



minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
August 2003*

Residents rate city highly in survey **HT**

EARLIER THIS SPRING, the Minnetonka City Council commissioned Decision Resources, Ltd. to survey randomly selected residents, seeking their opinions on a number of topics regarding the city.

Community trends noted

The following community trends were clearly evidenced in the survey research.

QUALITY OF LIFE — Minnetonka residents were very satisfied with their quality of life, and its rank is among the top communities across the metro area.

CITY SERVICES — City services continued to be the most highly rated in the metro area. Basic services — police protection, fire protection, and snow plowing — posted positive ratings exceeding 80% satisfaction in each case.

More residents supported a property tax increase if it was needed to maintain city services at their current levels (49% would support an increase under these circumstances, while 35% opposed it).

CITY PERSONNEL — City staff continued to be viewed very favorably by the citizenry — with 92% judging the courtesy of staff highly and 88% rating efficiency highly. These ratings remained particularly high in comparison with other suburban areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL/DEVELOPMENT ISSUES — Citizens think the city does a good job in protecting the environment. By a 74% to 15% margin, residents rated the city positively in its efforts to protect wetlands, ponds, and streams.

A similar margin rated the city positively in its efforts to protect forested areas. Seventy-four percent thought the city had been successful in maintaining the right balance between the rights of individual property owners to reasonably develop their properties with the desire of the wider community to preserve the natural environment and its surroundings. Seventy percent felt residents had appropriate opportunities for input into the zoning and development decision-making process.

PARK/RECREATION SYSTEM — Residents were asked about their use of the Minnetonka Senior Center and Williston Fitness Center. Twenty-five percent had visited the senior center, and of those, 96% gave it positive ratings. Twenty-eight percent reported visiting Williston Center, and among facility users, 79% rated it positively.

Thirty-four percent reported household members had used Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services' programs and offerings. Among program users, a nearly unanimous 97% reported satisfaction with the programs or offerings.

Residents were asked about future options for the Civic Center campus, and two attracted widespread support: a "gathering space" and natural areas with trails.

Survey continued on page 2

Several file for council seats **HT**

FILINGS FOR MINNETONKA City Council ward representatives closed July 15. The final list of individuals who filed for office include:

Ward 1 — Dick Allendorf (incumbent)
Robert L. "Bob" Ellingson
Karen Hopp

Ward 2 — Tony Wagner

Ward 3 — Brad J. Wiersum (incumbent)

Ward 4 — Dave G. Larson
Dan Smith
Al Thomas (incumbent)

Because more than two candidates filed for the Wards 1 and 4 positions, a Primary Election will be held Tuesday, September 9, in those two wards to determine the two candidates who will advance to the General Election in November.

Here are some basic election facts:

Absentee voting—Absentee ballots will be available beginning on Friday, August 8. You can vote absentee:

- *In person* at Minnetonka City Hall during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Extended absentee voting hours will also be available on Saturday, September 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Monday, September 8 until 5 p.m.
- *By mail* by requesting an absentee ballot application by phone or through www.eminnetonka.com. Upon receipt

Election continued on page 2

Minnetonka has a new park

MINNETONKA'S NEWEST PARK, Sunrise Ridge, Minnetonka Drive at Sunrise Drive, was officially dedicated July 10. After petitioning the city council for a playground for neighborhood children and receiving approval, residents were actively involved in planning the park and in selecting play equipment. □



Neighborhood residents participated in planning Sunrise Ridge Park.

Inside...

- CAR Award *page 2*
- Safety Reminders *page 3*
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Worthy projects deserve recognition

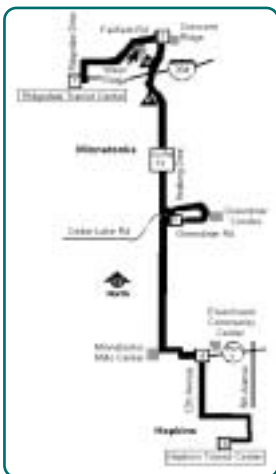
RESIDENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND businesses contribute a great deal to our Minnetonka community and deserve to be recognized. For this purpose the Community Action Recognition (CAR) Award was created.

This program targets projects that enrich the quality of life in Minnetonka, preserve natural resources, beautify the community, or exemplify good citizenship. MOMS Club (East) of Minnetonka, a non-profit organization that supports stay-at-home moms, is the latest CAR winner. The group was recognized at the May 12 city council meeting for a service project they recently conducted for the Sojourner Project of Minnetonka.

If you're aware of a project you think merits recognition and fits the goals of this program, please send your nomination to Becca Harris, Community Action Recognition Award, City of Minnetonka, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. Questions may be directed to Becca at (952) 939-8384. Applications and more information are also available online from Minnetonka Mike at the following address: Mike@eminnetonka.com. □

Try the bus!

ROUTE 614 PROVIDES wheelchair accessible local bus service to and from the Ridgedale Transit Center and the Hopkins Transit Center, with stops at West Ridge, Greenbrier Condos, and Eisenhower Community



Center. At both transit centers, connections can be made to other routes, including routes to downtown Minneapolis. The route runs hourly on weekdays and Saturday, and one-way adult fares are \$1.25 for non-rush hours and \$1.75 during rush hours. Route schedules are available at city hall, by calling (612) 373-3333, or visiting www.metrotransit.org. □

Focusing on Minnetonka

THE CITY OF Minnetonka will once again sponsor a photo contest as part of its Fire Department/City-wide Open House on Tuesday, October 7. Minnetonka residents may submit photos, taken in Minnetonka in the last two years, in color or black and white. Photos should be unmounted 3" x 5" or 4" x 6" prints. Digital photos must be submitted on photographic paper. No slides can be accepted. Deadline for entry is September 26, 2003.

The grand prize winner will receive \$100; the second runner-up will receive \$50 and third runner-up, \$25. The winning photo will be featured in this newsletter and will be on display in city hall and the city web site. Watch for more details and an entry form in next month's *Minnetonka Memo*. □

Pre-school gymnastics offered

HOPKINS-MINNETONKA RECREATION Services has joined with Mini-Hops Gymnastics to provide a series of youth tumbling and gymnastic activities for the pre-school age child. All classes will be conducted in the Mini-Hops training facility at 14934 Minnetonka Industrial Road (southwest corner of Minnetonka Boulevard/Williston Road).

Programs include Toddler (19–23 months), Preschool Prep (24–35 months), Preschool A (3–4 years), Preschool B (4–5 years). Adult participation is required for the first two classes listed above. Sessions begin September 8 and/or October 25. For additional information call (952) 939-8203. □

Survey *continued from page 1*

The only use with little public support was the outdoor horse arena.

PUBLIC SAFETY — Concerns about safety again proved lower than other communities. Only 11% thought there were areas in Minnetonka where they felt unsafe. Speeding cars again outstripped other crime and vandalism concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS — The city's communication system was deemed very successful. The *Minnetonka Memo* is primarily relied upon for information about city government and continued to be both very well-read and highly evaluated for content and format.

Electronic media is fast coming into its own. Nearly nine of ten residents have access to the internet, and, consistent with the technology-mindedness of the population, 34% use the city's web site, which is the highest in the metro area.

Survey respondents profiled

Survey results found the typical adult resident of the city lived in the community for 14.8 years. Twenty-one percent had moved here during the last five years, while 33% had resided here for more than 20 years. Twenty-four percent of the households contained seniors, and 36% contained school-aged children or pre-schoolers. The typical adult resident was 50.3 years old. Fifteen percent were under 35 years old, while 24% were 65 years or older.

If you would like more information about this survey, check out the city web site: www.eminnetonka.com under "Hot Topics, Minnetonka News, 2003 Residential Study Results." □

Election *continued from page 1*

of your completed application, a ballot will be mailed.

Registering to Vote — Pre-registration is available until August 19. Registration forms are available on the city's web site, or by calling city hall. Pre-registering will save you a great deal of time when you vote at the poll.

If you have any questions about the election process, please check eminnetonka.com, or call (952) 939-8219. □

DID YOU KNOW?

THE City of Minnetonka bills approximately 18,000 residential and commercial customer water/sewer accounts per quarter. That is over 72,000 bills a year, resulting in revenues of almost \$7.9 million on an annual basis. These funds are used exclusively to upgrade and maintain the city's water and sewer system. □

Minnetonka police offer safety reminders

- Thefts from vehicles can happen at all hours of the day or night and in all locations... even your own driveway. Quite frequently, when police officers are patrolling parking lots and underground garages, they notice vehicles with valuables in plain view. Many times checkbooks, watches, and other small valuables (including lap-tops) are kept in briefcases/gym bags. To deter a criminal from breaking into your car, you should lock your vehicle and *remove any valuables from the passenger compartment and the trunk*. Thieves will break into any vehicle if they believe it contains something valuable. Should you notice an unfamiliar car cruising your neighborhood, be cautious and stay alert. If you suspect inappropriate activity, report it by calling 9-1-1.
- When grocery shopping, NEVER, NEVER leave your purse in your shopping cart. It only takes a couple of seconds for someone to slip your wallet out of your purse, or simply take the entire purse. Try using a fanny pack when shopping — it keeps your wallet close and readily accessible.
- Did you know that Hennepin County has established curfew hours? Although many families have stricter hours, the following are those enforced by the county and Minnetonka police officers:
Under 12 years old: 9 p.m. weekdays, 10 p.m. weekends
12, 13, 14 years old: 10 p.m. weekdays, 11 p.m. weekends
15, 16 years old: 11:00 P.M. weekdays, midnight weekends
17 years old: midnight every night
- Bike riders are reminded that state statutes require every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway to ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. Another regulation requires that persons riding bicycles upon a roadway or shoulder shall not ride more than two abreast nor impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. In addition, Minnetonka ordinances prohibit the use of headphones while biking.

These regulations have been enacted for bikers' safety. Keep them in mind on your next bike outing. □

City web site keeps you informed about area projects

HAVE YOU EVER wondered what that new project down the street is all about? Find out by visiting www.eminnetonka.com. To keep residents informed, the city web site now offers a section featuring "Projects" which includes Planning Applications; Street, Drainage/Storm Sewer, Sewer/Water projects; Parks Renewal, and others. Each project may display detailed information with a location map, contact

information, newsletters, a meeting date schedule, agendas and minutes, timelines, and a description of the project.

To learn more about a project in your area, visit www.eminnetonka.com, then select Hot Topics/Projects. For other information, contact Web Coordinator Becca Harris, (952) 939-8384, or bharris@eminnetonka.com. □

Compliance checks successful

THIS SPRING THE Minnetonka Police Department conducted compliance checks on all on and off sale licensed liquor establishments in the city. One hundred percent of the businesses successfully passed. Congratulations to all Minnetonka businesses that are working hard to reduce youth access to alcohol! □

Sign up now for fall skating lessons

THE MINNETONKA ICE Arena's All Season Skating School is accepting registrations for fall skating lessons. The lesson program is endorsed by the Ice Skating Institute and offers hockey and figure skating instruction to both adults and children age 4 and up. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Saturdays depending on the class level. Take advantage of the daytime tot program held on Tuesdays, the Wednesday night adults-only classes, the hockey skills and power classes on Saturday mornings, plus others. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena, (952) 939-8310, for class information, fees, and for a lesson brochure. The 12-week session begins September 16 with registrations accepted until September 15, or until classes are full. □

You're invited to a barbeque (or two)

THE MINNETONKA SENIOR Center will host the following events:

- Grandparents and grand kids (ideally ages 4 – 9) are invited to an "indoor grill-out" on Friday, August 22, 11:30 a.m. in the Minnetonka Senior Center. There will be a mini golf contest with prizes and a great lunch of hot dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon, and root beer floats — all for \$3 per person. Make a reservation by calling (952) 939-8393.
- Minnetonka seniors will host a barbeque, open to all, on Thursday, September 11, 5:30 p.m. at the senior center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. Food by Famous Dave's will be on the menu. A brass band will provide entertainment. Cost is \$5 per person. Reservations are being accepted now; call (952) 939-8393. Space is limited. □

Thanks, Tree Trust!

THIS SUMMER TREE TRUST participants replaced decking on the boardwalk/overlook area of the pond at the Minnetonka Community Center. The crew also helped with mulching and weeding of the surrounding grounds.

The Tree Trust program helps low-income and special needs young people and adults gain the skills they need to build an independent future for themselves. For the past 21 years, Tree Trust has provided needed services in many Minnetonka parks. Material is provided by the city, while supervisors and labor are provided by the trust. □



Tree Trust workers are replacing decking on the walkway adjacent to the Minnetonka Community Center.

Natural Resource Notes



Are you thinking about building an addition to your home or expanding your garage? Maybe you're considering dressing up your landscaping, or building a deck or patio. Summer is the time for many homeowners to take on construction projects. In planning for your project, please consider the natural resources on your property.

Are there wetlands that might be impacted, or trees that might be disturbed? Will there be grading and earth-moving activity as part of the project? Where will all the soil be stockpiled? How do you prevent erosion? These are just some of the questions that you may want to ask yourself in order to protect the natural resources on your property.

Here are some items to remember in planning your project:

- Call the city's planning department, (952) 939-8200, to make sure your construction project meets city code requirements. A grading permit may be needed, and you'll want to make sure your project meets all required setbacks.
- Think about the health of your trees. Decide which trees you want to protect before deciding where to build, and then avoid damage to the critical root zone. This is the area directly under the canopy or drip line of the tree. Root damage is the primary reason trees decline or die after the completion of a construction project.

Avoid running heavy equipment over this critical root area and don't stockpile soil, or place dumpsters or construction material under your trees. Fence the area and communicate your expectations to your contractor.

- Prevent damage to wetlands or ponding areas on your property. If you have an upland buffer of vegetation, keep it. This is beneficial for the wetland; helps filter nutrients and pollutants, and prevents erosion. Install a silt fence on the upland edge of the wetland buffer. Maintain the silt fence and prevent eroded soil from entering this ecosystem. The soil can carry nutrients and pollutants into the wetland as well as cause a decrease in light, which affects plant growth.

- Prevent dirt and sediment from running off your property and into the street. Sediment in the roadway is a traffic/safety concern as well as an issue for our wetlands, creeks, and lakes. Any dirt or sediment on the roadway is washed into the storm drains. It then is washed into your neighborhood pond, wetland, lake, or creek.

Sediment harms our water resources by causing turbid conditions, reducing sunlight, and thereby inhibiting plant growth. It can also carry nutrients and pollutants into our water resources, causing increased algae blooms and decreased water quality. Sediment from construction projects can effectively fill the local wetland.

Many projects, including landscaping and driveway work, can cause sediment loading into our wetlands. Never stockpile earth in the street or on your driveway. This will just be washed into the storm drains. Trucks, cars, and grading equipment track sediment into the street. Sweep up any sediment before it is washed into the storm drain.

Planning your project with natural resources in mind will promote healthier trees and protect our wetlands, ponds, creeks, and lakes. □



Minnetonka ArtsCenter Calendar

August 2003



(The Minnetonka ArtsCenter adjoins Minnetonka High School, 18301 Hwy. 7.)

The Minnetonka Community Theater presents

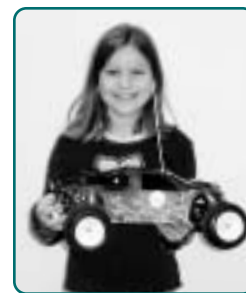
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on August 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the ArtsCenter Theatre. Call (952) 401-5898 for ticket information.

ArtsCenter Summer Theatre presents

"The Glass Slipper," or, Cinderella with a few surprises! This play for the entire family will be presented August 13 - 16 at 7 p.m. and August 14 at 2 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre (west entrance of Minnetonka High School). Tickets are \$5 at the door — no advance sale. Call (952) 401-5748 for more information. □

Minnetonka resident wins model car

CARLY SHAW, AGE 9, was the grand prize winner of a remote-controlled model car awarded at the Minnetonka Public Works Open House in June. Carly, a



Carly Shaw

Minnetonka resident, is pictured above with her prize, donated by SEH, an engineering/architectural firm. □



Recycling Drop-off Center moves to new Minnetonka Public Works facility

Beginning Friday, August 1, the Recycling Drop-off Center will move from its temporary location east of the ice arena at the Civic Center to the new Minnetonka Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Bins will be located at the southeast corner of the facility's parking lot, across from the gas pump canopy. *Please use the entrance on the east side of the new facility.*

The recycling drop-off center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Recyclable items accepted at the center are the same materials collected in the curbside program.

Paper, newspaper, miscellaneous paper items and corrugated cardboard

Included are newspaper and all colored comics and ad supplements; glossy magazines and catalogs; direct mail advertising (commonly referred to as unwanted or junk mail); letters, bills, receipts and envelopes; school and office paper; hard and soft covered books; telephone directories; toy, gift, shoe and tissue boxes and tubes; laundry detergent boxes; beverage carriers (pop, water, beer); dry food packaging (cereal, cracker, cake, chip, pasta, etc.) Remove all product liners and flatten boxes. Shredded paper is accepted—in a paper bag only.

Place the acceptable paper items into a paper grocery bags.

Corrugated cardboard (taller containers)

Flatten boxes. No wax coated or home delivered pizza boxes accepted.

Glass bottles and jars, metal cans (includes foil/foil trays), plastic bottles with a neck

Rinse all containers clean. Discard all plastic caps, tops, lids, and pumps—they are not recyclable. Place containers in the recycling bin labeled *Containers*. Only plastic bottles with a neck are accepted!

The following materials are **NOT** accepted: plastic bottles that contained motor oil or other hazardous chemicals, all other plastic items (bags, tubs, trays, caps, covers, flower pots, large pails, foam packaging, foam peanuts, swimming pools, lids and pumps etc.). Throw unacceptable plastic items into your garbage!

Additional items not accepted: hazardous materials, motor oil, batteries, paint; construction materials; concrete, windows, scrap metal; appliances; electronics; carpet or padding; yardwaste, grass clippings, or brush.

Note

There will be a 24-hour video recording at this location. The City of Minnetonka **WILL** prosecute illegal dumpers to the fullest extent of the law! This is **NOT** a drop-off site for household hazardous materials, household junk, appliances, electronics, furniture, carpet, or other construction materials. If you need help on how and where to dispose of these items, call the Recycling Coordinator during business hours, (952) 939-8217.

Labor Day holiday will delay recycling

The Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 1, will delay recycling by one day. Residents west of I-494 will have recycling collection on Tuesday, September 2; residents living east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesday, September 3.

Special one-day drop-off set

If you need to dispose of appliances, electronics, carpet/pad, tires, lumber, mattresses/box springs, chairs, sofas, hide-a-beds, scrap metal, toilets/sinks, you'll want to take advantage of Minnetonka's special one-day drop-off on Saturday, September 13. From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. the above items can be dropped off at the ice arena parking lot at the Minnetonka Civic Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

There is a charge for most items (see next month's *Minnetonka Memo* for details). For other information, contact Recycling Coordinator Dean Elstad, (952) 939-8217.

Check out GreenGuardian.com to get more information on recycling, reuse, composting, and disposing of household items such as pesticides or hazardous waste.



Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

August
2003

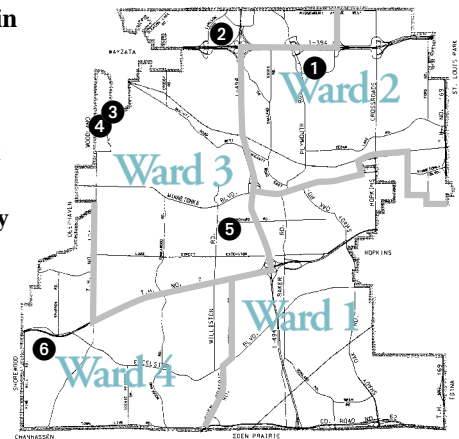
Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2		5 National Night Out, 6–9 p.m.
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							6 Park Board, 7 pm.
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
							7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
							11 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							12 Senior Citizen Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							25 City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The following items are tentatively scheduled to come before the Planning Commission in August. Please call (952) 939-8200 for updated information or visit the city web site: www.eminnetonka.com. Meeting agendas are posted on the site the Friday prior to each commission meeting.

- 1 Site/building plan review, minor Master Development Plan amendment to remodel a restaurant for Schreiber & Mullaney Construction at **12461 Wayzata Blvd.** (03027.03A)
- 2 Amendment to Master Development Plan for Carlson Real Estate Co. at **401 Carlson Parkway** (98068.03a)
- 3 Variances for a second story addition for Jack and Betsy Randall at **2819 McKenzie Pt. Rd.** (02062.03)
- 4 Appealing planning director's decision regarding a fence for Scott Sorenson at **2815 McKenzie Pt. Rd.**
- 5 Variance to build a screen porch for Carole Ann Mengelkoch at **14617 Orchard Rd.** (03033.03a)
- 6 Petition for EAW; site/building plan review with variance for temporary sports dome for Minnetonka Independent School District #276 at **18301 Hwy. 7/18325 Delton Ave.** (97001.03a)



HT Hot Topics HT

ITEMS IDENTIFIED WITH HT are listed as Hot Topics on the city web site, www.eminnetonka.com. Please refer to the site for additional information on these selected topics. For more information, call Minnetonka Mike, (952) 939-8586, leaving your name and address.

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PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the City of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

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