

Council Member Lisa Goodman, City of Minneapolis

WARD 7 E-NEWS



Online tools help voters take part in November election

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. If you're not sure what you'll be voting on, the Minnesota Secretary of State's office launched a [new online tool](#) to help you become better acquainted with candidates and questions on your ballot.

My Ballot allows you to enter your address to create a tailored list of what will be on your ballot. It also provides links to other sites allowing you to access information about the candidates and ballot questions.

The website features:

- A comprehensive list of all candidates and questions appearing on individuals' ballots for the Nov. 6, 2012, General Election
- Links to candidate websites as provided by the candidates and to the language of ballot questions (constitutional amendments, local government questions)
- A link to sample ballots.
- Links to other online tools to assist voters including Voter Registration Lookup, Polling Place Finder and Absentee Ballot Lookup



The [Voter Registration Lookup](#) allows voters to enter their name, birthday, and address, and confirm if they are registered at that address.

To find out where to vote, use the [Minnesota Polling Place Finder](#). Note: Entering your Zip Code into the Polling Place Finder narrows the list of streets more than selecting your county.

The [Absentee Ballot Lookup](#) is an easy and convenient way for voters to check on the status of their absentee ballot. - Explanations of candidate order as listed on ballot

To use My Ballot, go to myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us.



Minneapolis School Board candidates

The Minneapolis School Board has a total of nine members elected to staggered four-year terms. In 2012, one School Board Member At Large will be elected, and voters in Districts 2, 4 & 6 will each elect a School Board Member by District. In 2014, two School Board Members At Large will be elected and voters in Districts 1, 3 & 5 will each elect a School Board Member by District.

Candidate filings for Minneapolis School Board are posted on the web at www.minneapolismn.gov/elections along with links to other candidate filings for federal, state and county offices.

Lunch with Lisa

October 31

November
(No meeting)

December 13
"Later with Lisa"
Normandy

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Learn how to stay safe during National Fire Prevention Month

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and Minneapolis Fire Department wants you to know fire safety tips and the importance of having smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers throughout your home.

Fire station open houses

Four fire stations in Minneapolis are having open houses **Saturday, Oct. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m.** Firefighters will be on hand to talk about their jobs, and to share fire safety tips. Families and kids can also get an up-close look at fire trucks and other firefighting equipment.

Open house locations:

Station 5, 2700 Bloomington Ave. S.

Station 6, 121 E. 15th St.

Station 20, 4646 Humboldt Ave. N.

Station 22, 3025 Market Plaza



Have two ways out

Minneapolis Fire Department is also teaming up with National Fire Prevention Association to urge residents to “Have Two Ways Out” of every room in the house if a fire happens. This year’s theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. The Minneapolis Fire Department recommends the following tips for planning your family’s escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they’ve escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and practice the plan at least twice a year.

For more information about fire safety and fire prevention visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/fire>.

Fire safety tips in different languages

Fire safety at home is explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City’s “Did you know...” series of short videos that can be viewed at www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Residents who have friends or neighbors who speak these languages are encouraged to share links to the videos.

Fire Safety at Home Make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working and installed properly in this edition of the Minneapolis "Did you know..." series.

Seguridad contra incendios en el hogar (Fire Safety at Home, Spanish) Asegúrese de que sus Detectores de Humo y de Monóxido de Carbono estén instalados y funcionando correctamente, en esta edición de las series de Minneapolis “¿Sabía usted que...”

Kev Xyuas Xim Hluav Taws Hauv Tsev (Fire Safety at Home, Hmong) Ua Zoo Xyuas Xim kom lub tswb ceev toom hluav taws thiab lub tswb carbon monoxide ua hauj lwm hauv tsev. Yog xav paub ntxiv, sais nroog Minneapolis cov tshooj xov xwm hu, "Koj pos paub..."

Taxadarka Dabka Guryaha ka dhaca (Fire Safety at Home, Somali) Hubi in uu shaqaynayo si fiicana u rakibanyahay gambaleelka dabka iyo kan sheega suntan carbon monoxide-ka guriga aad degantahay. Faahfaahin dheeraad ah waxaad ka heli kartaa nuqulkaan magaalada Minneapolis ee taxanaha "Ma ogtahay...."

Stay safe and warm by making sure your natural gas line stays connected

The Minneapolis Fire Department wants to make sure that everyone stays safe and warm this winter by taking proactive steps to ensure their natural gas service isn't discontinued during the winter. Carbon monoxide (CO) dangers increase in the wintertime, sometimes as a result of homeowners using unsafe methods of heating their homes.

If you foresee that your natural gas service may be discontinued this winter for any reason, or if a notice of proposed disconnection has been received, contact CenterPoint Energy immediately. You can be covered under the Minnesota Cold Weather Rule (CWR), which protects residential customers having difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their service disconnected from Oct. 15 through April 15. This rule could ensure your gas line stays connected during the cold winter months. It does not completely stop winter disconnection, but it does provide customers extra protection.

To obtain extra protection, residential customers must contact CenterPoint Energy to establish a CWR payment plan and maintain their payment plan obligations. The payment plan will cover what is owed and the amount to be billed; it will take into consideration a customer's financial circumstances and other extenuating circumstances.

Making sure your natural gas is connected and that your heating system is running properly will reduce the danger of CO poisoning when the weather gets cold. CO is an odorless and tasteless gas that can be emitted by a variety of household appliances when they are not operated properly, or if they are not properly vented. At high levels of concentration, CO can be fatal.

For more information on gas line disconnections or CO poisoning and buildup, call CenterPoint Energy's CO or gas emergency number at 1-800-296-9815, or visit www.CenterPointEnergy.com/readyforwinter.

Watch City's 2012 budget hearings on TV and on the web

As part of the City Council's process of considering Mayor R.T. Rybak's recommended 2013 budget for the City of Minneapolis, Council Members are now holding a series of budget hearings where they hear directly from City departments about how the budget proposal will impact their operations. The last budget hearing is on Nov. 1.

These budget hearings are currently being broadcast live, and replayed on Minneapolis 79: the City's cable channel. However, starting Saturday, Nov. 10, the City is rebroadcasting all of the budget hearings back-to-back on Minneapolis 79 every weekend until the budget is approved on Dec. 12. This gives folks the opportunity to learn more about the budget proposal and its potential impact in advance of the two public hearings scheduled for later this fall. A schedule of the weekend budget hearings "marathon" will be available at www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79schedule once all of the budget hearings are done on Nov. 1. You can also watch any of the budget hearings online at www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79.

Public hearings

Along with the budget hearings, the City Council will have two public meetings before a final budget is approved.

Public hearing on tax levy and 2012 City budget

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6:05 p.m.
City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:05 p.m.
City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317

For more information on the Mayor's recommended 2013 budget, including a schedule of upcoming budget hearings, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget

Work begins to bury transmission lines through Midtown

Xcel Energy crews have begun work to bury high-voltage transmission lines through the Midtown area of Minneapolis. The Hiawatha Transmission Project is expected to last about two years, and some street and lane closures will be needed. Although Xcel Energy initially considered hanging the lines above the Midtown Greenway among its options, the City worked to make the case that those power lines should be placed underground and away from this popular bike and walking trail.

Burying power lines is consistent with the City's expectations about how Minneapolis will develop in the future. It also reflects the value the City places on neighborhood livability and aesthetics since placing the lines underground avoids visual pollution and protects property values and the potential for future development in the greenway corridor.

Street construction starts at Hiawatha Avenue. The highway will be closed between 26th Street and Lake Street until 5 a.m. Monday, Oct. 22 so this work can take place. All drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians should follow posted detour routes. (Bicyclists and pedestrians will still be able to cross Hiawatha at 28th Street.)

Once Hiawatha Avenue reopens, Xcel Energy construction crews will begin working on 28th Street just west of Hiawatha. There will be rolling lane closures on the street in two- to three-block sections, working westward and reopening as sections are completed. Local access to homes and businesses will be maintained during these lane closures, with detours in place for all through traffic. Updates on this construction will be posted on Xcel Energy's Hiawatha Project page: www.xcelenergy.com/hiawathaproject.

In addition to the new transmission lines, Xcel Energy will be constructing two new electricity substations: one on the east side of Hiawatha Avenue, and the other along Oakland Avenue near the Midtown Greenway. Xcel Energy has been working with the community to help make the Midtown substation blend in with the neighborhood. Crews will be working through the winter months, with all construction wrapping up in October 2014.

Open House

Xcel Energy is hosting an open house to share information about the upcoming construction on 28th Street.

Xcel Energy open house on 28th Street construction

Tues. Oct. 30, 5 – 7 p.m.

Plaza Verde, 1516 E Lake St.



The start of the Hiawatha Transmission Project follows the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decision earlier this year to require Xcel Energy to bury the new Hiawatha Midtown Transmission line instead of other options, including placing them above the Midtown Greenway. Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council passed a resolution in 2009 that backed putting the cables underground if it was determined that the additional Xcel Energy lines were in fact needed and were not avoidable through energy conservation and renewable energy sources.

A reminder: Residents who had a foreclosure may be eligible for settlement

If your home was foreclosed in 2008-2011 and your mortgage loan was serviced by Wells Fargo, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup or Ally/GMAC, watch your mail closely for a national mortgage settlement claim form, because you may be eligible for a financial payment.

The national settlement administrator, Rust Consulting, which is based in Faribault, Minn., mailed claim forms to eligible borrowers. Those eligible borrowers must complete a claim form on paper or online by Jan. 18, 2013, to receive a payment. Rust Consulting and the Monitoring Committee expect to mail checks in May 2013.

If you are an eligible borrower or think you may be, you may call Rust Consulting at 1-866-430-8358 or visit www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com for more information.

For more information about the process and answers to frequently asked questions visit the Minnesota Attorney General's Office website: www.ag.state.mn.us or call the office at 651-296-3353 or 1-800-657-3787. You may also find more information at www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com

Help make Minneapolis better by answering phone survey

This October and November, the City of Minneapolis is surveying its residents to get their perspectives about the quality of services the City provides. Approximately 1,100 residents will complete the telephone survey, which is being conducted by the National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm. People contacted to complete the survey will be selected randomly, with the goal of reaching a diverse cross-section of Minneapolis residents.

If you are contacted to participate in the survey, please take a few minutes to provide your honest opinions about how we're doing in Minneapolis. For most people, the survey will take about 20 minutes. The City of Minneapolis is eager to use the results to help create a Minneapolis with the best quality of life for everyone. Please pick up the phone and participate, because results from the survey are used by City departments as they plan for the future.

The survey will be translated for people who prefer to take it in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Laotian, Oromo or Vietnamese.

The City has conducted similar surveys in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2010; it's part of Minneapolis' ongoing effort to improve services and involve people in their local government.

For more information or to see the past survey results, visit

www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/rm/results-oriented-minneapolis_citizensurvey



City receives excellence in economic development award

The City of Minneapolis received a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program in the category of Neighborhood Development Initiatives for communities with populations of 200,000 - 500,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The Great Streets program is a coordinated effort to help businesses develop and succeed along commercial corridors, at commercial nodes, in light-rail station areas, and in activity centers throughout the city. Through the Great Streets Program, the City of Minneapolis funds activities that support the economic strength and vitality of neighborhood commercial districts, helping to create vibrant communities and strong businesses.

Recognizing that commercial districts throughout the city have different strengths, challenges, and opportunities, the program is designed to support a variety of activities so communities can develop and implement comprehensive strategies to advance their unique goals.

Program outcomes:

- Stronger businesses, thriving commercial districts.
- \$16 million invested in façade matching grants, grants to support business districts, and real estate and business loans; \$112 million in private investment leveraged.
- Highly visible physical improvements.
- Properties redeveloped using Great Streets real estate financing. Once vacant, properties now have a taxable value of \$5.7 million and generate \$234,500 annually in property taxes.
- Over 1,200 jobs created or retained in neighborhood business districts.

A range of tools and resources are available including business financing, real estate development gap financing, and business district assistance such as façade improvement matching grants, market studies, district wide branding and marketing campaigns, business recruitment efforts and more.

IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.