



# Fourth Ward Report

**Council President Barbara Johnson**  
**Minneapolis City Council**

April, 2012

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### Minneapolis 311

Dial 311 from any phone in the City limits. Outside of the City call: 612-673-3000

E-mail 311:  
[minneapolis311@minneapolis.gov](mailto:minneapolis311@minneapolis.gov)

311 Online Services:  
<http://www.minneapolis.gov/311/>

### 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Group Links

Cleveland  
Folwell  
Lind Bohanon  
Jordan  
Shingle Creek  
Victory  
Webber Camden

## Compostable Bags or Reusable Containers Now Required for Yard Waste Pickup



Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customers getting ready to take care of their yards this year need to know which bags to use for yard waste. **Starting on garbage day in the week of April 9 – the beginning of this year's yard waste collection season – bagged yard waste put out for collection must be in compostable bags – either paper bags or compostable plastic bags – or reusable containers.**

**A four-week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags filled from last season.** An educational/instruction tag will be left by collection crews during this four-week transition period. Through trash day the week of April 30, leaves in non-compostable plastic bags from last year will be collected. Due to the extra work and expense this requires, however, the City requests that if you still have empty non-compostable plastic bags, please do not fill them. **After the week of April 30, yard waste in plastic bags will be left and tagged for resident re-packaging.** Using paper and compostable plastic bags rather than conventional lawn and garden plastic bags will reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities. Screening out plastic from the finished compost means lower processing costs and better quality of the finished compost. The compostable bag requirement is a state law.

Compostable plastic bags are distinct from conventional lawn and garden plastic bags because they are usually clear or a translucent shade of green, pink or white. Most home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores now carry them. Anyone who prefers not to purchase these compostable bags may place unbagged yard waste in a reusable container with sturdy handles. Other options include dropping off yard waste at a compost facility and taking the bag back home, or composting yard waste at home and using the nutrient-rich compost for gardens and lawns.

Minneapolis solid waste customers can set bags of yard waste, bundles of brush and reusable yard waste containers next to their garbage cart by 6 a.m. on their garbage pickup day. Branches and leaves must be tied with string or twine, bagged in a compostable bag or placed loose in a reusable container. Compostable bags and reusable containers must be 33 gallons or less and weigh less than 40 pounds. Branches must be less than three inches each in diameter and less than three feet long. Bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.

For questions about leaf and brush pickup, call 612-673-2917 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit [www.minneapolis.gov/solid-waste/recycling/index.htm](http://www.minneapolis.gov/solid-waste/recycling/index.htm).

## Contact Us

**Phone:** 612-673-2204

**[E-mail Contact Link](#)**

### Mail:

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<http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/council/ward4/>

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## City-wide street sweeping begins April 10

Weather permitting; an annual rite of spring in Minneapolis begins Tuesday, April 10. That's when Public Works crews are set to begin a comprehensive sweeping of all city streets to clean up all the dirt and grime the melting ice and snow left behind on our streets. Street sweepings of parkways and alleys are already taking place, along with some downtown night sweeping. **Drivers should watch for temporary "no parking" signs along these roadways to avoid a ticket and tow.**

From now through the week of April 30, sweepers will take care of all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. "No Parking" signs – Now on the parkways and starting April 10 on City streets, crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Drivers should not park along these streets until these temporary "No Parking" signs are removed.

You can use this **[tool on the City's Web site](#)** to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. 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. If you have any questions, please call 311.

## New Program to Help Small Businesses

Mayor R.T. Rybak and the Minneapolis City Council recently approved the Technical Assistance Program designed to assist small businesses with business planning, one-on-one training on topics such as accounting, legal and tax issues, marketing, and enrollment in classes for entrepreneurs.



The City has offered technical assistance in the past through its Great Streets program and through various City finance programs. The program's funding of \$500,000 is being redirected and pooled under one program that can be used city-wide. Funding up to \$200,000 will be used to target small businesses categorized as "microenterprises" that are owned or established by low and moderate income individuals and employ five or fewer employees. There are no geographical boundaries of eligibility. Programming will administered by technical assistance service providers.

"Technical assistance is a crucial component of growing and maintaining new and existing businesses and fostering entrepreneurship, which, in turn, creates jobs and thriving business districts," said Cathy Polasky, City of Minneapolis Director of Economic Policy and Development.

The City's **[call for proposals](#)** from technical assistance service providers to administer the program is issued today. The City is seeking proposals from local non-profit organizations that provide technical assistance services to small businesses and microenterprises located in Minneapolis.



## Biking in Minneapolis

New Videos Help Road Users Understand Bicycle Markings  
Over the past two years, Minneapolis has doubled the miles of on-street bikeways. Whether you are driving a car or riding a bike, it is important that all road users know what all the new markings mean. Two new videos produced by the City of Minneapolis will help bicyclists and motorists better understand how to safely coexist on city streets. Check out the videos below and visit the [Understanding New Bicycling Markings](#) page for more information.

- [Bike Lanes Video](#)
- [Shared Lanes Video](#)
- [More information about bicycling in Minneapolis](#)

## Breakfast with Barb

Please join me on: Tuesday, April 17  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  
Lowry Café, 2207 Lowry Ave. N.



My guest will be Inspector Mike Martin, Minneapolis Police-Fourth Precinct. We will be discussing public safety issues in the 4th Ward. Come join the discussion and enjoy a great breakfast. Most breakfast items are under \$9.



## Top 5 Fourth Ward Service Requests to Minneapolis 311

*Minneapolis 311 is a simple, three-digit number residents, businesses and visitors can call to reach the City to inquire about services, report problems, check the status of issues, or get information.*

**March, 2012**

Rank	Department Name	Service Request Type	Number of Service Requests
1	Regulatory Services	Exterior Nuisance Complaint	113
2	Regulatory Services	Residential Conditions Complaint	90
3	Regulatory Services	Animal Complaint - Livability	60
4	Regulatory Services	Animal Complaint - Public Health	36
5	PW Solid Waste & Recycling	Graffiti complaint / reporting	36