



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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East Lake Library will open March 3

The East Lake Library expansion is nearing completion. "Library materials are being shelved, furniture has been delivered and the installation of local artist Janet Lofquist's stunning etched art glass that wraps around two sides of the East Lake building is complete," Teresa Jensen, library project manager said. Millwork, signage installation, and the granite sculpture *Zoomorphy* by Minneapolis artist Zoran Mojsilov will be installed in a few weeks. Sneak preview tours of the building are available through February.



Z. Mojsilov's *Zoomorphy* will accentuate East Lake Libraries' rain garden

Community members are invited to participate in planning the grand opening festivities and volunteering on opening day. The first planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the library. E-mail Pam Nelson or call (612) 630-6418 if you are interested in volunteering.

Free tax preparation help is available

Claim It is a community-driven effort to increase the number of people in the Twin Cities who file for the Earned Income Tax Credit in 2007. Many low-income families are unaware of this tax credit and millions of federal dollars go unclaimed each year. By claiming this tax credit, individuals may get up to \$1,600 through their tax returns.

Free tax-preparation help will be available at the Minneapolis Convention Center on January 27 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Additional neighborhood tax preparation sites open Thursday, February 1. For a list of free tax preparation sites [click here](#) or call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at (651) 297-3724. For more information on the *Claim It* Program, including services for non-English speaking taxpayers, call (612) 379-

4900.

Construction of the Midtown Bike Station starts February



The Midtown Bike Station will open this summer

Bicyclists can look forward to a new bike station in the Midtown Greenway this

summer. Freewheel Bike will operate the station across from the Midtown Exchange, with help from the City of Minneapolis, Ryan Companies and Allina Hospitals and Clinics. “The Midtown Bike Station will be a place to rent a bike, fix a flat and refill your water bottle,” Ninth Ward Council Member Gary Schiff said. Opening in June, it will also include storage lockers, showers and restrooms.

The City of Minneapolis contributed \$370,000 for the station construction, matched by a \$275,000 federal grant, and a \$100,000 contribution from Ryan Companies and Allina.

Empty grain elevators set for demolition

The Metropolitan Council has awarded a Livable Communities Grant for the redevelopment of the former Purina site on Hiawatha Avenue. The



Purina grain elevators may make way for new housing

\$900,000 grant was awarded to demolish the grain elevators

and pay for environmental clean up of the site. No date has been set for the start of demolition, but owners hope to begin before the end of the year.

The site has been planned for a mixed-use, transit-oriented development with housing, stores and structured parking. A final plan for the development has yet to be presented to the Minneapolis Planning Commission. The Longfellow Community Council has been in talks with Capital Growth Real Estate, owner of the site, regarding a community benefits agreement to help guide development. To learn more about the neighborhood review process call the Longfellow Community Council at (612) 722-4529.

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

On Monday, January 15, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will be hosting a series of events to honor Martin Luther King Jr. There will be craft making workshops for children and youth and games for adults and teenagers from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At Noon there will be performances of spoken word, African drummers and dancers followed by refreshments. From 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. there will be an inspirational performance by Felix Hampton Brown called "Reflections of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." and music by Paul Robeson. All events will take place at the Powderhorn Park Community Center located at 3400 15th Avenue South. This event is free and open to the public.

Reserve your seat for the 2007 Ninth Ward Awards

The fifth annual State of the Ward Address and Ninth Ward Awards is Friday, January 26. Reserve your seat now by calling the Ninth Ward office at (612) 673-2209 or email. Awards will be given for the Leader of the Year; Block Club of the Year; Neighborhood Project of the Year; and Youth Leader of the Year. Breakfast with Gary takes place 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the Café of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Avenue South. Breakfast costs \$7.

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