



Ward Six News

May 2015

Kickoff Event for American Indian Month

May 1st, 2015

Celebrate American Indian Month with the City

May marks American Indian Month in Minnesota. On Friday, May 1, there was a kickoff event to celebrate the American Indian community in the City of Minneapolis. The event started with a parade from Little Earth of United Tribes and ended at the American Indian Center on Franklin Avenue. The celebration was sponsored in part by the City of Minneapolis, the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors and the Native American Community Development Institute. For more information, please visit the [Native American Community Development Institute's Facebook page](#).

These are additional ways to celebrate the contributions American Indians make to our communities every day.

Get to know [MIGIZI Communications](#). MIGIZI gives American Indian youth an opportunity to pursue their interests, fulfill their potential, and be successful. [Join them at their Open House event on May 27th from 5:30 - 8:30 PM](#)

Support [The Division of Indian Work](#). A part of the Great Minneapolis Council of Churches, it is the oldest social and human services organization serving American Indians in Minneapolis. [They are currently raising funds for a new roof, support their effort here.](#)

Learn at the [Minneapolis Institute of Arts](#). MIA is celebrating American Indian Month with a [new exhibition opening](#) and [tour of American Indian Art](#).

Restaurant takeout packaging changing

New rules on environmentally acceptable food packaging are now in effect in Minneapolis. The ordinance requires food and beverages prepared for immediate consumption or for takeout be placed in reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging. The rules cover things like plates, serving boats and to-go containers. (Cups and bowls may be made of plastic-lined paper, which is not recyclable or compostable, until April 22, 2017.)

The rules apply to all food establishments that sell or give away food prepared onsite for immediate consumption. This includes all restaurants; grocery store deli cases; food trucks and other mobile vendors; and temporary, short-term and seasonal food vendors.

Recyclable materials used onsite must be recycled, and compostable materials used onsite must be composted.

Recycling your food packaging

You must scrape food off recyclable packaging before you can put it in the recycling, or it will be treated as garbage and not recycled.

Businesses aren't being asked to throw away unused noncompliant packaging they already have; they are allowed to use it up since it will end up in the trash either way. If you notice that your favorite restaurant isn't using compliant packaging, talk to the manager or call 311 so the City can follow up.

Helping businesses make the switch

City staff is working with businesses to help them make the switch, and Hennepin County has resources such as:

- Business grants up to \$50,000 to assist with:
 - Starting or improving recycling and organics programs.
 - Bin and equipment purchases.
 - Installation.
 - Improvements to loading docks and fenced in areas for waste containers.
- Free:
 - Bin setup, labels and signs.
 - Educational and promotional materials.
 - Cost savings estimates.



Consumers may notice the slogan "green to go" used around town in reference to this ordinance. For more information visit www.minneapolismn.gov/greentogo.

Go Runnin' with the Law

Registration is still open! Join the Minneapolis Police Department for a night of fun and great exercise that helps promote an active, healthy culture. Begins at 5 p.m., Wednesday, **May 20**, at Lake Calhoun.

The evening will include demonstrations by the Minneapolis Police Department, a kid's fun run and a post-race celebration with prizes, a raffle and a food truck.

Registration costs \$30 for the 5K and \$5 for the kid's fun run. Proceeds benefit fitness training for the Minneapolis Police Department. [Register now.](#)

Be prepared as storm season approaches

With spring's return, it's time to think about what you'll do in the event of a tornado or dangerous thunderstorm. Knowing what to do and making a few simple preparations can help protect you and your family when severe weather strikes.

Home and personal preparedness

To make sure you know when there is an imminent weather danger, consider using a NOAA weather radio or subscribing to an electronic weather alert service that sends you an email or text notice. Learn about options for wireless emergency alerts and smartphone apps. Remember that outdoor warning sirens are for people who are outdoors; you may not be able to hear them inside a building.



Minneapolis also uses a telephone notification tool called "Swiftreach" to alert residents to Snow Emergencies and other urgent information. If you have a listed residential telephone number in Minneapolis you are likely already on our list. If you are not receiving these calls, register now and add your contact information.

This is also an excellent time to create your own home emergency kit. Here are some items you should consider placing in a bag or box in your basement or home shelter site:

- Bottled water.
- Nonperishable snacks and/or ready-to-eat food.
- Battery-powered radio.
- Extra batteries.
- Flashlight.
- First aid kit.
- Cards, games, books or other items to help you pass the time.
- List of key phone numbers (insurance agent, doctor, etc.).
- A photocopy of your driver's license or State ID card.

What to do if severe weather is approaching:

- Turn to your NOAA weather radio, local TV, radio or weather channel for alerts and warnings.
- Listen for outdoor warning sirens that are activated in case of imminent danger.
- If a warning has been issued or you hear outdoor warning sirens, take shelter while staying tuned to weather updates. (In an office building, go to the designated shelter or a central area away from windows. Do not use elevators.) At home, go to the basement or an inner stairwell.
- Stay in your location until the all-clear signal has been issued.

Stay informed using weather radios

NOAA weather radios are great tools for warnings and comprehensive information during a weather-related emergency. The City of Minneapolis partnered with ECHO Minnesota to produce a series of multi-language videos about how to use NOAA weather radios and other precautions to take during tornados, thunderstorms, flash floods and snowstorms.

Interactive map

Find farmers markets in Minneapolis

Farmers markets are opening! The City of Minneapolis has an online interactive map that makes it easy to find farmers markets all over the city. New in 2015, farmstand information for local urban farms and market gardens will also be added to the map as it becomes available. Clicking on the map pins at www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets will show the address, season dates and opening times for each market. The map lists 30 farmers markets now; more will be added as information becomes available. The first market of the season – the Lyndale market – opens April 25.

It's easy for people to buy local produce. Most of the markets accept "electronic benefits transfer" cards as payment to give residents on federal food assistance easier access to fresh, healthy food. Some of the farmers markets are mini markets, special small markets that the City licenses to get more fresh and affordable produce on the table in low-income neighborhoods.

Local produce is nutritious and affordable. Buying food directly at a farmers market strengthens the community between the farmer and the eater, and it supports the regional economy by allowing the local farmer to keep 80 to 90 cents per dollar of sales. Many Minneapolis residents can reach a farmers market on foot or by bicycle, which is good exercise and doesn't pollute.

Check out [Homegrown Minneapolis](#) for more ways to get healthful, local food on the table. Homegrown Minneapolis is a citywide initiative expanding our community's ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods.

Follow the law Be a good neighbor when having a backyard fire

It's OK to have a recreational fire in the backyard of your home, provided you follow the City's rules. Stay safe and be a good neighbor by remembering these laws:

- Postpone a fire when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory or alert. Fires release fine particles that contribute to air pollution and are implicated in a number of health problems, including strokes, heart attacks and asthma. You can sign up for air quality alerts online at mn.enviroflash.info.
- Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris, because the smoke can be toxic.
- Outdoor fires are allowed between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Keep fire small, less than three feet in diameter and two feet high.
- Have outdoor fires at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high.
- Have a hose or fire extinguisher on hand.
- Postpone outdoor fires when wind speeds exceed 10 mph.
- Make sure outdoor fires are always attended by someone 18 years or older and that the fire is completely out before you abandon it.

Any illegal burning can result in a \$200 fine.

