



[August, 2012]



Turk's cap Lilies in Minnehaha Falls Park, Lower Gorge. Photo by Dave Schmidt

3 Steps to better Hiawatha Signals Starting Soon

After years of waiting and lots of work, you will begin to see the transformation of the Hiawatha signal system this September! The first thing you'll see in intersections along the route will be the installation of brand new loop detector technology, which will require some digging. These new and improved detectors will do a much better job of telling the signal system where cars are waiting, how many, and how long, allowing the signal controllers to streamline efficiency and optimize available time for the movement of traffic. They will also prevent long, pesky waits at an intersection when there are no other cars around.

Though some things will get better right away, drivers will not see the full benefits of the new detectors until the other two steps are completed and the entire traffic signal system is up and running.

Installing the detectors will require partial closures of Hiawatha Avenue for two weekends and some minor closures during the week, primarily for the side streets. When the dates of closure are firm, the information will be shared extensively to reduce inconvenience.

The next thing you may notice is the controller cabinets being replaced by new cabinets that will better accommodate the new controller equipment, coming later this year. The new cabinets will have better surge protection which will mean fewer incidents of flashing signal lights following a lighting strike or power spike.

The change you probably won't see will make the most significant difference and that is the installation of new controllers inside the boxes. Sophisticated traffic

Minneapolis Population Growth Outpacing Neighbors

The Metropolitan Council recently released 2011 population estimates for all metro cities. Minneapolis growth far outpaced other metro cities. Minneapolis grew by 5,295 people. St. Paul, which had the second greatest increase, only gained 1,299 people.

The Met Council uses a methodology largely based on housing inventory, so our growth of almost 5,300 residents is primarily due to a combination of new housing growth plus decreased rental vacancy rates; average household size did not materially change in the last year.

signal control equipment is available now that did not exist in 2004 when light rail service began, including software specifically established for roadway signal operations in a light-rail environment. Coordinating rail traffic with a highway that has high traffic volumes but doesn't really function like a highway because of the cross traffic and stop lights, has been a huge a challenge for the corridor. So challenging, that even the newer equipment required customization and testing. I can assure you, we did not skip the testing!

The new controllers combined with better data from new loop detectors will allow the signal sequencing to be revised. For instance, if there are no cars waiting in one direction, the signal can adjust to skip that phase. Combining the information from the detectors with the new signal controllers and the new boxes will allow the cars who have been waiting the longest to proceed first, after a train passes, rather than starting the cycle over from the same place each time. The engineering behind the new signal sequences is well underway so that the controllers can be programmed as soon as they arrive from the manufacturer which is expected to be in the late fall.

Engineers are also refining the communication that occurs between the traffic signals and passing light-rail trains. Although the roadway traffic signal control system is separate from the light-rail system, it receives information from the light-rail system in order to clear street traffic from tracks. The timing of these inputs from the light-rail system will be re-calibrated to ensure maximum efficiency.

This project is being led by the City, and I want to thank all of the public works staff who have worked with me to make these significant improvements a reality. We are also working with partner agencies: the Federal Highway Administration, Metro Transit, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Hennepin County, all of whom contributed financially and technically to achieve the goal.

Watch for the closure notices and remember that all three steps must take place before the full benefits can be felt, but know that they are coming.



Report Looks at Impact of Voter ID Proposal

On Election Day this November, voters will be asked whether Minnesota's constitution should be amended to implement new regulations affecting voting rights. The proposed changes include a mandate for certain voter identification provisions, changes to in-person and absentee voting including Same Day Registration and vouching, changes to polling places and election judge responsibilities and the introduction of provisional balloting.

The Minneapolis City Clerk's office prepared a report on the possible effects the proposed amendment could have on Minneapolis voters and City government. The report does not evaluate the merits of the proposition. Instead, it offers information and analyses to help people understand the potential impacts that this change would have on individuals and on the city budget.

The report was presented to the City Council on July 19, 2012. To see the report and other supporting information, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections and click on the July 19 Elections Committee link.



The Primary Election is
Tuesday, August 14

Following Redistricting, some precinct lines and polling places have changed. You can look up your polling place: [Click HERE.](#)

Here are the current polling places for the 12th Ward:

PRECINCT—

1 – Longfellow Park,
3435 36th Ave S

2 – Dowling Urban
Environmental School,
3900 River Parkway W

3 – St. Peder's
Evangelical Lutheran
Church, 4600 42nd St E

4 – Hiawatha
Community School,
4201 42nd Ave S

5 – Nokomis Community
Center, 2401 Minnehaha
Parkway

6 – Minnehaha United
Methodist Church, 3701
50th St E

7 – Minnesota Veterans
Home (Bldg. #17),
5101 Minnehaha Ave

8 – Sibley Park
Recreation Center, 1900
40th St E

9 – St. Helena's Catholic
Church, 3201 43rd St E
(use parking lot
entrance)

10 – Morris Park, 5531
39th Ave

Minneapolis Launches 311 Mobile App

Reporting potholes, graffiti, and broken street lights to the City of Minneapolis just got easier with the launch of the new Minneapolis 311 mobile application. Minneapolis residents can now report issues to the City through a free app on their iPhone or Android devices without calling 311 or visiting the City's website. The app is available in the App Store or in the Android Market on your smart phone. Just search for "Minneapolis 311."

Those who use Blackberry or Windows Phone devices can report service requests to Minneapolis 311 by visiting SeeClickFix.com on their mobile browser.

Ten service requests are available with the launch of the app and more will be added throughout the year as the seasons change. With the launch of the mobile app, folks will be able to report issues to Minneapolis 311 related to the following:

- Abandoned vehicle
- Graffiti
- Parking meters
- Parking violations
- Potholes
- Traffic signal timing
- Broken street light
- Traffic sign repair
- Traffic signal trouble

GPS will provide the location of the service request and people will also be able to submit a photo to add more detail to their request. Just like making a request by calling 311 or using the City's website, the person making the service request will be able to follow their request from start to finish. Service requests with the app can be made any time of day whether or not 311 is open for business and the request will be reported to the appropriate City department immediately.



Water trees weekly to help them remain healthy.

Place a hose beneath the branches of the tree and run water at a gentle trickle for about two hours. The best time to water is early morning or late evening. For info on caring for trees visit: www.minneapolisparks.org/elmer or call the Park Board Forestry Department, 612-313-7710.



One Minneapolis One Read

Purchase your ticket now for an evening with Garrison Keillor and author, Diane Wilson

Minneapolis Convention Center, 7 pm Mon, Sept.24

Join Garrison Keillor and author Diane Wilson for a discussion of Wilson's book "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past." Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for seniors, students, limited income. Tickets are available at www.ticketworks.com or (612) 343-3390.

One Read is Minneapolis' community read where everyone in town is invited to read the same and join in a community conversation.

For more Minneapolis' second annual community read, click [HERE](#).

Help new trees with mulch.

Mulch helps preserve root health by holding moisture, reducing weeds and preventing damage from weed whips and lawn mowers.

Place a four-inch layer of mulch around the tree, keeping it a few inches away from the trunk. Young or newly planted trees should have at least a two-foot radius of mulch; older trees should have a six-foot radius.

Free wood chips are available at many Minneapolis Park Board sites. Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/woodchips or call to find a location near you.

Voting Information

The Primary is Tuesday, August 14. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Some polling places are different. Beginning in 2012, voters will use the new voting precincts that were set by the 2012 Redistricting Plan. If you are unsure where to vote, enter your home address into the tools at mnvotes.org to find your polling place and view your sample ballot. To view maps of the new Districts, Wards and Precincts in Minneapolis go to www.minneapolismn.gov/elections and select Election Maps. Do not assume that the same precinct number means that you will vote in the same place.

Are you registered? All individuals whose registration applications are received by elections officials by 5 p.m. on July 24 will be pre-registered for the Aug. 14 Primary. Voters who newly register will receive a postcard notifying them where to vote. You may also register at the polls on Election Day by providing one of the forms of identification required by Minnesota law. Use this tool to see if you are currently recognized as a registered voter in MN: [Voter Registration Lookup](#)

Absentee voting is easy.

Voters unable to vote in person at the polls on Election Day may vote in person at Minneapolis City Hall or complete the entire process by mail. Please allow seven days to complete the process by mail. The Minneapolis Elections Office is located in Minneapolis City Hall at 350 South 5th Street in Room 1B on the ground floor. Enter on the 4th Street side. Minneapolis Elections will also be open Saturday, August 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The [Absentee Ballot Lookup](#) is an easy and convenient way for voters to check on the status of their absentee ballot.

Who represents me in the City of Minneapolis? Are the new Districts in effect?

Current city elected officials continue to represent the Ward or District from which they were elected through 2013. Here's what voters need to know:

- City Council Members elected in 2009 continue to represent the Wards from which they were elected thru 2013. A new term begins in 2014
- Park District Commissioners elected in 2009 continue to represent the Districts from which they were elected thru 2013
- City-wide officials elected to city-wide office continue to serve thru 2013

The Minneapolis Elections and Voter Registration Office administers elections in the City of Minneapolis. For information about registering and voting in Minneapolis or to serve as an election judge, residents can visit the Web site at www.minneapolismn.gov/elections or call Minneapolis 311 or 612-673-3000.

55+ Stroll

Join your neighbors on Wednesday, August 29th at 10:00 am for a walk. Meet at the northwest corner of West River Parkway & E 44th St., near Becketwood Cooperative.

55+ Strolls are 1.5 to 2 mile walks at a leisurely pace.

These strolls are designed to offer an easy, pleasant walking experience to encourage walking for transportation.

The health benefits of walking are numerous including reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and obesity.

Postcards about Polling Places – FAQ's

Q. Why did I get this postcard (the PVC)?

A. Due to redistricting, Hennepin County mailed this notice to all registered voters in the county, which includes all Minneapolis residents, whether your polling place or election district information changed or not.

Q. Do I need to do anything with this card?

A. Check to make sure the spelling of your name and the address of your residence shown on the card (PVC) are correct. If there are any errors, you should contact the Hennepin County Elections Office to correct that information. The Hennepin County Elections Office can be reached during business hours at 612/348-5151.

Also, note the location of your polling location, since it may have changed along with your election districts (federal, state, county, city ward, park and school district).

You do not need to bring this card to your polling location in order to vote.

Q. My information is not correct. What do I do?

A. If you discover any errors on your card (PVC), please contact the Hennepin County Elections Office during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 612/348-5151. Voters who may have changed their name or address must complete a new voter registration application and re-register. Pre-registration for the August 14th Primary closes on July 24th, so it is important to take action quickly.

[NOTE: Pre-registration for the November 6th General Election closes on October 16th.]

Q. Why did my polling place change?

A. There are a number of reasons that the polling place could have changed:

- As a result of the 2012 redistricting, some precinct boundaries shifted, which would have potentially placed a voter in a new precinct with a new polling location;
- The City of Minneapolis reduced the total number of polling places from 131 to 117, which resulted in the consolidation of several smaller polling places; or...
- It's possible the voter's previous polling location is simply no longer available.

Q. The voter identified on the card is deceased; what do I do?

A. If the caller is a family member to the deceased person, ask him or her to return the card (PVC) to the Hennepin County Elections Office. The family member should indicate on the PVC that the voter is deceased and his or her relationship to that voter and then sign the PVC.

Alternatively, you can ask him or her to send a letter to the Hennepin County Elections Office that includes the following points:

- Deceased voter's name, address, and date of birth;
- Writer's relationship to the deceased voter;
- Writer's signature and date

Mail to:

Hennepin County Elections
PSL 012 Government Center
300 South 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012

Q. The voter identified on the card doesn't live here; what do I do?

A. The caller should circle the return service requested option on the card (PVC) and send the card back to Hennepin County (see address above) so that the voter's record can be challenged.

Events & Special Meetings

National Night Out

August 7 Check your own block organizer for times and be a part of NNO events across the city for the 29th Annual NNO. This year's theme was proposed by Kate Sandweiss, of the East Isles neighborhood: "It takes a village, it starts with our block."



Longfellow Corn Feed

August 9, 5:30-8 pm, Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. Join your neighbors for activities for kids, a health and resource fair, live music, food vendors and CORN... lots and lots of corn! Longfellow Community Council is looking for volunteers to staff their corn feed table. If interested please contact joanna@longfellow.org.

Visit your neighborhood organization:

LCC

NENA

SENA

Minnesota Community Gardening Day

August 11, Various locations. On this day, 60 community gardens will host events in their garden that are free and open to the public. View a map of participating gardens online at www.gardeningmatters.org



In the 12th ward:

Southside Star Community Garden, 41st St E & 32nd Ave S. **4 – 8 pm** Celebrate great neighbors and the diverse neighborhood with food, music and other activities.

*** Primary Election ***

August 14 The Primary ballot will contain both partisan and non-partisan offices. Many locations have changed as a result of redistricting that follows the census. To find your polling place of for more information, visit www.minneapolis.gov/elections.

Ft. Snelling Upper Post Walking Tour

August 14, 6:30-8 pm Ft. Snelling Upper Post, Corner of Taylor Ave & Colwell/Minnehaha, in front of Clock Tower Bldg. Learn about the history of the Upper Post, which was used in the early 1820's, during the Civil War, again in the late 19th & early 20th centuries then decommissioned and turned over to the Veteran's Administration in 1946. Tour guide Chuck Liddy, FAIA, of Miller Duinwiddie Architecture, has been involved in efforts to save, mothball and eventually reuse the buildings. Cost is \$5. To register and for more information, visit www.preserveminneapolis.org/wpfile/tours/.

55+ Stroll

55+ Strolls are 1.5 to 2 mile walks at a leisurely pace designed to provide an easy, pleasant walking experience for those age 55 and up in order to encourage walking for transportation. The stroll near Becketwood Cooperative is on Wednesday, August 29th at 10:00 am. Meet at the northwest corner of West River Parkway & E 44th St.

Nokomis Area Block Party

September 9, 11 am – 4 pm, Oxendale's Market Parking Lot, 5025 34th Ave S. Event includes a bounce house, face-painting, classic cars & trucks, arts & crafts, food and more. Hosted by Oxendale's Market and Faith Lutheran Church.

Boards & Commissions Openings

There are many openings on the City's Boards, Commissions & Advisory

Committees. Applications are accepted in the spring and fall. Please visit <http://www.minneapolis.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for application information.

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, contact Loren Olson, with your request at Loren.Olson@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2378.