



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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New fees for parks approved



A new park dedication fee will help fund deferred capital improvements in neighborhood parks.

Real estate developers in Minneapolis will have to [dedicate land or pay a fee](#) for parks before receiving building permits, according to a new ordinance unanimously approved by the Minneapolis City Council this month. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board must now approve the ordinance before it goes into effect.

For housing developments, a fee of \$2,000 per unit will be imposed. The legislation includes an exemption for affordable housing. The ordinance is modeled on similar statues across the county and gives the Park Board new revenue to deal with rapidly decreasing state aide.

"Park dedication fees are essential to make sure our beautiful park system grows with the city, with green space for all neighborhoods," Council Member Gary Schiff said. All funds collected under the ordinance must be used solely for the acquisition, development or improvement of lands dedicated for public use as parks and trails. State law prohibits the funds from being used for operation and maintenance. To read the ordinance, [click here](#).

Corcoran crime summit April 21st

A crime prevention summit will be held Tuesday, April 21st to brainstorm crime prevention techniques in the Corcoran neighborhood. In contrast to sharply falling crime rates in surrounding neighborhoods, Corcoran experienced an increase in crime in 2008 due to burglaries and larcenies. Minneapolis Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch will be on hand with detailed information on crime trends in the neighborhood. "This meeting is a great opportunity for Corcoran residents to share ideas and talk about strategies to reduce crime," Council Member Gary Schiff said.



In 2008, the Corcoran neighborhood experienced an increase in crime due to burglaries and larcenies.

The summit is co-sponsored with the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization and will take place Tuesday, April 21st from 6:00 - 8p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Corcoran Park, 3334 20th Avenue South. For more information about the meeting, contact Karen Notsch at (612) 673-2856. Simultaneous translation in Spanish will be available at the meeting. Traducción simultánea en español estará disponible en la reunión.

Breakfast with Gary: Recidivism and re-entry



Within a year of their release, 45 percent of Minnesota inmates are returned to prison.

This month's Breakfast with Gary will take a look at recidivism rates and efforts to help offenders re-enter society after prison. A 2002 study showed that among nearly 275,000 prisoners released in 1994, 67 percent were arrested within three years, and 51 percent were back in prison.

For individuals who are incarcerated, research shows that mentoring can greatly reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend after prison release. [A successful local example](#) is the Minneapolis Police Department's

collaboration with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches through the [Community Justice Project](#). In this program, volunteers receive training and visit people for one year prior to their release and re-entry back into the community.

Panelists will include Hillary Freeman of the Community Justice Project, Haywood Kemp from Men of Rafiki program, and Mark Haase from the Council on Crime and Justice. Breakfast with Gary is a monthly meeting for 9th Ward constituents held from 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. \$5 buys breakfast.

Out for Life and fight AIDS on April 30th

Dine out on Thursday, April 30th and participating restaurants will contribute a portion of meal expenses to the Aliveness Project's work helping people living with HIV and AIDS in Minneapolis. Last year, more than 1,517 people with HIV benefited from the Aliveness Projects services, including meal programs, a food shelf and health care advocacy.



Almost 130 restaurants are participating in this year's Dining Out for Life on Thursday, April 30.

Last year's event rose over \$105,000.

Participating restaurants include [Colossal Café](#), [El Nuevo Rodeo](#), [Town Talk Diner](#), [Citizen Café](#), [The Craftsman](#), [Manny's Tortas](#), [Rail Station Bar & Grill](#), [Jakeeno's Pizza & Pasta](#), and [Midori's Floating World Café](#).

For a complete list of participating restaurants, [click here](#).

Plant a tree for \$25 this spring



Clockwise from top left: Korean mountain ash,
prairie fire crab, bur oak, accolade elm

The City of Minneapolis and [Tree Trust](#) are making a thousand trees available to Minneapolis residents to help repair some of the damage done by storms and Dutch elm disease. The cost of a tree is \$25. Planting a tree is the easiest way to improve the property value, reduce energy needs and improve our air and water quality. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are five varieties to choose from: Black Hills spruce, Korean mountain ash, prairiefire crab, accolade elm and bur oak. There are also 50 Mount Royal plum trees, which produce edible fruit great for jellies, jam, or eating right off the tree. Residents interested in a plum tree need to attend a June 20 workshop on fruit tree care. Trees may be [ordered online](#) or through an order form available at neighborhood associations and local libraries. For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at (651) 644-5800.

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