



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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Pension lawsuit affects property tax levy

The amount people pay in property taxes next year will hinge on the resolution of a lawsuit between the City of Minneapolis and two pension funds that have been overcharging city taxpayers. Judge Janet Poston ruled in the city's favor on September 21st on a key portion of [the City's suit](#), ruling that the Minneapolis Police Relief Association and Minneapolis Fire Relief Association overpaid benefits to members. Trial of the remaining issues in the City's case will be completed in mid-October. The City finance office calculates the cost to taxpayers at nearly \$50 million since 2003 alone.

"With loss of state aid and rising health care costs, this overpayment of benefits has come at a painful time for the city budget," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "The city's successful legal strategy will save millions of dollars and help reduce property tax burdens in the years ahead." A resolution of the lawsuit before the end of the year may lower proposed property tax increases by seven percent, Schiff said.

The city has been asking the State Legislature to take management duties of the funds away from MPRA and MFRA members and to be given to the State Board of Investments.

Oct. 30th Breakfast with Gary: Park Board Candidates



Candidates for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation board at-large seat include (clockwise from top left): Mary Merrill Anderson, Nancy Bernard, Bob Fine, John Erwin, John Butler, Annie Young, Dave Wahlstedt, and Tom Nordyke

Candidates [John Butler](#), [John Erwin](#), [Mary Merrill Anderson](#), [Tom Nordyke](#), and [Dave Wahlstedt](#) are vying for three at-large seats on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are scheduled to participate in a candidate forum at this month's *Breakfast with Gary* on Friday, October 30th.

Other invited candidates running for the three at-large seats include [Nancy Bernard](#), [Bob Fine](#), and [Annie Young](#). During the forum, candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves and then will take questions from the audience.

“Our independent Park Board plays a key role in making sure our city is sustainable, and makes key decisions on youth sports and the quality of neighborhood parks.” said Council Member Gary Schiff.

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

**Election uses ranked choice voting
Nov.3**



The first election in Minneapolis to use ranked choice voting will take place on Election Day, November 3.

In ranked choice voting, Minneapolis voters may rank up to three candidates for single and multiple seat municipal offices. When polls close, the first choice votes for all candidates are sorted and counted. If no candidate receives the required number of votes to win in a particular race, a process of eliminating candidates and considering subsequent choices begins.

Voters in Minneapolis approved a referendum to implement this new voting system in 2006. this fall, they'll be able to use that system to choose candidates for Mayor, City Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park and Recreation Board. This upcoming election will be the first opportunity for voters in Minneapolis to use ranked choice voting.

For more information on ranked choice voting and [instructions on how to cast your ballot](#) this November, go to voteminneapolis.org.

Cash rebates for energy efficient improvements



Homeowners can get rebates

Minneapolis home owners are eligible for rebates for [energy efficient upgrades](#) made to their homes this fall. [Project ReEnergize](#) is a homeowner rebate program designed with federal stimulus dollars to create jobs in the residential construction industry.

mailed directly to them for energy efficiency upgrades such as installing Energy Star windows.

Over \$2.5 million is available and all 13,000 licensed contractors in Minnesota are eligible to participate. The program includes rebates of up to \$4000 per household for new windows, insulation and other energy efficient improvements. There are no household income limitations but homes must have been built before 2000.

Project ReEnergize funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Celebrate Longfellow at the LCC annual meeting



[Gandhi Mahal](#) restaurant in Longfellow says its mission is to provide high quality, healthy food that promotes a peaceful mind and experience.

Join The Longfellow Community Council on Wednesday, October 21 starting at 6:00 p.m. for the Best Meeting Ever. The meeting will be held at the North Campus of Minnehaha Academy, 3100 West River Parkway and will celebrate all of the great things about Longfellow - great food, great neighbors and a great community. Enjoy a delicious dinner provided by local eateries like [Gandhi Mahal](#), the [Rail Station](#),

[Midori's Floating World Café](#) and many more.

Longfellow has a history of strong block clubs and strong community and that's why it's the theme of the annual meeting. So bring neighbors and help organize a stronger network of block club leaders. Attendees interested in becoming block leaders will receive all the information and help needed to organize their block. Don't forget to check out local organizations at the resource fair and bring a non-perishable food item for the Minnehaha Food Shelf. Childcare will be available. For more details visit the [Longfellow Community Council website](#).

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