

5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAYS

From Council Member Don Samuels

MAY 2007



5TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)

503 Irving Avenue North
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.374.4849

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)

Pillsbury United Communities
Unity House
2507 Fremont Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.529.9267 x 3003

North Loop Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)

1313 Plymouth Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924



GROCERY STORE TASK FORCE AD- DRESSES NORTHSIDE CHALLENGES

Last year, in a meeting convened by Council Member Samuels, Jordan residents told elected officials they were fed up with crime, gang activity, neighborhood blight, and ailing housing in north Minneapolis. City leaders listened.

In May 2006, Council Member Samuels and the Mayor called a special meeting to ask City staff to find new approaches to addressing the challenges facing the Northside. Staff representing eight departments responded by identifying new ways to work together to increase their ef-

fectiveness and boost results.

One example of this improved, cross-departmental collaboration is the coordinated effort to deal with convenience stores that generate high numbers of police calls for loitering, drug dealing and assaults.

The Grocery Store Task Force— which includes

(continued on pg 2)



EMERGE OPENS NEW HEADQUARTERS

Emerge—a \$5.8 million nonprofit organization that connects low income and/or disenfranchised residents of the Twin Cities to employment, training and housing opportunities and supports their long-term success—opened its new headquarters at 1101 West Broadway in North Minneapolis on April 23rd.

Launched in early 2006 as a new venture of Pillsbury United Communities (PUC), Emerge operates all of the housing and employment programs which were sown and took root within the PUC

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311 FOR CITY INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Need to report a broken street light? Is there a stray dog roaming your neighborhood? Do you just want a question about the City of Minneapolis answered? Are you worried about foreclosure? **Minneapolis 311** can help. Just call 3-1-1 weekdays from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM and a customer service agent will assist you.



(continued from pg 1-Task Force staff from **Police, Regulatory Services**, the **City Attorney's Office** and **CPED**— took on the most troubled stores. Inspectors took a tough stance on zoning, food, health and business license violations. To avoid losing their license, stores were required to repair torn fences, fix surveillance cameras, close earlier and stop selling single cigarettes and other items used by drug dealers. Police made sure they were following these newly imposed conditions and kept a watchful eye on nearby pay phones and bus stops.

In 2006, 16 Northside stores that generated excessive police calls were closely monitored. Seven convenience stores — that together generated more than 2,000 police calls — had their licenses revoked or were closed through administrative processes. Stores that met the new conditions saw dramatic drops in police calls.

The Task Force will make a presentation at PS & RS on May 16th where Council Member Samuels will introduce further ordinance changes to strengthen the task force.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK IN MAY

Police Week runs from May 13-19, and the **Minneapolis Police Department** is inviting you to the celebra-

tions. All precincts and the Special Operations Center will be holding open houses, where residents can come by to meet officers and see demonstrations. Food and refreshments will also be on hand.

The open house schedule is:

- **1st Precinct 19 4th St, N Wednesday, May 16 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
- **4th Precinct 1925 Plymouth Ave, N Friday, May 18 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
- **Special Operations Center 4119 Dupont Ave, N Saturday May 19 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Police Week special events include a memorial service for county and city officers at 12:00 p.m., May 15 at City Hall and a 5K run, planned in coordination with the Camden Webber Neighborhood Association, and open to everyone at 8:00 am on May 19. Registration for the run will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the Special Operations Center and the open house will start at 10:00 a.m.

(continued from pg 1-Emerge) framework. Under the Emerge banner, eighteen programs ranging from job skills training to transitional housing are integrated to serve clients, holistically and efficiently.

1101 West Broadway's two ground level retail tenants—City County Federal Credit Union and The Bean Scene coffee shop —will move in and begin serving customers this summer .City County Federal Credit Union will occupy approximately 4,500

square feet on the building's first floor. The Bean Scene, a community coffee shop serving award-winning coffee and providing excellent catering service, will occupy the remaining 800 square feet.

Recently recognized with *Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal's* 2006 Best in Real Estate Award in the Redevelopment/Extensive Renovation (Small, Commercial) category, 1101 West Broadway brings vitality to the neighborhood and offers a welcoming presence to neighborhood residents.

The purchase, renovation and leasing of the building was joint project of The Ackerberg Group, Emerge/Pillsbury United Communities and City County Federal Credit Union, with Ackerberg Group as the lead developer and Welsh Construction as the general contractor. Financing is provided by City County Federal Credit Union with additional financial support for Emerge's tenant improvements from the **City of Minneapolis Empowerment Zone**.



People wishing to access any of the following Emerge services or programs may stop by the new headquarters building or contact Emerge by phone at (612) 529-9267 beginning April 23, 2007 or online at www.emerge-mn.org

WestBroadway ALIVE

UPCOMING MEETING

Tuesday, May 8

6:30 - 9 p.m.

(presentation at 7 p.m.)

800 West Broadway Ave

West Broadway Alive! is a planning process aimed at laying the groundwork for revitalizing West Broadway through North Minneapolis. At this meeting, attendees will be asked to react to draft strategies for the commercial core from Fremont Avenue North to I-94.

Possible strategies include creating a "brand" identity to promote the area, using public art and streetscaping to enhance the area's attractiveness, and finding ways to expand the mix of businesses in the corridor.

This is the fourth of five public meetings seeking public input into the West Broadway Alive! plan. After the fifth meeting — set for July 17 — the plan will be refined and forwarded to the **Planning Commission** and the **City Council** for adoption later this autumn.

The **City of Minneapolis** is hosting the meeting along with area community and business associations. Refreshments and childcare will be available. A Hmong interpreter will be present. The meeting site is wheelchair accessible; if you need other disability related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter or materials in alter-

native format, please contact Krista Bergert at 612-673-5015.

For more information, visit <http://wbalive.info/> or contact Council Member Samuels at 612.673.2205

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5th Ward.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to don.samuels@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.*

MHFA AWARDS \$11 MILLION FOR FORECLOSURE REMEDIATION

Minnesota Housing announced an award of \$11 million that will be used to help communities stressed by foreclosure. The funds will be used to acquire, rehabilitate, and re-sell properties that are in foreclosure or vacant and a destabilizing force in their communities. The announcement was made at a new home located on the site of a formerly vacant and foreclosed house in the Jordan neighborhood of North Minneapolis.

As part of the award, the Family Housing Fund will receive an interim loan of \$10 million for foreclosure remediation efforts in targeted neighborhoods of Minneapolis. The majority of the funds will be used to provide the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) working capital to buy and renovate homes in North Minneapolis. Homes will in turn be sold to households at less than or equal to 115% of metro area median income (\$85,215). In addition to the \$10 million loan to the Fund, GMHC will also receive a \$1 million loan to be applied to value gap (primarily after-purchase rehabilitation) and affordability gap funding for families with a need for greater financial assistance to access

homeownership.

The remediation plan was developed as a result of the recently formed Foreclosure Prevention Funders' Council, chaired by Elizabeth Ryan from the City of Minneapolis and through the efforts of the Northside Home Fund. The goal of the council is to address the surge in residential mortgage foreclosures throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area by identifying existing and potential residential foreclosures, coordinating existing financial resources and creating new financial products.

Minnesota Housing, officially known as the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, is a state agency committed to meeting Minnesotans' needs for decent, safe, affordable homes and stronger communities. Minnesota Housing invests over \$1.3 billion in affordable housing each biennium. If it were ranked among metro commercial banks, it would be the sixth largest bank, with total Agency-wide assets of \$2.9 billion as of June 30, 2006. For more information, please visit www.mhfa.state.mn.us.

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The
HOPE
Collaborative

Council Member Don Samuels is partnering with a new organization called the **HOPE Collaborative**. This community based group is looking for positive solutions for improving the outcomes for our students in the public schools.

The **HOPE Collaborative's** first presentation will be

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH, FROM 6:30 PM TO 9:00 PM AT THE CAPRI THEATER, 2027 WEST BROADWAY.

The inaugural speaker for the seminar will be Sharon Johnson; Principal of Withrow University High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sharon Johnson is emerging as one of Cincinnati's dynamic leaders in education. Her professional efforts are concentrated on moving staff, students, and school from "**EXCUSES TO EXCELLENCE.**"

Withrow University, an **EXCELLENT** rated public High School consistently rates above other urban high schools in Cincinnati and elsewhere.

Principal Johnson creates a vibrant learning environment that enables each

student to become a positive and productive citizen while achieving academic excellence. Her passion for students' continued academic success and for their wholesome growth informs her whole professional life and her lively and direct way of interacting with the community.

Council Member Don Samuels is excited to have Sharon Johnson come and share her expertise and he encourages you to join him at the **CAPRI THEATER ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH AT 6:30.**

AGENDA

6:30

- *Welcome and Introductions*

6:45

- *Local Success Stories*

7:30

- *Keynote Speaker, Sharon Johnson*

8:30

- *Q and A*