



February 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:

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

Congratulations to 8th Ward Community Leader Award Recipients

On January 25, 2008, the 8th Ward Office presented its 2007 Community Leader Awards to four recipients. Please join us in congratulating these great community leaders!



- **Brian Kelly**, Central neighborhood resident, was honored as the founder of **All About Family**, an organization facilitating family friendly outings and activities at low or no cost. Brian, a fourth generation African-American Minnesota native, has coordinated **All About Family** events as part of many area park and community celebrations, and is well known for his architectural Lego sculptures. You can learn more at www.allaboutfam.com.
- **Michael Vanderford**, longtime soccer coach at Martin Luther King Park and **Kingfield** resident, was honored for his many years of service to his neighborhood and young people, and for his recent efforts to help found a 9-block block club dubbed **West of King** [Park]. Michael has put in a great amount of time to connect with neighborhood, community, crime prevention, and city leaders in order to establish a baseline of information from which the West of King club can develop.
- **Parkside West Block Club**. As one Lake Street business manager stated, "This block club group makes their blocks safer and the surrounding community better by great communication and by simply caring about the area we work and live in." Well known for being highly organized and active throughout tis neighborhood of Powderhorn Park, the Parkside West block club spent years advocating for cul-de-sacs at 10th and Elliot Avenues near Lake Street – a project residents are now proud to say is completed due to their persistent efforts. Current efforts of Parkside West include working on such issues as prostitution, problem properties, and organizing positive neighborhood events.
- **Joe Senkyr-Minjares**. As the owner and operator of the family-owned business **Pepitos**, at 48th and Chicago, Joe has had a lifetime of community involvement in the 8th Ward. Growing up near 38th and Chicago, Joe attended Central High School and played sports at McRae Park. But it is his acting experience and keen business sense that prompted Joe to purchase and restore the **Parkway Theater** next door to **Pepitos**, and revitalize it as a venue for movies, live theater, events, and more. Nieghborhood residents are thrilled with the Parkway's improvements and Joe assures us that there is more excitement to come. Find out more at www.theparkwaytheater.com.

Public Works Announces New Street Resurfacing Program



While not a sexy topic, having well-maintained streets is one of the basic functions of city government. For many years, one of the biggest challenges for the City of Minneapolis has been funding appropriate street repair and reconstruction. As city funds and local government aid have diminished over the past 5 years, the city's ability to pay for street repair through its capital program (bonding dollars) and its general fund have decreased as well. Without preventive maintenance, street conditions deteriorate much quicker than they would if seal coating or other preventive measures were applied – requiring very costly reconstruction (tearing up and replacing all layers of street, curb, and gutter) or renovation (replacing the top layer of a street as well as curb and gutter).

In order to extend the life of our streets, public works has now proposed a “**street resurfacing program**.” The cost and time for street resurfacing is significantly less than renovation or reconstruction, allowing the city to resurface 15-20 miles of city streets per construction season as opposed to 4.5 miles. Resurfacing will, conservatively, extend the life of a street 10 years (other communities have experienced up to 15 years). Because Minneapolis has a policy to assess property owners for some portion of street repair work along their property line, it is important to note that assessment rates for resurfacing will be ½ those of rates for a street renovation project.

With this new program, are there any Ward 8 streets that will get needed repairs soon? The good news is that **Bloomington Avenue**, from **38th Street to Minnehaha Parkway**, a street full of potholes and badly needs repairs, is on the short list of resurfacing projects. Bloomington will be resurfaced hopefully in fall of 2008, or 2009 at the latest.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



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

Over the past two years the 8th Ward office has featured topics such as Arts and Economic Development, Conversations with State Legislators, Criminal Justice and Reentry Issues, and WI-Fi Community Benefits. Past speakers have included Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Dr Bill Green, Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant, and Director of the Council on Crime and Justice Tom Johnson.

Mark your calendars now for upcoming programs, each from 7:30 – 9:00 am at Turtle Bread:

- **Friday, February 22nd**: Addressing Foreclosures in Minneapolis. Featuring Tom Streit, Minneapolis' new Director of Housing and former executive with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.
- **Friday, March 28th**: Minneapolis' State Legislative Agenda
- **Friday, April 25th**: Youth Violence Prevention: Minneapolis' Plan for Action
- **Friday, May 23rd**: Program to be determined

New Police Recruits in Training



New Minneapolis Police Department recruits are starting 2008 training at the police academy. This class has 29 men and five women, or 34 total recruits. The recruits will spend four months training at the academy.

Officers who complete this are expected to begin field training as soon as late April.

In field training, a new officer is paired with a seasoned officer who acts as a mentor as they begin their work at MPD precincts in communities throughout Minneapolis.

Arts and Creative Economic Development



On January 16, 2008, Councilmember Glidden and the 8th Ward office co-sponsored a kick-off event for the meeting series,

Arts and Creative Economic Development.

Local arts organizations Pillsbury House Theater, Urban Arts Academy, Center for Independent Artists, and Parkway Theater put in many hours to help make this event a success.

Featured speakers Seitu Jones, nationally recognized artist and Minneapolis' Artist-in-Residence, and Professor Ann Markusen of the Humphrey Institute, author of **The Artistic Dividend**, wowed the crowd with their inspirational messages. Audience members were encouraged to identify issues to support individual artists and small arts organizations and organize around those issues. With over 100 artists, arts administrators, and arts supporters in attendance, the room was buzzing with energy and ideas.

Please mark your calendars for the next two meetings of the **Arts and Creative Economic Development Series**:

- On **Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 8-9:30 am**, at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, Room 220, please attend to "**Influence the Direction of the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan: Arts & Cultural Affairs Section**" Featured speakers will be Karin Berkholz, Community Planning Supervisor, and Matthew James, Cultural Arts Administrator. You can review the Arts

and Cultural Affairs Section of the Comp Plan at www.minneapolisplan.info.

- On Monday, March 24, 2008, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, at Center for Independent Artists, 4127 Bloomington Ave S, join us for a discussion of **Artists and Community Engagement**. Our featured speaker will be **Reggie Prim**, co-author of **Art and Civic Engagement: Mapping the Connections**.

Results Minneapolis: Find Out More!



Starting in 2006, the City of Minneapolis has been working on a performance measurement process for all departments called **Results Minneapolis**.

With the Results program, each department selects goals and measures and then shows what results and outcomes have been achieved. These measures are now public and can be viewed at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis.

What information can you find in Results Minneapolis? Violent crime and youth-involved crime rates, police response times, gang charges and indictments, affordable housing production and residential foreclosure sales, police calls at grocery and convenience stores, graffiti clean-up times, and business licenses issued --- and much more. Check out **Results Minneapolis** to learn more about what is happening in our city and measure "how are we doing?"

Federal Money Headed to Minneapolis Projects



The spending bill passed by Congress and signed by President Bush late last year contains more than \$1.1 million for three programs here in Minneapolis. The bill includes:

- **\$564,000 for the ShotSpotter system.** Eighth Ward neighborhoods are very familiar with Shotspotter, originally supported and promoted by Central Weed & Seed, which has helped improve police response to gunfire incidents. ShotSpotter detects gunshots using multiple sensors and then triangulates the position of the gunshot with great accuracy. The area now covered by ShotSpotter sensors covers more than half of the city's "shots fired" calls to 911.
- **\$300,000 to help in the City's ongoing effort to decrease combined sewer overflows, or CSOs.** CSOs can occur when too much stormwater enters and overloads the sanitary sewer system. When this happens, the mix of sanitary sewage and stormwater can overflow into the Mississippi River. In recent years, overflows have been drastically reduced – with **zero** CSOs in 2007 - thanks to many infrastructure improvements by the City of Minneapolis, property owners, and the Metropolitan Council. Reducing these overflows promotes public health and safety, and also protects and sustains the river's water quality. For more information, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso/.
- **\$270,000 to increase to support city's Empowerment Zone.** Established in 1999, the city's Empowerment Zone covers specific areas of the city, including much of Lake Street and a portion of the Central neighborhood. This federally funded program aims to create sustainable communities through economic growth, affordable housing, safety, education, job training and community services. You can find out more, and look at maps of the Empowerment Zone, at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ez.

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.

Se Habla Español en la Octavo Ayuntamiento del Barrio

Si usted necesita ayuda, llame por favor la octava ayuntamiento del barrio y yo le puedo ayudar. Mi nombre es Jennifer y usted me puede llamar por teléfono en 612.673.2208.

Jennifer White joined the 8th Ward office team in March as the new associate and has been working hard to keep up with constituent concerns. A recent University of Minnesota graduate, Jennifer studied Sociology and African American Studies. She is also fluent in Spanish and is available for any Spanish-speaking constituents who may need assistance. When asked about her Spanish background, Jennifer comments, "Minneapolis has a large Spanish-speaking population and it comes in handy when I can communicate with people who may need help, but do not speak English."