



minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka
September 2006

Primary election set for Tuesday, 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.

Below are answers to the questions most frequently asked by voters. For more specific or current information about these topics, call Minnetonka City Hall at (952) 939-8200 or visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com (click on "Election 2006").

What's the purpose of the primary election?

The primary election determines the candidate from each party who will advance to the Tuesday, Nov. 7, general election. Voters may only vote for candidates within one party.

What are the hours to vote, and where do I vote?

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

Please see the map accompanying this article for a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling place, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Election 2006." Then click on "Polling Place Finder."

Voters may only vote in person at their assigned polling place. Be sure to know your correct polling place—it will save you time.

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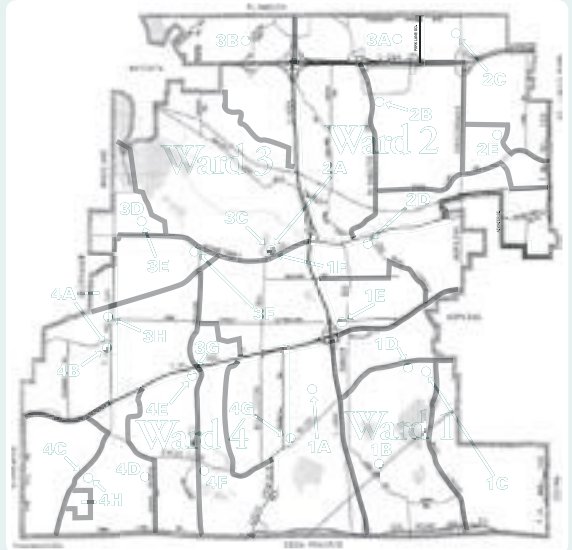
Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary Precinct Numbers 4A

Precinct Lines Polling Locations •

Polling Locations

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1A Glen Lake Elementary School
4801 Woodridge Road | 3D/ St. Luke Presbyterian Church
3121 Groveland School Road | 4D Scenic Heights Elementary School
5650 Scenic Heights Drive |
| 1B Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
5617 Rowland Road | 3E Minnetonka Lutheran Church
16023 Minnetonka Boulevard | 4E Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve |
| 1C Cross of Glory Baptist Church
4600 Shady Oak Road | 3F Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve | 4F All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Boulevard |
| 1D Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Boulevard | 3G Minnetonka United Methodist Church
17611 Lake Street Extension | 4G Glen Lake Activity Center
14350 Excelsior Boulevard |
| 1E St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension | 3H Ridgewood Church (formerly Minnetonka Baptist)
4420 County Road 101 | 4H Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 County Road North101 |
| 1F Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | 4A/ Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | |
| 2A Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | 4B Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 County Road 101 | |
| 2B Ridgedale Hennepin County Library
12601 Ridgedale Drive | | |
| 2C Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
600 Hopkins Crossroad | | |
| 2D The Episcopal Parish of St. David's Church
13000 St. David's Road | | |
| 2E Lindbergh Center
2400 Lindbergh Drive | | |
| 3A Ridgpointe
12600 Marion Lane W. | | |
| 3B Freedom Pointe
500 Carlson Parkway | | |
| 3C Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard | | |



2007 budget input requested

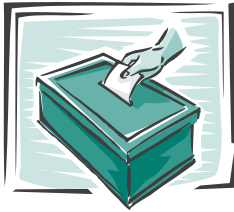
NEW OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE this year for residents to provide input as the city's 2007 budget is being developed. The city hopes to engage more residents and businesses through several public sessions and greater use of its Web site.

While the city of Minnetonka has always encouraged public input at the state-required Truth-in-Taxation meeting, this public hearing occurs late in the budget process. This year, three sessions will be held in October to provide interested citizens the

opportunity to learn more about the city's budget and property tax system, and also to ask questions and provide input.

Residents and businesses will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on budget plans via the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Preliminary budget information will be made available for comment, and that feedback will be shared with the city council as they discuss budget options. ☺

Election continued from page 1



Who can vote absentee?

Absentee voting is available if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day due to absence from the precinct; illness or disability; religious observance; or service as an election judge in another precinct.

How do I vote absentee?

Two options are available for voting 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. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal delivery.

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. You will need to register if you have never registered to vote; if you have changed your name or address (including just moving to another apartment in the same building) since you last voted; or if you have not voted in four years.

What identification is needed to register?

Minnesota state law requires specific forms of identification to register at the polling place. For more information about these forms, see tables A and B. A person registered in your precinct who knows you can also vouch for you on election day.

Where will election results be available?

Results will be available on cable channel 16, and on the city's Web site.

What is the city's role in the election?

The city plays a key role in the election process. City staff recruits and trains election judges; provides polling place supplies; answers questions; and ensures voter results are tabulated. This process works smoothly because Minnetonka has excellent and dedicated election judges.

Contact city hall at (952) 939-8200 if you need further information. ☺

What ID do you need to vote?

Voters registering to vote on Election Day must provide proof of residence. You may show **one** item from Table A or **two** items from Table B (valid photo ID plus valid utility bill)

On Election Day you must have one of the following: **TABLE A**

- Valid Minnesota driver's license or learner's permit (or receipt for either) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt) showing current name and address in the precinct.
- Tribal ID showing current name and address in precinct.
- A voucher card signed by the person vouching for the voter and witnessed by an election judge. A voucher is the oath of a voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant's address in the precinct.
 - The voucher must have personal knowledge of the person for whom they are vouching.
 - The voucher card must be placed with the registration card.
 - A voter who is vouched for **cannot** vouch for another voter at this election.
 - Challengers **cannot** serve as vouchers.
 - A voucher may vouch for an unlimited number of persons.
 - Voucher **must** leave the polling place as soon as the vouching process is complete.
- Late notice sent from the Elections Office. Place this notice with the registration application.
- Prior registration in the same precinct—voter's former address listed in the polling place roster.
- Current students
 - Student ID or dated registration or fee statement with valid address in the precinct; or student ID if on a dorm list provided by Election Headquarters.

OR

On Election Day voters may register by a combination of one picture ID from Column 1 along with one type of utility bill from Column 2.

Column 1

Approved photo IDs must contain voter's name and photo. It may contain voter's old address or have no address.

- MN driver's license
- MN state ID
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID
- Student ID from MN post-secondary school
- Tribal ID

Column 2

Approved utility bills must contain name, current address in the precinct, and date due within 30 days before/after Election Day.

- Cable TV
- Electric
- Gas
- Phone
- Garbage
- Water/sewer
- Cell phone

TABLE B

Minnetonka's wastewater collection system under scrutiny

MINNETONKA, OFTEN ON THE forefront of environmentally friendly actions, now finds itself facing another challenge—reducing its flow of clear water into the Met Council's overburdened sanitary sewer collection system.

The cause of the problem is the flow of clear water such as rain water or groundwater into the sanitary sewer system—commonly called inflow and infiltration or I and I. During major rain events, this additional surge of water can consume the capacity of sewer pipes, resulting in home backups and overflows into creeks and wetlands in addition to the Mississippi River.

A flow study completed in 2005 identified a number of areas in the community that contribute to the problem. To encourage communities to address this issue, the Met Council is implementing a surcharge for the excess flow. Under the currently proposed surcharge system, Minnetonka will be charged about \$377,000 annually to treat the city's waste.

That's the bad news.

The good news is the city has five years to correct the problem. During that time, the city can use the money it would have paid in surcharges to implement an education, inspection and repair program designed to reduce the I and I problem. This will include home inspections to identify sump pumps and foundation drains that might be incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. The city is developing a grant program that will assist home owners with the costs of repairs if corrections need to be made. In addition, a thorough inspection of the city's manholes by a consultant engineering firm has already begun, to be followed by inspection of sewer lines and lateral connections.

At the same time, residents will receive new water meters which will allow for automatic reading of the meter and can provide residents with more timely information on water use.

Watch future issues of the *Minnetonka Memo* for information about inflow and infiltration, and be sure to visit the inflow and infiltration display booth at the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. ☺



What is inflow and infiltration?

Inflow is a direct connection of clear water into the wastewater collection system, while infiltration is an indirect connection of clear water to the wastewater system.

Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of basements), roof downspouts, and foundation drains that are connected to the city's sanitary sewer system. Sumps pumps are often connected to the sanitary sewer system via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain.

Infiltration results from groundwater seeping into cracked sewer lines, manholes or deteriorating lateral connections, and requires sealing of the wastewater collection system.

Clear water reduces capacity in the regional wastewater collection and treatment system and, during heavy rainfall, can cause sewer backups and overflows.

Why are cities being asked to reduce inflow and infiltration? Because the Met Council estimates it would cost the region a minimum of \$900 million to build the infrastructure just to convey the excess flows to wastewater treatment plants. Costs to expand treatment plants are also prohibitive due to the lack of available building space.

For more information on the regional impacts of inflow and infiltration, visit the Met Council's Web site at www.metrocouncil.org/planning/environment/inflow_infiltration.htm. ☺

September Senior Center events planned

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF THE following September events at the Minnetonka Senior Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information.

Historic Homes of Minnesota

Thursday, Sept. 14, noon

Doug Ohman presents a slide show of historic Minnesota homes and shares their stories. Lunch served before the show. Cost, \$5; reservation deadline is Sept. 11.

Tonka Brass Quintet / BBQ Supper

Monday, Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy brass music with a barbecue supper. Cost, \$5; reservation deadline is Sept. 13.

The War on Terrorism: Who's Winning?

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1:00 p.m.

Retired Star Tribune foreign correspondent Frank Wright discusses this topic. Cost, \$3; reservation deadline is Sept. 11.

Senior Center Open House

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1 to 3 p.m.

Come and learn about more than 20 different special interest groups that meet at the center, as well as the variety of programs and services offered at the senior center. Free refreshments will be offered during the afternoon, with lunch available at 12 p.m. Call (952) 939-8393 for lunch details. ☺

Nominate someone for a CAR award

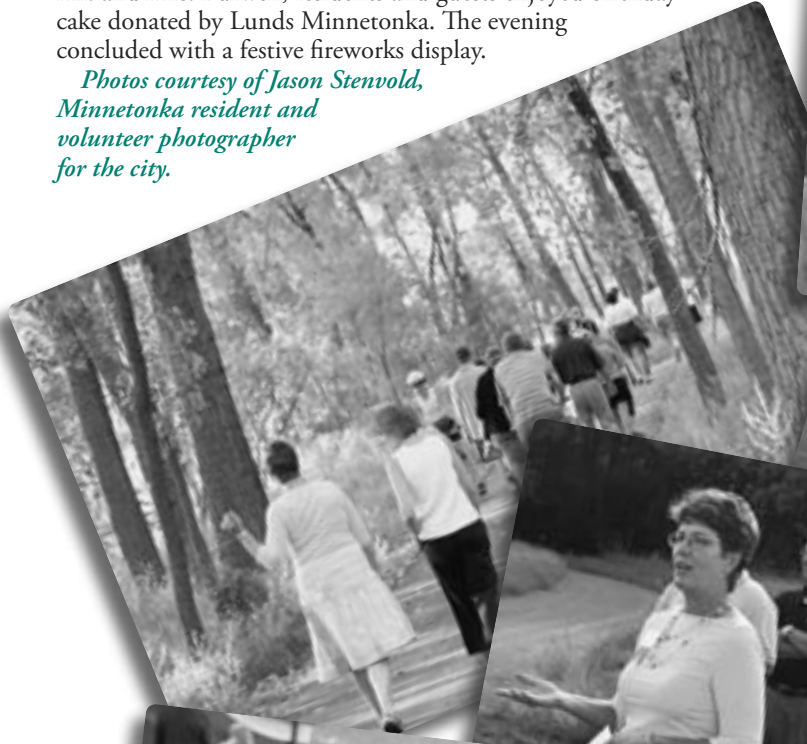
MINNETONKA'S UNIQUE CHARACTER comes from the individuals, organizations and businesses that contribute so much to the community. To recognize and celebrate these contributions, the city of Minnetonka has created the Minnetonka Community Action Recognition Award program. This program is designed to recognize 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. ☺

Residents celebrate city's anniversary

HUNDREDS OF MINNETONKA RESIDENTS TURNED OUT TUESDAY, Aug. 22, to celebrate Minnetonka's 50th anniversary of incorporation as a village. After a short program emceed by City Manager John Gunyou and featuring Mayor Jan Callison, the Music Association of Minnetonka Orchestra and local actors portraying Mr. and Mrs. Burwell, residents and guests enjoyed birthday cake donated by Lunds Minnetonka. The evening concluded with a festive fireworks display.

Photos courtesy of Jason Stenvold, Minnetonka resident and volunteer photographer for the city.



Join the Williston Fitness Center

YOU'RE INVITED TO EXPERIENCE THE CITY OF MINNETONKA'S Williston Fitness Center! Sign up in September for an annual membership and receive two free guest passes and a chance to win four personal training sessions. There are never any initiation fees or start up costs! For more information, call (952) 939-8370 or visit the Williston Fitness Center, 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka.

Membership includes access to the following:

- five indoor tennis courts
- a basketball/volleyball court
- four baseball/softball batting cages
- a 25-yard swimming pool
- land and water aerobics classes
- weight machines, cardio equipment and free weights
- equipment orientation
- whirlpool and saunas
- personal training (for an additional fee) ☺

Seasonal/year-round recreation job opportunities

Gray's Bay

- **Marina Attendant:** The city of Minnetonka has a seasonal employment opportunity for a Gray's Bay Marina attendant. Primary responsibilities include: pumping gas, general cleaning and maintenance of grounds, and customer service. Working hours are primarily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., two to three weekdays per week through mid-October. Wage: \$7.25-\$8.25/hr. Call (952) 939-8379 for more information or to apply.

Youth Programs

- **Water safety instructors and aides:** Teach swimming lessons to area youth. Current WSI or WSIA, LGT, and CPRPR certifications required. Seasonal or year-round. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday evening hours and Saturday morning hours available at Hopkins West Junior High and the Williston Fitness Center. WSIA starts at \$8/hr and WSI starts at \$9.75/hr. Call (952) 939-8316 for more information or to apply.

Minnetonka Community Center

- **Building Supervisor:** Provide tours of rental rooms, meeting/banquet room setup and extensive customer service. This position is year-round; approximately 12-25 hours per week including two weekdays 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. and every other weekend. Wage: \$8-\$10/hour. Call (952) 939-8390 for more information or to apply.
- **Event Staff:** Setup, teardown, cleaning, maintenance and customer service. Must be able to lift and maneuver up to 125 pounds. This position is year-round; approximately 6 to 20 hours per week including one to three weekday evenings (i.e. 8 to 11 p.m.) and alternating weekend nights/early morning (i.e. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.). Wage: \$15/hour. Call (952) 939-8390 for more information or to apply.

Ice Arena

- **Rink Attendant:** Primary job duties include public skate rink guard, high school game attendant, and extra staffing during youth hockey tournaments. Work hours are evenings and weekends. Wage: \$8/hr. Call (952) 939-8315 for more information or to apply. ☺

Annual Membership Rates

(Pay in full; or 50% down and 50% in three months)

Membership Type	Annual Resident Rate	Annual Non-Resident Rate
Adult (22 years +)	\$364	\$456
Dual	\$506	\$632
Family	\$584	\$726
Senior (60 years +)	\$254	\$320
Senior Dual	\$364	\$456
Student (15-21)	\$292	\$364

Three-Month Membership Rates

(Must be paid in full)

Membership Type	3-Month Resident Rate	3-Month Non-Resident Rate
Adult (22 years +)	\$132	\$172
Dual	\$182	\$232
Family	\$204	\$260
Senior (60 years +)	\$100	\$120
Senior Dual	\$132	\$172
Student (15-21)	\$110	\$138

Sign up for fall skating lessons

SIGN UP FOR FALL SKATING LESSONS WITH THE MINNETONKA ICE Arena's All Season Skating School!

Endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute, this lesson program offers instruction for beginner and advanced skaters, for both adults and children age 3 and up. Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays depending on the skater's age and class level. Take advantage of the Tuesday daytime tot program; Saturday morning hockey skating skills and power classes; Wednesday night adults-only classes; and much more!

Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for class information, fees, and a lesson brochure. A registration form also can be downloaded at www.eminnetonka.com. The 12-week fall session begins September 12, 2006, with registrations being accepted until 4 p.m. on September 11, or until classes are full. ☺

Register now for adult volleyball, basketball

TEAM REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL AND winter league play. Adult five-player basketball is played on Wednesday evenings. Adult volleyball includes men's, women's, and co-rec leagues, with matches scheduled four nights a week. For a registration form, call Recreation Services at (952) 939-8354. Space is limited in each activity and team registration has started. ☺



2006 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Special one-day drop-off

Minnetonka residents may drop off the materials listed below. The charge for dropping off each item, if any, is listed in parentheses.

- **Air conditioner or water softener (\$20)**
- **Appliances (\$12 each)**
Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cooktop, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier, dehumidifier.
- **Batteries (No charge)**
All car, truck, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6- and 9-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).
- **Carpet & padding (\$1/sq. yd. for carpet and \$1/sq. yd. for padding)** Determine the square yards of carpet or size of the room the carpet came from. Roll carpet and tape or tie rolls. Rolls of carpet must not exceed six feet in length or 12 inches in diameter.
- **Copier or fax machine (\$35)**
- **Electronics (There is a charge for consumer electronics: \$1 — any item, including TVs up to 32"; \$5 — TVs larger than 32")** Television, stereo console, computer, printer, monitor, radio, or VCR.
- **Fluorescent lamps (No charge)**
Up to ten fluorescent lamps will be accepted per vehicle. No lamps will be accepted from businesses. Please transport lamps in a manner to avoid breakage. Do not tape lamps.
- **Furniture:** Chairs (**\$5 — small, \$10 — large**); loveseat (**\$15**); couch/sofa (**\$20**); hide-a-bed (**\$30**); sectionals, dressers, chests, tables and other furniture (**\$5 and up depending on size**)
- **Lumber (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)** No railroad ties or concrete.
- **Mattresses and box springs:** Single or twin size (**\$8 per piece**); double, queen or king (**\$12 per piece**)
- **Propane tanks:** Small (**\$1**); Large — over a two-pound tank (**\$6**)
- **Scrap metal — clean (no charge)**
Clean scrap metal means all plastic, rubber, wood, concrete and hazardous

Saturday, Sept. 16

8 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.
East entrance by recycling center

materials must be removed. Clean scrap metal includes pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.

- **Scrap metal — dirty (\$5)**
For example, bikes with tires, lawn chair with webbing, barbecues or lawn mower with wheels and/or non-metal parts still attached. All engines must be drained of oil and gas. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers or other large items.
- **Tires:** Car, trailer or light truck (**\$3 each**); tires on rim (**\$5**); tractor or truck tire on split rim (**\$20**)
- **Toilets and non-metal sinks (\$5 each)**
- **Windows/doors (\$2 minimum, based on \$25/cubic yd.)**

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka.

Labor Day delays recycling collection

The Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 4, will delay recycling collection by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection Tuesday, Sept. 5. Residents east of I-494 will have collection Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Free wood mulch available to residents

Free wood mulch is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in a bin on the east side of Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Please bring your own containers and hand tools for loading. For more information call (952) 988-8400.



NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please note: There will **not** be a charitable organization at the Special Drop-off accepting clothing and household goods.

Local charitable organizations that accept clothing and household goods include the following:

- **Bethesda Thrift Shop**
913 Mainstreet, Hopkins
(952) 939-0988
- **Goodwill Industries**
1025 Hill Street, Hopkins
(952) 935-2760
- **ARC Hennepin—Carver**
Pickup route information
(612) 866-8820
- **Value Village Thrift Store**
2751 Winnetka Ave, New Hope
(763) 544-0006
- **Vietnam Vets**
Pickup route information
(651) 778-8387

For more information, call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 or visit www.eminnetonka.com.



2006 brush drop-off program

The 2006 Minnetonka brush drop-off site, located at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd., is open Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **The brush drop-off site will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for Labor Day.**

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency is required.

Please note: trash, metal, concrete, lumber, fences, or wood scraps are not accepted. **Do not** bring these materials with your load of brush. **Do not** put grass, loose leaves, dirt, or sod in with the brush pile. Find the appropriate disposal option for the unacceptable items.

No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services. Brush drop-off will end November 18, 2006. Please call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430 for more information.

 **2006 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE**

Year-round HHW drop-off sites

Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent drop-off facilities:

1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington
8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park
There is no charge to drop off residential HHW.

Facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

A new policy effective March 1, 2006, limits the annual quantities of materials dropped off or picked up. For more information visit www.hennepin.us or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

Household hazardous waste includes such items as paint, stain, thinners, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, gasoline, used motor oil, oil filters, aerosol cans, fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats, switches and

thermometers containing mercury, rechargeable appliances and batteries.

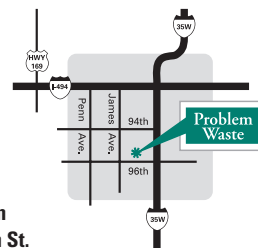
Also accepted for no charge are consumer electronics (TVs, radios, stereos, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, computers, monitors and printers).

Household appliances (microwaves, water heater, stove, freezer, washer, dryer, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

Minimum charge for loads of junk (only at Brooklyn Park site) is \$15. The fee and acceptable materials are determined by Hennepin County staff.

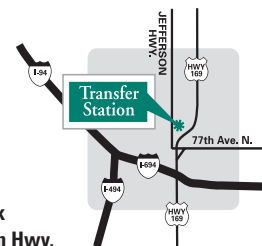
For more information call Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430, or Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777.

Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off



Bloomington
1400 W. 96th St.

Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off



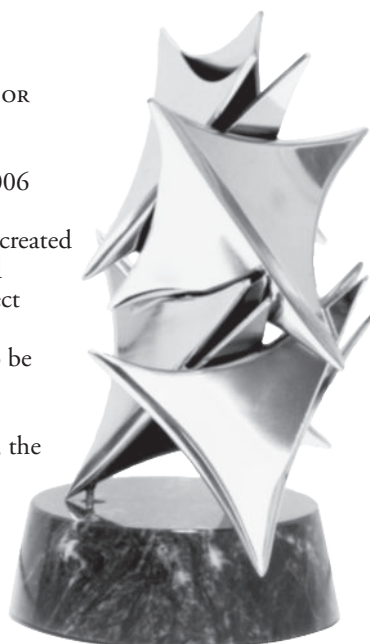
Brooklyn Park
8100 Jefferson Hwy.

Nominate someone you know for a Reflections Award

DO YOU KNOW OF AN INDIVIDUAL, BUSINESS OR program that consistently works to make Minnetonka a great community? Then consider nominating that person or organization for a 2006 Reflections Award.

The biennial Reflections Award program was created in 1997 to recognize individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions reflect positively on Minnetonka. A citizen committee reviews applications and recommends awards to be presented by the Minnetonka City Council.

To be considered for the 2006 awards, to be presented at a council meeting in January 2007, the city must receive a completed application by November 15, 2006. For an application, visit the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com; pick one up at city hall; or call Jacque Larson, community relations manager, at (952) 939-8207, and one will be mailed to you.



Volunteer Corner

Volunteer your time

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BECOME MORE involved in Minnetonka, consider volunteering your skills and time working with city staff on various projects. It's a great opportunity to learn more about Minnetonka's operations and services. Present volunteer opportunities include gardener, Juvenile Diversion Program leader; Minnetonka Mike mascot; Minnetonka Police Reserve and storm drain monitor.

For more information visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215.

Fall is the time to fix or establish your lawn

SUMMER IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, AND you might think your lawn care duties are almost done. However, not only is late August to mid-September the best time to plant grass seed, the establishment of a new lawn or repair of an old one will help prevent spring erosion and weed growth. Read on for more turf tips.

Sod or seed?

Sod works well for controlling erosion on slopes or other problem areas and results in an instant lawn with relatively few initial weeds. Disadvantages are the high cost and low shade tolerance. On slopes, sod should be installed horizontally then staked or stapled to prevent sliding. Use a roller after laying the sod to ensure good contact with the soil.

Seed allows for a greater selection of grass species that will tolerate different conditions and may provide a healthier lawn; however, it can require more initial effort to establish. Kentucky bluegrass provides a durable lawn in sunny areas, while fine fescues are more suitable for shady areas and require the least maintenance. Perennial ryegrass is suitable for high traffic areas, but requires more maintenance. Annual ryegrass germinates rapidly and can be used to stabilize the soil temporarily, but it will not grow back in the spring.

Choosing seed

Most bags of seed contain a mixture of species, so be sure to check the label and choose the right mix for your yard. The common varieties of bluegrass such as Park, South Dakota Certified, Kenblue and Common require less maintenance than most of the improved varieties. Annual ryegrass is often included in mixes to help control erosion until the perennial grasses are established. Mixes containing more than 10 percent of annual ryegrass should be avoided if you are hoping to establish a permanent lawn. Consider buying a low-mow mix from a seed supplier, which usually contains a mixture of fine fescues and requires less water, usually no fertilizer, and little or no mowing. For reseeding along the street edge, consider using a salt-tolerant mix. Perennial ryegrass tends to be more salt tolerant than other species, but be sure to use a winter-hardy variety.

Preparing the soil

Before installing sod or seed, prepare the soil. Compacted soil should be tilled. Add peat moss or compost to soil that has too much clay or sand—this will loosen the soil and improve water retention. Add a fresh layer of clean soil in areas affected by years of road or driveway salt. If the topsoil has been removed from construction or grading activity in your yard, consider adding a six- to eight-inch layer of topsoil, tilling some of the topsoil into the existing soil. Avoid tilling or changing the soil level under the dripline of your trees to prevent their eventual loss. Existing lawns with compacted soil should be aerated.

Installing seed

Apply grass seed according to the rate indicated for the mix and rake it lightly into the surface soil, no deeper than one-quarter inch. Applying a light layer of straw mulch will help control erosion and retain moisture. Installing an erosion control blanket on slopes will help retain the soil until the grass is established. Hiring a professional to hydroseed your lawn can minimize much of the labor of seeding a new lawn and increase your success rate.

Fertilizing

Before applying fertilizer, test the soil. Many yards already have sufficient nutrients to promote growth. Consider using an organic

fertilizer rather than a starter fertilizer containing phosphorus—organic fertilizers release nutrients slowly to stimulate growth, while also preventing nutrient loss and runoff. Avoid fertilizing fine fescues to prevent development of disease harmful to the grass. Also, mulching instead of collecting grass clippings provides nutrients and reduces the need for fertilizer. Setting the mower blade higher (3" is optimum, but no lower than 2-1/2") results in grass with less need for fertilizer and water and helps prevent weed growth.

Weed control


Now is the time to control broadleaf weeds—pull, dig, cut or spot treat existing weeds rather than using a general herbicide on the entire lawn. Organic weed controls are safer than traditional herbicides and more environmentally friendly. Most herbicides should not be applied to newly seeded lawns.

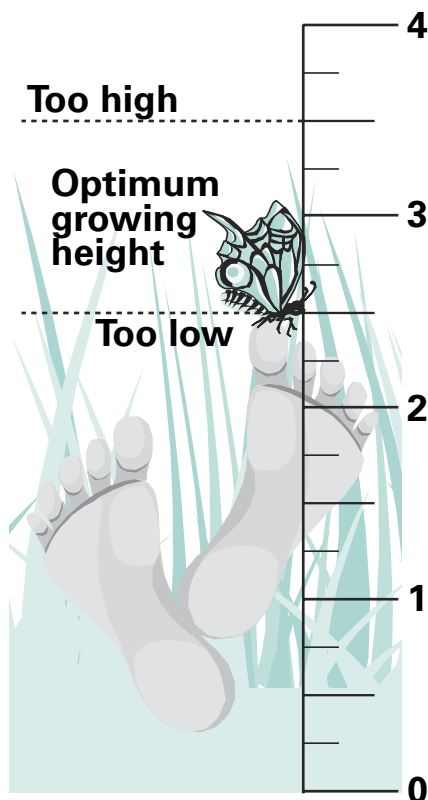
Watering

Whatever vegetation you choose, it is important to provide adequate water until the root systems have established. It is best to water between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. to prevent water from evaporating. Avoid watering late in the day or at night—keeping your yard wet overnight can encourage diseases harmful to the plants. Be certain to check the city Web site for information regarding watering restrictions.

Lawn alternatives

Give yourself a lawn care break by reducing the amount of turf in your yard. Consider planting a native wildflower garden, grass prairie or shrub woodland. Native vegetation has longer root systems than turf species, allowing for greater water absorption and erosion control. Short-grass prairie species reduce lawn care while maintaining an open yard. Native trees and shrubs attract desirable wildlife such as songbirds, while discouraging Canada geese. In addition, native plants are more adapted to the local climate and soils and help maintain Minnetonka's regional character. Finally, planting gardens of non-invasive species such as fruit trees, lilacs, hostas and tulips also reduce lawn maintenance.

For more information about establishing or repairing your lawn, call Minnetonka's natural resource division at (952) 988-8422. 

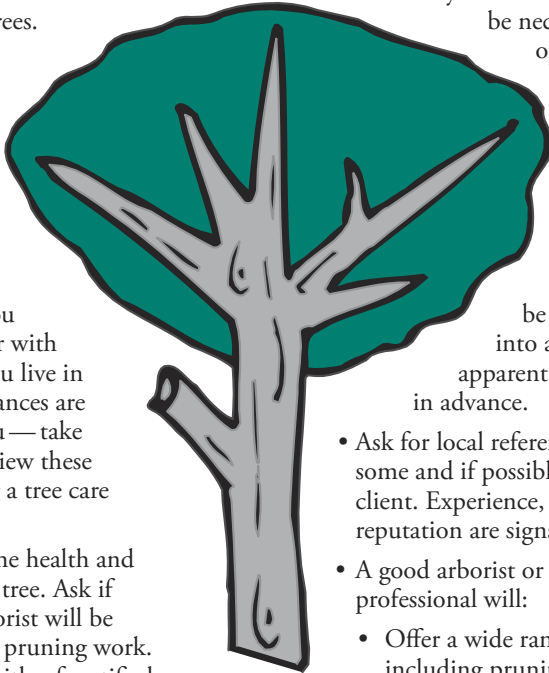


Treat your trees to a professional arborist

TREES ARE AN INVESTMENT, WHICH IS important to keep in mind when hiring an arborist to trim and/or remove trees.

Strategically planted trees can save on heating and cooling costs, reduce storm water runoff, attract birds, and add value to your home. If you are a homeowner with trees — and if you live in Minnetonka, chances are that includes you — take a moment to review these tips about hiring a tree care company.

- Think about the health and biology of the tree. Ask if a certified arborist will be overseeing the pruning work. Although the title of certified arborist does not always guarantee high quality, it does indicate a level of professionalism in the tree care industry.
- Think about safety and the risk of potential damage during tree work. The city of Minnetonka does not require tree companies to be licensed to work in the city. Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage (your property and your neighbor's) and workers' compensation. Then phone the insurance company to make certain the policy is current. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property or damage is done to your neighbor's property!
- Consider where the company is located. Beware of individuals who go door-to-door and offer bargains for performing tree work, especially if they are not based in the metro area. Most reputable companies are too busy to solicit work in this manner. Improper tree care can take many years to correct and may negatively affect the health of the tree or cause it to decline. The city of Minnetonka requires anyone soliciting door-to-door to acquire a permit from the city.



- Get more than one written estimate. Require full details of the work and costs of any additional work that may be necessary. Two or more opinions and written cost estimates are worth your time and efforts. Usually, estimates are free, but expect to pay a fee and always ask before setting the appointment. Never be pressured or rushed into accepting work by apparent bargains. Never pay in advance.
 - Ask for local references. Take a look at some and if possible talk to the former client. Experience, education, and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
 - A good arborist or tree care professional will:
 - Offer a wide range of services, including pruning, removal, fertilizing and others, not just tree removal.
 - Never use climbing spikes on a healthy tree unless it is being removed from the landscape.
 - Never recommend topping a tree. They will only recommend corrective pruning, such as drop-crotch pruning, after severe damage to the crown. Decorative pruning, such as pollarding or espalier, should begin on a young tree and be continued on a regular basis.
 - Never be eager to remove a healthy, living tree. Removal should be the last resort.
- Visit these sites to help find a professional arborist:
- Minnesota Society of Arboriculture at www.isa-msa.org
 - City of Minnetonka at www.eminnetonka.com
 - www.mntrees.org
- For more information, call the city of Minnetonka natural resources division at (952) 988-8400. ☺

Arts Center hosts open house Sept. 8–9

TO CELEBRATE its new name, the Arts Center on 7 will host open house events Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8 and 9. Families and community members of all ages are welcome to join in these fun events! The Arts Center on 7 is located at 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka, and is co-owned by the city of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka School District. Call (952) 401-5748 for more information.



ARTS CENTER ON 7

On **Friday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m.**, Canadian dance troupe “Motus O Dance Theatre” will perform two one-act ballets: *Petrouchka* and *Variations in Love*. This dance troupe is described as gymnastics meets ballet and jazz in a circus-ring atmosphere! Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling (952) 401-5748. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students/seniors. Join the cast at 9:30 p.m. for a post-show discussion and reception.

On **Saturday, Sept. 9**, visit Family and Friends Open House. All events listed below are free and open to the public.

10 a.m.

Juice, coffee and pastry reception.

10:30 a.m.

Special guests the “Silly Sisters” present “Flowered Fairy Tales,” an interactive children’s puppet show. Bring the whole family!

11 a.m.

Crafts for kids: make masks, crowns, and pinwheels; and take a backstage tour of the Arts Center on 7.

11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

2006–07 Arts Center on 7 Season Preview Performance

Mainstage acts include local actress Greta Grosch from the Church Basement Ladies; the Music Association of Minnetonka; the Minnetonka Community Theatre; the Minnetonka High School drama and music departments; and Minnetonka’s Curtain Call Club. ☺

Open House rides again on Oct. 10

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL HOST its annual Fire Department and City-Wide Open House Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

This popular event offers an informal and entertaining way to meet city staff and learn more about local government. Kids four and over can ride in city fire trucks, and everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with department tours, K9 unit demonstrations, strolling characters and entertainment.

See the October *Minnetonka Memo* for a complete schedule of events, or visit www.eminnetonka.com.



Correction:

THE AUGUST *Minnetonka Memo* reported the Park and Ride lot at I-394 and Hopkins Crossroad would be complete in September 2006. Metro Transit now reports the lot will open in early 2007.

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.

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.



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.

- Several Minnetonka children held a bike wash to raise money toward the purchase of badges for the police department K9 unit. The children presented the donation to Officer Ryan Piper and K9 Krieger in July (see photo).
- The Fourth of July weekend was a very active weekend for enforcement of Minnesota's driving while intoxicated laws. From Friday through Tuesday, Minnetonka officers arrested ten individuals for driving while intoxicated.
- Two individuals involved in a Ridgedale-area shopping spree with counterfeit credit cards were indicted in July by a federal grand jury. This case began with diligent work by Minnetonka Investigator Mark Christiansen and was further developed by the U.S. Secret Service for presentation to the grand jury.
- More than 6,300 Minnetonka residents participated in 112 National Night Out neighborhood events Tuesday, Aug. 1. The Minnetonka Police Department thanks the following Minnetonka businesses for their donations to this year's event: Lunds; Target; Davanni's; Coldstone Creamery; and Cub Foods. Earlier in the day, the Minnetonka Police Department hosted an ice cream social for senior citizens, with Chief Joy Rikala answering a number of public safety-related questions. ☺



Minnetonka residents (from left) Sam Flemmer, Zach Selcke and Rachel Adamac held a bike wash this summer to raise money toward the purchase of badges for K9 Krieger, pictured here with Officer Ryan Piper. Also helping to raise money was Anthony Selcke, not pictured.



Back-to-school safety

ALONG WITH PACKING LUNCHES AND organizing backpacks, don't forget to review safety tips with your student before the first day of school! Here are a few reminders:

Riding the bus

Riding a school bus is safer than riding in a car, but even so, last year approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries occurred as students were entering and exiting the bus. Remember these bus safety tips:

- Wait for the bus away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When exiting the bus, walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember the bus driver can see you best when you are a distance away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, but not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!

Walking and Biking to School:

Young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisionmaking situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few tips to smooth the way:

- Walk with a buddy.
- Obey all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard. Never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Wear reflective material or bright clothing, which makes you more visible to street traffic.

Riding in a car

You might have heard that most traffic crashes occur close to home—and it's true.

- Passengers are four times more likely to be seriously injured or killed if ejected from the vehicle in a crash. Safety belts lower your risk of injury by 45 percent and are the best form of protection you have in a crash.
- Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and small children in child safety seats. The Minnetonka Police Department provides free car seat safety checks—call (952) 939-8500 to schedule an appointment. ☺

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

September
2006

Call (952) 939-8200
for more
information.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	4	Labor Day, city offices closed
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	6 Park Board, 7 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Primary Election, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	14 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							19 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
							20 Joint meeting of Minnetonka and Hopkins city councils, 6:30 p.m.
							25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							28 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m. Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

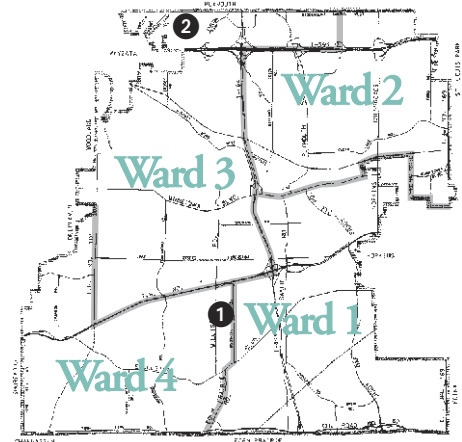
The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in September. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Side yard setback variance for an addition to the home at 14603 Woodhill Circle. (06036.06a)
- 2 Items concerning an extension of Ranchview Court and single-family homes at 15549 Ranchview Court. (06009.06a)

MVST question on the November ballot

AT THE NOVEMBER 7 GENERAL ELECTION, Minnesotans will have the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment to dedicate all of the revenue from the existing motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) to highway and transit improvements. Currently, only 54 percent of the MVST revenue is used for transportation purposes. Passage of the amendment would provide another \$300 million per year for highway and transit systems throughout the state.

In Minnesota, passing an amendment to the constitution requires a majority vote of all people voting. If a voter leaves this question blank on the ballot, that is considered a “no” vote. For more information on the proposed amendment, see: www.voteyesmn.org



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September 2006



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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) 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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