



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

12th Ward Update

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Senior Housing Coming to Nokomis

Residents have talked to me for years about the need for senior housing in our neighborhoods so they would have an option to stay living in the community that has been their home when they can no longer—or no longer want to—maintain their single family home. Now we are going to have some. In January, the City Council unanimously chose the Community Development Collaborative as the developer of MnDOT land along Riverview Road and 54th Street. This team will build 42 affordable, guaranteed senior-only apartments in a three-story building with a large patio. Along Riverview Road, eight new townhomes will provide home ownership, four at market rate and four to be affordable through Habitat for Humanity sales. Much green space has been preserved and the entire development has many environmentally sustainable elements.

While this plan has the support of many in the community, including residents who are active in the congregations of Lake Nokomis Lutheran and Minnehaha United Methodist Church, there are some who are unhappy with this result.

Public meetings were used to gather input from neighbors and I listened. This plan has the fewest units, the shortest multi-family building and the least traffic impact of all proposals—addressing many of the concerns I heard. I also heard a strong preference for home ownership. Another proposal for condos would have been homeownership IF they were sold, but in a market where some condos are sitting half-built and sales have stalled, they could easily end up as regular rental. In a letter to the city, the NENA Board expressed their “reservations about the ability of [the proposer] to sell the condo units, and would want some assurances that the project will not become de facto rental due to the slow condo market.” There is no way to legally ensure that the units would not be converted to rental, even if the developer were willing to agree up front. This proposal would also have been held to the federal rules requiring 51% affordable housing. In the coming year we will work to refine the design for this new housing. My hope is that a respectful and constructive conversation in the community will result in a beautiful place for seniors to stay in our neighborhood. ~Sandy

NRP to Continue Beyond 2009

After years of discussion, the Council supports continued funding for neighborhood organizations to carry on NRP work beyond the 2009 legal sunset for the current NRP. Recommendations for the funding, as well as money for a transition between Phase II and Phase III to keep doors open for some groups who are about to close (at least 1 in ward 12), will be discussed and voted on this April. Stakeholder meetings are being held to get input on the Framework, to define goals and how the new program would work.

On a related effort, Community Engagement is directed to add to the Framework a section describing recommendations for increased neighborhood influence and interaction with City service delivery.

Dowling Garden Heirloom Festival

The Dowling Community Garden at 46th Ave S and 39th St is the second oldest Victory garden in the U.S. Community volunteers manage 175 plots, some with locally designed beds for those with physical challenges, for over 200 gardeners. Many of the gardeners preserve seeds from “heirloom” species of vegetables grown before commercial hybridization, saving wonderful flavors you can’t find at the grocery store.

They offer their harvest for everyone to taste at the Heirloom Festival (45 types of tomatoes in 2007!)

Learn about local history and flavorful heirloom opportunities from

neighborhood residents in this half-hour video. Gardeners live in Minneapolis and surrounding communities, are culturally diverse, of all ages and abilities and come together to share their love of gardening.



Viewing times for last summer's community video:

Channel 16:

Mon 2/4 - 8pm
 Tues 2/5 - 8am
 Wed 2/6 - 7pm
 Fri 2/8 - 10pm
 Mon 2/11 - 8pm
 Fri 2/15 - 10pm
 Sat 2/16 - 8am
 Sun 2/17 - 8pm
 Thu 2/21 - 10pm
 Sat 2/23 - 8pm
 Wed 2/27 - 7pm
 Fri 2/29 - 10pm

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

AARP: Senior Housing and Other Progress in the 12th Ward– Thurs, Feb 7, 1pm, Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.

Community Development Conversation

Local bankers will discuss the outlook for business and real estate lending. Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, Thurs, Feb 7, 7:45-9:30am, at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview, St. Paul.

Final 46th & Hiawatha LRT Station Open House

Tues, Feb 19, 6:30-8:30pm, Hiawatha Community School Gymnasium, 4201 42nd Ave S.

MPS Area B Parent Advisory Council “BPAC”

Thurs, Feb 21, 6:30-8:00 pm, Longfellow School 3017 E 31st Street. Peggy Ingison, MPS Chief Financial Officer, will lead a community discussion on the budget for 2008-09 challenges and timetables, priorities and spending decisions.

All parents and community members are invited to join **BPAC monthly meetings**. BPAC works to improve Area B schools, including Dowling, Hiawatha, Longfellow, Northrop, Sanford, South and Roosevelt. For more info, contact Community Liaison Kristin Berg Thompson at kberghthompson@gmail.com.

OPEN APPOINTMENTS

Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment

Applications for both are due Fri, Feb 1st. Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp

Downtown Transportation Management Organization Executive Committee

– Vacancy for a City Resident. For info: Contact Teresa Wernecke at teresa@mplstmo.org or (612) 370-3987.

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New Juvenile Supervision Center

The new Juvenile Supervision Center opened its doors last month. The Center will provide a safe, supervised environment for youths aged 10-17 who are picked up by the police for low-level offenses such as truancy, curfew violation, or vandalism. The youth are brought to the Center where they can participate in a voluntary program to receive assessment and referrals, immediate intervention if needed, and follow-up and aftercare. It is estimated that 4,000 youths in Hennepin County will be brought to the Center in its first year. The Center is funded and directed jointly by Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis as a part of our focus on reducing juvenile crime.

Neighborhood Policing Plans

Every Minneapolis neighborhood has a Neighborhood Policing Plan. These plans, while new in 2007, are part of continuing efforts focusing on neighborhood concerns. The Police Department’s two citywide goals are reduction of burglary and thefts. Neighborhoods and their precincts have been working on developing plans together to address mutual concerns. Targeted enforcement currently occurring in specific neighborhoods in accordance with these plans has been effective in generating a number of arrests.

The Neighborhood Policing Plans are updated each year. To learn more about your Neighborhood Policing Plan, visit the City’s website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/NeighborhoodPolicingPlans.asp.

BITS AND PIECES

- Hooray! The final condition in the cities' airport noise settlement was satisfied on Jan 15th, in Hennepin County District Court. The class action lawsuit was settled and is now approved and effective.
- \$300,000 of federal money was recently approved by Congress and the President for the City’s ongoing effort to decrease combined sewer overflows. This money is in addition to more than \$3 million in federal funds approved in previous years. It supplements the City’s local funding for this many-pronged effort.
- \$564,000 of federal money was also recently approved to expand the ShotSpotter system, which has helped Minneapolis Police to reduce illegal gun use and violence by rapidly pinpointing gunfire in the City.