

HDC Newsletter

August 25, 2011

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HDC Events Calendar

- August 25** League of Woman Voters 6-7:30 PM
Candidate Meet and Greet
Wilder Auditorium
451 Lexington Parkway North
- September 1** -HDC Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Dino's Resolution
Hillcrest Recreation Center
- September 11** 9-11 Observances around the City
see below for locations
- September 12** Citywide Bicycle Planning 4 -7 pm
First of Three meetings w/ City of St Paul
El Rio Vista Recreation Center, 179 Robie St
- September 14** Community Services 6:30 PM
Garden Recap
Motion Light Program for Residents
Hillcrest Recreation Center Activity Room
- September 20** Community Development 6:30 PM
Yogurt shop in Trader Joe's Outbuilding
Highland Village Sign Plan Sub-Committee
Hillcrest Recreation Center Activity
- September 20** Western District Community Meeting 9:30 AM
and 6:30 PM
Western District Building on Hamline across
from Target
- September 24** Fall Clean Up!! 9am - 2pm
Ford Plant Parking Lot
New this Fall Ramsey County will be there
collecting Household Hazardous Waste
- September 27** Transportation Meeting 6:30 PM
Opening/Election for a Community member
Hillcrest Recreation Center
- September 28** HBA FUN Raiser at Tiffany's Sports Bar
More information to follow
- October 19** Ward 3 Candidate Forum 6:30 PM
Hillcrest Rec Center Community Room
Sponsored by the LWVSP, MGCC and the HDC

[Forum](#)
[City of St Paul](#)
[Highland District Council](#)
[Recycling in St Paul](#)
[Ramsey County](#)
[Friends of the St Paul Public Library](#)
[Stop the Rain Drain](#)
[West 7th Business Association](#)
[Highland Business Association](#)
[Metropolitan Airports Commission](#)

Community Development

New Zoning Variance Legislation - Explanation & Impact on HDC

Ms. Anderson introduced Yaya Diatta, an inspector for the City of St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections. Mr. Diatta provided a brief background of *Krummenacher v. City of Minnetonka*, the court case that led to the revision of the language in the state statute pertaining to zoning variances. Mr. Diatta noted that the new wording was similar to the old, but now provided more flexibility for cities to approve variances. Prior to the new legislation most municipalities had stopped granting variances due to the risk of legal challenges. Mr. Diatta then answered questions from the committee and community members. In his responses Mr. Diatta explained that variance requests could not be primarily for financial reasons, boards of zoning appeals can add conditions when approving variances, the burden to prove the necessity of the variance falls on the applicant and the new legislation speaks to land use issues, not building code issues. In conclusion Mr. Diatta emphasized that every variance request is different and are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Proposed Dino's Gyros (Intersection of Ford & Finn)

Nick Sperides of Sperides Reiners Architects and **Jason Adamidis** of Dino's Gyros introduced themselves and provided a brief background of the Dino's Gyros restaurant proposed for the corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street (the pad site in front of Walgreens). Mr. Sperides explained that the pad's site plan was approved as part of the Walgreens redevelopment. The original, approved site plan calls for a two story, L-shaped building with a square public patio space at the corner of Ford and Finn. Mr. Sperides stated that after completing a pricing study, the two-story, L-shaped building design proved to be cost prohibitive for Dino's. He explained that to make the project financially feasible, Dino's is seeking the community's support to change to a 16' tall, single-story rectangular building in lieu of the original plan. As part of this change the public patio space would also be changed to a rectangular shape, be moved partially off the corner and would occupy more of the Finn frontage. The building square footage would not change, parking would not change and the originally approved building materials would not change. In addition, they are proposing to accentuate the entrance with a 20'-22' parapet that would give the impression of a two-story structure. Mr. Sperides also explained that they must have neighborhood support (through the district council) before the city will review their revised site plan.

Mr. Sperides and Mr. Adamidis then responded to questions and concerns from the committee and community members. Discussion topics included signage, lighting, equipment screening, odor

issues, landscaping, property maintenance, hours of operation, number of employees, supply deliveries, trash handling and parking. Mr. Sperides and Mr. Adamidis emphasized that most details of the design would not be finalized until the issues of building height and building shape were resolved, but that Dino's has a strong history of working with neighbors and operating community-friendly restaurants.

Lengthy discussions were had on the potential negative impact on the neighborhood of a beer and wine license and the difference between the original intent of the public patio space and Dino's plans for that area. Neighbors expressed strong concern that a beer and wine license could lead to an increase of offensive activities in the area. Mr. Adamidis responded by saying the restaurant is a "fast, casual" concept and that it will not attract clientele that drink irresponsibly. He also stated that the other Dino's locations have not had any problems and that if there was a problem, they would respond quickly.

Regarding the patio space, committee and community members noted that the area was designed to be a public space, not a private space for the restaurant. Concerns were voiced that moving the patio off the corner of Ford & Finn and Dino's seating would violate the original intent of the space and be a potential loss for the neighborhood. Alternatively, concerns about loitering problems on a public patio were also raised. Mr. Sperides again responded that the patio details could not be worked out until the basic issues of building height and shape were finalized.

The discussion concluded with few final comments from the committee. Ms. Bartsh asked if there could be any flexibility in the design to give the new building its own character compared to Walgreens, but still fit in the neighborhood. Mr. Bettenburg reiterated the concern that the community could lose out on something if the design of the patio was changed. Ms. Anderson noted that the committee and community seemed generally supportive of the proposed Dino's, but that Dino's would need to continue to gather the community's input while detailing the final plan.

The committee agreed to draft a resolution in support of the height and shape changes, but with conditions regarding the public space and assurance of further community input on the final design.

Update on Village Sign Plan Sub-Committee

No input from the Highland Business Association had been gathered at the time of the meeting, so there was no further discussion on the composition of the proposed Village Sign Plan Sub-Committee.

Transportation Meeting

Sarah Hollerich has moved out of the district - There is a position open for a Community member on the Transportation committee. An election will be held at the next meeting on Sept 27 at 6:30 pm at the Hillcrest Rec Center. If you are interested or would like more information please call Kathy at 651-695-4005 or email hdc@visi.com

Snow Plow Discussion -Public Works has authority to make plowing changes without council or mayor action, but the idea is to reduce complaints by neighbors Graham Ave. & Wheeler Ave. - senior building complained that paramedics could not get in; Public Works truck can't get through with one plow on

- Night snow emergency both sides of the street (right now is only south side)
- Neighbors could park on Stewart Ave.
- Better plow, both sides are clear, they are already there, more efficient
- Area has been marked high number of vehicles - so they are more likely to be

towed

- Discussion with residents and Harris' office proposed

Finn St. & Pinehurst - night plow route abruptly ends, complaint about where they put the snow

- Plows are pushing the snow into a big mound onto a green area/right of way; resident cannot exit his street
- Proposal: make "no parking" on cross street to allow plow to turn right and move the snow down the street

Highland Pkwy between Snelling & Mississippi - limit parking somehow to improve plow

Proposal for no winter parking from Dec 1 - Apr 1

No evidence of issues from Highland Pkwy residents or emergency vehicles

Idea from Harris' office and general consensus that the road is tight through there

Another target area for tows

Ideally, narrow or eliminate median, but city did not consult maintenance regarding road design

Snelling Benches Program

Drop this proposal due to number of benches already on Snelling in Highland and Parks' input

Crime Report

Crime Report 8-11 to 8-17

Sent from the St Paul Police Western District on August 23rd:

Commander Toupal has asked me to send info to you regarding burglaries that were reported yesterday and ask that you send this to your email contacts and block club people. Please remind them that the police need their help and want them to call 911 if they see anything unusual or suspicious in their area. We NEED the communities help to catch burglars and stop the crimes being committed.

Here are the incidents of concern from today:

Case numbers

11-174-838 130X Bayard Ave. Grid 186

Entry was made by breaking the glass in the back door window. It occurred between noon yesterday and 1600 today. It was not determined what was taken. No suspect info.

11-174-902 191X Rome Ave Grid 203

Entry was made by breaking the glass in the window in the back door. Taken were 3 lap tops and 2 LCD TVs.

11-174-939 172X St Clair Ave. Grid 164

Entry was made by cutting a screen on the front enclosed screen porch. Exited the rear door. It occurred between 0800 -1819 today. Taken were 2 TVs and \$400-500 cash.

11-175-017 183X Colvin Ave. Grid 224

Entry was made by kicking in the attached garage service door. It occurred between Aug 15 and

today. Nothing believed to be missing

Again, please inform your contacts to report all suspicious or unusual activity to 911.

Thanks -
Pam

Pamala McCreary
National Night Out Coordinator Citywide

Fall Clean Up on September 24!!

Neighborhood Clean-ups

- **Fall Cleanup Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2011
- **Location:** Ford Plant parking lot (enter northbound on Mississippi River Blvd.)
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Call the Highland District Council for more information: (651) 695-4005

New this Fall -Ramsey County will be at the Clean Up allowing residents to bring in Hazardous Waste!!!!

What Can you Bring? West 7th Shredding Services will be at the Clean up - cost \$5/per grocery bag or \$8 for a bankers box, cash or Visa (for shredding only) accepted

The Fall Cleanup is a one-day event which allow residents to discard just about anything. The Community Council brings together haulers and vendors in one central location and make efforts to reuse or recycle your old stuff for less cost than you would pay a garbage hauler to take it away. To volunteer at the event, or to learn more about it, please email Kathy at hdc@visi.com or Lauren at lauren@macgrove.org .

[Donations guide to St. Paul charities](#)

9-11 Observances

Public Safety agencies within Minnesota will come together in observance of the 10th anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and the hijacking of United Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. The media and the public are invited to the Minneapolis Convention Center on September 11th starting at 12 noon. The observance will feature a huge public safety display inside the Convention Center

followed by a tribute and solemn observance of the lives lost that fateful day.

WHAT: 10TH Anniversary of 9-11 tragedies at the World Trade Center, The Pentagon and Flight 93.

WHERE: Minneapolis Convention Center

WHEN: Sunday, September 11, 2011

v 12:00pm public viewing of public safety display and information

v 3:00pm - 4:30pm Memorial Ceremony

WHY: In solemn remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks upon The United States on September 11, 2001.

COST: FREE

For more information, please contact Steve Zaccard, St Paul Fire at (651) 228-6201 or Cheri Penn, Minneapolis Fire at (612) 673-2890.

For full details, [view this message on the web](#).

At the Minneapolis Conventions Center, fire departments, law enforcement, and EMS providers from around the area are hosting a static display of equipment and apparatus at 12 noon, followed by a remembrance ceremony from 2p until 3:30p lead by Minnesota's Commissioner of Public Safety, Mona Dohman. Admission is free.

· A "Mass of Thanksgiving and Remembrance" to honor law enforcement and emergency personnel will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. It begins with a civic commemoration at 4:30p followed by a Memorial Mass at 5p.

· A special 9-11 commemoration, "Everyday Heroes: Honoring Those Who Make a Difference in our Community Everyday" will be held at 6p at the Central High School auditorium. This event is hosted by Mission Saint Paul.

· For a complete up-to-date list of 9-11 events, go the the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's website at: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/Pages/default.aspx>

Street Overlay Schedule

The City of Saint Paul Public Works Street Maintenance Division is scheduled to start it's street overlay program the week of August 22 and will continue through mid October.

[This is the list](#) of streets that are scheduled for work. The overlay operation consists of removing the existing pavement surface by grinding (milling) to a depth of 1 1/2 inches. The entire width of the street is milled to a flush surface. The area is then swept and a new asphalt surface is put in place. The finished surface elevation will be at the same level as what it was previously.

The street will be open to traffic during this operation. Parking, however, will be restricted in the immediate area that we are working. Restricted parking will be posted 24 hours in advance. The asphalt takes a couple of hours to cool down before traffic may run on the newly paved surface. Street overlays are done on an as needed basis and are one of the many maintenance projects paid for with street maintenance assessment dollars. The overlay of this street is a City of Saint Paul maintenance project and will be done by City of Saint Paul maintenance crews, equipment, and asphalt supplied by our city plant.

The work is pavement maintenance only, so there are no special assessments for this work. New pavement markings will be placed soon after the overlay is placed. A notice will be sent to the residents and business owners prior to the work and the street will be posted the day before the actual work will begin.

If you have further questions, please contact the Street Maintenance Division at 651-266-970

Meet and Greet City Council & School Board Candidates

The League of Women Voters St Paul candidate meet and greet on Thursday, August 25 from 6 to 7:30 PM at the Wilder Center auditorium. This event offers a great opportunity for constituents to meet and talk with people who are seeking to represent them at the local level. Refreshments will be served. **Please help get the word out!!**

Ranked Voting Video -How Does it Work?

RECENT VIDEO OF INTEREST - RANKED VOTING

Ranked Voting Informational Videos:

- Video #1- Marking the Ballot <http://www.youtube.com/stpaulgov#p/a/u/1/CsyPr5CzJbc>
 - Video #2- How are the Votes Counted? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCtsf-cHC_E
- [There are also fact sheets on ranked voting available in several languages, plus other information, at <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/elections>)

Residential Parking Permits

From the City of St Paul:

The City is about a month behind and wanted to let people know that we now have the new orange 11-12 permits. If you had a permit last year you'll be receiving your renewal form shortly and the current Green permits will be good until September 30, 2011 instead of August 31st. We have notified police to not issue a ticket for an expired green during the month of September. This is also posted on our Residential Permit Parking website

Citywide Bicycle Plan

September 12, 22 and 26, 4-7 pm. The City of Saint Paul will be hosting three public open houses in September in order to gather public input on the Citywide Bicycle Plan. The open houses will take place from 4:00-7:00pm at the following dates and locations:

- Monday, September 12 - El Rio Vista Recreation Center, 179 Robie St. E., 55107
- Thursday, September 22 - West Minnehaha Recreation Center, 685 W. Minnehaha Ave, 55104
- Monday, September 26 - Phalen Recreation Center, 1000 E Wheelock Parkway, 55106

For additional details on the plan, go to <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=4466>, or contact Emily Erickson at 651-266-6059 or emily.erickson@ci.stpaul.mn.us .

Parks & Rec Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Sedge Meadow Planting Event at Como Park

Date: Saturday, September 17 **Time:** 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. **Location:** Como Regional Park - Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom **Volunteers needed:** 75 **Description:** Help restore and transform the largest woodland in Como Regional Park! Restoration of this 17.75 acre woodland site and the historic features found within its boundaries will allow the creation of the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC). This classroom will provide environmental education and historical interpretation for school children and adults, habitat for native wildlife, and an urban woodland oasis for the inner-city community where local place-based, hands-on environmental learning opportunities are rare. 50-75 volunteers are needed to plant 3,600 plants (26 species) in the sedge meadow area of the project. Training and education, tools and gloves will be provided. [More info on CWOC](#)

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The Trust Fund is a permanent fund constitutionally established by the citizens of Minnesota to assist in the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

National Public Lands Day Date: Saturday, September 24 **Time:** 9:00-11:00

a.m. **Location:** Indian Mounds Regional Park **Volunteers needed:** 150 **Description:** National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2010, 170,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted trees and restored our water resources. Join Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, REI and National Park Service for the next NPLD on September 24, 2011. Project details and location can be found at REI's website, through the link below.

Frost Lake Park Buckthorn Bust Date: Saturday, October 1 **Time:** 9:00-11:00

a.m. **Location:** Frost Lake Park **Volunteers needed:** 15-30 **Description:** Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and community partners have been working to remove buckthorn and other invasive species from Frost Lake Park.

St Paul Parks and Recreation Registration for Fall Classes

Fall 2011

Check out Parks & Rec Fall classes. Everything from Preschool, Youth, Teens, Family and Adult Classes, athletics, swimming, after-school, no-school, ski program and fitness classes and much, much more.

Just go to www.stpaul.gov/parks to look at the complete listing and to register.

St Paul Public Library Programs and Events

Students of all ages will find free help with their homework at Saint Paul Public Library homework centers. Homework Centers are welcoming spaces at the library where students of all ages can drop in and work on their homework independently or with the help of volunteer tutors. The centers are equipped with comfortable furniture, computers, printers, reference books, and school supplies for student use. Homework Centers will re-open on September 6 for the school year. They are located at the Arlington Hills, Riverview, Rice Street, Sun Ray, Rondo, and Dayton's Bluff libraries. **Homework help also is available online via Homework Rescue Online**

Tutoring. Homework Rescue can be accessed from library or home computers (a library card is required when accessing this service outside the library). Homework Rescue provides a variety of

free tutoring services in both English and Spanish, including homework, learning academic skills, and assistance in writing term papers. One-to-one homework help from online tutors is available daily from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Visit www.sppl.org for access and more information

Starwatch hosted by WCCO meteorologist Mike Lynch

This great celestial show in the skies over Saint Paul begins with an indoor orientation followed by quality time outside under the heavens.

September 6 at 7:45 p.m. at Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Avenue, Saint Paul, 651-501-6300 and on **September 28 at 7:45 p.m. at Saint Anthony Park Library**, 2245 Como Avenue, Saint Paul, 651-642-0411. Free. For more info: www.sppl.org.

Moonwatch hosted by WCCO meteorologist Mike Lynch

Learn about the moon and discover how important it is to life on Earth. Also explore constellations and other celestial bodies.

September 12 at 7:45 p.m. at Highland Park Library, Saint Paul, 651-695-3700. Free. For more info: www.sppl.org.

HBA FUNdraiser at Tiffany's

Save the Date!

The Highland Business Association "FUNd Raiser" is going to be on Wednesday, September 28th at Tiffany's Sports Lounge.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Recycling Information

Eureka Recycling to Accept Pizza Boxes

Pizza boxes collected: Eureka will begin accepting pizza boxes at the curb beginning in September.

Important instructions for recycling pizza boxes:

- Only cardboard takeout/delivery pizza boxes should be included. This does not include frozen pizza boxes you would get at the grocery store.
- Please remove any plastic spacers, aluminum foil, or waxy paper sheets that came with the pizza.
- Pizza boxes should not be set out with recycling if they are heavily caked with cheese or grease.

[Ramsey County Composting and Yard Waste](#)

[City of St Paul Recycling Page](#)

Don't Forget to Donate Extra Vegetables to the Food Shelf

Francis Basket Food Shelf will gladly accept your extra garden produce

Drop-off days at Francis Basket:

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Fridays: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Please call the direct line

651-699-0986

before dropping off donations

[For More Information](#)

Neighborhood Leadership Program Applications Now Being Accepted

Challenge yourself . . . Enhance your leadership skills . . .

Learn how history can inform actions of today . . .

Help make the goals & dreams of your community a reality!

Join the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP)

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, in collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society, is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the six-month Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP). Join a diverse group of 30 people to explore neighborhood involvement and develop leadership skills to take effective community action. Community members come from a wide range of ages, cultural backgrounds, and levels of community involvement and meet in bi-monthly sessions over six months.

Sample Topics include:

- Understanding Your Leadership Style
- Working Inclusively in Neighborhoods
- Participatory Meeting Facilitation
- Drawing on Community History to Take Action Today

Participants are also paired with a coach who shares in the journey as an attentive listener, sounding board, and reflective partner.

To participate in the program, you need to:

- Live, work or volunteer in Saint Paul
- Be 16 years of age or older

- Demonstrate interest and/or involvement in contributing to the community
- Make a commitment to attend 2 sessions per month (October-April) and the retreat
- Pay a registration fee of \$100 or locate a sponsor (*limited scholarships available*)

Applications are due Monday, September 26. Child care and transportation to sessions are

available within Saint Paul - please request them on your application. *The application/information sheet is attached to this email along with a poster.* It can also be found at:<http://www.wilder.org/fileadmin/wilder/pdf/WCC/NLP-Info-App-Fall10.pdf>.

For more information, please call 651-280-2457, email NLP@wilder.org, or visit our website at www.wilder.org/nlp.html.

Grants Available for Water Quality

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

PASS IT ON!

WATER POLLUTION COMES FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES, INCLUDING OUR EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES. HOW WE CARE FOR OUR YARDS AND GROUNDS, WASH AND MAINTAIN OUR CARS, AND EVEN DISPOSE OF PET WASTE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO WATER POLLUTION IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. THE HARD SURFACES OF OUR DRIVEWAYS, SIDEWALKS, AND PATHWAYS INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF STORMWATER ENTERING THE STORMDRAINS. THERE ARE MANY CHOICES WE CAN MAKE TO REDUCE THESE HARMFUL IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY.

Become a partner organization with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) by applying for a Stewardship Fund grant to work together to improve water quality in the MWMO. The MWMO includes parts of Minneapolis, Saint Paul, the City of Saint Anthony Village, and Lauderdale.

Projects funded through the Stewardship Fund Program should achieve the following:

- 1) Improve water quality or improve water and natural resource management
- 2) Build community understanding, knowledge, and initiative related to water and natural resource issues and solutions

Attend a [Stewardship Fund Program Information Session](#) at the MWMO's office.

Thursday, August 25, Noon-1 pm

- or -

Tuesday, August 30, 4-5 pm

\$250,000 is available through three types of grants

Mini Grants up to \$2,000 - February 1, June 1, and **October 1** cycles each year

Planning Grants up to \$10,000 - February 1 annual cycle

Action Grants up to \$50,000 - **October 1** annual cycle

Nonprofit organizations, officially recognized neighborhood groups, schools, local units of government, and business and professional associations are eligible to apply. *Individuals, home owners associations and condominium associations, and private businesses may partner with eligible applicants in order to apply.*

Letters of Interest for Mini and Action Grants due Monday, October 3, 2011 by 3:00 pm

For information about the application process, visit www.mwmo.org/stewardshipfund.html



Thank you for reading the news enjoy the Minnesota State Fair and enjoy the beautiful weekend!

Kathy Carruth
Community Organizer
Highland District Council
hdc@visi.com
www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org