

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Ranked choice voting update

Last November, Minnetonka residents voted in favor of implementing ranked choice voting for city elections (mayor and city council). In March, the city council adopted an ordinance to officially implement ranked choice voting, beginning with the 2021 mayor and city council elections. Ranked choice voting has voters rank candidates in order of preference, rather than voting for just one per office.



### Candidate filing

Typically, candidates for city office would file in May, in advance of the August primary. Since ranked choice voting eliminates the need for a primary election, candidate filing will now take place between July 27 and Aug. 10. Stay tuned for details.

### What's on the ballot?

The mayor and the two at-large city council seats will be on the 2021 election ballot.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting](https://minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting) to learn more about ranked choice voting. Stay tuned to the Minnetonka Memo and our website for voter education to ensure you're ready to cast your 2021 ballot using ranked choice voting.

## Minnetonka joins Just Deeds Project

This spring, the City of Minnetonka joined the Just Deeds Project, which assists property owners with the removal of discriminatory covenants from titles.

In the early 20th century, real estate developers included covenants in deeds to prevent property from being sold, leased or occupied based on race, religion or ethnicity. Minnesota prohibited restrictive covenants based on religious faith or creed in 1919, but didn't add race until 1953.

Though legally unenforceable, discriminatory covenants remain listed in thousands of Minnesota property titles. The University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice Project has identified more than 530 Minnetonka property titles that could still contain such covenants.

Volunteer attorneys will assist residents, at no cost, in searching property records and renouncing restrictive covenants. The city attorney will also identify and investigate city-owned property that contains discriminatory covenants and will work to discharge them from the titles.

To apply for the Just Deeds Project, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/DEI](https://minnetonkamn.gov/DEI).

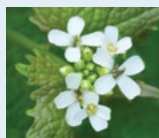


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## Important reminders for dog owners

Minnetonka dog owners - your furry friends are welcomed guests in our city parks, but be sure to follow these important rules:

- Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, on maintained trails and on maintained grass.

- Dogs are not allowed on athletic fields.



- Unless otherwise signed, dogs may be off-leash in unmaintained areas, but dogs must always be under voice command and within the owner's sight.

- Dogs must not disturb or harass other park users or pets.

- Always - always - pick up after your pets!



## Minnetonka Fire Department institutes the EleGARD System

The Minnetonka Fire Department recently acquired a new lifesaving tool that will bolster their response to crisis situations. It's called the EleGARD Patient Positioning System, and it aids in the delivery of "head up CPR." The EleGARD elevates a patient's head and neck during emergency resuscitation, making CPR more effective by reducing pressure in the brain and increasing blood flow. The device is part of a bundle of care that our first responders use when treating cardiac arrests and other medical emergencies.



The Minnetonka Fire Department currently has the EleGARD aboard several response vehicles, and city firefighters continue to train on the device.

The EleGARD system was developed in the metro area by Advanced CPR Solutions, a pioneer in the ElevatedCPR® method.



## State of the City Video

If you missed Mayor Brad Wiersum's State of the City Address in April, you can watch his virtual "tour" of Minnetonka on the city's website, at any time. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/state-of-city](http://minnetonkamn.gov/state-of-city).





## Drop off leaves, brush and yard waste

Each spring, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Residents or commercial lawn services can drop off leaves, brush and yard waste, but must present proof of residence.

### Days and hours of operation are:

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Saturdays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

The leaf and yard waste site will close for the season on May 15. It will reopen again in the fall (Sept. 18). The brush drop-off will remain open through Nov. 20.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste](https://minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste) to learn more, including accepted items and drop-off guidelines. Call 952-988-8400 to ask questions.

## Get first year of organics recycling free

To encourage organics recycling, the city and Hennepin County are offering a free year of service to the first 200 new customers in 2021. Here's how to sign up:

- You must use Randy's Environmental Services (763-972-3335) as your garbage hauler. Contact them directly to begin curbside organics collection.
- The city will pay Randy's directly; you will not be billed.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/organicsrecycling](https://minnetonkamn.gov/organicsrecycling) to learn more about organics recycling and its numerous benefits. Call 952-988-8414 to ask questions.



# Hit the court with our adult basketball league

Wednesday evenings, June 2-July 28  
Lindbergh Center and Hopkins West Jr. High  
\$380 per team | Course: 3010101-01

Stay in shape and show off your skills in this fun, five-player officiated basketball league. There are upper and lower divisions with playoffs for the top four teams in each.

If needed, we'll implement COVID-19 safety protocols to ensure a safe and fun experience for all.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) or call 952-939-8203 to register by May 21. Space is limited.



## Step to it Minnetonka!

**Step to It is a free activity challenge that motivates people of all ages and abilities to be more physically active during the month of May!**

- The challenge runs May 1-28.
- Participate as an individual or with a group.
- Log your activity online daily or weekly.
- It's not just about walking. Almost any activity can be converted to steps.

Learn more and sign up at [stepitoit.org](http://stepitoit.org).



# May is Bike Month

Celebrate National Bike Month! Whether biking is new to you or you're an experienced cyclist, May is the perfect month to get out and discover Minnetonka's trail system.

And on Wednesday, May 19, join us for a leisurely 2-mile bike ride near the Civic Center campus. We'll take in the neighborhood, have good conversation and get plenty of exercise.

**When:** Wednesday, May 19 at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Meet in the Minnetonka Community Center parking lot.

**Route:** We'll bike along Minnetonka Boulevard, up the I-494 trail, travel along Minnehaha Place and return through the Civic Center campus trails.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Please bring a mask. Helmets are encouraged, but not required.

Questions? Contact Park & Trail Planner Carol HejlStone at 952-939-8342 or [chejlstone@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:chejlstone@minnetonkamn.gov).

For more information on National Bike Month and related events, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/bikemonth](http://minnetonkamn.gov/bikemonth).



Get  
**CONNECTED.**



Stay  
**INFORMED.**



Be  
**INVOLVED.**



Visit  
[minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe](http://minnetonkamn.gov/subscribe)

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

# Call before you dig

Spring is here – and so are outdoor projects. If you're planning to do any landscaping projects or digging in your yard, it's essential to learn where your underground utilities are located to avoid injuries, damages, fines, service disruptions and costly repairs.

Follow these steps for each project or dig.

- Call **811** or visit **call811.com** several days before you plan to dig.
- Provide 811 with your contact information, the type of work you'll be doing and where you plan to dig.
- Utility companies will be notified of your intent to dig, and representatives will visit your property (typically within 2-3 business days) to mark the location of your underground utility lines.
- Once lines are marked, your project can begin. Respect the marked areas and dig carefully.
- Repeat these steps for each project – erosion or root growth can shift lines so be sure to call before each dig.



# Protect shade trees

Healthy trees are a real benefit to our community. Here are tips to protect ash, elm and oak trees from pests and disease.

## Inject elms and ash

Injection treatments significantly reduce the risk of emerald ash borer (EAB) and Dutch elm disease (DED). This is especially important now that EAB has been found in several Minnetonka neighborhoods. Contact Rainbow Treecare (952-922-3810) to request the city's bulk discount, or contact an arborist of your choice.



Ash tree with injection tag

## Prune at the right time

Pruning during the growing season (April-November) can increase the risk of oak wilt and EAB. The best time to prune is winter (December – March).

If you must prune an oak tree, immediately cover the cut with shellac or water-based paint. Properly dispose of all wood at the city's brush drop (see page 3), or chip it to use as mulch.

## Keep firewood local

Metro-area counties are under a firewood quarantine and must follow these regulations:

- **Do not transport firewood**; purchase it where it will be used.
- **Dispose of all elm wood** at the city brush drop-off site (see page 3) or chip it to use as mulch.
- **Red oak and ash wood may be stored if properly stacked and dried.** Call 952-988-8436 for instructions.
- Visit [mda.state.mn.us/firewood-information](http://mda.state.mn.us/firewood-information) to learn more.

# Prevent Japanese beetles

Japanese beetles can present a real problem to the healthy trees and plants in our community. Adults eat a wide variety of trees, shrubs, plants and crops, and females lay eggs in the grass, where the young grubs eat and damage the roots.

Here are tips to prevent these robust, metallic beetles from damaging your plants:

- Don't overwater your lawn - the grubs thrive in wet conditions.
- Consider replacing some turf (especially damp areas) with native wildflowers or shrubs.
- Avoid chemical pesticides, which can harm pollinators and other beneficial native insects.
- If plants aren't flowering, cover with fine netting to keep beetles out.
- Don't buy Japanese beetle traps - they may attract more of these pests to your yard.
- Hand-pick adult Japanese beetles from plants and drop them in soapy water.
- Keep plants healthy so they can recover from beetle damage.



## NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS

May 2021

### Garlic Mustard Workshop

Tuesday, May 4 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center | Community Room

Learn the best methods and timing to control this highly invasive species.

Space is limited, so advance registration is required.

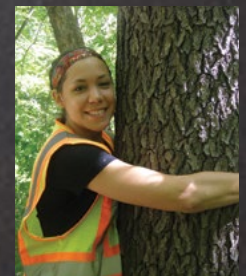
Register and learn more at [minnetonkamn.gov/NRsignup](https://minnetonkamn.gov/NRsignup), or call 952-988-8400.



## Sign up for natural resources news

Learn more about Minnetonka's abundant natural resources and how you can help protect them!

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/natural-resources](https://minnetonkamn.gov/natural-resources) to sign up for news, tips and events via email or text message.



### City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 3** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 4** Sustainable Minnetonka Webinar, 6 p.m.
- 6** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 11** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 12** Park Board Annual Tour, 5:15 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 24** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 27** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 31** Memorial Day, city offices closed

Most 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 live and on-demand at [minnetonkamn.gov/tv](http://minnetonkamn.gov/tv).

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



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952-939-8200 | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

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**ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON**

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY

**Saturday, June 5, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Minnetonka Public Works**  
**11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Dispose of large household appliances and items at our special drop-off event! Learn more in the June Minnetonka Memo or at [minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday](http://minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday).