

5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

APRIL 2010



5TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)

503 Irving Avenue North
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.374.4849

Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)

612.664.8195
info@heritageparkneighborhood.org

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)

2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.353.5601

North Loop Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRRC)

1500 Golden Valley Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924

Old Highland Organization

www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization-

www.willardhomewood.org
www.upperwho.org

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5th Ward.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.*

MPLS Gets Early Start On Potholes

Minneapolis is getting an early start on permanent pothole patching this year, thanks to good weather and the early availability of asphalt and other materials needed to make long-term fixes to city streets. Typically, crews are not able to begin permanent patching work until April.

Minneapolis has assembled a pothole patch and repair crew to make permanent patches to our streets. In order to reach as many parts of the city as possible, six other mini-crews will continue making temporary patches until early April, or as weather permits. At that time, the City will switch to the normal summer maintenance season schedule and have up to eight crews working on permanent patches and other street repairs around the city.

The availability of asphalt, along with other needed materials, means crews can now make high quality, permanent repairs to some of the most problematic areas.

Since potholes are popping up or reappearing on streets all over Minneapolis, it's not possible for crews to address all problems at once. City pothole patch crews need to prioritize, weighing in factors such as the amount of

traffic a street carries, and the severity of a particular pothole problem.



Residents who want to report potholes can call 311 or go online to the 311 page of the City's Web site at 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.

Inexpensive Trees Available For Residents

More than 1,000 trees are being made available to Minneapolis residents for planting this spring. Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program, a low-cost way for folks to help build the city's tree canopy. The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with

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Low-priced Trees

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.



Trees available this year are different than in years past.. 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.

Orders for trees can be placed at www.treetrust.org. You can also order a tree by calling (651) 644-5800 or picking up an order form from your local library. In previous years the trees have sold quickly, so place your order early.

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.

Volunteers will be on hand to help load your new tree and complimentary bag of mulch into your vehicle.

The City Trees program is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust, a local nonprofit that works to improve the community environment. For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.

Need Help With Energy Bills? \$1000's Available For Qualifying Residents

For folks who need assistance paying their gas or electric bill, or even making their home more energy efficient, help might be a phone call or a mouse click away. Community Action of Minneapolis has thousands of dollars in federal aid available to income qualifying residents.

Through the Energy Assistance program, low-



income homeowners and renters who meet the eligibility requirements can have a percentage of grant money taken out and paid directly to the utility company.

Homeowners and renters who qualify for energy assistance may also be eligible for weatherization, which provides \$6,500 worth

of energy saving improvements free of charge. Those who qualify for weatherization will receive an energy audit that will assess their home, furnace and electric usage. Based on this audit, energy saving solutions are recommended, and on average, customers save 26 percent in energy costs following weatherization. Funding for this program comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For more information including detailed income guidelines, call 612-335-5837 or visit www.campls.org.

The Dos and Don'ts of 9-1-1

With National Telecommunications Public Safety Week starting April 11, it's a good time to learn what to do and what not to do when calling the Minneapolis 911 center



Minneapolis 911 is one of the most essential services provided by the City of Minneapolis. It's the best way for residents, businesses and visitors to call and report an emergency requiring immediate response. You should call 9-1-1 to report a situation which requires a police officer at the scene, summon an ambulance

THE COMMUNITY ROOM



LCPA Annual Gala May 8th.



The Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts will host their Annual Gala, to support their student scholarship program and operations, on Saturday May 8th from 6:00-10:00 PM at 1618 2nd Street North.

LCPA—Where Broadway meets West Broadway—mission "is to cultivate a love and knowledge of the performing arts so that young people will discover their unique gifts, develop their depth of character and imagine new possibilities or their lives."

For more information about the Gala or to see a schedule of available classes and programs, call 612.521.2600 or go to www.lundstrumcenter.org.

2010 Paint-A-Thon



Metro Paint-A-Thon is looking for houses to paint on August 7-8. To qualify, you must be 60 years of age or have a permanent physical disability; own and live in the house you wish to have painted; meet monthly household income guidelines. House must be located in seven-county metro area and must be a single-family home, structurally sound and free of major repairs.

Call 612-721-8687 or visit www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon for an application. Applications are due by May 7



Northside Go! Saturday, May 22nd

This year's GO! is bigger and better with new activities and a new location –

the beautiful Cottage Park in North Minneapolis' Jordan Neighborhood!

Bring the kids for our first-ever "GO! Kids Fun Run" Participants will receive prizes and a t-shirt.



Saturday, May 22nd, 2010
Race Start: Cottage Park,
2100 James Avenue North,
Minneapolis

10:15am: GO! Kids Fun Run
10:30am: 5k Run/Walk Begins
11am to 1pm: Northside
Achievement Zone Finish Line
Festival at Cottage Park

For information on registration and volunteer opportunities, call 612.521.4405 or go to www.gonorthside.org/

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IT'S IN OUR HANDS

New Hours & Expanded Online Options Coming To Minneapolis 311

For four years, residents have called 3-1-1 to get a burned out streetlight fixed, to ask questions about their drinking water service, to report a stray dog to animal control, or to contact the City about the many services it provides. Now, cuts in State funding are prompting Minneapolis 311 to change its call center hours. At the same time, the City is making it easier to get assistance on the Web.

Starting on April 12, the hours for Minneapolis 311's call center will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Callers after 7 p.m. can leave a message, and a call center agent will help them the following business day. This change in hours affects only 5 percent of the call volume that comes into Minneapolis 311 on a daily basis.



At the same time, Minneapolis 311 is improving its online service. There will be more things folks can do at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311 than ever before, making it possible for more people to request service themselves. This improvement should help

Minneapolis 311 continue to provide the same access to help in the face of State funding cuts.

The online resources of Minneapolis 311 are available 24/7. One of the new Web features will let residents report graffiti online. People will be able to take a digital photo of the graffiti and mail it into the City.

As with all branches of City government, Minneapolis 311 is dealing with budget cuts following a dramatic reduction from the State in Local Government Aid. In order to provide the same level of service with fewer resources, Minneapolis 311 needed to put those resources where they're needed the most.

Street Sweeping Begins April 12



Now that spring is here, Minneapolis needs your help as road crews gear up to hit the streets to clean our neighborhoods and improve the environment. Public Works is set to begin its spring street sweep Monday, April 12, working to clean up all the dirt and grime the melting ice and snow left behind on our streets. Over the course of approximately four weeks, sweepers will take care of all 1,100 miles of city streets.

To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of

parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed.



- **"No Parking signs"** – As the sweep gets under way, City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Drivers **should not** park along these streets until these temporary "No Parking" signs are removed.
- **Phone calls to residents** – In addition, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.
- **Interactive Web tool** – Starting this weekend, folks will be able to use a tool on the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. By going to this site and clicking on "street sweeping schedule lookup," residents can find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. .

DESSERT WITH DON



MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

Last Monday of each Month

This Month's Topic:

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Monday, April 26

7:00 to 8:30 PM

UROC

2001 Plymouth Ave North

(Next Month-TBD)

Please join me for "**DESSERT WITH DON**".

This month's meeting will feature a presentation by Superintendent designee, Bernadeia Johnson on the future of Minneapolis Public Schools.

Come and hear Ms. Johnson's transition plan and vision for the Public Schools as well as the status of the new Board of Education headquarters. Engage the Superintendent designee on how the community involvement can help our schools be the best in the state.

The condition of our schools is one of the biggest indicators of growing and maintaining a strong middle class. Please come and participate in this important meeting. I hope to see you there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 612.673.2205
RSVP APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED

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Street Sweeping

Minneapolis streets are swept completely curb to curb once in the spring and once in the fall. Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it's bad for our lakes and waterways and it's against the law.

Earth Day Cleanup April 17

The City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board sponsor an Earth Day litter cleanup every year. Since 2000, almost 15,000 volunteers have cleaned up more than 109,820 pounds of trash. Cleaning up

litter keeps it out of our sparkling Minneapolis waters.

Select from almost 40 sites, arrive between 9:30 a.m. and noon, and check in at the registration table. A site coordinator will give you gloves, bags and instructions. No pre-registration is required unless you have a group of 20



or more volunteers, then please contact Arik at (612) 230-6484.

There will also be interactive, educational programs. Onsite programs

offer volunteers the opportunity to learn about various issues affecting our environment and community today. Environmental education is a key part of the cleanup, and the programs are geared for all ages.

For the list of locations, which include Theodore Wirth Park and Farview Park and more information, visit www.minneapolisearthday.com.



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9-1-1 Procedures

for medical assistance; report a fire; and, report a crime in progress.

Tips for calling 9-1-1

- Do not hang up. If the call isn't answered immediately or if you encounter silence on the line, do not hang up and redial unless the silence lasts more than eight seconds.
- Do not hang up if you call 9-1-1 by accident. Hang ups require 9-1-1 operators to call back the number the incoming 9-1-1 call came from. This happens up to 2,500 times a week and uses valuable 9-1-1 resources
- Give your location when calling 9-1-1. This includes, address, intersection, and landmarks. Be prepared to give a short description of a

suspect.

- Help can be sent while you talk. A caller should state the problem briefly, answer the operator's questions and stay on the line until the operator terminates the call.
- The situation does not have to be an emergency to call 9-1-1. Folks can call 9-1-1 to report suspicious, criminal activity in progress (e.g. alarms, shots fired, shouts for help, sounds of glass breaking, unfamiliar person carrying items from a house). Anytime a person believes they may need police, fire or an ambulance they should call 911.
- If you need a translator, let the operator know, or simply say, "Language line"

When NOT to call 9-1-1

- Do not call for directions.
- Do not call to find out if someone is in jail. The Hennepin County Sheriff jail roster is available online for this information at www4.co.hennepin.mn.us/webbooking. You may also call the jail at (612) 348-5112.
- Do not call to report city issues that are not of a police, fire or medical nature. Refer to the government pages of the local telephone directory for the appropriate number or simply call 3-1-1.
- Do not call your local precinct to request a police response. All dispatching is done through the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center.

For more information, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/911.