

10th Ward News

From Council Member Meg Tuthill

March 2010

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Spring Sweep

Public Works will begin the 2010 Comprehensive Street Sweep in April. The city will begin posting No Parking signs starting April 12th. Street sweeping will start on April 13th.

Please watch for the No Parking Signs and don't get a ticket!

Early Start on Patching Potholes!

Thanks to good weather and the early availability of asphalt and other materials, the City of Minneapolis has already started permanently filling potholes. This is several weeks earlier than normal.

Residents who want to report potholes can call 311 or go online to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311. Calling in potholes will help Public Works better understand and prioritize pothole repairs. Initially, crews will focus their work on major arterials, and will later in the season move onto residential streets.

Two exciting bike projects are underway in the 10th Ward.

Blaisdell Ave S. & 1st Ave S. Bike Lake Project

On March 17th a public meeting was held at the Lyndale Neighborhood Building to present the draft proposal to add bike lanes on 1st and Blaisdell Avenues between 15th and 40th streets.

See the draft plan at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/1stBlaisdellLayout.pdf>

Contact Shaun Murphy at 612-333-2450 or shaun.murphy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us with any questions or comments.

Bryant Ave S. Bike Boulevard Update

After the public meeting in February, comments were gathered and read by Shaun Murphy and other staff from Public Works. A draft plan has been drawn up.

See it here! <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/BryantAveBikeBlvd.asp>

Nicollet Mall Opens to Bicycles 24/7 and Offers Free Bus Rides

Nicollet Mall is becoming a lot more bicycle friendly! As of March 20th, bikes will be allowed on the street any time of day, every day of the week. Until now, bicycles could not be on the street weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The change is being made now that transit improvements along Marquette and Second avenues are complete. Dual bus lanes make it possible for those two streets to handle more bus traffic. As a result, the express buses that serve Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs are moving off of Nicollet Mall to Marquette and Second.

The only buses that will remain on Nicollet Mall will be serving local routes, and most of those buses will be cleaner, quieter hybrid buses. Eventually, all Nicollet Mall bus routes will be hybrids.

Also, beginning on March 20, local buses will offer free rides along Nicollet Mall. You'll be able to jump on any bus that has a "free ride" marquee displayed and ride it from Washington Avenue to the Minneapolis Convention Center, and anywhere in between.

For more information on these changes, go to www.metrotransit.org.

Target Field opens April 10th!

Come experience baseball Minnesota style – in the great outdoors! Check out the Minnesota Twins' website for this season's schedule and other events.

http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=min

Target Field is the most multi-modal, transit-oriented ballpark in America. Visit DestinationTargetField.com to find information on arriving by car, bus, train, bike, or feet!

The Annual City Tree Program has Started!

More than 1,000 trees are being made available to Minneapolis residents for planting this spring. The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees are available first-come, first-served. Last month, emerald ash borer was found in Minneapolis. It poses a special threat to the 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis. Planting a new tree now will help start the next generation of trees.

Varieties of trees available are Fat Albert spruce, pagoda dogwood, Kentucky coffee tree, blue beech, Merrill magnolia, regal prince oak, Canada select chokecherry, Redmond linden and burgundy belle maple.

Folks who order trees will need to pick them up on one of three days at the Minneapolis Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Ave. N.

- Saturday, May 8, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, May 9, 8 a.m. to noon
- Monday, May 10, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To order trees visit www.treetrust.org or call 651-644-5800 or pick an order form up at your local library. In previous years the trees have sold quickly, so place your order early.



Rain garden workshops

Would you like to create your own rain garden? Metro Blooms is offering workshops to Minneapolis residents on creating and designing your own rain garden. Cost per workshop is only \$10. Rain gardens have many benefits. For more information or to register visit: http://www.metroblooms.org/workshop_signup_A.php

Serve on a Minneapolis Board or Commission!

The City of Minneapolis has streamlined its process for selecting individuals to serve on volunteer boards and commissions. Appointments will now be made to city boards and commissions two times per year through formal City Council and Mayoral processes. It is now easier for residents to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees, which advise the city on current issues and assist in policy development and administration of services. A full list of positions and descriptions as well as current vacancies can be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/>.

For questions or more information about open positions, email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call (612) 673-3358.

CM Tuthill Participates in Panel Discussion on Development

On March 11th, Council Member (CM) Tuthill participated in a panel discussion at Magers & Quinn Bookstore in Uptown about the planning of future development in the Twin Cities. The book of topic, titled *Regions: Planning the Future of the Twin Cities*, was written by Myron Orfield and Tom Luce and focuses on how we, as a community, create successful integrated neighborhoods and job growth within the region. The panel not only included Meg, Myron Orfield and Tom Luce, but also Dave VanHattum of Transit for Livable Communities and Jesse Mortenson of Metro Independent Business Alliance. The turn out was excellent with nearly 100 people attending and many of them participating in the public forum.

You can find more information about the book at:

http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/O/orfield_region.html

The book can be purchased at the above website or at your local bookstore!



Nature Valley Bike Race

Summer may seem like a long way off but it will be here before we know it. The Nature Valley Bike Race will be held in Uptown again this year on Friday, June 18th.

Race organizers are looking for host families for approximately 150 of the riders. Hosts would provide bed & bath (or shower!) for several days. Hosts would not be expected to provide meals or bike storage. If you would like to host a rider, please click the link below and fill out the form.

<http://www.minnbikefestival.com/Volunteer/HostHousing/tabid/139/Default.aspx>

Walker Public Library Update

The process of creating a new Walker Public Library in the Uptown area is moving right along. Currently, a Community Advisory Committee is being formed. A proposal and architect are expected to be chosen by this fall. For more information, contact Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman office at gail.dorfman@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Property Valuation notices

Property owners should receive valuation notices by the end of March. If you think your assessed value is incorrect, the city has a process to contest the valuation

For more information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boe/>

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle

The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) has finally made it to Minneapolis. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed that a total of 15 ash trees in Tower Hill Park are infested with EAB; 14 of the trees are located in the park and one on the boulevard of University Avenue. An additional 25 suspect trees were found in the park. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) Forestry Division plans to remove the EAB-infested and suspected trees on Friday, March 26, and Monday, March 29. Tower Hill Park is located in the Prospect Park/East River Road neighborhood in east Minneapolis.

The emerald ash borer is a non-native species that bores under the bark of ash trees to which can disrupt the flow of water and nutrients to the tree. This causes the eventual death of the tree. The emerald ash borer is active from May through Labor Day. You can watch for signs of infestation by looking for:

- A major thinning of canopies
- New growth suddenly sprouting below the infestation
- “D” shaped holes where the adult beetles exit the tree
- An increase of woodpecker activity.

If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by the emerald ash borer, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab. You can also call the “Arrest the Pest” Hotline at (651) 201-6684.

To find out more information and what you can do to prevent the spread, visit www.saveourash.net or <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1059>.

Thank you for your cooperation during the winter parking ban.

We know how much of an inconvenience the parking ban was and we thank you for all of your cooperation. The ban gave emergency responders the ability to continue to serve the community. During the time of the ban, Minneapolis Fire Crews alone made 1,800 runs for emergency medical calls and fires, and were able to have better access on these runs.