

Council Member Lisa Goodman, City of Minneapolis

WARD 7 E-NEWS

Make sure you have your 2010 Census form



You should have received your 2010 Census form by now. If you haven't, please call one of the following phone numbers:

- English: 1-866-872-6868
 - Chinese: 1-866-935-2010
 - Korean: 1-866-955-2010
 - Russian: 1-866-965-2010
 - Spanish: 1-866-928-2010
 - Vietnamese: 1-866-945-2010
- TDD (Telephone Display Device for the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010

If you have questions about the census form, a number of questionnaire assistance centers have opened. People at these centers will also have questionnaires for anyone who didn't get one in the mail, and they'll offer translation services for people who need it.

There are over 60 Assistance Centers throughout the city; for a list of locations near you, visit www.mn2010census.org/centers. You can also call 3-1-1 to find the location nearest you.

How is your community responding to the census?

Are you curious about the response rate of your community? The U.S. Census Bureau has made it easy to monitor census response rates in real time. Visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> to learn more.

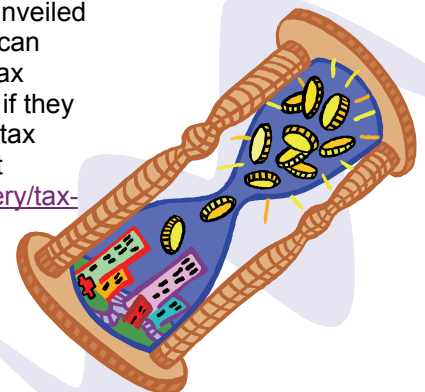
Note: as of Wednesday morning, March 24, the mail back response rate for Minneapolis was 15 percent, compared to Hennepin County: 19 percent, and the state as a whole: 21 percent. Response rates are available down to the census tract level.

Fill in out Mail it in !!!!! Protect funding and representatives for Minnesota

New Web tool help you see what tax credits are available

The Internal Revenue Service reports the average tax refund has increased nearly 10 percent for 2009, but families are often not fully aware of all tax code changes and miss out on taking advantage of them. With more than a dozen new tax benefits available to taxpayers and businesses, it is important that all American families know about them in order to achieve as much personal tax savings as possible.

The White House has also unveiled a helpful tool to guide American taxpayers through the new tax benefits and help determine if they are eligible for savings. The tax Savings tool can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/tax-saving-tool.



2010

Lunch With Lisa

NO regular March Meeting

April 28th

July 28th

August 25th

September 22nd

October 27th

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New hours and expanded online options coming to Minneapolis 311

For four years, residents have called 3-1-1 to get a burned out streetlight fixed, to ask questions about their drinking water service, to report a stray dog to animal control, or to contact the City about the many services it provides. Now, cuts in State funding are prompting Minneapolis 311 to change its call center hours. At the same time, the City is making it easier to get assistance on the Web.

Starting on April 12, the hours for Minneapolis 311's call center will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Callers after 7 p.m. can leave a message, and a call center agent will

help them the following business day. This change in hours affects only 5 percent of the call volume that comes into Minneapolis 311 on a daily basis.

At the same time, Minneapolis 311 is improving its online service. There will be more things folks can do at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311 than ever before, making it possible for more people to request service themselves. This improvement should help Minneapolis 311 continue to provide the same access to help in the face of State funding cuts.

The online resources of Minneapolis 311 are available 24/7. One of the new Web

features will let residents report graffiti online. People will be able to take a digital photo of the graffiti and mail it into the City. Along with being even more convenient to residents, this will help Minneapolis tackle graffiti in town by tracking any emerging patterns.

As with all branches of City government, Minneapolis 311 is dealing with budget cuts following a dramatic reduction from the State in Local Government Aid. In order to provide the same level of service with fewer resources, Minneapolis 311 needed to put those resources where they're needed the most.

Help us have a successful opening of Target Field

Field opens to Twins fans this month, making downtown Minneapolis an even more entertaining destination. Even if you don't have tickets, this is a great time to stick around and be a part of the game day excitement. The new ballpark, along with the many stores, restaurants and other businesses Downtown, will provide many opportunities for you and others to enjoy the heart of our city.

If you haven't already, now's a good time to put together travel plans if you're heading out to the field or to surrounding destinations. When visiting Downtown, Target Field, or Target Center, there are four tips people should remember to minimize delays and maximize their enjoyment of all the activities.

1. Plan ahead – Visit www.DestinationTargetField.com or www.targetcenter.com to learn more about all your transportation choices.

2. Let the past be your guide – If you're used to going to games at the Metrodome, your old parking place will probably work just fine for games at the new ballpark. Target Field and Target Center are just 12 blocks from the Metrodome.

3. Consider transit – Target Field and Target Center are extremely transit-friendly facilities, and it's easy to get there by light rail, commuter train, or bus.

4. Come early/Stay late – Take part in pre and post-game activities, shopping, dining, and other entertainment. Enjoy the extra time to experience all Downtown has to offer, and avoid transportation delays. The Warehouse District looks forward to welcoming fans before and after Target Field and Target Center events.

If you plan to come early and stay late, the ABC and Hawthorne ramps adjacent to Target Field and Target Center are a great parking option, but they will take

time to empty after the events. If you must leave right after the event, consider parking farther away and walking to your destination. Ramps A and B are directly connected to Target Plaza and provide access for fans with disabilities.

Visit www.DestinationTargetField.com or www.targetcenter.com to learn more about all your transportation choices and more information on the two facilities.



Learn the dos and don'ts when calling 9-1-1

With National Telecommunications Public Safety Week starting April 11, it's a good time to learn what to do and what not to do when calling the Minneapolis 911 center

Minneapolis 911 is one of the most essential services provided by the City of Minneapolis. It's the best way for residents, businesses and visitors to call and report an emergency requiring immediate response. You should call 9-1-1 to report a situation which requires a police officer at the scene (e.g. assaults, kidnapping, burglaries, domestic disputes, terroristic threats, violation of protection orders, biased crimes, parental kidnapping, motor vehicle theft, theft from person, auto accidents with injuries, etc.); summon an ambulance for medical assistance; report a fire; and, report a crime in progress.

Tips for calling 9-1-1

- Do not hang up. If the call isn't answered immediately or if you encounter silence on the line, do not

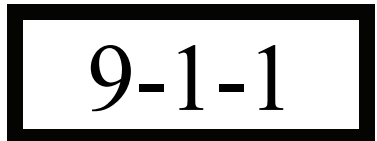
hang up and redial unless the silence lasts more than eight seconds.

- Do not hang up if you call 9-1-1 by accident. Hang ups require 9-1-1 operators to call back the number the incoming 9-1-1 call came from. This happens up to 2,500 times a week and uses valuable 9-1-1 resources including phone lines that should be used for answering emergency calls.
- Give your location when calling 9-1-1. This includes, address, intersection, and landmarks. Be prepared to give a short description of a suspect.
- Help can be sent while you talk. A caller should state the problem briefly, answer the operator's questions and stay on the line until the operator terminates the call.
- The situation does not have to be an emergency to call 9-1-1. Folks can call 9-1-1 to report suspicious, criminal activity in progress (e.g. alarms, shots fired, shouts for help, sounds of glass breaking, unfamiliar person carrying items from a house). Anytime a person believes they may need police, fire or an ambulance they should call 911. If you need a translator, let the operator know, or simply say, "Language line"

When NOT to call 9-1-1

- Do not call for directions.
- Do not call to find out if someone is in jail. The Hennepin County Sheriff jail roster is available online for this information at www4.co.hennepin.mn.us/webbooking. You may also call the jail at (612) 348-5112.
- Do not call to report city issues that are not of a police, fire or medical nature. Refer to the government pages of the local telephone directory for the appropriate number or simply call 3-1-1. Do not call your local precinct to request a police response. All dispatching is done through the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center.

For more information, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/911.



MPD's bait vehicle program gets the attention of anti-crime

The Minneapolis Police Department's bait vehicle program was recognized by the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota at an award ceremony on Tuesday, March 23. Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan accepted the award on behalf of the department.

The Bait Vehicle Program involves the use of specially equipped vehicles placed throughout the city. When these vehicles are stolen, authorities can track them electronically and make arrests within minutes. The Minneapolis program

has resulted in 340 persons being charged for auto theft, with only one defendant opting to go to trial. Additionally, during the 12 years that the program has been in effect in Minneapolis, auto theft has dropped 68.2 percent.

The Minneapolis Police Department was one of the pioneers in bait vehicle programs across the country and the program has been successfully replicated by a number of agencies around North America due to its continued success in combating auto theft.

The Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of

Minnesota is comprised of approximately 100 members from law enforcement, property insurance companies, and others active in combating vehicle theft. For 25 years AVCAM has encouraged and assisted in promoting anti-vehicle theft activities. These include training seminars, programs providing prevention tips to the public, and supporting the 1-800-HEAT-TIP line, which provides monetary awards for information leading to recovery of stolen vehicles and the prosecution of auto theft suspects.

More Minneapolis trees found infested with emerald ash borer

In February signs of the emerald ash borer, an invasive pest that attacks and kills ash trees, were found for the first time in Minneapolis trees. Several more infested trees have since been found in the same location. Officials with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the beetle in 15 ash trees in the Tower Hill Park area. The presence of the emerald ash borer is also suspected in another 25 ash trees there. All of the infested and suspect trees were removed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Trees selected for removal are marked with green paint around the trunk.

The emerald ash borer is a beetle accidentally introduced from Asia. Its larvae tunnel into the wood of ash trees and feed on the inner bark, ultimately killing the tree. It has

already killed more than 40 million ash trees nationwide and is found in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland; and Ontario and Quebec, Canada.

In an effort to slow the spread, a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products is now in effect for Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties. Burn firewood where you buy it; do not transport firewood. If you have an ash tree, prune it only in the fall or winter. The emerald ash borer is active in the spring and summer, and moving infected wood helps spread the pest. Prune your ash tree only when the beetle is dormant, after Labor Day and before May 1.

The Minneapolis urban forest includes more than 200,000 ash trees on

boulevards and on private property. That's 21 percent of all Minneapolis trees. If you have space in your yard to plant a tree, now is a good time to start one. If you have an ash tree in your yard, planting its replacement now will give it a chance to start providing shade. Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban quality of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater.

For more information on emerald ash borer or to report an ash tree infested with emerald ash borer, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.

2010 City Trees Program

There are approximately 500 trees remaining available for sale in the City Trees program at a reduced cost of \$25 per tree. The arrival of the emerald ash borer in Minneapolis will likely result in the loss of the City's more than 200,000 ash trees. You can help diversify our urban forest and get the next generation of trees started by planting new trees in your yard this spring! The trees are first-come first served. Details for ordering are below.

The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees are available first-come, first-served. Last month, emerald ash borer was found in Minneapolis. It poses a special threat to the 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, which make up more than 20 percent of the city's trees.

Planting a new tree now will help start the next generation of trees. Varieties of trees still available are Fat Albert spruce, Kentucky coffee tree, blue beech (only 7 left!), regal prince oak, Canada select chokecherry, Redmond linden and burgundy belle maple (only a few left!).

Orders for trees can be placed at www.treetrust.org. You can also order a tree by calling (651) 644-5800 or picking up an order form from your local library. In previous years the trees have sold quickly, so place your order early.

Folks who order trees will need to pick them up on one of three days at the Minneapolis Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Ave. N

Saturday, May 8 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, May 9 8 a.m. to noon
Monday, May 10 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand to help load your new tree and complimentary bag of mulch into your vehicle.

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban quality of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater.

The City Trees program is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust, a local nonprofit that works to improve the community environment. For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.

Registered Minneapolis community gardens eligible for free compost

The City of Minneapolis has compost available for all community gardens that are registered with Gardening Matters and located in Minneapolis. Each eligible garden is allowed five to eight cubic yards of complimentary compost, while supplies last.

Compost, which helps enrich soil with nutrients for plants, is not intended to be a substitute for soil. Adding some to garden soil helps plants grow better.

After the Minneapolis contract supply of complimentary compost is committed, additional compost will be available for \$3 per cubic yard, delivered, up to 10 cubic yards. Compost is available first-come, first-served, except that community gardens that have not received complimentary compost through this program in the past will be given first priority. Amounts in excess of 10

cubic yards can be arranged with Solid Waste and Recycling.

Request deadlines:

2010 spring delivery

Spring request deadline - May 7
Spring delivery dates - May 17 through June 18 (not over Memorial Day holiday, May 31 through June 4)

2010 summer delivery

Summer request deadline - June 11
Summer delivery dates - June 21 through August 20 (Not over Independence Day holiday, July 5 through 9)

Minneapolis supports community gardening because it is committed to encouraging active and healthy living and strengthening communities.

For more information, to register your community garden and to request

compost, visit

www.gardeningmatters.org/resources/compost.html#mpls.



Need help with energy bills? Thousands of dollars are available for qualifying residents

For folks who need assistance paying their gas or electric bill, or even making their home more energy efficient, help might be a phone call or a mouse click away. The City of Minneapolis is helping spread the word that Community Action of Minneapolis has thousands of dollars in federal aid available to income qualifying residents.

Through the Energy Assistance program, which is run by Community Action of Minneapolis and funded by the Department of Commerce, low-income homeowners and renters who meet the eligibility requirements can have a percentage of grant money taken out and paid directly to the utility

company.

Homeowners and renters who qualify for energy assistance may also be eligible for weatherization, which provides \$6,500 worth of energy saving improvements to a home free of charge. Those who qualify for weatherization will receive an energy audit that will assess their home, furnace and electric usage. Based on this audit, energy saving solutions are recommended, and on average, customers save 26 percent in energy costs following weatherization. Funding for this program comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Community Action of Minneapolis uses a

household's past three months of income to determine eligibility.

For more information including detailed income guidelines, call 612-335-5837 or visit www.campls.org.

