

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



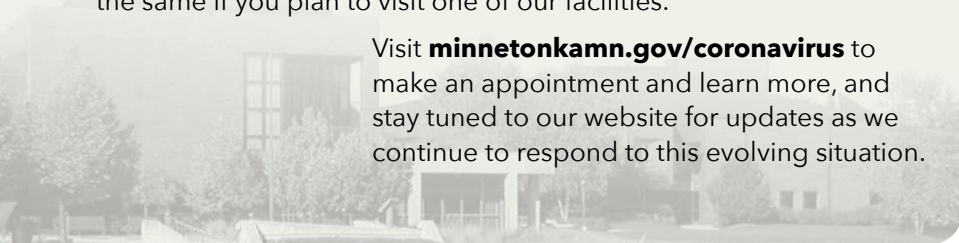
City facilities begin to reopen

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease throughout the state, we've carefully begun to reopen some facilities and services, including:

- **City hall** - residents can now make appointments for in-person services
- **Williston Fitness Center** - open with limitations
- **Shady Oak Beach** - open but not guarded
- **Ice arena** - open with limitations
- **Playgrounds** - open, but equipment isn't sanitized regularly

Our staff will wear masks, maintain six feet of distance and strictly follow CDC guidelines as we resume in-person interaction. Please do the same if you plan to visit one of our facilities.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/coronavirus to make an appointment and learn more, and stay tuned to our website for updates as we continue to respond to this evolving situation.



A message from City of Minnetonka leadership

Minnetonka Mayor Brad Wiersum, Police Chief Scott Boerboom and City Manager Geralyn Barone wrote a joint letter to the community following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/message to read the full statement and learn more about the city's commitment to making Minnetonka inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

Ranked choice voting conversation continues

On Monday, June 8 the Minnetonka City Council adopted an ordinance to allow for the possibility of ranked choice voting in city elections.

Though Minnetonka voters - not the city council - will ultimately decide if ranked choice voting will be adopted, several more steps need to take place before the council will decide whether to include the issue on the November ballot.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting for more information and to learn how to join the conversation.



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Vote safely in the August primary election

The 2020 primary election is coming up on Tuesday, Aug. 11, and with the lingering threat of COVID-19 it's our goal that every eligible Minnetonka voter can cast their ballot safely and securely.

Here's how you can vote in the August primary:

- In-person on Election Day (Aug. 11) at your polling location
- Absentee in-person at the Hennepin County Government Center June 26-Aug. 10
- Absentee in-person at Minnetonka City Hall Aug. 4-10
 - We plan to offer a curbside option for voters who prefer not to enter city hall.
- Absentee by mail by Aug. 11 – learn how at minnetonkamn.gov/election

During all in-person voting, election staff will follow CDC guidelines, wear personal protective equipment and disinfect surfaces regularly. We'll provide hand sanitizer and pens for each voter to use and keep.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/election to learn more. Look for detailed primary election information in the August Minnetonka Memo. Call 952-939-8200 to ask questions.



Follow these fireworks safety tips

Ensure you're celebrating safely (and legally) this July with these fireworks safety tips from the Minnetonka Fire Department.



- Fireworks that fly or explode are illegal in Minnesota – don't buy or use them!
- Legal fireworks in Minnesota include sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks and novelty items like snakes and party poppers.
- Always supervise children during firework use and set a good example for safe behavior.
- Only use fireworks on private property, they're illegal on public property (including parks and beaches).
- Alcohol and fireworks don't mix.
- Use a metal bucket with water to extinguish all fireworks – including sparklers – before throwing out what's left.
- Wear shoes at all times while fireworks are present.
- Homemade fireworks and explosives are illegal and extremely dangerous. Ensure your children use safe, professionally made fireworks. Be suspicious and ask questions if they request or purchase obscure household items.
- If something goes wrong, even something small, don't hesitate – call 911 immediately!

Improve energy efficiency with free virtual visit

Schedule a free virtual visit with the Home Energy Squad to improve your home's energy efficiency and save money on your utility bills!

These virtual visits will help you discover low cost energy-saving opportunities, and identify possible future projects to save even more. Visits typically last 1-2 hours and include:

- A pre-visit questionnaire
- A virtual walk-through of your home with energy experts
- A customized report with recommendations and next steps
- A post-visit consultation

Visit mncee.org/home-energy-squad, call 651-328-6220 or email hesscheduling@mncee.org to learn more and schedule a free virtual visit.



Watch for oak wilt

Oak wilt is a highly contagious and deadly disease that frequently occurs in red oak trees after storm damage or pruning. Unfortunately, red oaks may die within weeks of becoming infected. Follow these tips to identify and prevent the spread.

First, identify red oak trees

Red oak leaves are sharply-pointed. White oak leaves are rounded.



Then, look for these symptoms:

- Rapid wilting from the top down
- Individual leaves losing green color from the edges inward
- Leaves littering the ground



How to prevent the spread

- Avoid pruning oaks between April 1 and Oct. 31.
- If pruning is required, immediately cover each wound with shellac or water-based paint.
- If you have a tree infected with oak wilt, we'll inspect and provide removal instructions. Please follow instructions quickly and carefully.
- Inject healthy red oaks before removing infected trees.

Contact us

Call 952-988-8407 to request an inspection or report a diseased red oak. Thank you for protecting our community forest!

Conserve water and save money this summer

Did you know about three times more water is used in summer than in winter? Try these strategies to conserve water and save money.

Inspect irrigation systems to avoid clogged sprinklers and direct water away from hard surfaces.

Install a rain or soil moisture sensor - most plants need less than one inch of water per week; excess water promotes plant diseases.

Water early or late to reduce evaporation.

Collect rainwater to water small areas and potted plants.

Use watering bags around young trees to water gradually and deeply.



Use soaker hoses that apply water directly to the soil.

Mow lawns high to promote deeper, more resilient roots.

Mulch around trees and in planting beds to reduce water loss.

Replace failing lawn with native plants or low-input fescue grass.

Tolerate lawn discoloration during hot or dry periods rather than watering more.



City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 3** Independence Day observed, city offices closed
- 9** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 13** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 16** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 23** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 27** City Council, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings to learn how to participate remotely. Watch meetings online live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

For up-to-date city meeting information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call 952-939-8200.



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Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.

Minnetonka Civic Center Campus
Ice Arena B Parking Lot | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Visit the market in July for fresh beans, cucumbers, blueberries, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers and much more! Please send one healthy shopper, maintain six feet of distance, wear a mask and shop efficiently.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket to learn more, subscribe to updates and find COVID-19 safety guidelines. Follow the city on social media for weekly highlights.

Night to Unite rescheduled to Oct. 6

Night to Unite - typically held the first Tuesday in August - has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 due to COVID-19.

For updates and details stay tuned to minnetonkamn.gov/night-to-unite.

