



Minneapolis Connects



Minneapolis **Neighborhood & Community Relations**

Call **311** or visit www.minneapolismn.gov

If you need this material translated or in an alternative format, please call 673-2162.

June - July 2013

Enroll in the 2013 Minneapolis City Academy



Have you ever wondered how emergency calls in Minneapolis are dispatched? How streets get plowed? How the water gets to your faucet? Or, how property gets developed? The answers to these questions and more will be discussed at the Minneapolis City Academy program beginning September 18th.

The City Academy will be held weekly from September 18th through October 16th at locations throughout Minneapolis. Each session will focus on one aspect of City government such as public safety, public works, planning and development and fire services. Sessions will run from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The program is open to all Minneapolis residents who are 18 years or older. The academy is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete the application form that can be found online: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/MinneapolisCityAcademy> or by calling Howard Blin at 612-673-3163.

Neighborhood Stories: Spokes Bike Walk Connect

SPOKES, a program of the Seward Neighborhood Group, is a new, innovative community bicycle and walking resource in Minneapolis. Its goal is to get more people to use biking and walking for transit, recreation and exercise.

Examples of the type of opportunities that SPOKES provides include:

- **Basic Bicycle Maintenance** - Conducted on four consecutive Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, these sessions provide an overview of best practices for bike maintenance - including safety and diagnostic check of the bike, wheel truing and hub adjustment, brake and derailleur adjustment, headset adjustment, and drive train maintenance (chain, cranks bottom bracket and pedals).
- **Bearing Overhaul Class** - Conducted on a Monday evening from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, this session provided a more in depth look at one topic - instructing participants on how to clean, inspect and re-grease the bearings in their wheel, bottom bracket or headset. These classes are offered free of charge. Generally, participants bring their own bicycle if possible. No previous bicycle repair experience is required.



Major funding for SPOKES is provided by Bike Walk Twin Cities, a federal non-motorized transportation pilot program administered by Transit for Livable Communities. Other support for SPOKES has been provided by Seward Coop Grocery and Deli, Quality Bike Products, the Minneapolis NRP, Duro and Seward Redesign. Welna II Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Valspar Paint and Nice Ride have also provided support SPOKES. To find out more information please visit: <http://spokesconnect.org/>.

If you would like your neighborhood's unique collaboration or project to be featured in the Neighborhood Stories section of this newsletter, please contact Cheyenne Erickson at Cheyenne.Erickson@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2052.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact 612-673-3737.

Tree debris from storm to be collected through July 12



Since the June 21 storm, the Minneapolis Park Board and the City have been working to clear city streets and remove boulevard trees from homes, garages and other structures. The Park Board has also begun to remove boulevard trees that pose a potential hazard of toppling due to storm damage or soil saturation. While hundreds of trees were cleared from city streets over the weekend, additional trees continued to topple during the week due to winds and saturated soils from weeks of rain. As trees are cut, trunks and large limbs are being placed alongside the roads for later pickup.

Park Board crews will collect homeowner yard tree debris that can be brought to the boulevard beginning July 1 through July 12 (excluding July 4 and 7) for properties affected by the storm. This service is for property owners clearing their property of tree debris after storm damage only—it is not for contractors doing work for property owners or for regular tree pruning. It is only for tree debris, not construction or other materials.

If you have large tree debris in your back yard, it should be brought to the street for collection. If that is not possible, you may call 311 weekdays to request an alley pickup.

If you have small branches and pieces of brush, you can use the regular weekly Solid Waste & Recycling yard waste collection service to have them picked up. Crews will pick up bundles of brush and small branches that are less than three inches in diameter and less than three feet long.

MinnesotaHelp.Info is a powerful tool for finding local services

This resource website is a part of the MinnesotaHelp Network, which provides information, assistance and referral services to Minnesotans. www.MinnesotaHelp.info is designed for Seniors and their caregivers, People with disabilities and their caregivers, Parents and families, Youth, Veterans, Low Income and Immigrant populations. In addition to the website, the MinnesotaHelp Network also provides phone assistance through the linkage lines as well as face to face services through each linkage line.

Public hearings set on utility municipalization

The Minneapolis City Council set two public hearings to consider authorizing the establishment of municipal electrical and gas utilities. The hearings are:

- 10 a.m., Aug. 1, to consider authorizing the establishment of a municipal electrical utility
- 10:30 a.m., Aug. 1, to consider authorizing the establishment of a municipal gas utility

The public hearings will take place during the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting in the City Council Chamber, Room 317 of City Hall.

This action comes as the City prepares to enter into energy franchise negotiations with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. State law currently limits Minneapolis' authority over utilities in franchise agreements; however, the City is seeking legislative changes to allow negotiations with Xcel and CenterPoint to explore how Minneapolis could make progress toward its goals for sustainable energy, improved air quality, equity and green jobs. The City wishes to explore options to achieve its energy goals outside the existing franchise agreement structure including the potential for municipalization of one or both energy utilities. For more information: More information is available at www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise.

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