



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

June 20, 2008

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City's newest park opens in Phillips

Minneapolis' newest park will celebrate its grand opening this Sunday, June 22nd at 2:30 p.m. The park is located between 10th and 11th Avenue South on the Midtown Greenway and was developed by Hennepin County.

The County purchased the land and demolished the former grain elevators on the site in order to eliminate the last train traffic in the Greenway corridor. "Hennepin County has invested nearly \$1.5 million to acquire and build the access ramp and green space, working closely on planning and site design with area residents," said Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.



Curved concrete retaining walls in the city's newest park mimic the location of the last active grain elevators in the Midtown Greenway.

The park features a gently sloping bike path and the only Greenway access ramp that meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Future improvements to the site include landscaping, public art and recreational features serving people with physical disabilities, said to Tim Springer, executive director of the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

e-mail action alert!

EPA seeks input on final arsenic cleanup plan



Click on the photo to watch KSTP's coverage of neighborhood criticism of the final arsenic cleanup plan.

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public feedback until July 1st regarding the extent of arsenic removal in the final cleanup of the South Minneapolis arsenic superfund site. The EPA studied six different cleanup options and told attendees at a June 11th community meeting that public input will affect the agency's final decision.

"It's important that people request a complete cleanup of all polluted properties," Council Member Gary Schiff said. The [proposed remediation plan](#) calls for removing shallow soil with arsenic levels

higher than 25 parts of arsenic per million, affecting 488 properties. Schiff wants to see properties cleaned up to a 16 parts of arsenic per million, affecting 631 properties.

To submit comments on the proposal, use the [online form](#), send comments via [email](#), or submit written comments on paper to Cheryl Allen, Community Involvement Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), US EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590 or via fax at 312-353-1155.

For more information about the cleanup site, [click here](#). All arsenic soil sample results have been mailed out. If you haven't received the results for your property, please contact [Tim Prendiville](#). If you are a tenant, contact your property owner for the results

Mosaic of the Americas building to reopen soon

After closing in August of last year, the [Resource Center of the Americas](#) on Minnehaha Ave at East Lake St. will be reopening its doors this summer as the Mosaic of the Americas Building. The two-story building was recently purchased by Mosaic Properties.

Mosaic Properties owner Mark Thistle says the Resource Center of the Americas will be moving back into the building as a tenant in the basement level.

Thistle says the mural will be preserved. "The building is a landmark in the neighborhood. I was very excited when it became available for purchase and I will continue to honor the tradition of the building," Thistle said.



Mosaic Properties hopes to put the courtyard to use with outdoor seating that would be part of the café or sandwich shop.

The first new tenant of the building, Wilson Law Office moved in last week. Wilson Law Office specializes in immigration issues. Mosaic Properties is looking for a café or sandwich shop for the first floor.

Phillips burner proposal ends



The public works managed transfer station in East Phillips will remain city property.

Plans for a wood-burning [power plant](#) in East Phillips have ended, after the proposal faced a series of setbacks and strong neighborhood opposition. [Kandiyohi Development Partners](#) acknowledged in a June 6th press release that they were not pursuing the project anymore, and withdrew the air quality permit filed with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

A statement from the City of Minneapolis attorney's office also confirmed that the development contract expired on June 10th.

"We are delighted with this news," said Jullone Glad, a leader of [Minneapolis Residents for Clean Air](#). "We're also concerned about the possibility of KDP relocating their power plant a mere four miles away."

Concerns about a new location in the South East Industrial Area between the Prospect Park and Como neighborhoods were based on [statements](#) in the KDP press release. The release claimed the City of Minneapolis promised to find a new location for the project. Council Member Schiff said the claim was false. "No promise exists," said Council Member Schiff, who met with KDP representatives June 5th. "The City has taken no action promising to help the firm with their plans, and I personally said I will not help either."

The proposal to convert a former municipal incinerator into a 21-megawatt biomass energy and district heating facility garnered opposition after public hearings held by the MPCA last fall. Opponents cite a technical specification document released by the MPCA that states the burner could emit up to 1 million pounds of pollutants annually, including nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, arsenic and lead.

Breakfast with Gary: Minneapolis' 150th birthday

On Friday June 27th, join Council Member Gary Schiff for Breakfast with Gary featuring historians who will talk about the history of Minneapolis in honor of the upcoming [sesquicentennial celebration](#). Speakers include Iric Nathanson, a neighborhood historian and writer for a variety of Twin Cities publications, Lori Sturdevant, a Star Tribune writer who covers the state's politics and government, and more.



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.

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