



April 2008

Eighth Ward News

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

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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

Watch Where You Park: Street Sweepers Are Coming to a Block Near You!

With the winter snow piles retreating, it's time for the City to clean up all the dirt and grime the melting snow and ice left behind on Minneapolis streets. Crews are set to begin the comprehensive spring street sweep in mid-April.

Over the course of five weeks, Minneapolis Public Works will send sweepers down all 1,100 miles of city streets. Weather permitting; the spring street sweeping will begin on Tuesday, April 15.

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 parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed.

- **"No Parking" signs** – As the sweep gets underway, City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7am to 4:30pm on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Vehicles not in compliance with "No Parking" signs will be ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.
- **Phone Calls to Residents** – In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.
- **Interactive Web Tool** – Starting a few days before the sweep begins, folks will be able to use a tool on the City's website to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep to find out which week your street is scheduled to be swept.

Minneapolis is known for its sparkling lakes and waterways, and we want to keep it that way. That's why protecting and enhancing our environment is one of the City's top priorities. Street sweeping is one way we work to protect our environment because it keeps leaves and debris from clogging our storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. It also helps keep our neighborhoods clean and livable.

Damage to Vehicles Alert!



During the nighttime hours between the dates of March 5 and March 23, there were 25 reported cases of car windows being smashed in the area between 2nd Ave. S. to Hiawatha, and E. Lake St. to E. 42nd St.

There is very little or no suspect information at this time.

What you can do:

- **Keep a watchful eye out and call 911 if you see suspicious behavior.** Listen for the sound of glass breaking. If you believe someone is in the process of vandalizing a car, call 911 immediately.
- Report all incidents of vandalism and theft, even if you did not observe the crime. You can do this by calling 311. Reporting is important because it may be possible to identify patterns through accumulated reports, which will help the police and increase patrols.
- If you have a garage, use it and lock it.
- If you park on the street, park in well-lit areas. This increases the chance of vandals or thieves being seen.
- If you have a security system with a video camera attached, point the camera to where your vehicle or neighbor's vehicles are parked.
- Light up the neighborhood – keep outside lights on. Increase the chance that the suspect(s) will be seen by someone.
- If you get up during the night, look out your window. Increase the “eyes of the neighborhood.”

If you have any questions, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch (612) 673-2856 or karen.notsch@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Council Votes to Encourage Legislature to Extend NRP Funding



The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak unanimously approved a resolution on Friday, March 21 to urge the State of Minnesota to enact legislation that would effectively fund the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) beyond 2009.

Specifically, the resolution urges the legislature to extend the pre-1979 tax increment districts in the Minneapolis Common project that are used to fund NRP. Additional funding from the extension would also go to support the Target Center.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a redevelopment tool authorized by State statute and used by cities and development authorities. When a TIF district is established, the tax capacity of the properties located within the district are “frozen,” and for the duration of the district, the property taxes resulting from any increase in the tax capacity above the frozen level are available to the city. The 15 pre-1979 tax increment financing districts in Minneapolis are set to decertify in 2009.

The resolution encourages Minnesota Legislature to act to extend the TIF districts that are set to decertify in 2009. The resolution asks the legislature to extend the districts for the minimum time necessary to cumulatively provide \$100 million to fund the needs of a neighborhood revitalization program that includes support for neighborhood organizations and neighborhood-direction action plans after 2009. The resolution also calls for the TIF district extension to fund \$100 million to repay Target Center bonds and capital improvements at the center.

Public and community leaders originally conceived of the NRP in the late 1980s as a way to invest in neighborhoods and quell the trend of people moving from urban areas into the suburbs. The NRP was established through state legislation in 1990 and is governed by a joint-powers agreement between five government jurisdictions: the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and (originally) Minneapolis Public Library.

Bloomington Avenue Scheduled for Resurfacing in 2008



Early Fall 2008, Bloomington Avenue will be a part of the 2008 Street Resurfacing Program. The project will begin at 38th Street and extend to Minnehaha Parkway.

Background:

The current rate of street repair is approximately 4.6 miles per year. The new resurfacing program will allow the city to improve road conditions in a more timely manner. The program will provide resurfaced streets with a life expectancy of 10 years. The work will consist of removing a portion of the existing asphalt paving surface and placing a new surface over the entire street.

Resurfacing is a very fast process. Property owners will typically see work in front of their homes for about two days. **All of the construction will be done without closing streets.** Please note, however, that during the project the street will be posted **NO PARKING** in front of your home or business.

There will be a pre-public hearing meeting scheduled sometime in late May or June and a public hearing at the Transportation and Public Works Committee on July 15th, 2008.

For questions regarding the project and property owners assessments please contact:

Tracy Lindgren, Engineering Technician
(612) 290-5898

Suzette Hjermstad, Public Works, Special Assessments
(612) 673-2401

Green Building and Renovation Website



If you're building or renovating, you can save money, have a healthier home and protect the environment by planning green options into your construction project. Many green options cost the same as

conventional construction, and most of those that cost more will save you money in lower energy bills or lower maintenance bills over the lifetime of the investment. If you plan to sell your home in a few years, you should know that real estate companies are starting to plan special marketing tools to advance the sales of green homes.

The City of Minneapolis has developed a new Web checklist to walk you through some of the ways you can take advantage of more sustainable options for your home. Before you start planning your next project, make sure to visit:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mdr/GreenBuildingOptions_home.asp.

Safeguard Your Home to Have a Worry-Free Spring Vacation



Spring break is upon us. If you're among the many residents planning to head out of town, Minneapolis Police advise you to take a few minutes to secure your home so you can have a worry-free vacation.

Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity committed by amateurs, and unoccupied homes are a tempting target for them. The best way to protect your place from these criminals is to make your place appear occupied and difficult to break into.

Follow these simple, easy-to-follow tips as a checklist to help protect your home against break-ins and theft while you're away.

- Install good locks on windows and doors and be sure to use to them.

- Avoid leaving a spare key anywhere outside your home.
- Make arrangements to suspend mail, newspaper and package deliveries or ask a neighbor to pick them up.
- If you have a home security alarm, arm it before leaving town.
- Set up timers around your home to turn on and off televisions, lamps and radios at appropriate hours; install motion detectors around your home.
- Turn down the ringer volume on your phone to avoid having someone hear it go unanswered.
- Keep blinds, shades or curtains the way they are when you're home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Secure storage sheds.
- While you should have trusted neighbors to keep an eye on your place when you're gone, try to keep travel plans to yourself. Don't announce your absence on voicemail. Tell your co-workers not to give out your travel plans.
- Record the make, model and serial number of property and take pictures of electronic equipment and valuables. Use the free national police program Operation ID to mark and inventory your valuables. Just call (612) 673-2749 to request an information packet. Should your property be stolen, this simple step will make it more difficult for thieves to sell it and easier for police to return it to you.

For more ideas to secure your home while you're away or for information about how to enroll in Operation ID, contact your police precinct's Crime Prevention Specialist by visiting www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/ and clicking on the "Community Crime Prevention/SAFE" link.

Early Mornings Elizabeth!



Please join us for **Early Mornings with Elizabeth!**, a monthly breakfast program at **Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Ave South**, from **7:30 – 9:00**

am every Fourth Friday of each month. *Free coffee provided by Turtle Bread!*

This month's topic will be Youth Violence Prevention: Minneapolis' Plan for Action.

The breakfast event will be held on **Friday, April 25th** and our featured guest speaker will be **Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Services.** She will give an update to the community on the work being done on the City's Youth Violence Prevention Committee. This is an important topic that touches many communities and is a great opportunity to learn more about what is being done to address the youth violence issue.

How to Reach Elizabeth



Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 129. You can always call the 8th Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208.