

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
September 2004*

Primary election set for Tuesday, Sept. 14

THE PRIMARY ELECTION is set for Tuesday, Sept. 14, with several offices to be on the ballot. Below are the questions voters most frequently ask, and their answers. 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 2004").

What's the purpose of the primary election?

The primary election determines the candidate from each party who will advance to the Tuesday, Nov. 2, general election.

How does a statewide primary differ from a general election?

Voters in Minnesota's primary election will receive a ballot that lists candidates for all eligible parties. Voters may vote only for candidates within one party. If voters "cross over" (that is, they vote for a candidate from one party for one office, and a candidate from another party for another office), the ballot is considered defective and the votes on that ballot will not count.

If this happens at the polling place, an election judge will advise the voter and offer a replacement ballot. If this happens with an absentee ballot, there is no method to correct the vote. Check out the sample ballot on our Web site and call city hall at (952) 939-8200 if you have any questions. For those without Internet access, a sample ballot is posted in the city hall lobby.

What's on the ballot?

Offices on the primary ballot are:

- U.S. Representative (District 3)

Election *continued on page 2*

Minnetonka Wards and Precincts

Ward Boundary ———
Legislative District Boundaries ———
Legislative District LD

Precinct Lines ———
Precinct Numbers 4A
Polling Locations ●

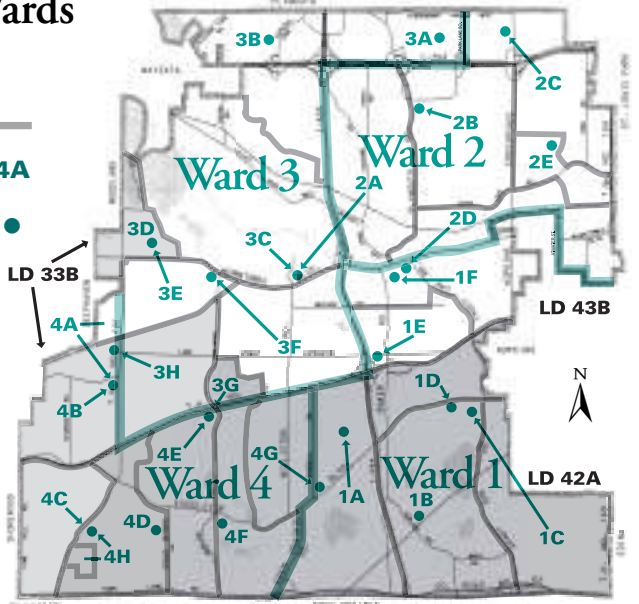
Polling Locations

- 1A** Glen Lake Elementary School
4801 Woodridge Rd.
- 1B** Old Apostolic Lutheran Church
5617 Rowland Rd.
- 1C** Cross of Glory Baptist Church
4600 Shady Oak Rd.
- 1D** Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Blvd.
- 1E** St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake St. Ext.
- 1F** Minnetonka Community Church
13215 Minnetonka Dr.
- 2A** Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- 2B** Ridgedale Hennepin County Library
12601 Ridgedale Dr.
- 2C** Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
600 Hopkins Crossroad

- 2D** The Episcopal Parish of St. David Church
13000 St. David's Rd.
- 2E** Lindbergh Center
2400 Lindbergh Dr.
- 3A** Ridgely
12600 Marion Lane W.
- 3B** Epoch Assisted Living
500 Carlson Parkway
- 3C** Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
- 3D/3E** St. Luke Presbyterian Church
3121 Groveland School Rd.

- 3F** Minnetonka Lutheran Church
16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
- 3G** Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve
- 3H** Minnetonka United Methodist Church
17611 Lake St. Ext.
- 4A/4B** Ridgewood Church (formerly Mtka. Baptist)
4420 Co. Rd. 101
- 4C** Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 Co. Rd. 101

- 4D** Scenic Heights Elementary School
5650 Scenic Heights Dr.
- 4E** Redeemer Bible Church
16031 Woodland Curve
- 4F** All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Blvd.
- 4G** Glen Lake Activity Ctr.
14350 Excelsior Blvd.
- 4H** Clear Springs Elementary School
5701 Co. Rd. No. 101



Consult the map above to determine your correct polling location. Questions? Call (952) 939-8200.

Don't miss Open House!

FIRE TRUCKS, POLICE CARS, strolling characters, department tours, K-9 unit demonstrations, a photo contest, entertainment and fun activities for kids... it's all part of the Fire Department and City-Wide Open House set for Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

This very popular event offers an informal and entertaining way to meet city staff and learn more about local government. Children 4 years of age and over can ride in the city fire trucks, and everyone can enjoy free hot dogs, cookies, pop and lemonade along with the many activities.

Mark October 5 on your calendar, and look for more information in the October *Minnetonka Memo*. □

Inside...

- Natural Resource Notes *page 3*
Recycling Update *pages 4, 5*
Photo Contest *page 5*
Dutch Elm Disease *page 6*
I-494 Construction Update *page 7*

Election *continued from page 1*

- State Representative (Districts 33B, 42A and 43B)
- County Park Commission (District 4)
- Judicial races in which more than two candidates file.

No local issues are on the primary ballot.

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:** Minnetonka voters may vote absentee at the Minnetonka City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended absentee voting hours will also be available at both locations on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Monday, Sept. 13, until 5 p.m.
- **By mail:** Absentee voting also may be done by mail. Remember, the voted ballot must be received at city hall by Election Day for the vote to count. Please allow sufficient time for postal service delivery.

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

Polling places will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, and remain open until 8 p.m. If you are in line at 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

If you haven't voted since 2002 when precincts changed due to redistricting, your polling place may have changed. Also, the city made some minor polling place changes this year to better serve voters. Voters affected by these changes will receive a mailed notice from Hennepin County listing the new polling location. A map has been provided to give you a general idea of your polling place. To find your specific polling location, visit www.eminnetonka.com and click on "Election 2004." Then click on "Precinct 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.

Can I register to vote on Election Day?

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on Election Day. You will

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 show one of the following items:**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.
- Voucher—oath of voter registered in the precinct who can verify the registrant's address in the precinct.
- A voucher card must be signed by the person vouching for the voter and by an election judge.
 - 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.****TABLE
B****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

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

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 information about these forms, see the tables above.

Where will election results be available?

Because there are no local issues, results will be available through the elections section of the Secretary of State's Web site at www.sos.state.mn.us.

What is the city's role in the election?

Although no local issues are on the ballot, the city plays a key role in the election process. City staff recruits and trains elections judges; provides polling place supplies; answers questions; and ensures voter

Election *continued on page 3*

Natural Resource Notes

Don't fall down on the job... now is the time to care for your lawn

Summer is nearly over, and many homeowners who have tired of lawn care are eager to put away their mowers and sprinklers for the year. But, if you want a healthy lawn in the spring, now is the time to give your lawn the care it will need to survive the winter.

Here are some tips to ensure a healthy lawn in the spring

Mow. Mow your grass to a height of two-and-a-half to three inches. This allows each grass plant more surface area for photosynthesis, the process by which the plant creates the energy it needs to thrive and be healthy. A thick lush lawn helps crowd out weeds, which in turn will potentially reduce the need for pesticides.

Water. Even though it is cooler in the fall, lawns still need deep root watering. This will help them maintain their vigor and survive winter conditions. Remember that the city's watering restrictions apply through the end of September, so please continue to follow these rules when irrigating your lawn.

Fertilize. September and October are great times to fertilize. Fertilizer provides turf with the nutrients needed for spring growth. Use a zero-phosphorous fertilizer (the middle number on the fertilizer bag) and keep all fertilizer out of the street and off the driveway and sidewalk. If fertilizer is accidentally applied to these hard surfaces, sweep it up and reapply it to the lawn.

Control Weeds. September is the best time of year to control dandelions, clover and plantain. Remove weeds by hand or spot treat with herbicide. Do not overspray. Prevent herbicides from getting into the street, wetland, pond, lake or creek, as they are damaging to water resources and the natural environment. Herbicides should be used with care and in a limited capacity.

Sweep Up. Sweep up and reuse lawn care products that fall on streets, driveways and sidewalks.

A healthy lawn doesn't just look pretty; it also helps protect Minnetonka's wetlands, lakes and creeks. Thick grass prevents soil erosion and absorbs rainwater, which decreases the amount of storm water runoff that funnels pollutants and nutrients into our wetlands, lakes, and creeks. And, while you're caring for your lawn, don't forget to protect the city's water resources:

- Keep all grass clippings, fertilizers, and pesticides out of the street.
- As the trees start to drop their leaves in your yard do not sweep them into the street. Rainfall and overspray from irrigation systems will wash this organic debris and other contaminants into wetlands, lakes and creeks, resulting in springtime algae blooms and degraded ecosystems.
- Please monitor the storm drain on your street to make sure it is free of leaves and organic debris. This helps protect water resources and prevent street flooding. □

Election *continued from page 2*

results are sent to Hennepin County. This process works smoothly because Minnetonka has excellent and dedicated election judges—we salute them!

Where can I find General Election information?

Because the General Election is set for

Tuesday, Nov. 2—very close to the first of the month—all General Election information will be in the October edition of the *Minnetonka Memo*. Topics to be addressed include absentee voting for the General Election; polling place hours and locations; Election Day registration; and General Election results.

Tanglen water tower gets a boost

THE SIGHT OF a 500,000-gallon water tower being sliced from its stem and raised seven feet might win out over math lessons for Tanglen Elementary School students this fall.

The Tanglen water tower, located just south of the elementary school, 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 tower was connected to the rest of the 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 needs the extra water Tanglen can provide and so has opted to raise the water tower and make it functional once again—at a fraction of the cost of building a new tower. The project, expected to cost \$188,000, is scheduled to start in October and be completed by Thanksgiving.

Here's how contractor Classic Protective Coatings and engineer TKDA of St. Paul plan to accomplish the job: First, the ball of the tower will be cut from the stem. It will then be raised through a system of hydraulic jacks and steel beams placed inside the stem of the tower. Finally, a new seven-foot-section of steel will be welded into the stem. In addition, improvements will be made to the interior ladders and piping.

For pictures of the Tanglen water tower project, visit www.eminnetonka.com throughout October and November. □



Minnesota in general, and Minnetonka in particular, have a history of very high voter turnouts. Don't forget the saying, "Decisions are made by those who show up." Participate in the process, and contact city hall at (952) 939-8200 if you need assistance. □



2004 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Special one-day drop-off

Saturday, September 18, 2004, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ice Arena/City Hall Parking Lot, Minnetonka Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

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, cook top, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier or dehumidifier

Batteries: (No charge)

All car, truck, motorcycle, and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, six- and nine-volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries)

Carpet and padding: (\$1 per sq. yd. for carpet and \$1 per sq. yd. for padding)

Determine the number of square yards of carpet or room size the carpet came from. Roll carpet and tape or tie rolls. Rolls of carpet **must not** exceed six feet in length and must be less than 12 inches in diameter.

Clothing and household goods: (No charge)

Clothing, small working appliances, small working portable TVs and stereos, games and toys, hardware and tools, lamps and domestic goods will be accepted. All items must be in good working and saleable condition. The charitable organization reserves the right to decline your donation.

Electronics: (No charge)

Television, stereo console, computer, printer, monitor, radio or VCR

Fluorescent bulbs: (No charge)

Up to ten fluorescent bulbs will be accepted per vehicle. **No bulbs will be accepted from business or commercial uses.** Please transport bulbs in a manner to avoid breakage.

Furniture:

- **Chairs (\$5 small; \$10 large)**
- **Loveseat (\$15)**
- **Couch/sofa (\$20)**
- **Hide-a-bed (\$30)**

Lumber: (\$2 minimum, based on \$25 per cubic yard)

No railroad ties.

Mattresses and box springs: (\$8 per piece for single or twin size, \$12 per piece for double, queen, or king size)

Propane tanks: (Small \$1; Large \$6 — anything larger than a two-pound tank)

Scrap metal:

- **“Clean” scrap metal such as pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc. (no charge)** Scrap metal must be clean (all plastic, rubber, wood and hazardous materials must be removed).
- **“Dirty” scrap metal such as bicycles with tires, lawn chairs with webbing, or lawn mowers with wheels and/or plastic parts still attached. (\$5)** All engines must have oil and gas drained. Additional charges apply for riding mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers or other large items.

Tires

- **Car, trailer or light truck tire (\$2 without rim; \$3 with rim)**
- **Tractor or truck tire on split rim (\$20)**

Toilets and sinks: (\$5)

PLEASE NOTE: NO GARBAGE OR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CAN BE ACCEPTED.

Payment will be accepted in cash or local checks payable to the city of Minnetonka. If you have any questions about this special drop-off, please call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217, or visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Brush drop-off program

Minnetonka residents may drop off loads of brush on Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Minnetonka Public Works facility, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard. The brush drop-off site will be closed on Labor Day, Monday Sept. 6.

Branches up to eight inches in diameter will be accepted. Brush drop off will end November 20, 2004. A valid ID (driver's license or utility bill) proving Minnetonka residency is required to drop off brush.

Please note: Trash, concrete, plastic, grass, loose leaves, stump grindings, lumber, or wood scraps are not accepted in the brush program. (The brush is ground into the mulch that the city gives away to residents for landscaping.) No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 during business hours or visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Special Reminder

City of Minnetonka ordinances require residents to store all recycling, garbage and yard waste containers out of public view, except the evening before and the day of your collection.

Please find a spot in your garage or behind fencing to store your containers.

Coming Attractions

The October edition of the *Minnetonka Memo* will have the 2004 fall leaf drop-off information.

Can't make the September 18 drop-off day? Tired of waiting in long lines?

The Hennepin County Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station in Brooklyn Park accepts most of the materials listed above except upholstered furniture and propane cylinders. Disposal fees for items are similar; however, there is a minimum charge of \$15 for up to one cubic yard of material. Facility staff will determine the charges for each vehicle. The Brooklyn Park site is very busy on Tuesday mornings and all day on Saturdays, which leads to longer waiting times. See page 5 or call Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777 for more information.

2004 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Year-round Hennepin County drop-off sites

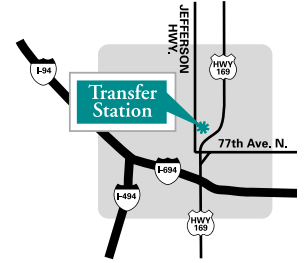
Residents may bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent HHW drop-off facilities. There is no charge to drop off household hazardous waste.

- **Household hazardous waste includes items such as** paint, stain, thinners, solvents, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, gasoline, oil, oil filters, aerosol cans, fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats, switches and thermometers containing mercury, rechargeable appliances and batteries.
- **Consumer electronics** accepted at no charge include televisions, radios, stereos, VCRs, camcorders, telephones, computers, monitors and printers.
- **Household appliances** (including microwaves, water heaters, stoves, freezers, washers, dryers, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee for each item.

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

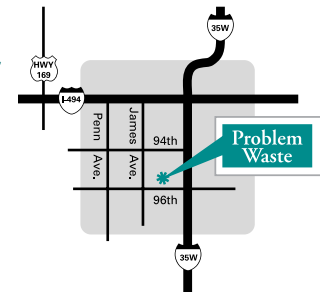
For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 939-8217 (please leave a message if you get voice mail) or Hennepin County at (612) 348-3777. Please call between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hennepin County Transfer Station and HHW Drop-Off



**8100 Jefferson Hwy.
Brooklyn Park**

Hennepin County Problem Material and HHW Drop-Off



**1400 W. 96th St.
Bloomington**

Calling all entries for the 2004 photo contest



IT'S TIME TO enter the 2004 city of Minnetonka photo contest, sponsored by the city as part of the October 2004 Fire Department and City-Wide Open House, and residents are invited to participate. Prizes are \$100 for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Here are the rules:

- Photographers must be residents of Minnetonka.
- Photos must have been taken in Minnetonka within the last two years.
- Only three photos per person may be submitted.
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white unmounted 3"x 5" or 4"x 6" prints, with captions on the back. No slides please.
- Digital photos must be submitted on photographic paper.
- Entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 24, 2004.
- Each entry must be submitted with a completed entry form (at right) that can be photocopied. Entry forms also can be downloaded at the city's Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.

Any submitted photos become the property of the city of Minnetonka and may be used in city publications with proper credit. The city will not be responsible for lost entries. The photographer is responsible for obtaining approval from identifiable people in a photo taken in a non-public space. The winning entry will be featured in this newsletter, on www.eminnetonka.com and in city hall.

Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Caption (photo location, description of event) _____

Day phone _____ Age (if under 18) _____

I agree to allow the City of Minnetonka to publish my photo(s) in city publications with proper credit.

Signature _____

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.

Dutch elm disease hits hard in Minnetonka

WITH MORE THAN 2,000 trees felled so far this year, the city of Minnetonka has not been immune to the current metro-wide epidemic of Dutch elm disease.

"I wish I could say this is the worst of it, but unfortunately the increase in elm disease and loss will continue for a few more years," said Mark Simenson, forester for the city of Minnetonka. "It's important to keep in mind that forests, even urban forests, have normal fluctuations in trees lost to disease and insect outbreaks."

Elm bark beetles are responsible for 80 percent of newly infected trees, while grafted roots between healthy and diseased elms account for the remaining 20 percent.

The city of Minnetonka has an assistant forester, two seasonal tree inspectors and an administrative assistant whose primary function from June to October is detection and identification of Dutch elm disease and oak wilt on public and private properties. Their goal is to slow the spread of the disease through removal of infected trees.

If left standing, an infected elm of average size—10 to 20 inches in diameter—will become a breeding site capable of producing tens of thousands of new beetles. Each beetle carries the Dutch elm disease fungus on its body and can fly more than a mile to feed on another elm, thereby transmitting the fungus.

Preventative fungicides (Arbotect and Alamo) can protect individual elms from Dutch elm disease. This treatment is highly successful and desirable for healthy, valuable, high quality elms such as those located on the Burwell House property, which have been protected by this method for more than 20 years. However, the chemicals are expensive—an average sized elm might cost \$400 to treat—and treatment must be repeated every two to three years by trained personnel using specialized equipment.

"Unfortunately, these fungicides do not appear to stop Dutch elm disease that is spread through root grafts," said Simenson. "Individual trees can and should be considered for fungicide treatment, but treating large populations of elms over a widespread area such as the city of Minnetonka isn't economically feasible."

The city of Minnetonka's "urban forest" exists as a single system regardless of property lines. Protecting the health of the forest requires cooperation between residents who manage their private property portion of the urban forest and city staff whose responsibility it is to manage the entire urban forest.

Residents are not expected to be experts on tree diseases, which is why the city

employs forestry and natural resource professionals. The forestry staff is available to help residents manage their trees or woods. Unfortunately, this sometimes means requiring a resident to remove a tree or trees to protect the urban forest.

Diseased tree inspections end in early September, but at this time a large number of trees are still standing that need to be removed. The forestry staff will continue working with residents to ensure those trees are removed, but high numbers of diseased trees have made it difficult to find an available tree contractor. The forestry staff is aware of this and reasonable extensions beyond the normal 20-day period are being allowed for residents who call to discuss their situation.

It is still important to remove diseased trees promptly because long delays increase the chance of beetle production and disease spread. If you have been unable to arrange removal of your diseased trees please contact Mark Simenson, city forester, at (952) 988-8415 or Emily Barbeau, assistant forester, at (952) 988-8421 to discuss the options.

Thank you for your help protecting the Minnetonka forest. □

Have you seen this vehicle?

IF SO, YOU'VE seen Minnetonka's newest weapon in the war on potholes and cracks along city streets. It's a spray patcher, and it allows one person to fill a pothole or crack in just a few minutes, without ever leaving the cab of the truck. The city has rented the machine and its operator from independent contractor RCM Specialties to work until mid-September on neighborhood streets.

"If we do a good job of patching in the fall, we don't have as many problems in the spring," said Jeff Dubay, street maintenance manager for the city. "Sealing cracks and small holes now will prevent them from turning into potholes later."

Here's how it works: the nozzle extending from the front of the truck first blows air into the hole to clean out debris before it lays down a thin coat of oil. Then, a mixture of rock and oil—about the consistency of caramel corn—is sprayed at high pressure into the hole to create a hard-packed, smooth surface. Finally, a layer of rock is scattered on top to protect the patch.

Neighborhoods visited by the spray patcher include Hampton Court, Chilton Hills, Rainbow Drive, Manor Court, Susan Drive, Sparrow Road and Winterset Avenue. □



National Night Out a success

MORE THAN 80 Minnetonka neighborhoods celebrated National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Celebrating National Night Out and being part of an organized Neighborhood Watch Group are great ways to help make the city and the nation more secure. It has been shown that neighborhoods where people know one another have lower occurrences of crime and vandalism.

If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Group in your area, contact Colleen Klingelutz, Minnetonka Police Department crime prevention specialist, at (952) 939-8546 or e-mail her at cklingelutz@eminnetonka.com. □

I-494 construction update HT

WORK ON THE seven-mile stretch of I-494 between Hwy. 5 in Eden Prairie and the I-394/I-494 interchange in Minnetonka began in mid-August. Over the next two years, an additional travel lane (one in each direction) will be added to I-494 and 14 bridges crossing I-494 will be reconstructed, in addition to other improvements to the corridor.

In early September, please be aware of the following traffic restrictions:

- The widening of I-494 will require the Hennepin County bike trail to be closed where it passes under the freeway. This closure began Sept. 2 and will continue through early November.
- Beginning Sept. 7, there will be a full closure of Baker Road where it passes under I-494. Pile driving for the freeway bridge is expected to take three days, after which Baker Road will again be open.

Granite-McCrossan has assured MnDOT and cities along the affected route that two lanes of traffic in each direction on I-494 will remain open at peak traffic hours throughout the duration of the project, with major lane or road closures occurring overnight or on weekends whenever possible.

To receive weekly updates on anticipated lane closures or traffic restrictions for the upcoming week, sign up to receive the city's e-newsletter "Hot Topics." This e-newsletter, as well as the city's web site, will include weekly updates on the progress of construction. To sign up, visit www.eminnetonka.com. You may also call the I-494 construction hotline at (952)908-2929 for daily updates on construction.



I-494 construction open house set for Sept. 15

DO YOU HAVE questions or concerns about the I-494 construction project between Hwy. 5 in Eden Prairie and I-394 in Minnetonka? Then plan to attend an open house hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation on Wednesday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Project engineers will be available to provide information on the scheduling, construction staging and maintenance of traffic. There will be no formal program, however, layouts and visuals will be displayed. The project is expected to be completed in late summer or fall of 2006.

Musicians needed for ensembles

ARE YOU A vocalist or instrumentalist looking for a place to express your talents? Look no further! The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) is seeking vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages and talents to join its ten ensembles.

"We're always looking for talented individuals who like to perform and participate in our ensembles," said Dr. Roger Hoel, music director and founder of MAM. "Our musicians share a true camaraderie with fellow music lovers and enjoy performing for the community."

Together, the ten ensembles host more than 90 performances each year. Performances are held in the Twin Cities as well as regionally, nationally and internationally. Each ensemble has a specific focus, but occasionally the groups come together for joint performances. For more information about the ensembles and what is required to join, call MAM at (952) 401-5954 or visit www.musicassociation.org.

Hot Topics

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.

Celebrating the art and life of Richard James Cunningham

RICHARD JAMES CUNNINGHAM spent 33 years teaching art with the Minnetonka School District, inspiring dozens of students to pursue careers in the visual arts. Throughout his teaching career, Cunningham continued to be active as an artist, working in many mediums including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, metalwork and photography. He retired from Minnetonka High School at the age of 59 to focus on his artwork, but passed away suddenly in June 2003.

The ArtsCenter of Minnetonka will host "Richard James Cunningham: A Celebration of His Life and Art" in the art gallery Sept. 10 through Nov. 11. Cunningham's family will host the opening night reception on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m., with a selection of Richard's artwork, light food and music. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call (952) 401-5748. The ArtsCenter of Minnetonka is located on the Minnetonka High School campus at 18285 Hwy. 7, Minnetonka, and is owned by the city of Minnetonka.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

September
2004

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

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		

1 Park Board, 7 p.m.

2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

6 Labor Day holiday (no council meeting)

13 City Council regular meeting (adoption of preliminary levy), 6:30 p.m.

14 Primary election 7 a.m.– 8 p.m. Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.

18 Special recycling drop-off, 8 a.m.– 3 p.m.

21 Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.

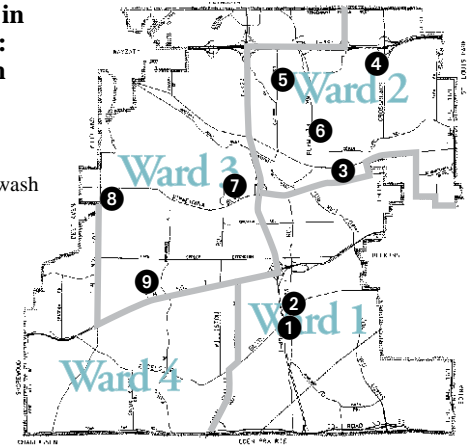
27 City Council regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.

30 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 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: www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Conditional use permit, with a setback variance to the residential property to the south, to add a car wash to the building at **13305 Excelsior Blvd.** (96074.04a)
- 2 Conditional use permit and site plan review for construction of a convenience store, service/repair area and car wash at **13118 Excelsior Blvd.** (86165.04a)
- 3 Variances for three baseball scoreboards at **11800 Minnetonka Blvd.** (Big Willow baseball complex). (97053.04a)
- 4 Master development plan, with variances, for an office building at the southwest corner of the intersection of **Hopkins Crossroad and Wayzata Blvd.** (87103.04b)
- 5 Preliminary plat and variance for a lot division at **1927 Essex Rd.** (04051.04a)
- 6 Preliminary plat to divide one lot into three lots at **2637 Plymouth Rd.** (90011.03a)
- 7 Conditional use permit for a 150-foot communications tower at **14600 Minnetonka Blvd.** for city of Minnetonka (86047.04a)
- 8 Parking lot setback variances to reconfigure the existing parking lot at **3435 Cty. Rd. 101** (04053.04a)
- 9 Front yard setback variance for a two-story addition at **16423 Devon Dr.** (04059.04a)



Minnetonka parks benefit from Tree Trust efforts

MORE THAN 200 youth and staff from Tree Trust gathered Friday, Aug. 20, for a picnic in Lone Lake Park to celebrate a productive summer of building projects in several metro suburbs, including Minnetonka.

In Minnetonka, Tree Trust workers removed and rebuilt several timber walls

in parks and along trails in the city; removed remaining sections of floating boardwalk in Big Willow Park; and trimmed and removed brush along the Opus trail system.

Tree Trust is a Minnesota non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve

the community environment by investing in people. Tree Trust provides job training for low-income and at-risk youth and adults while completing conservation projects for the community. □

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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.

City Manager

John Gunyou (952) 939-8200

Newsletter Editor

Jacque Larson (952) 939-8207

E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com

Internet: eminnetonka.com

Council

At Large: Janis Callison .. (952) 935-7010
Terry Schneider (952) 934-9529

Ward 1: Bob Ellingson (952) 931-3065

Ward 2: Tony Wagner ... (952) 512-1817

Ward 3: Brad Wiersum .. (952) 930-3681

Ward 4: Al Thomas (952) 949-9027

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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