

12th ward news

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDY COLVIN ROY

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[December, 2011]

Hello Neighbors:

It's the most wonderful time of the year- time to determine the city's **annual budget for 2012**. We will not be increasing the levy (the total amount collected through property taxes) for next year. This is great news and what I set as one of my goals for the year, but it also poses a challenge. The City has been cutting for years and we will need to continue to cut – including 104 positions. We are dealing with revenue losses from the federal government and further Local Government Aid cuts.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee I have been studying the budget and receiving department reports for the last two months. Today we start the budget mark-up and on **December 14** we will approve the 2012 budget. There will be a **public hearing** that night at 6:05 pm in Council Chambers (Room 317) at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street.

As we finalize the budget I have been watching out for more money for road maintenance, adequate staffing of the Fire Department, preserving Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) positions and a contribution towards an effective program that combats domestic violence. The Police Department earlier reported that their cuts might mean lay-off of some Crime Prevention Specialists, but based on a request by Chief Dolan and City Attorney Susan Segal, I believe this can be avoided.

The **Domestic Abuse Project (DAP)** has been an essential part of the public safety team that increased successful prosecutions of domestic violence charges from 22% to 41% this year. The City funds one prosecutor, one law clerk and one advocate working as a team. I support the request by Chief Dolan and City Attorney Segal to allow MPD to roll-over unspent funds into 2012 to provide a one time replacement for the lost federal funds because I believe the work done to prosecute domestic abuse is critical to ending the cycle of violence and is an investment that will reduce future costs, both the emotional toll and the dollars spent.

The topic of a **Vikings Stadium** in Minneapolis seems to be heating up again. Last month I informed you that I do not support using sales tax to fund a stadium. I am repeating it because some have asked me to make a public statement about sales taxes for a stadium.

Thank you for your input regarding **recreational fires**. The comments were very helpful as I start thinking about this controversial issue. The idea will be considered by two citizen committees and I will be interested to see what they think. There is no specific proposal now. I always welcome your input on any issue of concern to you.

Happy Holidays to you and your family -

Sandy



Still Got Leaves?

Leaves fell a little later than usual this fall. Yard waste collection was pushed back one week but this still left many residents holding the bag-bags of yard waste that is.

Council Member Colvin Roy brought this to the attention of Public Works and they have arranged an additional round of yard waste pick-up. Have your yard waste at your solid waste collection point by:

6:00 am
Wednesday
December 7th

The pick-up schedule does not correspond to your normal trash pick-up. It may take two days for crews to reach every Minneapolis location.



Howe School to Re-Open

Its official, Howe will be a school again. The School Board voted to re-open Howe in 2013 and create a dual campus with Hiawatha Elementary. Howe would serve third- through fifth-graders and Hiawatha would serve kindergarten through second grade.

This was welcome news for area parents and neighbors of the Howe site, like Sarah Nassif, who have been trying to find a good use for this site for year. "Six years of perseverance has paid off," said Nassif "thank you neighbors, MPS school board members and staff, Sandy Colvin Roy and others who have supported us through the years."



Recycle Holiday Lights

As you decorate for the holiday season, you may come across tangled strings of holiday lights that no longer work. You can recycle those lights and electric cords at [Hennepin County drop-off facilities](#) and collection sites throughout the Twin Cities participating in the Recycling Association of Minnesota's [Recycle Your Holidays program](#).

\$16 Million Allocated to Keewaydin School Planning Underway

The Minneapolis School Board has allocated \$16 million for improvements to the Keewaydin Campus (grades 4-8) of Lake Nokomis Community School (LNCS). Construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2012. LNCS is inviting community members to be part of the planning process. There are two community meetings scheduled and there are also focus groups.

The following focus groups are being formed. If you are interested in participating in a focus group contact Rita Ulrich with the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association at 612-724-5652 or rulrich@nokomiseast.org.

- Music and Theater Focus
- Art Focus Group
- Science Lab group
- Gymnasium Focus Group
- Media Center and Library focus
- Security and safety group
- Community shared space group

Two public meetings will be held to gather comments and suggestions from the community. The school is looking for parents, neighbors, business owners, faith leaders, and others to attend and share their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about the construction and facilities improvements. Meetings will be held at Keewaydin School (5209 30th Ave S) from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Free childcare will be available. The dates are Thursday, December 15 and Thursday, January 19.

Minneapolis Redistricting

Are you interested in learning more about the process for redistricting within the City of Minneapolis? Visit the City's [Redistricting 2012](#) page.

Changes to Recycling in Minneapolis

Last week the Transportation & Public Works committee received a report from a consultant hired to provide a base of knowledge about the recycling system in Minneapolis and recycling in other comparable cities who have switched their methods to a simpler sorting of materials than the one used here.

Sandy Colvin Roy, Chair of the committee, spoke up to say, "I am very excited to be at this point, where our city can look forward to some dramatic improvements in convenience and overall environmental impact of our solid waste system at a price that I think most people will agree is worth it. I want to be clear that we don't know the price yet, there are too many variables, but we have a range. And we don't know the final decision on what a new system should look like, but we have a good base of information."

The committee directed Public Works Staff to return to the Transportation and Public Works Committee with a recommendation on a new recycling program that best balances the values of cost effectiveness, convenience for customers, and reducing total environmental impact. The next big step should be in March, 2012, when the recommendation is returned. Stay tuned, this big change could make life simpler while still protecting our environment in a cost effective way.

129 Broken Car Windows - Results from Juvenile Court

The cases were all handled in juvenile court because all four suspects were 15 or younger. Under state law, those proceedings are non-public and no specific information about the individual cases can be released. However, Ashley Schweitzer from the Hennepin County Attorney's office could report that the Hennepin County Attorney's Office brought petitions against the four and recently shared the results with community members.

The County Attorney's office sent notifications to 181 victims and 76 victims turned in restitution claims for out-of-pocket expenses totaling more than \$23,000. The 35 Community Impact Statements received by the County Attorney's office were provided to the presiding judge.

"The dispositions have included restitution, active supervision by a probation officer, electronic home monitoring, family and youth counseling, after school and evening programming, community service, participation in restorative justice, letters of apology and conditions of probation specific to each case. Again, privacy rules for juvenile court prohibit giving out more information on specific cases."

Minneapolis Recognized for Technology Capability

The Minnesota High Tech Association honors technology and innovation leaders with the **Tekne Awards** in Minneapolis--an annual event that recognizes achievements across a range of fields from computer software and hardware to manufacturing and sustainable technologies. The City won in the Technology Excellence in a Non-Profit Organization category, which highlights technology excellence through innovative use of technology, allowing the organization to effectively deliver on its mission. The award was in recognition of City's Emergency Operations Training Facility (EOTF), a highly automated command center which helps the city respond to disasters.

Watch News Story about Hiawatha Signal Light Changes

On November 3rd, FOX 9 ran a brief story highlighting the work that Council Member Colvin Roy has been doing to improve the signal timing along Hiawatha Avenue. Click [HERE](#) to watch it.

City of Minneapolis has Most Twitter Followers after New York City

Government Technology magazine compiled a list of the 10 most followed local government Twitter accounts in the country.

The most popular local government account was @311NYC with 21,726 followers. The second most popular was @CityMinneapolis with 11,719 followers.

Minneapolis actually appeared on the list twice; @MinneapolisSnow, with 6,000 followers, was the 7th most popular account. The city began using Twitter in 2009.

Get Your Snow Emergency Information

There are many ways to stay connected and learn about snow emergencies and parking restrictions. Most residents know that you can call 348-SNOW for information. Here are some other ways to stay informed:

Email alerts - You can sign up to get Snow Emergency alerts automatically emailed to you. Go to www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/esubscribe.asp for more details.

Facebook – “Like” Minneapolis Snow Emergency on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency.

Twitter - twitter.com/minneapolisnow. If you have a Twitter account, just follow us.

Phone alerts - Minneapolis uses a phone alert system to notify residents when Snow Emergencies are declared. It is an automated notification system that can place thousands of calls per hour. Go to www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/phone-alert.asp to add additional numbers beyond just your home number.

Understanding your Taxes

Even though the City is collecting the same amount of revenue as last year, your tax bill may have changed. There are a number of factors affecting your tax bill. For example, there are other taxing authorities – such as Minneapolis Public Schools – that are seeking an increase. Many people are also feeling the impact of the Legislature’s decision to reform the Homestead Market Value Exclusion. For an overview of these factors, view this document [“About the City of Minneapolis portion of ‘your proposed property tax for 2012.’”](#)

A commonly misunderstood factor that can impact your taxes, is the value other properties throughout the city. Property tax bills are based on a homeowner's share of the total property value in a given city, county and school district.

Ken Rowe, with taxpayer services for Hennepin County explained that this is “fundamentally different from the way other taxes work, and how people react to their tax bill... In sales tax, the person in front of me in line — I don't care what tax they pay. It doesn't affect me. The person behind me? It doesn't bother me. But with property taxes, if my neighbor for whatever reason is paying more, I pay less, because we are basically sharing that burden across the community.”

To read about this topic in greater detail, visit the city’s website:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/truth-in-taxation.asp>.

Events & Special Meetings

Longfellow Community Council Open House, Art Show
December 6, 3-6 pm, LCC office, 2727 26th Ave S. LCC’s first art open featuring the works of Anita White and other local artists. Snacks and beverages provided.
Joanna@longfellow.org for information.

Abandoned
Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Homegrown Minneapolis Community Meeting

December 12, 5-7:30 pm University Research & Outreach Center (UROC) 2001 Plymouth Ave N. Learn about this citywide initiative to expand the community’s ability to grow, process, distribute, eat and compost more healthy, sustainable, locally-grown foods. Give feedback on local food priorities. Visit www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs/homegrown-home.

Watch Rebroadcasts of City Budget Hearings on Cable Channel 79

The City Council’s Ways & Means/Budget Committee has been holding hearings regarding the 2012 budget with presentations from city departments. The hearings are being rebroadcasted on the City’s government cable station, channel 79. Check www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts/GMC79.asp for scheduling. Final approval of the 2012 budget is scheduled for December 14th. There will also be a public hearing.

Public Hearing on Tax Levy & 2012 City Budget

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

Longfellow Community Council Community Meeting – NRP Funding Contracts

December 14, 6:30-7:30 pm Minnehaha Academy, North Campus 3100 West River Parkway. LCC requires a community vote of residents to close out Phase I contracts and transfer funding to new Phase II contracts. List of contract funds found at www.longfellow.org. For information, call Melanie at 612-722-4529.

Keewaydin School Improvements Public Meetings

December 15, 6:30-8 pm

January 19, 6:30-8 pm Keewaydin School, 5209 30th Ave S. Many of you are aware that the Minneapolis School Board has allocated \$16 million for much needed improvements to the Keewaydin Campus (grades 4-8) of Lake Nokomis Community School (LNCS). Two public meetings will be held to gather comments and suggestions from the community. The school is looking for parents, neighbors, business owners, faith leaders, and others to attend and share their thoughts, ideas, and suggestions about the construction and facilities improvements. Free childcare will be available.

NENA’s Annual Night Before New Year’s Eve Celebration

December 30, 5-8 pm Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway. Join families from all over the area as they shout the countdown and welcome 2012 a day early! Enjoy hay rides, a bonfire, food, live music, *KidsDance DJ* & dance contests, prizes, carnival games, face painting, fortune teller, photo booth, balloon magician & crafts. To volunteer, contact Rita at NENA office at 612-724-5652 or rulrich@nokomiseast.org.

Boards & Commissions Openings

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

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



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.