



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

# 12th Ward Update

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## THE LATEST ON THE MINNEAPOLIS / HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION

During city budget process for 2007, I focused a lot of my time and energy on the serious and long-standing funding issues facing our city libraries. My position did not prevail at budget adoption, one of the most difficult days for me as a Council Member. The City Council's decision led to the Library Board's closing of three libraries, and ultimately set us on a course that may lead to the most significant governance changes since Hennepin County assumed the responsibilities for the public hospital, then Minneapolis General Hospital (now HCMC).

I have approached the question with a simple goal: keep all of our Minneapolis libraries open and ensure a strong financial future for our system. It is clear to me that we can't accomplish this goal by cobbling together funding year after year, one year at a time. In other words, the status quo is not an option.

Uniting the Minneapolis and Hennepin County library systems received careful consideration by the two committees that sent their recommendations to the Council in early March. I voted to move the discussion of consolidation forward by agreeing to a set of guiding principles ([www.mplib.org/shapemplsfuture.asp](http://www.mplib.org/shapemplsfuture.asp)) and to seek legislative authority to eliminate the elected Minneapolis Library Board. With those steps taken, it is time for further careful consideration.

I believe that bringing the two systems together can give our libraries a bright future. The Mayor, a large majority of my colleagues and the Library Board agree. As of the writing of this newsletter, the Hennepin County Board is working out some important details related to the workforce and the mechanics of the consolidation. It is important for me to state that our committees discussed more than money when shaping our recommendation. The vision is "To be a premier library system in the country by building on the strengths and talents of the Hennepin County Library and the Minneapolis Public Library systems." That includes programs offered by each system, tailored to meet the various communities served, from regional businesses to first-time readers to English language learners.

Legislation has been drafted and introduced at the MN Legislature. The House version of the bill has passed through one committee and the Senate version is awaiting its first hearing. These bills allow the consolidation. They do not require it, nor do they define details of how the new library system would be operated, that must be worked out over the next year with the help of many people before returning to each of the policy boards for a final vote. I will continue to pass along information as it becomes available.

## STREET SWEEPING BEGINS APRIL 10

Weather permitting, Public Works will begin the comprehensive spring street sweeping program on Monday, April 9, by posting streets with no parking signs so that street sweeping can begin on Tuesday, April 10.

PW will be sweeping 35-40 miles of streets (approx. 80 curb miles) per day, taking about five weeks to complete the city. Work will be scheduled in a manner to insure an equal distribution of sweeping activities throughout all areas of the city.

Posting of "No Parking" signs to allow a thorough sweeping, for the benefit of our waterways, will be done as last year:

1. All posting will be done in the morning of the day prior to the actual sweeping (or on Fri. for Mon. sweeping).
2. Signs will be removed on the same day as sweeping, as soon as possible after the completion of the sweeping.
3. Business and commercial areas will be done early each day to restore critically needed parking as soon as possible.
4. Signs will specify the day of week and will read: **No Parking - 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

The community notification voice messaging system will be used this spring to send telephone alerts to residents whose streets are scheduled to be swept the next day. The web site will again feature the "Street Lookup" where people can see the sweeping schedule on line to learn exactly when their street is scheduled for cleaning.

## TENTATIVE RENOVATION SCHEDULE FOR NOKOMIS LIBRARY

Thanks to recent action by the Library Board, renovation of Nokomis has been moved up. Planning is tentatively scheduled to start early this summer. Construction is planned for a year later with the grand reopening set for fall of 2009.

Planning meetings will be held to get the community's thoughts about what changes to Nokomis Library can better serve everyone. I will share details as they become available.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### Earth Day Clean-Up

Saturday April 21, 2007

9:30 a.m. - Noon

#### 12th Ward Locations

Lake Nokomis

Nokomis Community Center

Register @ 2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy

Mississippi River South

Register @ W River Pkwy & 36th St E

For more information, visit:

[www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=950](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=950)

### Community Crime Prevention/SAFE Block Leader Training

Wednesday, April 25

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Minneapolis Police Department

3rd Precinct Community Room

3000 Minnehaha Ave.

**You MUST RSVP to attend this training! Call 612-673-2839.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### SENA Board Meeting

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

SENA office - 1830 E. 42nd St.

For more information, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

### LCC Board Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Hiawatha Park

For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### NENA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

3000 East 50th Street

For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

### NENA Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m.

Minnehaha United Methodist, 3701 East 50th St.

### No Pie Charts! Only Pies! LCC General Membership Meeting and Director Elections

Monday, April 30, 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Patrick's Cabaret - 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S



**Yard Waste Pick-Up  
Starts on the  
Week of April 9**

## CHEAP TREES

This is the second year of partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust Forestry to provide education and 1500 trees to residents of Minneapolis. For \$15, participants will receive a tree, mulch, and information about proper planting and energy conservation.

Visit [www.treetrust.com/orderhere/index.html](http://www.treetrust.com/orderhere/index.html) for more information.

## RAIN BARRELS

The City of Minneapolis is making 2,000 rain barrels available to Minneapolis households this summer at a reduced cost. When connected to a downspout, the 55-gallon rain barrels store rainwater for later use. Rain barrels help protect the environment by reducing water consumption and cutting down on runoff that ends up in our lakes and streams. The barrel connects to a standard garden hose so it's easy for folks to use them to irrigate lawns and gardens.

The barrels are available thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Great Cities Program and in partnership with Mpls/Metro Blooms and the Green Institute.

The cost of a rain barrels is \$45, about half their normal retail price. Barrels are available to Minneapolis residents for use on Minneapolis properties, and there is a limit of one per household. You can order the rain barrels at [www.thereusecenter.com](http://www.thereusecenter.com) or by phone at 612-724-2608. Quantities are limited.

Starting in May, pre-ordered barrels will be available for pick-up at the ReUse Center at 2801 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. S. Re-Use Center hours are Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the center accepts credit cards, checks, or cash.

A limited number of rain barrels will also be available for sale and pick up at three neighborhood events:

**Saturday, May 5**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nokomis Park Recreation Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.

**Saturday, June 2**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Victory Neighborhood / Loring School, 2600 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

**Saturday, June 16**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Northeast Bank Parking Lot, 77 NE. Broadway

The 55-gallon rain barrels are made of 100 percent recycled plastic. They are bulky, so bring a suitable vehicle to pick them up (rain barrels are 32 inches high and 24 inches wide and weigh 18 pounds).

For more information on the rain barrels, just call 311.