



City of Minneapolis – Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

12th Ward Update

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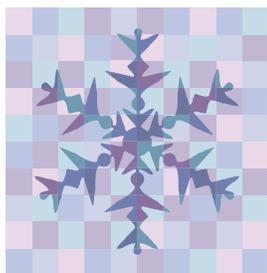
A new year has started - I hope it finds you and your loved ones well. Today it finds three beloved neighborhood libraries opening, from noon to 8 p.m. To those who have been paying attention to our library struggles over the past five years, that is an achievement second only to the fact that the doors will be open at all. I remember well the dark and cold night a little over one year ago when many of us visited Roosevelt for what might have been the last time, lighting candles outside and vowing to do whatever we could to get it open again. I believe, and this community demonstrated that it believes, in the power and importance of the written word.

It was almost two years ago that I, along with Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, most members of the Mpls. Library Board of Trustees and nearly a hundred residents of south Minneapolis met in a church basement to discuss libraries and specifically their future in our city. That discussion made it clear that the number one priority was to keep our library doors open. Since then a lot has been said and done, but we have the doors open again.

This will definitely be one of the things of which I am most proud in my public service and there are so many people to thank. The citizens who spoke up again and again on behalf of libraries; the legislators - especially Rep. Lyn Carlson (who went to Roosevelt library regularly as a child) and Sen. Ann Rest, who together authored the necessary legislation; the Mpls employees whose dedication to their public service shone through the very difficult times of big change; the leaders of the two library systems, Kit Hadley and Amy Ryan; the members of two committees whose hard work was the foundation for the new dream, Chaired by Roger Hale for the MPL Library Advisory Committee and John Gibbs for the Future of Hennepin County Libraries Task Force; the City Council who were willing to take some tough votes and the Mayor who agreed to the financial support necessary to do this; the Hennepin County Commissioners who were willing to be visionary about the future of all citizens of the county (especially Peter McLaughlin and Randy Johnson); and most of all, the Mpls Public Library Trustees - Laurie Savran, Alan Hooker, Rod Krueger, Sheldon Mains, Hussein Samatar, Gary Thaden, Laura Waterman Wittstock - led by Chair Anita Dukor. Their selfless leadership prioritized public libraries over their own positions, making this move into the future possible. ~ Sandy

Funding To Cover Tow Charges On Stolen Vehicles

A new fund that provides reimbursement for up to \$300 to auto theft victims when they retrieve their car from the impound lot was established by the Minnesota legislature in 2007. The Auto Theft Impound Fund provides auto theft victims with financial assistance for towing and storage fees incurred when recovering a stolen vehicle in Minnesota.



In order for a victim to receive funding, he/she must have filed a police report and have had insurance on the vehicle at the time it was stolen. To apply, call 612-340-5400

between 8am and 4pm Mon through Fri.

More Solar Power for the City

The City has been selected to receive a \$2 million grant to construct the largest urban solar array in the upper Midwest. The grant is funded through the Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund. The 600 kilowatt solar array is planned to be constructed on the roof of the City's Public Works Currie Maintenance Facility. For this project, Minneapolis partnered with EyeOn Solar, which has significant experience developing and operating solar installations.

Up to 3,000 panels will be used, capable of generating enough electricity to power nearly 80 homes. The electricity will be used at the Currie facility and could allow the City to expand its fleet of plug-in hybrids, which would be able to recharge at Currie using solar energy. Minneapolis currently has 28 hybrids in its fleet that could be converted to plug-in hybrids. Approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is expected in spring, 2008.

Minneapolis already has three solar arrays producing power for City facilities, lowering energy costs and making the buildings more environmentally friendly. To learn more about sustainability in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Riverview Rd Development, Tues, Jan 8th, 1:30pm, City Council Community Development Committee, 317 City Hall.

RiverLake Greenway, Thurs, Jan 10, 6:30am, Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave S.

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth, Open House, Sat, Jan 12, 10am-noon, L. Hiawatha Community Center, 2701 E. 44th Street.

Roosevelt Library ReOpening Celebration, 4026 28th Ave S, Sat, Jan 12, 10am.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

LCC Board - "Best General Meeting Ever!" Thurs, Jan 23, 6-8pm, Holy Trinity Church, 2730 East 31st St. For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board - Thurs, Jan 24, 7pm. For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

SENA Board - Mon, Jan 14, 7pm. For more information, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

OPEN APPOINTMENTS

Heritage Preservation Commission - Applications are due by Friday, Jan 4. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/Heritage_Preservation_Commission.asp

Colvin Roy Appointed

to chair the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the National League of Cities (NLC) in 2008. The committee is one of NLC's seven standing committees that develop policy positions on national issues and advocate at the federal level on behalf of cities.

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth

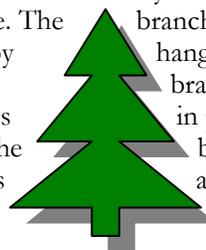
This major update to the City's comprehensive plan looks ahead to 2030, describing how the City can accommodate population growth, pursue economic development, protect the environment, and preserve the character of its neighborhoods. The plan addresses urban design and land use, transportation, housing, economic development, heritage preservation, arts and culture, public services and facilities, and parks and open space. Obtain the draft plan at any public library or at www.minneapolisplan.info.

You can provide comments on this draft document through Feb 15, at either the public meeting on Jan 12, through the website mentioned above, or to Haila Maze, Senior City Planner, CPED, 350 South 5th St., Rm 210, Minneapolis MN 55415.

Taking Down The Tree

Dispose of Tree: The City will pick up your tree with the garbage through January. Cut the tree in half if it's over 6 feet tall and place it next to your garbage cart. The tree will be incinerated along with all other Minneapolis garbage. Since the trees increase the amount of heat produced, there is also an increase in the amount of renewable electricity generated for the City.

Recycle the Tree: Place the tree in your yard or garden for use by birds and other wildlife. The branches provide shelter and food can be supplied by hanging fruit slices, seed cakes, or suet bags on its branches. You can also smear peanut butter and seeds in pine cones and hang them in the tree. Prune off the branches and place the boughs over perennials as winter mulch. Chip the tree and use as mulch around trees, shrubs, or in flower beds.



Development Update

The City staff recommendation for the **Riverview Road Development** will be heard by the City Council Community Development Committee on Jan 8, and then by the full City Council on Jan 18.

Developers of **46th & 46th** expect to re-start construction this winter. The units will likely be market-rate rental apartments for now, since the condominium market is stagnant. No application has been received by the City yet.

The **RiverLake Greenway Bicycle Project**, connecting Lake Harriet to the Mississippi River, is now funded. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2010. A Community Advisory Committee will be formed for its final planning and design. Come to the planning meeting Thurs, Jan 10, 6:30-8:30pm at Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave S.

BITS AND PIECES

- Congratulations to **Hiawatha Community School** for being named a 2007-2008 Minnesota School of Excellence.
- The **second airport runway reconstruction** has been delayed by MAC; it will be in 2009 rather than 2008.
- **Roosevelt Library** re-opens at noon, Thursday, Jan 3rd.