



# Ward One Update

DECEMBER 2011

Volume 2, Number 10

## In This Issue

- Council Member's message
- Snow Emergency Prep
- Sidewalk Shoveling
- Lights, Action... Hollywood!
- City Website Improvements
- National Night Out 2011 Award
- Give Local at the Holiday Train
- Save the Date Calendar

**Contact Kevin Reich**  
350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-673-2201  
[kevin.reich@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kevin.reich@minneapolismn.gov)

## Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

The City of Minneapolis is proposing a 0% property tax increase for 2012, which means that most homeowners in the First Ward will see property tax bills for next year that are either flat or lower than 2011's bills. This zero increase in the levy is in line with the proposed 2012 City budget of \$1.2 billion, which is reduced 0.8% from the 2011 budget of \$1.21 billion.

These budget and levy numbers necessitate some hard choices in terms of the City's General Fund. Three proposed reductions that have been especially concerning to me and many First Ward constituents are to the budgets for Crime Prevention Specialists, the Senior Ombudsman and MTN.

Crime Prevention Specialists fill a key position as a link between the community and the Police Department. The Senior Ombudsman provides essential advocacy for some of the most vulnerable in our City. MTN offers information access and education. As of now, the Council and the Police Department have identified funds to retain all Crime Prevention Specialist positions. Additionally, planning for a sustainable citywide CPS program, that secures Second Precinct numbers as well, is underway. The Senior Ombudsman position will also be preserved, while the cuts to MTN may be reduced to a certain extent.

I have received input on the budget from many of you by phone, letter, and email, as well as at the recent Town Hall meeting I convened jointly with Second Ward Council Member Cam Gordon. There will be a further opportunity for constituents and stakeholders to speak at the public hearing in Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 14, 6:05 p.m. I also encourage you to examine the full proposed 2012 budget, which is available online at

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1Q-068777>

## First Ward

### Neighborhood Associations

[Audubon Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Columbia Park Neighborhood Association](#)

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

[Logan Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace](#)

[Northeast Park Neighborhood Association](#)

[Southeast Como Improvement Association](#)

[Waite Park Community Council](#)

[Windom Park Citizens in Act](#)

---

## Snow Emergency Preparation

The City of Minneapolis offers residents, workers and visitors a number of tools to learn when Snow Emergencies are declared and what to do when they are. Drivers are advised to put several of these tools to use; the more ways people have to learn about a Snow Emergency, the less likely it is that they will be towed.

- **Call 612-348-SNOW** to learn if a Snow Emergency has been declared. The hotline will include information on parking restrictions that drivers need to follow to avoid tickets and tows. The hotline includes information in Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
- **Check the City website** at [www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/). You'll also find a street lookup for specific parking information for an address or a neighborhood.
- **Sign up for a phone alert** at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow\\_phone-alert](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_phone-alert). Minneapolis uses a phone alert system to notify residents when Snow Emergencies are declared.
- **Sign up for an automatic email alert** at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow\\_esubscribe](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_esubscribe).
- **Facebook and Twitter.** Go to [www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency](http://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency) and become a fan. If you have a Twitter account, just follow the City of Minneapolis.

This winter City of Minneapolis is adding another tool to assist people in avoiding tickets and tows. Throughout the winter, a dozen digital billboards around town will alert drivers when a Snow Emergency is declared, thanks to a partnership between the City and Clear Channel Outdoor. During those times when a Snow Emergency is not in effect, the ads will encourage people to sign up for Snow Emergency alerts.

---

## Sidewalk Shoveling

Sidewalks are a critical part of our City's transportation system, which is why it's essential for homeowners and businesses to keep them shoveled in winter. Minneapolis ordinance requires that property owners clear sidewalks at homes and duplexes within 24 hours after a snowfall. Property owners of apartment and commercial buildings must clear the sidewalks within four daytime hours of a snowfall. The City offers free sand for residents to use on their sidewalks. Sand can be picked up at 1809 Washington Ave NE (at 18<sup>th</sup> & Jefferson) 24 hours a day. Please bring your own container and shovel. To report snow and ice on a sidewalk, go to

[http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sidewalks/sidewalks\\_snow](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sidewalks/sidewalks_snow) or call 311. Also, if you are aware of a neighbor who has difficulty shoveling due to age or disability and you aren't able to help them out yourself, please notify the First Ward Office so that we can help arrange for services.



Need to report a broken street light? Is there a stray dog roaming your neighborhood? Do you just want a question about the City of Minneapolis answered? Minneapolis 311 is the most efficient option for taking care of these and many other issues.

Operators will be available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. However, you will find many 311 services and information sources online by clicking [HERE](#). Also, the Ward One office staff is 311-trained, so you may always call our office at 612-673-2201 for assistance.

---

## Lights, Action... Hollywood!

The long-empty Hollywood Theater has suddenly become a very happening place for artistic endeavors of all kinds. Since last summer the historic movie theater has hosted two live theater productions: Theatre Pro Rata's *Waiting for Godot* and Savage Umbrella's *The Ravagers*. In addition, "Golden Hour", a Minnesota-made short film that will debut in 2012, features footage shot in the Hollywood in October. The theater was also recently the site for a photo shoot for Vanity's Winter 2011 collection. The photos were shot by Minneapolis-based photographer Lee Sandford. Go to [www.evanity.com](http://www.evanity.com) to see more pictures from the Hollywood. For more information about happenings at the Hollywood, check out their Facebook page.



---

## City Website Improvements

The City's public website is getting a major facelift that will make it easier to navigate for both visitors and City staff. Monday, December 19 is the tentative launch date for the new site, when visitors to [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov) will see a more dynamic website with a design that's easier to navigate. Some highlights of the new design include:

- Minneapolismn.gov is now more accessible for people with disabilities and those who speak other languages. The new site complies with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines, utilizes Google Translate, and allows for adjustable text size for people with low vision.
- Increased presence of 311, City Council and Mayor's office on the homepage. Better promotion of City jobs, Minneapolis 79, social media, email subscriptions and language resources.
- More options to highlight popular content and special programs.
- A list of all departments at the top of every web page.
- New menu at the top of each page with drop down navigation and more options to choose from.

---

## National Night Out 2011 Award

The National Association of Town Watch has recognized the City of Minneapolis for our National Night Out 2011. Minneapolis placed **First in the Nation** among cities with populations over 300,000. Nearly 60,500 people participated in Minneapolis' National Night Out 2011. Minneapolis has placed first in the nation 10 times since 1989 and taken second place 7 times.



Many of us are trying to cut back on paper bag use by taking our

own bags to the grocery store. If you find that that practice leaves you short of paper bags for separating your recycling, the City of Minneapolis has an alternative for you. You may use wastebaskets, pails or corrugated boxes for separated paper, plastic or cans. *These alternative containers should be 10 gallons or less and there must be a city recycling sticker on at least one side of the container.*

**The Ward One office has a supply of recycling stickers, so if you need some, just give us a call at 612-673-2201. We would be happy to mail or drop them off for you.**

## Meet with your Council Member

If you would like to discuss an issue or concern with Kevin, he'd be happy to meet with you at either City Hall or a convenient location in Ward One. Please call the Ward One office at 612-673-2201 or email [lisa.brock@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:lisa.brock@minneapolismn.gov) to schedule a date.

---

## Give Local at the Holiday Train

Canadian Pacific Railway and the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the 2011 Holiday Train event in Northeast Minneapolis to support the food shelves at East Side Neighborhood Services. The Canadian Pacific Railway Holiday Train is celebrating its 12<sup>th</sup> year of raising awareness of hunger relief by touring over 130 communities across the U.S. The 2011 Train event, which is the only stop of the Holiday Train in Minneapolis, will be held Sunday, December 11, 7-9 p.m., at Shoreham Yards, 2800 Central Avenue NE.

This event brings the community together for a night of free live musical entertainment, kids' activities, horse-drawn carriage rides and refreshments. Attendees have the opportunity to donate cash or food to support the East Side Neighborhood food shelf program, which benefits residents of Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis. For further information about the Holiday Train, call 612-781-6011 or go to [www.esns.org](http://www.esns.org).

---

## Save The Date Calendar:

### Holiday Train

Sunday, Dec. 11, 7-9 p.m., Shoreham Yards, 2800 Central Ave NE.

### Public Budget Hearing & Budget Adoption

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:05 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 350 S. Fifth St.

### "Smokey Joe's Café"

Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Friday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Edison High School Theater, 700 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NE. Musical revue featuring the songs of Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller.

### Presidents' Bike Blvd Community Meeting

Thurs, Dec. 15, 6-7 p.m., Audubon Park Rec Center, 1320 29<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Discussion of proposed median at Lowry Avenue and Polk Street.

### SD 59 Special Election

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. For questions about polling place locations, go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/where-to-vote.asp>.

### "A Backstop Named Innovation"

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., Ritz Theatre, 345 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE. Special screening of the documentary film made by John Akre of MTN about the transformation of Jackson Square Park. Panel discussion to follow.

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please click [HERE](#) to unsubscribe.