



Summer 2018

Minnetrista Messenger

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

Mayor's Message

It's hard to believe our summer is already winding down! Some of you are packing or already off to college, others are getting ready for the new school year, and some of us are probably ready for cooler temperatures. Hopefully you have had an enjoyable and fun filled summer.

On Tuesday, August 7th we participated in National Night Out and had a record amount of participation with 19 parties in Minnetrista! Our Chief of Police, National Night Out coordinator Dave Lock, Councilmembers Pam Mortenson, John Tschumperlin, and I were able to attend many of the gatherings. It was great to see so many of you! A big thank you to all that coordinated a neighborhood party! A big thank to our Police Department for all their time and efforts, making this a huge success.

In June we hosted our 3rd Annual City Bus Tour. Everyone had a great time, even those that have lived here for many years said they learned new things! Check out our website for pictures and join us next year.

Recently a resident asked me: "What's new at City Hall?"

One of the hot topics in many communities around Lake Minnetonka is Vacation Rental by

Owner. We have seen an uptick in the number of properties that are listed and after listening to residents, gathering information, discussion and debate, the Council passed an ordinance banning VRBO's in our community.

We have also been discussing the need for a water tower in our south west area. Discussion items have included location, water pressure, fire-fighting capabilities, storage, current and future demands, and costs. No final decision has been made yet, more discussions and considerations will occur.

Those of you that live on our gravel roads have noticed less dust and wash-boarding this summer. With the purchase of equipment, we are now able to do our own dust abatement which allows multiple applications at or below the same cost.

In May we hired Robert Goodman as our new Building Inspector, welcoming him to our staff on June 5th. A big thank you to Jack Molin who stepped in to help on an interim basis.

At a recent City Council meeting, Chief Falls reported the Crime Fund interest in fund-raising 100% of the costs to complete our gun range. We're exploring opportunities to off-set and/or cover the on-going

costs with other communities and through public membership fees.

The Council saw a draft budget proposal at our work session on August 6th and we must certify a budget and levy to the county by September 28th. The final budget is then certified in December. The final budget cannot be higher than the preliminary, but it can be lower. Council and Staff will continue to work on details and modify the budget this fall. Our goal is to be prudent with your tax dollars and still be able to meet our obligations and needs.

Visit our official City sites and social media:
www.facebook.com/minnetristamn,
Twitter [@MinnetristaMn](https://twitter.com/MinnetristaMn),
www.YouTube.com/user/CityofMinnetrista, and receive email alerts and news at www.cityofminnetrista.com.

A reminder that any other site or social media source is not official City information or monitored for accuracy.

As always, your
Mayor
Lisa Whalen



Water Pollution

Minnetrista's City Code states pet owners/custodians are responsible for cleaning up any waste and disposing of it in a sanitary manner whether on their own property, on the property of others, or on public property. The City asks that you pick up after your pet to reduce the movement of bacteria into water and areas where it can be stepped on.

When pet waste is left and is later rained on, it leaches bacteria, viruses, and parasites into the storm water which can threaten the health of humans and animals. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth in lakes and rivers. This is the same as when too much fertilizer is used—it turns waterbodies a mucky, green color. Picking up dog waste helps keep our community clean, safe, and beautiful!

Minnetrista City Hall



7701 County Road 110 W
Minnetrista, MN 55364

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm

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Public Works Updates

In 2017 the City Council approved the purchase of dust abatement equipment, and this year the Public Works department began dust abatement with that equipment in house. In the past, dust abatement was done by contracted vendors one time per year at a cost of \$45,000.00 - \$70,000.00. This year the cost will be between \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00. As a new operation for Public Works, finding the right application rates is a learning curve. Once application rates are determined, we will apply dust abatement monthly beginning in June and going through September. This schedule will allow for any necessary grading between applications to help avoid the dreadful wash boarding that can develop.

Public Works will also be cleaning and televising sanitary sewer lines in the following areas: Yellowstone/Palmer Pointe area, Co Rd 44 area, North & South Saunders, Halstead Dr area. This project is expected to begin in August and continue through mid-September with fall hydrant flushing and street sweeping expected to take place in October. Water conservation measures remain in place with odd/even watering days. Subscribe to Public Works e-alerts on our website for updates and reminders at www.cityofminnetrista.com/newsletters.

2017 Financial Audit and Report Completed

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2017 has been completed. It was presented to the City Council at the May 21 Council Meeting by the City's auditors Clifton Larson Allen. The City received an unqualified opinion on its financial report which is the best opinion the City can receive on the annual audit.

The full audit report is available at the City's website on the Finance page and is labeled "2017 Comprehensive Annual Report (CAFR)." The City has sent the report to the Government Finance Officers Association for review to receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the City has received this award the last 13 years. The CAFR award is presented to government units whose Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports achieve the highest standards in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The auditors reported that the City remains in very good financial condition. For 2017 the actual expenditures for the general fund were \$171,889 lower than the budgeted general fund expenditures. Revenues came in slightly lower than projected at \$42,337 lower than budgeted revenues in the general fund. The City ended the year with the general fund having a total fund balance of \$2,897,248 and an unassigned fund balance of \$2,519,530. This represents a healthy reserve level of 58% and 50% of the 2018 General Fund Budgeted expenditures of \$4,995,270 respectively.

Recycling Tip

Millions of pumpkins and decorative gourds end up in the trash after Halloween when they could be put to better use by being composted or sent to a farm to feed animals.

The following options are available:

- Residents with organics recycling service at home or access to a drop-off site can include pumpkins in their organics recycling.
- Pumpkins can be composted in backyard compost bins (available through Hennepin County www.hennepin.us/composting)

The Hennepin County Drop-off Facility in Brooklyn Park and the Maple Grove Yard Waste Site, which are both open to all residents in the county, accept pumpkins.

Courtesy of Hennepin County



Sign Up for Email Alerts Today!



Looking for more information about what is happening in Minnetrista? Wondering what the latest roadwork or special event is coming up? Sign up for Email Alerts on our website at www.cityofminnetrista.com! Click on the 'Email Alerts' button on the bottom of our homepage to choose what information you would like to receive. Stay in the know by getting the information sent right to your inbox!

A Letter From Our Chief

Training requirements for police officers vary greatly across the country and Minnesota has very high standards for law enforcement professionals. To become a licensed Police Officer in Minnesota, you are required to have a college degree, be licensed, and earn a number of certifications in a wide variety of proficiencies in order to be employed.

The Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Agency (POST) governs training and licensure for police officers. In addition to the initial hiring requirements, Police Officers are required to earn an additional forty-eight hours of continuing education every three years in order to maintain their license.

There are essentially two types of training; internal and external training. Internal training is on the job training conducted at our police department by our own certified instructors. Internal training generally has a narrow focus in areas like the initial sixteen week field training program for new officers, use of force, taser, and firearms training.

External training is more broad based and consists of a wide variety of training topics by certified instructors from outside of our agency. Some examples include monthly on-line training through the League of Minnesota Cities, emergency vehicle operation, pursuit intervention tactics, crime prevention, first aid, crime scene management, mental health awareness, domestic assault intervention, and interview and interrogation techniques.

Of our current thirteen licensed police officers, nine are certified instructors in areas ranging from DARE, Use of Force, Firearms, Taser, Hobble Restraint, Lidar, and crime prevention. We also have two certified Glock Armors and two certified AR15/Rifle Armors on staff.

Training is key to safe and successful operations. We are constantly evaluating our training and operations to ensure that we are providing the very best police service possible to the communities we serve.

Chief Paul Falls, Director of Public Safety





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This newsletter was published in accordance with the City of Minnetrista's Publication Policy which may be viewed in its entirety on the City's website at www.ci.minnetrista.mn.us or during regular business hours at Minnetrista City Hall; 7701 Co. Rd 110 W; Minnetrista, MN 55364.

City Calendar

For updated information, visit www.cityofminnetrista.com and our *Community Calendar*.

City Council:

August 6 & 20 - 7:00 pm
September 4 & 17 - 7:00 pm
October 1 & 15 - 7:00 pm
November 13 - 7:00 pm
December 3 - 7:00 pm

Planning Commission:

September 24 - 7:00 pm
October 22 - 7:00 pm
November 26 - 7:00 pm

Land Use Apps Due:

August 24
September 21
October 26
November 21
December 21

Parks Commission:

August 15 - 7:00 pm
September 11 - 7:00 pm
October 9 - 7:00 pm
November 14 - 7:00 pm
December 11 - 7:00 pm

Office Holiday Closings

Labor Day September 3
Veteran's Day November 12
Thanksgiving November 22 & 23
Christmas Eve December 24, Noon

Christmas Day December 25
New Year's Eve December 31, Noon
New Year's Day January 1

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MEETINGS ON YOUTUBE



Did you know you can watch regular City Council meetings at home on your computer? Regular City Council meetings are videotaped and posted on YouTube within the Friday after the meeting. A link is available on the home page of the City website or subscribe to The City of Minnetrista's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/cityofminnetrista