

12th Ward news

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDY COLVIN ROY

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[March]



An unseasonably warm Saturday in February warmed more than the hearts at the Hiawatha Heart Warmer. The February 12 event promoted independent businesses of Standish-Ericsson, Longfellow, and Nokomis community. Attendance was estimated at 900. In this photo, people of all ages enjoyed skating to the music of Kids Dance DJ.

Update on Hiawatha Signals Lights

Chances look very good that we can see a project this construction season to significantly improve the flow of travel, for vehicles and pedestrians, in the Hiawatha Corridor. For the past year I have been working hard to learn what changes would improve the corridor and how to pay for them.

Recommended improvements include new traffic signal detection and new traffic signal controllers and cabinets. Basically, this will bring Hiawatha's technology up to the standards that will be purchased for the Central Corridor LRT; technology that was not available when the Hiawatha line was built.

Another challenge has been securing the money to pay for this. The City had previously budgeted \$250,000 for this work but when Governor Pawlenty unallotted millions in Local Government Aid, this was one of the projects that suffered. During the 2011 budget cycle, I was able to secure a new financial commitment by the City to this project. We also have a funding commitment from a significant partner in this effort, Metro Transit. Conversations with MnDot and the County continue and are very encouraging.

It seems that people who don't commute regularly in this area have a hard time understanding the seriousness of the problem and I have spent a lot of time educating them in order to get support for this effort. The time wasted by individuals and businesses, as well as frustration, and the shifting of traffic to other streets are serious problems. I have kept the momentum going and we are finally close to seeing changes implemented. I am excited to report this progress. When we get the final commitments – we'll have to have a party!

Sandy

March is Food Shelf Month

Help your neighbors in need by donating to a local food shelf. Minnehaha United Methodist Church (MUMC) at 3701 E 50th Street accepts donations Tuesday –Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Monetary donations are also appreciated. If you are unable to donate, consider volunteering your time. Contact MUMC for more information at 721-6231.

MAC Gets New Chair

Governor Dayton has chosen a resident of south Minneapolis, Dan Boivin, to Chair the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

"Dan has served on the MAC and proven himself a valuable ally in the struggle to make the airport a better neighbor" said Council member Sandy Colvin Roy, "he recognizes the importance of the airport to our regional economy but has also recognized and fought for residents who live with the negative impacts."

Nokomis Library Grand Opening April 30

The renovation of Nokomis Library is nearly complete. A grand opening celebration will be held on April 30. The event will be planned by Hennepin County and the Friends of Nokomis Library. Friends of Nokomis Library is a relatively new volunteer organization which, in partnership with the Library Foundation, works to support the programs and activities at Nokomis library. For complete details and to join, visit the [Friends of Nokomis](#) page.

The Friends of Nokomis grand opening planning committee will meet on Thursday, March 3 at 6:30 pm at Keewaydin Park (3030 53rd St. E., Minneapolis). The committee will get down to brass tacks, working with library staff to identify how the Friends can contribute on opening day and the weeks afterward. Everyone is welcome to participate in the planning committee.

Volunteers are especially needed for the grand opening. If you can't attend the planning committee meeting but can volunteer any time on April 30, please contact Adam Olson with the Library Foundation at (952) 847-8109.

Changes Coming to Stretch of Cedar Avenue this Spring

A successful collaboration between concerned citizens, the City and the County will mean improvements for a stretch of Cedar Avenue this Spring. Unhappy with conditions along Cedar Avenue, especially speeding, area residents formed Cedar Avenue United (CAU) to advocate for solutions. CAU identified the stretch of 42nd to 46th Street as a particular problem spot. This winter, representatives of the CAU, the city, and county gathered data and met to discuss possible improvements to the area.

As a result, you will see some changes this spring intended to improve pedestrian safety and reduce speeding. Those changes include freshly painted crosswalks, the addition of pedestrian countdown timers, larger and better placed signs indicating the speed limit, and changes to parking to prevent cars from parking too close to the corner and negatively affecting visibility.

Another change is experimental “bump-outs” on Cedar Avenue and 44th Street East. The bump outs will extend the curb on either side of Cedar Avenue by using 3 foot tall plastic tubes to delineate the edge of the curb. Like permanent bump-outs, the theory is that when the street narrows, traffic will slow down thus making it easier for a pedestrian to cross. The bump-outs will be monitored to see if they are effective. As always, pedestrians should use caution when crossing Cedar.

Are You Prepared for Spring Flooding?

The National Weather service is predicting widespread flooding across the state as our record snowfall melts. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is monitoring conditions in our region and offers updated predictions on their website:

www.minnehahacreek.org. Recent projections predict high water levels around Minnehaha Creek with a risk of severe flooding. MCWD has a map of the flood plain. You can enter in your address to see where you fall on the map.

There are many resources to help you prepare for flooding including the [City of Minneapolis page on flooding](#). Flooding could impact many residents if the groundwater becomes saturated giving the water nowhere to go. This leads water to seep into the house or enter through the floor. This can lead to sewer back-ups if you have floor drains. The MCWD website can connect you will a lot of information to get prepared including information on the [National Flood Insurance Program](#). Standard homeowners insurance does not cover flooding.

Heavy Table Magazine Highlights 38th Street Eateries

In an illustrated commentary “[38th Street: A Culinary Travelogue](#),” Andy Sturdevant comments on the culinary options along 38th Street from the Mississippi to Lakewood Cemetery including the Riverview Wine Bar, Everett’s, Dave’s Popcorn, Citizen Café, Ted Cook’s, The Cardinal and the Candy Jar.

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Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

LCC

NENA

SENA

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Help with Re-drawing City Election Lines

Feb. 4, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) The new year brings a once-in-a-decade opportunity for people in Minneapolis to participate in redistricting the City, creating boundaries for elections in 2012 and beyond. It's an important process because having districts with equal populations helps ensure there is fair representation no matter where you live. Redistricting happens every ten years, following the U.S. Census, and for residents who are interested, there is a new opportunity to play an important role in the redistricting process that's about to start.

In 2010, Minneapolis voters transferred authority for developing new boundaries for the City's thirteen wards and the Park Board's six districts to a Redistricting Group made up of the Charter Commission and an appointed Advisory Group. The Charter Commission is now soliciting applications for the Advisory Group.

The Charter Commission seeks applicants who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a nonpartisan basis. Please note that while Advisory Group members are expected to participate in a nonpartisan manner, current or past involvement in political party activities does not disqualify an applicant from service.

The job description and application form are posted on the Charter Commission's website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission.

All applications should be submitted as outlined in the application by the March 25, 2011 deadline. Interviews will be conducted in April, 2011. If your group is interested in a presentation or if you have any questions, please call the Commission Coordinator, Peggy Menshek, at 612-673-2287 or email her at peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Property Tax Refunds for Homeowners

Now that tax time is in full swing, homeowners should be aware there are two types of property tax refunds available from the State – the regular property tax refund and a special property tax refund. Homeowners may be eligible for both depending on their income levels and the size of their property tax bill.

The regular property tax refund is for people who own and lived in their home on Jan. 2, 2011. If the home is not "homesteaded," the application for homestead must be made before Dec. 15, 2011. Also, homeowners must fall under the following income limits:

- For households with no dependents, the limit is \$99,240.
- For households with dependents the limit increases with family size, up to \$121,140 for households with five or more dependents.
- Senior or disabled homeowners may be eligible with household incomes up to \$124,790 with five or more dependents.

To qualify for the special property tax refund:

- Homeowners must have owned and lived in the same home on both Jan. 2, 2010 and Jan. 2, 2011,
- The net property tax on your homestead must have increased by more than 12 percent from 2010 to 2011, and
- The increase must have been \$100 or more and the increase is not attributable to new improvements.

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There is no limit on household income for the special property tax refund. You may qualify for the special refund even if you do not qualify for the 2010 regular property tax refund. To determine if you qualify and, if so, the amount of your refund, complete Schedule 1 on the back of Form M1PR.

Tax forms and additional information on property tax refunds are available at taxes.state.mn.us.

It's Time for the 2011 Neighborhood CleanSweep

The Minneapolis CleanSweep program is a partnership effort between Solid Waste and Recycling and your community to help you clean up your neighborhood. The entire community can clean out garages, sheds, attics, basements, yards, alleyways and boulevards. As an organizer of your CleanSweep you can decide what items will be the focus of your clean-up (tires, construction waste, appliances, electronics, furniture, etc.).

When you provide the volunteers, the City will provide the garbage trucks and disposal. Solid Waste & Recycling truck(s) and driver(s) will be provided to you for a flat fee of \$96 per truck per hour, all-inclusive. That means that there will be no additional fee for disposal for any of the materials collected.

To participate, fill out an [APPLICATION](#) and return it as soon as possible. Available CleanSweep dates begin on [April 23rd, 2011](#) and run through [October 15th, 2011](#). We will not schedule CleanSweeps on the following dates: May 28th, June 4th, July 2nd, July 9th, September 3rd or September 10th.

Events & Special Meetings

Longfellow Garden Club

March 15, 7 pm, Mother Earth Gardens, 3738 42nd Ave S. Topic is Plant Heaven 2011: What's New from Rush Creek Growers. Seating is limited, you must register! Leave a message at 612-724-2296 or email info@motherearthgarden.com

Spring Bookstore Clearance Sale

The Minneapolis Central Library Bookstore, operated by the Library Foundation, will host a 3-week clearance sale this spring. The store will be stocked with thousands of books in every genre. Held at the Mpls Central Library (300 Nicollet Mall), the sale will offer the following weekly specials:

- **March 17 - March 25:** 50% off used books
- **March 26 - April 1:** \$.25 per book
- **April 2 - April 9:** All the books you can fit in a grocery bag for \$2

Hours: 11 am - 2 pm (Mon), 10 am - 5 pm (Tues, Wed, Fri), 10 am - 7:00 pm (Thurs), 10 am - 4:30 pm (Sat).

Block Leader Training

March 22, 6:30-8 pm 3rd Precinct Police Station, 3000 Minnehaha Ave. Intro to community crime prevention, how to organize a block club, services of Community Crime Prevention, how & when to use 911, solve problems effectively, responsibilities of block leaders. RSVP to 673-3482 or 673-2856 if you plan to attend.

Open Appointments for Boards & Commissions

Animal Care & Control Advisory Board	Open until filled
Mpls Advisory Cmte on People with Disabilities	Open until filled
Latino Advisory Cmte	Open until filled
Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission	Open until filled
Pedestrian Advisory Cmte	Open until filled
Mpls Planning Commission	Open until filled
Public Health Advisory Cmte (PHAC)	Open until filled
Advisory Cmte for Mpls Redistricting 2011-2012 of the Mpls Charter Commission	Closes March 25
Mpls Workforce Council	Open until filled
Mpls Zoning Board of Adjustment	Open until filled

Deadline: Application review process begins April 4, 2011, except Advisory Cmte for Redistricting.

For information on openings: ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open