system, avoid tearing the roots with equipment—clean cuts will help minimize the effect on the tree.

Tree roots require air, water, and nutrients. Storing heavy construction materials,

stockpiles, or equipment within the critical root zone will compact the soil and suffocate the root system. Installing silt fence or construction fence at the perimeter will help prevent damage to the root system. If equipment must travel through the critical root zone, construct ramps or place a temporary six- to eight-inch layer of mulch in the access path. Avoid paving or filling within the critical root zone.

It may take several years before a tree shows signs of damage from construction activity. How well the tree survives depends on its species, size, existing health, and other factors. Properly installing wood mulch in a layer four inches thick or less and watering the root zone with a root feeder will help relieve construction stress on the tree. Contact a tree care professional before applying fertilizer to a tree that has been impacted. If you must prune your trees for a project, prevent additional stress by removing fewer than 25 percent of the branches. To prevent the spread of oak wilt, remember not to prune oaks from April 1 to July 1 (roughly tax day to the fourth of July). Elms should not be pruned any time during the growing season, in order to prevent Dutch elm disease.

Additional information regarding erosion control and protecting trees during construction is available at www.eminnetonka.com or by calling (952) 988-8422. 



Critical root zone

A guide for fertilizing your lawn

STATE LAW RESTRICTS THE SALE AND USE OF FERTILIZER containing phosphorous, which is indicated by the middle of the three numbers, i.e. 10-10-10, on a bag of fertilizer. Look for a “zero” in the middle spot. Newly seeded or sodded lawns may use phosphorous for the first growing season or if a soil test indicates the level of available phosphorus in the soil is insufficient to support healthy turf growth.

Most Minnetonka lawns already contain high or very high levels of phosphorus, according to a study conducted by Three Rivers Park District several years ago. In addition, results of random soil testing of lawns in Minnetonka, Plymouth, Eden Prairie and Maple Grove showed that people who fertilize their lawns applied far too much phosphorus. In general, Minnesota has soils already rich in phosphorus, which is harmful to wetlands, creeks, streams, rivers and lakes—one pound of phosphorus entering a storm sewer system can yield 500 pounds of algae growth.

Test your soil before purchasing any fertilizer so you can provide your lawn what it needs, not what is on sale. A soil test kit is available from the University of Minnesota at <http://soiltest.coafes.umn.edu> to analyze your soil and provide a report to help you make an informed decision on what nutrients your lawn actually needs. There is a fee for this service. (**Please note:** if you have a newly seeded or sodded lawn, you may need phosphorus to promote root growth.)

Here are a few tips on properly applying fertilizer:

- Do not fertilize until the grass is actively growing and you are ready to mow, usually in mid-May.
- Read and follow manufacturer’s instructions printed on the bag.
- Never fertilize before a heavy rain. Never apply fertilizer to wet grass, but water thoroughly after application.
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on hard surfaces where spills can be swept up. Never wash fertilizer spills into the street.
- Close the gate on the spreader when crossing over hard surfaces such as driveways, walkways, or patios.
- Rinse the spreader over the lawn, not a driveway or hard surface area.
- Drop spreaders are more precise, but slower than rotary spreaders. Near shorelines, use a drop spreader.
- Avoid getting fertilizer into natural drainage areas or pathways where it can be carried to surface water.
- Near shorelines, leave a buffer of natural vegetation to prevent erosion and retain nutrients. ♪

Tips for minimizing chemical use in your yard

WITH CONCERNS ABOUT USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES on gardens and lawns, many residents and lawn care companies are reducing their use of chemicals and finding non-toxic alternatives. Consider these non-toxic alternatives:

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

Caring Youth recognized

TWENTY-FOUR CARING YOUTH WERE RECOGNIZED THURSDAY, MARCH 23, AT THE Minnetonka Community Center during the 2006 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. For more information about this year’s Caring Youth award winners, visit www.eminnetonka.com.



This year’s winners (nominators in parentheses) are: Marcus Hill (*Breck School*), Kimberly Pentel (*Hollywood School of Dance*), Lindsay Blanchard (*Scenic Heights ES*), Joseph Watson (*Scenic Heights ES*), Julissa Betting-Fuentes (*Golden Valley Library*), Erin Knight (*Sojourner Project*), Polo Velasquez (*Minnetonka HS*), Harry Niedermaier (*Hopkins Catholic Youth Ministry*), Chris Walz (*Courage Center*), Lauren Boldon (*Hennepin County READY*), Kaisa Newville (*Minnetonka MS East*), Marshall Kelner (*Shalom Home West*), Emily Ostlund (*Stages Theatre Co.*), Rebekah Wilder (*Main Street School of Performing Arts and Minnetonka Community Church*), Jacquilyn Weaver (*Minnetonka HS*), Lauren Sadowsky (*ICA*), Marissa Braun (*All Saints Lutheran Church*), Hannah Fazio (*Minnetonka Heights Community Enhancement Program*), Madeline Jones (*The Depot Coffee House*), Allie Bornstein (*West Suburban Teen Clinic*), Jeff Everson (*The Towers of St. Therese Southwest*), Carl Hinton (*Minnetonka Explorers Club*), Anne Pederson (*Gethsemane Lutheran Church*), and Anne Hedlund (*Minnetonka MS East*). ♪

Don't miss these Senior Center events

DON'T MISS THESE SPRING EVENTS AT THE Minnetonka Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information, or to receive the *Minnetonka Senior Script*, a monthly publication detailing events and services offered at the Minnetonka Senior Center. The *Script* may also be viewed online at www.eminnetonka.com.

Adopt a Highway

Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m.

Volunteers meet at the Minnetonka Community Center to help clean Minnetonka Boulevard between Hopkins Crossroad and I-494.

Spring Wildflowers Slide Show & Lunch

Tuesday, April 18, 12 p.m., \$5
Enjoy lunch and a slide show by Doug Ohman.

Mystery Dinner Theater

Wednesday, April 26

Please see the Senior Script for details.

Ladies Luncheon & Vintage Hat Show

Thursday, May 4, 12 p.m., \$6 ☺

The Wizard of Oz set for July and August

MEET DOROTHY, SCARECROW, Tin Man, the Lion and all their friends when Minnetonka Community Theatre presents *The Wizard of Oz* this summer at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka.

Show dates and times are July 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, and Aug. 3, 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m.; and July 26 and 30 and Aug. 2 and 5 at 1 p.m. The matinee performances are "dress-up days," where audience members young and old are encouraged to dress as their favorite Oz characters. After the performance, Dorothy herself will invite audience members to the stage for a photo with the cast!

All seats are \$10. Tickets are on sale now — call the box office at (952) 401-5898 or visit www.minnetonkatheatre.com for reservations and information on group discounts for 25 or more. ☺

Get involved!

VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN new skills, meet people, or share special talents. The city of Minnetonka's volunteer program helps civic-minded individuals become involved in providing enhanced services to the community. Opportunities include adopt-a-sign (maintain plantings at park signs); history event staff; Juvenile Diversion Program leader; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers/transcribers; and storm drain monitor. Jobs can be one-time special events, short-term or ongoing projects. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ☺

Volunteer Corner



Wetland health project volunteers needed

IF YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO WADE IN A wetland, get your hands dirty, and discover plants and animals that live in murky shallows, the city wants you! Minnetonka is partnering again this year with Hennepin County to implement the Wetland Health Evaluation Project, which uses biological criteria to assess the health of Minnetonka's wetlands.

Adult volunteers work under the direction of a team leader and receive training on wetland monitoring protocol (including plant and insect identification), then team up

with other volunteers to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. A science background or previous monitoring experience is not required to participate.

The time commitment is about 40 to 50 hours total, beginning in May and continuing through August. This includes all training, fieldwork, and lab work. All equipment (except waders) is provided. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988-8422, or via e-mail at aschwartz@eminnetonka.com. ☺

It's time to adopt a Minnetonka park sign!

MINNETONKA'S ADOPT-A-SIGN PROGRAM has proven to be a great success due to the outstanding efforts of families, civic organizations, and individuals who have adopted the various park signs around Minnetonka. This year, the city will again provide an allowance for volunteers to choose annuals of their own preference to plant and maintain through the growing

season. Last year's volunteers will be given first option to adopt the sign they previously cared for, but some will choose to pass the trowel, making several additional sites available. If you or your organization would like to adopt a park sign, please contact Karmen Post, Minnetonka Facilities Management, at (952) 939-8364 or via email at kpost@eminnetonka.com. ☺



Know who to call about potholes

IT'S SPRING, AND MANY RESIDENTS WANT to know who to call about potholes on their local streets. Roads running through Minnetonka are owned by the city, county or the state, and it's important to contact the appropriate level of government if you have a concern about pot holes 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.

MnDot (651) 582-1550

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

Hennepin County (763) 745-7700

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. ☺

Coming soon to a street near you...

Minnetonka Public Works has a new weapon in its fight to keep city roads in shape. This road patching truck (below) has several features that result in a more efficient road patching operation for the city. First, the truck chassis is low to the ground, with only one step rather than the traditional three required to get in and out of the truck. Second, the operator can drive the truck from the left or right side, standing or sitting. Third, the truck contains a heated box that will hold up to 4 cubic yards of asphalt, and is equipped with electric heat for overnight storage of heated asphalt, or cold mix for winter patching. Finally, the truck has storage for equipment and tools needed to patch potholes. All of this adds up to more potholes patched per day!



The city's new pothole patcher

Learn more about property taxes April 19

DO YOU WONDER HOW YOUR PROPERTY taxes are determined? Do you know who to talk to if you have a question about your property taxes?

These questions and more will be answered at a one-hour property tax learning session for residents, set for Wednesday, April 19, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. No reservations are required.

Several experts, including Tom Berge, executive director of finance and operations, Minnetonka Public Schools; Merrill King, finance director, city of Minnetonka; and Richard Toy, Minnetonka city assessor, will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the property tax system and process. This session is sponsored by the city of Minnetonka in coordination with the Minnetonka Public Schools and the Minnesota Senior Federation. ☺



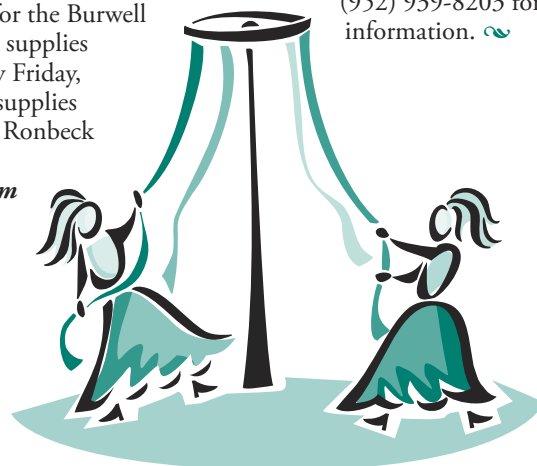
Take the I-494 commuter challenge

DO YOU USUALLY DRIVE ALONE TO work? Learn how easy and economical it is to reduce traffic in your community by participating in this year's Commuter Challenge and commute to work using alternatives to driving alone during April, May or June. Pledge to try one alternative, such as carpooling, busing or biking, and you'll qualify to win great prizes including iPods, commuter bicycles and more.

More than 250 companies and 4,000 commuters participated in last year's Commuter Challenge. To learn how to participate this year, as an individual or as a company, call Kate Diercks, 494 Commuter Services, at (612) 750-4494 or visit www.494corridor.org. 494 Commuter Services is part of a regional effort to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. ☺

Celebrate May Day!

THE MINNETONKA COMMUNITY Heritage Commission invites you and your family to create May baskets and dance around the Maypole Friday, April 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 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 21, to ensure enough supplies will be available. Call Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or email lronbeck@eminnetonka.com and leave the name, phone number and age group (adult or child) for each person who will attend. ☺



It's not too late for team sign up!

IF YOU WANT TO REGISTER AN ADULT team for summer kickball, basketball or soccer leagues, sponsored by Minnetonka Recreation Services, it's not too late! Call (952) 939-8203 for registration information. ☺

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2006

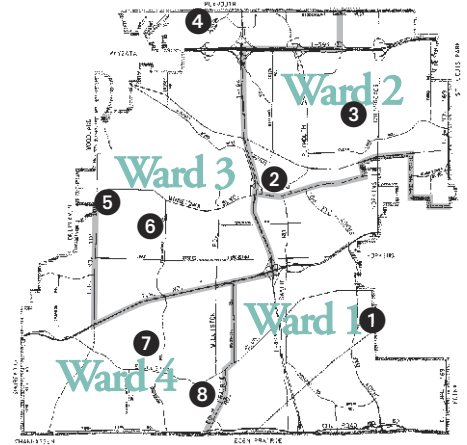
Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
						1	5 Park Board, 7 p.m.	24 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10 City Council, 6:30 p.m.	25 Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m. (joint meeting with Minnetonka Historical Society)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.	26 Board of Review, 6:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.	27 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30								

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 Front yard setback variance for a monument sign at 11550 and 11541 Encore Circle.
- 2 Items concerning the Wentworth Woods three-lot subdivision at 3212 Wentworth Trail. (06001.06a)
- 3 Preliminary plat with two lot width variances for a two-lot subdivision at 2415 Sherwood Hills Rd. (06007.06a)
- 4 Preliminary plat to divide the existing property at 15549 Ranchview Ct. into three lots.
- 5 Conditional use permit with variance for an outdoor garden center at 17507 Minnetonka Blvd.
- 6 Side yard setback variance for a living space addition at 3677 Steele St.
- 7 Preliminary plat with variances to divide the existing lots at 5342 and 5356 Picha Rd. into a total of four lots.
- 8 Lot division with a variance at 5808 Louis Ave. (06008.06a)



Minnetonka Police Reserve, continued from page 1

Minnetonka residents will be given first consideration to be added to the reserve program. Each reserve officer must complete a minimum of 40 hours of field and classroom training before becoming a regular member of the unit.

Required monthly meetings and training sessions are held on a regular basis throughout the year and provide hands-on experience in many areas, including: community relations and crime prevention, CPR and advanced first aid, radio dispatch and computer operation, firearms safety,

defensive tactics, search and seizure, defensive driving, police report writing and traffic and crowd control.

For more information, contact Sergeant Kevin Anderson, police reserve coordinator, at (952) 939-8500. Applications are available online at www.eminnetonka.com.

minnetonka memo

April 2006



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

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... (952) 930-3681 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

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON