

# Minneapolis City Council - Ward 6 Council Member Robert Lilligren

Phillips West · Stevens Square/Loring Heights  
Ventura Village · Whittier



June 14, 2013

## Digital Inclusion

On June 3rd I celebrated the open of the brand new Computer and Media Center with the residents of the [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority \(MPHA\)](#) towers at 2419 5th Avenue. [The Computer and Media Center is the result of tireless activism by the 5th Avenue High rise tenants and another great example of successful community partnerships.](#) The 243 households of the highrise now have access to the internet through a free Wireless Minneapolis community benefits account with computers provided by Minnesota Computers for Schools, a local nonprofit organization that with project is branching out to help provide computers for adult learners in the community.

In 2012, the [City of Minneapolis Information Technology Dept. \(IT\)](#) has completed a [Community Technology Survey](#) to help us better understand the rates of computer and internet access in our city. The good news is that a vast majority of households (82%) have computers with internet access, it varies considerably depending on where you live whether or not you have access in home. Only 57% of the residents of Phillips have computers with internet access in their homes. Since the Phillips area makes up one half of the 6th Ward, I worked with IT staff to strategize about how to close this digital divide. The ward is home to a number of MPHA highrise rental properties, so this seemed like a good place to start.

This effort was supported by the Digital Inclusion Fund at the [Minneapolis Foundation](#). The Digital Inclusion Fund was created 2007 as part of a community benefits agreement that was generated through the City of Minneapolis negotiations with [USI Wireless](#); the WiFi company that partnered with the

## Mondays with Robert

Council Member Lilligren has always believed that it's important for people like you and me to have access to government. Robert remains committed to that value today. For that reason, Council Member Lilligren makes himself available to community member visits on a walk-in and appointment basis.

You can meet with Robert on the first four Mondays of the month at each of the neighborhoods he represents. Call or email Gerardo at 673-2206 or [Gerardo.Bonilla@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Gerardo.Bonilla@minneapolismn.gov) to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, however - you will be asked to wait if there is a scheduled appointment.

**First Monday of the Month**  
**Whittier Alliance**, 10 E. 25th Street  
9:30am - 11:30am

**Second Monday of the Month**  
**Phillips West**, 2400 Park Ave.  
Center for Changing Lives  
9:30am - 11:30am

**Third Monday of the Month**  
**Stevens Square**, 1925 Nicollet Ave.  
9:30am - 11:30am

**Fourth Monday of the Month**  
**Ventura Village**, 2323 11th Ave. S.  
2nd Floor of Phillips Community Center  
9:30am - 11:30am

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## [The Minneapolis Farmers Market](#)

Are you looking for local nutritious and affordable produce? Welcome to the

City of Minneapolis to provide wireless service throughout the city.

The 5th Avenue Computer and Media Center project is the first of its kind with MPHA, but more are on the way. At today's City Council meeting we approved another free Wireless Community Account for a highrise in Northeast Minneapolis at 1815 Central Avenue. With projects like these, we will continue to close the digital divide and make sure all residents of Minneapolis have access to the internet, and have more tools they need to succeed.

I want to thank the Resident Council Members at the 5th Avenue Highrise and the leadership of Ms. Pecolia Perkins, the Vice President of the Resident Council. I want to recognize the commitment and work of both Elise Ehardt of the Minneapolis IT Dept. and our Chief Information Officer Otto Doll to this, and all digital inclusion, efforts. Thanks, too, to Mark Anderson from the [Takoda Institute](#), who as part of a service project set up the Center and provided training to residents. Lastly, thanks to Minnesota Computers for School for providing the computers.

Warm regards,



Minneapolis Farmers market, where local produce is available direct from farmers. Some favorites include tomatoes, cucumbers, asparagus, lettuce, radishes, rhubarb, strawberries, as well as cheese, honey, and wild rice, available year round at shops like AMES Farm Honey, Eichten's Cheese and Bacon, Tollefson Family Pork and Bar Five Meat and Poultry.

Summer is also in bloom at the Farmer's Market in a riot of color, with miles of pansies, impatiens, zinnias, peonies and even fresh herbs.

Lastly, the Farmers Market provides the opportunity to connect with the local families who planted and harvested the food. Purchasing food from local farmers supports the local economy and helps farmers to retain their livelihood. Most farmers markets are accessible by foot or bicycle, or mass transit, providing another way to reduce climate change.

With so many fresh food items at the market, sometimes it can be overwhelming to think about all the different meals that you can create with items from the farmers market. For some quick and easy recipes, [visit this page that provides with you some great recipes.](#)

For a directory of Minnesota farms, markets and garden centers visit the [Minnesota Grown Food and Farm directory.](#)

**\*\*Open EVERYDAY 6am- 1p.m. North Lyndale Ave and on Nicollet Mall EVERY THURSDAY 6a.m.-6 p.m.\*\***

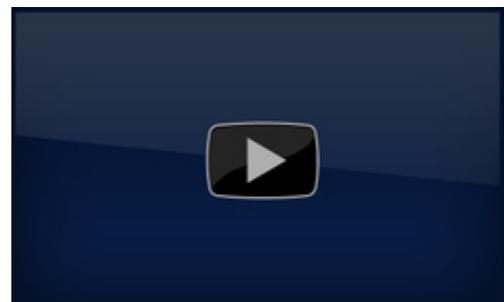


Pictured above at the grand opening celebration (L-R): Tamara Gillard, MN computers for Schools; Elise Ebhardt, City of Mpls IT Dept.; Robert Lilligren, 6th Ward City Council Member; Ahmed Warsame, Resident Council President; Pecolia Perkins, Resident Council Vice President; Mark Anderson, Takoda Institute; Allichia Pruitt, MPHA Property Manager; and Sharif Ali, resident..

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## One Minneapolis One Read

One Minneapolis One Read is a program already in its third year, in which all Minneapolis residents are invited to read a common book, in order to promote literacy and encourage community discussion. This is why the book selection committee showed particular interest in nominations that provide a vehicle for conversations on diversity, inclusiveness, integration and race. The One Minneapolis One Read book, of this year, will be "A Choice of Weapons" by Gordon Parks. This compelling autobiography, first published in 1966, tells how Parks managed to



escape the poverty and bigotry around him and launch his distinguished career by choosing the weapons given him by “a mother who placed love, dignity, and hard work over hatred.” Participants are encouraged to read the book and participate in Community Discussions which will be held at libraries, literary centers.

**To find out more about One Minneapolis One Read, please watch the short video above.**

**If you are experience difficulties with loading pleas click [video](#).**



### **National Night Out**

It's that time of the year again, the 30th Annual National Night out will be held August 6th 2013. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, holding block parties and getting to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. It's a great way to promote community-police partnerships and enjoy a Minnesota summer evening surrounded by friends and family. For more information, see the [Minneapolis NNO mission statement](#).

Whether it's your first time planning an event or you're continuing a tradition of years on your block, keep this link bookmarked so when you are ready, you can [register your event](#) online or through 311. Remember! If you want to block your street, you can do so for free through July 23. Not all streets can be blocked, depending on traffic flow. From July 24 through August 1, there is a \$100 fee. After August 1 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed.

As we have many times in the past, participation by Minneapolitans outranked all U.S. cities over 250,000 population in 2012. Over 1,360 events were registered. And we hope to continue this trend!

### **[Minneapolis Digital Inclusion](#) 5 by 500**

The City of Minneapolis is exploring [grants and potential sponsors](#) to help overcome the digital divide and close the racial employment and achievement gaps. For those who don't have access to the Internet, or who don't know how to use it, it can be difficult to get by in today's digital environment. Applying for a job or getting education online can be a challenge without the Internet. Minneapolis recognizes the need for our residents to have computers with Internet at home and to be digitally literate if they are going to have success in the future.



### **Racial Employment and Academic Achievement gaps:**

- Minneapolis and the metropolitan region has the worst employment disparity between whites and blacks in the nation.
- In June 2012 the average unemployment rate was 7% for whites and 18% for nonwhites.

- Even though 40% of residents in Minneapolis are people of color 83% of jobs in Minneapolis are filled by white workers and only 17% are filled by people of color.
- 39.6% of nonwhite residents of Minneapolis live in poverty compared to 13.1% of whites.
- By the end of 3rd grade, reading proficiency is achieved by only about 50% of students of color, compared to 80% to 90% of white students in Twin Cities public schools.
- By the end of 8th grade, 60% to 70% of white students achieve grade-level math proficiency, compared to 15% to 26% of American Indian, African-American and Hispanic students in Twin Cities public schools.
- Just 52% of students of color graduate from high school on time.

**By sponsoring the City's 5 by 500 programs**, we can provide resources that address both the digital divide and the racial employment and academic achievement gaps.

**Empower People:** \$130 per household covers the cost of a refurbished computer with software, 6 months of Internet service and technical support. After 6 months, individual participants can continue their Internet service with PCs for People's arrangement with Mobile Citizen for \$10 per month.

**Training and personal goals:** Digital literacy training is available at several community sites. In preparation for PC distribution, the City will create a list of training resources customized with the partner organization that participants can take advantage of. Participants will commit to a digital literacy training plan that meets their needs, and identify at least 3 personal goals that the computer and Internet will help them achieve. (Parents of children will help identify the academic goals for their child).

**Progress and successes:** The City will communicate quarterly with program participants via email to gather progress notes, success stories, provide technology tips and highlight community technology resources. The City will also connect quarterly with partner organizations to exchange status. Progress and successes will be sent to Program Sponsors and posted on the City's website.



### [New Safety Campaign Educates Bicyclists and Drivers about Safely Sharing the Road](#)

As summer approaches, a growing number of people are taking to our streets and trails on bicycles. Whether you're pedaling around town, driving car or doing a little of both, the City of Minneapolis wants to remind everyone that bicycle safety starts with all of us. This summer, new transit shelter posters will help educate bicyclists and drivers on how to safely share the road and avoid common, preventable crashes.

The posters remind bicyclists and drivers that:

- Safety starts with all of us – Data show that bicyclists and drivers are equally responsible for bicycle-vehicle crashes in Minneapolis.
- Bicyclists need to follow traffic laws and ride predictably – One in three bicycle-vehicle crashes in Minneapolis involves a bicyclist running a red light, riding against traffic, or failing to yield the right of way.
- Drivers need to slow down and look for bicyclists, especially when turning – 40 percent of bicycle-vehicle crashes in Minneapolis involve a driver not seeing or yielding to a bicyclist.
- Bicycling in Minneapolis is actually getting safer – As more people use bicycles for transportation, bicycle-vehicle crashes have not increased.



These safety recommendations are the result of a report that examined bicycle-vehicle crashes in Minneapolis. The Department of Public Works analyzed nearly 3,000 reported bicycle-vehicle crashes occurring in Minneapolis from 2000 to 2010. The report, called "[Understanding Bicyclist-Motorist Crashes in Minneapolis](#)," highlights

The posters will be up at 27 transit shelter locations around Minneapolis through the end of June, with a particular focus on parts of town where bicycle traffic is high and bicycle-related crashes are more frequent. Other campaign components will be distributed to libraries, schools, bike shops, community centers

and select coffee shops, restaurants and bars throughout Minneapolis. There are also electronic versions of the posters, which are in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong, are available on the [City's website](#) and on social media websites.

Funding for the campaign comes from the [Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program](#), a Federal grant aimed at increasing walking and bicycling. Design Works, an in-house design firm at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, designed the poster layout. The illustrations were done by local artist, [Bill Reholz](#).



## Summer Events

If spring is a celebration, then summer in Minneapolis is a season-long festival. Just step outside your door and you're bound to find a party in the streets.

Some events include:

### [Twin Cities Pride](#)

Date: June 29-30

Location: Downtown Minneapolis

Extravagant costumes and personalities alike highlight this annual event as Minneapolis

celebrates its LGBT community. The weekend festival is the grand finale to the week-long festivities, complete with all-day concerts across four stages, a run, dance lessons and a parade (one of the largest in the Midwest) to cap off the event. Performers will include Nina Sky, Neon Hitch and Destiny's Child

member Kelly Rowland

### [Minneapolis Aquatennial](#)

Date: July 12-20

Location: Downtown Minneapolis

The entire city of Minneapolis takes a whole week off to party in the sun. The Aquatennial is the official civic celebration of the City of Minneapolis. Entering its 73rd year, the summer festival has more than 70 events ranging from milk carton boat races and the annual block party to the coveted Torchlight Parade and “Most Amazing Race” (which, if you win, TECHNICALLY makes you the Most Interesting Man/Woman in the World).

### [Uptown Art Festival](#)

Date: August 2-4

Location: Uptown

The Uptown Art Fair features artists in 12 media including sculpture, painting, jewelry, ceramics, wood and more. The art fair is the second largest event in Minnesota, behind the Minnesota State Fair, and one of the largest juried fine art fairs in the country. Free to attend, visitors can browse the art on display along Hennepin Avenue and The Mall, purchase a piece and actually chat with the artists themselves. In between, enjoy the food, a live performance stage, a youth art fair and more.

## VIEW BY MONTH

[JUNE EVENTS](#) | [JULY EVENTS](#) | [AUGUST EVENTS](#)



## Public Safety

### Safety Tips for Parents

- Practice basic safety skills with your children; consider roleplaying
  - Be involved in your child’s life
  - Know where your children are at all times
  - Teach decision-making skills
  - Build self-esteem in your child; be supportive and and replace fear with knowledge
- Choose caregivers carefully (do background screening and reference checks on everyone who works in your home, especially those who care for your children)
  - Teach your child to draw attention to themselves if someone tries to grab them
  - Talk to your children about safety and sexual abuse
  - Make sure your children know they WON’T get in trouble if they report something bad that happened to them. Children may hint first that something occurred to test the

- reaction to that, and follow up with more information if they feel safe
- Let your child know that you will not get angry if they tell someone “no”

### **Safety Tips for Kids:**

- *Use the buddy system:* it’s more fun and safer to do things with friends. Don’t go around alone!
- *Who I am and Where I Live:* learn your full name, birthdate, address, phone number, and parents’ full names
- *What to do if you can’t find your parents:* in a public place, don’t wander around; go to a checkout counter, the security office, or lost and found, and tell them you have lost your mom and/or dad and need help.
- *Stay away:* if someone is following you, stay away from them
- *Don’t help adults:* adults should ask other adults for help with directions, lost puppies, and more. Not kids.
- *Run, scream, get away:* if someone tries to take you away, try to run and scream before they get too close
- *Don’t keep secrets:* don’t keep secrets that make you scared or uncomfortable. No one should tell you to keep a special secret. Tell an adult you trust.

In addition please continue to call 911 on suspicious activity including suspicious vehicles and persons.



## **BIKE WALK WEEK TWIN CITIES**

June 9 -15, 2013

The weather is getting warmer so we all know what that means—Bike Walk Week!!! The 2013 annual Bike Walk Week is the week of June 9 – 15. Twin Cities residents are encouraged to join others across the country and leave the car at home and bike or walk to work. Live too far from work to bike or walk? Then mix it up by biking or walking to the bus stop or train station!

[Take the pledge!](#) All we ask is that one time during the week when you would usually drive your car, leave it behind, dust off your sneakers, and move your feet!

Loads of prizes and giveaways will take place at events and through drawings for those that register online and in person for Bike Walk Week. Throughout the entire week, there will be [Bike Walk Week events](#) with parties, food, and free entertainment for all.



*Pictured on right: Council Member Lilligren participating in the [Commuter Connection ZAP Program](#), alongside Projects & Communications Coordinator and Ward 6 Resident, Andrew Rankin.*

### **Important dates to look for...**

Free Bicycle Repair at Movies and Music in the Park – Monday, 6/10, 7:00-9:00pm, Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Get your bike fixed for free while you enjoy a free outdoor concert and movie by Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

Brake for Breakfast – Wednesday, 6/12, 7:00-9:00am, Greenway Building 2801 21st Ave S

Free breakfast for bikers and walkers. Food from 7:00am or until we run out.

Basics of Bicycling for Transportation – Wednesday, 6/12, 1:30-2:30pm, Hennepin County Bar Association, City Center, 3rd floor, 600 Nicollet Mall, STE 390

This one hour classroom course will help you to develop the skills you need to use your bicycle for more of your trips - including your trip to work. Participants will learn about riding a bicycle as a vehicle, safety, riding comfort, and good tips for getting into and around downtown. Attendees must RSVP: [jim@hcba.org](mailto:jim@hcba.org).

Riding With Traffic Class – Wednesday, 6/12, 2:30-4:00pm, Hennepin County Bar Association, City Center, 3rd floor, 600 Nicollet Mall, STE 390

Learn how to ride in traffic safely and effectively. Take a ride through downtown Minneapolis with two certified instructors as your guides. We'll practice roadway positioning, scanning, signaling and turning and changing lanes. Attendees must RSVP: [jim@hcba.org](mailto:jim@hcba.org).

Bike Walk to Work Day – Minneapolis Celebration – Thursday, 6/13, 7:00-9:00am, Hennepin County Government Center Plaza

Come celebrate Bike Walk to Work Day with food, fun, and a bike walk resource fair. Test ride a Nice Ride bike, Metro Transit bus bike racks, and Dero's self-service Fixit station. And hear the Mayor speak!

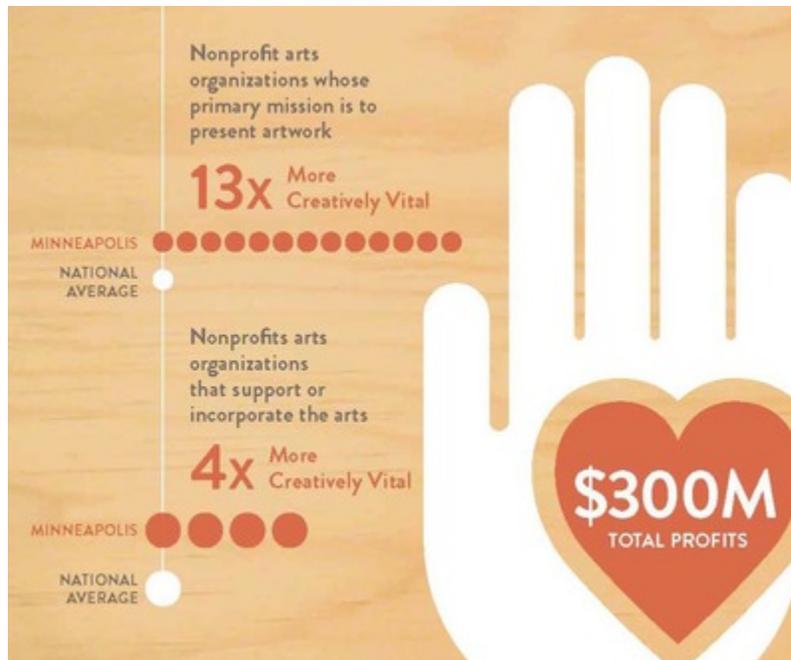
Free Bicycle Repair at Movies and Music in the Park – Friday, 6/14, 7:00-9:00pm, Lake Harriet Band Shell

Get your bike fixed for free while you enjoy a free outdoor concert and movie by Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

\*\*\*Note: All of these events are completely free and open to the public

## The Creative Vitality Index

The [Arts, Culture and Creative Economy program](#) for the City of Minneapolis has released a new study using the Creative Vitality Index (CVI), commissioned by the city and developed by [Western States Arts Federation \(WESTAF\)](#). CVI is designed to capture the impact of the creative community in Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and to measure annual changes in the economic health of highly creative industries. According to the [Minneapolis Creative Index 2013 report](#), the economic impact of the Minneapolis creative community on the economy is large, accounting for 1% of the overall retail economy and posting performing arts revenues almost ten times the national average. On average, the MSA creative sector injects \$700 million into the Minnesota economy each year. By comparison, this is approximately 70% of Minneapolis' sports sector revenue without the benefit of publicly subsidized stadiums. Arts patrons spend on average an additional \$20.40 per person on event-related purchases like parking and food. The creative sector has also been crucial to Minneapolis' job growth, employing nearly 20,000 residents, or about 5% of all jobs in the city. Creative employment in the MSA represents 74% of Minnesota's creative occupations, the sixth highest CVI score in the country. Increased revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment also fueled growth in the nonprofit arts community. The amendment specified that 19.75% of \$7.5 billion dollars to be generated statewide over the next 25 years will go to fund arts and cultural activities, which is great news for the city of Minneapolis.



**From the Office of City Council Vice President Robert Lilligren**  
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