



October 2008

# Eighth Ward News

*"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"*

## From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8<sup>th</sup> Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

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### Neighborhood Meetings

#### Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council  
[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm  
4120 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

#### Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7 pm  
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

#### Central

CANDO  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:15 pm  
Sabathani Community Center  
310 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 304

Central Weed & Seed  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 5:30 pm  
Green Central School

#### Field-Regina-Northrop

[www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm  
1620 E 46<sup>th</sup> Street

#### Kingfield

[www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm  
ML King Park, 40<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet

#### Powderhorn

[www.ppna.org](http://www.ppna.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 pm  
821 E 35<sup>th</sup> Street

#### 38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago

38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago Implementation  
Committee  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm  
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

### Prepare for Election Day – November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

This is a momentous election year – make sure you're prepared to vote in November! For those who wish to **pre-register to vote** on Election Day, applications must be received by election officials by **5pm on October 14, 2008**. Voters who don't pre-register can still register on Election Day – make sure you bring a state-required identification to the polls and allow for a little extra time.

Voter registration applications are available at Minneapolis City Hall, Hennepin County offices, public libraries, park buildings and fire and police stations. Applications in English, large print English, Hmong, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese are available online at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections).

Voters can also **vote by absentee ballot** either in person at Minneapolis City Hall or by mail. Applications for absentee ballots may be submitted at any time, but be sure to allow seven days to complete voting through the mail – the completed ballot must be received by the elections office by Election Day. Ballots are available 30 days before each election. For an absentee ballot application and more details, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections) or call 311. The Secretary of State's office has a great explanation of absentee voting available at [www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp).

## Welcome to a New 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Resident



On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:11pm, Elizabeth gave birth to Cecelia Anne Glidden. Mom, Dad (Eric) and Cecelia are doing well and learning much everyday. Thanks to all for your well wishes!

## It's Fall Clean Up Time – Street Sweeping Begins in Mid-October



The City will begin the big task of curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout Minneapolis in mid-October. This task will take about 5 weeks to complete - watch the City's street sweep Web page at

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep) to find the exact dates for your street once they're determined.

To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of vehicles when they're swept. The City will also make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow street sweep parking rules or their vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

Minneapolis is known for its sparkling lakes and waterways, and protecting our environment is one of the City's top priorities. With that in mind, please remember that you should never rake your leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it's bad for our lakes and waterways, it can clog our storm drains and cause safety hazards, plus it's against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.

## Learn How to Keep Your Family and Pets Safe During Fire Prevention Week



In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11, the Minneapolis Fire Department and the Firefighters Hall and Museum will hold an all-day open house to help people learn about preventing home fires, which is the theme of National Fire Prevention Week this year. The open house will provide fire safety tips and give kids of all ages the opportunity to slide down a fire pole, ride a fire truck and much more.

During the open house, the "1st Annual Best (of the rest) In Show" event will take place outside the museum from 10:00 a.m. to noon, giving pet owners a chance to show off their dogs and learn ways to keep their pets safe. Event partners will include Minneapolis Animal Care & Control, Hearing & Service Dogs of Minnesota, the Canine Coach, BART, the Humane Society, and others. Open house details are:

Minneapolis Fire Department Open House  
9 am-4 pm on Sat, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Firefighters Hall and Museum, 664 22nd Ave. N.E.

For more information or to register your pet for the event, visit [www.firehallmuseum.org](http://www.firehallmuseum.org) or contact Casidy Anderson at (612) 919-7790. Pet registration forms are also available at Minneapolis fire stations, dog parks, and some local pet stores.

## Instant Runoff Voting Update



On August 1<sup>st</sup> the City of Minneapolis received responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for services and equipment needed to implement Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Minneapolis voters approved IRV in 2006 as a new method of voting in City elections. After careful review of the RFP submissions, City Elections staff determined that neither of the two submitting vendors met our requirements.

Elections Director Cindy Reichert has recommended that Minneapolis wait on purchasing new voting machines, based on the RFP responses, and instead implement IRV using a combination of current voting machines and hand counting when necessary. Hand counts will be utilized in any race where a candidate does not receive at least 51% of the vote using people's first choice on the new ranked ballot.

Minneapolis will use IRV in the 2009 city elections, pending decisions made in the ongoing lawsuit, Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Minneapolis, which challenges the constitutionality of IRV. Says Councilmember Glidden, chair of the Elections Committee, "it's great to know that our Elections Department is confident in our ability to implement IRV."

## Minneapolis Youth Convention October 28<sup>th</sup>



The Minneapolis Youth Congress, in coordination with the Youth Coordinating Board ([www.ycb.org](http://www.ycb.org)), will host its first Youth Convention on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Convention will take place from 4:30

– 7:30 pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This will be an opportunity for young people to connect with policy makers, voice their concern about issues that affect them, and unite with other youth to create change in their communities.

The Minneapolis Youth Congress, which began meeting one year ago in October 2007, is a representative body of 55 youth from all geographic areas of Minneapolis. The Youth Congress, with the slogan "*No decision about us without us*", is committed to influencing policy development at the Minneapolis Public Schools, City, County, and Park Board. To date the Youth Congress has made significant contributions, among other actions, to the development of the City of Minneapolis' Youth Violence Prevention Blueprint for Action and initiatives to reduce youth gun prevention. **For more information about the Youth Convention visit [www.ycb.org](http://www.ycb.org).**

## Crime and Safety Update



In quick response to several robberies that occurred mid-September in Kingfield, Tangletown, Field, Northrop, Hale, Page and Diamond Lake, the Minneapolis Police Juvenile Unit has arrested a fifteen year old juvenile male. This teenager has been connected with six robberies that occurred in the Third and Fifth Precincts between September 18<sup>th</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>. In each of the cases the suspect used a handgun in the commission of the crime.

The suspect is currently being held in the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center awaiting charges for aggravated robbery. This arrest was the result of a nearly two week long cooperative effort between the Minneapolis Police Juvenile Unit, Robbery Unit and the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team.

Residents should be aware of Minneapolis Police Department tools for residents to increase personal safety. First, the MPD is hosting a free Personal Safety Workshop on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 7-9 pm. It will be held in the 1200-seat Washburn High Auditorium, 201 W. 49th St. There will be lots of time for questions and answers. Self-defense expert Mary Brandl will be a special guest at the Workshop. Invite your older children to attend with you.

As well, Community Crime Prevention/SAFE staff offer **free home security audits** by appointment for anyone who requests this service. If you are unsure who your Crime Prevention Specialist is, call 311. During the audit, the strengths and weaknesses of your home's security will be evaluated – personnel will look indoors and outdoors at homes and garages, focusing on windows, doors, landscaping, lighting and many other aspects.

## Impact of Credit Crisis on City of Minneapolis



With much of our news focused on the global credit crisis you may be wondering what impact it is having on City finances. Minneapolis Finance Director Pat Born is following all trends closely and reports that while Minneapolis has seen some impacts, they are manageable to date. Specifically, the impacts for Minneapolis' finances include:

- The interest rate on our variable rate bonds (variable rate bonds are 20% of the City's total bond portfolio) have gone up dramatically over the past two weeks, but now seems to be moderating. The interest rate is reset weekly. The rate last week was 7.9%, which is up from 1.6% two weeks prior. This week the rate is 5.6%. Finance Director Born expects the rate will continue to drop gradually now that Congress has acted.
- The City's cash reserves investments include \$800,000 commercial paper of Merrill Lynch and AIG. Commercial paper is short term notes of the borrower that are backed by bank lines of credit. These notes will mature next month. The City expects full payment, but is monitoring.

Fortunately, the City has no immediate plans to issue bonds. The municipal market has seen a near cessation of new issues beginning mid-September. Analysts expect this freeze in new bond issuance to ease when Congress acts. The City's next bond issue is planned for mid-November and could be delayed if necessary. No capital projects will be delayed if this issue is delayed.

We will continue to provide updates on how the credit crisis is impacting the City's finances. Please contact the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward office if you have any questions at (612) 673-2208.

## Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



**Early Mornings with Elizabeth!**, a monthly breakfast program at **Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Ave South**, takes place the **Fourth Friday of each month from 7:30 – 9:00 am**.

The next **Early Mornings** program will be Friday, **October 24<sup>th</sup>** – please save the date!

## Ward 8 Community Office Hours



Elizabeth holds community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00 am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 129. In Elizabeth's absence for maternity leave, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Policy Aide Andrea Jenkins will attend community office hours and meet with constituents – please drop by or call our office for a time certain meeting. Also, you can always call the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208 or e-mail Andrea Jenkins with your questions at [andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).