

12th ward news

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[March]

Governor Proposes Additional \$29 Million Cut to Minneapolis

On Feb. 16, Governor Tim Pawlenty released his proposal to close a \$1.2 billion deficit in the State's budget. His plan includes cutting aid to local governments throughout Minnesota by a quarter billion dollars. For Minneapolis, that would mean a \$29 million cut in the City's 2010 budget.

Just last year, the governor cut funding to Minneapolis' 2010 budget by \$21 million. This proposed \$29 million reduction would be in addition to that. Combined, the \$50 million in cuts represent a 56 percent cut in the Local Government Aid that Minneapolis was told we would receive from the State in 2010.

A cut of this magnitude would have a significant impact on services the City provides. Even the elimination of many important functions of municipal government wouldn't be enough to compensate for the lost funding. For example,

- The City could stop prosecuting crimes, and that would save only \$7.7 million.
- The City could stop filling potholes and other street maintenance for a year, and that would save only \$9 million.
- The City could shut off streetlights and save only \$2.9 million.
- The City could stop plowing and sanding streets for a winter, and that would save \$9 million.

In other words, eliminating all of the services listed above would still fall short of saving enough money to cover the \$28.9 million the Governor proposed cutting from the City's State aid.

Seven years of State cuts

Since 2003, Local Government Aid to the City of Minneapolis has been reduced by more than \$300 million. The City has never waived from making public safety its number one priority and has worked tirelessly to find new and innovative ways to provide core city services. However, the governor's current proposal would be extremely damaging to the City, coming at a time when City leaders have already been cutting our services to the bone.

In these tough economic times, City leaders have taken significant steps to streamline services, find efficiencies and eliminate more than \$116 million in debt from the past. Minneapolis has successfully practiced long-term financial management in an era of diminishing resources but the City is now at the point where additional cuts in aid would need to come at the expense of core City services, like law enforcement and road maintenance.

The City's Web site, www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us, will have more information in the coming weeks about the process for developing a supplemental 2010 budget and how cuts could impact core city services.

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



Watch Highlights from the Night Before New Year's Eve Party!

Did you miss NENA's Night Before New Year's Eve party? Perhaps you attended and want to relive the



Sleigh Ride at NENA's Night Before New Years Eve Party. Video of the event is now showing on MTN.

Officials Monitor Streets – will Lift One-side Ban when Safe

Since the Winter Parking Restrictions went into effect on Feb. 11th we've had only minor snowfall and some above-freezing temperatures that have caused some melting but the reduction has not been enough to lift the parking ban. Public Works and the Minneapolis Fire Department will continue to monitor key streets and will lift the ban when they are accessible by emergency vehicles.

The one-side parking ban was put into place to ensure that fire trucks and other emergency vehicles can navigate Minneapolis neighborhoods. Ultimately, the Minneapolis Fire Chief and the City's Public Works Director make the decision about Winter Parking Restrictions. The decision to lift those restrictions must satisfy two criteria:

1. Street widths increased enough that the risk to public safety is reduced to the satisfaction of public safety officials; and
2. Weather forecasts showing the likelihood of further significant snowfall is low. The City cannot turn the ban off and on again instantly. The restrictions must stay in effect until there is confidence that more snow will not cause conditions to regress.

Parking is still allowed on both sides of Snow Emergency routes and parkways. For more information visit the City's [Winter Parking Restrictions Web site](#).

SENA Emergency Home Repair Program Debuts

The Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) has created a fund for emergency repairs to neighborhood houses. Grants up to \$500 per residence will be made, based on qualifying income requirements. This program seeks to maintain the integrity and character of neighborhood housing stock by helping residents experiencing difficult financial circumstances to make fundamental home repairs.

Standish and Ericsson single-family homeowners (homesteaded) whose income falls at or below 50% of the metropolitan median income are eligible. Clients must provide proof of their household income. The income limits are as follows: one person - \$29,350; two persons - 33,550; three persons - \$37,750; four persons - \$41,950; and five persons - \$45,300. Funds will be distributed through Project for Pride in Living (PPL). For more information, please call Josh Tolkan at PPL at (612) 455-522.

fun?

You can watch an MTN production of the event on Channel 16 at the following times:

March 3, 7 pm
March 7, 8 pm
March 11, 10:30 pm
March 17, 7:30 pm
March 26, 10 p.m.

311 Hours Cut

In order to cut costs, 311 operators will only be available from 7am to 7pm, effective April 12.

Thank you for your understanding as the City takes steps to balance the budget.

You can still make an [online report to 311](#) at anytime - day or night.

Catfish to be Introduced into Lake Nokomis this Spring

In an experiment to improve the water quality of Lake Nokomis, the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will introduce three thousand channel catfish into the lake this spring.

The catfish are

Police Warn About Door-to-Door Begging & Swindling

According to a report from the Crime Prevention Specialist for Sector Three, Third Precinct (Ericsson & Nokomis-East) they have received numerous reports about strangers knocking on doors and asking residents for money for a variety of reasons such as car repairs, medical needs, small amounts of cash for a child's nebulizer, etc. Sometimes they say they are affiliated with a local church, or they met you at National Night Out, live on a nearby block, or were referred by a neighbor.

The police want you to know that **you do not need to go to the door** no matter what time of day or night they come. You can call 311 to report the incident, or you can call 911 if the person doesn't leave your property or if you feel uncomfortable. Never hesitate to contact 911 if you feel threatened in any way.

The police ask that you **do not let these individuals into your homes or give them any money**. If they are able to get money it will only encourage the behavior. Some residents have been disappointed that it is not possible to arrest these individuals but begging is not illegal in Minneapolis. The police cannot arrest them unless they are aggressive or commit a crime. However, you should report the incident because sometimes the individuals are wanted for other reasons.

Also, be aware that there have been **some incidents of swindling** when people offer a service to be performed in the future, such as tree trimming, and then collect payment up front and never do the work. Legitimate door-to-door solicitors should display a Minneapolis Solicitor's License.

Think Spring! LCC Hosting Sustainable Yards Workshops in March

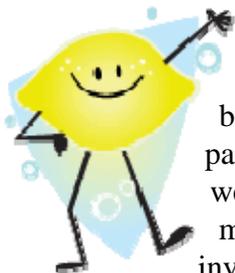
The Longfellow Community Council is hosting a series of workshops on sustainable practices for your yards and gardens. Workshops will be on Saturday, March 20th from 10am – 3pm at Sanford Middle School. Workshop topics will include:

- Rain Gardens
- Landscaping with Native Plant Species
- Composting
- Fruit Trees and Shrubs
- Vegetable Gardening
- Organic Lawn Care

At the event, you can also learn what's behind the City's stormwater fees and Do's and Don'ts of boulevard planting. Light refreshments will be provided. ALL are welcome! Longfellow residents are eligible to save energy, water and time with an array of door prizes - such as rain barrels, compost bins, native plants, fruit trees, green cleaning products, low-flow shower heads and MORE!

The event is FREE but RSVP's are requested at: www.longfellow.org. For more information, contact Kim Jakus at kim@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 x 5.

Support the Budding Entrepreneur in Your Life! Lemonade Day- May 2.



Lemonade day is an event to encourage young people to learn about business and entrepreneurship. Participants register for the program with a parent/guardian sponsor. Lesson plans are available from the Lemonade Day website for schools, parents, and sponsors. The entrepreneurs keep all the money they earn. They are encouraged to open a savings account, pay back investors, and/or contribute to their favorite charity. The Lemonade Day

Organization will also provide participants with a backpack containing a "How To" guide explaining budgets, securing investors, choosing locations, marketing, and customer service. To register, or get more information visit: <http://twincities.lemonadeday.org/> or contact Cari Campion at 612-251-7769 or lemonadempls@gmail.com.

expected to eat black bullheads which foul the water with their eating habits.

According to Blue Water Science in St. Paul, Lake Nokomis has a high density of bullheads- about 200 to 400 pounds of bullheads per acre.

Sign up for

Events & Special Meetings

Longfellow Community Energy Services Workshops

March 3 6:30-8:30 pm or March 13 10:00 am – Noon Minnehaha Academy South Campus. Longfellow Community Council & Center for Energy & Environment are sponsoring a residential energy program. Participants pay \$20 to receive a personalized home visit and over \$400 worth of products and services to help save energy and money. To learn more about energy saving measures you can implement at home and to sign up for the program attend one of the workshops. **To reserve your spot, contact Ashley Robertson at 612-335-5869 or arobertson@mncee.org.**

Energy Workshop on Window Rehabbing

March 4 6:30-8 pm 2801 21st Ave S. Learn how to choose the right option for improving the performance of your windows. Workshop covers temporary or permanent fixes to reduce heat loss and air infiltration on existing windows, reversing effects of deterioration on historic wood windows and appropriate window replacement. Window restoration specialist Paul Schmidt of Twin Cities-based Restoration Window Systems. RSVP to Agatha Vaaler at avaaler@greeninstitute.org or 612-278-7142. Cost is \$15, at door or in advance.

South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair 2010

March 6 10am – 3pm South High School, 3131 19th Ave S. Annual event attracts local, reputable contractors, retailers, real estate agents, lenders and community organizations exhibiting products and services. Representatives from energy utilities, affordable housing, green home builders, neighborhood associations & City of Minneapolis will be there to answer your questions. Enjoy this one-stop opportunity to learn more about financing and completing your home improvement projects. Free seminars taught by local professionals. Visit www.housingfair.org for more information and a list of exhibitors and seminars.

Longfellow Garden Club

March 10 7-9 pm Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. “What’s New in the Nursery for 2010?” Presented by Paige Pelini from Mother Earth Gardens & Vicky from Rush Creek Growers. Club meetings are free and open to the public.

5th Annual Neighborhood Sustainability Conference

March 13 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Central Lutheran Church, 333 12th St. S. Event includes keynote presentation from Mark Lakeman from City Repair Project, Grassroots Project Workshops, Participatory Design Charrettes and Organizing and outreach Skill Building Sessions. For more info, visit www.afors.org.

Seward Concert Band Spring Concert

March 13 7:30 pm Roosevelt High School Auditorium, 4029 28th Ave S. Non-profit organization comprised of amateur brass, wind and percussion players from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. The group works to promote music education and appreciation. Music features pieces from locations around the world. Refreshments that reflect locations from the music program will be provided. Suggested donations \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$4 students/children. For more info, visit www.sewardconcertband.org

Night Before New Year’s Eve 2009 Video Replay - Cable Channel 16

March 3, 7 pm

March 7, 8 pm

March 11, 10:30 pm

March 17, 7:30 pm

March 26, 10 p.m.

Did you miss the party? Or just want to re-live the fun? MTN is replaying the fun-filled, family event that is held annually at Nokomis Community Center.

Workshop on Energy Efficiency & Green Living for First-time Homeowners

March 24 608 pm 3001 Fourth St SE. Green Institute, City of Minneapolis & Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Workshop covers appliances, heating and cooling, water use, moisture control and sustainable living. Information on local resources provided at the end, including low-cost conservation products, multi-lingual guides to reading bills and permit applications, up-to-date rebates and incentives, carbon reduction resource sheets & more. RSVP to Cristen Porter at christen.porter@tchabitat.org or 612-305-7261. Workshop is free and refreshments are provided.

Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department Open House

March 25 3:30-7:30 pm Tri Tech Center, 331 2nd Ave S., Rm 220 (Skyway level), Mpls. Come learn about the department, services it provides and meet the NCR staff. Check out NCR online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr

6th Annual Community Garden Resource Fair

March 27 9 am- 4pm Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St. \$5 suggested at the door, free parking. Exhibits, food, networking and workshops. Come and find out more about opportunities to improve local food access and community food security for everyone so that our neighborhoods are more resilient. Call 612-492-8964 or visit www.gardeningmatters.org for more information.

Open Appointments

Animal Care & Control Advisory Board Closes 4/2/10

Audit Committee Closes 3/12/10

Latino Advisory Committee Closes 4/2/10

Mpls Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities Closes 4/2/10

Mpls Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Closes 4/2/10

Mpls Workforce Council Closes 4/2/10

Pedestrian Advisory Committee Closes 4/2/10

Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (open until filled)

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Closes 3/5/10

For information on City openings: ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open