



[May, 2012]

## Gardening time is here!

**Dowling Community Garden Plant Sale** Mark your calendar for the annual plant sale at one of the oldest Victory Gardens in the country.

Saturday, May 19th, 10am-1pm  
Dowling Community Garden  
3901 46th Avenue South

Dowling Garden growers have hunted through countless catalogues and online offerings from seed companies to provide you with an astonishing array of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and lovely old-fashioned annual and perennial flowers. Expect to find over 200 varieties of vegetables, flowers, and herbs. Go early for the best selection.



Photo above shows plantain-leaved pussytoes blooming in the Gateway Garden.

### Gateway Gardens Weeding Schedule

Plants are already popping up in Gateway Gardens at 50<sup>th</sup> Street East, just north of the LRT station. Would you like to help keep the garden beautiful? There are weeding meetings every other Saturday from 9:30 – 11:00 am and also on Monday May 21. Here's the schedule:

- May 12 and 26
- June 9 and 23
- July 7 and 21
- August 4 and 18
- September 1, 15 and 29
- October 13 and 27
- MONDAY, 7-8pm, May 21st

There are trowels, gloves, dandelion picks and yard bags in the storage trunk. Bring a friend. If you want to work on your own time contact Trish Schilling at 803-5617.



### Prevent the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer; Hold off on Pruning Ash Trees

Emerald ash borers are present in Minneapolis. The MN Department of Agriculture considers the beetles to be active already this year.

If you have an ash tree, it is important not to prune it this time of year or move any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) while the pests are active. Moving the pests helps them spread to uncontaminated areas.

Wait until fall to prune.

### The Midtown Farmers Market is Now Open!

See calendar for details.

## Longfellow Garden Club Annual Plant Swap

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am [Plants can be dropped off starting at 10:30 am]  
Sanford Junior High parking lot at 35<sup>th</sup> Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue South.

This annual tradition of the Garden Club offers the opportunity to share the “extras from happily spreading plants” and pick up something new. If you have none to swap, a small donation to the Club’s Speaker Fund is requested. For more information contact LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com.

## Get all the dirt on composting

Minneapolis gardeners and non-gardeners alike can put these tips to good use while cutting down on the waste stream.

- **A healthy, no-waste lawn and garden:** Caring for all the green and growing things in your yard can create a lot of waste, but with composting it doesn’t have to. [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11377](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11377)
- **Reduce pesticides:** Insecticides, herbicides and fungicides are chemicals designed to kill weeds, insects, rodents and mold. These chemicals can be poisonous and pose a danger to animals and people, especially children. Keep pests out of your home and yard in the first place to eliminate the need for toxic chemicals in your home and yard. [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11379](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11379).
- **How to compost:** Home composting is an easy way to turn much of the waste from your yard and kitchen into a rich material that you can use to improve your soil. [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11381](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11381).
- **Compost troubleshooting:** Does your compost pile smell bad or take too long to break down? Here are some solutions to these and other common backyard composting problems. [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11383](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11383)

## Development Updates in Ward 12

**46<sup>th</sup> & 46<sup>th</sup>** - According to an update from Michael Lander of the Lander Group, the 48 unit rental housing building at 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> Street is now on track. There was more work needed on the foundation than anticipated, plus the new design for more underground parking also required a few changes. Things are progressing well and Lander says that neighbors should see the wood frame going up in the next month.

**Oaks Station Place moving ahead.** West of the 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Hiawatha Avenue LRT station, this project is well underway. The design features a clock tower and an arch above the drive aisle entering the bus and LRT area. The arch bridges two portions of the housing and commercial project. Exciting news is that the Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) was recently awarded \$115,000 grant for art in public places by the City of Minneapolis to add some art to the plaza facing the LRT station.

## Minneapolis is Third Greenest City in USA

A survey by Travel + Leisure magazine has declared Minneapolis the third greenest city in the country. The April 2012 survey asked voters to rank top U.S. cities in three survey categories: cleanliness, pedestrian-friendliness and public transit, and great public parks, which offset urban asphalt and improve air quality. The first and second rankings went to Portland, Or., and Savannah, Ga.

The high-ranking cities support other green initiatives that benefit travelers as well as locals; for instance, Minneapolis offers cheap, easy-access bike rentals. With 46 miles of city bikeways and 84 miles of off-street paths, Minneapolis is one of the most bike-friendly cities in the nation and has a thriving community of people who bicycle to work year-round. The ranking also credits Minneapolis’ many “green” restaurants.

Previous Travel +Leisure surveys have voted the Minneapolis Saint Paul area the "most intelligent," a top biking city, and cleanest city in America.

**SENA Grant - Art in Public Places for Oaks Station plaza** SENA partnered with Oaks Properties (the developer), and Minneapolis Transit-Oriented Development Director, David Frank to apply for the grant. SENA says the “the addition of public art to the plaza will provide a signature element that will improve the appearance of the plaza, and increase the quality of place for residents, shoppers/diners and commuters alike.”

The process for determining the type of installation will be ongoing throughout the summer, with installation likely in Spring, 2013. SENA is looking for 3-4 community members to help plan the public art project for “Oak Station Place Plaza”. This Committee will meet 8-10 times to:

- Draft the Request for Proposals (call for artists)
- Meet with the selected artist
- Identify community engagement strategies
- Review draft designs
- Plan the dedication

**SENA’s Business Development & Transportation Committee** will meet this **Thursday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.** at the other new, neighborhood apartment building “Station 38 Apartments” (3725 29th Ave S) to take a tour of the building and then discuss the process for moving forward with the public art project. If you would like to be part of the Committee that helps guide this public art process, please attend this meeting or call the SENA at 721 – 1601.

**Longfellow Station** – This development at 38<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Hiawatha Avenue will contain 180 rental units as well as a separate commercial building nearest the corner. Sherman and Associates has been working for some time to have a loan guaranteed by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to get the most favorable terms and rates. Unfortunately, HUD declined. George Sherman informed the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward News that he is now pursuing private financing and has two very good financing offers on the table. He expects to close on one of those offers in mid-July to mid-August and he is prepared to begin construction immediately thereafter.

**Riverview Apartments** – Applications are now being taken for the senior rental housing (62+) at 5360 Riverview Road, close to Minnehaha Falls Park and the LRT station at 54<sup>th</sup> Street. This brand new building with affordable rent based on income (income guidelines apply) is a Common Bond Community. For more information please call 651-290-6228.

### **City Redistricting; What Does it Mean to Me?**

On March 27, the City Charter Commission finalized new Ward boundaries within Minneapolis. Redistricting occurs after the results of the census become available every 10 years. After the new Wards were finalized by the Charter Commission, precincts were adopted through an action of the City Council. Due to some changes in precincts, some polling places will change as soon as this year’s (2012) election, but you will still be represented on the City Council by the Council Member elected in 2009. The boundaries of Ward 12 will change. The ward no longer reaches Lake Street, but ends at 34<sup>th</sup> Street therefore Ward 12 will no longer include the Cooper neighborhood but does retain all of Howe and Hiawatha.

## **Making Sense of Bike Lanes – Videos Explain**

Minneapolis is one of the best biking cities in the country. One thing that makes it so great is the miles and miles of bike lanes and trails. As different kinds of trails and markings continue to pop up around Minneapolis many residents are still learning what they all mean. You can learn all the facts by watching two short new videos produced by the City. To watch the videos and learn more about biking in Minneapolis, [CLICK HERE](#).

### **Bike & Stroll Events**

This spring and summer, the Minneapolis Bicycling and Pedestrian Program is hosting over 40 rides, walks and classes to help you get back on the streets and trails.

The new Ward 12 includes the entire Standish neighborhood, not just a portion as before, as well as all of Ericsson. The new ward will not include Lake Nokomis and only includes a portion of the Keewaydin neighborhood, but all of Minnehaha and Morris Park. To see the maps go here:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/redistricting2012/WCMS1Q-068980>

## Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commissioner Elections

On June 28, 2012, the City of Minneapolis will hold elections for new Neighborhood and Community Engagement (NCEC) Commissioners in Districts 2, 4, 6 & 8. A [map](#) of the districts is on the city's website. Greater Longfellow is located in District 8.

Engaging the people of our city in government issues and decision-making helps to build a better city and create vibrant, safe, welcoming and livable neighborhoods. The NCEC is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested who is interested in planning for the future of Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Commissioners for the NCEC are elected by neighborhood residents who act as electors. Greater Longfellow, which is made up of the Cooper, Longfellow, Hiawatha and Howe neighborhoods is allotted 4 electors and 4 alternates. LCC is seeking residents who are interested in acting as electors or alternates and willing to attend the June 28th meeting.

Anyone interested in representing LCC as an elector or alternate should contact Melanie at the LCC offices by phone at (612) 722-4529 or via email at [Melanie@Longfellow.org](mailto:Melanie@Longfellow.org) by Monday, June 25, 2012. There are also four at-large positions open which are filled by the Mayor (1) and City Council (3) through the city appointment process.

[Click this link to learn more about the NCEC and the election process.](#)

## Recreational Fires

Many Minneapolis residents enjoy a small outdoor recreational fire. Residents who like to have a fire in their yards should keep these City ordinances in mind so that they can be a good neighbor and keep Minneapolis safe and livable:

- Outdoor fires are permitted between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Keep fire small, less than three feet in diameter and two feet high.
- Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris, because the smoke can be toxic.  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/air/airquality](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/air/airquality)
- Fire must be 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 present.
- Postpone the fire when the wind exceeds 10 mph.
- Fire must be constantly attended by someone 18 years or older and completely out before being abandoned
- Illegal burning can result in a \$200 fine.

To report an illegal or unsafe fire, call 911. For more information from the Minneapolis Fire Department, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/fire](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/fire) and click on "Recreational Fires Q & A."

## MSP #1 Best Airport

In a survey conducted by Travel + Leisure magazine, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) was ranked the best Airport in the United States by travelers.

Here is what they had to say about it:

*This may be the cheeriest and most welcoming airport in the nation. T+L voters loved the shopping and food and drink options at this mini-mall of an airport, and when it came to ease of check-in and security, Minneapolis also took the No. 1 spot. It came in second for design and cleanliness, baggage handling, staff communication, and airport location. Only its Wi-Fi offerings were lackluster (11th place), but that still left this midwestern oasis as the clear winner*

Wondering which airport was ranked the worst airport in the country? It's LaGuardia in New York.

When you're planning to have a recreational fire, these simple suggestions could help make sure you're being a considerate neighbor:

- Postponing a fire when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory or alert. Fires release fine particles that contribute to air pollution and can aggravate a number of health problems, including asthma. Sign up for air quality alerts at <http://mn.enviroflash.info>.
- Letting neighbors know when planning a fire.
- Postponing a fire when smoke will blow directly at a neighbor's house or when still weather conditions prevent smoke from moving away at all.

The Fire and Police departments are authorized to extinguish the fire immediately if it is hazardous or unsafe. For more information on recreational fires or to register a complaint about a recreational fire, contact 311.



### **Outfall Improvements at 36<sup>th</sup> & Parkway Nearly Complete**

In last month's newsletter we informed you of some work being done at an outfall near 36<sup>th</sup> Street and West Minnehaha Parkway. An outfall is a place where stormwater, collected from our homes and streets, is deposited. At this outfall some of the water can be absorbed back into the land and some of it is carried (both by gravity and another pipe) into the Mississippi River. The recent work done at this outfall is designed to slow down the water so that it can be reabsorbed, or to simply slow it down so that when it enters the Mississippi it will not carry a lot of sediment with it. This is better for the health of the river but also helps us preserve our shoreland. As you can see, one energy dissipation measure is a pile of rocks. There will also be some additional vegetation added to help stabilize the soil.

## **Proposed Reduction in Service for Bus Route 46. Input Needed by May 11.**

Here is a message from Metro Transit regarding the potential elimination of some trips for Route 46. Your input is wanted:

Metro Transit has reviewed recent ridership on Route 46 and is proposing changes to take effect in September 2012. Unfortunately, the ridership on this route does not meet our performance standards. To address these we will eliminate some of the lowest ridership trips. During morning rush hours, the times during which service operates every 15 minutes will be reduced. Afternoon rush-hour service will operate every half hour instead of every 15 minutes. Also, some early morning and evening service will be eliminated.

On Saturday, service will operate hourly after 6 p.m. (eastbound) and after 5:30 p.m. (westbound past 46<sup>th</sup> St. & Nicollet Ave.). Sunday service will operate hourly before 10:30 a.m. (eastbound) and 11:30 a.m. (westbound).

### **We propose to eliminate these weekday trips:**

- Eastbound trips leaving Vernon Ave. & Eden Ave. at 6:16 a.m., 8:17 a.m., 4:22 p.m., 4:53 p.m., 5:22 p.m. and all trips after 9:15 p.m. Note: the 8:58 p.m. trip would leave 8 minutes later to serve 9:00 p.m. store closings.
- Eastbound trip leaving 46<sup>th</sup> St. & Nicollet Ave. at 4:51 a.m.
- Westbound trips leaving 46<sup>th</sup> St. Station (LRT) at 7:05 a.m., 8:37 a.m., 4:44 p.m., 5:14 p.m. and 5:43 p.m.
- Westbound trips leaving Madison St. & W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 8:27 p.m. 10:59 p.m.

### **We propose to eliminate these Saturday trips:**

- Eastbound trips leaving 50<sup>th</sup> & France Ave. at 4:50 a.m. and 5:54 a.m.
- Eastbound trips leaving Vernon Ave. & Eden Ave. at 6:31 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Note: the 9:00 p.m. trip would leave 6 minutes later to serve 9:00 p.m. store closings.
- Westbound trips leaving Madison St. & W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 5:41 a.m. and 11:15 p.m.
- In addition, the trips leaving Madison St. & W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. would end at Nicollet Ave.

### **We propose to eliminate these Sunday trips:**

- Eastbound trips leaving Vernon Ave. & Eden Ave. at 7:52 a.m., 9:01 a.m., 10:01 a.m.
- Eastbound trip leaving 46<sup>th</sup> St. & Nicollet Ave. at 7:08 a.m.
- Westbound trips leaving Madison St. & W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 7:54 a.m., 8:54 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Westbound trip leaving I-35W at 46<sup>th</sup> St. Station at 7:29 a.m.
- In addition, the trip that leaves Madison St. & W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 4:30 p.m. would end at 46<sup>th</sup> St. & Nicollet Ave.

Before we implement these changes, we'd like to hear your thoughts. Please call Customer Relations at 612-373-3333 or fill out an online form at [metrotransit.org/comments](http://metrotransit.org/comments) to tell us how these proposed changes will affect you.

## Events & Special Meetings

### Midtown Farmers Market Opens

**Saturdays, May – October 8 am – 1 pm;**

**Tuesday, June – October, 3 pm- 7 pm,** 2225 East Lake Street (across from the Midtown YWCA). Enjoy fresh vegetables, fruits, breads, meats, cheeses and much, much more. Customers can also participate in demonstrations ranging from cooking to composting. Visit [www.midtownfarmersmarket.org](http://www.midtownfarmersmarket.org) for more information.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct Open House

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 am – 2 pm,** East Lake Street & Minnehaha Avenue. Enjoy refreshments, displays and information about the City's bomb squad, canine unit, SWAT team, mounted patrol, Crime Prevention Specialists and more.

### NENA Annual Meeting & Dinner

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm,** Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Enjoy an Italian buffet from Fat Lorenzo's (with suggested donation), elect your neighborhood's Board representatives, see who wins the "Best of Nokomis" Noki award, volunteer recognition and more.

### Roosevelt High School Mosaic Festival

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm,** 4029 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Enjoy this fun-filled afternoon of music, dance, spoken word and other stage entertainment. Visit over 30 booths displaying student artwork and achievements. Ethnic foods, jewelry, greeting cards and other goods will be available for purchase. The Roosevelt Auto Show, featuring vehicles restored by students, alumni and community members, will be part of the festival. To participate, contact Curtis Franks, 668-8145 or [Curtis.Franks@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Curtis.Franks@mpls.k12.mn.us).

### Dowling Community Garden Plant Sale

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 1 pm,** Dowling Community Garden, 3901 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Choose from an array of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and lovely old-fashioned annual and perennial flowers. You'll find over 200 varieties.

### Longfellow Garden Club Plant Swap

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 11 am,** Sanford Jr. High, 3524 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, (west parking lot – 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue side). Bring your extra spreading plants to swap or make a small donation to the club's Speaker Fund. Swap begins promptly at 11 am and most plants are gone within 30 minutes!

### Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop

**May 26<sup>th</sup>,** Nokomis Community Center. Workshop features *Monarch Gardens-to-Go*. Help create monarch habitat to offset the increasing loss of natural environment. Everyone can make a difference by planting monarch habitat – even in a small urban garden. Deadline to pre-order the *Gardens-to-Go* kit is May 18<sup>th</sup>, but the free workshop alone is open to anyone. Visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) for information and registration.

### Mark your calendars: SENA Neighborhood Garage Sale

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 3 pm.** 10<sup>th</sup> annual neighborhood event. Free map and guide to all sales will be available at several locations and at [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org). To add your sale to the guide and map, call the SENA office, 721-1601, by June 1<sup>st</sup>.



Visit your  
neighborhood  
organization:

LCC

NENA

SENA



## 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 <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for application information.

I am honored to serve the residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Sandra.Colvin.Roy@minneapolismn.gov)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward News, contact Loren Olson, with your request at [Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2378.