



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

12th Ward Update

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IS THE CITY STALLING ON IRV?

Instant Run-off Voting was supported by 65% of Minneapolis voters in November of 2006 and one week later Cindy Reichert,, City Director of Elections, contacted the office of the Secretary of State (SOS) to begin implementing the new system. Ms. Reichert has been actively working with the SOS office and many others, including 12th ward resident Tim Bonham, since then to prepare the way for IRV. On March 21st, the City Council voted unanimously to authorize Elections staff to develop and issue a Request For Proposals for IRV-compatible elections equipment. Minneapolis' implementation goal for IRV is 2009, unless the Council determines that implementation is impossible.

“There have been rumors of officials trying to delay the type of voting chosen by a majority of our citizens” observed Councilmember Colvin Roy after voting. “I want to assure voters that is not the case.” There are obstacles for the City, but this RFP will help Minneapolis find out if there is equipment that will work in time for 2009. The City will continue to move forward aggressively and with great care to ensure that we are safeguarding voter's rights and the integrity of our elections system.

Minneapolis was a leader in the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Task Force convened by SOS Mark Ritchie and the final reports were issued February 1, 2008. Participating in this group to craft rules for ranked choice elections and a legislative proposal gave Minneapolis the technical support we needed to move forward here, regardless of what happens at the state level.

While the City has control over some things, such as ensuring that we create rules for IRV elections and issue an RFP for IRV-compatible equipment, it doesn't have control over all things needed to implement IRV for our 2009 election. For instance, elections equipment must first receive federal or state certification which can take from less than a year to multiple years. Another is the cost of equipment. Hennepin County now provides elections equipment within Minneapolis. If IRV can be done in partnership with Hennepin County elections, we can avoid the extra expense of owning a separate system just for city elections. The City is not stalling.

PAINT-A-THON SEEKS HOMES THAT NEED PAINT, HOMEOWNERS WHO NEED HELP

For any homeowner over the age of 60 (or person with permanent disability) with a limited income who is having trouble keeping up their single-family home, this could be the answer. For 24 years the Paint-a-Thon's volunteers have painted homes (they do only outside painting, and no major repairs), allowing thousands of seniors to remain in their home longer.

They encourage folks to think about their neighbors, friends and family who might be eligible and could use the help. **The deadline to apply is May 9th.**

You can get complete program information and eligibility requirements by contacting Deidre Pope at 612-721-8687, ext.321, or dpope@gmcc.org—no need to know an exact income to call or mention it to a neighbor.



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 19TH, 2008

THE CITY AND PARK BOARD ARE AGAIN
COMBINING WITH THE SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
THROUGH THEIR NRP TO CLEAN UP OUR LAKES, CREEK
AND RIVER—WITH YOUR HELP.

FROM 9:30 AM TO NOON

JOIN NEIGHBORS AT ONE OF THESE 12TH WARD SITES

36TH STREET & W. RIVER PARKWAY

NOKOMIS COMMUNITY CTR, 2401 E. MINNEHAHA PKWY

MINNEHAHA FALLS PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
HELP COORDINATE THE 2008 CLEAN UP, CONTACT ARIK
AT 612-230-6484.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

NENA VETERAN'S COMMUNITY HOUSING MTG
April 3 7 pm Morris Park; Property management staff will meet with area residents to discuss any issues related to the Veterans Community Housing Project.

CITY ASSESSOR—PROPERTY VALUATION
April 9 4:30-7 pm Pearl Park Neighborhood Center, 414 E Diamond Lk. Rd..

LONGFELLOW/SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS
April 10 5:30-8 pm 10th Annual Italian Dinner fundraiser. Minnehaha Academy-North Campus. Tickets \$35 each, call Healthy Seniors office 612-729-5799.

GREAT CITY DESIGN @ RIVERVIEW THEATER
April 10 4:30-7 p.m. See results from 9 community sites where design teams partnered with residents to envision something better for public places, including East 46th Street near Ford Parkway Bridge.

STREET SWEEPING BEGINS APRIL 15TH!
 weather permitting Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep, to find out which week your street is scheduled to be swept. See details at right.

MPS AREA B PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 17 6:30-8:00 pm, Sanford, 3524 42nd Ave S. Contact Community: Liaison Kristin Berg Thompson at kbergthompson@gmail.com.

LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY CNCL ANNUAL MTG
April 21 6:30-8:30 pm "No Pie Charts, Only Pies!" at Minnehaha Academy North Campus

OPEN APPOINTMENTS

Latino Advisory Committee
 Public Health Advisory Committee
 Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board
 Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals
 All applications due Friday, April 25th. For more information visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp

PROPERTY VALUES & TAX RELIEF

April 9th the City Assessor will present an overview of the property tax system (details at left), including the Limited Market Value program, and what it means. He will be able to discuss how the sub-prime mortgage crisis has affected the market and property values. Residential and commercial appraisers will be present to speak to taxpayers one-on-one about their individual questions.

The Assessor will also have information and application forms available for property tax relief programs, including many that are little known like the Targeting Property Tax Relief Fund, the Senior Citizens Property Tax Deferral, the Blind and Disabled Credit, the Relative Homestead, the Renter Property Tax Relief, and the one that most of us have heard about but never applied for: the Homeowners Property Tax Relief Fund-M1PR.

CM Colvin Roy asked how many people actually use the M1PR. City staff checked with the state and found that it has a very low use rate, despite the fact that most homeowners in Minneapolis over the last several years of double-digit inflation could have qualified. **Retroactive applications can be made, so check it out.**

STREET SWEEPING = CLEANER WATER

Minneapolis is known for sparking lakes and waterways and we want to keep it that way, so over five weeks starting on April 15th, the City will sweep all 1,100 miles of streets. So the sweepers can do the best job possible of removing dirt, crushed leaves and other items noxious for our lakes, river and creek, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. **Cars not in compliance will be ticketed and may be towed but the goal is clean streets and clean water, not a lot of towed cars, so there are 3 ways to find out where you shouldn't park:**

- 1. "No Parking" signs** will be posted at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. "No Parking" signs will be removed a.s.a.p. after a street is completely swept to allow resumed parking.
- 2. Automated phone calls** to 3,500 homes each evening will let residents know their street will be swept the next day.
- 3. An interactive tool on the City's website** will tell when your street will be swept. Starting a few days before April 15th you can visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep to find out which week your street is scheduled. On the weekend before that week, you can revisit the city's website to find out which of the five work days that week sweeping will occur on your block.

THE SENIOR HOUSING REGENERATION PROGRAM will help seniors in a transition from a single family home to something that better meets their lifestyle needs, like a condo, townhouse or assisted living. The program is a partnership between the City and Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation that offers to purchase a home at fair market value, then renovates and resells the property to someone earning 115% or less of the metro area median. Contact Earl Pettiford at 612-673-5231 or Earl.Pettiford@ci.minneapolis.mn.us for more information if you know someone who might want to sell.