

11

NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

DIAMOND LAKE, FIELD, HALE, KINGFIELD NORTHRUP, PAGE, TANGLETOWN, WINDOM, and WENONA

Public hearing on City budget comes earlier in the process this year

The public hearing on the City's 2010 budget is just weeks away. Unlike previous budget hearings, this one is coming earlier in the budget-making process.

State law requires the City to hold a public hearing on the date the proposed budget is scheduled to be adopted. However, that's so late in the process that making major changes to that proposed budget is impractical.

To change this, the City Council is holding an earlier hearing next month. This hearing will take place before sessions where Ways & Means Committee members begin to mark up the budget proposed by Mayor RT Rybak. **The State-mandated hearing will still take place on December 7, the date the City Council plans to approve a 2010 budget.**

Public hearing on tax levy and 2010 City budget

Thursday, November, 19, 6:05 p.m.

Room 317 City Hall, 350 S. 5th Street

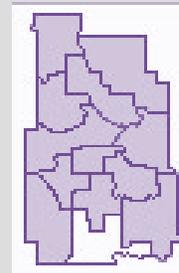
The Mayor's proposed City budget for 2010 focuses on jobs, while preserving public safety gains and continuing to invest in infrastructure. It includes expanding a program that offers low interest loans and financing tools to small businesses, and \$1.2 million to help more people find and get jobs through the City's Workforce Centers.

Minneapolis is facing a number of serious fiscal challenges that affect the City's bottom line. This includes State cuts to Minneapolis of more than \$40 million during 2009-2010 and escalating health care and pension costs. To balance the budget, the Mayor's proposal includes a mix of budget cuts, reforms and a new revenue policy.

For more information on the proposed 2010 budget, visit the Mayor's Office Web page at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor.



Volume 8 Issue 11
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Inside this issue:

<i>Yard waste collection ends</i>	2
<i>Recycle Day</i>	2
<i>Help slow Emerald Ash Borer</i>	3
<i>Community Meetings</i>	4
<i>Open Appointments</i>	4
<i>Mpls named safest city</i>	4



Yard waste pickup set to end for the season

If you still have leaves, branches and other yard waste to clean up before winter comes, you better get cracking. **The last yard waste collection days of 2009 will be the week Nov. 16 – 20 (the week before Thanksgiving week).**

Brush, leaves, and other yard trimmings are collected weekly on your regular garbage pickup day. All yard waste must be bagged or bundled.

Leaves, plants grass clippings, hay and other vegetation should be placed in plastic or paper leaf bags no larger than 30 gallons, with each bag weighing less than 40 pounds. Twigs, pine cones, bark and acorns can also be included in the bags.

Branches and prunings need to be bundled with twine and rope, with each bundle being less than three feet long and weighing less than 40 pounds. Only branches less than three inches in diameter should be bundled.

As always, make sure to have your bags and bundles of brush at your alley or curb line, next to your garbage bin, by 6 a.m.

Once your last yard waste collection day passes, it won't begin again until mid-April. If you end up with bags of leaves after your last day of pickup, you can put them on your perennial garden beds until spring. Also, stacking the bags against the north and east sides of your house can give the place a little more insulation during the colder months.

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15

Recycling works for us at least three ways – it reduces waste generation, it provides material to make into products, and it uses about 75 percent less energy than using virgin materials. Recycling one ton of paper saves enough energy to power a three-bedroom house for an entire year.

America Recycles Day is Nov. 15. Take five minutes to reevaluate your recycling routine. Are you using Minneapolis recycling services fully? Every time you get ready to throw something away, think twice — is it really trash, or can it be recycled? Take the online recycling pledge at www.americarecyclesday.org/takethepledge.aspx.

Recycling is easy in Minneapolis. More than 90 percent of the households in Minneapolis participate in the City's recycling program, with the average resident recycling around 2.3 pounds of material per day. Twenty-six recycling trucks service an average of 1,000 households per route per day, bringing in around three to four tons of recyclables per truck. Together, Minneapolis recycling customers set out more than 23,000 tons of cans, glass, newspaper, etc., to be collected and recycled into new products every year.

It's even easy for residents to recycle their old electronics. In fact, Minneapolis is the only city in the nation where electronics are picked up regularly for recycling. Just set it next to your garbage cart on your recycling day with a sign on it that says, "for solid waste." A crew will come back for it the next business day. Minneapolis will also pick up your discarded appliances and furniture.

To find out what to do and what items you can recycle, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling. City of Minneapolis recycling customers can sign up to get an e-mail reminder before each recycling day at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/subscriptions. For more information about recycling in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling. To learn more about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/garbage-zero-hero.asp.



Help slow down emerald ash borer this fall



Although colder weather is here, the emerald ash borer is still a threat to our trees here in Minneapolis. The beetle, which was discovered in Saint Paul back in May, could be hiding in firewood folks are buying for winter. Do your part this fall to slow the progress of this invasive species.

The emerald ash borer targets and inevitably kills ash trees, and Minnesota and Minneapolis have a lot of ash trees to lose. Adult beetles don't fly far, so they travel the farthest when people move infested ash logs, ash firewood or ash trees from nurseries. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer to other areas.

Take steps to slow the spread of emerald ash borer within Minneapolis, within our counties and within the state:

Firewood: Buy it where you burn it. Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota. Buy or harvest your wood near the area where you are going to burn the wood. In Minneapolis, you may buy bundled firewood at gas stations, which are regulated by the State. Other firewood dealers are required to be licensed by the City, so ask firewood vendors – whether in a nursery or door-to-door – for their City fuel dealer license. To confirm whether a fuel dealer is licensed, call 311.

Fall and winter are the seasons to trim or remove your ash tree. The emerald ash borer is active from May through Labor Day. From fall until spring it is not active. If you need to prune or remove your ash tree, now is the best time to do it. If you are a City of Minneapolis garbage customer, you may dispose of smaller branches through the City's regular yard waste pickup program, which is equipped to handle ash branches safely. Through your garbage day in the week of Nov. 16, the City will pick up branches at your garbage pickup location. The branches can be from any kind of tree but must be less than three inches in diameter, cut to less than three feet long and bundled. Since a dormant emerald ash borer can still travel on wood and branches, make sure to dispose of larger ash branches and wood properly. For a list of sites where you or your tree-servicing company can take your ash wood, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx and click on the link for "Ash Tree Waste Disposal Sites."

Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. Emerald ash borer kills trees over a period of one to four years. The larvae live under the bark of the tree and feed in the tissue layer directly beneath the bark, which disrupts water from reaching all sections of the tree. This can cause a major thinning of a tree's canopy, with as many as one-half of a tree's branches potentially dying during the first year of infestation. Trees generally try to compensate for the loss of limbs by sprouting new growth below the level of infestation. At this time the bark may begin to split. Eventually the adult beetles emerge from the bark. In the process of emerging as adults, they leave a "D" shaped exit hole that is about one-eighth of an inch wide. The most revealing sign of emerald ash borer infestation is woodpecker activity in an otherwise healthy-looking ash tree.

If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by the emerald ash borer, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist. Residents who suspect that a tree is infested with emerald ash borer can also contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" Hotline at (651) 201-6684.

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Pag Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</p>

Minneapolis area tops Forbes' list of America's safest cities

The Minneapolis metropolitan area tops the Forbes.com list of America's safest cities. As part of its number one ranking, the area ranked in the top 10 in all four categories included in the study: low crime rate, workplace fatalities, traffic-related deaths and natural disaster risk.

Forbes.com based its rankings on a study of the nation's top 40 metropolitan areas, looking at 2008 workplace death rates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; 2008 traffic death rates from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and natural disaster risk, using rankings from green living site SustainLane.com. It also collected historical natural disaster data from a number of different government agencies and looked at violent crime rates from the FBI's 2008 uniform crime report.

Minneapolis is experiencing double-digit reductions in violent crime, which is falling for the third straight year and is at the lowest level in nearly a decade. Proactive policing, targeting the most violent criminals and reducing youth violence have all played a part in driving down crime in

Minneapolis.

The Milwaukee metro area, the Portland, Ore. Metro area, Boston and Seattle rounded off the top five safest cities on Forbes' 2009 list.

Open Appointments

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 12/31/09\)](#)

[Public Health Advisory Committee \(PHAC\) \(open until filled\)](#)

[Senior Citizens Advisory Committee \(closes 12/11/09\)](#)

[Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\) \(closes 12/18/09\)](#)

Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.