

WARD 11 NEWSLETTER



Council Member Scott Benson

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

Council Members focus on next year's budget

In August Mayor RT Rybak delivered his proposed 2010 budget to the City Council. The City Council is now considering the Mayor's proposal in a series of budget hearings before the Council's Ways and Means Committee.

The City Council is holding a public hearing to give folks the opportunity to provide their input before it approves the final 2010 budget in December.

Public hearing on tax levy and 2010 City budget

Thursday, Nov. 19

6:05 p.m.

Room 317 City Hall
350 South 5th Street

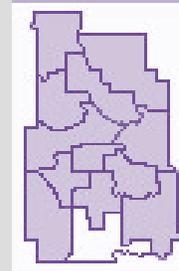


The Mayor's proposed City budget for 2010 focuses on jobs, while preserving public safety gains and continuing to invest in infrastructure. It includes expanding a program that offers low interest loans and financing tools to small businesses, and \$1.2 million to help more people find and get jobs through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

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No Primary in Minneapolis on September 15

While voters across Minnesota will be taking part in Primaries on September 15, there will be no Primary here in Minneapolis that day. That's because this election year the city is switching to Ranked Choice Voting, which will combine the Primary and General Election into one event on November 3.

In Ranked Choice Voting, Minneapolis voters may rank up to three candidates for single and multiple seat municipal offices. When polls close, the first choice votes for all candidates are sorted and counted. If no candidate receives the required number of votes to win in a particular race, a process of eliminating candidates and considering subsequent choices begins.

Voters in Minneapolis approved a referendum to implement this new voting system in 2006. This fall, they'll be able to use that system to choose candidates for Mayor, City Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park and Recreation Board. This upcoming election will be the first opportunity for voters in Minneapolis to use Ranked Choice Voting.

For more information on Ranked Choice Voting, including instructions on how to cast your ballot this November, go to voteminneapolis.org.



If you can count, you can help Minneapolis' biking and walking efforts!

Minneapolis Public Works is gearing up to conduct its third annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, and you can volunteer to help. Volunteers will be asked to count the number of bicyclists and pedestrians at several locations around the city. The main day for counting will be Tuesday, Sept. 15, although other days are available. Volunteers will sign up for various two-hour time slots, and are particularly needed from 4 to 6 p.m. on the 15th.

Minneapolis Public Works conducts bicyclist and pedestrian counts in order to understand the impact of non-motorized travel on streets, sidewalks, and bike paths. Accurate counts enable the City to plan and build for bicyclists and pedestrians, while tracking what's successful and what should be done differently.

If you're interested in volunteering, register online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles or contact Shaun Murphy at shaun.murphy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or (612) 275-5128.



A tornado struck, and Minneapolis responded

Seven days after a tornado struck Minneapolis on Aug. 19, City crews completed the scheduled collection of large tree debris in the affected areas. The work capped a week of activity by many City departments, both during the storm, in its immediate aftermath, and in the days following.

The tornado—by the numbers

City inspectors have determined about 450 structures were damaged by the storm, although no homes were damaged enough to require them to be vacated.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board estimates about 250 boulevard trees were downed by the storm.

The Minneapolis 911 Center handled about 150 calls, dispatching emergency responders as needed during storm and in its aftermath.

From the time the first storm-related 911 call was dispatched, it took just 30 seconds for the first police officer to arrive on scene. Within the next several minutes, Police, Fire, Public Works, and Park Board Forestry were in the area proactively addressing storm-related issues.

In the hours following the storm, Minneapolis Police went door-to-door at all properties on more than 100 city blocks in the storm zone, looking for anyone who may have been hurt. No injuries were reported in south Minneapolis as a result of the tornado.

The 311 center had 200 more calls than normal for a Wednesday in August.

Minneapolis added a new tool to its emergency response communications efforts, sending out five updates the day of the storm to the City's Twitter feed. The City has more than 2,000 people who get Twitter updates from the City. The City's five updates were forwarded on by our Twitter followers 75 times, and the City gained 100 new followers on Twitter the day of the storm. (check out the Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/CityMinneapolis>.)

Trees available for tornado “re-leaf”

200 trees are being made available for planting this fall to residents located in the area affected by the tornado. Five varieties of trees are available: Triumph Elm, Autumn Splendor Buckeye, Valley Forge Elm, Ironwood and Blue Beech. The trees cost \$25 each, and they are six to 10 feet tall with a one-inch trunk.

Minneapolis residents in the tornado area can order a tree from Tree Trust at www.treetrust.org/orderhere or (651) 644-5800. Residents can order one tree per household, and trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Any trees remaining between Sept. 11 and Sept. 18 will be made available to residents throughout Minneapolis.

Trees can be picked up at the parking lot of the former Northrop School at 1611 46th St. E. in Minneapolis Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents must be available to pick up the tree at this time. Volunteers will be on hand to help load your new tree and complimentary bag of mulch in to your vehicle. The City is partnering with United Way Caring Connection to recruit volunteers to assist residents who need help planting their new tree.

These trees are for private yards; the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is developing a plan for boulevard tree replantings in the affected areas for the spring.



Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page 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>

Forbes names Minneapolis one of “best cities for working mothers”

Minneapolis has been named one of the “best cities for working mothers,” according to Forbes magazine. In its first annual list published in “Forbes Woman,” a new section of the magazine, Minneapolis ranked third among the 50 largest cities in the U.S.

Forbes’ rankings are based on what the magazine found is most important for working moms including jobs, cost of living, health care, education, crime and public parks.

According to Forbes, Minneapolis achieved this ranking thanks to its number one ranking in health care quality and schools. Forbes also looked at unemployment rates and found that working moms can find jobs in Minneapolis that compensate them well.

New York City topped Forbes’ list of “best cities for working mothers.”

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

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

Chicago Avenue Special Service District 48th St E (closes on 9/25/09)

Zoning Board of Adjustment Vacancy (closes 9/25/09)

For more information: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissioners/open/>

Or call the City Clerk’s office at 612-673-3358

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.