



[January, 2012]

Keewaydin School Expansion & Planning for Park Changes

The Minneapolis Public School Board recently allocated \$16 million for improvements to the Keewaydin Campus (grades 4-8) of Lake Nokomis Community School (LNCS) as part of their actions to accommodate growing enrollment. The changes will be designed to provide LNCS students parity with other schools in the system, starting with a gym large enough for the older grades to play in, space for activities like tutoring that now go on in hallways and closets, just to name a few.

Planning for this exciting investment is happening now, with design scheduled to be completed early this year. A public meeting to gather comments and suggestions from the community is scheduled for January 19. Construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2012.

Keewaydin School Planning Meeting

January 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Keewaydin School, 5209 30th Avenue S.

The expansion of the school building means that the surrounding green space and playground will also be affected. The Park Board is hosting a meeting to discuss the potential impacts and to work with the community to develop a preferred concept design for the park amenities in an interactive 3-hour session with a couple of Park Board designers.

Keewaydin Park Redesign Meeting

January 21, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Keewaydin Community Center, 3030 53rd Street E.

Airport Noise Update

Council Member Colvin Roy met with Carl Rydeen, the FAA Control Tower Manager, about increased airport noise in an area of the community not covered by the sound mitigation plan and he identified a change in runway use as the reason, but it cannot account for all of the changes. Council Members from the affected wards wrote to the FAA, asking Mr. Rydeen to review factors including short intervals between flights, flights clustered at certain times of day, planes taking off earlier on the runway or making turns earlier, and how these factors might contribute to the increased noise.

Mr. Rydeen told the Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) in November that he would investigate these issues and report back in January. The report is expected at the NOC meeting of Wed, January 18, which is held at 1:30 pm at MAC Offices, 6040 28th Ave S.

Minneapolis is #1 for National Night Out

Minneapolis leads the nation when it comes to National Night Out activities. For the fourth time in the past five years, Minneapolis placed first in the nation for the number of National Night Out gatherings held in the city, among cities with populations greater than 300,000.

More than 60,000 Minneapolis residents gathered on Aug. 2 at a record 1,173 events in all 83 neighborhoods to celebrate National Night Out.

City's Website Gets Extreme Makeover

The City of Minneapolis website -- www.MinneapolisMN.gov -- has received a major facelift. The new website was designed to be more dynamic, easier to navigate and more accessible for people with disabilities.

Please let us know what you think of the changes, and how it works for you.

Budget Recap

There was no property tax levy increase by the City for 2012. That was one of my three major goals for 2011 (the other two are signal improvements in the Hiawatha Corridor, which is funded and in planning for construction this coming summer, and a solid waste reduction plan, which we are moving forward now.)

The property tax burden on our residents has become untenable. Due to changes in state law and the effect of the economy on commercial properties, homeowners now pay 46% of property taxes instead of the 29% they paid back in 2002. For the first time in many years, no 12th Ward resident spoke at the Truth and Taxation Hearing. I hope this means that it's understood – my colleagues and I remember the pain expressed last year and so we made sometimes painful cuts in order to achieve a zero per cent increase. There were cuts to nearly every department and the reduction of 105 positions, resulting in lay-off notices to about 80 employees.

We were able to hold the line on the levy despite great challenges including continued cuts from the State. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for cities not to increase property taxes as state funding has been dramatically cut over the years. Over the last 10 years Minneapolis has been shorted \$405 million.

Road conditions have a big impact on the daily lives of Minneapolis residents and the businesses located here. We will invest \$150 million in street improvements over the next five years. We added an additional \$9 million to the 2012 road budget and \$23 million for 2013. I am very happy that we are choosing to use the money now available due to our disciplined paying down of debt in order to rebuild our infrastructure. I have always seen our City's diminishing investment in roads and bridges and lights as a debt of a different sort, one that would be paid at a higher price if we delayed too long.

As noted last month, some of my priorities in the final days of shaping the budget were to preserve funding for Crime Prevention Specialists and for an effective program to combat domestic violence. Those goals were achieved. What I am very disappointed about is that I fought for full staffing of the Fire Department and worked hard with my colleague, Council Member Schiff, and others to save those jobs. We could not save all of the positions. I remain concerned about the possible effects on response time.

Minneapolis really has much to be proud of when it comes to fiscal responsibility. Since 2002, we have together paid down \$183 million in debt and restored the City's AAA credit rating. Many cities across the country would dearly love to say that, but can't.

Thank you for your input during the budget process and during the year. Hearing from residents of the neighborhoods in the 12th ward is essential to my understanding of what you find most important to keep and what you would like to see changed.

Happy New Year!



Who uses Minneapolis Drinking Water?

Did you know that drinking water that is treated by Minneapolis is sold to jurisdictions outside of Minneapolis?

The largest number of customers are Minneapolis residents (382,578) but anyone at the Mpls –St. Paul International airport and a number of suburban residents get their tap water from Minneapolis' treatment plants too.

Golden Valley: 20,371
Crystal: 22,151
New Hope: 20,339
Columbia Heights: 19,496
Hilltop: 744
Edina: approx. 1700
Bloomington: 20,723

Bike Planning – City & Airport

Not everyone will choose to use a bike but for those who do, our city is becoming a more attractive place to live and that makes it easier for businesses to attract talent or keep our Minnesota talent. The Minneapolis – St Paul International Airport recognizes that bike accessibility can be good for business. A planning group of airport staff recently met with Council member Colvin Roy and Nick Mason, the Chair of the City’s Bicycle Advisory Group, to talk about how to become a bicycle destination. With security concerns high, public access is limited to the major entry roadway which is very busy and problematic for bikers, a design that won’t be changeable until the next major capital upgrade, but they presented an interim plan and the group, including public works transportation planners, discussed the pros and cons. After discussion, and with a few refinements, the interim plan was pronounced to be a great idea, which will be made public when the necessary partners have agreed. MSP got a black-eye for treatment by security staff of a bicyclist a few years back and they are very aware of it. Stay tuned for an announcement, including here, of the low cost, high impact interim plan.

Bicycles and bicycling have become a major part of our regional economy as well as an increasingly common choice for transportation in our city which is why the Transportation & Public Works Committee directed city staff to work with the volunteer Bicycle Advisory Committee to develop an implementation plan for the Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan. In December the Council unanimously approved the [Implementation Plan](#).

Wells Fargo Supports Minneapolis' Homebuyer Program

St. Paul and Minneapolis will each receive \$100,000 grants from Wells Fargo to help stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods hard-hit by the economy. The funds will be used for down payment and closing costs assistance for low-to moderate-income homeowners to purchase homes that have been renovated and prepared for sale with the cities’ use of federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds.

“Thanks to generous partners like Wells Fargo, since 2009 Minneapolis has been able to help over 350 homeowners purchase homes that were once foreclosed and now have brought new life back to the blocks of challenged neighborhoods,” said Mayor R.T. Rybak. “This new funding will assist up to 20 additional homeowners with down payment and closing cost assistance through the City’s Minneapolis Advantage loan program.”

Minneapolis Reduces Pet License Fees

The City of Minneapolis is reducing pet license fees in an effort to get more people to license their pets. Beginning January 2012, the annual license fee for a spayed/neutered pet drops from \$30 to \$25. A \$15 discount was also created for those individuals with limited incomes or those receiving public assistance. This new license type mirrors the existing discount for seniors age 65 or older.

Pet licensing is a major component of Minneapolis Animal Care & Control's mission to create safe and healthy communities for people and pets, and it's also the law. City ordinance requires the licensing of all dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets. (continued..)

Recycling Changes; Read the Report

Exciting changes are on the horizon for recycling in Minneapolis. The City is exploring a change from the current multi-sort system to a simpler single or dual sort system. An analyst predicts this could increase the recycled materials collected by 20 to 40% if it is introduced with a good community education program. Read the report made to the Transportation and Public Works Committee [HERE](#). Staff was directed to recommend a new recycling program that will best balance the values of cost effectiveness, convenience for customers, and reducing total environmental impact.

Licensed pets that stray away from home are three times more likely than unlicensed pets to be returned safely to their owners. If a licensed stray pet is picked up by Minneapolis Animal Care & Control or brought to the Animal Shelter, the animal gets a free ride home. Stray cats and dogs that come to the shelter without a visible license tag only have a 50 percent chance of going home.

Licensing your pet also helps other pets. Pet license fees pay for:

- * Basic veterinary and emergency care for all stray animals
- * Bite, animal cruelty and dangerous animal investigations and enforcement
- * Efforts to find homes for stray and abandoned animals
- * Enforcement of laws to ensure safe communities for people and pets

Licensing your pet is quick and easy. You can apply through the City by going online, calling 311, or visiting Minneapolis Animal Care & Control or the Minneapolis Development Review. Pet Licenses can also be purchased at two veterinary clinics - Westgate Pet Clinic and Minneapolis Veterinary Hospital - as well as with Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet. For more information visit the Minneapolis Animal Care & Control website: www.minneapolismn.gov/animal-control.

Property Crimes Court Watch

The next meeting of the 3rd Precinct Property Crimes Court Watch will be held Monday, Jan. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Community Room, 1720 E. Minnehaha Parkway, off 18th Avenue South. Court Watch is a community-based approach to getting involved in the criminal justice process after an offender has been arrested and faces formal charges.

The focus of the meeting is a review of photos and status information about the repeat burglars in the precinct, and the need for community members' statements about the personal impact of crime they experience. There is plenty of opportunity for questions and answers. This meeting will also include a presentation on "Why Child Protection Matters" by an Assistant Hennepin County Attorney.

For more information, contact Sue Roethele, 3rd Pct., 612-673-2839, or Sue.Roethele@MinneapolisMn.gov

Events & Meetings

Minnehaha Food Shelf Annual Fundraiser

January 11, 5:30-7:30 pm, Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St. Help support the food shelf and have a delicious spaghetti dinner! Food donated by Fat Lorenzo's.

Keewaydin School Improvements Community Meeting

January 19, 6:30 pm, Keewaydin School, 5209 30th Ave S. Minneapolis Public Schools staff and consultants from RSP Architects will be present to hear your comments and suggestions for upcoming facilities improvements to the Keewaydin campus. Can't attend? See http://lakenokomis.mpls.k12.mn.us/public_listening_sessions_announced.html to provide your input, see meeting notes, timeline and FAQs.



Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

50th Street LRT Station Area Rezoning Open House

January 19, 6:30 pm, Keewaydin Community Center, 3030 E. 53rd St.

Keewaydin Park Community Design Workshop

January 21, 9 am – 12 pm, Keewaydin Community Center, 3030 E. 53rd St. Join Park Board staff designers in developing a preferred concept design for the park amenities in relation to the school expansion. For information contact Jennifer Ringold at 612-230-6464 or jringold@minneapolisparcs.org.

Sibley Park Sno Daze

January 28, 9:30-12 pm Sibley Park, 1900 40th Street East. This family-friendly event includes breakfast! Served 9:30-11 a.m. \$4 adults, \$3 kids. Games and fun activities indoors and outdoors 10 a.m. - Noon, including a medallion hunt.

Boards & Commissions Openings

There are currently many openings on the City’s Boards, Commissions & Advisory Committees. Applications are accepted in the spring and fall. Please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/ for application information.

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



I am honored to serve the residents of the 12th Ward. If you have any questions or comments please call me at 612-673-2212 or e-mail me at Sandra.Colvin.Roy@minneapolismn.gov

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the 12th Ward News, click [HERE](#) and make your selections. Or, contact Loren Olson, with your request at Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2378.

