

Ward One News

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

Last October my newsletter featured some of the many changes and upgrades to Central Avenue that have been occurring as new businesses have moved in and long-term businesses have launched remodels and refurbishments. (Click <u>HERE</u> if you missed that newsletter). Six months later, the new vitality we're seeing on this significant thoroughfare continues apace.

The City Council voted in February to rezone 2600-2622 Central from C1 to C2 to accommodate the development of a new Walgreens on the site currently occupied by the Highland Market. The rezoning was required to allow for a drive-through, which is not permitted in the C1 District. This relocation will result in a significant upgrade to the livability and safety of this important Central Avenue intersection.

Just down the street at 2506 Central, the eagerly awaited German-style bakery, Aki's Backstube, will be opening at the end of April, to be followed shortly thereafter by the debut of Fair State Brewing Co-op. Across the street from the new Walgreens site, longtime Central Avenue anchor Eastside Food Co-op is planning a remodel and expansion.

This continuing activity speaks to the viability of Central Avenue's business environment. Over the next several months I will be hosting a series of forums on the topic of business development, with the aim of giving more visibility to the many businesses on Central Avenue, identifying the strategies that are currently working to create change and growth in our business community, and exploring exciting new strategies like the cooperative model that has worked so well for Eastside Food Co-op and Northeast Investment Cooperative (NEIC). Stay posted for more information in the coming weeks and I hope you will join me in these conversations about our Main Street.

W. R.

First Ward Neighborhood Associations

<u>Audubon</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Association (ANA)</u>

<u>Columbia Park</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Association (CPNA)</u>

Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA)

Logan Park Neighborhood Association (LPNA)

Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace (CCMT)

Mid-City Industrial Neighborhood Association

Northeast Park
Neighborhood
Association (NEPNA)

Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA)

Waite Park Community Council (WPCC)

Windom Park Citizens in Action (WPCiA)

Pillsbury Pedal Power is a Local Hero

In celebration of National Public Health Week, the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) is recognizing the accomplishments of community partners who help raise awareness of the critical roles that public health and prevention play in making Minneapolis a healthier place to live, learn and work. One of the groups that will be recognized as a "Local Hero" is "Pillsbury Pedal Power". This Pillsbury Elementary School-based group, which was organized by Pillsbury School ELL teacher Mark Trumper and art teacher Susan Tuck, models healthy living and includes 25 students who bike for fitness and learning.

Trumper and Tuck designed the program based on their belief that kids learn through adventure and activity and their discovery that cultural and economic barriers can sometimes keep children from learning how to ride a bike. After receiving a number of small grants to build a fleet of mountain bikes, Trumper and Tuck then began teaching the kids necessary riding skills and bicycle safety for the urban environment.



Last year Pillsbury Pedal Power bicycled from September 8 to November 20, visiting all 24 of the parks in NE Minneapolis and participating in art projects, environmental clean-ups, science investigations and friendly competitions. Students learned bicycle safety, the importance of wearing a helmet, recognizing visual barriers, how to ride a line, following distance and decision making. They also learned important information about trails, bikeways, shoulders, and sidewalks.

Pillsbury Pedal Power was nominated for a "Local Hero" award by First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich. There will be an Awards ceremony and reception on Thursday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the rotunda of City Hall to honor all of the "Local Heroes". Mark Trumper, Susan Peck and ten student members of "Pillsbury Pedal Power" will be biking to City Hall that day to receive their award.



Many 311 services are now available online or through mobile apps. Click **HERE** to find out how to report.

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 612-673-2201.

Creative Art Projects on City Property

Is your neighborhood organization or other group interested in a "Paint the Pavement" project or wrapped/painted utility boxes? This year, with input from the Arts Commission and the goal of making the process more user-friendly, the City has redesigned the applicable website, which can be found at: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/dca/WCMS1P-083277.

Painted intersection projects are allowed on sidewalks and residential streets. (They are not allowed at or on school crossings, intersections with marked crosswalks, signalized intersections, State- and County-designated roads, or on any roadway approaching a major arterial.

The City of Minneapolis permits requests from citizen groups and non-profit organizations to paint or wrap City-owned utility boxes. There are two options for wrapping and painting: Minneapolis Art Wraps provides 12 pre-approved designs created by local artists for groups to use or custom designs may be commissioned.

Development Services Spring Open House

Minneapolis residents and business owners are encouraged to come and learn more about the City's Development Services Customer Service Center, where staff are committed to helping contractors, developers, business owners, homeowners, and landlords navigate the City development process effectively and efficiently to obtain all necessary reviews, licenses, permits, and inspections needed to complete projects. The open house is:

Wednesday, April 30 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. 250 S. 4th Street Third Floor, Room 300

If you attend, you can take home a free radon home test kit (while supplies last), learn the ins and outs of home business licensing, speak to City staff to make sure your home remodeling project meets zoning, building code, and other requirements, and attend a free 15-30 minute informational breakout session, such as Zoning 101. For further information, click <u>HERE</u>.

1st Ward Community Forum - April 30

Join Council Member Kevin Reich, City of Minneapolis Chief Information Officer Otto Doll and Northeast Minneapolis resident and Outreach Coordinator for OpenTheGovernment.org Mary Treacy for a community forum on the topic of open data. The forum will be held at the Northeast Public Library, 2200 Central Avenue NE on Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m.

The City Council put forward a directive at the end of 2013 for development of an open data policy and implementation timeline for City of Minneapolis government. CIO Otto Doll is leading this effort. Some of the enhanced data citizens seek includes crime, business licenses, housing inspections, city spending and 311 call statistics. Treacy, who is familiar to many as a local freelance writer, works for OpenTheGovernment, a DC-based coalition of organizations concerned with open government policies and procedures.

2014-2015 Recycling Guide

If you're a City of Minneapolis recycling customer, watch your mailbox in April for the City's 2014-2015 recycling guide. The guide will tell you what you can and can't recycle through the City recycling service, and it will show all your recycling dates for 2014 and 2015. It's easier than ever to recycle in Minneapolis with one-sort recycling; just combine your glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard into your recycling cart.

Remember that large and bulky items are also collected for recycling from your curb or alley. If you're a Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customer, you may place up to two electronics, appliances, mattresses, box springs or other items that are 50 percent metal at your collection point on your recycling day. Make sure to mark them "for Solid Waste & Recycling". The crew will place a sticker on them, and a separate crew will come the following business day to pick them up. If you don't want to set the item out early, just call Solid Waste & Recycling at 612-673-2917 and tell them that you will set out the item the day after your recycling collection.

Save the Date Calendar:

10th Annual Hotdish Revolution

Sunday, April 6., 4 – 7 p.m., St. Maron's/Cedars Hall, 602 University Avenue NE. Come to compete or come just to eat at this signature Northeast event sponsored by the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association (HNIA).

NE Network

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 a.m., Eastside Food Co-op, 2551 Central Ave NE. Hennepin County U of M Agricultural Extension and MN Project's Fruits of the City and Garden Gleaning will be the featured speakers.

Waite Park Gala

Saturday, April 12, 7 – 11 p.m., Cedar Hall at St. Maron Church, 602 University Ave NE. This adults-only fundraiser, which benefits Waite Park School, includes food, drinks and a huge silent auction. Visit www.waiteparkpta.blogspot.com for tickets and further information..

Metro Blooms Raingarden Workshop

Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Manor, 3300 Central Avenue NE. You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by making simple choices about your yard such as starting a rain garden. This introductory workshop will demonstrate Metro Blooms do-it-yourself approach to rain garden design and installation. Go to www.metroblooms.org to register.

19th Annual Art-A-Whirl

Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18. For more information about this signature event of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District, visit www.nemaa.org/art-a-whirl.