Ninth Ward E-News

From Minneapolis City Council Member Gary Schiff

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August Breakfast with Gary : Fifth Congressional District Candidates

Candidates include (clockwise): Keith Ellison, Mike Erlandson, Paul Ostrow, Ember Riechgott Junge.

Join Gary Schiff on August 25th, and meet all nine Congressional candidates running to represent Minneapolis. The moderated forum will feature questions from audience members and will represent the first time that the candidates from the Republican, DFL, Independence and Green parties have all appeared together.

State Representative Keith Ellison, former Sabo Chief of Staff Mike Erlandson, businessman Alan Fine, Wenonah resident Gregg Iverson, former State Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, businesswoman Tammy Lee, Minneapolis Council Member Paul Ostrow, small business owner Jay Pond and Patrick Wiles have confirmed they will attend the forum.

Congressman Sabo will retire from office at the end of his term in 2006. A partisan primary will be held September 12th. The general election is November 7th.

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly meeting for 9th Ward constituents held from 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the Café of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Avenue South . $5 buys breakfast.

City Council supports Department of Peace, honors Sabo and Dayton

The Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution today supporting legislation to create a Federal Department of Peace and Non-Violence. The resolution was sponsored by Council Members Gary Schiff, Cam Gordon, Ralph Remington and Diane Hofstede. The Department of Peace and Non-violence will work to reduce domestic and international violence, and teach violence prevention and conflict resolution to America's school children. The bill also calls for effectively treating and dismantling gangs while rehabilitating the prison population. The federal legislation is authored by Senator Mark Dayton and Congressman Martin Olav Sabo.

"Cities across the country are joining the call to work for peace and develop new strategies for conflict resolution in our communities, " said Faith Kidder, Longfellow resident . The Peace Alliance has been campaigning for the U.S. Department of Peace and Non-Violence since April 2003.

9th Ward E-News Exclusive!

Take a tour of the Downtown Safe Zone

The Minneapolis Police Department is offering a unique behind the scenes tour of the Downtown Safe Zone for 9th Ward residents on Wednesday, August 30 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Tour participants will be able to see the command center, understand the use of technology to deter crime, and hear about the success of the program since the program began in 2006.

The Downtown Safe Zone initiative includes a network of twenty-nine cameras covering thirty blocks. After the cameras were installed, serious crimes declined 21%, assaults dropped 24%, and robberies declined 50% in the covered area. For more results and detailed information about the program, read the Downtown Minneapolis Safe Zone Collaborative Final Report.

RSVP is required. E-mail Heidi Quezada or call 612-673-2209.

Lake Street businesses receive financial help during reconstruction

T.G Dekker, Universal Hair Salon owner talks with Rep. Jim Davnie and Nick Sperrazza from Seward Redesign.

Cash flow loans are available for Lake Street business owners who are coping with a slow down of business during Lake Street 's first major reconstruction in fifty years.

"With flexible repayment terms, these loans are intended to ease the cash flow pressures facing Midtown and Longfellow businesses as a result of the Lake Street construction project," said Iric Nathanson, the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers Financial Resource Coordinator. "In making the loan, we assume that sales will bounce back once the road project is completed."

One business owner who has taken advantage of the program is Tigist Dekker, owner of Universal Hair Salon. "The MCCD loan is helping me pay my bills for the next few months. The loan process was simple and allowed me to keep my business up and running during Lake Street construction," she said. For more information about the program, email Iric Nathanson or call 612-789-7337, ext. 14.

Train to become a block club leader for your neighborhood

There will be a block leader training on Wednesday, August 30, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Police Department 3rd Precinct Community Room, 3000 Minnehaha Ave. Join other leaders throughout the city to develop skills for effectively working with your neighbors. Topics covered include: organizing a block/apartment club; working with your community crime prevention specialist; dealing with problem properties and using 911 and 311. RSVP required. Call 612-673-2856.