



City of Minneapolis

Ward 8 – Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

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March 2007

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

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

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 8 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Sabathani, 310 E. 38th Street

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

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, 7 pm
821 E 35th Street

Parkside West

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Midtown Safety Center, 2949 Chicago

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Task Force
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Calvary Church, 39th and Chicago

Potential Merger of Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Libraries

At the end of 2006, in response to its fiscal crisis, the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) took action by participating in two committees which were formed to review options to address serious long-term financial challenges. The two committees are the Library Advisory Committee and the Committee on the Future of Libraries in Hennepin County. While a wide range of options were considered, including raising property taxes and making the MPL a city department, both committees recommended that the Minneapolis Public Library system be merged with that of Hennepin County. You can review the reports of both committees and supporting documents at the Minneapolis Public Library website, www.mpls.lib.mn.us. Information is also available at www.friendsofmpl.org, the website of the Friends of the Minneapolis Libraries.

There are several actions pending before the Library Board of Trustees, the City Council, Hennepin County Board, and the legislature, to review proposed guiding principals for merging the two systems. Particular to the City, the Minneapolis City Council will vote on Friday, March 9th, on whether to endorse a plan for consolidation and seek approval by the Minnesota Legislature of enabling legislation. As an essential part of this action, the City Council will review a financing plan that will allow the Roosevelt, Webber-Camden, and Southeast Libraries, which were closed at the end of 2006, to reopen.

Should enabling legislation be approved, staff teams from the Minneapolis Library, City, and Hennepin County will work on the many implementation and consolidation details – these issues will require further review and approval every step of the way by the respective Library, City, and County boards. The effective date of merger would be on or before December 31, 2008. Please call or e-mail Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden with any questions you may have at (612) 673-2208 or Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Youth Artists – Please Apply Now!

COMPAS, www.compas.org, an organization that promotes community building through the arts, seeks applicants for ArtsWork, its summer youth artist program. ArtsWork seeks young artists to be part of an arts-based youth employment and training program. Youth will be mentored by professional artists and work 25 hours a week for 6-8 weeks, from June 18 to July 27, 2007. Contact Shelia Bland, ArtsWork Director, at (651) 292-3265 or sheilia@compas.org for more information. Applications may be downloaded directly from www.compas.org. Don't miss this opportunity -- Deadline for applications is Monday, March 12, 2007.

St Thomas Students Blog About South Minneapolis

Check this out -- Advanced Reporting students at the University of St. Thomas are reporting on Powderhorn and Phillips neighborhoods this spring. Professor Lynda McDonnell, a Kingfield neighborhood resident, leads the UST reporting project. This is the second year St Thomas students have focused on south Minneapolis neighborhoods with some very insightful reporting.

The first stories - including some great pieces about heating assistance, Mindekirchen Norwegian church and the Circle of Discipline boxing gym are now posted at <http://blog.stthomas.edu/newssouth/>, where you can also sign up for weekly alerts.

Sabathani Seeks Urban Gardeners

Sabathani Community Center is recruiting 10 – 15 neighbors (primarily who live in the Central and Bryant neighborhoods) who are interested in increasing their knowledge and skills in gardening. Sabathani's new Urban Gardener project is a partnership with the University Extension Service. It will offer an Urban Gardener Certificate for people who complete a seven session course taught by Master Gardeners and who are committed to recruit

their neighbors to start gardens of their own. Benefits include:

- A Gardening Kit!
- A Gardening Mentor!
- Meet Other Gardeners!
- Share and Learn How Other Cultures Garden!
- Stretch Your Food Dollar!
- Learn New Recipes for the Food YOU Grow!
- Learn Current Food Storage Techniques!
- Create Beauty and Green Space in Your Neighborhood!
- Help Make Your Neighborhood Safe!

Please contact Art at (612) 821-2313 or serotoffart@sabathani.org for more information. **Sign up soon – an organizational meeting will take place on March 21, 2007!**

Biking and Walking are Priorities in Minneapolis

The Minneapolis area has been chosen as one of only four communities nationwide to participate in the **Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program**, which was established in 2005. The federal program provides \$21.5 million to evaluate how investments in planning, infrastructure, and public education can increase rates of bicycling and walking, and reduce driving in a community. **Transit for Livable Communities** (TLC), a non-profit organization based in St. Paul, has been chosen to award the money locally

In February 2007, TLC issued a request for proposals for the first round of funding, up to \$7.3 million for planning and infrastructure projects. You can find more information about the RFP and the planning efforts of TLC at www.tlcmnnesota.org.

City of Minneapolis Pedestrian Plan and Bicycle Parking Program Approved

At its January 2007 meeting, the Transit for Livable Communities (TLC) Board conditionally approved funding for two initial projects: \$150,000 for a **pedestrian plan** for the City of Minneapolis and \$200,000 for **bicycle parking** in Minneapolis. Although the City has been a leader in bicycle planning, it does not have a pedestrian plan. A lack

of bicycle parking is widely recognized as a significant barrier to bicycling, so new bicycle racks will be placed throughout the City.

The City of Minneapolis is seeking input from bicyclists and pedestrians about these and other projects through an on-line survey. To take the survey and learn more about the City of Minneapolis bicycle and pedestrian programs, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/.

8th Ward Office Congratulates Community and Youth Leaders

In honor of the late Stephanie Ball-Bailey, a Central Neighborhood resident and strong advocate for the rights of young people, the 8th Ward Office has established the **Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leadership Award**.

The 2007 Youth Leadership Award Winners are **Prentice Thompson**, who currently attends Minneapolis Community Technical College and **Tyrone White**, a student at Roosevelt high school. Prentice and Tyrone are recognized for their leadership qualities, volunteer and community service efforts and **perfect attendance in the "Weekend Fall-in" program at Green Central Gym**. **Weekend Fall-in**, a program of the Minneapolis Park & Rec Board, is targeted to youth 15-18 years old to keep them off the streets by a combination of basketball and "real talk," allowing program participants mentorship time with park employees, police officers, and probation officers.

The 8th Ward Office also congratulates the recipients of our **Community Leader Awards**, presented in January 2007 at Early Mornings with Elizabeth, including:

- **Reverend Billy Russell, Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church:** Pastor Russell has committed himself to working on neighborhood issues and modeling a life of healthy choices and volunteerism.
- **Alice Anderson, Kirk's Mobil Station:** As the decades long owner of Kirk's Mobil at 46th Street and 4th Avenue, Alice has been a

volunteer and community advocate in Field-Regina-Northrop for many years.

- **Polly Kavanaugh, Bancroft Neighborhood Block Club Leader:** Polly, who lives near the corner of 38th and Chicago, was nominated by her neighbor in recognition of her day-to-day actions to connect her neighborhoods and improve her community.
- **The SPEAK Project:** In early spring of 2006 Central neighborhood artist Heather Doyle began work on a metal sculpture project that involved training and working with area young people. A host of volunteers worked with Heather to organize the project, involve young people, and provide financing. Four sculptures designed and created by neighborhood youth are now installed at 37th and Chicago next to the Bahai Center.

8th Ward Community Office Hours

Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, 9-11:00 am, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Room 129, or call to make a time certain appointment. And, you can always call the 8th Ward office with your questions at 612.673.2208.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth

Please join us for breakfast! **Early Mornings with Elizabeth** is a monthly meeting for 8th Ward Constituents hosted by Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, from 7:30 – 9:00 am the fourth Friday of each month at Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Avenue South. **Free coffee** courtesy of Turtle Bread!

Next Date: Friday, March 23, 2007

Questions? Call the 8th Ward office at (612) 673-2208.