

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Learn about ranked choice voting this summer

To help voters prepare to use ranked choice voting this fall - in the city's 2021 election for mayor and two at-large city council seats - Minnetonka elections staff will attend the following city events this summer to engage residents in the ranked choice voting process, ahead of the Nov. 2 election.

### Summer Fest

Civic Center Campus  
Saturday, June 26  
4-7 p.m.

**Elections staff will answer questions and provide educational materials.**

### Minnetonka Farmers Market

Ice Arena B Parking Lot  
Tuesday, July 13  
3-5 p.m.

**Staff will hold a mock election, giving residents the chance to practice ranked choice voting.**

### Williston Fitness Center

Tuesday, Aug. 17  
10 a.m.-noon

**Staff will hold a mock election.**

Stay tuned to the Minnetonka Memo and the city's website for additional dates. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting](http://minnetonkamn.gov/rankedchoicevoting) to learn more.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact elections staff at 952-939-8205 or [elections@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:elections@minnetonkamn.gov).

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY DROP-OFF DAY



### Drop off unwanted items June 5

Get rid of unwanted appliances, tires or other household items at our Special Community Drop-off Day!

**Saturday, June 5**

**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Minnetonka Public Works  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.**

**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](http://minnetonkamn.gov/dropoffday) for complete details, including a detailed list of accepted items and prices.



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## Firefighter of the Year

### Paul Mihalko receives fire department's top honor

At a socially distanced and masked awards ceremony in April, the Minnetonka Fire Department honored Firefighter Paul Mihalko, a 19-year veteran, with the department's highest honor - the Chief Kenny Johnson Award. Also referred to as the "Firefighter of the Year" award, it's named for Minnetonka's founding fire chief who originated the department motto, "Service before self." Each year a recipient is peer nominated and peer selected for this honor.

In this unprecedented year, Paul has helped the city's fire department rise to so many challenges by taking on extra shifts, filling in whenever he can, and giving his all day in and day out. His heart is always in the right place, and we know he'll continue to personify "Service before self" for the remainder of his fire career.

Congratulations to Paul on this outstanding, well-deserved honor!



## Minnetonka Police supporting those in crisis



Over the past 15 years, the Minnetonka Police Department has tracked a marked increase in mental health crisis calls. In 2005, there were 120. In 2020, there were 448. These calls for service can be complex, and police are often the first responders on the scene.

In order to provide positive outcomes for those in crisis and reduce repeat mental health related calls, the City of Minnetonka and City of Plymouth police departments joined forces to create a Mental Health Unit (MHU). Through this MHU, several beneficial initiatives were implemented at both police departments. First, additional officers received advanced crisis intervention training. Second, a mental health evaluation team was formed whose officers provide follow-up and resources to the person or family involved. Third, police staff created a Case Assessment Management Program that provides a review of cases and events that have a mental health crisis component or concern.

In addition, Minnetonka and Plymouth police, in conjunction with Hennepin County Human Services, collaborate with a full-time senior social worker. This partnership allows both police departments to provide a more complete and helpful service to those in need. The MHU social worker is able to connect clients to social services that police officers cannot, such as mental health support, substance use treatment, and housing and employment assistance.

For more information and statistics on the MHU's 2020 social work referrals, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/police](https://minnetonkamn.gov/police).

### Helpful resources

#### Hennepin County

- COPE (adults 18 and older): 612-596-1223
- Child Crisis (children 17 and younger): 612-348-2233

#### Minnesota Crisis Text Line

Text "MN" to 741741

#### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

#### Relate Counseling Center

952-932-7277, [relatemn.org](https://relatemn.org)

#### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

1-800-950-6264, [namimn.org](https://namimn.org)

2021 Minnetonka

Saturday, June 26

# SUMMER FEST

Civic Center Grounds ■ 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. ■ 4-10:30 p.m.



## ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!

**4-8 p.m. Log Rolling Demos  
Caricature Artists**

**4-9 p.m. Inflatables: Adrenaline Rush  
Obstacle Course, Bungee  
Trampoline, Cliff Jump and more!  
Human Foosball  
Sports Challenge  
Vertical Climbing Wall  
Ninja Rig & Warp Wall  
Water Wars  
Train Rides  
Cannonball Air Blaster  
Arts & Crafts activity with Park  
Adventures staff**

**4-10 p.m. Food Vendors: A variety of food and  
beverages available to purchase  
Beer and wine sales  
(Provided by the Minnetonka Rotary)**

**10 p.m. Fireworks!**

Attendees are encouraged to view the fireworks from various locations around campus to allow for social distancing, if desired. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets and join in the viewing from the amphitheater, soccer field, parking lots (City Hall, Ice Arena, Williston Center, school & church property across from Ice Arena A).



## MAIN STAGE

**5:45-6:30 p.m. The Big Epic Show**  
Hip-hop and comedy show for children and families.

**6:55 p.m. Welcome from Mayor Brad Wiersum**

**7-10 p.m. Pop Rocks**  
High energy music show featuring today's hits and timeless classics.

**FEATURE  
SHOW**

**Bike to Summer Fest:** Bike racks will be available to secure your bikes during events at the Civic Center.



An ATM will be available on-site.



Restrooms are available in Ice Arena A & B, City Hall and on the Summer Fest grounds.



Weather Hotline: 952-939-8355

In an effort to provide a safe event:

- Additional hand washing and sanitizer stations will be available throughout the grounds. Please practice good hygiene while at the event.
- Attendees and vendors will be asked to follow the current state mask guidance on the date of the event.
- Please do not attend the event if you are sick.
- We encourage you to attend if you are comfortable in a large group setting during this time.

Please check our website at [minnetonkamn.gov/SF2021](http://minnetonkamn.gov/SF2021) for updates and event details. Schedule and events are subject to change or cancellation.



## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

*Ages 16 and older*

**Saturday, June 26  
8 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.**

Lone Lake Park  
\$25 base registration fee plus \$5 per event

Call 952-939-8203 for details and to register.





# Purchase your Shady Oak Beach pass!

**Shady Oak Beach**  
**5200 Shady Oak Road**

- Call 952-939-8203, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Or, purchase/renew online at [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register). Existing cards will be reactivated.
- The beach season runs from June 11-Aug. 22.

For rates and complete details, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/beach](http://minnetonkamn.gov/beach).

## Sustainable Minnetonka webinar series continues

**Learn About Renewable Energy Subscriptions**  
**Tuesday, June 1 | 6-7 p.m. | Virtual**

Reduce your carbon footprint with a few clicks of a button. The City of Minnetonka is hosting a free, virtual webinar on how and why to subscribe to renewable energy resources through Xcel Energy.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/green](http://minnetonkamn.gov/green) to register, learn more and subscribe to email/text updates on the city's ongoing sustainability initiatives.

The Sustainable Minnetonka Webinar Series is brought to you by Minnetonka's Energy Action Team, with support from Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program.



**Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.**  
**June 8-Sept. 28**

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

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) for more information and to subscribe to Farmers Market Updates.

# Protect elms and oak trees in our community forest

Large oak trees and American elms are an iconic part of Minnetonka’s beautiful community forest. But epidemic diseases – especially Dutch elm disease (DED) and oak wilt in red oaks – have a big impact every year. Here’s how to identify and protect these important native species.

Identify the tree, and look for symptoms

**American elm** leaves have jagged edges, a pointed tip and an uneven base.



## DED

- Leaves wilt and turn yellow or brown
- Whole branches die; this usually starts from the top and spreads downward



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

## Oak wilt in red oaks

- There is rapid wilting, from the top down
- Individual leaves lose their green color from the edges inward
- Leaves litter the ground below the tree.

The city does not manage diseased white oaks. Contact a certified arborist for advice.

You can reduce the risk!

- Avoid pruning oaks between April 1 and Oct. 31.
- Have healthy elms injected. Contact Rainbow Treecare (952-922-3810) to ask about the bulk discount for Minnetonka, or talk to your preferred contractor.
- Contact the forestry office at 952-988-8407, or **forestry@minnetonkamn.gov**, to request a red oak or elm inspection anywhere in the city. Please provide the address and symptoms.
- If a diseased red oak or elm is marked on your property, carefully follow the timeline and instructions provided. Call the forestry office with questions well before your deadline.

# NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS



**Help remove invasive garlic mustard** and learn how to safely compost plants on-site. Advanced registration is required for these events.

Location	Date(s)	Meeting Location
Hilloway Park	Thursday, June 3	12415 Hilloway Road (park on south side of street)
Victoria Evergreen Park	Thursday, June 10	3801 Victoria St.
Tower Hill Park	Thursday, June 17	14601 State Hwy 7 (park at south end of restaurant parking lot)
Reich Park	Wednesday, June 23	South Lane cul-de-sac past 18685
Park of greatest need	Wednesday, June 30	Info will be sent to those registered

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

# 2020 Minnetonka Drinking Water Report

The City of Minnetonka is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020. Each of the past 20 years, Minnetonka Public Works has distributed this annual report to summarize drinking water quality for the previous year; advance residents' understanding of drinking water; and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

This report fulfills an obligation. The city's water utility has to provide accurate and timely information about your drinking water and the city's water system. If you have questions about your drinking water or for information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of water, please contact Tom Pletcher at [tpletcher@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:tpletcher@minnetonkamn.gov) or 952-988-8427.

## Water source

The City of Minnetonka provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: 18 wells ranging in depth from 444 to 575 feet that draw water from the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer.

Generally, sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Before a water source is used for a supply, it is tested for contaminants and other water quality parameters. Test results for the City of Minnetonka water supply are listed on the next page. The water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source of water may be to future contamination incidents.

If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. The report may also be viewed online at [health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

## Are contaminants a concern?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Drinking water regulations

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

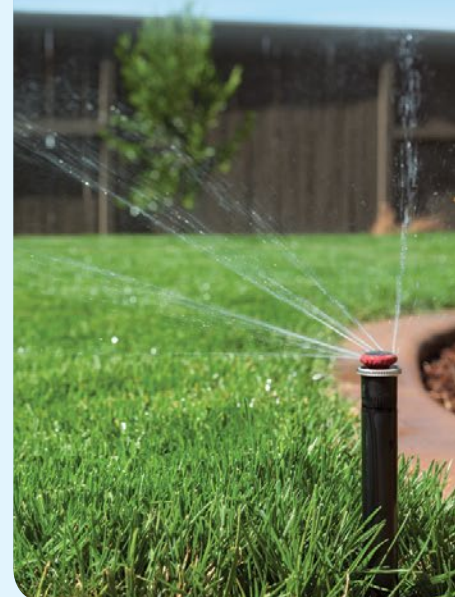
To learn more visit [minnetonkamn.gov/drinkingwater](http://minnetonkamn.gov/drinkingwater).

## Lawn watering schedule

To conserve the community's water resources, City of Minnetonka ordinances permit watering under the following conditions:

- No watering between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered calendar days, and odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered calendar days before 11 a.m. and after 5 p.m.
- Watering by handheld hose can be done at any time.
- Watering of new sod, seed, shrubbery, or landscaping can take place outside of restricted times if residents have obtained a permit number from Minnetonka Public Works.

Private wells are exempt from these regulations provided the well has been registered and the resident posts a furnished yard sign. For more information or to obtain a permit number, call 952-988-8400.



# Laboratory results for Minnetonka tap water: 2020

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2020. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date the detection occurred.)

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

## Water Testing Terms and Definitions

**MCLG – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**  
The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level**  
The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MRDLG – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal**

**MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level**

**AL – Action Level**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile Level**

This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which ten samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.)

Note: In situations in which only five samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

**pCi/l – PicoCuries per liter**  
A measure of radioactivity.

**ppb – Parts per billion**  
This can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

**ppm – Parts per million**  
This can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**nd – No Detection**

**N/A – Not Applicable**  
Does not apply.

**Average/result**

This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MCLG	MCL	Range (2019)	Average/result	Typical Source of Contaminant
Alpha Emitters	pCi/l	0	15.4	0.0-4.9	4.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	pCi/l	0	5.4	1.6-4.3	4.3	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	ppm	4	4	0.64 - 0.70	.7	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive to promote strong teeth
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	N/A	60	3.80 - 15.00	15	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (total trihalomethanes)	ppb	N/A	80	25.20 - 33.40	33.4	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	MRDL	MRDLG	Monthly Average	Highest Quarterly Avg.	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	ppm	4	4	0.36 - 0.85	0.56	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant (units)	Units of measure	Comparison Value	Range	Average/result
Barium	ppm	2	0.1050 - 0.1850	0.1850
Sodium	ppm	20	5.55-15.70	15.7
Sulfate	ppm	500	1.51-25.40	25.4
Xylenes	ppm	10	0.00-0.00	0

Contaminant (units)	Units of Measure	AL	MCLG	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (5/18/20)	ppm	1.3	0	1.29	6 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (5/18/20)	ppb	15	0	0.81	0 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Copper (12/29/20)	ppm	1.3	0	1.18	2 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead (12/29/20)	ppb	15	0	1.4	1 out of 60	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Minnetonka is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If there are concerns about lead in the water, consider having the water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at [epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://epa.gov/safewater/lead).

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Sustainable Minnetonka Webinar, 6 p.m.
- 2 Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 3 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 14 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Park Board Annual Tour, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Summer Fest, 4 p.m.
- 28 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

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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ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON

# Free assistance for emerging Minnetonka businesses



**TO BUSINESS**

The Open to Business program offers free, one-on-one, confidential business consulting to help new and early-stage businesses grow and prosper. The program also helps businesses access technical assistance and provides small business loans to emerging entrepreneurs who face challenges with the commercial banking system.

To learn more, visit [opentobusinessmn.org](http://opentobusinessmn.org)  
or contact program advisor John Endris  
at 651-216-6252, or [jendris@mccdmn.org](mailto:jendris@mccdmn.org).