



September 2008

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

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm
Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, Room 304

Central Weed & Seed
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7 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

A Personal Note from Elizabeth

Some of you may know that I am pregnant and due to have a baby girl on September 15, 2008. My husband Eric and I are excited to become parents and experience the life changes about to occur. This is not the first time a councilmember has had a baby while in office; you may remember that former two-term Mayor (and 8th Ward Councilmember) Sharon Sayles Belton had two children while a sitting councilmember! I am thankful for this opportunity to gain new perspective on issues many of you have experienced, including the joys and challenges of parenthood.

How will the 8th Ward be represented starting in September? My first priority will be to attend council meetings, voting on important ward and city issues and participating in budget discussions. I am proud to have a fantastic staff – including **Senior Policy Aide Andrea Jenkins** and **Associate Jennifer White** – who are prepared to attend community meetings on my behalf, answer constituent questions, and attend to special projects. In addition, the 8th Ward Office has hired an intern, Ward 8 resident Amy Brockman, to help serve you during the fall months.

In short, we are taking care to ensure that you experience little if any change in service from the 8th Ward Office this fall. Please let us know if you have any questions by calling the office at (612) 673-2208.

Restore Your Voice



This election season, Councilmember Glidden spearheaded an effort for City Elections staff to team up with community partners to promote the importance of **all** eligible voters exercising their right to vote, including ex-felons who may not realize they can vote. This is the “Restore Your Voice” initiative. In Minnesota, you cannot vote while serving a sentence as a result of a felony conviction. However, once the full sentence is completed — including probation and/or parole, the right to vote is automatically restored.

The Minneapolis City Council approved a resolution on Aug. 8, authored by Councilmember Glidden, supporting these efforts to “Restore Your Voice”. The goal of the initiative is to increase voter registration and turnout among ex-felons who have served their time and have had their right to vote restored. Broad voter participation is fundamental to a strong democratic society, and the City of Minneapolis believes that full enfranchisement of every eligible voter will result in the election of high quality leaders, truly representative of their constituents. For more information, including downloadable posters and fact sheets, go to the city elections website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/restore-your-voice.asp.

Congratulations SMARTS!



Over the past year, the 8th Ward office has helped coordinate the series **Arts and Creative Economic Development** along with the **Center for Independent Artists, Pillsbury House Theatre, and Urban Arts Academy**. (See agendas and meeting notes at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward8 -- choose the “arts” tab). One of the group goals for this summer was for area artists to apply for status as a “business association” with the City of Minneapolis.

We are pleased to announce that Minneapolis has now approved its first and only artist business association, **SMARTS (South Minneapolis Arts)**! SMARTS, which will receive some City funding, will provide a great framework for individual artists and small arts organizations to collaborate, market their art, and work on shared opportunities and challenges.

SMARTS will host its inaugural business association meeting, including introduction of the South Minneapolis Arts Guide, on **Wednesday, September 17th**, at **Pillsbury House Theatre**, 3501 Chicago Ave S. Social time will start at 6:30, with the meeting taking place from 7 – 8:30 pm. We look forward to seeing small arts organizations, individual artists, and arts lovers on September 17th for this event!

City Discussions of 2009 Budget



On August 14th, the Mayor presented his proposed budget to the City Council. Throughout September and October, the Council’s Ways and Means Committee (on which Councilmember Glidden serves) will review the Mayor’s budget and hold hearings with and every City department. Some highlights of the Mayor’s proposal include \$27.5 million over 5 years for street maintenance and infrastructure repair, increased funding for youth violence prevention, and increased funding for criminal prosecution. Issues to be discussed by the Ways & Means Committee include the property tax levy and how to maintain a five-year plan for property taxes, resources for foreclosure-related issues, and how to fund development needs in the city (i.e. small business loans, funding for development at small business corners, and more).

Coinciding with budget review will be discussions of the **funding and future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)**. NRP is a program that has, for the past 20 years, provided funding for neighborhood-designated needs. Due to the work of our Minneapolis legislative delegation in the 2008 session, funding for post-2009 NRP and for Target Center debt relief was made available by

reauthorizing redevelopment districts (TIF funding, or capturing property tax revenue for a specific purpose) for several Minneapolis commercial properties. Unfortunately, Hennepin County, a critical partner in the first 20 years of NRP, has not agreed (to date) to participate in future funding of NRP. The Council's final decisions about reauthorizing TIF districts will impact property taxes, as well as Target Center debt relief and NRP funding.

The Council will vote on the budget in December 2008, after holding a "truth in taxation hearing" for public testimony on Monday, Dec 1, 5:00 pm at City Hall Room 317.

8th Ward Development Project: Housing for Homeless Youth and Young Adults at 3700 Nicollet



On September 22nd, at 4:30 pm, the City of Minneapolis Planning Commission will consider applications for zoning variances regarding a project at 3700 Nicollet. The Plymouth Neighborhood

Foundation has plans to build housing for homeless youth and young adults on this site, which is currently hosts the former Werness Funeral Home. The project is proposed as a three story building, with office space and a retail shop on the ground floor. Housing units would be on the second and third floors. The property manager for 3700 Nicollet is proposed to be CommonBond Communities; case management for youth living at the site would be provided by YouthLink. Detailed information on the project, including community meetings conducted by the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, is available at <http://kingfield.org/tag/3700-nicollet/>.

The City Planning Commission's meeting will start at 4:30 p.m., in Room 317 City Hall, 350 S. 5th Street, on Monday Sept 22nd. Please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/plannin-g-commission/ for the agenda with staff reports – available by end of day Thursday, September 18th. All interested parties are invited to attend and speak at the public hearing, or to send written comments to Hilary Dvorak, Senior Planner - 250 South 4th Street, Room 300, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Phone (612)

673-2639; Fax (612) 673-2526; E-mail: hilary.dvorak@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Useful On-line Information



Boarded and Vacant Properties:

The City's problem properties department has a new web-based resource to help you find information about boarded and vacant buildings. You can find lists of boarded

properties, plus information on code compliance issues, at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/ch249list.asp. Information is also available about houses that are candidates for demolition, and how a determination is made that a house should be condemned (i.e. unsafe to live in).

Pending Criminal Charges and Penalties. Many residents often ask about court cases and conviction (penalty) information for criminal defendants. Some of this information is available on-line through Minnesota Trial Court Public Access. Go to

www.mncourts.gov/default.aspx?page=1927 (yes, this is a strange web address!), click on "**Minnesota Online District (Trial) Case Records**", and then follow directions (you will be allowed to search for cases by defendant).

Pedestrian Master Plan



On Thursday, September 18th, the City of Minneapolis will host an open house to gather public input on the Pedestrian Master Plan.

You can help the City by sharing your thoughts and ideas on walking in Minneapolis. Participants will be invited to discuss some of the major challenges the City faces in meeting pedestrian needs. Specific discussion topics include draft capital improvement priorities and best practices for designing and maintaining the pedestrian environment.

The meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Thursday September 18th, from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. The opening presentation will begin at 6 pm. Please arrive at any time and stay as long as you like. To learn more about Minneapolis' Pedestrian Master Plan, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian.

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association: Annual Meeting



All neighbors in Powderhorn Park are invited to the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association

(PPNA) annual meeting on Thursday, September 18th, from 6-8:30 pm at Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Avenue South. The evening will include a light dinner, entertainment and children's activities, and election of board members for 6 open seats. Please come and participate!

Republican National Convention

During the RNC and in the following days, I have received many calls and e-mails from residents regarding concerns about law enforcement responses. There have been many examples of flexibility and patience by law enforcement, and I am thankful for those responses under very challenging circumstances. Unfortunately, there have also been reports which appear to show questionable use of force on non-violent protestors.

On Labor Day, Councilmember Cam Gordon and I released a joint statement offering that actions which appear excessive "create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation for those who wish to exercise their first amendment rights." We urged a "focus on creating a secure atmosphere of nonviolence that [would] allow and encourage people to participate in political speech."

Currently, there are many requests from individuals and organizations – local and national – for public comment and an impartial investigation and evaluation of police tactics. As well, St Paul has recently announced a plan for independent review

of RNC actions and tactics. I wholeheartedly support such a review for Minneapolis and am working with my council colleagues and the Mayor on a proposal for follow up action. I believe that any review should include an evaluation of actions taken against journalists and photographers, medics, and people engaged in peaceful protest, as well as the law enforcement response to those who engaged in property damages or other acts of violence. I hope to have more updates for you in the days to come; please call the 8th Ward office at (612) 673-2208 with any questions you may have.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



Early Mornings with Elizabeth!, a monthly breakfast program at **Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Ave South**, takes place the **Fourth Friday of each month from 7:30 – 9:00 am**.

*Please note: there will be **No Meeting in September**.* The next **Early Mornings** program will be Friday, **October 24th** – **please save the date!**

Ward 8 Community Office Hours



Elizabeth holds community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00 am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 129. In Elizabeth's absence for maternity leave, 8th Ward Policy Aide Andrea Jenkins will attend community office hours and meet with constituents – please drop by or call our office for a time certain meeting. Also, you can always call the 8th Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208 or e-mail Andrea Jenkins with your questions at andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.