



Summer 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:

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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 Implementation
Committee
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

Addressing Foreclosures and Rebuilding Our Neighborhoods

Over the past two years, the City has worked with many private, public, and non-profit partners to respond to the foreclosure crisis. Minneapolis foreclosure information, including data, maps, and resource information, can be found on-line at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure. From personal and financial devastation for homeowners and tenants, to neighbors concerned about vacant properties on their block, to far-reaching impacts on our entire economy, we are all affected by foreclosures.

In April 2008, Minneapolis approved the **Minneapolis Advantage** program offering \$10,000 zero-percent loans, forgivable after five years of living in your home, for down payment and closing costs. This program will help rebuild the housing market in select neighborhoods, including Central, Powderhorn Park, and Phillips.

Minneapolis-supported assistance includes foreclosure counseling services, resources and technical assistance to revitalize housing in the hardest-hit areas of the city, and maintaining many boarded and vacant buildings and homes. Most recently, as part of its efforts to combat mortgage fraud, Minneapolis joined a lawsuit brought by North Minneapolis neighborhoods against TJ Waconia for fraudulent real estate practices, which resulted in the court ordering 141 properties previously owned by TJ Waconia to be turned over to a receiver.

Neighborhoods across Minneapolis have experienced large increases in vacant and boarded homes as well as in the percent of homes that are rental or non-homesteaded. According to the Minneapolis assessor, our city-wide rate of non-homesteaded properties is now at an all-time high of 18.5%. Minneapolis has addressed these two impacts by approving a new \$1,000 fee to be charged when a single family or duplex home is converted to rental, and by increasing its fee for boarded/vacant properties from \$2,000 per year to \$6,000. These fees are to cover the staff time and resources needed to assess and monitor these properties. Minneapolis continues to develop tactics to address these pressing issues, in addition to assisting homeowners facing foreclosure.

One project of Councilmember Glidden and 8th Ward Office has been organizing a **Southside Foreclosure Forum**, featuring **Congressman Keith Ellison**, held on **Friday, May 30, 6-8pm**, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 218. The forum, with the partnership of many Southside neighborhoods and organizations, provided free foreclosure counseling (in English and Spanish), tenant advocate information, public policy and advocacy ideas, and information for neighbors concerned about foreclosure impacts. If you would like more information about the topics at the forum, please call our office at (612) 673-2208. **If you are having trouble paying your mortgage or are in foreclosure now, call 311 or (612) 673-3000 to be referred to a foreclosure counselor.**

38th Street Corridor Improvements



The **38th Street and Chicago Avenue Small Area Plan** was adopted by the City Council on March 21, 2008. You can review this plan at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/chicago-38.asp. The work of Bancroft, Bryant, Central and Powderhorn Park

neighborhoods to support this plan has already led to some great opportunities.

Facelifts Coming for 38th Street Businesses.

Congratulations to the Bancroft neighborhood and Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association, each of which recently received \$50,000 from the City for "business façade improvements". These funds can be used for commercial buildings along 38th Street at: **38th and Chicago, 38th and Bloomington, 38th and 4th Avenue, and 38th and Nicollet.** What kinds of improvements could we see? For property owners who agree to participate, new awnings, windows installed in blank walls, fresh paint, or even murals could be supported with the façade improvement program.

Redevelopment at 38th and Chicago. The Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center is the first redevelopment project at the corner of 38th & Chicago to occur in many years. It is a new non-profit arts and educational organization, founded by Southside residents, which will focus on art forms produced by heat, spark, and flame. The Fire Arts Center has signed a purchase agreement for the Wreck Bros building, at 3749 Chicago. As part of its support for the project and the goals of the 38th and Chicago small area plan, the City will utilize its Capital Acquisition Fund to purchase and resell 3749 Chicago to non-profit developer Artspace Projects, Inc., which will lease the building to the Fire Arts Center. The Fire Arts Center may also apply for a loan from the city's Great Streets Program in the future.

38th and Chicago Implementation Committee. All residents are invited to attend the monthly 38th and Chicago Implementation Committee meetings, at which neighbors discuss and guide progress on implementation of the small area plan for 38th Street and Chicago. This plan applies to 38th Street from 2nd Avenue to Bloomington, and Chicago from 31st Street to 40th Street. Meetings are held every 3rd Monday, 7 pm, at Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave.

Street Construction and I-35W Updates



Lyndale Avenue Reconstruction: At long last, Lyndale Avenue reconstruction will begin this summer. This year, June – Nov 2008, Lyndale will be closed to thru traffic from 50th to 38th Street, although it will remain open to local traffic. The project will redesign Lyndale as a two-lane roadway, with parking bump-outs between 50th and 38th Street and raised center medians from 38th to 31st Street. More information can be found at the project website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip.

Bloomington Avenue Repaving. Bloomington Avenue from 38th Street to Minnehaha Parkway is scheduled for a sorely-needed facelift this construction season. Minneapolis adopted a new street maintenance program in 2008 – Street Repaving. Street repaving replaces the top layer of a street, but does not replace curb and gutter. Repaving will extend the life of a street at least 10 years (this is compared to street renovation, which extends street life for 20 years). As it does for all street maintenance programs, public works will assess property owners for a portion of the cost. Repaving rates are about ½ those charged for a street renovation project. A community meeting regarding repaving of Bloomington will be scheduled for late June or early July, and a public hearing will be scheduled for mid-July. More information will be provided as soon as available. Please call our office with questions at (612) 673-2208.

Crosstown Commons. Construction continues on the Crosstown Commons reconstruction project, with the 46th Street Bridge now demolished. **A map with construction schedule is enclosed with this newsletter.** Call the MnDOT Hotline at 1-866-743-6590 for questions, concerns, and complaints. You can get MnDOT's weekly project updates via e-mail if you sign up at www.dot.state.mn.us/projects/crosstown. You can also call 311 or (612) 673-3000 to report traffic complaints or ask questions.

Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) and Lake Street Access. This year, the Twin Cities was awarded \$133 million from the U.S. DOT to implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on I-35W from Lakeville to Minneapolis by 2009 (a very tight schedule). The project will include a dedicated bus lane that will be a shared HOT lane. A BRT Transit Station at 46th Street has already been planned as part of the Crosstown Commons project.

While the UPA moves us closer to a vision of BRT on 35W, one of the most important transit stations – Lake Street – still needs to be funded and built. In November

2007, **Councilmember Glidden co-authored a resolution that reaffirmed transit at the City's highest priority for the I-35W Access Project** (I-35W from 42nd St to north of Lake St). The resolution provided that the city's highest priorities are a Transit Station at Lake Street, creating a high-quality connection to the Midtown Greenway, and access at Lake Street. This resolution recognized that the prior plan for I-35W construction north of 42nd street (the "Access Project"), which included moving 35/36th Street Ramps to 38th Street, expanding the freeway to add a lane, and reconfiguring the 5th Avenue Ramp, had a bloated price tag of just under \$500 million, ensuring no improvements would happen at Lake Street (including no transit station) for decades. Pursuant to Glidden's resolution, any proposed I-35W projects north and south of the Lake Street area will be considered only after Lake Street Transit and access is fully funded.

the plan, and is happy to answer your questions at (612) 673-2208.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



Please join us for **Early Mornings with Elizabeth**, a monthly community breakfast for 8th Ward residents at Turtle Bread, 48th & Chicago, 7:30-9am every fourth Friday.

Over the past two years our featured topics have ranged from youth violence prevention to conversations with state legislators, while our speakers have included Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant and MPS Superintendent Dr. Bill Green.

On Friday June 27th our topic will be property taxes and how they impact the City budget. We will discuss the 2008 legislative session and its impact on property taxes, as well Minneapolis' process for developing the 2009 budget and property tax levy. Future 2008 dates are: July 25th, August – no meeting, and September 26.

Safe City News

32 New Police Officers. In April, 32 new recruits were sworn in as police officers. The graduating class, with 16% women and 28% officers of color, now starts Field Training, where each is paired with seasoned officers who mentor them as they start patrolling the streets.

Beat Cops for Chicago Avenue. This summer, the 3rd police precinct will assign two officers to a day beat along Chicago to 38th Street. Their roles will include getting to know residents and business owners. Look for a beat cop near you!

Eliminating Graffiti. Minneapolis has a new tool for combating graffiti – small grants to organizations for Graffiti-Prevention Projects. 8th Ward-serving organizations awarded grants for 2008 projects include: **Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association; Lake Street Council; El Colegio Charter School** (42nd and Bloomington); and **Kingfield-Lyndale**. Planned projects include several murals, plantings, and hiring and educating young people. Grant recipients are required to show how their projects have impacted graffiti, such as by reducing or eliminating it.

Youth Violence Prevention. In addition to increasing resources to the Juvenile Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department, the City has developed a youth violence prevention plan, identifying violence as a public health issue. The City has hired a Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, Bass Zanjani, to steer the work of the plan. You can learn more at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/yv.asp. As Chair of the Youth Coordinating Board (www.ycb.org), Councilmember Glidden is working hard with our public partners (schools, parks, and county) to help implement

Focus on the Arts



Councilmember Glidden and the 8th Ward office are proud to co-sponsor the meeting series **Arts and Creative Economic Development**, focusing city and community attention on small arts organizations and individual artists. Pillsbury House Theater, the Urban Arts Academy, and the Center for Independent Artists have been critical partners in planning and facilitating meetings and neighborhood energy for this series. Meetings have featured such topics as "business tools for artists" and "community building strategies" with speakers including Seitu Jones, Minneapolis Artist in Residence, and Reggie Primm.

This summer, energy will be focused on "action teams," which are seeking volunteers for these committees: 1) funding; 2) advocacy/research; 3) events; and 4) creating a business association. If you would like more information or are willing to volunteer, please contact the 8th Ward at (612) 673-2208 or andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. A community arts tour is being planned by the "events" committee for late summer, 2008.

Our speaker series will resume in September, so stay tuned for more details. For information on upcoming **Arts and Creative Economic Development** activities, plus notes and photos from past events, please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward8/.

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Se Habla Español en la Octavo Ayuntamiento del Barrio

Si usted necesita ayuda, llama 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, 8th Ward Council Associate, is **fluent in Spanish** and available for any Spanish-speaking constituents who may need assistance. As Jennifer says, "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."



Meet your 8th Ward Team! (L to R)
Jennifer White (Council Associate), Elizabeth Glidden (Councilmember), Andrea Jenkins (Council Policy Aide)

Stay in touch with Elizabeth! *On city and ward issues*

Join Elizabeth for her **community office hours** every Monday, 9-11am, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Room 129. Call for an appointment or just stop by to visit. You can always contact the 8th Ward office directly with your questions at (612) 673-2208 or Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Sign up for 8th Ward E-News, our monthly E-Newsletter, by sending an e-mail to Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.