

5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOD, NORTH LOOP, HERITAGE PARK, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

April 2008



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)

2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.886-3202

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

Old Highland Organization

www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization

www.willard-homewood.org
info@willard-homewood.org

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 Monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.

Minneapolis Joins Lawsuit to Stop Real Estate Fraud Scheme on North Side

The City of Minneapolis and three North Side neighborhoods have filed a lawsuit against a real estate business blamed for worsening the foreclosure crisis in the city.

The suit seeks redress from TJ Waconia, which engaged in a complex and fraudulent residential real estate scheme that converted owner-occupied homes to rental units, most of which have since been foreclosed and many of which are vacant. TJ Waconia's practices have left many north Minneapolis homeowners unable to sell their homes or owing significantly more for their homes than they are worth.

Minneapolis is bringing two causes of action against TJ Waconia. One is under the

Minnesota Tenant Remedies Act for violation of housing and other codes and seeks the appointment of an administrator to manage the properties to remedy code violations and mitigate costs. The second cause of action is under the Minnesota Prevention of Consumer Fraud Act and seeks to recover monetary damages as well as injunctive relief against TJ Waconia to prevent it from continuing its fraudulent activities.

Plaintiffs include the City, Folwell Neighborhood Association, McKinley Community, Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization, Family Housing Fund, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation and local residents.

From 2003-2006, TJ Waconia purchased and

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The City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works will be holding an informational meeting to address any questions about the assessments and the street resurfacing on South Willard and South Hay neighborhoods.

The meeting will be held at:

**Bethune Recreation Center
Adjacent to Bethune School
Multipurpose Room
1301 10th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411**

Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

These resurfacing projects are part of the City's five year Capital Improvement Program and will begin this summer.

For more information about this project contact Larry Matsumoto at (612) 919-1148 or: larry.matsumoto@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Help your Community: Become a Mentor!



Making sure Minneapolis is a safe place for everyone to call home means helping our youth. One way to do that is to be a mentor.

As a mentor, you will be a trusted and caring adult in a young person's life. You will be there to help build that child's self-confidence and be a positive influence in his or her development.

The need for mentors is high in Minneapolis. There are approximately 400 open mentoring positions at Big Brothers Big Sisters. Behind each one of those positions is a child who needs an adult for trust and support.

By meeting just two to four times a month at a location of your choice, you can make a positive impact in a child's life. Studies have shown that kids who have a mentor are:

- 46 percent less likely to begin using drugs,
- 30 percent less likely to be violent, and
- 62 percent more likely to have better self-esteem.

For more information on mentoring, go to www.bigstwincities.org or www.mentoringworks.org or call (651) 789-2447

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest mentoring program in the country, serving more than 3,400 children, ages 7-13, in Minnesota.



PAL is Looking for Young Baseball Players

Baseball season is starting up soon for Minneapolis Police Activities League (PAL). That means any kids who are interested in playing ball this summer should sign up now.

PAL is looking for players between the ages of 8 and 13. Teams are coached by Minneapolis Police officers and volunteers. There is no registration fee, but space is limited!

Anyone who is interested should contact Officer Mark Benner at (612) 673-3953.

Coaches are also needed on the North side and South side of Minneapolis. Anyone interested should call. You do not need to be part of the police department to coach.

The Minneapolis Police Activities League is a non-profit organization that partners Minneapolis police officers with Minneapolis youth in positive interactions.



Council Member Samuelson holds the report recommending the revocation of 45 of T J Waconia's rental licenses. The license revocation is separate of the lawsuit action.

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flipped 140 north Minneapolis homes, 88 in three neighborhoods of Folwell, Webber-Camden, and McKinley. T J Waconia's systemic, targeted, and intentional overvaluation of these homes used fraudulent appraisals to falsely inflate property values in north Minneapolis. Of 140 T J Waconia homes, at least 108 are vacant and 89 have been sold through foreclosure.

The lawsuit was filed to the Hennepin County District Court.

Celebrate Earth Day-April 22



THE COMMUNITY ROOM



Minneapolis Farmers Market Opens Saturday April 26.

You'll Find Everything You're Looking For at the Minneapolis Farmers Market at 312 East Lyndale Avenue North, on the corner of Lyndale and Glenwood.

The Minneapolis Farmers Market has the largest selection of products of any outdoor market in the upper Midwest. From butternut squash to fresh herbs, you'll find it all in one convenient location.

You'll also enjoy the energy of the market, as customers peruse the products, taking in the colorful sights, lively sounds and mouthwatering scents.

The market is just a cherry stone's throw from the heart of downtown in North Minneapolis with plenty of free and handicap-accessible parking.

The Minneapolis Farmers Market is open every day from 6 am to 1 pm from Saturday, April 26 through mid-November.

Catch the Momentum! Neighbors, leaders, partners, youth... come together to support a Summer of PEACE on the Northside.



A launch party for the 2008 Summer of Peace will be held at the Capri Theater, 2027 W. Broadway on Thursday April 24 from 6:30-8:30.

The 1st Annual PEACE Foundation Northside Neighbor & Partner Awards will also be given at this event.

Entertainment will be provided by Chastity Brown and the Sound, voted by the StarTribune as one of the top 10 artist in 2007.

The event is free to the public,.



Jazz Meets Gospel at the Capri Theater Saturday, April 19

For more than 40 years, The Buckners have stood tall as Minnesota's first family of gospel. Dr. Thelma Buckner, the proud mother of three sets of twins, once performed under the name "Thelma Buckner and the Gospel Twins."

The Buckners present a concert of gospel music and explore gospel's connection to jazz at the Capri Theater 7 p.m. Saturday, April 19, 2008.

Performing in the fourth program in our "Legends" series, the Buckners will feature a program filled with some foot stomping gospel favorites.

This exciting ensemble will "rock the very foundation" of the Capri Theater with foot stomping down home gospel presented in the way it was meant to be delivered . . . from the bottom of the soul!

Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for groups of 10 or more) and can be ordered [online](#) or by calling Uptown Tix at 651-209-6799.

Complimentary refreshments will be served after the concert.

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Street Sweeping Begins Tuesday, April 15

It's time for the City to clean up all the dirt and grime the melting snow and ice left behind on Minneapolis streets. Crews are set to begin the comprehensive spring street sweep April 15.

Over the course of five weeks, Minneapolis Public Works will send sweepers down all 1,100 miles of city streets.

To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed.

"No Parking" signs – As the sweep gets underway, City crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Vehicles not in compliance with "No Parking" signs will be ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

Phone calls to residents – In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.

Interactive Web tool – Starting a few days before the sweep begins, folks will be able to use a tool on the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. By going to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep, residents can find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the city to find out which of the five days of the work week that the sweeping will occur.