



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

12th Ward Update

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

A FUTURE FOR OUR LIBRARIES

Libraries are my primary concern in the budget this year. I began with the goal of finding money to keep the doors open at all of our libraries, the importance of which was put into sharp focus when the Library Board voted to close three community libraries as a budget balancing measure. Council member Schiff and I see \$250,000 recommended for an expansion of “311” as a possible source of on-going funding (see SW Journal, 10/20/06) but this is just a small part of a big picture. We must do more which is why, at a recent budget hearing, I called for the City Attorney to find out what it would take to consolidate library operations as a city department without a separately elected board, as they have in St. Paul.

I did not do this to starve the libraries or because I want to punish past library boards and I do not believe a consolidation would save money. **I believe this should be considered as part of a long-term strategy to stabilize one of the most important services in a democracy because we now have a situation where the City Council votes on both major sources of funds and then the Library Board must manage within that budget.** This means the people who get most of the calls about increasing taxes (City Council) are already balancing the priorities of libraries compared to public safety and all other services as well as the total cost to the tax payer. It also means that the people who hear most about the needs for library services do not have the power to raise the money. It is for accountability and clarity that I raise the idea, as has the Library Board President. The information will also go to the **Library Advisory Board**, appointed to study and make recommendations.

It is a good thing that so many people are engaged in discussion of what our libraries need. In 1998 I authored a budget amendment calling for the Library Board to have substantive talks with Hennepin County about forming a new partnership before proceeding with the planning for a new downtown library. Facts show that the downtown library provides resources to all of Hennepin County, the rest of the metro region, and even most of the state. I believed that recognition of this service beyond our city’s borders could lead to a new way of governing and running the central library, which could then focus city tax dollars on our community libraries and I still believe it. The Library Board would not consider it, labeling it a “merger”.

The current Library Board is exhibiting an open mind to talks with Hennepin County (as well as other ideas.) Commissioner McLaughlin is proposing a **Committee on the Future of Libraries in Hennepin County** to study long-term funding and governance issues and recommend potential solutions that could include legislative proposals, various levels of joint efforts and cooperation, up to and including a possible merger of the two library systems. I still favor a central function partnership but am willing to learn about all possibilities to keep our system strong and open.

My commitment to the residents of the city is that I am engaged in all of the library discussions with an open mind and a dedication to the long-term health of the libraries.

REMINDERS FOR THE CHANGING SEASON

Here are three things to keep in mind as we move from fall to winter:

1. The week of November 13 is the last week for yard waste pick-up. After that week, yard waste can go on perennial beds, be bagged and used as insulation for your foundation, or brought to a commercial location (call 612-673-2917 for locations).
2. Street sweeping will continue through mid-November. Help the city protect the water quality of our creeks, lakes and river by moving your car when your street is posted no parking. To see the street sweeping schedule for your block, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep/streetsweeplookup.asp
3. Flyers with snow emergency information were recently mailed to residents. Help yourself have a happier winter by looking over the regulations now. Consider it part of the necessary mental exercise needed to get through another Minnesota winter.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

50th Street Reconstruction Community Meeting

Monday, November 13, 7 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church

Community Benefits/Purina Redevelopment Community Forum

November 14, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Hiawatha Park

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Monday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.
1830 East 42nd Street
For more info, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

LCC Board Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
Hiawatha Park
For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
3000 East 50th Street
For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

OPEN APPOINTMENTS

Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/ for more information

- The City is accepting applications to serve on the Minneapolis Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee. This group meets monthly and has been instrumentally in developing the City's Sustainability Program and recent environmental policies (closes 11/8/2006)
- Heritage Preservation Commission (closes 12/1/2006)

WANTED: SNOW SHOVELERS

We all know a senior neighbor who is a valuable member of the community but can't keep up with the demands of shoveling snow. HandyWorks is a great program that helps seniors with many chores and right now they are recruiting both paid and volunteer workers to shovel snow for seniors. The demand for help is greater than the supply of workers, so please think about volunteering.

For more information, call Megan Nolan-Elliasen at 612-721-8687 x329 or e-mail her at mnolan@gmcc.org

12TH WARD WEBSITE PHOTO CONTEST

The 12th Ward Update is over four years old and sadly there has never been a contest. That changes this month. A request has gone out to all Council Members to supply a picture that can be used as a banner on redesigned ward homepages.

I am certain a 12th Warder has the perfect picture. Please send your best shot in JPEG format to sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us by December 1st. The winning photo will go on the 12th Ward homepage with a photo credit to the photographer. Here are the rest of the details:

1. The picture should capture the spirit of the 12th Ward.
2. The image size will be 360 bytes x 100 pixels or 3.75" x 1.00". Images do not have to be submitted at this size.
3. Vibrant colors and panoramic views are desired.
4. By submitting the image, you are giving the city the right to use the picture on the city's website.

If you have questions, please contact Brette Hjelle in my office at brette.hjelle@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call 612-673-2212.

50TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION MEETING

Public Works engineers will present a refined draft layout for 50th Street. Public comments from two previous community meetings were used to create this layout. Residents can expect to see roadway width, lane configurations (driving and parking), bicycle accommodations, bump-outs, stop sign changes, etc.) Comments from this meeting will be used to further refine the project.

Monday, November 13 - 7 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 East 50th Street

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS WORKSHOP

Community Crime Prevention/SAFE of the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Housing Inspections are providing this workshop. Attending the workshop provides owners and managers with valuable information, resources and opportunities to network with other property owners. Workshop topics:

- The ABCs of property management
- Working with the Minneapolis Police Department
- Working with Housing Inspections
- Tenant behavior issues
- The risk of lead poisoning
- Hennepin County Housing Court / mediation
- Networking opportunities

Thursday, November 16 - 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Registration at 5:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue S