



Ward One Update

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

After much debate, the City of Minneapolis 2011 budget was passed on December 13. In an effort to provide some property tax relief, the City Council approved a tax levy that was \$6.1 million less than the levy initially proposed in August. That means that the City's portion of the property tax will increase 4.7%, rather than the 7.5% shown in the Truth in Taxation statements sent out in November.

Adjusting for inflation, the 2011 budget reduces spending 7% below 2001 levels and the City will have 1000 fewer full-time positions than it did 10 years ago. Funding for affordable housing, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, the Municipal Building Commission and projects at the City-owned Target Center will also be reduced.

Even with these painful cuts, most Minneapolis property taxes will still rise in 2011, in some cases by double digits. Many of the factors that influence how much Minneapolis homeowners pay in property taxes are out of the City's direct control. Only 33% of the Minneapolis 2011 property taxes to the City. The rest will go to fund other levels of government, including Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools and Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, and to special levies.

Many of you have asked about the role of the "closed" pensions in the City of Minneapolis budget. The City contributes to two "closed" pension funds: the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) and the Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Association (MFRA). By law the City is required to make up any unfunded liability in these funds; that liability is expected to be \$23 million in 2011. The City will need to work with the State Legislature to merge these closed funds into larger statewide funds in a manner mindful of obligations to pensioners. Done right, this would dramatically ease their impact on the City's budget.

Moving forward, I am committed to building budgets that level out the significant increases we are seeing for 2011 and to finding budget cuts that will lead to fair tax policy, rather than one-time relief or symbolic cuts.

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](#)

NE Arts Spotlight: Nimbus Theatre



(Co-artistic director Liz Neerland & CM Kevin Reich at Nimbus Theatre's recent open house.)

Join me in welcoming a newcomer to our neighborhood. After 10 years spent at various venues, Nimbus Theatre will be making their new home at 1517 Central Avenue NE. They present a mix of works by established playwrights, new plays by emerging playwrights and company-created pieces. Their first production at their new home will be Jean Genet's arresting drama "The Balcony", which they describe as "an insightful commentary on how image drives power and power is image".

Co-artistic Director Josh Cragun says that the 17-foot ceilings of their new warehouse space on Central Avenue will offer them the flexibility to mount shows like "The Balcony", which creates certain scenic challenges. The new theater is expected to seat 70 people. "The Balcony" opens on February 11. For further information, visit nimbustheatre.com.

Community Ed at Edison

The home of the Tommies is home to Community Education.

Offerings for the Winter session, which starts the week of January 24, have been expanded to include three popular photography classes: Canon Explorers of Light, Digital SLR 1 and Digital SLR 2. In addition, this location hosts Driver Education, Defensive Driving, ACT Preparation, Yoga, Zumba and an Upholstery Workshop. Visit www.mplscommunityed.com or call David Warnest at 612-668-1515 for further information.

Edison High School News

Congratulations to Edison Business teacher and Career Experience Coordinator Shirley Poelstra for receiving the 2010 Junior Achievement Teacher of the Year Award! Under her enthusiastic guidance, her student team took 4th place in the Junior Achievement North American Company of the Year competition, which was held in Minneapolis this past July. Taking 4th place nationally and regionally is



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.

Beginning April 12, Minneapolis 311 hours will be reduced. 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 at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311. Also, the Ward One office staff is 311-trained, so you may always call our office at 612-673-2201 for assistance.

an amazing point of pride for this school and underscores the current strength of Edison's programs. Poelstra's commitment to preparing her students was a key component in their success.

Urban Agriculture Policy Plan

Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative of the City of Minneapolis to improve the growth, sales, distribution, and consumption of healthy, locally grown foods within the city and the surrounding region. One of the recommendations of the **Homegrown Minneapolis Report**, which was adopted by the Minneapolis City Council in June 2009, was the development of a citywide topical plan on community gardens and urban agriculture.

A draft of the **Urban Agriculture Policy Plan**, which is aimed at creating land use and zoning guidelines to support local food-related activities, is now available for public review and comment. This plan is an important step on the road to introducing exciting and innovative agricultural land uses to the City of Minneapolis and interested residents should take advantage of the opportunity to shape the final product. The plan is available at the following locations:

- Online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp
- Public Service Center, 250 4th St. S, Rm 110
- Minneapolis Central Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- Hosmer Library, 347 E. 36th St.
- Pierre Bottineau Library, 55 Broadway St. NE

The City will also be hosting two community meetings to discuss the plan:

- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Sabathani Community Center, 310 #. 38th St.
- Thursday, Jan. 20, 2-3:30 p.m. at North Central Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N.

Comments and concerns about the plan should be sent to: Amanda Arnold, Principal Planner, City of Minneapolis, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, 250 South 4th St., Rm. 110, Minneapolis, MN 55415 or by email to Amanda.arnold@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

City's Record Snow Season

As you are aware, snowfall amounts for December were record-breaking, leading to an unprecedented 6 snow emergencies. City crews are continuing to clear snow and clean up streets, corners and alleyways. If you have concerns about snow and safety issues in specific locations, please call 311 to report them.

Given the snow we've already received, it wouldn't be surprising if the rest of the winter followed the same pattern. Get prepared for the next



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@ci.minneapolis.mn.us to schedule a date.

snow emergency by following the steps below:

- Sign up for an automated phone alert. Go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/phone-alert.asp> or just call 311.
- Sign up for an email or text message alert. Go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/esubscribe.asp>.

Save The Date:

Edison Girls' Basketball Home Game

Tuesday, January 11, 7 p.m. at 700 22nd Ave. NE. Come and support the Edison Girls' basketball team versus Henry Sibley High School. Be on the lookout for the student section and their "Crowd Control" t-shirts, the "Edison slide" and many more activities.

Minneapolis All City Hockey Alumni Event

Friday, January 14, 7 p.m. at Parade Ice Arena. Wear your Edison colors and cheer on the Minneapolis Nova team with your fellow hockey alums. Keep an eye out for Nova team member and Edison freshman Amie Layton.

Four Visions of the Minneapolis Riverfront

Thursday, January 27, 7 p.m. at the Walker Art Center Cinema. Be among the first to see the final four teams' design visions for Minneapolis' upper riverfront, and area extending from the Stone Arch Bridge to the northernmost city limits, along both sides of the Mississippi River. The design teams include Ken Smith Workshop (New York City), Stoss Landscape Urbanism (Boston), Tom Leader Studio (Berkeley), and Turenscape (Beijing). This is an exciting opportunity for our Eastside community to start visualizing how we can celebrate one of the greatest rivers in the world and strengthen our connections to our city's most significant natural resource. The event is sold out, but will be webcast live and archived at channel.walkerart.org. The Walker will also have an in-person waitlist starting at 6 p.m. prior to the lecture for those who check in at the box office.

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