

RETTMAN'S RAMSEY REPORT

Summer 2012

Dear District 3 Resident:

I hope this letter provides you with information on some of the issues being discussed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. The views expressed in this newsletter are mine and/or my staff's and are provided to citizens as a part of my responsibility to keep you informed on what I am doing as your County Commissioner. If I, or my staff, can be of assistance to you please call us at 266-8360, send an e-mail to janice.rettman@co.ramsey.mn.us or send a note to us, Room 220 ,City Hall/Court House, 15 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102.

Anthrax???

The Saint Paul/Ramsey County Department of Public Health recently announced that it would participate in a national test that would determine the feasibility of supplying nearly every home in a community with antibiotics to fight a broad exposure to anthrax or similar types of pathogens. The effort had been in the works for a number of years as part of emergency preparedness programs and included the United States Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Public Health, local law enforcement and the United States Postal Service. The Post Office is the critical piece in the effort because carriers know every household on their route, even those tucked away and not generally visible.

In Ramsey County, households in zip codes 55101, 55102 and 55107 received empty pill bottles from volunteer letter carriers on Sunday, May 6th. The bottles were flown in

and then distributed from a secret location on that morning. Letter carriers were given enough bottles for their assigned route and escorted by a Saint Paul police officer or a Ramsey County deputy. Residents didn't need to do anything but efforts were made to make sure people were aware of the test so that there were no surprises or scares.

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*. It commonly affects split-hoofed animals such as sheep, cattle, and goats but can be passed on to people. Infection in humans most often involves the skin, gastrointestinal tract, or lungs and, if untreated, can be fatal in some cases. It is spread by spores that can be distributed by bioterrorists as occurred in an incident in 2001.

Following the test the participants met and reviewed the procedure and the time it took to complete. A full analysis is not yet available but it appears to be a success.

TCAAP Site Update

The future of former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) site is still open for discussion as the county and the General Services Administration (GSA) negotiate a possible final purchase agreement. In November of last year the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners agreed to purchase the property for \$28,500,000 provided that the state of Minnesota agrees to fund the full cost.

Initially part of a proposal by two commissioners for a new Vikings Stadium, the Board determined that the site needed to be cleaned up whether a stadium was built there or not. The GSA has requested two extensions to the agreement in order to study the contractor's cost and work analysis to clean up the site. These costs would be deducted from the purchase price but still paid by the county. As such, these "credits" do not reduce the purchase price, only clarify who gets paid what amount – the contractor or the GSA.

The TCAAP site is a federal Superfund (contaminated) site encompassing a total of about 2,370 acres with more than 600 acres declared surplus in 2002. Following a lawsuit by the city of New Brighton in the 1980's the GSA did some cleanup and has been monitoring wells for pollutants since. For its part, the city drilled its wells deeper into another aquifer that was clean but also contained high concentrations of iron. That water needs to be filtered before it is suitable for use. The GSA also could remain responsible for well monitoring for many years to come, but a properly done cleanup should remove the pollutants from the site.

At the same time, the GSA is under congressional scrutiny for its wasteful spending and failure to manage government property in its inventory. The GSA is responsible for maintaining, selling or otherwise managing its properties for the

greatest benefit for U.S. citizens. This can be a balancing act between local desires, the best value, the best price, the "highest and best use", and the cost to cleanup a site.

A good source of information on the TCAAP site pollution can be found at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>. Once there, type "TCAAP site" in the search box and a long list of studies and other information options will appear.

Meanwhile ...

After one of the most public displays of discussion, posturing and sound bites in recent years, the state legislature and governor finally approved a plan for the financing and construction of a new stadium for the Minnesota Vikings football team. The stadium will be located in downtown Minneapolis by the current Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome. The city of Minneapolis, the state of Minnesota and the Vikings football team will each contribute toward the cost of construction.

Construction will begin in 2012 or early 2013 east of the Metrodome which will be used by the team for 2012 and 2013. The old stadium will then be removed so the project can be completed. The team will play home games at the University of Minnesota stadium for one or two seasons while the new stadium is completed.

That action, and the fact that the legislature did not provide any funds for the purchase and cleanup of the TCAAP site as requested by Ramsey County, which was a condition of the purchase agreement with GSA, left the county without a funding source nor an identified need to proceed with the purchase.

On June 12 the Board of Commissioners held a lengthy workshop to discuss whether

or not the county should apply for state help to purchase and cleanup the TCAAP site. County staff had prepared a presentation that included a variety of funding options that could be used to purchase the site, including excess solid waste (garbage) fees and tax increment financing. There were several suggestions on how to proceed but no one could put together a plan a majority of the Board could agree on. In the end, and without discussion on how to pay the match required in the DEED application, the board consensus was to simply apply for the grant.

And Then A Vote...

On Tuesday, June 19th the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners voted 5-1 to make an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) for a \$5.9 million grant to purchase the property and begin the cleanup operation for the TCAAP site.

Earlier this year the state legislature set aside \$47 million for a state-wide Capital Projects Grant Program. Those dollars are targeted for various local governmental units and colleges to help fund publicly-owned infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants, drinking water systems, roads, bridges, parking ramps, etc. The funds are to be distributed statewide with half for the metropolitan area and half for outstate Minnesota. There has been great interest in the grant program to fulfill basic needs and long-range plans so DEED could receive applications in excess of \$1 billion.

During the Board discussion most of the members expressed a desire to purchase and clean up the TCAAP, but, once again, could not agree on a way to pay for it. The purchase agreement, dated December 28, 2011, calls for a total price of \$28.5 million with “credit” for cleaning up the pollution and removing the existing buildings. That

portion of the cost is estimated at \$22 million.

Deducting those credits, some view the purchase price as \$5.5 million and, using that number, the Board recommended that the county manager approach the GSA to buy the property without cleaning it up. As the legally responsible entity charged with cleaning the property, it is unclear whether or not the GSA would even consider selling the property to another entity without a cleanup plan and fixed timeline.

The Board further suggested that the local contribution for partial cleanup would be an estimated \$6 to \$8 million. But again, did not identify a source of funds to pay for the work.

Complicating the matter is the fact that the TCAAP property is located in Arden Hills and that city is the sole authority on zoning and land use. Most recently, the city council adopted a resolution That “supports Ramsey County’s acquisition of the TCAAP site and supports efforts by Ramsey County to obtain State and Federal funds to assist with the costs of acquisition, remediation, and infrastructure” (Arden Hills Resolution No. 2012-023). The city council did not take formal action on a site plan when Ryan Companies had been discussing the purchase with the GSA for future development. That effort fell by the wayside and the only other action was a 2009 city request to purchase the property for park and open space. It remains a question as to what type of development the city would support for the TCAAP site.

With all of the unknowns, the lack of a detailed application and the lack of a funding source for the local match required for the grant application the Board approved going forward with an application to the state. Commissioner Janice Rettman was the only member to vote against the plan.

City of Saint Paul Gets Funding For Downtown Baseball Stadium

On August 13, 2012 the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) announced its decision for business development grants. During the 2012 session the legislature approved a bonding bill that included \$47 million to be distributed as grants by DEED in a competitive bid process. While there were no limits on amounts that could go to a local community, the legislature made clear its intent that about half of the funds go to outstate areas and half to the metropolitan area. Applications were accepted for “shovel-ready” projects as a way to get construction activity as soon as possible.

Saint Paul was a big winner when it was given \$25 million for a new city-owned stadium to be used primarily by the Saint Paul Saints minor league baseball team. While a windfall for the city, that left only about \$2 million for other Twin City projects. Those funds went to the Metropolitan Council for planning and design for the Southwest Corridor light rail transit line in Hennepin County. A complete list of grant recipients can be found at http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/Newsroom/Press_Releases/Most_Current_Releases/Sept_13_-_DEED_Awards_Capital_Grants.aspx

Ramsey County was left out of the program when its request for funds to clean up the TCAAP property was not considered. With no other funding options available at this time, the County Board will need to look to the 2013 legislature, a special fee such as the trash collection charge or the property tax levy to buy and cleanup the site if it wants to continue with the proposed purchase from the federal government.

And as for the stadium, this is the second of seven professional baseball stadiums in the city’s history to be located in the downtown

area. The first was built in 1903 between Robert, Minnesota, 12th, and 13th streets. Known as the Pillbox, it was home to the early Saint Paul Saints and an all-black team, the St. Paul Colored Gophers. The third stadium in the city was built on Aurora and Dale Streets and used by the team that became the Chicago White Sox.

VOA Proposes Inmate Housing in District

The Volunteers of America (VOA) have proposed the purchase of property located at 1394 Jackson Street to house federal prisoners in their final months of incarceration. The VOA has held a contract for a program currently operating out of the former Woodview Detention Center in Roseville for several years. That property is owned by Ramsey County.

In 2007 the county added space and upgraded facilities at the Ramsey County Workhouse in Maplewood. The expansion allowed the county to consolidate housing and services for both men and women on the same site. The county also notified the VOA that their contract to house woman inmates at the Woodview site would not be renewed but it was extended to December of 2008 to coincide with the completion of the county facilities project.

With the loss of the county contract, and the fact that the county did not have pending plans for the Woodview site, the VOA sought and received a contract from the federal government to house prisoners. The county agreed to a 5-year lease agreement with VOA for the use of the Woodview site through 2013. The county is now interested in declaring the property surplus and putting it up for sale to a tax-paying entity.

For their part, the District 6 community, in which the Jackson Street property is located, voted to oppose the planned purchase and use. The District Council identified the closeness to residential properties, the

number of public housing units and other community residential facilities in the area as well as the District Plan as reasons for opposition. The District 6 Plan, which has been adopted by the city and the Metropolitan Council, identifies this area as industrial and business uses for the purpose of creating jobs and increasing the property tax base.

The Saint Paul Port Authority has been active in this area cleaning up properties and finding business tenants. In addition to developing vacant or under-utilized property, their goal is to have a percentage of jobs available for area residents which adds value to the community. These efforts also take stress off of the metropolitan infrastructure by reducing commuting distances and even making it possible for people to walk to work. In 1987, then City Councilmember Janice Rettman authored the Arlington-Jackson Phase I project that now houses businesses with good, living wage jobs with benefits.

The VOA proposal calls for 74 inmates and requires a variance from the 16 that would be permitted under the city code. A conditional use permit from the city is also required and both must be approved by the Saint Paul Planning Commission.

After a hearing in June the Zoning Committee of the Planning Commission approved both the conditional use permit and the variance. However, the full Commission didn't concur and, after much discussion, approved a variance allowing a total of 32 beds.

Both the District Planning Council and the applicant, the VOA, appealed the decision to the city Council. The District 6 Council appealed in opposition to any variance or conditional use preferring instead industrial development with jobs for area residents as identified in the district plan and a sub-area plan. The VOA appeal stated that it was not

economically feasible to operate the facility without 74 inmate beds.

Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman, who has represented this area as an elected official for more than 26 years, also opposed to the proposal. She, too, noted the concentration of poverty, the proliferation of community residential facilities, the need for living wage jobs in the area and the adopted zoning plan as reasons. She also noted that the VOA has many other options including purchasing a portion of the Woodview site. "From a planning and land use perspective this is a bad idea. From a community perspective, this would be a setback to all of the efforts the North End/South Como district."

On July 3rd the Saint Paul City Council held a public hearing on both appeals. Conflicting appeals are highly unusual but in the end, and at the recommendation of Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, the Council voted to grant the appeal of the District 6 Council meaning the proposal does not meet the District plan or the city's Comprehensive Plan. The City Council also denied the appeal of the VOA to increase the facility to 74 beds. The VOA has not indicated its next move which could be to file an appeal in Ramsey County District Court, search for a new location, or negotiate with Ramsey County for the purchase of part of the Woodview site for the proposed program.

Saint Agnes Baseball Team Wins Title

On Monday, June 18 the Saint Agnes Boy's Baseball team kept the Lac qui Parle Valley team off the scoreboard while taking advantage of 3 first inning errors and some timely hitting of their own to score two runs. Eventually, they drove in 6 runs in the game. They also played solid defense and, in fact, did not give up a single run on their 3-game road to the title.

Jack Fossand, just a sophomore, only gave up four hits in his seven-inning, complete game shutout. It was his second complete game shutout of the tournament also defeating Blackduck 7-0.

The Aggies played aggressive offensively and confidently to the point of choosing to bat first instead of last. That decision by Coach Mike Streitz paid off when the team scored two runs in the first inning, a situation that Lac qui Parle Valley could not overcome.

This is the second Class A title for the school of 530 students in grades kindergarten through high school.

Saint Agnes Church and schools are located on Lafond Avenue and have been active in the Frogtown community for many years.

Board Approves Property Sale Despite Legal Questions

On Tuesday, August 14th, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved the sale of a tax-forfeited property for a side yard to one of the abutting property owners. The issue was that Minnesota State Statutes require that buildable lots need to be sold at auction to the highest bidder. In this case, someone had told one of the abutting owners that she could buy it outright - and for less than the market value. That unidentified person may have been someone from the county or from the city of Saint Paul.

At the time of forfeiture, the owner owed Ramsey County and other jurisdictions over \$26,000 in taxes. The intent of county auction sales is to try to recoup as much of that tax debt as possible which is then turned over to the other taxing entities including the county, city, the school district and, in this case, the Saint Paul HRA and Port Authority. The estimated market value of

the now-vacant parcel is \$5,800. The promised purchase price was \$4,000.

Commissioner Janice Rettman, who has attended all of the public auctions since being elected to the Board, pointed out that both state law and county policy require an auction sale so she offered a resolution requiring sale at the next public offering and requiring that both abutting owners be notified of the time, date and place. She tried to make the case that the county has a process to deal with such properties and that one person does not have an exclusive right to lot. "The Minnesota Statutes created this fair and impartial process. Nothing precludes a person from coming to an auction and returning the property to the tax rolls in a fair and equal access to all."

That resolution was in direct compliance with the state law but was not discussed for lack of a second.

Instead, Commissioner Raphael Ortega offered an amendment to sell the property to the city of Saint Paul who would then sell it directly to the neighbor. The staff had recommended denial of the city's request to purchase so that the property could be put on the auction block. His argument was that the neighbor had maintained the property "for many years" and should have the exclusive right to buy it.

It should be noted that the house was demolished by the city in 2010 and that the neighbor had no legal right to enter the property. In fact, she could have created a liability problem for the county in doing so. Tax-forfeited parcels are the property of the state but counties are charged with caring for them and disposing of them for the highest benefit to the local taxpayers.

Commissioner Jan Parker, speaking in support of Rettman's proposal, stated that she believed this was a political deal, unfair to other parties. "If the common sense is that

our policy is wrong, we need to change the policy. I don't think that it's appropriate for us to make an exception on a case-by-case basis on something like this. There are so many people who have abided by it in the past and if we really think that if this is not the right policy for us to have let's talk about that and let's change the policy."

Both the city and the county sell tax-forfeited properties to abutting neighbors for side yards when a lot is too small to be built on. Some of these lots are tiny splinter parcels that are difficult to sell on their own and become a problem for the county. Others are somewhat larger and may have held a house built in a time when zoning laws were not in effect or built for family members from the house next door. The Bradley Street lot, now vacant since the house was torn down in 2010, is 40 feet wide and 122 feet deep. As such, it meets the city's requirements for a new single-family home. It could also be purchased by either neighbor for a side yard or split in half for a side yard for each neighboring property.

In the end, the sale to the city and then the abutting owner was approved on a 5-2 vote with Rettman and Parker in opposition. As a result of the Board's action there will be little money, if any, to pay back the taxes owed. That gap must then be filled by the rest of the county's property owners.

I-35E/Cayuga Improvements

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) is in the process of planning and constructing improvements to I-35E in Saint Paul. This is a multi-phase, multi-year project that will cost approximately \$ 228 million. Funding will come from a number of sources including the state, federal transportation funds, Ramsey County contributions and city of Saint Paul funds in the form of transportation grants and capital improvement bond funds.

The first phase of the project involves the reconstruction of the Maryland Avenue Bridge (\$14,119,182). In an attempt to limit closures on the freeway, the new bridge was primarily built on land adjacent to the freeway and then moved into place with machinery in just a few hours. The freeway then re-opened for traffic "as usual". There may be some additional lane closures which will likely occur at times when traffic is minimal. This build/move method allowed the entire replacement to occur in about 60 days. While the new bridge was being built other crew removed the old one, built new abutments and rebuilt on and off ramps. Surprisingly, the bridge could be open for traffic on Maryland as early as August 11th.

A time-lapsed video of the move can be viewed from MNDOT's website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/35estpaul/maryland.html>

Work will begin on the remainder of the project beginning in 2013. That project includes reconstruction of the freeway from Maryland Avenue south to University Avenue and includes replacement of the Cayuga Bridge, the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge and the railroad bridges along I-35E.

In addition, the partial interchange at Pennsylvania Avenue will be replaced by a full interchange at Cayuga Street. The new I-35E roadway will have an auxiliary lane in each direction for added capacity plus room in the center to accommodate a proposed MnPASS lane. This portion of the project should be completed by the end of 2015 at a cost of about \$132 million.

Meanwhile, MNDOT only recently proposed adding a center MNPASS lane and will be seeking legislative approval and funds during the next legislative session. The proposal is to reconstruct I-35E from Maryland Avenue north to Little Canada Road, adding a MnPASS lane to the existing three lanes of traffic. The project would replace the Arlington, Wheelock and Larpenteur Bridges spanning I-35E and replace I-35E bridges spanning Roselawn Avenue, County Road B and Highway 36.

The project would be constructed between 2013 and 2015 at a cost of about \$82 million. Traffic on I-35E and local streets would be impacted in 2014 and 2015 which meets the same timelines as the reconstruction south of Maryland limiting closures and lane changes. However, MNDOT has not yet received approval from the state legislature for these improvements. Currently, fees from MNPASS bring in about \$2.65 million annually but operation and maintenance costs for the lane and program run about \$2,509,953. The new lane would bring in an estimated \$1.9 million and efforts are being made to assure that those dollars stay in the east metro system.

These proposed improvements have not been without difficulty for Saint Paul residents. Dozens of meetings have been held to deal with noise walls, plantings, and paths and bike trails. Commissioner Janice Rettman has been the lead voice for Ramsey County and residents in the corridor in an effort to keep what is there now and make improvements that will benefit the people who will be most affected. No right-of-way will need to be purchased by the reconstruction will put freeway traffic closer to homes and small businesses. This, plus additional traffic created by the greater capacity, will also increase the noise level and the pollution caused by motor vehicles. Ramsey County, and in particular the core of Saint Paul, has received failing grades for many years when it comes to air quality. There is also a higher rate of asthma and lung-related problems in neighborhoods that border the freeways.

For their part, MNDOT has been reluctant to meet the neighborhoods' requests citing financial and other difficulties. Many secret meetings have been held within the department to counter the requests and a special team was sent out to help resolve issues. Commissioner Rettman continues to push for the District 5, 6 and 7 neighborhoods to have quality improvements that meet their needs, such as a patterned concrete sound wall, plantings to add some visual character and a path to replace the existing one. While cost is always a factor on these projects Rettman points out that the inner city should not be shortchanged while suburban communities get the Cadillac version. Stay tuned on this one...

County Board Adopts Preliminary Levy

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012 the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved the maximum 2013 property tax levy for the County and Regional Rail Authority budgets. As proposed, the county levy would be \$266,147,110 for all property owners and an additional \$10,391,241 levy for library services in the suburban communities. While all of the public can use the county libraries, the city of Saint Paul has its own library system and separate funding for those services.

This is the second year of the two-year budget so adjustments will be made only to reallocate funds or make other adjustments to meet changing programs and priorities. According to County Managers Julie Kleinschmidt:

Our 2012-2013 Biennial Budget decreased spending from the previous biennium. Spending reductions were made to adjust for lost revenues from non-property tax sources. These include

- *County Program Aid (state) reduction of \$4 million in 2012, continues in 2013*
- *Reduced revenues from fees, charges for services and interest income*
- *Reduced intergovernmental aid creates increased reliance on our local property tax levy. Property taxes paid for 36% of the County's budget in 2000 but will pay for 47% in 2013*
- *The 2013 budget, as originally adopted, included a planned increase of \$6,537,449 or 1.2% from the 2012 budget*
- *Additional changes now proposed will increase the 2013 Supplemental Budget by \$1,267,950 or 0.22% from the adopted 2013 budget*
- *The total 2013 budget will increase \$7,805,399 or 1.4% from 2012*
- *Even after adjustments are made, spending at the end of 2013 will be \$8*

million less than at the end of the previous biennium (2010-11)

- *\$4 million recommended for concrete road reconstruction from use of available 2011 fund balance plus additional \$1 million/year in CIP bonding/debt service. No levy impact*
- *Restores 6.9 FTEs previously cut in the 2013 approved budget to be funded from department salary savings and levy savings*
- *Total FTE reductions by the end of biennium will be 84.40*
- *Budget savings will result in a smaller levy increase needed (from a 2.7% budgeted increase to a 1.7% recommended increase in the 2013 Supplemental Budget)*
- *State economists predict inflation to be 1.8% in 2013*

Of the total budget, less than half (47%) comes from property taxes. That is up from 39% in 2004 and, as noted above, 36% in 2000. Of the remainder, 27% comes from the state and federal governments, 19% from fees for services like golf course fees and the other 7% from a variety of other sources such as grants and donations.

Citizens may express their comments and concerns at the annual open house and public hearing listed below, or in writing to the county manager, county clerk or the commissioners. Letters and emails will be included as part of the public testimony.

Anyone may sign up on that evening to speak but it is suggested that people contact County Clerk Bonnie Jackelen at 651-266-8014 if you wish to speak at this hearing.

Public Hearing / Open House on County Budget

**Monday, November 26, 2012
6:30 p.m. – until public testimony completed**

Roseville Area High School Cafeteria 1240 County Road B2 West, Roseville, MN

Under Minnesota state law, the county may not increase the 2012 levy above what has been proposed regardless of what happens but it can reduce it. As in past years, Commissioner Janice Rettman will propose a number of specific reductions to lower the 2013 levy. As of this writing those reductions have not been firmed up but it appears that the greatest concern deals with the unfunded liabilities. At this point Ramsey County is expecting to pay more than \$13 million per year to meet contractual commitments for post-employment benefits such as health care. It is not yet known what impact the federal health care legislation will have on this area but the county is short several million dollars according to an actuarial evaluation from last year. One reason is that investment proceeds have not kept pace with earlier predictions.

The other reason is that, using the pay-as-you-go approach the county does not take into account the fact that the number of employees reaching retirement age will increase dramatically over the 10 years. At least since 2008 Rettman has recommended setting aside more funds each year so that the annual burden doesn't climb or create a need for large cash infusions in about 10 years. That plea has largely ignored by the rest of the board.

For more information on Ramsey County's 2013 budget go to their website or the link listed below and scroll down to the budget section. <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/home/index.htm>

The Regional Rail Authority, though comprised of the seven elected county board members, is a separate entity. The Authority adopted a proposed levy of \$19,938,811 which is equal to last year's levy. Like the county, the Rail Authority will adopt its final 2013 amended budget and levy on December 11. Citizens may comment on this budget at the property tax hearing on November 26, 2012. As with the county budget, the Regional Rail Authority may reduce the proposed levy but cannot increase it.

Funds are used for transit and transportation planning as well as the redevelopment of the Union Depot as a multi-modal transit hub. Since Ramsey County is nearly fully built options for new roads and bridges to handle or distribute traffic are very limited. Public transportation options help get people out of traffic but viable options to get people from where they live to their destinations need to be well thought out.

Information about the Regional Rail budget can be found at:

<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/NR/rdonlyres/7FEFC483-2696-48A2-B797-21DB5F6285F0/29732/20122013RRABudgetBook.pdf>

Compost Sites Open Until November 30

As in years past, leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste may be dropped off by county residents free of charge at any of the sites. The Arden Hills, Frank & Sims, Midway and White Bear Township sites will also accept trees, branches and other woody waste.

Fall hours are:

Monday | 11 am - 7 pm
Tuesday | CLOSED
Wednesday | 11 am - 7 pm
Thursday | CLOSED
Friday | 11 am - 7 pm
Saturday | 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday | 11 am - 5 pm

And thanks to Commissioner Janice Rettman and some District 3 residents, brush and tree branches and your Christmas trees can be taken to four sites in addition to other yard waste. The woody material is ground up and used to create hot water and electrical energy at the St. Paul District Energy Plant.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS AND SCHEDULES

DISTRICT 5 (651-774-5234)

www.paynephalen.org

Board of Directors

4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

@ SPPD Eastern District

722 Payne Avenue

DISTRICT 6 (651-488-4485)

www.district6stpaul.org

Board of Directors

1st Monday, 6:30 p.m.

@ North Dale Rec Center

1414 St. Albans Street

DISTRICT 7 (651-298-5068)

<http://www.frogtownmn.org/>

Board of Directors Meeting

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

@ West Minnehaha Rec Center

DISTRICT 8 (651-228-1855)

www.summit-u.com/

Board of Directors Meeting

4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

@ St. Albans Community Room

665 Selby Avenue

DISTRICT 10 (651-644-3889)

<http://www.district10comopark.org/>

Board of Directors Meeting

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

@ Como Park Historic Street Car Station

1224 N. Lexington Parkway

DISTRICT 11 (651-646-1986)

www.hamlinemidwaycoalition.org

Board of Directors Meeting

3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Hamline Library

@ 1558 West Minnehaha Avenue

DISTRICT 12 (651-649-5992)

<http://sapcc.org/>

Board of Directors Meeting

2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

@ 890 Cromwell Avenue

DISTRICT 13 (651-645-6887)

<http://www.unionparkdc.org/>

Board of Directors Meeting

1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

@ SPPD Western District Station

389 N. Hamline Avenue

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS (651-792-7600)

www.ci.falcon-heights.mn.us

City Council Meetings ; 2nd and 4th Wednesdays,

7:00 p.m. @ Falcon Heights City Hall

2077 W. Larpenter Avenue