

# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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## Register your National Night Out event for free today



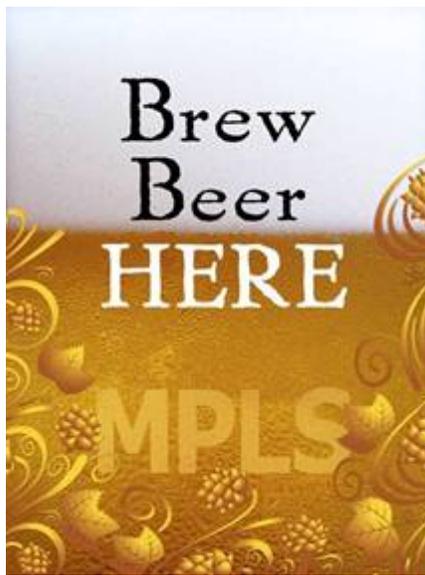
Get ready! National Night Out is Tuesday August 3rd.

This year's National Night Out will take place Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Almost sixty thousand Minneapolis residents are expected to participate in more than one thousand events. Street closure applications received by July 14 are free. Applications received between July 15 and July 30 will be charged \$100. There is a single [online process to register](#) your NNO event and apply to close your street. The names and addresses of 75% of the neighbors who approve the street closure must be submitted with the application. Signatures are not needed.

"Overall crime rates are holding steady in the Ninth Ward area due to the vigilance of police officers and neighborhood residents," said Inspector Lucy Gerold, commander of the Third Precinct. "One of the best crime prevention strategies is knowing your neighbors, and National Night Out is a great way to get to know the people who live on your block."

Many block clubs are held in vacant lots, yards and parking lots where street closures aren't necessary. Registering early will also earn block clubs passes for Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America. All events [registered](#) by July 14 will be entered into a drawing for a wide array of door prizes donated by local 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.

## ***Brew Beer Here: Legislation to allow Minneapolis microbrews***



If passed, new legislation will allow microbreweries to open

Why are there no stand-alone microbreweries in Minneapolis? Because local laws make it impractical.

“To open a microbrewery, the City of Minneapolis also makes you open a restaurant,” said Council Member Gary Schiff, the author of the [Brew Beer Here](#) legislation. “That’s some pretty heavy overhead.” The result he says is great Minneapolis brewpubs like

Herkimers, Town Hall and Moto-i, but “the costs of running a restaurant means there is little money left to cover the costs of packaging and distribution, so locally-brewed beer never gets in stores.” It also means that brew masters who don’t want to be restaurateurs go to St. Paul, Brooklyn Park or move across the border to Wisconsin. *The Brew Beer Here* [legislation](#) will eliminate the restaurant requirement, making it possible for small craft breweries to open in Minneapolis.

A handful of local startup breweries are poised to open with the help of the new legislation, including [Fulton Beer](#), [Harriet Brewing](#), [612Brew](#), [Longfellow Brewing](#), and [Steel Toe Brewing](#).

“This is a great opportunity to build community,” said Jason Sowards, who hopes to open Harriet Brewing this year on Minnehaha Avenue. “Residents can come fill a [growler](#) and can come to the source of where their microbrew is being made. I get to meet the people who love my beer, and help boost the local economy. It cuts out the middleman and helps a local startup company at the same time.”

Craft brewing is a growing \$7 billion dollar industry in the United States, with sales up 10% in 2009 according to the Brewers Association, the trade organization for the craft industry. “Changing our regulations can help Minneapolis capture our share of a growing industry, and help build a movement of Minneapolis-made products,” said Schiff.

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> Breakfast with Gary:**

## Transforming Local Economies

This month's *Breakfast with Gary* will feature Lee Wallace of [Peace Coffee](#) and other local experts talking about how the growing interest in local products is helping to transform local economies. (Please note that this month's breakfast will be one week earlier than usual.)

Peace Coffee started in 2000, with two employees in a basement office. In 2009, twenty employees bought sixteen semi-truck loads of beans – that's about 19.5 million cups of organic, fair-trade coffee.



Lee Wallace of [Peace Coffee](#) will be one of the featured speakers at Breakfast with Gary on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

“Through a combination of very intentional individual, policy, and community decisions, we can make a shift. We can change from our current dependent state on outside resources to local resilience,” said Council Member Gary Schiff. From oil dependence to food sources, much of the resources used by a community often come from outside sources. As consumers, business owners, policy makers and others choose options that use local resources instead, local wealth and resources can flourish.

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

## Urban farming branches out



For Minneapolis residents looking to grow lush food gardens in their yard or community garden, a new innovative program provides skills and support. [Backyard Harvest](#) partners experienced, trained urban farmers with residents interested in starting or improving their garden. It also offers gardens featuring over 35 vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers. The program

provides both garden fresh food and garden education for homeowners, renters and neighborhoods, as well as entrepreneurial and small-scale food production training for their farmers.

Modestly priced garden coaching services help local backyard farmers with soil fertility, garden installation, basic watering systems, rabbit fencing, maintenance, how to deal with pests, plant disease, garden placement, garden design, and sourcing materials including seeds and plants. Backyard Harvest farmers contract with homeowners, renters and communities to create gardens in their yards, maintain the gardens and harvest all of the produce weekly for each.

For more information, visit the [Backyard Harvest Blog](#), or contact Krista Leraas at [harvest@pricoldclimate.org](mailto:harvest@pricoldclimate.org)

## Neighborhoods brace for Emerald Ash Borer

[Emerald ash borers](#) are invasive beetles that kill ash trees, and they have now been found in Minneapolis. There is currently no known cure. Minneapolis has more than 200,000 ash trees that make up over 20 percent of the city's [tree canopy](#). The Minneapolis Park and Recreation board is proactively removing sickly ash trees



The emerald ash borer is often [spread by firewood](#) being moved from one area to another.

on public land and replacing them to start replenishing the urban forest. The spread of emerald ash borer can be prevented by pruning ash trees only when the beetle is dormant, after Labor Day and before May 1.

There are numerous ways to tell if a tree is infected. Woodpeckers are the most obvious sign of emerald ash borer in a healthy-looking tree. The beetles also put D-shaped holes in the trunk, split the bark, create s-shaped galleries underneath the bark and thin the tree's canopy of leaves. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture also supplies a [checklist](#) of what to look for. Residents who think their tree may be infested with emerald ash borer should report it by calling (651) 201-6684 or emailing [arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us](mailto:arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us).

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