

Second annual Eco-Fair set for March 19

A RICH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT—including trees, wetlands and open space—is the hallmark of the city of Minnetonka, setting it apart from many of its suburban neighbors. The city and its residents are committed to protecting this rich heritage. However, knowing how to manage these various resources is not always easy.

If you want to learn more about nurturing and protecting the natural landscape that you own or live near, plan to attend Minnetonka's Eco-Fair Saturday, March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Exhibits open at 8:30 a.m., with concurrent workshops starting at 9 a.m. Workshops are 50 minutes except for the two about buckthorn, which are 90 minutes. Refreshments will be available. Best of all, the Eco-Fair is a free event! Workshops start at 9, 10:05 and 11:10 a.m. and at 12:15 p.m. Topics are listed below.

✿ Color Them Blue: Avoiding Green Ponds and Lakes (9 a.m.)

Steve McComas of Blue Water Science will discuss why Minnetonka's ponds and lakes are green and what you can do about it. Learn about duckweed control, herbicide use and innovative techniques for algae control.

✿ Native Plants for Home Landscaping and Gardening (9 a.m., 11:10 a.m.)

Native plants—they're well adapted to this area and grow with minimal care. Environmental firm Fortin Consulting will provide tips on finding and using native plants in your yard. You'll also learn a little about identifying and removing invasive species.

✿ Design Your Yard with Native Plants (10:05 a.m., 12:15 p.m.)

Environmental firm Fortin Consulting will help you design a landscape plan for your yard that incorporates native plants. Get the most out of this workshop by bringing a sketch showing the dimensions of your yard, as well as existing trees and plants.

Minnetonka Eco-Fair
Saturday, March 19, 2005
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

✿ Developing Backyard Habitat (10:05 a.m., 12:15 p.m.)

Teri de Lambert of Wild Birds Unlimited will discuss what to plant, what to feed, and what to provide for nests in order to draw birds and other wildlife into your backyard.

✿ Managing Urban Wildlife: Deer and Geese and Raccoons, Oh My! (10:05 a.m.)

Learn how to keep that woodpecker from destroying your siding; how to discourage geese from leaving their "calling cards" all over your lawn; and how to deter animals like skunks and raccoons from taking up residence in your backyard. And, discover the answer to this important question: Are there really plants that deer won't eat?

✿ Beating the Buckthorn Bully (90-minute session: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.)

Professional buckthorn buster Janet Larson will share her knowledge and experience in battling this rapidly spreading invasive plant. Learn tips on identifying, removing and controlling buckthorn. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

Eco-Fair continued on page 2

Tanglen water tower raised

ON THURSDAY, FEB. 10, CONTRACTORS sliced the 500,000-gallon Tanglen water tower from its stem and raised it approximately seven feet.

Located just south of Tanglen Elementary School in Minnetonka, the tower was built in 1967 and, along with the two water wells it was connected to, operated as an isolated system. It wasn't until the water was connected to the rest of this system that engineers discovered it was seven feet too short and was not compatible with the rest of the water system. As a result, the tower has been out of service for several years.

Now, the city of Minnetonka needs the extra water Tanglen can provide and so has opted to raise the water tower and make it functional again, at a fraction of the cost of building a new tower. Here's how the contractor accomplished the raising of the tower: first, the ball of the tower was cut from the stem. It was then raised through a system of hydraulic jacks and steel beams placed inside the stem of the tower (see photo). Finally, a new seven-foot section of steel was welded into the stem. □



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🌿 **Life After Buckthorn (90-minute session: 11:10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.)**

Gather tips from Janet Larson on restoring native plants once buckthorn has been removed. Learn how to make wise choices about new trees and shrubs to plant based on the existing trees, shade and soil at the former buckthorn site. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

🌿 **Trees Don't Need Watering and Other Tall Tales (9 a.m., 11:10 a.m.)**

If you've ever had a question about tree care, chances are it will be addressed in this fun, myth-busting presentation. Get the best scientific information available about tree care and protection – and learn how to apply your new found knowledge to your own yard.

🌿 **CSI: Trees (11:10 a.m., 12:15 p.m.)**

Learn how to conduct your own crime-scene investigation on your trees – and how to prevent these “tree crimes” the

next time you plant. If you've ever had a sick or dying tree and wondered what went wrong, this is a must-see presentation. Find out how to determine what is killing your tree, and how to prevent tree disease in the first place.

🌿 **Home Composting (9 a.m., 10:05 a.m.)**

Some homeowners have as many as 80 bags of leaves each fall. Composting could reduce that volume to the equivalent of 10 bags of soil for gardens. A master gardener will show you how it's done. Seminar attendees may register for a free home composting bin.

🌿 **Low-Impact Lawn Care (11:10 a.m.)**

Do you ever wonder how to create a great-looking lawn without spending a lot of time and money? A master gardener will show you a low-impact lawn care method developed by Hennepin Extension Service staff for Minnesota yards. It's good for the local environment and for water quality.

🌿 **Gardening Without Chemicals (12:15 p.m.)**

Non-chemical gardening uses an understanding of nature as a guide for gardening, living and caring for plants in our yards and gardens — without using synthetic chemical pesticides or fertilizers. The key in selecting between organic fertilizers and manufactured fertilizers is to know what you are adding to your soil and the environment in general. Learn how to make intelligent choices.

Join city staff and other knowledgeable consultants in learning more about our environment. Remember, it's free and no reservations are necessary. Come and get ready for spring!

For more information, call Jo Colleran, environmental resources coordinator, at (952) 939-8299 or email jcolleran@eminnetonka.com; or Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 or email at delstad@eminnetonka.com. □

Burwell House tour guides needed



TOURS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN interpreting the historic Charles H. Burwell site to the public, and volunteers make this happen. Visitors frequently comment about the excellent tour experiences provided by Burwell guides.

Being a guide is a great way to become involved in the community and share this wonderful resource with others. If you enjoy people, have a love of history and would be available at least once a month during the tour season, this is the volunteer opportunity for you. Regular tours take place from June through September on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Special tours may also be scheduled by appointment.

Training and resource materials are provided. For more information, call Laura Ronbeck, administrative projects specialist, at (952) 939-8219. □

Water main flushing begins March 28

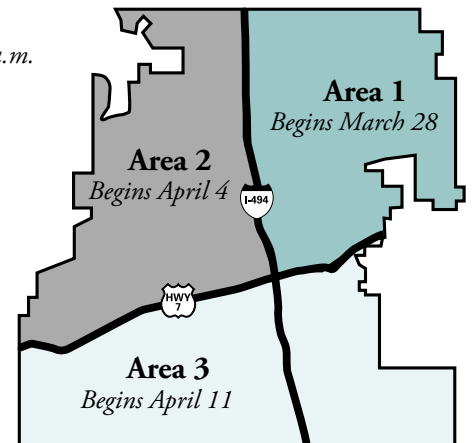
THE UTILITY DIVISION OF THE MINNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BE flushing water mains throughout the city from March 28 through April 15. Flushing will be done weekdays from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. in most areas (see map).

Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

- Ridgedale business area — *March 28, 3 to 7 a.m.*
- Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway — *April 4, 5 to 7 a.m.*
- Hwy. 7/101 area — *April 6, 4:30 to 7 a.m.*
- Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way — *April 14, 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. □



Minnetonka Boulevard / Hopkins Crossroad intersection improvements begin

HENNEPIN COUNTY RECENTLY AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, including installation of a traffic signal, to improve safety and traffic flow at Minnetonka Boulevard (Cty. Rd. 5) and Hopkins Crossroad (Cty. Rd. 73). Other work includes water main and sanitary sewer line upgrades, and the burying of overhead utility lines in the project area. Some work began in February. This intersection will be closed to traffic from mid-May through mid-October, 2005. Detours will be posted as work proceeds. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com (click on Hot Topics, then Projects). □

2005 Seasonal and Summer Employment Opportunities

Recreation Services Seasonal, Summer and Year-Round Jobs (952) 939-8203

Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services offers many part-time jobs throughout the year. Recruitment and staffing for spring and summer jobs is currently taking place — it's never too early to apply!

To apply, a completed city application form must be submitted. For an application form call recreation services at (952) 939-8203 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or download an application and apply online at www.eminnetonka.com (click on Inside City Hall, Employment, Seasonal/Temporary). Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

• Aquatics Program

Seasonal or year-round — Hopkins West Jr. High and Williston Fitness Center.
For more information, call Sara at (952) 939-8372.

Water Safety Instructors: Current WSI, LGT, CPRPR certification required. M–F days or evenings. Start at \$9.50/hr.

WSI Aides: Current WSI, LGT, CPRPR certification required. Days or evenings. Start at \$7.70/hr.

• Williston Fitness Center

Free fitness center membership for employees. Year-round employment.
For more information, call Sara at (952) 939-8372.

Childcare: Bring your kids to work. Dependable individuals to provide age-appropriate, non-structured activities for children six months to eight years. Day shift: 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Evening shift: 4:15 to 7:30 p.m. \$7.50 – \$8/hr., 6 – 18 hrs/wk.

Service Desk Attendant: Customer service, answer phones, and reservations. Days, evenings and weekends. \$7.25 – \$8/hr. 5 – 25 hrs/wk.

Building Supervisor: Cleaning, light maintenance, customer service. Evenings and weekends. \$8 – \$9/hr.

Land Aerobics Instructor: Experience required. Weekday evenings. Start at \$17/hr.

Water Aerobics Instructor: Experience required. Water arthritis certification preferred. Weekday & Saturday mornings. Start at \$17/hr.

• Gray's Bay Marina

April through November 1 — weekdays, evenings, weekends and holidays. *For more information, call (952) 939-8390.*

Facility Attendants: Customer service, dispense fuel, maintain building and grounds. \$8 – \$9.50/hr.

Coordinator: Same duties as facility attendants plus scheduling staff and covering shifts. \$10 – \$12/hr.

• Park Attendants

For more information, call (952) 939-8390.

Minnetonka: Glen Lake Park (includes Skate Park), Lone Lake Park and GroTonka — Days, evenings, weekends & holidays. Glen Lake Park (May – October); Lone Lake Park/GroTonka (May – Labor Day). \$7.50 – \$8.50/hr.

Hopkins: Valley Park and Burnes Park — Mature and responsible position. Afternoons, evenings, and weekends. Weekends only in May; seven days a week, May 28 – Labor Day. \$7.50 – \$8.50/hr. 25 – 35 hrs/wk.

• Youth Programs

Playground Leaders: Monday – Friday, \$7.50 – \$8.25/hr.

T-Ball Instructors: Days/Evenings, \$7 – \$8.25/hr.

Soccer Officials Needed: (Training provided.) Saturdays and weekday evenings, September and October, \$9.50 – \$16.50/game.

• Youth Adult Programs

Tennis Instructors: Prior teaching experience desired. Days and evenings, flexible schedule. Begin June 16 (eight weeks). \$8 – \$12/hr.

• Beaches and Swim Program

June through August – Every day, hours vary from 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. *For more information, call Jenny at (952) 939-8374.*

Lifeguards: LGT/CPR certification required. Start at \$8/hr.

Concessionaire and Gate Attendants: Start at \$7/hr.

Beach Maintenance: Maintain buildings and grounds, \$7.50/hr.

Beach Coordinators: Excellent customer service, staff scheduling, 18-plus years old. \$10.50 – \$14/hr.

Public Works Summer Jobs (952) 988-8400

All Minnetonka Public Works seasonal positions start at \$9.45/hour with a year-end bonus available. Flexible scheduling is likely, with all employees working 40 hours per week. Some positions will require working on weekends.

To apply, a completed city application form must be submitted. To obtain an application form, call the JobLine at (952) 939-8212 or download an application and apply online at www.eminnetonka.com (click on Inside City Hall, Employment, Seasonal, Public Works). Applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

• Water & Sewer Utility Maintenance

Three positions: Duties include hydrant/equipment painting, maintenance of water/sewer system, mowing, landscape work and maintenance of the sanitary collection system.

• Park Maintenance

Thirteen positions: Duties include mowing; trail, landscape and athletic field maintenance; brush cutting; trimming; and various park improvement projects.

• Street Maintenance

Five positions: Duties include pavement maintenance, sign installation, brush and tree trimming, trail work, and miscellaneous drainage activities.



2005 Property Taxes

Many factors affect your property tax bill

The 2005 property taxes on your home are based upon your property's estimated market value in 2004 and the levies adopted by the city of Minnetonka, Hennepin County, and your local school district. However, a number of other important factors significantly affect the final amount you are billed.

Unfunded State Mandates

While the city of Minnetonka does not receive any general state aid like many other municipalities, the state of Minnesota has required the city to pay for the state's Market Value Credit (MVC) property tax relief program for the past two years. The state was scheduled to resume its responsibility for funding this \$800,000 program beginning in 2005, but the governor's budget proposes extending the unfunded mandate. As a result, the city has been forced to increase its levy 4.0 percent on top of the 0.5 percent increase needed for operating costs and the 2.3 percent required for debt service on the park bonds approved by voters in 2001.

Limited Market Value Phase-Out

The state is phasing out a program that artificially held down the market values of homes for many years. As a result, 60 percent of Minnetonka homeowners will see a greater increase in their property tax bills as the value of their properties catches up to their actual market value. The program will not be completely phased out until 2008.

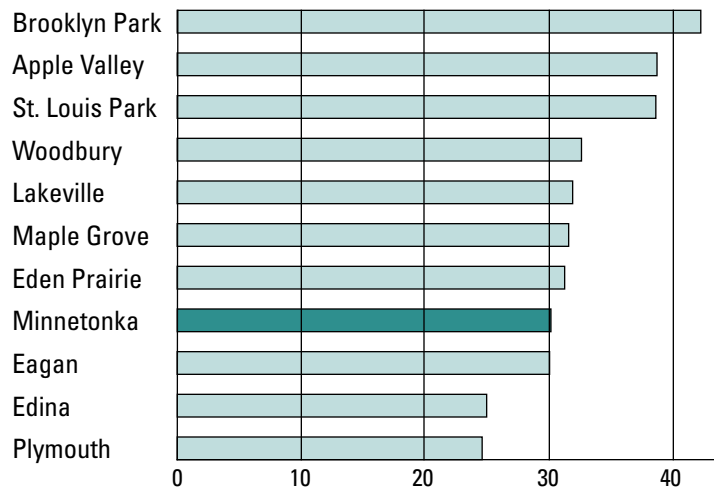
Shifting Tax Burden

Over the past decade, property tax burdens have shifted from commercial to residential properties as a result of state law changes. This trend was accelerated by the recent economic recession when the value of residential properties grew more rapidly than commercial properties.

Quality Services at a Reasonable Price

The city of Minnetonka provides a fuller range of municipal services than many other cities, and does not use special assessments to fund road and other improvements. Nevertheless, the city's tax rate remains among the lowest of comparable metro cities. Our residents continue to receive the quality of services they have come to expect, and at a reasonable price.

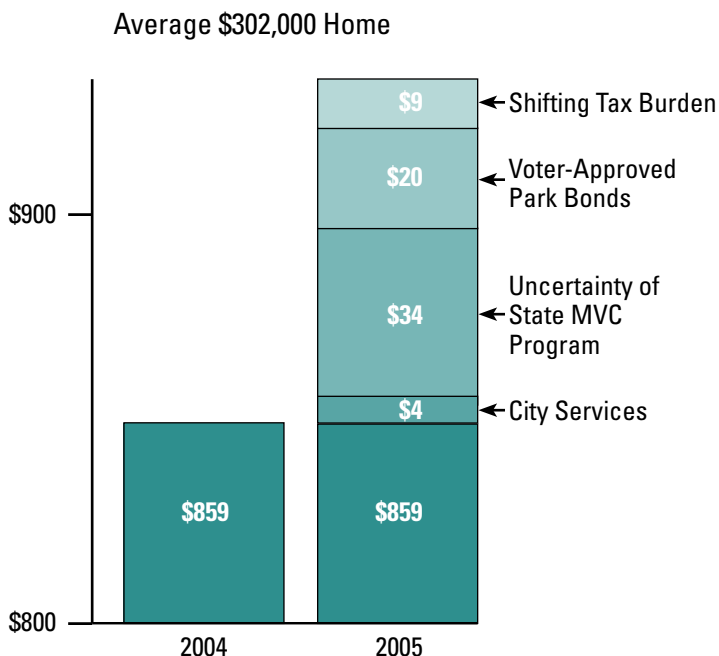
City 2005 Tax Rates*



* Proposed 2005 tax rates, except for Minnetonka

Please note: Minnetonka does not use special assessments for improvements.

City of Minnetonka Tax Bill



Looking for a way to pay your taxes?

IF YOU ARE A RETIRED HENNEPIN COUNTY HOMEOWNER looking to work off some of your property tax burden, the Retired Citizens Property Tax Program may be the answer. The program, established in 1993 by the Board of County Commissioners, allows retired Hennepin County homeowners to work off the total property tax on their primary residence by working in a variety of temporary positions at Hennepin County. The hourly wage is \$8.50, and all money earned is taxable income. Participants receive an actual paycheck for hours worked rather than a reduction in their property tax statement.

Eligible applicants will be matched with job orders from Hennepin County departments in need of temporary help. The majority of job openings are in downtown Minneapolis, although positions may be available in suburban locations. Examples of typical job duties include labeling and stuffing mass mailings; filing and alphabetizing; mail distribution; photocopying; short-term childcare; and driving. Positions are typically during weekday hours and allow for flexible schedules. Full- and part-time hours are available.

For more information call (612) 348-6297 or email hr.dept@co.hennepin.mn.us.

2005 Market Value Notice

(Your market value notice applies to property taxes payable in 2005.)

How is market value determined?

The Minnetonka Assessing Division maintains records for every property in the city. Adjustments are made to the market values of most properties, based on actual real estate sales from the past year for comparable properties. Approximately one-fourth of the properties are physically inspected each year, and adjustments to these are made based on the results of that inspection. Market value adjustments are also made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements.

What if I don't agree with the market value set for my property?

If you have questions or concerns about your market value notice or the assessment process, please call the Minnetonka Assessing staff at (952) 939-8200. The staff can review its property records and sales information with you.

Based on this discussion and review, the appraiser may or may not make a change to your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal.

How does the appeal process work?

The value subject to appeal is the estimated market value, not the limited market value. Two avenues of appeal are available. Property owners may appeal directly to the State Tax Court. More common, however, is an appeal through the local Board of Review, and if desired, then to the Hennepin County Board of Equalization.

The Minnetonka City Council convenes each year as the local Board of Review and has local real estate professionals serve as its advisors. To make an appeal to the local board, you should first discuss your property's market value with the Minnetonka Assessing staff. After that discussion, you may make an appeal to the local Board of Review by April 1 simply by asking that your property be listed for appeal. However, it is important to know that the local and county boards have the authority to raise or lower an appealed market value.

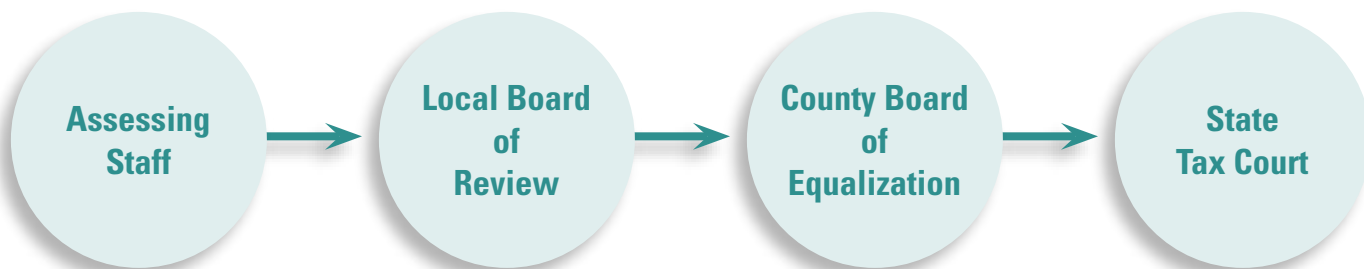
Remember, if you have questions or concerns about your property's market value or about the assessment process, please call the Minnetonka Assessing staff at (952) 939-8200.



In early March, Minnetonka property owners will receive their 2005 market value notices. Four value amounts appear on the notices:

- Estimated Market Value**
The assessor's estimate of the total market value of the property.
- Limited Market Value**
This "caps" the value on properties where the 2005 value increased significantly over 2004. State law provides for value increases to be capped at 15 percent. The value of new improvements is excluded from the cap. Only 35 percent of residential property is still subject to the limited market value law, as it continues to be phased out.
- Qualifying Improvement Value**
This figure shows that portion of the value of improvements made to an older home under the former "This Old House" law.
- Market Value Subject to Taxation**
This is the net taxable value of the property. For many homeowners, this amount will be the same as the limited market value, not the estimated market value.

Market Value Appeals Process





2005 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Recyclable material can be put into one of the following two groups:

Do not mix the loose paper products and loose containers in the recycling bin.

1 Newspaper, miscellaneous paper items, and corrugated cardboard

Paper includes the following: Newspaper and all colored comics and ad supplements; glossy magazines and catalogs; direct mail advertising (junk mail); letters, bills, receipts and envelopes; school and office paper; hard- and soft-covered books; telephone directories; toy, gift, shoe and tissue boxes and tubes; laundry detergent boxes; beverage carriers (pop, water, beer); and dry food packaging (cereal, cracker, cake, chip, pasta etc.).

Remove all product liners and flatten boxes. Shredded paper is accepted, in a paper bag only.

Place the acceptable paper into a paper grocery bag and set out in or next to the blue recycling bin. Newspaper may be placed in a separate paper bag; bundled; or mixed with the other paper products.

Corrugated cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed next to the recycling container. No minimum size is required. Small pieces of cardboard can be placed in the bag with miscellaneous paper.

2 Glass bottles and jars, metal cans (includes aluminum foil and foil trays), and plastic bottles with a neck

Rinse all containers until clean. Discard all plastic caps, tops, lids and pumps. Place containers loose into the blue recycling bin (mixed together) or into paper grocery bags. Place bags in or next to the blue recycling bin.

Only plastic bottles with a neck are accepted! Throw all other plastic items (trays, bags, tubs, caps, covers, lids and pumps) in the garbage.

Telephone directories

Old telephone directories may be placed in paper grocery bags with the other paper products. Please **do not** use the plastic bag the directories are delivered in, as plastic bags are not accepted in the curbside recycling program. Directories also are accepted at the Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-Off Center. Plastic bags may be thrown in the garbage or dropped off at Byerly's, Cub Foods or Lunds as part of their plastic bag recycling program. For more information on plastic bag recycling, visit: www.itsinthebagmn.org.

Recycling Hints

Remember, not everything is accepted for recycling.

The materials accepted in the recycling program are products wanted by industries as feedstock to make new items. Contamination by items that are not accepted for recycling is a problem. Placing unacceptable materials in your recycling bin is like throwing a bright red towel in with a load of white laundry — it ruins the whole effect!

The following materials are **not** accepted for curbside recycling or at the drop-off center. Throw these materials into your garbage!

- All paper milk or juice cartons or drink boxes
- All plastic items (bags, toys, tubs, trays, pots, pails, packaging peanuts, medicine containers, plastic bottles that contained motor oil or chemicals), **except** for bottles with a neck
- Waxy or food-contaminated corrugated cardboard boxes (i.e., home delivery pizza boxes)
- All ceramics, ceramic liquor bottles, light bulbs, mirrors, window glass, plate glass, auto glass, glass or ceramic glasses, plates, bowls or other dishes or glass cookware
- Kitchen and bathroom paper products (food wrap, paper towels, tissues, plates, cups, napkins, coffee filters, etc.)
- Gift wrap or wallpaper
- Photographs, slides or carbon paper
- Non-corrugated packaging such as pizza boxes, and packaging for all refrigerated or frozen foods (i.e. frozen entrees or waffles, cream cheese or butter boxes, yogurt containers, etc)
- Aerosol and paint cans, household scrap metal (pots, pans, etc.)

Curbside Collection Tips

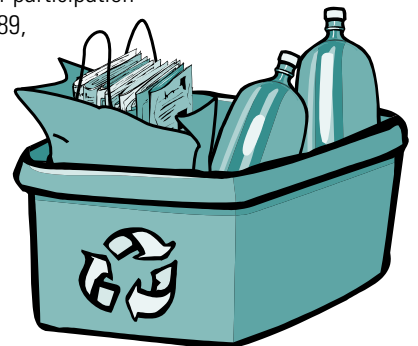
Storage of recycling and garbage containers: Garbage and recycling containers must be stored out of public view except for the evening before and the day of collection. (City of Minnetonka Ordinance Number 835.015.7)

Set-out time and missed pickup: Recycling materials should be at the curb by 7 a.m. the day of collection. If your recycling is set out before 7 a.m. and not collected by 6 p.m., let us know by noon of the following day. Please leave a message on the 24-hour recycling hotline at (952) 939-8202 or call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 during business hours.

Collection day: Recycling collection for residents west of I-494 is on Mondays. Residents east of I-494 have recycling collection on Tuesdays.

Recycling holidays: In 2005, only two holidays change recycling collection: Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) and Labor Day (Monday, September 5). These holidays will delay recycling one day.

Thank you for recycling — your participation does make a difference! Since 1989, Minnetonka residents have recycled 85,607 tons of recyclables. For more information about recycling, contact Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 or email delstad@eminnetonka.com.



Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-Off Center

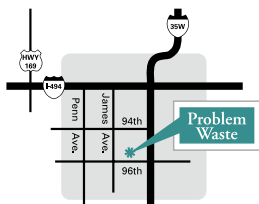
The Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-Off Center is located in the southeast corner of the Minnetonka Public Works Facility, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. Look for the cream-colored wood sign by the east driveway at Public Works and enter using the driveway next to the sign. Green recycling drop-off containers are to the right as you enter.

The Minnetonka-Hopkins Recycling Drop-off Center accepts the same materials as the curbside program and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Disposing of household hazardous waste

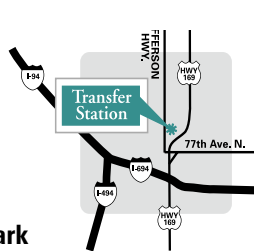
Household hazardous waste is accepted at Hennepin County sites located at 8100 Jefferson Highway in Brooklyn Park and 1400 West 96th Street in Bloomington. These facilities are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays until 8 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Facilities are closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. For 24-hour information, call (612) 348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us (click Environment, Property and Transportation tab). Hennepin County does not accept hazardous materials from businesses, including home businesses and non-profits. For more information call Hennepin County or Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217.

Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off

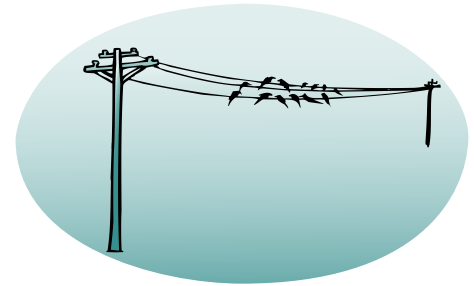


Bloomington
1400 W. 96th St.

Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off



Brooklyn Park
8100 Jefferson Hwy.



Electric customers to pay extra \$2 per month

BEGINNING IN MAY, BOTH RESIDENTIAL and commercial Xcel Energy customers in Minnetonka will pay an additional \$2 as a franchise fee in their monthly electric bills.

Approved by the Minnetonka City Council at its meeting on Feb. 14, 2005, the electric franchise fee will pay primarily for the burial of overhead utility lines along major roads in Minnetonka. This project, discussed and studied for several years by the council and city staff, is in keeping with Minnetonka's community vision and strategic goals for maintaining and improving the city's visual image along major road corridors.

Two line-burial projects are set for this spring:

- County Road 101 from north of Lake Street Extension to north of Minnetonka Boulevard
- Hopkins Crossroad and Minnetonka Boulevard intersection

Other roads are scheduled for overhead line burial within the next ten to 15 years.

The franchise fee may also be used for other improvements to the electrical facilities, but none are planned at this time.

Virg Herrmann named Spirit of Minnetonka winner

VIRG HERRMANN, CITY PROJECT engineer, was named winner of the Spirit of Minnetonka award at a recent Minnetonka city employee recognition event. This award is presented to an employee whose actions and accomplishments during the past year have embodied the city's shared values and who is viewed as the overall "Employee of the Year."

Virg has worked for the city of Minnetonka since 1968. As project engineer, his primary responsibilities include supervising city street and utility construction projects and coordinating use of the Geographical Information System (GIS) by helping other city departments understand how GIS can be used to complete jobs more intelligently and efficiently.

Virg also has worked closely with the Minnetonka Police Department to deal more effectively with traffic, a number-one complaint of residents. He has extraordinary

knowledge of the city and always approaches his job with genuine enthusiasm and a commitment to customer service.

Congratulations Virg!



Volunteers wanted

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MORE involved in your city, please consider sharing 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 juvenile diversion program leader; oral history interviewers/transcribers; utility billing assistant; and wetland health evaluation program participant. Watch for new seasonal positions to be added next month. Please visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com (click Volunteer Opportunities), for more details, or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. □

Calendar

City of Minnetonka

March 2005

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		

2 Park Board, 7 p.m.

7 City council, 6:30 p.m.

8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.; Caring Youth, 6:30 p.m., Citizenship Academy, 7 p.m.; Special Joint Council Meeting with Hopkins City Council, 8 p.m.

10 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

14 Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 p.m.

15 Citizenship Academy, 7 p.m.

19 Eco-Fair, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

21 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

22 Citizenship Academy, 7 p.m.

23 Volunteer Recognition Dinner, 6 p.m.

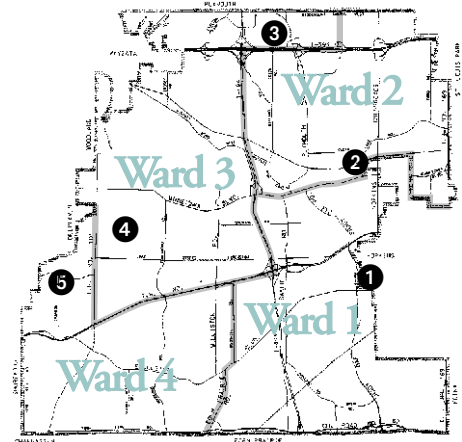
29 Citizenship Academy, 7 p.m.

31 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Site and building plan for additions at **11401 Excelsior Blvd.** (95057.05a)
- 2 Site and building plan review, with variance, for a salt storage building at **11522 Minnetonka Blvd.** (01056.05a)
- 3 Conditional use permit for an existing clinic at **13580 Wayzata Blvd.** (86052.05a)
- 4 Rear yard setback variance for an addition to the house at **3975 Brown Lane.** (05004.05a)
- 5 Preliminary plat and lot width at the right-of-way variance at **18724 Ridgewood Road.** (04089.04a)



HT Hot Topics HT

ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH HT are listed as Hot Topics on the city Web site, www.eminnetonka.com. Please refer to the site for additional information on these selected topics. For more information, call Minnetonka Mike, (952) 939-8586, leaving your name and address.

Correction: Please note the office phone number for Al Thomas, Minnetonka Ward 4 councilmember, has changed since the February edition of the *Minnetonka Memo* was published. His new office phone number is (651) 406-9111. All other contact information remains the same.



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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

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