



[October]



Volunteers pause for a picture before planting 1,740 shrubs, flowers and trees for Gateway Gardens (50th and Hiawatha), a Metro Transit – NENA partnership.

School Board Candidate Forum, Oct 20th, Asks: “What Should be Done with Vacant Schools?”

Longfellow Community Council (LCC) will host a forum where community residents can ask candidates for the school board about their intentions for vacant school buildings, including three elementary schools in Greater Longfellow – Cooper, Howe and Longfellow. You might want to communicate how living near a boarded building has affected you and your family, as well as your hopes or concerns for the reuse or redevelopment of these properties.

Wednesday, October 20th 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Anne Sullivan Communication Center
3100 East 28th Street

The forum will focus on the issues of declining enrollment, effects of vacant properties and possibilities for the future. Residents will have an opportunity to meet and talk directly with future school board members and begin to build relationships that will work to strengthen our schools and neighborhoods. The League of Women Voters will facilitate the forum. For more information, please contact Kim Jakus at 612-722-4529 x5 or kim@longfellow.org

Longfellow Station Update

We last reported that the development at 38th and Hiawatha had encountered problems and that Capital Growth was stepping out as developer. Another developer, Sherman and Associates, showed serious interest in taking over.

Recently, George Sherman of Sherman and Associates told the 12th Ward News that he has negotiated with all of the parties and is taking significant steps to take over the project. This should ensure that the demolition of the Purina Mills continues as planned. Sherman has said the he will work with Longfellow Community Council to vet new designs for the project and to hear and address community concerns.

Household Items needed for Salvation Army Transitional Housing residents

Over the summer the Salvation Army completed work on two small apartment buildings it purchased in the Bossen Area, creating 10 apartments for veterans. They are in need of household items to help furnish the apartments. They can use:

- televisions
- DVD players
- dining table sets
- end tables
- coffee tables
- lamps
- small desks
- kitchen appliances
- kitchen utensils
- dishes & glasses
- towels
- dressers
- bookcases
- hygiene kits
- laundry soap
- cleaning supplies
- blankets
- pillows
- pots & pans

Please call Bob Graner at 612-246-7301 or Gina Collier at 612-363-3382 to arrange for drop off or pick up.

Development Update on Riverview Road Apartments

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation (PCNF) and Common Bond are moving forward with the plans for senior affordable housing at 54th Street and Riverview Road. PCNF and Common Bond are non-profit organizations with a mission to create affordable housing. They have been working on their plans for 42 units of senior housing with a task force from two local congregations, Lake Nokomis Lutheran and Minnehaha United Methodist Church, who will remain involved with the development, and recently held a meeting with some residents who live near the site.

Now the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) is hosting a town meeting to give all area residents more information about the plans and the opportunity to give their input on the design.

Town Hall Meeting - Riverview Road Project
Thursday, October 21 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Keewaydin Park, 3030 East 53rd Street

It is anticipated that construction will not begin until late in 2012, due to complicated approvals needed for the federal financing of affordable, senior housing, but design planning is happening now.



Construction Update: Nokomis Library

The general contractor for the Nokomis Library renovation project will start drilling geothermal wells today and will continue Monday through Thursday, during working hours, for approximately two weeks. The wells are part of the geothermal system which will provide cost efficient and environmentally friendly heating and cooling for the library. The roof deck for the Nokomis Library is in place and the final roofing installation has begun. Stonework construction is underway. Concrete floors are installed. Mechanical and electrical work is ongoing. The foundations for the south side additions are complete.

Updates for the construction project are posted on the Hennepin County Library [Construction Updates](#) page. The Nokomis Library has been closed since September 2009 and will reopen in 2011.

Improve Your Child's Air Quality; Turn Off Your Engine

Children are especially vulnerable to vehicle air pollution because their lungs are still developing, and they inhale more pounds of pollution per pound of body weight than adults do. So if you drive your child to school, get in the habit of shutting off the engine while you wait.

Vehicle motors release particulate matter, dirt, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide into the air. Chemicals in vehicle exhaust are linked to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease and asthma and are the major source of human-caused global warming

Protecting your child's air quality is as easy as turning the key. It will also save you money on wasted fuel (in general, 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the car) and it's the law. Minneapolis ordinance limits most idling to three minutes.

Meet Your Neighbors Online

All neighborhoods in the 12th ward are now served by a network of free, real name-based on-line forums that are each facilitated by a local volunteer. Neighbors can get to know each other through the lively discussions started and moderated by neighbors. They often use the forum to:

- Ask for recommendations on local services - who can recommend a good plumber?
- Discuss community issues, crime, development, wildlife, and more.
- Give away things to your nearby neighbors from plants in the spring to helping neighbors in need.
- Share community event announcements, news, photos, and video.

[E-Democracy.org](http://e-democracy.org) hosts 18 neighborhood forums; the 12th Ward is covered by:

Longfellow Community - <http://e-democracy.org/longfellow>

Nokomis East - <http://e-democracy.org/nokomiseast>

Standish-Ericsson - <http://e-democracy.org/se>

The forums are independent of neighborhood organizations, but they are often used by those organizations as well as our 12th ward office to share information and address local questions that emerge in the discussions. The Standish Ericsson forum for example, is now over two years old. It reaches close to 15% of households everyday with over 600 members. The new Southside Star community garden at 42nd Street was created by a group of residents who met through the forum.

With volunteers recently opening new forums for Longfellow and Nokomis East, now is a great time to join a free and undemanding way to learn more about your neighborhood and perhaps connect with others who have a common interest.

Absentee Voting Available Now; New On-line Tracking

If you will be away from your precinct or, due to disability, illness or religious observation you cannot vote on November 2, you may **vote absentee in person at Minneapolis City Hall or Hennepin County**.

[Minneapolis City Hall](#)

350 5th Street South - Room 1B - ground floor

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

[Hennepin County Government Center – Public Service Level](#)

300 South 6th Street

Minneapolis MN 55487

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

To vote absentee by mail, you must complete an [absentee ballot application](#) and submit it to your local election official by mail. Find contact information for your county elections official using the [Election Official Directory](#). Your ballot will be sent to you within a day or two of submitting the application.

Remember that 311 can assist you with many voting related questions.

The Secretary of State has created an on-line tracking tool. [Absentee Ballot Lookup](#) allows you to check the status of your their absentee ballot. You can track when your application has been received, ballot mailed, ballot received, ballot counted or rejected and if a replacement was mailed to you.

The [Voter Registration Lookup](#) allows voters to enter their name, birthday, and address, and find out whether or not they are registered at that address.

Minneapolis Assists Flood Ravaged Cities to the South

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) requested assistance from City of Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness and Regulatory Services to respond to flooding in the southern third of Minnesota impacted by the heavy rain event on September 22.

A member of the City of Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness team was sent to Faribault with EOC and emergency management support. The City also sent five building inspectors to assist the City of Owatonna and Steele County building officials in conducting initial and follow-up inspections to residential, commercial and other structures as water levels recede.

“Minneapolis is a tremendous asset to the state and the region when it comes to emergency preparedness” said Council Member Colvin Roy, “we did a lot right in the aftermath of the bridge collapse but we learned a lot too, and we’ve kept improving.”

Emergency Preparedness staff also loaded and delivered a trailer of supplies including 15,000 masks and 16,000 gloves. The masks and gloves were part of the City of Minneapolis-managed cache of equipment stored for this purpose. The City will be reimbursed for the personnel and equipment expenses.

City Goals & Strategic Directions; Jobs and Economic Vitality

Every four years, the Council and Mayor adopt goals to guide the work of the city. City departments create five-year business plans with the achievement of these goals in mind and the Council and Mayor use them when adopting budgets. On April 2, 2010 the Council approved six goals. We are featuring one goal this month:

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES, HEALTHY LIVES; Our built and natural environment adds character to our city, enhances our health and enriches our lives

Strategic directions:

- Equitable, integrated transit system
- Thoughtful neighborhood design with density done right
- Plentiful arts, cultural and recreational opportunities
- High-quality, affordable housing for all ages and stages in every neighborhood
- Active lifestyles: walkable, bikeable, swimmable
- Healthy choices are easy and economical

To see all the goals and strategic directions:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/goals/>

Making it easy to save energy and save money. Free help with installation!

Reducing energy use can be easier than you think. Tools like a programmable thermostat can use less natural gas and electricity and save you money. Learn more about energy savings by taking part in Community Energy Services, a full service residential energy program. You can have the opportunity to:

- Attend a free educational workshop on how to lower energy use in the home and save money.
- Schedule a home energy visit to identify additional ways to save energy. Materials installed may include low flow showerheads, setback thermostat, compact fluorescent light bulbs, gasket seals, faucet aerators, pipe insulation, and more. **This is a \$400 value for \$30.**
- Receive a personalized energy use inventory for the last 12 months and feedback for the next year to measure energy saving results.
- Gain access to financing, incentives, and rebates available for larger projects such as insulation or furnace replacement.

The program has been implemented in Longfellow and Standish Ericsson neighborhoods and is reaching out to other communities. Contact Kyle Boehm at (612) 219-7334 or kboehm@mncee.org for workshops scheduled throughout the city or visit www.mnces.org.

The City of Minneapolis has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment, CenterPoint Energy, and Xcel Energy to offer these services.

●●● Resources ●●●

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



Events & Special Meetings

Community Meeting on New Neighborhood Funding Program

October 5, 6-8 pm Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S. Learn about draft guidelines for the new funding program and give feedback on these proposed guidelines.

Wednesday Walks Series: Our river, Our Neighborhood

October 6, 5:30-6:30 pm Islands, caves, springs and the only natural waterfall on the Mississippi River all have shaped the experiences of many peoples living near and traveling through this area over hundreds of years. National Park Service Ranger David Wiggins will lead a walk down to the water's edge and will share his deep background in history, ecology and our changing relationship with our Mississippi and our lands. Registration required. Contact Cordelia.pierson@gmail.com to register.

SENA Annual Meeting

October 13, 5:30-8:30 pm Lk Hiawatha Park Building, 2701 E. 44th St. Sample food from local restaurants, review information tables. Presentations on neighborhood projects; community vote on proposed modification of NRP dollars; election of SENA Board members.

Longfellow Garden Club

October 13, 7-9 pm Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. "Go native to sustain birds and other wildlife in your garden," will be presented by Val Cunningham of the St. Paul Audobon Society. Topics: many bird species are in trouble; the importance of insects to birds, especially as they raise their young; how important native plants are to attracting these insects and evaluating which plants to put into our gardens. Free and open to the public. Contact Peter Schmidt at 722-8022 for more information.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Fall Frolic

October 16, 9am- 4pm Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S. Silent auction, bingo, music, book sale and door prizes. Food provided by Fat Lorenzo's. Tickets: \$7 Seniors, \$10 Adults, \$4 children/students and \$25 family of 4 (children under 12). To volunteer, call 612-724-3693.

School Board Candidate Forum – Vacant School Buildings

October 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Anne Sullivan Communication Ctr, 3100 E. 28th St. LCC hosts a forum focusing on issues of declining enrollment, effects of vacant properties and possibilities for the future. Meet and talk directly with future board members. For more info, contact Kim Jakus of LCC at 612-722-4529 ext. 5 or kim@longfellow.org.

NENA Town Hall Meeting – Riverview Road Development (see article above)

October 21, 7 pm Keewaydin Park Building, 3030-53rd St. E.

Family Halloween Party, Sponsored by Park Board

October 30, 2-4 pm Minnehaha Falls Park Bring your young ghosts and goblins to a fun and safe Halloween celebration! Families are welcome and costumes are encouraged!

Save This Date: 12th Ward Meeting About City Budget. November 4, 6:30 pm.

Learn about the budget from Finance Director, Heather Johnston. Ask questions and share your views with CM Colvin Roy. Minnehaha United Methodist Church - 3701 East 50th Street

OPEN APPOINTMENTS FOR BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Applications for the following Board/opens are now being accepted. Applications are accepted until open positions are filled however the application review process begins Monday, October 4th, 2010.

Mpls. Arts Commission

Mpls. Citizen Environmental Advisory Cmte. (CEAC)

Mpls. Commission on Civil Rights

Civilian Review Authority (CRA)

Mpls. Capital Long-Range Improvement Cmte (CLIC)

Mpls. Advisory Cmte. on People with Disabilities

Mpls. Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)

Public Health Advisory Cmte. (PHAC)

Metropolitan Sports Commission

Mpls. Telecommunications Network (MTN)

Youth Violence Prevention Executive Cmte

Mpls. Zoning Board of Adjustment

For information on City openings: ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open

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