



June 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

Minneapolis Projects Get Funding Reform Achieved This Legislative Session

The 2010 legislative session is now over. Despite the State budget crisis, lawmakers enacted several proposals to stimulate the economy, provide financial stability for public pensions and prevent additional reductions to property tax credits. There were also several policy bills passed this year in such areas as public health, public safety, transportation and human services.

Here are some items that will directly impact Minneapolis:

Pensions: Along with providing financial stability for statewide pension funds, the omnibus pensions bill brings security to retirees under the closed Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund, or MERF. At one point, all public employees in Minneapolis were part of MERF, including those at the School District, Parks, Hennepin County, and other public jurisdictions. Under the measure, the State and the City will provide financial stability to MERF, which has become drastically underfunded due to market losses. Once MERF achieves 80-percent funding, it will merge with the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The City's annual contribution to MERF is estimated to rise by \$20 million to \$23 million starting in 2012.

Capital bonding bill: Among the \$700 million in bonds authorized for projects throughout Minnesota are two located in Minneapolis: construction of a new Northtown Rail yards Bridge and funding for an apparatus bay for the City's Emergency Operations Center. Other bonds approved include those for Orchestra Hall and Peavey Plaza renovations, Lowry Bridge construction, Victory Veteran's Memorial Drive improvements and HCMC Hyperbaric Center construction.

Local government aid: In March, the Governor signed a supplemental budget bill that reduced the State budget deficit by around \$300 million. Among the cuts made was approximately \$55 million in market value homestead credit and local government aid to cities. Minneapolis' cuts were around \$10.8 million. When added to the \$22 million in previous cuts, the State reduced the City's 2010 aid by \$32 million.

Jobs Bill: The jobs bill authorized tax credits and several provisions intended to stimulate construction of projects stalled by the economy:

- The state historic tax credit mirrors the federal program and could provide incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- The angel investment credit is intended to provide an incentive for investment in start firms located in Minnesota.

This Week is Bike Walk Week – Let's Celebrate!



Minneapolis is one of the top biking cities in the country, with 44 miles of on-street bikeways and 84 miles of off-street bike trails. Plus, nearly 7 percent of city residents walk to work and are choosing to live in more walkable

communities. Be a part of Minneapolis' growing biking and walking community by taking part in this year's Bike Walk Week.

Events will take place all week from June 5-11. On **Thursday, June 10**, thousands of commuters will participate in **Bike Walk to Work Day**. In addition to getting some fresh air and exercise, you can enjoy free breakfast, great happy hours, and prizes at area celebrations all over the metro area. Go to www.bikewalkweek.org for more information on Bike Walk Week and location information for Bike Walk to Work Day celebrations.

The nation's largest bicycle sharing program will launch in Minneapolis on Bike Walk to Work Day. Nice Ride Minnesota, the non-profit created to operate bike sharing, will hold a launch celebration on Thursday, June 10th at Central Library. 65 kiosks and 700 bicycles will be available to the public in downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota campus, and the surrounding business districts. View a map of the system and subscribe by year, month, or day at www.niceridemn.org.

You can also find out more about what makes Minneapolis one of the nation's top biking communities by visiting www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.

Minneapolis Public Housing Upgrades Over 700 Homes to Reduce Energy Costs



Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) and Honeywell have announced

plans to implement an energy-efficiency and facility renewal program to help the housing authority mitigate utility costs, upgrade its facilities and reduce environmental impact for its scattered site properties. MPHA will use an \$11.65-million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund this program, which is expected to reduce energy costs by more than \$1.5 million annually through a variety of facility improvements.

The program will affect 725 sites across the city ranging from single-family homes to multi-family buildings. Conservation measures will include installing energy-efficient windows and appliances, replacing outdated furnaces, boilers and water heaters and upgrading thermostats. MPHA and Honeywell will also work with the Center for Energy and Environment in Minneapolis for weatherization and building envelope improvements.

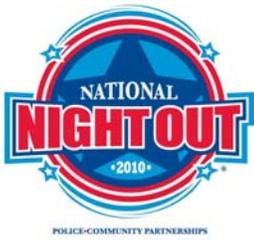
The program is expected to reduce the housing authority's annual electricity consumption by approximately 2.8 million kilowatt-hours, enough energy to power 140 homes per year on average. It also will cut carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 2.5 million pounds annually. According to figures from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this is equivalent to removing almost 188 cars from the road.

Honeywell is currently completing upgrades under a prior agreement, one of the largest projects of its kind for a public housing authority. The work will impact more than 40 high-rise buildings and 700 single-family residences, and will pay for itself by reducing utility expenses by an estimated \$3.7 million per year throughout the 20-year performance contract.

In addition, MPHA and Honeywell anticipate that nearly 250 trades people will be employed during peak construction of the work in progress. The housing authority and Honeywell will also provide residents with opportunities to serve as paid educators and ambassadors, helping other residents understand and use the energy-saving strategies tied to the program.

Improvements under the stimulus-backed program and previous agreement are expected to be finished by spring 2011.

Start Planning Now for National Night Out



National Night Out is coming up fast, and now is the time to start making preparations on your block for the night that brings neighbors together. This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 3. Minneapolis wants to

make it easy for block clubs and neighbors to get started now on their plans.

The City of Minneapolis asks that you register your event, even if you are not blocking your street. It is easy to do and helps us to track the success of National Night Out. There is information available about National Night Out and easy registration at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno. If you want to close your street for your event, street closure is free if you apply by July 14. You need permission of 75 percent of your neighbors to be approved for street closure – please have their names and addresses when you apply (you do not need their signatures). You can also register your event and apply for street closure by calling 311 (or 612-673-3000).

June Brings Historic Walking Tours!



Expert guides will lead eight tours in June of historic sites located throughout Minneapolis. You can see a full list of tours at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc. Twenty-one tours are scheduled, ranging from Minneapolis cultural gathering places and residential neighborhoods, to bustling commercial and industrial areas, to the theaters of Hennepin Avenue and remnants of the city's once extensive streetcar system.

One of the most popular tours in the city, sponsored by Ward 8 residents Ryan Knoke and Montana Scheff of Central neighborhood, will return this year on Saturday, June 12th:

- **From Queen Annes to Classical Revivals: Stories of Park Avenue and Its People.** From the late 1800s to the early 1900s the distinction of a Park Avenue address was actively sought by some of the city's most successful business professionals. Take a stroll alongside ornate Queen Annes and stately Classical Revivals to discover the differences in architectural styles, admire original photographs, and hear stories of the first owners and prominent architects of these residences. **Pre-registration required:** (612) 870-1329. **Saturday, June 12, 10:00 a.m. – noon; meet at SW corner of Park Ave. and 31st St.**

MPD Offers Citizens' Academy



The Minneapolis Police Department will be holding a fall Citizens Academy in the 5th Precinct. This is an opportunity to learn directly from investigators, trainers, precinct commanders and officers about police

procedures, what it is like to be an officer and how the Minneapolis Police Department is organized. Individuals who have participated in the program have said:

- I'm more aware of what is going on in the city; how the different units work; and I have shared it with others
- I have an increased knowledge and information which will be useful in my work as I have interaction with the police, or any interactions that I or my neighbors have with the police.

The program is weekly at 6 pm Wednesday evenings for three hours, starting September 28. To complete an application go to: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp. Questions? Contact Carol Oosterhuis at 612-673-2874.

Project to Improve Powderhorn Lake: Neighborhood Rain Garden Installations



Powderhorn Lake is an impaired body of water. In the area around the lake, catch basins (the storm drains you see in curbs near street corners) direct rain water into storm

sewer pipes. Litter, animal waste, lawn chemicals, automobile fluids and everything else on the street is carried with rain water into the pipes and then into the lake. The City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board have used multiple strategies to improve water quality in the lake, but success has been limited and new strategies are needed to improve Powderhorn Lake.

Metro Blooms (metroblooms.org) plans to install 100 to 150 rain gardens as part of an effort to improve water quality in Powderhorn Lake. **Up to 150 properties in the Powderhorn and Central Neighborhoods are eligible to receive – at no cost – a complete rain garden installation worth \$1,000.** This rain garden installation includes design, excavation, compost, mulch and plants.

As of May 25, there are 75 participants signed up to receive a rain garden, with room for about 50 more. Eligible properties are between Portland and 10th Ave, Lake Street to 32nd Street, with more specific details and project boundaries at www.metroblooms.org (click on Powderhorn Neighborhood of Rain gardens) or call 651-699-2426. Please spread the word!

On Monday, June 21, starting at 6 pm there will be a walking tour of recently installed rain gardens. Meet at the Art Stop Community Garden, 32nd & Chicago

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.

Sign-up to Receive 8th Ward Updates



Want to receive this newsletter and other important 8th Ward updates electronically? Send an email with the word, "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line to

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.