



November 2009

Eighth Ward News

"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council

www.bancroftneighborhood.org

Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm

4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association

Meets 1st Thursday, 7 pm

Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO

www.CANDOmpls.org

Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38th Street, Room 304

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org

Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm

1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kingfield.org

Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm

ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org

Meets 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm

821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Implementation Committee

Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm

Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

Public Hearing on Proposed 2010 Budget: Thursday, November 19th

The City is holding a public hearing on the Mayor's proposed budget and property tax levy on:

- **Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:05 pm, City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, Room 317**

This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on all issues related to the budget, including property taxes and city services important to you. You can also send your comments directly to Councilmember Glidden at elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or by calling (612) 673-2208. Here are the public hearing details:

This year's budget must address many tremendous challenges for Minneapolis. These include State cuts to Minneapolis of more than \$40 million during 2009-2010 and escalating health care and pension costs.

The Mayor has proposed a property tax increase of 11.3% for 2010, dropping to 5.5% in 2011. Because the consolidated TIF district decertifies in 2010 (this is the funding source for NRP – neighborhood funding), the 11.3% property tax increase has been described as having an "actual" impact on residents of 6.6%. The majority of this property tax increase is dedicated to funding pension increases.

Total City spending is cut by \$100 million in the Mayor's budget. The Mayor's proposed City budget for 2010 focuses on jobs, while preserving public safety gains and continuing to invest in infrastructure. It includes expanding a program that offers low interest loans and financing tools to small businesses, and \$1.2 million to help more people find and get jobs through the City's Workforce Centers.

Minneapolis will also hold, as required by State law, a budget hearing the same day the City Council scheduled to adopt the budget—Monday, December 7, 6:05 pm, at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street room 317

You can review the Mayor's proposed 2010 budget at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/.

Minneapolis Obtains State Approval for Property-Tax Relief for Tornado-Impacted Residents



Shortly after a tornado hit South Minneapolis this year, Mayor Rybak declared a local emergency so that the city could aggressively seek any and all forms of relief

for residents impacted by the storm. The city was recently awarded property tax relief for residents through a state emergency program called the Homestead Disaster Credit. Through this program, the state reimburses Minneapolis for property tax relief given to residents.

The Homestead Disaster Credit is applied automatically by the county and city auditor to impacted properties – **residents do not need to apply**. To determine property tax relief, the city assessor will reassess homes damaged by the tornado. The amount of the credit given to a specific property is the difference between what the property tax on the home would have been if it had not been damaged and the property tax on the new adjusted market value.

For properties hit by the tornado in 2009, the Homestead Disaster Credit will be listed on the property tax statement for property taxes payable in 2010. This program, as defined by state law, only applies to homesteaded properties. Residents with questions should call 311 (dial 612-673-3000 outside of Minneapolis city limits).

Yard Waste Pickup Set to End for the Season



If you still have leaves, branches and other yard waste to clean up before winter comes, this week is your last chance! The last yard waste collection days

of 2009 will be Nov. 16 – 20.

Leaves, plants, grass clippings, hay and other vegetation should be placed in leaf bags no larger than 30 gallons, with each bag weighing less than 40 pounds.

Branches need to be bundled with twine and rope, with each bundle less than three feet long and weighing less than 40 pounds. Only branches less than three inches in diameter should be bundled.

Once your last yard waste collection day passes, it won't be picked up again until mid-April. If you end up with bags of leaves after your last day of pickup, you can put them on your perennial garden beds until spring. Also, stacking the bags against the north and east sides of your house can add insulation during the colder months.

Nicollet Square Groundbreaking



Construction is starting at Nicollet Square, an innovative \$9.2 million model of supportive housing and employment to help young adults transitioning out of

homelessness or foster care become independent and economically self-sufficient. Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation is the developer.

The project received \$5,486,922 in stimulus funding from the Tax Credit Exchange Program and \$977,584 in funding from the City of Minneapolis Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The project also received stimulus funding from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program for supportive services at Nicollet Square.

Nicollet Square will provide 42 studio apartments, with onsite supportive services provided by YouthLink. The building design includes a coffee shop/bakery on the first floor, operated by Cookie Cart, to provide immediate entry-level employment for Nicollet Square residents.

The project, while under construction, will yield approximately 143 jobs in the construction field.

Minneapolis Prepares for a Flu Outbreak



The influenza season is upon us. To ensure that the City of Minneapolis can continue providing basic municipal services to residents, businesses and visitors, even in the event of a widespread flu outbreak or a pandemic, Minneapolis health and emergency management professionals have made extensive emergency preparedness plans.

If you'd like to learn more about the City's emergency preparedness plans as well as community services available to residents, visit the City's flu Web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/emergency/flu-home.asp>.

The Web site also provides general information about the H1N1 and seasonal flu as well as links to State and Federal Web sites.

Minneapolis Provides Leadership in Preventing Domestic Violence



A grant of nearly \$1 million will help the City of Minneapolis find new and innovative ways to help keep women safe from

domestic violence and make the perpetrators more accountable, with a focus on addressing violence against women among diverse and traditionally underserved populations.

The plans include placing domestic abuse advocates in community based probation offices to serve as resources to victims. A list of repeat domestic violence offenders will be developed with individualized intervention plans to increase offender accountability and victim safety.

In 2008, the City Attorney's Office and Police Department trained 5th Precinct patrol officers –first responders to 911 calls – to gather more evidence when they arrive at the scene, such as taking statements and collecting evidence to document

the victim's injuries. Initial results show a significant increase in conviction rates due to these increased efforts. Funding from the grant will allow this new protocol to be implemented Citywide.

Domestic Abuse Advocates at Midtown Safety Center

On Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 pm, a Spanish-speaking domestic abuse advocate from DAP (Domestic Abuse Project) and a Spanish-speaking crime prevention specialist from the Minneapolis Police Department have office hours at Midtown Safety Center, 2949 Chicago Ave. S.

Domestic Abuse advocates can help women with orders for protection and safety planning, in Spanish or English. The crime prevention specialist can assist with a wide range of law enforcement-related issues, also in English or Spanish.

Help Slow Down Emerald Ash Borer This Fall



Although colder weather is here, the emerald ash borer is still a threat to our trees here in Minneapolis.

The beetle, which was discovered in Saint Paul back in May, could be hiding in firewood folks are buying for winter.

Adult beetles don't fly far, so they travel the farthest when people move infested ash logs, ash firewood or ash trees from nurseries. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin and other counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer to other areas.

Take steps to slow the spread of emerald ash borer: Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota.

Fall and winter are the seasons to trim or remove your ash tree. The emerald ash borer is active from May through Labor Day. From fall until spring it is

not active. If you need to prune or remove your ash tree, now is the best time to do it.

Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. Emerald ash borer kills trees over a period of one to four years. The larvae live under the bark of the tree and feed in the tissue layer directly beneath the bark, which disrupts water from reaching all sections of the tree. This can cause a major thinning of a tree's canopy, with as many as one-half of a tree's branches potentially dying during the first year of infestation. Eventually the adult beetles emerge from the bark. In the process of emerging as adults, they leave a "D" shaped exit hole that is about one-eighth of an inch wide. The most revealing sign of emerald ash borer infestation is woodpecker activity in an otherwise healthy-looking ash tree.

If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by the emerald ash borer, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist. Residents who suspect that a tree is infested with emerald ash borer can also contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" Hotline at (651) 201-6684.

Unemployment Resources

A new site, www.MinnesotaUnemployed.com provides easy access to information and services that will help unemployed and underemployed people. In addition to providing information about job search sites, career resources, training and education, the site also provides useful links to information about housing, health care, food, money, transportation, bargains and leisure activities.



Free Online "Civic Garden" for Wireless Users



The City of Minneapolis and USI Wireless have created an online "Civic Garden" that provides a

free level of service for anyone who can receive the USI Wireless signal. The Civic Garden offers free Web access to a wealth of public sector information about government, education, and community services www.wirelessminneapolis.org.

The City of Minneapolis' public-private partnership with USI Wireless is being held up as a model for how cities and businesses can work together to make the notion of a "wireless city" a reality, and at the same time to improve government services and bridge the digital divide.

Take the Online Recycling Pledge



Take the online recycling pledge at www.americarecyclesday.org/takeethepledge.aspx.

What happens when you recycle? Sometimes it's exactly what you'd expect: old boxes and newspapers turn into new boxes and newspapers. But some of the end products may surprise you. For instance, five plastic soda bottles yield enough fiber for one extra large T-shirt, one square foot of carpet or enough insulation to fill one ski jacket.

More than 90 percent of the households in Minneapolis participate in the City's recycling program, with the average resident recycling around 2.3 pounds of material per day.

In Minneapolis, you can also recycle old electronics. Minneapolis is the only city in the nation where electronics are picked up regularly for recycling. Just set your item next to your garbage cart on your recycling day with a sign on it that says, "for solid waste." A crew will come back for it the next business day. Minneapolis also picks up appliances and furniture.

For more information about recycling in Minneapolis, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling. To learn more about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/garbage-zero-hero.asp.