



[September, 2012]



Lake Hiawatha sunset. August 7, 2012. Photo by Loren Olson

2013 Budget Recommendation

Mayor Rybak shared his recommendations for the 2013 budget on August 15. He highlighted the results of \$241 million in city debt paid off over the past decade and the impact of the stadium financing on property taxes in the very first year after its passage.

We've paid off deficits in pensions and internal obligations but, "A pot hole is also a deficit, a deficit we can't leave behind" the Mayor said. Paying down the debts allowed us to finance more infrastructure improvements, specifically 60% more investments in roads, bridges, lights and signals between 2012 and 2017 than we previously had planned.

He would add \$2.5 million to the Police Department to fund hiring and training ten more officers and \$1.1m for Fire Department hiring new cadets (firefighters laid off last year have been re-hired thanks to federal funds.) Employment and training programs that are partly responsible for Minneapolis having a lower unemployment rate than others in the metropolitan area will require additional funds to replace one-time money.

Together these actions would require a 3.5% increase to property taxes, if not for \$5 million being taken off our property tax bills by the stadium legislation. So even in this first year, before we see any benefit from controlling increased sales tax collections or the ticket taxes on every event when the stadium is built, there is property tax relief.

28th Avenue Pedestrian Crossing Improvement

The signal where the Minnehaha Creek ped/bike trail crosses 28th Ave was designed to blink constantly. It was expected that drivers would always slow down to see if someone wanted to cross, but it didn't always happen. In reality, the constantly blinking light was often ignored by drivers, which is very unsafe because crossers tend to rely on it.

After hearing complaints from area drivers as well as path users, Councilmember Colvin Roy looked for a solution. Public Works' only recommendation was to change the signal into one that is actuated by pushing a button when someone wants to cross the street, as seen a few blocks away on Minnehaha Parkway. When the lights blink, drivers would know a person was crossing or waiting to cross the road.

Ward 12 office funds were used to change the signal to self-actuated on Aug 1.

I absolutely support public safety as the priority for our spending. Hiring more firefighters so that we have enough trained and on duty to keep all of our rigs running is my highest priority for next year and beyond. I continue to be concerned about Fire Department staffing levels in light of the number of firefighters who will be eligible for retirement over the next few years. I need more detail about the budget as a whole, before deciding whether the mayor has hit the right balance.



Minneapolis One Read; "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past"

Read the book. Join the conversation. One Minneapolis One Read is Minneapolis' community read where everyone in town is invited to read the same book.



The book is "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past" by Minnesotan Diane Wilson. Wilson grew up in a Minneapolis suburb and then followed questions about her family's past to South Dakota and Nebraska, where she tracked down information about her maternal relatives through five generations. The result of Wilson's quest for discovery is "Spirit Car," a book of vignettes she created in her desire to honor the lives of her Dakota Indian family. The story of Wilson's family begins

with a vivid account of the 1862 Dakota War in Minnesota and then follows her family members' nomadic travels across South Dakota and Nebraska in their struggle to survive.

Garrison Keillor and author Diane Wilson will explore her book at 7 p.m., **Monday, September 24**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors, students and limited income (for those tickets, select the \$10 option and choose "apply discount" before purchasing). Tickets are available at www.ticketworks.com or 612-343-3390.

To learn more about the One Read, and the many events and conversations involved, check out the website; <http://oneminneapolisoneread.com/>

Hiawatha Corridor Signal Work to Start in September

Finally – the improvements we all have been waiting for will start this month. You will see work being done on the east-west streets that cross Hiawatha to replace old loop detectors with better technology. Loop detectors inform the signal systems whether cars are present or not and how many. This will allow the signal lights to be timed most efficiently, to use every possible second safely when trains are coming through. It will prevent the time wasting problem of waiting for the signals go through a cycle of changes, even though you are the only car waiting.

The loop detectors on Hiawatha Avenue itself will also be replaced and this will require road closures. This is expected toward the end of September or in October. We are coordinating the work with a closure needed by Xcel to bury a new transmission line near 28th Street to minimize the closures. The City will make great effort to publicize

So, if you find yourself wanting to cross 28th Ave at this intersection – press the button to activate the blinking lights. If you're a driver, please always use caution, but when you see the lights flashing, STOP because someone is waiting to cross.

Parkway Pedestrian Improvements

Residents along East Minnehaha Parkway organized last fall about their concerns with speeding cars and the threat to pedestrian safety on Minnehaha Parkway between 29th and 39th Avenues.

Council Member Colvin Roy and Park Commissioner, Kummer met with the group to hear concerns and discuss potential solutions. A traffic study was done by the Park Board and recommendations received.

One action taken was to paint the pedestrian crossings in this stretch of the parkway to make them more visible, and add pedestrian crossing signs to increase awareness about yielding to pedestrians. Extra enforcement done by Park Board Police has also been done.

the closures widely when the dates are firm in order to reduce inconvenience. As explained in last month's 12th Ward News, the loop detectors are the first of three phases for this signal improvement effort. The next phases involve new cabinets and new controllers. The most dramatic changes will be seen once all phases are completed by the end of this year. Council member Colvin Roy is collecting ideas for how to celebrate, once we see the changes.

MSP Planning for More Flights – Comment Now

The City and local Council members are continuously engaged with MSP Airport about noise abatement efforts and long term plans. Now, the Metropolitan Airports Commission has released the draft Environmental Assessment of possible capital improvements **for public comment, closing October 11. A public hearing will be held October 1.** The Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) tries to project what the airport's needs will be in 2030 and then plans to meet those needs. A key finding is that MSP anticipates that demand at the airport will increase and they studied alternatives to accommodate that expected growth.

MAC studied three alternatives in order to evaluate the impacts the projects would have: 1) don't change anything, 2) expand both terminals, keeping airlines where they are, and 3) expand both terminals, relocating most non-Delta airlines to Terminal 2 (Humphrey). The EA analyzes the environmental effects of each in order to determine if the MAC's preferred alternative (#2) generates enough impacts to warrant mitigation and/or further study. The EA document concludes that no further study is required, but does recommend that the MAC provide additional noise mitigation to homes in some areas if and when the number of flights crosses a certain threshold. This is the document and conclusion on which they now seek public comment. You can read the draft EA here: <http://www.msppairport.com/about-msp/msp-2020-ea.aspx>

Three open houses are the opportunity for you to learn about the plans and ask questions about their analysis. Once you decide whether or not you agree with the conclusion that there will be little change in noise, it is important that you offer your comments at the public hearing, in person or by writing to the Commission.

Minneapolis has raised a number of issues on behalf of residents and a stable community, and we will repeat them in formal comments to the MAC. One of the most significant concerns is that major changes to navigation, made possible by new technology, have the potential to produce entirely different environmental results than procedures that this EA is based on. **We have urged the MAC to delay this process and to do it in conjunction with review of the new navigation procedures.**

Area Navigation (referred to as RNAV) allows planes to fly on much more precise routes. This saves fuel and reduces emissions but it could subject certain homes to a greater concentration of noise. The discussion about RNAV will begin soon and will be extremely important for south Minneapolis residents. We will communicate through this newsletter and e-democracy. You can also join our e-mail group to follow airport issues more closely. Please inform Dawn Snow at 673-2212 or dawn.snow@minneapolismn.gov

The second major concern is that we do not accept the methodology that is used to create contour maps (maps showing where airport noise exposure occurs.) A short

Minneapolis fills most City Boards and Commission in the Spring and Fall. Now is the perfect time to explore how you can get involved!

See more detail in the article to the left, or [CLICK here.](#)

New Business at Old Hiawatha Joe's site

4135 Hiawatha Avenue will soon be home to a new business, Elevated Beer, Wine and Spirits. The license for the business was approved by the Council on August 31. The owners of the business, local residents and brewing enthusiasts, say they plan to focus on a wide selection of beer – including locals - and product expertise.

description of the problem is that the map supposedly reflecting where noise occurs is based on a formula with too many averages and statistical inputs and not enough on what people really experience. Averages don't represent individual aircraft performance, extremes in noise, or the cumulative disruption of life when planes are very frequent. We want better measures. We also want MAC to fund an independent noise study so that we can have more confidence in the data.

Based on these concerns, Minneapolis would like MAC to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is a more rigorous than an EA. The decision about whether an EIS will be needed will be made by the MAC. Minneapolis also wants to ensure that if the gates are added, and homes are exposed to more noise, that mitigation will be available. **The current proposal that only provides mitigation when / if a set number of flights is reached is unacceptable.**

The City's formal comments will be shared with those who join the Airport Noise e-mail group, as soon as they are finalized. Please learn about these plans and the EA review, and comment at the October 1 public hearing or in writing. This is an important time to make your observations and concerns known to the MAC, in order to affect what is sent to the FAA.

Public Informational Open Houses - MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW

Sept. 17 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Eagan Community Center**
1501 Central Parkway, Eagan

Sept. 18 5:30-8:30 p.m. **Lake Nokomis Community Center**
2401 E Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis

Oct. 1 5-7 p.m. **Metropolitan Airports Commission – General Offices**
6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Public Hearing for the MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW

Oct. 1 7:00 p.m. **Metropolitan Airports Commission – General Offices**
6040 28th Avenue South, Minneapolis

OPTION C modified: Six (6) limestone benches as shown



Lake Hiawatha Raingarden Coming to Life

The work on the Hiawatha Raingarden has begun. The land was graded and planting soils installed. Planting will occur throughout the month of September with an expected completion date of October 1. This project is part of an effort to better manage stormwater in this area which has been prone to flooding. The garden is in addition to other improvements including increasing the capacity of the pipe which carries stormwater away from this area to the river. This is the final project recommended by the Blue Water Partnership to improve water quality in our lakes, guided by a citizen advisory group of area residents the last two years.

The garden is on park board property south of 43rd Street, near 19th Avenue. No road closures are planned. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the project Manager, Kelly Moriarity at 612-673-361.

6th Annual Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts; Volunteers Needed

Minneapolis Public Works is looking for volunteers to help with its 6th Annual Bicyclist and Pedestrian Counts. Weather permitting, counts will occur September 11-13, although other dates may be available. Most counts are conducted between 4:00-6:00 p.m. and volunteers will be asked to take a 2-hr shift. There are also select locations with morning and midday opportunities.

Volunteering for the counts is simple and enjoyable. You will be assigned a count location that is convenient for you and provided with all necessary materials. While there are a few technicalities, counting bicyclists and pedestrians is pretty straight forward. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Simon Blenski at 612-616-7345 or simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov or [sign up online](#).

Get involved today!

Have you ever thought about getting involved on a City Boards or Commissions? Now is the time to apply. The Fall Cycle of Open Appointments has begun. The following Boards or Commissions are posted on the City's website with information on vacancies and an application deadline of Friday, October 19, 2012:

- [Arts Commission](#)
- [Bloomington Lake Special Service District](#)
- [Capital Long Range Improvement Committee](#)
- [Chicago Lake Special Service District](#)
- [Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee](#)
- [Civil Rights Commission](#)
- [Civilian Police Review Authority](#)
- [Dinkytown Special Service District](#)
- [Disabilities, Mpls Advisory Committee](#)
- [East Lake Special Service District](#)
- [Heritage Preservation Commission](#)
- [Housing Board of Appeals](#)
- [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority](#)
- [Nicollet Avenue Special Service District](#)
- [Planning Commission](#)
- [Public Health Advisory Committee](#)
- [Senior Citizen Advisory Committee](#)
- [South Hennepin Special Service District](#)
- [Stadium Village Special Service District](#)
- [Telecommunications Network, Mpls](#)
- [ThincGreen Advisory Committee](#)
- [Uptown Special Service District](#)
- [Youth Violence Prevention Committee](#)
- [Zoning Board of Adjustment](#)

Events & Special Meetings

Longfellow Community Dinner

September 5, 6-7:30 pm, Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Avenue South. Ruhel Islam, owner of Gandhi Mahal, will train Volunteers of America (VOA) residents to make Indian cuisine, which they will then serve to neighbors. This meal is to celebrate partnerships that have been established through the Neighborhood Partnership Initiative (NPI) grant and the work of residents at VOA.

Minneapolis Monarch Festival

September 8, 10 am – 4 pm, Lake Nokomis Naturescape Gardens. This annual event celebrates the migration of Monarch butterflies from Minnesota to the mountains of Michoacan Mexico. Help to release 400 butterflies raised by the U of M Monarch Lab. Kids Butterfly Fun Run is back, ages birth to 11 years. Prizes for best kid’s monarch costume. Enjoy food, music and art. Visit www.monarchfestival.org for more information or to volunteer.

Jim Klobuchar at Nokomis Library

September 8, 11 am, 5100 34th Ave S. Friends of Nokomis Library are sponsoring a talk by local author and former Star Tribune correspondent & columnist, Jim Klobuchar. Jim will talk about his life and his books, which include “Pursued by Grace,” “Heroes Among Us,” “Alway\$ on \$unday,” and “Pieces of My Heart.” Books available for purchase and signing by the author.



**Visit your
neighborhood
organization:**

LCC

NENA

SENA



Minnehaha United Methodist Church Street Market

September 8, 11:30 am – 6:30 pm, Corner of 50th Street & 37th Avenue. Vendors selling handmade and/or organic clothing, gifts, jewelry. Children's carnival, salsa contest. Live music. Lunch and dinner served.

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.

Using Public Transportation in Minneapolis

September 12, 1:30 pm, Nokomis Square Cooperative, 5015 35th Ave S. Tony Oleo from Metro Transit will talk about how to use public transportation to get around Minneapolis.

Urban Sites Stormwater Tour

September 13, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Bus departs 7-SIGMA, 2843 26th Ave S at 9 am. Are you a business owner, building owner, landscape designer or contractor? See stormwater management best practices in a variety of settings at sites large and small. Tour includes 7 stops to see rain gardens, a cistern, green wall and the first living wall in Minnesota. Tour and lunch are free. Reservations required. Contact Ruth Romano at ruth@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529.

29th Annual Autumn Daze Festival & Parade

September 14-16, St. Helena Catholic Church, 3204 43rd St E. The festival features food, rides, live and silent auctions, games of chance and skill, used items for sale, quilt bingo, music and other family-friendly events. **Friday 6-10 pm** (ending with fireworks), **Saturday 10 am – 10 pm** (beginning with a parade) and **Sunday 10:30 am – 5 pm**.

Public Information Open House – MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW

September 18, 5:30-8:30 pm, Lake Nokomis Community center, 2401 Minnehaha Parkway East. A chance to learn about MSP Airport's long-term plans and potential impacts then comment at the **October 1st, 7 pm** Public Hearing at the MAC General Offices, 6040 28th Ave S. See newsletter article for details.

One Minneapolis One Read – An Evening with Garrison Keillor and Diane Wilson

September 24, 7 pm

Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium, 1301 Second Ave. Ms. Wilson's book, "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past," was selected for the second year of One Minneapolis One Read. One Read week – the beginning of months of conversations – will culminate in an evening with Garrison Keillor and Diane Wilson. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors, students and limited income (for those tickets, select the \$10 option and choose "apply discount" before purchasing). Tickets available at www.ticketworks.com or 612-343-3390. For information and to get involved, visit www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com; www.facebook.com/OneMinneapolisOneRead; www.twitter.com/minneapolisread or email oneread@minneapolismn.gov

Keewaydin Park Redesign Meeting

September 25th, 6:30 pm, Keewaydin Rec Center, 3030 53rd Street East. The preliminary master plan will be presented, with playground development and wading pool located in the southeast corner of the park. Play equipment options and the construction cost estimate will be refined. The plan will be modified in response to neighborhood comments and brought before the Board for approval in mid-October or early November. Contact Jennifer Ringold at ringold@minneapolisparcs.org or 612-230-6464 for information.

Rake for the River – Training Workshop

September 26, 7-8 pm, Gandhi Mahal Restaurant, 3009 27th Ave S. Learn how to organize your block club, school, faith organization or other group and get tips for planning your Rake for the River event. Select a date and participate in the event and you can be entered in a drawing to win great prizes! LCC provides leaf bags and other supplies. For details or to register, contact Hillary Oppmann at hillary.oppmann@gmail.com or 612-724-8110.

National Public Lands Day – Coldwater Spring

September 29, 8 am – Noon, Coldwater Spring, 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive S. Celebrate this national event by helping to plant trees and native wetland vegetation. For information contact Kathleen Swenson at 651-293-8424 or Kathleen_swenson@nps.gov or visit www.publiclandsday.org

“I’m in the Doghouse” – Minneapolis Animal Care & Control Fundraising Event

September 29, 11 am – 2 pm, Animal Care & Control Center, 212 17th Avenue North. Local celebrities and community leaders will be “kenneled” and will ask friends and colleagues to “adopt” them by making a financial donation to the Animal Shelter. Learn about the many ways MACC helps keep our pets safe and healthy, enjoy tours of the facility, paw print face painting, educational information booths and more!

Howe School Re-Opening! Watch for Community Meeting Notice

Minneapolis Public Schools decided to re-open Howe School in time for the 2013-2014 school year. A community meeting is now being scheduled to give details of the plan for Hiawatha and Howe schools to be a dual-campus Pre-K through 5th grade school and discuss the need for a CUP in order to rebuild the playground.

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 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.

