

Second Ward August 2013 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2>

Hunger Action Month. The Council has adopted a resolution declaring September, 2013 “Hunger Action Month” in Minneapolis. Food banks and social service agencies across the country will host numerous events in the month of September to focus attention on engaging communities in efforts to end hunger at the local level. Please do your part by donating food to local food shelves. Find out more about Hunger Action Month at <http://feedingamerica.org/get-involved/hunger-action-month.aspx/> and about volunteer opportunities in and near Minneapolis here:

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=20.0&aff=&categories=39&l=Minneapolis%2C+MN%2C+USA>

2014 Budget. The Mayor has presented his 2014 proposed budget. It calls for a 1% reduction in the property tax levy, an increase in police and fire staffing to deal with expected aging and attrition, adding 311 services on Saturday, increased infrastructure spending, and an air quality study. Notable investments in the Second Ward include \$11 million to rehabilitate the 10th Ave Bridge, \$2.3 million for Bridge 9 improvements, \$1.4 million for long awaited lighting on the Hiawatha LRT Trail, and \$1.3 million for reconstruction of 15th Ave and 4th St near the Brian Coyle Center. I look forward to hearing and sharing more details and exploring ways to better align the city budget with my priorities and the needs and values of my second ward constituents. The Council will now consider the budget from now through December with final approval of the 2014 budget scheduled for Wednesday, **December 11th**. I expect there to be two public hearings on the proposed 2014 property tax levy and budget on **November 19th** at 6:05pm and **December 11th** at 6:05pm in room 317 of City Hall. Additional key dates in the 2014 budget process include Sept. 11, 4 p.m. for the Board of Estimate and Taxation meeting to set the maximum property tax levies, Dec. 4 and 5, 1 – 4 p.m. – Ways and Means Committee budget “mark-up” where amendments can be considered and approved and Dec. 11, 6:05 p.m. where there will be a public hearing, more potential amendments and the City Council final vote on budget. You can read Mayor Rybak’s 2014 budget speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news/speeches/WCMS1P-113009>, see the slides that accompanied his speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mayor/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113013.pdf>, and find the complete proposed budget here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-113263> I welcome your thoughts and input.

Low-cost Trees. The City is offering about 500 low-cost trees to Minneapolis homeowners who lost trees on their properties during the June 21 severe storm. Ordering will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, Sept. 9, and end Sept. 20 (earlier if the trees sell out first). To order a tree or to get more information, visit www.treetrust.org.

Council Adopts Framework for Energy Future. After helping lead the effort to hold a public hearing on putting a question on the ballot this fall that would ask for authorization for the city form a municipal utility, I offered an alternative resolution that the Council passed unanimously in August. It clarifies that we will not be putting the issue before the voters this fall and commits the City to five important things:

1. Develop a comprehensive energy vision through the Energy Pathways Study, which is to incorporate the Climate Action Plan goals and strategies and recommendations of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission;
2. Push at the Legislature for the flexibility we need to address our energy goals through our franchise agreements, or create a municipal utility;
3. continuing to study all of our energy options through the Pathways Study;
4. Direct staff to start working on negotiating franchise agreements that will meet our energy goals.
5. Reach agreement with the utility companies on frameworks for franchise agreements that help will meet our energy goals by June of next year, which will keep the pressure on the utilities to make sure they deliver on their commitments to be good partners.

I did this in large part because both utility companies made significant commitments to be better partners in helping us reach our Climate Action Plan goals. The next few months offer us a unique opportunity to continue the conversation about the energy future we want for ourselves and our City. CenterPoint Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minneapolis Energy Options coalition that commits to help the City meet our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2025 and to assist all of its customers in reducing their energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, through on-bill financing for residential energy efficiency investments, a pilot comprehensive residential retrofit program, a comprehensive multifamily retrofit program and more. Xcel Energy has also committed to help the City reach our goals, and has committed to specifics including implementing a community solar program, creating a standard contract for renewable projects, and sharing more information with the City about reliability issues and planned infrastructure projects. Xcel has also offered to work with the City on a plan to invest in renewable energy and use it to power City infrastructure, like street lights. It's good to see the utilities coming to the table. Now it's the City's turn to hold them to their commitments to be good partners in meeting our energy goals. This is incredibly important work for the City to be doing. In order to stabilize carbon concentrations in the atmosphere, we need to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. Electricity and natural gas provided by Xcel and CenterPoint account for two-thirds of our carbon emissions. It's great that energy is finally becoming a priority issue for the City, because it needs that level of attention. I'm hopeful that the conversation that has begun – thanks in large part to the great work of the Minneapolis Energy Options campaign – will continue and will lead us to a cleaner, more affordable, more reliable energy future.

Customer Energy Usage Data Workgroup. The City Council has approved participating in a state work group on regulated utilities' energy data policies. As you may recall, last year the Council unanimously passed an Energy Disclosure ordinance that requires the largest commercial buildings in Minneapolis to share their energy and water performance data with the City, to be posted online. The purpose is to give commercial tenants an idea about the energy performance of different buildings, and to give building owners and managers an incentive to invest in energy efficiency upgrades. Unfortunately, Xcel Energy places restrictive limits on the amount of data they share – even with building owners, in some cases – that have substantially undermined this ordinance. The purpose of this workgroup, formed by the Public Utilities Commission, is to recommend data policies that will be sufficiently protective of private customer data while allowing enough aggregate data sharing to make policies like the Energy Disclosure ordinance possible.

Vote November 5. The City has launched the new website to help voters get ready for this fall's election. At vote.minneapolismn.gov, voters can learn what they need to know about how to register to vote, find their polling place, and many other elections topics. The website also helps folks learn how to vote using ranked-choice voting, and they can see how ballots are counted. There is an interactive demonstration ballot that voters can use to learn how to mark a ranked-choice ballot and see how the ballot-counting works. The City's 311 mobile application has also been updated to help voters this year. Users of the 311 app for iPhones and Android devices can now easily access the election's Your Vote guide with quick links to key election-related information, including how to register to vote, finding your polling place, and how to absentee vote. The mobile app is available in the app stores for iOS (iPhone, iPad) and Android devices by searching "Minneapolis 311." At vote.minneapolismn.gov you can check your registration status, download a voter registration application, find out where to vote or if you cannot get to your polling place on Election Day, fill out an application for an absentee ballot. The third and final step to voting is completing your ballot. The website also has helpful resources to learn how ranked-choice voting works.

Dinkytown Moratorium. At the last Council meeting, a motion to create a moratorium on development in Dinkytown failed on a 6-6 vote. I voted for the moratorium. As I predicted when the Council was discussing the Opus project, the Council's decision to grant the rezoning for Opus has been taken as a signal by the development community that it is open season on Dinkytown. At least one additional developer has brought forward a project that will demolish existing commercial buildings and replace them with new student housing. This development is on 4th Street, the heart of Dinkytown, one of the corridors that works very well today. It is vibrant, pedestrian friendly, and home to an eclectic, welcoming mix of small, independent businesses. By the time the Dinkytown small area plan is finished later this year, a substantial chunk of Dinkytown will already be slated for demolition, and I fear that the pattern will

be set: the Council will support any and every redevelopment project a developer proposes. With this vote, the Council made clear that placating favored developers is more important to us than listening to the small business owners and others who are most impacted by development. A short term moratorium on development to allow the small area plan for the area to be completed was a reasonable and effective tool at our disposal and I am sorry we did not have the votes to put it in place.

Plain Language Charter. The Council has approved the ballot language for the Plain Language Charter amendment put forward by the Charter Commission that will appear on the ballot November 5th. If passed the new 63 page charter would replace the current 192 page charter with a more modern, common language version drafted for brevity and in plain language and reorganized into nine articles. While it makes no structural changes to how city government works and retains the current role and relationships of City boards and commissions, it does reorganize related provisions together and removes many provisions (many outdated) for possible enactment into ordinance. You can find a full report and read the new charter here:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109178.pdf>

Community Participation Program Funds. In August the City Council approved future funding for the Community Participation Program (CPP). Over \$11 million will be provided during the 2014-16 program cycle. Ward 2 neighborhoods are slated to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars: **\$252,361** for **Cedar Riverside**, **\$160,111** for **Southeast Como**, **\$196,111** for **Seward**, **\$191,003** for **Prospect Park** and **\$480,979** for **Greater Longfellow**. Proposed neighborhood allocations, base data, and the CPP Program Guidelines (which have not changed) can be viewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs>. The City will be holding three informational sessions in late August and early September to answer questions about submitting Community Participation Plans for funding, and for neighborhood organizations to meet with NCR's Access and Outreach staff about ideas for reaching under-engaged communities. For more information, please contact Robert Thompson at Robert.Thompson@minneapolismn.gov or at 612-673-2523.

Platform to Employment. The City's Employment and Training Program and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) have partnered with The WorkPlace, a Connecticut based workforce development organization, to launch **Platform to Employment (P2E)**, a new program that provides a pathway to employment for long-term unemployed workers aged 50 and above and veterans aged 30 and below. Minneapolis will be the sixth city to launch the program with a cohort of 24 participants. Those interested in the program can apply at the Platform to Employment website, www.platformtoemployment.com and click on the Minneapolis Platform to Employment Application button on the homepage. Information is also available at the North Minneapolis WorkForce Center located at 1200 Plymouth Avenue, Minneapolis or by calling 612.520.3500.

Tax Increment Finance Annual Report. The Council received the state required annual report on our use of tax increment financing in August. In 2012, four new districts were established within the City: Dunwoody Apartments, Hi-Lake Triangle Apartments, 520 Second Street SE, and Spirit on Lake. Ten districts were decertified in 2012: Clare Housing, Creamette, MILES I, Nicollet-Franklin, SEMI Phase IV, United Van/Bus, Urban Village, Village in Phillips – Phase 2, Conservatory and South Nicollet Mall. Eight of these were decertified early. As a result, the tax base of the City that contributes to the General Fund increased by approximately \$517 million. The percent of the City's net tax capacity being captured within TI districts decreased from 8.9% in 2012 to 6.6% in 2013, as a result of the decertification of the ten TI districts. In 2014, because a large Pre-1979 Consolidated TIF District used to fund neighborhood revitalization efforts will be its original size and with this additional it is estimated that approximately 7.75% of the City's net tax capacity will be captured within TI districts. Even so, I believe that we are trending in the right direction. In 2009 approximately 15.2% of the City's net tax capacity was captured within TI districts.

STEP-UP youth employment program celebrates 10 Years, 18,000 internships. The City's STEP-UP program has celebrated 10 years of providing summer internship opportunities to Minneapolis youth. Since 2004, youth ages 14-21 have received nearly 18,000 internships and over 230 Twin Cities' employers have participated in the STEP-UP program. STEP-UP is one of the country's premier youth

employment programs. In 2012, the program received accolades from President Obama at a White House Summit on Youth Employment. Private sector employer engagement is the hallmark of STEP-UP, with over 150 top Twin Cities businesses, nonprofits and public agencies stepping up this summer to hire interns. Last year, STEP-UP interns brought home \$3.1 million in wages to low-income households, including \$1.4 million from the private sector.

Hiawatha Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements. Hennepin County, the City and MNDOT are developing a plan to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities at six intersections along Hiawatha Avenue between 28th Street and 46th Street. The enhancements will include ADA improvements, radius and median adjustments to reduce crossing distances and revisions to the signal systems to accommodate the construction.

Bike and Pedestrian Counts. Minneapolis Public Works is gearing up to conduct its 7th Annual Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count and you can help! Volunteers will be asked to count the number of bicyclists and pedestrians at several locations around the city. The main days for counting will be September 10-12. Most counts are conducted from 4:00-6:00 p.m., although there are shifts throughout the day at select locations. The City of Minneapolis conducts bicyclist and pedestrian counts in order to understand the impact of non-motorized travel on streets, sidewalks, and paths. Accurate counts enable the City to plan and build for bicyclists and pedestrians, while tracking changes in traffic. If you are interested in volunteering, [register online](#) or contact Simon Blenski at simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov or 612-616-7345. To learn more, please visit the City's [count page](#) to view traffic flow maps and past count reports.

Bed Bugs. The Minneapolis Health Department in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the University of Minnesota's Let's Beat the Bug! Campaign and Emergency Community and Health Outreach (ECHO) has started an outreach effort to help people who may deal with the increasing problem of bed bugs. The educational online resources include fliers educating readers on bed bug identification, prevention, control (translated into Spanish, Somali, Hmong and Arabic courtesy of the University of Minnesota's Let's Beat the Bug! Campaign.) There are also videos in several languages of "do it yourself" strategies to control bed bug infestations. These videos can be used by schools, multi-unit housing properties, social service and health care providers. Residents are encouraged to report bed bug complaints to the City's 311 for tracking purposes and to visit the University of Minnesota's Let's Beat the Bug! Website <http://www.bedbugs.umn.edu/>. To see the videos and more you can also visit the newly updated City Bed Bugs website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homes/bedbugs/index.htm>

Finding Pets. The City has enhanced our Animal Care & Control website to show photos and short descriptions of all dogs, cats, and small animals that are either lost or available for adoption from the shelter. This section of the website is updated in real time so folks can check the website before making a visit to the shelter. The website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals/index.htm> also features a fresh new look and more user-friendly navigation, making it easier for people to license their pets, report an animal problem, and learn more about all the services that Minneapolis Animal Care & Control provides. The shelter that takes in more than 4,000 animals each year.

Park Dedication Fee. The Council has voted in favor of a resolution giving local approval to the Park Dedication Fee law. This will bring in needed resources for new parks or new public green space to developments when new housing is built. Housing defined as affordable is exempt however. I have supported this concept for years, and am glad to see it finally come to fruition.

Hussein Samatar. On Sunday, August 25th, Hussein Samatar passed away. Hussein was best known for leading the African Development Center (ADC) and for his service as the first East African member of the Minneapolis School Board. Hussein built ADC into a significant force for good, helping immigrants access capital for small business investment and buying homes. It was due to a great partnership with ADC that the City was able to create a program for Sharia-compliant small business lending, to ensure that immigrant entrepreneurs can start, maintain and expand businesses serving their communities. Hussein was less well known in the broader community for the extremely important roles he played as a community leader on the West Bank. He served as a member of both the West Bank Community

Coalition and the West Bank Business Association and participated in the Cedar Riverside Partnership. In addition to its broader work, ADC has added to the vitality of the West Bank business corridor, creating a beautiful building and open space at the corner of Riverside and 20th Ave S. Hussein's work on the WBCC and WBBA made both groups more sensitive to the needs and perspectives of the West Bank's immigrant residents and entrepreneurs, and the community remains indebted to him for his service. He will be missed. There will be a special celebration of his life on Tuesday, September 3, from 4-6 p.m. in the Assembly Room in the Davis Center, located at 1250 W. Broadway Ave. in Minneapolis. If you would like to support the Samatar family with a contribution, you can go to any [Bremer Bank](#) and make a donation with a personal check, money order or cash designated to the Hussein Samatar Memorial Fund.

Clem Engen. On Saturday, August 24th, Seward resident and neighborhood activist Clem Engen passed away. For years, Clem worked with quiet dedication to make Seward a better place to live. He was one of the key leaders and participants in the Seward Crime and Safety Committee and the Seward History Committee. He regularly volunteered with his good friend Dick Westby to clean graffiti from signs and other public infrastructure, and helped with the project to write a history of Seward. Clem's low-key, positive outlook and commitment of his own time and effort helped welcome people to Seward and set a great example for community service. He will be missed.

Responsible Banking Ordinance. Council Member Glidden has introduced an ordinance regarding financial institutions and disclosure of information. I am very interested in this effort and am very supportive of finding more effective ways to encourage and ensure that banks and other lending institutions operating in our city, and other lending institutions are socially responsible. I will be very interested in seeing the specifics of this and in finding ways to hold financial institutions accountable if they are not investing in our communities.

Franklin Avenue Bridge. As I shared last month, Hennepin County plans to rehabilitate the Franklin Avenue Bridge in 2015, including a full replacement of the deck. The County has scheduled a first public meeting for **September 9th**, 5:30-7:30pm at Saint Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave SE. You can view the layout – which includes a protected bicycle facility next to much wider pedestrian space than the current bridge offers – here:

<http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/portal/site/HennepinUS/menuitem.b1ab75471750e40fa01dfb47ccf06498/?vgnextoid=34613b279d157310VgnVCM10000099fe4689RCRD>.

Residential Density Standards. A proposed amendment to change the way residential density is regulated where higher density multi-family uses are allowed will be coming forward to the City Council in September. Standards requiring a minimum lot area per dwelling unit would be eliminated in all districts except for the low- and medium-density residence districts: R1, R2, R3, and R4. This amendment would add flexibility and would eliminate a built-in disincentive to incorporate smaller dwelling units into multi-family developments. Nothing in this amendment would allow additional building height or bulk in any zoning district. The amendment may allow for increased density as measured by the number of dwelling units per acre. For example, a development with R5 zoning on a 70,000 square-foot lot can incorporate 100 dwelling units. This theoretical development might build all two-bedroom units, for a total of 200 bedrooms. Under existing regulations, a developer could not construct the same building with 200 units containing one bedroom each (again, totaling 200 bedrooms). I support this change and believe that existing density standards may in some instances conflict with what is in the best interest of a community and other goals. As the City continues to place additional emphasis on quality urban design and ensuring that new development makes a positive contribution to its neighborhood, the specific number of dwelling units incorporated in new buildings has become less important.

Police Conduct. On August 21 the Council's Public Safety Civil Rights and Health committee received its first report on the newly formed Office of Police Conduct Review that has replaced the Police Civilian Review Authority that used to review citizen complaints about Police conduct. I was troubled to learn that of the over 400 complaints, and 71 dealing with excessive force, only 17 were found to have merit and not one resulted in the discipline of a police officer.

West River Parkway Community Advisory Committee. The Park Board is planning for improvements to West River Parkway trails. Existing trails along the west bank of the Mississippi from Franklin Avenue to Plymouth Avenue will be reconstructed in 2014. An appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will inform the planning occurring in September and October 2013. I have appointed Seward resident Eriks Dunen as the Second Ward representative to this advisory committee. An Open House about the project will be held **October 1** -- 6:30-8:30 pm, at Park Board Headquarters Board Room, 2117 West River Rd. People can also take a survey at www.minneapolisparcs.org (click on link in lower left column of home page) or by calling the MPRB's customer service center weekdays at 612-230-6400 for a paper copy. For more information about the project, to sign up for emails about project updates, or to take the user survey, visit <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1456> or contact the project manager, Deborah Bartels at dbartels@minneapolisparcs.org.

Licenses in Stadium Village. The Council has granted beer/wine licenses to My Burger at 213 Oak St SE and Baldy's BBQ at 1501 University Ave SE.

Justice Assistance Grant. The Council has voted to accept a \$266,670 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the US Department of Justice. \$160,000 will go into the Attorney's Office budget, and \$106,670 will go into the MPD budget.

Northside Greenway. The Council has accepted a grant of up to \$405,000 (\$135,000 per year over three years) to plan and conduct community engagement for the proposed car-free Northside Greenway.

New Bike Lanes and Bike Boulevards. The Council has approved the layouts and funding for the "Presidents/Stone Arch Bike Boulevard" in Southeast and Northeast Minneapolis, and the "Southern Bike Connection" on 24th St E and 17th Ave S in South Minneapolis.

Recycle Half. The City has approved an insert for your next utility bill in concert with Hennepin County Environmental Services encouraging residents to recycle at least half of the waste we generate. The City has an adopted goal to reduce the amount of overall waste going into the garbage burner, and increase recycling rates. Find out more at <http://www.recyclehalf.com/>.

Grant to Homegrown. The City has accepted a grant of \$40,000 from the General Mills Foundation to fund the ongoing work of the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative.

Community Gardening Day. I was happy to again coauthor a resolution for Community Gardening Day, which was August 10th this year.

Freeze on Taxicab Meter Rate Increase. The Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment committee has voted to authorize staff to impose a one-year freeze on automatic increases in taxicab meter rates. We did so after staff presented us with a comparison of other peer cities that indicated that allowing the increase would make Minneapolis taxicabs the fifth-most-expensive of our peer cities.

No Increase in License Fees. The Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment committee has voted not to increase license fees.

Car Sharing Program. The Council has voted to authorize a two-year agreement with the company Car2Go for a citywide car sharing program, pending passage of ordinance amendments required to allow this service.

Welcome New Ward 2 Residents. With the start of another academic year at the U of M, Thousands of new Ward 2 residents are moving into housing in and around campus. To welcome them back and provide useful information as they start the new school year, I invite you to join me, local neighbors, city staff, University faculty, staff and students to help distribute welcome bags and resource information on Sept. 5, 2013. Participation involves a two hour shift between 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Coordinated by the Student and Community Relations office within the Office for Student Affairs, this door-knocking and

distribution will occur in the Marcy Holmes, SE Como, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. To request more information, please email neighbor@umn.edu.

Pack and Give Back. Using lesson learned for Southeast Como's enormously successful Move In Move Out program a new effort is underway this year. With students returning to housing around the University City solid waste crews are ramping up efforts to keep the university neighborhoods of Marcy Holmes, Southeast Como and Prospect Park clean. Students who are moving out can take advantage of the University's new Pack & Give Back program, which provides convenient options to have bookcases, tables and other unwanted but usable items dropped off or picked up and saved from being trashed. In addition, City crews are making extra trash pickups in the campus neighborhoods. The effort is aimed at collecting the mounds of throwaways left by departing students as quickly as possible. The accelerated cleanup will let crews clean up any piles of garbage as soon as they're spotted. This year, City crews will also be picking up usable items and delivering them to the University's Reuse Warehouse in efforts to quantify the amount of usable items being thrown away. The City hopes its efforts will encourage a non-profit to step up and collect usable items next year. For more information about the Pack & Give Back program, go to www.facm.umn.edu/about/central-services/reuse/packandgiveback.

Longfellow Market. The City has approved all of the land use applications necessary for the Longfellow Market at the corner of 39th Ave S and Lake Street, including rezoning from C1 to C2, adding a Transitional Parking overlay to a parcel at 3013 38th Ave S, and vacating part of an alley. I'm hopeful that this project will go forward and be successful, adding a full-service grocery store to this vital intersection and helping revitalize Lake Street as a commercial corridor.

Cedar Avenue Sidewalks. The City of Minneapolis Public Works is planning on reconstructing sidewalks and related infrastructure on Cedar Av between 3rd St S and 7th St S in 2014. The project will include full removal of the existing sidewalks, curb and gutter as needed, reconfiguration of the automobile travel lanes, and streetscape elements as needed. The City held an open house meeting to present the proposed project layout and gather input on Thursday, August 29th, at the Brian Coyle Center, from 4-6pm. Find out more here: www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cedarave.

Seward Square Apartments. The Council has voted to approve issuing bonds for the renovation of Seward Square Apartments at 2121 9th St S. This will help update and modernize this unique and valuable housing specifically designed to serve people with disabilities.

Van White Boulevard. After 14 months of construction, a new stretch of Van White Memorial Boulevard now connects the Harrison and Bryn Mawr neighborhoods to Interstate 394 and neighborhoods to the south. Van White Boulevard includes a 600-foot bridge above the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail lines and the Cedar Lake Trail and a smaller bridge crosses Bassett Creek. The new street also has a shared bike and pedestrian area that connects to the Cedar Lake Trail, making it easier for North Siders to bike to Downtown and beyond and south siders to get to Bryn Mawr and beyond. The \$22.3 million project was funded in part from federal, county and city funds. For more information on this and other street projects in Minneapolis, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/2013.

Como Cookout. Please join me at the 11th Annual Como Cookout community celebration Sunday September 15th from 2 to 6 pm at Van Cleve Park. This event, with free food, entertainment and games for all ages, is sponsored by the Southeast Como Improvement Association.

Wood from the Hood. The Council has approved selling to Wood from the Hood and rezoning city owned property at 2620, 2644 and 2652 Minnehaha Avenue from I1 Light Industrial District to I2 Medium Industrial District to allow expansion of the successful business at this location.

U of M Water Research. The City has signed onto an agreement with the University of MN to conduct research, perform testing and analysis and make recommendation for improvements to our water distribution system.

Apply to Serve on a Boards or Commission. There are 71 open positions on the following 12 City boards and commissions: [Arts Commission](#), [Civil Rights Commission](#), [Disabilities, Advisory Committee, On People With](#), [Ethical Practices Board](#), [Heritage Preservation Commission](#), [Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council](#), [Housing Board of Appeals](#), [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority](#), [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#), [Planning Commission](#), [Telecommunications Network \(MTN\)](#), [Minneapolis](#) and the [Zoning Board of Adjustment](#). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.

Ward Office Hours. Every Tuesday morning I hold “Office Hours” in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.

- 1st Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);
- 2nd Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);
- 3rd Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);
- 4th Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

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