
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

November 2002

Park-After-Plow Adds Common Sense to Snow Emergency

On October 25th, the Minneapolis City Council adopted an ordinance to allow parking on streets after they have been *fully plowed*, instead of waiting until 8:00 p.m. This common sense change will increase the amount of space available for people to park and make life a little easier during a snow emergency. Citizens surveyed last year were very clear that they valued the good quality of Minneapolis plowing over a speedier system. Public Works is modifying plowing operations so there should be no reduction in the quality of plowing. I want to urge residents to help our plow drivers give us good service by not parking until their work is done.

2002-03 SNOW EMERGENCY RULES

- All Snow Emergency parking rules begin at 9 p.m. on the day they are called
- DO NOT PARK on either side of Snow Emergency Routes until the lanes are fully plowed to the curb

Day 2

- DO NOT PARK ON THE EVEN SIDE of regular streets until that side is fully plowed.
- DO NOT PARK ON EITHER SIDE OF PARKWAYS until they are fully plowed.

Day 3

- DO NOT PARK ON THE ODD SIDE of regular streets until that side is fully plowed to the curb.
- Snow Emergency ends at 8 p.m.

Graffiti Sweep Successful

Graffiti has been a blight in our city for several years. I have always believed that the city should focus first on removing it from our own property, which is spread through every neighborhood, before we start issuing tickets to private property owners.

This past spring I teamed with Council Member Niziolek to push for a graffiti clean-up blitz. Public Works responded by putting together a team of 20 laborers from the department who spent June 17th through June 21st attacking graffiti on public surfaces. Over 2,600 locations (Stop signs, signal light controllers, litter containers, street light poles, etc.) were cleaned over that period, resulting in cleaner neighborhoods. A check in August determined that only 10 to 15 percent of the cleaned surfaces had graffiti again.

I am encouraged by the success of the graffiti blitz and have directed Public Works staff in budget hearings to prepare a cost proposal for more such efforts based on our experience. My goal is to get graffiti out of the 12th Ward, starting with the property we own.

Ladder to Stay at Fire Station 21

Last year Fire Chief Rocco Forte' proposed removing the ladder truck that serves most of the 12th ward from Fire Station 21 on 38th Street. It was very disturbing news! His goal was to find enough money within the department to have four fire fighters riding on all rigs, a safety standard set by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). While four riders per rig is highly desirable because it is safer for both the firefighters and any potential victims of fire or medical emergency, I objected to the removal of the ladder rig as a reduction in service to our communities. I spent some time learning more about the specific service needs for our area and then highlighted for Chief Forte' the reasons we still need the ladder. The Chief agreed to leave the ladder at Station 21 for 2002 and study it further.

Now, after a year of study, he is recommending removal of two ladders but *our ladder is staying at Station 21 to serve Longfellow, Standish/Ericsson & Nokomis neighborhoods!*

We will actually see an increase in service level, even within the constraints of a budget increase of less than the cost of living, due to his great management. The increase in staffing level means that now all emergency medical runs will have four firefighters in less than 5 minutes and for every actual fire call we will have 22 to 24 firefighters on the scene within 8 minutes. Meeting these NFPA standards should lower property insurance rates for all of us. On top of that, Chief Forte' worked with Hennepin County to move some of their ambulances out of downtown Minneapolis closer to the need, so we now have ambulances at all of the stations in our corner of the city: stations 12, 21 and 27.

My commitment to our Fire Department – and to the citizens it serves - is to support the 2003 budget of \$42.5 million that Chief Forte brought forward, an increase from \$39 million in 2002.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING

November 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Avenue S

LONGFELLOW GARDENS CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 7 January 2

November 25 January 23

All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Hiawatha Park School, 4220 44th Avenue S

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

November 13th, 4:30 p.m.

Minnesota Transitions High School, 2526 27th Ave. S

NENA TOWN MEETING – 2003 MAYOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

November 14th, 7p.m.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

3701 East 50th Street

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA BOARD MEETING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Avenue S

November 11, 7:00 p.m.

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

LCC BOARD MEETING

Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Avenue S

November 21, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA BOARD MEETING

3000 East 50th Street

November 14, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Your Suggestions Please!

The “12th Ward Update” is a work in progress. Please let me know what topics interest you or how this publication can be more useful to you.

New Central Library

I recently was appointed to the Central Library Implementation Committee, made up of city officials and representatives, library board trustees and representatives, and citizens. This group is challenged to direct the completion of the new downtown library.

I am excited by the chance to be a part of the great civic project of our time. My focus will be to represent the interests of Minneapolis taxpayers by pushing for a library that is friendly to the environment, built within budget, and of course to make the new central library a grand building where everyone has access to the power of information.

2003 Budget

As November begins, the City Council is finishing department budget hearings for the 2003 budget. A few pieces of good news:

- The recent Convention Center expansion almost doubled the size of the facility with no increase in management or administrative staff, making a cost effective change.
- As part of the public safety initiative, the city is upgrading our abilities with an 800-megahertz communication system. The original bid for the city’s system was \$16.5 million. \$4.2 million has been cut from the original bid, bringing the total cost to \$12.3 million. A portion of the savings will be used on the addition and upgrades to the Police Department’s Third Precinct building.

Hennepin Avenue a 2-way?

The Transportation and Public Works Committee has discussed converting Hennepin Avenue back to a two-way street. Interest in this has been spurred by the Hennepin Avenue Advisory group who are investing private money in a streetscape you’ll see next year.. The belief is that giving direct access via southbound traffic to the theaters will help enliven this historic street.

I have fond memories of Hennepin Avenue as a two-way and hope we can do it. Susanne Spitzer from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reported to the committee the potential for increased air pollution caused by more stopping and idling. Mike Setzer spoke to us about what would happen to bus times and overall Metro Transit system if the reverse flow bus lane was removed. It will be important to balance the desire to revive Hennepin Avenue with real concerns about air quality and service to thousands of bus riders.

Fall Reminders

The last day for yard waste pickup is your normal garbage day in the week of November 11.

Street sweeping is continuing. Watch for no-parking signs on your street.

