

12th Ward news

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[February]

Seeking Applicants for Capital Long Range Improvements Committee

The Capital Long Range Improvements Committee, also known as CLIC, is an influential group of citizens appointed to provide the Mayor and City Council Members with their recommendations on which municipal projects should be financed for the coming year, as well as a full five year plan.

CLIC meets twice a month beginning in March and ending in June to hear presentations from city departments regarding any public improvements that will require financing through city bonds, often referred to as capital improvements. This includes roads and bridges, parks, public buildings, etc. After a thorough review and ranking by the members, CLIC recommendations go to the Mayor before his annual budget is finalized. The Council also considers their comments when preparing and voting on the final budget.

CLIC members are appointed for two year terms, two from each ward plus several by the Mayor. Appointees should be prepared to attend the majority of the meetings and dedicate significant time to reading and reviewing materials before each meeting. This opportunity for direct citizen input in decisions about where to invest our money is an important service to the City.

I want to thank John Barron and Ron Leurquin for their years of dedicated and very engaged service. If you are interested in serving as a 12th Ward representative on CLIC, please contact the Clerk's office to obtain an application (612) 673-3358 by February 16th.

Lake Hiawatha Rain Garden Work - Summer 2011

Have you wondered when something will finally happen at the north end of Lake Hiawatha to relieve flooding in the Standish Ericsson neighborhood [generally north and west of Lake Hiawatha] and improve water quality in the lake? The answer is, this summer.

A neighborhood advisory committee worked with City staff and consultants for more than a year to refine plans for the final Blue Water Partnership project. Now I can report that designs for the underground changes and surface rain garden are at 60% complete and the plan is to begin construction this year, tentatively scheduled for June.

Neighborhood advisory committee members will be asked to reconvene soon to talk about final design details. I want to thank the residents who gave their time to planning a project that preserves as much open, un-programmed green space as possible. There will also be a community meeting for neighbors of the construction as the time nears, to talk about street disruption and answer any questions.

Snow Emergency #7 Declared Mon, January 31

Our Public Works Director of Operations explained:

"We have had over 12" of snowfall during the month of January since our last Snow Emergency, but it has come in small doses so there has not been a chance to clear the parking lanes on some Snow Emergency Routes, or the odd sides of the non-Snow Emergency Routes..."

In the last 20 years, the most Snow Emergencies declared in one winter season in Minneapolis has been six. This is our seventh for this winter, and there are still two months left of the Snow Emergency season..."

We don't wait for a Snow Emergency to be called before plowing. The City had 29 plows out on Sunday night and Monday, plowing and treating the arterial streets."

If you have questions about where to park, call (612) 348-SNOW (7669) or click [HERE](#) to reach the city's website.



Photo Break: “Icicles on the Curtain” by Brian Shekleton

Howe School : Discussion of Possible Athletic Field Draws a Crowd

On January 25, the Sanford PTA hosted a meeting to discuss a proposal to use the Howe school site for athletic fields for Sanford students. The meeting drew about 100 people.

Coaches, athletes and parents argued that Sanford has inadequate athletic facilities and that the Howe site could provide a solution. However, it quickly became clear that while some people were thinking softball fields, others were envisioning football, soccer or something else. The question remains whether the site would be able to accommodate all of these uses. Some participants expressed frustration that the proposal under discussion was not more specific. MPS representatives said that there were no specific plans at this time and that this was a very early meeting to hear input.

Many speakers acknowledged that Sanford probably needs better facilities but they did not think that Howe was the solution. Their arguments included that the site could be put to a better use, should be sold to bring revenue to MPS, and that it would be a shame to demolish the building. A few advocated for selling the property to Nova Academy, a charter school which bid during the last RFP process. Nova Academy proposed to purchase Howe and Cooper but due to a school board decision made many years ago, the Howe site has been off limits to charter schools and Cooper was not for sale. A petition being circulated to ask the MPS Board to reconsider that position has garnered more than 300 signatures.

A common theme was to be creative about using the site and resolving Sanford’s issues. For example, could the site be a charter school that shares its green space with Sanford students? Asked about next steps Steven Liss, Chief Operating Officer for MPS, said that the Administration would review the matter and decide whether or not to ask the school board to consider a proposal. School Board members, including Carla Bates, who was the first to publicly propose this idea, were unable to attend the meeting because the School Board was meeting at the same time. The Sanford meeting was recorded so that Directors could review it later.

Alberto Monserrate, District 5 School Board Member whose district includes Sanford told the 12th Ward News:

“I want us to be aggressive about finding a good use for the Howe site, but on the other hand I do not want to rush this process. It’s early in the process and my fellow school board members are not opposed to Sanford fields, but still have a lot of logistical questions. It is critically important to engage the community in this decision. We may need to consider more than one option at a time to reflect the needs of our community.”

On the next page you will find contact information for your school board members in case you would like to share your thoughts:

International Riverfront Design Competition

In a competition sponsored by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and The Minneapolis Parks Foundation participants from around the world were challenged to create a design for the Upper Riverfront of the Mississippi.

On February 10, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will announce the winner. A commission award will go to the winning team chosen by the jury. The budget for the design and possible funding sources will be developed at that time.

Possible funding include metropolitan regional park funds, Legacy Amendment parks and trails funds, State bonds, watershed district funds, National Park Service funds, and private sector partnerships.

The winning design will be one that “establishes parks as the engine for economic development, transforms the river into a connector rather than a barrier between east and west banks, and refocuses Minneapolis toward what is one of the three great rivers of the world.”

The creative partners for the competition were The University of Minnesota College of Design and Walker Art Center.

View the submissions and the designs of the four finalists [HERE](#).

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Lake Nokomis Community Schools: Facilities to be Studied

In a January 28 letter to Lake Nokomis Community School (LSNC) families, Jane Ellis and Dorothy Washington, Principals of Keewaydin and Wenonah respectively, announced that Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is conducting a feasibility study regarding the needs on the Keewaydin site. The study is in response to concerns about class size and program limitations due to building space.

These concerns were captured in a 2010 survey conducted by MPS. According to the letter, “current capacity restricts new neighborhood families from entering” and the study will look at “the educational needs of the building, the weaknesses of the facility to meet those needs, possible solutions... and various options for enhancements to the site and the larger campus.” There are no immediate next steps planned but the Principals said that they intend to keep LNCS families updated and we will share the news with you through this newsletter.

2011 Property Values

The City mailed 2011 property value notices in January. The property value listed on this statement will be used to determine your 2012 property taxes. To ensure that the City’s assessments are fair and accurate, the Minnesota Department of Revenue uses an industry standard tool called a “sales ratio study” to measure accuracy and quality of the City’s assessment level. Minneapolis consistently meets the requirement of a sales ratio between 90 and 105%.

If you disagree with the estimate of value on your notice, there are several ways to appeal the assessment. First and easiest, call the phone number labeled “Valuation Questions” on your statement to talk with the deputy assessor responsible for valuing your property. Explain why you believe your property value is less than what is shown on the statement. The deputy assessor can explain and discuss their determinations.

The second option to appeal your valuation is the City of Minneapolis Board of Appeal and Equalization; call (612) 673-3358 for an appointment. April 30th is the deadline to submit appeals to the Minnesota Tax Court.

For more information about your property assessment and the appeals process, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/assessor/appeal-process.asp>.

Forbes ranks Twin Cities No. 4 job market in U.S.

Forbes magazine says the Twin Cities is the fourth top job market in the country, adding that the local economy is expected to recover by the middle of 2011.

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Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

LCC

NENA

SENA



Pick up the Phone and participate in the Resident Survey

Beginning Monday, Jan. 31 and continuing through the month of February, the City of Minneapolis will survey residents to get their perspectives about the quality of services that the City provides. Approximately 1,100 residents will complete the telephone survey, which is being conducted by the National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm. Residents contacted to complete the survey will be selected randomly by the firm, with the goal of reaching a diverse cross-section of Minneapolis residents.

If you are contacted to participate in the survey, please take the few minutes necessary to provide your honest opinions about how we're doing in Minneapolis. For most people, the survey will take about 20 minutes. Results from the survey are used in the business planning efforts of City departments to improve services. The survey will be translated for people who prefer to take it in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Laotian, Oromo or Vietnamese.

The City has conducted similar surveys in 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2008; it's part of Minneapolis' ongoing effort to improve services and involve people in their local government. For more information or to see the past survey results visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis and click on "Residents Survey."

City Goals & Strategic Directions; Jobs and Economic Vitality

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, 2010 the Council approved six goals. We are featuring one goal this month:

MANY PEOPLE, ONE MINNEAPOLIS; Inclusiveness is a treasured asset; everyone's potential is tapped

Strategic directions

- Family-friendly opportunities and amenities abound
- New arrivals welcomed, diversity embraced
- Race and class gaps closed in employment and housing
- Tots school-ready, teens on course
- Teen pregnancy a thing of the past
- Seniors stay and talents are tapped



Events & Special Meetings

Teen Summer Employment, Applications for employment through the Minneapolis STEP-UP Program are due **February 4**. All Minneapolis youth 14-21 are eligible to apply. The program trains youth and places them in paid internships at local businesses. Earn \$7.25 to more than \$10 per hour and work part-time for up to nine weeks during summer. For information, call 612-673-5041 or visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/stepup.asp.

Longfellow Garden Club - 10,000 Flowers!

February 9, 7-9 pm, Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Lift winter spirits with tours of the incredible Philadelphia Flower Show, and five world-famous gardens in Portland, Oregon, all with hot tea and cookies. Free and open to the public. Questions? Contact longfellowgardenclubmail@gmail.com.

Hiawatha Heart Warmer

February 12, 12:00 – 3:00 pm, Lake Hiawatha Park. This family & community event is a winter carnival that promotes the many independent businesses of the Standish-Ericsson, Longfellow, and Nokomis community in South Minneapolis. It provides an opportunity for businesses to market their products or services directly to their community and put a face to their brand. For more information, visit the website:

<http://givemn.razoo.com/story/The-Lake-Hiawatha-Heart-Warmer>

Block Club Leader Training

February 22, 6:30-8:00 pm 3rd Police Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue. Trainings for block club leaders are offered the fourth Tuesday of each month. Topics include how to organize a block, effective problem solving and crime prevention. Please RSVP if you are planning on attending one of these trainings. Call: 673- 3482 or 673-2856.

South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair

February 26, 10 am – 3 pm, South High School, 3131 19th Ave S. Join your neighbors for this free event, which provides attendees a “one stop shop” for home improvement project information. Participate in education seminars, taught by local professionals. Exhibitors include local contractors, financial institutions, real estate agents, neighborhood associations and non-profit government agencies. Children can build birdhouses and door prizes are given away periodically. Free and open to the public. Visit www.housingfair.org for more information.

Open Appointments for Boards & Commissions

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