

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

March 2011

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

March is Food Share Month. From 2008 to 2009, there was a 25 percent increase in food shelf visits in Minnesota — the largest recorded increase in 28 years. If you can, please consider making a food shelf donation this month. To help restock the Salvation Army's food shelves and help Minneapolis firefighters win a food drive competition against St. Paul, you can bring food donations to City Hall or any Minneapolis Fire Station anytime this month. Food donations can be dropped off at Room 233 of City Hall or at any fire station from 10am to 8pm. You can also contribute to food shelves in the Ward at the Glendale Food Shelf, at 92 St. Mary's Ave. S.E. (<http://www.esns.org/GlendaleFoodShelf>) or at the Brian Coyle Food Shelf at 420 15th Ave. S. For more info see <http://mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/index.php>

Volunteer on a City Board or Commission. Applications are now being accepted for 112 openings on 14 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this spring. We need applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are two opportunities next week to learn more about the open positions on City Boards and Commissions. There will be an online chat Tuesday, March 22 from noon-1p.m., and an open house Thursday, March 24 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters, 2117 West River Road. For a list of openings and more info see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20110315BoardsCommissionOpenings.asp>

Neighborhood CleanSweep. Minneapolis CleanSweep is a program offered through our Solid Waste and Recycling department that partners with communities to help keep our City clean. People can clean out garages, sheds, attics, basements, yards, alleyways and boulevards. Local, neighborhood-level, organizers can decide what items will be the focus of your clean-up (tires, construction waste, appliances, electronics, furniture, etc). Local organizers provide the volunteers and the City provides the garbage trucks, disposal and driver(s) for a flat fee of \$96 per truck per hour, all-inclusive. There is no additional fee for disposal for any of the materials collected. To participate, fill out an application (at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/first/docs/2011csp.pdf) and return it as soon as possible. Possible dates begin on April 23rd and run through October 15th (excluding May 28th, June 4th, July 2nd, July 9th, September 3rd or September 10th.)

Urban Agriculture Policy Plan. The Urban Agriculture Plan has unanimously passed the Planning Commission. I look forward to strongly supporting it when it comes before the Zoning and Planning committee on March 24th. I am currently meeting with each of my colleagues, along with Planning staff, to answer any questions they have and make the case for the plan. I see it as a major step towards making Minneapolis more of a leader in the local food movement. You can view the draft plan here: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp.

Local Food Resource Hubs. The City, as part of the larger Homegrown Minneapolis effort and through a contract with Gardening Matters has formed three new Local Food Resource Hubs, one on the Northside and two on the Southside of Minneapolis. The Hubs are intended to help residents to grow their own fresh produce, to ensure greater food security and healthy food access. In this first year, Local Food Resource Hubs will have 5 main focus areas: 1) serve as local points of distribution for physical resources; 2) provide physical space for education classes; 3) focus on building leadership capacity at the community level and, 4) develop a community network of gardeners and urban farmers that are able to support one another. Spring class and membership information is will be available soon. See <http://www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs> for more information.

New 2010 Bike Walk Report. New data from Bike Walk Twin Cities/Transit for Livable Communities about the rates of bicycling and walking has been released. The report for the

period from 2007-2010 shows that that bicycling was up 33% in Minneapolis/St. Paul from 2007-2010 and walking up 17%. Taken together, bicycling and walking are up 30%. I am very encouraged by the overall rise in bicycling and walking. The count data for locations with new bike lanes shows strong increases in bicycling as well as greater safety on sidewalks. As you know, many of the new infrastructure projects funded by Bike Walk Twin Cities have yet to hit the streets, so I will be excited to see the results for the 2011 counts, coming up in the fall. For more see <http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/bicycling-walking-counts>.

NRP Phase II Funds. The Council has moved to "unfreeze" \$2.68 million of the allocated Neighborhood Revitalization Program Phase II money held back from neighborhoods in December. This is a result of freezing more than the originally estimated \$10 million. Instead, it turned out that \$12.68 million in Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding was frozen. The NRP Policy Board will likely be asked to determine how the funds will be distributed.

Central Corridor Update. Construction, lane closures, traffic delays and changes in bus service can all be expected in the months and years ahead as installation of our newest light rail line gets underway this spring. Major construction has begun on University Avenue at the St. Paul city limits, and the Washington Ave Bridge will see lane closures. Preliminary work is going on in Prospect Park, Stadium Village and on the West Bank. Construction will start in May on Washington between Pleasant and Oak streets. This work will permanently remove auto traffic from Washington between Pleasant and Walnut Street to construct the campus transit mall. For updates on bus changes, watch for signs at bus stops and check www.metrotransit.org/detours-alerts.aspx. Also during this long construction period please **support our local business** along University Avenue, Washington Ave and in Cedar Riverside. To find businesses and save money through a new **Discover Central Corridor Card** program see www.centralcorridorperks.com. At <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp> you can sign up to get updates directly to your e-mail. The 24 hour construction hotline is (651) 602-1404.

Central Corridor Hearings were held on March 16 to take public testimony on the Supplemental Environmental Assessment reviewing the potential loss of business revenue along the Central Corridor LRT route during construction. Comments will be recorded to become part of the environmental assessment process. At the end of the 30-day comment period, the Metropolitan Council and the Federal Transit Administration will respond to all comments as part of a new final Supplemental Environmental Assessment document that has been required by the court.

Central Corridor Betterments. The Council has adopted a list of "betterments" requests for the Central Corridor project, which may be funded if the contingency funds not all be needed for construction overruns. In addition, the Council has requested a seat on the project's "Change Control Board," the body that will make decisions on which betterments to fund. This discussion does not include large-scale, standalone projects such as the work that has taken place at Franklin, East River Pkwy and 27th Ave SE, or Granary Road. Rather, betterments could include upgrades to the streetscape on the route. It is important to note that Public Works and CPED staff have already been very successful in convincing the project office that many improvements to the streetscape should be included in the base budget. For instance, improvements to the lighting at the West Bank station and upgraded retaining walls. A number of betterments have also been agreed to by project partners: the U of M will pay for an inter-track fencing upgrade, Hennepin County will upgrade the Cedar bridge, etc. The betterments we have requested include: squaring off the intersection of Bedford and University, undergrounding Xcel power lines in Southeast, upgrading the fencing on the Cedar and 19th Ave S bridges, improving the streetscape for Cedar, installing traffic signals and wayfinding signage, paying down some of the cost of the lighting upgrade on University and on Washington, installing bike racks and benches, putting planters on 5th Street in downtown, and supporting the County's Interchange project that calls for major improvements to the rail station downtown near the Twins stadium.

Mobile Food Vending. My office is working with local business owners in Second Ward neighborhoods to figure out whether any business districts are interested in opening their areas to

mobile food vending. We have heard from Seward and the Stadium Village area that they are not interested in exploring mobile vending, but the West Bank Business Association (WBBA) has taken a formal position asking for vendors to be allowed on the commercial corridors in Cedar Riverside. My office has worked with the WBBA's staff to create a draft plan for which areas would be opened to vendors. This draft includes the east side of Cedar Ave from 7th St to Riverside, both sides of Riverside from Cedar to 25th Ave, both sides of 4th St from Riverside to 15th Ave, the south side of Washington Ave in Seven Corners, both sides of Washington Ave just east of 19th Ave (near the old Grandma's site), and both sides of 15th Ave just south of Seven Corners. In addition, there are two plaza areas that could accommodate vendors: between the Cedar Cultural Center and Palmer's Bar, and near the Hub Bike Coop and Mayday books. My office will present this draft plan to both the WBBA and West Bank Community Coalition for feedback, and there will be a public hearing at the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on April 4th.

Homegrown Business Development Center. In an effort to promote the local food economy and foster the development and expansion of businesses that promote sustainable agriculture and food production within Minneapolis and the surrounding region the City is planning to create the Homegrown Minneapolis Business Development Center. The Center will provide financing and technical assistance to Minneapolis based businesses that process and manufacture local food products. Loans of up to \$10,000 will be available for business projects that involve the production, distribution, marketing and manufacture of food products that include a minimum of one ingredient grown within approximately 200 miles of Minneapolis. It is proposed that Homegrown Business Development Center be launched on a pilot basis and administered by MCCD. City staff have also worked with Grow Good Consulting to create a Guide to Starting a Local Food Business.

Small and Underutilized Business Program. In March the Council passed a new Small and Underutilized Business Enterprise Ordinance based on the information and evidence of past and ongoing discrimination against qualified and available women and minority owned construction and development contracts and contracts for the provision of goods and services. The evidence of ongoing discrimination against women-owned and minority-owned businesses was identified in the study completed by National Economic Research Associates, Inc. (NERA) and submitted to the City of Minneapolis in December of 2010. This ordinance is intended to help remedy past and ongoing discrimination, ensure a "level playing field," foster equal opportunity in contracts with the City of Minneapolis and reduce burdens on small businesses. I was supportive of this ordinance that will require us to set goals and make efforts to we offer equal opportunities to all contractors.

Solar Energy Systems. The Council has adopted new definitions and protections for solar energy systems. The new ordinance provides much greater clarity for dealing with solar energy. It defines and sets standards for building mounted and freestanding solar systems and makes clear that solar access easements may be purchased by property owners. For the first time, it provides specific guidance to the Planning Commission that existing solar energy systems should be given special consideration if and when a proposed development would shadow them. Some amendments from the Council improved the proposal by raising the percentage of a residential lot that could be covered by a freestanding system from 3% to 5%. This means that for a standard 5,000 square foot city lot, the maximum allowable freestanding system went from 150 s.f. to 250 s.f. The committee also chose to completely do away with lot coverage maximums for commercial and industrial parcels. I believe that both of these amendments were steps in the right direction. My staff worked with solar advocates and City staff on an amendment that would clarify that "passive" solar systems would be included in the protections we're giving to other types of solar systems. These include systems that are specifically intended to capture and store direct solar heat, but are not broad enough to allow any window to be considered a "passive solar" system.

Dynamic Signs. The Council has adopted new regulations regarding "dynamic signs," signage that incorporates large LCD TV-style screens. For the most part, I support these new standards.

However, the Council also undid some good work from the Zoning and Planning committee. The committee, acting on a motion I made, voted to restrict these new signs from Pedestrian Oriented (or PO) Overlay Districts. Unfortunately, the Council majority voted to strip out those protections on an 8-5 vote. I believe that dynamic signs are not in keeping with the intent of PO districts. They are clearly aimed at drivers. Tellingly, the only types of businesses that have approached the City looking to install these signs are gas stations. This restriction was also in keeping with the existing signage regulations in PO districts. We already prohibit "pole signs, backlit awning and canopy signs and backlit insertable panel projecting signs" in PO districts, because these signs are aimed primarily at drivers, just like dynamic signs. Ignoring all of this, the Council majority voted to eliminate these protections for PO districts. They even rejected a compromise that would have only allowed new dynamic signs in PO districts at sites that currently have manually changeable electronic signs.

Liquor Store Spacing. The Council voted on a very close, 7-6 margin to approve Council Member Meg Tuthill's proposed ordinance changing the spacing requirements for liquor stores from schools and religious places of assembly. The old rule was that new liquor stores couldn't go in within 300 feet of a school or church, as measured from the front door of the liquor store to the front door of the school or church. What passed changes the way that the 300 feet is measured to be lot-line to lot-line. I found this vote problematic for three main reasons. First, the proposal changed between the Regulatory Energy and Environment (REE) meeting and the Council meeting and did not include information I needed to make a good decision. The original Tuthill amendment would have changed the measurement from the front door of the liquor store to the lot line of the school or church. The Council received no information from staff about the amendment's potential limitations on locations for new liquor stores. At the very least, we should have seen a map that would indicate which sites will become ineligible for new liquor stores due to this change. With the large number of mosques, synagogues, temples and churches as well as schools in commercial zones, the new law could conceivably eliminate all of the roughly 8 remaining areas where a liquor store could be located in the city. Second, I was disturbed that this ordinance appeared to be aimed at one particular proposed liquor store. Third, I wanted to see some evidence to show that proximity between liquor stores and places of religious assembly and schools create real, measurable problems that would make it in the public interest to regulate further. While I have heard anecdotal evidence that liquor stores lead to complaints and concerns about chronic inebriants, it would have been good to see some objective data on this. I am generally supportive of changing the measurement away from using the location of doors, which can easily be changed, to property lines, and appreciated that the Minneapolis Public School district was supportive of the changes. But for the reasons above, I voted to send the proposal back to committee for more work. When that failed, I had no choice but to vote against it. Both votes were on a 7-6 margin.

Bicycle Advisory Committee. The Council has voted to officially appoint the new Bicycle Advisory Committee (or BAC). In addition to appointing thirteen resident members, the Council also appointed my Policy Aide, Robin Garwood, as the Council staff representative. These actions finalize a process that my office helped start more than a year ago, to transition the BAC from a staff-dominated group to a new, more resident-focused version. The response from the community to the new BAC has been overwhelming: more than 90 people applied for 16 seats, indicating more interest in the BAC than in any other City board or commission since I took office in 2006. The new group is more diverse than the old, in terms of race, gender, age, and rider type. I look forward to working with this new BAC to ensure that Minneapolis keeps its place as the number one city in the US for bicycles.

Tiered Rental License Inspections. Housing Inspection Services staff will be implementing forward with a new "tiered" inspections program in the months ahead. The program will divide rental properties into 3 tiers based on a set of objective criteria and adjust inspection schedules accordingly. The criteria includes: excessive nuisance conditions; excessive housing code violations; a history of non-compliance; and excessive police calls. The inspection schedule has been defined as follows:

- Tier 1: 8 year inspection cycle - Properties that are well maintained, managed and use very little city services
- Tier 2: 5 year cycle - Properties that are maintained to minimum code and use some city services
- Tier 3: 1 year cycle - Properties that are poorly maintained or managed and require excessive city services. Properties will be closely scrutinized for code and licensing standards violations.

A Property Early Warning System (PEWS) tool will be used to select properties for each tier. PEWS is an analytical tool that brings together data from several different city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County data base systems and assigns a risk score to help identify patterns affecting properties. I am very supportive of this Tiered Rental License Inspection program. I believe that it will allow staff to place scarce resources where they are needed in an effort to maintain safe and decent housing and neighborhoods. The majority of residential rental properties in Minneapolis provide safe decent and sanitary housing for Minneapolis citizens. However, this will help us better address concerns about those rental properties which are not regularly maintained and use excessive City services create safety and livability issues for residents and neighbors. For more info see: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110310/Docs/Tiered-Inspections-PPT.pdf>. The program is expected to be launched this April.

Holding Problem Landlords Accountable. The City has launched a new website (www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/accountable.asp) that posts the names of property owners who have had their rental licenses revoked, properties condemned or demolished, and those who have been ruled ineligible to hold a rental license for five years. Since 2005, the Council has changed more than **two dozen** ordinances to strengthen rental licensing and property ownership standards to protect tenants from problem landlords. Because of these changes, the City has increased the number of rental licenses it has revoked by more than **500%** for owners who have violated one or more rental license standards. I am very supportive of holding these problem landlords accountable, and thank Inspections staff for building this site.

Green and Healthy Housing. The Council has adopted an ordinance that will improve our ability to make rental property safer, healthier, more economical and more environmentally sustainable. All landlords would be required to do a furnace/boiler safety test by a licensed mechanical or gas contractor within two years of their regularly scheduled inspection. Owners of single family rentals with code violations related to lack of weather stripping, loose-fitting windows, water damaged surfaces that appear to be caused by loose-fitting windows or doors or holes in the foundation or roof, or lack of or loose-fitting storm windows or storm doors would be required to get an energy audit with a blower test and thermal scan by a certified auditor. If the property fails the initial blower door standard, air sealing must occur resulting in at least a 20% improvement on the initial blower door test or attic bypasses and major air leaks discovered by the thermal scan must be sealed. Also, all owners of 1-3 unit rental properties built before 1978 where the City has found chipping or peeling paint would be required to get a lead safe clearance test by a third party lead certified technician. All of these changes are within the City's appropriate role of protecting tenants, and all will increase the livability, safety and health of our housing stock. As an added benefit, they may also reduce utility costs for renters – which renters often pay but can seldom control – and represent one of the City's only ways to get serious about the problem of climate change. Unfortunately, what ended up passing the Council was an extremely watered-down version of the original proposal, and will do much less to protect renters or the environment than it could have, if the Council had shown more leadership.

Trees Available for Minneapolis Residents. The City is once again offering good-sized trees for sale this spring. Trees being offered for sale are between 6 to 10 feet tall. As of March 14, residents and, for the first time, business owners and nonprofit organizations, can order one tree for their property at a cost of \$25 each on a first come first served basis. Trees must be picked up on May 21-23 at the City of Minneapolis Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Avenue North. To place an order: <http://treetrust.org/order/>.

New Opportunity for Small Businesses. Minneapolis has been selected as one of the cities to host the US Small Business Administration's e200 program, an initiative to boost small business growth. Since 2008, the e200 Emerging Leaders initiative has helped more than 600 promising small business owners across the country grow their businesses with support, resources and skills to succeed. The eight-month program offers approximately 100 hours of training per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial communities. Classes begin the week of April 18th at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in downtown Minneapolis and will be held every other week through early November. Local recruitment for the 2011 training cycle has begun. Small businesses that are located in Minneapolis, generate revenues between \$400,000 and \$10 million, and have been in business for at least three years, are eligible to participate. Interested small business owners are invited to learn more about the initiative by contacting the SBA office at 612-370-2312 (Cindy Collett or cynthia.collett@sba.gov).

Guns on the Legislative Agenda. At my urging, the Council's Intergovernmental Relations committee has unanimously approved an amendment to our state legislative agenda opposing the pro-gun, pro-violence agenda of the Republicans in the state legislature: "Minneapolis opposes efforts to weaken Minnesota's gun laws and regulations such as legislation undermining local background checks, shoot-first legislation, legislation prohibiting State Colleges and Universities from banning guns on campus, and a constitutional amendment on the right to keep, bear and use arms." I thank my colleagues for joining me in getting the City on record formally opposing these terrible ideas.

Youth Violence Prevention Grant Sought. The Council has applied for a \$750,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice for a project aiming to seek funding to sustain youth gang prevention and employment training programs for youth and their families age 18 years and younger. This is driven by the ongoing work of the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, on which I serve.

Re-drawing Ward Boundaries. The Charter Commission is preparing for the redistricting process that follows the census taken by the federal government every 10 years. To help improve the process the Commission is looking for people who will bring diversity to a Redistricting Advisory Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a nonpartisan basis. While Advisory Group members are expected to participate in a nonpartisan manner, current or past involvement in political party activities does not disqualify an applicant from service. The job description and application form are posted on the Charter Commission's website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission. All applications should be submitted as outlined in the application by the March 25, 2011 deadline. Interviews will be conducted in April, 2011. If your group is interested in a presentation or if you have any questions, please call the Commission Coordinator, Peggy Menshek, at 612-673-2287 or email her at peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Pay Equity law. In response to efforts to repeal the State Employees Pay Equity Act of 1982, the City Council amended its legislative agenda to include support of this important and still needed legislation. U.S. Census data shows that women working full-time, year-round continue to earn less than men working full-time, year-round in every single state. In 2009 the Minnesota ranked 21st in terms of the wage gap, with women earning 77.3 cents for every dollar men earned. The Minnesota Local Government Pay Equity Compliance Report, published in January 2011, indicates that cities tend to revert to previous wage disparity patterns if the pay scales are not closely monitored as the legislation requires. Valuing women's work and ensuring they earn an equitable wage benefits the City's economy and upholds Minneapolis' ideals, significantly outweighing the minor cost of complying with this law.

Property Tax Refunds for Homeowners. Two types of property tax refunds are available from the State this year. Homeowners may be eligible for both depending on their income levels and

the size of their property tax bill. The regular property tax refund is for people who own and lived in their home on Jan. 2, 2011 and had the following income limits:

- For households with no dependents, the limit is \$99,240.
- For households with dependents the limit increases with family size, up to \$121,140 for households with five or more dependents.
- Senior or disabled homeowners may be eligible with household incomes up to \$124,790 with five or more dependents.

To qualify for a special property tax refund:

- Homeowners must have owned and lived in the same home on both Jan. 2, 2010 and Jan. 2, 2011,
- The net property tax on your homestead must have increased by more than 12 percent from 2010 to 2011, and
- The increase must have been \$100 or more and the increase is not attributable to new improvements.

There is no limit on household income for the special property tax refund. To determine if you qualify and, if so, the amount of your refund, complete Schedule 1 on the back of Form M1PR.

Tax forms and additional information on property tax refunds are available at

<http://taxes.state.mn.us/Pages/index.aspx>

State of the City Address. On March 8 Mayor Rybak delivered his 2011 State of the City speech in Ward 2 on the West Bank in Hoversten Chapel at Augsburg College. I was pleased to see him focus on strategic investments in people, public infrastructure and small businesses. He also stressed taking advantage of growth opportunities in transit-oriented development and in promoting entrepreneurship and exports. Three initiatives in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood he highlighted were 1) the Urban Scrubs Camp project of the Cedar-Riverside partnership that brought together 70 inner-city high-school students — one-third from the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood — for a week of intensive, hands-on exposure to healthcare careers; 2) the construction of Fairview Children’s Hospital, where contractor Kraus-Anderson exceeded all goals set in a workforce agreement with the City for participation by women, people of color, apprentices and neighborhood residents -- all done with union labor and contractors; and, 3) the rehabilitation of Riverside Plaza that will create 250 short term construction related jobs, including 90 set aside for Riverside Plaza and neighborhood residents.

Best City for Finding Work. In March a national professional recruiting firm named Minneapolis (see <http://blogs.forbes.com/jacquelynsmith/2011/03/08/the-best-cities-for-finding-employment-2/>) the best city in the country for finding employment. The report praised our low 6.5% unemployment rate, diversity of industries that have weathered the recession, low crime rate and high quality of life.

Como Office Hours Change. The Southeast Como Improvement Association is moving from the storefront office they’ve occupied for the past seven years at the corner of 15th and Rollins. Due to their move, I am moving my office hours for the Como neighborhood to **Muddsuckers Coffee**, 1500 Como Avenue SE. Como office hours occur every **second Tuesday** of the month, from 9:30-11am. Muddsuckers asks that everyone who comes to office hours makes a purchase.

Green Spoon Public Hearing. The former “Café 2600” project is now called “Green Spoon.” A hearing on their request for on-sale wine and beer will be held at Luxton Park on **Tuesday, March 22nd** from 6-7pm.

Prospect Place. The City Planning Commission held a public hearing on **Monday, March 7th**, at 4:30pm in room 317 of City Hall, and voted to grant the land use approvals sought by the “Prospect Place” development at 3020-28 University Avenue SE. These approvals include a setback variance, a conditional use permit for 17 dwelling units, and site plan review.

Block Nurse Grants. The Council has awarded a \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant to Living at Home/Block Nurse programs in Southeast, Longfellow/Seward, and Nokomis.

Seward Stroll Patrol. The Seward Neighborhood Group is reviving the Seward Stroll Patrol. The Stroll Patrol will allow participants to explore the neighborhood, meet people and dogs, get acquainted with buildings, gardens and alleys, and be the eyes and ears for the police, fire, and medical organizations of the city. The kick-off event will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7pm at Matthews Community Center (2313 28th Avenue South). If you're interested in being part of the Stroll Patrol, please contact Kathy Sikora at 612-375-1696 or ksikora@me.umn.edu.

Oak Street Cinema. The Heritage Preservation Commission has given Doran Companies permission to demolish Oak Street Cinema. The Commission found that the historic Art Deco character of the building had not been retained, and does not need to be protected. Doran Companies plan to build a six-story residential building with retail on the first floor.

Memory Lanes Block Party. Memory Lanes bowling alley has planned a block party for May 28th and 29th.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board, Charter Commission, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Advisory Group for Redistricting 2011-2012 of the Charter Commission, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Thinc.GreenMSP Steering Committee, Workforce Council and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Ward Office Hours. Every Tuesday morning I hold "Office Hours" in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.

1st Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);
2nd Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);
3rd Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);
4th Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

Cam Gordon
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<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>