

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
July 2005

Planning underway for city's 50th anniversary

A VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF RESIDENTS, business people, school district representatives and city staff is hard at work planning festivities to celebrate the city of Minnetonka's 50th anniversary of incorporation next year. Maybe you can help!

Photos needed

The events committee is planning a historical display and is seeking photos documenting Minnetonka's history since 1950. Photos of historical events that happened before 1950 would also be of interest.



If you have photos showing important parts of Minnetonka's history, such as these Minnetonka Mills businesses, please consider sharing them with the 50th anniversary committee!

Any photos you would like to share should be labeled with the following information: the location and date the photo was taken and identification of the subject and/or any people in the photo. All photos will be returned once they have been copied for use by the committee.

Memorabilia wanted

Also of interest would be any memorabilia from Minnetonka's past: streetcar or movie drive-in tickets, election buttons, maps or other items. Please send along identification of these items too, as well as any recollection you may have of the place or event associated with the item.

Please mail your photos or items to Jacque Larson, community relations manager, Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN, 55345; or bring them to city hall.

Please remember to include your name, address, phone number and email address along with your items, so that they may be safely returned to you.

Oral histories requested

Do you know of someone who has great recollections of historical events that took place in Minnetonka? We'd love to interview them. Please call Kathy Magrew at (952) 939-8218 or email kmagrew@eminnetonka.com.

Volunteers welcome

If you would like to help plan for the city's 50th anniversary, we have room for you! Get involved in events planning, fundraising, or publicity. Meetings are held once or twice a month at city hall, on weekday mornings at 7:30 a.m. — so you don't have to give up a lovely summer evening in order to participate! If you're interested in attending a meeting to find out more, call Jacque Larson at (952) 939-8207. □

Ask Minnetonka Mike!

MINNETONKA MIKE, THE CITY OF Minnetonka's online request system, is always standing by to help you with any questions, comments or concerns you have about your city. He asked for some space in this month's *Minnetonka Memo* to share some of the questions he's received, as well as the answers, that might be of interest to other residents.



Children at Play

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

We have lots of young children on our street. My neighbors and I think "Children at Play" signs should be installed so that motorists will be more cautious when driving through our neighborhood. Will the city do that?

Signed, a Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent:

I checked with our planning department, and they told me our sign guidelines state that motorists must be warned of unexpected hazards—and children on a residential street are not considered unexpected, since children are on nearly every street in the city. That's why the city does not install "Children at Play" signs on public streets.

However, because motorists would not be expecting to see a park or playground on every street, "Playground" signs are installed at each approach to a park.

If you are concerned about speeding cars in your neighborhood, remind your neighbors to obey the speed limit. My buddy McGruff the Crime Dog over at the police department tells me that more often than not, those violating the speed limit are your own neighbors—not drivers from other areas.

Let Minnetonka Mike know if you have a question, comment or concern about the city of Minnetonka! It's easy to set up an account. Just visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Minnetonka Mike Online Service Request System." Follow the directions to set up your account, then go ahead and submit your comment. □

An update on Parks Renewal progress

In 2001, Minnetonka voters passed a \$15 million parks and open space bond referendum. Half of the money was earmarked for the renewal of the city's 42 parks, with the other half to be used for open space preservation within Minnetonka. Four years later, many of the city's parks have been renewed, with new play equipment, internal trails, natural features and other improvements — all developed with the input of park neighbors and users.

The Park Board, an advisory committee of seven residents appointed by the Minnetonka City Council, has been integrally involved in the process as well, from attending the first neighborhood meetings, to hosting public hearings on the plans, to sending a representative to the council meeting where final plans are approved. Recently each member of the park board has also "adopted" several renewed parks and will be responsible for monitoring their ongoing condition and use.

Renewed parks include Beachside, Covington, Crane Lake, Ford, Gro Tonka, Libbs Lake Beach, Linner, McKenzie, Meadow, Mini Tonka, Orchard, Pioneer, Purgatory, Sunrise Ridge, and Victoria-Evergreen.

Below is an update on the status of the parks remaining to be renewed:

Big Willow, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Delayed due to Minnehaha Creek Corridor/Minnetonka Boulevard planning.

Boulder Creek, 5948 Stonybrook Drive

Work is scheduled to be completed at the beginning of winter 2005-06.

Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Work has begun, with completion scheduled for June 2006. (Please see related article on p. 3 of this newsletter.)

Elmwood-Strand, 3610 Elmwood Place

Construction set for fall 2005.

Glen Moor, 5700 W. Glen Moor Road

Construction is underway, with work scheduled for completion by mid-July, 2005.

Guilliam, 12101 Minnetonka Blvd.

Delayed due to Minnehaha Creek Corridor/Minnetonka Boulevard planning.

Hilloway, 12415 Hilloway Road

Plans have been approved and implementation of the plans is set to begin.

Jidana, 3333 Jidana Lane

Planning is completed, with construction work to be scheduled around summer day camp.



Summer program participants enjoy new play equipment at Meadow Park.

Junction, 12305 Excelsior Blvd.

Construction is underway and scheduled to be completed by mid-August, 2005.

Kinsel, 14017 Kinsel Road

Stormwater retention work is currently taking place. While this work is not part of the Parks Renewal process, it is necessary before Parks Renewal can begin at this location.

Knollway, 895 Horn Drive

Construction is underway, with work scheduled for completion by mid-August, 2005.

Lone Lake, 5624 Shady Oak Road

Water quality improvements are planned for fall 2005, with Park Renewal planning to begin at that time also.

Minnehaha Creek Headwaters, 16501 Gray's Bay Blvd.

Shoreland restoration work continues. Boardwalk construction will begin winter 2005-06, with completion by summer 2006.

Reich, 18601 Beaver Trail

Identification of the wetland borders, as well as city council review, is required before work can begin.

Spring Hill, 16714 Seymour Drive

Construction is underway, with work scheduled to be completed by mid-November, 2005.

Woodgate, 5090 Highland Road

Construction is underway, with work scheduled to be completed by mid-August, 2005.

Parks scheduled for future planning and construction are Glen Lake, Green Circle, Groveland, Lake Charlotte, Lake Rose, Mayflower, Mooney, Oberlin, Westwood and Wilson.

For more information about the Parks Renewal process, visit www.eminnetonkaparksrenewal.com or contact Perry Vetter, project and special events manager, city of Minnetonka, at (952) 939-8316, or pvetter@eminnetonka.com. □

A safety reminder for bicyclists and drivers

AFTER A LONG MINNESOTA WINTER AND a wet spring, we can all use a refresher in what motorists and bicyclists need to know to share the roadways and enjoy a safe summer.

Motorists, be aware that the law requires you to leave a safe distance of no less than three feet of clearance when passing bicyclists.

Bicyclists, you can travel no more than two abreast and you are required to ride as closely as possible to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Bicyclists also are required to obey all traffic laws while using the roadways.

Each year 900 bicyclists are killed in the United States, usually in collisions with motor vehicles. Seventy-five percent die of head injuries, 90 percent of which could have been prevented had the bicyclist been wearing a helmet. Bicyclists, avoid becoming a statistic by always wearing reflective clothing and a helmet.

Bicycles ridden at night must be equipped with a headlight and a rear red reflector. The Minnetonka Police Department is committed to making the roadways safe for everyone, so please help us to make this an accident-free summer. □

Minnetonka Community Theatre presents *Fiddler*

LAST SUMMER THE SOUNDS OF MARCHING bands filled the theater during *The Music Man*. This summer, the poignant sounds of a lone fiddler will fill the air as Minnetonka Community Theatre presents the popular musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, July 22 through Aug. 6.

Individual tickets are \$10 for reserved seating. For groups of 25, the cost is \$7.50 for reserved seating. Performance dates and times are: Fridays, July 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30, and Aug. 4, 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, July 31, and Wednesday, Aug. 3, at 1 p.m. Call (952) 401-5898 to purchase tickets.

The show will be performed in the ArtsCenter theatre, 18285 Hwy. 7 (on the campus of Minnetonka High School). For more information, visit www.eminnetonka.com. The ArtsCenter is a collaboration of the city of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka Public Schools, providing arts facilities and programming in the community. □

Work begins on the city's backyard

FOR MANY YEARS, THE "BACKYARD" OF the Minnetonka Civic Center campus — the area behind and to the north of Ice Arena B — has gone virtually unused by Minnetonka residents.

Now, under a plan approved by the Minnetonka City Council at its June 13 meeting, this area will be improved and the backyard opened for residents to use in a variety of ways.

Here are a few of the new and improved features residents will enjoy:

Athletic playfields

An athletic playfield large enough to accommodate multiple concurrent soccer or lacrosse practices will be installed north of Ice Arena B. For playfield users, permanent restrooms will be installed at the back of Ice Arena B. Playground equipment will be nearby for use by waiting siblings, players, and other young visitors to the area, including neighborhood children.

Canoe access

Minnehaha Creek winds through the back of the campus, but is now so well hidden that many people don't realize it's there. Improvements to the existing canoe launch as well as a new parking turnaround area will allow better access to the creek by residents.

Trails

A paved trail will wind around the playfield areas, while a woodchip trail will be maintained through the woods at the back of the campus. Future plans include installation of a boardwalk trail through the wetlands that are located on the east side of the campus.

Informal performance area

Taking advantage of a naturally occurring "bowl" in the landscape, overarched by a majestic oak tree, this small, informal amphitheater will provide a lovely background for performances by groups at Summer Festival as well as the Music in the Park series. The area, located near the new water treatment plant at the back of the campus, will be terraced and sodded to provide seating for guests, and a small stage for performers will be installed.

Safer roadway

The roadway that runs through the campus will be realigned and become a well-defined road throughout the campus, rather than merely a path through the parking lots. To improve safety, the plan includes better-controlled intersections as well as new directional signs pointing drivers to the various facilities on campus. □

Improved green spaces

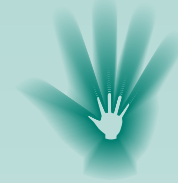
The landscaping disruption caused by roadwork throughout the campus will provide an opportunity to change the manicured, structured look of the campus green spaces to better reflect Minnetonka's natural beauty. Wide swaths of trimmed grass will give way to natural grasses and trees native to Minnetonka, including aspen, river birch, redbud, serviceberry, tamarack and ironwood. Some of this work has already begun, with many mature, existing trees moved away from planned construction areas and transplanted to other areas of the campus.

Demonstration rain gardens and infiltration areas will help facilitate proper drainage of water runoff throughout the campus, and may serve as a model for residents who are seeking a way to deal with wet areas on their own property.

Construction schedule

While some preliminary work was completed late this spring, work on the campus went into full swing in late June and is expected to be completed in early June of next year. The 2006 Summer Festival will serve as a "grand opening" of the new and improved campus, as events for the festival will be held at the back of the campus rather than in the city hall parking lot. □

Volunteer Corner



Volunteers welcome

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BECOME MORE involved with your city, consider participating in Minnetonka's volunteer program! Share your skills and time working with staff members on specific projects while learning more about the city and its operations and services. The city stretches its tax dollars, and you gain the satisfaction of giving back to your community! Volunteers can range in age from teens to older adults. For more information visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Volunteer Opportunities," or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215.

Current volunteer opportunities include: Hilloway Park restoration, history event staff, Juvenile Diversion Program leader, Williston Center maintenance, Minnetonka Mike mascot, oral history interviewers/transcribers, and storm drain monitor. □

Filings open for fall municipal election HT

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA WILL HOLD municipal elections this fall. The city positions that will be on the November 8 general election ballot are mayor and council-at-large, seats A and B. Filings for these offices opened Tuesday, July 5, and will remain open through Tuesday, July 19. Interested persons may file for these offices during regular city hall hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The filing fee is \$5.

To be eligible for office, candidates must be at least 21 years of age upon assuming office, and be a resident of Minnetonka for at least 30 days prior to the general election.

A primary election will be held Tuesday, Sept. 13, if more than two people file for any of these offices.

All three school districts (Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Wayzata) will have school board positions on the fall ballot. We do not yet know if there will be referendum questions. People interested in filing for school board positions must contact the district offices. District filings may also trigger a primary election.

For more information about the election process or filings call the city clerk's office at (952) 939-8218 or (952) 939-8219, or email kmagrew@eminnetonka.com or lronbeck@eminnetonka.com. □

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

July 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						

4 Independence Day,
city offices closed

11 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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

13 Joint Recreation Board, 6 p.m.

14 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

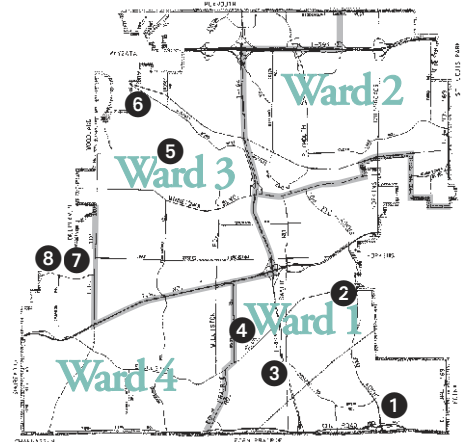
25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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 July. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Conditional use permit for a restaurant at **11000 Red Circle drive**. (87075.05a)
- 2 Two-lot subdivision, with variances, at **4928 Shady Oak Road**. (05026.05a)
- 3 Preliminary plat for a four-lot subdivision at **5516 Glenavon Road**. (no number assigned)
- 4 Side yard setback variance for a detached garage at **5030 Mayview Road**. (no number assigned)
- 5 Multiple variances to construct a new house at **3149 Lake Shore Boulevard**. (no number assigned)
- 6 Multiple variances to construct a new house at **2513 Bantas Point Lane**. (05029)
- 7 Sign setback variance for a monument sign at the intersection of **Ridgewood Road** and **Lindsey Lane**. (90019.05a)
- 8 Preliminary plat, with variances, for a three-lot subdivision at **18517 Ridgewood Road**. (05041.05a)



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.

2005 Fire Department and City-Wide Open House cancelled

DUE TO PLANNED CONSTRUCTION TO THE MINNETONKA CIVIC CENTER CAMPUS (SEE p. 3), the annual Fire Department and City-Wide Open House (including the photo contest) will not be held this October. The event will be back next year, so mark Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, on your calendar and plan to join us on the new and improved city campus!

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memo July 2005



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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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

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