

Sixth Ward News

FROM MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT LILLIGREN



NOVEMBER 6, 2006

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COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Council Member Lilligren has Community Office Hours at each of the four Sixth Ward Neighborhoods, every Monday, 9:30AM to 12:00 noon.

To schedule an appointment, call Connie at (612) 673-2206. Drop-ins are okay, and translation is available by appointment. There will be no Community Office Hours if the Monday lands on a city holiday.

ROBERT'S CALENDAR

Monday, November 6th 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Whittier Alliance
10 East 25th Street

Monday, November 13th 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Lutheran Social Services
2414 Park Avenue South

Monday, November 20th 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Stevens Square Community Organization
1925 Nicollet Avenue

Monday, November 27th 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Franklin Avenue Safety Center
1201 East Franklin Avenue



Call 311 in Minneapolis or 612-673-3000 for city information, news, and services.

IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS: BRIDGE STREETLIGHTS IN VENTURA VILLAGE

In response to neighborhood concern, Council Member Lilligren met with Jon Wertjes, Director of Traffic and Parking Services for Public Works, on October 19th to discuss the lack of pedestrian-level lighting on the I-94 bridges at Park, Portland and 11th Avenue and the Franklin Avenue bridge over I-35W. With such close proximity to downtown, Council Member Lilligren views the lack of lighting as a clear message to constituents in Ventura Village. It says do not cross these bridges – stay in your own neighborhood. "The lack of pedestrian level lighting on these bridges is an issue of equity," said the Council Member, "I notice that freeway bridges in other parts of the city have pedestrian lighting". The City's Public Works staff acknowledges that, at the very least, these bridges should be lit to the city's pedestrian standard. The action steps from the meeting include public works staff to determine what infrastructure for lighting presently exists on the bridges and the costs to install lighting. Stand by for more progress...

Tiffany Green



RIDE THE BUS, SHOP, AND SAVE \$: METRO TRANSIT'S 21 HOP AND SHOP

Show your support of transit and enjoy the fantastic shopping, food, and entertainment on Lake Street and get a discount at over 80 retailers between Uptown and the Mississippi River, now through Spring 2007. Simply show your transfer pass, MetroPass, U-pass or fare receipt from any Metro Transit bus. This program is being sponsored by local businesses, the Metropolitan Council, and the Lake Street Council. Visit the Metro Transit website for more information and a map to retailers that are offering discounts.

Tony Webster

<http://www.metrotransit.org/hopshop/>

WIRELESS MINNEAPOLIS: CITY-WIDE WI-FI TO BE COMPLETED IN 2007

The City Council approved U.S. Internet as the internet provider for a city-wide wireless network on September 1, and a pilot network has been created in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. Construction of the full network, to cover all 54 square miles of the city, will be completed in 2007. There will be a monthly fee for the service, but you will be able to access the internet in some public locations for free. Anyone with a wireless-capable computer can read city news and community information on the city's website without paying the monthly fee. For more information as the network is constructed, visit the Wireless Minneapolis website.

Tony Webster

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis>

NEW "SHOTSPOTTER" TECHNOLOGY DETECTS GUNSHOTS

The Minneapolis Police Department is beginning to implement the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System, which will be able to automatically determine the precise location of gunshots and wirelessly transmit that information to the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center so law enforcement can be dispatched. The system is able to differentiate between gunshots, fireworks, or a car backfiring with very sensitive microphones. Council Member Lilligren was an early supporter of this technology, which will hopefully deter gun violence, but if you think you hear shots fired, call 911 -- don't assume ShotSpotter or your neighbors have alerted the police.

Tony Webster

ALLEY ORDINANCE DEBATE INCREASES AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Earlier this year I introduced a new ordinance in an attempt to keep our citizens safer. Though it ultimately was not adopted by the City Council, this ordinance would have created tighter restrictions on who could, and could not, be in your alley. Currently only vehicles of an alley's residents or authorized service people (like solid waste and recycling collectors or cable guys) are allowed to drive in our city's alleys. The Alley Ordinance would have extended the same restrictions to pedestrians, meaning that only residents, their guests or authorized service personnel would be allowed to walk our city's alleys. There were provisions in the proposed ordinance to allow for things like garage sales and community patrols.

This idea emerged directly from the neighborhoods of the 6th Ward. It was generally supported within the core city communities of the Near North and Near South sides. Many viewed passage of the Alley Ordinance as a strong statement by our communities to reclaim these spaces from those engaged in unwelcome activities. One Whittier resident said she felt that unwelcome users of your alley should be no more welcome than intruders on your front porch. The ordinance was intended to give our communities one more tool to help keep us all safer.

Opposition to this proposed ordinance came mostly in two areas. Some were concerned about the effects on civil rights of alley walkers. As Council Member Don Samuels, who supported the Alley Ordinance said, "What about our rights to live in a safe community?" The stronger voice of opposition came from those who feel entitled to be in alleys - mostly for leisure and pleasure walks. These objections tended to come from low-crime/high-voter parts of the city and were very persuasive.

On September 1, 2006, the Alley Ordinance was voted down on a 3/10 vote with me, Council Member Samuels and Council Member Johnson (who represent some of the highest crime areas) voting "yes." Though the ordinance did not pass, it did generate lots of insightful debate about the unequal distribution of public safety in our city. Nearly every Council Member made a strong statement about the injustice of having some of our communities bear the lion's share of crime in our city. With such a strong commitment from my City Council colleagues to keeping all parts of our city safe, I look forward to increased support from City Hall to our communities' efforts to increase safety for all.

Robert Lilligren

MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE PROTECTS CONSUMERS FROM UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule took effect on October 15th to protect consumers from their gas being disconnected during the cold winter months for an inability to pay. Certain other utilities have similar laws. This rule has been established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and is in effect October 15th through April 15th, every year. If you have received a disconnection notice, you must contact your provider within seven days to setup arrangements. Your service must be paid up through October 15th, and you must be under the income guidelines. If your service is not paid up through October 15th, contact your provider for alternative plans. Visit the websites for CenterPoint Energy and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for more information and the steps you need to take to ensure your service stays connected.

Tony Webster

<http://www.puc.state.mn.us/consumer/assist/coldrule.htm>

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7

Find your polling place at...

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/precinct-finder.asp>

WHAT IS THE SIXTH WARD?

The Sixth Ward includes the strong and vibrant communities of Ventura Village, Phillips West, Whittier, and Stevens Square/Loring Heights, and offers authentic dining, entertainment, beautiful parks, activity centers, and plenty of shopping.

