

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

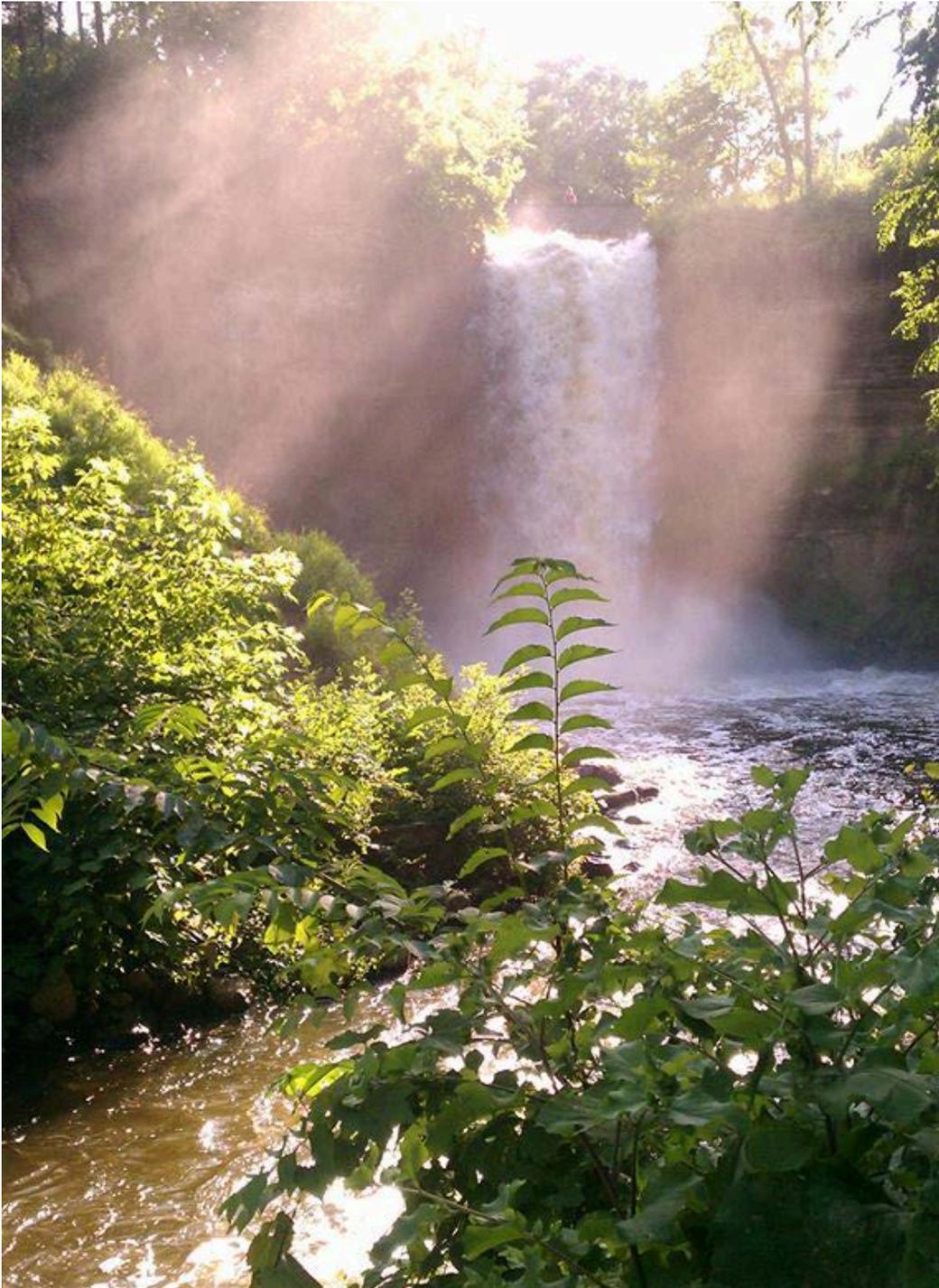
12th ward news

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDY COLVIN ROY

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[July, 2013]



Minnehaha Falls. Photo by Loren Olson, July 2, 2013.

June Storm Update

The Minneapolis Park Board, as lead agency for clean-up of the severe storm June 21, reported to the

Transportation & Public Works Committee that it had cleared 2,000 downed trees as of June 30th –

800 from streets

400 off houses

300 off cars

500 falling danger/hazards

More trees continue to fall due to the softened ground and recent rains. See story on left side for tree removal details.

Sandcastle Restaurant at Lake Nokomis is Now Open!

<http://sandcastlempls.com/>



Minnehaha Avenue Layout Discussions July 11 and 17

Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction won't begin until the Spring of 2015, but the planning process is happening now. It is time for area residents to weigh in about the proposed design and layout. I explained some of the proposed changes in my [last newsletter](#) including debate over on-street bike lanes versus an adjacent cycle track for Minnehaha Avenue. You can view the two different layouts on the [County's project page](#). Both layouts include other features getting scrutiny including attempts to change the skew of some Avenues where they meet Minnehaha on the east side, and bump-outs intended to improve pedestrian crossing safety but could also reduce the number of parking spots available. **Now is the time to have your questions answered and make your opinion known.**

Minnehaha is a county road however the city and county collaborate in many ways on the project. The design will be presented and community input sought at two meetings in July. These meetings will be a chance for neighbors to hear from neighbors about this big project. The content at the two meetings will be same. There are two meeting just to accommodate the large amount of interest in the project and the large number of residents directly impacted. Since the project is still quite a way in the future, there will not be details now about how the construction will be phased; future meetings will be held on that topic in order to minimize disruption from this significant project.

Minnehaha Avenue Layout Discussions:

Thursday, July 11, and Wednesday, July 17, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church 4101 37th Ave S.

At additional meetings in September, county staff will show layout changes for further public reaction before presenting the plan to the Minneapolis City Council for approval.

I will not Seek Re-election this November

After much thought, consideration and discussion with my family, I have decided to withdraw from the race for the 12th Ward City Council seat.

I continue to feel that I have unfinished work on the Council. Earlier this year, I talked with many people about the effort and effective leadership I have provided for our environment, public safety, financial stewardship and support of our schools. While many of them agreed and supported me, others felt it was time for a change and the Ward 12 DFL convention ended with no endorsement.

Each of the four elections I engaged in has been hotly contested. I have won them all and the campaign this year is no different. I could run and win.

Being elected to represent the people of the 12th ward has been a privilege and honor that I will always treasure. But it is a hard job and takes a tremendous toll on daily life. I look forward to gardening again; to being home for dinner at a regular time; to walking into the grocery store or a restaurant without being stopped about an issue. Not that I minded any discussion with a resident, but it

Protect your bike: register it with police

Every year, thousands of bikes are lost or stolen in Minneapolis and many of them are actually recovered. However, because of a lack of proper identification, only a small percentage are ever returned to their owners.

To increase the chances that your stolen bike will be returned, you can now register your bicycle with MPD by calling 311, or use 311's phone app.

To register, you must include your bike's serial number, a description of the bike--make and model--and your contact information.

Visit the [Police Department's website](#) at for more information about bicycle theft prevention.

does take its toll. Most of all, I look forward to not having my motives and intent attacked whenever I make a decision.

I would like to thank my husband, Art, for his support through all the years and campaigns; my daughter Leah, who spent her young adult-hood sharing my very public name and the lack of personal privacy that comes with it; my aides in the ward office over the years – Dawn, Loren, Brette, Stephanie and Barb – who provided exceptional service to the ward and to me; and the dear friends that have campaigned, strategized and celebrated with me over the years. I appreciate all that you have done.

My decision is made after much consideration. Like every decision I have made during my time in office, I have weighed the options carefully and made the best decision I could, when I could. I look forward to serving the residents of the 12th Ward during the remainder of my term. And to sharing our community for many years to come.

Respectfully and with gratitude,



Sandy Colvin Roy

Save the Date: Open Streets Minnehaha Avenue – August 11

On Sunday, August 11th from 10am to 4pm, over two miles of Minnehaha Avenue—from Lake Street to Godfrey Parkway—will be transformed into a car-free space for people as part of *Open Streets Minneapolis*. Some cross streets will remain open to allow for crossing of Minnehaha.

Open Streets events promote healthy living, local businesses, sustainable transportation and civic pride, while giving people an opportunity to bike or walk and engage with the local businesses along the street. This is the third year of *Open Streets* events in Minneapolis.

Businesses in the area are encouraged to find a fun way to participate and engage the thousands of expected participants. A map of activities will be created. Businesses who would like to be included should contact the event planner, Colin Harris at charris@c-d-g.org.

Not familiar with open streets? Check out these resources to learn more: Open Streets website and video www.OpenStreetsMPLS.com or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/openstreetsmpls>.

Storm Recovery Continues

Ward 12 was particularly hard hit by the June 21 storm. The Park Board planned to collect tree debris from boulevards through July 12, but since there are still trees falling (due to softened ground and recent rains), the collection may be extended. This storm affected so much wider an area than the tornado that clean-up is taking longer.

To prepare your downed trees and branches for collection, move larger limbs, branches, and trunks to the boulevard area in front of your house. Park Board crews will pick up and dispose of these items at no charge. Smaller brush and branches can be bundled for normal city yard waste removal and placed near the garbage.

Property owners adjacent to tree debris placed on the boulevard are asked not to park vehicles near the debris, to help crews in the removal process. "No parking" signs may be posted and enforced to facilitate the cleanup operation.

If residents have large-size tree debris in their back yard, it should be brought to the street for collection. If that is not possible, they may call 311 weekdays to request an alley pick-up. The City will check the location to determine if the needed equipment can access the site. If collection is not possible, the City will advise the resident, who will then be responsible for disposal.

Wood chips are not available to residents at this time. The Park Board has recently changed the way they handle wood disposal and they now bring trees to a commercial grinder which creates wood chips small enough to destroy the Emerald Ash Borer. This has affected the availability of wood chips to the public. They will consider what arrangements can be made to once again supply wood chips, after they have dealt with the enormous volume from the storm. There is no information now regarding plans to replace lost trees.

For more information about tree removal and other storm related issues, please visit the [city's website](#). Please contact 311 or the Ward 12 office (612-673-2212) regarding any unanswered questions.

Bigger Investment in Streets this Year

The City of Minneapolis is increasing the investment it makes in streets in 2013. More than 54 miles of roadway will be reconstructed, repaved or seal coated this construction season: an investment of \$33.5 million. That surpasses last year's investment in streets by more than 42 percent. The City's overall 2013 investments total \$52 million when traffic improvements, bridge work, pedestrian and bicycle projects are included.

Five street reconstruction projects will provide 2.75 miles of new roadway. This includes the building of a new section of Van White Memorial Boulevard, connecting the City's north side with the south side.

Continued...

Street resurfacing – A total of 29 miles of streets will be resurfaced throughout the city. This work involves milling off the top layer of asphalt and replacing it with a new, smoother driving surface. This includes streets in the following residential areas:

- The Cooper neighborhood
 - North Dorman area of the Seward neighborhood
 - The Linden Hills neighborhood
 - The Page neighborhood
- **Seal coating** – Streets that are in fairly good shape can be seal coated to prolong the life of the driving surface. City crews plan to sealcoat around 23 miles of roadway in Minneapolis.
 - **Parkways** – Public Works and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board collaborate regarding pavement management, and maintenance and construction of the Parkway system. Approximately 2.4 miles of parkways will be repaved by City crews in 2013, and another 12 miles will be seal coated.
 - **Bridges** – Some bridges in Minneapolis are getting the attention of Public Works this season. The work will help protect these vital parts of the city's transportation infrastructure.
 - After last season's repair work, the Plymouth Bridge opened to traffic. The bridge will remain open during this season's construction, but lane restrictions will be in place.
 - Under the Midtown Corridor Bridge Preservation Program, the 15th Avenue and 16th Avenue bridges over the Midtown Greenway will be restored. Work on these bridges, both constructed in 1916, includes redecking, sidewalks, surface and other renovations.
 - Restoration work on Bridge 9, which carries bike and pedestrian traffic over the Mississippi River by the U of M East Bank campus.

Many of these projects will require road closures, lane restrictions and detours. The best way to find out about these traffic changes is by subscribing to the City's traffic alerts online at www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/traffic. The City will also notify the local media about any major traffic impacts so they can share them with the public.

For more information about Minneapolis' 2013 construction projects, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/2013.

Bus Rapid Transit Coming to 46th Street. Learn more at Open Houses

In 2015, Metro Transit will introduce a new kind of bus service for the Twin Cities' busiest urban streets...beginning with the Snelling Avenue/Ford Parkway/46th Street corridor. Bus rapid transit – or BRT – is a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and an improved experience.

Please join us for an informational Open House for new bus service to connect Longfellow neighbors with Roseville, Falcon Heights, St. Paul and Minneapolis neighborhoods, including connections to LRT.

Tuesday, July 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hamline University, Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room
1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul

Monday, July 15, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Hillcrest Recreational Center, Gymnasium
1978 Ford Parkway, St. Paul

Wednesday, July 17, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Macalester College, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Weyerhaeuser Board Room
62 Macalester Street, St. Paul

Project staff will share information and gather feedback on initial plans for BRT in the Snelling Avenue/Ford Parkway/46th Street corridor. For more information:
brtprojects@metrotransit.org
<https://metrotransit.org/snelling-brt>

A message on bike-vehicle safety from the Director of Public Works

The following Editorial by Steve Kotke, Director of Public Works was published in the Star Tribune

There are more bicycles in [Minneapolis](#), but fewer bicycle-vehicle crashes. Think about that. The number of regular bicycle commuters has doubled in two decades, but the number of reported crashes has held steady at roughly 300 a year. How can this be?

A lot of the credit goes to the folks in the driver's seats. Bicycle awareness has increased as bicycling has become more widespread. Because many of us (including me) both drive a car and ride a bike, it is easier to see the world from behind a windshield and behind handlebars.

Creating a bike-friendly city has also helped. It alters the expectation of drivers and leads to the counterintuitive conclusion that more bikes equal safer streets.

A [study](#) of 68 California cities found that a motorist is less likely to collide with a person walking and bicycling when there are more people walking and bicycling. Intersections tended to be safer when there were more bicyclists and during peak cycling hours. This trend is particularly noticeable in Minneapolis. The streets that carry thousands of bicyclists each day have lower bike-vehicle crash rates than streets with fewer bicyclists.

While part of the solution to safer bicycling is more bicycling, it is not the entire solution. Minneapolis is ready for the 2.0 version of bicycling in which drivers and bicyclists alike are educated that the primary means of crash prevention happens

through the individual choices people make on the road and trail. The Minneapolis Public Works Department has discovered three major findings by analyzing 3,000 bicyclist-motorist crashes from 2000 to 2011:

- First, there is no need for finger-pointing. Improved safety starts with all of us. Bicyclists and drivers are equally responsible for bicycle crashes in Minneapolis. Bicyclists contributed to 59 percent of crashes, while motorists contributed to 64 percent. (Sometimes both parties are to blame, which is why those figures add up to more than 100 percent.)
- Second, bicyclists can contribute to safety by following the rules and riding predictably. Most of us have been behind a red light and have seen a bicyclist weave through travel lanes, move to the front of the pack and run right through that red light. This tests our sense of fairness and can lead to crashes and injuries. One in three bicycle-vehicle crashes in Minneapolis are the result of a bicyclist running a red light, riding against traffic or failing to yield.
- Finally, drivers can contribute to safety by slowing down and watching for bicyclists. If you've biked along a street, you've likely had a car pass, then cut you off by making a turn right in front of you. This also tests our sense of fairness and, worse, leads to crashes. Two out of every five bicycle-vehicle collisions in Minneapolis are due to drivers not seeing or yielding to bicycles.

Making Minneapolis a better place for bicycling does not only mean building new bike paths. Bicyclists must take responsibility for their practice being a legitimate form of transportation by following rules and riding predictably. Drivers must realize that operating an automobile can cause injury. They must look for bikes and yield the right of way to avoid causing injury.

Every time I drive my car or ride my bicycle, I think about these simple ideas. Please don't place sole responsibility for crash prevention or blame on bicyclists or drivers. Both parties play a role, because safety starts with all of us.

Over the coming summer months, the Minneapolis Police Department will be working to educate bicyclists and drivers about these rules that, when broken, often lead to crashes. Look for educational materials around town or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles. Don't be surprised if an officer stops you to talk about how you can contribute to bicycle safety.

Airport Update; Securing Mitigation

You may have seen a story in the Star Tribune about amending the airport consent decree, first entered into in 2007 after the city's lawsuit, in order to secure home mitigation for the future (if needed). The article [Noise insulation eyed for more Twin Cities homes](#) by Pat Doyle provides a summary of the situation. Minneapolis has the most extensive airport noise mitigation program in the nation, and this action was needed to preserve that program for the future.

There are some things I'd like you know about the amendment:

1. This action is NOT related to RNAV (Highway in the Sky) and it does not change the City's position about RNAV.
2. This action assures that IF there is a specified increase in noise in the future, MAC will provide home mitigation. This does not mean that we acquiesce to a noise increase. It just provides security *if* there is an increase. We will continue to be just as aggressive about tackling airport noise and airport pollution.
3. The City's position to tackle noise has not changed. There are certain types of claims that the 2007 consent decree prevents us from bringing and they are still binding on us, regardless of this action. In this amendment, we agree not to challenge the sufficiency of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the airport expansion. We were willing to do that because we did not think a challenge would be successful, based on advice from the City Attorney and outside counsel who handled the original lawsuit.
4. One of the important benefits of entering into this agreement is that it locks in our local noise standards at a time when federal standards are moving in a different direction and are much weaker. Nationally we are already exceptional in that our local, stronger, noise limits have been respected by MAC and FAA. Keeping these standards intact are critical to our overall fight to protect Minneapolis neighborhoods.
5. Having a judicial action like this in place allows MAC to use certain funds (passenger fees) for mitigation at a time when federal laws are trying to limit the use of those funds. This MAC does have some interest in being able to provide mitigation and they want to be able to use that money. That is one reason MAC wanted to enter into this amendment.

To put it plainly, the City is not giving up anything of much value and in exchange we get some security if there are changes in noise and we also lock in those local noise standards. Our ability to be effective advocates for you has not changed. Council Members would not agree to anything which would undermine our ability to fight for our neighborhoods.

We are continuing to raise the same questions about RNAV. We are pursuing a new method of measuring noise that will more accurately reflect the sound on the ground than INM. We will continue to advocate for a state-wide aviation policy which aims to shift some air traffic to other airports. We will continue to maintain our strong and effective relationships with state and federal representatives.

More information on airport noise mitigation and recent update on federal activity is available at www.minneapolismn.gov/airportnoise.

Legislative Session has State and Local Governments Working Together Better

By now, you've heard the big news from the state Capitol this legislative session: Minnesota became the 12th state to approve same-sex marriages. While this is monumental, the 2013 legislative session also saw improvements in the way the State and the City of Minneapolis work together. Lawmakers passed a number of measures that reinvest in local governments across Minnesota, showing a commitment to helping cities and counties. In addition, the City of Minneapolis worked with lawmakers to get other legislation passed to help residents.

- **Local Government Aid stabilized** – After more than a decade that saw declines in Local Government Aid, lawmakers recommitted to the State-local partnership. An additional \$80 million is going toward a new formula to help cities and counties fund basic services. This boost will mean around \$12 million in additional Local Government Aid for Minneapolis.
- **Sales tax exemption to cities** – Until now, purchases made by cities included sales tax. It made little sense to tax cities, the cost of which then fell to property taxpayers. Any purchase the City made cost more, and the burden of paying it fell on Minneapolis taxpayers. Eliminating the sales tax for Minneapolis and other cities will put less of a burden on property owners.

Events & Meetings

Nokomis Library Public Art Re-Installation

July 13, 11 am, Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Avenue South. The *Wind and Water Chime*, created by Donald Celender, was refurbished while the library was being remodeled. Join us to celebrate the re-installation of this beautiful piece of art.

Minneapolis Sister Cities Day

July 14, 1-4 pm, Nicollet Island Pavilion, 40 Power Street. Council President Barbara Johnson will make remarks on behalf of the City Council at 2 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Enjoy entertainment, activities, ice cream, while you learn about each Sister City. Minneapolis' Sister Cities are Santiago (Chile), Kuopio (Finland), Ibaraki City (Japan), Novosibirsk (Russia), Tours (France), Harbin (China), Uppsala (Sweden), Eldoret (Kenya), Cuernavaca (Mexico) and Najaf (Iraq).

Metro Transit Community Open House – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

July 15, 5-7 pm, Hamline University, Klas Center, Kay Fredericks Room, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St. Paul.

July 17, 12:30-2:30 pm, Macalester College, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Weyerhaeuser Board Room, 62 Macalester Street, St. Paul. In 2015, Metro Transit will introduce a new kind of bus service for the Twin Cities' busiest urban streets. Project staff will be available to share information and gather feedback on the initial plans for BRT in the Snelling Avenue/Ford Parkway/46th Street corridor. For more information, visit <http://metrotransit.org/snelling-brt>, email brtprojects@metrotransit.org or call Jill Hentges at 612-349-7318.

Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction Community Meetings

July 11 & 17, 5-7 pm, Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Avenue South. Area residents are invited to learn about the proposed layout and design for the reconstruction of Minnehaha Avenue and provide input. Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis Public Works staff will provide information about the project, which is scheduled to begin during the spring of 2015.



Visit your
neighborhood
organization:

LCC

NENA

SENA



Picture a Park Photo Contest

July 20 Free photo classes. **Submit photos by September 2**

The [Picture a Park Photo Contest](#) returns for its 4th year! The contest is designed to highlight the year-round beauty, events and fun throughout Minneapolis' parks. Winners can receive a National Camera gift card, photo enlargement, parking permit, park pass or a 2014 calendar featuring winning photos. Photographs will be judged on impact, image quality, composition and storytelling. Four free classes are being offered this summer. Space is limited, so register today at www.minneapolisparcs.org

National Night Out Registration Deadline

July 23, National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties, and get to know their neighbors. It's a great way to encourage crime prevention, promote community-police partnerships, and enjoy a Minnesota summer evening surrounded by friends and family. National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 6. Block your street off for free by registering your event by July 23 at www.minneapolismn.gov/nno/index.htm

9th annual Share the River Gorge Event

July 30, 6-8 pm, West River Parkway & 35th Street. Free ice cream, free family canoe rides down the Mississippi. Free and open to the public. Volunteers welcome – contact Yer at yer@longfellow.org for more information.

Music and Movies in the Park

Now through September 2 Enjoy more than 250 free concerts and movies in Minneapolis parks this summer. Music runs seven days a week from May 27 through September 2, with concerts at five different venues. Movies are held Mondays - Saturdays, June 7 through August 24. Full schedules are available on the website. Take a night to relax in your parks; bring a blanket or chair, pack a picnic, and don't forget your bug spray! <http://www.mplsmusicandmovies.com>

Public Hearings on Establishing Municipal Utilities

August 1, 10 & 10:30 am, Minneapolis City Council Chambers, 350 South 5th Street, Room 317. The City Council will consider authorizing the establishment of municipal electrical and gas utilities. This action comes as the City prepares to enter into energy franchise negotiations with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. State law currently limits Minneapolis' authority over utilities in franchise agreements; however, the City is seeking legislative changes to allow negotiations with Xcel and CenterPoint to explore how Minneapolis could make progress toward its goals for sustainable energy, improved air quality, equity and green jobs. The City wishes to explore options to achieve its energy goals outside the existing franchise agreement structure including the potential for municipalization of one or both energy utilities.

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.