

minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
August 2006

Celebrate Minnetonka's Jubilee August 22!

ON AUG. 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 this anniversary, 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 Blvd., Minnetonka, to be followed by a fireworks display at 8:45 p.m.

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

After the program, savor a slice of birthday cake and browse historical displays before viewing a special anniversary fireworks display at 8:45 p.m.! Please bring along 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 jarlson@eminnetonka.com.

Jubilee Celebration

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.

Fireworks: 8:45 p.m.

Outdoor amphitheater

Minnetonka Civic Center campus
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard
Minnetonka, MN 55345

From yesterday to tomorrow...



Why do we celebrate Minnetonka's 50th anniversary in 2006?

IT WAS A LIVELY TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY IN 1956: incorporation as one village or two. However, the decision to change from a township to a village was not made overnight.

Several neighboring communities had previously incorporated as separate cities that included portions of Minnetonka Township's 36 square miles: Wayzata in 1883, West Minneapolis in 1893 — later renamed Hopkins for the railroad stop, and Deephaven in 1900.

From 1950 to 1954, small tracts of Minnetonka Township were annexed into Wayzata. And from 1947 through 1955, St. Louis Park annexed land east of Ford Road north of Runnymede.

Then, in early June of 1956 landowners and developers petitioned St. Louis Park for another 200 acres to be annexed out of Minnetonka.

The St. Louis Park City Council responded with the first and second reading of an ordinance. Annexation requests could only be made by the individual property owners involved; township governments, like Minnetonka, did not have the authority to stop or deny annexations.

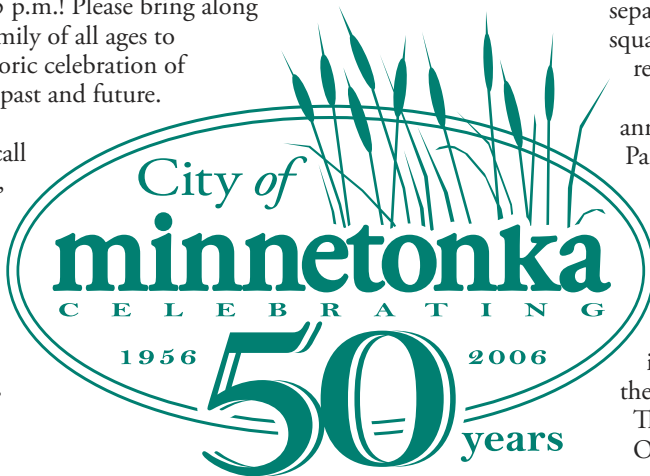
That was the last straw.

On June 14, 1956, Minnetonka Township residents met to name a committee to study the possibility of incorporation into a village "as a remedy to repeated raids on township territory by neighboring communities."

Residents were opposed to the annexation, which was initiated largely by landowners who did not live on the land, some living outside the state, also described as "nonresident owners [petitioning] specifically for development of real estate interests."

The committee resolved to study the advisability of incorporation as a village as one measure to protect Minnetonka from land annexations by neighboring St. Louis Park.

To read the rest of this exciting story, written by Minnetonka city historian Betty Johnson, take a look at our special 50th anniversary features on www.eminnetonka.com.



Jidana Trail opening set for Aug. 22

MINNETONKA RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING of the Jidana Trail, which connects the Minnetonka Civic Center to Jidana Park, on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m. — just prior to the 50th anniversary Jubilee celebration at 7 p.m.

Park in the Minnetonka Community Center lot, then walk across the road to reach the Jidana trailhead. The first 125 participants will receive a free polycarbonate water bottle, courtesy of the city of Minnetonka and Ruth Stricker's The Marsh: A Center for Balance and Fitness. See you at the trail! ☺

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 new quarterly feature, however, are not quite 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.

Women's Firefighting Expo

In June, more than 40 women participated in a women's firefighting expo in Edina, hosted by the Minnetonka Fire Department and several other local fire departments. Designed to introduce women to firefighting, the event included participation in physical agility testing, search and rescue, power equipment and fire suppression. The expo resulted in the formation of the "North Star Women's Firefighter Association," an organization designed to promote information sharing. The participating fire departments plan to continue the expo as an annual event.

Ladder 2 to be refurbished

Ladder Truck 2, an 85-foot 1978 Sutphen housed at Station 2, is slated for a new engine, a new cab and a complete paint job under the fire department's vehicle refurbishing program. Other modifications include rebuilt ladder hydraulic cylinders, new LED emergency lights and air conditioning for the newly enclosed cab.

The refurbishing program, started in 1994, addresses the defects or shortcomings of each individual truck. The program saves as much as one-third or more of the cost of purchasing new and adds nearly 15 years to the life of the refurbished truck.

Box Alarms

One of the fire department's latest innovations is a box alarm system dividing the city into a number of "beats," with each of the beats having the closest fire equipment assigned to it, regardless of city borders. For example, a Minnetonka resident who lives near the Hopkins border and has a house fire might see a Hopkins fire truck respond to the fire. Within the 12-city joint operations working group,

only Minnetonka and Bloomington are using box alarms with other participating cities. If this project goes as planned, all cities in the working group will soon be using box alarms.

This working group is also looking at using their combined resources for joint purchases of fire equipment, which would not only ensure interoperability between fire departments but also would result in a quantity price reduction when purchasing equipment.



The fire department conducts training every Tuesday. Recent highlights included the use of SuperValu's North Annex building for live fire training (above left) and joint training with LifeLink III helicopter medical service (above right), including landing zone management and safety and handling unusual trauma cases.



Fire investigation team formed

Many city fire departments have fire investigators on staff, but when the resources aren't enough, departments turn to the State Fire Marshal for assistance. However, the State Fire Marshal's office employs only a handful of investigators to cover the entire state, so a fire department may wait hours for an investigator to arrive.

After a year of planning, in 2005 a small group of southwest metro fire investigators, including Minnetonka Fire Department Investigator Kevin Fox, formed the Hennepin County Fire Investigation Team under the jurisdiction of the Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association. The team includes 24 people split into three teams, each of which rotates through a one-month on-call shift every three months.

Fox was appointed as a team leader and training coordinator. His background includes nearly 10 years of fire investigation experience, and he is a certified fire and explosion investigator through the National

Association of Fire Investigators. To prepare for his new role, Kevin was trained and certified at Eastern Kentucky University as a nationally certified investigation instructor.

Since its inception, the team has been called upon 19 times to assist various fire departments in determining origin and cause of fires. On average, team members are on the scene of the fire within 20 to 30 minutes of a call. One investigation resulted in an arrest for second-degree arson, while

two other fires have been confirmed as arson and turned over to the State Fire Marshal for further investigation.

Fire Calls

As of June 27, the fire department had responded to 261 calls for service in 2006, compared to 279 in the same period last year. The most common call by far remains false alarms, followed by fires, hazardous conditions, and rescues.

- In Chanhassen, a worker fell about 30 feet into a hole at a new water treatment plant. Technical rescue crews from Edina, Minneapolis, and Minnetonka worked together and rescued the victim in about an hour.
- A seven-year-old child was reported missing at Shady Oak Beach. Lifeguards initiated a water search and called for the fire department. As the fire department arrived, the child was located safe and sound. ☺

Tree Trust youth complete parks projects

THIS SUMMER, 16 YOUTH FROM TREE Trust built a set of steps at the Jidana Park canoe landing, adjacent to the new Jidana Trail, which connects the Minnetonka Civic Center campus to Jidana Park. Other projects this year included rebuilding the tennis court retaining wall at Reich Park and the bridge at Covington Park.

Tree Trust is a Minnesota non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve the community environment by investing in people. Tree Trust provides job training for low-income and at-risk youth and adults, while completing conservation projects for the community.

Other projects completed for the city of Minnetonka by Tree Trust over the past years include:

- Parking lot retaining wall at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus.



Tree Trust youth stand at the top of the stairs they built at the Jidana Park canoe landing.

- Segmented block retaining wall in Opus at the trail underpass.
- Clearing informal paths of brush at several parks.
- Constructed playground containers at Covington and Gro Tonka Parks.

For more information about Tree Trust visit www.treetrust.org.

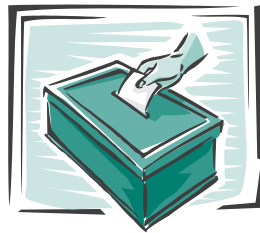
Primary election set for Sept. 12

MINNESOTA'S PRIMARY ELECTION IS SET for Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006. Offices on the primary ballot will include U.S. senator, U.S. representatives, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, state senators, state representatives and judicial offices.

Absentee voting

Absentee ballots will be available starting August 11. You can vote absentee:

- In person at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended absentee voting hours also will be available Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 11, until 5 p.m.
- By mail by requesting an absentee ballot application at www.eminnetonka.com or by phone at (952) 939-8200. Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed.



New voting technology introduced

As part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), new Assistive Voting Technology (AVT) will be implemented in the city of Minnetonka for the 2006 election season. This technology allows voters with disabilities to vote independently and privately.

In Minnetonka and across the state, the certified AVT is a ballot-marking device called the ES&S AutoMARK, which marks the voter's paper ballot via touch screen, touch pad or sip/puff tube. All ballots

voted in Hennepin County during the 2006 election, whether the voter uses a pen or the new ballot marking device, will be inserted in the precinct ballot counters that have been used in the county since 2000. The state of Minnesota requires that

all elections have a paper ballot as a "paper trail" for election recounts.

The ballot-marking device is available for demonstration from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday until Sept. 11 at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com or contact Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219 or at lronbeck@eminnetonka.com.

Registering to vote

Pre-registration is available until August 22. Voter registration applications are available on the city's Web site or by calling city hall. Pre-registering will save you a great deal of time when you vote at the poll.

For more information about the election process, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call (952) 939-8219.

Children on the 'net

THE INTERNET CAN PROVIDE CHILDREN with a fun and educational experience, but it may also inadvertently expose children to violence, hate literature, pornography and other inappropriate images or issues. It's important for parents to be aware of these dangers and provide guidance for children in safe use of the internet.

Start by exploring the internet with your child. If your child has some computer experience, let them lead the way. Discuss with your child what is appropriate so they know how to respond if they see inappropriate material. Also remind children to let you know immediately if they find something scary or threatening on the internet. If your child receives threatening e-mail or pornographic materials, save the material and contact the police department.

Here are some more suggestions for safe internet use:

- Children should never give out identifying information such name, passwords, parent's name, home address, school name, or telephone number.
- Know the internet services your child is using.
- Never allow your child to meet face-to-face with someone they met on the internet without your permission and without a parent going with them.
- Keep the computer in an area where there is adult supervision such as the kitchen or family room — not in the child's bedroom.
- Limit daily and/or weekly computer time.
- Children should never enter an area that charges for services without parent permission.
- If your child uses the public library computer, know their internet access policy.
- If a child's friend has internet access, know that family's rules for internet use.
- Children should not be allowed to send pictures of themselves or family via the internet without parental permission.

For more information contact Nicole Nelson, crime prevention analyst with the Minnetonka Police Department, at (952) 939-8546 or via email at nnelson@eminnetonka.com.

Water use skyrockets in June, reminder about watering restrictions

MINNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS REPORTS that in June, residents used 335 million gallons of water—up 112 million gallons from June 2005. Water use ranged from a low of 7.7 million gallons on June 25, to a high of 15 million gallons on June 15. Even on June 16, when the city received more than an inch of rain, residents consumed 11.8 million gallons of water. Much of this increased water consumption can be attributed to outdoor sprinkler use.

In Minnetonka, where water bills are received quarterly, it's easy to use the water and forget about the cost—until the bill comes due three months later. Remember, the amount of water used by a sprinkler is equal to the daily water needs of a family of four—the average sprinkler can emit up to 10 gallons of water per minute.

And don't forget two of the other prime culprits in increased water consumption:

leaky faucets, which may gobble up to 4,000 gallons of water per year; and leaking toilets, which can consume as much as 100 gallons of water per day.

Minnetonka residents pay only for the water they use—there is no minimum charge. In addition, city rates are set up to reward those residents who use less water, by charging those residents less per thousand gallons. Water rates are as follows:

- **0–25,000 gallons:**
\$1.60 per thousand gallons
- **25,001–40,000 gallons:**
\$1.80 per thousand gallons
- **40,001–70,000 gallons:**
\$2.10 per thousand gallons
- **70,001 gallons and up:**
\$2.50 per thousand gallons ☺

Volunteer gardeners needed

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP with restoration plantings and maintenance of the rain gardens at Minnetonka Public Works and for the gardens at Gray's Bay Marina. For more information contact Janet Larson, natural resource specialist, at 952.988.8423 or via email at jl Larson@eminnetonka.com. ☺



Tired of traffic? Learn more about the Southwest Transitway

BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000, THE southwest metro area added 34,000 new residents and 37,000 new jobs, dramatically increasing demands on existing roads and transit system. And there's no end in sight to this growth—by 2030, southwest metro cities are expected to add another 63,000 residents and 79,000 jobs.

In response to the current and projected pressures, Hennepin County and southwest metro cities are investigating a proposed high-frequency transit line to connect the southwest metro suburbs to downtown Minneapolis. The Southwest Transitway would allow commuters to move easily through a corridor from Eden Prairie and Minnetonka, through Hopkins and St. Louis Park and into downtown Minneapolis through the southwest part of Minneapolis. One alternative is light rail transit (LRT)—as the Hiawatha line has shown, light rail is a convenient and reliable option not only for daily commutes, but also for travel to baseball games, shopping centers, entertainment venues and other destinations.

Since January 2005, the county has been conducting an “Alternatives Analysis” to identify and compare the benefits, costs and impacts of a range of transit alternatives to determine which will best serve the growing needs of the southwest metro area.

This fall the Southwest Policy Advisory Committee (SWPAC), which includes county commissioners, city officials, and business leaders from the southwest metro area, will determine the best solution for a Southwest Transitway. The committee will use technical recommendations as well as the results of an extensive public outreach effort to help select a route and a transit option—light rail, bus rapid transit or enhanced bus service.

“Public participation has played an integral role in this project,” said Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Koblick, who represents Hopkins, Minnetonka and the northern portion of Eden Prairie. “The people who live and drive here are key voices at the table as we discuss transportation and transit solutions. Their

City watering ordinances

CITY OF MINNETONKA ORDINANCES permit watering under the following conditions:

- Watering is allowed before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m. By watering outside of the hottest part of the day, you are ensuring the most water possible nourishes thirsty plants rather than evaporating in the heat.
- 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 residents posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺

input is extremely important as we work to develop a better and more responsive system in the southwest metro area.”

For more information or to provide input to the committee:

- Visit the Web site at www.southwesttransitway.org to learn more about the alternatives and/or to send comments.
- Visit an October open house—check www.southwesttransitway.org for dates, times and locations.
- Call a meeting of interested citizens and invite Hennepin County and/or city staff to attend. Make your request through www.southwesttransitway.org or call (612) 348-9260 and leave a message.
- Minnetonka residents with questions or comments may contact Minnetonka City Councilmember Tony Wagner—the city's representative on the SWPAC—at twagner@eminnetonka.com. ☺

City of Minnetonka photo contest returns

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL ONCE again host a photo contest this year in conjunction with the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House. However, this year's contest comes with a few changes. Read on for this year's contest rules!

- Entries will be judged on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence and overall impact.
- Photographers must be residents of Minnetonka.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Minnetonka Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc)
 - Natural Minnetonka (landscapes, plants, animals, etc.)
 - Minnetonka's Heritage: Special for this year, in honor of Minnetonka's 50th anniversary, submit a photo showing your interpretation of Minnetonka's history!
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white photo-finish prints – no slides, photocopies, or digital files.
 - All photos should be on photo-quality paper.

- All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
- Do not mat or frame photos.
- Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entrant.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- Deadline is Friday, Sept. 22, 2006, at 4:30 p.m.

Awards:

- A single winner will be selected in each category. Each winner will receive \$25 and a 50th anniversary watercolor poster print; publication of winning photo on the city Web site and in the Minnetonka Memo; and a certificate of appreciation presented at a city council meeting.
- All entries will be posted at Minnetonka City Hall and on the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.

Park-and-ride expansion underway



IN MID-MAY, METRO TRANSIT BEGAN construction on a three-level park-and-ride ramp to replace the existing surface lot at the southwest corner of County Road 73 and I-394. This expanded park and ride facility will increase capacity at the site from 180 vehicles to approximately 746 vehicles. Construction is expected to be complete in September 2006.

In 2003, Metro Transit conducted a study showing that 90 percent of all park-and-ride spaces in the I-394 corridor west of Winnetka Avenue were full. Over the next 25 years, it's estimated that nearly 2,000 additional park-and-ride spaces will be needed. This ramp is intended to address some of that need. ☺

Visit channel 16

TIRED OF SUMMER RERUNS ON television? Then check out cable channel 16, Minnetonka's government access channel!

Stay informed of the workings of your local government by tuning in for Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings, broadcast live during the meetings and then rebroadcast at later times and dates. Broadcast and replay times are as follows:

- City Council: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 12 p.m.
- Planning Commission: Sundays and Mondays, 12 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

In August you'll also find exciting coverage of local events, including Minnetonka Summer Festival and the Hopkins Raspberry Festival events.

For a complete programming schedule, visit www.eminnetonka.com. ☺

Photo contest entry form

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Category: Minnetonka Lifestyle Natural Minnetonka Minnetonka's Heritage

Caption (*photo location, description of event*) _____

Day phone _____ Age (if under 18) _____

Mail (or drop off) entries to:

*Minnetonka Photo Contest
City of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345*

City employees and their families are not eligible to enter. Questions? Call (952) 939-8207.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

August
2006

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	National Night Out, 6-9 p.m.	10	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	Park Board, 7 p.m.	14	Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	7	City Council, 6:30 p.m.	21	City Council, 6:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	8	Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.	22	Jubilee Celebration, 7 p.m. Fireworks, 8:45 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31					31	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

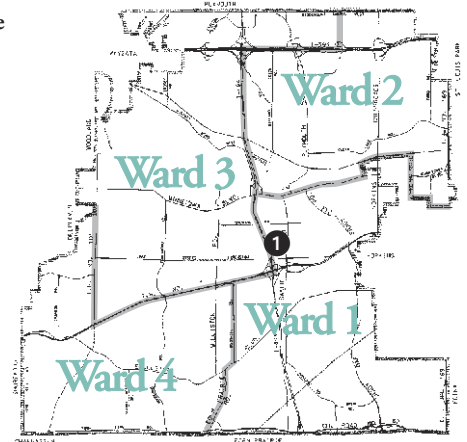
The following item is tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in August. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Side yard setback variance from 25 feet to 13 feet for a new house at 4016 Baker Road. (Ward 1)

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.



Labor Day delays recycling collection

THE SEPT. 4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY WILL DELAY RECYCLING COLLECTION IN MINNETONKA BY one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, Sept. 5, while residents east of I-494 will have recycling collection Wednesday, Sept. 6.

The Minnetonka brush drop-off site will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the Labor Day holiday. The site will be open Saturday, Sept. 2, and Tuesday, Sept. 5.



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August 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... (612) 723-3907 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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