



February 2011

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 Tuesday, 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

Look for your 2011 Property Value Notice

Recently, the City of Minneapolis mailed 2011 property value notices to property owners throughout the city.

The property value listed on this statement is what will be used to determine your 2012 property taxes. To ensure that the City's assessments are fair and accurate, the Minnesota Department of Revenue uses an industry standard tool called a "sales ratio study" to measure the accuracy and quality of the City's assessment level. Sales ratios are computed by dividing the assessor's market value by the sale price of each individual property. Individual ratios are then analyzed according to property type and municipality to measure the level of assessment. The acceptable level of assessment in Minnesota is to have a sales ratio between 90 percent and 105 percent and Minneapolis consistently meets this requirement.

If you disagree with the estimate of value on your property, there are several options available to appeal the assessment. First, call the phone number labeled "Valuation Questions" on your statement to discuss your concerns with a deputy assessor responsible for valuing your property. Explain why you believe your property value is less than what is indicated on the statement. The deputy assessor can explain how the property value and classification were determined. If you want to appeal your property valuation to the City of Minneapolis Board of Appeal and Equalization, call (612) 673-3358 for an appointment. April 30th is the deadline to submit appeals to the Minnesota Tax Court.

For more information about your property assessment and the appeals process, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/assessor/appeal-process.asp.

If you have homestead questions about your property call the phone number labeled "Homestead Questions" on your statement.

Learn about Property Taxes and Your Home's Value at the City Assessor's Neighborhood Meeting

Join the City Assessor to learn more about Minneapolis property taxes and related issues. Receive an overview of the property tax system and information on basic terms and concepts as well as explanations of property tax relief programs. For more info visit: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/assessor.

- **Wednesday, February 23, 4:30 – 7:00pm** Pearl Park Neighborhood Center, 414 East Diamond Lake Road
- **Thursday, February 24, 4:30 – 7:00pm** North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue North

Help Us Make Minneapolis Better by Taking the Resident Survey



Over the next few weeks, answering your phone could help us improve Minneapolis for you and other residents.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 31 and continuing through February, the City of Minneapolis will survey residents to get their perspectives about the quality of services the City provides. The survey is being conducted by the National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm.

For most people, the survey will take about 20 minutes. Results from the survey are used in the business planning efforts of City departments. The survey will be translated in multiple languages. For more information or to see the past survey results visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis and click on "Residents Survey."

Take Advantage of Higher Temperatures to Clear Your Sidewalk



As winter winds down over the coming weeks, warmer days will create opportunities for home and business owners to work on removing ice that may have stuck to sidewalks in bitterly cold temperatures. Sidewalks are a critical part of our city's transportation system. Clear sidewalks make the difference between a comfortable, safe route and a potentially hazardous or even impossible one.

What property owners need to remember this snow season:

- **Know the rules** – Minneapolis ordinance requires that property owners clear sidewalks after a snowfall within 24 hours for houses and duplexes and four daytime hours for apartment and commercial buildings.
- **Help is available** – If you need help shoveling, you can contact City of

Minneapolis senior services at (612) 673-3567 to find out what resources may be available in your neighborhood.

- **Help get the word out** – Download and share a snow shoveling flyer (at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sidewalks) to tell others about the rules and importance of sidewalk snow clearance.
- **Help your neighbors** – Lend a hand to neighbors who may have a hard time shoveling, or help out if there is an empty home on your block.
- **Make a report** – You can always file an online complaint or call 311 to report a sidewalk that is not shoveled. If a sidewalk is not cleared after warning, the property owner may be issued a citation with a fine and city contractors will remove the snow and ice for a fee.

For more information on snow removal, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow.

Groups Can Lease Minneapolis-Owned Vacant Lots for Community Gardens



With seed catalogues arriving in the mail and flower and garden shows around the corner, now is a good time to look into establishing a community garden in your neighborhood. The City of

Minneapolis has 13 vacant lots available for qualifying groups to lease for community gardens. These City-owned lots were selected because they are not appropriate for development. This means that they will remain available for years of gardening even as the economy changes and redevelopment picks up.

The Community Garden Pilot Program is part of Homegrown Minneapolis. Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative of the City of Minneapolis to help grow, sell, distribute and eat healthier, locally grown foods within the city and the surrounding region.

For more information on the Homegrown Minneapolis Community Gardens Pilot Program,

visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs and click on "Homegrown Minneapolis" or call (612) 673-2597.

Get Out and Walk – It Feels Good!



Twin Cities Bike Walk Week is hosting the [2011 Winter Walkoff](#), beginning next Tuesday, February 1st.

Folks are encouraged to walk, at least once a day, for the entire month of February. Registered winter walkers will receive discounts from local businesses that are supporting winter walking in the Twin Cities. Register for the Winter Walkoff at:

www.bikewalkweek.org/winterwalkoff.

Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvements for Cedar Avenue



The efforts of a grassroots resident group, Cedar Avenue United

(www.cedaraveunited.org) has resulted in coordinated efforts of the City and County to install pedestrian and traffic calming improvements on Cedar Avenue between 42nd Street and 46th Street. The changes include:

- Pedestrian countdown timers at 42nd/Cedar and 46th/Cedar, to improve pedestrian safety and reduce right angle crashes
- An exclusive right turn lane at 46th/Cedar to help with traffic flow
- Temporary curb extensions at 44th/Cedar to increase pedestrian crossing safety
- Increasing traffic enforcement

Special thanks to Ward 11 Councilmember John Quincy for facilitating cooperation between residents, city and county officials resulting in these improvements!

Take Advantage of State Property Tax Refund Program



As you prepare to file your taxes for 2010, please review

whether you qualify for a property tax refund.

Both renters and homeowners may qualify for property tax refunds. While you may qualify for multiple refund programs, if your net property tax has increased more than 12% from 2010 to 2011, you are eligible for a special property tax refund regardless of income.

For more information and to review eligibility requirements, talk to your tax advisor or contact the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (651) 296-4444 or www.taxes.state.mn.us/prop_refund/.

Ward 8 Community Office Hours



Elizabeth holds community office hours every Monday, from 9 -11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 129. Please drop by or call our office for a time certain meeting. Also, you can always call the 8th Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208 or e-mail Elizabeth with your questions at elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Charter Commission Opening

The new year brings a once-in-a-decade opportunity for people in Minneapolis to participate in redistricting the City, creating boundaries for elections in 2012 and beyond. It's an important process, because having districts with equal populations helps ensure there is fair representation no matter where you live. Redistricting happens every ten years, following the U.S. Census, and for residents who are interested, there is a new opportunity to play an important role in the redistricting process that's about to start.

The Charter Commission seeks applicants who will bring diversity to the Redistricting Group, are active citizens, have knowledge of the many communities within the city, and will serve on a nonpartisan basis. Please note that while Advisory Group members are expected to participate in a nonpartisan manner, current or past involvement in political party activities does not disqualify an applicant from service.

The job description and application form are posted on the Charter Commission's website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission.

All applications should be submitted as outlined in the application by the March 25, 2011 deadline. Interviews will be conducted in April, 2011. If your group is interested in a presentation or if you have any questions, please call the Commission Coordinator, Peggy Menshek, at 612-673-2287 or email her at peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



Mark your calendars, the next Early Mornings with Elizabeth! meeting will be held on **Friday, February 25th 7:30 – 9:00am** at Turtle Bread (located at 48th and Chicago).

Congratulations to Ward 8 Community Leader Award Recipients for 2011!

The Fifth Annual 8th Ward Community Leadership Awards program was presented at the monthly event “**Early Mornings with Elizabeth**” on January 28, awarding residents, projects, and programs nominated Ward 8 neighbors for their impact on the broader community. Over 50 community members attended this special event to honor our neighbors with Community Leader Awards!

Sandra Smith



Sandra Smith is an extraordinary volunteer, giving her time and talent too many organizations and community projects for decades. Her current volunteer activities include serving on the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Board, the Field Middle School PTA, and the board for Watershed High School. She also serves as a tutor and volunteer with many organizations including the Girl Scouts, Common Bond Communities and Risen Christ Parochial School.

La Victoria is a program of Urban Ventures, offering fellowship and support to Latino youth. La Victoria includes outreach to families, assisting parents in negotiating the public and private school systems that serve the Central and West Phillips neighborhoods. La Victoria youth participants attend group sessions, receive one-on-one mentoring, and go on retreats where they work on leadership and service skills, fostering a sense of dedication and pride to the community in which they live.

Paradise Garden. Located next to 3405 Chicago Avenue and the South City Café, this grassroots community garden project involves youth, adults,



businesses and organizations in growing local food and plants and creating a beautiful space for neighborhood use. This project has contributed to the continual revitalization of this once blighted property.