



May 2008

Eighth Ward News

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

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

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Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

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

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

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

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

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

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

Update: 38th Street Corridor Improvements

The 38th Street and Chicago Avenue Small Area Plan was adopted by the City Council on March 21, 2008. The work of Bancroft, Bryant, Central and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods to support this plan has already lead to some great opportunities.

Facelifts Coming for 38th Street Corridor Businesses

Congratulations to the Bancroft neighborhood and Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association, each of which were awarded \$50,000 from the City on May 2nd for "business façade improvements". These funds can be used to improve the exterior appearance of commercial buildings at business corners along 38th Street including: **38th and Chicago, 38th and Bloomington, 38th and 4th Avenue, and 38th and Nicollet.** What kinds of improvements could we see? For property owners who agree to participate, new awnings, windows installed in blank walls, fresh paint, or even murals could be supported with the façade improvement program.

Chicago Fire Arts Center: Redevelopment at 3749 Chicago

The Chicago Fire Arts Center is the first redevelopment project at the corner of 38th & Chicago to occur in many years. On April 18th, the City Council showed its commitment to 38th and Chicago by approving use of up to \$500,000 from its Capital Acquisition Fund for purchase and resale of 3749 Chicago to non-profit developer Artspace Projects, Inc., which will lease the building to the Fire Arts Center. As part of this process, the City is working with the surrounding neighborhoods to designate the corner of 38th and Chicago as a Redevelopment Area. This designation may qualify 38th and Chicago for certain public development and financing programs, as well as allowing the City to buy and sell property from willing property owners. Good luck to the Chicago Fire Arts Center as it moves forward!

Application Submitted for 38th Street Bike/Walk Improvements

Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) is administering \$21 million federal pilot program to increasing biking and walking in Minneapolis. On April 18th, the City Council submitted a list of Minneapolis bike and walk projects for possible funding by TLC. High on the city's list was a proposal for pedestrian improvements and bike lanes on East 38th Street, from Portland to the Minnehaha Avenue, for \$750,000. Examples of potential changes include street trees and landscaping, better pedestrian crossings, lighting, and a signed bicycle route. If 38th Street is awarded funding by TLC, the City will work closely with affected neighborhoods on design options, to ensure broad community consensus is achieved.

Southside Foreclosure Forum: May 30, 2008

In cooperation with Southside neighborhoods, council offices, service providers, and Congressman Keith Ellison's office, the 8th Ward Office and Councilmember Glidden are organizing a Southside Foreclosure Forum. The details are:

Southside Foreclosure Forum

Friday, May 30, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Sabathani, 310 E 38th Street, Rm 218

The foreclosure forum will feature assistance for borrowers (home owners) and renters, public policy and advocacy ideas, as well as information and resources helpful to neighbors concerned about the impact of vacant and boarded properties in their neighborhoods. **Congressman Keith Ellison will be a featured speaker.**

Minneapolis foreclosure information, including data, maps, and resource information, can now be found on-line at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure.

City Downpayment Assistance for Minneapolis Homebuyers

The City of Minneapolis has a new resource to help people become Minneapolis homeowners. The Minneapolis Advantage program offers qualifying buyers a \$10,000 zero-percent loan that can be used to help cover down payment and closing costs. If the buyer lives in the home for five years, the loan would be fully forgiven. The money can also be used to make needed home repairs.

This new program was adopted by the City Council at its April 4, 2008 meeting as a way to rebuild the housing market in key neighborhoods that have experienced high rates of foreclosed, vacant, and boarded homes. **Ward 8 eligible neighborhoods include Central and Powderhorn Park.**

Funds are limited, most likely to approximately 50 purchasers. The program requires that buyers:

- qualify for a traditional fixed-rate mortgage,
- agree to homeownership counseling, and

- purchase a home in one of the designated neighborhoods.

Additional financial assistance may be available to homebuyers purchasing homes in the Central neighborhood.

Guidelines and additional information are available by visiting www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/minneapolisadvantage_home.asp or calling the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation at (612) 588-3033.

Anti-Graffiti Project Grants Awarded to 8th Ward Organizations



The City of Minneapolis has just awarded several grants for Graffiti-Prevention Projects administered by local

organizations. 8th Ward-serving organizations awarded grants for neighborhood projects include: **Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association** (removing gang graffiti, hiring and educating youth, and installing a mural at 38th and Chicago); **Lake Street Council** (using vegetation to break up walls and beautify Lake Street); **El Colegio Charter School**, 42nd and Bloomington (neighborhood mural program); and **Kingfield-Lyndale** (Walldogs mural program on Nicollet Avenue).

You will see these projects occur between May and December 2008. Organizations are required to explain and evaluate how their project will prevent graffiti in the future. Congratulations to all!

Bike Walk to Work Day: May 14th



The Twin Cities Bike Walk to Work Day is May 14, 2008. A celebration

event will take place in downtown Minneapolis, at the Hennepin County Government Center Plaza (the corner of 5th Street and 3rd Avenue), from 6:30 am – 9:00 am. A free continental breakfast is available at many locations in Minneapolis to those who sign up at www.bikewalkweek.org. Join in the fun by participating in a commuter convoy or watching a “bike stunt show” at the downtown celebration! All information you need is at www.bikewalkweek.org.

Instant Runoff Voting



On April 18, 2008, the Minneapolis City Council approved two measures that bring the city closer to implementing Instant Runoff Voting for local elections.

Minneapolis voters approved

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) by 65% in a 2006 charter referendum. Since that time, Minneapolis staff and elected officials have been working aggressively to address the issues necessary to conduct Instant Runoff Voting elections.

The Council's actions included approving an ordinance that establishes the rules for how IRV elections will be conducted, and how ballots will be counted for those elections. The Council also approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vendor to provide election equipment and services to conduct elections using IRV.

“I am pleased that the City Council took this significant step in making Instant Runoff Voting a reality,” said Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, who chairs the Council’s Elections Committee. “Our first responsibility is to conduct fair, accurate and legal elections that give the people of Minneapolis confidence they are casting a meaningful ballot. Our actions today ensure that we remain true to that commitment.”

To date, Minneapolis has been working with a task force convened by the Secretary of State to identify the steps necessary to conduct IRV elections, including drafting proposed state legislation and rules that could be adopted by local jurisdictions. The Secretary of State’s task force completed its work February 1, 2008.

While Minneapolis’ goal is to implement IRV in the 2009 City election, issues outside the control of Minneapolis – such as the federal and state certification process for elections equipment – may affect whether the City starts using IRV in 2009 or the next possible election, 2013. Responses to Minneapolis’ RFP for IRV-compatible elections equipment will help us evaluate implementation options.

Arts and Creative Economic Development Series!



Our May meeting is focused on **business tools for small arts organizations and individual artists**

From running arts organizations, to receiving payment for performances and selling works of art, to operating private galleries and performance space, artists and arts administrators need the tools essential to operate and finance a small business or run a home-based business. Come and bring your questions for this practical and engaging discussion! This event is **Wednesday, May 7th, 6:30-8:00pm, Urban Arts Academy, 3901 Chicago Ave S.**

We will be joined for a discussion of existing resources and needs by these panelists:

- **Bob Lind**, Director of Business Finance for the City of Minneapolis,
- **Melinda Ludwiczak**, Coordinator for Arts and Business Partnerships at the Minneapolis Central Library, and
- **Laura Zabel**, Executive Director of Springboard for the Arts.

In addition: The Arts and Creative Economic Development planning team will have sign-up sheets for action teams in these areas: 1) Funding; 2) Advocacy/Research; 3) Events; and 4) Business Association creation. If you are unable to attend on May 7th, and would like more information about these action opportunities, please contact the 8th Ward at (612) 673-2208 or Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us !