



City of Minneapolis

Ward 8 – Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to: elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
December 2006

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 8 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Park Methodist, 34th & Park Ave S

Central Weed & Seed
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm
1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kfna.org
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
821 E 35th Street

Parkside West

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Midtown Safety Center, 2949 Chicago

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Task Force
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Calvary Church, 39th and Chicago

How to Reach Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, 9-11:00 am, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Room 129, or call to make a time certain appointment. And, you can always call the 8th Ward office with your questions at 612.673.2208.

Minneapolis Budget Update

During November, the Ways & Means Committee of the Council reviewed the Mayor's proposed budget and held budget hearings, including the Truth in Taxation Hearing for public comment on November 30, 2006. The Council will vote on the full budget on December 11, 2006.

The top budget priorities this term have been public safety and libraries. The Mayor's budget included funding for an additional 43 police officers, bringing the Police Department to its 2002 staffing levels. Public Safety technology, including for cameras and shotspotter installation, was also funded in the 2007 budget. Cameras monitored at the 3rd Police Precinct are already installed at 38th and Chicago and Lake and Chicago, while shotspotter (gunfire detection sensors) will be installed in Southside neighborhoods by year's end. In addition, the Ways & Means Committee approved \$35,000 for restorative justice programs in Minneapolis.

Libraries

This next year will be a critical one for our libraries as the Library Board works with the City of Minneapolis, the Legislature and Hennepin County to review funding streams and options. The funding gaps identified by the Library Board will expand into a multi-million dollar shortfall, with some figures showing the **funding shortfall for 2009** could be **more than \$10 million** based on 6 day per week service at 15 libraries – an incredibly daunting figure. There is no doubt there are hard choices ahead which may include reviewing funding priorities (i.e. comparing public safety, public works, and parks with library funding needs), closing libraries, examining reuse of public buildings, and seeking alternative library service (i.e. out of public schools or other buildings).

Councilmember Glidden and many of her colleagues have made library system funding a priority for 2007 and the years to come. The fiscal crisis of the Minneapolis Public Library was exacerbated by the 2002 cuts to Local Government Aid, rising personnel and health care costs, and other factors. The City Council is now reviewing the distribution of local government aid and other funding between the city, library, and parks as one of the factors impacting our libraries.

Libraries continued ...

Two committees, both formed in the fall of 2006, are working now to identify options for our Minneapolis Libraries. The first committee is examining long-term financial strategies, and includes representatives of the Minneapolis Council, the Library, and business and community leaders. The second, formed by Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, will examine Hennepin County's role in assisting the Minneapolis libraries and includes representatives of Hennepin County, the City Council, and community leaders. The two committees will make recommendations in 2007, acknowledging the short timeframe needed for action. As well, many Minneapolis legislators have indicated their willingness to help identify state funding options.

Earlier this year the Mayor proposed one-time funding for the library in exchange for the library board's commitment to convert part of the library's capital dollars (bonds which finance building and infrastructure projects) to operating dollars. The Mayor's proposal created a 1.1 million dollar bridge to 2008. Councilmember Glidden made two motions during budget hearings that expanded on the Mayor's proposal, both of which were approved by the Ways & Means Committee – the first provides ongoing funding of \$250,000 to the Library, the second allows the board to chose one-time dollars rather than converting capital to operating funding. These motions broaden the options for the Minneapolis Public Library, including its ability to keep libraries open.

Please contact Councilmember Glidden with your questions and concerns at elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or (612) 673.2208 – we will keep you updated on option for the Minneapolis Libraries.

Small Area Plan Update: 38th Street and Chicago Avenue

On Monday, November 13th, the last community meeting in preparation for the Small Area Plan/Corridor Housing Initiative was held at Calvary Lutheran Church. About 50 residents, business owners, and faith and non-profit organization leaders attended a question and answer session with developers Chris Wilson, of Project for

Pride in Living and David Rubideax, of Powderhorn Residents Group.

What are the next steps? The small area planner hired by the neighborhoods of Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant and Central is preparing a "plan" document that will be forwarded to each neighborhood for comment, review, and ultimate approval. The Plan should be completed and forwarded to the neighborhoods in January 2007. The boundaries of the plan are Chicago Avenue from 31st Street (North) to 40th Street (South), and 38th Street from Bloomington (East) to 2nd Avenue (West).

Need more information on the Small Area Plan or the 2006 community meetings? Go to www.38thandchicago.org or contact Andrea Jenkins, 8th Ward Policy Aid, at (612) 673.2208.

Eighth Ward Community Leader Awards

Many people and organizations are working every day to improve our neighborhoods. If you know of an individual, block club, organization, business, youth group, or faith-based program in the 8th Ward that deserves recognition for service to community, we would like your input! Please send nominations (in 150 words or less) for the Eighth Ward Community Leader Awards to Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, Eighth Ward Office, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415 or via e-mail to andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Nominations must be postmarked by December 31, 2006.

Earned Income Tax Credit Assistance (EITC): Seeking Volunteers

You can help local families build their financial independence by volunteering for the Twin Cities **Claim It!** campaign. **Claim It!** is a community-driven effort to increase the number of people in the Twin Cities who claim their Earned Income Tax Credit in 2007. Many low-income families are unaware of this tax credit, with millions of federal dollars unclaimed each year. Eligible recipients may receive up to a \$1,600 tax refund, a significant amount which helps to build economic independence.

The Eighth Ward Council office is an active participant in **Claim It!**, working to pair organizations that provide tax preparation assistance with volunteers to work with those programs. Volunteer opportunities exist for people with no, some, or extensive experience preparing tax returns. Examples of volunteer work include screening eligible applicants, tax preparation, greeting, or interpreter services.

Lend your support and help put money back into the pockets of working families. For more information on volunteer roles, or to sign up, please call Accountability Minnesota at 651.287.0187 or visit www.accountabilitymn.org.

Midtown Exchange Receives National Preservation Award

On November 2nd, Ryan Companies US, Inc. was presented with the prestigious award of the National Trust/Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for its work on the Midtown Exchange.

The former historic Sears retail store was empty for more than a decade until it was acquired by the City of Minneapolis in 2001. Ryan Companies, along with many partners who worked on the project, was able to fill the mammoth Sears building with a combination of a large anchor tenant (Allina), affordable apartments, high-end loft condominiums, office space, a county service center, art, and the acclaimed Global Market. The Global Market has leased almost 75% of its space to local entrepreneurs, adding a second sit down restaurant, Chang Bang, as of December 1st.

The president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Richard Moe, remarked, "The rehabilitation of Minneapolis' Sears building is a great example of how historic preservation and community revitalization go hand in hand. Midtown Exchange has given new life not only to this historic structure, but also to a community that was beginning to lose hope. I am proud to honor Ryan Companies for this outstanding project." Congratulations to Ryan Companies for its historic preservation feat!

Bus Rapid Transit Station at 46th Street and I-35W

As part of the Crostown Commons project reconstructing I-35W, Metro Transit will build a Transit Station at 46th Street for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). When fully implemented, BRT will provide transit options on I-35W in the form of dedicated bus service.

Metro Transit is establishing an advisory committee for community input on the Transit Station, or "Transit User Group (TUG)." This group will advise Metro Transit on the service, planning, and functioning of the new station. The Transit User Group will include interested transit users from neighborhoods adjacent to the BRT station - Kingfield, Tangletown, Regina and Field. The 8th and 11th Ward offices will appoint one representative from each neighborhood (total of 4); the neighborhood associations for Tangletown, Kingfield, and Field-Regina-Northrup will appoint one representative each (total of 3); and two at-large members will be selected at a kick-off meeting on January 23, 2007.

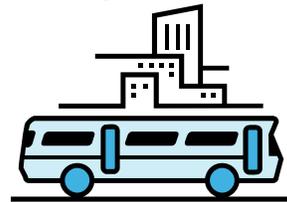
Transit User Group Kick-off Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Where: Field Community School, 4645 - Fourth Avenue South

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The Transit User Group will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month from February through May 2007 at the same time and location as the kick-off meeting.



If you are a frequent transit user, live in the neighborhoods of Field, Regina, or Kingfield, and are interested in being appointed to the Transit User Group, please contact

the 8th Ward office at (612) 673-2208 or email Andrea Jenkins, 8th Ward Policy Aide, at andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. If you are interested in an at-large position on the TUG, please attend the kick-off meeting or send a letter of interest to the 8th Ward Office.

Apply to be on Minneapolis Boards

Minneapolis uses an open appointment process to select residents to serve on its boards and commissions. Information on open seats and application materials may be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/> or by calling (612) 673-3358.

Minneapolis is currently seeking appointees to the following boards or committees:

- The Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (closes December 8)

- Housing Appeals Board (closes December 8)
- Empowerment Zone Governance Board (closes December 8 – open to those who work or live in parts of Central neighborhood)
- Minneapolis Arts Commission (closes December 15)
- The Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee (closes December 22)

Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance

One of the most serious problems facing Minneapolis is the rise in home foreclosures, up 79% in 2006 compared with 2005. This is not just a Minneapolis issue; it is a nationwide trend. Approximately 105 Eighth Ward residents and families have experienced the trauma of home foreclosure in 2006 alone, some of the highest numbers for Southside neighborhoods. Foreclosure impacts families and neighborhoods; a community may lose families with neighborhood roots, vacant homes may present safety issues or detract from values of surrounding homes, and predatory buyers may try to acquire those foreclosed homes.

For those who study the problem, most agree that the best way to reduce the impacts of foreclosed homes is by helping families before they face foreclosure. As of November 2006, 311 operators now provide assistance to residents who fear losing their homes or don't know what to do when they get behind in home payments. The 311 operators will provide referrals to mortgage foreclosure assistance programs, such as Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, a program that serves South and Southeast Minneapolis, which may be reached at (612) 378-2331.

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty with house payments or facing foreclosure, please be proactive and call 311 for assistance now!

Honoring Human Rights Day: December 10, 2006

At its last meeting the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution honoring International Human Rights Day, which is celebrated December 10, 2006. This date is the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted

by the United Nations on December 10, 1948; it guarantees the rights of all people and encompasses a broad spectrum of economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights. The United States Congress has ratified the Human Rights Treaties as “part of the supreme law of the land” under the United States Constitution, formally recognized in 1998 Executive Order 13107.

The Minneapolis resolution, which is described on the City of Minneapolis website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us, encourages residents to learn about international human rights treaties. Please read for yourself the Human Rights Treaties to understand their application to local, state, national and international issues – let us recognize and support human rights in our daily lives!

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm>
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) <http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/cerd.htm>

Get Fit Twin Cities!

Get Fit Twin Cities is a fun, team-based fitness challenge, sponsored by Minneapolis and St. Paul and many community partners, from January 10 – May 10, 2007. It is designed to jump start healthy habits that will help adults feel better, look better and live longer, healthier lives.



Teams of 2-10 adults may participate in the challenge, which encourages teams to focus on weight loss or increasing the amount of time spent on “get fit” activities.

Family members, friends and co-workers are encouraged to join. Each participant receives a Get Fit Passport for free or reduced-fee fitness opportunities at area locations. All teams are eligible for incentives and prizes. Registration is \$5 and the first 10,000 people who live or work in Minneapolis/Saint Paul are free. Registration information will be available in mid-December at www.getfittwincities.org.

For more information, e-mail info@getfittwincities.org or call (612) 673-3485 (Minneapolis) or (651) 266-2400 (Saint Paul).