



Council Member Betsy Hodges

# Ward 13 News

March 2013

## Infill Housing

As the economy improves and construction season ramps up, there are many properties in the ward that will be remodeled or torn down and a new home built. Folks have called with concerns about new homes, so here is an outline of what has been done and information about who to contact with issues of concern. [Continued on page 4](#)

## City Sees Increase in Biking and Walking

More and more people are taking their travels by bike and foot. According to the 2012 City of Minneapolis Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count Report, bicycling in Minneapolis rose 56% over the past 6 years, while walking jumped 22% over the time span. For the wider Twin Cities area, bicycling increased 51% and walking 24%, as reported by Bike Walk Twin Cities (BWTC), a program of Transit for Livable Communities. [Continued on page 2](#)



## Minneapolis Youth Violence Prevention Week

This week is Minneapolis Youth Violence Prevention Week, a chance for kids and adults to take part in reducing youth violence in the city. It is a part of a national public education initiative featuring activities and events to bring attention to the issue of youth violence, identify strategies to combat it and promote the positive role youth and adults can have in making their communities and schools safer.



**National Youth Violence Prevention Week**

The City of Minneapolis, in conjunction with [PeaceMaker Minnesota](#), [Minneapolis Public Schools](#) and [Minneapolis Youth Congress](#), is urging the public to participate this week. Reducing youth violence requires a collaborative approach joining City and State agencies, community-based organizations, and residents toward a common vision.

For more information about how you can participate, visit [here](#).



## Helpful Links

- [311](#)
- [Animal Control](#)
- [City Assessor](#)
- [City Finances](#)
- [Council Agendas](#)
- [Inspections](#)
- [Minneapolis Maps](#)
- [Permitting](#)
- [Police Department](#)
- [Property Info](#)
- [Public Works](#)
- [Report Graffiti](#)

## The Neighborhoods of Ward 13

- [Armatage](#)
- [East Harriet](#)
- [Fulton](#)
- [Kenny](#)
- [Linden Hills](#)
- [Lynnhurst](#)
- [West Calhoun](#)

## 46th Street West Reconstruction Project

Community meetings were held in September, January and March to gather community feedback on the project design. The final plan is based on the feedback we received and addresses the main concerns of the users of this four-block corridor.

### Concerns shared at meetings:

- Parking, Pedestrian Safety and Bike Lanes

### Concerns addressed with:

- Parking being maintained on both sides of 46th
- Pedestrian safety
  - Bump outs at the corners that create shorter crossings and better visibility
  - Zebra crosswalk markings at the 46th/Bryant intersection and bigger stop signs
  - Advisory bike lanes instead of a full bike facility - which will also create “side friction” and slow cars down



The final plan can be viewed on the [project website](#). Pedestrian lighting petitions will go out to property owners this month and there will be a pre-construction meeting in June.

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## Penn Ave Reconstruction

The fifth public meeting with adjacent property owners is scheduled for **March 21 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room of the [Armatage Recreation Center](#). Public Works will discuss the paving and utility construction work. The discussion will be focused on the 2013 phase scheduled to begin this spring. The layout and map of the project are available [here](#). The Park Board has also marked the Ash trees for removal on Penn Ave due to Emerald Ash Borer. Details are here: [2-21-2013 Update](#)

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## Biking and Walking continued

The City of Minneapolis conducts their yearly counts at 30 benchmark locations for bicyclists and 23 locations for pedestrians. This ongoing collection of annual data about bicycling and walking is then compiled with existing data on motorized traffic to shape a more complete profile of overall traffic behavior throughout the community. The annual count happens through the support of volunteers. In 2012, the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department worked with 92 volunteers who contributed 188 total hours of counting.

To read the 2012 City of Minneapolis Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count Report, visit [here](#). To learn more Bike Walk Twin Cities and read their report, visit [www.bikewalktwincities.org](http://www.bikewalktwincities.org).

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  - Questions? E-mail [betsy.hodges@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:betsy.hodges@minneapolismn.gov) or call 612-673-2213.
  - For more information, [visit the Ward 13 website](#).



## Apply for Boards and Commissions Openings

Be a part of the process! Applications are now being accepted for positions on 11 Boards and Commissions the City Council and Mayor will appoint this spring.



The input and advice from these volunteer boards constitutes a major component of the City's community engagement work. Please consider applying. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Applications will be reviewed starting **Friday, April 26**, but positions are open until filled.

For a current list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, visit [here](#). For additional information, visit the boards and commissions [website](#).

To receive future notices about openings, [sign-up to receive e-mail updates](#).

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## Minneapolis Art Wraps

Calling all artists! The City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places program has announced an opportunity for local artists to submit designs for utility box wraps. Minneapolis Art Wraps assists groups in developing these projects, with the goal of creating a vibrant city-wide gallery celebrating the creative artists living and working here. Twelve artists' designs will be chosen and participating neighborhoods will select from these designs.



[Call for Artists](#) details the process for applying. The call is open to artists who live or work in Minneapolis in any media that can be translated into a digital image and wrapped onto a utility box. Selected artists will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000. The application deadline is **Wednesday, April 17, at 4 p.m.** An informational meeting for interested artists is **Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.** at [MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave.](#)

For more details, visit [here](#) or contact Mary Altman at [mary.altman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:mary.altman@minneapolismn.gov).

Neighborhood and non-profit organizations interested in developing their own artistic utility box projects can apply for permission [here](#) to place designs on City-owned utility boxes.

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## Armatage Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday · March 19th · 6 p.m.

@ the [Armatage Recreation Center](#), 2500 57th Street West



### Agenda:

**6:00 p.m.** - Safety Meeting with Crime Prevention Specialist Amy Lavender and 5th Precinct Inspector Anthony Diaz

**6:30 p.m.** - Annual Meeting with: Brad Bourn, Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner; Betsy Hodges, Minneapolis City Council Member; Matt Croaston, on behalf of Senator Al Franken; Scott Dibble, Minnesota State Senator; Paul Thissen, Minnesota Speaker of the House

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## Infill Housing continued

### Existing infill housing ordinance

In 2007, in response to concerns from neighbors, I successfully worked to change the zoning code to respond to resident concerns over the size and bulk of new home construction. The new rules reduced the maximum height for a single-family home to 30 feet and limits the overall square footage to 50% of the lot area ([Infill Housing Ordinance](#)). Here are a few other highlights of the 2007 ordinance:

- **Establishes a Floor Area Ratio (FAR):** areas that do not count toward the FAR limit include open porches, basements (provided they do not extend more than 4 feet above grade), detached garages and attic space (provided the area of the attic is less than half that of the floor below); Single and two-family homes are limited to 2 ½ stories or 30', whichever is less.
- **Reduces lot coverage maximums:** The maximum lot-coverage percentage was reduced from 60% to 50%. The maximum impervious surface percentage was reduced from 75% to 65%.
- **Defines “Natural Grade”:** The amendment defines “natural grade” from which height is measured as the existing lot before it is modified.

It's important to keep in mind that the City has many neighborhoods and that the character of our residential areas varies significantly from one neighborhood to the next—and in some cases from one block to the next.

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## Infill Housing continued

Additional standards adopted in 2009 were intended to ensure that new homes are more appropriate in an urban setting compared to many of the homes that we were seeing built prior to that time. In addition to new design standards that are explained [here](#), the City also adopted limitations on front-facing garages, which is a common characteristic of many suburban-style houses.

### Wrecking permit notification

Some residents are surprised to learn of a teardown in their neighborhood. Since 2009, contractors are required to notice all adjoining properties no less than 10 days before scheduled excavation. In addition, the City of Minneapolis creates a Planning Applications Report that lists all of the applications for Land Use – which includes new home site plans as well as variances and Heritage Preservation – which includes wrecking reviews. Neighborhood associations receive the weekly notice and residents can subscribe to get the report: [here](#).

### Neighborhood design guidelines

Individual neighborhoods have spent a great deal of effort to develop guidelines aimed at ensuring that new homes are more compatible with the character of their communities. There are practical and legal reasons why the City cannot enforce neighborhood-adopted design guidelines. For a brief explanation, see the [Design Guidelines of the Neighborhood Guide for Developing Planning Documents](#). I have and will continue to work with staff to ensure that the City is making developers aware of neighborhood guidelines when we see new proposals in neighborhoods that have such guidelines.

### New zoning code amendment

It's worth noting that Council Member Gordon has introduced a zoning code amendment that looks at the issue of neighborhood conservation districts. Although these districts, if adopted, will not cover the entire City, the intent is that the districts will be utilized to conserve features of neighborhoods where there is a particularly cohesive style or scale. Although conservation districts will generally not prevent teardowns, they will allow for a closer examination of what is built in place of homes that have been removed. This tool will likely include City Council adopted design guidelines. For more information about the Conservation District Ordinance, contact: [John Smoley](#) - (612) 673-2830

### How to check on a property

If you have any concerns about a specific property being in compliance with the zoning ordinance, please call 311 and the address will be assigned to the Southwest zoning inspector who will inspect the property and reply to you directly regarding whether or not it meets ordinance.

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## Trees and Invasive Species - Spring Forum

Saturday · March 23rd · 9:15 a.m.

@ the [Lynnhurst Community Center](#), 1345 W Minnehaha Pkwy

Representatives of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Ralph Sievert (Director of Forestry) and Marcia Holmberg (Natural Resources Coordinator) will discuss the state of our urban forest and what you can do to help restore and sustain it.



Tree Trust and other exhibitors will also be present.

Join in the discussion March 23. The Forum is sponsored by the Lynnhurst Environmental Committee and the Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association.

For more information, click [here](#) or e-mail [lynnhurst.env.comm@gmail.com](mailto:lynnhurst.env.comm@gmail.com).

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## 2013 City Trees Distribution Program

Need a tree? Consider the [Minneapolis 2013 City Trees Distribution Program](#), made available through partnership between Tree Trust and the City of Minneapolis. Since 2006, the City of Minneapolis has funded the City Trees program, a low-cost way to help build the city's tree canopy. Trees are available starting this week for Minneapolis residents, businesses, and non-profits, and must be planted on private property in the city.



### Ordering and Pick Up Information:

- Only property owners of Minneapolis are eligible to participate in this program.
- The ordering period for this distribution begins for Wards 3, 5, 6 and 10 on Monday, March 18. Participation has been lowest in these areas in the past.
- **Ordering opens citywide Monday, March 25.**
- Orders will be taken until all trees are sold out. Quantities are limited. There will be [nine tree species](#) available.
- Trees are \$25 each and must be pre-ordered.
- You may order a maximum of one tree per property, maximum five properties.

For complete information on the program, [visit Tree Trust's website](#).

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