



# Ward Six News

September/October  
2014

## Message from the Ward Office

by Council Member Abdi Warsame

I would like to bring warm greetings to the residents of Ward 6. It is my honor to represent you on the Council, and I plan to make this newsletter a valuable resource to allow you to participate more effectively in your city government. The last 8 months, my office has worked on numerous projects and items including:

- Amending the taxi/cab ordinance in order to eliminate a litany of regulations city officials have layered into the taxi code over many decades.
- Cedar Avenue street reconstruction (this project will widen sidewalks, add pedestrian lighting and create on street parking).
- Worked with Minneapolis Swims on an effort to reopen Phillips Community Pool.
- Sponsored a resolution that recognized 1st of July as Somali American Day
- Worked on creating awareness on vocational training and apprenticeships.

I feel very fortunate to live in and represent such a vibrant, diverse and interesting part of this great city. While my staff and I will strive to keep you up to date through our newsletter and other contacts, our office at City Hall is also your resource. Please feel free to stop by - we are on the job and are here to serve you. I welcome your suggestions or thoughts about the issues facing our City and its people.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent and serve you.

# Volunteers needed for City's annual count of bike and pedestrian traffic

Minneapolis Public Works will hold its eighth annual bicyclist and pedestrian count Sept. 9-11. During the event, volunteers count the number of bicyclists and walkers at locations throughout Minneapolis to help give the City a better understanding of daily non-motorized traffic.

The City uses the information from the counts to track changes and trends in biking and walking and understand how to plan and build for bicyclists and pedestrians. It also helps the City see what's working successfully and what should be done differently.

## Volunteers needed

On the three days of the event, approximately 100 volunteers will be

stationed around town to count bicyclists and walkers. Volunteers are still needed. All count shifts are from 4-6 p.m. If you're interested in volunteering, [register online](#) or contact Simon Blenski at [simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-616-7345.

## Results from the 2013 count

Following substantial increases in bicycle traffic from 2011 and 2012, bicycle traffic increased again in 2013 to the highest level since counts began in 2007. Pedestrian traffic leveled off in 2013 with only a marginal increase since 2012.

From 2007-2013:

- The number of bicyclists counted at 30 benchmark locations increased 76 percent.
- The number of pedestrians counted at 23 benchmark locations increased 25 percent.

From 2012-2013:

- The number of bicyclists counted at 30 benchmark locations increased 11 percent.
- The number of pedestrians counted at 23 benchmark locations increased two percent.

## For more information

Contact bicycle planner Simon Blenski at 612-616-7345 or [simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov)

# Three NEW Free Online Training Business Courses

- [Strategic Planning for Small Businesses](#)  
Are you looking for tools to create a successful strategic plan that will help improve your business's success? This [course](#) will explain the difference between strategic planning and other types of planning and describe the typical steps in the strategic planning process. <http://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/training/strategic-planning>
- [Savings Plans for Small Businesses](#)  
Do you have a savings plan for your business? [Take this course](#) to learn how life events, retirement and even taxes play a role in developing a savings plan. <http://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/training/savings-plans-small-businesses>
- [Selling Your Business](#)  
If you are in the process of selling or closing your business, [then this course is for you](#). Topics covered include

# Garden study trying out a better way to grow food

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 project is demonstrating the effectiveness of biochar in five different gardens, and is focusing on 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.



## 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](#).

# 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.



Additional key dates in the 2014 budget process include:

- 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](http://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
- 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79). Video recordings are available to watch any time on [the City website](#). The

### PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS

The City of Minneapolis has tentatively scheduled hearings on the proposed 2015 property tax

**Nov. 18 at 6:05 p.m.**  
Room 317 of City Hall

**Dec. 10 at 6:05 p.m.**  
Room 317 of City Hall

### FROM COVER (photo)

The Minneapolis Ward 6 office held its first forum on Public Housing Policy Wednesday September 3rd at the Park Elder Center in Elliot Park neighborhood. It was a productive dialogue that addressed resident views on MPHA and city policy, budget issues and property conditions. Thanks to our police inspectors, Minneapolis High-rise representatives, MPHA leadership and our wonderful community.