

Saint Paul Ward 5 Update

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Ward 5 Featured Artist: Helen Bond

Each quarter, the walls of the Ward 5 council office will feature art from the neighborhood to showcase the diverse talent from within the ward and promote local artists. Currently featured is [Helen Bond](#), a Como neighborhood resident and accomplished watercolor painter and instructor. Ms. Bond describes her paintings as "impressionistic realism". Many visitors have admired the 20+ paintings hanging in the Ward 5 office and our staff is enjoying the enhanced work environment her paintings have helped to create. All of Ms. Bond's works are for sale by the artist. Stop in and enjoy the exhibit at any time during regular business hours. If you would like to display your art in the Ward 5 office, please contact [Kim O'Brien](#).

Announcing Ward 5 Community Office Hours

Driving downtown during business hours to visit a councilmember or staff isn't always convenient. While scheduled meetings and drop-in visits are always welcome at the Ward 5 office in City Hall, we are excited to announce monthly Community Office Hours at the below times and locations. Councilmember Brendmoen will be present at these locations to address questions and concerns, discuss ideas, or just meet and greet. If your issue is likely to take longer than 10-15 minutes, please [contact the office](#) to schedule a separate appointment.

- **Rice Street Public Library--First Monday/month, 4:30-6 p.m.**
Upcoming dates: March 5, April 2
- **McDonough Recreation Center--Second Monday/month, 4:30-6 p.m.**
Upcoming dates: April 9 (no March office hours)
- **North Dale Recreation Center--Third Tuesday/month, 4:30-6 p.m.**
Upcoming dates: March 20, April 17
- **Wilder Recreation Center/City Academy--Fourth Tuesday/month, 4:30-6 p.m.**
Upcoming dates: March 27, April 24

District 6 Annual Meeting and Elections

The District 6 Community Council Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on Monday, April 2 at North Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 301 Hatch, at 6:30 p.m. Serving on the District Council Board is a wonderful way to have a meaningful impact on your community. All District 6 (North End and South Como) residents are welcome to attend. There are 3 district-wide seats up for election as well as seats in Precincts 2 and 4 ([View District 6 precinct map](#)). To represent these precincts on the board, you must live or own a business within the precinct boundaries. Learn more and find a membership application at www.district6stpaul.org.

Emerald Ash Borer

The Department of Parks and Recreation has begun the process of removing declining Ash trees in Ward 5 and plans to replace these trees by planting alternate species in the spring. [Click here](#) to view a map of areas affected in Ward 5. The removal of many ash trees is necessary to prevent the continued spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that kills all species of Ash and has invaded trees throughout Saint Paul and beyond. Trees scheduled for removal will be marked with red paint and "No Parking" signs will be posted 24 hours in advance of removal. Healthy Ash trees will not be removed. To learn more, visit www.stpaul.gov/eab.

Westminster Apartments

In January, the substandard conditions at the Westminster Court Apartments were highlighted in the media when Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) cited over 600 code violations in the 2 buildings that house over 60 families. It's time to get tough on bad landlords. Tenants who keep up their end of the bargain by paying rent and abiding by the law are owed in return a safe and healthy environment in which to live. Further, our community deserves safe and healthy neighbors and an infrastructure that is welcoming and well-maintained. These are some of the issues we will be focusing on in the coming months to ensure that a situation like Westminster never happens again.

Cayuga Project

Interstate 35E between University and Maryland Ave. is preparing to undergo a major and needed transformation in the coming months. Managed by MNDOT in partnership with the City of Saint Paul, the project includes replacement of the Cayuga Street bridge, Pennsylvania Avenue bridge and railroad bridges along I-35E. The project will replace the existing Pennsylvania Avenue/I-35E interchange with a new interchange at Cayuga Street, which will help correct existing safety and operational issues and provide better freeway access for the Phalen Boulevard corridor.

MNDOT is currently exploring the addition of a MNPASS lane on I-35E (an automated toll lane active only during peak hours to reduce congestion). For pedestrians and bikers, the project will also extend the Gateway Trail to University and provide connections to the existing Vento Trail.

Construction for the I-35E and Cayuga interchange project will begin in 2013. The Maryland Ave. bridge will also be replaced with construction starting this spring. Construction of the bridge will be completed off-site and installed over a weekend to reduce impact on traffic flow. [Learn more.](#)