



News

May 2003

The Fulton Neighborhood's boundaries are 47th Street to 54th Street and France Avenue to Penn Avenue.

Fulton Neighborhood News is published every other month by a committee of the Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) with funding from the Fulton Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP).

FNA is a nonprofit organization created by and for the residents and businesses of the Fulton neighborhood. Its board meetings are held: **The 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7p.m. at Pershing Park—all meetings are open to the public.**

Fulton NRP is an organization of FNA that implements neighborhood improvement projects. Its committee meetings are held: **the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Pershing Park.**

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50th Street Redesign Plan

A Long Awaited Improvement

The plan to re-design 50th St. from Lyndale to France to improve traffic flow, safety and drivability is drawing a high level of interest and reaction from neighbors and businesses in its final planning stages. The owners of local businesses want to insure that their enterprises are viable and are concerned that the reduced parking from the redesign during some periods of the day will cause them to lose customers. Residents want the local businesses to prosper because convenient, user-friendly local shops are a key feature of urban living. Residents also want a safe and attractive urban environment and have concerns about the negative impact of 50th Street traffic on the neighborhood.

For more detailed information about the 50th Street plan and the neighborhood process, check out fultonneighborhood.org.

The process of defining a better 50th Street has been on-going since the NRP program began polling neighborhoods about their concerns in the mid '90's. It has included significant contributions from neighborhood volunteers, traffic engineering professionals and elected officials. It has involved weighing options, studying traffic patterns, and determining the trade-offs for creating a better corridor. Now a plan has emerged to re-stripe 50th Street that will add left-turn signals and create two drive lanes with a middle turn lane. As the plan moves forward, the Neighborhood Associations want residents and other stakeholders in Lynnhurst and Fulton to understand the issues, trade-offs and benefits it will bring.

Redesign Goals

The intent of the 50th Street redesign is not to simply reduce speeds. The goals of the project include,

- ◆ Maintain the carrying capacity of the street
- ◆ Make the traffic pattern more predictable so that driving behavior is calmer, and drivers don't feel compelled to lane-jockey through intersections
- ◆ Maintain/improve the functionality of the street for businesses, institutions, public transportation, emergency services
- ◆ Make the street more pedestrian-friendly by providing more space between the traffic lanes and the narrow sidewalks in most places, and reducing average speeds, making it easier to cross
- ◆ Reduce peak speeds (currently 50+ mph)
- ◆ Bring average speeds closer to the speed limit

Redesign Structure

From Lyndale to France, 50th Street will be re-striped to create one drive lane going each direction and a center left turn lane. Left turn signals will be installed at prime stoplights to ease the flow through the busiest intersections. In the business districts, parking will be removed from one side of the street to accommodate the reconfigured lanes. Parking will be removed completely from the residential stretches of 50th. The concept behind this configuration is that cars will now flow in one lane without the obstacle of left turns. No longer will drivers need to jockey between lanes to avoid parked cars and drivers turning left. This will also allow a wide shoulder near the sidewalks to create a buffer between the drive lane and pedestrians.

Parks & Schools

What's happening in our Community?

Pershing Park Happenings

Community Events:

Summer Registration—Registration for summer programs at Pershing Park will be held starting Saturday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM for Minneapolis residents. Summer programs are available at the park.

Ice Cream Social—The annual Ice Cream Social at Pershing Park will be Wednesday, June 25th from 6 to 8 PM. Free Ice Cream.

Breakfast at Pershing—Breakfast at Pershing will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 AM on Saturday, May 17 & June 21. \$3.00 at the door /\$2.00 pre-registered.

Chinese Ping-Pong Night—Every Monday night in June from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Come and learn a new ping pong game where up to 15 people can play at once. We have the paddles you bring the energy. Ages 9 to adult, free.

Pershing Recreation Center Summer Hours—Pershing Recreation Center will be closed Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 to May 26. Summer hours begin on May 27th through Aug. 15th. Monday through Thursday - noon to 9:00 PM and Friday - noon to 5:00 PM. The building will be closed the last 2 weeks of August due to budget cuts.

Pershing Ball Fields—New fencing is being installed on the ball diamonds and on the batting cage and grass was planted last fall. In order for the grass to develop a good root system the field area is closed until this fall.

Spring Formal

Sponsored by Minneapolis Parks

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Columbia Manor

3300 Central Avenue NE

5:30pm—9:00pm

Dance the night away at the Spring Formal! Call 661-4875 for more information.

Ward 13 Website

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us

It has been a busy winter and spring in our office. Between the state budget deficit, the city budget, and ward projects such as the South Linden Hills renovation, residents have been calling and writing to learn more about the many issues we are addressing. We have enjoyed the opportunity to speak with residents and providing them with information about these issues.

However, as more and more city wide issues, such as cuts to local government aid, attracted more interest from residents, we wanted to provide another medium for residents to learn more about these issues. During the winter we launched a new section to the ward web site called "City Issues" to give residents more information about some of the current issues the City is facing. We have also continued to update and add to the "Current Ward Issues" section and other parts of the site.

If you want to learn more about local government aid cuts, the parking project at Southwest High School, or check out the latest edition of the *Southwest Angle* visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward13 On the site, you can also learn about upcoming community meetings, snow plowing, street cleaning, or even how to contact your neighborhood association.

And, if you still want to talk about something or don't have internet access, give us a call. We are always happy to talk to residents and mail them any information they may need.

We encourage residents to visit the ward website. We consider it an essential communication avenue for all 13th ward residents.

City News

What's Happening in Minneapolis that Neighbors Need to Know?

Council Approves Layoff Strategies

Cuts include 378 positions, 196 employees

The Minneapolis City Council approved \$20.6 million in cuts from its 2003 budget to meet the Governor's proposed reduction in Local Government Aid that Minneapolis receives from the State. LGA goes into the City's general fund, which pays for basic services like police, fire and public works. The cuts that were approved on April 1, 2003 make up about 8 percent of the City's general fund. Officials cut the budgets for every city department (most by 9 to 19 percent) eliminating 378.5 positions, which includes 196.5 employee layoffs. Every effort was made to protect public safety programs, but since three out of every four dollars in the City's general fund budget goes to police, fire and public works, cuts to those departments were unavoidable. Although Police and Fire Department's budgets make up 55 percent of the City's general fund, these departments' budgets were cut by about 7 percent each. Minneapolis has already made significant cuts to its budget. In 2002, policy makers cut the budget by \$5.2 million. In January, the Mayor and Council approved a plan to further cut the budget by \$55 million over five years.

*Taken from the City of Minneapolis website.

Department	Original Budget	Approved Cut	% Cut	Positions Eliminated.	Cuts Resulting in Layoffs
Assessor	\$2.73 million	\$129,110	4.73%	2	1
Attorney	\$4.64 million	\$366,783	7.9%	3	1
City Coordinator	\$1.96 million	\$176,666	9%	2	1
Civil Rights	\$1.98 million	\$377,018	19%	<i>*strategy not approved yet</i>	
City Clerk	\$6.13 million	\$552,138	9%	5.5	3.5
Finance	\$5.84 million	\$583,938	10%	19	11
Fire	\$44.18 million	\$2,942,472	6.66%	55	55
Health & Family	\$3.89 million	\$388,949	10%	3	-
Human Resources	\$3.9 million	\$390,322	10%	3	-
ITS	\$13.65 million	\$1,228,767	9%	23	19
Planning/CPED	\$2.45 million	\$368,096	15%	7	1
Police	\$98.89 million	\$6,971,935	7.05%	169	67 (25 officers)
Public Works	\$38.37 million	\$6,162,808	16.06%	87	37
Total	\$259.47 million	\$20,639,001		387.5	196.5

Need \$\$ to Fix-up Your Home?

Funds are available immediately and there are no deadlines. . .

or waiting lists to apply for this Home Improvement program. Community Revitalization Resources (CRR), a local non-profit organization and a division of the Center for Energy and Environment, has low-interest loans available this spring to help you to afford your home improvements.

You may borrow up to \$35,000 at 6.5% interest if your household income is less than \$87,000. Even better, you may qualify for 5% interest if your income is less than \$35,000. Repayment terms are flexible so that your monthly payments will be affordable for you. Most improvement projects are eligible – roof, furnace, windows, doors, insulation, kitchen and bath remodel, cement work, garages, driveway, landscaping, fences, and the list goes on!

Test Results

A traffic test was implemented last summer that included residential and business blocks at the 50th and Xerxes district. The results of the test showed a 15% reduction in the number of cars traveling at the highest speeds (45 to 50+mph) and approximately a 15% increase in the number of cars driving at or near the speed limit. The majority of the feedback from neighbors we received during and just after the test was positive – most people indicated that they considered driving 50th Street in the test area to be a calmer, safer experience.

Parking in the Business Nodes

The success of this design depends heavily on the creation of a dedicated left turn lane at the business intersections. To make room for this lane, on-street parking serving the intersections is reconfigured with striped spaces and parking on only one side. The change in parking from the current design varies considerably, depending on the specific location and time of day. In some cases, the new plan increases parking, but in most instances it is decreased. Fortunately, the largest decreases will occur during non-rush hours when traffic is the lightest and demand for parking is less. Ways to maximize on-street parking consistent with the redesign at all three business intersections are still being studied and solicited. Off-street parking is unaffected.

Business Impact

There has been much discussion in the neighborhoods and business districts about the potential for businesses closing as a result of the redesign. The businesses have been publicly projecting that the loss of parking will cause shops to close or move to a new location. Proponents of the redesign plan, including Fulton and Lynnhurst Neighborhood Associations, the City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County, take the position that a more attractive neighborhood will bring more customers from inside and outside the neighborhoods, in cars, on foot, with strollers, by bike and rollerblade and bus. We're confident that those who drive here to shop or dine will find places to park, even if they have to walk a few hundred feet, or a whole block. It's a trade-off we believe makes sense, one that volunteers have worked long and hard to implement in an inclusive process, and an improvement to which we look forward.

Check out fultonneighborhood.org for more specific information about the plan, the traffic test, and the community process leading up to the changes.

Fulton's Listserve

Get on it and Stay in Touch

Fulton neighborhood is administering a listserv in connection with its newly launched website. If you would like to receive updates and announcements about important issues in Fulton neighborhood, please send an email to list@fultonneighborhood.org. You will receive notices about projects in the neighborhood, funding and planning updates, announcements about special events, and updates about important community issues facing Southwest Minneapolis. And, check out the website at fultonneighborhood.org.

Art-A-Whirl in NE ***Eight Annual Open Studio & Gallery Tour May 16th –18th***

The Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA) will be hosting the eighth annual Art-A-Whirl neighborhood arts festival during the weekend beginning Friday, May 16. Each year more than 10,000 people visit some 300 artists' studios and enjoy a variety of arts-focused family events taking place all over Northeast Minneapolis. From Logan Park to old St. Anthony, from Marshall Street to Stinson Boulevard and all points in between, artists and galleries throw open their doors and invite the public to see art. Visit www.art-a-whirl.org to find out more or check out the Northeast newspaper in May for more details.

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