

A newsletter of the District 1 Community Council.



SECO News January

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Hello community,

As some of you know, I resigned my position at the Southeast Community Organization and December 2021 was my last month. I am moving on to a position at the University of Minnesota College of Design.

It was a difficult decision to move on from SECO because I enjoyed being immersed in community work. Being a resident of the Southeast side, the work we accomplished was also very relevant to me.

The position of Executive Director [was posted on our website](#) and we ask that you help spread the word. As the former E.D. and a community member, *I have a favor to ask*. Working for the district council can be incredibly rewarding work. It can also be extremely stressful and lonely. I encourage you to please reach out to the new Executive Director and offer them support not just in their first few months, but for the entire time they are at the organization. This can be a quick email, a phone call or a card. Know that they are doing their best to meet the needs of everyone, and it's a true balancing act. That person is also trying to interpret and implement the organizations strategic, racial equity, community and work plans while managing a group of board members who come and go. It's a lot to juggle.

Thank you for almost four years of learning and growing together! As a favor to the Board President and my successor, I'll be wrapping up some end of 2021 work during early 2022 and will help with the transition.

Be well,
Betsy Mowry Voss

Land Use: February 7, 6:00 pm, via Zoom

Tentative agenda: TBD

*Read about Land Use discussions and meetings [on our website](#).

Environmental: TBD

Board meeting: January 24, 6:00 pm via Zoom (meetings on fourth Mondays)

Links to all meetings are [available via our website](#) or you may [contact the office](#) to have the link sent to you.

SECO Executive Director Position

The Southeast Community Organization (SECO) is one of the City of St. Paul's seventeen district council. SECO represents the southeast area of the city, a community of about 23,500 residents. We collaborate with the city, as well as the county and state to ensure a clean, healthy and equitable community. Our area is physically the largest district council in the city, with a large amount of parks and green space. SECO encompasses four neighborhoods: Battle Creek, Highwood, Conway and Eastview. **We are seeking a new Executive Director to help move our work forward!**



The mission of the Southeast Community Organization (SECO) is to share knowledge and power, to organize and to advocate with the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. We build leadership to seize opportunities and to work for social and racial justice. [Find the job posting on our website!](#)

Pedestrian Safety Survey and Pledge

Take the pedestrian safety survey! The HumanFIRST laboratory at the University of Minnesota is seeking volunteers to [participate in a short survey](#) about pedestrian safety in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

Saint Paul Public Works has partnered with researcher Dr. Nichole Morris from the HumanFIRST Laboratory at the University of Minnesota on a number of studies to improve pedestrian safety. If you have any questions email nlmorris@umn.edu. For more about the recent project visit tcsafetycup.umn.edu.



Right Track Employer Engagement Event

Register for a virtual [Right Track Saint Paul](#) Employer Engagement event to learn how employers can play an important role in investing in Saint Paul youth through employment and mentorship opportunities. Special guests [Mayor Melvin Carter](#) and [Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, St. Paul City Council Ward 2](#) will be joining as well!

RIGHT TRACK EMPLOYER VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

12 - 1 PM



The Omicron Variant

Signs of the Omicron variant have begun to show up in wastewater samples at the region's largest wastewater treatment plant, the Metro Plant in Saint Paul. Wastewater sampling does not confirm individual cases or exactly where outbreaks are occurring. But it is a measure of the prevalence of the disease in the plant's service area and it supplements diagnostic testing. This [story and video discuss the research effort](#).



Get Your Booster!

The MN Dept. of Health recommends that all adults receive a COVID-19 booster shot. Individuals who received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are recommended to receive a booster vaccine shot at least 6 months after their second vaccine dose. Individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine are advised to receive a booster at least two months after their vaccination shot.



How Minnesotans can get their free shot:

- Use the state's [Vaccine Locator Map](#) to find a vaccine provider near you.
- Check for vaccine appointments at [Vaccines.gov](#), where you can search for appointments by vaccine type (e.g., Pfizer).
- Contact your primary health care provider or a local pharmacy.
- Walk in to or make an appointment at one of [Minnesota's COVID-19 Community Vaccination sites](#).

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Public Hotline: 1-833-431-2053
Mon.-Fri., 9 am-7 pm & Sat., 10 am.-6 pm

Winter Reads for Adults

Winter Reads is a program from Ramsey County Library that encourages busy adults to delight in reading. The program runs Jan. 2-Feb. 28. Read four books and you will be entered for a chance at a grand prize. Learn more on the [county website](#).



Ramsey County Budget Approved

represents an increase of \$25,257,019 (3.4%) over 2021 and an increase of \$9,070,422 (1.2%) from 2022 to 2023. Learn more on the [county website](#).

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