



# SIXTH WARD NEWS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Item 1—Note from Council Member	1
Item 2—Dislocated Workers	2
Item 3—Digital TV	2
Item 4—Snow Emergency	3
Item 5—Improvements	3
Item 6—Firewood	4



Call **311** from anywhere within the City for information about City services. If outside city limits call (612) 673-3000.

311 will be closed for the holidays, November 27 and 28th.

### Email List

Join the 6th Ward  
Newsletter Email List—  
send request to: [connie.kiser@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:connie.kiser@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## Note from Council Member

We are heading into the Holiday Season and the end of 2008. It is a time to be both hopeful and, in some ways, cautious.

We in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward are doing relatively well; crime is down, investment in our area continues and, most importantly, we have residents who know the benefit of working and pulling together to take care of our needs.

With a new administration in Washington, D.C., preparing to take up the

reins, we are likely to see changes that can benefit our city and our ward. I hope to see a restoration of the bond between federal, state and local governments that has been so damaged. I believe that we will once again be strong partners in government and that the support and resources we need will be directed our way.

Here in Minneapolis City Hall, as we finalize the 2009 budget, we are working to be best prepared to take advantage of the federal

support and stimulus packages expected out of Washington. We are prioritizing Public Works projects, refining foreclosure response programs, and identifying the public and private partners that will be best able to regenerate our economy and keep our neighborhoods healthy.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. I look forward to continuing to work together in the coming year.

With Peace and Love,  
*Robert*

### Community Office Hours

Council Member Lilligren has Community Office Hours at each of the four Sixth Ward Neighborhoods, every Monday, 9:30am-12:00pm

To schedule an appointment, call Connie at 612-673-2206. Drop-ins are welcome, however, you will be asked to wait if someone has scheduled an appointment. Translation is available by appointment.

There will be no Community Office Hours when the Monday lands on a city holiday or the Council Member must be at City Meetings.

Monday, December 1 — 9:30am-11:30am—at Whittier Alliance—10 E 25th Street—there are no spots reserved at this time —feel free to drop in to chat

-Monday, December 8th 9:30am-Noon Community Office Hours at-710 E 24th Street -- Phillips Eye Institute, 4th Floor, Suite 406, Office 437—These hours may have to be canceled-possible City budget hearing

-Monday, December 15 – 9:30am-Noon at Stevens Square Community Organization—1925 Nicollet Avenue

-Monday, December 22 —9:30-Noon -Community Office Hours— Franklin Safety Center— 1201 E. Franklin

## Minneapolis offers resources for dislocated workers



Minneapolis residents who have lost their job during the current downturn in the economy can take advantage of resources designed to help them transition to a new job.

Dislocated workers can turn to resources being offered by the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Central Library and the State of Minnesota.

- o The City's dislocated worker program provides employment and training services to individual workers who lose their

jobs through no fault of their own due to closings, reorganizations, or other permanent layoffs and who need assistance with the transition to new employment. Services are free to eligible workers and include career counseling, skill updating, retraining and job search assistance. For service locations, see: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/METPBrochure.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/METPBrochure.pdf).

For more information contact: Catherine Christian at (612) 673-

6230, or by e-mail at [catherine.christian@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:catherine.christian@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

- o A variety of resources for individuals seeking employment can be found on the City's Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp.asp).

The Minneapolis Central Library also offers workshops on job searching, resume writing and other employment assistance. Information can be found at [www.hclib.org/pub/events/AllEventsAction.cfm](http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/AllEventsAction.cfm) and search for "employment."

## Digital television coming to a screen near you



The way we get our television programming is about to change for good. That means you may need to make some changes as well in order keep getting off-the-air TV channels.

At midnight on February 17, 2009, local television stations in the metro area and across the country will stop broadcasting in analog and will only offer programming in

digital. If you currently get your channels off the airwaves, you may need to get TV with a digital tuner or a decoder box for your old TV.

People with Comcast or satellite services like Dish Network and DirecTV will not need to do anything. These companies will keep providing their services for subscribers who don't have

digital tuners.

Digital TV is a new way of bringing television to your home that's more flexible and efficient than analog television. It allows for higher-quality images, sound, and more programming choices than your current analog does.

For more information, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/digitaltv.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/digitaltv.asp).



## Best Wishes to Joyce Krook

On November 7, 2008, the City Council passed an honorary Resolution honoring Joyce Krook's contribution to the City of Minneapolis through her 48 years of employment at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Allina in the Phillips Area.

Joyce, we thank you for your years of service, and wish for you many more years of health, success, and exciting fun.

## Snow Emergency Info

Snow Emergencies are called after significant snowfall and before 6 p.m. on any given day. During a Snow Emergency, special parking rules go into effect that allow City crews to plow streets and emergency vehicles

to travel safety. Vehicles in violation of these parking rules will be tagged and/or towed to the [Minneapolis Impound Lot](#).  
**For latest snow**

**emergency news, call: (612) 348-SNOW (7669) TTY: (612) 673-2116** Check out the City's website for more information

## Don't Forget the Sidewalks!

City ordinance requires that after a storm, you remove snow and ice from sidewalks.



## Minneapolis makes major improvements in construction-related services

Residents looking to do some major improvements on their homes will find it easier to work with the City than ever before. That's because the new Minneapolis Development Review has improved the way the city reviews and issues construction-related permits and licenses.

Processing times for Minneapolis Development Review have dropped 75 percent over the past two years. At the same time customer satisfaction has reached 93 percent, compared to 68 percent back in 2004.

Residents and developers are required to seek permits from the City whenever they want to start a construction project. Minneapolis Development Review

was created as the place they can turn to in order to get information and help on getting those needed permits.

Minneapolis Development Review has made more than 100 operational changes and improvements over the City's previous permitting system. For the first time, many City of Minneapolis development services are now located in one place rather than in separate buildings. The new space, located in the Minneapolis Public Service Center, is twice the size of the old space, and brings together services including Community Planning and Economic Development, construction code services plan review, environmental health, business licensing, housing, and inspections.

Being in close proximity to one another creates efficiency and means staff can more easily consult with one another. Customers are no longer forced to start the process in one building and trek to another to continue the development application process. The new model makes it much easier for customers to avoid confusion and take care of everything they need before moving ahead with their projects.

Because of the enhanced coordination between different City development functions, processing times have dropped by more than 75 percent. Three years ago, it took an average of 37 business days for the City of Minneapolis to complete formal plan routing for Preliminary Development Review. Today, that number is down to just nine business days.

For more information on the new MDR, visit its Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mdr/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mdr/)

City of Minneapolis  
Council Vice President  
Council Member Ward Six  
Robert Lilligren

350 S 5th Street  
Room 307 City Hall  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Phone: 612-673-2206  
Fax: 612-673-3940  
E-mail: robert.lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

**OFFICE STAFF**

Nimco Ahmed—Policy Aide  
E-mail: Nimco.ahmed@ci.minneapolis.mn.us  
Connie Kiser—Council Office Associate  
E-Mail: connie.kiser@ci.minneapolis.mn.us



Check out the City's Web  
site at  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## Your firewood may be home to an invasive species

With winter on its way, many residents are stocking up on firewood for the colder months. If you're planning to get some wood for your fireplace, be aware that there could be a destructive stowaway in your logs.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive pest that attacks ash trees, and can end up in the wood of these trees. The beetle has already killed more than 40 million ash trees nationwide, primarily in southeast Michigan. Minnesota has the potential to lose 867 million trees, because it has one of the nation's highest volumes of forestland ash on public property.

Although the emerald ash borer has not reached Minnesota yet, it has been discovered in Wisconsin. It is likely that bug will eventually reach Minnesota. However, residents can play a part in delaying and minimizing the damage to our trees.

Minneapolis' 200,000 ash trees make up 20 percent of all trees on public and private land in the city, which makes it especially important to take steps to protect against the emerald ash borer. Adult borers can't fly far, so the most likely way the beetle will reach Minnesota is by people moving ash logs, ash firewood or infested ash trees from nurseries. You can help slow the spread by:

Buying or harvesting your wood near the area where you are going to burn the wood. Avoid moving firewood from its area of origination; especially avoid bringing wood into Minnesota from out of state.

Asking firewood dealers about their wood. When buying firewood here in town, find out where it came from. Firewood dealers in Minneapolis are required to be licensed by the City, so ask to see the City license.

Watching your ash trees carefully. The earlier the emerald ash borer is found, the sooner it can be addressed. Residents should examine ash trees in their neighborhood for tree canopy thinning or small D-shaped exit holes left in the bark by the borer. If there is any suspicion that a tree is infested, residents can contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" hotline at (651) 201-6684 for the metro area or 1-888-545-6684 for greater Minnesota.

Borers kill 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 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 1/8 inch wide.

For more information on the emerald ash borer, visit [www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm)