CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

12th ward news

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[October]

Ranked Choice Voting is Coming. Are You Ready?

On November 3, Minneapolis voters will use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the first time. With the new method, voters **may rank up to three candidates** for single and multiple seat municipal offices. You are **not required to rank more than one candidate.** You may simply select one candidate as your first choice. For more information about how to vote, visit: voteminneapolis.org.

When polls close, the first choice votes for all candidates are sorted and counted. If a candidate in a single seat race receives 50% +1 on the first count (of first choice votes) then they are the winner, but it won't be official until the canvassing board certifies the result. If no candidate receives the required number of votes to win in a particular race after counting first-choice selections only, then a process of eliminating candidates and considering subsequent choices begins.

It is quite possible that many results will not be known on election night. Since there is not yet certified equipment to count RCV ballots, the counting process will be labor intensive and may take weeks. The canvassing board is planned to meet December 21 to certify the election results. For information about how the ballots are counted, visit: http://tippingpoint.typepad.com/rcvnews/2009/09/how-to-count-multi-seat-office-elections.html

Absentee Voting Has Already Begun.

You may vote absentee for any of the following reasons; illness or disability, religious discipline or observance of religious holiday, service as an election judge in another precinct. You can vote absentee by voting early at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm or on the Saturday before the election from 10:00 am- 3:00pm. You can also vote absentee by requesting a ballot from 311 or downloading the ballot at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/absentee-voting-applications.asp and mailing the ballot back by election day. A mailed ballot must be received by, or on, election day.

Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

LCC

NENA

SENA

Wi-fi in the Parks

The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has designated 20 Parks which will provide free access to computers and the wireless internet.

These Parks include, Keewaydin, Corcoran, Brackett, Powderhorn, Longfellow & Sibley.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board wants to ensure that everyone has access to information technology for civic participation, employment

Residents learn about the life, habitat, and amazing migration of the Monarch butterfly at the first annual Monarch Festival hosted by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association.

LCC's Aging in Place Program Helps Residents Stay in Their Homes

Last year, Longfellow Community Council (LCC) contributed $40,000 towards improvements to neighborhood homes; making them safe and accessible for elderly and disabled homeowners. Through their Aging in Place program, administered by Access Solutions, LCC has helped 30 residents make meaningful changes to their homes. Council Member Colvin Roy is thrilled with the program saying, " This is an example of the amazing work done by neighborhood organizations. These improvements do not only affect the lives of the recipients, they support our City by helping Minneapolis residents stay in the City and stay in their homes."

Some of the projects include walk-in bathtubs, grab-bars, and railings. The program, which is funded through NRP Phase II funding, will continue again next year. The program works by offering $1,000 grants for each household needing improvement. Sometimes the projects are supplemented by low interest Adaptability Loans which are available to seniors or people with disabilities. If you are interested in the program, contact Alissa Boroff with Access Solutions by phone: 612-238-5429 or by e-mail: anboroff@augustanacare.org. If you want more information about low interest Adaptability Loans contact Kim Jakus, LCC staff, at 612-722-4529.

Get a Rebate for Your Energy-Efficient Home Improvements

Minnesota homeowners may be eligible for up to $4,000 in rebates for certain energy-efficiency improvements. A rebate program administered by the Builders Association of Minnesota is making $3 million available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Funds will go fast and are available first-come, first-served. If you're having energy-efficiency work done on your home, make sure to ask your contractor if it is eligible for the "Project ReEnergize" rebate.

The home must be owner-occupied and built before 2000. The improvements must be done by a Project ReEnergize qualified contractor. A list of project qualified contractors is posted at www.projectReEnergize.org/contractor-list.aspx. Only work completed after Oct. 1 is eligible for rebates. Project must be completed before rebate application can be submitted. For more information on eligibility, visit www.ProjectReEnergize.org.

Minneapolis Outlines Plans for H1N1 Response

To ensure that Minneapolis is prepared and able to respond appropriately to the H1N1 flu virus, the City's public health and emergency preparedness officials have been updating the City's emergency response plan. The City has plans for vaccination implementation and dispensing strategies, City workforce protection, and ensuring continuity of critical City functions.

The City's vaccination strategy includes encouraging people to visit their regular health care provider, working with the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency to assist with vaccinations of first responders and high risk individuals, providing vaccinations at schools, community and employer-based sites, and mass immunizations and North and South High Schools.

For more information on H1N1 and pandemic flu, go to http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/emergency/flu-home.asp

opportunities and lifelong learning.

Number Biking to Work Keeps Rising

Based on a 2008 survey 4.3% of workers 16 and over in Minneapolis now travel to work by bicycle. This is up significantly from 2000, 2005, 2006, and 2007 where the bicycle mode share was 1.9%, 2.4%, 2.5%, and 3.8% in those respective years.

New 35W Bridge one of Nation's Top 10 Transportation Projects

The US Chamber of Commerce, AAA, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, announced the top 10 finalists in the 2009 America's Transportation Awards competition.

A panel of judges evaluated 50 highway projects and selected the new I35 Bridge as a top project for it's use of Smart Bridge technology, using the world's largest anti-icing system and finishing 3 months early.

3rd Most Generous City for Online Giving

According to a Convio report, Minneapolis ranked third in the Nation for the most online giving in 2008 and is currently ranked third for the first half of 2009.

Events & Special Meetings

Public Meeting on Lake Cleanup Plans
October 7 7 pm Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. Join Mn Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), Minneapolis Park board and cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, Golden Valley & St. Louise Park for meetings to plan cleanup of area lakes. Plan is part of a federal program that mandates research and possible solutions for lakes that do not meet clean water requirements. Lake Nokomis, Powderhorn Lake & Brownie Lake have excessive levels of phosphorus, which can cause algae blooms and degrade aquatic habitat. Contact Nat Kale at 952-471-0590 x 229 or nkale@minnehahacreek.org for more information. For info about water quality studies, visit www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl.

NENA Park Board & Board of Estimate and Taxation Candidate Forum
October 8 6:30-8:30 pm Keewaydin Community Center, 3030 E. 53rd St. Hear from Park Board District 5 candidates as well as candidates for Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Lake Nokomis Community School Walk-A-Thon & Breakfast
October 10 8-9:30 am Breakfast, 10 am Walk Wenonah campus, 5625 23rd Ave S. Breakfast $6 adults, $3 kids age 5+. Pledges taken by Keewaydin & Wenonah students, or can be dropped off at Wenonah campus office. Everyone welcome to join students for the walk around Lake Nokomis! Call 668-5040 for information.

LCC Park board Commissioner Candidate Forum
October 12 6:30-8:30 pm Minnehaha Academy South Campus Statements from at-large candidates followed by Q&A with candidates from Districts 3 & 5. Contact Hillary Oppmann at hillary@longfellow.org or 722-4529 for more information.

Lake Hiawatha Park Pool & Site Improvements Public Meeting
October 14 7 pm Lk Hiawatha Park Ctr, 2701 E. 44th St MPRB will hold a public meeting to discuss wading pool and site improvements. For information, contact Lonnie Nichols, lnichols@minneapolisparks.org or 230-6525 or MPRB Commissioner Carol Kummer, carolkummer@earthlink.net or 722-0370 or 325-6149

Meeting for Non-Governmental Tax Exempt Properties – Street Light & Maintenance Assessments
October 14 6-8 pm, presentation 7 pm Logan Park, 690 13th Avenue NE
October 15 6-8 pm, presentation 7 pm Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Avenue S
Learn about changes to assessments for street lights and street maintenance for tax-exempt properties.

Longfellow Garden Club- "Nature Crafts for the Holidays"
October 14 7-9 pm Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Club members will demonstrate gifts and projects you can create from garden materials. You are encouraged to bring samples or photos of items you make from plants in your garden. Club Meetings are free and open to the public.

NENA Council Candidate Forum (Wards 11 & 12)
October 15 6:30-8:30 pm Keewaydin Park, 3030 E. 53rd St. Hear from candidates running for each ward. There will also be materials on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

Rank Choice Voting Information Meeting
October 19 7-9 pm Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave S. Mpls Elections staff will give information on Rank Choice Voting, which is new to Minneapolis this year.

Longfellow Community Council – General Membership Meeting
October 21 6-8 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus. Dinner provided by local eateries, block leader info, local resource fair, Bring a non-perishable item for Minnehaha Food Shelf, Childcare provided.

Property Management Workshop
October 22 5-9 pm St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave So. Meeting will provide useful information and connections to resources for rental property owners. Presented by Mpls Police Dept. and Housing Inspections Dept. **Register by Thurs., October 15th.** $20 registration fee includes printed materials, boxed meal and Hennepin County Housing Court DVD. After October 15th, fee is $30. Call Community Crime Prevention/SAFE office at 612-673-2812 or email ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us to request a registration form.

Midtown Farmers Market – Last Days of 2009 Season
Tuesdays through October 27 3:30-7:30 pm
Saturdays through October 31 8 am – 1 pm E. Lake St & 22nd Ave. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat, honey, jams, flowers, and more. Music and special events enhance your outdoor shopping experience.

Family Halloween Party
October 31 4-6 pm Minnehaha Falls Park Pavilion. Music, hayrides, fortune teller, marshmallow roast, creepy crawly creatures & trick-or-treating. $2 per person; Food/refreshments for sale.

Open Appointments

Mpls Public Housing Authority - Must be Highrise Hsg Resident Closes 10/16/09
Mpls Zoning Board of Adjustment Closes 10/16/09
Mpls Senior Citizen Advisory Cmte Closes 12/11/09
Mpls Civilian Police Review Authority Closes 12/31/09
Mpls Public Health Advisory Cmte (PHAC) (open until filled)
For information on City openings: **ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open**