

Sixth Ward News

FROM MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT LILLIGREN

CITY GENERAL ELECTION STATISTICS SHOW HIGH NEW VOTER TURNOUT

Statistics from the General Election are in, and show that the Sixth Ward has one of the highest new voter registrations. Overall, the Sixth Ward had a 53% voter turnout, and 4% of ballots were absentee ballots. 33% of ballots in the Sixth Ward were cast by newly-registered voters.

Stevens Square (Precinct 3) attracted 455 new, 1,338 in-person, and 354 absentee voters, and had 2,512 pre-registered voters. This is a turnout of 55%. Whittier (Precincts 1, 2, and 4) attracted 1,339 new, 2,125 in-person and 152 absentee voters, and had 7,440 pre-registered voters. The Whittier precincts had turnouts of 63%, 59%, and 49%, respectively. Phillips West (Precincts 6, 7, and 8) attracted 359 new, 1,324 in-person, and 68 absentee voters, and had 2,996 pre-registered voters. The Phillips West neighborhood had turnouts of 41%, 52%, and 49%, respectively. Ventura Village (Precinct 5) attracted 171 new, 509 in-person, and 72 absentee voters, and had 821 pre-registered voters. This is a turnout of 63%.

Minnesota Secretary of State Election Results:

<http://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/20061107>

Hennepin County Election Results:

<http://www2.co.hennepin.mn.us/elections/results>

Minneapolis Elections and Voter Registration:

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

CHIEF'S AWARD FOR MERIT AWARDED TO CPS CARLA NIELSON

Carla Nielson, Crime Prevention Specialist housed at the Franklin Safety Center in the Sixth Ward, was awarded the Chief's Award for Merit, which is the highest award a non-sworn officer can receive.

The mission of CCP/SAFE (Community Crime Prevention/Safety For Everyone) is to "enhance safety and livability in Minneapolis through police-community partnerships." They work with residents, neighborhood associations and businesses, and are assigned to geographic areas of the city.

CCP/SAFE Information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/safe-teams.asp>

"CLAIM IT!" PARTNERSHIP HELPS FAMILIES LEARN ABOUT TAX CREDIT

Each year, millions of dollars in tax refunds for working families goes unclaimed. CLAIM IT! is a partnership between the United Way, AccountAbility, the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the AARP. They are seeking support for providing tax preparation, interpreter services, and getting the word out about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is defined by the IRS as a "refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families."

To claim the EITC, you must have a valid Social Security Number and have earned income through employment or self-employment. You cannot be married, filing separately; you must file jointly if you are married. You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a nonresident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing a joint return. You cannot be an IRS-defined child of another person. If you do not have a qualifying child, you must be between 25 and 65 at the end of the year, live in the United States for at least six months of the year, and not qualify as a dependent of another person.

The IRS has a tool online to determine eligibility for the credit, which will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The tool requires you to have your W-2 forms available, and can estimate the amount of a credit you would potentially receive. The 2005 EITC tool is available, but look for the 2006 EITC tool at the beginning of 2007.

You may also be eligible for free tax preparation if you are an individual with an income under \$27,000 or a family earning less than \$37,000, disabled, a senior citizen, or have limited or no English knowledge.

CLAIM IT! Information:

United Way 651-287-0187 / Hands On Twin Cities 612-379-4900

Internal Revenue Service EITC Information:

<http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96406,00.htm>

Minnesota Department of Revenue:

651-297-3724 <http://www.taxes.state.mn.us>



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

Monday, December 4 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Whittier Alliance
10 East 25th Street

Monday, December 11 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Lutheran Social Services
2414 Park Avenue South

Monday, December 18 9:30AM - Noon
Community Office Hours
Stevens Square Community Organization
1925 Nicollet Avenue

No office hours on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.



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

SAVE MONEY WITH THE MUSEUM ADVENTURE PASS

Sixth Ward residents can use their library card to pick up a Museum Adventure Pass at a local library, and use the pass for discounts at up to 17 local museums, history centers, aboretums, and zoos in the metro area. Passes are valid for seven days, and only one pass may be checked out per library card. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, so plan in advance! The Museum Adventure Pass is being sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA), Macy's, KARE 11, and the Star Tribune.

Information on the Museum Adventure Pass:

Visit your local MELSA library or <http://www.melsa.org/museumadventurepass/guidelines.cfm>

TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

Robert Lilligren

The City of Minneapolis continues to focus attention on our transportation and transit needs. The Mayor's proposed 2007 budget dedicates \$2.8 million to realize projects recommended by Access Minneapolis – our ten-year transportation action plan. These include improvements to transit and the pedestrian realm. One part of Access Minneapolis focuses on improving the service and amenities along our newly-identified Primary Transit Networks (PTN's). The PTN's are the most used, high frequency routes that many of the Sixth Ward's transit-dependent people ride.

The City will continue with our Streetcar Study which, by the end of next year, will plan the first routes we will want to build. To this goal, we are creating a streetcar funding task force to identify funding mechanisms to accomplish this goal as quickly as possible. Our ward is also affected by the decisions being made on the Southwest Transit Corridor. The Midtown Community Works Partnership, made up of the corporate, community and government partners in the Midtown area, supports the construction of a streetcar line in the Midtown Greenway which would connect the future Southwest LRT line with the Hiawatha LRT. The future Greenway line would likely have stops at Lyndale, Nicollet, 5th and Chicago Avenues in the 6th Ward.

Minneapolis has been fortunate to be designated as one of only four sites nationally for a Bike-Walk Demonstration project. This \$25 million grant program was originated by Minnesota Congressman Jim Oberstar. The goal of the project is to shift people from motorized transportation to non-motorized (biking and walking). This will improve the health of our environment and of our citizens while reduce traffic congestion and parking demand. If this demonstration project is successful, more federal funds for similar programs are likely to follow. I represent the City of Minneapolis on the Bike-Walk Advisory Committee, which will assist Transit for Livable Communities in the administration of the program.

And of course, I continue to work on everyone's favorite transportation project – the re-opening of Nicollet at Lake Street. Though these major projects will take several years to accomplish, we will see some improvements in the near future – especially in the areas of transit, biking and walking.

Access Minneapolis - Ten Year Transportation Action Plan:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/publicworks/trans-plan/>

Southwest Transit Corridor Website:

<http://www.southwesttransitway.org/>

Bike-Walk Advisory Committee Blog:

<http://bwac-mn.blogspot.com/>

Transit for Livable Communities Website:

<http://www.tlcmnnesota.org/>

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

 City Offices will be closed on November 23 and November 24.

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.

