
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

November 2004

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

Change in Stormwater Fee Includes Credit Opportunities

Two years of work to improve the fairness of our stormwater payment system is nearing completion. State law changes, intensive data collection, community meetings, and a Community Advisory Committee have put the city on the cusp of a more equitable program to pay for our stormwater infrastructure needs. The current fee system is based on water usage which is not related to the amount of stormwater a property sends into the city system. The new fee is based on the amount of impervious surface on a property. This is a much more equitable system to pay the costs of constructing and maintaining our vast stormwater management system.

Stormwater management is more than pipes and ponds. There are many different ways citizens can help the city manage the burden of the runoff and improve the quality of the water that flows into our lakes, creeks, and rivers. While some of these things are not complicated or expensive, there is little incentive to build a bio-swale other than the satisfaction of doing something good for the environment. The new Stormwater Utility Fee ordinance changes that by building in a credit system for quality (improving the quality of the runoff) and quantity (reducing the peak rate of runoff) improvements. By installing a stormwater best management practice (BMP) such as a rain garden, bio-swale, green roof or pervious pavers, property owners can get a credit on the stormwater utility fee. Credits range from 50% to 100% of the fee. This is the most aggressive credit program in the country and it will have a very positive impact on our local water quality. I was excited to work on creating these credits and will be glad to adopt our new system.

Nokomis Library to Get Extra Day in 2005

If all goes as planned, Nokomis Library will get a much needed extra day of service in 2005 and 2006 during the renovation of the East Lake Library.

The extra day will be welcomed at one of the most well-used libraries in the system. I continue to make the case to Library leaders every chance I get that this library and community deserve more open hours. I am sure a similar case is being made by other libraries but I think we have the numbers to back up the claim. Nokomis continues to have high circulation numbers, especially in the juvenile section. Without additional hours, an important community investment is useless.

Neighborhood volunteers are once again fundraising to keep the library open on Saturdays until the extra day is added. Please see the Calendar section of this newsletter for details of the fundraising dinner on November 12th.

Where to Report Street Light Problems

The shorter daylight hours seem to be bringing in more street light calls to my office. You can call me or go to the following link and fill in the form for city-owned lights and Xcel Energy street lights: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-streetlight.asp>

Yard Waste Pick Up Reminder

Yard Waste curbside pick up ends the week of Nov. 15.

Many of us will have some yard waste after the last pick up day. Here are suggestions for what to do with left-over bags while you wait for spring.

- ◆ Place your yard waste bags on top of your perennial garden beds.
- ◆ Stack the bags against the North and East sides of your house foundation for insulation.
- ◆ If you are willing to take your yard waste to a commercial location and pay a fee for disposal, call Solid Waste and Recycling customer service staff at 612-673-2917 for locations.

Phase II of the Midtown Greenway Opens November 6!

Hopefully a warm weekend will greet bicyclists on Saturday, November 6th when the second phase of the Midtown Greenway opens to riders. Phase II starts at Hiawatha Ave. on the east and connects with Phase I of the project which can take you to the western city limits and beyond. Before you put your bike away for the winter, take one last ride on the new trail.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Regional Parks Outreach Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 7 p.m.
Nokomis Community Center

Nokomis Library Fundraising Dinner

Friday, November 12, 6-8 p.m.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
For more info, call: 612-722-5998

Identity Theft Workshop Provided by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office

Tuesday, November 16
7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church,
3450 Irving Ave S.

LRT Station Zoning Changes Open House

Tuesday November 16, 6:30 - 9 pm
Midtown YWCA, 2121 E. Lake Street

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S
November 8, 7:00 p.m.
For more information, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

NENA Town Meeting

Attendees will be asked to vote on NRP Plan Modification to redirect \$220,000 of NRP strategy funds from uncontracted strategies to keeping the NENA Office open. The second topic is citizen participation in Minneapolis.
Minnehaha United Methodist Church
November 11, 7 p.m.

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park
November 18, 7:00 p.m.
For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
November 23, 7:00 p.m.
For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Open Appointments

- Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) (closes November 5, 2004)
- Civil Rights Commission (closes 11-19-04)
- Sports Facilities Commission (closes 12-3-04)

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

Curiosity about Minnehaha Creek Deposition

Residents have asked me about a growing island in Minnehaha Creek just south the Minnehaha Parkway and east of 39th Ave. I asked the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) to look into the issue and Michael Wyatt, a MCWD Planner, gave me some information that is helpful in understanding what is happening.

An urban creek such as Minnehaha is continually dealing with a large amount of sediment from the 178 storm water inlets that bring sand, dirt, and other particles into the creek every time it rains. Sediment settles and creates depositions that can grow, shrink, and disappear altogether.

The MCWD believes the deposition in question could be temporary and that nature will take away the deposits. If this is not the case, this could be a project that would be eligible for a future capital project to stabilize this area. The MCWD is currently undertaking a series of public meetings to create a long-term management plan for Minnehaha Creek that will plan for problems such as this deposition. It will also relate them to the larger context of creek management because erosion and deposition are natural processes that will happen over time, however, when the natural process are overwhelmed by human influences, action might be needed to maintain the creek's health.

LRT Station Zoning Changes Open House

The Minneapolis Planning Department is hosting an Open House to review a proposed new overlay zoning district for areas near neighborhood LRT station areas - **Tuesday November 16, 6:30 - 9 p.m. - Midtown YWCA, 2121 E. Lake Street.**

The proposed Pedestrian Oriented Overlay District for Transit Station Areas will not change any zoning. Instead it will result in extra regulations and incentives for property at and around light rail stations. These include such things as a prohibition on new automobile service uses (i.e. drive-through restaurants), density bonuses and reduced parking requirements to recognize the pedestrian character of an LRT station.

To view the proposed regulations and district boundaries prior to the Open House, please visit the following web site:
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/lrtrezoning

Help Plan the Future Edward Solomon Park

A new forty-acre park, bounded by Cedar Ave. on the east, 58th St. on the north, 13th Ave. on the west, and 60th St. on the south was recently acquired through a trade with the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The park was named Edward C. Solomon Park to honor the late Park Board Commissioner who represented the district from 1996 to 2002.

The first planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 7 p.m. at Pearl Park Rec Center. A new park is a rare opportunity and I urge residents to get involved.