5th Ward News

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

From Council Member Don Samuels

JANUARY 2011

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

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)
2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.886.4539

North Loop Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)
1500 Golden Valley Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924

Old Highland Organization
www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization-
www.willard-homewood.org
info@willard-homewood.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.*

Why Are My Taxes Going Up?

In November, every Minneapolis property owner was mailed a Proposed Property Tax for 2011 notice and a Supplemental Truth in Taxation notice. When you look at your property tax notice, you will see it is broken down by taxing jurisdiction. The three large portions of your taxes are from: Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the City of Minneapolis.

Like many other communities, Minneapolis has experienced many budget challenges in this decade. Beginning in 2003 the State of Minnesota made significant cuts in Local Government Aid (LGA) to Minneapolis and many other cities in the state. The cuts in LGA have continued throughout the decade, and combined with a significantly weakened economy

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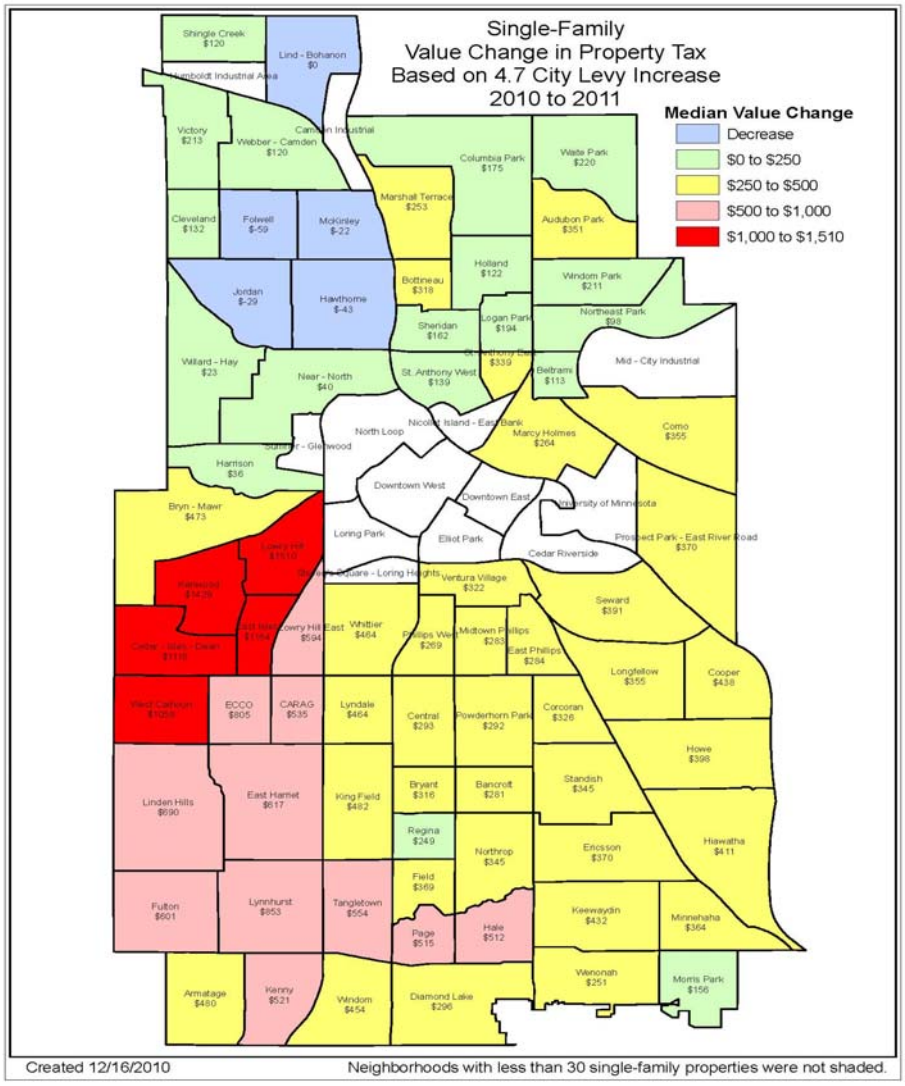

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And other factors, have forced City leaders to make difficult decisions each year about City services and property taxes.

There isn't a simple answer as to why many property owners experienced a property tax decrease in 2010 and an increase in 2011. However there are several factors that have played a major role in increasing the City's overall tax rate — meaning the amount that the City raises from property taxes:

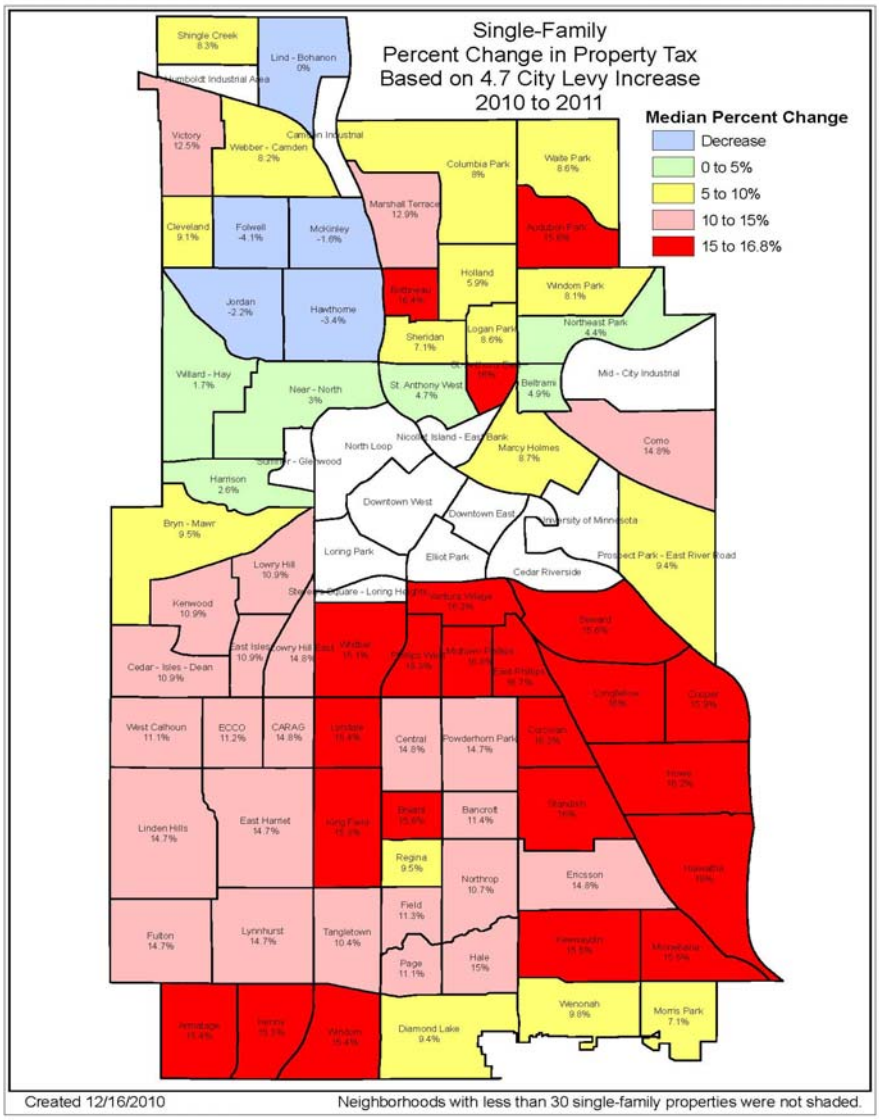
- Increasing obligations to closed pension funds
- A decrease in Local Government Aid from the State
- The recertification of Tax Increment Financing Districts
- Paying down the City's old debts

In addition to the amount that the City raises from property taxes (the tax rate), two more factors also affect your individual tax bill:

- Changing property values compared to other properties
- State law changes which shift burdens away from commercial and industrial property to residential property

To view the proposed 2011 City budget, visit:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2011recc/index.asp



Attention Block Club Leaders: Vacant House Info Needed

As you know, the Northside has a significant number of vacant homes. These vacant homes have multiple negative effects on our neighborhoods including increased crime, lower property values, and livability issues.

The MPD has been working with other city dept. and the 4th Precinct CARE Task Force to identify and track vacant properties. While the lists and incident reports that we currently have are helpful, we believe that you, the block club leaders and residents of the neighborhoods, could be more effective and correctly help us identify these properties.

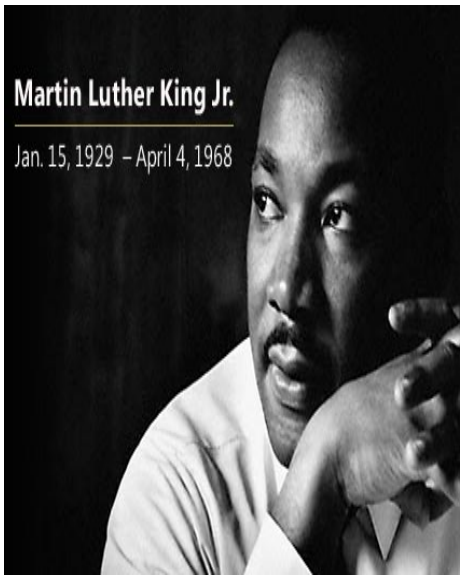
So, the 4th Precinct is asking you to canvas your block and to log the addresses of houses that are vacant whether because of foreclosure, being for rent, for sale or for some other reason. Please send address information to the crime prevention specialist **Jennifer.waisanen@ci.minneapolis.mn.us / 612-673-5873** or Tim Hammett at **atimothy.hammett@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 612-673-2866**

Our goal for collecting this information is to identify both long and short term strategies to help us manage the evolving vacant housing problem and reduce property crimes.

The 4th Precinct is hoping to complete information gathering by **Friday, January** 28th.Thanks for your help!!

The Community Room

1st Annual MLK Jr. Youth Celebration



The 1st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Celebration will be observed on **Monday, January 17** at **North Community High School** (1500 James Avenue North). The celebration will begin at 11:00 am and is open to all individuals, organizations and community members.

This MLK Jr. Celebration will feature music, youth art, and performances by young people from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. The event is sponsored by the African American Historical & civil Rights Museum Committee. You are encouraged to become a part of this great event! If you are interested in showcasing your talent, call Leola Seals at **612-644-6100.**

Winter Fun At Theodore Wirth Park!

Come out to Theodore Wirth, the Northside's winter recreational headquarters, for a little winter time fun! Located at **1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway**, the Wirth Winter Recreation Area has fun activities for the entire family!

You can learn to snowboard from professional instructors while taking advantage of great lesson packages. You can also try cross country skiing at Wirth! The Wirth Winter Recreation Area has 25 kilometers of trails for you to traverse.

If snowboarding and skiing aren't your idea of fun, Wirth also has tubbing and sledding for the ultimate family fun! Tow tickets and tube rental is just $8, and children must be at least 4 years old or 42' tall to be on the tubbing hill.

For more information, go to **www.theodorewirth.org** or call **763-522-4584**

Nice Ride Community Meeting

Nice Ride Minnesota is expanding into North Minneapolis in 2011 and will hold a 2nd community meeting to reach out to North Minneapolis residents. The meeting will be held **January 19th** at **6 p.m.** at the Urban Research and Outreach Center (UROC) (2001 Plymouth Ave N).

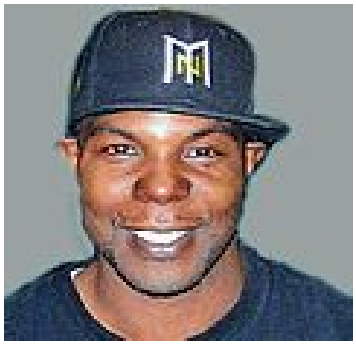
This meeting is being held to provide feedback on suggestions residents made at the first meeting. Nice Ride will also report outcomes from a series of six focus group meetings held in November and early December 2010.

Nice Ride installed three bicycle sharing stations in North Minneapolis in 2010 and has committed to installing eight more this spring. This is your opportunity to comment on the site location plans! For more information, go to

www.niceridemn.org

In Memoriam: 2010

Dontae Deshun Johnson



DOD: 1/2/2010 31 years old

Orlando Keith Nunn

DOD: 1/20/2010 21 years old

Marvin Ray Maynard III

DOD: 1/17/2010 16 years old

5th Ward News

From Council Member Don Samuels

DESSERT WITH DON

MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL WARD 5

Last Monday of Each Month

This Month's Topic is:

Best of 5th Ward Awards: 2010
Monday, February 24th
7:00 to 8:30 PM
RS Eden Building
1931 West Broadway Ave Suite 101

(Next Month: TBD)

Please join me for **Dessert With Don.**

This months meeting will feature a presentation discussing the progress made in the 5th Ward this past year and the people in the community that helped make it happen.

This meeting will be a celebration of last year and will recognize the individuals that made 2010 a true success!

Your quality of life is my number one concern and I will make it a priority for the city. Please come and participate in our monthly informational meetings. I hope to see you there!

Don Samuels

For more information call 612.673.2205. Hope to see you there!