



September 22, 2006

9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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Breakfast with Gary: Walter Mondale



Former Vice President
Walter Mondale

September 29th Breakfast with Gary will feature former Vice President Walter Mondale. Mondale grew up in southern Minnesota and was appointed Minnesota Attorney General in 1960, where he served until being appointed to fill Vice President Hubert Humphrey's United States Senate seat in 1964. He was elected to the Senate in 1966 and re-elected in 1972. In 1976, Mondale was elected Vice President of the United States.

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event held 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the Café of the Americas (3019 Minnehaha Avenue South). \$5 buys breakfast.

Library Board seeks public input for budget

The [Minneapolis Public Library](#) Board Members are asking for public input as they develop the 2007-2009 budgets. The Board has prepared three approaches to deal with large projected deficits. Option one keeps all fifteen libraries open for three to four days a week. Option two has the [downtown library](#) open six days a week and four large community libraries open seven days a week, with ten branch libraries closing. Option three keeps twelve libraries open five days a week, with three branch libraries closing.

Projections show if all fifteen libraries are open six days a week, eight hours a day, with books, material, technology, services and staffing fully funded, the system would face a \$6.5 million deficit in 2007. The gap grows to more than \$12 million by 2011. For illustration purposes, if this amount came only from Minneapolis property taxes, an average tax increase in 2007 of 3.6% above that 8% budget policy recommended by

necessary thereafter.

To submit feedback on-line, obtain a print survey or find out more information on the library budget, [click here](#).

New Ninth Ward Landmark!

Midtown Greenway Phase III completed



Brackett Park Midtown Greenway entrance ramp

Phase III of the [Midtown Greenway](#) is complete. The Midtown Greenway now connects the Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River with

a nonstop bicycle and pedestrian trail through the 29th Street railroad corridor.

Phase III, the eastern segment of the Midtown Greenway, stretches from Hiawatha Avenue to West River Parkway. There is a pedestrian tunnel under the Greenway at 38th Avenue which links residents north of the corridor to Brackett Park and the Greenway. Five public art sites are located along the trail, with benches that incorporate sculptural elements. These rest stop areas are located at the West River Parkway entry; the Dorman Avenue stairway; the Brackett Park ramp; the Anne Sullivan ramp; and just west of 29th Avenue. Designed by [Ingraham & Associates](#) and Teri Kwant in consultation with a community committee, the benches are located in a plaza area of approximately 13' by 17', surfaced with crushed limestone. Benches face artist-designed signs that are affixed to the chain link fence separating the active tracks from the trail.

EPA to discuss arsenic contamination

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) will hold a

at the YWCA (2121 E. Lake St.) to discuss the risk assessment process and give residents an opportunity to ask questions about arsenic contamination, sampling results and clean-up in Phillips, Powderhorn, Longfellow and Corcoran neighborhoods.

[In the latest round of EPA soil testing](#), 130 additional properties qualify for arsenic contamination clean-up. For more information, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Cheryl Allen at (800) 621-8431. For additional information on arsenic contamination in Phillips, Powderhorn, Longfellow and Corcoran neighborhoods, [Click here](#).

Minneapolis Elections seeks bilingual election judges

The City of Minneapolis is looking for bilingual election judges with language skills in Spanish, Somali and Hmong to serve in the upcoming election on November 7, 2006. Election judges are responsible for opening and closing the polls, registering new voters, distributing and collecting ballots and certifying the vote totals. Judges must be eligible to vote, read, write and speak English and attend a training class.

Minneapolis election judges are paid an hourly wage to attend a training class and for service on Election Day. State law allows for time off from work without loss of wages to serve as an Election Judge with 20 days prior written notice to the employer. Fill out the [Minneapolis Election Judge Application](#) online, or print the application page and submit it via fax or mail. For further information, call (612) 673-3876.

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