

12th Ward news

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDY COLVIN ROY

612-673-2212 | sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us



[April]

LRT Expanding for Success, Volunteer Planters Wanted

In 2008, annual LRT ridership totaled 10.2 million - 12% higher than 2007. As a result of the success of the light rail, expanded capacity is needed so light rail platforms will be lengthened to accommodate 3-car trains.

Construction starts in April, with a goal of completing all 10 stations along Hiawatha by April, 2010 when the new ballpark opens. The construction will begin at the south end of the corridor, in Bloomington, and move north. Work in our area (from the VA station to 38th Street station) is scheduled to start the end of May. You will also notice some work being done on street signals and cross walks.

At the 50th Street Station, the pedestrian access point through the sound wall will be moved 70 feet further south. This was the consensus of residents who talked with me and Metro Transit staff at the station last year at a meeting noticed by my office and NENA. It was agreed by most attending that many residents from further south and west in the neighborhood use those steps and it was important that they be replaced.

If you are a LRT commuter, please note that late-night train service will be reduced beginning April 18. Between 11:15pm and the last train of the day, trains will run hourly. For updates, check metrotransit.org or call 612-373-3333 and select option 6.

I have heard over the past two years from residents who want to help the plants and trees at our LRT stations survive our extreme weather and are willing to improve the look of these neighborhood features by removing litter. Metro Transit staff are now willing and able to meet about the possibility of volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering for these activities, please contact my office. There are a few issues to work out yet, but we are scheduling a meeting to talk about what can be done by volunteers and to plan the work. We have faith that spring is just around the corner, so it's time.



Join Your Neighbors for the Earth Day Cleanup

Cleanup along our lakes, creeks and river and meet your neighbors at the annual watershed cleanup. Supplies are provided. For locations, see the green column on the right.

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

LCC

NENA

SENA



Earth Day Watershed Cleanup

Join your neighbors from 9:30 to noon on April 18 for a watershed cleanup.

Minnehaha Park

Council Member Colvin Roy and Park Commissioner Carol Kummer, clean Nokomis Parkway.

Minneapolis Launches New Effort to Combat Domestic Violence

The Minneapolis Police Department and City Attorney's Office are taking a new program designed to reduce domestic violence, citywide. The program, piloted in the 5th Precinct since February 2008, takes a new approach to intervention.

The new strategies have increased the prosecution rate of misdemeanor domestic violence-related cases by nearly 23 percent! This is the first time the City Attorney's Office has seen such a significant increase in convictions for domestic violence.

Officers who arrive at a misdemeanor domestic violence call will now do more investigative work at the scene, such as getting recorded or signed statements from the victim, defendant and witnesses, taking photographs of damages or injuries and collecting evidence. This means that prosecutors in the City Attorney's Office have more information available to prosecute a case and connect people with resources to prevent future domestic violence.

Last month the MPD brought this new anti-domestic violence program to the 3rd Precinct and over the course of the year it will go to all police precincts. Domestic violence has been a top priority for both Minneapolis Police and City Attorney's Office because it is not uncommon for misdemeanor domestic offenders to become felony domestic violence offenders. It is also proven that children who experience domestic violence often replicate the behavior as adults. Intervening at the misdemeanor level can mean putting a stop to the cycle and escalation of violence, even preventing homicide.

These latest strategies reinforce existing programs and the City's resolve to end domestic violence. In October 2007, a resolution brought by Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy reaffirmed the City's commitment to helping victims of domestic violence feel safe and secure in our city and to ensuring that domestic crimes are vigorously prosecuted and domestic abusers are held accountable.

Microgrants Available for Programs to Fight Global Warming

Does your organization have a creative idea to help fight global warming? Apply for a microgrant from the City to fund your plan. There are two types of grants available through the program:

Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants

Grant amount: up to \$1,500 (no match required)

Application deadline: 4 p.m., Thursday, April 16, 2009

Climate Change Innovations Grants

Grant amount: Up to \$10,000 (no match required)

Application deadline: 4 p.m. Monday, April 20, 2009

To learn more about the grants, to get an application, and to see project ideas, visit the City's sustainability website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

In 2008, the City awarded 25 similar grants that leveraged thousands of dollars in volunteer time and resources resulting in 1,954 new participants in the Minnesota Energy Challenge. Together, those participants committed to saving about 2.7 million pounds of carbon dioxide and \$647,220 annually on their energy use. To learn more about Sustainable Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

4801 Minnehaha Ave

Nokomis Park

2401 Minnehaha Pkwy E.

Sibley Park

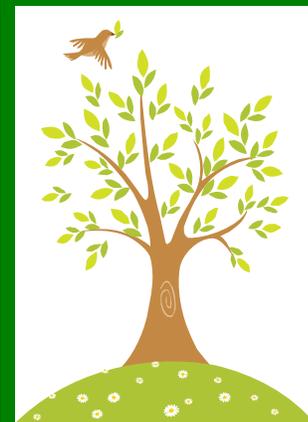
1900 40th Street E.

W. River Parkway

W. River Pkwy & 36th St

W. River Parkway

W. River Pkwy & 44th



Low Cost Trees Available April 3

The City Trees Program is offering a variety of trees at a cost of \$25 each. For more information see full article in this edition of the 12th Ward News. To order online, visit www.treetrust.org

Help Grow Minneapolis' Urban Forest: Inexpensive Trees Available

A thousand trees are being made available to city residents for planting this spring. Since 2006, the City Trees program, which is funded by the City of Minneapolis, has provided a low-cost way to help build the city's urban tree forest.

Trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and Varieties of trees include Black Hills spruce, Korean mountain ash, Prairifire crab, accolade elm and burr oak. There are also 50 Mount Royal plum trees, which produce edible fruit that's great for jellies, jam, sauces or for eating straight off the branches. (Note: residents who wish to purchase the plum tree must attend a workshop on Saturday, June 20 to learn about fruit tree care and to pick up the tree.)

Orders for trees can be done online starting on April 3 by visiting Tree Trust at www.treetrust.org. You can also order a tree by picking up an order form from your neighborhood group or local library.

Trees can be picked up at Franklin Middle School East parking lot, 1501 Aldrich Avenue North, in Minneapolis at the following times:

- Saturday, May 9 – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, May 10 – 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Monday, May 11 – 3 to 7 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand to help load your new tree and complimentary bag of mulch in to your vehicle.

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment and improve urban quality of life. Healthy trees increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage storm water.

The City Trees program is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and Trust, a local nonprofit that works to improve the community environment.

For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.

Do You Qualify for Free Exterior Home Painting?

It's time for the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' Metro Paint-A-Thon. An annual event to assist seniors and people with physical disabilities with exterior painting.

To qualify, you must 1) be the homeowner and occupant of a single-family house 2) live in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington Counties 3) be over the age of 60 OR permanently physically disabled 4) have a monthly income that does not exceed \$1735 per month (for one person in the home) or \$2335 (for two people in the home).

The deadline to apply is May 8, 2009. For more information, or to apply to the program, call 612-721-8687, x321, or visit www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon.

Lights Out

Did you notice it was a little darker on Saturday, March 28 between 8:30-9:30pm? That's because many of your neighbors and businesses were participating in Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is a world-wide event to draw attention to climate change. In 2007, more than 50 million people participated.

On Saturday, the City participated in Earth Hour by turning off all electricity that was not required for life or safety in municipal buildings including the neon clock tower on City Hall and the lights on the Stone Arch Bridge.

April Events & Meetings

Inexpensive Trees Available for Residents

Begin ordering April 3 City Trees program offering 1 tree per household, \$25 each, on first-come, first-served basis. Pick up 5/9-5/11 at Franklin Middle School (1501 Aldrich Ave N). Visit www.treetrust.org or call Tree Trust at 651-644-5800 for info or to order.

Metro Blooms Raingarden Workshops

April 9 6:30-8:30 pm Nokomis Community Center (2401 E Minnehaha Pkwy) Part A teaches attendees how to design & install raingardens, use native plantings & employ eco-friendly lawn care practices. Master gardeners will answer individual questions. \$10 per household (limit 2 members). Register at www.metroblooms.org or call 612-554-9261.

Property Tax Neighborhood Meeting

April 9 4:30-7 pm Pearl Park (414 Diamond Lk Rd E) Staff from City Assessor's Office will provide info & answer questions about Minneapolis property taxes. Cookies & refreshments served.

Bunny Brunch & Egg Hunt

April 11 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Sibley Park. Brunch served 9:30-11 a.m. (\$4/adult, \$2/kid). Entertainment at 11:15; egg hunt at noon.

Earth Day Watershed Cleanup Events

April 18 See this edition of the 12th Ward News for more information (meeting locations are in the green column on the right)

Minneapolis 5K Recycle Run

April 19 7:45 am Lake Harriet Bandshell (4135 Lk Harriet Pkwy). Proceeds benefit future Earth Day Watershed Cleanup efforts. \$3 service fee waived to those who register online at www.minneapolisrecyclerun.com.

Longfellow Community Council's No Pie Charts! Only Pies! Annual Meeting

April 22 6:30-8:30 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus (3100 W River Pkwy) Pie potluck & director elections. Call Joanna 722-4529 for more information.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Italian Dinner & Auction Fundraiser

April 23 5:30-8 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus. Tickets \$35, discounts available for seniors. Former Congressman Martin Sabo attending. Proceeds help neighborhood elders live independently and stay healthy. Call 729-5799 for tickets & information.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Clean-A-Thon

April 25 Volunteers are needed to join teams of 3-5 people who will clean the homes of pre-registered seniors. To volunteer call 729-5499.

3rd Annual Minneapolis Teen Job Fair

April 25 12-4 pm Central Library (300 Nicollet Mall) Teens 14+ can meet employers, get info about jobs, volunteering & internships, attend workshops. Sponsored by Hennepin Cty Library, Mpls Employment & Training Pgm (METP), Mn Dept of Employment & Economic Development (DEED), AchieveMpls & others. For information contact Pat Behrend 673-6220 or patricia.behrend@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Roosevelt High Neighborhood Meeting

April 28 6:30 pm Roosevelt High (4028 28th Ave S) Last of 3 meetings. Principal Bruce Gilman will give updates to neighborhood residents.

Hiawatha Golf Course Driving Range

Open for Season 9am-6 pm

Street Sweeping

Street Sweeping will begin in mid April so keep your eyes out for signs regarding parking restrictions.

Because we like random facts about ourselves....

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport was ranked the third-best airport in the world among airports of its size (serving 25-40 million passengers a year). The airports in Seoul and Singapore were top ranked.

Open Appointment

Public Health Advisory Cmte (PHAC) Closes 4/10/09

Mpls Rental Dwelling License Bd of Appeals Closes 4/24/09

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