

# 12<sup>TH</sup> WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

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## Police Chief Search

My apologies that this issue of the Update is coming out so late. **The last two weeks have been consumed with selecting a new Chief of Police for Minneapolis.** Although the Mayor had a process that ran for two months, Council members were offered only the names of the candidates until after the Mayor made his choice. That means that I first read about qualifications in the Star Tribune and have spent time catching up, now that the management assessment information offered to the advisory committee has been available to those of us who will have to vote on the nomination. My first inclination was to support an internal candidate for the job. As many 12<sup>th</sup> ward residents have pointed out, we won't have to wait while a new person gets to know the community and builds relationships if an internal candidate is chosen. Especially since, in my view, the Deputy Chief who served as Commander of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct for over two years has proven herself to be extremely qualified. When I review the management assessment information on D.C. Sharon Lubinski that resulted from the national search, I find that view confirmed. The review also shows D.C. Lucy Gerold to be extremely well qualified. There are other reasons for supporting an internal candidate: the message sent to rest of the department that no matter how hard you work, no matter how well respected you are by city residents, by city leaders and rank and file officers, you cannot rise to the top here. Loss of the best and the brightest who want to progress in their careers could make our department and our city poorer. Finally, I have heard from the residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> ward and by more than a two-to-one margin they support an internal candidate. Both internal candidates have built relationships that allowed them to be influential in the recently signed federal mediation agreement, our hope for meeting challenges that remain for the department. They have also each contributed substantially to the dramatic reduction in crime – there were 17,000 fewer victims of serious crime in 2003 than in 1997. For these reasons, I will not be voting for confirmation of the Mayor's recommendation. Thank you to the many people who have contacted my office with their opinions.

## Fire Station 13 Retires from Public Use

A neighborhood landmark recently went back on the tax rolls when the former Fire Station 13 at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Cedar was sold. Constructed in 1923, the Fire Station is the only known example of an Arts and Crafts “bungalow style” fire station in the United States. It has been designated as a local landmark by the City Council to preserve the exterior appearance of the building.

A sealed bid process resulted in a high bid of \$536,000 (Market value was estimated at \$373,000). I am very excited about the number of great outcomes from this process. The building will be preserved and put back into use. The neighborhood gets a new business and the purchase price exceeded our expectations. Thank you to SENA, Council Member Schiff, and city staff for all of their great work.

## Grants Website

Tight financial times for all types of organizations places added importance on locating new funding sources. Grant hunting got a little easier with the launch of [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov). This new website provides information about finding and applying for *all* federal grant programs. With information about more than 800 available grants, this is an important bookmark for anyone looking for federal support.

## Planning with the Environment in Mind

It would be hard to overemphasize the importance to our environment of a change made to the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) ordinance that has reorganized how the city does planning and development. The change added “including implementation of applicable federal, state and city environmental policies and regulations” to the department's responsibilities. Our planners work first-hand with anyone doing new construction or redevelopment in our city, from a new driveway up to a full block of new homes or offices, to be sure the work meets our requirements. I have worked for 4 years to get this level of planning to support our environmental goals. Now the people who will plan and implement development will know that protecting the environment is part of their mission too. Maybe we will stop requiring that everything in sight be paved!

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Lofts Break Ground

An exciting development at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Dight Avenue broke ground on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Lofts will be comprised of two buildings, each three stories high. The fifteen ownership units will have three floors with open, “loft style” floor plans on the first floor to serve as artist studios or workspace. The second two floors will be living space. Brick will be the primary exterior surface with awnings and other architectural details.

## EVENTS

### **MnDOT 35W/62 Project Open House**

Richfield Lutheran Church, 8 West 60th St  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

## MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### **SENA Board Meeting**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

### **NENA Town Meeting**

Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

### **NENA Board Meeting**

3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

### **LCC Board Meeting**

Longfellow Park  
December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

## Open Appointments

- Heritage Preservation Commission  
*Deadline, February 9<sup>th</sup>*
- Ethical Practices Board  
*Deadline, February 6<sup>th</sup>*
- Charter Commission (2 Vacancies)

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

## Public Health Advisory Committee Opening

I want to give a special thank you to SENA resident Goldie Frenkel for her 6 years of service on the Public Health Advisory Committee.

With Goldie leaving, there is an opening on the Public Health Advisory Committee for a 12<sup>th</sup> Ward resident. This group will get a new responsibility next year due to a change in our budget process. The PHAC will review how the city spends our federal Community Development Block Grant funds. Please contact my office or Becky McIntosh (673-2884) in the Health Department for more information.

## Lake Street Reconstruction

A December 16<sup>th</sup> vote by the Lake Street Public Advisory Committee has narrowed the field of options from four to two on the eastern section of Lake Street. Both options moved forward by the PAC have one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. The only difference between the options is that one definitely includes “bump outs” (extensions of the sidewalk into Lake Street at the ends of the block similar to Minnehaha Parkway, effectively creating parking bays and a shorter crossing distance for pedestrians.) The options that were eliminated included one lane in each direction with a center median and 2 lanes in each direction. With assurance that one lane in each direction with a center turn lane could handle the projected year 2020 levels of traffic well, PAC members valued an enhanced pedestrian environment. Much of the discussion focused on keeping the amenities close to pedestrians. This led to support for using the gained space for wider sidewalks and boulevards rather than a planted median. Individuals concerned about traffic flow should know that if traffic overwhelms the two lane design, Lake Street could be re-stripped into a four lane configuration.

I am happy with the PAC vote. Provided that the transition from four lanes to two is far enough east of the Lake and Hiawatha intersection to function well, I believe a lane in each direction best manages the balance between pedestrian, transit, and automobile uses. Having the space for wider boulevards and sidewalks will make the local businesses more desirable and the walking experience for neighbors more enjoyable.

## Saving the Trees We Have

While planting new trees is important, we must do better at keeping them alive. In an effort to improve the quality and health of our trees, the Public Works Committee will be hearing about a proposed urban forestry policy. Standardization of guidelines and practices will help protect existing trees and improve the likelihood of newly planted trees flourishing. For example, standards for how to protect trees during construction is included in the policy. Another common concern is trees pushing up sidewalk panels. The policy specifies the how wide a boulevard must be before a tree can be planted and calls for removable portions sidewalk panels to accommodate root growth. Formalizing our urban forestry policy is a step forward in protecting and this important Minneapolis asset.

## Interns Looking for Environmental Projects

Each year the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) places dozens of interns annually at community environmental organizations, businesses and government agencies throughout the country. Non-profit organizations must offer research projects whose purpose is to expand scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied. Each student intern receives a stipend of \$450 a week from ECO. If your organization would like to apply for a summer intern, you must identify a project and submit a completed project description form by January 30, 2004. Interested interns can also apply for positions at the ECO web site (<http://www.eco.org/indexEPA.html>) or call (617) 426-4375.