



Ward One News

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Save the Date

Contact Kevin Reich
350 S. 5th Street
Room 307
Minneapolis, MN
55415

612-673-2201
kevin.reich@minneapolis.gov

Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

Since our historically cold winter has tested the resources of our City and, indeed, the entire state of Minnesota, I thought it would be helpful to pass along some reminders about our winter parking restrictions and snow and ice clearance from our roadways and sidewalks.

This is the second time in the past four winters that parking restrictions have been imposed to ensure that emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks can negotiate our narrowed streets. Until April 1, parking is banned on the even side of most streets. Exceptions are made for streets which already have posted "No Parking" on the odd side, for one reason or another. In those cases, you will see signage on the even side that states "Parking Allowed Except on Even Side Plow Days". If you see such signage, you are free to park on the even side of the street.

Record cold temperatures have made it difficult for Public Works crews to remove ice that has bonded to the pavements. With slightly higher temperatures finally here, crews have been tackling these pavements, as well as corners and catch basins.

Another persistent problem that's been encountered this winter relates to sidewalk clearing. It's essential that our network of sidewalks remain accessible to all, including the elderly, disabled, and people pushing strollers or using wheelchairs. Minneapolis ordinance requires that property owners clear sidewalks after the end of a snowfall within 24 hours for homes and duplexes and four daytime hours for apartment and commercial buildings.

The City, with input from our Pedestrian Advisory Committee, is looking at strategies for both increasing public awareness of the importance of clear sidewalks and for making enforcement more focused and timely. This is the second year of a pilot program in Ward 1 and Ward 10 that has tested the use of private contractors for clearing sidewalks. By the completion of this winter we hope to have sufficient data to move forward with new policy to assist in enforcement. The campaign to raise awareness is also underway; check out the City's video, which is available in four languages:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaiKJ_7mKIA&feature=youtu.be.

First Ward

Neighborhood Associations

[Audubon Neighborhood Association \(ANA\)](#)

[Columbia Park Neighborhood Association \(CPNA\)](#)

[Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association \(HNIA\)](#)

[Logan Park Neighborhood Association \(LPNA\)](#)

[Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace \(CCMT\)](#)

[Mid-City Industrial Neighborhood Association](#)

[Northeast Park Neighborhood Association \(NEPNA\)](#)

[Southeast Como Improvement Association \(SECIA\)](#)

[Waite Park Community Council \(WPCC\)](#)

[Windom Park Citizens in Action \(WPCiA\)](#)

Order a Tree for Your Minneapolis Property

Healthy trees look beautiful in your neighborhood, increase property values, help clean the air you breathe, absorb carbon dioxide, save on your energy bills with strategic planting, keep the city cooler in summer, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater. Starting March 17, the City of Minneapolis is offering more than 1,000 five-to eight-foot trees for only \$25 each.

Trees are available for Minneapolis property owners including residents, businesses and non-profits. You will be able to choose from several varieties and sizes of trees, including fruit trees. There is a limit of one tree per property, on a first-come first-served basis, so order early for best selection. Order your tree starting at 8 a.m., March 17, at www.treetrust.org. Trees must be picked up May 15, 17, 18, or 19.



Minneapolis Property Value Notices

Now is the time to review the assessed value of your property. Every year, the City of Minneapolis Assessor's Office sends out value notices for each property in the City. These notices go out from mid-February to mid-March. This year's notices reflect the assessed value of a property as of January 2, 2014, and are the values on which property taxes payable in 2015 will be based.

If you have concerns about how your property is valued, right now is the best time to take action. When your notice arrives, please review both the assessed value and the property details for accuracy. For a number of neighborhoods, real estate values are beginning to recover – even with varying levels of foreclosures, lender mediated short sales and distressed sales in the market in different areas – and assessed values may reflect those market changes. If you have concerns about your valuation, the Assessor's Office welcomes the opportunity to discuss those concerns with you. Calling early gives property owners and the assessor's staff more time to address taxpayer concerns and to set up onsite inspections if needed.

Talking with the appraiser who values your property is the best first step to take when you have concerns with your property tax assessment. You can review the relevant information used in your valuation, including the methods and calculations used to determine your property value, your property's characteristics and any changes during the past year, and sales in your area and local market trends. Staff will be happy to discuss options and potential further steps with you. **There is a limited period of time to review and potentially appeal your property valuation, so it's important to act now.** For more information about the assessment and appeals processes, you can also visit the City Assessor's website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor/>.

To discuss your value with an appraiser or inquire about a review, please refer to the phone number listed under "*Appealing the Value or Classification*" on the front page of your value notice. This number goes directly to the appraiser who values your property. This is the fastest and most efficient way to initiate the review process and work towards an amicable resolution.



Many 311 services are now available online or through mobile apps. Click [HERE](#) to find out how to report.

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our City. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-2201.

One Minneapolis Fund Grants Available

The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department seeks applications for grant funding from the One Minneapolis Fund. The program was created to promote socio-economic equity in Minneapolis by supporting diverse leadership development and community engagement in the city. A total of \$80,000 is available from the One Minneapolis Fund in 2014.

Community organizations may apply for up to \$15,000 in funding for projects. To be eligible for funding, the organization must be a non-governmental, non-profit organization serving residents of Minneapolis and may not be a recipient of funding from the City's Community Participation program. **Proposals are due by 4 p.m., April 7, 2014.** The request for proposals is available on the [NCR website](#). For further questions contact Howard Blin at 612-673-3163 or howard.blin@minneapolismn.gov.

Innovative Graffiti Prevention Micro Grants

The City of Minneapolis, Division of Solid Waste and Recycling has announced the availability of "micro grants" for innovative prevention of gang-related and other types of graffiti in 2014. The intent of the program is to assist communities and neighborhood-based organizations with community focused projects that have an emphasis on anti-graffiti education, graffiti prevention, and rapid abatement of graffiti in areas throughout the City that are frequently vandalized with graffiti.

Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2014. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@finance/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-121201.pdf> for further information.

2014 Metro Paint-A-Thon

This coming August Metro Paint-A-Thon will launch a weekend of volunteer painting of the homes of seniors and people with disabilities. The program helps homeowners remain living independently in their own homes and improves the housing stock of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability.
- Own and occupy a single-family home in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington county that needs the exterior painted, but doesn't need major repairs.
- Monthly household income cannot exceed 200% of federal poverty level.

Applications must be received by April 14, 2014. For more info or an application, call 612-276-1579.



2014 Community Connections Conference

Registration is now open for the 2nd Annual Community Connections Conference happening Saturday, March 22, 2014, from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The conference is free.

This conference is specifically designed for neighborhood organizations, cultural communities, nonprofit organizations, City departments and residents to share best practices of neighborhood engagement. This year's conference theme – Common Ground: A City That Works for All – aims to help attendees hone their organizational and communication skills, learn how to better work with and influence city government, and build broad-based efforts that involve all segments of our increasingly diverse spectrum of neighborhoods and community-at-large.

The conference includes a keynote address by Dr. Verna Cornelia Price, more than 35 workshops, and a post-conference social gathering. To register, please visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference. Contact Cheyenne Brodeen at 612-673-3737 or ncr@minneapolismn.gov for more information.

Save the Date Calendar:

Casual Conversations with Carla / Edison Tour

Tuesday, March 25, 6 p.m., Edison High School, 700 22nd Ave NE. Learn about Edison's rigorous academic programs, including IB, arts offerings, and community, local and national business partnerships. Meet administration, teachers, staff, and students. For further information or to RSVP, contact Pamela Vertina at 612-668-1310 or pamela.vertina@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Ash Canopy Replacement Plan Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Logan Park Rec Center. Minneapolis Park & Rec's Forestry Department will share details of plans to replace ash trees lost due to emerald ash borer (EAB) .

3rd Como Blueprint Public Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m., Van Cleve Multi Room. The SE Como neighborhood is undertaking the creation of a neighborhood plan. For more information about this initiative, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/comoblueprint/home>.

10th Annual Hotdish Revolution

Sunday, April 6., 4 – 7 p.m., St. Maron's/Cedars Hall, 602 University Avenue NE. Come to compete or come just to eat at this signature Northeast event sponsored by the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA).