

12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

June 2004

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

LRT IS FINALLY HERE!!

June 26th will be a historic day for Minneapolis. 50 years after the last streetcar left the streets of Minneapolis, riding the rails will again be an option for getting around. On Saturday June 26th and Sunday June 27th, Metro Transit is offering free rides on LRT. Along with riding LRT, celebrations at each stop will feature food and family entertainment as unique as the surrounding neighborhoods. Here are some of the early highlights for opening day:

- 46th Street Station: Zydeco music, food, street performers, dance theatre and hybrid electric bus.
- 50th Street/Minnehaha Park Station: Vintage bus tour of Minnehaha Park starting from 50th Street Station, transportation exhibits, food, Native American drumming and dancing, tours of Princess Depot Museum, Stevens House Museum and historic Longfellow House.
- V.A. Medical Center Station: Petting zoo, music, food vendors, V.A. Hospital tours, vintage train, face painting, rifle squad and story telling.

Another important change on June 26 is the start of the new bus plan in our area to incorporate LRT into the bus system. Most routes in the 12th Ward are affected so look for information on your usual bus or go to www.metrocouncil.org/transit/sec5/central-so_plan.htm

Smoking Debate Heats up City Hall

The hottest topic in City Hall is the smoking ban for bars, restaurants and bowling alleys. I appreciate the comments received from dozens of 12th Ward residents. It is clearly an issue important to many residents.

Readers of the Star Tribune noticed that I was counted as a “no” vote for the proposed ban. My first reaction was that we do enough to tell businesses how to do their jobs. I felt a smoking ban crossed the line into a decision that should be made by the businesses and their customers. As a recent writer to the Star Tribune put it, the City Council’s job is to manage the city, not to tell people how to live in it.

Small neighborhood bars and restaurants are foremost on my mind because they often have less of an ability to absorb a reduction in business. The city must also consider the economics for liquor/food businesses which are directly linked to the convention center in which the public has invested.

On the other hand, I have heard from many people that they would like to hear live music or eat dinner with their family and not be exposed to smoke.

So far, both sides in the debate have been clearly staked out (although we still do not have actual language from the authors of the ban). My goal is to find something that can work for the people who rely on these businesses for their livelihood, their salaries and their health, and for non-smoking adults who are now the majority of the public.

New Animal Shelter Grand Opening

It isn’t often that a new building can save lives, but with the grand opening of the new animal shelter, the city can significantly reduce the number animals destroyed. More space and better treatment facilities will dramatically increase the number of healthy animals available for adoption. The new building also incorporates many “green technologies” and will serve as a model for future city building projects. A pervious surface parking lot to control stormwater runoff and a building that exceeds energy standards by 30% are two ways in which this project is a great example for future city facilities. Please join us at the grand opening. Pets will be available for adoption that day.

**Saturday, June 12, 2004 - 212 17th Avenue North.
Ribbon Cutting at 9:30 a.m.
Open House from 10:00 a.m. – noon.**

Saturday Hours at Nokomis Library

A grassroots citizen effort has resulted in Saturday hours for the Nokomis Library this summer. After the Library Board dramatically reduced open hours at Nokomis and closed it on Saturdays, residents did a lot of great work to find a way to keep the doors open on Saturdays. The NENA Board generously agreed to re-program \$21,600 of NRP funds for 17 Saturdays at the library.

Watch www.nokomiseast.org for an opening date and schedule.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Ice Cream Social/SENA Fundraiser

Saturday, June 12, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Magpie Coffee, 4159 Cedar Avenue South

I35W/62 Reconstruction Public Hearing

Tuesday, June 14th 7 p.m.
Washburn HS Auditorium, 201 West 49th Street

LRT Grand Opening Celebration

June 26, 27
All LRT Stations – Free Rides Noon – 6 p.m.

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S
June 14, 7:00 p.m.

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

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park
June 17, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
June 24, 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Open Appointments

- Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council (PI/WC) (closes 6-11-04)
- Minneapolis Charter Commission (open indefinitely)

For more information, visit:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

Graffiti Resources

Here is some helpful contact information on graffiti.

- In progress graffiti – Call 911.
- Report Graffiti – Call 612-673-2090.
- On-line Reporting – www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/e-report
- Graffiti Investigations – 612-673-5722
- Graffiti Removal Tips – ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or www.ci.minneapolis.us/graffiti
- Clean City Coordinator – 612-673-2789

Neighbors Hear about Proposed Charter School in Nokomis East

The founders of Minneapolis Academy – a charter school that wants to locate in Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church at 5011 31st Avenue S – met with community members on May 25 to discuss the operation of the school. Their current proposal has 100 students in grades 5-8 enrolled in a college preparatory program. I am working with immediate neighbors to figure out potential problems and put conditions on the use if Minneapolis Academy gets approval from the Church Council. While charter schools are allowed in residential areas by the city's zoning code, nearby residents deserve to have a good neighbor. Managing the students and traffic is the first step toward that goal.

MAC Postpones Final Sound Insulation Decision

On May 17, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) met and heard testimony from me, Mayor Rybak, and many residents regarding the next phase of the Sound Insulation Program (SIP). They did not make a final decision on the program. Thank you to the many residents who responded to my flyer by testifying, calling, or writing to the MAC Commissioners. I thought the residents who testified did an excellent job of making forceful points in a very respectful manner.

Despite Northwest's overt lobbying to throw away previous commitments by the MAC, Commissioners are learning a lot about why the SIP is important and why they need to insulate out to the 60 DNL. I have heard through hallway conversations that our arguments are starting to take hold and the MAC Commissioners appreciate how the city representatives and residents are making a very thorough case for the continuation of the program.

Spate of Garage Burglaries in Nokomis East

There have been at least 12 burglaries of garages reported in the Nokomis East area since May 11, including nine in the area between E. 50th to 55th St., from 38th Ave. S. to 45th Ave. S. Most have occurred during overnight hours. The losses have been power tools, bikes, sports equipment, and damage caused by attempted auto theft. One happened while the homeowner was working in his front yard.

On May 13 in the 3100 block of E. 50th St., a victim chased a suspect from his garage about 8:30 p.m. The suspect was described as a white male wearing a red shirt who left in a late-'80s, red/maroon Chevrolet S-10 pickup without a topper.

There have also been three house burglaries in the area where entry was gained by kicking in front or side doors.