



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

March 18, 2010

[Contact Gary](#)

[Where to send Gary  
mail](#)

[More contact information](#)

[Inspections](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

[Animal Control](#)

[Public Works](#)

## School board candidates meet at *Breakfast with Gary*

Minneapolis school board candidates vying for two at-large seats, as well District Three, and District Five will be part of a candidate forum at this month's Breakfast



School board candidates will share their thoughts and take questions at this month's Breakfast with Gary. (Photo courtesy of Minneapolis Public Schools.)

st with Gary. This year will be the first that voters will have the chance to elect three school board members by district as well as two at-large board members. The new districts correspond to those already existing for Park and Recreation Board.

With three current school board members not seeking reelection, [T. Williams](#) is the only incumbent in the race. He is scheduled to participate in the candidate forum along with fellow candidates David DeGrio, [Richard Mammen](#), [Doug Mann](#), and [Dick Velnor](#). All are running for an at-large seat. [Hussein Samatar](#) is running unopposed for District Three and [Alberto Monserrate](#) is unopposed for District Five. During the forum, candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves and then take questions from the audience.

“Strong schools are critical for the success of Minneapolis,” said Council Member Gary Schiff. “Making sure we are picking

strong leaders to head up our schools is a key step to getting there.”

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly meeting held from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of the month at the [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. \$5 buys breakfast.

## Free workshops on sustainable gardens



On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Longfellow Community Council is hosting [free workshops](#) on sustainable gardens.

On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Longfellow Community Council is hosting [free workshops](#) on how to plan for a more sustainable yard or garden. Topics include rain gardens, composting, landscaping with native plants, fruit trees and shrubs, vegetable gardening, and organic lawn care. The workshops will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sanford Middle School, 3524 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South in

Minneapolis.

Presenters from the University of Minnesota, local landscaping providers, garden designers, and local gardeners will share their expertise. Light refreshments are provided for participants. An RSVP is appreciated, but not required. For questions or to RSVP, contact Jim Jakus at [kim@longfellow.org](mailto:kim@longfellow.org) or call (612) 722-4529. This event is free and open to the public. Longfellow residents are eligible to save energy, water and time with an array of door prizes at the event, including rain barrels, compost bins, native plants, fruit trees, green cleaning products, low-flow shower heads and more.

## Serve on a Minneapolis board or commission

The City of Minneapolis has streamlined its process for selecting individuals to serve on volunteer boards and commissions. Appointments will now be made to city boards and commissions two times per



One goal of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee is to promote walking in the city. Guided walking tours of historic sites in Minneapolis are provided free of charge to city residents.

year through formal City Council and Mayoral processes. Appointments were previously made on an as-needed basis and are now targeted for May and November.

Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees, which advise the city on current issues and assist in policy development and administration of services. "Volunteer board members provide valuable community-based insights that help the Mayor and City Council with key policy decisions," said Council Member Gary Schiff. "Volunteers also provide important input into prioritization and administration of city services." A full list of positions and descriptions as well as current vacancies can be found [on the Boards and Commissions webpage](#).

Minneapolis revamped its appointment process to make it easier for residents to learn about volunteer opportunities and to ensure that the process is clear, easily accessible and available to all interested parties. Opportunities to get more information include a virtual open house on Tuesday, March 23rd, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and an open house on Thursday, March 25th, from 4:30 to 6:30pm at TriTech Center, Room 220, 331 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401. For questions or more information about open positions, email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or call (612) 673-3358.

**Plant a tree for \$25 this spring**



The City of Minneapolis and [Tree Trust](#) are providing one thousand trees to city residents.

The City of Minneapolis is partnering with [Tree Trust](#) to combat the effects of emerald ash borer by making a thousand trees available to Minneapolis residents. The cost of a tree is \$25. Planting a tree is the easiest way to improve property value, reduce energy needs and improve air and water quality. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are nine varieties to choose from: fat albert spruce, pagoda dogwood, Kentucky coffeetree, blue beech, Merrill magnolia, oak 'regal prince', choke cherry 'Canada select', Redmond linen, and burgundy belle maple. Trees may be [ordered online](#) or through an order form available at neighborhood associations and local libraries. For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at (651) 644-5800 or [karenz@treetrust.org](mailto:karenz@treetrust.org).

## \$475k approved for businesses façade improvements



(top photo before improvements, bottom photo after)



Ted Cook's 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Barbecue on 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and East 38<sup>th</sup> Street opened in 1968. As evidenced by the before and after photos above, funds provided by the program allowed for a striking façade overhaul.

Mayor R.T. Rybak and the Minneapolis City Council have approved \$475,000 in support of façade improvement grants through the [Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program](#). Neighborhood organizations, business

associations, and community development corporations will administer the façade improvement programs.

“I’m proud that we’ve given small businesses a way to remain vital and prosper,” said Council Member Gary Schiff.” In the Ninth Ward, our commercial corridors, like East Lake Street are highly visible investments that improve the perception of the area, encourage other area businesses to invest in improvements and also attract new businesses.”

Great Streets Façade Improvement funds are matched by the business, the property owner, or other sources from the local grantee organizations. In the Ninth Ward, the Lake Street Council received \$50,000 for the areas of East Lake Street, Midtown and Chicago Avenue. Seward Redesign in partnership with SENA and West of the Rail Business Association received \$50,000 for the areas of the 38<sup>th</sup> Street LRT station, 38<sup>th</sup> Street at 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & Cedar Avenues.

The types of improvements funded through the program range from small adjustments like paint, signage, awnings, and murals to full-scale rehabilitation and building stabilization. The City has also published a [design guidebook](#) to assist businesses with façade improvements. The Minneapolis City Council established the Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program in 2007 with the goal of supporting commercial districts and economic activity throughout the city of Minneapolis.

[Unsubscribe from E-News](#) / [Subscribe to E-News](#) / [Learn About the Ninth Ward](#)