



.....[November, 2011].....



Time-Lapse Video of Dreamhaven Mural

The community sponsored mural on Dreamhaven books (38th St & 23rd Ave), recently required restoration. To see the work in progress, view the time-lapse video produced by a neighborhood student. It can be viewed [HERE](#).

“I’m in the Dog House” Fundraiser a Success

The event held at Animal Care and Control on October 22 raised more than \$22,000 for the shelter. Council Members Colvin Roy, Quincy and Schiff were “kenneled” while asking for donations to ACC in order to secure their adoption (release). With help from Council members Hodges and Glidden and other volunteers, \$12,000 was raised from individual donations. A matching grant of \$10,000 was given by the Pohlad Foundation. The money will be used for a spay / neuter program. It’s not too late to make a donation. [Donate Online](#).

Howe-loween Rally Shows Support for a School at Howe Site

In response to census projections showing increased enrollment, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) recently announced that it may re-open Howe school, creating a dual campus with Hiawatha Elementary. Area parents and neighbors of the Howe site came out on October 30 to show their support for the idea.

Vacant since 2005, the Howe site has been a challenge for the community. “The neighborhood is ready to see Howe come back to life. We’ve worked tirelessly to find alternative uses for the building, but this new proposal from MPS would be ideal. Everyone is excited about the prospect and hopes that MPS will see all of the benefits of investing in reopening Howe,” says long-time Howe neighbor, and organizer of the rally Sarah Nassif. Dressed as a witch covered in cob webs Council Member Colvin Roy joked that there were no cob webs when this process (to find a good use for this property) first began. Carla Bates, a member of the School Board, also attended to show her support.

At the November 1st meeting of the MPS Board, Superintendent Johnson recommended re-opening Howe and pairing it with Hiawatha. This arrangement would not only provide the additional classrooms needed for pre-K through 5, it would preserve the athletic fields now used by Sanford. Board members are expected to vote on this recommendation as part of a package designed to deal with the projected increase in enrollment at their November 22nd meeting.

Airport Noise ... Again

Recently concerns and complaints about increased airplane noise have been a hot topic in the media and on e-democracy lists. The 12th Ward office received the first call about airport noise over the western edges of Keewaydin and Ericsson neighborhoods in August – areas not traditionally known for heavy airplane traffic. Council Member Colvin Roy contacted staff at the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) to ask what had changed and to get some data. MAC staff's response was that they were not aware of any changes but the data showed a large increase in the number of planes flying directly over these neighborhoods (referred to as "overflights") compared to 2010. There were 4,000 more overflights in 2011 than the same period (January through August) of 2010. That number is alarming since it represents an increase of nearly 25%.

But when you look at the long term trend, the total number of overflights is not unprecedented. With 20,068 overflights in 2011, 16,056 in 2010, 21,556 in 2009 and 19,480 in 2008, it looks like 2010 is an anomaly with fewer overflights. This was still a big one-year leap, so the next question was, "why?" Council Member Colvin Roy arranged a meeting with MAC staff and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Control Tower Manager, Carl Rydeen. Mr. Rydeen explained what you have probably heard on the news - that the practices at the airport had changed after two planes nearly collided last fall. Most of the traffic from MSP uses the two parallel runways: 30L (south parallel) and 30R (north parallel.) Prior to the near miss, both runways could be used for planes heading north or east on departure. This was done carefully so that the 30L plane would not cross the path of a 30R plane to its right. One day, they nearly intersected and the near miss caused the Control Tower to strictly follow what they called "standard operating procedure" that east and north heading flights should only use 30R and flights heading west should use 30L.

According to Mr. Rydeen, this change was suspected to be the main cause for the complaints of increased noise. However, it may be that neither the change in runway use nor the number of flights explains the whole problem. The altitude of planes, where along the runway planes lift off, how soon planes are making their turns, the length of intervals between take-offs, and the time of day of peak operations are all important factors that must be understood. The City Council, working with partners in the legislature, continue to ask questions and plan next steps.

On October 25, more than 150 residents attended a Public Input meeting of the MAC's Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) to express their frustration and ask for answers. At the NOC, meeting many residents spoke eloquently about the affect on their life, their home business, and possibly their property values. Council member Colvin Roy talked of the direct impacts of what may seem like just facts and figures to the airport operators and regulators, "...but for us, it's our lives. So, I'm asking for your help to explain the situation that some of your [airport] neighbors are living with and your cooperation with the City to try to improve this situation."

Resident Suggestion Leads to Change in Hiawatha Corridor

As the City and its partners along the Hiawatha corridor (MnDot, Hennepin County, and Metro Transit) work on bigger solutions to the signal timing problems that plague Hiawatha Avenue, smaller changes are being made to improve the experience of navigating in this corridor. (continued next page)

Thieves Targeting Cars Parked Near Lake Nokomis

The 3rd Precinct is advising visitors to Lake Nokomis to plan ahead and not leave belongings in their car when they go for a walk. Eight thefts from motor vehicles were reported in the area between Sept. 24 and Oct. 24. Many of the incidents occurred on midweek days, especially Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Unknown suspects smashed car windows to get into the vehicle and grab the item, often visible from outside.

Need Help with Raking or Shoveling?

You can get help with these chores while supporting Sanford Students. The Sanford Job Corps has students who are working to earn money for field trips and other school fees by working for you. The rate is \$5 an hour for raking leaves. If you are interested, contact the Program Coordinator, Nick Cross at (612) 668-4918.

Within the next couple of weeks, the lanes on 32nd Street at the intersection with Hiawatha will have a new configuration. Currently, a westbound driver that wants to go north on Hiawatha must wait for a green light because the lane for right hand turns is the same one used to go straight across Hiawatha. The new lane structure will provide three lanes so that cars turning right do not have to wait for a green light; this also means they will not be affected by the activity of light rail. The lanes for eastbound traffic will also be changed, but they will still be affected by the train due to location of the tracks. If this change proves to work well, the same change will be considered at 35th Street.

“We know that this change doesn’t get to the crux of the problem,” said Council Member Colvin Roy, “but I’m hopeful that it will reduce the frustration for some drivers.” The suggested change came from more than one resident who responded to the survey in this newsletter.

What Are Your Thoughts on Recreational Fires in the City?

Two citizen committees will discuss the topic of recreational fires in Minneapolis and could offer recommendations on whether further regulation of fires is needed. The City Council’s Civil Rights, Public Safety & Health committee referred the matter to the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee. Concerns have been raised about the health effects of wood smoke, particularly for asthma sufferers. Council member Tuthill, who raised the issue of recreational fires in committee, cited concerns about potential fire hazards. Residents who enjoy recreational fires have strong feelings about the matter too. For them, a back yard fire is an important form of recreation and community building. Here are the current rules for outdoor fires in Minneapolis:

- Outdoor fires are permitted between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Keep fire small, less than three feet in diameter and two feet high.
- Burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood. Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris — [the smoke can be toxic](#).
- Fire must be at least 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high.
- Have a hose or fire extinguisher present.
- Postpone the fire when the wind exceeds 10 mph.

The committees may consider requiring a permit for fires, or possibly requiring folks to get permission from their neighbors to have a fire, and other ideas brought forward by citizens. There is not a specific proposal at this time. If a proposal emerges from the citizen groups, a public hearing will be held.

What are your thoughts? Should recreational fires be further regulated, or not? You can simply reply to this newsletter to share your feedback with Council Member Colvin Roy or write to sandy.colvin.roy@minneapolismn.gov

NENA Offers Home Improvement Loans

The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) has announced that they have NRP Phase II funds available for home improvements and repairs through their housing loan program. You must be a resident of Morris Park, Minnehaha, Keewaydin or Wenonah in order to be eligible for a loan. This investment helps individual homeowners but it also contributes to a strong, well maintained housing stock and a healthy community. (continued next page)

Trees Need Extra Care in Drought Conditions

The ongoing drought means our trees need a special watering effort to stay healthy. If you received a new boulevard tree or planted a tree this year, make sure it gets enough water.

A stressed new tree will be especially vulnerable in the winter and may die. One of the effects of drought on otherwise healthy trees is insect damage, because many insects are attracted to drought-stressed trees for laying their eggs.

If it rains any less than one inch in a week, water the trees. An effective way to water the trees in your yard and boulevard is to turn on a slow stream of water (just so you can see the hose weeping) for a few hours.

For information on tree care and the urban forest, call the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Forestry Division at (612) 313-7710.

Here are the basic facts about the loans:

- minimum loan of \$2,000, maximum of \$10,000
- up to 7 years to pay back the loan
- 2% or 4% interest depending on household gross income
- maximum income limit of 80% of the HUD median income based on a household of 4

NENA also has funds for an Emergency Repair Deferred Loan pool. This is to assist property owners who face emergency repairs. They are zero percent loans, due on sale of the house. The Center for Energy and Environment is the administrator of this program. For more information on the program, or to apply, please go to: www.mncee.org or call 612-335-5830 or email loaninfo@mncee.org

Vikings & Sales Tax

If this newsletter had been sent out yesterday, the topic of a sales tax to provide funding for the building of a Vikings stadium would have been more prominent and I would have been quoted as saying, "I don't know how any local government in this state could vote for a sales tax based on using it for a specific purpose after the theft by the legislature last year of more than fifteen million dollars of sales taxes - approved by counties specifically to build infrastructure. The legislature directed that money to be used to pay operating costs instead of building up our transportation system in the metro area." Today, that point is moot, due to the Governor's announcement. Thank you Governor Dayton!



Pension Merger Prevents \$20 Million in Added City Costs in 2012

Minneapolis taxpayers will avoid more than \$20 million in costs in 2012, now that the City's two remaining closed pension funds can be merged with the State's PERA pension system. The merger is a result of years of work by City leaders, staff, and partners to reduce huge increases in pension obligations that have posed significant financial challenges for the City. This merger protects taxpayers and offers pensioners benefit increases and stability into the future.

The approved merger made it possible for Mayor Rybak to propose no increase in the property tax levy for 2012, when coupled with cuts to City departments.

Taxpayers' obligations to two closed pension funds — the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) and the Minneapolis Fire Relief Association (MFRA) — have skyrocketed in recent years. From 2010 to 2011, City payments to the MFRA and MPRA grew by 55 percent. In fact, the City's obligations to the closed pensions in the 2011 budget were significantly larger than the entire increase in the 2011 property-tax levy.

Because the state legislature reserves to itself most decisions regarding pensions, the City went there to seek a merger of the MPRA and the MFRA with the State's much larger PERA system. After the legislature's approval this spring, the plan also had to be voted on by the MFRA and MPRA boards, their memberships, the Minneapolis City Council and the PERA Board of Trustees. With the PERA board's approval on Oct. 13, all parties have now approved the plan.

45 Miles of Road Improvements Completed in 2011

During the 2011 street paving season, crews have completed major reconstruction, repaving and seal-coating work on more than 45 miles of city streets. More than half of all streets in the downtown core now have a driving surface that's three years old or less. Downtown streets got additional attention in 2011 thanks to the help of federal funds. More than 50 blocks of downtown streets were repaved, including some sections that required repeated patching to repair potholes. 2011 was the third year of a five-year, \$22.6 million effort to accelerate the investments in our roadways, street lighting and other parts of the infrastructure.

Collaborative Program Increases Domestic Violence Conviction by 50%

Misdemeanor domestic violence convictions are up 50 percent in Minneapolis, thanks in part to some new changes in the way these cases are investigated and prosecuted by the City.

The City Attorney's office and Minneapolis Police, in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Project, Casa de Esperanza and Asian Women United of Minnesota, developed a new model for gathering more and better evidence on domestic violence calls. With the assistance of grant funds, the City developed a domestic abuse repeat offender initiative, with a pilot program and provided additional police enforcement of Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders.

After the new protocol pilot program began in January 2008, in the City's 5th Precinct, conviction rates increased from 54.4 percent to 77.1 percent; total convictions climbed to 76 percent. Following that success, the protocol began in the four other precincts and similar results were seen:

Police precinct	Conviction rates before protocol	Conviction rates after protocol
5th Precinct	54.4 percent	77.1 percent
3rd Precinct	65.8 percent	73.9 percent
4th Precinct	58.1 percent	71.5 percent
2nd Precinct	71.5 percent	84.7 percent
1st Precinct	70.8 percent	78.1 percent

Officers were trained on the dynamics of domestic abuse and investigation techniques specific to domestic abuse cases. To get better documentation earlier in the process, officers were asked to take statements from defendants and ask victims to sign medical waivers. Plus, officers were asked to complete other preliminary investigative tasks in more detail, including asking if there are firearms in the home, taking photographs, collecting physical evidence and questioning witnesses.

The City Attorney's Office and Police Department tracked the number of domestic violence related police reports in each precinct. **In all but one precinct, the number of police calls decreased.**

Now that the protocol is used in all Minneapolis police precincts, the data is being analyzed to illustrate trends and evidence available in misdemeanor cases to provide a better picture of what a "typical" misdemeanor domestic violence case is in Minneapolis. The City Attorney's Office hopes that this further analysis will help them as they continue to improve their approach to domestic violence cases.

Vacancy on the Family Housing Fund Board

There is currently one vacancy open for a three year term appointed by the Mayor of Minneapolis, with City Council approval. Term begins 04/01/2012 and ends on 03/31/2015.

The Family Housing Fund was created in August, 1980. The mission of the Family Housing Fund is to provide safe, affordable homes to all families in the Twin Cities metropolitan area through ongoing partnerships with the public and private sector. The Family Housing Fund is a supporting organization of the cities of Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Metropolitan Council, and Minnesota Housing.

Deadline: Open until filled. The application review process will begin Thursday, November 10, 2011. For more information visit the posting on the City of Minneapolis website [HERE](#).



Events & Meetings

Food & Wine Tasting – Benefit for Minnehaha Falls Universal Access Playground November 4, 7 pm SeaSalt Eatery, 4801 Minnehaha Ave (Minnehaha Falls Park Pavilion). Food and wine pairings, silent auction, live music. Sponsored by Falls 4 All Committee of People for Parks. \$50 donation per person payable through Paypal or Razzo at www.falls4all.com or www.peopleforparks.net.



Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Nokomis Urban Craft Fair

November 12, Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway. 30+ vendors confirmed. Beautiful, fun, whimsical and unique items for sale.

Grants Fund Youth Community Gardening Programs

Application Deadline November 28 One hundred grants will be awarded to organizations kid-centered gardening programs across the country. Apply for a Youth Garden Grant now and your program could receive up to \$1,000. To apply, go to www.kidsgardening.org and click on the Youth Garden Grants link under the “grants & fundraising” tab. You will need to set up an account with kidsgardening.org before applying.

Watch City Budget Hearings on Cable Channel 79

City Council’s Ways & Means/Budget Committee is holding formal budget hearings on Mayor Rybak’s 2012 budget proposal. Hearings are broadcast on the City’s government cable station, channel 79.

Check www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts/GMC79.asp for scheduling.

Budget hearings continue through November and final approval of the 2012 budget is scheduled for December 14th. City Council will hold two public hearings before the approval to give you a chance to comment:

Public Hearing on Tax Levy & 2012 City Budget

November 30, 6:05 pm City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Room 317 (Council Chambers)

December 14, 6:05 pm City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., Room 307 (Council Chambers)

Boards & Commissions Openings

There are currently many openings on the City’s Boards, Commissions & Advisory Committees. Please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/ for application information.

**Housing
Inspections**

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless

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SENA

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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.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the 12th Ward News, click [HERE](#) and make your selections. Or, contact Loren Olson, with your request at Loren.olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 612-673-2378.

