

HDC Newsletter

November 18, 2011

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HDC Events Calendar

November 24 Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26 Rice Park Free Skate at Wells Fargo Rink
5 pm -10 pm
Kick Off festivities start at 3:00 pm

December 3 Highland Business Association
Breakfast with Santa 9:00 -11:00 am
Chatter Box Pub
RSVP Required. 651-699-9042 or
sharris@highlandba.com

December 3 Mendota Lights at the Village
2-8 pm
Free Hayrides, Dickens Carolers, Face Painting
and Santa
[For More Information](#)

December 3 HDC Board Retreat 9am - Noon

December 3 Art at Ramsey 10 a.m. - 5 p.m
See below for more information

December 10 Highland Business Association
Breakfast with Santa 9:00 -11:00 am
Chatter Box Pub
RSVP Required. 651-699-9042 or
sharris@highlandba.com

December 13 Transportation Meeting 6:30 pm
Randolph Ave Traffic/Parking Discussion
Stop Sign Placement at Syndicate and Ford
Hillcrest Recreation Center Activity Room

December 14 Community Development Meeting 6:30 pm
Cretin-Derham Hall South Field Updates
NTB -discussion about zoning
Hillcrest Recreation Center Village View Room

December 14 Community Services Meeting 6:30 pm
Election of a Community Member
Hillcrest Recreation Center Activity Room

December 20 Western District Community Meeting
9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Western District Building
on Hamline across from Target

Calendar

Highland Neighborhood Forum

Recycling in St Paul

Ramsey County

Friends of the St Paul Library

Friends of the Parks

Metropolitan Airports
Commission

Great River Parks Master
Plan

District Council FAQ's

St Paul Resident Handbook

- January 1 [Polar Dash at 10am](#) from Mpls to Ford Pkwy.
& Mississippi River Blvd.
- January 5 HDC Board Meeting
Meet New City Councilman Chris Tolbert
Board will appoint an At-Large Alternate
Hillcrest Recreation Center Community Room
- January 20 Neighborhood Honor Roll 5:30
Binz Refectory
University of St Thomas
RSVP to hdc@visi.com
- March 10 [Home Improvement Fair](#) 10 am -3 pm
Cretin-Derham Hall High School
550 Albert St South, St Paul

HDC Board Update

Meeting Minutes of Highland District Council
November 2, 2011 7:00 p.m.
1978 Ford Parkway
St. Paul MN 55116
Hillcrest Recreation Center

Brad Meyer of St Paul Parks and Recreation discussed programs and plans in the Highland area including:

- City budget updates for 2012 will have no change to recreation centers and programming.
- The Crosby Park parking lot will be paved this week, but may not be completed before the winter.
- First Tee building at Highland National Golf Course ground breaking was in October; the First Tee youth activities will be housed there. Highland 9 will be closing this week and Highland National when the snow falls.
- Highland Aquatic Center opened with improvements this year; usage and fees were both up for the year.
- The **Great River Passage Plan** is still in progress; an updated Plan will likely be available this month and a draft will be given to the HDC. Parks Commission meeting in early 2012 will likely review the Plan and would include a public hearing. Another public hearing will be held when the Plan is recommended to the City Council for approval.
- **Emerald Ash Borer** has been found in the Summit/University neighborhood; there are no additional ash tree removal plans for this year in Highland.

Bill Stephenson, St. Paul Animal Control, discussed dealing with urban coyotes and other wild animals in the neighborhood. There are wild animals (e.g., raccoons, fox) in St Paul that have contracted distemper. Pet owners should contact their vet if their pet tangles with a wild animal.

Treasurer's Report

Puffer presented the treasurer's report as Forsberg was absent. Discussed remainder of budgeted 2011 HDC expenses. Some funds will remain at the end of the year.

Standing Committee Reports

Community Services Committee - Bettenburg

- The motion light detector installation program with S&S Hardware and Highland Electric is underway.

Community Development Committee - Anderson

- CDC passed a resolution to support Smashburger request for a waiver of 45 day waiting period.
- CDC passed a resolution to support J&S Bean Factory rezoning from B1 to TN2. There has been subsequent neighbor complaints regarding bean roasting smell and smoke, which is related to J&S's license rather than zoning. Carruth has taken up these concerns with DSI.
- Joint taskforce with HBA members created to review and update the Special Sign District with PED.
- November 15 meeting agenda includes ARISE presentation on their alternate Ford Plant 6th scenario.

Transportation Committee - Hassie

- Open letter created on alley maintenance to be included in newsletter and website.
- Public Works will be giving a general overview on snow plowing at the next Transportation meeting in November 15.

Community Organizer Report

- Ward 3 Candidate Forum held on October 19 had 180+ people attend.
- Future board meeting speaker includes SPPS Board liaison in February, depending on who is elected.
- HDC board retreat December 3 at Hillcrest 9 AM to noon. Plan to talk about existing programming, future goals, vision of the HDC. Look at our mission, how well are we accomplishing, etc. Carruth to send link to a Summary of the District Plan and existing contract a week or two prior to the Retreat.
- Neighborhood Honor Roll is January 20 at UST. HDC will have to decide the nominees by an email vote. All Board members are invited to attend.
- Home Improvement Fair is March 10, 2012 at CDH from 10 am to 3 pm. HDC is the fiscal agent this year. Carruth just finished sending out applications to over 200 potential exhibitors and sponsors. Information to be posted on the HDC website within the next couple of weeks.
- Crosby Nature Preserve Deer Hunt update: 5 deer the first day and 3 the third (skunked on day 2). 8 doe total so far. Averaged 11 hunters per day. The Nov 7 - 9 hunt period will be open to both doe and buck. Lots of coyote sightings.
- Carruth attended an all day retreat on Friday Oct 28 with the other District Council Executive Directors/CO's. The presenter was Annie Johnson who teaches in the Executive Director

for Non-Profits leadership program. It was very interesting and focused on what we do well, helps to hear what other District Council's are doing and to learn about best practices.

- An amendment for the STAR grant for security cameras at Horace Mann and Hillcrest will be going before the City Council in the next couple of weeks.
- CRWD Grant - interns have sent the letters and HDC is collecting the results to complete the project. Interns have been added to HDC payroll as Contract employees and will be paid once a month until the project is complete. It shouldn't take longer than 3 months.
- Spring Clean Up site is still undetermined. Carruth will be approaching US Bank in mid November. Bartsh to ask Ford representative when they are in town for Ford Plant meeting.
- Ford Plant Public Meeting on November 9 at MNSCU Training Center 7:00 -9:00 PM - Please help spread the word.
- At-Large Alternate opening. Charles Breer has had to resign from the HDC board. Election for an At-Large alternate will be held at the January 5 Board meeting.
- 2012 HDC meeting schedule has been posted.

Business Representatives Reports

HBA - Bartsh

- Highland Village business Trick-or-Treat was on Oct. 29.
- Breakfast with Santa will be in December.
- New businesses are opening in Highland, including Smashburger and Menchie's.

W7BA

- W7 Enhancement Coalition, a committee of the W7BA, gave out over 60 certificates of recognition to businesses and neighborhood entities for their efforts to beautify and improve the neighborhood.
- New member campaign resulted in a 20% increase in membership.
- A number of business openings (American Family Insurance, Claddagh Coffee shop, Mojo Monkey, Karo's Steak & Chicken) and ground breakings (Cossetta's, Nova Classic Academy) have recently occurred.

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee directed Carruth to speak with City about amending the City contract to reallocate Crime Prevention Personnel funds to Non Personnel to pay for part of remaining overhead expenses.

The board moved to Executive Session to discuss resolutions regarding end-of-year personnel matters including employee bonuses, wages, benefits and job descriptions.

McDonough and Bartsh volunteered to lead a special subcommittee to review HDC job descriptions.

Community Development Update

Community Development Committee

November 15, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Highland Village Special District Sign Plan - Update

Ms. Anderson reported that sign plan task force has started initial planning with Kate Reilly, PED Planner. Ms. Reilly has provided a report detailing all the different types of regulated signs and a comparison of how each type is regulated in the base city code, TN2 districts (like Highland Village)

and the existing Highland Village sign plan. Ms. Bartsh encouraged the committee to suggest any other types or categories of signs that should be evaluated for regulation by the task force. The first official meeting of the task force is scheduled for early December. The timeline for the full process has yet to be determined.

Highland Village Streetscape Improvements - Update

Ms. Bartsh updated the committee on the status of the proposed streetscape improvements. The Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) request for this project was not recommended for approval, but the Public Works Sidewalk Section has submitted a request for funding to replace only the sidewalk sections in Highland Village that are adjacent to grass boulevards. Replacement of these sections is less costly because it is easier to manage trees located in grass boulevards compared to trees located in concrete boulevard sections. The goal is to replace deteriorated sidewalks that have become tripping hazards. Street light and tree replacement will also be requested in the areas of the proposed sidewalk replacement. Funding would come from Municipal State Aid and assessments. A public hearing before the City Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21. Ms. Anderson moved that the committee approve a resolution in support of the sidewalk replacement. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the committee.

Sidewalks in the Village?

A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. for approving the reconstruction of above standard decorative sidewalk on both sides of Ford Parkway from S. Mississippi River Blvd. to S. Finn St.; both sides of Ford Pkwy from Kenneth St. to Howell St. and both sides of S. Cleveland Avenue from Pinehurst Ave. to Bayard Ave. The project will be financed by Municipal State Aid and Assessments. If you have questions, please contact lynn.moser@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ford Plant Meeting

Ms. Bartsh and Mr. Bettenburg reported that little new information was discussed at the latest Ford Plant meeting. The plant is still scheduled to close in December. The timeline for the environmental assessment and remediation is still uncertain. The city's Ford Plant Task Force is expected to re-start meeting in January 2012.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee met on Tuesday November 15

Public Works gave a presentation on Snow Plowing in St Paul

Snow Plowing Information

All snow emergencies start with Night Plow Routes at 9:00 P.M. on the day of the declared snow emergency. Plowing begins on Night Plow Routes at 9:00 P.M. and continues through the night into the morning until the snow is plowed to the curb. Parking is banned on these routes until snow is plowed all the way to the curb. This plowing operation takes 8 to 12 hours to complete depending on the amount of snow. Night Plow Routes are typically the busy streets -- marked with signs that say "NIGHT PLOW ROUTE" -- plus one side of north-south residential streets with signs that say "NIGHT PLOW ROUTE THIS SIDE OF STREET." All downtown streets are on the night plow route.

Day Plow Routes begin the following morning. There are no signs on Day Plow Routes.

Plowing starts after the night routes are plowed, which is typically around 8:00 A.M. Parking is banned on these routes until snow is plowed all the way to the curb. The Day Plow Routes are the east-west residential streets PLUS one side of north-south residential streets -- the side WITHOUT the plowing signs. There are some exceptions to these rules but they are all well marked.

The tagging and towing continues for 96 hours after the snow emergency has begun.

For 24-hour Snow Emergency information call (651) 266-PLOW (7569) for an up-to-date recording of current snow emergency conditions or **(651) 266-9700** to talk to Street Maintenance personnel. Sign Up for Snow Emergency Notification - SnowAlert

If you would like to get an email notification or text message alert of the next Snow Emergency, sign for [SnowAlert](#).

A letter addressing [Alley Maintenance](#) was delivered to a couple of different blocks in Highland where neighbors have complained about vegetation overgrowth blocking the sight lines, and fences that are in disrepair. One neighbor did call to thank the HDC for distributing the letter.

Smart Trips Results from Highland Park

Neighborhoods program impact detailed in report

The results are in for our 2010 Highland Park Smart Trips Neighborhoods program. The final report illustrates the program's success in changing attitudes and behaviors among participants, resulting in fewer drive-alone car trips.

Like previous programs in the Union Park and Summit-University neighborhoods, the Highland Neighborhood Program sought to reduce car trips and help residents explore other options for getting around-by foot, bike and transit. We engaged more than 1,000 residents through their participation in group rides, walks and workshops, as well as requests for Smart Trips kits.

According to results from a before and after phone survey, Highland Park residents increased biking (+3%), walking (+5%) and reduced drive-alone trips by 3%. More than 80% of online survey respondents reported taking new walking, biking or transit trips as a result of the Smart Trips program. In addition, more residents became familiar with bus routes and schedules and were consequently less reluctant to try transit options.

The program is on hold while we adapt our model to serve the unique needs and characteristics found across St. Paul neighborhoods. Our vision is that every St. Paul neighborhood have a similar program designed to fit their character.

Since 2008, St. Paul Smart Trips has helped more than 3,000 St. Paul households make smarter trips!

[Learn more about our Neighborhoods programs.](#)

Last Chance to Nominate an Awesome Highland Park Volunteer!!

The Neighborhood Honor Roll is a citywide event, typically held in January, honoring those who

improve the quality of life in Saint Paul. Each year, the Highland Park District Council selects three awardees to be recognized. To nominate someone who you believe helps make Highland Park a better place to live, work, and play, please fill out this [form](#) and email it to hdc@visi.com or mail it to:

Highland District Council
1978 Ford Pkwy
St Paul, MN 55116

Thank you for your help in recognizing the Volunteers of Highland Park!

Crime Report

[Crime Report 10-27 to 11-2](#)

[Crime Report 11-3 to 11-9](#)

Western District Update:

Please encourage residents to friend us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Paul-Police-Department-Western-District/281568361869360> so they will get updates & news directly from the West District!

From the first of November through today's date there has been an increase of thefts from vehicles in the Western District compared to the same time period in 2010.

The areas most highly victimized are south of I-94, to St. Clair Ave., and between the Mississippi River and 35-E. There are other areas in West that have also had incidents of theft from vehicles so we are asking that all of our residents be aware of unusual or suspicious behavior and call 911 if you observe anything.

The best way to deter being a victim of theft from your vehicle is not to leave anything at all in it, park in well lit areas, and do not place items under the seat or in the trunk after parking your vehicle.

Most commonly stolen items include laptops, I-Pods or other electronics, GPS, purses or wallets, brief cases, back packs, gym bags, tools, cameras, cash, or anything else of value.

Please do not leave items in your vehicle even for "just a few minutes". Help the police by being the eyes & ears for the community and when in doubt, call 911.

Crosby Farm -Deer Hunt Results

The Metro Bowhunters Resource Base completed their second hunt session at Crosby Farm Regional Park on November 9 concluding the 2011 special permit archery hunt. Across six hunt days, the archers successfully removed 8 doe and 3 small buck. All doe were taken during the first, doe only, hunt session in October. The three buck were taken during the November session, which was slow due to the full moon and a low pressure system that set up camp over our area.

We will complete an aerial survey this winter following a fresh snowfall to assess the need for a 2012 special permit archery hunt.

City Council Agenda November 16

Preliminary Order setting the date of [Public Hearing for December 21, 2011](#) to consider approval to reconstruct above standard decorative sidewalk on both sides of Ford Parkway from Mississippi River Boulevard South to Finn Street South, both sides of Cleveland Avenue South from Kenneth Street to Howell Street, and both sides of Cleveland Avenue South from Pinehurst Avenue to Bayard Avenue. (File No. S1201, Assessment No. 125303)
Sponsors: Harris

Declaring Thursday, November 24, 2011, to be Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels Day.
Sponsors: Harris

An ordinance [amending Chapter 64, Signs](#), of the Zoning Code. (Public hearing continued from May 18)
Sponsors: Thune

St Paul Parks and Rec Update

New Youth Golf Facility Ground Breaking

Highland National Golf Course will soon have a new youth golf development facility courtesy of a partnership with First Tee of Saint Paul. The new facility, which is expected to be completed next spring/summer, will feature classroom and practice areas to assist First Tee in developing and teaching youth golfers in Saint Paul. Grants and a large private contribution from Denny Sanford enabled the project to move forward.

New Off-Leash Dog Park

A new dog park is slated to open next Memorial Day courtesy of a land-use agreement with Xcel Energy for property under the Smith Ave High Bridge. The 7 acre park will be fenced and accessible by foot or car. Click on the image to view the video about the dog park.

Operations Update

- All hockey boards for outdoor hockey rinks have been installed and are ready for the winter skating season - weather permitting.
- Picnic permit season has concluded and all seasonal picnic facilities have been shut down and winterized.
- All irrigation and fountain systems have been shut down for season.
- Downtown Winter Skate rink is under construction.
- Parking lots at Duluth & Case & Hayden Heights Recreation Centers and the main roadway at Hidden Falls have all been replaced.

St Paul Fire Wants You to Have a Safe Thanksgiving

Have a Safe Thanksgiving Holiday!

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Here are some tips to have a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Cooking is the leading cause of building fires in Saint Paul, usually due to unattended cooking. When you cook, stay and look!
- If you have a grease fire, DO NOT ADD WATER. While wearing an oven mitten, simply cover the pan with a tight-fitting lid and turn off the burner. Do not remove the lid for at least 10 minutes. Or, use a fire extinguisher then call 9-1-1.
- Keep children away from the stove. A child safety area of at least 3 feet should be maintained around the stove.
- Keep the floor clear so you do not trip.
- Be sure cords from electric appliances are not dangling off the counter within reach of children.
- Never leave a candle unattended, especially with children around.
- Make sure you have smoke alarms and that they are working. Test them at least monthly and replace the batteries at least yearly, unless you have the newer smoke alarms with the 10-year battery.

Holiday Events

Highland Business Association Presents:

Breakfast with Santa -The Highland Business Association, Chatterbox Pub, Hillcrest Recreational Center & Walgreen's will be holding our annual "Pancake Breakfast with Santa" for the next 2 Saturdays, December 3 & 10, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Cost to attend is **FREE** with a donation to Francis Basket Food Shelf or Toys for Tots. You **MUST RSVP** to Chatterbox Pub in order to attend: 651-699-1154.

Mendota Lights at the Village

Saturday, December 3 2-8 pm

Free Hayrides, Dickens Carolers, Face Painting and Santa

Guest Appearances by:

Visitation Choir

With Special Guest Connie Evingson and greeting by Mayor Kresbach

[For More Information](#)

O'Garas Bar Presents the Santa Claus Breakfast

Saturday, December 3th, 2011

9:30 am with a special appearance by Santa at 10:30

[For More Information](#)

6th Annual Green Gifts Fair

Hello Do It Green! Minnesota Friends and Partners,

Please help us spread the word about our [6th Annual Green Gifts Fair event](#) on Saturday, November 19th at the Midtown Global Market.

There will be kids activities, fun demos (soy candle making, ice lantern making, local foods cooking), toy testing for lead, holiday lights recycling and over 70 local artists and retailers selling green gifts. We are also seeking volunteers to help with the event. You will receive a recycled Do It Green! t-shirt and our new 2012 Do It Green! Magazine edition for taking a shift.

Hope to see you there!

Thanks,
Ami
Do It Green! Minnesota

Shop with Cops

The Saint Paul Police 2010 Shop with Cops Event was one of the largest in the United States.

This year we will celebrate the 11th Anniversary of the Shop with Cops Program.

Saturday December 10, 2011
8:00 AM-1200 Noon.
At the Saint Paul Police
West District Office
389 Hamline Ave N.

As in past years Officers will be paired with one or two children to help them shop for Holiday Gifts for the childrens' families at the Midway Target Store. We are anticipating another large response from the community, so the assistance from volunteers (assisting with Gift Wrapping, food service, entertaining the children, and check in and check out area, etc.) is needed to make this a successful event.

You can sign up to volunteer by going on line to the Shop with Cops Web Site;www.shopwithcops.com.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Together we can make a special holiday season for many kids who simply could not afford to do so without your help.

Parking is available in the Metro Dental Care parking lot 1375 Saint Anthony, next door to the Police Parking lot. Please enter through our front doors and register in our community room.

Sincerely

Todd Axtell
Senior Commander
West District

West 7th Business Association Upcoming Events

Terrace Horticultural Books Annual Fall Open House

Saturday, November 19, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

The garden gate will be open and you are invited to our annual week long Fall Open House at Terrace Horticultural Books. Please join us for our fabulous selection of new and primarily used books about plants and gardening. If you are looking for good information, a beautiful collectible book or a holiday gift for the gardener in your life, we can help. Our 25% discount on all merchandise in stock will be available during the open house. We will have a special display of newly acquired books from the working library of Betty Ann Mech Addison of Rice Creek Gardens. Her books are primarily in the subjects of perennials, landscaping, rock gardening, and propagation.

The open house will be for two Saturdays Nov. 12 and Nov.19, 9-5pm and Nov. 14-18 M-F 12-5pm. Open every day except Sunday at 503 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102

For directions see <http://maps.google.com/maps?saddr=503+St.+Clair+Ave.,+St.+Paul,+Minnesota>

This Saturday November 12, at 1pm we will be honoring writer Susan Davis Price, author of Minnesota Gardens - An Illustrated History with our 5th Annual Terrace Award. We will pause during the sale to say thanks to Susan for her service to horticulture in Minnesota. Come and help us honor Susan and enter into a drawing for three copies of her book to be given away by drawing. You need not be present to win.

Recycle Holiday Lights and Cords

Recycle Holiday Lights and Cords

Fall is officially here and with fall comes decorating for the holiday season. The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) announced the third annual launch of their Recycle Your Holidays™ holiday light recycling program. Recycle Your Holidays™ accepts all kinds of holiday lights and electrical cords including extension cords, phone cords, etc. All components of the lights and cords are recycled locally by Green Lights Recycling. You can drop off old, broken holiday lights and cords at any participating location free of charge throughout the holiday season. The closest drop-off locations for Highland residents include:

Frattalone's Ace Hardware - 1676 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 - 651-288-5981

Macalester College Sustainability Office - 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 - 651-696-6019

Frattalone's Ace Hardware - 650 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 - 651-292-9800

For more information on the program and additional drop-off locations, visit CERTs' interactive map at <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/campaigns/ryh-11-12#map>

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Art at Ramsey

Art at Ramsey

Seventeenth Annual Art Fair at Ramsey Junior High held in conjunction with Grand Meander in Saint Paul: December 3, 2011

Art at Ramsey is proud to be part of the Campaign to Buy Local with this opportunity for the public to purchase art from many of our finest local artists.

What: ART AT RAMSEY: A Juried Holiday Art Fair of quality fine crafts and fine art, is sponsored by Highland/Macalester/Groveland Community Education in cooperation with Artists' Circle, a non-profit art organization promoting fine crafts. This is the art fair's sixteenth anniversary show. Free event. For online info, including list of juried artists: <http://www.artatramsey.org/>

When: Saturday, December 3, 2011, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Ramsey Junior High Gymnasiums and Cafeteria, 1700 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

What: Sale of quality work by 75 juried local artists from the upper Midwest who create fine crafts. There will be everything from leather handbags and belts, watercolor paintings, silver and gold jewelry, baskets, and hand-forged iron to woven scarves, stone sculpture vessels, dolls, fused glass pendants, woodcut prints, unique hand-dyed silk apparel, hand-carved wooden birds, mosaics, hand-woven rugs, hats, turned wood, original cards, hand-blown glass bowls, plus pottery tiles, vases, bowls, teapots and cups, and also Hmong needle work and holiday ornaments. The 18th Annual Youth Art Fair, with local young artists, ages 10-18, returns to Ramsey for the sixth year. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Why: Promotes Artists, Ramsey School, and Grand Avenue. ART AT RAMSEY is the premier December art fair in the metro; it provides artists, both juried and youth, with a well-known, accessible community facility (Ramsey Junior High) in which to market their original art works. This popular holiday event gives local St. Paulites, as well as the many metro residents who visit popular Grand Avenue in St. Paul, an opportunity to meet and to purchase from local artists, during Grand Meander, the special holiday promotion of Grand Avenue sponsored by the Grand Avenue Business

Skate at Rice Park Kick Off on November 26

Wells Fargo WinterSkate and Rice Park powered by Xcel Energy
Officially Kick-off the Holiday Season in St. Paul

Experience the Magic of Rockefeller Center in Downtown St. Paul

Saint Paul will officially kick off the holiday season Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, starting at 4:30 p.m., with the grand opening of Wells Fargo WinterSkate and the official tree lighting of Rice Park powered by Xcel Energy. Be the first to skate at Wells Fargo WinterSkate, downtown Saint Paul's free, outdoor, artificially-chilled ice rink, and then capture the magic of the season as Rice Park's sixth annual, 70-foot-tall, 30-foot-wide holiday tree is lit with 15,000 LED lights! The tree-lighting ceremony recreates New York City's Rockefeller Center experience in the heart of downtown Saint Paul.

Once the switch is flipped, a four-minute fireworks display will switch on the majestic Christmas tree, which will be on display and lit through the holiday season until Jan. 1, 2011. During the tree lighting ceremony, cast members from Ordway's production of Cinderella will delight guests with holiday music. Visitors can also enjoy music from Saint Paul Hotel's It's A Wonderful Life ~ A Live Radio Play, Zack Dyer, a McNally Smith graduate, and a fun performance by the Starettes. Children will be invited to take their picture with Santa in front of the holiday tree. Rice Park, one of the oldest parks in the country, will feature special holiday décor including two 10-foot-tall classic Nutcrackers and two 12-foot-tall angel sculptures, several large wrapped gifts and glittering lit archways and trees.

When: Sat., Nov. 26, 2011

Grand Opening Activities Include:

3 - 7 p.m. Pictures with Santa in front of the Rice Park tree

 Lowe's Santa's Workshop

 Macy's & Make-A-Wish Letters to Santa

4:30 p.m. Wells Fargo WinterSkate Grand Opening

5 p.m. Rice Park Tree Lighting

5 -10 p.m. Free Open Skating at Wells Fargo WinterSkate

Where: Downtown St. Paul: Landmark Plaza, 5th and Market Street

 Rice Park, between 4th and 5th Streets and Washington and Market

Features:

- Rice Park's holiday tree set aglow with 15,000 lights
- Rice Park decked out with holiday décor
- Music from Cinderella and It's a Wonderful Life
- Candle sales benefitting Make-A-Wish Foundation of Minnesota
- Lowe's Santa's Workshop
- Macy's and Make-A-Wish Letters to Santa in Landmark Center
- A first glance at skating at Wells Fargo WinterSkate...and much more!

Visit www.wellsfargowinterskate.com and www.riceparkwinterwonderland.com for more information or call the hotline at 651-228-1664.



Thank you for reading this newsletter, sharing with friends and neighbors and for the comments and emails.

Have a great Thanksgiving week!

Kathy Carruth
Executive Director
Highland District Council
651-695-4005
hdc@visi.com
www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org