



# Minnetrista Messenger

## 2022 Quarter 1 Spring Newsletter

*"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

Spring is upon us and that means time for our spring Minnetrista Messenger. If you have signed up for our emails and the Mayor's Messages some of this will be old news to you. However, I hope you will still take a few minutes to read all the information in this newsletter.

One of the Council's top priorities in 2021 was to address the deficiency of broadband in the rural areas of Minnetrista. Nearly 500 homes in Minnetrista are considered unserved or underserved, meaning they do not have adequate internet service options or no internet service options. With Staff's help, primarily Director of Administration Allie Polfuss, the Council approved an agreement with Midcontinental (Midco) to bring fiber internet to unserved/underserved homes. Midco will begin construction of the service build out this spring, and they hope to have the project significantly completed by the end of the year.

In addition, the Council offered a water tower lease agreement to Lakeside Networks, a wireless internet provider, for installation of antennas on all city water towers in order to provide service to surrounding households. They are currently in the process of installing equipment on the Sunnyfield Road water tower. This offers an additional option to those in the surrounding area.

In the future, we are hopeful Lakeside Networks will install equipment on all city water towers, so more residents have additional options for internet services.

The other ongoing topic has been the city's water infrastructure. In late November 2021, the City Council approved a contract to drill two test wells. A test well was drilled on City Hall property but did not yield the capacity necessary for the City's water supply. Then in December 2021, Council authorized the preparation of a quote package for a test well on a city owned property southeast of Westonka Regional Athletics site. These test wells were not pursued given the depth of the aquifer in this area. On February 9, 2022, City Staff and I met with DNR representatives to discuss options for Minnetrista's next test well, and the city is moving forward with two test wells in a different location that we believe will produce the water capacity necessary. Once the wells have been sited, the Council can begin to plan for the third water treatment plant. In December, the City Council directed staff to implement a Water Conservation and Education Campaign. If you are on city water supply, you will have already received several of these informational pieces. Campaign mailers are being sent out monthly with information on our water infrastructure and water

conservation tips which can ultimately save you money. I urge you to take time to read them! If you've missed one you can visit the city's website:

[www.cityofminnetrista.com/WaterInfrastructure](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com/WaterInfrastructure).

On Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. the City Council will be hosting a Town Hall meeting for anyone that's interested in attending to ask questions, discuss topics related city water, get informed water conservation tips and resources. All residents are invited to attend.

The 2022 City Street projects are underway. Contract bids were received and the Council awarded a contract for the 2022 Street Improvement Project in February. Good news; the low bidder came in \$60,000 under the engineer's estimate. Streets included in the improvement are Jennings Cove Road, East Cove Lane, West Cove Lane, Cove Circle, and Upper Cove Road. In addition, the 2022 overlay project is currently being designed for overlays on Painter Road, Painters Circle and Painters Creek Drive. More information can be found on page 3.

Enjoy the warmer spring weather!

Your Mayor,  
Lisa Whalen



## New Water Utility Rates

In March, the City of Minnetrista approved increasing the residential water rate in an effort to promote water conservation. The quarterly base rate will remain the same at \$31.97 per quarter.



### New Water Rates:

Gallons Used	Cost Per 1,000 Gallons used
0-25,000	<del>\$4.13</del> \$ 4.50
25,001- <del>65,000</del> 50,000	<del>\$5.15</del> \$ 6.25
Over- <del>65,001</del> 50,001	<del>\$6.59</del> \$11.25

The tiered usage and rates have been adjusted.

The mid-level residential usage tier is increasing from 25,001-50,000 gallons to 25,001-65,000 gallons and top level usage is over 65,001 gallons. The rate per thousand gallons also increases as seen in the table. The fee increases will take effect **April 1, 2022;** (second quarter 2022) as discussed during the March 7, 2022 Work Session and adopted during the March 21, 2022 Council Meeting. The changes only pertain to the residential water usage and rates. Commercial and School tiers and rates remain unchanged. To view more information on water rates, visit our website: [www.cityofminnetrista.com/WaterRatesInformation](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com/WaterRatesInformation)

## 2022 Clean Up/Recycling Day

The City of Minnetrista will be hosting its annual city clean up and recycling day May 14, 2022 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at 7701 County Road 110 W Minnetrista. A large variety of items will once again be accepted from city residents. Appliances, electronics, household and car batteries, mattresses, scrap metal, tires, medical equipment and more will be accepted. Please check the City website in the upcoming weeks regarding applicable fees for some items. The City of Minnetrista and City of Mound have co-hosted this event for many years and look forward to another successful recycling day this Spring.



### Organics Drop Off Site

As of January 1, the City started hosting an organics drop off site. There is a bin that residents can use to drop off their organic waste located by the Public Works Garage. Hours to use the drop off site during the week are Monday-Friday 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM. If you have any questions, please check the City website or contact our Utility Billing Specialist/Recycling Coordinator Renae Neumann at 952-241-2528.

## New Staff at City Hall

The City of Minnetrista City Council, staff and community would like to welcome three new employees to the City of Minnetrista Staff!

Ryan Pool began as the Building Inspector on January 24, 2022. Ryan had previously worked in the private sector as an HVAC Installer for over 20 years.

Renae Neuman began as the Utility Billing/Recycling Coordinator on January 27, 2022. Renae began her public sector career working at the US Department of Agriculture as a Program Technician for over 10 years.

Jasper Kruggel was approved as the next City Administrator and his first day will be on April 11, 2022. Jasper was the Streets and Parks Manager for the City of Northfield from 2012-2016 and then moved to the Public Services Director for the City of Le Sueur in 2016. Most recently, he was promoted to the City Administrator for the City of Le Sueur and has been in this position since 2017.

## Embedded Social Worker Program

In October , 2021, the City Council approved a joint powers agreement with Hennepin County for an Embedded Social Worker Program to begin in 2022.

In response to the increase and complexity of mental health related calls, law enforcement training related to mental health issues has increased significantly. While this is certainly a step in the right direction, law enforcement's role with mental health issues is primarily limited to the initial response. In order to address core mental health issues like resources and follow up care, it is imperative that we utilize a multi-pronged approach that includes mental health professionals. Mental health professionals are able to provide vital follow up in order to determine the most appropriate care and resources. They are also in the best position to assist individuals navigate through what can be a complex process to getting the help they need.

Seven suburban departments serving cities around Lake Minnetonka have joined program in early 2022, bringing the total number of departments in the county that use the social workers to 21. The new cities to be served by the program next year are Corcoran, Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Long Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, St. Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park, Tonka Bay, Wayzata and Woodland.

## 2022 Project Updates

**2022 Street Improvement Project:** This project will occur in the Jennings Cove neighborhood, which includes Jennings Cove Road, East Cove Lane, West Cove Lane, Cove Circle, and Upper Cove Road. The asphalt pavement will be completely removed and replaced with new pavement meeting the City's current specifications. Partial replacement of the existing concrete curb and gutter is proposed. Deficient sections that are cracked, heaved, or holding water, will be removed and replaced. The asphalt path on the south side of Jennings Park will be replaced, and two new ADA compliant pedestrian ramps will be installed for pedestrian access to the park. Work is anticipated to begin in May or June, with the majority of construction completed within 6 weeks.

**2022 Overlay Project:** This project is currently being designed and is proposed to include a 2" mill and overlay on Painter Road, Painters Creek Drive, and Painters Circle. Performing a mill and overlay is recommended on streets that are experiencing minor distresses and aging, and is a maintenance method utilized to extend the useful life of the roadways. Although the construction schedule is not finalized, this work is expected to take place after July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and will only last a week or two.

**2022 Pavement Forensics Study:** This project includes gathering existing pavement information so that the City Council can continue to plan for future street improvement projects. The work is comprised of taking core samples of the existing street pavement and underlying aggregate material. This information is then analyzed and is crucial for determining what pavement maintenance or rehabilitation method is proposed. The streets being analyzed this spring include Painter Road, Painters Creek Drive, Painters, Circle Game Farm Road E Evans Way, Kramer Road, Alexandra Drive, Ridgewood Cove, Turtle Creek Boulevard, Pondview Drive, Turtle Road, Forest Court, Stone Creek Court, Northome Drive, and Eagle Nest Drive.

## Midco Expansion Project

On January 3, 2022, Midco proposed to construct facilities and provide reliable high speed internet service to nearly 500 homes to fill the broadband availability gap in the city. The proposal includes an estimated total construction cost \$2.57 million. The City Council approved a local contribution of \$400,000, using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds received from the Federal Government earmarked for municipalities to invest in broadband infrastructure.

The agreement will provide unserved/underserved Minnetrista homes with increased speeds of up to 5 gigabit per second downloads and 2 gigabit per second uploads by July 1, 2023, although we are hopeful that the project will be significantly completed by December 31, 2022. The city is excited to get this project underway!

For more information including project schedule, included homes, project map, etc., please visit our website: [www.cityofminnetrista.com/MidcoBroadbandExpansionProject](http://www.cityofminnetrista.com/MidcoBroadbandExpansionProject)



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## 2022 Important Dates

### Meetings

April 4 at 5:30 pm : City Council Work Session and Meeting

April 18 at 5:30 pm : City Council Work Session and Meeting

April 25 at 7:00 pm: Planning Commission Meeting

May 2 at 5:30 pm: City Council Work Session and Meeting

May 16 at 5:30 pm: City Council Work Session and Meeting

### Events

April 26 and April 28 : Open Book meeting (virtual meeting)

May 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm: Town Hall Meeting Water Education and Information

May 14 at 8:00am: Recycle Clean Up Day

May 21 at 11:00 am: 2022 Trista Day

May 30: City Hall closed in observance of Memorial Day



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