

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Florence Bogle honored with 2020 Reflections Award

Florence Bogle has been a pillar of the Minnetonka community since the very beginning - literally.

Bogle's family moved to Minnetonka in the late 1950s, just after its incorporation into a village. Roughly 10 years later (1968), Minnetonka would officially become a city - and in the six decades since, Florence has done all she can to make Minnetonka a better place.

Bogle's incredible commitment to service and activism has made an immeasurable impact, and it makes her the perfect recipient of the city's Reflections Award, which recognizes individuals, businesses and programs whose outstanding contributions reflect positively on Minnetonka.

"We're honored to select Florence Bogle to receive the Reflections Award," said Minnetonka Mayor Brad Wiersum, who was part of the selection process with the city's former mayors. "It's the least we can do to thank her for a lifetime of service and her immeasurable contributions to our community."

Bogle's daughter Ann nominated her for the award, and described her mother as a leader and a community organizer.

"She brought so much talent and grace to everything she did and was very intent to improve the community," Ann said.

Set to turn 90 in April, Bogle has compiled an award-worthy résumé. From 1977 to 1999 she served as director of the ICA Food Shelf and also helped feed the community through the Meals on Wheels program.

As the regional president of the League of Women Voters - an organization she's still in contact with today - Bogle has been committed to ensuring women have a voice in the political process.

"My mom was very keen on the political process, especially local and state elections," said Ann Bogle. "She was very involved."

Bogle's community involvement also includes serving as the Minnetonka Historical Society's longest standing board member, and she's been a steward of Minnetonka's natural environment through involvement with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Horticulture Society.

"People have an expression, 'Act locally, think globally,'" Ann Bogle said. "My mom has pretty much always done that. She has a really humble approach. Much of her work [in the community] was unpaid and she found it really fulfilling."



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Police and fire departments relocate ahead of construction

In March, the city will begin a two-year project to improve its police and fire facilities. Construction begins with tree removal and site preparation.

Both departments have been temporarily relocated due to construction.

Temporary Police Department Location

- Community Center (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.)
- Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 952-939-8500
- Call 911 outside regular business hours



Temporary Fire Department Locations

- Fire Stations 2, 3, 4, 5
- Staff members are available by appointment, call 952-939-8598
- Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Call 911 outside regular business hours



Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/police-fire-facility to learn more about the project and to sign up to receive updates via email/text.



Vote in the presidential primary March 3

Minnesota's new presidential nomination primary election will be held Tuesday, March 3.

- **Hours:** 7 a.m.-8 p.m. If you're in line at 8 p.m. you're allowed to vote.
- **Locations and ballot:** Find your polling place and view a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.
- **Registration:** Voters can register at the polls with proper identification. Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/voters.



- **Political party:** Voters must select a political party at the polls, and will vote for the candidate they want to represent that party in the November election. The party you select will not be tied to your voter registration.
- **Vote absentee:** Vote prior to Election Day at the Community Center. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections for dates, times and details. We'll have extended hours on Saturday, Feb. 29 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Monday, March 2 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections to learn more. Call 952-939-8200 or email elections@minnetonkamn.gov to ask questions.

'Adopt a Park Sign' this summer

Our Adopt a Park Sign program is a wonderful way to give back and keep Minnetonka parks beautiful! Individuals, families, neighborhood groups or organizations can volunteer to plant flowers at the entrances of city parks.

Here's how it works:

- The city partners with Tonkadale Greenhouse to provide flowers of the volunteer's choice.
- Volunteers are responsible to plant, water and maintain the flowers.

2019 volunteers will receive first priority to adopt their sign again in 2020.

To volunteer or learn more, visit minnetonkamn.gov/parksign or contact Kate Egert at 952-939-8354 or kegert@minnetonkamn.gov.



Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

Join the conversation and stay informed!

 @cityofminnetonka

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@MtkaPD
@MtkaFD

 @MinnetonkaMN

 City of Minnetonka



Summer recreation program registration begins March 10

Registration for summer recreation programs begins Tuesday, March 10 at 8 a.m. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/recreationbrochure to check out program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including fitness classes, arts and crafts, kids' programs and athletic leagues. There's something for everyone!



Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register to register online, or call 952-939-8203 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Ninja Anywhere Camp

Saturday, April 25 | Minnetonka Ice Arena B Parking Lot | \$44

Ages 6-10 | 9:15-11:15 a.m. | Course number: 2162701-02

Ages 11-15 | 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. | Course number: 2162701-01

Kids learn an exciting way to exercise - ninja-style - to promote fun, fitness and a sense of accomplishment. State-of-the-art equipment offers exhilarating challenges, including a warped wall, ninja rings, climbing rope, floating boards, an inflatable obstacle course and more!



Register online at minnetonkamn.gov/register or call 952-939-8203.



Ask a city planner

In each issue of the Minnetonka Memo, our planners answer a common question to help residents and businesses learn more about the planning process and available city resources.

Question:

Why are there colored flags and paint markings in my yard?

Answer:

Colored flags or paint are used by companies to mark the location of existing utilities ahead of digging or construction. In most cases, you or a contractor you've hired would have requested utility location from Gopher State One Call before beginning a project on your property.

If your utilities are marked and you didn't request utility location, its likely utility work or road construction is about to begin on or near your property. To look up who made the request, visit **gopherstateonecall.org** to search for a ticket for your property. Any requests from the last month will be displayed, and you can click on each to learn more.



Always call 811 or visit **gopherstateonecall.org** to request utility location at least 48 hours prior to digging or construction, even for small projects such as real estate signs, mailboxes, planting trees and shrubs or removing a stump.

Visit **minnetonkamn.gov/right-of-way** to learn more about utility location, the right-of-way and easements on your property.

Have a question?

Email us at zoning@minnetonkamn.gov, call 952-939-8290 or visit **minnetonkamn.gov/planning** for more information.

Join the Bassett Creek Watershed Board of Commissioners

Volunteer to serve on the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's Board of Commissioners and help protect the water resources within the area.

You must live within the district boundaries (see map) to apply. The Minnetonka City Council will appoint a commissioner to serve a three-year term. Commissioners are expected to attend one board meeting per month and other select meetings and events.

Contact Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka at 952-988-8415 or lyetka@minnetonkamn.gov to learn more about this opportunity.



 Bassett Creek Watershed District

Music Association of Minnetonka presents spring concert

Join the Minnetonka Concert Band for a free concert: "Hey, It's Spring!"

Sunday, March 22

3 p.m.

Minnetonka High School Auditorium

18285 Highway 7



Improve the resilience of your lawn

Lawns can be beautiful and functional, but they also require a lot of maintenance that can have environmental side effects. Consider these tips to make your lawn more resilient.

L

eave the grass three inches high to hold moisture in the soil and reduce fossil fuel emissions from mowing (which impact air quality and contribute to climate change).

A

dd perennial plants – such as Dutch white clover, self-heal or wild violet – to the lawn. These low-growing plants provide food for pollinators. Some add nitrogen to the soil, reducing the need for fertilizer.

W

ater less frequently and more deeply. A smart controller allows you to adjust sprinkler runtimes based on moisture conditions, and rain sensors prevent overwatering.

M

neutralize weeds by spot-spraying rather than applying herbicide to the whole yard. Avoid applying any chemicals if rain is forecast to prevent runoff into local water bodies.

S

eed fescue grasses into problem spots where conventional turf doesn't grow well. Fescue grasses perform well in sun or shade. Their long roots hold more water and reduce soil erosion.



NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

March
2020

Advance registration is required. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/NRsignup or call 952-988-8400 to register.

Buckthorn Workshop: Managing Woodlands, Buckthorn and Beyond

Wednesday, March 11 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Community Center

Learn ecologically sound techniques to control invasive woody plants, and save time and money.

Volunteer Buckthorn Cutting at the Cullen Preserve

Saturday, March 28 | 9:30 a.m.-noon
2510 Oakland Road

Cut buckthorn and arrange brush to decompose on site. Additional information – including a map and parking instructions – will be emailed to all who register.

Look for tax notices this month

Residents will receive two notices this month related to property taxes. One is the market value notice from the city, which will affect property taxes to be paid in 2021. The other is the property tax bill for 2020, which is mailed by Hennepin County and must be paid this year.

The city accounts for a little more than 28 percent of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The rest includes taxes for your school district (33 percent), county (33 percent) and other jurisdictions (six percent).

2020 market value notice - applies to 2021 property taxes

Property tax in Minnesota is a complicated process governed by state law. Although the City of Minnetonka administers the assessment, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Revenue oversee the process.

The Minnetonka real estate market continues to thrive, with all property types increasing in value.

Average 2020 value increases by property type

- Single-family homes - 3%
- Townhouses/Condominiums - 3%
- Commercial - 4%
- Apartments - 6%
- Industrial - 6%

Keep in mind, individual properties may vary greatly, and adjustments vary by market.

How is market value determined?

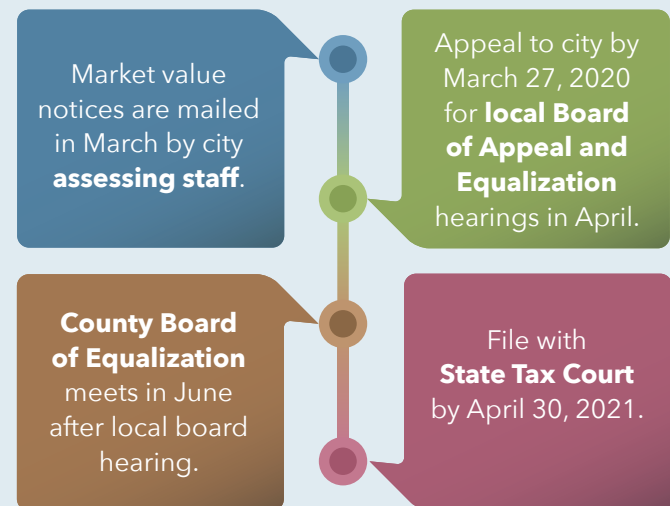
The city's assessing division maintains records for every property in Minnetonka. Adjustments are made to the market value of most properties based on actual real estate sales of comparable properties from the past year.

At least 20 percent of all properties are physically inspected each year and adjusted based on the results of those inspections. Market value adjustments are also made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements.

What if I don't agree with my property's market value?

If you have questions or concerns about your property's market value notice or the assessment process, call 952-939-8220. Assessing staff will review property records and sales information with you. Based on the review, the appraiser may or may not make a change to your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal.

Market value appeals process



Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/property-taxes and minnetonkamn.gov/market-value to learn more. Call the finance department at 952-939-8250 to ask questions.

Help is available

Several state programs exist to assist eligible residents with the rising cost of property taxes. Many programs are subject to income limitations.

Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/property-taxes or revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund, or call the Minnesota Department of Revenue's tax helpline at 651-296-3781.

Programs include:

- Property tax refund program
- Special property tax refund program
- Senior citizens property tax deferral program
- Foreclosure prevention counseling

A look back at *Kids' Fest* 2020



Thank you to the record crowd that braved the elements to join us at Kids' Fest on Sunday, Feb. 9! And a huge thanks to our recreation department for putting on another winter celebration to remember.



Get
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Stay
INFORMED.



Be
INVOLVED.



Visit
minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe

to sign up for email and text updates
on city news, events, projects
and much more.

MINNETONKA MEMO

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 4** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 5** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 12** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 16** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call **952-939-8200** for the latest information. Meetings are available live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.



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Participate in the 2020 census

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person in the United States. Soon, you will receive information in the mail from the census bureau to ensure you and your family are counted.

How can I participate?

Follow the instructions you receive in the mail to submit your information by mail, phone, in-person or online.

Why is the census important?

The government uses census data to make important decisions about:

- Distribution of nearly \$900 billion in federal funds.
- U.S. representative seats and district lines.
- State and local government planning.

Census data is also often used by businesses when trying to decide where to build factories, offices or stores.

Is my information secure?

Yes, the private information you submit is confidential and protected by federal law.

How can I look out for scams?

The census bureau will never ask for:

- Full social security numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of political parties.
- Bank or credit card information.



Visit minnetonkamn.gov/census for more information.