



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3250  
Cell 612-296-0579

Email: [cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov)  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/)

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 4-24-13

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

### Items:

- 1) Transit for a Stronger Economy
- 2) Congratulations Peter Kelsey!
- 3) Polling Places in Seward
- 4) West River Parkway Repaving
- 5) East Seward Repaving Meeting
- 6) Memory Lanes Expansion of Premises
- 7) Municipal Power Study
- 8) Rental License Conditions
- 9) Honeybee Ordinance
- 10) Recreational Fire Ordinance
- 11) Flea Market Ordinance
- 12) Street Sweeping
- 13) Rain Garden Workshops
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) A "Transit for a Stronger Economy" bill I strongly support seems to be in trouble at the legislature. Still, there is hope that a bill with funding to increase bus service, support new Light Rail lines, Bus Rapid Transit and help create higher-amenity "Enhanced Bus" routes is possible. The bill is supported by over 50 organizations, including Transit for Livable Communities and the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee. It would use a small sale tax increase, like nearly all US regions, to fund transit. I urge you to contact your State Legislators and encourage them to support this incredible opportunity to provide stable, adequate funding for transit in Minneapolis. You can take action here:  
<http://www.mntransit.org/takeaction.asp?aaid=7102>.
- 2) Congratulations to New French Bakery owner Peter Kelsey on being named the US Small Business Administration's "Small Business Person of the Year" for the state of Minnesota. I am proud that we have such a successful, expanding, high-quality business in Seward, and that the City and neighborhood have been able to foster the extraordinary growth of New French.
- 3) City Elections staff are working on changes to polling places in Seward, in response to the issues some Seward voters faced during last year's presidential election. My understanding is that the SNG Community Development committee has recommended that the polling place for Precinct 6-2 be moved from Seward Square Apartments to Seward Tower East, and that Precinct 2-9 continue to vote at Seward Tower East but move into the Advantage Center. The only alternative for precinct 2-9 is the lobby of the Oren Gateway building at Augsburg College. It would be helpful to have a formal recommendation from SNG to share with Elections staff.
- 4) West River Parkway is being reconstructed from 4th St S to Franklin Ave. This includes the ramps leading to and from Franklin. Road closures are scheduled to start on April 29th and will go for approximately 5 weeks. Bike paths and pedestrian walkways will be open and accessible. For questions contact me or Tracy Lindgren at [tracy.lindgren@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:tracy.lindgren@minneapolismn.gov) from Public Works. You can also look for more information at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102050](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102050)
- 5) 31st Ave S will be resurfaced this spring between Franklin Ave and 28th St E along with streets in East Seward bounded on the north by 25th St E, 24th St E, on the northeast by Seabury Ave, on the south by the railroad line, and on the west by 28th and 29th Aves S. To learn more visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102062> and/or attend the community meeting 6:30 PM, Tuesday, May 7, Matthews Recreation Center, 2313 28th Ave S.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

[Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov)

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, 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.

- 6) Memory Lanes Memory Lanes has submitted an application for a permanent expansion of premises to add a volleyball court and patio to their business. I expect this to come before the Regulatory, Energy and Environment on May 13 at 1:30pm.
- 7) The Council has decided to dedicate significant funds (up to \$250,000) to study the issues related to our utility franchise and forming a municipal energy utility in Minneapolis. The funding will come from the existing City Coordinator budget and I believe will be an important next step to getting the information we need to make future decisions about energy options in Minneapolis.
- 8) The Council has amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose conditions on rental license holders with significant and documented violations of the housing code. We also approve a set of operating procedures that clarify when and how the conditions would be imposed. Owners of rental properties were already required to have rental licenses for each of their properties and the City has the authority to conduct inspections and issue fines or even revoke licenses if license holders do not meet rental housing standards. Now, when a rental property owner is in violation of a rental licensing standard/s, the City could also place specific operating conditions on the rental license. Property owners must adhere to these conditions in order for their rental license to remain in good standing. To learn more about the procedures and see examples of conditions see [www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf). You can find the amendment here [www.minneapolismn.gov/ www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf).
- 9) The City Council approved an ordinance on keeping honeybees that removes the requirement for signatures of 80% of neighbors for any hive that is one or more stories off the ground. When honeybees leave their hives, they tend to fly upwards and quickly disperse, so a hive on a rooftop is likely to have very little effect on near neighbors. Before this passed I successfully moved an amendment that changes the City's honeybee permitting process from an annual \$50 permit to a one-time City approval with a recurring free renewal.
- 10) I expect the hearing on the Recreational Fire ordinance amendment I am authoring to be held on **May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** at the Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee. I am proposing that we add an additional restriction to prohibit outdoor recreational fires during times of air quality alerts when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an Air Pollution Health Advisory for the Twin Cities Area.
- 11) The Council has passed an ordinance amendment that will allow and regulate Flea Markets in Minneapolis. It provides for the City to license (previously prohibited) temporary markets/flea markets for the sale of arts, crafts, antiques, and/or secondhand goods by any person, partnership, corporation or association to be sold at tables, stalls, or booths at a fixed location in Minneapolis. You can find the full ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105719.pdf>.
- 12) City crews have started cleaning all city streets and alleys. "No Parking" signs will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Folks can also use the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping) and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept. You can also view streetsweeping videos at [www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis)
- 13) You can sign up for a \$15 workshop that will tell you what you need to know to start your own rain garden and make your green garden even greener running from mid-April to mid-June. The City of Minneapolis sponsors Metro Blooms workshops as part of its effort to improve water quality in the city. More than 6,000 metro residents have attended Metro Blooms rain garden workshops since 2005 and installed more than 2,000 rain gardens. For more information and to register, go to [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) or call 651-699-2426.
- 14) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Public Housing Authority Board, Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings).