

12th ward news

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[April]

Crime and Safety Update

Burglary Suspects Arrested. Two suspects have been arrested in connection with a number of burglaries that have occurred within the Third Precinct in recent weeks and may be linked to some of the 12 home burglaries have been reported since late February in Ericsson, Keewaydin, Minnehaha and Morris Park neighborhoods. Intense investigations are continuing and the precinct is providing extra patrol in the area.

Police ask residents to continue to be vigilant and to call 911 immediately about suspicious activity. "If you see someone you don't recognize, or notice a vehicle loitering on your block or alley, this could be someone looking for an opportunity to break in. We need to hear from you" urges Lt. Sauro, head of Property Crime Investigations in Third Precinct.

Door-to-Door Solicitations. The Third Precinct received complaints about an alarm company going door to door claiming to be working in conjunction with the Minneapolis Police Department. The person did not have any company information or literature, and was asking for personal information. The MPD is not working with any alarm company. MPD is reminding you to be cautious. Legitimate door-to-door solicitors must have a license from the city.

Council Approves City Goals & Strategic Directions

Every four years, the Council and Mayor adopt goals to guide the work of the city. The departments will create five-year business plans with the achievement of these goals in mind and the Council and Mayor will use them when adopting budgets. On April 2nd the Council approved six goals. We will include one per month in this newsletter. If you'd like to see them all at once, please write the 12th ward office and we'll send them.

A City That Works *Minneapolis is a model for fiscal responsibility, technological innovation and values-based, results driven municipal government.*

The strategic directions to achieve this goal include "Tax burden managed and sustainable", something Council Member Colvin Roy raised in the development of the goals. "This is the first time that we have made managing the tax burden a stated part of our strategy," said Council Member Colvin Roy. "Taxes have a huge impact on our residents and some even leave the city because they can no longer afford to live here. I am especially concerned about those on a fixed income who must pay ever increasing taxes while their incomes remain the same, including many seniors who helped this city become what it is today."

Here are the strategic directions to accomplish "A City That Works:"

- Shared democracy empowers residents as valued partners
- 21st century government: collaborative, efficient and reform-minded
- Tax burden managed through sustainable, diversified revenue streams
- Infrastructure — streets, bridges, bike lanes & paths, sidewalks, sewers — well-managed and maintained
- City employees high-performing and engaged
- Transparency, accountability and fairness ensure citizens' confidence in their government
- A shared vision is the foundation for public-private partnerships and involved,



Ready for baseball?

If you have plans to see a game at Target Field, check out this website for help with parking and transportation options.

DestinationTargetField.com



Budget cuts mean new, shorter hours for 311 starting April 12

Monday – Friday
7:00 am – 7:00 pm

You can Report Problems Online at any time:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311

empowered residents

- Strong partnerships with parks, schools and other governmental entities
- Optimum use of technology including unique wireless capacity

Winter Parking Restrictions; Short but Sweet

The public's cooperation with the one side parking ban greatly aided emergency responders in their work to serve Minneapolis residents. During the time the parking restrictions were in place, Minneapolis Fire crews made more than 1,800 runs for emergency medical calls and fires—and crews were able to gain better access on those runs because of the parking restrictions. Thank you.

Early Start on Permanent Pothole Patches

Crews have been making temporary patches to potholes for several weeks with a "cold mix" but thanks to good weather and early availability of necessary materials, permanent patching started earlier than normal. Six mini-crews continued temporary patches in order to reach as many parts of the city as possible. Early April will begin the normal summer maintenance season schedule, with up to eight crews working on permanent patches and other street repairs around the city.

Early availability of asphalt, along with other needed materials, meant that high quality, permanent repairs were possible for some of the most problematic areas. A permanent repair means cleaning and "prepping" the pothole with liquid asphalt cement that acts like a glue, and then applying, rolling and compacting the asphalt for a long lasting repair. This is more labor intensive and so, slower going, but crews will not have to make return trips.

It is not possible for crews to address all problems at once. The pothole patch crews need to prioritize their work, weighing factors such as the amount of traffic a street carries and the severity of the pothole problem. If you want to report potholes, **call 311** or go online to the [311 page](#) of the City's Web site. Reporting potholes will help Public Works to better understand and prioritize pothole repairs. Crews will start their work on major arterials and then move on to residential streets.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

In February, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Emerald ash borer beetle in 15 ash trees in the Tower Hill Park area. All infested and suspect trees were removed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The emerald ash borer is a beetle accidentally introduced from Asia. Its larvae tunnel into the wood of ash trees and feed on the inner bark, ultimately killing the tree. It has already killed more than 40 million ash trees. The Mpls. urban forest has more than 200,000 ash trees on boulevards and private property - 21 percent of all city trees.

Tips to prevent the spread of EAB:

- Burn firewood where you buy it; do not transport firewood.
- If you have an ash tree, prune it only in the fall or winter. The emerald ash borer is active in the spring and summer, and moving infected wood helps spread the pest. Prune your ash tree only when the beetle is dormant, after Labor Day and before May 1.

More information on EAB is available at the following Web sites:

- Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture:
<http://www.saveourash.net/>
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board:
<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1059>



Abandoned Vehicles

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing Inspections

Metro Transit

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

USI Wireless



LCC

NENA

SENA



Street Sweeping

Spring street sweeping begins in April 12. Please watch for signs regarding parking restrictions to avoid being ticketed or towed.

Replenish the Tree Canopy; \$25 Trees Available Now

You can help re-establish our tree canopy by planting one of these low cost trees made available through the City. The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Varieties available are Fat Albert spruce, pagoda dogwood, Kentucky coffee tree, blue beech, Merrill magnolia, regal prince oak, Canada select chokecherry, Redmond linden and burgundy belle maple.

Order trees by visiting the [Tree Trust Website](#), calling (651) 644-5800 or picking up an order form from your local library. In previous years the trees have sold quickly, so place your order early. Trees must be picked up at the Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Ave. N. on Saturday, May 8th between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, May 9th between 8 a.m. and noon; or Monday, May 10th between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Taste of Spring Thaw (in water) Gets Extra Treatment

Each spring, many water customers notice a change in the taste of our tap water, which happens because of the melting snow that makes its way into the Mississippi River, the source of our water. Water customers can be assured that the water is safe to drink and that it meets or exceeds all water quality regulatory requirements.

Minneapolis Water Works have begun adjusting treatments at the City's water plants to better absorb or destroy materials that cause undesirable tastes and odors. Powdered activated carbon, or PAC is one substance used. In water it acts like a microscopic sponge, absorbing the smallest of particles that can affect taste and smell. Water quality experts add PAC to our water when needed during the treatment process to help improve the product for customers.

PAC is especially important this time of year when the chemical composition of river water changes due to the spring thaw. There's a physical limit to how much PAC can be put into the water, and sometimes it's not enough to eliminate all factors that affect taste. Although the tastes and odors are not pleasant, they are not harmful, and the water is completely safe to drink.

The changes to taste and odor typically last a short time but the City is striving to eliminate them altogether. Last Friday the Council approved a collaborative project with the University of Minnesota to conduct research into methods of taste and odor control for drinking water.

Public safety is the top priority for the crews who work in the City's Water Works division. They put the river water through a battery of treatments and extensive filtering before it reaches customers. Thousands of tests are performed to make sure the drinking water we get is clean and safe.

City of Minneapolis water goes to customers in Minneapolis, seven neighboring cities, the airport and Fort Snelling, reaching more than half a million people per day.

For more information about City of Minneapolis water, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/water.

New Web Tool Help You find Tax Credits

The Internal Revenue Service reports the average tax refund has increased nearly 10 percent for 2009, but families are often not fully aware of all tax code changes and miss out on taking advantage of them. With more than a dozen new tax benefits available to taxpayers and businesses, it is important that all American families know about them in order to achieve as much personal tax savings as possible.

A new, helpful tool to guide American taxpayers through the new tax benefits and help determine if they are eligible for savings has been put on-line. The tax Savings tool can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/recovery/tax-saving-tool.

Energy Assistance Available to Low Income Residents

The City of Minneapolis is helping spread the word that Community Action of Minneapolis has thousands of dollars in federal aid available to income qualifying residents. Low-income homeowners and renters who meet the eligibility requirements can have money paid directly to a utility company.

Homeowners and renters who qualify for energy assistance may also be eligible for weatherization, which provides \$6,500 worth of energy saving improvements to a home free of charge. Those who qualify for weatherization will receive an energy audit that will assess their home, furnace and electric usage. Based on this audit, energy saving solutions will be recommended and, on average, customers save 26 percent on energy costs following weatherization. Funding for this program comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Community Action of Minneapolis uses a household's past three months of income to determine eligibility. For more information including detailed income guidelines, call 612-335-5837 or visit www.campls.org.

Construction to Begin on Senior Assisted Living Facility

You may notice construction soon on a development in the 9th Ward. It is the future site of a senior assisted living facility called "Waters Senior Living on Minnehaha." The 77 unit building at 3717 23rd Avenue South is expected to begin construction this month and be completed by next April. If you are interested in the services offered by the future facility, call 952-358-5177 for more information.

Events & Meetings

Longfellow Block Leader Meeting

April 1 6 pm Glaciers Café, 3019 Minnehaha Ave. Block Leaders in the greater Longfellow area gather to connect, share triumphs, battle stories and plans for National Night Out 2010. Call Sarah at 612-721-3009 for information.

Bunny Brunch & Egg Hunt at Sibley Park

April 3 9:30 am Sibley Park, 40th St E & 19th Ave S. Brunch (9:30 – 11 a.m.) is \$4 for adults, \$2 for kids 12 & under; Egg hunt with prizes starts at Noon. Egg hunt, entertainment by the Big Fun Show (11:15) and other activities are free.

Forum Discusses Ways to Help Preserve and Conserve our Natural Waters

April 6 7-9 pm Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S. Learn where water goes when it leaves your yard, what pollutes our lakes and streams and if the Clean Water Act is working. Participants include Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc of Minnesota, Lois Eberhart of City of Minneapolis Water Resources and State Rep. Jean Wagenius (62B). Registration & exhibits at 6:30 pm.

Spring Street Sweeping Begins April 13th

Temporary No Parking signs will be posted on your block 24 hours before it will be swept. Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/ for detailed schedule information.

Longfellow Garden Club

April 14 7-9 pm Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Master Gardener Jane Horn gives visual presentation of her Prior Lake garden, featured as one of the Star Tribune's Beautiful Gardens. Annual silent auction also takes place. Bring donations (books, gardening gifts, baked goods, services, etc.) and bid on items to support free garden club programs. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Rake, Rattle & Roll!! Free Raking for Seniors!

Mid-April – early-May, weather permitting The HandyWorks program offers free raking. Volunteer groups of 5-6 help elderly neighbors in south, southeast and northeast Minneapolis by raking leaves. If you are interested in volunteering or if you are in need of raking services, call Molly at 612-721-8687 ext. 335 or e-mail at mchandler@gmcc.org. HandyWorks is a non-profit program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

Earth Day Cleanup

April 17 9:30 am – Noon

Minnehaha Park (48-1 Minnehaha Ave S)

Nokomis Park (2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy)

Sibley Park (1900 E. 40th St)

West River Parkway & 36th St

West River Parkway & 44th St

Bags & gloves provided. Event coordinators will give volunteers information about where to go and where to leave the trash they pick up. There will also be interactive, educational programs. Last year's volunteers cleaned up over 30,000 pounds of trash! For more information & locations, visit www.minneapolisearthday.com

Roosevelt High Pancake Breakfast

April 18 8 am – 1 pm Roosevelt High School Cafeteria, 4029 28th Ave S. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. Join past and present Teddies to share old memories of Roosevelt High School and help make new ones! Call 668-4810 for more information.

No Pie Charts! Only Pies! LCC Annual Meeting, Pie Potluck & Director Elections

April 21 6:30-8:30 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 W. River Pkwy. Bring pie, learn about what is happening in Longfellow and elect board members you believe in. There will also be a resource fair with information about programs and services available to the community. Childcare available, contact Joanna 612-722-4529.

Metro Paint-A-Thon Looking for Houses to Paint

Applications due May 7 To qualify, you must be 60 years of age or have a permanent physical disability; own and live in the house you wish to have painted; meet monthly household income guidelines. House must be located in seven-county metro area and must be a single-family home, structurally sound and free of major repairs. Call 612-721-8687 or visit www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon for an application. Paint-A-Thon is August 7-8.

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors Fundraiser

April 29 5:30-8 pm Minnehaha Academy North Campus, 3100 W. River Pkwy. 12th Annual Italian Dinner Fundraiser and Silent Auction. Tickets are \$35 each. Call Healthy Seniors Office at 612-729-5799 for tickets.

Open Appointments

Mpls Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Closes 4/16/10

For information on City openings: ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open