

12th Ward news

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[July]

Planes, Trains and Construction

Sometimes it does feel as though it might be true that "Minnesota only has two seasons, winter and road construction."

Unfortunately, beautiful summer weather is great for construction.



Light rail transit platforms are being expanded to accommodate three car trains due to the success of the line. Several LRT stations will be closed on Friday, July 24 thru Monday, July 27 beginning at 11 p.m. on Friday and ending at 3:30 a.m. Monday. The closure involves complete power shut down and buses will be substituted for rail between the 46th St. Station and MOA.

This summer and fall the Minneapolis-St.Paul International Airport (MSP) will be re-constructing the center section of the north parallel runway, beginning August 17th. The runway will be closed for approximately two and one half months. This will affect how the remaining three runways are used and it will affect flight patterns. To learn more about what to expect, attend the open house hosted by MSP, MAC and the MSP Noise Oversight Committee on Monday, August 3 from 7:00- 8:30 pm at Nokomis Community Center, 2401 Minnehaha Parkway.

For up-to-date LRT information visit: <http://metrotransit.org/rail/construction.asp>

For airport construction information go to: www.macnoise.com/construction

And for those of you waiting to hear from the MAC about home insulation, if you want details please contact John Nelson at the MAC 612-726-8133

Hiawatha Public Works Facility will Save Money while Meeting Top Environmental Standards

At last, after more than a decade of planning, the city has begun construction of the Hiawatha Public Works Facility at 26th and Hiawatha Avenue. It will be **the first City facility constructed to LEED gold standards**. LEED is an internationally recognized certification system that measures how well a building or community performs in energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions reduction, indoor environmental quality improvements, and stewardship of resources.

The existing site contains 18 separate Public Works buildings of various ages and conditions, some dating back to the early 1900's. Removal of these buildings will significantly reduce maintenance and utility costs and eliminate threats from hazardous materials. The new \$9.5 million state-of-the-art facility will be built by reusing many materials from the demolished buildings. Part of the fence is actually being constructed

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

LCC

NENA

SENA

Adding Light to a Problem Intersection

At CM Colvin Roy's request, a study was done of the intersection at 46th Street and Minnehaha Avenue for any possible safety improvements after two tragic deaths.

While no infrastructure factors were found to contribute directly to the deaths, a new street light was recently added to the

Curious about those purple things hanging from Minneapolis trees? Those are traps used to lure and capture the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The traps help the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to monitor different neighborhoods for signs of an EAB infestation.

Ralph Sievert, Director of Forestry with MPRB, answered our questions about the strategies being used to tackle the EAB problem which threatens 38,000 Minneapolis boulevard trees.

Q. Are tree injections an option to address the EAB problem?

A. It's looking like certain trunk injections hold promise as a treatment option. This must be repeated every 2 years to stay effective. However, at this time we do not plan to inject public trees. We have expanded our permitting with private tree companies so that they may trunk inject public ash if residents wish to do so. Even if we wanted to do injections, there is a massive cost (millions of dollars) associated with it that has not been budgeted for. Cities that are doing injections are doing so to slow losses. This way they will not have as many trees to remove within a short time frame.

Q. What is the Park Board strategy to deal with the EAB?

A. Our approach will be to selectively begin removals this fall so as to reduce the number of trees that are available once EAB populations inevitably rise. We are not working on ash during the adult fly time (primarily Memorial Day through Labor Day). This way we are not hastening the spread of EAB throughout our quarantined county. We are also keeping ash out of our neighborhood woodchip sites.

Q. Where can residents go for more information?

A. If residents have further questions, they call me at 612-313-7735 or check out the link to the EAB portion of our website.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1059>

Howe School Reuse Update

On June 4 United Properties (UP) presented plans for the reuse of Howe Elementary school at a meeting hosted by LCC. Overall, the reaction at the meeting seemed positive. Many residents are happy to see the Howe building re-used in the design.

The proposed project would use the old Howe school building and would add a new building designed to compliment the appearance of Howe. The project would provide 80 units of senior condominiums. The units would vary somewhat in size and there would be four tiers of available financing.

Among the reactions heard at the meeting, residents said they were pleased to see that the plans reflected local priorities including concerns for the environment and fostering a sense of community. The design has many green features and includes “pedestrian nodes” which invite the public on to the property and create a sense of being part of the broader community.

Some concerns that were raised at the meeting included concerns about the costs of the units and whether they were affordable for seniors who currently reside in the neighborhood. Citizens were also concerned about the risk of having a stalled project. UP says that concerns about a stalled development should be abated by the fact that they will pre-sell many units before building and they have private financing.

Meeting to Discuss Alternative Hiawatha Substation Locations

July 7 6-7:30 pm East Lake Library. As part of the Public Utilities Commission process surrounding the Hiawatha Transmission Project, the public has an opportunity to give input on substation locations & the route of the power lines. Xcel's preferred location is just east of the Sabo Bridge, where volunteers recently completed landscaping.

www.midtowngreenway.org/XcelenergyGridExpansion for more information.

Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works 46th St. Project Public Meeting

July 8 6:30-8 pm Hiawatha School Park. Hennepin County hosts meeting to present a concept for pedestrian & street lighting improvements in the area of 46th St from 34th Ave to 42nd Ave, 36th Ave from 46th St to Minnehaha Creek & 45th St between Hiawatha & Snelling Aves. Project aims to improve safety & enhance the pedestrian environment within the neighborhood and along pedestrian connection to 46th St LRT Station. Maps & illustrations of lighting & fixture type will be used & feedback is requested. Staff on hand to answer questions and take input.

Longfellow Garden Club Tour

July 8 7 pm Meet at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Directions & carpooling provided. Meetings are free and open to the public.

3rd Annual Minnehaha Creek Clean-up

July 12 9 am-1 pm Lk. Hiawatha, 46th St & 28th Ave.

9-9:30 am Pre-Clean-Up Breakfast (free to first 250)

9:30 am Clean-up begins (gloves & bags provided)

11:30 am Post-Clean-Up BBQ sponsored by Leinenkugel's. Enjoy a burger while results of the clean up are tabulated. Prizes for the most candy bar wrappers collected. More info at www.waterstop.org or RSVP to 612-331-5600 or Kelly@silhouettellc.com

Longfellow Share the Road Event

July 15 4:30-6:30 pm Minnehaha Coffee parking lot, 46th St & Minnehaha Ave. Celebrate the diverse transit happening in our community. Activities for kids, raffles, refreshments, speakers & bike safety & maintenance info.

Pedestrian Master Plan Walking Workshops and Public Meeting

July 16 Walking workshops at 5:30 p.m., public meeting 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Master plan presentation at 6:30 p.m. Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. You can also learn about the plan and provide your comments online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian.

Public Meeting to discuss new building at the Minnesota Veteran's Home

July 16 6:30 pm The Minnesota Veterans' Home is hosting a public meeting to discuss plans for a new building to be located at 5101 Minnehaha Avenue. The building will replace building #9 which is being demolished.

Anti-Graffiti Breakfast & Outing

July 18 10 am Brackett Park, 28th St & 39th Ave. Discuss the issue of graffiti with local experts. Attendees invited to join the REMOV group for graffiti removal.

Childcare provided – RSVP to Joanna at 722-4529 or Joanna@longfellow.org.

Cornfeed & Outdoor Movie

July 31 6:30-8:30 pm Sibley Park (19th Ave S & 40th St E). Enjoy corn on the cob, family-friendly entertainment, concessions, live bluegrass music and after dark, a movie on a huge screen. Bring chair and/or blanket. Concession sales benefit park youth sports.

Movies in the Park – Free Family Fun!

July 6 Keewaydin Park, Journey to the Center of the Earth

July 13 Sibley Park, Hotel for Dogs

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Write lorenolson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and ask to be added to or removed from the list.

Due to recent changes in how our e-mail lists are maintained there may be some people who elected to unsubscribe that are still on the list. Please inform Loren of your wishes to be permanently removed. We are very sorry for the inconvenience.