

Saint Paul Ward 5 Update

Vol. 10
Fall 2013

This Issue:

- Spotlight on Railroad Island - Response to Crime
- Maryland Ave. Development
- Streetcars on Rice St.
- Como Curb Clean-Up
- Community Office Hours

Links

[Ward 5 City Web site](#)

[Community Guide to Saint Paul City Services](#)

www.beneighbors.org

Connect with me at:

www.facebook.com/stpaulward5



www.twitter.com/ward5wire



Community Notes:

[Tin Cup Restaurant](#) voted Reader's Choice Twin Cities Best Burger

[Ray Widstrand Fundraiser](#), Saturday, October 5

[Rice Street Library](#) scheduled to re-open October 21 following renovations

[Payne Phalen](#) Neighborhood Clean-Up October 19

Nonprofit [Family Values for Life](#) distributes 1500 backpacks to kids at Wilder Recreation Center

[Keystone Community Services](#) seeking volunteers for Rice Street Food Shelf

Tutor a child in reading at a local school with the [East Side Learning Center](#)

Support the [Rice Street Festival](#)

Spotlight on Railroad Island - A Response to Violence

In my first year in office, I have focused a great deal of energy on the neighborhood known as Railroad Island, a small community immediately to the north and east of downtown Saint Paul that is geographically encircled by a ring of railroad tracks and the lovely Swede Hollow Park. I believe this area holds incredible potential to become one of the most sought-after neighborhoods in the city. Railroad Island boasts proximity to Lowertown, great schools, urban refuge such as Swede Hollow Park and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, anchor retail institutions such as Morelli's, Yarusso's and La Palma, major employers on the Phalen corridor, all of these assets sweetened by solid housing stock of beautiful, Victorian homes.

Unfortunately, this vision of prosperity is contrasted by high levels of poverty, crime and disrepair in the area. The seriousness of these problems was underscored recently when a Metro State student who lived in the area suffered a random, brutal attack by gang members. The Community has called for immediate actions to better address the complex issues that lead to crime and despair. The City of Saint Paul, in partnership with the Community, area organizations and Ramsey County, is working to ensure a bright future for Railroad Island and its residents.



Last month the St. Paul Police conducted a Blue Wave of increased law enforcement presence and enforcement in the area much of which remains in place today. This month I am working with the Department of Safety and Inspections and [Payne Phalen District Council](#) to conduct comprehensive sweep to rid the area of trash and debris. The City's Planning and Economic Development Department has chosen Railroad Island as a target cluster area for redevelopment of additional homes and vacant lots to create quality housing options. The [East Side Neighborhood Development Company](#) will be conducting an aggressive project in the area to hold landlords accountable for providing safe and attractive places to live.

Residents and neighborhood leaders continue to engage in conversations about what must be done to address the challenges that exist in Railroad Island. Mayor Coleman, my City Council colleagues and I will be listening closely and considering additional opportunities to do better by our city's youth and neighborhoods challenged by poverty and crime.

I remain committed to shining the spotlight on Railroad Island and surrounding neighborhoods. I urge concerned neighbors to continue the conversation, invest their own time and talents to improve their neighborhoods and share their ideas. We need more people working toward the vision of peace and prosperity in Railroad Island and with significant effort and commitment, that vision will become a reality.

The [Railroad Island Task Force](#) meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Eastern District Police Station. All are welcome.

Maryland Ave. Development

Recently, city planners issued a call for interested parties to "Dream Big" about a large, city-owned lot abutting the Willow Reserve along Maryland Avenue. The property, acquired with federal dollars for housing, has been utilized as urban farmland while the housing market recovered from recession. We received three exciting project proposals and many thoughts and comments on the "Open St. Paul" forum. A Steering Committee made up of residents and stakeholders will now begin the process of culling through proposals, meeting with potential developers and selecting an idea that will add to the vitality of the community. [District 6 Planning Council](#) will also hold public meetings for more residents to weigh-in on the exciting project.

In concert with the development, District 6 will embark upon a study of nearby amenities at the beautiful Marydale Park. Already, the parking lot and walking paths have been re-paved and brush and debris cleared out improving sightlines for visitors to Loeb Lake.

at the Gold Plate Dinner on Nov. 14.

Connect with Central District Cops using [Facebook](#)! Open House/Training Session Oct. 16.

District 10 [Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction](#) Oct. 26.

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A Streetcar on Rice Street?



The City of St Paul recently conducted a study of potential corridors suited to a future streetcar line. These modern versions of the classic streetcars have been shown to improve city transportation infrastructure and encourage economic development. After an extensive process, Rice Street was chosen as one of seven possible corridors to host the city's first streetcar line! St. Paul recently sought input from residents and businesses on if and where

to invest in streetcars. Learn more online at [Open St. Paul](#).

Como Curb Clean-Up Underway

Join hundreds of Como neighbors working together during October to remove the leaves accumulating in our neighborhood street gutters. Clearing out gutters is important because leaves and debris eventually end up polluting our lakes via the storm sewer system. City sweepers come through at the end of the Fall season, but by that time, much of the damage is done. To learn how to take part in the Fall 2013 Como Curb Clean Up, [click here](#) or call (651) 261-7416. The Como Curb Cleanup is organized by the Como Lake Neighbor Network and funded by the Capitol Region Watershed District.

Community Office Hours

Stop by and visit with Amy at the below times and locations for Community Office Hours. Appointment suggested but not required.

- [Rice Street Public Library](#)--First Monday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
- [McDonough Recreation Center](#)--Second Monday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
- [North Dale Recreation Center](#)--Third Tuesday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.
- [Wilder Recreation Center/City Academy](#)--Fourth Tuesday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m.

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