



Council Member Betsy Hodges

# Ward 13 News

October 2010

## 5th Annual Ward Budget Meeting

Anyone who has attended the annual Ward 13 budget meeting since 2005 is aware of the challenges cities face. Property tax law changes at the state in 2003 placed a disproportionate property tax burden on households relative to commercial properties. The State has been cutting Local Government Aid (LGA) on a regular basis since 2003. The housing market has stalled and we are in the midst of an historic recession.

I am inviting you to join me at this year's Ward 13 Budget Meeting to talk about these challenges, how they shape the choices the City Council will make during this fall's deliberations on the 2011 Budget.

Our outstanding Finance Department will be on hand to present an overview of how the City's budget is structured, how all City dollars, including your property taxes are being spent and the impacts of the choices that must be made. You'll be welcome to ask questions and give me your thoughts on the proposed budget before the Council makes its final decision on December 13th.

I hope to see you all at the meeting!

**Ward 13 Budget Meeting**  
November 17th  
Pershing Park  
6 pm



### Helpful Links

- > [Public Works](#)
- > [Report Graffiti](#)
- > [Animal Control](#)
- > [Ward 13 Website](#)
- > [Inspections](#)
- > [Council Agendas](#)
- > [Permitting/One-Stop](#)
- > [Police Department](#)
- > [Property Info](#)
- > [Minneapolis Maps](#)
- > [City Finances](#)
- > [Demographic Info](#)
- > [City Assessor](#)

### Ward Breakfast

Wednesday • October 20th  
8 am • Pearson's Restaurant

## Fall Street Sweeping Starts October 25th

It's that time of the year again - the end of fall and the beginning of the City's street sweeping and leaf removal efforts. Posting for street sweeping will begin Monday, October 25th with actual sweeping starting Tuesday the 26th. If you park on the street and are planning on being out of town during the four or five weeks of street sweeping please make accommodations for someone to move your car. Posting for parking restrictions generally occurs 24 hours prior to the restriction going into effect. Crews try to give as much advance notice as possible.

## Multi-Family Housing Energy Efficiency Loan Program

The City of Minneapolis, Department of Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) has established a city-wide, low-interest loan program to provide financing for energy efficiency upgrades to large (structures of 4 stories or more containing more than 10 dwelling units) Multi-Family residential properties.

The program will help remove financial barriers and allow property owners to obtain the capital needed to make energy efficiency improvements. Loans will be structured in such a way that the energy savings would fully or substantially offset the debt service on the loan. The loans would target significant energy system upgrades including boilers, water heating and distribution systems, and control systems.

[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/multifamily\\_energy\\_loan\\_program.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/multifamily_energy_loan_program.asp)

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## City Council Approves Changes to Dangerous Animal Ordinance

On Friday, Oct. 8, the Minneapolis City Council approved changes to the City's dangerous and potentially dangerous animal ordinance (Section 64.110). The amendments are designed to help improve regulation of dangerous animals in Minneapolis and ensure the safety of neighborhoods and residents from dangerous animals.

The changes to the ordinance clarify and strengthen Minneapolis Animal Care & Control's (MACC) ability to declare an animal dangerous or potentially dangerous. In the previous ordinance, MACC could not declare an animal potentially dangerous for aggressive behavior unless a bite occurred on the property of the dog's owner. The amendment will now allow MACC to declare an animal potentially dangerous if an individual who is legally allowed on the property (i.e. mail carriers) experiences aggressive behavior that requires a defensive action but is not bitten.

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## Solar Array Installation Underway at Convention Center

The installation of the Upper Midwest's largest solar photovoltaic system is underway at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The solar array, which has 403 of its 2,613 panels installed, will connect directly to the convention center's internal electrical system and produce 750,000 kWh of renewable energy per year when completed. The solar panels are being installed at an angle on the flat portions of the roof, and will not be visible from the street level.

The photovoltaic systems will be owned by Best Power Int'l, which will lease the roof for the system from the City of Minneapolis. The City will lock into a long-term contract with a fixed energy cost as a hedge against future energy price increases. This will stabilize annual budget fluctuations over the life of the system. The new array will generate more than 100 times more power than the City's current largest array.

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [betsy.hodges@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:betsy.hodges@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or call 612-673-2213.