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

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

October 2004

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

## Latest Efforts to Improve Traffic Flow on Hiawatha

A considerable amount of time and resources continues to be put into improving Hiawatha Avenue for people who use or cross Hiawatha. Most recently, Public Works was able to change some signal operations with the help of the company that provides us with our signal equipment. These changes are being tested right now and should give better service to the westbound traffic on cross streets.

Experts who have worked on LRT lines in other areas of the country were also looking at the line recently. Their advice will be used to change and make improvements wherever possible to improve LRT operations and how it interacts with Hiawatha and the traffic signal system.

Finally, the Hiawatha Project Office is getting a series of bids on physical improvements that will shorten the preemption cycle (when the white light flashes). The benefit to shortening this cycle is more time can go to the regular traffic signal cycle. Preemption interrupts the normal signal cycle, so by shortening the preemption cycle, there will be fewer occurrences of skipped lights. I think this is one of the most important improvements we can make on the entire LRT/Hiawatha Avenue system.

## Keewaydin School Fundraisers

Come and enjoy an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner from Fat Lorenzo's and help raise money for Keewaydin PTA.

**Friday, October 8th, 2004 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E 50th St.**

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Money will be taken at the door, but you must reserve your place by Tuesday, October 5th, 2004 by calling the NENA office at 612-724-5652.

The dinner will also serve as a pre-event Donation Turn-In Party for Walk For Keewaydin, a walk-a-thon fundraiser taking place on Saturday, October 16, 2004 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the 50th Street Beach, Lake Nokomis.

Walk For Keewaydin is not only for Keewaydin students and families, but also open to the community. A registration fee of \$20 includes an event t-shirt and a half price spaghetti dinner. Collecting donations is encouraged in order to meet the \$15,000 fundraising goal. For Walk information and registration please call Bridget Kelly Swope at 612-724-8744.

## Voting Information

The Minneapolis Elections website has a wealth of voting information. Use it to for general election information, to get an absentee ballot, read instructions on how to register to vote, or find your polling location by simply typing in your address. Visit the Election's website at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/>

## Looking for Comments on New Street Lighting Policy

Minneapolis is gathering comments on a revised street lighting policy. Dissatisfaction with the process for pedestrian level lighting projects and a desire to examine the existing street lighting in the city lead Public Works to develop a draft policy. Residents have the opportunity to comment on lighting fixtures, take a self-guided Minneapolis lighting tour, and read and comment on the draft plan.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/streetlight-policy/>

## Water Main Project Means Better Water for Residents

At the end of every construction season, the water division of Public Works looks for small projects that can solve water problems. One such project has already started on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street just north of Lake Hiawatha. Four water mains dead-end in this area, inhibiting water circulation. Poor water circulation is one cause of rusty water coming out of water faucets. Public Works will connect the dead-end water mains to a water main in 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, giving the area better water circulation and fewer instances of rusty water.

The project will take roughly a month and construction crews will do an intersection at a time. Traffic will be disrupted during work in the intersection. Please remember to be careful when you are near the construction area.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### **NENA Town Meeting – Candidate Forum**

*School Board and MN House District 62B. The format will include opening statements from the candidates, responses to prepared questions, and an open question period.*

Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 7 p.m.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church

## MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### **SENA Board Meeting**

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

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

### **LCC Board Meeting**

Longfellow Park  
October 21, 7:00 p.m.

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

### **NENA Board Meeting**

3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
October 21, 7:00 p.m.

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

## Open Appointments

- Minneapolis Charter Commission (open indefinitely)
- Arts Commission (closes 10-15-04)

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

## Metro Transit Starts Conversion to Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel

391 Metro Transit buses based at two Minneapolis garages used 3.75 million gallons of diesel fuel in 2003. The sheer volume of diesel fuel consumption gives Metro Transit the chance to have a big impact on the environment, which they took by entering into a contract for ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. The fuel will be used at the two Minneapolis garages and is being phased in because of the U.S. EPA has mandated that all diesel engine highway vehicles reduce the sulfur content of diesel fuel from the current legal limit of 500 parts per million to a limit of 15 ppm by 2006.

## County Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis are sponsoring two fall community collections to encourage residents to safely and properly dispose of their unwanted garden and household hazardous wastes.

The collections will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, at the Minneapolis Public Works Snelling Avenue Garage, 3607 E. 44th St.

The county will accept many household hazardous wastes, including mercury items (fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats and thermometers); pesticides; consumer electronics (televisions, video cassette recorders, stereos, etc.); automotive wastes (fuel additives, starter fluid, waxes); aerosol cans, paint, lead-based paint chips, solvents and thinners; pool, photographic and hobby chemicals; rechargeable tools, household batteries and lead-acid batteries.

Call the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services at 612-348-3777 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for a complete list of what is accepted and what is not accepted at the collection.

## Controlled Burn Scheduled by Lake Nokomis

A controlled burn of the Lake Nokomis stormwater ponds is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. The Park Board is sending a post card to surrounding residents to alert them of the burn and give them contact information if they have any questions.

The Minneapolis Park Board schedules controlled burns to help sustain Minneapolis prairie, savanna, and wetland areas. Without fire, grasslands gradually succeed to shrubland and woodland. They are invaded by trees and shrubs that kill the prairie plants with their shade overtime. In areas such as urban parks where fires do not naturally occur, prescribed burns are used in the management of prairie ecosystems.

Controlled burns conducted by the MPRB are carefully managed to ensure safety:

- ◆ Property owners near the burn site are notified by mail in advance of the burn.
- ◆ Burns are handled by trained crews according to an approved plan that specifies the minimum number of people in the burn crew, the safety equipment that must be on hand, and proper weather conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, and humidity.
- ◆ The individuals conducting the burns have many years of experience and know how to control the fire as it moves through the designated areas.