

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Vote absentee in October

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, and voters can cast absentee ballots throughout October. 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:

- **In-person** at the Minnetonka Council Chambers
 - Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 - Park and enter at the community center (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.)
- **By mail** - learn how at minnetonkamn.gov/election
 - Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received by Nov. 10 to count.
 - Completed ballots can be dropped off at the community center (lower level) during in-person absentee voting. Visit our website for details. We do not plan to have a drop box.
 - Please consider mailing from the post office or a blue postal service box.

COVID-19 precautions

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

Learn more

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

Minnetonka to vote on ranked choice voting

On the November 2020 election ballot, Minnetonka voters will be asked to consider adopting ranked choice voting for city elections (mayor and city council).

The city does not endorse a "yes" or "no" vote on this issue. Voters are encouraged to educate themselves on ranked choice voting and make their own decisions. Any communications that advocate a "yes" or "no" vote are not from the city.

If you vote no, you're 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.

If you vote yes, you're in favor of:

- Using ranked choice voting to elect the mayor and city council members, beginning in November 2021.
- The elimination of primary elections for mayor and city council elections.

Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting.

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CL^{OSE} before you ^{zz} DOZE

Did you know that closing all the doors in your home before bed can make a big difference if there's a fire?

Closing doors will help:

- Slow the spread of fire
- Protect people and belongings
- Reduce smoke and carbon monoxide levels
- Keep air more breathable
- Manage the temperature in your bedroom; a closed door can be the difference between 100 and 1,000 degrees



Learn more at closeyourdoor.org. The Minnetonka Fire Department urges you to "close before you doze" every night to keep your family safe.



City council sets limit for 2021 property tax levy

Each September, the city council is required to set a maximum preliminary tax levy before approving the following year's budget. This year, the council set the 2021 preliminary tax levy at its Sept. 21 meeting, which occurred after the Minnetonka Memo went to print. The council will continue to review and discuss 2021 city property taxes and finances prior to final adoption of the levy in December.

Property owners will receive proposed 2021 tax notices from Hennepin County in November.



Learn more and provide input

Learn more about the city's budget process and timeline at minnetonkamn.gov/budget. View the Sept. 21 council meeting online at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

To provide feedback on the 2021 budget:

- Submit feedback online at minnetonkamn.gov/request.
- Attend the public hearing Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will likely be held virtually. Stay tuned for updates and visit minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings to learn how to watch, participate and submit comments.
- Email Finance Director Darin Nelson at dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov.

2021 budget process

- Aug. 24, 2020: Council discussed levy proposal
- Sept. 21, 2020: Council set preliminary levy
- Nov. 30, 2020: Council to discuss budget proposal
- Dec. 7, 2020: Budget and levy meeting

Don't 'waste' yard waste this fall

Leaves, twigs and grass clippings are often called "yard waste," but these beneficial items can add nutrients to the soil and increase water absorption. This fall, follow these tips to get the most out of your yard waste.

- Compost leaves, grass and native plant trimmings as mulch.
- Mow grass clippings and leaves back onto the lawn.
- Bag yard waste for curbside collection or bring it to the city's leaf and brush drop-off site (see page 4 for details).
- Visit **adopt-a-drain.org** to adopt a storm sewer drain. Clean it regularly to prevent water pollution.



NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

Buckthorn workshop

Thursday, Oct. 8

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

October 2020

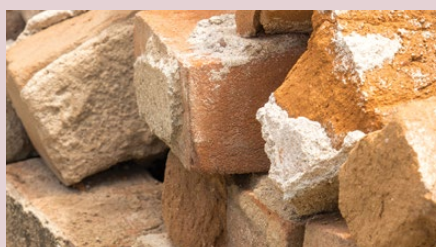
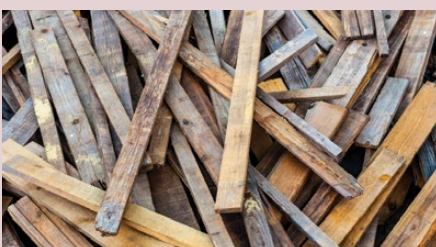
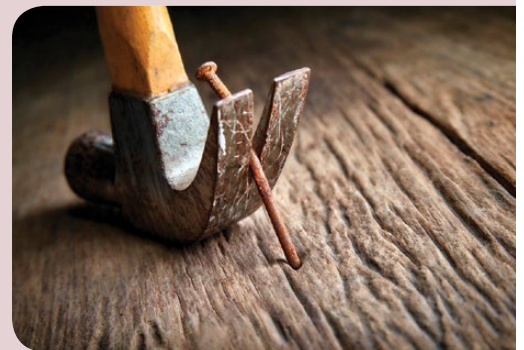
Learn best practices to control buckthorn and improve the ecological health of your property. RSVP is required - call 952-988-8400 or visit **minnetonkamn.gov/NRsignup**. Registrants will be notified if the event moves online.

Apply for a deconstruction grant

To promote this unique form of recycling, Hennepin County is offering grants to help offset deconstruction's additional time and labor costs.

Homeowners and developers can apply to receive grants up to \$5,000. Projects must be 250 square feet or larger on structures built prior to 1950 and must meet additional criteria.

Visit **hennepin.us/deconstruction** to learn more, find eligibility requirements and apply online.



City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 7** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 8** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 12** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 26** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 29** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 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.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

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Drop off leaves throughout October

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.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste to learn more, or call 952-988-8400 with questions.

OCTOBER LEAF DROP-OFF SITE HOURS

Saturdays	7 a.m.-3 p.m.	Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Mondays	11 a.m. -7 p.m.	Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26
Tuesdays	11 a.m. -7 p.m.	Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

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

