

12th Ward news

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RiverLake Greenway, Regions First Bike Boulevard, Celebrated.

The grand opening of the RiverLake Greenway was held on June 11. Senator Klobuchar joined Council Members Colvin Roy and Glidden, Barb Thoman from Transit for Livable Communities and local residents to cut the ribbon, opening the greenway to many enthusiastic cyclists who took the inaugural ride west. The RiverLake Greenway now connects the Mississippi River with Lake Harriet. It includes the region's first bike boulevard. A bike boulevard is unique in that it puts the needs of bikes and pedestrians ahead of those driving cars. This is done through techniques like medians that require cars to turn when bikes can go straight through an intersection and curb extensions that make crossing a street easier and safer for pedestrians. The RiverLake Greenway was funded largely through U.S. Transportation Enhancement funding and U.S. Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Project funds. For more information including a map of the greenway, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/RiverLake.

Longfellow Residents Fight Graffiti

Five years ago Longfellow resident Erik Espeland started the anti-graffiti group called R.E.M.O.V. (Remove Existing Marks of Vandalism). Since then, the group has removed an estimated 6,000 tags on 60 miles of streets in the Longfellow community. Most of the tags are made with graffiti pens. Espeland was inspired to start the group due to concerns about the negative impacts that graffiti has on the community. "Graffiti invites other crime, brings fear to personal safety, and negatively impacts property values. Statistics say you lose between 15-20% of the value of your home if there is an abundance of tags in the area. I don't know about you, but I've already lost too much." (Continued on next page)

Sidewalk Blog Highlights 28th Ave. and 42nd St.

In his blog "[twin cities sidewalks](#)" William Lindeke selected a Standish Ericsson intersection to feature as "sidewalk of the week."

Noting that the intersection has everything that a person needs, Lindeke says, "If I was stranded on a desert island and could choose only one Minneapolis intersection to take with me, this would be the corner I'd choose."

Lake Hiawatha Fishing Dock Returns

According to District 5 Park Commissioner, Carol Kummer, the Lake Hiawatha Fishing Dock will return. She hopes that it will be in place by late summer.

According to Espeland, a common misconception is that graffiti is gang related. "Actually less than 11% is gang related," said Espeland. "The overwhelming majority of tags come from tagger groups; 6-12 kids that have the same common want: make a huge mess."

R.E.M.O.V would welcome more volunteers to help with this effort. If you're interested, contact Erik at eckbeck29@hotmail.com. You will receive e-mail updates, links, photos, and outing information. The group goes out based on need (every 2-3 weeks on average) for about an hour. Locations vary. R.E.M.O.V also has a [Facebook page](#).

Minneapolis Takes Action to Minimize Impacts of State Shutdown

The City of Minneapolis will be impacted by the state shutdown but due to careful planning and hard-earned fiscal stability, the city can minimize the impacts to residents for awhile. The most immediate and significant impact from the shutdown will be the delay of state funds that support services provided by city staff. The state also administers many federal grant programs so the shutdown will interfere with federal funding as well which could affect road maintenance and other public works projects.

Some city employees depend on the state for certain licensing and certification staff in order to continue to do their jobs. City Attorneys, for example, must receive annual licensing. State databases that provide information like court records, arrest warrants and driver registration are also essential. Steps have been taken to systematically identify those impacts and to minimize them. The city had previously ceded its role of doing electrical inspections to the state but in order to avoid delays to construction, the City Council took action on July 1st to officially reclaim that responsibility.

The city's fiscal stability and reserve funds built through a decade of consistently applied principles will allow a degree of flexibility in the short term but any reserves used during this period will need to be replenished by reimbursement from the state or changes in next year's city budget or both.

Development Update: Oaks Station Place and 46th & 46th

On July 1, the City Council approved plans by Oaks Properties to build 104 rental apartments and 8,376 square feet of commercial space that will wrap the western and southern edges of the 46th Street LRT Station. Neighbors of the project expressed concerns including parking and traffic issues, shading from the tall building, landscaping and more. In a meeting convened by Council Member Colvin Roy, area residents sat down with Norm Bjornnes of Oaks Properties to see how the project could be improved to achieve the best results for the area. The developer agreed to a number of conditions to make the development better. Council Member Colvin Roy noted that "although this site has been slated for higher density for quite some time, this kind of change will never be easy for area residents. It is a challenging situation but working together I think that we made improvements that will have lasting effects."

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Congratulations SENA!

The Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association received a GOLD-level Neighborhood Newsletter award from Neighborhoods USA, a national non-profit organization supporting neighborhood organizations.

They join two other Minneapolis neighborhoods receiving this honor; Corcoran and Lyndale Neighborhood Association. Congratulations to all the neighborhoods, their staff and their editors!

On July 1, the City Council recognized these neighborhoods with a resolution. In her remarks at that event, Shirley Yeoman, staff at SENA, explained that in 1997 she asked Ann King and Judy Peacock to act as editors for the paper on a temporary basis and they have been doing it ever since.

Just a few blocks east along 46th Street at 46th Avenue, another development project is being proposed to restart the stalled development there. On June 30, Don Gerberding of Master Development presented plans to the Planning Commission's Committee of the Whole for the second time to receive informal comment for 48 units of rental housing. This is down from the 52 units originally presented to the committee earlier in June. Gerberding will present the plans to Longfellow Community Council Neighborhood Development Caucus on July 11 on behalf of a development team that includes Michael Lander and At Home Apartments, the group who built, own, and manage West River Commons at Lake Street and West River Parkway. They plan to bring the formal application to the City Planning Commission on August 1.

Submitted Development Plans Now Available Online

The public now has easier access to development plans for any project that has submitted a site plan review application for City Planning Commission review (generally, this is required for new non-residential or mixed use buildings and developments with five or more new residential units).

Links to development plans are available directly from online Commission agendas at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/>. Online agendas continue to include links to CPED staff analysis and recommendations. The inclusion of development plans further advances the City's goal of providing easier access to information about planning and development-related activities.

It's important to note that the plans will be in draft form. These projects will be in the review process and will therefore be subject to revision based on City Planning Commission decisions and/or other factors that affect proposed new developments. Agendas (and the related staff reports and plans) will typically be available online Wednesdays prior to City Planning Commission meetings.

The City of Minneapolis values transparency and accessibility to information. This is just one example of the City's ongoing commitment to this effort.

Fireworks Facts from Minneapolis Police

The 4th of July has passed but as any Minneapolis resident knows, that doesn't mean that the fireworks stop. Here are some facts about fireworks; what legal, what's not and how to handle fireworks complaints.

What's legal? Minnesota law permits the sale, possession and use of some non-explosive and non-aerial fireworks. Examples include sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks, and novelty items like snakes and party poppers. *(These consumer fireworks may not be used on public property such as roads, alleys, schools, and parks.*

Purchasers of these fireworks must be at least 18 years old. Sale, possession and use may occur at any time during the year.

Fireworks can only be sold from inside a permanent structure. Merchants selling fireworks from any location other than a permanent structure are in a violation of a city ordinance.

What's illegal? The law still prohibits explosive and aerial fireworks for public sale, possession and use. *Examples of illegal fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles, mortars and shells—any fireworks that are explosive or aerial.*

Events & Special Meetings

Gateway Gardens 2011 Weeding & Maintenance

July 2nd, 16th, 30 and August 13th & 27th 9-11 am 50th St. & Hiawatha Ave. Bring your own beverage and weeding tool.

Minnehaha Creek Cleanup

July 10 9 am Lake Hiawatha/Minnehaha Creek, 46th St & 28th Ave. Enjoy free breakfast then take buses to different cleanup areas to collect trash. At noon, return to Lake Hiawatha. Garbage will be weighed & volunteers are treated to free BBQ picnic provided by Leinenkugel's. Family friendly event includes prizes for kids and adults. Leinenkugel's beer served to those 21 and older with valid ID. RSVP for event is required.
www.MinnehahaCreek.org or www.LiveGreenTwinCities.com for information.

Property Crimes Court Watch

July 11 6:30-7:30 pm Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, street level community room. Established by 3rd Precinct in response to significant increase in property crimes. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Carla Nielson at 612-673-2850 or carla.nielson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Block Leader Training

July 11 6:30-8:30 pm 3rd Precinct Police Station, 3000 Minnehaha Ave. Learn to organize a block club, how and when to use 911, how to solve problems effectively; meet your Crime Prevention Specialist. RSVP to 673-482 or 673-2856.

LCC Sponsors Midtown Farmers Market

July 16 8 am – 1 pm 22nd Ave & E. Lake St. LCC Staff will be on hand to share information about their upcoming events.

Minneapolis Sister Cities Day Celebration

July 17 1-5 pm Nicollet Island Pavilion. This free event includes entertainment, activities and information about each sister city. Visit the website for more information:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/government/international.asp>

National Night Out – Registration Deadlines

For more information, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno

July 19 Deadline to register for a permit to close your street for FREE & be eligible for a drawing for door prizes donated by local businesses.

July 20-28 Fee of \$100 charged to close your street. No applications accepted after July 28th.

August 1 Last day to register your NNO event without applying to close your street.

Roosevelt Library Renovation Meeting

July 20 6:30-8 pm Sibley Park Rec Center, 1900 E. 40th St. Provide input to Hennepin County about features you want to be part of the renovation. Feedback can be provided at <http://www.hclib.org/cac/?BlogPostID=63>

River Gorge Ice Cream Social

July 21 6-8 pm 36th St & West River Pkwy. Tour the rare oak savanna and prairie at the Giggly Hills. Free map of the gorge. joanna@longfellow.org or 612-722-4529 for more information.



Abandoned
Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing
Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

July 21-23 9 am -4 pm Dunwoody College of Technology, 818 Dunwoody Blvd, Mpls. Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis are sponsoring a community collection event that will allow county residents to safely and properly dispose of unwanted garden and household hazardous wastes.

Watershed-Friendly Yard Tour

July 24 3-6 pm Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 31st St. E. Pick up a map and start your tour! Visit Holy Trinity's Rainwater Discovery Courtyard then enjoy a self-guided tour of gardens throughout Longfellow. Contact Hillary.Oppmann@gmail.com or 612-724-8110 with questions.

Walking Tour of Nokomis Naturescape

July 26 7-8:30 pm 5001 E. Lake Nokomis Pkwy. Park and meet at top of hill on Woodlawn at E. 50th St. Tour three established native plant demonstration gardens in this 4-acre native plant installation. RSVP 612-293-3833 or info@wildonestwincities.org

I am honored to serve the residents of the 12th Ward. If you have any questions or comments please call me at 612-673-2212 or e-mail me at Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

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