

# 12<sup>th</sup> Ward news

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[November, 2012]

## Success in Airport Fight, Round One

Typically this newsletter is sent at the beginning of the month but we delayed the November newsletter in order to devote our time to airport issues and the pending vote at the Metropolitan Airports Commission. That time paid off. As you may know from the news, MAC voted to NOT recommend RNAV tracks over Minneapolis at this time. As you may recall, RNAV tracks are more consolidated routes for planes which I referred to last month as a “highway in the sky.”

Minneapolis led the fight against quick adoption of this proposal and we are responsible for assembling a very effective team of public officials. There wasn't any state or federal official representing south Minneapolis that was not involved in some way. Some of our advocacy was very public, such as letters from the Minneapolis Legislators as well as the City, plus testimony at the meeting; and some of it was behind the scenes. It is inspiring to have such great partners to work with on behalf of Minneapolis residents.

The successful effort included many residents who contacted their elected officials and/or the MAC or attended the meeting. Thank you! Minneapolis residents created two petitions that were signed by more than 3,000 people. In the last month, I have spoken to many media outlets to spread the word about this proposal and the need for more information. The City has been monitoring airport issues closely and was able to bring attention to this matter which could have gone under the radar until it was too late.

This issue of RNAV is not done; we expect that these tracks will be presented to us again and this time with better information and better public process. However, this victory is significant. This proposal must be thoroughly and thoughtfully considered, together with the airport's plans for expansion.

I know it can be hard for residents to keep up the energy to deal with airport issues, but we are staying steadfast and strong on your behalf. If you wish to follow airport issues more closely (not just in my newsletters) then please join my airport e-mail group by informing my Aide, Loren Olson, at 612-67-2378 or [loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov).

**p.s.** It's a busy time for the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward: In addition to this victory, the final phase of Hiawatha signal improvements has begun and new, blue, one-sort recycling carts are arriving. These elements of daily life are very important to me and I have spent significant time for improvements. It's wonderful to see the results!



## SENA Tree Lighting December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Standish-Ericsson  
Neighborhood Association  
Holiday Tree Lighting  
Celebration  
Sunday, December 2nd  
4:00 – 6:00 pm  
1849 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
(38th St & Longfellow Av)

Santa will arrive in style at 4:00 pm. The tree lighting will take place at 5:00 pm. “Twin Cities Girls Chorus” will perform from 4 to 5 and “Women of Note” will sing songs of the season from 5 to 6 pm. Free food and hot cider.

You are encouraged to bring a pair of new cotton socks to be donated to St. Stephen's Shelter for homeless men.

## First Phase of Roll-out is Happening Now. One Sort has Arrived!

While not everyone knows about it, readers of this newsletter know that the City is adopting a new system for simpler, efficient recycling. Distribution of the new one-sort recycling carts has begun. The carts will be delivered in two phases - one this fall and another in the spring. This phased distribution allows the city to save \$450,000 on the cost of retro-fitting vehicles for recycling collection. It also helps the city to streamline and optimize pick-up procedures before being applied to every route. Areas that are getting the carts this fall are spread throughout the city and are based on existing garbage routes. You may see people near you who have them, even if you don't have yours yet. Homeowners will get a letter in the mail before their cart is delivered. If you want to know when you will get your cart (fall or spring), you can use this map; [One Sort Map](#) or call 612-673-2917.

Start one-sort recycling when you get your big blue cart, but not before. Your mailing will include a [welcome letter](#), [recycling guide](#) and [refrigerator magnet](#). One-sort recycling allows you to put all your recyclables into one container- this includes newspaper. You no longer need to put your recyclables into bags or separate them.



A frequent question about one-sort recycling is whether or not co-mingling the materials leads to "contamination" which makes some material (such as food soiled paper) more difficult to recycle or of lesser value. It is a valid concern because the City sells the materials it collects to fund Recycling Services. Co-mingling recycling does increase the amount of material that can't be recycled (known as residuals) a little. However, based on a study of other cities with a similar system we expect to collect significantly more material than before due to the convenience of one-sort, and so will have a much larger quantity of materials to sell and obviously, a much larger quantity of

resources saved for a new use. It is important to the City that a very high proportion of the materials set out by our residents are actually recycled. Unacceptably high residual rates were a major reason that one-sort was not implemented sooner by Minneapolis. Now the technology has significantly improved and one-sort is a win-win option. You can find additional information about the program here:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling/WCMS1P-099079>

## Watch City's 2012 budget hearings on TV and on the web

This fall, the Ways & Means committee heard from City departments about how the Mayor's proposed 2013 budget will impact their operations. Now the City is rebroadcasting all of the budget hearings back-to-back on Minneapolis Channel 79 every weekend until the budget is approved on Dec. 12. This gives folks the opportunity to learn more about what's in the budget proposal and its potential impact on services before the two public comment hearings later this fall.



## Final steps in Hiawatha Signal Improvements have Begun! A Little More Patience Required

Phases 2 and 3 of the signal improvements have begun. New cabinets and controllers are being installed along Hiawatha Avenue. The new controllers are expected to make the most difference. They will give cars that have waited the longest the green light after a train passes, instead of starting the signal cycle over again.

This final stage requires that the electricity be temporarily shut off for one intersection at a time, as work is done. During the time that signal lights are turned off, an intersection will be controlled by 4-way stop signs. Traffic control personnel will assist during rush hour. Thank you for your patience. You will hear more about this in the December newsletter.

A schedule of the weekend budget hearings “marathon” will be available at [www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79schedule](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79schedule) .

### Public hearing on 2013 tax levy and budget

Wed, Nov. 28, 6:05 p.m. at City Hall, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, room 317

Wed, Dec. 12, 6:05 p.m. at City Hall, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, room 317

For more information on the Mayor’s recommended 2013 budget go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget).

### Will Budget Cuts Weaken Successful Domestic Abuse Team?

Minneapolis has an incredibly effective program to tackle the problem of domestic violence, but the proposed 2013 budget puts that at risk. Earlier this fall a City Council resolution included the following:

“Whereas, each year an estimated 3.3 million children in this country are exposed to violence by family members against their mothers or female caretakers; and

“Whereas, the Minneapolis-Hennepin County Homeless Task Force found that more than half of the homeless families were forced out of their homes by domestic violence; and

“Whereas, a reduction of over 14% in the number of domestic abuse related emergency 911 calls has been achieved between 2006 and 2011; and

“Whereas, the City Attorney’s Office and the Minneapolis Police Department, in collaboration with domestic violence advocates and other partners, developed the **Minneapolis Model** for handling misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor domestic violence cases; and

“Whereas, as a consequence of the Minneapolis Model, the City Attorney’s Office achieved an increase of 46% in the conviction rate in domestic violence cases; and

“Whereas, a recent study documented that the City of Minneapolis attained better results in its domestic violence prosecutions compared to other cities in Hennepin County; and . . .

“Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis: **That the City of Minneapolis reaffirms its commitment to eliminate domestic violence and to the Minneapolis Model collaboration to ensure that domestic violence crimes are vigorously prosecuted, victims and their families are protected and secure, and domestic abusers are held accountable.**”

Unfortunately, while presenting her Office budget for 2013 the City Attorney reported to the Ways & Means Committee that in order to meet the budget cut target that she was given, some positions must be cut and that it would not be possible to continue this successful team. To change this outcome, we must make some changes to the budget as presented by the Mayor, and that is my goal. The way we have usually worked on the Ways & Means Committee is to ask anyone...

### Hiawatha Loop Detectors Left Some Lumps

The installation of new loop detectors (the technology that tells signal lights when cars are present) along Hiawatha Avenue left some lumps in the road. This was not poor workmanship.

MnDOT has determined that the best practice after cutting into the street and placing the detectors in the trench is to overfill the trench with asphalt. Asphalt will settle over time and you get the best long term result for the road and the life of the loop detector with a little extra asphalt to start. The bumps are not very pretty and some may be provide a slightly rough ride but they are expected to settle.

Thanks to a ward resident for asking the question.

proposing an increase in positions or costs to find an off-setting budget cut. That is the work I am now engaged in, in order to continue to decrease the number of domestic violence 911 calls in our city, to decrease the number of children exposed to violence in their homes and the number of families forced into homelessness due to domestic violence.

### Recommended Reading:

#### ***“On-street bike routes expand roadway access for all”***

This [article](#), by Hilary Reeves of the Downtown Journal, explains how investing in bike routes benefits everyone- including motor vehicles.

*Each bicyclist (or pedestrian) you see potentially means one less person traveling by motor vehicle. According to the Department of Transportation, increases in bicycling and walking in the Minneapolis area from 2007-2011 saved more than 8 million miles of driving.*

*Reeves also highlights the economic development benefits of adding bike lanes;*

*Areas that add designated bike lanes often enjoy an economic renaissance. For instance, when Orlando, Fla., converted a four-lane undivided roadway into a three-lane road with bike lanes (a road diet!) and on-street parking, city officials noted that pedestrian traffic increased, and several new businesses opened on the street. Streetsblog New York City recently reported that “After a few years of living with streets that are safer for biking and walking, business owners have come to embrace the redesigns and appreciate their widespread benefits — calmer motor vehicle traffic, more space for pedestrians, and better visibility for all.”*

### **Minneapolis receives Excellence in Economic Development Award**

Minneapolis received a Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program in the category for communities with populations of 200,000 - 500,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The Great Streets program is a coordinated effort to help businesses succeed along commercial corridors, at commercial nodes, in light-rail station areas, and in activity centers throughout the city. The City funds activities that support the economic strength and vitality of neighborhood commercial districts. Recognizing that commercial districts throughout the city have different strengths, challenges, and opportunities, the program is designed to support a variety of activities so communities can develop and implement comprehensive strategies to advance their unique goals.

#### **Program outcomes:**

- Stronger businesses, thriving commercial districts.

### **Minneapolis a top City for Gen Y Jobs**

According to a salary website, Payscale, and the research firm Millennial Branding, Minneapolis is a good place for young workers. Gen Y (also known as Millennials) are age 18 to 29.

The research looked at salaries, wage growth and other factors like commute time. Minneapolis ranked third after Seattle and Houston as the best cities for Gen Y jobs.

- \$16 million invested in façade matching grants, grants to support business districts, and real estate and business loans; \$112 million in private investment leveraged.
- Highly visible physical improvements.
- Properties redeveloped using Great Streets real estate financing. Once vacant properties now have a taxable value of \$5.7 million and generate \$234,500 annually in property taxes.
- Over 1,200 jobs created or retained in neighborhood business districts.

The range of tools and resources available include: business financing, real estate development gap financing, business district assistance such as façade improvement matching grants, market studies, district wide branding and marketing campaigns, business recruitment efforts and more.

IEDC's awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders.

## Events & Meetings

### Lake Nokomis Concession/Restaurant – Public Hearing

**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**, MPRB Board room, 2117 W River Road. Second public hearing on recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Committee for a new food vendor to run a concession operation at Lake Nokomis. For information, contact Shane Stenzel, 230-6441 or [sstenzel@minneapolisiparks.org](mailto:sstenzel@minneapolisiparks.org).

### Minneapolis Climate Action Plan Open Houses

**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm**, Powderhorn Park Community Center, 3400 15<sup>th</sup> Av S.

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm**, Urban Research & Outreach Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Av N

Working groups and a steering committee have produced a draft set of goals and strategies that will form the heart of a final Minneapolis Climate Action Plan. Feedback on the draft recommendations will be gathered at these open houses.

### Public Hearing on Tax Levy & 2013 City Budget

The Minneapolis City Council will hold two public hearings before approving a budget in order to give you a chance to comment:

**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:05 pm**, City Hall Council Chambers, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 317;

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:05 pm**, City Hall Council Chambers.

### SENA “Big Idea” Event - Neighborhood Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-6 pm**, Corner of 38<sup>th</sup> Street E & Longfellow Avenue. Join friends and neighbors to celebrate the season. Food, cider, holiday music, photos with Santa Claus and the lighting of the 20-foot neighborhood holiday tree. The Twin Cities Girls Chorus and Women of Note will sing songs of the season from 5-6 pm. For more information or to volunteer, contact the SENA office at 721-1601. Bring new cotton socks to donate to St. Stephen's Shelter (for homeless men).



Visit your  
neighborhood  
organization:

LCC

NENA

SENA



### **Minneapolis Elections Committee**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11 am**, City Hall, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 317. Agenda includes a report from City Clerk/Elections about this fall's General Election and difficulties at some polling places.

### **Block Leader Training**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8 pm**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue. Learn how to organize a block club and work with your neighbors to fight crime, work on livability issues and create a sense of safety and welcome on your block. Call Sue Roethele, 673-2839 to reserve a space at this training.

### **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.

