



.....[October, 2012].....

## Hiawatha Signal Changes – Road Closures Ahead

Finally we can announce that the work to improve the traffic signal timing for Hiawatha Avenue has started. New loop detectors will be installed as the first of three phases towards big improvements to the corridor. The work will require closures of Hiawatha Avenue for 2 weekends this month, October 13/14 and October 20/21. Please see the details below. Loop detectors tell the signal controller system when and where there are cars present at an intersection and if they are backed up. If there are a lot of cars waiting, the signal can give that direction a little additional time. If there are no cars waiting, the signal can skip that leg.

### Closures due to Hiawatha Signal Work

**Oct. 13 & 14 (Sat & Sun):** Northbound Hiawatha Avenue will be closed to traffic between 26<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Streets. You will still be able to cross Hiawatha. Northbound traffic from Highway 62 (Crosstown) will be detoured to I35W.

**Oct. 20 & 21 (Sat & Sun):** Southbound Hiawatha Avenue will be closed between 26<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Streets. You will still be able to cross Hiawatha.

You will also encounter some inconvenience here and there starting on October 10 as loop detectors are installed on the side streets. Full road closures are not needed for that. Please be patient and know that these changes will save time and frustration in the near future. The next two phases of improvement are installing new cabinets and controllers after all of the timing analysis and programming have been done. All phases should be complete by the end of the year.

This signal work on Hiawatha is timed to coincide with a major Xcel project - the burial of power lines under the highway - in order to reduce the overall inconvenience for area residents and commuters. Xcel's work at 28<sup>th</sup> Street means that you will not be able to drive on Hiawatha Avenue between 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Street from 10 pm on Friday, October 12 thru 5 am on Monday, October 22. All traffic will be directed to a detour using Cedar Avenue.

### Closure due to Xcel burial of power lines:

**October 12 (10 pm Fri) - October 22 (5 am Mon):** Hiawatha Avenue between 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Street will be closed in both directions. Drivers will be directed to take a detour using Cedar Avenue.

## Mayor in Ward 12 to Talk 2013 Budget October 10, 2012

Once again, CM Colvin Roy has invited Mayor Rybak to have a direct conversation with 12<sup>th</sup> Ward residents regarding his proposed City budget for 2013. This year it includes an increase of 1.77% even with a decrease in the total spent.

The Mayor begins the annual process by proposing a budget in August. Then the Ways and Means Committee, on which CM Colvin Roy serves, receives presentations from each department, finally making its own recommendation to the full Council in December.

Please join Mayor Rybak and Council member Sandy Colvin Roy **October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Becketwood, 4300 W River Parkway.** A short presentation of the Mayor's 2013 budget will be followed by a question and answer session.



Volunteer, Johana L. Hughes, shows off a butterfly to an appreciative audience at the *Monarchs in the Classroom's Tag and Release* activity tent at the 2012 Monarch Festival. Photo by S. Valedon / NENA

## Minneapolis Monarch Festival Survey

Congratulations to the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association on another highly successful Monarch Festival. The festival celebrates Minnesota's state butterfly, the Monarch, and its amazing 2,300 mile migration to the misty mountains of Michoacán, Mexico. If you were able to attend this year's event, NENA would like your input. Please fill out this survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YFXZFBL>.

## Airport Update –Highway in the Sky? Time to be on Alert.

There is an important and fast-moving issue that I want to get on your radar. I expect that the City will need your help in the very near future. MSP Airport is working on implementing new navigation techniques. These techniques could expose some people to an even greater intensity of noise. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is trying to push these changes through on an accelerated pace and without public input.

A rough description of these navigation techniques called "Area Navigation" or "RNAV" is that planes fly much more precise routes and they fly the same routes continually. After planes take off, they take a straight line (as much as possible) to a certain permanent location in the sky. Flying the most direct route possible saves fuel (and money) and it also reduces emissions. However, I'm very concerned that this would create a highway in the sky and I'm concerned about those who live beneath it.

The FAA wants to get the go-ahead from the Metropolitan Airport Commission by the end of November to proceed with the changes.  
(continued next page)

## General Election - Some Polling Places have Changed. What's on the ballot?

As part of the redistricting process which occurs following the census every 10 years, political districts have changed – this includes Ward and Precincts which determines where you vote. Some polling places have also changed. You should have received a postcard this summer informing you of your current polling place. If you want to confirm where you vote, go to:

Poll-finder/Where do I Vote:  
<http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

When you enter your information you will also have access to an example of your ballot so that you will see exactly what you will be voting on.

## Absentee Voting *Open Now*

**You may vote absentee for any of the following reasons:**

- You will be absent from the precinct on election day
- Illness or disability
- Religious discipline or observance of religious holiday
- Service as an election judge in another precinct
- Eligible emergency declared by governor or quarantine declared by federal or state government

You can vote in person at City Hall or you can vote by mail (allow 7 days). For more information about these options, click [HERE](#).

The FAA seems to believe they don't need public input on this change and they are not seeking any. The City of Minneapolis is working with Congressman Ellison's office, Minneapolis Legislators and other policy-makers to fight for a voice in this process. We are likely to need your help.

To follow this issue as it moves forward, please join my e-mail group about airport issues. If you want stay informed on this, please don't rely on the newsletter because it only goes out once a month. To join the airport e-mail group, contact Loren Olson at [loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2378.

While RNAV is moving fast, there is still another significant issue pending. It involves the question of whether or not MSP should be authorized to expand (add more gates and other accommodations for more people / planes / cars) or not. The MAC could decide as early as October 15 (although it could be scheduled for later) whether, based on the findings of the Environmental Assessment they have done, the proposed changes should be authorized. I wrote about this in [last month's newsletter](#).

We have raised a number of concerns on behalf of residents. Minneapolis doesn't believe that the Environmental Assessment is adequate and I testified to that effect at the public hearing On Monday night. We don't think a review that doesn't consider RNAV could possibly project future conditions at the airport. The plan – which anticipates a large increase in flights - doesn't offer to measure changes in noise and offer mitigation as a result. You can still comment on this proposal up to October 11th. Send written comments to:

MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW File  
C/O Roy Fuhrmann – Director of Environment Metropolitan Airports  
Commission  
6040 – 28th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450-2799  
Phone: 612-726-8100  
Email: [mSP2020draftEAW@mSPmac.org](mailto:mSP2020draftEAW@mSPmac.org)



## Development Updates

**Longfellow Station:** Construction of Longfellow Station apartments has begun. Applications will be accepted beginning in July 2013 with occupancy expected to begin in September 2013. Commercial construction is set to begin in April 2013 and be completed in December. Agreements to fill the commercial spaces are in the works. Information is available at [www.sherman-associates.com](http://www.sherman-associates.com)

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## Final Gateway Gardens Weeding Meeting

Saturday, Oct 13, 9:30-11am -  
Season finale (weeding) meeting.  
Everyone is always welcome at  
Gateway Gardens, located on 50th  
Street at 43rd Ave.

## SENA Annual Meeting is October 8. What's the Next Big Idea?

It's time for the Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) Annual meeting. Do you have a great idea for a neighborhood activity or project? Pitch your idea at the SENA Annual Meeting and sign up at least 4 volunteers to work with you on the project. Meeting attendees will vote to determine the winning idea. If your idea wins, SENA will contribute up to \$1,000 to help make it a reality. Guidelines and registration forms available at the SENA office or the [SENA website](#). SENA Board elections will also take place. Children are welcome to join the meeting or take part in special activities. The meeting will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm at Lake Hiawatha Park Building, 2701 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street.

**46th & 46<sup>th</sup> (now named Parkway West):** Construction is expected to be complete this December or early January 2013. Rental applications are now being accepted for February 2013. For layout and application information, Visit [www.parkwaywestapts.com](http://www.parkwaywestapts.com)

**Oaks Station Place:** Rental applications are now available in the leasing office at 3550 46th Street East. Units have been rented and the first resident moves in tomorrow. The developer is seeking local restaurants interested in leasing the commercial space which is adjacent to the plaza. The plaza will connect with the Bus and LRT Stations. Visit [www.oaksproperties.com](http://www.oaksproperties.com) for more information.



### **Riverview Apartments Senior Housing to Open Soon**

Riverview Apartments at 5360 Riverview Road will be opening this Fall. Council Member Colvin Roy recently toured the building. Accommodations include many communal gathering places for residents including a community room with a fireplace. There is also a three season porch. The units are almost full but applications are still being accepted. To qualify you must be 62 or older and your annual income must be under \$29,400 for a one-person household or \$33,600 for a two-person household. The rent for the units is 30% of your income. You can learn more and get a copy of the application [online by clicking HERE](#), or you can go to the Common Bond office at 328 Kellogg Boulevard in Saint Paul. The phone number for Common Bond is 651-291-1750.

## **Please Don't Rake Leaves into the Street**

Leaves in the street cause problems. First they block drains. Leaves which enter the drain and end up in the Mississippi River are bad for aquatic life. The leaves suck up oxygen as they decompose and they deposit nitrogen and phosphorous. These chemicals contribute to algae. Algae also prevents sunlight from reaching aquatic plants.

### **Got Leaves? Sanford Job Corps Can Help**

Sanford Middle School's Job Corps program helps students raise money for a variety of activities like the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Europe trip, 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Center and many other field trips and activities. For \$5 an hour, Sanford students will rake your leaves and even shovel your sidewalk this winter! For every hour of work, students will earn \$5 toward their personal education goals. For information and scheduling, contact Nick Cross at 612-668-4918 or [Nicholas.cross@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Nicholas.cross@mpls.k12.mn.us).

## Construction Begins on Lake Nokomis Weir Renovation

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) are beginning construction next week on the weir at Lake Nokomis. The work is not expected to disrupt navigation on Minnehaha Creek or Lake Nokomis. The entire project should be complete by the end of October.

The MCWD constructed the weir – a dam-like structure that holds back water – in 2000 to keep polluted water from Minnehaha Creek out of Lake Nokomis. As the lake’s only outlet, the weir can be adjusted to release water if lake levels get too high. It also helps prevent the transport of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species from the creek to the lake.

The original weir had an inflatable base which allowed for automated operation. When it was constructed, the District expected certain components of the weir to last for about a decade, which they did. Now components of the structure are in need of repair and replacement.

With components of the structure in need of repair and replacement, the MCWD will be changing the existing inflatable weir to an adjustable fixed weir that will provide the same level of protection for Lake Nokomis.

“Taking care of our city’s natural resources is an important part of the work that both the Park Board and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District do,” said District Five Park Commissioner Carol Kummer. “This project not only helps keep Lake Nokomis a great place to swim, fish, boat and spend time, but also helps keep the water quality healthy.”

## Drought Stricken Trees Susceptible to Disease

One of the effects of drought on otherwise healthy trees is insect damage, because many insects are attracted to drought-stressed trees for laying their eggs. A drought also decreases a tree’s ability to respond to changes in the environment and increases its susceptibility to disease. If a tree is already stressed by drought, it is more vulnerable to construction damage or any other impact on its root system.

An effective way to water the trees in your yard and boulevard is to turn on a slow stream of water (just so you can see the hose weeping) for a few hours.

If you hire a tree servicing company, make sure it is licensed in Minneapolis to ensure that the tree gets the right care. For a list of licensed tree servicers, [CLICK HERE](#).

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban quality of life. Healthy trees are beautiful, increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater.

## Events & Meetings

### Lake Nokomis Community School Pancake Breakfast & Walk-a-Thon

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 10 am.** This annual fundraiser begins with breakfast at Wenonah campus, 5625 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S., \$6 adults, \$4 kids (aged three and up), followed by the Walk-a-Thon at 10 am in the Wenonah gym and goes to Lake Nokomis. Everyone is welcome to join in on the walk.

### **SENA Annual Meeting & What's the Big Idea?**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8 pm**, Lake Hiawatha Park Building, 2701 East 44<sup>th</sup> Street. Have a great idea for a neighborhood activity or project? Pitch your idea at the SENA Annual Meeting and sign up at least 4 volunteers to work with you on the project. Meeting attendees will vote to determine the winning idea. If your idea wins, SENA will contribute up to \$1,000 to help make it a reality. Guidelines and registration forms available at the SENA office or at [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org). SENA Board elections will also take place. Children are welcome to join the meeting or take part in special activities.



**Visit your  
neighborhood  
organization:**

LCC

NENA

SENA



### **Longfellow Garden Club**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm**, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Want to grow garlic and (better) Heirloom Tomatoes? Come and hear Charlie Bowler, local tomato and garlic grower extraordinaire, talk about which varieties do well in Longfellow and how to improve your results. Visit [www.LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com](mailto:www.LongfellowGardenClubMail@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub](http://www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub).

### **Nokomis Healthy Seniors Annual Fall Frolic**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 3 pm**, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Lunch from Fat Lorenzo's, silent auction, music, bingo, cake walk, bake sale, book sale, games, raffle. Fun and prizes for all ages! Proceeds from this annual fundraiser support programs that help area seniors continue to live in their homes. For information call 612-729-5499.

### **Free Tour of Coldwater Spring**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 pm**, 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South, between Minnehaha Falls Regional Park and Ft. Snelling State Park. A National Park Service ranger will lead the tour of what is considered to be Minnesota's first American settlement. The National Park Service is restoring Coldwater to an oak savanna prairie.

### **Block Leader Training**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8 pm**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue. Hear helpful tips on how to organize your block, get timely updates on what is happening in your neighborhood and much more. For information contact Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethele at [sue.roethele@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:sue.roethele@minneapolismn.gov) or 673-2839.

### **Minneapolis Riverfront Forum – What is Next for Above the Falls**

**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm**, Mpls Park & Recreation Board, 2117 West River Road. Staff from the City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and MPRB will present recommended changes to the plan with visuals of what the area might look like. They will preview strategies to achieve the plan's goals, roles of public and private partners, and priority projects. They will compare the proposed changes, RiverFirst and the 2000 Above the Falls Plan. Your comments will be collected and questions will be answered.

## **Fall Street Sweeping 2012**

**Beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup>** It is almost time for the annual, city-wide, fall street sweep. Street sweeping keeps sand and grit from entering our water system. **Remember that raking leaves into the street is illegal!** Sweepers are not able to handle large amounts of leaves, pushing them into storm drains where they rot and create toxins in our water. Watch for signs to be posted on boulevards 24 hours before your street is swept. For more detailed information about when your street is scheduled, visit [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov) or call 311.

## **LCC General Membership Meeting – Best Meeting EVER!**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8 pm**, Minnehaha Academy, 3100 West River Parkway. Free dinner provided by local restaurants Merlin's Rest, Midori's Floating World Café, Longfellow Grill and more. Learn about organizations in Longfellow and about what is happening in the neighborhood. Bring books or food items to donate to LCC's book and food drive to be entered into a drawing to win fabulous prizes. Free childcare provided. Contact Joanna at [Joanna@longfellow.org](mailto:Joanna@longfellow.org) for more information.

## **Falls 4 All Benefit for Universal Access Playground at Wabun Picnic Area**

**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 pm**, 2720 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street (above the Wild Rumpus Bookstore). Proceeds benefit the playground, which is specially designed for children with disabilities to ensure that everyone, with or without disabilities, can play together. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages while shopping at the silent and live auctions. Items include a 4-night stay at a Lutsen Resort townhome, original work of art by Ray Meifert, theater tickets and more. Admission is \$80 single, \$150 per couple. Register at [www.falls4all.com](http://www.falls4all.com) or mail your check to People for Parks Fall Concert, PO Box 24901, Minneapolis, MN 55424. Seating is limited, be sure to register early. Contact Peggy Halvorson at [halvop2000@yahoo.com](mailto:halvop2000@yahoo.com) or 952-270-6620 for information.

## **Coldwater Photo Blitz**

**October 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – Noon**, 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive, between Minnehaha Falls Park and Ft. Snelling State Park. The Mississippi River Fund hosts the second Photo Blitz. Take pictures of life and landscape at this "park in progress."

## **Rake for the River Community Clean Up in Longfellow**

**Through November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Organize your block, faith group, school or other group of volunteers to spend an hour or two raking leaves, dirt and other debris from your street and storm drains. Lawn signs, bags and other materials provided by LCC's River Gorge Committee. Register online at [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org) or contact Hillary Oppmann at [hillary.oppmann@gmail.com](mailto:hillary.oppmann@gmail.com) or 724-8110.

## **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.