

# minnetonka memo

A newsletter from the city of Minnetonka  
August 2005

## Police school liaison officers: making the connection

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOLS and police officers is not a new one. For nearly a century, police departments have worked closely with schools in coping with truancy, ensuring traffic safety and preventing child abuse. However, since the early 90s, police officers have become more closely involved than ever with schools, actually working inside the schools as partners with teachers, administrators and parents, and as positive role models for students.

The Minnetonka Police Department began placing police school liaison officers in schools in the late 1970s and continued through the early 80s, when funding gaps caused the service to be dropped.

In the early 90s, the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts saw a renewed need for this service, and so police liaison officers once more joined the schools.

Today, the Minnetonka Police Department provides six police school liaison officers, one each at Hopkins and Minnetonka high schools, Hopkins West and North junior highs, Minnetonka Middle School East, and at the Explore program, a District 287 school newly located in Minnetonka. Funding for the police school liaisons is shared between the school district and the police department.

"The primary responsibility of our police school liaison officers is to build positive relationships with students," said Captain Mark Raquet, Minnetonka Police Department. "Many of our school liaisons provide education through various programs; attend after-school activities; serve as coaches; and chaperone field trips in an effort to get to know students and for students to get to know police officers as people."

"The best part of the job is the chance to interact with teens in a positive setting, rather than meeting them when I'm issuing a speeding ticket or breaking up a party," said Officer Karen Thoele, school liaison officer at Hopkins High School. "By being in the school every day and attending school functions from the multicultural fair to prom, I've become a familiar face and students feel comfortable approaching me with questions or concerns."

However, liaison officers are still called upon to provide more standard police services at the schools. They serve as the first line in child

protection cases, helping to identify and investigate instances of child abuse. Officers also provide a safety presence at the schools, investigating criminal behavior and helping staff cope with student behavioral issues.

"We look for a very special set of characteristics in school liaison officers," said Sergeant Tim Mulcrone, an investigator and school liaison supervisor with the Minnetonka Police Department. "They must work well with a variety of interests, including school administrators, parents and the police department.

School liaison officers also must have the ability to walk the fine line between their ethical responsibility to

uphold the law and the public's tolerance for what is fair."

Minnetonka's school liaison officers attend specialized school resource officer training, which emphasizes three main areas of instruction: functioning as a police officer in the school setting; working as a resource and a problem solver; and developing teaching skills. Liaison officers also attend a variety of seminars throughout the year on topics such as recognizing and working with youth with emotional and behavioral disorders.

"The collaboration we have had with the Minnetonka Police Department has been outstanding," said Cyndie Hays, director of administrative services for Hopkins Schools. "The Minnetonka police school liaison officers are very service oriented. They value youth and are committed to understanding kids, families and school culture. The

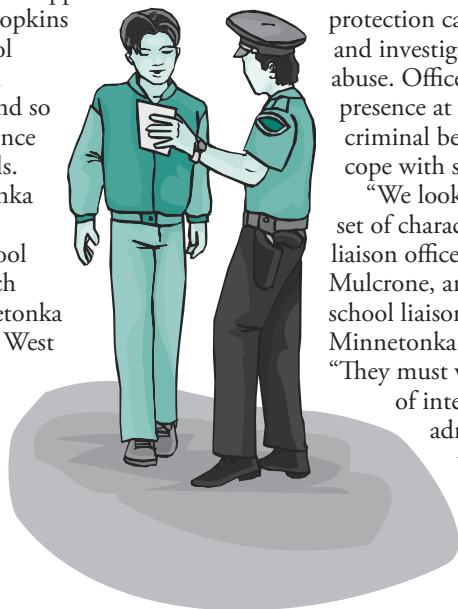
partnership benefits both the schools and the police, allowing police to solve community-based crimes more quickly

**"The Minnetonka police school liaison officers are very service oriented. They value youth and are committed to understanding kids, families and school culture."**

because students trust the officers; and allowing our schools to teach more effectively."

"Our Reduce the Use program has been more effective because we have joined forces with the police departments and have become pioneers in crime prevention at the schools, such as using K9s for drug detection," continued Hays. "That partnership has significantly increased our ability to intervene early and reduce the devastating effects of chemical abuse among our youth."

Minnetonka Police Department officers serving as police school liaison officers for the 2005-06 school year are Ed Bedore, Minnetonka High School; Mary Carlson, Minnetonka Middle School East; Mike Nelson, Dist. 287 Explore; Troy Pass, Hopkins West Junior High; Karen Thoele, Hopkins High School; and Aaron Wiemiller, Hopkins North Junior High. □



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# Citywide road revitalization

**D**ESPITE RECENT CITY EFFORTS TO step up road maintenance, we are losing ground. Year after year, road repair is consistently rated lowest among all city services in the annual survey of Minnetonka residents. In response, the Minnetonka City Council has approved a plan that will improve every Minnetonka street within the next ten years.



## How we got here

Recent winters have been hard on street surfaces, but the main reason the city has fallen behind on road repair is simple — lack of money. Available funding has not kept pace with rising construction and maintenance costs.

Consider this: ten years ago, the city was spending \$3 million annually on local road reconstruction — half from local property taxes and half from Municipal State Aid (MSA) — aid which comes from gas taxes. Today, the city is spending about \$2 million annually on local roads, all funded by local property taxes.

Making matters worse, the state has not raised gas taxes for 17 years, so the city's \$1.5 million MSA funding allocation has remained frozen for the past decade. In the past few years all of these funds have been required for local matches to county and state road projects, such as County Road 101, I-494, and others.

In short, the city has dropped from a \$3 million annual road maintenance program to a \$2 million annual program — when a \$4 million program is really needed to keep the city's roads in good repair.

In an effort to do more with less, Minnetonka has already introduced higher technology patching equipment; adopted new paving techniques; and deployed road crews more efficiently — but these are only stop-gap measures. Greater ongoing investment is critical to stop the deterioration and to ensure that Minnetonka's 250 miles of roads stay in good shape for years to come.

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## Road revitalization program

In July, the Minnetonka City Council approved a road revitalization program to respond to residents' growing concerns about road conditions. The program will use a two-pronged approach for stabilizing, fixing and maintaining city roads:

- **Thin overlay:** Begun as a pilot program in 2004 and 2005, thin overlay has proven to be a cost-effective method for stabilizing deteriorating pavement and prolonging the life of city streets by five to eight years. This unique program will be substantially expanded to cover every street in the city over the next decade.
- **Road reconstruction:** Complete road reconstruction is very expensive, so only a limited number of streets can be done each year. The worst roads will be scheduled within the next ten years, with thin overlay used to buy time until reconstruction of remaining streets can take place in the coming years.

## Paying for the program

It all sounds very expensive but when fully implemented, the road revitalization program will cost the average homeowner the equivalent of a fast-food meal — about \$6.75 per month in property taxes. And, unlike a hamburger and fries, the return on taxpayer investment will be quantifiable and long-lasting — sound, high-quality local roads for years to come.

The city council will decide in December, when the city's total property tax levy is set, how quickly to phase in the new road program. Here's how the funding will be allocated when the program is fully up and running:

- An additional \$600,000 will be budgeted each year for an intensive thin overlay program. This nearly triples the current budget for asphalt, and work will begin immediately with existing city crews.

## Paving the way: Royal Hills neighborhood

**E**ARLIER THIS SPRING, MINNETONKA Public Works completed thin overlay work in the Royal Hills neighborhood. One resident sent an email to the city, commenting on the paving work:

*"Thank you so very much for all of your efforts to repave our roads...what has been done looks beautiful! The first thing I wanted to do was go for run...I haven't done that in a good year with all of the holes! It was very nice to go running in my neighborhood again. I even see the neighbors out in the evenings and mornings for walks. [The paving] made a huge difference..."*



# program initiated this year



- An additional \$1.4 million will be allotted each year over the next decade for the reconstruction of MSA-funded streets. Roads in the worst shape will have the highest priority: Dominick Drive, Vine Hill Road, Ridgewood/Sparrow roads, Highwood Drive and Orchard Road.

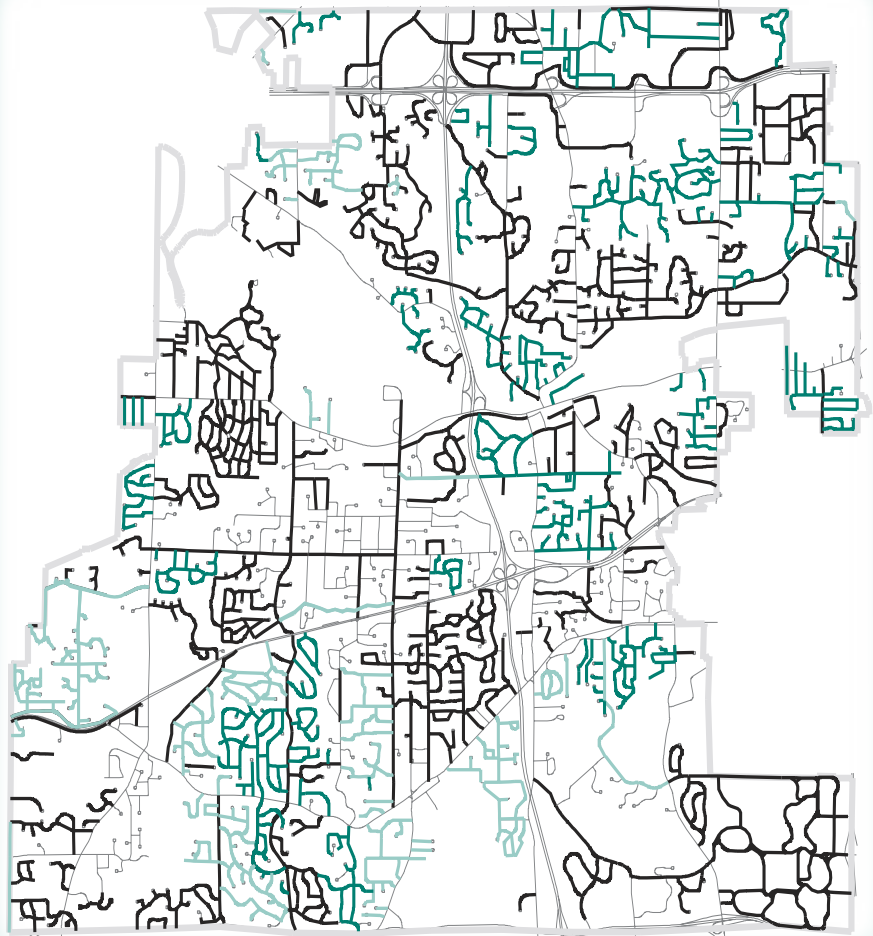
Once streets are stabilized over the next decade, the thin overlay program will be phased down to an ongoing maintenance mode. This will free up funding for additional road reconstruction — \$1.7 million annually from 2011 through 2015 and \$2.3 million thereafter.

The deteriorating condition of the city's roads is a problem that isn't going away. Without attention, city streets will only get worse — and more expensive — to fix. By investing in our road infrastructure, we are investing in Minnetonka's future as a livable, vital community.

### Defining road repairs

- **Crack sealing and pothole patching:** Pavement cracks and potholes are sealed each year with asphalt to temporarily prevent further deterioration of streets.
- **Thin overlay:** This process, places a one-and-a-half-inch thick layer of fresh asphalt over an entire road. The added thickness strengthens the road and extends its life by five to eight years, at a fraction of the cost of mill and overlay. It also improves safety by increasing the smoothness of the pavement, an essential factor in maintaining proper tire contact with the road.
- **Road reconstruction:** The road surface is completely removed down to the underlying soil, then a new surface is constructed, along with new curb and gutter. This is the most expensive form of road repair. □

## Road Revitalization Program



### City of Minnetonka Map Key

- ┆ 2005–2010 Thin Overlay
- ┆ 2006–2015 Local Street Reconstruction
- ┆ New, Reconstructed, Or Overlaid Since 1990

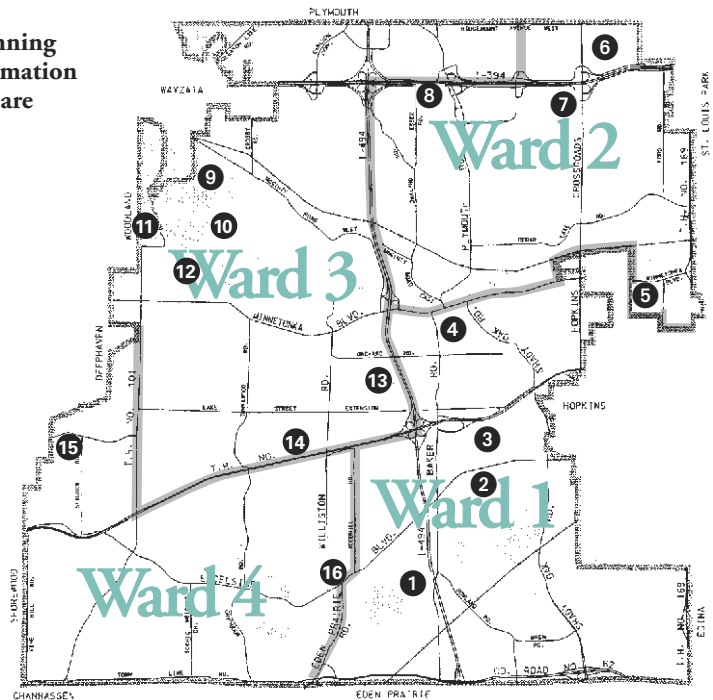




## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Preliminary plat to divide the existing property at 5516 Glen Avon into four lots.
- 2 Preliminary plat for a two-lot subdivision, with a front yard setback variance, at 4848 Valley Road. (89047.05a)
- 3 Side yard setback variance to build an addition to the existing two-stall garage at 4416 Briarwood Drive. (05037.05a)
- 4 Side yard setback variance for an addition to the existing home at 3617 Farmington Road. (05052.05a)
- 5 Lot area variance to build a new house on the existing lot at 3340 Chippewa Road. (05054.05a)
- 6 Buildable area, side yard setback and front yard setback variances for construction of a new home at 18 Westwood Circle. (01058.04a)
- 7 Conditional use permit and a site and building plan review for a parking ramp at the southwest corner of the I-394/Hopkins Crossroad intersection. (05033.05a)
- 8 Sign variance for proposed wall signs at Best Buy, 13513 Ridgedale Drive. (05058.05a)
- 9 Multiple variances for a new house at 2513 Bantas Point Road. (05029.05a)
- 10 Conditional use permit for an oversized garage at 16560 Gray's Bay Boulevard. (05056.05a)
- 11 Multiple variances to rebuild a home at 2813 McKenzie Point Road. (05027.05a)
- 12 Side yard setback variance for a detached garage at 3133 Shores Boulevard. (05051.05a)
- 13 Preliminary plat with variances for a three-lot subdivision at 13800 Spring Lake Road. (05001.05a)
- 14 Setback variance to relocate an existing monument sign at 14900 Highway 7.
- 15 Preliminary plat with variances for a three-lot subdivision at 18517 Ridgewood Road. (05041.05a)
- 16 Guide plan amendment from low-density residential to institutional; rezoning from R-1, low-density residential, to PUD, planned unit development; preliminary plat; and site and building plan review with a parking stall variance for a senior housing structure at 5431/5439 Williston Road. (04037.04a)



## Utility bill drop box moved

MINNETONKA RESIDENTS WHO USE THE UTILITY BILL drop box in front of Minnetonka City Hall should be aware that, due to construction, the drop box has been moved to a new permanent location at the northwest corner of the Minnetonka Community Center parking lot. To reach the drop box, take a right into the community center lot, then a left down the first parking aisle. For your convenience, a second drop box is located inside the city hall vestibule.

Please remember that as of April 1, 2005, a late payment fee is assessed against all accounts that are ten days past due. For residential accounts, the amount assessed is a flat \$10 past due on a quarterly basis, and commercial accounts are assessed 10 percent of the past due amount on a monthly basis. For more information call Fiona Golden, utility billing clerk, at (952) 939-8255. □

## Get involved — volunteer!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH YOUR CITY, CONSIDER JOINING MINNETONKA'S volunteer program, which allows residents to share their skills and time working with staff on specific projects. You'll become more familiar with city programs, services, and issues, while the city stretches its tax dollars and establishes partnerships between residents and staff.

Volunteers can range from teens to older adults and individuals to groups. Positions to be filled might be for one-time special events, short-term projects, or ongoing opportunities.

Volunteer positions currently available are for soccer coaches; Hilloway Park restoration; history events; Juvenile Diversion Program leader; equipment and grounds maintenance at Williston Center; Minnetonka Mike mascot; oral history interviewers and transcribers; and storm drain monitors.

For additional information or for an application, please visit the city Web site, [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com), and click on Volunteer Opportunities, or call Joan Post, volunteer coordinator, at (952) 939-8215. □

Volunteer Corner



## Ask Minnetonka Mike!

**M**INNETONKA 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. Mike has received some more interesting questions this month, and he thought the information might be of use to other residents.



### Fingerprinting

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

*I own a business in the city, and some of my employees need to have fingerprints taken for security purposes. Does the Minnetonka Police Department provide this service?*

*Signed, Minnetonka Business Owner*

Dear Business Owner:

Send your employees over to the Minnetonka Police Department, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, on a Thursday between 9 and 10 a.m., when the department provides public fingerprinting for business applications, adoption and other purposes on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a \$10 fee per fingerprint card. For more information call the police department at (952) 939-8500.

### Driving Maps

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

*Help! I'm a new resident and I'm having a hard time finding my way around the city, especially with the many construction detours. Does the city provide driving maps?*

*Signed, Lost on Green Circle Drive*

Dear Lost:

Maps of the city are available for \$2 at Minnetonka City Hall, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. If construction detours are getting you down, consider subscribing to the city's weekly e-newsletter, Hot Topics. Delivered to your email account every Friday, Hot Topics contains up-to-date information on all the latest road projects in and around the city as well as other valuable news about the city. To subscribe visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on "Sign up for our e-newsletter."

### Home Inspections

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

*I am selling my house in Minnetonka to move to a condo, also in Minnetonka. Does the city require a home to be inspected prior to its sale?*

*Signed, Empty Nester*

Dear Empty Nester:

The city does not require that residences for sale in Minnetonka be inspected.

### Barking Dogs

Dear Minnetonka Mike:

*Our neighbor has a dog that is kept outside, and he barks continuously throughout the day. I work nights and sleep during the day. This dog is keeping me up! Can the city help me get some sleep?*

*Signed, Sleep-Deprived Animal Lover*

Dear Sleep-Deprived:

According to city ordinance, a dog must be heard barking by a police officer continuously for 10 minutes before it can be deemed a nuisance. A citation is then issued to the owner. Once three citations have been issued, the police may order the dog removed from the city. Please call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952)939-8500 when the dog barks so they may come out to the property and witness the barking.

If you have a question, comment or concern about the city of Minnetonka, let Minnetonka Mike know! It's easy to set up an account. Just visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://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. □

## Filings close; primary election set for Sept. 13

**F**ILINGS FOR MINNETONKA MAYOR AND council-at-large, seats A and B, closed Tuesday, July 19. The final list of individuals who filed for office includes:

- Mayor — Jeffrey Beck, Jan Callison
- Seat A — Dick Allendorf, Paul Ansolabehere, Dewey Hassig, Paul J. Lehman, Brent E. Routman
- Seat B — Steven Engler, Scott Gjerdingen, Terry Schneider (incumbent)

Because more than two candidates filed for the council-at-large, seats A and B, a primary election is set for Tuesday, Sept. 13, to determine the two candidates who will advance to the November general election.

Here are some basic election facts:

### Absentee voting

Absentee ballots will be available starting Friday, Aug. 12. You can vote absentee:

- In person at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Extended absentee voting hours also will be available Saturday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 12, until 5 p.m.
- By mail by requesting an absentee ballot application at [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or by phone at (952) 939-8219. Upon receipt of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed.

### Registering to vote

Pre-registration is available until Tuesday, Aug. 23. Voter registration applications are available on the city's Web site or by calling city hall. Pre-registering will save you a great deal of time when you vote at the poll.

For more information about the election process, please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call (952) 939-8219. □

## DWI limit lowered to .08

**A**S OF AUGUST 1, 2005, THE NEW BLOOD alcohol concentration for Driving While Impaired (DWI) in Minnesota is 0.08% (previously 0.10%). The Minnetonka Police Department asks you to help reduce alcohol-related crashes by using a designated driver or calling a cab if you've been drinking. Thank you for doing your part to make the roads safer for everyone. □

# Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

August  
2005

Call (952) 939-8200  
for more  
information.

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

## Williston Road north of Hwy. 7 to close

AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A new frontage road between Highland Road and Williston Road, and the reconstruction of the intersection of Highwood Drive and Williston Road, a portion of Williston Road north of Hwy. 7 to Karyl Drive will close Aug. 10 and remain closed through October 2005. A marked detour will be posted. Access to businesses along Hwy. 7 will not be affected, and access to homes in the area will be maintained. Highwood Drive will remain closed.

As part of this project, Highwood Drive's intersection with Williston Road will be eliminated and replaced with an

intersection to the new frontage road. Also, Williston Road will be reconstructed from Hwy. 7 to about 660 feet north of the highway. The project will be constructed in three stages with work to include utility relocations, installation of additional storm sewer, realignment of streets and adjustments to street elevations, concrete curb and gutter, bituminous paving, and signal upgrades at the intersection of Williston Road and Hwy. 7. The project is expected to be substantially completed by mid-November 2005. For more information, call Gary Lauwagie, construction coordinator/inspector, city of Minnetonka, at (952) 939-8237.

## Keep grass clippings out of the street

GRASS CLIPPINGS THAT LAND ON THE street may harm neighborhood ponds or wetlands. Remember, anything on the street is washed into the local pond or wetland by rain or irrigation systems. As grass clippings decompose, they release phosphorous, which then promotes weed and algae growth. Keep the grass clippings out of the street and on your lawn — clippings are a great natural fertilizer. □



Protect  
Our  
Water  
Quality!

## Holiday delays recycling collection

THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY, SEPT. 5, WILL DELAY RECYCLING COLLECTION BY one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection on Tuesday, Sept. 6; while residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Please also note, the brush drop-off site is closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day. □

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August 2005



PRESORTED  
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka  
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

### Mayor

Karen J. Anderson . . . . . (952) 939-8389  
Home: (952) 938-2808  
kanderson@eminnetonka.com

Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled  
by calling the mayor's office, (952) 939-8389.

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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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