



Ward One Update

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

I am pleased to announce that a couple of significant ordinance amendments that I sponsored were confirmed by the full Council on March 8:

The first was a specific step to support the creative economy in NE and bring life to some underutilized buildings. The amendment I initiated designates film, video and audio production as permitted uses in all Commercial Districts. Previously these were only allowed as conditional uses in some Commercial Districts. Since these activities already must occur in a completely enclosed building with soundproofing, it's needlessly burdensome to further limit them to only certain Commercial Districts. This change removes an unnecessary layer of regulation inhibiting the growth of film, video and audio enterprise and also offers more flexibility to utilize commercial property that might otherwise languish vacant. We will see benefits of this change in Ward One, as film, video and audio producers are attracted to our unique blend of commercial and industrial properties, as well as to the vibrancy of our community and our proximity to the Arts District.

The second amendment addresses concerns around residential construction pollution, with changes to Title 3, Chapter 46 of the Code of Ordinances, relating to the handling of asbestos. Over the past couple of years I have received calls from constituents concerned about exterior work being done on their block or in their neighborhood. When I looked into their concerns, I discovered that while the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulates the removal of *interior* asbestos-containing materials, they do not investigate the removal, handling or disposal of *exterior* asbestos shingles. This gap in regulation can cause significant public health issues when asbestos particles become airborne due to improper removal techniques. The amendment I sponsored closes this gap in the City of Minneapolis by requiring proper removal techniques to prevent shingles becoming friable and requiring a landfill disposal receipt from an appropriate waste site, so that these materials don't enter the waste stream improperly.

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](#)

Changes in City Yard Waste Collections

Beginning the week of **April 9** – the start of this year’s yard waste collection season – bagged yard waste put out for collection must be in compostable bags or reusable containers. A four week grace period will allow a transition for folks who have plastic leaf bags filled from last season, with non-compostable plastic bags being collected through the week of **April 30**. After that time, yard waste in plastic bags will be left and tagged for resident re-packaging. The compostable bag requirement is a state law. Anyone who prefers not to purchase compostable bags may place unbagged yard waste in a reusable container with sturdy handles. Reusable containers must be 33 gallons or less and weigh less than 40 pounds. Other options include dropping off yard waste at a compost facility and taking the bags back home, or composting yard waste at home. For further questions about leaf and yard waste pickup, call 612-673-2917 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling/index.htm.

Raingarden Workshops

Plan a garden that beautifies your yard and helps keep our water clean. **Metro Blooms** is offering a two-part workshop series, taught by landscape design specialists. These eco-friendly gardening workshops will teach participants how to use native plants, limit fertilizer and pesticide use, and capture rainwater for reuse. Cost for the series is \$10. The workshops in the First Ward will take place at Waite Park Recreation Center, 1810 34th Ave NE, on **April 17 & 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** To register, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 612-698-1390. Don’t wait, these popular workshops fill up fast.

Spring Street Sweeping

Each spring and fall, Public Works crews sweep every mile of the City’s more than 1,100 miles of streets curb to curb to help keep our neighborhoods clean and livable and to protect our waterways. Leaves and other debris on the streets can clog storm drains and pollute our lakes and rivers. This spring’s comprehensive street sweeping is scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 10. Parkways and some downtown sweeping at night will start on March 26. Street sweeping takes approximately five weeks to complete. Here are some guidelines to ensure your street gets cleaned and your vehicle doesn’t get ticketed or towed:

- Watch for temporary “No Parking” signs. Signs will be posted at least 24 hours before sweeping any street.
- Click [HERE](#) for the Street Sweeping Schedule Lookup. The schedule is updated frequently during the sweep to reflect the actual progress of street sweeping.



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.

Ward One Company Puts Spotlight on Jobs

The unemployment rate in the City of Minneapolis has declined to its lowest number since October 2008, thanks to companies that are creating jobs in our city. One such firm is Open Access Technology International Inc. (OATI), a new business in the Columbia Park neighborhood. OATI was the site of a recent press conference to highlight positive employment and construction trends in the City of Minneapolis. (OATI VP Ron Larson pictured above).



Ward One Positioned to be a Leader in Job Growth

While OATI demonstrates a local example of job creation, the City of Minneapolis' involvement with *Greater MSP* offers a regional approach to increased economic vitality. *Greater MSP* is a private-public partnership dedicated to driving the region's long-term vision for job growth and capital investment. Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP, and Gene Goddard, Director of Business Investment, (pictured above) travel the country and the world touting the benefits of business expansion and relocation in the Greater Minneapolis St. Paul region.

Capacity for Expansion

OATI moved its headquarters from Plymouth to a new campus in the Columbia Park neighborhood in 2011, bringing 300 jobs into the City. OATI provides software applications utilized by over 700 customers ranging from Mexico to Canada to manage the energy grid. This high-tech infrastructure firm foresees doubling the workforce at its Northeast Minneapolis campus in the next few years. The City of Minneapolis has been working closely with OATI first in the re-location phase and now in the expansion support phase.

Public Health Advisory Committee

City of Minneapolis' Public Health Advisory Committee has an opening for a Ward 1 representative. The role of the committee is to advise the City Council and the Department of Health & Family Support on policy matters affecting the health of Minneapolis residents, and to serve as liaisons between the City and the community in addressing health concerns. For additional information and application materials, please click [HERE](#). Applications will be reviewed beginning April 13; however, the positions are open until filled.



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.

Urban Agriculture Developments

Major progress was made on supporting urban agriculture in the City of Minneapolis when the Council passed several Urban Agriculture Zoning Code text amendments on March 30. Under the new code, barriers that make it difficult to establish land uses for agriculture in the city have been removed. Urban agricultural land uses are now expanded in all zoning districts to include:

- Small market gardens, 10,000 square feet or less of growing area on the ground, on a rooftop, or inside a building.
- Larger market gardens, on the ground, on a rooftop, or inside a building. Conditional use permit required; must be compatible with surrounding properties.
- Urban Farms, limited to industrial districts and the general commercial district (C4 district), allowing produce to be grown, processed and distributed on the same lot.

These changes will allow commercial growing on a small scale in low-density residential neighborhoods and on a larger scale in industrial and commercial districts, and will allow for aquaponics and aquaculture. Market gardeners will be able to set directly to the public 15 days per year. They will not be limited to one sale day per week, but will be required to post contact information on their farm stand and notify neighbors at the beginning of the season. Among other compromises struck in this policy, hoop houses at a height of 6 ½ feet will be allowed on parcels with 1-4 unit residential buildings. Elsewhere, including community gardens, market gardens, and urban farms, hoop houses will be allowed at a height up to 12 feet.

These policy changes are the end result of a long planning process stemming from the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative. The Council formally adopted an Urban Agriculture Policy Plan in 2011. The Urban Agriculture zoning code amendments approved on March 30 provide a framework for implementation of the policy plan. The adoption of these amendments represents major progress for food security and the local food movement in the City of Minneapolis which in turn offer benefits for all in terms of the health and economic vitality of our city.

Rain Barrels & Compost Bins

Each spring the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) offers area residents inexpensive compost bins and rain barrels. Products are available for pre-purchase online and then pick up in person at one of the event locations available. To check out sale event dates, times and locations, as well as to pre-order, visit RAM's website:

<http://www.recycleminnesota.org/programs/sale-events.html>.

Artistic Utility Boxes

Utility boxes painted and wrapped with artistic designs have become popular across the United States. Hennepin Theater Trust, the Kingfield neighborhood, Corcoran neighborhood and the Native American Community Development Institute have all developed utility box projects in Minneapolis.

For 2012 the City of Minneapolis is soliciting the interest of neighborhoods in a utility box program that would use preapproved artist designs to wrap utility boxes. The designs would be commissioned by the City, working with a neighborhood-based Steering Committee, and neighborhoods would pay a pro-rated fee to have specific boxes wrapped. This process would be more low-cost and could meet the needs of neighborhoods preferring not to organize their own projects. If your neighborhood would be interested, contact Mary Altman at 612-673-3006 or mary.altman@minneapolismn.gov for further information.

Informational Biking Videos

Over the past two years, Minneapolis has doubled the miles of on-street bikeways. Much of that increase has occurred in Ward One, with the recent completion of the 18th Avenue NE Trail, the 22nd Avenue bike boulevard and the 5th Street NE and SE bike boulevard. That means that many new signs and markings have cropped up in Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis. Whether you are driving a car or riding a bike, it's 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. Click [HERE](#) to check out these informative videos.

Save The Date Calendar:

NE Network : "State of the Arts - The Theaters and Artists of Northeast

Thursday, April 12, 7:30-8:45 a.m., Eastside Co-op's Community Room, 2551 Central Ave NE. Panel discussion will focus on the state of the arts, artists and local theaters in Northeast Minneapolis. Guest speakers will include Max Athorn (Edison Theater Teacher), Chuck Dibble (Director, Morris Park Players), Robert Haarman (Artists Well), Sue Fust (Board President, Morris Park Players). NEMAA will also provide an update on Art-A-Whirl.

“This Old Mouse”, An Electronic Found-Art Showcase

Saturday, April 21 – Saturday, April 28, Tarnish & Gold Gallery, 349 13th Ave NE. OceanTech, a Ward One electronic reuse and recycling firm, has given local artists access to their recycling warehouse to create their own inspired works of art. Final creations will be on display at Tarnish & Gold Gallery on Fridays and Saturdays noon-6 p.m. or by appointment. The opening reception is Saturday, April 21, 6-10 p.m. A “Meet, Greet & Win” event on Thursday, April 26, 5:30-7 p.m. will offer information about environmentally responsible recycling. For further information, contact Jakob Speich at 612-216-1107 or jakob@oceantechonline.com.

Marcy Arts Gala

Saturday, April 21, 6-11 p.m., The Soap Factory, 514 2nd St SE. Enjoy fine food, live music from the Brass Messengers, and silent and live auctions while raising funds for the Marcy Arts Partnership’s artist-in-residence program at Marcy Open School. For more information and to reserve a ticket in advance, click [HERE](#).

Holland Neighborhood’s 8th Annual Hotdish Revolution

Sunday, April 22, 4-7 p.m., Edison High School Gym, 700 22nd Ave NE. This signature Holland neighborhood event promises to be bigger and better than ever this year. Come to compete or come just to eat! Categories include Spicy, Vegetarian, Tater Tot, Fins and Feathers (Tuna and Poultry), “I Made It” (kids under 15), the catch-all “Darn Good”, and Jell-O. Doors open at 4 p.m., registration for Hotdish and Jell-O entries will be open until 4:30 p.m., with judging 4:30-5 p.m. For further information, go to <http://www.hnia.org/>.

4th Annual Spring WingDing

Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Audubon Park, 29th Ave and Buchanan St NE. This event is a cooperative venture between the Audubon Park Neighborhood Association and Northeast Middle School (NEMS). Planned events include carnival games, a “bird tour” sponsored by the Audubon Society, a workshop by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) on environmentally-friendly housecleaners, NEMS and Northeast Urban 4-H club activities, music and food.

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