5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWWOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

September 2008

5TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)
503 Irving Avenue North
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.374.4849

Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)
612.664.8195

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)
2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.886-3202

North Loop Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)
1313 Plymouth Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924

Old Highland Organization
www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization-
www.willard-homewood.org
info@willard-homewood.org

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5th Ward.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.*

300 Volunteers Needed for September 20th Northside Rehab Event

Rebuilding Together Twin Cities is partnering with the Northside Home Fund and community sponsors to revitalize ten homes in North Minneapolis.

The day will begin with a light continental breakfast at Farview Park, where volunteers will sign in and receive their Volunteer t-shirt to be worn that day. They will then depart for the work locations in North Minneapolis via bus, and will be returned to the park at the end of the day. Volunteers will also receive lunch. Rebuilding Together works to preserve affordable housing by bringing volunteers and communities together to rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners.

The goal of this partnership between the Northside Home Fund and Rebuilding Together Twin Cities is to make a sustainable impact in North Minneapolis. The mission of the NHF is to add value to existing neighborhood and institutional efforts to improve the quality of the housing stock in North Minneapolis.

Rebuilding Together Twin Cities and the Northside Home Fund are seeking volunteers who are professional, skilled, semi-skilled, or unskilled at home repair projects. Past projects have included everything from plumbing repair and window replacement to simple tasks like painting or yard cleanup. Volunteer individually or as a group. Individuals will be teamed with other volunteers. Project date is Sept. 20, 2008.

To express your interest in volunteering, please call 651-776-4273 or register at http://www.rebuildingtogether-twincities.org/

Call 311 Minneapolis

Sign-Up to Receive Minneapolis Utility Bills by E-mail

Utility customers in Minneapolis can now sign up to receive their utility bills electronically. Starting in October, the City of Minneapolis will send an e-mail instead of a paper bill to customers who opt in to the service.

If you are a Minneapolis utility bill customer, you can sign up; just pick one of these options:

- Visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/utility-billing, or

Fill out the form on the back of your next billing stub and mail it in with your payment.

If you have questions:

- Call 311,
- Call Utility Billing at (612) 673-1114, or

E-mail ub.finance@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Once it's set up, you will no longer receive a bill in the mail. Instead, you will get an e-mail each month with instructions on how to view and pay your bill online.

The City also continues to encourage utility customers to pay their utility bills electronically. Electronic payment has been available to Minneapolis utility customers for more than ten years. Currently 16 percent of utility customers pay electronically. For more information or to sign up, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/utility-billing.

Turn Off the Engine While Waiting at School

The first day of school is fast approaching. If you drive your child to and from school, now is the time to get in the habit of shutting off your engine while you wait.

Children are especially vulnerable to vehicle air pollution because their lungs are still developing, and they inhale more pounds of pollution per pound of body weight than adults do. They are more severely affected by chemicals in the exhaust, which are linked to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung diseases and asthma.

Along with the health problems, vehicle exhaust is also the major source of human-caused greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming.

Cutting down on vehicle idling is as easy as turning the key. It will save you money on wasted fuel, it is better for the environment and your child's health, and it's the law. Minneapolis recently passed an ordinance that limits idling to three minutes, except when in traffic.

Help make Minneapolis a more Walkable City

You can help the City improve walking in Minneapolis by attending an open house to hear more about the City's Pedestrian Master Plan, and to share 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 and best practices for improving walking in Minneapolis.

Pedestrian Master Plan public meeting

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Presentation at 6 p.m.
Minneapolis Central Library
300 Nicollet Mall

Discussion topics include draft capital improvement priorities and best practices for designing and maintaining the pedestrian environment.

The City Council directed the preparation of a citywide Pedestrian Master Plan, which will be completed by the end of 2008. The plan will include recommendations on policies, projects and procedures related to pedestrian facilities and programs. To learn more about Minneapolis' Pedestrian Master Plan, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian.

The meeting site is wheelchair accessible. If you need other disability related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, or materials in an alternative format, please contact Anna Flintoft at (612) 673-3885 or anna.flintoft@ci.minneapolis.mn.us before Sept. 11

THE COMMUNITY ROOM

Get Out The Vote!!!

Register Your Voice and register to vote on Saturday September 6, 2008 at the Cub Foods Parking Lot at 701 West Broadway Ave N. 12:00pm-3:00pm

This event will be hosted by Cub Foods & sponsored by the Independent Productivity Self Determination Integrated Inclusion (IIPSDII) Inc., Mad Dads, the Peace Foundation, Project Legos, the League of Woman Voters, Jordan New Life Community Church One Stop Family Support Center, and Northway Community Trust Neighborhood Leadership Graduates.

The family friendly event is a NON-PARTISAN event for voter registration information ONLY.

If your organization would like to participate or for more information call Cynthia at 612-522-0942.

NRRC and JACC to Hold Board Elections

The Northside Resident Redevelopment Council (NRRC)) and the Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) will be having elections for the board this fall.

NRRC Board election will be held Tuesday October 14 with a nominating deadline of October 1.

Membership application packets are available by contacting Sherrie Pugh at 612.335.5924.

JACC will hold their board elections on Thursday, October 23. For more information call Jerry Moore at 612.886.3202.

October is Criminal Justice Month

Minneapolis City of Lakes

greater minneapolis council of churches

UNITING PEOPLE OF FAITH—SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

In October the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) will join a variety of denominational leaders, police chiefs, judges, and others to celebrate the third annual Criminal Justice Month.

The month will promote greater public awareness of criminal justice issues and support for programs that address them. Criminal Justice Month is designed to help reduce the alarming rate of repeat offenders — making the community a safer place to live and work, and helping those re-entering society after incarceration to live full, productive lives.

Specifically, GMCC would like to invite congregations and individuals to a **Call to Action** on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave. in Minneapolis.

This free event — also sponsored by Prison Fellowship — will feature former Minnesota Gov. Al Quie as guest speaker, stories of ex-offenders and mentors, and detail the role volunteers can play.

The event will offer an understanding of GMCC's Community Justice Project mentorship program and answer questions about training and time commitment.

The Community Justice Project is a collaboration between GMCC and the Minneapolis Police Department and trains volunteer mentors to help newly released Hennepin County inmates — ages 18 and older — reconnect to the community in healthy ways. Volunteers are recruited from area congregations to help ex-offenders navigate through social service and government channels. Mentors offer practical advice on job hunting, budgeting, and housing issues. To date, more than 270 mentors have been trained.

For more information, contact Community Justice Project Co-director Hillary Freeman (612-673-2892 or hillary.freeman@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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Restore Your Voice!

In Minnesota, you cannot vote while serving a sentence as a result of a felony conviction. However, once the full sentence is completed — including parole and probation — commonly called being "off paper," the **right to vote is automatically restored**.

Minneapolis' elected officials recently approved a resolution to increase City efforts to inform ex-felons that their voting rights are restored. The goal is to ensure that people are aware of their rights, and their opportunity to cast their ballots in elections in Minnesota.

If you reside in Minnesota and are "off paper," you can vote even if your felony conviction was in another state. Remember:

- Do not register to vote before you have completed your sentence. It is a felony to register if your rights have not been restored. (You may register and vote on Election Day if you are off paper.)
- In Minnesota you can register to vote on Election Day if you have not pre-registered.
- Even if you are "off paper," the county elections office may not have been notified that your civil rights have been restored. In this case, there may be a note on the list of voters at the polling place directing the election judge to challenge your eligibility to vote. If so, explain that you have completed your sentence and your civil rights have been restored. The election judge may require you to swear an oath that your rights have been restored, but then should allow you to vote.
- If eligible, pre-register to vote. The deadline for pre-registration is Tuesday, Oct. 14.
- Register on Election Day. You will need to provide one of the following for proof of residence: Valid Minnesota driver's license, a learner's permit, a Minnesota ID card, or a receipt for any of these containing a valid address in the precinct
- Student ID card including your photo.
- Tribal ID card including your name, photo, signature and address in the precinct
- Valid registration in the same precinct under a different name or address
- Notice of Late Registration sent to you by your county auditor or city clerk
- A voter registered in the same precinct as you who can confirm your address with a signed oath
- Authorized employee of a residential facility where you reside who can confirm your address with a signed oath (the residential facility must provide a list of employees to election officials)

Or, if your address is different than your ID, you must provide a photo ID and a bill:

For more information please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections or call 311.