



Ward One Update

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

This month Ward One will be welcoming a new neighbor – the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO). Their new headquarters, located at 2522 Marshall Street NE in the Marshall Terrace neighborhood, will open to the public in late January or early February.

The MWMO is charged with the mission of fostering stewardship of the Mississippi River as it runs through Minneapolis, as well as the land that drains to the river. That land includes all of Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis, as well as portions of the cities of Lauderdale, St. Anthony and St. Paul. The work of the MWMO ranges from educational programs for students, residents and businesses to regular monitoring for water quality and emergency response to immediate threats to water resources in the watershed.

This new headquarters, located on the banks of the Mississippi, will serve as a palpable demonstration of many of MWMO's principles of best management practices for supporting water resources and treating stormwater. Some of the features of the headquarters will include rain gardens, bio-swales and porous pavers. A ramp will allow visitors access to the river itself. A cistern will collect up to 4,000 gallons of rain water for reuse during dry spells. The first floor of the headquarters will feature interactive exhibits, classrooms and other educational resources for students and the general public.

The more opportunities I've had to see the work of this organization up close, the more impressed I have been with their dedication to their mission. This new headquarters on the banks of the Mississippi in Northeast Minneapolis can only serve to strengthen the ties between the river and our East Side community. I hope you'll join me in welcoming MWMO to the neighborhood and stop in at their new headquarters to learn more about their work.

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 Action](#)

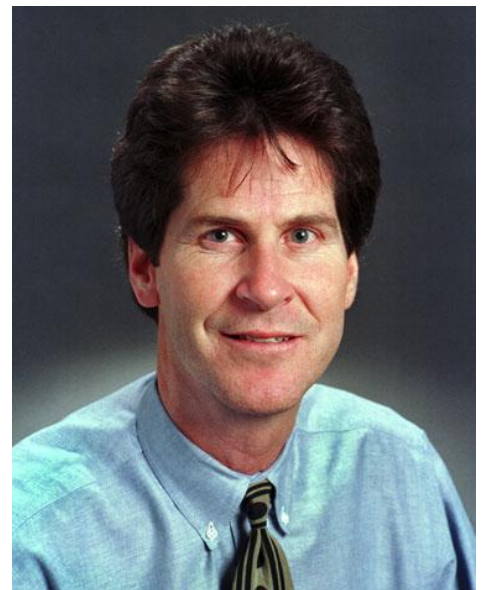
2012 Utility Bill Changes

Volume rates for water and sewer are typically increased in January of each year. Beginning in January 2012, however, the City of Minneapolis will be changing the way water and sewer service are billed. Volume rates will stay the same, but a fixed rate component will be added instead. The reasoning for this change is that providing water service involves many fixed costs beyond the cost of the water itself. The City must maintain the water distribution system and sewer lines that service all homes and businesses at all times and a decrease in water usage does not decrease the costs to operate these systems. During times when citywide water usage is low, there is less money available to maintain and operate these critical systems. For example, the difference in water usage between a wet year like 2010 and a dry year like 2006 equates to roughly a \$9 million difference in water revenue. Adding fixed rate fees, rather than increasing the volume rates, will allow the City to manage water and sewer services more effectively.

Farewell to Senator Larry Pogemiller

It's hard to imagine the Minnesota Legislature without the presence of Larry Pogemiller. Since his election to the House in 1980, he represented East Side Minneapolis for more than three decades, until Governor Dayton appointed him as the new Director of the Office of Higher Education in October of 2011.

Senator Pogemiller graduated from De La Salle High School in 1969. He received a B.S. in Transportation Engineering at the University of Minnesota and then attended the U's Graduate School of Economics, before obtaining an M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard's JFK School of Government. In first the House and then the Senate, he showed strong support for education, the arts, the environment, and children's and family issues. His committee assignments included 8 years chairing the K-12 Education Conference Committee, 3 years co-chairing the Senate Committee on Children, Families and Learning, and 4 years chairing the Senate Tax Committee. He served as Senate Majority Leader from 2006 to 2010.



Thanks, Larry, for your many years of service and your future work in the Office of Higher Education.



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.

311 operators are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. You will also find many 311 services and information sources online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311. In addition, the Ward One office staff is 311-trained, so you may always call our office at 612-673-2201 for assistance.


Radon Action Month

January is Radon Action Month and the City of Minneapolis is offering low-cost radon test kits to residents. Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and can enter homes primarily through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and more than 21,000 deaths are attributed to radon each year.


Testing your home is the only way to know if it has an elevated level of radon, which can cause lung cancer. Radon detection kits are available for purchase for \$9 each at the City of Minneapolis Development Review, 250 S. Fourth St., Room 300. Minneapolis Development Review's hours of operation are: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Testing takes three to seven days. For more information on testing, mitigation and radon-resistant new construction measures, visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#) or call the MDH Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601.

“A Backstop Named Innovation” Screening


Join your friends and neighbors for the screening of “A Backstop Named Innovation” on Tuesday, January 17, at 7 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre. This 30 minute documentary produced by MTN’s John Akre follows the transformation of Jackson Square from an under-utilized and neglected park into a nexus for public art and community connections. The video, which started out as a 7 minute segment on the MTN television program, Minneapolis Neighborhood News, grew to a 30 minute documentary as producer John Akre got deeper into the project. Through interviews and action shots, Akre captures the scope of the process through which a community and a school came together to create a cultural centerpiece.



“A Backstop Named Innovation”
A documentary by John Akre
Tuesday, January 17th, 7 pm
at the Ritz Theatre
\$10 suggested donation



This documentary captures the transformation of Jackson Square Park's chain link fence into a softball field that is also a monumental work of public art. Northeast resident John Akre followed sculptor James Brenner's work on the Holland Neighborhood project for two years. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion. For more information, visit mtn.org. The Ritz Theater is located at 345 13th Ave NE in Minneapolis.



The screening of the documentary will be followed by a panel discussion whose participants include Council Member Kevin Reich, sculptor James Brenner, Edison High School Assistant Principal Jerry Pederson, community member Larry Pinkney and documentary producer John Akre.



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 to schedule a date.

1st Annual Community Connections Conference

The City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department is hosting the first-ever Community Connections Conference, "Building Better Communities Through Neighborhoods", on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the St. Mary's University Event Center, 2540 Park Avenue South. This conference is specifically designed for neighborhood organizations, cultural communities, nonprofit organizations, City departments and residents to share best practices of neighborhood engagement. In addition, the conference will introduce people to new and innovative ideas for working within communities and neighborhoods. For more information or to register for the conference, go to: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>.

Save The Date:

Logan Park Community Sing, - Saturday, Jan. 14, noon-3 p.m., Logan Park, 690 13th Ave NE. All ages and abilities invited for singing led by song leaders from Minnesota Community Sings. Soup lunch will be provided at 1:30 p.m. by Eastside Food Co-op. Call 612-370-4927 for further details.

Edison High School Family Tour – Wednesday, Jan. 18, 9:30-11 a.m., 700 22nd Ave NE. Prospective students and their families are invited to learn what it means to be a "Tommie". Meet the principal and faculty, learn more about Edison's rigorous academic curriculum, arts programming and leadership opportunities. Call Pamela Vertina at 612-668-1310 to make a reservation.

4th Annual Winter Warm Up – Friday, Jan. 20, 7-10 p.m., Grace Center, 1500 6th St. NE. This benefit to support the Northeast Middle School Theater program will include live music, food, beverages, a silent auction and prizes. \$25 admission.

4th Annual "We Love Our Presidents" Walk – Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. Starting at Edison High School, 700 22nd Ave NE, participants will walk to Central, then north to 29th Ave, then east to Northeast Middle School for a hot lunch and special program. For more information or to volunteer for the event, contact David Warnest at 612-668-1515 or david.warnest@mpls.k12.mn.us.

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