

minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
July 2006

Use fireworks safely

FIREWORKS INJURIES HAVE BEEN ON THE INCREASE IN RECENT years, accounting for 9,500 emergency room visits and 24,000 fires annually. Children ages 14 and under are most vulnerable. The misuse of fireworks, frequently by unsupervised children, accounts for the majority of fireworks injuries. Statistics from the Consumer Product Safety Commission show that about two-thirds of fireworks-related injuries involve small firecrackers and common household fireworks. For more fireworks information, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Consumer Fireworks Information

The sale, possession and use of certain non-explosive and non-aerial consumer fireworks are permitted in Minnesota. Be a considerate neighbor — shooting off fireworks can be frightening and dangerous in areas where homes are close to each other.

What's legal?

Minnesota law permits the sale, possession and use of some non-explosive and non-aerial fireworks. Examples of legal fireworks are sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.

Consumer fireworks may not be used on public property such as roads, schools and parks. Individuals must be at least 18 years old to purchase fireworks.

What's illegal?

Explosive and aerial fireworks are prohibited for public sale, possession and use. Prohibited fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles, mortars and shells. ♪

July Senior Center events planned

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF THE FOLLOWING JULY 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 by the senior center. View the *Script* online at www.eminnetonka.com.

Bring a Grandchild to Lunch

Thursday, July 20, 11:30 a.m.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., followed by a lively musical entertainer. Cost is \$3; registration is required.

National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1 p.m.

Enjoy a free ice cream social at 1 p.m., followed by a 1:15 p.m. informational talk by Minnetonka Police Chief Joy Rikala.

Advisory Board Openings

Openings are available on the Minnetonka Senior Citizen Advisory Board. Call Steve Pich at (952) 939-8393 for more information. ♪

Summer watering tips for trees and shrubs

IF RAIN DOES NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE MOISTURE FOR TREES AND shrubs — about one inch per week — consider summer watering. Here are some tips:

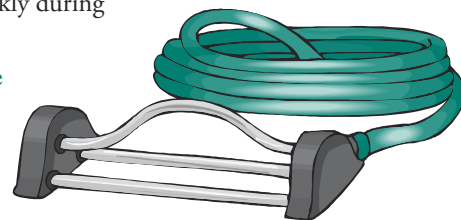
- Water low to the plant base and allow water to soak in. Water slowly to prevent runoff.
- Water to the drip line — the ends of the branches.
- Avoid sprinkling open wounds on tree trunks, because moisture provides refuge for decay fungi.
- If the root zone is mulched, less water is needed. Organic mulch, such as wood chips and shredded bark, helps retain soil moisture.
- Feel the soil to determine if trees need water.
- Conserve water by watering in the mornings and evenings — water evaporates quickly during the day.

City watering schedule

To conserve the community's water resources, city of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

- Watering is allowed before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m. No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses may water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days, before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by handheld hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery, or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit number from Minnetonka Public Works.

Private wells are exempt from these regulations provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ♪



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News for Neighbors

From the Minnetonka Police Department

NEWSPER 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.

- Police officers handed out **1,000 candy bars** at Minnetonka and Hopkins high schools June 6 as school let out for the summer. As part of the department's "Click It or Ticker" program, student drivers and passengers who were wearing their seatbelts received a candy bar, while those who were not received a reminder to buckle up! This effort was funded by grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Officer Kevin Anderson hands out candy bars.

- **Officer Ryan Piper and his K-9 Krieger**, a two-year-old German Shepherd who joined the department in January, graduated May 25 from 12 weeks of training at the St. Paul Police Department K-9 Academy. Krieger was put into service for the first time May 28.
- In May, Investigator Andy Gardner was named "**Officer of the Year**" by the Glen Lake Optimists as part of the Optimists International Respect for Law week. Investigator Gardner, a member of the Minnetonka Police Department since 1993, was nominated for his contribution as an investigator and his development of the department's technical forensic capabilities. In addition, last year Officer



Officer Ryan Piper and K-9 Krieger

Gardner coordinated the department's Special Olympics Torch Run, the results of which exceeded the donation goal set by the department.

- For its work and commitment to the prevention of underage drinking, the police department received the **2005 Recognition Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**. The award recognized the department's efforts in training and enforcement, underage party patrols, educational efforts with young people and working with business partners. Sgt. Phil Pesheck and Officers Kelly Phillips and Sy Vanthavong accepted the award on behalf of the department at the annual MADD recognition luncheon in March.
- In April the Minnesota Special Olympics presented the police department with the **Bronze Metal Plaque for 2005 Excellence in Fundraising**. This award recognizes the police department's outstanding commitment to Minnesota Special Olympics Athletes through the 2005 Law Enforcement Torch Run. This year's event was held June 19-22.
- The police department received a commendation from U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales for its participation in **Project ChildSafe**, a program promoting firearms safety for gun owners through the distribution of free safety education materials and voluntary gun-locking devices.
- Congratulations to members of the **Minnetonka Police Explorer Post** for their outstanding performance at the 2006 State Breezy Point Explorer Conference/competitions in April. Post members earned first place in emergency first aid; first place in hostage negotiation; second place in traffic accident investigation; and second place in SRT. Christopher Cook earned first place and Eric Gunderson earned second place in the individual timed fire shoot. ♡

Participate in National Night Out Aug. 1

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, A UNIQUE crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is set for Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Each year the National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from more than 10,000 communities and 34 million people in 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 anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate National Night Out with a variety of events and activities including block parties, cookouts, visits from local police and sheriff departments, parades, exhibits, flashlight walks, contests, and youth programs.

If you are interested in coordinating a National Night Out event for your neighborhood, please register with the Minnetonka Police Department online at www.eminnetonka.com or call Nicole Nelson at (952) 939-8546 to request a registration form. ♡



Fighting garlic mustard

NON-NATIVE SPECIES SUCH AS EURASIAN MILFOIL, BUCKTHORN and garlic mustard are one of the main threats to ecosystems and to the diversity of native species in Minnetonka.

Garlic mustard, which has spread to 34 states since its introduction to the United States in 1868, is of concern because of its ability to invade high-quality forests, form dense populations and decrease the abundance of native species.

Garlic mustard is a biennial, which means it lives for two years, and garlic mustard seeds may remain viable in soil for about five years. The key to reducing the garlic mustard population is the prevention of seed dispersal. Here are some tips:

- By July, most plants will be dispersing seed from one- to three-inch terminal, slender pods. Bagging and disposing of seed pods before they open will reduce the population of new garlic mustard seedlings next year.
- When garlic mustard turns brown, it's dead and at the end of its second growing season. Don't pull it now, it's too late.
- Low garlic mustard plants that are still green in late summer and fall are in the first-year rosette stage. They will remain green into winter and spring. Pull these younger plants out by the roots whenever soil is moist, in the fall, or next April before they send up a flowering stalk.
- Young plants pulled out by the roots in May, before seed pods are produced, can be left in the woods. They will die if all soil is removed from the roots.



Garlic mustard, a non-native species introduced to the United States in 1868.

Photo by J. Rendell; Courtesy CABI BioScience Centre, Switzerland

To learn more about garlic mustard, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us. Click on "Minnesota's Natural Resources," then "Invasive Species." ♪

City needs volunteers

BECOME MORE involved in the city by participating in Minnetonka's volunteer program. Gain the satisfaction of giving back to your community while learning more about the city and its services. Volunteer opportunities include Juvenile Diversion Program leaders, Minnetonka Mike mascot and Minnetonka Police Reserve members. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. ♪

Volunteer Corner



From yesterday to tomorrow...



Jubilee Celebration

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.

Outdoor amphitheater

Minnetonka Civic Center campus
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

ON AUGUST 22, 1956, MINNETONKA WAS incorporated as a village, protecting its land from further annexation by neighboring cities and paving the way for city status in the late 1960s.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of incorporation, please join us for a Jubilee Celebration Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2006, at 7 p.m. at the new outdoor amphitheater on the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Hosted by Minnetonka City Manager John Gunyou, the program will include musical entertainment by Music Association of Minnetonka, a glimpse into Minnetonka's past and an overview of Minnetonka's next 50 years by Mayor Jan Callison.

After the program, join in blowing out 50 candles on Minnetonka's birthday cake, have a slice of cake and enjoy historical displays about Minnetonka's past! Please bring along your friends and family of all ages to enjoy this historic celebration of Minnetonka's past and future.

For more information, call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207 or email jl Larson@eminnetonka.com.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

July
2006

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 Independence Day, city offices closed

10 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

11 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.

12 Joint Recreation Board, 7 p.m.

13 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

17 Community Heritage Commission and Minnetonka Historical Society Board joint meeting, 6:30 p.m.

24 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

27 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

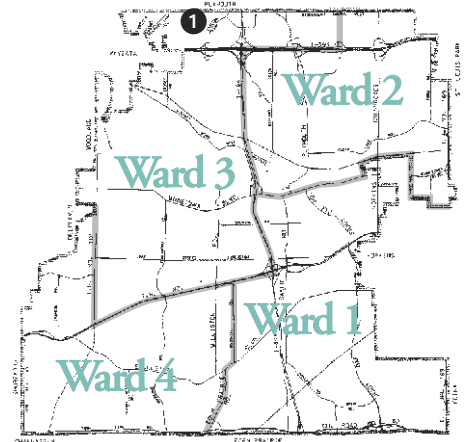
The following item is tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in July. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Items concerning an extension of Ranchview Court and single family homes at 15549 Ranchview Court. (06009.06a)

Dial-a-Ride open to Minnetonka residents

MINNETONKA DIAL-A-RIDE IS A HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE BUS SERVICE PROVIDING RIDES within the Minnetonka city limits Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. This curb-to-curb service provides transportation to entertainment, appointments and shopping, as well as making connections to other transit hubs. Group rides of three or more people also may be arranged.

Reservations should be made at least 24 hours in advance, although same-day reservations may be accommodated if space is available. Fares are \$2 each way, or \$2 round trip per rider for group rides. For more information or to schedule a reservation call (952) 401-1749.



The Wizard of Oz set for July 21-Aug. 5

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR MINNETONKA COMMUNITY THEATRE'S SUMMER MUSICAL, *The Wizard of Oz*, at the Arts Center on 7, 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka. This classic favorite opens July 21 and ends Aug. 5, after 12 performances.

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. Tickets are \$10 and may be reserved by calling (952) 401-5898 or online at www.minnetonkatheatre.com.



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1

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

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