

# 12<sup>th</sup> Ward news

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[May]

## Hiawatha Signal Timing; Thanks for Your Input

Last month I asked for your input about the problems you face when travelling on, or across, Hiawatha Avenue. More than 200 people responded and the information was very valuable; it provided a useful picture of the issues up and down the line and helped to identify the areas which were most dangerous or aggravating to residents.

Your comments were shared with the engineers who came to Minneapolis to study the matter- you may have noticed them along Hiawatha observing the conditions for themselves- as well as representatives from the FTA, MnDot, Metro Transit and Hennepin County. The consultants are still working on their suggestions for improvement but we have had some encouraging conversations, so I am hopeful. I will share more with you when I have it.

*Sandy*

## City Regains Triple-A Rating from Moody's Investors Service

Minneapolis has joined an elite group of cities (less than 5%) which have received the highest possible rating from all three of the major ratings services. Moody's had given the city an Aa1 rating since 2001 but recently upgraded the rating to Aaa. Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor had always given Minneapolis their highest rating (Aaa.)

"This is excellent news. The fact is, even a rating of Aa1 is very good, but I am thrilled about the upgrade because of what it says about our city", said Council Member Colvin Roy. "This is a testament to the work being done by our staff and the Council to make decisions that handle our city's finances with an eye to the future. A city that is financially strong and fiscally responsible has always been an important priority. Now, we can reap the benefits by borrowing at the lowest possible interest rates when we build roads, sewers and bridges."

## Have an Opinion about the Lake Hiawatha Wading Pool?

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will hold a second meeting of the Hiawatha wading pool Community Advisory Committee at 7 p.m., Monday, May 24, at the Lake Hiawatha Park Recreation Center, 2701 East 44th St.

The meeting is to gather public input on the schematic design and site amenities for the renovation of the wading pool, which was out of service last year. For more information, contact Lonnie Nichols, MPRB District Planner, 612-230-6525 or [lnichols@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:lnichols@minneapolisparcs.org).



**Our community in the  
City Pages Best Of...**

**BEST MOVIE THEATER  
Riverview Theater**

**BEST GARDEN  
CENTER  
Mother Earth Gardens**

**BEST SCIENCE-  
FICTION BOOKSTORE  
Dreamhaven Books &  
Comics  
(2301 East 38th St.)**

**BEST NEW HIPSTER  
HANGOUT  
Angry Catfish  
(4208 28th Ave. S)**

**BEST PLACE TO  
BREAK UP  
Minnehaha Falls**



**BEST PANCAKE  
Colossal Cafe  
(1839 E. 42nd St.)**

## Animal Control Appreciation Week

The week of April 11-17 was Animal Control Appreciation Week. In 2009, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) addressed more than 15,000 service calls from residents. They investigated 400 animal bites and ensured compliance of more than 400 declared animals. MACC staff issued and processed nearly 1,000 administrative citations, wrote 40 formal criminal complaints, and served more than 30 warrants. **These efforts contributed to a 40% decrease in serious bites between 2008 and 2009.**

All dogs and cats over four months of age in Minneapolis are required to be licensed and wear collars with the license tag attached. **The best reason to get a license? Licensed pets are 3 times more likely to be returned home than unlicensed pets.** In 2009, MACC staff returned more than 500 pets to their owners.

It is now easier than ever to license your pet, you can call 311 to license your pet over the phone or [register online](#).

## Development Update; Longfellow Station (Purina site)

You will soon notice activity at the 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Hiawatha Avenue site. According to Dale Joel, Capital Growth, the buildings are being prepared for demolition. Materials (some hazardous) will be removed and contaminated soil will be hauled away. Joel said that he is hoping to begin demolition in June. With this information, you may be surprised to see people painting the old buildings. Apparently a team of artists will be painting a mural on the building. They understand the temporary nature of the mural and plan to document their efforts. The long-term plans for the site still include 196 studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom units and 10,000 square feet of high impact, transit-oriented, commercial space.

## City Goals & Strategic Directions; A Safe Place to Call Home

Every four years, the Council and Mayor adopt goals to guide the work of the city. City departments create five-year business plans with the achievement of these goals in mind and the Council and Mayor use them when adopting budgets. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Council approved six goals. We will feature one goal per month.

### **A Safe Place to Call Home;** *People and businesses thrive in a safe and secure city*

- Collaborative and caring communities help prevent crime
- Youth . . . in school, involved, inspired and connected to an adult
- Sustain gains against violent crime
- Healthy homes, welcoming neighborhoods
- Homelessness eliminated
- Burglaries and domestic violence focused on and fought
- Guns, gangs, graffiti gone

## A Greener Downtown

You will see more green downtown thanks to the Minneapolis Downtown improvement District. The DID is funded entirely by downtown property owners. Their mission is to make downtown Minneapolis a welcoming, thriving and competitive environment for recruiting and retaining businesses, employees, residents, and visitors. They do this by delivering clean, safe, green, and better services that raise the standard of care and behavior in downtown.

One way that the DID does this is by hiring “Ambassadors”, people who help keep streets clean and



Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



**Legal Advice for  
People in  
Foreclosure**

Need advice about your rights in foreclosure? Free legal advice is available to low income residents. Contact the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis. Call 612-334-5970 to find out more and get started.

**Minneapolis  
Ranked 7<sup>th</sup> Least**

are available to assist visitors to downtown. In their first 6 months, DID Ambassadors assisted over 40,000 visitors and even saved lives (assisting with medical emergencies such as heart attacks and a choking baby) and picked up 480,000 pounds of trash. This year, greening will be added to the DID complement of services.

Minneapolis is internationally recognized as a city with remarkable natural outdoor amenities. The DID greening program goal is to extend those amenities into downtown. Three local firms have developed a master plan to show how DID, in conjunction with public, private and non-profit entities, can soften the gray edges of downtown.

The work for 2010 includes summer and winter seasonal impact through planters and hanging baskets, wreaths and winter displays in the most heavily pedestrian areas of downtown. In future years, DID projects will make downtown green in more permanent, year round ways, with ideas such as boulevards with trees and perennials, gateway entries, and edge treatments along private properties, and parks

## **No-pruning season for ash trees: emerald ash borer is active until Labor Day**

As trees are budding and flowers are blooming, a beetle that attacks and kills ash trees is also coming out of dormancy for the season. The emerald ash borer is in Minneapolis and is active between May 1 and Labor Day. If you have an ash tree in your yard, only prune it when the emerald ash borer is dormant because transporting any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) while the pest is active helps spread it.

The emerald ash borer has caused the deaths of millions of ash trees in 13 states, and about 20% of the tree canopy in Minneapolis is ash. The MN Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer.

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment that increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage stormwater. If you have space in your yard to plant a tree, consider getting one planted so it can get a start on providing shade.

For more information on emerald ash borer, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at [www.saveourash.net](http://www.saveourash.net).

## **Wasteful City**

Nalgene, a company, surveyed the nation's 25 largest cities and ranked them on 23 wasteful or non-wasteful habits, from recycling to using public transportation to turning off the lights when leaving the room. Overall, Minneapolis was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> least wasteful. Here are some highlights:

- We scored third in recycling of glass, metal and plastics regularly.
- We ranked fourth in buying second-hand items, including clothing, electronics and furniture.
- Our city was sixth in using reusable containers in place of disposable food storage containers.

## **Events & Meetings**

### **Midtown Farmers' Market Opens**

**Saturdays beginning May 1; 8 am – 1 pm** E. Lake St & 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. Enjoy local, seasonal produce, hot drinks & delicious crepes, live music and art vendors' unique creations. Market accepts credit cards and EBT cards. Tuesday afternoon markets, 3-7 p.m., will begin in June.

### **Metro Paint-A-Thon Looking for Houses to Paint**

**Applications due May 7;** To qualify, you must be 60 years of age or have a permanent physical disability; own and live in the house you wish to have painted; meet monthly household income guidelines. House must be located in seven-county metro area and must be a single-family home, structurally sound and free of major repairs. Call 612-721-8687 or visit [www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon](http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon) for an application. Paint-A-Thon is August 7-8.

### **National Police Week Celebration May 10-15**

**May 11; 11 am – 2 pm 3rd Pct** The Minneapolis Police Department is planning activities and events throughout the city during National Police Week. Precincts and Special Operations Center

will hold open houses and tours with demonstrations from the Bomb Squad, SWAT, Fire Department, Mounted Horse Patrol and K-9. Food and refreshments at all locations.

### **Longfellow Garden Club**

**May 12; 7 pm** Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Annual plant swap begins promptly at 7:15 – come on time as plants disappear rapidly! Bring perennial plants, bulbs and extra seedlings to share. A small donation to the club is requested if you do not bring plants to share and are not a club member. Club meetings are free and open to the public.

### **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting & Dinner**

**May 13; 6 pm** Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50<sup>th</sup> St. Enjoy a pasta buffet courtesy of Fat Lorenzo's; Board elections; Volunteer recognition and the annual Noki (Best of Nokomis) Award. Visit [www.nokomiseast.org/association/annual-meeting-2010.html](http://www.nokomiseast.org/association/annual-meeting-2010.html) for more information.

### **Roosevelt High School Mosaic Festival**

**May 21; 4-8 p.m.** School gymnasium, 4029 28<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Event is free and open to the public. Families welcome. Join students, teachers and staff in a fun-filled afternoon of arts, culture and entertainment highlighting the diversity of our school. Student artwork and food will be on sale.

### **Growing Monarch Habitat Workshop**

**May 22; 9:30-10:30 am or 11 am – Noon** Nokomis Community Ctr, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. NENA & MPRB have put together a workshop featuring a “Garden-to-Go” kit that you will take home with you. Learn the basics of growing plants that support monarch butterflies, specifics on plants in the Garden-to-Go, resources for learning more and a bit about the monarch life cycle, migration and habitat needs.

Workshop cost is \$20 and includes the garden kit with \$30 worth of plants. Visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) to download the registration form.

### **Lake Hiawatha Wading Pool Community Advisory Committee**

**May 24; 7 pm** Lk Hiawatha Park Rec Ctr, 2701 E. 44<sup>th</sup> St. This 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CAC is to gather public input on the schematic design and site amenities for the renovation of the wading pool. The general public is invited and encouraged to attend.

### **Block Leader Training**

**May 25; or June 14; 6:30-8:30 pm** 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Ave S. If you are interested in making your block and neighborhood safe, this is the best way to do it. Visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org) for a link to an informational flyer.

### **Open Appointments for City Boards & Commissions**

Mpls Ethical Practices Bd Closes 5/7/2010

Latino Advisory Cmte Open until filled

Public Health Advisory Cmte (PHAC) Open until filled

For information on City openings: [ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open](http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open)

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