

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Minnetonka to vote on ranked choice voting

The Minnetonka City Council voted to include ranked choice voting on the November 2020 election ballot. Now, voters will decide whether Minnetonka will use ranked choice voting for city elections (mayor and city council).

### If you vote yes

A yes vote means you are in favor of:

- Using ranked choice voting to elect the mayor and council members if three or more candidates run for a particular seat, beginning in November 2021.
- The elimination of primary elections for mayor and city council elections.

### If you vote no

A no vote means you are in favor of:

- Minnetonka continuing to use the current election system, which asks voters to vote for one candidate per office.
- The continuing use of primary elections whenever more than two candidates run for mayor or a particular city council seat.

### What is ranked choice voting?

- Ranked choice voting (RCV) is a voting system that eliminates the need for a primary election because voters are asked to rank candidates in order of preference – first choice, second choice and third choice, etc.
- The first round of voting is tallied using first-preference votes only. If a candidate wins a majority of the first-preference votes in the first round, that candidate is the winner.
- If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated, and all first-preference votes for the eliminated candidate are also eliminated. Voting then proceeds to a second round.
- The process is repeated until one candidate has won a majority of all unexhausted\* ballots. Ballots may be counted in one or more rounds.

### \*What is an exhausted ballot?

Ballot exhaustion occurs when all the candidates marked on the ballot have been eliminated in prior rounds. For example, a voter might rank only three out of six candidates. If all the voter's choices are eliminated in the first three rounds of tabulating votes, the voter's ballot is exhausted and won't factor into subsequent rounds.

The winning candidate is determined by the majority of ballots that have not been exhausted.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting](https://minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting) for more information, including the ballot question, background details and potential financial impacts.

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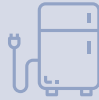


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## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

**Saturday, Sept. 12**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Public Works**  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**



**Accepted items:** appliances, furniture, lumber, scrap metal, tires, toilets, non-metal sinks and windows, automotive/12V batteries, used clothing and household items and much more. View our website for a complete list.

**Not accepted:** electronics, garbage, hazardous waste, liquids, copiers and fax machines

- **Household batteries (AA, D, 9V, etc.) are no longer accepted.** Hennepin County's drop-off facilities accept batteries.

**Payment:** There is a charge for most items. Cash and checks payable to "City of Minnetonka" are accepted.

**COVID-19 precaution:** Please stay in your vehicle. Our staff will check you in and unload to limit contact.

**Learn more:** Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday](https://minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday) for complete details, including a list of items and prices.

## City council adopts Energy Action Plan

The Minnetonka City Council adopted an Energy Action Plan, pending 2021 budget approval, earlier this summer. The plan was developed by a team of residents, businesses, students, non-profits and community groups, with support from city staff and Xcel Energy.

The plan identifies energy reduction goals that are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 41 percent by 2030, which is equivalent to removing 35,000 vehicles from the road for one year.

Strategies to meet these goals include energy reduction for multi-family buildings and residential properties, expanding renewable energy, business outreach and accommodating electric vehicles.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/partners-in-energy](https://minnetonkamn.gov/partners-in-energy) to learn more, and find ways you can become more sustainable at [minnetonkamn.gov/green](https://minnetonkamn.gov/green).



## Minnetonka reaches highest 'Green Step'

The City of Minnetonka was recently recognized for advancing to the highest level, Step 5, in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. The voluntary program helps cities achieve sustainability and quality-of-life goals.

Step 5 cities have demonstrated improved sustainability metrics in categories such as buildings, lighting, transportation, renewable energy and environmental management. Minnetonka is one of just 20 communities in Minnesota to reach the highest step.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/green](https://minnetonkamn.gov/green) to learn more about Minnetonka's efforts to "go green" and ways you can help protect our environment.



Minnesota  
**GreenStep Cities**



## 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:

Can I display a campaign sign on my property?



### Answer:

During the 2020 election, temporary signs may be displayed beginning 46 days prior to the Aug. 11 primary election, and must be removed by Nov. 13 (10 days after Election Day).

Temporary signs of any size and number are allowed during the general election as long as they are not:

- On public property.
- Attached to trees, utility poles or fences, or placed on roofs.
- Within five feet of a public street.
- Obstructing visibility at intersections.
- Placed without the property owner's consent.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/campaign-signs](https://minnetonkamn.gov/campaign-signs) for complete details.

### Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at [zoning@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:zoning@minnetonkamn.gov), call 952-939-8290 or visit [minnetonkamn.gov/planning](https://minnetonkamn.gov/planning) for more information.

## Absentee voting begins Sept. 18

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and voters can begin casting absentee ballots Friday, Sept. 18. Due to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, it's our goal that every eligible Minnetonka voter can cast their ballot safely and securely.

Here's how you can vote absentee:

- **By mail** - learn how at [minnetonkamn.gov/election](https://minnetonkamn.gov/election)
  - Ballots must be received by Election Day to count.
  - Please consider mailing from the post office or a blue postal service box to ensure your ballot is mailed securely.
- **In-person at Minnetonka City Hall** beginning Sept. 18
  - Sept. 18–Nov. 2, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### COVID-19 precautions

Election staff will follow CDC guidelines, wear personal protective equipment and disinfect surfaces regularly. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. We'll have masks available, and will provide hand sanitizer and pens for each voter to use and keep.

### Ranked choice voting

Ranked choice voting is on the November 2020 election ballot. See Page 1 or visit [minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting](https://minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting) to learn more.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/election](https://minnetonkamn.gov/election) to learn more. Call 952-939-8200 or email [elections@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:elections@minnetonkamn.gov) to ask questions.





# Register now for youth basketball!

**Grades 2-6**

**Registration deadline: Friday, Oct. 2**

Registration is now open for our outstanding youth basketball leagues!

Boys and girls teams are formed by grade level. Games are on Saturdays at Hopkins West Junior High. Grades 3-6 will have one practice each week, and second graders will practice Saturdays before each game.

Each team has its own course number. Grades 3-6 should select a team based on preferred practice night and location. To play on the same team as a friend, use the same course number.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) or call 952-939-8203 to learn more or register.

**All leagues are subject to change due to COVID-19.** We'll notify all participants of any changes.

**Volunteer coaches needed!**

Visit our website or call 952-939-8203 to learn more.



**Tuesdays through Sept. 29, 3-7 p.m.**

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



Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) to learn more subscribe to updates and find COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Follow the city on social media for weekly highlights.

 [@cityofminnetonka](https://www.facebook.com/cityofminnetonka)  [@MinnetonkaMN](https://twitter.com/MinnetonkaMN)

 [@MinnetonkaMN](https://www.instagram.com/MinnetonkaMN)

# MOVIES IN THE PARK



**Friday, Aug. 28**

*Toy Story 4*

**Thursday, Sept. 3**

*A Dog's Way Home*

**Friday, Sept. 11**

*Frozen II*



Bring your family and friends for a fun night of cinema under the stars! Movies take place at sunset.

We will mark spots on the lawn for families to ensure safety and social distancing.

Call 952-939-8355 or visit [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov) for weather-related updates.

# Join the Minnetonka Police Explorers

Are you a young adult (ages 14-21) interested in law enforcement and community involvement? The Minnetonka Police Explorers are currently recruiting new members for 2020-21!

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/police-explorers](http://minnetonkamn.gov/police-explorers) for more information. Contact Officer Heather Olson at 952-939-8500 or [holson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:holson@minnetonkamn.gov) to ask questions or learn more.



## Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans



Are you planning a home improvement project or looking to buy your first home? The city has a pair of low-interest loan programs to help qualified applicants. Income and asset limits apply.

- **Home improvements** - The Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program offers loans up to \$15,000 to help with qualified enhancements. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/homeloans](http://minnetonkamn.gov/homeloans) to learn more.
- **First-time home buyers** - The Welcome to Minnetonka loan program offers loans up to \$15,000 to help with down payments and closing costs. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/welcometominnetonka](http://minnetonkamn.gov/welcometominnetonka) to learn more.

Contact Economic Development Coordinator Rob Hanson at [rhanson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rhanson@minnetonkamn.gov) or 952-939-8234 to learn more or ask questions.

## Night to Unite is Oct. 6, city cancels involvement

Due to COVID-19, the city will not have an official involvement in Night to Unite this year. We look forward to resuming our participation and visits in 2021.

Typically held the first Tuesday in August, Night to Unite was postponed until Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 due to the pandemic. Night to Unite is an evening for neighbors to gather, get to know one another and promote community safety.

If you choose to celebrate Night to Unite in 2020, we encourage you to plan a safe and socially-distant event.





# Resources for our senior residents

During these challenging times, the city remains committed and connected to our valued senior residents. Below are some great local resources that offer a wide range of support.

## Minnetonka Senior Services update and virtual classes

- The community center remains closed until further notice.
- Stay active and connected by participating in our virtual classes! Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/seniorservices](http://minnetonkamn.gov/seniorservices) to find video yoga with Nancy Holasek and British history with Terry Kubista.

## Senior Community Services

- Grocery delivery, caregiver services and Medicare information
- 952-541-1019, [seniorcommunity.org](http://seniorcommunity.org)

## Senior Linkage Line

- Prescription delivery, housing options and other services
- 800-333-2433, [seniorlinkageline.com](http://seniorlinkageline.com)

## ICA Foodshelf

- Emergency food assistance
- 952-938-0729, [icafoodshelf.org](http://icafoodshelf.org)

## ResourceWest

- Emergency financial assistance and other social services
- 952-933-3860, [resourcewest.org](http://resourcewest.org)



# Fall leaf drop-off site opens Sept. 19

Each fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Residents must present a driver's license, state ID or Minnetonka utility bill. Commercial tree and lawn services must prove materials came from a Minnetonka address.

Keep leaves and yard waste separate from brush and drop off in their respective areas. Bags cannot be left at the drop-off site, including compostable bags.

## LEAF DROP-OFF SITE

The leaf drop-off site is open between Sept. 19 and Nov. 21. Friday and Sunday hours aren't offered until November.

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>7 a.m.-3 p.m.</b>	<b>Sept. 19, 26</b>
<b>Mondays</b>	<b>11 a.m.-7 p.m.</b>	<b>Sept. 21, 28</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>11 a.m.-7 p.m.</b>	<b>Sept. 22, 29</b>



## BRUSH DROP-OFF SITE

The brush drop-off site is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Nov. 21.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste](http://minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste) to learn more, or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

# This fall, think about spring

Fall yard work is crucial in Minnesota to protect your plants against the elements of winter and prepare them to thrive the following spring.

As you embark on your outdoor fall chores, follow these tips to remedy small problems or begin changes that will bear fruit in the future.



- Seed (or overseed) bare spots in your lawn. Try fescue grasses in shady or damp spots where conventional grass hasn't thrived.
- Pull weeds when the ground is moist - ideally, after it rains. Place weeds in plastic bags and deposit in the trash.



- If you need to use herbicide, spot-spray problem areas rather than applying broadly. Don't do it when it's windy or rainy to avoid the spread of chemicals.
- You can plant trees, shrubs and perennials in the fall if they are properly mulched and receive an inch of water per week until the ground freezes. Add wire caging around woody plants to protect from wildlife.
- Collect native plant seeds and distribute them over the soil.
- Spread a thin layer of leaf litter atop planting beds for protection, shelter and nutrients.
- Rather than clearing perennials, cut them to 8-12 inches high. Bees can spend the winter inside the dried stems.

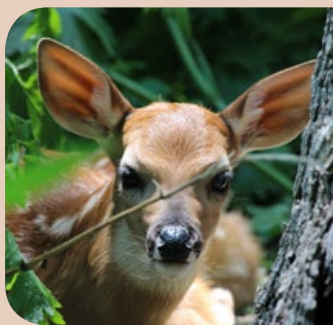


## Don't feed the deer

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources enacted a deer feeding and attractant ban in Hennepin County earlier this summer. The order also includes regulations for feeding birds and small animals.

The goal of the ban is to prevent disease spread among the deer population, especially Chronic Wasting Disease. Please follow the ban to keep our wildlife happy and healthy!

Visit [dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/feedban.html](https://dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/feedban.html) to learn more.



## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

September 2020

### Buckthorn workshop

Thursday, Sept. 17

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

Learn best practices to control buckthorn and improve the ecological health of your property. RSVP is required - call 952-988-8400 or visit [minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents](https://minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents). Registrants will be notified if the event moves online.

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 City Council Strategic Planning Session, 3:30 p.m.
- 2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 7 Labor Day, city offices closed
- 10 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 City Council Strategic Planning Session, 3 p.m.
- 17 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 21 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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

For up-to-date city meeting information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/calendar](http://minnetonkamn.gov/calendar) or call 952-939-8200.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd.  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
952-939-8200 | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

**Mayor**  
Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907  
[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)

**Council**  
*At Large:* Deb Calvert 612-205-5399  
[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)  
Susan Carter 952-381-4477  
[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)  
*Ward 1:* Brian Kirk 952-451-6251  
[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)  
*Ward 2:* Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735  
[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)  
*Ward 3:* Bradley Schaeppi 612-770-7447  
[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)  
*Ward 4:* Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670  
[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)

**City Manager**  
Geraldyn Barone 952-939-8200  
[gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Matt Higgins 952-939-8200  
[mhiggins@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mhiggins@minnetonkamn.gov)

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## Shred paper Sept. 9

Get rid of unwanted documents that can't be thrown in the trash.

**Wednesday, Sept. 9 | 3-6 p.m.**  
**Public Works Facility | 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

**Fee and payment:** \$2 per full paper grocery bags (no limit).  
\$6 per bankers box. Plastic bags are not accepted.

Bring cash or checks payable to City of Minnetonka.



## Follow the City of Minnetonka on Social Media

Join the conversation and stay connected to latest news, events and updates!

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 @MinnetonkaMN  
@MtkapD, @MtkafD

 @MinnetonkaMN

