



[December, 2012]

Minnehaha Food Shelf Needs Help to Meet Rising Needs

At the Minnehaha Food Shelf, the needs continue to grow. **Over the past year, the number of people served increased 250%.** The food shelf serves people who live in the area between the Crosstown and Lake Street, Cedar Avenue and the river. They serve 600 households each month. There are a number of ways that you can help.

Donate Money: According to the food shelf, \$1 in donation will generate \$30 worth of food. To donate financially to the Food Shelf you can send a check or attend the upcoming fundraiser. Checks should be written to "Minnehaha Food Shelf" and delivered to MUMC at 3701 East 50th Street, 55417.

The annual fundraiser for the food shelf will be on **January 9 from 5:00-7:30 pm** at MUMC, 3701 East 50th Street. The event includes a spaghetti dinner provided by Fat Lorenzo's and entertainment by the Accordion Band 5:30-6:30. There will be a raffle for items provided by local businesses. Tickets \$8.00 for 18 and older; \$5.00 for 13-17 yrs. Kids 12 and under can attend for free.

Donate Food: Minnehaha Food Shelf always needs peanut butter, canned meat, cereals, soups, hamburger helper type dinners and macaroni and cheese. You can drop off these goods at the food shelf or you can bring them to the Riverview Theater from December 21-23 and get \$1 off of your ticket.



Movies @ Riverview Theater Benefit Food Shelf, December 21-23.

Attend a movie at the Riverview on December 21, 22 or 23 and a portion of the proceeds goes towards the food shelf. Bring a non-perishable item with you and get \$1 off the price of admission (which is \$2). If that were not enough, drinks and popcorn will be available for only \$1 each.

The movie schedule for those days is:
White Christmas at 4:00pm
A Christmas Story at 6:30pm
It's a Wonderful Life at 8:30pm

Picture courtesy of the Riverview Theater. This is a replica of the lamp featured in *A Christmas Story*. If you don't recognize the lamp, then you need to see the movie. If you do recognize this lamp, then you know that you should see movie again.



*Wishing you
Happy
Holidays and a
great New
Year!*

*Sandy,
Loren & Dawn*



Donate time: People interested in volunteering can show up at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E 50th St, on Tuesdays at 10:00 am. Food is distributed from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. There is lifting involved in this volunteer position. Call the church at (612)721-6231 with questions.

2013 Budget is Approved

Domestic Abuse Team Protected During Budget Process

A delicate balance is needed when making a budget: we must provide the level of service that our residents expect and need while being mindful of how property taxes affect the lives of our residents. I think we found that balance with the 2013 budget adopted last night. AND we continued our AAA rated financial practices that have allowed us to pay down past debt and put more funds into our infrastructure. You will see a lot **more roads improved** next year.

The Mayor's recommended budget provided for **an increase in the number of firefighters and police officers**, two of my highest priorities for next year. I was able to focus my efforts as a member of the Ways & Means Committee on other public safety issues, such as extra **911 operators** (we added 2) and preserving money for the City's **Domestic Abuse Prosecution team**.

This team has significantly increased the number of successful prosecutions of domestic violence cases. I believe this program is a significant reason that we have finally seen a reduction in the number of domestic abuse related emergency calls to 911. No one should have to live in fear in their own home. And the benefits reach for many years into the future. A lot of evidence now shows that children who experience or witness violence in the home have a high likelihood of becoming a victim or an offender as an adult. This successful team is a very worthwhile investment of a relatively small amount of city dollars. I am proud to say that our city will continue funding this effort within the City Attorney's office.

I also worked to return funding to the community restorative justice (RJ) organizations, like **Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice**. The RJ process brings together the victims, the offenders, and the many community members who volunteer to speak on behalf of all who are harmed whenever somebody commits a crime. Seeing the people who are impacted, and hearing their stories, truly makes a difference in the mind of the offender--as the drastically lower recidivism rate for offenders who are referred to an RJ program demonstrate.

None of the amendments resulted in an increase to the Mayor's budget recommendation. Two – thirds of residential property owners will see a reduction in the city portion of their property taxes in 2013.



p.s. To watch a KSTP story about the successful Domestic Abuse team and efforts to keep it funded, go to: <http://kstp.com/article/stories/S2850824.shtml?cat=0>

Voting 2012 – Lots of Voters, Some Problems

Minneapolis' 81% voter turn-out was the highest in nearly 40 years, since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1971. That and same day registration of 50,668 voters combined with technical failures to make the process more difficult than it should have been in some precincts. This is despite the fact that there were 30% more election judges working than in the big 2008 election.

Need Shoveling Help?

Contact Nick Cross at the Sanford Job Corps at 612-668-4900. The Job Corps allows Sanford Middle School students to earn money for school activities. You pay \$5 per hour and that amount is matched by participating organizations to support student educational goals.

Unshoveled Walk?

Minneapolis strives to be a pedestrian friendly city. A clear sidewalk is important – especially for people with mobility limitations.

To report an un-shoveled sidewalk, you can file an online complaint, call 311 or use the new 311 mobile app. If the City gets a report or discovers that a sidewalk is not properly cleared, Public Works will send a warning letter and give the property owners a chance to clear it.

If the sidewalk does not get cleared, the property owner may be issued a citation with a fine and crews will remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. The property owner will be billed for this work, and unpaid bills will be added to the owner's property tax.

What do we fix? The 12th ward had one of the highest turn outs in the city and a large number of already registered voters. At Sibley Park, the new 12-8 had 2,985 Election Day voters and one of the longest lines. No one should have to wait hours in order to vote, especially standing outside in inclement weather (always a possibility in November.) It has been the practice in Minneapolis to have the same number of voting precincts in each ward. This practice does not take into consideration that some wards have much higher voter turn-out. Therefore, polling places in Ward 12 end up with a high volume of voters while others have less. I have proposed that the City do away with the old practice of allotting the same number of precincts in each ward and instead try to equalize the number of voters to be handled by a precinct.

The city group strategizing for future elections was directed to study that possibility. State law allows local governments to adjust the number of precincts after a redistricting and I think we should do it.

Another change that would help relieve the congestion, allow convenience for voters and keep all protections in place for the voter and the integrity of the voting process is early voting. This is now used in 32 states. Even Texas is ahead of us on this one. I hope that our legislature can make this change because I am sure that it will benefit people all over the state.



Hiawatha Signal Light Improvements Nearly Complete

The million-dollar signal project is almost complete. The new loop detectors were placed in the fall and new cabinets and controllers are currently being installed. All of the intersections between 50th Street and 32nd St have been done with the exception of 38th St. 38th St will be completed on Friday, December 14 with 26th St to follow next week.

The new controllers are the most significant feature of the upgrade. They allow the signal lights to adjust based on who has been waiting the longest and also to skip legs were no cars are waiting. Users of Hiawatha should be experiencing the benefits of these changes now, with reduced wait times, but the best results will be achieved when all the intersections are complete.

This effort is the result of years of work, study and advocacy. Council Colvin Roy will be celebrating the improvements at a gathering in January and you will be invited. Beside benefits to the environment from less idling cars, and to drivers from less frustration, the new signal timing helps ensure that residents can easily navigate their own community and that we do not create unintentional barriers. "I'm very excited about the environmental benefits" said Colvin Roy, "but it means a lot to me to know that this will make a positive difference in people's daily lives."

Council Resolution Urges Shifting Federal Priorities from Military Spending to Essential Needs

Federal spending decisions have direct and indirect impacts on local governments. For example, since 2002, Minneapolis has seen a 30% reduction in Community Development Block Grant funding from the federal government; money which is

used for public safety purposes. As the States face their own federal cuts they also pass the pain on to local governments; the state cut Local Government Aid to Minneapolis by \$70 million dollars from 2008 to 2011. As a result, Minneapolis had to raise taxes despite cuts in spending.

The Pentagon's budget went from \$290.5 billion in 2000 to \$526 billion in 2011; 59 cents of every dollar of federal discretionary spending is for military purposes. As Congress works to resolve our national budget dilemma and the looming "fiscal cliff", the city of Minneapolis is urging the Minnesota Congressional Delegation to shift federal funding priorities from military operations to meeting the essential needs of local communities.

The Council passed a resolution to this effect on December 7. The proposed military spending reductions do not include veteran's services, which are a separate part of the budget. The City Council fully supports funding for veteran benefits, care and support. Council Member Colvin Roy supported the resolution because "The priorities of Congress – as expressed in the federal budget - have real impacts on our residents, and right now those priorities are totally out of whack with most residents' needs."



Picture from last year's celebration provided by NENA staff, Doug Walter.

Night Before New Year's Eve Celebration; NENA's 13th-annual **Night Before New Year's Eve Party** will be held **Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

NENA and the Nokomis Community Center/Minneapolis Parks and Recreation are proud to once again co-sponsor this annual community party. Families throughout the Twin Cities area and out-of-town guests are welcome to ring in 2013 in this fun, kid-friendly event. The entire event is **free**, but donations are much appreciated to help offset the cost.

Highlights include old-fashioned hayrides and marshmallow roasting at the bonfire. Indoor activities include the legendary Nokomis fish pond, games with prizes (basketball shoot, bowling, golf, cup stacking and more), crafts, fortune telling, live music, and a strolling magician. The ever-popular DJs from KidsDance will be back, spinning tunes with dance contests and prizes for kids of all ages. Returning this year is the popular Photo Booth (donations are highly appreciated to offset the cost).

Refreshments include hotdogs with all the toppings including *Laura's Famous Chilidog chili*, chips, cookies, draft 1919 draft root beer, coffee and hot chocolate.

Father Time will make an appearance to help ring in the New Year with the traditional countdown, complete with noisemakers, at 7:55.

Sunday, December 30, 2011, 5-8 PM

(New Year's countdown at 7:55 pm)

Nokomis Community Center

2401 East Minnehaha Parkway

Extra parking is available in the overflow lot East of the Center, and below the center along E. Lake Nokomis Parkway. Shuttle service is available.

[\(Overflow parking map\)](#)

(Shuttle route map)

2012 Schedule of Activities

Shuttle Service	5:00-8:30 p.m.
Bonfire and Marshmallows	5:00-7:45 p.m.
Crafts and Games	5:00-7:50 p.m.
Southwest High School Jazz Combo	5:00-6:00 p.m.
KidsDance, DJ and contests	6:00-7:50 p.m.
Hayrides	5:30-7:30 p.m.
Face Painting	5:30-7:30 p.m.
Fortune Teller	5:00-7:45 p.m.
Photo Booth	5:45-7:45 p.m.
Strolling Magician	6:00-7:30 p.m.
"Count Down to the New Year!"	7:50-8:00 p.m.

Safety Tips to Avoid Carbon Monoxide Exposure

Carbon monoxide (CO) incidents increase during the winter months and CO is often called the silent killer. The Minneapolis Fire Department's response to non-fire related CO incidents increases by 10 percent during the winter. According to the [Minnesota Poison Control Center](#), there are thousands of deaths each year as a result of carbon monoxide, making it the leading cause of death due to poisoning.

CO is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that when inhaled, enters the blood stream preventing proper absorption of oxygen, which can lead to illness and even death. Carbon monoxide is created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil or methane don't burn completely. Heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel inadequately can be sources of carbon monoxide.

The [Minneapolis Fire Department](#) together with CenterPoint Energy would like to remind you of important safety tips and how to recognize the symptoms of and avoid [CO exposure](#):

- Purchase a [CO detection device](#) with an audible alarm and digital display and install it no more than 10 feet from each sleeping quarter, as required by [law](#). Fuel-burning appliances, equipment and combustible engines all produce CO that can reach dangerous levels if improperly operated or maintained.

- Have fuel-burning equipment regularly checked by a qualified technician (most manufacturers recommend annual check-ups).
- Never operate an automobile, lawn mower or any combustion engine, barbecue grill or similar equipment in an enclosed area such as your home, garage, tent, fish house, trailer or place of business, even with the door open. Any pollutants in the air from the garage, such as a car engine running, can travel into the structure and CO can accumulate.
- Never leave a fire smoldering in a fireplace.
- Check frequently for visible signs of problems, such as high indoor humidity and soot or water collecting near a burner or vent.
- Equipment that uses natural gas should produce a clear blue flame. A yellow or orange flame may indicate a qualified technician should check for a potential problem with the equipment. When natural gas equipment is properly operated and maintained, it usually will not produce CO.
- Provide adequate combustion air for all your appliances.
- Be certain fuel-burning equipment properly vents to the outdoors.
- Keep vents, fresh air intakes and chimneys clear of debris or other obstructions and check for vent pipes that have gaps, leaks, spaces or are rusted through.
- Never attempt to heat a room with a natural gas range, oven or clothes dryer
- Physical symptoms of CO exposure can resemble the flu causing headaches, nausea, fatigue, confusion and dizziness that disappear when a person breathes fresh air.
- Unusually high indoor humidity with persistent heavy condensation on walls and windows and soot or water collecting near a burner or vent
- Stuffy or stale indoor air.

If you suspect CO exposure, leave the area immediately taking your pets with you and tell others to do the same. Once you are safely away from the area, call 911 to report the suspected CO incident.

Treatment for CO exposure is fresh air or oxygen. Severe exposure requires medical attention. Do not return to your home or building until the source of the problem is discovered and corrected.

Events & Meetings

Holiday Celebration for Seniors

December 18th, 10:30 am – Noon, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 East 31st Street. Minneapolis Public Schools Community Education sponsors this annual event. All area seniors are welcome to attend and enjoy live holiday music, lunch and door prizes.

Job & Career Workshop Series

December 18th, January 15th & February 19th, 6:30-8 pm, Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Avenue South. Need help finding a job? This free series will help you present your best self to potential employers. Attend one, two or all three sessions to prepare and refine skills for your job search. Topics covered: Resume & Cover Letters; Dress for Interview & Career Success; Preparing for Your Interview. Register online at www.hclib.org or call 543-6800.

Riverview Theater Holiday Movies

December 21st – 23rd, 3800 42nd Avenue South. Watch your favorite Holiday movies on the big screen and **help stock the Minnehaha Food Shelf** at the same time! Special ticket price of \$2, or \$1 with a non-perishable food shelf donation. Enjoy retro prices on select concessions: drinks & popcorn \$1each.

White Christmas 4 pm;

A Christmas Story 6:30 pm;

It's a Wonderful Life 8:30 pm

NENA Night Before New Year's Eve Party

December 30th, 5-8 pm, Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway.

This annual event is one of the biggest and best holiday events for kids and always a hit! Food, music, fun arts & crafts, and a countdown to the new year at a family - friendly time! For information or to volunteer, call the NENA office at 724-5652 or visit

www.nokomiseast.org.



**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 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.

