

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
May 2003

You're invited to the Minnetonka Public Works Dept. Open House!

A GRAND OPENING AND open house for the new Minnetonka Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard will be held Tuesday, June 10, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

All residents are invited to bring their families to tour this new facility that includes space for administrative offices, employee areas, maps and records, fleet services, and equipment storage. The facility also provides space for Hennepin County Public Works equipment and staff. Dedication of the building will be at 5:30 p.m.

Hot dogs, lemonade, popcorn, and other treats will be available throughout the event. There will be a strolling magician, a face painter, and other fun activities for the youngsters. Kid hard hats will be

available (while supplies last), and kids can have their picture taken on a piece of public works equipment. They will also be able to play water tower basketball, operate a backhoe simulator, and register for a drawing to win a grand prize scale model piece of equipment.

Visitors will be able to view many types of machinery and have operators explain their usage, see how street signs are made (old ones will be for sale), learn about home plumbing and water conservation, receive information about tree care, and view a rain garden — an alternative method to manage storm water runoff.



The Minnetonka Public Works Department, comprised of 53 full-time and 24 seasonal part-time employees, is responsible for:

- maintenance of 253 miles of local streets (snow/ice control, road pavement, signage, storm drainage)
- maintenance of five community parks and 39 neighborhood parks (mowing 66 sites and 37 ball fields as well as year-round maintenance of 30 miles of trails and 10 miles of sidewalk)
- repair and maintenance of 175 pieces of mobile equipment
- maintenance of 14 community buildings
- reforestation, diseased tree removal, and management of the Natural Resources Stewardship Program
- operation and maintenance of the city's water distribution and sanitary sewer collection system

The new structure is linked to city hall by fiber optic cable for voice and data connection. Portions of the facility can also function as a backup emergency operations center (EOC) and public safety dispatch center in case of an emergency.

A new feature is the drive-through truck and vehicle wash. There's also a new fleet fueling island on the grounds that will supply 150,000 gallons of fuel annually to all city vehicles and machinery. In a cooperative effort, Hennepin County Public Works also has space for snowplow trucks and other maintenance vehicles.

Be sure to mark your calendar for June 10 and come to the Public Works Open House. You won't want to miss this very special event! ☐

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Hopkins Crossroad intersection improvements begin this month **HT**

BEGINNING MID-MAY, the City of Minnetonka will begin work on Hopkins Crossroad to improve traffic flow in the Highway 7 intersection area and also along Hopkins Crossroad between Highway 7 and Oakvale Road South. Improvements will consist of adding a signal at Minnetonka Mills Road and a concrete median along Hopkins Crossroad to create left turn lanes at Minnetonka Mills Road and Highway 7. *Constructing these improvements will require Hopkins Crossroad to be closed for a period of 6 – 8 weeks.* Notice of the closure will be posted along the street as well as the detour route.

Questions about this project should be directed to City Engineer Lee Gustafson, (952) 939-8239. ☐

Register now for Minnetonka Summer Festival events

THE MINNETONKA SUMMER Festival will be held on the Minnetonka Civic Center grounds on Saturday, June 28, 2003. Entertainment, including children's rides, face painting, ice skating, and stage shows, will be provided for the entire family.

In conjunction with the festival, there will be an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Burwell House, complete with free tours, entertainment, an antique market, and food concessions.

The day will conclude with the annual fireworks display — a grand finale to the day's events. A detailed schedule of events will be published in next month's newsletter to be mailed mid-June.

Registrations are now being accepted for the following events:

8K Race, 2 Mile Fun Run and Children's Tot Trot

The 8K race begins at 7:30 a.m. The course is set in a beautiful wooded area which is generally flat with some rolling hills. The 2 Mile Fun Run starts at 8:45 a.m., and the Children's Tot Trot is scheduled for 10 a.m. Races begin and end in front of Minnetonka City Hall.

Softball Tournament

This one-day men's softball tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 28. The tournament is limited to 12 teams with each team guaranteed at least three games. The tournament will take place at Minnetonka's Big Willow and Hopkins' Central Parks. Entry fees are \$85 with awards presented to the top three teams.

Golf Tournaments

Two family-oriented golf tournaments (adult/child, adult couple) will be held Saturday morning, June 28, at the Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center in Minnetonka. The cost of each tournament is \$24 per team and includes a free meal at the festival. Teams will be comprised of one adult and one child (age 8–15) with an 8 a.m. tee off, and an adult couple (high school age and older) with a 10:30 a.m. tee off. There will be special contests throughout the event. Space is limited. Call (952) 939-8203 to register. Please refer to Course #6367 (Adult/Child @ 8 a.m.) or Course #6368 (Adult Couples @ 10:30 a.m.) when registering for any of these tournaments. □

Gray's Bay public access is open

THE NEW PUBLIC access to Lake Minnetonka at the site of the former Gray's Bay Marina is now open. Located at County Road 101 and Gray's Bay Boulevard, the facility is a joint project of the City of Minnetonka and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with funding and support from various other agencies.

Free parking is provided for 112 vehicles with attached boat trailers and for six vehicles without trailers. The site also includes public toilets and loading docks. The docks provide gas and sanitary pump-out services to the general public. Individual boat slips at the location have been rented to Minnetonka residents using a lottery system.

With the opening of the new facility, boat launching to Lake Minnetonka from the Gray's Bay Causeway and Gray's Bay dam has been closed. Temporary parking for 15 cars with no trailers will be available on the causeway, on the east side of Highway 101, just north of the Gray's Bay bridge. Permanent improvements on the causeway, including facilities for shore fishing, are planned with the upgrading of Highway 101 in the next few years. The canoe launch to Minnehaha Creek at the dam will continue, along with further improvements later this summer to create a headwaters park.

A grand opening ceremony at the new access site is set for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5. □

Shady Oak, Libbs Lake beaches open June 6

SHADY OAK BEACH and Libbs Lake Beach will be open June 6–August 24 for the summer season. Hours for Shady Oak Beach are June and July, 10 a.m.–9 p.m., and for August, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Shady Oak Beach offers two sand play areas, a water play area, sand volleyball court, concession stand, and men, women, and family restrooms/changing areas. Lifeguards are on duty during the above beach hours.

The beach at Libbs Lake Park will have times with lifeguards on duty and also times when swimming will be allowed in an unsupervised setting. Swimming will be allowed between the hours of 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Lifeguards will be on duty noon–6 p.m. daily. Parking permits are required.

Shady Oak Beach passes can only be purchased directly through the Recreation Services office in Minnetonka City Hall by phone, mail, or in person. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. *Season passes are no longer sold at the beach, and temporary vouchers will no longer be issued at the beach as was done last year.* Call (952) 939-8203 now to purchase your 2003 Shady Oak Beach Season pass. Visa or Mastercard is accepted.

2003 Beach Fees

Household and Grandparent/Grandchild Passes	\$23 (Resident)
Single Person	\$12 (Resident)
Seniors (65+)	Free (Residents only)
Daily Admission	\$3
Daily Parking Permit	\$3

Burwell House tours begin June 7

The Burwell House site will be open for the summer tour season from June through September. Free tours will be given to the public on Tuesdays, noon to 3 p.m., and on Saturdays, noon until 4 p.m. beginning Saturday, June 7. Parking is available on the grounds. The main floor of the house is handicapped accessible. Consult the city web site, eminnetonka.com, for additional tour information, call (952) 939-8219, or contact ironbeck@eminnetonka.com. □

DID YOU KNOW?

You might already know that Minnetonka has a volunteer fire department, but did you know that of the 87 members only seven are *full-time* firefighters? These employees are on duty Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to provide administrative and logistic support for their department, and to respond to any fire and emergency calls. The remaining 80 firefighters are paid-on-call and respond to one of five fire stations when summoned via their fire pagers. We're proud to say that Minnetonka's volunteer fire department is the top-rated department in the state for technical rescues. □



Natural Resource Notes

Spring do's and don't's for your yard

As we watch life bursting forth every day from the ground and from the branches of trees, everyone wants to help it along. With the health of our natural resources in mind, here are some reminders for spring:

✔ **DO pick up litter on your property and on any public property nearby.** True, it's not your litter, but whoever threw it out is probably not coming back to clean it up. If it stays on the ground or in the gutter, it will probably wash or blow into local water resources (ponds, wetlands, creeks) or accumulate in an ugly mess in a patch of woods. This is the time of year when litter is most visible, so now is the time to get a trash bag and a pair of gloves and get out there. You'll feel better afterwards.

✗ **DON'T fertilize with phosphorus-containing fertilizer unless you are starting a new lawn or a soil test says you need it.** Phosphorus concentrations have become so high in many Minnesota soils that any extra is just a waste of your time and money. Sweep up any fertilizer or grass clippings that land on the street, sidewalk, or driveway. Otherwise this fertilizer and the organic debris will be washed into our lakes, ponds, and wetlands. This gives algae the nutrients it needs to grow. Remember, as of January 1, 2004, state law will prohibit the use of phosphorous fertilizer on your lawn, unless you are establishing a new lawn or a soil test shows your lawn needs it.

✔ **DO wash your car on the lawn rather than on pavement.** Soapy water is fine for grass but not so good for water resources. The water running down the pavement ends up in a local pond,

creek, or wetland. Also make sure your downspouts drain onto vegetated areas where the water can soak in (at least 10 ft. from your house), not onto pavement.

✔ **DO protect trees and water resources during a construction project.** If you are building a deck, porch, or addition or simply re-landscaping, make sure that heavy equipment doesn't compact the soil around your trees, and dirt doesn't get washed into the street or into a local water resource. For help on natural resource protection during construction, call Environmental Planning Intern Chris Robbins (952) 939-8295.

✗ **DON'T rake leaves or brush into the street. The city does not pick them up, and they are considered a nuisance.** You can construct a composter for excess leaves (4 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft.), or contract with your garbage hauler for curbside collection of yard waste. The city also operates a spring brush drop off program, which was described in the April issue of this newsletter. You may call Recycling Coordinator Dean Elstad, (952) 939-8217 for more information on yard waste or the brush drop off program.

✔ **DO take a trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen when considering adding to your landscaping.** You can get information about plants that thrive in various situations, and see what different species of trees and shrubs look like when they're fully grown.

Your actions can affect the overall health and quality of our environment. Thanks for helping to protect our community's natural resources. □

There are alternatives for using chemicals on your garden and lawn

WITH CONCERNS ABOUT use of pesticides and herbicides on gardens and lawns, many residents are reducing their use of chemicals and finding alternatives. There are many lawn care companies that now use non-toxic methods. Consider these non-toxic alternatives:

- Create healthy soil. Leave clippings on the lawn. Mulch leaves.
- Water infrequently but deeply to promote deep root growth.
- Mow high, 2–4 inches, to discourage weed growth. Keep mower blade sharp.
- Aerate lawn in spring or fall.
- Pull weeds by hand. After weeding gardens, apply a thick layer of mulch.

- Learn to live with some weeds.

If you do use pesticides, *read the product label*. Follow all precautions. Mix and use only at the recommended strength. Apply only where needed. Don't spray on windy days. Look for synthetic pyrethroid products (instead of organophosphates or carbamates). For further information on non-toxic pest control, see www.thegreen-guide.org/gardening/pest.php.

If you do choose to fertilize your lawn, remember that the City of Minnetonka, along with local watershed districts and the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), promotes the use of phosphorus-free fertilizer. (Phosphorus is the middle of the three numbers, i.e. 10-10-10, on a bag

of fertilizer. Look for a "zero" in the middle spot). Listed below are a few tips on properly applying fertilizer:

- Do not fertilize until the grass is actively growing and you are ready to mow (mid May).
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions printed on the bag.
- Never fertilize before a heavy rain. Never apply fertilizer to wet grass, but water thoroughly after application.
- Never wash fertilizer spills into the street.
- Close the gate on the spreader when crossing over hard surfaces such as driveways, walkways, or patios.

Chemical Alternatives *continued on page 4*

Citizenship Academy graduates recognized

ON MARCH 31 the Minnetonka City Council recognized 26 graduates of the 2003 Citizenship Academy. For four weeks participants learned about different areas of the city, including general services, development, recreation, public works, and public safety. Graduates were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn more about how their city government operates, and many positive comments were received. Individuals who graduated included Keith Berg, Ruby Berg, Chris Carlson, Peg Carlson, John Connelly, Cathy Gunderson, Anne Kalscheuer, Janet Larson, Paul Lehman, Steve Lutz, Diana Nagle, Jack Nagle, Darhl Nelson, Tami Petterson, Emily Richter, Kristin Richter, Sarah Sanna, Margaret Simonson, Amrit, Singh, Bruce Stillman, Gia Sundbo, Mari Sundbo, Jake Wenmark, Charles Wright, Kevin Zahler, Pat Zahler.



Twenty-six residents attended this year's Citizenship Academy to learn more about how their city operates. Watch this newsletter for information about next year's class.

Watch for pedestrians at crosswalks

IN ABSENCE OF traffic signals, state law requires drivers of vehicles to stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or within any crosswalk at an intersection. However, no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it's impossible for the driver to yield. With the many trail crossings in Minnetonka, it is imperative that drivers be alert and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

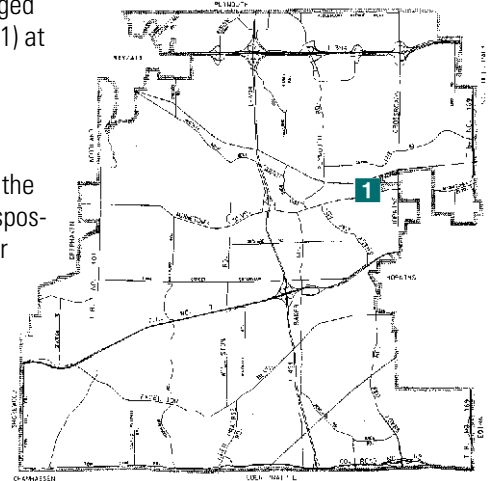
Minnetonka residents may bring bulk or bagged leaves to the Public Works Facility (Site No. 1) at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. on these dates:

MONDAY: May 12, noon to 8 p.m.

TUESDAY: May 13, noon to 8 p.m.

Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile (take your plastic bags home for disposal and 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.



Chemical Alternatives

continued from page 3

- Rinse the spreader over the lawn, not a driveway or hard surface area.
- Drop spreaders are more precise, but slower, than rotary spreaders. Near shorelines, use a drop spreader.
- Avoid getting fertilizer into natural drainage areas or pathways where it can be carried to surface water.
- Near shorelines, leave a buffer of natural vegetation to prevent erosion and retain nutrients.

A healthy lawn need not require high maintenance, nor does it need to be lush and green. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. This saves work, saves money, and puts nitrogen contained in the clippings back on the lawn (replaces one fertilizer application a year). Anyone interested in low-maintenance lawn care practices can call the Minnesota County Extension Service of Hennepin County for information, (612) 374-8400.

For further information, call the Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217.

Stages Theatre presents musical

THE MUSICAL, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," is being presented at Stages Theatre Company, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. The production will run through May 25. Call the box office at (952) 979-1111 for ticket information.

Airplane noise

CERTAIN AREAS OF Minnetonka, particularly the northeast section, occasionally experience an increase in airplane noise. Incidences vary, depending on weather conditions and the airport's use of take-off and landing patterns that attempt to disperse noise impacts. Residents can report bothersome airplane noise by calling Ward 2 Councilman Ken Tauer, (952) 546-9114, or the airport's noise complaint hotline, (612) 726-9411.

Of interest to homeowners

THE CITY'S WEB site has a new section, "New Resident Information," which is packed with information for *all* residents: voter registration, ordinance guidelines, homesteading procedure, property tax information, alarm registration, garbage/recycling, utilities, city services, general information, budget, maps, parks, newsletters and much, much more. Consider this your "key to the city!" Visit eminnetonka.com, then select New Resident Information. Questions can be directed to Web Coordinator Becca Harris, (952) 939-8384, or bharris@eminnetonka.com.



Hennepin County Unwanted Garden/ Household Hazard Waste (HHW) Community Collection

The following HHW and problem materials are accepted:

- Paint, stains, paint strippers, wood preservatives, thinners, gasoline (container will not be returned), lighter fluid, insecticides, herbicides, solvents, acids, adhesives, caustics, degreasers, rodent poisons, moth balls, spot remover, chemistry sets, photo chemicals, mercury, drain or oven cleaners, floor finishes, metal or furniture polish, aerosol cans, driveway sealer (This is not a complete list. Call (612) 348-3777 for more details.)
- Fluorescent and HID (high intensity discharge) lamps and ballasts (maximum 10 bulbs)
- Household batteries (flashlight, D, C, AA, AAA, 6 and 9 volt cells)
- Lead acid vehicle batteries
- Rechargeable batteries and rechargeable appliances

Thursday, May 15
Friday, May 16
Saturday, May 17

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Ice Arena Parking Lot
(upper parking lot)
Minnetonka Civic Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

- Electronics (television, stereo console, computer, printer, monitor, VCR, or radio)

**There is no charge for dropping off HHW.
This drop-off site is open to any Hennepin
County resident.**

Please note: This HHW Drop-off is open to any Hennepin County resident and only accepts items from households. No hazardous waste or problem materials can be accepted from businesses, including home businesses and non-profit organizations.

Appliances, copiers, motor oil and motor oil filters, compressed gas cylinders, propane cylinders, explosives, radioactive materials, infectious waste or household garbage are NOT accepted at the community HHW collection.

For information, call the Minnetonka Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217, or Hennepin County, (612) 348-3777.

Year-round HHW Drop-off Sites

Residents may also bring household hazardous waste (HHW) to either of Hennepin County's permanent HHW drop-off facilities throughout the year:

8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park
1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington

There is no charge to drop off HHW.

Facilities are open Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday until 8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

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.

Also accepted for no charge are consumer electronics (TVs, radios, stereos, VCRs, cam-

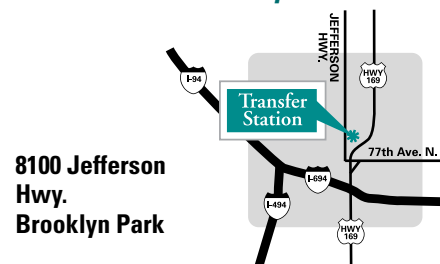
orders, telephones, computers, monitors, printers).

Household appliances (microwaves, water heaters, stoves, freezers, washers, dryers, etc.) may be dropped off for a \$15 fee.

No hazardous waste or problem materials can be accepted from businesses, including home businesses and non-profit organizations.

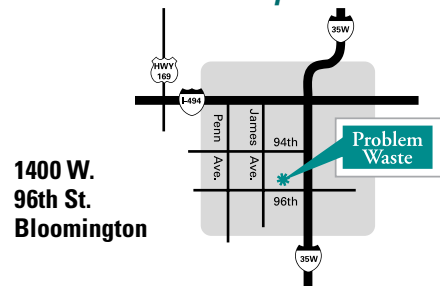
For further information, call the Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217 (please leave a message if you get voice mail) or Hennepin County, (612) 348-3777 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

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**



Special One-day Drop-off

Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ice Arena 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 parenthesis.

Appliances (\$11 each)

Washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove, oven, cook-top, microwave, freezer, refrigerator, water heater, water softener, home furnace, trash compactor, garbage disposer, humidifier or dehumidifier

Air conditioner (\$20)

Electronics (No charge)

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

Carpet & Padding (\$1 per square yard for all carpet and \$1 per square yard 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 6 feet in length and must be less than 12 inches in diameter.

Tires (\$2 for each car, trailer, or light truck tire or \$3 if tire is still on rim; \$10 for tractor or truck tire on split rim)

Batteries (No charge)

All car, truck, motorcycle, and garden tractor batteries are accepted, as well as household batteries (D, C, AA, AAA, 6 & 9 volt cells, button batteries and rechargeable batteries).

Fluorescent Bulbs (No charge)

Up to 10 fluorescent bulbs will be accepted per vehicle. **No bulbs will be accepted from business or commercial use.** Please transport bulbs in a manner to avoid breakage.

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 goods must be in good working and saleable condition. Salvation Army reserves the right to decline your donation.

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

No railroad ties or sheetrock

Mattresses and Box Springs (\$6 per piece for single or twin size, \$10 per piece for double, queen, or king size)

Chairs — \$5 small, \$10 large

Love Seat — \$15 each

Couch/Sofa — \$20 each

Hide-a-bed — \$25 each

Scrap Metal (no charge for clean scrap metal such as pipe, gutters, swing sets, barbecues, ducting, fencing, etc.)

Scrap metal must be clean (all plastic, concrete, rubber, wood and hazardous materials must be removed).

\$5 charge for "dirty" scrap metal items

such as: propane tanks, bicycle with tires, lawn chair with webbing, or lawn mower with wheels and/or plastic parts still attached. The charge for small propane tanks is \$1. (All engines must have oil and gas drained.)

Additional charges for riding mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers or other large items.

Toilets, sinks (porcelain) — \$5 each

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 the Recycling Coordinator, (952) 939-8217, during business hours or visit www.eminnetonka.com, and go to Hot Topics.

Can't make the June 7 drop-off day? Tired of waiting in long lines?

The Hennepin County Solid Waste & Recycling Transfer Station in Brooklyn Park accepts all the materials listed above. Disposal fees for items are similar; however, there is a *minimum charge of \$15 (plus taxes)* for up to one cubic yard of material. Facility staff will determine the charges for each vehicle. This site is very busy on Tuesday mornings and all day on Saturdays, leading to longer waiting times. See page 5 for map to site and hours. Only the Brooklyn Park site accepts all the above items. Call Hennepin County, (612) 348-3777 for more information.

Memorial Day Recycling Collection Note

The Memorial Day holiday on Mon., May 26, will delay the recycling collection one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection on Tues., May 27; residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wed., May 28.

2003 Brush Drop-off returns to Public Works facility

The 2003 brush drop-off program is now in operation 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 I.D. proving Minnetonka residency 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.

Minnetonka Tap Water Report

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA is issuing laboratory test results for the drinking water provided to residents during 2002. Each of the past five years, the Minnetonka Utilities Department has distributed this annual report to summarize drinking water quality for the previous year. This report fulfills an obligation the city's Water Utility has to provide accurate and timely information about your drinking water and the city's water system. This year's report again delivers good news: *no contaminants have been found that exceed levels set by EPA for safe drinking water.*

If you have questions about your drinking water, please contact Jim Malone at jmalone@eminnetonka.com or (952) 988-8400. If you would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please contact the Public Works Department, (952) 988-8400.

Water Source

The City of Minnetonka operates 16 wells that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer. The wells range in depth from 405 to 575 feet. The Prairie Du Chien-Jordan formation consists of limestone and granular sandstone that was deposited on the shores of an ancient sea millions of years ago. The water resides in cracks and spaces in the rock. This formation covers much of the Upper Midwest.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or humans. Before a water source is used for a supply, it is tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters. Listed on the back of this page are test results for the City of Minnetonka water supply.

Are Contaminants a Concern?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants found in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.



Drinking Water Regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.



Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, (800) 426-4791.

New Water Rates for Minnetonka

New residential water rates have been instituted to encourage water conservation. There no longer is a minimum charge (previously about \$20 per quarter for use less than 15,000 gallons). This has been replaced with a \$1 per quarter account maintenance fee. Customers only pay for the water actually used under the new system. As water use increases, the cost per unit also increases under the following four-tiered system:

- Tier 1: 0 to 25,000 gallons: \$1.45/thousand gallons
- Tier 2: 25,001 gallons to 40,000 gallons: \$1.65/thousand gallons
- Tier 3: 40,001 gallons to 70,000 gallons: \$1.95/thousand gallons
- Tier 4: 70,001 gallons and over: \$2.35/thousand gallons

Commercial customers also have a new rate structure to encourage conservation. Office, retail, industrial, multi-family residential accounts are now subject to a \$0.10 surcharge per thousand gallons used during the peak water use months of May through September. Sprinkling only accounts are assessed a much higher \$0.25 surcharge during this period. Similar to the new residential rate structure, the minimum use charge was replaced with a \$1 per month account maintenance fee, plus a meter maintenance fee based on the size of the service water meter. Please contact Public Works at (952) 988-8400 for questions about water rates.

Lawn Watering Schedule

To effectively manage the community's water needs, City of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

- No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by hand-held hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery, or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit from the Public Works Department Director.



Private wells are exempt from these regulations provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. If you have questions about these regulations, or need to obtain a permit, call (952) 988-8400 for details.

Minnetonka Tap Water Report

Water supplied by the City of Minnetonka is regularly tested by the Minnesota Department of Health for nearly 100 contaminants regulated by EPA. Test results for 2002 are listed in the table below. Only those substances that were detected are listed in the table. **No contaminants were found that exceed limits for safe drinking water.**

Monitored substances can be divided into five testing categories:

Microorganisms, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural operations, and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can occur naturally or come from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming

Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses

Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems

Radioactive contaminants, which can occur naturally or result from oil and gas production and mining activities

Water Testing Terms and Definitions

The **Amount Found** can be the highest amount found or the average of all samples tested, depending on the regulation. If multiple samples were tested in 2002, the lowest and highest level detected are listed in the **Range of Detections**.

Regulated substances have Maximum Contaminant Levels (**MCLs**) set by EPA. This is the highest level allowed in drinking water. Some contaminants also have MCL goals (**MCLGs**). This is the level of a substance where there is no known or expected health risk. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available water treatment processes.

Unregulated substances do not have MCLs. They are assessed by state standards known as health risk limits. If an unacceptable amount of any substance is ever found in the water, the City of Minnetonka will notify residents and take action to eliminate the problem.

The MCL for lead and copper is known as the Action Level. This is the concentration which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow. Ninety percent of all samples tested must be below this concentration. Lead and copper get into tap water via corrosion of home plumbing systems. Minnesota Department of Health lab tests show Minnetonka in compliance for lead and copper.

Other Definitions:

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/L**: picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity **ND**: Not Detected

Radon is a radioactive gas which is naturally occurring in some groundwater. Testing during 2001 showed average radon levels of 60.0 pCi/L in Minnetonka water. It poses a lung cancer risk when gas is released from water into air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes or clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when it is ingested. Because radon in indoor air poses a much greater health risk than radon in drinking water, an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4000 pCi/L may apply in states that have adopted an indoor air program, which compels citizens, homeowners, schools, and communities to reduce the radon threat from indoor air. For states without such a program, the MCL of 300 pCi/L may apply. Minnesota plans to adopt an indoor air program once the radon rule is finalized.

Laboratory Results for Minnetonka Tap Water: 2002

Detected Substance	Units of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Amount Found	Range of Detections	Typical Source in Drinking Water (likely source in italics)
Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	15	0	6.5	—	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
Radium 226/228	pCi/L	5.0	0	1.6	—	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
Fluoride	ppm	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.93–1.2	<i>Additive for dental health, aluminum and fertilizer factories</i>
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10.0	10.0	0.68	0.31–0.68	<i>Erosion of natural deposits, fertilizer runoff, septic tanks, sewage</i>
Mercury (inorganic)	ppb	2.0	2.0	0.01	ND–0.01	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; refinery and factory discharge; landfill and cropland runoff</i>
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	100	—	15.3	—	<i>By-product of drinking water disinfection</i>
Carbon Tetrachloride	ppb	5.0	0	0.15	ND–0.3	<i>Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities</i>
Barium	ppm	2.0	2.0	0.16	0.11–0.16	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; metal refinery and drilling waste discharge</i>
Arsenic	ppb	50.0	0	2.01	ND–2.01	<i>Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronic production waste</i>
Lead	ppb	90% of samples must be <15 ppb	—	90% of samples <3.0	0 out of 30 homes >15 ppb	<i>Corrosion of home plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits</i>
Copper	ppm	90% of samples must be <1.3 ppm	—	90% of samples <1.3	2 out of 30 homes >1.3 ppm	<i>Corrosion of home plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits</i>
Sodium	ppm	No established EPA limits		11.0	4.9–11.0	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>
Sulfate	ppm	No established EPA limits		20.0	6.9–20.0	<i>Erosion of natural deposits</i>

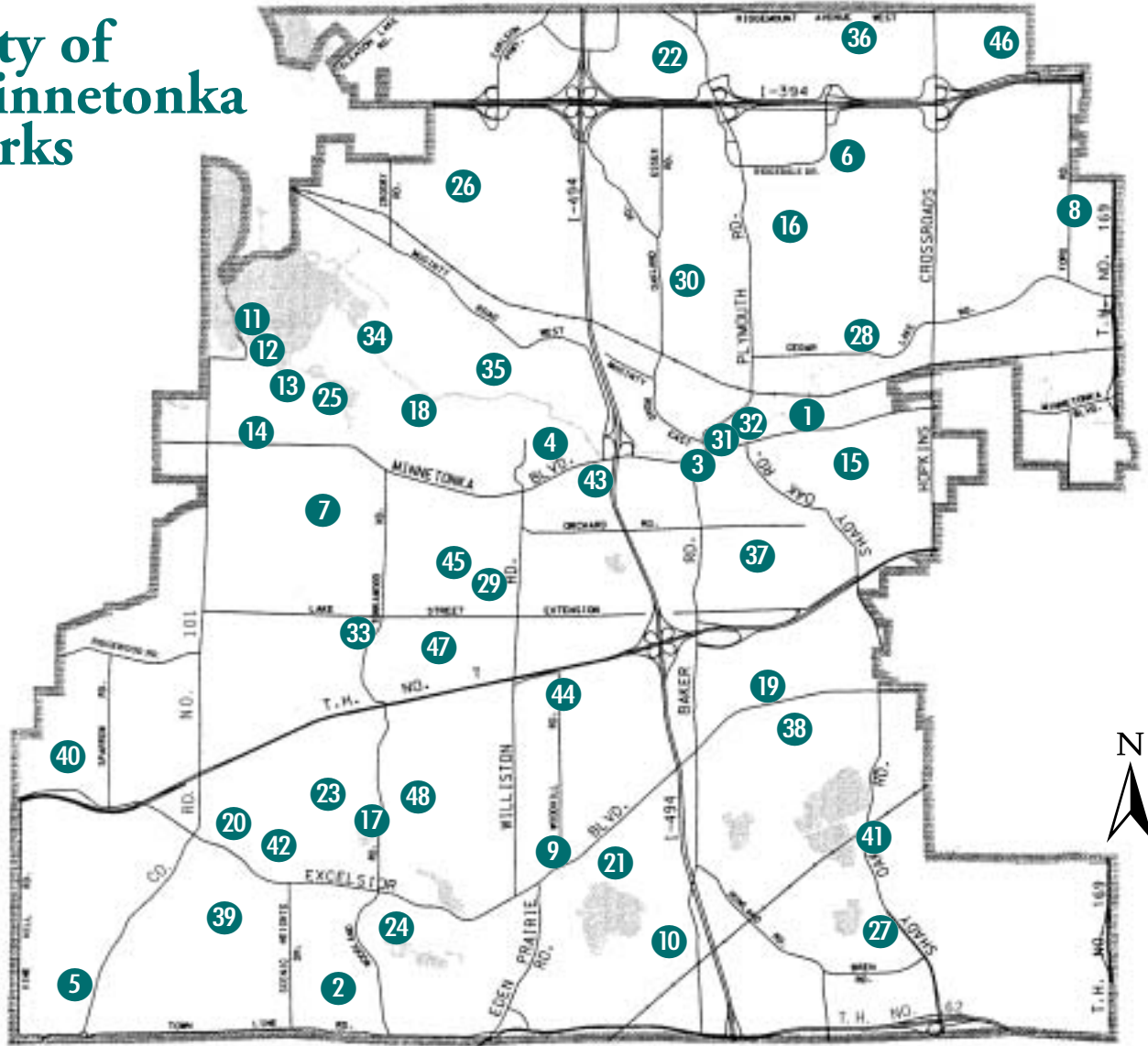
City of Minnetonka Park Facilities

Map Key

		OFF STREET PARKING	FOOTBALL-SOCCER	90 FT. BASEBALL	60 FT. BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	PLAYFIELD	INDOOR ICE	OUTDOOR HOCKEY	GENERAL SKATING	ROLLER HOCKEY	SHELTER BUILDING	TENNIS COURTS	HARD COURT	PLAY EQUIPMENT	PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SHELTER	BEACH	TRAILS, WALKING	TRAILS, BIKING	TRAILS, XC SKIING	RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP	TRAIL RESTROOMS	OTHER
1	Big Willow	●	■	■	3	2									■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	AJ
2	Boulder Creek	○					■		■	■		■		■	○	■			○	●				
3	Burwell	■														■							■	BJ
4	Civic Center	●					■	○						■		■			■	■			■	CJ
5	Covington	■	■				■		■	■	■	■	2	■	■	■			■	■				
6	Crane																							
7	Elmwood-Strand														○	■								
8	Ford	■													■	■			■	■				
9	Glen Lake	■			2	■									■									M
10	Glen Moor						■							■	■	■								
11	Gray's Bay Causeway	■																						G
12	Gray's Bay Marina	■																						D
13	Groveland														○	■								
14	Gro Tonka	○	■			■	■		■	■	■	○	3	■	■	■	■							E
15	Guilliam	■		■		2														■	■			
16	Holloway																			■	■			
17	Holiday Lake														■									
18	Jidana	■														■				■		■		J
19	Junction	○					■						2	■	○	○				■	●			
20	Kelly	■																						F
21	Kinsel	■														■	2		■	■		■		
22	Knollway						■		■						■	■								
23	Lake Charlotte															■								
24	Lake Rose																							
25	Libbs Lake Beach	■														■		■						G
26	Linner	■					■		■				2	■	■	■								
27	Lone Lake	○	■										4	■	○	○	2		■	■	■	■	■	EHJK
28	Mayflower													■	○									
29	McKenzie	■					■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■								
30	Meadow	○					■		■	■	■	●	2		○	○			○	■	■		■	
31	Mills	○																					■	BJ
32	Mills Landing	○																						I
33	Mini Tonka	■													■	■								
34	Minnehaha Creek Headwaters	○																						GJ
35	Mooney															■								
36	Oberlin	■				■							2	■	■	■	■		■	■				L
37	Orchard	○					■								○	■			○					
38	Pioneer														○									
39	Purgatory	○											2		■	■			○	■	■	■	■	
40	Reich	■					■		■				2	■	○	■								
41	Shady Oak Beach	■									●				●	■	●	●	●	●	●			GJK
42	Spring Hill	○	■				2		■	■	■	○	○	○	○	○			○	●				
43	Sunrise Ridge	○													○	○			○					
44	Tower Hill	■																						
45	Victoria-Evergreen	■														■			■	●		■		
46	Westwood						■							■	○	■								
47	Wilson	○					■						2	■	■	○			■	■				
48	Woodgate	○					■						2	■	○	○			■					

■ Indicates existing facility A Lighted athletic fields D Boat launch G Fishing J Canoe landing M Skate park
 2 Indicates more than one facility B Historic site E Horseshoes H Frisbee golf K Sand volleyball
 ○ Indicates handicap accessible C Horse ring F Family garden plots I Senior citizens' crafts L Full court basketball

City of Minnetonka Parks



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Big Willow – 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. | 25 Libbs Lake Beach – 16515 Park La. |
| 2 Boulder Creek – 5948 Stoneybrook Dr. | 26 Linner – 2022 Linner Rd. |
| 3 Burwell – 13207 McGinty Rd. E. | 27 Lone Lake – 5624 Shady Oak Rd. |
| 4 Civic Center – 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | 28 Mayflower – 2835 Mayflower Ave. |
| 5 Covington – 18920 Manchester St. | 29 McKenzie – 14950 McKenzie Blvd. |
| 6 Crane – lot north of 12201 Ridgedale Dr. | 30 Meadow – 2725 Oakland Rd. |
| 7 Elmwood-Strand – 3610 Elmwood Pl. | 31 Mills – lot west of 13008 Minnetonka Blvd. |
| 8 Ford – 2115 Ford Rd. | 32 Mills Landing – 12810 Minnetonka Blvd. |
| 9 Glen Lake – 5240 Glenview Dr. | 33 Mini Tonka – 16001 Lake St. Ext. |
| 10 Glen Moor – 5700 W. Glen Moor Rd. | 34 Minnehaha Creek Headwaters – 16501 Gray’s Bay Blvd. |
| 11 Gray’s Bay Causeway – east side of Hwy. 101, north of Gray’s Bay bridge | 35 Mooney – 2910 Oak Lea Dr. |
| 12 Gray’s Bay Marina – 2831 Co. Rd. 101 | 36 Oberlin – 11597 Oberlin Rd. |
| 13 Groveland – 16710 Cottage Grove Ave. | 37 Orchard – 12595 Orchard Rd. |
| 14 Gro Tonka – 3201 Beverly Pl. | 38 Pioneer – 4622 Nelson Dr. |
| 15 Guillian Field– 12101 Minnetonka Blvd. | 39 Purgatory – 17315 Excelsior Blvd. |
| 16 Hilloway – 12415 Hilloway Rd. | 40 Reich – 18601 Beaver Tr. |
| 17 Holiday Lake – 5230 Woodland Rd. | 41 Shady Oak Beach – 5200 Shady Oak Rd. |
| 18 Jidana – 3333 Jidana La. | 42 Spring Hill – 16714 Seymour Dr. |
| 19 Junction – 12305 Junction Rd. | 43 Sunrise Ridge – Minnetonka Dr./Sunrise Dr. |
| 20 Kelly – Excelsior Blvd./Clearspring Dr. | 44 Tower Hill – 4550 Woodhill Rd. |
| 21 Kinsel – 14017 Kinsel Rd. | 45 Victoria-Evergreen – 3801 Victoria St. |
| 22 Knollway – 895 Horn Dr. | 46 Westwood – 9 Westwood Rd. |
| 23 Lake Charlotte – 16500 Norwood Dr. | 47 Wilson – 1230 Victoria St. |
| 24 Lake Rose – 5728 Lake Rose Dr. | 48 Woodgate – 5090 Highland Rd. |

Need to get from here to there?

MANY METRO TRANSIT bus routes serve Minnetonka, and from time to time different routes will be featured in this newsletter.

Route 612 provides wheelchair accessible local bus service from Minnetonka Heights Apartments on Highway 101 to the Hopkins Transit Center, with stops at SuperTarget (7-Hi), Glen Lake, and downtown Hopkins. At the Hopkins Transit Center connections can be made to other routes, including to downtown Minneapolis. Service is provided all day

on weekdays and Saturdays with limited service on Sundays. One-way fares are \$1.25 for non-rush hours and \$1.75 for rush hour service. Route schedules and maps are available at city hall, by calling MetroTransit, (612) 373-3333, or by visiting MetroTransit's website at www.metro-transit.org. □



Trail etiquette reviewed

SPRING-LIKE WEATHER brings heavy use to the city's trail system. Trails are shared by bicyclists, hikers, runners, walkers, and dog walkers. To promote peaceful co-existence and safe trail use, please respect the rights of others on the trail.

Here are some trail etiquette reminders:

- Travel on the right. Single file usage is preferred. If you stop, move off the trail.
- Obey all traffic signs. Turn only when safe. Signal your turn.
- Pass on the left, only when safe. Pass in single file only. When overtaking fellow trail users, warn them by activating a bell, horn or whistle and saying "passing on your left," or "passing."
- Proceed slowly around blind curves, steep hills, and bridges.
- Dogs must be on a close leash (6' or less) or "at heel."
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet droppings.

Trails are open from dawn to 10 p.m. Call (952) 93-TRAIL (952-938-7245) at any time with your comments, concerns or to receive a trail map. Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. □

Learning about bike safety

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL day and the youngsters are home from school...a perfect day for a family bike ride, right? Before you rush out and start pedaling, though, we hope you've taken the time to review bike safety rules and regulations and to pass them on to your kids. Bike safety is a topic that needs to be kept uppermost in the minds of bicyclists. To brush up on the latest safety tips, including helmet use, you may want to check out this web site: www.bhsi.org.

Learning to ride safely

Although most automobile/bicycle accidents involving adult cyclists are caused by the motorist, most of those involving child bikers are caused by the child. Young children may have difficulty understanding the rules of the road, but many of these accidents can be avoided by obeying bike safety rules and exercising caution while riding in traffic. Be sure your children know those rules, review them often, and be sure they understand why they need to observe them. It's up to you to pass your knowledge and experience on to your kids as they learn to ride.

Each year in the United States, about 900 people die in bicycle-related accidents and about a quarter are children between the ages of 5 and 14. In addition, more than a million children receive medical treatment for biking-related injuries each year.

Riding with young children

When your children are very young, a smart way to teach them bicycle safety is by example. Today's child safety carriers and other options give you the opportunity to spend quality time with your child while introducing him/her to the open road. However, your child must always wear a helmet and should be at least a year old before you start to bike together. Be a positive role model (and protect your own head) by wearing your own helmet, too. □

Note

The next *Minnetonka Memo* will be sent mid-June. It will contain up-to-the-minute information about the Minnetonka Summer Festival and Burwell Ice Cream Social to be held Saturday, June 28.



This property, on Cedar Lake Road adjacent to Minnehaha Creek, was purchased by the city with open space preservation funds approved by voters in 2001. Demolition of the home was recently completed. The land will be restored to its natural state.

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

May
2003

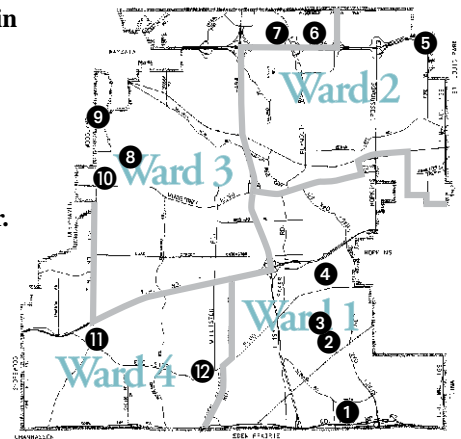
Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3	1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5 Study Session, 6:30 p.m.; Community Heritage Commission, 6:30 pm.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	13 Senior Citizen Advisory Board, 10 a.m.; Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	14 Jt. Recreation Board, 7 p.m. 15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 26 Memorial Day holiday – city offices closed

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in May. 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 Imaginality, Inc. at 6100, 6010, 6145, 6125, 6025, 5950 Chasewood Parkway (03014.03a)
- 2 Variance for a home addition and new garage for Bill and Lynn Zuidema at 4927 Dominick Dr. (03009.03a)
- 3 Preliminary plat with variances for Christopher J. Sirianni at 4760 Dominick Dr. (03005.03a)
- 4 Variances to remodel an existing home, garage for Robert Minnihan at 12116 Brenlyn Ln. (03010.03a)
- 5 Conditional Use Permit for a drive-up ATM for General Mills Federal Credit Union at 9999 Wayzata Blvd. (03012.03a)
- 7 Site/building plan review to extend rear parking lot for Sears Imported Autos at 13500 Wayzata Blvd. (86145.03a)
- 8 Variance for a detached garage for Michelle and Dave Truax at 16924 Cottage Grove Ave. (03011.03a)
- 9 Variances for Hans Hagen at 2809 McKenzie Pt. Rd. (00046.03a)
- 10 Rezoning, final site/building plan review, preliminary plat for Halley's Custom Homes, Inc. "The Sanctuary" at 3305 Co. Rd. 101, 3306 Groveland School Rd. (02074.02a)
- 11 Site/building plan review, variances for construction of an office building for Brian H. Burdick at 5101 Co. Rd. 101 (02037.03a)
- 12 Variance for a home addition for Nicolai Avdulov at 14933 Excelsior Blvd. (03008.03a)



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.

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memo May 2003



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

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