



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

July 18, 2008

[In the News](#)

[Contact Gary](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

[Inspections](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

[Animal Control](#)

[Public Works](#)

[Summer Jobs-14 to 15](#)

[Summer Jobs-16 to 21](#)

## Foreclosure affect: family homelessness rises



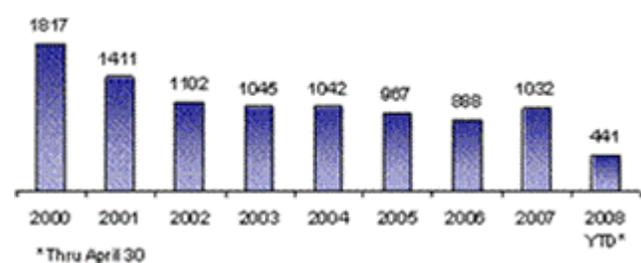
After seven years of progress, the number of homeless families in Hennepin County is increasing. County officials agree that foreclosure rates are the reason why.

In the first four months of 2008, 83% of the foreclosures in Phillips affected rental units. "These families paid their rent and played by the rules. Now they are out on the street because their landlord didn't pay the mortgage" said Council Member Schiff. There have been a number of significant [Heading](#)

### [Home Hennepin](#)

accomplishments in the first year of implementing the plan. Among these are the Refugee Supportive Housing Network which houses ninety refugee families, the new FUSE program which in its first two months housed 12 of the 50 chronically homeless who were the highest users of city and county systems,

the City's Street Outreach pilot program which housed 30 clients without the use of housing subsidies, the Housing First program which housed 160 singles, youth, and families. Of these, 130 were single adults whose average length of homelessness had been 12 years. "Despite these challenging economic times, our Heading Home Hennepin partners are working together to end homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County, achieving real results for families, singles, and youth."



[Get a quote from Cathy Tenbroke](#)

## Breakfast with Gary: Secretary of State Mark Ritchie



On Friday July 25<sup>th</sup>, join Council Member Gary Schiff for Breakfast with Gary featuring Secretary of State Mark Ritchie. Mark will talk about 80 in 08 campaign to achieve a turnout rate of 80% in November's elections, the Vote in Honor of a Veteran initiative to honor veterans for defending the nation's democracy, and the upcoming fall elections. We will also be joined by Jeanne Massey from the Better Ballot Campaign who will talk about Instant Runoff Voting and the status of the campaign in Minneapolis.

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event open to the public on the final Friday of the month at the Mercado Central, 1515 East Lake Street from 7:30 to 9:00am. \$5 buys breakfast.

## Green Institute hits hard times

In the Community Development committee earlier this month, the city postponed taking action on the overdue debt payments owed by the Green Institute, located in the 9<sup>th</sup> ward. The Green Institute's city loans entered into delinquency on May 1st, 2007 and stacks up at nearly \$60,000. City staff reported that while business was generally strong during most of 2007, it began to deteriorate in November and December.

Several factors negatively impacting business at the Reuse Center and its satellite stores included the cold winter, deteriorating housing values, tighter credit conditions and other economic ills for developers and individuals. The city's Finance Department recommended in its [report to the City Council committee](#) that the city either install a leasing agent for the building or buy out first lender Western Bank and foreclose, eventually selling off the building.



The institute's building features much of the green technology it espouses -- such as passive solar, solar collectors and a green roof. In a [Star Tribune article](#), Jamie Heipel, Green Institute executive director who recently came on board said that the institute "has thrived on loans and grants from public sources over its history. But it also used debt like a cash machine and now is in over its head." Heipel attributes some of the group's financial problems to a faltering economy and low demand for its materials and services due to a lack of public knowledge about the group.

## Schiff introduces resolution opposing transit fare increase



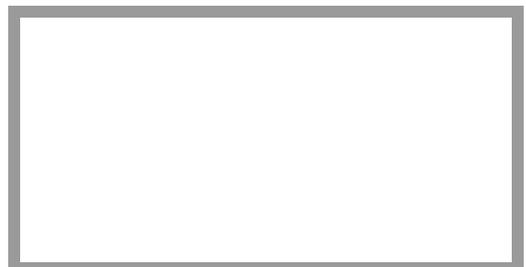
Council Member Gary Schiff introduced a resolution on Friday that opposed Metro Transit's proposed increases in transit fares and called on the organization to effectively price for distance. "It is counterintuitive that while rider ship is increasing due to the hikes in fuel prices that Metro Transit would be taking action inconsistent with promoting and encouraging the use of public transit versus automobiles", Schiff said. "Furthermore, it doesn't make sense that someone riding from

just South Minneapolis to downtown and someone riding from Blaine to the Mall of America pays the same fare. Metro Transit should be alleviating their fuel concerns by increasing fares based on distance rather than making an all-encompassing fare hike."

The resolution introduced at the council meeting today also calls on Metro Transit to create special fare zones to increase the use of public transit on east to west and north to south thoroughfares such as East Lake Street, Central Avenue, Franklin Avenue, West Broadway Avenue, Hennepin Avenue and University Avenue.

## National Night Out permits free through July 22

Over fifty thousand Minneapolis residents are expected to participate in more than one thousand National Night Out block events on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. Street closure applications received by July 22 are free. Applications received between July 25 and August 2 will be charged \$100. To close your street for an event, [click here](#) or



call Minneapolis 311.

Many block clubs are held in vacant lots, yards and parking lots where street closures aren't necessary. Nevertheless, registering early will also get block clubs 20 Minnesota Twins tickets, Mystery Point Passes for Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America, child safety cards, free reminder door hangers, free name tags, and free coloring/word search sheets. All events registered by July 22 will be entered into a drawing for a wide array of door prizes donated by Minneapolis businesses. When registering, blocks can also request that a police officer drops by the event. In addition fire truck visits and the MPD Canine Unit can also be requested by calling 311.

“National Night Out is a great way to get to know your neighbors, and build relationships that help solve problems and build great communities,” said Gary Schiff. “Minneapolis consistently ranks as one of the largest celebrants of National Night Out, and the event grows every year, rain or shine.”

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