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# 12<sup>TH</sup> WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

May 2004

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

## Great Results at Earth Day 2004!

There was a great turnout for this year's Earth Day with 267 volunteers showing up at Nokomis Community Center and 100 more at 36<sup>th</sup> Street and West River Parkway. I was happy to meet so many people out enjoying the nice weather and helping make our part of the city look better as I pulled old tires, broken glass and assorted items from the creek. Our city is 6,000 pounds of garbage cleaner because of the great volunteer work from residents. A special thanks to Cargill for once again providing over 100 volunteers to the effort.

## Neighborhoods Make Strong Showing at Library Board Meeting

Nokomis East residents brought a petition of more than 1,300 signatures to the Library Board last fall, imploring them not to decimate access to the 4th highest circulation library in the city, but the Board voted to cut open days at Nokomis down to three. Now that the shortened library hours have hit, residents are taking their displeasure straight to the decision makers. The Library Board answered the request of residents by holding their April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at Minnehaha United Methodist Church where they were joined by more than 125 people, including a group from N.E. Minneapolis.

Last July and August, I spent a lot of time talking to library board members and making the obvious points that as one of the most well-used libraries in the system, Nokomis should retain more hours. The Library Board's adopted plan does not meet an acceptable level of service for Nokomis residents.

Supporters of Nokomis Library did a wonderful job of telling their personal stories. Clearly, Saturday hours are essential for many users with busy lives, some of them children. One resident explained that with her work schedule and that of her daughter, the only time she could take her granddaughter to the library was Saturday. "So for Caitlin and me, you have closed our library." An idea came from residents to equalize open hours across the library system, and the board voted to consider it. The Library Board's challenge will be to find the money to pay for the extra hours.

A library educates no one with its doors closed.

## Solution for VA Parking Problem

Parking problems by the VA Medical Center gate on 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue date back to the days of Denny Schulstad. Over the years I have proposed several changes, but never with the cooperation of the VAMC. This winter I convened a series of meetings with neighbors in which VA Director Steven Kleinglass participated. After several intense discussions, he has closed the gate except between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. Closing the gate during morning rush discourages employees from parking on the street (it has also reduced the number of speeding drivers noticed by neighbors.) A new pedestrian gate was constructed to allow neighborhood employees who walk to work to have easy access. Neighbors accepted opening the gate in the afternoon to allow better egress for employees leaving the lot. Residents did a great job of expressing why the gate should be shut and Director Kleinglass listened, then acted. I am very happy we finally have a solution that works for everyone.

## Battling Smog with Vapor Recovery

A contributor to smog that doesn't find much time in the headlines is fumes from gasoline. Gasoline evaporates within a container until the open space is filled with vapor. In the case of large fuel tanks, gasoline vapors are released into the air when they are opened for filling. These fumes react with sunlight to create smog.

Minneapolis Public Works is installing Stage 1 Vapor Recovery System on all eight of our underground gasoline tanks. The Vapor recovery system will recapture displaced gasoline vapor from the underground tank into the filling tank, ensuring little vapor escapes into the air. This reduces gas vapors by 95% as underground gasoline tanks are being filled. We are continuing to "green" the daily activities of the city.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### Howe School Spring Fling

Howe School – 3733 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7 p.m.  
Silent Auction, Food, and Games

### Minneapolis Academy Public Meeting

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church - 5011 31<sup>st</sup> Ave. S  
Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

## MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

### LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park  
May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

## Open Appointments

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed district Visioning Partnership (**May 7<sup>th</sup> Deadline**)
- Charter Commission

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

## Bike Auctions

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday this summer (April to October, except for July) the Minneapolis Police will be holding a bike auction at 6024 Harriet Avenue South. Interested parties can view the bikes from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with the auction starting promptly at 6.

**If you have any questions, call the auction hotline at 612-673-2932.**

## Important Airport Meetings

We are approaching some important meetings about the future of the Sound Insulation Program (SIP) in south Minneapolis. (It seems we do this every summer!) Please attend and testify about why this program is important to our community.

MAC Planning and Environment Committee  
Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 A.M.  
Lindbergh Terminal, Mpls/St. Paul Airport

●—————●  
Full MAC Meeting (**if you can only come to one meeting, come to this one.**)

Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 1 P.M.  
Lindbergh Terminal, Mpls/St. Paul Airport  
MAC will reimburse parking in their ramps.

## Parkway Lights

A number of calls came into my office over the past month about the lighting on Minnehaha Parkway being out, then on, then out again. I have learned that the average life of a lighting system is 30 years and the parkway lights are pushing 35. So it's time for a major investment in new lighting, but that has not yet been included in Park Board capital plans.

City Public Works is addressing urgent safety issues immediately. In some cases this means turning lights out until repairs can be made. Non-urgent lighting issues are prioritized for all street lighting (city and parkway). The goal is to keep as much lighting as possible in operation until long-term capital dollars can replace the system. I will be meeting soon with Park Board staff and policy makers to work on a plan for funding new lights. The opportunity in this gloomy situation is the chance to rethink the amount and type of lighting we want along our parkways.

The good news is that lights on our part of Minnehaha Parkway are back on...for now.

## Neighborhood Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Spring cleaning will be a little easier this year with the Hennepin County Household Hazardous Waste program doing a pick-up in our part of the city. A collection trailer will be at Folwell Middle School (3611 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue S) on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take advantage of this easy drop-off location by going through your garage and basement to throw away items such as paint, aerosols, pesticides, fluorescent lamps, and other unwanted household products that are corrosive, flammable, reactive or toxic. If you have any questions about your waste or what you can drop off, **call 612-348-3777.**