



[April, 2013]

## Minnehaha Parkway Paving this Summer & More

**Minnehaha Parkway between Cedar Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue;** that stretch of road looking more and more like craters of the moon every spring, will finally be repaved this summer! What about those potholes popping up (or down) everywhere else? Excited as we are about spring, we know that as the ice and snow melt away, dreaded potholes are revealed. City crews are out working now. They had to wait until temperatures warmed enough to use permanent materials instead of the temporary mix used in cold temperatures. You are encouraged to report potholes through 311. You can call, report it online, or you can use the app called “Minneapolis 311.” With the 311 app, your location is already noted based on your GPS settings.

It’s also street sweeping season. Won’t it be nice to get rid of some of that sand, dirt, and grime? Weather permitting, **street sweeping will begin on April 16.** It’s a little later than usual since winter has been hanging on. Please keep an eye out for temporary no-parking signs which are placed at least 24 hours in advance of sweeping. Cars parked on the street during the prohibited time may be ticketed and towed. In addition to the signs, residents will receive an automated telephone call warning. All of this work is essential to protecting our creek, lakes and river from the winter’s collection of gunk.

You can also **find out when your street is being swept** using the [Streep Sweeping Schedule look-up](#) tool. Enter your address to find out what week you block will be swept. Then, if you check back on the weekend before that week you can find out the precise day that your street is scheduled for sweeping.

## One-Sort Recycling - Your Cart is Coming! Phase I Results Excellent

If you don’t yet have your blue One-sort cart, don’t despair: phase II deliveries begin on April 22 and will be done by mid-June. To find out when you will get your cart, look at the [One-Sort online Map](#). Enter your address and it will tell you what zone you are in. Then, click on the legend at the top left to see what dates correspond to your zone.

The T&PW Committee that I Chair directed that staff report back to us; we want to make sure this program is performing. We got good news - recycling is up 63% in areas that changed from multi to One-sort. More detail behind those numbers: about 35,000 customers have One-sort and in the first six weeks we collected **396 more tons of recyclables** compared to last year.

I also wanted to ensure that the cost of processing and the residual rate were in the expected range, in case some changes had to be made. We anticipated processing costs to



## Minneapolis Arts Economy Sixth Biggest in the Nation

Read more in the article at the end of the newsletter.

## Hiawatha Cleaners and Sew Biz Recognized for Helping Environment

Today in the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee, Minneapolis businesses which voluntarily gave up using the chemical, PERC, were recognized with a Minneapolis Green Business Award for Pollution Reduction. Those businesses included Ward 12’s Hiawatha Cleaners and Sew Biz.

PERC is a potentially carcinogenic chemical which causes pollution to the air and water and is often used in the dry-cleaning business.

be between \$60 and \$80 per ton. The actual cost is running about \$48 per ton, even better than expected. Regular newsletter readers probably know what residual rate means – it's the amount of material placed in the bin but is not recyclable, either because it was never recyclable - like a plastic bag, or because it became unrecyclable – like paper soiled by food. The residual rate right now is less than 4%. It's what we expected the rate to be over the long term. I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn't higher in the short term as people learn what goes into the cart and what doesn't. So, this number is very good and it makes me think that we will do even better than expected in the future as everyone learns what can go into big blue.

The more efficiently that this program runs, the more money that can go into recycling services to keep costs down for customers. You can help keep the costs of the program down – recycle as much as you can so that we can sell the material, and follow the rules so we can keep processing costs down. Some of the items that should NOT be placed in recycling are: plastic bags, food-soiled paper plates, Styrofoam and shrink wrap. If you collect your recycling in a plastic bag, please dump the recycling into your cart and don't include the bag. And please continue to rinse your bottles and cans; this protects the value of paper when all of the materials are put together.

Thank you everyone for your interest in One-sort: it's easy, cost effective, and good for the environment!



## What Ward am I in Anyway?

**Current Representation:** Some confusion persists after city redistricting. The old city council lines stay in effect until January of 2014 when the next City Council is seated. So, you are still represented by the same person until then.

**The next election:** When it comes to selecting your Council Member for the next term and voting in November of 2013, you need to know what Ward you will be in in 2014. Your ward may have changed or it may be the same. If you visit [Ward Finder](#) on the city's website you can find out your current and / or future ward. If you have questions, you can call 311.

## \$7 Million Set Aside for 2014 Property Tax Relief

Each year in March, the Ways & Means Committee receives the final accounting of what was spent in the previous year. If there are unspent funds, there is a "roll-over" discussion about what should happen to the excess. In 2013, city departments spent \$9 million less than what was budgeted. Fabulous news made possible by good management, good fortune in the weather and higher than expected revenues. The committee recommended that the Council spend about \$2 million on current needs, including the Police and Fire Departments, but voted to reject many other department requests in order to save \$7 million for reducing taxes next year. "It is estimated that we could be able to bring in a 0% tax increase next year" said Colvin Roy, Vice Chair of the Ways & Means Committee.

Congratulations to these businesses for eliminating the use of PERC and helping to protect the community and the environment.



## Trees for \$25

The City of Minneapolis is offering 1,000 trees this spring for only \$25 each. The trees are four to eight feet tall (depending on the species) with one-inch trunks. Starting now, any Minneapolis property owner – whether resident, business or nonprofit – can order a tree to plant on private Minneapolis property this spring. Comparable trees cost about \$125 at a nursery.

Varieties of trees available for \$25 are blue beech, Evans Bali cherry, Kentucky coffeetree, northern hackberry, Princeton elm, river birch, Royal Raindrops crabapple, serviceberry (single stem) and Techny arborvitae.

You can order now at [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org) or 952-767-3886. In previous years the trees have sold quickly. Property owners who order early will get the best selection.

## Airport Updates

Some of the issues at the airport get complicated and the level of interest among 12<sup>th</sup> Ward residents varies, so Council Member Colvin Roy maintains a separate e-mail mailing list for people who want more frequent or more detailed updates regarding airport issues. If that's you, please sign up for the e-mail group by replying to this newsletter or by contacting 12<sup>th</sup> Ward Aide, Loren Olson at [loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:loren.olson@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2378 and requesting to be added.



An Airport Update went out this week to inform residents about the status of RNAV, the navigation tool that consolidates the tracks where planes fly and that has been referred to as the “highway in the sky.” As you recall, in November, the city and a coalition of partners built by CM Colvin Roy stopped MAC’s plans to use these tracks over Minneapolis.

The short version of the update is that the city does expect that the RNAV proposal will come back someday, but we don’t know when. The Executive Director of MAC, Jeff Hamiel, wrote a letter to the FAA suggesting that this issue should not come back until 2015 after the RNAV tracks to the south of the airport are in-place and can be viewed as an example. Colvin Roy and the coalition of other government partners are ready if it comes back sooner and are acting pro-actively. The coalition is clear that if this issue comes back, they expect better information about how these tracks work and how they would impact residents, and they expect robust and meaningful public engagement.

Colvin Roy said having a dialogue about RNAV in the future does not mean that Minneapolis is going to support it. “If and when this proposal comes back” said Colvin Roy, “if it looks harmful to the people of Minneapolis- I will fight it with every possible tool at my disposal and there are a lot of powerful allies that are ready to help.”

It is likely that that another update related to plans to expand the airport will be coming soon, so sign up for the Updates if you are interested. There may also be news from the Legislature which is considering a bill to require MAC to hold meetings outside of the airport.

## City Backs Development of Interstate Mississippi River Bike Trail

By a unanimous vote, the City Council approved a resolution supporting the development of the Mississippi River Trail through Minneapolis. The route would be a part of a much larger interstate bike trail stretching from the headwaters of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Minneapolis section of “U.S. Bike Route 45” will follow existing on-street and off-street bikeways along both sides of the river. The project is being led and funded in part by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which has asked local governments adopt resolutions in support of the effort. With the council’s vote, the City commits to maintaining signs along the proposed route through Minneapolis.

## Minneapolis Fourth Quarter Housing and Employment Trends

- There are 9,600 more jobs in Minneapolis than in the same quarter of the previous year. This one-year growth rate of 3.3% outpaced the metropolitan region and the state, which grew at a rate of 1.6%.
- There are 800 more city residents employed in the fourth quarter of 2012 than there were in the same quarter of 2011.
- The citywide rental vacancy rate continued to be low in the fourth quarter of 2012 at 1.8%.
- There were 1,532 new construction units permitted in the fourth quarter of 2012 and another 386 units were added via conversions from non-residential uses. For the year, Minneapolis accounted for over 58% of the metro area’s new multifamily permits and over 32% of the metro area’s overall new permitted dwelling units.

When complete, this bike route will run from the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Itasca County to the Gulf of Mexico. The trail has the potential to promote bicycle tourism locally and throughout Minnesota.

More information on the Mississippi River Trail is available at [www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt)

## Minnehaha Playground Renovation

The following is a message from Andrea Weber, Project Manager with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board regarding the renovation of the playground at Minnehaha Park, and another project at the Wabun Picnic area:

*I am writing to provide an update on the Minnehaha Park Playground Renovation project. The play areas are located within Minnehaha Regional Park, off of Godfrey Parkway. [Click on this [Ariel Photo](#) to see the locations on a map.]*

*This project will replace two existing play areas. Both of these play areas have exceeded their expected lifespan and do not meet current safety or accessibility standards which were established after their construction.*

*The play area in Wabun Picnic Area was built in 1973. These timber and metal structures will be removed and replaced with a new custom 'universal access' playground. Falls 4 All, a committee of People for Parks, has been fundraising to enhance the accessibility of this project for about two years. The new play area will be over 70% accessible, well exceeding minimal ADA standards. The play area will contain spaces for younger and older children, a swing area, a sand play area and a quiet play area. The theme of the play area references the Wabun Auto Tourist Camp, which existed at this site from the 1920s-1950s. It features a wood cabin like elements, tents, and even a classic teardrop camper and play car feature. The Auto Tourist Camp will be interpreted on signage at the play area entry.*

*The North Plateau Play Area still contains a few free-standing play pieces from the 1930s. These pieces will remain (repaired as needed), and a new play area will be built around them. The new play area will contain additional classic free-standing pieces, such as slides, see-saws, spring rockers and a merry-go-round. Sand play and concrete animal climbers will also be included in this design. The Longfellow Gardens (Zoo) will be interpreted here.*

*If you have not yet seen the MPRB approved concepts for the play areas, you can see them at these links:*

- Wabun Picnic area, Universal Access Playground concept: [http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha\\_Playground/12-157FinalConcepts\\_W.pdf](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha_Playground/12-157FinalConcepts_W.pdf)
- North Plateau (W.PA./Refectory Area) Playground concept: [http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha\\_Playground/12-157FinalConcepts\\_NP.pdf](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha_Playground/12-157FinalConcepts_NP.pdf)
- A PowerPoint slide show summarizing the design process can be seen at this link: [http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha\\_Playground/MinnehahaRegionalPark2013.pdf](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/Minnehaha_Playground/MinnehahaRegionalPark2013.pdf)

There are a lots of great events happening in the community this month. Keep scrolling... all the way down the newsletter... to the yellow calendar for all the details!

*This project is ready for city approvals and for construction this summer. Because Minnehaha Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Locally Designated Historic District, we are required to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (C of A) for the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC will send out notices for a public hearing for the C of A later this spring. The State Historic Preservation Office has already reviewed the project.*

*If you have any questions about this project or the approval process, please contact me. I am the applicant for MPRB. My contact information is below.*

*Thanks,*

*Andrea S. Weber, RLA  
Project Manager, Planning Services  
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board  
612-230-6466*

## **Grants Available for Homes and Businesses to improve Water Quality with Raingardens, Pervious Driveways, and Other Tools**

As property owners make plans for their gardens and landscaping this spring, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is offering a helping hand. The MCWD Cost Share program is offering grants to those who want to help protect clean water by installing raingardens, shoreline or streambank plantings, pervious concrete driveways, or other stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Grants are available to any public or private property located within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, including residential homes, apartments, businesses, schools, or cities. **The deadline for most residential projects is May 31.**

Polluted stormwater runoff is the biggest threat to water quality across the state and nation. In a natural environment, most rainwater soaks into the ground or is captured by trees or other plants. But in developed areas, rainwater runs off roads, parking lots and rooftops and carries dirt, fertilizer, pesticides and other harmful material into lakes, streams and wetlands. The poor water quality that results affects recreation, fish and wildlife, and reduces property values.

The MCWD's Cost Share programs help property owners make improvements that prevent runoff from occurring. Raingardens are bowl-shaped gardens that collect rainwater and infiltrate it into the ground. Because they typically involve native plants, they require minimal maintenance and beautify the landscape. Pervious pavement allows rainwater to pass through the material and into a drainage system below. Native shoreline/streambank plantings filter and absorb polluted runoff, prevent erosion by anchoring the soil, deter geese and enhance your yard's appearance.

The grants can pay for up to 50 percent of these projects, with certain funding limits. To learn more about the options or to apply for a grant, visit [www.minnehahacreek.org/CostShare](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/CostShare) or contact MCWD Cost Share Specialist Joe Barten at 952-641-4523 or [jbarten@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:jbarten@minnehahacreek.org).

## Shape Our City; Join a City Board or Commission

Most Board and Commission positions are filled during the Spring or the Fall. So, now is the perfect time to find the right opportunity for you! Board and commission members provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

There are 47 open positions on the following 10 City boards and commissions:

- Arts Commission
- Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Minneapolis Workforce Council
- Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Police Conduct Oversight Commission
- Police Conduct Review Panel
- Seniors Advisory Committee
- Minneapolis Television Network

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 26, 2013. However, the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings). Some appointments are at-large (you can live anywhere in Minneapolis) and some are specific to a Ward. Check the committee for more detail about the open position.

## Minneapolis Area Arts Economy Sixth Biggest in Nation

The arts economy in Minneapolis is one of the biggest of any city in the nation, according to a new report that examines arts jobs, consumer spending and revenue of arts organizations. Data in the Creative Index shows that the Minneapolis area arts sector is the sixth biggest in the nation and is an integral, thriving part of the local economy that has stayed steady even during tough economic times.

This index examines aspects of the creative economy that have never been measured before in Minneapolis. The data measures the Minneapolis creative economy down to the ZIP code level of detail, and it compares the concentration of Minneapolis creative jobs to the national average for those fields (for instance, the concentration of photographers, dancers, etc.).

This is the first time this data has been compiled for Minneapolis, and it places the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metro area sixth nationally behind that of Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston.

Some of the findings:

- The creative index score for just the city of Minneapolis outpaces the national average by 4.8 times.
- Minneapolis nonprofit arts organizations have 13.5 times the national average in revenue and charitable giving.
- Minneapolis per capita revenues for theater companies and dinner theaters are 14 times the national average.
- Performing arts revenues in Minneapolis earn nearly 10 times more than the national average.

The nonprofit and for-profit creative sector pumps an annual average of \$700 million into the Minneapolis economy. It is a significant piece of Minneapolis employment that employs nearly 20,000 workers, making up 5 percent of all jobs in Minneapolis proper. Retail sales in the Minneapolis creative economy are roughly 70 percent of the size of retail in the Minneapolis sports economy. Nonprofit arts and culture attendees are known to create an average ripple effect of \$20.40 per person in event-related purchases such as restaurants and parking.

Policymakers, arts professionals, grant-makers, artists, workers, audiences, fans, advocates and neighborhoods will use the index and its annual updates in multiple ways. The City of Minneapolis will use the index as a baseline measure to develop its next arts and culture plan, to develop arts and culture goals for the Minneapolis Convention Center, to reinvent the city's oldest street in "Plan-it Hennepin," and to play on the identified strengths – or to work to counter deficiencies – in affected plans and policies.

In the coming weeks, staff of the City's Arts, Culture and Creative Economy will present the findings to stakeholder groups and arts participants. For more information and a copy of the report, visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/arts](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/arts).

## Events & Meetings

### City-wide Street Sweeping Begins Soon

Public Works crews will soon start a comprehensive sweeping of all city streets and alleys. Beginning **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, drivers should watch for temporary "no parking" signs in order to avoid a ticket and a tow. "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of sweeping. In addition to the signs, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Information is also available by calling 311 or visiting [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping), where you can use the schedule lookup tool to find out when your street is scheduled to be swept.

### Friends of the Roosevelt Library

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**, SENA office, 1830 42<sup>nd</sup> Street East. The Roosevelt library is scheduled to reopen on June 1<sup>st</sup> and a new "Friends of Roosevelt Library" group is now forming to support this great resource. "Friends" groups promote existing library



Visit your  
neighborhood  
organization:

programs and activities, and promote the value of their library; raise money through book sales, special events and joint membership dues; grant funds to the library for programs, collections and special projects; host book clubs and public events and work with their library liaison to determine how best to support the library.

LCC

NENA

SENA

### **Longfellow Garden Club**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm**, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Learn how to make your garden more bee-friendly.



### **Block Leader Training**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8 pm**, Police 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Community Room, 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 612-673-2856 or 673-3482 to reserve a seat.

### **State of the River Presentation**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-8 pm**, Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 West River Parkway. Sponsored by Longfellow Community Council, this free public presentation by Friends of the Mississippi River and the National Park Service will answer questions like “Can I safely swim in the river?” “Can I eat the fish I catch?” and much more. For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org/category/events](http://www.longfellow.org/category/events).

### **Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors Italian Dinner Fundraiser**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8 pm**, Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 West River Parkway. Enjoy a delicious Italian dinner and help support this important senior resource. Tickets are \$35 each and include dinner, music and guest speaker, Arvonne Fraser, Senior Fellow Emerita with the Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The evening will also include a silent auction. For tickets, call 612-792-5799.

### **Earth Day Clean Up**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – Noon**. All ages are welcome to participate in this annual event. Bags will be provided, but please bring your own gloves. No registration required. 12<sup>th</sup> Ward sites:

**Minnehaha Falls Park**, 4801 South Minnehaha Parkway Drive

**Nokomis Community Center**, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway

**Sibley Park**, 1900 40<sup>th</sup> Street East

**West River Parkway** & 36<sup>th</sup> Street East, 44<sup>th</sup> Street East

For more information and a full list of locations, visit [www.minneapolisearthday.com](http://www.minneapolisearthday.com).

### **Roosevelt High School Pancake Breakfast**

**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 am – 1 pm**, Roosevelt High School, 4029 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and under. This yearly event raises funds for student scholarships and educational grants.

### **No Pie Charts! Only Pies! Longfellow Community Council Annual Meeting**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8 pm**, Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 West River Parkway. Come for the resource fair, annual meeting and election of Board of Directors, stay for the pie!

### **Nokomis Healthy Seniors Clean-A-Thon**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 1 pm.** Each spring, teams of volunteers do yard work or clean the homes of seniors in the Nokomis community. Team members raise money for NHS by collecting pledges from sponsors. Volunteers work until noon then return to the NHS office for pizza and prizes. If you are a senior who would like assistance with a cleaning project, or if you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 729-5499.

### **Nokomis Library Book Sale**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 2 pm,** Nokomis Library, 5100 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Hundreds of adult and children's books will be on sale for \$1 or less per book. Books have been withdrawn from the Hennepin County Library system or donated by the public. Sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and all funds raised will benefit the Nokomis Library. Book donations are accepted at the library beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **NENA Annual Meeting & Board Elections**

**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 9 pm,** Crosstown Covenant Church, 5540 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Enjoy the pasta and salad buffet catered by Fat Lorenzo's. Entertainment is provided, featuring the KetzalCoatlucue Aztec Dance Group. Business meeting begins at 7:30 pm, and will include volunteer recognition and presentation of the "Noki," the Best of Nokomis award. Elections for Board of Directors will follow.

### **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.

