



Ward One News

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

While the 2012 election is over, our examination of the process is not. Minneapolis' 81% voter turnout was the highest percentage for the city since 1943 and higher than the State of Minnesota's overall turnout. These are numbers to be proud of, but that good news is tempered by significant issues at a small percentage of our polling places, including long lines, signage issues, parking shortages and equipment failures. These types of issues are a serious matter, since access to voting is key to a vital democratic process. The City Clerk and City of Minneapolis Elections Division reported to the Council's Elections Committee on December 3 on problems that arose last November, as well as planned next steps to address those problems. That report is linked [HERE](#).

The only precinct in the First Ward identified as having experienced a high level of issues was 1:1, a precinct that saw changes due to redistricting. I received reports from voters of long lines, extended wait times and a lack of parking. Elections staff will be assessing these reports, doing site visits to the polling place and making any alterations to parking and voter processing necessary to ensure that this location operates effectively. I would appreciate receiving further input from voters who were affected by these issues. In 2010 my office worked with community members in the 1:7 to move their polling place from the Elections Warehouse to Van Cleve Park. The move significantly improved the voting process for this precinct and I appreciated the neighborhood input that brought the issue to my attention.

A related issue of access has been brought to my attention here at City Hall. Our City Council offices in Room 307 of City Hall do not make sufficient accommodation for the sight-impaired in terms of braille signage. Since access to elected officials is another element of an effective democracy, I take this deficiency in signage very seriously and have committed to the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, who first brought this to my attention, to remedy the situation. My office is working with Neighborhood & Community Relations to get the appropriate signage installed in the very near future.

First Ward

Neighborhood Associations

[Audubon Neighborhood Association \(ANA\)](#)

[Columbia Park Neighborhood Association \(CPNA\)](#)

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

[Logan Park Neighborhood Association \(LPNA\)](#)

[Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace \(CCMT\)](#)

[Mid-City Industrial Neighborhood Association](#)

[Northeast Park Neighborhood Association \(NEPNA\)](#)

[Southeast Como Improvement Association \(SECIA\)](#)

[Waite Park Community Council \(WPCC\)](#)

[Windom Park Citizens in Action \(WPCIA\)](#)



Many 311 services are now available online or through mobile apps. Click [HERE](#) to find out how to report:

- Graffiti
- Pothole
- Abandoned car
- Broken streetlight
- Environmental violation
- Water service issue
- Sidewalk issue
- Housing code violation
- Traffic Signal issues

Nicollet-Central Transit Open House

An open house is scheduled for **Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, in the **MPHA Parker Skyview Community Room, 1815 Central Avenue NE** to provide an update on the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study. This open house will give the public the opportunity to learn about modern streetcar and enhanced bus options being considered on the Nicollet-Central Corridor, and share their ideas on improving transit service. The results of the study's initial screening of transit alternatives and an overview of the next phase of the study will be presented. For more information, visit the project website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nicollet-central/>.

MACC Adoption Event

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) is sponsoring "Share The Love", a pet adoption initiative, throughout the month of February. Go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals/index.htm> to find and print a coupon good for \$10 off the cost of adoption through February 28.

MACC is a full service shelter and adopted 1,408 animals to good homes in 2012. The public is welcome to tour the facility, interact with the animals and explore potential adoption. The facility is located at 212 17th Ave N. and hours are 3-7 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday. The adoption fee, prior to coupon, is \$90 plus tax for dogs and puppies and \$60 plus tax for kittens and cats. Minneapolis residents must license their pet at the time of adoption. The animal must be spayed or neutered within 30 days of adoption for adult animals (longer for puppies/kittens). Dogs are vaccinated for distemper and parvo-virus; cats are vaccinated for feline distemper. For further information, contact 311.

I-35W North Corridor Study Open House

The I-35W North Managed Lanes Corridor Study is intended to identify a managed lane concept and improvement strategies along the corridor from downtown Minneapolis to Forest Lake, and determine how improvements could be strategically implemented over time. The study began in November 2011 and is expected to conclude in April 2013. MN DOT is hosting public open houses in February to offer information about the project background, goals and objectives, as well as the alternatives evaluation process and study recommendations. The open houses are scheduled for:

Tues, Feb. 19, 5-7 p.m., Blaine City Hall, Cloverleaf Farm Room, 10801 Town Square Drive NE, Blaine.

Thurs, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis.

Please note that this project is not related to the I-35W/4th St. S ramp project/noise walls in Minneapolis.

Snow Emergency Information

Residents, workers and visitors have a number of ways to learn with Snow Emergencies are declared and what to do when they are. We're advising drivers to put many of these tools to use, not just one or two. The more ways people learn about a Snow Emergency, the more prepared they will be to do their part, and the less likely they will be to be towed because they didn't know one was declared.

- Hotline: call 612-348-SNOW to find out if a Snow Emergency has been declared and what parking restrictions are in force.
- City Website: go to www.minneapolismn.gov to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared. Also check out the street lookup, which lets you put in an address or neighborhood to see where you can park.
- Phone Alerts: If your landline or cell phone is unlisted, click [HERE](#) to sign up for the automated alert system.
- Email Alerts: Click [HERE](#) for more details about receiving automatic email alerts.
- Facebook/Twitter Alerts: Click [HERE](#) for more details about receiving automatic Facebook & Twitter alerts.

2nd Precinct Block Leader Training

Are you interested in organizing your block or apartment building to improve safety, deter crime and increase the livability of your neighborhood? The City of Minneapolis' 2nd Precinct has scheduled a block leader training for Wednesday, April 10, 6 – 8 p.m., at 2nd Precinct, 1911 Central Ave. NE. This training offers an opportunity to meet your crime prevention specialists and learn how to organize a block or apartment club. For further information and to RSVP, call 612-673-2874 or email susan.bradshaw@minneapolismn.gov.

5th Annual We Love Our Presidents Walk



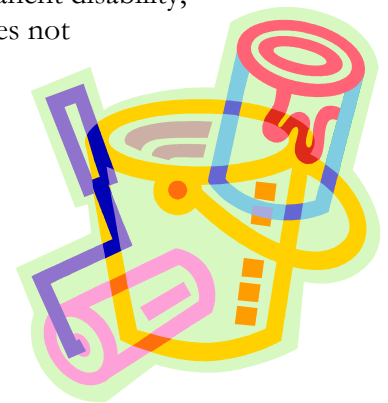
Join your neighbors for the 5th Annual We Love Our Presidents Walk on Saturday, February 16. This walk, which celebrates Northeast Minneapolis' presidential streets, begins at 10 a.m. at Edison High School, 700 22nd Avenue NE. The 1.5 mile walk will proceed to Eastside Food Co-op for a cocoa stop and then continue on to Northeast Middle School, with presidential and Northeast history related along the way. Pets and stuffed animals are very welcome on the walk, in keeping with this year's theme of "Presidential Pets". A chili lunch, trivia contest and other activities will start at noon at Northeast Middle School. For further information and to download details about the "Name the Presidents" and coloring contests, go to www.mynortheaster.com.



Metro Paint-A-Thon

Each year, on the first weekend in August, Metro Paint-A-Thon rallies volunteer teams from corporations, congregations and civic groups to paint the homes of seniors and people with disabilities. The program helps homeowners remain living independently in their own homes and improves neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area.

Applications are currently being accepted for this summer. Eligible homeowners must be over 60 or have a permanent disability, own and occupy a single-family home that does not require major repairs in Hennepin county or other specific county within the metro area and meet specific income guidelines. The application deadline is April 12, 2013. Applicants will be notified by July 15 if they are selected for the 2013 Paint-A-Thon or referred to another organization for assistance. For applications and further information, call 612-276-1579 or go to www.paintathon.gmcc.org.



The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our City. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-2201.

Save the Date:

NE Network

Thursday, February 14, 7:30 – 8:45 a.m., Eastside Food Co-op's Community Room, 2551 Central Ave NE. This month's topic is "The New Face of the 2nd Precinct: Exploring Crime and Safety in Northeast". The panel will include 2nd Precinct Crime Prevention Specialists Susan Bradshaw and Nicholas Juarez, as well as Hennepin County Parole Officer Blaine Muyres.

Northeast Middle School Wellness Day

Friday, February 22, 4 – 8 p.m., Northeast Middle School, 2955 Hayes St NE. Have fun and get fit at Northeast Middle School's Wellness Day. Activities include roller skating, cross country skiing, inflatable jumping games, snowshoeing, swimming and gym games. There will also be 2K and 5K races at 5 p.m. This event is open to all ages. \$15 for a wristband that includes dinner or \$1 per ticket.

Gardening Matters 9th Annual Community Garden Resource Fair

Saturday, March 9, noon – 5 p.m., Metropolitan State University, St. Paul. The Gardening Matters Resource Fair offers opportunities to learn about the many resources available to home and community gardeners. The keynote speaker this year will be LaDonna Redmond of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy on the topic "Reconstructing Our Relationship with Land". Other events include a community conversation about being part of the Good Food Movement. For further information and to register for the resource fair, go to www.gardeningmatters.org.

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