



March 2010

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

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council

www.bancroftneighborhood.org

Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm

4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association

Meets 1st Thursday, 7 pm

Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO

www.CANDOmpls.org

Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38th Street, Room 304

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org

Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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

Governor Proposes \$29 Million Cut in Aid to City

On Feb. 16 Governor Pawlenty released his proposal to close a \$1.2 billion deficit in the State's budget. His plan includes slashing aid to local governments throughout Minnesota by a quarter billion dollars. For Minneapolis, that would mean a \$29 million cut in the City's 2010 budget.

When added to the Governor's existing cut (or unallotment) of \$21 million to Minneapolis' 2010 budget, Minneapolis' budget for 2010 will be reduced by \$50 million, a 56% reduction in expected state funding for 2010.

Cutting state funding by this amount has the potential to change public service as we know it. To give perspective to the Governor's proposed cuts; \$50 million is almost our entire Fire Department budget (\$55 million) and more than one third of the Police Department budget (\$133 million).

Here are more examples of the impact on city services:

- The City could stop prosecuting crimes, saving \$7.7 million
- The City could stop filling potholes and other street maintenance for a year, saving \$9 million
- The City could shut off streetlights and save only \$2.9 million

In other words, eliminating all of the services listed above would still fall short of saving enough money to cover the Governor's proposed cut of \$29 million to Minneapolis.

Since 2003, Local Government Aid to the City of Minneapolis has been reduced by more than \$300 million. This funding source was originally intended to balance cities' need to raise property taxes – the relationship between the cities and the state is clearly broken and needs to be renewed. For cities around the state, these cuts in state aid have resulted in reduced services – fewer police, firefighters, and pothole repair – plus increased property taxes.

While Minneapolis is hopeful that the Governor's proposal will be modified by the State Legislature, we know that budget cuts of millions of dollars must be made under any scenario. Mayor Rybak has begun working on a 2010 Supplemental budget proposal, which will be presented to the City Council for review and approval. We must take some action, knowing that the later in the year cuts are made the deeper the impact of those cuts.

The City's website, www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us, will have more information in coming weeks about the process for developing a supplemental 2010 budget and how cuts could impact core city services. In the meantime, check out www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/newsroom/factsheet-budget-top-ten.asp for the top 10 things to know about the Minneapolis budget.

Councilmember Glidden – Leadership Roles for 2010 - 13

With a new term beginning for the City Council and Mayor, Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden will serve in two new positions. As **Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee**, Elizabeth plays a key role in presenting the City's Legislative Agenda to the Minnesota Legislature and lobbying for the city's interests. Elizabeth also is a bridge with the Park Board, School Board, and other governmental units outside the City of Minneapolis. In addition, Elizabeth is the **Chair of the Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee** of the City Council. All policy issues impacting the energy and environment will be heard by this committee, as well as regulatory service issues such as problem properties, rental license concerns, and business licensing.

"I'm proud to represent Minneapolis at the Capitol in these challenging times, prioritizing pension reform and issues that impact the city budget," Councilmember Glidden said. "I'm also excited to lead the city's work on energy and environment, just as these issues are getting more and more national and state attention. I know too that the work of our regulatory services department is critical to the continued safety of our communities."

Councilmember Glidden is often asked by residents, "what can we do to help at the state legislature?" Let your voice be heard! It is important to call your state representatives and senators to voice concern about impacts on city services and budgets from Governor Pawlenty's proposed local government aid cuts. Please encourage family members and friends in cities outside of Minneapolis to call their representatives too. We must also work together on these critical issues impacting our state's health.

Bike Lanes Coming on Blaisdell and 1st Avenue



The Minneapolis Public Works Department is working on a restriping project (*not* a reconstruction project) to add

bike lanes on 1st and Blaisdell Avenues between 15th Street and 40th Street. The City received federal transportation funding through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program for this restriping.

The project fits into the City's adopted goal of creating a multi-modal transportation system. As part of the project, parking changes are being explored on 1st Avenue between 33rd Street and 40th Street. This will likely include modifications to existing parking restrictions and/or the addition of parking.

Details on a draft proposal will be shared at a public meeting on **Wednesday, March 17th at 6:30 pm at the Lyndale Neighborhood Building (3537 Nicollet Avenue)**. Additionally, more information on the project will be available online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles in early March. Feedback or questions are welcome, and can be directed to Shaun Murphy at 612.333.2450 or shaun.murphy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Calling All Community Gardeners!



On **March 27 9 am- 4pm**, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St. Gardening Matters will host a **Community Gardening Resource Fair**. Interest in community gardens continues to increase across the city and

in Ward 8 neighborhoods – this is a great chance for you to find out more about how to move forward with your ideas and interest in urban gardening. There is a \$5 donation suggested at the door, and free parking. **Exhibits, food, networking and workshops are available**. Come and find out more about opportunities to improve local food access and community food security for everyone so that our neighborhoods are more resilient. Call 612-492-8964 or visit www.gardeningmatters.org for more information.

Making It Easier to Apply For Board and Commission Positions

The City of Minneapolis has streamlined its process for selecting individuals to serve on volunteer

boards and commissions. Appointments will now be made by the City Council and Mayor two times per year, in Spring (with approval in May) and winter (with November approval) Previously, appointments were made on an as-needed basis – making it difficult to track when openings occurred on the 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees at the City of Minneapolis.

These boards do critical work, advising the City on current issues and assisting in policy development and administration of services. These boards provide one important way that the City receives community-based input into administration of services.

Now is a great time to check out board openings -- most positions have an application deadline of April 2nd!

Some examples of current openings due April 2 include:

- Animal Care & Control Advisory Board
- Latino Advisory Committee
- Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission

For a full list of positions and descriptions, interested applicants should visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp, where you can also sign up for e-mail updates on all board and commission openings

City Crews Monitoring Need for Continued Winter Parking Restrictions



Thank you to residents and business owners for your cooperation in Minneapolis' Winter Parking Restrictions, put into effect on Feb

11. The one-sided parking ban was put into effect to ensure that fire trucks and other emergency vehicles can continue to reach every street in Minneapolis with critical safety services.

Currently, city crews are monitoring snow melt and street conditions continuously, hoping to end the ban as soon as it is safe to do so. The Minneapolis Fire Chief and Public Works Director decide when it is safe to lift the Winter Parking Restrictions based on two criteria:

- Street widths have increased enough that the original risk to public safety is reduced to the satisfaction of public safety officials, and
- Weather forecasts show that the likelihood of further significant snowfall is low. The City cannot instantly turn the ban off and on again. The restrictions must stay in effect until there is enough confidence that more snow will not cause conditions to regress.

We want to personally thank many of you who have called the Ward 8 office with questions, concerns, complaints, and compliments about the Winter Parking Restrictions. We have worked closely with city staff to ensure they know of your concerns, can make accommodations when at all possible, and use suggestions to impact future action. Some examples of changes made based on our work with you include working with Park Board staff to hold off on tree trimming that would further reduce residential parking, and working with Metro Transit to temporarily reduce the length of "bus stop no parking zones" at targeted business corners (allowing more customer parking).

For more information go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow and click on "Winter Parking Restrictions."

Great Streets Grants Help Spruce Up Local Businesses



You may have noticed work this year at many local businesses recently to spruce up their storefronts. Work at neighborhood business corners like 38th and Chicago and 38th and Nicollet has included tuck-pointing, installation of beautiful glass windows where there once were solid walls, new awnings, murals, and more.

On Feb 12, 2010, the City Council awarded several Ward 8 business corners additional funds for façade improvement.

These business improvements are important to surrounding neighbors as well as business owners, showing vitality, increasing value, and attracting customers to the area. Neighborhood organizations and business associations who receive grant dollars spearhead marketing efforts, energize local merchants and property owners to make improvements, and provide general assistance.

Congratulations to Ward 8 Recipients of façade improvement funding! They are:

- **Bancroft Neighborhood Association** for 38th and 4th, 38th and Chicago, 38th and Bloomington, and 42nd St. and Bloomington.
- **Lake Street Council**, including for Lake and Chicago
- **Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association** including 38th and Nicollet; 36th and Lyndale Ave, 40th and Lyndale, 38th and Grand, and 43rd and Nicollet.

Rebates Available for Home Solar Energy Systems



on the installation of solar energy systems.

If you've been thinking about tapping into solar power at your home, this may be a good time to do it. There are now two ways you can get rebates

The State's Office of Energy Security is offering rebates of up to \$10,000 on solar electric and solar hot water system installations. For applications, go to www.energy.mn.gov and type "solar electric rebate" or "solar hot water rebate" in the search engine. Rebates are available at an applicant's primary residence only.

Xcel Energy has also launched a Solar Rewards program, to help customers afford solar panel

installations on homes and businesses. For conditions and other details of the program, go to www.xcelenergy.com/solar and select "Minnesota" from the drop-down list on the left. You can also request information by sending an e-mail message to SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com.

By installing a solar energy system in your home, you'll save money on your monthly utility bills and also help reduce your environmental footprint by using fewer resources. In addition, you could be eligible for a 30-percent federal tax credit. For more information on the tax credit, go to www.energystar.gov and search for "federal tax credits."

Celebrate Earth Hour by Turning Off Lighting on March 27, 8:30-9:30 pm.



Please join the City of Minneapolis in celebrating Earth Hour on March 27! Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to

turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour from 8:30–9:30pm on Saturday, March 27. It is an international and local symbolic event to raise awareness about climate change issues and encourage businesses, individuals and government to take specific action. The City of Minneapolis will celebrate Earth Hour by turning off lighting in municipal buildings, the Stone Arch Bridge, and the City Hall Clock Tour to conserve energy and raise awareness of climate change.

Community Office Hours



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.