



# THE SOUTHWEST ANGLE

## An Annual Report for Residents of the 13th Ward

### Our "Unfinished Work"

Inside this issue:

2001 Budget	1-2
The Year in Review	2-3
Airport Update	4
Constituent Feedback	4
Crime Report	5
Software Upgrade	5
Ward 13 Votes	5
Neighborhood Contacts	6

In his Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln expressed hope that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth." Lincoln recognized that pursuing and preserving this hope was the end of the "unfinished work" which lay before the Nation in 1863. While we face no challenge which compares with the Civil War, Lincoln's words remind us that the democratic government which we enjoy is and remains an unfinished work for us as well.

As your representative,

it is my job to help you carry forward our share of this work. To do so, we must reaffirm our commitment to John Adams' vision of "A government of laws, and not of men."

We must resolve disputes in a fair and open process. We must claim our individual liberties at the same time as we embrace our social responsibilities. We must act as responsible stewards of the public dollar. These are the values which bind us together and which guide my work on your behalf.

Reflecting on the activities of the year 2000 in this

Annual Report, I believe that we have made firm progress. We face challenges, but we have the means to overcome them if we work together.

In the end, our government can only be as good, as strong, and as fair as we choose to make it. I thank you for your support this past year and look forward to the work -- work which will never really be finished -- that this year will bring us.



### The Future within Our Means

"The demands for City and MCDA resources exceed the dollars available within the boundaries of reasonable municipal tax and user fee policies." So reads a 2000 internal report on the state of the City's finances. This plain statement concisely summarizes the fiscal challenge confronting our City. It makes clear that what are often debated as budget problems are, in fact, deep

structural problems. There is a fundamental disconnect between the resources we can reasonably anticipate having and the promises the City has made to deliver services. This disconnect currently represents between \$15-25 million a year between 2001 and 2010. On a cumulative basis, by 2008, these known, long term commitments could reach as much as \$40 million over the

baseline 2000 budget.

The City also continues to run a significant cash deficit, projected to be \$36 million (out of a \$240 million general fund budget). While some of these deficits have been refinanced (one plan alone will cost over \$19 million in interest), the Finance Department identified another fund in deficit which will need to be addressed.

*Continues on Page 2*

## 2000: The Year in Review

Each year, my staff and I address a wide variety of issues that concern Ward 13 residents. Here's a review of some of last year's issues:

### NRP: Phase II

Phase II of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is underway. Two of our neighborhoods, Fulton and Lynnhurst, have completed Phase I. To prepare for Phase II, they have begun to evaluate their Phase I work.

Last year, a consultant hired to evaluate NRP told the City Council that "The NRP has had an identifiable and significant impact on improvements in neighborhood housing investment and on residents' perception that

their neighborhoods are improving." From streetscape work along Excelsior Blvd. and South Lyndale to the Neighbors for Safe Driving Campaign and improvements at Armatage Park, 13th Ward citizens have demonstrated their commitment to improving their community.

Phase II will present new opportunities to further enhance homes, parks, schools, and business districts. In addition to the allocation each neighborhood will receive, neighborhoods can apply for additional funds for projects on affordable housing and commercial corridors.

I look forward to working with our neighborhoods as they enter Phase II and continue their great work.

### Development

With input from you and your neighborhood associations, the Ward office processed over 30 requests for zoning and planning services. Most requests were finalized quite smoothly; others were controversial.

I remain committed to ensuring that everyone in the Ward has equal access to the zoning and planning process; receives the information they need; and is treated fairly under the law.

I also appreciate the cooperation of residents and businesspeople at Calhoun Commons, 50th & France, 44th & France, 50th & Bryant, and 54th & Lyndale as development and new businesses continued to strengthen and energize our community.



### Click on 13!

The Ward's new website is up and running. Log-on and learn about our neighborhoods, Ward issues, and to access City resources. Our address is [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-council/Ward13/index.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-council/Ward13/index.asp)

## The Future within Our Means

*Continued from Page 1*

The budget for fiscal year 2001 was a prime opportunity to begin to address this problem. The City is in relative good financial condition. We continue to enjoy a favorable credit rating. Unfortunately, the Mayor and the Council Majority chose to do nothing.

Instead, we have an 8.4% property-tax levy increase. At the same time, the City all but abandoned our one-year-old commitment to reduce our \$74 million backlog of capital, infrastructure-related projects. Once on a fairly modest track to close 50% of

this gap in ten years, we will deal with less than 30% in the same time period.

We can and should begin to address these problems. We have the advantage of time and a relatively healthy city. The strategy is relatively simple. We must:

- Develop a five-year plan (at a minimum) that pays off our debts while forcing the city to live within its means.
- Freeze the real growth of the property tax levy and user fees. This will force the city to focus on our core services and to begin

to measure and evaluate efficiencies.

- Address our infrastructure gap while at the same time making sure that we build only that infrastructure which we can finance, operate, maintain, and replace on a reasonable schedule.

I voted against the 2001 budget. To date, current city leadership has articulated no long-term plan to deal with our finances. Until they do and do so in a credible and responsible way, I will not support their budgets.

## The Year in Review (cont.)

### Housing

Affordable housing is a concern for many people. Families need homes they can afford. Seniors want options that will let them move out of their houses while remaining in their beloved communities. And, businesses need employees who have stable housing.

In an era where the growth of business is not capital, but labor, homes for working people are at a premium. While the City has taken some steps on this issue, the lack of affordable housing remains a regional problem requiring regional funding, cooperation, and solutions.

I will continue to support appropriate affordable housing solutions in the Ward and City, while working with the County and Metropolitan Council on a comprehensive approach that can solve the problem.

### Council Operations

In 1999, I worked to preserve the minority, and Ward, position on the Council Ways and Means committee. Through my role on this committee, I participated in the study and debate of the 2001 budget.

In 2000, my efforts to improve Council accountability focused on how the Council informally considered issues. Like many elected bodies, at the Council members of each represented party traditionally gathered to discuss issues coming up for a vote. However, given the 12-1 dominance of a single party, the Democratic caucus meetings had evolved into *de facto* council meetings. Although these meetings were public under State law, no record was kept and at times new materials were introduced — outside the established Council process.

I did not consider this an appropriate approach to local government.

I succeeded in eliminating the custom of the caucus meetings in favor of a bi-weekly Committee of the Whole meeting. Since July, the Council has met the day before each official Council meeting to discuss the issues on which it will be voting. This meeting takes place in the Council Chambers; is broadcast on cable TV; and is recorded by the City Clerk.

This innovation is a much more open process for City residents. These meetings, along with the broadcast of all committee meetings, give you greater access to the debate and votes of the Council.

### 35W/Crosstown Redesign

There is no doubt that Ward 13 will be one of the parts of the City most affected by the separation of 35W and Highway 62. Residents of Kenny and Armatage live adjacent to the construction area. We will all see increased traffic as commuters change their routes.

With this in mind, last spring, I joined with Council Member Mead to begin a dialogue between the City and MNDOT to address the impact of the construction on Minneapolis.

A working group of representatives from the City, including the Ward office, MNDOT, and MCTO, was formed. It is addressing issues such as increased traffic, appropriate signage, re-routed and improved transit, and construction related activities. The group's first work were the open houses, on February 21 and 28, hosted by MNDOT and the City to discuss the project and its expected effects. This summer, the City will host meetings to outline its plans to mitigate the impact of the project.

I believe advance planning and effective communication will help residents prepare for the effect of this project.

### Area Code Change

The change from one to three regional area codes affected Southwest Minneapolis more than any other part of the City. For most residents and businesses in the 13th Ward the area code separation was seamless; for some it was anything but. Due to phone exchanges Ward 13 shares with Edina, Qwest incorrectly assigned some Minneapolis residents the 952 code. My thanks to Julia Blount in the Ward office who established a working relationship with Qwest and was instrumental in resolving these issues for us.

### Traffic

Traffic continues to be a great concern to Ward 13 residents. The overwhelming support residents gave the Neighbors for Safe Driving campaign demonstrated their commitment to finding a solution to speeding. In addition to the campaign, the Fifth Precinct provided extra enforcement several times during the year.

The ward office does continue, however, to process requests for alternative traffic engineering such as speed humps and stop signs. Public Works processed over 20 requests from our office to examine specific locations. Some changes were made, some were not — all decisions were based on Public Works' established criteria.

I have also asked Public Works to continue its study of the uncontrolled intersections in the Ward to ensure that all of them are properly engineered for safety.

# Minneapolis and the Airport

The operations of Twin Cities International continue to affect the Ward. Last year, three issues highlighted Minneapolis' relationship with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

## Part 150

Airport noise pollution remains a real problem in Southwest Minneapolis. As one of the City's representatives on the Metropolitan Airport Sound Abatement Council (MASAC), I supported a new set of recommendations for sound abatement to submit to MAC (MAC) and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA). These recommendations include limits on night

flights; the use of incentives and penalties to encourage the use of the quietest planes; and a number of technical and operational measures designed to reduce noise.

These recommendations are pending before MAC and are expected to be sent to the FAA later this year.

## City Airport Policy

Under State law, Minneapolis has no direct regulatory role over airport noise or the operation of the airport, but we remain committed to advocating for you on this issue. I and other South Minneapolis Council Members have amended the city's official goals to include airport

issues. We anticipate hiring a full-time staff person to assist in formulating an effective municipal airport policy.

This policy will direct our work with MAC, FAA, the Legislature and the Congress.

## Environment

In 2000, construction dewatering activities at the Airport appeared to threaten our lakes and the Minnehaha Creek. While the issue is far from completely resolved, I and other South Minneapolis Council Members worked with the MAC to negotiate alternative construction methods that would limit the potential impact on the City's natural resources.



## Breakfast with Barret

Join Barret Lane for breakfast the 4th Wednesday of each month at 8:00 am. We meet at Pearson's restaurant to discuss City and Ward issues. Stop by and let us know what's on your mind.

# Keeping in Touch

Last year, the Ward office received over 1000 phone calls, letters, and emails from residents.

You contacted us to:

- Request information
- Share opinions or concerns
- Report public works, safety, or inspections concerns.

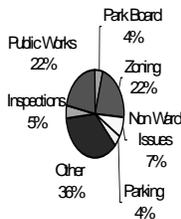
What issues did you call about? They ranged from flood plain insurance, election poll locations, and the installation of handicapped zones to street cleaning schedules, variance applications, and abandoned cars.

64% of calls fell into six categories — Public Works, Zoning, Inspections, Park Board, Parking, and Non-Ward Issues.

Public Works includes street maintenance, trash, and traffic. Non-Ward Issues generate calls from all over

the City and generally concern an issue somewhat specific to another ward or are issues on which the Council does not vote. Last year, most of these calls concerned the Hard Times Café closure. The chart below breaks down the calls we received by category.

So, next time you need information about the City or your neighborhood or want to express your opinion — give us a call!



Note: Based on calls received June to Dec. 2000. See article on page 5.

## Crime Down in Ward 13

Thanks to hard work and perseverance by our citizens and police officers, crime is down in Ward 13. Last year demonstrated that citizens can make a difference in Public Safety by working with police.

The Neighbors for Safe Driving Campaign which received enthusiastic support from the Fifth Precinct and made a dent in violations on one of our main thoroughfares is a prime example.

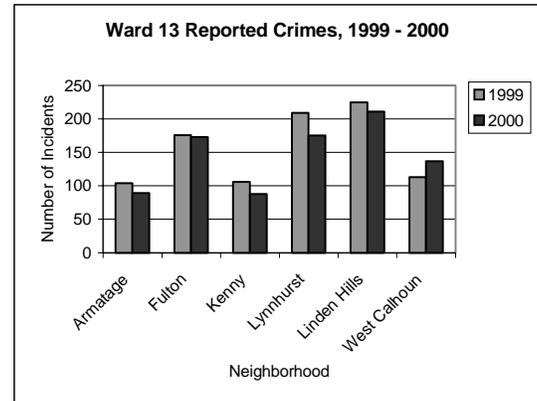
Overall crime in the Ward decreased 6 % over 1999. The most dramatic changes were in Kenny and Lynnhurst where it went down over 16%.

In the Ward, 65% of crimes are larceny. Larceny is theft in which homes are not broken into and people are not assaulted. It includes shoplifting, theft of property from a public place (cell phone on table, purse in shopping cart), and the two biggest crimes in the

Ward — theft from auto and garage theft. These are crimes you can prevent:

- **Theft from Auto:**  
Never leave **anything** on your car seat, including cell phones, gym bags, and cd's. Also, don't put your wallet or purse in the trunk at the park — robbers watch you do it and then pop the trunk. Put your wallet in the trunk at home!
- **Garage Theft:**  
Never leave your open garage unattended. It only takes 10 seconds for a thief to steal a bicycle or lawnmower. And, license your bike — it's your best bet for getting it back if stolen.

This year, the Ward's CCP/SAFE teams are addressing those areas they have identified as key to further reducing crime. To learn more about what you can do, call your team. Residents of Armatage, Fulton, Kenny, and Lynnhurst



can call 612/673-2819. Residents in Linden Hills and West Calhoun should call 612/673-2854.

I want to thank Insp. Christine Morris and Lt. Kevin Stoll for their work in the 13th Ward while at the 5th Precinct. Both Insp. Morris and Lt. Stoll strongly supported resident efforts and were very responsive to the Ward. I wish them luck in new their positions.

## Serving You Better

In June, to better serve residents, we installed a new constituent service database.

Under the previous system, we could not accurately analyze when, why, or how often residents called.

With the new Access system, we are able see who, why, when and how often residents contact us. We can better detect emerging issues and respond to these issues more efficiently. Due to the better analysis, we can also follow up with

constituents if there are developments on an issue with which they are concerned.

More accurate constituent data, also helps me in my work. I can use the data to initiate and respond to issues before the Council.

The chart on page 4 illustrating the issues about which residents called demonstrates the use of data we can now share with residents, but could not previously.

## Leading the Vote

In the November general election, Ward 13 once again led the City in voting.

Over 20,000 people went to the polls in the Ward's 11 precincts, leading to an amazing 92% voter turnout!

Six precincts had turnouts of over 90% and one precinct hit 100%.

Congratulations to all Ward 13 citizens for their commitment to this important civic duty.

# The Southwest Angle

## An Annual Report for Residents of the 13th Ward

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index.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/city-council/Ward13/index.asp)

## Join in the Fun!

Ward 13 has active neighborhood groups working for their communities. But, the next generation of new playgrounds and safety campaigns won't happen without you. Bring your ideas to a neighborhood meeting and learn how you can help.

### **Armatage Neighborhood Assoc.**

3rd Tuesday of every other month  
Armatage Park, 7:00 pm  
For Information: 612/668-3206

### **Fulton Neighborhood Assoc.**

2nd Tuesday of the month,  
Pershing Park, 7:00 pm.  
For Information: 612/922-3106

### **Kenny Neighborhood Assoc.**

3rd Tuesday of the month  
Coldwell Banker, 55th and Lyndale  
7:00 pm. For Information: 612/392-4477

### **Linden Hills Neighborhood Council.**

1st Tuesday of the month  
Linden Hills Park, 7:00 pm.  
For Information: 612/926-2906

### **Lynnhurst Neighborhood Assoc.**

2nd Thursday of the month  
Lynnhurst Community Center, 7:00 pm  
For Information: 612/823-5190

### **West Calhoun Neighborhood Council**

2nd Tuesday of the month  
Coldwell Banker,  
Lk Calhoun Executive Ctr. 7:00 pm.  
For Information: 612/928-3511

We'd like to thank the staff, board members and volunteers who guide the work of their associations for their commitment to enhancing our community.

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the staff of those organizations that assisted us in 2000 by providing space for neighborhood association meetings and special community meetings. Their support of our community is greatly appreciated.

Broder's Southside Pasta Bar

Caribou Coffee - 50th & Bryant

Church of the Good Shepherd

Coldwell Banker Burnet Realty  
Lyndale Ave. Office  
Calhoun Isles Office

Dunn Brothers Coffee - 50th & Xerxes

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Armatage Park Linden Hills Park  
Lynnhurst Park Pershing Park

Pearson's Restaurant