CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

12th ward news

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[February]

Stakes are High for Minneapolis in U.S. Census

$400 billion dollars of federal resources are allocated annually based on census numbers. The numbers affect whether our state, city or neighborhoods will get money for police, parks, roads, transit, business development and social services.

Not only that, the census results will determine how many United States Representatives the state of Minnesota will have. Minnesota is in danger of losing a seat in Congress. It is critical that every person be counted. According to a recent Census District report to the City Council, it could be as few as 1,100 persons that determine whether it's Minnesota or another state that loses a representative in Congress, diminishing our voice.

Census forms will begin to arrive in mid-March. Please complete the form and return it. If you return the form than you can also avoid having someone knocking on your door. The Census occurs every 10 years and is mandated by the Constitution. This year the census is just 10 questions per household member and the information gathered is not shared with any other government agency. For more information about the census, or to help friends answer questions, visit www.mn2010census.org

Important Census Information for Snowbirds

For all those that have the good fortune to spend part of the winter some place warm, there is some information you should know about participating in the census. Census forms are mailed to all regular addresses. Therefore, you will receive a questionnaire both in Minnesota and at your winter address.

Please do NOT answer the questionnaire delivered to your temporary address. Wait, and answer the questionnaire that you received at your Minnesota address. The post office will NOT forward census questionnaires. If you have questions or if you do not receive a questionnaire at your home by April, call 1-866-861-2010. Minnesota needs you.

Children roast marshmallows at the Hiawatha Heartwarmer in 2009. Photo by Jessica Hill

2nd Annual Hiawatha Heartwarmer - Saturday, February 13th

Join neighbors for fun at Lake Hiawatha Park from noon to 3pm for sleigh rides, ice skating, a bonfire, face-painting, arts & crafts, a raffle, live music in a heated tent and much more!

Former Hiawatha Drycleaner's Site

For many years we fought to save the old brick storefronts at 4224 East 50th Street as an asset to the neighborhood and a location for small businesses near the 50th Street LRT station. Unfortunately, under the ownership of first MnDOT and then Metro Transit the building was allowed to deteriorate. This fall, the status of the property was re-evaluated and it was determined that due to structural damage including a partial roof collapse and an extensive mold problem, the building could not be saved and it was demolished.

Metro Transit expressed an interest in working with the neighborhood to design a low maintenance space that would be more than just mown grass. At the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) town hall meeting in January they brought a designer and some basic ideas for a discussion with residents to determine how the land could best be used by the community into the future. Neighbors expressed a desire for a design that would be an attractive gateway to the neighborhood, masking the not-too-attractive electric substation that shares the lot, adding some useable green space and accommodations for bikers. Bike racks or lockers are under discussion, as well as benches and art.

That's a lot to fit into the small, irregularly shaped site with an eight foot grade change and proximity to a busy street but Metro Transit is now exploring all of the ideas.

Bands for Band!

Help support band programs at Sanford Middle School and Seward Montessori by attending the Bands for Band benefit on Saturday, February 20 from 3-9 pm at the Eagles Club, 2507 25th Street East.

Admission is $10 per adult, $5 for children 6 and older or $25 per family.

Bands performing include the Shrewd Mammals, The John Beach Band, Big Surf, and the Van Morrison Review. For a complete listing visit www.iloveband.org.

You may also send a donation to Seward Montessori PTA, Attn: Bands for Band, 2309 28th Ave S. Mpls, 55406.

Bands for Band 2009. Photo by Andrea Canter

Simplified Process for City Boards and Commissions

The City of Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards and commissions that are an integral part of the City's work. Until now, openings for these positions have been advertised and filled at many different times throughout the year, making it hard for volunteers to know when they could apply and a burden for neighborhood groups who tried to let their residents know about the opportunities. Last Friday, the City Council voted to create twice yearly appointments - in May and November. The change is intended to increase awareness about the openings and to increase the pool of applicants. "A simple, streamlined process will make it easier for citizens to find out what opportunities are out there" said Council Member Colvin Roy, "I want these positions to be accessible to all residents and not just people who are in-the-know." The new process will include an open house as part of the City's outreach efforts where people can learn more about the many ways that they can become involved.

Southside Star Community Garden Meeting

Come help plan the new Southside Star Community Garden, to be located on the vacant lot at E. 41st St & 32nd Ave. S. February 10 6:30-8:30 pm Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St. Call Sarah Classen at 722-6377 or email sarahc@landstewardshipproject.org to RSVP.

Open Appointments: Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Closes 2/12/2010

Events & Meetings

Precinct Caucus Day
February 2 6:30 pm & 7 pm Caucuses for DFL, Independence, Republican parties begin at 6:30 p.m., Green party caucuses begin at 7 p.m. Click on the Caucus Finder link at http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us to find out where your caucus is being held.

Southside Star Community Garden Meeting
February 10 6:30-8:30 pm Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St. Come help plan the new Southside Star Community Garden, to be located on the vacant lot at E. 41st St & 32nd Ave. S. Call Sarah Classen at 722-6377 or email sarahc@landstewardshipproject.org to RSVP.

Xcel Substation Public Meeting
February 10 6 pm, Plaza Verde, 1516 E. Lake St. Xcel Energy would like to build a substation at 28th St & Hiawatha Ave, which has been designated as green space for several years. Last year, LCC volunteers installed a large planting on the space. Meeting attendees will discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & provide comments. Contact Joanna Solotaroff at Joanna@longfellow.org or visit Minnesota Department of Commerce. Energy Facility Permitting, Siting and Routing: Project docket Xcel Energy Hiawatha 115 kV Transmission Line Project to view the draft EIS.

Longfellow Garden Club
February 10 7-9 pm Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. "Building Better Soil" features a hands-on demonstration & discussion of living soil, soil testing and ways to improve your soil using amendments and gardening techniques. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Second Annual Lake Hiawatha Heartwarmer
February 13 Noon-3 pm Lake Hiawatha Park. Sleigh rides, ice skating, bonfire, face-painting, arts & crafts, raffle drawings and live music in a heated tent. Free food provided by local businesses. For more information or to donate, contact Jessica Hill at jessica.hill@yahoo.com. Donations are tax deductible. Free fun for the entire family!

LCC Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Plan Modification Proposal
February 24 6:30-7:30 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus (3100 West River Parkway) LCC proposes to move $150,000 Phase 1 Housing Program Income to Phase II Administrative Funding. Funds were returned from low-interest housing loan repayments over past 15 years. NRP requires that modifications over $25,000 require community notification & vote for approval. Minimum of 35 residents needed to vote. Contact Executive Director Melanie Majors, 612-722-4529 ext 4 or Melanie@longfellow.org with questions.

Home Security Presentation
February 24 6:30-8 pm Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center, 2701 E. 44th St. Learn what you can do to reduce your odds of becoming a victim of crime. Sponsored by SENA and the Minneapolis Police Department.

Open Appointments

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Closes 2/12/2010
Mpls Public Health Advisory Cmte (PHAC) (open until filled)
For information on City openings: **ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open**