



Council Member Betsy Hodges

Ward 13 News

July 2013

46th Street West Paving

Major work activities are scheduled to begin **July 22** on the 46th Street project. In advance of this work, Minneapolis Water has been preparing to clean and line the water main in the project area. They installed temporary water service and access holes to the water main.

The paving project itself will include removal and replacement of the pavement, curb and gutter, and driveway aprons on 46th Street West between Dupont Avenue South and Lyndale Avenue South. The project will take 2-3 months and will be completed under a total closure. Access at Bryant will be maintained as much as possible, as well as local access to driveways.

For any questions, please contact either:

- [Tracy Lindgren](#) (City of Minneapolis), 612-290-5898 or
- [Harold Skjelbostad](#) (BIKO) 612-991-3997

You can also sign up for [email updates](#) on this project.

Car Sharing Pilot Expanded

The City Council has voted to add Hourcar and Zipcar to the city's new two-year car sharing pilot program. These companies, along with Car2Go, will have car-sharing vehicles throughout town using on-street parking spaces as well as off-street ones. There is no City funding in this expansion of car sharing options and the three car-sharing companies will need to pay for use of each on-street parking space.

Our office will keep you updated as next steps are taken through the Public Works Department and the City Council.

Armatage Ice Cream Social - July 17

Please join the Armatage Neighborhood Association at **54th Street West and Penn Avenue South** for a summer night of ice cream and support of our small business owners during the Penn Avenue construction.

- **Wednesday, July 17 - 6:30-8:00 p.m. @ 54th and Penn Ave S**



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](#)



Southwest LRT Meetings - July 17 & 18



The Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Project will host two community meetings **July 17 & 18** on engineering concepts for resolving the location of freight rail in the design of the project.

The concepts explore various possibilities for co-locating freight and LRT tracks in Minneapolis, as well as options to re-route freight rail traffic in St. Louis Park to make way for LRT tracks. The relocation concepts to be presented will be different than the one described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Both co-location and relocation options would have impacts on residences and businesses, including the freight railroads. The goal is to choose one option and design it in a way that is safe and operationally efficient for both LRT and the freight railroads and cost effective.

Feedback from these community meetings will be shared with members of the project's Business and Community Advisory Committees, the Corridor Management Committee and the Metropolitan Council to help them understand the issues around co-location and relocation as they provide input.

Any individual who requires assistance to participate should contact Southwest LRT Community Outreach Coordinator **Sophia Ginis**, 612-373-3895 or Sophia.Ginis@metrotransit.org.

An [event flyer \(PDF\)](#) includes a map showing freight rail relocation and co-location concepts.

Locations and times:

- **July 17: Minneapolis**
Jones-Harrison Residence
3700 Cedar Lake Avenue, Minneapolis
Open House: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Presentation: 5:30-6:15 p.m.
Facilitated Q & A Session: 6:15-7:00 p.m.
[Google Map](#)
- **July 18: St. Louis Park**
St. Louis Park High School
6425 W 33rd Street, St. Louis Park
Open House: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Presentation: 5:30-6:15 p.m.
Facilitated Q & A Session: 6:15-7:00 p.m.
[Google Map](#)

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Plant Theft Prevention Tips

Preventing plant theft:

- Install proper lighting. Some lighting options include:
 - Low-level ambient lighting in the yard. Examples included white holiday lights and solar lights.
 - Motion-detector lights. If they turn on only during unwanted activity, ask your neighbors to call 911 if they see any suspicious activity.
 - Dusk-till-dawn lighting on your porch and above your doors.
- Utilize surveillance cameras with CLEAR footage at night and that you know how to use. Consider wildlife camera or motion-triggered options.
- Place potted plants in heavy containers.
- Place a fence around the landscaped area.
- Consider screwing containers into the ground with spiral stakes.
- Look outside if your dog barks in the middle of the night or you hear voices in unexpected areas.
- Expensive or rare plants can be targeted. Keep in mind when determining high visibility landscaping.



If your plants are stolen:

- Call **311** (if the loss is under \$1000) or **911** (if you have any evidence to hand over, it was inside a structure, or over \$1000)
- To report it online, visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/police/report/eReport

Other prevention tips:

If you are working with a landscaper, request that they provide you with a receipt of the plants they bought. Even if they black out the price, this will tell you the date, location, exact plants, and will deter potential stolen plants being used in landscaping you pay for. Also, don't forget to verify if your contractor has a license. Use the MN Department of Labor & Industry Contractor license/certificate search: <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/licensing/licensing.aspx>

REMEMBER: Call 911 on suspicious activity!

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- **Lynnhurst Summer Festival - Aug. 1 - 5:30-8:30p.m. - [Lynnhurst Park](#)**
- **Kenny Summerfest - Aug. 3 - 5-9:00p.m. - [Kenny Park](#)**
- **Armatage Summer Festival - Aug. 12 - 6-8:30p.m. - [Armatage Park](#)**



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Municipal Power

On **June 28**, the City Council voted to hold a public hearing on **August 1**, to discuss placing a question on this fall's general election ballot regarding the City's energy future. If passed by the voters of Minneapolis, this question will authorize the City to form a municipal power utility. A vote to authorize the creation of a municipal utility will not require the City to form one, but will give us that option and can help in the ongoing electrical and natural gas franchise negotiations with Xcel and CenterPoint.



For additional details, visit: www.minneapolisenergyoptions.org.

Energy Future Options Study

The City Council has approved hiring the Center for Energy and Environment to draft a report that explores the various paths the City could take to achieve its energy goals, including examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and municipalization of one or both energy utilities. The study will help frame the future franchise negotiations with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. The City has utility franchise agreements with Xcel Energy for electricity and CenterPoint Energy for natural gas that were signed in the early 1990s and expire at the end of 2014.

The Center for Energy and Environment is charged with drafting “energy vision” goals and an overview of the various paths the City could take to achieve them. The study should include a review of the current legislative and legal landscape; an examination of existing municipal utilities in Minnesota and across the country, a report on a “municipalization pathway,” to include a description of the process, schedule and preliminary cost estimates for forming a municipal utility under Minnesota law. The report will also include information about forming utility partnerships, as well as potential state legislative or Public Utilities Commission regulatory changes.

More information can be found at www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise.

Climate Action Plan

The City Council unanimously passed the new Minneapolis Climate Action Plan (www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate). The Plan, subtitled “a roadmap to reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions,” offers goals and potential strategies to help achieve a 15% reduction in emissions by 2015 and a 30% reduction by 2025 from 2006 levels. The strategies are grouped into four categories: **improving the energy efficiency; increasing our use of local, renewable energy; reducing vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis and reducing waste.**

The Plan includes many intriguing recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the use of property-assessed and on-bill financing to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for residential and commercial building; encouraging net zero buildings; creating more walkable “complete neighborhoods;” constructing 30 miles of on street, protected bike facilities by 2020 and identifying products and packaging that are neither recyclable or compostable.



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Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Program

More than 30,000 boulevard ash trees and tens of thousands of ash trees located in park properties and natural areas are destined for infestation by Emerald Ash Borer.



The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is launching a campaign to help Minneapolis residents understand the changes that Emerald Ash Borer will soon bring to our city's urban forest.

Boulevard ash trees around Minneapolis are being wrapped with informational green ribbon at various community events and on residential boulevards throughout the summer. The ribbon and accompanying signs alert residents that, "Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Kills Ash Trees" and that "EAB is in Minneapolis!" The signs also give residents information about the MPRB's tree canopy – or tree cover – replacement plan and share the Park Board's EAB website information.

The ash trees that will be wrapped with green ribbon have not been identified as being infested with EAB. However, as EAB is quickly spreading across the metro area, it is inevitable that all ash trees will become infested with EAB and eventually die, including the more than 30,000 boulevard ash trees and tens of thousands of ashes located in park properties and natural areas such as long the Mississippi corridor.

This approaching loss of ash trees will cause a drastic change to Minneapolis' tree population and has led the MPRB to develop a proactive canopy replacement plan that provides for the scheduled replacement of ash trees.

The MPRB's canopy replacement plan reduces the impact of canopy loss while growing a diverse and strong forest for future generations. The MPRB intends to lessen the impact of losses by replacing a small percentage of ash trees at a time. Rather than planting the same type of replacement tree across the park system, the MPRB will plant two or three different tree types (for example: oak, honey locust, ginkgo) on any given street block. Minneapolis residents with a boulevard ash tree adjacent to their property may request to have it replaced by contacting the MPRB. There is no charge to replace publically owned ash trees.

For more on the MPRB's canopy replacement plan, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/eab

National Night Out - August 6

The 30th Annual Minneapolis National Night Out is **Tuesday, August 6.**

National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. You can [register your event](#) online or through 311. If you want to block your street, you can for free through **July 23**. Note that not all city streets can be blocked. From **July 24 through August 1**, there is a \$100 fee. After **August 1** no applications will be accepted.



To register and learn more, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/nno.

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GOTV as a Voter Ambassador

As a Voter Ambassador, you can help get out the vote for the November 5th municipal election. Ambassadors will be trained in basic election law, registration and voting procedures, and Ranked Choice Voting so that they can provide information and resources to friends, neighborhoods, and civic circles. The City will supply precinct maps, sample ballots, and RCV-specific guides to answer frequently asked questions. These materials will be made available in multiple languages to facilitate effective outreach to all voters.



If you'd like to be part of the Voter Ambassador Program, please contact my office at (612) 673-2213, or contact the program coordinator, **Anissa Hollingshead**, at (612) 673-2296 or by email at anissa.hollingshead@minneapolismn.gov.

Help get out the vote for this year's election!

One Read One Minneapolis

This year's One Read is "A Choice of Weapons" by Gordon Parks. One Minneapolis One Read is Minneapolis' community read where everyone in town is invited to read the same book. This will be the third year of the citywide "read," where the entire community is encouraged to read a single book and join in a community conversation.



Gordon Parks was a photographer for Life magazine, a writer, composer, artist, and filmmaker, and was only 16 in 1928 when he moved from Kansas to St. Paul, Minnesota, after his mother's death. This compelling autobiography, first published in 1966, tells how Parks managed to escape the poverty and bigotry around him, and launch his distinguished career, by choosing the weapons given him by "a mother who placed love, dignity, and hard work over hatred."

For more information, see: <http://oneminneapolisoneread.com>

South Transfer Station

Solid Waste and Recycling has had a 24 foot Maximum Vehicle Length rule in effect at the [South Transfer Station](#) for many years. The length rule allows vehicles to fit on the scales upon entering and exiting the facility, and helps prevent damage to the facility that can and has occurred as longer vehicles attempt to navigate the compact site. Last year, our Public Works Department began to revisit the rule due to long vehicle lines and lengthy wait times. In January, they started notifying customers they we would begin enforcing a 25 foot maximum beginning June 1, which includes vehicle/trailer combinations. Public Works continues to work with customer service representatives to ensure this information is being provided when answering calls regarding the City's voucher program.



For details on the Voucher Program, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/vouchers/.

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