

12th ward news

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[January, 2013]

Hiawatha Signal Project Complete; Time to Celebrate!

The changes to Hiawatha signals are now complete. Two years ago, I asked for your input about your experiences on Hiawatha Avenue so I could share the observations with national experts on rail timing. I received more than 160 responses, including many complaints about very long, frustrating waits. We have diagnosed the problems, garnered the support of government partners, identified solutions, procured new more sophisticated equipment, customized then tested and finally, installed the equipment. Some of the benefits we expect are:

- More mobility between neighborhoods, a feeling of connectedness and easier access to friends and local businesses on either side of the tracks.
- Less traffic on Minnehaha Avenue and West River Parkway.
- Less frustration for drivers, a reduction in illegal and unsafe maneuvers, and a safer experience for all users of the corridor.
- A reduction in emissions from idling cars.

I've been working on this effort for several years, beginning by making this project a priority for the city and our partners in the corridor. There have been tweaks to the timing of our old signals over the years but that wasn't enough. Technology finally caught up to our needs and we were able to make a more dramatic change. This has been long awaited and I'm ready to celebrate! I hope you will join us to celebrate and thank the people who helped along the way especially Senior Engineer and project manager, Allan Klugman. You will also be able to learn about new area businesses and the pedestrian improvements being planned for Hiawatha.

Hiawatha Signals-fix Celebration

Wed, January 23, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Cardinal Tavern, 2920 East 38th St (next to the LRT station)

Please share your observations on how the signal lights are working. To do that, contact Loren at loren.olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. There may be opportunity for small adjustments. We are continuing to work with Metro Transit to see if the messages sent between trains and the city's signal lights can be further refined for even greater efficiency.

Thanks, and I hope to see you on January 23!

TONIGHT

Fundraiser for Minnehaha Food Shelf

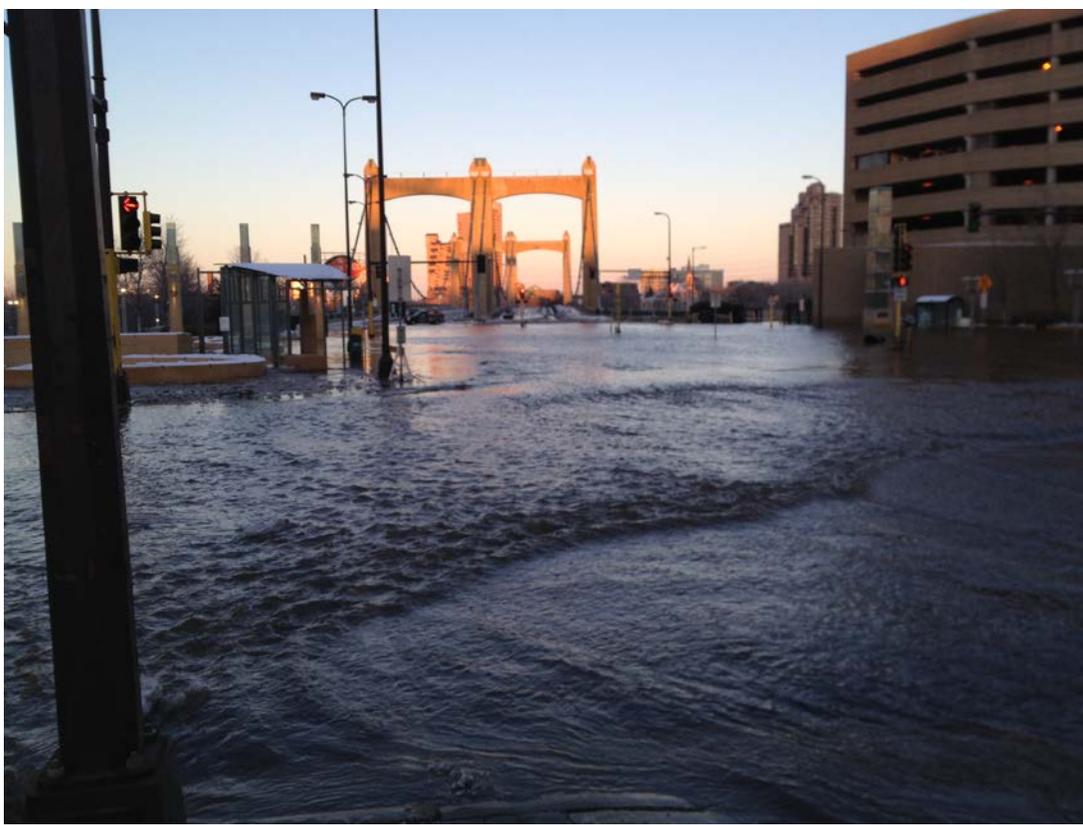
January 9th, 5-7:30 pm
Minnehaha United
Methodist Church
3701 East 50th Street

The Minnehaha Food Shelf helps people in our community who need food assistance. This annual fundraiser includes dinner from Fat Lorenzo's, music and a raffle with items provided by neighborhood businesses. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids 13-17 years. 12 and under eat for free.

LCC Chili cook-off January 12

Help raise funds for the Longfellow Community Council (LCC) by attending the Chili Cook-off.

Saturday, January 12th
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Minnehaha Communion
Lutheran Church
4101 37th Avenue South
\$10 per adult
\$3 for 12 and under



Water Main Break --- a New River Downtown

Last week, 14 million gallons of water flooded downtown streets after a private contractor working on a development project hit a 36 inch water main. I'm sure you know that part of the story. You heard about flooded streets and areas of the city without water at the end of the work day. What you may not have heard about is the amazing work done by skilled and dedicated city employees who stepped up to quickly resolve the problem and avert a crisis.

As Chair of the Transportation and Public Works Committee, I was informed early on about this incident. I was confident that the problem would be quickly assessed and solutions efficiently devised by our city employees. I knew that our Public Works Surface Water and Sewers employees would work as long as it took, in darkness and very cold temperatures, to stop the leak, fix the pipe, and remove excess water. I knew that Traffic Control would head to the scene and Police would maintain a safe perimeter. I knew the roads would be maintained to prevent dangerous ice. I knew that 311 and Communications would step up to share information quickly and that Regulatory Services would advise affected businesses and residents. I see this kind of work and dedication every day – just usually not in such dramatic circumstances and on television.

The daily efforts can go unnoticed, especially the good work of our Public Works employees who maintain the systems underground and out of sight. They do their jobs so well that we take for granted our access to delicious potable water at all times and the ability to flush what's been contaminated. I have often said that it is not the Council or Mayor who make the city run, it is the people who show up at work every day to maintain the roads, water and sewer systems, to collect garbage, to manage traffic and respond to emergency calls, and all those who provide support for their work, that make the City run. I love my job representing the 12th ward, but I am very clear that I don't run the city. (Continued...)

The 2013 Chili Cook-Off will include prizes from East Lake Liquors, Riverview Cafe, Mother Earth gardens and more. Council Member Gary Schiff will be MCing the event and there will be activities for the entire family.

Would you like to join the competition? Sign-up here: www.longfellow.org

Down Payment Assistance in Standish

The City of Minneapolis has received funds from Wells Fargo to provide down payment assistance to homebuyers purchasing a single-family home in targeted neighborhoods, including Standish.

Homebuyers may receive a no-interest deferred loan that can be forgiven if they remain in the home for 30 years. The funds can be used to bring the housing ratio (principal, interest, taxes, homeowner's insurance and mortgage insurance, if any) to 25% of their gross monthly income. Income restrictions apply. For complete guidelines and an application, visit www.gmhchousing.org or call the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation: HousingResource Center – North at 612-558-3033 or HousingResource Center – South at 612-722-7141.

It's not only the daily work of building and maintaining our systems that deserves praise – it's the long term planning for the future of our city. Folks are looking out for the long term needs of our city, paying down the bills and making the right investments at the right time. They are looking out for the welfare of the city and taxpayers into the future. There is a lot of good work going on that people just don't hear about. As a Minneapolis resident with a front row seat, I feel really fortunate.

Yesterday I thanked the city employees who stepped up to the plate when a new river was running through the streets of downtown. And today I want to thank many others for the important contributions that they quietly make on a daily basis.



School Pedestrian Safety Program at Sanford Leads to New Stop Sign

A new stop sign will be installed soon on 42nd Avenue at 35th Street near Sanford Junior High, making that intersection an all-way stop. Last year, Sanford neighbors and parents raised concerns about traffic and pedestrian conditions near the school, especially the crossing of 42nd Avenue. Council Member Colvin Roy asked Safe Routes to School (SRS) to review the matter. The SRS program works with schools to evaluate the conditions for student transportation and suggests improvements if needed.

SRS uses the same engineering standards as other traffic studies in the city. After completing a study, the SRS engineer concluded that the intersection of 42nd Avenue and 35th Street should be a four-way stop. Currently, only the traffic on 35th Street (east/west traffic) is required to stop.

The engineer found that the volume of traffic warranted an all-way stop according to state standards in the Minnesota Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices. 42nd Avenue S is designated a collector roadway and carries approximately 3,700 vehicles per day. 35th Street East carries approximately 2,000 vehicles a day. Observations at the school have shown right-of-way confusion by drivers, especially when the school patrol is present. The engineer said the all-way stop would “improve traffic flow and provide positive right-of-way control for drivers near the school and is appropriate given the traffic volumes and history of crashes.”

When the new signs are installed, they will include bright orange flags to call attention to the new stops signs. As people get used to the new all-way stop, you are advised be extra cautious at this intersection.

Two New Restaurants Opening Soon in the 12th Ward

Work on **Blue Door Longfellow** continues to transform the former appliance repair shop at 3448 42nd Avenue into a restaurant. Jeremy Woerner, one of the owners, said he hopes they will be ready to open in 3-4 weeks. The Blue Door has a location in St. Paul which is well known for its hamburgers.

Also expected to open soon is **Parka** restaurant at 4023 E. Lake Street (attached to Forage Modern Workshop.) They will be a full service restaurant, opening at 6:30 am for breakfast. Their business plan says they have an emphasis on coffee drinks. Both Blue Door Longfellow and Parka have been approved to serve wine and strong beer.

Forage Modern Workshop is a relatively recent addition to the 12th Ward that offers vintage, custom made and locally designed furniture and goods for the home. You can purchase furnishings at the store or use their room planning services. Learn more on their website:

<http://www.foragemodernworkshop.com/pages/about-us>

City to Enhance Support for Veterans & Service Members



Minneapolis is on its way to becoming a Yellow Ribbon City. A Yellow Ribbon city is one that coordinates services for veterans and for active duty military and their families. The effort brings together all kinds of people and organizations throughout the community to create a broad base of support.

Through the Yellow Ribbon effort, which is an ongoing collaboration, the community develops greater awareness of the programs and services available to service members and their family and they work on ways to ensure that this population gets the information when they need it. The City of Minneapolis expects to make good use of the 311 call center to help veterans and service members and their families connect to the things they need. This could include things like help shoveling the walk when a spouse is away serving the country, financial planning help or job opportunities on return from service.

Watch the video!

Learn more about Minneapolis and the Yellow Ribbon Program by watching this segment on [America Salutes](#) featuring host, Milt Schoen of Hennepin County Veteran's Services, CM Colvin Roy and Police Captain, Larry Doyle.

Council Member Colvin Roy has been leading the city's efforts to create a robust Yellow Ribbon community in Minneapolis. Colvin Roy grew up in a patriotic household. Her father, who served in the Navy, would have everyone salute the flag that would appear at the end of the television broadcasting day. Then, during the Vietnam War, the way that returning veterans were treated left a lasting impression on Colvin Roy and she is working to ensure that we do not repeat that mistake. "I want to do my part to show respect and appreciation for those who serve" said Colvin Roy. "I do not always agree with the federal government's actions but our soldiers and veterans are doing their job and at great personal cost. They and their families deserve our support."

Senior LinkAge Line; One Stop Shop for Minnesota's Seniors

Senior LinkAge Line[®] is a free telephone information and assistance service, which makes it easy for older adults and their families to find community services. With a single call, people can find particular services near them or get help evaluating their situation to determine what kind of service might be helpful.

Seniors can call **1.800.333.2433** and Information and Assistance Specialists will direct them to organizations in their area that provide the services they need. Specialists are trained health and human service professionals. They offer objective, neutral information about senior service and housing options and they can conduct three-way calls and offer follow-up as needed. Specialists are knowledgeable about:

[Caregiver Support](#)
[Employment](#)
[Financial Assistance](#)
[Food / Meal Delivery](#)
[Health Insurance Counseling](#)
[Housing](#)
[Home Health Care](#)
[Housework](#)
[Legal Assistance](#)
[Medicare, Medical Assistance and Health Insurance](#)
[Minor Home Repair](#)
[Nursing Homes](#)
[Ombudsman and Advocacy Services](#)
[Prescription Drug Help](#)
[Snow / Lawn Care](#)
[Transportation](#)
[Volunteering](#)

The Senior Linkage Line is a service provided by the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. Phones are answered M-F from 8:00 – 4:30. Call: 1.800.333.2433

Minneapolis Animal Care & Control Services

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control continues to provide a high level service to the people and animals in the City of Minneapolis. In 2012:

- **91 %** of adoptable pets now leave the shelter on their journey home
- Supported **100 committed volunteers** caring for animals at our shelter
- Kenneled pets for **victims of domestic violence** at no-cost
- Raised more than **\$40,000 in donations** for animal care
- Collaborated with **38 trusted partners** helping pets find forever homes
- Decreased the number of **serious dog bites by 20%** since 2008
- Provided dog bite prevention education to more than **500 children**
- Partnered with **16 veterinary clinics and pet businesses** to sell pet licenses
- Monitored more than **250 dangerous dogs** in the City of Minneapolis
- Partnered with **36 private businesses** (restaurants, pet businesses and local boutiques) to offer the **“I Love My Pet” Rewards Program** to our residents who responsibly license their dogs and cats in the City.

You can help the animals at AC&C by donating items or money or time. Find out more here: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals/help/animal-control_donate

2013 budget invests in Minneapolis while decreasing spending

In December, the City Council unanimously approved the City's 2013 budget, which will mean major investments in infrastructure, public safety, economic growth and reform. Overall the City's spending is down about 3 percent from 2012. The \$1.085 billion budget provides:

- **A boost in funding for streets and other infrastructure**, with infrastructure improvements in 2013 three times higher than previously planned.
- **An investment in public safety**, adding \$2.5 million to the Police Department, with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer. Next year's budget also adds \$1.1 million to hire firefighters so that the Fire Department can prepare for expected retirements. This level of investment comes on top of a federal SAFER grant of \$1.07 million received earlier this year.
- **Economic growth in the city** through continued investments in the City's community planning and development efforts that have produced strong results in job growth and training, business growth and development, and promoting transit-oriented development.
- **Major reforms and efficiency savings** that better align the City's construction and development review services with its planning and economic development work. These and other reforms of the Department of Regulatory Services are projected to save the City between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in the first year alone.

Budget challenges The 2013 budget was made possible through more than a decade of solving tough financial challenges that faced the City. The challenges include:

- **Paying down debt.** The City has paid down or avoided \$241 million in debt since 2002 and restored its AAA credit rating.
- **Reforming pensions.** After years of effort, the City succeeded in merging into the State's PERA retirement system several closed pension funds whose taxpayer-funded obligations were exploding. In 2012 alone, this reform saved taxpayers \$20 million.
- **Holding the line on wages.** The City partnered with employees to hold the line on wages at several points during the last decade, which has saved jobs and help hold down property-tax increases. Mayor Rybak thanked City employees for their partnership.
- **Target Center.** From 1994 through 2012, Minneapolis property taxpayers were saddled with Target Center costs. As a result of the Vikings stadium deal that passed earlier this year, \$5 million in annual Target Center costs were lifted off the backs of Minneapolis property taxpayers.

The overall increase in the 2013 property-tax levy is 1.77 percent, which is below

the rate of inflation. In fact, 70 percent of taxpayers will not feel this increase, or will see a decrease in their property-tax bill. Had it not been for the City's careful financial planning over the years and the removal of Target Center debt from property taxes, taxpayers would likely be paying 35 percent more in property taxes than they currently are.

To view the City's 2013 budget, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget.

Events & Meetings

Minnehaha Food Shelf Annual Fundraiser

January 9th, 5-7:30 pm, Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th Street. This annual fundraiser includes dinner from Fat Lorenzo's, music and a raffle with items provided by neighborhood businesses. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids 13-17 years. 12 and under eat for free. Bring the whole family and help support this local food shelf.

Transition Longfellow's Pancake Breakfast

January 12th, 9:30-Noon, Bethany Lutheran Church, 3900 36th Avenue South. Enjoy delicious food, live Klezmer music by Mazel Tov Cocktail and share big ideas. Featuring special guests MN350: Help fight climate change. Learn about Bill McKibbin's "Do the Math" tour, the 400 Reasons campaign and more. Russ Henry of Giving Tree Garden: Gain insight and inspiration from a Twin Cities leader in urban farming. Bid on locally made goods and services in the silent auction. To donate, contact Annette@greatbackrubs.com

Longfellow Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

January 12th, 5-7 pm, Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Avenue South. Sample the chili and vote for your favorite, or enter your own into the cook-off. Prizes awarded! To enter, visit www.longfellow.org and download entry form. **Entry deadline is January 7th**. \$10 Adults, \$3 kids 12 and under. No charge for chili contestants. Admission includes all the chili you can eat, fun with family, friends and neighbors.

Block Leader Training

January 16th, 6:30-8 pm, 3rd Police Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue. If you are interested in starting a block club, register for this free training session. Learn how to communicate with your neighbors, share crime alerts and safety information. Please call 612-673-2839 to reserve a seat.

Hiawatha Sing Hiawatha Signals-fix Celebration

January 23, 5:30 – 7:00 pm at Cardinal Tavern, 2920 East 38th St (next to the LRT station). Celebrate the new and improved signals and learn about some other activities in the neighborhood. See the first article in the newsletter for more information.



Visit your
neighborhood
organization:

LCC

NENA

SENA



LCC Hosts Meeting to Discuss New Name for Dight Avenue

January 24th, 5:30-7:30 pm, St. James AME Church Fellowship Hall, 3600 Snelling Avenue. Dr. Charles F. Dight was a Minneapolis Council member during the early 1900's. He founded the Minnesota Eugenics Society in 1923 and was a Nazi sympathizer who supported sterilization of people with disabilities, calling them "feeble-minded" and "insane." These views are not an image that Greater Longfellow would like to perpetuate. The community is invited to discuss renaming Dight Avenue to reflect the community's values of engagement and inclusivity. Contact Melanie at 612-722-4529 ext 4 or Melanie@longfellow.org for more information.

Sibley Park Sno Daze Event

January 26th, 9:30 – Noon, 1900 40th Street East. Breakfast served 9:30-11 am. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids. Games and fun from 10 am – Noon.

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.

