

10th Ward e-News

from Council Member Meg Tuthill

Shop local.
Play local.



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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am-5pm

Visit us at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward10

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Happy Holidays!

We would like to wish each of you a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Enjoy time spent with family and friends!

Your 10th Ward Office, Meg, Leslie, and Breanna

2011 Budget Update

The Minneapolis City Council approved the 2011 proposed city budget on Monday, Dec. 13th after a public meeting which over 100 people attended. Earlier in the week the City Council's Ways and Means committee passed several amendments that reduced the 2011 levy increase from 7.5% to 4.7%. The reduction in the levy was possible through a combination of \$6.1 million in one time budget cuts and two long term changes. The long term changes are to reduce neighborhoods NRP phase II uncontracted funds by up to 50% and to have no increases in City salaries, including Council Members, for two years.

In addition, Council Members voted unanimously to end their monthly \$400 car allowance. Council Members may choose to submit their actual mileage for reimbursement. Council Members are continuing to look for other cost saving measures in the Council offices.

The proposal for no salary increases for two years does not substitute for collective bargaining, and as the City moves into contract negotiations in 2011, the City looks forward to partnering with bargaining units and hearing City employees' best ideas for saving taxpayers' money and saving jobs.

Meg voted against the budget because she thought not enough had been done to reduce spending.

While property taxes are increasing the City has actually shrunk the size of City government. Adjusting for inflation, the City's proposed budget for 2011 is 7 percent smaller than the City's budget in 2001 and the City will have approximately 1,000 fewer employees in 2011 than 2001.

The City has produced a website to help property owners understand why their property taxes are increasing. The [Property Tax Info](#) site answers many questions about the process and explains the City's different funding sources.

Holiday Tips

This time of year brings high energy along with the cold weather. As the holidays near for many of us, a lot of us will be out getting gifts, visiting relatives, and having a lot on our minds as we try to balance many goals all at once. Since it's easy to get overwhelmed, the Minneapolis Police Department Fifth Precinct has provided a short reminder about some tips to make your holiday times safe and enjoyable.

Check out their [Holiday Safety Tips](#) flyer for more information.

Uncover your fire hydrant

Property owners are responsible for making sure the snow is cleared around fire hydrants. Minneapolis has more than 8,000 hydrants. Please make sure they're easily assessable in case fire crews need them.

Clear Sidewalks of Snow and Ice

Keeping our sidewalks free of ice and snow is both the neighborly thing to do, and it's the law. Here are a few points to know about keeping Minneapolis sidewalks clear of snow and ice:

- [Know the rules](#) for clearing sidewalks of snow and ice.
 - Shovel the sidewalks on all sides of your property, the full width of the sidewalk down to the bare pavement.
 - Remove all ice from sidewalks. After the sidewalk is cleared, sprinkling a little sand can help prevent slipping on frosty sidewalks.
 - Pile snow into your yard and boulevard. It's against the law to shovel snow into streets and alleys.
 - If you have corner property, clear curb cuts at corners and crosswalks to the street gutter. You are not required to clear snow ridges or piles left by the plows *beyond* the gutter – City crews sometimes return to do that, but if they can't your neighbors would appreciate it if you could clear an opening.
- [Report snow and ice on sidewalks](#) when it hasn't been removed within 24 hours after snowfall has ceased.
- Download and share this [snow shoveling flyer](#) (PDF) to tell others about the rules and importance of sidewalk snow clearance.
- Lend a hand to neighbors who may have a hard time shoveling.

Electric Space Heater Safety

Portable electric heaters can cause serious problems if they're not used properly. These heaters are not designed to heat a home or operate for extended periods; they are meant to heat a small space for a short time. All electric heaters must be kept at least 36 inches from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Supervise children whenever space heaters are in use. Space heaters must not be left on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.

Winter Biking Tips

In Minneapolis, many bicyclists embrace the winter months by continuing to ride. If you are already biking, or considering winter biking, here are some tips for dealing with the snow, cold temperatures, and motorists:

- **Travel slowly when snow and ice are present.** Be sure to plan ahead for extra travel time. Remember that cyclists have the right to ride in a general traffic lane, which (among other instances) may be necessary if bike lanes have not been cleared.
- **Ride defensively around motorists.** Cyclists are less visible in the winter, and roads are narrower. Follow traffic laws and be as considerate as possible. Educate yourself and your friends (motorists and bicyclists alike!) on [traffic laws and safety](#).
- **Take the off-street trails.** The Park Board and Public Works Department have policies of clearing snow from off-street trails soon after the end of a snowfall (read more about [how the Midtown Greenway and Hiawatha Light Rail Trail are plowed](#)). In most cases, this occurs in less than 24 hours.
- **Stay visible.** Riding in the winter months means more darkness. Brighten your ride by using headlights, taillights, and reflective clothing and gear. Legally, cyclists are required to ride with a white, front headlight and rear, red reflector at night.

Winter Biking Tips (cont.)

- **Use an old bike in good working condition.** Salt and sand can wreak havoc on your treasured bicycle, resulting in rust and breakdowns. Use an older but functional bicycle in the winter months.
- **Dress in layers.** Apply layers to your torso and legs, and be prepared to strip them away as your body warms. A good rule of thumb is that you should feel chilly when you step outdoors – if you're cozy before you start riding, you'll likely be boiling when you stop.
- **Cover your extremities.** All of us have experienced the extremes of a sweating torso and numb ears or toes. Don't ignore to cover your head, neck, hands, and feet when you bike.
- **Use 311.** If you see a bicycle-related problem which involves plowing, shoveling, signing, or another traffic concern, call 311. The City relies on the public to flag problems. If you live outside of Minneapolis, call 612-673-3000. A [Minneapolis bikeway maintenance responsibility list](#) is available for more direct call routing.
- **Use transit.** Remember, all Metro Transit buses and trains are equipped with [bicycle racks](#). Bike commuters are also eligible to sign up for Metro Transit's [Guaranteed Ride Home](#) program, which provides free transit rides or cab fare reimbursement for emergencies (like a snow or ice storm).
- **Look for more information.** This is hardly the final say on winter bicycling. Any winter cyclist on Minneapolis streets probably has some good ideas, so go ahead and ask around.

Meet with Meg!

Join us for Meet with Meg for lunch on **Tuesday, January 11th from 12 pm to 1 pm** at the 5th Precinct's Community Room (3101 Nicollet Ave S). Meet with Meg is a time for you to talk with her, ask questions, and voice concerns. Bring your sack lunch! Cookies and lemonade are provided! Meet with Meg is held the second Tuesday of every month.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Corridor Survey

On September 23rd, 2010, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) began a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) process to help develop recommendations related to the proposed corridor for the southwest light rail transit corridor and its impacts on park facilities. The proposed corridor is adjacent to or intersects areas of parkland in and around Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Lake Calhoun, Bryn Mawr Meadows, and Park Siding as well as the network of trails in Minneapolis.

The CAC is interested in hearing input from community members on the draft issues and outcomes they have identified along the proposed light rail corridor. Please take a few minutes to fill out their [survey](#). The survey will be active through noon on January 7, 2011.

For more information on what CAC is and what they do, please visit their [webpage](#).

Attention: If you want help translating this information into a language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, please call 311.

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.