
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

October 2003

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Highway 55 / Crosstown Interchange Construction in Progress – Finally!

Anyone who has recently driven through the tangle of temporary lanes and stalled construction where Highway 55 meets the Crosstown may have noticed that our most recent “lake” is now gone. Contractors have re-started work on the controversial intersection, building according to a plan agreed upon by MnDOT agency and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District months ago. And draining the year-old lake was one of the first steps. The plan includes installing a liner for the excavated area, to protect the natural flow of groundwater which feeds near-by Coldwater Springs while allowing completion of the complicated interchange and its bridges. Construction will continue through the winter without closing down traffic.

City Fights for Future Sound Insulation

Funding for future sound insulation, so important to stabilizing our neighborhoods, has fallen out of the news recently but important discussions are still taking place in Washington.

The debate is about a section inserted in the FAA funding bill by Sen. Trent Lott at the request Northwest Airlines. It would prohibit the use of federal funds for noise mitigation beyond 65 DNL. Our MN Senators worked to get assurance from the FAA that the section would not prevent the airport from using other funds to keep the commitments for insulation beyond 65 DNL that were made when seeking the new runway. Scott Benson and I have asked Senators Dayton and Coleman for their continued help to remove S. 189.

In our request we explained that “...the issue of concern is the likely scenario in which an industry stakeholder, in an attempt to extricate itself from the \$70 million commitment to local communities, will sue to enjoin the Metropolitan Airports Commission from pursuing noise mitigation beyond the 65 DNL. The stakeholder could cite S. 189 and allege that mitigation not in compliance with its parameters constitutes **revenue diversion**, which is prohibited by federal guidelines.” Case law has shown that the court will not find the opinion expressed by an agency to be binding on the court.

On behalf of the citizens we represent, we asked both senators to remove the provision. We need our federal representatives to stand up for us. You might want to write or call as well.

Annual Fall Street Sweeping Protects Our Lakes, Creek and River

Street sweeping begins the third week of October. Street sweeping and leaf removal is an important part of protecting the health of our lakes, creeks, and rivers. Public Works will post “No Parking” signs in the morning of the day prior to actual sweeping. Every street will be posted at least 24 hours before sweeping begins to provide enough time for residents to move their cars. Staff will remove signs as soon as possible after sweeping is done on the block.

Please help city crews do the best possible job by moving your car when your street is posted. If you see a car on the street and you know the owner, help them out by letting them know they need to move their car. Not only is a tow expensive and inconvenient, it slows sweeping crews and doesn't allow them to do a thorough job if they are dodging parked cars.

Finally, please remember that raking leaves into the street is prohibited by city ordinance. Leaves in the street cause a host of problems beyond the degradation of our recreational waters. Leaves plug street drains and contribute to flooding. They create a fire danger when cars park on them: they become slippery when wet and can cause accidents, if they are put into the street after street sweeping they will remain there over the winter.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Twin Cities Marathon

October 5th, 8:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

VA Housing Public Hearing

October 15th, 7:00 p.m. – 9 p.m.
VA Medical Center Auditorium

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Longfellow Business Association

Resource Center for the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Ave. October 9th, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S
October 13th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

NENA Town Meeting

Minnehaha United Methodist, 3701 E 50th South
October 9th, 7:00 p.m.

LCC Board Meeting

Holy Trinity Church
October 16th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
October 23rd, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Open Appointments

- **Arts Commission (closes 10-17-03)**
We are looking for an interested 12th Ward Resident
- Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee (closes 10-24-03)
- Civil Rights Commission (closes 10-24-03)
- Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 10-24-03)
- Committee on Urban Environment (closes 10-24-03)
- Planning Commission (closes 10-24-03)
- Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals (closes 10-24-03)
- Truth in Sale of Housing Appeals Board (closes 10-24-03)
- Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 10-24-03)

For more information, call 673-3358, or visit:
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/clerk/boards/open/index.asp

Fire Station 15 @ 4201 Cedar Avenue

Designated as Local Landmark

The City Council recently designated the only known “Bungalow Style” fire station in the nation as a local landmark. This action was especially important because the city will be selling the building for private use. The City no longer has a use for the building and the neighborhood expressed concern that the building keep its historic appearance. Designation as a local landmark will assure that remodeling preserves the character of the building while allowing for flexibility in the interior use of the building. If anyone has an idea for a reuse of the building, please let me know.

Controlling Costs, Saving Tax Dollars

All organizations that provide health care to their workers are struggling with the rising cost of health insurance. Minneapolis recently got bids for its health insurance coverage. The lowest bid proposed increases of 22.5% in 2004, 18.5% in 2005, and 18.5% in 2006. These unacceptable rates required the city to look at other options to retain responsible coverage for city workers but also control the cost to city taxpayers. The result, which will save the city an estimated \$2 million dollars next year AND reduce the monthly premium paid by employees, is a win/win for taxpayers and employees. While not the first government to adopt VEBA (Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association), Minneapolis is on the cutting edge of controlling health costs.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimealert/emallist.asp>