

Newsbreak

July Publication of
the Minnesota Professional
Towing Association



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MPTA Hosts Light Duty Tow School for Beginners Before the Heat of the Summer Arrives



This past spring the MPTA supported our towing operators in a light duty tow school for beginners before the summer heats up on Wednesday, May 18th. MPTA board directors taught the early classroom portion of the school with new information and safety statistics as well as the everyday basics of getting ready for each towers shift. With new towing employees, it all starts with the basic essentials. Students were taught everything from size of chains, straps, pressure points, and even how to better prepare yourself mentally and professionally. Sally Anderson from Road Ready Consulting spent time in the classroom and hosting a hands on training station in the field educating the students and answering questions about pre and post truck inspections and DOT information.

With nearly 20 students in attendance, MPTA board directors hosted several training sessions featuring basic hook ups, use of dollies, and experiencing use of chains and straps getting a feel for what our industry has to offer. Although the school gives you a great "Hands on" experience, it can only prepare you for the "real thing!" Teaching the students' the basics and advanced lessons of hooking up from the streets /parking lots while learning the "Do's and Do not's" of our industry.

(Continued on page 7)

MPTA Board of Directors

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763-424-4900

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Email: admin@mnprotow.org

If you would like to make a one time contribution to help with the legislative efforts, please send your donations to:

MPTA
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117

Presidents Letter

Written by President, Brett Letourneau

Summer is in full swing! Our annual event at Elko Speedway was well attended and a huge success. Thank you to everyone that attended and I encourage all of our members to come out next year.

Our first light duty tow school was held in May and the feedback on our new curriculum and format for teaching was excellent. A big thank you to our Board of Directors for volunteering their time to instruct. As always, the talents of Executive Director Lance Klatt and MPTA's staff, Nikki Wakefield and Norie Hennen were very much appreciated. Lastly, Roddy Pellow and his staff at Twin Cities Wrecker Sales provided us with the space and equipment needed for the seminar. Please thank them the next time you see them, we couldn't do it without them!

In the near future, we have a heavy duty tow school scheduled which is sponsored by Miller Industries and taught by Tom Luciano. We will also be holding an advanced light duty school in the fall. Please watch for details and support our efforts to educate towing professionals in Minnesota by attending one of the seminars.

Lastly, I want to comment on the idea that the MPTA is specific to the metro area of Minnesota. I can see where some outstate members might get that impression, but rest assured that we take into consideration the needs of every member, no matter where they are located. We specifically try to have representation from areas outside the metro area. We currently have board members from Red Wing, Winona, and Moorhead in addition to those of us from the metro. We have held events in other parts of the state with very low participation in the past, however, we are not against trying again. What we need is participation. We all are busy and have 24 hour businesses to operate that can be very challenging. However, if you want to make a difference in the towing industry in Minnesota, make a choice to make time to get involved in the MPTA.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see everyone at one of our upcoming tow schools.

Brett

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Passengers in Large Commercial Trucks Now Required to Wear Seat Belts

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced today that passengers riding in large commercial trucks will be required to use seat belts whenever the vehicles are operated on public roads in interstate commerce. Effective August 8, 2016, the final rule revises Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and holds motor carriers and drivers responsible for ensuring that passengers riding in large commercial trucks are using seat belts.

"Seat belts save lives – period," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Whether you're a driver or passenger, in a personal vehicle or large truck, the simple act of wearing a safety belt significantly reduces the risk of fatality in a crash."

In 2014, 37 passengers traveling unrestrained in the cab of a large truck were killed in roadway crashes, according to the most recent data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Of this number, approximately one-third were ejected from the truck cab.

FMCSA's most recent Seat Belt Usage by Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Drivers Survey, published in March 2014, found that commercial motor vehicle passengers use seat belts at a lower rate (73 percent) than CMV drivers (84 percent). Federal rules have long required all commercial drivers to use seat belts.

"Using a seat belt is one of the safest, easiest, and smartest choices drivers and passengers can make before starting out on any road trip," said FMCSA Acting Administrator Scott Darling. "This rule further protects large truck occupants and will undoubtedly save more lives."

Celebration of Tow School Students

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Held at Jimmy's Food & Drink
1132 Co Rd E East
Vadnais Heights, MN

6:30pm to 8:30pm

Please RSVP by Friday, August 29, 2016 by contacting
the MSA Office 651-487-1983



All MPTA
Members
Welcome!

MPTA Members opting out of the Visa/MasterCard Settlement in 2013- Please Read!

As most of you know, numerous antitrust class actions were filed against Visa, MasterCard and their card-issuing banks in 2005. Those suits resulted in a class settlement agreement that received preliminary approval by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in November 2012. Following preliminary approval, notices regarding the settlement were sent to class members (merchants that accepted Visa or MasterCard payment cards between January 1, 2004, and November 30, 2012). At that time, class members had the opportunity to opt out of the monetary portion of the class settlement and to object to the settlement. Following the notice process, the District Court gave final approval to the settlement in December 2013. That approval is being challenged on appeal and arguments on the appeal were heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in September 2015.

For merchants that opted out of the monetary portion of the class settlement by May 28, 2013, many have become part of lawsuits to press their monetary claims against the defendants in the case. Some of those cases have settled and many are proceeding through litigation. We have identified counsel willing to put together a case with merchants of all sizes (including small businesses) to allow merchants to protect the value of their legal claims in the case while they negotiate settlement of the claims. While that case has been filed, additional companies can still work with these lawyers to get their cases filed. Those lawyers have been negotiating settlements for their merchant clients that preserve each merchant's right to benefit from any rule changes arising from the appeals or modifications to the class settlement.

If you opted-out of the case and do not file an opt-out lawsuit, either individually or with other companies, you will not receive any money for your legal claims. In fact, if you opted-out and have not yet filed a suit, you are risking losing some of the value of your claims due to the statute of limitations with every day that passes.

All MSSA members opting out of the settlement back in 2013, may be entitled to receive up to 2-3% of your businesses credit card fees paid from 2004 thru 2012. There are no upfront attorney fees. The most the class action attorneys will charge is about 20% of what is collected.

Please contact Doug Kantor at Steptoe & Johnson LLP. at dkantor@steptoe.com or by calling him at (202) 429-3775 to engage in this settlement.

Each MSSA member will need to have a copy of the their "Opt out" letter they sent in back in 2013, their corporate name, address and sign an agreement to hire class action council on behalf of their businesses. Agreement to be supplied by Doug Kantor.



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St. Paul, MN tcwreckersales.com

800-287-4210



www.tcwreckersales.com
1301 Jackson Street - St. Paul, MN 55117

(continued from front page)

MPTA Board Directors sponsored the event providing many vehicles and the use of their equipment. The students did not disappoint. They were promised to get hands on training while getting dirty- just like every MPTA sponsored tow school. Every school the MPTA conducts, all of us learn more from the instructors as well as from our students. Special thanks to the MPTA Board Directors for their time and knowledge Ron Gardas Jr. and the Pellow family for allowing us to use their facility. Together we continue to support our industry but more importantly, our professionalism. I would say when one looks at the time, money and personal commitment, at the end of the day, it's all well worth it!

Hope to see you or your employees at the next MPTA endorsed tow school!



Watch your mail:

UI TAX REFUND COMING YOUR WAY!

The 2016 Legislature passed reform and payroll tax relief of \$258 million in the unemployment insurance system, thanks to leadership from the Minnesota Chamber. Notices are being mailed from the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Eligible employers will receive a one-time credit on their 2016 unemployment insurance premiums due July 30, 2016. If you've already paid, carry over the credit until July 30, 2017.

- Eligible employers will receive future credits whenever the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance reaches 104% of the federally-recommended solvency level.
- Employers at the maximum experience rating are not eligible for credits.
-

For more information, [view the DEED website](#) or contact Cam Winton, Minnesota Chamber director of labor/management policy, at 651.292.4663 or cwinton@mnchamber.com.

NOW, THE ROAD LEADS TO THE NEW STAR IN TOWN



Warwick, NY - The 19th annual Tow Expo Dallas/Ft. Worth will be offering tow bosses an exciting weekend of viewing the latest tow trucks, trailers, accessories and services the towing industry has to offer from leading manufacturers and suppliers.

Amid a full 3-day schedule of special events, Tow Expo DFW takes place Aug. 4-6, 2016 at the Arlington Convention Center with over 120 exhibits bolstered with wreckers and carriers from all the major manufacturers- Dual-Tech, Dynamic, Jerr-Dan, Miller Industries, and NRC Industries.

The festivities kick off on Friday, Aug. 5, with the Centennial Celebration honoring the 100th birthday of the first tow truck in the American automotive scene. Casino Night, always a fun time for all, will once again be a part of the Celebration.

Saturday, Aug. 6 will feature a Live Recovery Show by Miller Industries and the Steel & Wheels Tailgate Party featuring an added luster to this year's event: a Classic Car Show. For those looking to fill their hearty appetites, the car show will also see a caravan of food trucks offering various eating delights for the expected crowd of tow professionals from Texas and the surrounding Southwest U.S.

Education and training also take center stage with a 2-day Repo Conference and three days of seminars highlighted by a unique "Getting Paid by the Motor Clubs" conference with the major automobile clubs participating. Hands-on training classes for heavy-duty rotator operators and light and medium duty skills sessions round out the busy three days.

The Tow Women's Conference promises to enlighten attendees to the challenges that women face in the towing and recovery industry while the TRAA Forum and WTRAA Conference welcome members of those organizations while focusing on safety and awareness.

Register free online at www.TowExpoDFW.com. You may reserve your hotel room once you register for the show on the website. This year, the headquarters hotel is the Arlington Sheraton, adjacent to the Arlington Convention Center.

Tow Expo Dallas/Ft. Worth is produced by A. T. Expo Corp. and is sponsored by American Towman Magazine, the towing and recovery industry's oldest and largest monthly trade publication now celebrating its 40th consecutive year serving the industry.

CONTACT:

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Warwick, NY 10990
800-732-3869 Ext. 200
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American Towman Expositions | 800.986.4546 | fax: 845.986.5181



**Minnesota Professional Towing Association &
Twin Cities Wrecker Sales are offering a
2-Day Basic Heavy Duty towing class August 2 & 3, 2016 and
A 1-Day Advanced Heavy Duty towing class August 4, 2016
featuring Miller Industries, "Tom Luciano"**



Tow school hosted at:
1354 Jackson Street, Saint. Paul, MN 55117

Tom Luciano of Miller Industries is one of the most sought after instructors and leaders in the towing industry. Do not miss your chance to spend up to three valuable days of learning and gaining vast knowledge from Tom Luciano.

Limited Space is available — so make your reservations now!



August 2 & 3, 2016 Agenda

Basic Heavy Duty includes towability, basic hook-ups, air systems, Drive lines, basic recovery and extensive classroom learning.

<p>August 2nd: Basic Heavy Duty</p> <p>7:30am Registration/Breakfast 8:00am to 5:00pm Classroom & Hands on Training 6:30pm to 8:30pm Celebration of Tow School Students at Jimmy's Food & Drink 1132 Co Rd E East, Vadnais Heights, MN 55110</p>	<p>August 3rd: Basic Heavy Duty</p> <p>8:00am to 4:30 pm Classroom & Hands on Training</p> <p align="center">Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1100 East Co Rd E Vadnais Heights, MN 55110 651-484-2400</p>
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August 4, 2016 Agenda

Advanced Heavy Duty includes classroom, advanced recovery including use of rotators

August 4th: Advanced Heavy Duty

8:00am to 5:00 pm Classroom & Hands on training

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites*1100 East Co Rd E* Vadnais Heights, MN 55110*651-484-2400

Please send completed form to:

MPTA
2886 Middle Street
Little Canada, MN 55117
Phone: 651-487-2231
800-627-6782
Fax: 651-487-2447

**Basic Heavy Duty
Hands-On Training Fee**
Members: \$395.00 per student
Non-members: \$595.00 per student

**Advanced Heavy Duty
Hands-On Training Fee**
Members: \$150.00 per student
Non-members: \$300.00 per student

Cancellation Policy -
credit only for future schools

Registration Form

Business Name _____ Member #: _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Student (s):	Basic \$	Advanced \$	Total \$
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Method of Payment: MasterCard Visa Check Enclosed

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVS Code _____



September 8th-11th, 2016 in Chattanooga, TN!

The International Towing & Recovery Museum's 2016 Hall of Fame Induction is right around the corner and **hotels & events are selling out quickly!** If you are making plans to attend, use the links below to register & book your rooms. You can also download the schedule for the weekend's festivities and visit the ITRHFM website for more details

The International Towing & Recovery Hall of Fame & Museum, Inc.
3315 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37408

80 Drivers Cited for 'Move Over'

Framingham, Mass., police recently conducted a traffic enforcement operation to remind drivers of the state's Move Over law.

To test compliance with the law, members of the police department's traffic safety unit recently parked a vehicle from Smitty's Towing in Framingham on the side of Route 9. They also parked an unmarked police cruiser in front of it to simulate what the department called a "maintenance work zone."

In a period of two hours, police issued citations to 80 drivers who failed to move over to the next adjacent lane as they approached the simulated work zone, according to police. They also distributed educational flyers explaining the law.

In a recent summary of the operation provided to the Board of Selectmen, Framingham police noted that both emergency personnel and tow truck operators have been struck in recent years while assisting others on the side of the road.

"Everyday Framingham Police Officers and Tow Operators work hand (in) hand to ensure that disabled motorists are safely removed from the roads," the police department's summary reads. "The Framingham police wanted to raise awareness that this law not only applies to emergency vehicles, but also to maintenance vehicles."

10 Interesting Facts about the Month of July

10. July Weather - In July the weather is pretty much different in two hemispheres of the world. The weather is in the peak of highest temperature at the Northern hemisphere. The exact opposite is seen on Southern hemisphere, though. The weather there is colder enough in Antarctica and rainy in South America.

9. Changes in Plants - In few parts of the world, July lacks rain. Due to this behavior, the nature loses its greenness and looks kind of dull. Exact opposite is seen in the countries with monsoon rainfall. Countries like Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar face heavy torrential rainfall. The nature wears green and there is abundance of plants and fruits.

8. Beginning and Ending - In leap years, July begins and ends on the same day of the week as January in common years. However, in non-leap years, the similarity is seen with April. In non-leap years, July endings days don't usually match with any other month's ending days. However, on a leap year July would end on the same day as January.

7. Birthstone -For the July people, Ruby is considered the birthstone. Ruby is known to be the king of gemstones and the characteristics it represents are – wisdom, health, love and romance. According to popular belief, wearing a gorgeous looking fine Red Ruby stone might bring good luck to the wearer. Speaking of monetary value, Ruby is of the highest value.

6. Birth Flower - Larkspur is July's birth flower and it comes in different colors. Each different color represents a meaning. For example, a white larkspur means happy nature while a pink would indicate fickleness. Purple larkspur is used to indicate first love. As a whole package, the flower larkspur indicates love.

5. Mid of the Year - Theoretically, the middle day of the year is on the month of July. July 3rd happens to be the mid-point of any given year; for only non-leap years though.

4. July as a Name - July is a popular name for people as well. Other than July, people tend to name their newborn after Julius Caesar as well. This male name has run out of the 500th place in newborn UK babies' name list. However, the female adaptation Julia is still popular in England and Scotland. The name secures 79th position in England and 74th in Scotland, for female newborn names.

3. Death of US Presidents - As opposed to May where no US presidents have ever died, July holds the highest number of US presidents' death. 7 US presidents have died so far on a July; the figure is way higher than any other month of a year.

2. Atom Bomb - Call it a blessing or curse to the humankind; the first ever nuclear bomb was field-tested by the scientists on July 16, 1945. The testing venue was Alamogordo, New Mexico.

1. Zodiac Signs - The month of July is the originating month for the people bearing zodiac signs Cancer and Leo.

Conclusion -The mid-point of the year; and maximum number of US president deaths – both these events have taken place on the month of July. July is a pretty interesting month, indeed

MPTA Members have a Blast at Elko Speedway

This past month marks the third time the MPTA has hosted and sponsored its annual picnic at Elko Speedway. Many MPTA towing members, friends and family attended this perfect evening of fun and excitement. The evening began with towing members displaying their trucks and equipment out on the plaza for the crowds of people to view.

Around 5:30, a buffet style meal of Hamburgers and Hot dogs with all of the fixings was served along with a live 50/50 raffle, raising over \$600 for Alan Johnson of Hwy 10 Towing. Towing members and families were also treated to several \$50 cash prize drawings from the MPTA and its sponsors and many DQ gift cards given to the kids. This was just the beginning!

MPTA members led the “parade lap” out on the track with their wreckers dressed up in American flags, lights flashing as race fans cheered on our members. With many events including live racing as Elko Speedway didn’t disappoint.

From what I am hearing, MPTA members and guests had great time. If you missed the MPTA Annual Picnic at Elko Speedway this year, you will have to attend next year to see how we can top this past year’s event.

MPTA thanks the following sponsors/contributors to this year’s Annual Picnic:



Dan Pecka
763-441-8405



Bill Haas 763-421-6153

Trends: EIA hikes summer gasoline price forecast

The U.S. Energy Information Administration retail gasoline after four months of rising crude and gasoline prices, including May crude prices \$5/bbl higher than in April.

EIA now expects U.S. regular gasoline retail price to average \$2.27/gal during the April through September summer driving season, 6 cts/gal higher than what was predicted last month but still 36cts/gal cheaper than the summer of 2015. However, there was a time just a few months back when many thought prices this summer would be cheaper than they are now.

For the entire year, U.S. retail gasoline is expected to average \$2.13/gal and \$2.27/gal in 2017, a nickel higher for 2016 and 3cts/gal higher for 2017 than predicted last month.

EIA also revised higher its 2016 and 2017 price projections for crude oil. The international benchmark Brent crude is now projected to average \$43/bbl in 2016 and \$52/bbl in 2017, \$3 and \$1/bbl higher than last month's prognostication. West Texas crude will be cheaper than Brent in 2016 but the same price in 2017, EIA thinks.

EIA also notes that U.S. crude production for May averaged 8.7 million b/d by EIA's estimate and is expected to average 8.6 million b/d in 2016 and 8.2 million b/d in 2017, both unchanged from a month ago. May crude production is roughly 200,000 b/d below April 2016 levels but approximately 1 million b/d below the 9.7-million-b/d level reached in April 2015.

Oil Express, Vol.XXXIX, Issue No. 24, Ben Brockwell, bbrockwell@opisnet.com



Member Directory

Albert Lea	Allen's Tow & Travel 507-373-3551	Dayton	North Suburban Towing 763-428-8940	Inver Grove Heights	South East Towing 651-451-9721
Albertville	All Wheels Recovery 763-496-6622	Detroit Lakes	DL Towing 218-847-6362	Lakeville	Marek's Towing & Repair 952-469-3182
Anoka	North Star Towing 763-427-4160	Duluth	Dukes Towing 218-722-8885	Loretto	Loretto Towing 763-479-1943
Austin	Midtown Towing 507-433-7374		Mrs. Mac's Towing 218-393-7377	Mankato	Affordable Towing 507-388-8697
Barnum	Thompson Motor Service 218-389-6941		East End Towing 218-349-3991		All American Towing 507-345-5005
Big Lake	Bob's Towing 763-262-8697	Eagan	Mark's Towing 651-454-1533	Maple Grove	Chase Towing & Transport 763-315-3995
Blackduck	Bogart's Towing 218-835-4548	Eden Valley	Jack's Towing 320-453-6560	Meadowlands	Mrs. Mac's North 218-393-7377
Blaine	Twin Cities Transport & Recovery 763-784-7501	Edina	Walser Automotive Group 952-345-4003	Medina	Kelly's Wrecker Services 763-473-0558
	Dan's Complete Auto Care 763-784-8668	Elk River	Collins Brothers Towing 763-241-9177	Melrose	Shaggy's Towing 320-256-7855
	Frovik's Towing 763-786-9220		Morrell Towing, Inc. 763-441-3666	Minneapolis	Blaine Brothers 763-780-5130
Bloomington	Chief's Towing, Inc. 952-888-2201	Excelsior	Williams Towing 952-446-9650		Miller Towing 612-827-5591
Bloomington	Darrick's Preferred Auto 507-583-9994	Faribault	Glenn's Service LLC 507-331-6605		Rapid Recovery Inc. 651-665-0022
Brooklyn Park	Cardinal Towing 763-535-1202	Forest Lake	Dan's Towing 654-464-5551		Schmit Towing 763-253-1568
	Citywide Service 763-424-4900		Harold's Towing & Recovery 651-464-5313		Wrecker Services, Inc. 612-330-0013
Cannon Falls	Siewert's Towing 507-263-4791	Frazee	Daggett Wrecker Service, Inc. 763-544-5512	Minnetonka	Kustom Karriers 952-938-4680
Coon Rapids	Corky's Towing 612-382-3858	Golden Valley	Feist Automotive 763-544-5512	Moorhead	Aggressive Towing & Recovery 218-287-2344
	Highway 10 Mobil 763-757-6789	Hutchinson	Modern Towing 320-587-4603		Ed's Towing Service 218-233-7740
Crystal	North Suburban Towing 763-535-2201			New Brighton	Freeway Towing 651-633-5525

Member Directory

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Owatonna	Dean's Westside Service 507-455-1950 Sweet Towing & Repair 507-451-3424	Stillwater Stillwater Towing 651-439-5744		
Plymouth	Plymouth Automotive 763-544-3202	Tyler Bruender's Corner Mart 507-247-5587		
Red Wing	Midway Auto 651-388-8296 Siewerts Garage 651-388-9163	Virginia Armory Shell Towing & Service 218-741-6050		
Rochester	CSC Towing 507-289-8344 Moody's Towing & Auto Repair 507-289-2955 Rochester Towing, LLC 507-288-7317	Waseca Bocks Service Inc. 507-835-5407 Tesch Service Center 507-835-4610		
Rogers	Burdas Towing 763-428-9911	Winona Borkowski Towing & Salvage 507-452-9073		
Savage	Allen's Service Inc. 952-894-1000	Zumbrota Bergs Towing & Repair 507-732-5613		
Scanlon	Blaine Brothers 218-879-6681	<u>WISCONSIN</u>		
Shakopee	Shakopee Towing, Inc. 952-445-0030	Ashland Tomlinson's 24 Hour Towing 715-682-2717		
Spring Lake Park	Citywide Service 763-432-4550	Baldwin Day & Nite Towing, LLC 715-684-3359		
St. Cloud	Collins Brothers Towing Of St. Cloud, Inc. 320-257-5525	Balsam Lake Lake Services Unlimited 715-857-5753		
St. Francis	Gerdin Auto, Tire & Towing 763-434-1686	Independence Kabus Auto Body & Recovery 715-985-2252		
		Roberts Jerry's Towing 715-749-4450		
		Superior Lake City Towing 218-722-7781		





Upcoming Events

Basic Heavy Duty Tow School August 2 & 3, 2016

**7:30am Registration/Breakfast
8:00am-5:00pm Classroom & Hands
on Training**

**1354 Jackson St
St Paul, MN 55117**

Advanced Heavy Duty Tow School August 4, 2016

**8:00am-4:30pm Classroom & Hands
on Training**

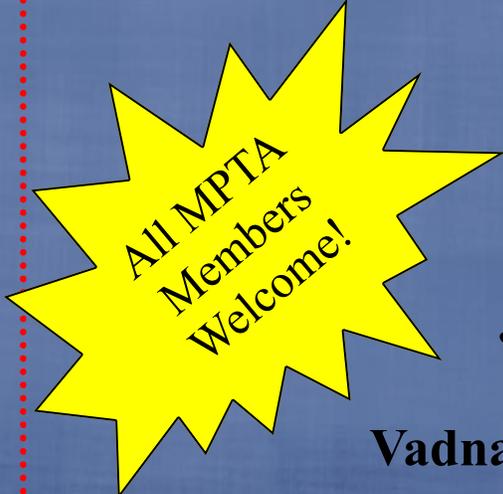
1354 Jackson St

Celebration of Tow School Students

August 2, 2016

6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Jimmy's Food & Drink
1132 Co Rd E East,
Vadnais Heights, MN 55110**



**All MPTA
Members
Welcome!**