



MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations
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September 2014

Upcoming Events

*September 15th – October 15th
is Spanish Heritage Month*

- 9/1: East Calhoun Labor Day Celebration
- 9/6: East Isles Super Sale
- 9/6: Minneapolis Monarch Festival
- 9/6: Minneapolis Firefighters Operation Warm
- 9/13: Bancroft Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale
- 9/13: Passport Day in the USA
- 9/13: Waite Park Push Cart Derby
- 9/13: Fulton Fall Festival
- 9/13: Mississippi Riverfest and Heritage Day
- 9/14: Minneapolis Bike Tour
- 9/14: Open Streets - Nicollet Avenue
- 9/16 and 9/17: Accessory Dwelling Units Text Amendment - community meeting
- 9/20: Fulton / Lynnhurst Garage Sales
- 9/20: Open Streets - Lowry Avenue North
- 9/21: Como Cookout
- 9/25: Minneapolis Trans*Equity Summit
- 9/26: Lyndale Fall Gala
- 9/27: Native American Day Celebration

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

Help Shape our city - apply for openings on boards and commissions



Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards and commissions positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

- Arts Commission
- Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC)
- Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)
- Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
- Family Housing Fund (McKnight)
- Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)
- Planning Commission
- Police Conduct Oversight Commission
- Police Conduct Review Panel
- Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)
- Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN)
- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee
- Minneapolis Zoning Board of Adjustment

Applications will be reviewed beginning **October 10, 2014**. However, the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a list of appointment opportunities, position descriptions and to apply: www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm.

Garden study trying out a better way to grow food

In five demonstration gardens, the City of Minneapolis is studying the effectiveness of combining compost with biochar, a soil amendment similar to charcoal. Biochar works with compost to increase crop yields, improve local water quality by reducing runoff, and combat climate change by holding carbon and nitrogen in the soil where they serve as fertilizer instead of being released into the air where they would become pollutants. Minneapolis is one of the first cities in the U.S. to study the benefits of biochar. The focus of this demonstration project will be increased access to locally grown food for historically underserved communities, including Native Americans.



The study is part of a new agreement with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC). The City and the SMSC share common values in environmental stewardship and sustainability. The SMSC operates the Organics Recycling Facility, the largest single compost site in Minnesota. Due to the many benefits of using biochar, the SMSC and the City seek to work together to promote compost and biochar in their respective communities. This program consists of two main components: producing a biochar/compost mix at the Organics Recycling Facility and developing demonstration projects, including education and outreach. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is also involved in the study.

Biochar is a charcoal specially developed for agriculture. It can be made from agricultural waste exposed to high temperatures. The City's biochar is made from sawmill scraps of white oak charred in a zero-oxygen environment at around 500 degrees Celsius. This stabilizes the carbon and prevents it from being released into the environment where it could contribute to climate change. Biochar improves plant growth by making the compost or fertilizer used with it more effective. City and SMSC staff hope to demonstrate biochar's positive effects on plant growth and soil health in urban environments.

The 24th Street Urban Farming Coalition is using the food it grows in the Mashkiikii Gitigan (Ojibwe for "Medicine Garden," one of the five biochar demonstration gardens) to help restore traditional diets and combat diabetes, hypertension, obesity and other problems associated with eating processed foods. The Waite House prepares and donates meals made from the vegetables grown in Medicine Garden; at the same time it helps at-risk youths become more employable by training them in the catering business. For more information, please visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMS1P-130372>.

Neighborhood Stories: A season of anniversary for neighborhoods



It's been a season of anniversaries for Minneapolis neighborhoods. In June, the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group celebrated their silver anniversary and 25 years of service to the three neighborhoods covered by the organization. The event included a parade along Chicago Avenue, speeches, activities for kids, and vendors selling food and beverages.

In July, Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association (PPERRIA) marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the "Witch's Hat" water tower with tours, a commemorative showing neighborhood homes in place at the time of the Tower's construction, and presentations on the Tower's history. While developers at one time talked of using Tower Hill for residential lots, and later for mining gravel, the land was purchased by PPERRIA in the early 1900s for

a future water tower to help get better water pressure for area homes. In 1997, the Tower and Tower Hill Park were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On October 16, the Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The event will be held at North Regional Library from 5:30-7:30, and will feature cultural dancers and singers, a social hour, a silent auction, and short speeches by local dignitaries and founders.

2015 Budget process underway

Mayor Betsy Hodges presented her 2015 recommended budget to the City Council Aug. 14, 2014. Council members will now consider the budget from now through early December with final approval of the 2015 budget scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014.

The mayor's proposed budget includes:

- An additional \$1 million in City funds for affordable housing, focusing on family housing.
- \$3.5 million to ensure the investment in the redesign of Nicollet Mall is fully funded.
- Planning dollars for the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal, to ensure North Minneapolis has its own valuable riverfront amenities.
- Two new positions in the City Coordinator's office to focus exclusively on the city's equity work, ensuring the best possible equity outcomes in every department and every division.
- Funding to support 10 more police officers, for an authorized strength of 860 sworn officers.
- \$1.14 million in capital dollars to implement a program of body cameras for the police department.



The City of Minneapolis has tentatively scheduled two public comment hearings on the proposed 2015 property tax levy and budget:

Nov. 18 at 6:05 p.m.

Room 317 of City Hall

Dec. 10 at 6:05 p.m.

Room 317 of City Hall

Additional key dates in the 2014 budget process include:

- Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m. – Ways & Means budget overview presentation
- Sept. 16 – Nov. 7 – Ways and Means presentations and consideration of City departmental budgets hearings (tentative dates can be found at www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget)
- Dec. 2 and 4, 1 – 4 p.m. – Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee budget mark-up
- Dec. 10, 6:05 p.m. – City Council final vote on budget after the public hearing
- Watch the 2015 budget process live on TV or the City website

You can watch the mayor's budget address and upcoming budget hearings on Minneapolis 79 (Comcast Cable channel 79) or on a smartphone, tablet or computer by visiting the City of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79. Video recordings are available to watch any time on the City website. The rebroadcasts on Minneapolis 79 will be Mondays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at noon from now until early December.

Attend Minneapolis Animal Care & Control's annual fall celebration



Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) is hosting its annual fall celebration “I’m in the Dog House” on Saturday, Sept. 27 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.). We will be “kenneling” and then “adopting” local elected officials and celebrities to raise money for the animal shelter. Bring your camera!

Do you have an awesome pet that does amazing tricks or is just too cute? Enter the pooch in our Doggie Costume Contest. Or simply join us for a backstage tour of the shelter, face-painting, dog agility demonstrations, vendors, and more.

This year, we are working to build two new dog runs to give the pups more time to run and stretch and play with volunteers. Currently, our existing dog run is small and has two electrical units in the middle of it. While it is functional, we would like to do better on behalf of the canines in our care.

Want to learn more about the event? Visit our website at www.minneapolismn.gov/animals.

Recycling - it's a win, win, win!

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling wants to thank Minneapolis residents for recycling with the One-Sort Recycling program and want to challenge you to recycle even more! Did you know that more than 40% of what Minnesotan’s continue to throw away could be recycled? By diverting recyclable materials from the trash, we save natural resources from mining raw materials to make products, water from manufacturing products, and energy along every step of a products lifecycle. By recycling as much as you can, you may even be able to save money by switching to a smaller garbage cart.

If you have questions on what items can be recycled, visit the One-Sort Recycling website: www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort or call Solid Waste & Recycling at (612) 673-2917.

Neighborhood Groups and Community Organizations: Solid Waste & Recycling wants to work with you to help increase recycling throughout the City. If you are interested in working on a recycling education plan specific to your neighborhood, please contact the City’s Recycling Coordinator at kellie.kish@minneapolismn.gov or by calling 612-673-3536.



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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 612-673-3737.