



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

June 16, 2009

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## Pawlenty cuts \$30 million from Minneapolis

Today Governor Pawlenty announced \$2.7 billion in cuts he is making to provide a short-term fix to the State's budget crisis. The Governor "unallotted" or cut Minneapolis funding by \$8.5 million in 2009 and \$21.3 million in 2010, for a total cut of \$30 million through 2010. This amounts to 2.3 percent of the city's general fund in 2009, and an additional 5.8 percent in 2010.

Minneapolis leaders have been quick to respond. "I deeply disagree with the Governor because his choices will hurt many people," Mayor R.T. Rybak said. "The governor has offered no plan for putting people to work, only for cutting jobs during a tough economy, and has offered no strategy for fixing a broken state budget that continues to lurch from deficit to deficit."

"Unlike the State, the City of Minneapolis has addressed its financial challenges head-on by paying down debt, doing long-term financial planning, and delivering services more efficiently," said Council President Barb Johnson. "If the State had been as disciplined about managing its finances as we have been, they wouldn't be in this situation."

Council Member Gary Schiff pointed out that since 2003 the Governor has cut more than \$50 million from city's general fund, which Minneapolis uses to pay for police officers and firefighters. "Mayor Rybak will present his 2010 budget to the City Council in August, and then we will begin to make the tough decisions of how to balance our budget. Raising property taxes to cover pension debts and replace the entire amount of money lost in State aide won't be a sustainable solution," he said. "Service cuts will have to be made." Schiff sits on the Ways and Means committee which will review the Mayor's budget recommendations. The 2010 city budget will be adopted this December.

## Greenway power line public hearing

## this Thursday

A [public hearing](#) will be held this Thursday to hear citizen comments on the proposed scope of environmental review for Xcel Energy's proposed high voltage power line in the Midtown Greenway.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security, the

hearing will be this Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Midtown Global Market, 920 East Lake Street.



The first opportunity for public input on the proposed Xcel Energy high voltage power line in the Midtown Greenway will be held this Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The hearing will allow the Public Utilities Commission to gather comments and suggestions on the environmental impact statement that will be prepared by the Office of Energy Security. The environmental impact statement contains information on the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and looks at ways to mitigating anticipated impacts to the community. Representatives from the Office of Energy Security and Xcel will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the proposed project. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. There will also be opportunity for people to propose issues, alternatives, and specific impacts to be addressed in the environmental impact statement. The Office of Energy Security will also accept written comments on the scope of the EIS until July 10, 2009. Comments should be mailed or emailed to: Bill Storm, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198 or [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

[Xcel Energy](#) recently filed an [application](#) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a high voltage transmission line Route Permit which would allow for two new distribution substations and two 115 kilovolt transmission lines in the Midtown neighborhood. Xcel Energy has included four separate alternative routes and five design options for consideration in its application. Xcel Energy also identifies two locations for the Hiawatha Substation and two locations for the Midtown Substation. A [route permit](#) from the Commission is required to build a high voltage line. The Commission has one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the

permitting process and make a decision on the route permit.

## Breakfast with Gary: Green Jobs and Training



Mayor Rybak

This month's Breakfast with Gary will look at the challenges of training people for opportunities in the [clean energy economy](#). Guest speaker Mayor R.T. Rybak will talk about the city's plan to attract private investment for clean energy technology, products and services. "The old ways of doing business have literally run out of gas," Mayor R.T. Rybak said. "For Minneapolis and this entire region to grow, we must reinvent how to create opportunity and put people to work."

Cities across the country are training workers for clean energy jobs including home weatherization, energy auditing and building technicians. Panelists will discuss the challenges, opportunity for stimulus dollars and long term changes that job training programs need to make to meet success. Mayor Rybak will be joined by Louis King, President and CEO of [Summit Academy](#) and Dan McConnell, Political Director of [IBEW Local 292](#).

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly meeting for 9th Ward residents held from 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. \$5 buys breakfast.

## Greenest city building starts construction

A new [web camera](#) allows residents to watch progress on



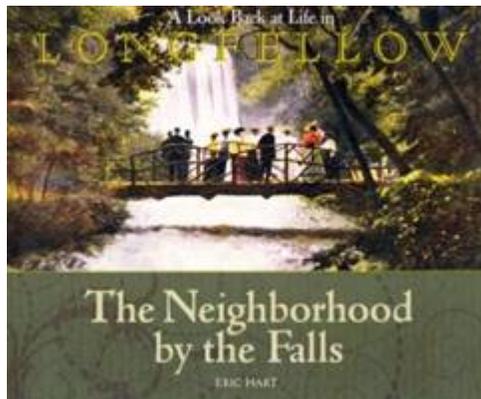
Click on the photo above to see a real time image of progress on the Hiawatha Public Works Facility.

the new [Hiawatha Public Works Facility](#), located in the East Phillips neighborhood. When finished in 2010, the facility will be the first government-built [LEED](#) certified Gold building in Minnesota. LEED is an internationally recognized certification system that measures how well a building performs in energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions reduction and indoor environmental quality improvements.

The site will house over 300 full and part time city workers who maintain city streets, bridges and sewers. "This new facility will be a real improvement for the neighborhood," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "This will be the most environmentally friendly building ever built by a city in Minnesota. The city is making a \$9.5 million investment in Phillips, a neighborhood that has suffered from significant environmental pollution. Removal of the asphalt plant and the addition of landscaping and public art at the site will make the facility a better neighbor."

To date, the general contractor on the project has exceeded standard employment goals for female, skilled minority, and unskilled minority employment on the project. The facility has many sustainable features, including recycling materials from buildings that previously stood on the site. Concrete and bricks on the site will be reused, a geo-thermal energy system will be installed, and all the storm water will be managed on site.

## Take a tour of Minneapolis' history



*Neighborhood by the Falls* is available through the Longfellow Community Council. Click the photo for order info.

Celebrate summer and learn more about city neighborhoods this year by enjoying an [historic walking tour](#). Tours will explore areas ranging from Minneapolis cultural gathering places and residential neighborhoods, to the theaters

of Hennepin Avenue and the remnants of the city's once-extensive streetcar system. Tours are brought to you free of charge by the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. While reservations are not required, a ticket is required and is available starting 15 minutes before each tour.

In the 9th Ward, tours of Christ Church Lutheran located in the

Longfellow neighborhood at 3244 34th Avenue South are the 1st Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The church was designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen and is the only National Historic Landmark church in Minnesota and a renowned high point of mid-century modern architecture.

Longfellow history has also been brought to life in a new book published by the Longfellow Community Council called, *The Neighborhood by the Falls: A Look Back at Life in Longfellow*. The book contains a fascinating and informative look back at the history of the Longfellow area through stories, anecdotes, illustrations, narratives and a collection of photographs, all dating from the 1800s to the present. The Neighborhood by the Falls is available directly from the Longfellow Community Council. To purchase a copy of the book, stop by the LCC office or download the order form [here](#) and mail it to LCC with a check or money order. For more information, contact the LCC at (612) 722- 4529.

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