



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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Phillips reforests with 180 new boulevard trees

One of the largest neighborhood tree plantings is underway this spring in East Phillips, the result of cooperative efforts between the City and the Minneapolis Board of Parks and Recreation. A survey commissioned by Councilmember Gary Schiff in 2006 showed that the East Phillips neighborhood had been neglected by city tree planting efforts in the past. "Our policy stated that in order to get a boulevard tree, a property owner has to make a request. That doesn't work for neighborhoods that are mostly rental," says Schiff. "The survey showed 240 missing boulevard trees in just a 29 block area."



Park Board Commissioner Scott Vreeland used the survey results to create the focused effort. One hundred and eighty new trees will be planted by June. Fire Fighters will water the trees in July and August. In addition, block club leaders are being sought to help with watering during drought conditions.

"Boulevard trees are an important characteristic of Minneapolis neighborhoods," says Vreeland. "The urban forest provides habitat for migrating birds. The shade that trees provide reduces summertime cooling costs and provides a buffer from bitter winter winds. Trees beautify our neighborhood and can improve quality of life and property values."

May Breakfast with Gary: Justin Huenemann



On May 25th, Breakfast with Gary will feature Justin Huenemann, director of the new Native American Community Development Institute. The Twin Cities American Indian community is surrounded by poverty-based community infrastructure, primarily social service programs. While this work has been important to sustaining the American Indian community, it has not been successfully tied with other community and economic development strategies. In short, while more money has been spent in social services, socioeconomic growth for American Indians has remained unchanged.

Justin Huenemann will talk about NACDI and its desire to prepare to meet global, national and local trends, while remaining true to American Indian cultural identity and values.

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

Gun shot detection technology shows results

The first 100 days of Minneapolis' new gunfire detection system shows a reduction in

reports of shots fired and quicker response times to crime scenes. The system, dubbed "ShotSpotter" combines acoustic sensors linked to surveillance cameras that notify police within two seconds of the sound of a gun shot. Minneapolis has more than 5,000 reports of shots fired every year.

In the two square mile area in south Minneapolis where the technology has been placed, resident reports of shots fired has dropped 42 percent. The ShotSpotter system detected 66 incidents in the first 100 days, according to police.

Because the technology can differentiate between firecrackers, a car backfiring and a real gun shot, police save time by not responding to false reports, says Third Precinct Inspector Lucy Gerold. Police estimate nearly one out of four reports last year were sounds other than gunfire.

For more information on ShotSpotter, Bloomington Avenue Cameras and other Third Precinct Minneapolis Police Department initiatives, attend the Third Precinct Open House on Tuesday, May 15th. The open house runs from 11:00am to 2:00pm and will feature information displays on Minneapolis Police Department programs. Refreshments will be served.

Minneapolis increases renewable energy use

Minneapolis is increasing its use of renewable energy sources as part of its commitment to create an environmentally friendly city. Projects such as the Currie Maintenance Facility produced a total of 12,500 Kwh of energy, saving the city \$1,250 in electricity bills and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 21,400 pounds last year.

Last year, city purchase of renewable energy from Xcel Energy increased five percent. The city is aiming to increase renewable energy use to ten percent above state and federal mandates by 2015. This year Minneapolis has purchased 46 new E85 flex-fuel vehicles, raising the number of city vehicles that use ethanol to one out of ten.

Minneapolis has been ranked among the top cities in the nation in [The Earth Day Network's Urban Environment Report](#). Out of the 72 cities studied, Minneapolis ranked ninth overall and second among mid-sized cities for its environmental quality of life.

Sign up now for block club leader training

On Wednesday, May 23, join leaders throughout the Ninth Ward to develop skills for effectively working with your neighbors. The Ninth Ward office is sponsoring the summer block leaders training with crime prevention specialist Karen Notsch. The training will be held in the 3rd Precinct community room at 3000 Minnehaha Ave. Topics will include, how to organize a block or apartment club, services of the Minneapolis Police Department, responsibilities of a crime prevention block leader, how and when to use 911 and how to solve problems effectively. Call 612-673-2856 to RSVP for the training.



The Currie Maintenance Facility solar array is one of three owned by the City of Minneapolis.