



12th Ward Update

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2006 — JOIN THE TRADITION

National Night Out (August 1) is as important as ever in Minneapolis. There has been a lot of attention to the rise in crime in the city. Combating these problems takes more than putting more officers on the street. Connecting with your neighbors, sharing information, and building a strong block can prevent problems and help you and your neighbors deal with suspicious activity.

The City Council voted to once again make NNO permits free if application is received before July 18. The deadline is to help our staff avoid a last minute surge of applications that causes a need for extra staff time and extra expense.

NNO permits are available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno or by calling 311. If you register your block before July 11 you will be eligible for a door prize to give away at your celebration.

Our Police Department is asking blocks to focus some time on August 1 to talk about graffiti. The city spends hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly to remove graffiti from public and private property. Consider forming a graffiti removal crew on your block to help those who are unable to remove graffiti from their property. You can also let the kids on your block know that graffiti is illegal, disrespectful, and costly.

MINNEAPOLIS TO ADOPT NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING STANDARD

Minneapolis has placed a strong focus on building environmentally responsible buildings for several years. Not only is it the right thing to do from an environmental stewardship point of view (by some estimates, almost 40% of the energy use in the U.S. can be attributed to buildings), but there is also a bottom-line benefit to taxpayers when energy efficiency saves money on energy bills, careful space planning saves building costs, and stormwater management saves water clean-up costs.

The national standard for "green buildings" is known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED standards were developed by the US Green Building Council to define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement, to recognize environmental leadership in the building industry, to raise consumer awareness of green building benefits, and transform the building market. The great news is two of our most recently completed buildings (Animal Shelter and Third Precinct) would score high enough to be LEED certified. This is a strong statement about the excellent work our Public Works employees have been doing on behalf of the city.

Moving forward with the adoption of a policy statement by the City Council to have all new buildings and significant renovations be at least LEED certifiable is valuable because it makes a statement to other builders in the city that the City Council values green buildings. I hope the market follows our lead and places an even higher emphasis on building green.

NOMINATE GARDENS FOR MINNEAPOLIS BLOOMS AWARDS

The Minneapolis Blooms Program started in 1987 as part of the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE), a citizen advisory committee to the city of Minneapolis. Minneapolis Blooms has expanded in recent years. It now promotes watershed-friendly gardens and hands-on education and recognition of caring gardeners and their contribution to urban beauty.

I would love to see a bunch of nominations from the 12th Ward. Awards are presented each year for Minneapolis gar-

dens clearly visible to the public. Nominations are due by July 15 and a nomination form can be found at www.minneapolisblooms.org/nominate.htm

All nominated gardeners will receive an invitation to the Minneapolis Blooms Day spring event. Photos of spring gardens are helpful, as judging is done in June, July and August.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

38th Street Station Area Master Plan Open House

July 8, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Hiawatha Joe Coffee Shop (4135 Hiawatha Ave.)

- Learn about proposed amendments to the 38th St. Station Area Plan.
- Review the proposed amendments online www.Longfellow.org.

Minneapolis Water Management Open House

Thursday, July 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Nokomis Recreation Center 2401 E. Mhaha Pkwy.

Aquatennial Festival of Neighborhoods

July 20, 6 - 8 p.m.

Bossen Park

July 21, 6 - 8 p.m.

Nokomis Community Center

National Night Out

August 1

Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival

August 2, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

Lake Hiawatha Park

<http://www.lhrc.freesevers.com/festival.htm>

River Gorge Ice Cream Social

August 3, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Giggly Hills picnic area, near 36th St & W River Pkwy

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

1830 East 42nd Street

May 8, 7:00 p.m.

For more info, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

LCC Board Meeting

Minnehaha Academy North Campus

July 20, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street

July 27, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

NENA Town Meeting

NRP Plan Modification and

Nokomis East Station Area Planning

August 3, 7p.m.

Mhaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.

METROPOLITAN LIVABLE COMMUNITIES GRANTS

For the first time in my tenure on the City Council, the 12th Ward had three applications for the Metropolitan Livable Communities Demonstration Account Grant. The Demonstration Account provides funding for development and redevelopment projects that achieve connected development patterns that link housing, jobs and services, and use regional infrastructure efficiently. There is \$8.8 million available in 2006.

The three 12th Ward projects are Longfellow Station (38th and Hiawatha), Snelling Ave. Extension/Town Square (extends Snelling Ave. south of 46th St. per the 46th St. Station Area Master Plan), and the Metroplains proposal for housing on the 5300 block of Minnehaha Avenue.

The Metropolitan Council asked the city to rank proposals from within the city and forward the top five projects for consideration. City staff ranked the nine applications, and two of the three 12th Ward projects are moving forward to the Metropolitan Council. I am disappointed the Metroplains proposal was ranked sixth the concept for the project is unique to our part of the corridor. Their proposal for a mixed-income rental building would have brought a needed range of housing prices to the corridor.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

Sentencing Update for Longfellow Robber

Ibrahim Mohamed, arrested for a series of armed robberies in the greater Longfellow Neighborhood this past winter, plead guilty to all counts and was sentenced to 12 ½ years.

FREE Self-Defense/Personal Safety Workshops

Here are two great opportunities to learn how to reduce your chance of becoming a victim. FREE Self-Defense/ Personal Safety Workshops will be held on Tuesday, July 25, 7:30 – 9 a.m, and Thursday, July 27, 5- 6:30 p.m. Both workshops will be held at Alina Commons, Midtown Exchange Building (the old Sears Building), 2929 Chicago Ave. S.

If interested, you MUST RSVP to Minneapolis Police Crime Prevention Specialist Renee Allen, 612-825-6138.

Please Watch Your Speed in the Neighborhood

A common call to my office is complaints about speeding on residential streets. Most of the complaints come from areas where the real and/or perceived speeding is likely being caused by nearby residents. Please remember to respect the people that live around you by driving at or below 30 mph on residential streets.