

Saint Paul Ward 5 Update

Vol. 2, April 2012

This Issue:

[District Council Elections](#)
[Lexington Bikeway and Bridges Maryland Ave.](#)
[Construction Update Poverty in Saint Paul Energy Smart Homes Community Office Hours](#)

Upcoming Events

[Citywide Clean-Up](#)
Saturday, April 14
Volunteers Needed!

[Como Pool Community Meeting](#)
Tuesday, April 17

[District 5 Annual Meeting and Elections](#)
Tuesday, April 24

Links

[Ward 5 City Web site](#)

["Ward 5 Wire" Facebook Page](#)

[Community Guide to Saint Paul City Services](#)

www.beneighbors.org

In the News

["Saint Paul opens two solar-powered electric car-charging stations at Como Park"](#) MinnPost

District Council Elections

In Saint Paul, neighbors can participate in their local District Councils to weigh-in and advise on city matters. Ward 5 encompasses parts of three District Councils (5, 6 and 10). On April 2, District 6 (North End) held its Annual Meeting and elections. I was excited to note that there were more people running for board seats than there were seats available!

Attendees were treated a sampling of food from local eateries and a History of Willow Reserve by local historian Jane McClure. I congratulate and welcome new members Ronna Woolery, Paul Raymond, Matt Sletten and Gidget Bailey and would like to thank the returning and former members of District 6 Council for their service. District 5 (Payne-Phalen and near East Side) will hold its annual meeting on April 24 at John A. Johnson Elementary at 6 p.m. Learn more at www.paynephalen.org. District 10 (Como) has an open seat for sub district 3 (from Victoria Ave. to Dale St.). Visit www.district10comopark.org to learn more.

Lexington Bikeway and Bridges

A project is beginning this month to extend the Como Park bikeway on Lexington Ave. between Minnehaha Ave. W. to Energy Park Dr. The project will replace an existing 4 foot sidewalk with a 10 foot wide asphalt bike path on Lexington. Additionally, there will be two pedestrian bridges that carry the path over Pierce Butler and the BNSF railroad. This project will improve the safety and usability of Lexington Ave. for non-motorized traffic without impacting motorized traffic. The work is scheduled to be complete by August 1.

Maryland Avenue Construction Update

Construction has begun on Maryland Ave. from Albemarle to Park St. The project will add left turn lanes to the Rice St. intersection. Portions of Maryland Ave. will be closed during the course of this project but access to homes and businesses will be maintained throughout. Construction updates will be posted on the Ramsey County web site at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/pw/construction.htm.

Poverty in Saint Paul

Recently, the Ward 5 office attended Opportunity St Paul, a gathering on poverty by Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW). According to Wilder Research, 67,000 or 24% of St. Paul residents now live in poverty. This includes 25,000 children. This is high above national rates and is an unacceptable statistic. While it is hard to pinpoint one specific cause, experts agree that poverty is closely related to a lack of jobs. Job creation and economic development are important goals that every level of government must be laser-focused on. I believe that the City of Saint Paul must partner with employers to create conditions in which businesses and families can thrive.

Energy Smart Homes

Now is the time to take advantage of a 0% interest deferred loan program to replace your furnace or boiler or add insulation to your home. Funds are still available for a limited time in the city's Energy Smart Homes program. Loans go up to \$6,500 for Saint Paul homeowners with no monthly payments and no interest. The loan is due in 30 years or upon sale of the property. There are no income limits although income does affect the loan terms. Energy Smart Homes is made possible by the City of Saint Paul with a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Visit www.thenec.org/financing for information.

Community Office Hours

I am holding office hours in the community on a weekly basis for constituents to conveniently drop-in to discuss neighborhood and city-wide issues. Thanks to those who have already taken the time to visit with me. To discuss your issue, please stop by and visit me the below times and locations. If you require a meeting lasting longer than 10-15 minutes, please contact my office to schedule an appointment.

- **Rice Street Public Library**--First Monday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
Upcoming dates: May 7, June 4
- **McDonough Recreation Center**--Second Monday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
Upcoming dates: May 14, June 11
- **North Dale Recreation Center**--Third Tuesday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
Upcoming dates: April 17, May 15
- **Wilder Recreation Center/City Academy**--Fourth Tuesday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
Upcoming dates: April 24, May 22

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