



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

# 12th Ward Update

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to [sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## FIGHT GRAFFITI: FREE REMOVAL & LOCK UP SPRAY PAINT

Graffiti is a serious crime and it is a growing issue in the 12th Ward. More than a quarter of a million dollars will be spent this year by the city to remove graffiti from painted surfaces on homes or businesses and city property. **The service is available at no cost to property owners if they agree to allow the city crew to enter their property and accept the terms. To sign up for the free service, just call 311.** Planting bushes near graffiti targets or painting murals are both strategies that have worked to ward off graffiti.

The City also has a crew to remove graffiti from sensitive surfaces like stucco and brick if the owner chooses not to remove it themselves, but the cost of this removal is assessed to the property.

Spray paint, the primary tool of graffiti vandals, should not be sold to anyone under the age of 18 according to city ordinance. Many local stores do not enforce the ordinance, or the shelves are open and easy targets for shop-lifting. I have joined Council member Schiff to support a new ordinance to require spray paint be sold from locked cabinets.

## SAFE CITY INITIATIVES IN THE 12TH WARD

The health of our city - and citizens - is bound to both real and perceived safety. The challenge we face is an undeniable rise in crime that requires action if we want to keep the reputation we've built over five years of steadily decreasing crime.

Media coverage of the Safe City Initiative (additional funds committed by Gov. Pawlenty as well as state troopers, Transit Police and Park Police working in new ways with our city police) all focused on areas of the city with high crime rates. Safe City will also bring tangible benefits to our part of town. I want to thank Acting Chief Dolan and the command staff for working with me to identify public safety needs in our part of the city.

**In the 12<sup>th</sup> ward I identified faster 911 response.** Our neighborhoods have less crime but residents have a reasonable expectation that when a 911 call situation arises, police will respond quickly. This has been my message since day one. With fewer officers and a department focused on violence elsewhere, response times in our area have risen. Safe City, combined with more officers (authorized, but not yet on the street because hiring and training take time) will reduce response times.

Some particular areas of concern have been identified to me by residents and through police reports. In the area of Bossen I have been working with the Police and Community Crime Prevention,

## MPD RECREATES JUVENILE UNIT

It is very evident to the Minneapolis Police Department that juveniles are playing a large part in robberies and other violent crime. In response to this trend, MPD has created a centralized juvenile unit that focuses on investigation and prosecution of crimes involving repeat juvenile offenders. They will also coordinate citywide juvenile strategies, work with probation officers to enforce conditions of release, and work with judges to better manage juvenile crime.

The Mpls Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) will dedicate \$500,000 over the next two years to support community-based strategies that will intervene with disconnected young people and redirect them toward healthy, and contributing adult lives. The Minneapolis Foundation is also issuing violence prevention grants this spring. The two organizations are coordinating their efforts to help stem youth violence and positively change the course of young lives.

the Public Works Department, Inspections and the building owners on behavioral issues, the appearance of the properties themselves and the general area. **Now Safe City is providing a beat patrol on Fridays and Saturdays for the summer months, coming north to include activity at 54<sup>th</sup> Street.** A "mobile" beat patrol (shared with 11<sup>th</sup> Ward) will work in the Nokomis Village area and along the southern end of the LRT line.

I would like to hear suggestions from residents and I always welcome information about what is going on in the ward.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

**National Night Out on 166 blocks in the Ward 12**  
August 1

**Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival**  
Wednesday, August 2, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..  
Lake Hiawatha Park  
<http://www.lhrc.freesevers.com/festival.htm>

**NENA Town Meeting**  
NRP Plan Modification and  
Nokomis East Station Area Plan  
Thursday, August 3, 7p.m.  
Mhaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.

**Minnehaha Corridor Crime Prevention Meeting**  
Monday, August 7 - 6:30 p.m.  
[Longfellow Park](#) — 3435 36th Avenue South

**Lake Hiawatha Shoreline Restoration Meeting**  
Wednesday, August 9 — 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.  
Lake Hiawatha Park Building

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

**SENA Board Meeting**  
1830 East 42nd Street  
August 14, 7:00 p.m.  
For more info, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

**LCC Board Meeting**  
Minnehaha Academy North Campus  
August 17, 7:00 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

**NENA Board Meeting**  
3000 East 50th Street  
August 24, 7:00 p.m.  
For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

## MINNEHAHA AVE. CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

The Longfellow Community Council, myself, and Council Member Gary Schiff, are sponsoring a Minnehaha Corridor Crime Prevention Meeting on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Longfellow Park multi-purpose room (3435 36th Ave. S). Minneapolis Police representatives will discuss crime trends in detail and share tips for building and preventing crime on your block

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM PROPERTY TASK FORCES KEEP FOCUS ON CHRONIC PROBLEMS

In 1998 I helped to establish problem property task forces with both the Longfellow Community Council and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association problem property groups in order to bring city resources together with the close observation of residents through their neighborhood association. These partnerships have proven to be very effective.

Neighborhood staff convene monthly meetings with Housing Inspectors, City Council staff, and Crime Prevention Specialists. The monthly meetings focus on a coordinated strategy for properties that have multiple reports of housing issues and/or behavioral problems associated with the property. They have been very successful in solving problems with chronically troubled addresses in their respective neighborhoods. I have always been a strong supporter of neighborhood based problem property groups because they can play an important role in making our neighborhoods safe and pleasant places to live.

## GOOD NEWS FOR SAM'S MARKET SPACE

Sam's Market (54<sup>th</sup> St & 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave) was the last in a string of problem convenience stores at this location. After some recent trouble, the owner chose to not renew his license and closed the business in May. Now, the good news: the Canine Coach, an established and well-respected dog obedience business, is currently renovating the space and plans to open their doors on August 13<sup>th</sup>. If you get a chance, please stop by and welcome them to the neighborhood.

## LEARN ABOUT WIRELESS MINNEAPOLIS AND TOUR 311

Learn more about the city's wireless internet plans on Wednesday, August 2 at the Third Precinct community room (3000 Minnehaha Avenue South), starting at 6 p.m.

The City of Minneapolis is in the process of selecting a vendor to build and operate a broadband wireless network that covers the entire city. Wireless Minneapolis networks are now being tested to analyze the capabilities of the finalist vendors seeking to partner with the City. A vendor will be selected this Fall, with full operation slated for 2007.



A tour of the 311 call center, located on the third floor of the Third Precinct building, will follow the meeting.