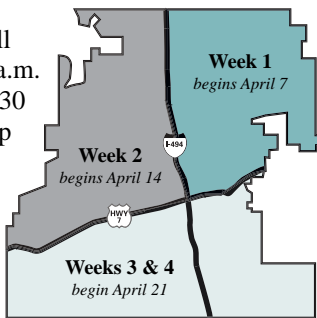


minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
April 2003*

Street sweeping begins

WEATHER PERMITTING, CITY maintenance crews will be sweeping streets April 7 and through May 2. Using a double shift, sweeping will start at 4:30 a.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. (see map to determine your area). If you have questions, please call the Public Works Department, (952) 988-8400. □



Help celebrate Earth Day/Arbor Day

YOU'RE INVITED TO celebrate Earth/Arbor Day at Big Willow Park on Thursday, April 24, 5:30 – 8 p.m. You can help plant grass, wildflowers and sedge seedlings, watch a buckthorn removal demonstration, and learn about water quality. City Forester Mark Simenson and Environmental Resources Coordinator Jo Colleran will discuss the city's restoration efforts currently under way at Big Willow and other city parks.

Your help would be appreciated. Bring a great attitude and a concern for the environment! Supplies, a limited number of t-shirts, and treats will be provided. Plan to meet at the new Public Works building at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. There is no charge, but please pre-register by calling (952) 939-8203. □

Inside ...

Garage Sale Signs	page 2
Peddler, Solicitor Information	page 3
Qwest Survey	page 3
Natural Resource Notes	page 4
Leaf/Brush Drop-off	page 5

Summer Festival/Social will be June 28

MARK YOUR CALENDARS now for the Minnetonka Summer Festival and Burwell Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on Saturday, June 28. You will note a change in scheduling for the Festival to provide a fuller slate of late afternoon and evening entertainment for residents of all ages.

A tentative listing of this special day's activities includes:

8 to 10:30 a.m. — 8k run, two mile fun run, Tot Trot, pancake breakfast

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Parent/Child golf tournament, Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center

11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. — Burwell House Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social — tours, musical entertainment, antique market, food

1 to 8 p.m. — Softball Tournament, Big Willow Park

4 to 8 p.m. — Spaghetti dinner, children's rides, inflatable slides, pony rides, model rocket building, ice skating shows, public ice skating, hole-in-one contest, karaoke, Bill the Juggler, Remarkable Reptiles exhibit, Sports Challenge activities, skateboarding and K-9 demonstrations, music concerts, fire department activities, caricature artists, face painting, strolling characters, food vendors, Recreation Services tent

7 to 10 p.m. — Feature entertainment – on the main stage (to be announced)

10 p.m. — FIREWORKS!!

As always, all rides, exhibits, and entertainment will be free!

If you enjoy sporting activities, call Recreation Services now, (952) 939-8203, to register for the always popular parent/child golf tournament at the Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center. You can also register now for the 8K race, the two-mile fun run, or Tot Trot running events. More information on these events will be available in Recreation Services' Summer Program brochure to be mailed early April. □

Continuing the May basket tradition

PLEASE JOIN US on Sunday, April 27, 1:30 to 3 p.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center for our very popular annual May basket family event. Come and share your May Day stories and learn about the May basket tradition while making your own basket to give to friends. There will be a May pole for the youngsters. There is no cost for this event; however, donations will be accepted for the Burwell House furnishings fund. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Please register by Tuesday, April 22. Call (952) 939-8219 or e-mail Ironbeck@eminnetonka.com, leaving the name, phone number, and age group (adult or child) for each person who will attend. □

Caring Youth recognized

TWENTY-EIGHT CARING young people were recognized March 18 at Hopkins City Hall at the 2003 Caring Youth Recognition Event. The cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, joined by the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts, sponsor this yearly program that recognizes young people in grades 7 through 12 who have given outstanding service to others. Listed below are this year's winners and their nominating organizations.

Steve Arons – Golden Valley League of Women Voters

Caring Youth continued on page 2



Minnetonka ArtsCenter Calendar

April 2003



(The Minnetonka ArtsCenter adjoins Minnetonka High School, 18301 Hwy. 7.)

Music Association of Minnetonka Rummage Sale

The Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) is sponsoring a spring rummage sale. Sale items range from furniture to toys, jewelry, books, crafts, clothing, housewares and everything in between. MAM will be celebrating 30 years of community service this fall. Please help to keep the music alive in Minnetonka. Attend the 1st annual MAM Rummage Sale. Please park in front or west parking lots of Minnetonka High School.

Thursday, April 3 Rummage Sale Preview (admission \$3), 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Friday, April 4 Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday, April 5 Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

“Brigadoon”

This Lerner and Loewe musical will be presented by Minnetonka High School Theatre. Tickets are \$10. For ticket information, call the MHS Box Office, (952) 401-5898.

Friday, April 25 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 1 p.m.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday: May 1-3, May 8-10 7:30 p.m.

Other ArtsCenter Events

Monday, April 21 MHS Honor Society induction, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 26 Music Association of Minnetonka Spring Benefit Concert, 7:30 p.m. featuring Minnetonka Symphony Chorus, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, Choral Reflections
Sunday, April 27 Senior Choral Association Concert, 3 p.m.

Visit the ArtsCenter webpage for an updated list and more information:
www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/theartscenter. □

Planning a garage sale?

THE CITY OF Minnetonka takes pride in its beautiful environment, and streets look cleaner and less cluttered because signs are primarily in our commercial areas.

Since the garage sale season is about to begin, however, please keep in mind the guidelines below.

Before locating your garage sale sign, please...

- Get permission from the underlying property owners.
- Place sign at least five feet from the edge of a public street; don't block the view of cars.
- Have only one sign per intersection for your sale.
- Post your sign only between Thursdays through Saturdays.
- Make your sign less than three square feet in size.

If you have any questions about garage sale advertising, please contact Edward Davis, Planning Department, (952) 939-8293 or e-mail EDavis@eminnetonka.com. □

Public safety newsletter available

A NEW QUARTERLY PUBLIC safety newsletter is now available to Minnetonka's 129 Neighborhood Watch groups. It contains timely crime prevention information as well as interesting public-safety related topics. Neighborhood Watch block captains are distributing the letters, either by e-mail or by hard copy.

The newsletter is a result of the Minnetonka Police Advisory Commission's efforts to improve communication between police and the community. The newsletter can also be viewed on the city web site, eminnetonka.com, click on "Inside City Hall," Departments, then Police Services. □

Dial-a-Ride offers group rides

ARE YOU AND a group of others looking to travel somewhere in Minnetonka and want an inexpensive way to go? Are you tired of fighting traffic to get to your destination? Try Dial-a-Ride! The Dial-a-Ride bus service provides transportation within Minnetonka to both groups and individuals, with priority given to groups. Dial-a-Ride can take you and your group to entertainment, shopping, dining, appointments, or anywhere within the city that you want to go.

Dial-a-Ride operates Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reservations should be made at least one day in advance. Rides are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis; fares are \$1 per person round trip for group rides (at least three people or more) or \$1.50 per person each way for individuals. For more information, or to schedule a reservation, please call (952) 401-1749. □

Caring Youth *continued from page 1*

Carrie Baumann – Minnetonka High School Counseling Department

Justin Berg – Hopkins High School

Crystal Boyd – Valley Community Presbyterian Church

Sarah Hesch – Depot Coffee House

Max Hurd – Minnetonka Heights Community Enhancement Program

Tina Jensen – Shoestring Players

Ari Levitus – Ridgedale YMCA

Erin Martin – Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Sara Pokorny – Perspectives Family Center

Claire Reuning – Minnetonka United Methodist Church

Verna Wong – Minnetonka High School Parent Resource Center/Minnetonka Police Dept.

A class of 16 young people was nominated by Hopkins North Jr. High School: **Kali Basman, Karen Eidem, Tali Flaten, Katie Hoey, Arielle Klane, Wakley Magnuson, Naomi Mann, Anna Misheev, Caroline Parry, Megan Parry, Neda Raeker, Rebecca Ratner, Mary Tomlinson, Mollie Treff, Sara Weiss, Jessica Zimmerman.** □

Dean Elstad is Spirit of Minnetonka winner

AT A RECENT employee recognition event, Dean Elstad was named winner of the Spirit of Minnetonka award. This award is presented to an employee whose actions and accomplishments during the past year have embodied the city's philosophy statement, "Exceptional services provided by exceptional people," and who may be viewed as the overall "Employee of the Year."



Dean Elstad

Dean has been a city employee for more than 14 years, serving as Recycling Coordinator in the Community Development Department. He administers the city's contract with Waste Management and organizes and supervises the various drop-off programs. Dean also serves as Trails Coordinator, working with the Engineering, Public Works, and Administration Departments to plan and schedule additions to the trail system.

If you've ever called city hall about recycling, leaf or brush disposal, what to do with household hazardous waste, or what items will be accepted on the city's two special drop-off days, you probably talked with Dean. He's always ready to answer your questions in his open and friendly manner, and he makes sure your questions are answered to your satisfaction.

His nominators remarked, "We can count on Dean to be trustworthy and respectful to others...he's especially fair and reasonable and is always looking for ways to improve his recycling programs. We appreciate his positive and upbeat approach to his work."

Congratulations, Dean!

Information offered on peddlers, solicitors

SPRING OFTEN BRINGS an increase in door-to-door sales and soliciting. For-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license, unless they pay their solicitors. However, the city requests that charitable organizations register.

Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a photo ID issued by the city. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by issuing this license. Every resident and business owner has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property.

If you have a complaint about door-to-door sales or soliciting, please contact the Minnetonka Police Department, (952) 939-8500.

Soil testing is available to determine what your lawn needs

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA promotes the use of phosphorus-free fertilizer. In general, Minnesota has soils already rich in phosphorus. Putting more on a lawn is a waste of money and is harmful to wetlands, creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.

Before you purchase fertilizer for your lawn, determine what your lawn needs. A soil sample kit is available from the Minnesota Extension Service of Hennepin County, (612) 374-8400. For \$12.50, the extension service will analyze your soil and provide a report to help you make an informed decision on what nutrients your lawn actually needs.

HT DSL Internet Availability Survey HT

DSL (digital subscriber line) is an enhanced service provided by Qwest through its local service telephone lines. It provides high-speed Internet access without tying up the telephone line — you can make calls while using the Internet. The City is interested in learning about the availability of DSL service by Qwest to Minnetonka residents and businesses. If there are gaps in service, the city plans to provide the information to the commission that regulates Qwest. Please respond to the following survey in any of these three ways:

1. Go to www.eminnetonka.com and complete the survey on-line.
2. Mail this survey to: DSL Survey, City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345.
3. Call (952) 939-8586 and leave your responses on the Minnetonka Mike message line.

1. Do you have DSL service available to your home?
 Yes No Don't Know N/A
2. Do you have DSL service available to your business?
 Yes No Don't Know N/A
3. If you have DSL service available, do you use it now or intend to use it in the future?
 Yes No Maybe
4. If you know that DSL is not available to you, do you have alternatives that provide you with high-speed Internet access, e.g. cable?
 Yes No Don't know Don't care

5. If you know you do not have DSL service available to you from Qwest, would you like to have it?
 Yes, very much No, don't care
 Yes, but have other alternatives
6. What is the address of your home or business?
.....
.....
.....
.....



Natural Resource Notes

Spring cleaning will protect our lakes, ponds, and creeks

Our snow is finally melting and spring rains are here! All that runoff is funneling down streets into ditches that carry it to our lakes, ponds, and creeks.

How to keep your spring runoff clean:

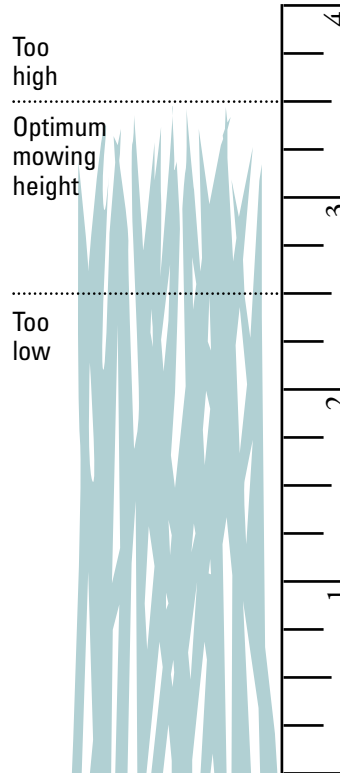
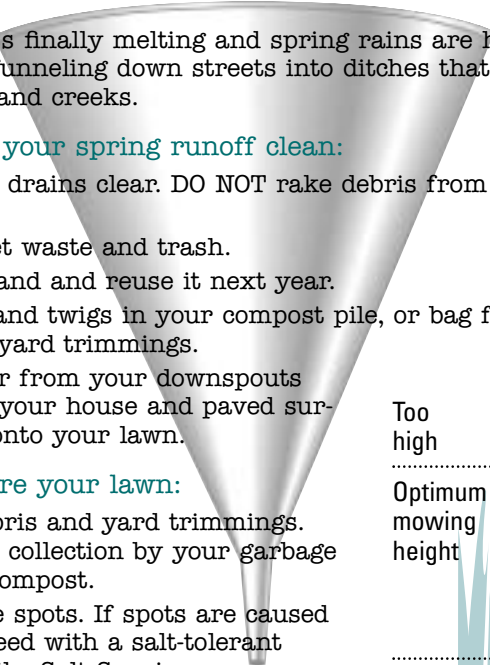
- Keep storm drains clear. DO NOT rake debris from your lawn into the street.
- Clean up pet waste and trash.
- Sweep up sand and reuse it next year.
- Put leaves and twigs in your compost pile, or bag for disposal with your other yard trimmings.
- Direct water from your downspouts away from your house and paved surfaces, and onto your lawn.

How to restore your lawn:

- Remove debris and yard trimmings. Prepare for collection by your garbage hauler, or compost.
- Reseed bare spots. If spots are caused by salt, reseed with a salt-tolerant grass mix like Salt Survivor.

How to keep lawn care products out of your runoff:

- Always read and follow label directions when using lawn care products and disposing of their containers.
- If you fertilize your lawn, use zero phosphorus fertilizer unless a soil test indicates otherwise.
- Don't apply lawn care products to frozen ground — wait until the grass starts growing.
- Sweep up and reuse any lawn care products that fall on streets, sidewalks, and driveways. □



Wetland Health Project — volunteers needed

IN MINNETONKA WE value our wetlands and try hard to protect them from filling, draining, and pollution. But how well are we succeeding in keeping the wetlands healthy so they can sustain the plants and animals that belong there? The City of Minnetonka is evaluating our wetlands using the Wetland Health Evaluation Project. The goals of this project include using biological criteria to identify the health of different wetlands within our community. So if you have ever wanted to wade in a wetland, get your hands muddy, and discover plants and animals that live in murky shallows, WE WANT YOU!

Adult volunteers work on a team with other city residents to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. You **do not** need a science background or any previous monitoring experience to participate. Volunteers work under the direction of a team leader and receive training on wetland monitoring protocol. This includes plant and insect identification. The time commitment is approximately 40–50 hours from the months of May through July. This includes all training, fieldwork, and lab work. All equipment is provided. The city can then use this data to help determine the health of our water resources. If you are interested in volunteering for the Minnetonka Wetland Health Evaluation Project, please call Jo Colleran, Environmental Resources Coordinator, (952) 939-8299, for more information. □

Natural resource inventory under way

As mentioned in this newsletter last summer, the City of Minnetonka has begun to conduct a natural resource inventory throughout the city. A field botanist will be surveying land again this spring in order to identify ecologically sensitive parcels. This inventory will take place on both public and private land.

The information gained will assist city staff with further evaluation for the open space program and should help identify valuable interconnecting greenway corridors. By implementing this natural resource inventory throughout the entire city, staff is then able to make more informed decisions about open space and other types of land use.

For more information about this program, please contact Jo Colleran, Environmental Resources Coordinator, (952) 939-8299 or e-mail jcolleran@eminnetonka.com. □



Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

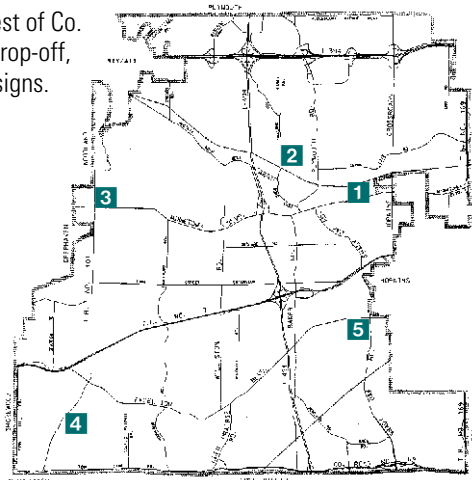
Saturdays: April 26, May 3, May 10, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Minnetonka residents may bring bagged leaves and yard and garden materials to one of the five drop-off sites shown on the accompanying map on the dates and times listed above. Brush larger than 1/2" in diameter will *not* be accepted at the leaf drop-off sites.

If you have other means of handling your leaves, such as collection by your garbage hauler or by backyard composting, please use that option. All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as garbage collection for a reasonable annual or monthly fee. Check with your hauler for details.

SATURDAY LEAF DROP-OFF SITES

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**
(11522 Minnetonka Blvd., 1/4 mile west of Co. Rd. 73) Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.
- 2 Meadow Park Parking Lot**
(Oakland Rd. across from Stone Rd.)
- 3 Groveland School Parking Lot**
(Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101)
- 4 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center North Parking Lot**
(5621 Hwy. 101)
- 5 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot**
(Excelsior Blvd., west of Shady Oak Rd.)



BAGGED LEAVES accepted at all sites on Saturday dates (4/26, 5/3, 5/10) only.

City staff will assist residents with unloading bags of leaves on Saturdays. Residents will be asked to take empty bags home for re-use or disposal. Loosely tie bags for easy emptying.

BULK LEAVES (must be covered during transport) – only accepted at the Public Works Facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. on these days and times. (Please use caution and follow signs when accessing the site.)

SATURDAYS: April 26, May 3, May 10, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MONDAYS: April 28, May 5, May 12, noon to 8 p.m.

TUESDAYS: April 29, May 6, May 13, noon to 8 p.m.

Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile (bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves). Using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves makes unloading your leaves easier and faster.

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from the Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217; leave a message anytime.

2003 Brush Drop-off returns to Public Works Facility

Weather permitting, the 2003 brush drop-off program will begin Monday, April 14, at the new Public Works Facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. The site will be open during the week on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays**, noon to 8 p.m., and on **Saturdays** from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. through November 18. (The brush drop-off site will be closed Memorial Day, May 26; Tuesday, June 10, for the Public Works building grand opening; Labor Day, September 1; and Veterans' Day, November 11.)

Branches up to 6" in diameter will be accepted. A valid Minnetonka I.D. is required to drop off brush. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services. No trash, grass, loose leaves, dirt, sod, lumber, fences, or wood scraps are accepted.

The new Public Works Facility is still under construction, so please use caution and follow the signs when accessing the site. Access points may change. Drive slowly and follow directional signs. Thanks for your cooperation!

Call the Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217, during business hours or leave a message anytime to obtain more information.

Dates to remember

May 15, 16, 17

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 7

Special Drop-off Day

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

More information will be included in the **May Minnetonka Memo**. Location for both will be the Minnetonka Ice Arena parking lot. Also check the Minnetonka web site: www.eminnetonka.com under "Current Events."

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2003

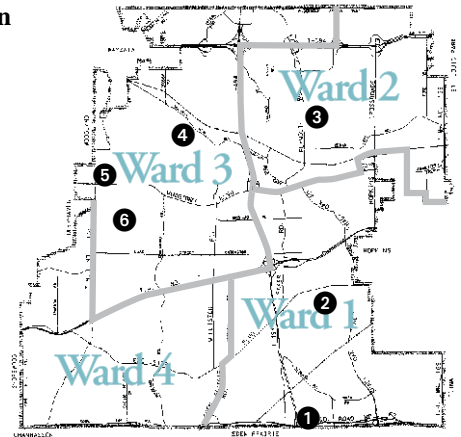
Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
		1	2	3	4	5	3	Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.	16	Park Board, 7 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	Community Resources Commission, 6:30 p.m.	21	Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; EDA, 6 p.m.	23	Board of Review, 6:30 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	9	Board of Review, 6:30 p.m.	28	City Council, 6:30 p.m..
27	28	29	30				14	City Council, 6:30 p.m.		

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

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

- 1 Sign plan review for Children's Hospitals and Clinics at **5950 Clearwater Dr.** (89006.03a)
- 2 Preliminary plat, variances for Christopher J. Sirianni at **4760 Dominick Dr.** (03005.03a)
- 3 Variance to construct a single family home for Benjamin and Lisa Rubin at **2435 Emerald Tr.** (03006.03a)
- 4 Conditional use permit for wireless telecommunications tower for Mark Holm at **15501 McGinty Rd. W.** (03002.03a)
- 5 Guide plan amendment, rezoning, preliminary plat for Halley's Custom Homes, Inc. "The Sanctuary" at **3230, 3306 Groveland School Rd.** and **3305 Co. Rd. 101** (02074.02a)
- 6 Front yard setback variance for Debi Berns at **3811 Dartmouth Dr.** (03007.03a)



DID YOU KNOW?

You might already know that Minnetonka inspects restaurants to protect the health of our residents and visitors. But did you know that, besides those 380 food establishments, our four health specialists license and inspect 83 swimming pools, 20 lodging facilities, 8 massage facilities, and 110 refuse hauling trucks each year? They also address air and water quality, noise levels, and radon-lead-asbestos issues.

HT Hot Topics HT

ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH HT are listed as Hot Topics on the city web site, 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.

minnetonka memo

April 2003



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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.

City Manager

John Gunyou (952) 939-8200

Newsletter Editor

Joan Post

E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com

Internet: eminnetonka.com

Council

At Large: Janis Callison ... (952) 935-7010 jcallison@eminnetonka.com
Terry Schneider (952) 934-9529 tschneider@eminnetonka.com
Ward 1: Dick Allendorf ... (952) 935-6017 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com
Ward 2: Ken Tauer (952) 546-9114 ktauer@eminnetonka.com
Ward 3: Brad Wiersum ... (952) 930-3681 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com
Ward 4: Al Thomas (952) 949-9027 athomas@eminnetonka.com

Minnetonka Mike (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1
Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON