



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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## 2010 budget approved, crime prevention preserved

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved its 2010 budget. The approved budget maintains the City's commitment to economic recovery and public safety, while reducing spending by over \$100 million.

Despite proposed cuts to crime prevention specialist positions, Council Members voted to retain those jobs. The police department will face a number of other layoffs including six junior officers, 19 of the newest recruits, and 30 civilians in the department. A pending federal grant could allow some officers to be rehired. The Council preserved 27 firefighter jobs that had received layoff notices earlier this year.

Investigation of civil rights complaints will remain in the city. A proposal to shift the city's Department of Civil Rights to the state was defeated on a 7-6 vote after opposition voiced by two state representatives, civil rights commissioners, investigators, and community members. The Arts Coordinator position, which helps facilitate a number of arts activities, including film and movie production in Minneapolis, was preserved.

The Mayor and City Council were also able to use a recent [court victory](#) in a pension lawsuit to provide \$10 million in property tax relief, which reduces the average tax increase for a Minneapolis homeowner from 6.6% to 2.1%. The Minneapolis 2010 budget will be posted on the city's [Finance Department](#) website in January 2010.

## Creating more places to play



Recently passed changes will provide families in new multiple unit buildings with more playground space.

Newly apartment buildings in Minneapolis may be required to provide outdoor play space for children. A [change](#) sponsored by Council Member Gary Schiff requires newly constructed apartment buildings with three or more bedroom units to provide outdoor play space and equipment.

“Every time a new apartment building is proposed, neighbors would ask ‘Where are children supposed to play?’ This change addresses a crucial piece of neighborhood livability, making more child-friendly spaces in our city,” said Council Member Gary Schiff.

The play area can range anywhere from 300 to 2,000 square feet, depending on how many large bedroom units are in the building. Families will have play areas separated from parking areas and designed for year-round use by preschool and elementary age children. The amendment supports the goals of the *Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth*, which states that development and design of new open spaces should respond to the changing demographics and an ever-changing built environment. Minneapolis is one of the first communities in the United States to adopt regulations having children’s play area be part of multiple family dwellings intended for families with children.

## Pet licensing goes online



At the end of this month, pet

Beginning this December 28, Minneapolis pet owners can have the ease of renewing or applying for pet licenses

pet licenses online at [Animal Care and Control](#).

online. For pet owners who already have a license, renewal notices will arrive by mail in late December or early January. The city requires that all dogs and cats over four months old are licensed and wear collars with the license tag attached. Ferrets and rabbits are also required to be licensed. Currently, the only method to apply for a license is to send it by mail or to apply in person at Animal Care and Control at the Public Service Center.

Licensed pets are three times more likely to be returned home.

Licensed pets that are lost receive a free ride home and save their owner up to \$200 in fees and fines. Pet owners can [sign up online](#) to receive e-mail notification when online pet licensing is available. Off leash dog park permits are not available through online pet licensing but can be obtained through the [Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board](#).

## Ninth Ward Awards nominations sought



Click photo for a list of previous Ninth Ward Award winners.

January's Breakfast with Gary will feature the eighth annual State of the Ward Address and Ninth Ward Awards. Awards will be given for Leader of the Year, Block Club of the Year, Neighborhood Project of the Year and Youth Leader of the Year.

"The Ninth Ward Awards recognizes

leadership in our community which has resulted in a better quality of life for all Ninth Ward residents," said Council Member Gary Schiff. To make a nomination, write a brief description of the accomplishments that you think deserve recognition.

Please submit your Ninth Ward Award nominations via [e-mail](#), fax (612-673-3940) or by mail to Council Member Gary Schiff, 350 South 5th Street, Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415 by Friday, January 15th. Breakfast with Gary will take place Friday, January 29, 2008 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at Mercado Central, 1515 E. Lake Street. Food is \$7. **RSVP encouraged:** (612) 673-2209 or via [e-mail](#).

## City's youth employment program underway

Applications are available for the summer 2010 STEP-UP program which offers Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21 summer job opportunities and career exploration. Youth, ages 14 and 15 are offered a first job experience and matched with positions at non-profits. Youth, ages 16-21 are matched with jobs in private businesses, government, and education.

The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program was first offered in 2004 and placed 200 kids in positions with 50 employers. In 2009, 1,282 youth had jobs with 174 participating employers. Applications can be found online, at the Minneapolis North and South Workforce Centers, Minneapolis Public Schools, many non-profit organizations, and the Franklin, North Regional, and Central Libraries. Application deadline is January 29, 2010. For questions about the program, or for help completing the application, [email](#) or call Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041.

STEP-UP is currently recruiting non-profits and private employers to provide 1300 internships for the 2010 program. Businesses interested in hiring a 16-21 year-old intern should contact Anne Krocak at 612-455-1562. Hiring a STEP-UP intern can benefit your business and cost as little as \$1,000. Non-profits interested in hiring a 14 or 15 year-old, should contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041. The wages for the non-profit interns are paid by the STEP-UP Program.

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