
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

November 2003

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

LRT Noise

Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) testing between Cedar/Riverside and 46th Street has ignited a discussion in the community about the warning sounds that will be a part of LRT operations. Horn use during testing upset neighbors who rightly called their Council Members. Council Member Schiff and I have relayed the concerns to Metro Transit. According to Joe Marie, Assistant General Manager, Rail Operations, a portable air horn was used to warn workers in the test zone that the LRV would be doing high speed testing. This horn is louder than the LRV horn and will no longer be used. The project also ceased testing after midnight.

Mr. Marie has convened a group of residents and elected officials to look at different options. The goal is to provide safety along the entire LRT line while preserving the livability of our neighborhoods.

Burglaries Up in 12th Ward

Increased burglaries have focused 3rd Precinct Police attention and resources on neighborhoods of the 12th ward. Patterns identified in Standish, Ericsson, Cooper, Howe, Hiawatha, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Wenonah, and Morris Park prompted Police to work with the media to alert residents (you may have seen it on TV last Thursday or in Friday's paper.) CCP/SAFE teams were already sending out crime alerts to all block leaders and individuals who belong to an electronic mailing list. Neighborhoods surrounding the 12th Ward have also been hit.

Home burglaries are generally happening during the day and garage break-ins at night. In response to the burglaries, Minneapolis Police have a number of unmarked squad cars patrolling the area to watch for break-ins.

To view all crime alerts, go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimealert/index.asp. You can also join the electronic mailing list for future crime updates. Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimealert/emallist.asp and follow the instructions to get timely crime information about your neighborhood. Please sign up and help spread the word. Even better, become the block leader on your block.

Finally, learn what you can do to prevent yourself from being a burglary victim. Some of the recent burglaries could have been prevented with better home security habits. Attend a Home Security Workshop put on by the Minneapolis Police Department.

Home Security Workshop

**St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Avenue South
November 20th, 7-9 p.m.**

Doing Our Part for the Environment

Minneapolis is a big organization, so small changes in how we operate can have a big impact on the environment. Here are some recent highlights:

- LED signal lights have recently been completed in 16 intersections. Signal lights at these intersections are now 45% more energy efficient.
- Environment friendly Ultra Low Sulfur, Unleaded E10 (10% ethanol) gasoline is being used by city vehicles at the same cost regular E10 gasoline.
- Minneapolis has joined with Hennepin County and other local governments to purchase 5% biodiesel blends. Biodiesel produces less carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter when compared to standard diesel fuel. Joining other buyers in a cooperative bid process will result in better prices for everyone.

Public Works is an active member of the city's Environmental Coordinating Team. I am committed to continuing our review of day-to-day operations for ways to improve our impact on the environment

Oaks Hiawatha Gets City Approval

I am very happy to announce that the first LRT related development project in the 12th Ward (the second in the city) received city approval in October. The Oaks Hiawatha Station – a 61 unit apartment building with 3,000 square feet of retail – is set for construction at 46th Street and Snelling Avenue. What makes this project so exciting is the way it matches the community's vision for the area, the quality of the building, and the absence of public subsidies. Oaks Hiawatha Station is an example of what LRT can bring to our neighborhood. Developers are willing to put their own money on the line (\$6 million in this case) because they believe LRT is an amenity that people will want to live near.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Home Security Workshop

St. Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S
November 20th, 7-9 p.m.

SMAAC Fall Forum

Windom Community Center, 5821 Wentworth Ave. S
November 20th, 7 p.m.

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S
November 10th, 7:00 p.m.

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

Longfellow Business Association

BALLAREteatro, 4259 Minnehaha Avenue
November 13th, 8:30 a.m.

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
November 13th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

LCC Board Meeting

Holy Trinity Church
November 20th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

Airport Noise Forum

The South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) is holding their fall forum with guest speaker Jeff Hamiel, MAC's executive director. The topic is AIRPORT NOISE THEN and NOW. All are invited to attend. For more information on SMAAC, visit their home page at: <http://www.quiettheskies.org/smaachome.htm>

**SMAAC FALL FORUM, 7:00 PM THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 20, 2003**

Windom Community Center, 5821 Wentworth Ave.

Your Suggestions Please!

The "12th Ward Update" is a work in progress. Please let me know what topics interest you or how this publication can be more useful to you.

Prosecution of Domestic Abuse Improves

Domestic violence is a difficult problem given the relationship between the people involved. Those relationships should not diminish the seriousness of the problem. The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office has been using a specialized domestic abuse prosecution team to more effectively prosecute domestic violence cases. As a result, dismissal rates have gone down, conviction rates have gone up, and recidivism rates have dropped. The time each case is in the court system has also improved. It took 36 days from charging to resolution in 2001, down from 42 days in 1998. Thank you to the City Attorney Domestic Abuse Prosecution Team for their aggressive work on this problem. This important work could be affected by budget cuts and might not be noticed by most people. I promise that I will be watching.

Reducing False Alarms

False security alarms at businesses and residences cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Minneapolis recorded 9,458 alarms in 2002, 77.7% of which were false. At \$200 per false alarm, the cost to the city was almost \$1.5 million dollars.

I supported a recent ordinance change that should help to save police resources for more important work. Security alarms are a good thing and sometimes false alarms are unavoidable. So, to balance the importance of alarms with the need to reduce the number of false alarms, each alarm user is allowed 2 false alarms per calendar year without penalty. Over 80% of alarm users who had a false alarm in 2002 had only one or two false alarms that year, indicating that most people are willing to fix their problem. In the past, an alarm user could have up to three false alarms a year without facing any penalties. The penalty for exceeding the two-alarm limit was increased from \$100 dollars to \$200 dollars and on-site alarm company employees who cause a false alarm will also be charged a penalty.

Report Unsafe Drivers

Are you tired and frustrated by drivers who are driving recklessly? Instead of having an episode of road rage, report them. The State Patrol now has an unsafe driving reporting system you can use online. Go to www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/, click on the unsafe driving report button and turn them in. Give as much detail as you can about the driving behavior. You can also use this site to report elderly drivers who you fear are no longer competent to drive safely. The State Patrol will send out a letter to the owner of the vehicle. Make sure you get the license number and description of the vehicle.