



April 2009

# *Eighth Ward News*

*"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"*

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8<sup>th</sup> Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

[elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## Neighborhood Meetings

### Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council  
[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm  
4120 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

### Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7 pm  
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

### Central

CANDO  
[www.CANDOmpls.org](http://www.CANDOmpls.org)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:15 pm  
Sabathani Community Center  
310 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 304

Central Weed & Seed  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 5:30 pm  
Green Central School

### Field-Regina-Northrop

[www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
1620 E 46<sup>th</sup> Street

### Kingfield

[www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm  
ML King Park, 40<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet

### Powderhorn

[www.ppna.org](http://www.ppna.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 pm  
821 E 35<sup>th</sup> Street

### 38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago

38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago Implementation  
Committee  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm  
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

## Funding for Vacant and Foreclosed Home Rehabilitation Approved

The City Council has approved an award of \$6.5 million in federal National Stabilization Program funds to developers who will rehab homes in neighborhoods hit hard by foreclosure, including the Ward 8 neighborhoods of Central, Powderhorn Park, and Bryant. This is part of the \$14 million in funding that the City has received from HUD and the State of Minnesota to support the City's reinvestment strategy. These funds have strict spending guidelines – for instance, the City must use separate funding to support its foreclosure prevention programs.

The NSP funds will assist local, non-profit developers with construction gap financing to cover the difference between the development cost (purchase price and the cost of rehab) and the sale price of a property. The properties will then be sold or rented, bringing people back on the blocks in communities hardest hit by foreclosure.

The developers awarded funding include Habitat for Humanity, Project for Pride in Living (PPL), City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT), Neighborhood Housing Services of Minneapolis (NHS), Urban Homeworks, Alliance Housing, Powderhorn Residents Group (PRG), Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC), and the Minneapolis Urban League.

Remaining NSP funds will be spent on land banking, demolition of properties on the City's boarded and vacant list, financing, with \$500,000 used to develop a down payment and closing cost assistance program based on the highly successful Minneapolis Advantage Program.

## Volunteers Needed! Prevent Foreclosures in Central Neighborhood



The 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office is partnering with Jewish Community Action (JCA), Sabathani Community Center, CANDO (Central neighborhood), and Park

Avenue Foundation on a project to **prevent foreclosures** in the Central neighborhood. Central has the highest rate of foreclosures of any Ward 8 neighborhood.

This project includes four primary phases – each of which needs volunteers. First, volunteers are needed to review records at Hennepin County to identify properties with ARMS (adjustable rate mortgages) and “delinquent” mortgages. Next, special targeted efforts are made – including door knocking – to connect those homeowners to foreclosure counselors. Third, follow up is done with homeowners, foreclosure counselors, and lenders to make sure that homeowners have been connected to resources. Finally, ongoing discussions will occur with lenders to strongly encourage loan modifications allowing homeowners to stay in their homes.

This is an urgent project, as people continue to lose their homes. Preventing foreclosures promote family and neighborhood stability – something all of us care deeply about. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office at (612) 673-2208 or [Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## Share Your Feedback on Police Officers and the Work They Do



The Minneapolis Police Department has created a new online form that makes it easy for the public to share their feedback --- positive or negative ---on police officers and the work

they do. For more information on submitting a compliment or a complaint, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/mpd-citizen-report/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/mpd-citizen-report/).

## Southern Bike Route Funded



Over the past two years, Transit for Livable Communities has funded many bike and pedestrian improvements, including the River Lake Greenway along

40<sup>th</sup> Street through Bryant and Bancroft neighborhoods. Most recently, Minneapolis received a \$400,000 “Southern Connection” grant which will be used for bike lanes to connect neighborhoods from 24th Street to the city limits near Lake Nokomis. Hennepin County is seeking additional grant funds to extend the route through Richfield and Bloomington to the old Cedar Avenue Bridge over the Minnesota River.

A possible route through Minneapolis is the Bloomington Avenue corridor, although a preferred route has yet to be determined. Residents will be invited to informational meetings to weigh in on the proposed route.

This grant was made available through the Bike Walk Twin Cities Initiative. Managed by Transit for Livable Communities, Bike Walk Twin Cities is a federally-funded initiative to increase bicycling and walking and reduce driving in Minneapolis and neighboring communities.

The “Southern Connection” bike route will fill a hole in Minneapolis’ system of bike paths – and be a wonderful addition to our neighborhood bicycling infrastructure!

## Minnesota Cold Weather Rule Ends April 15, 2009



On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Minnesota Cold Weather Rule will come to end, thereby removing utility disconnection

protections offered to income eligible residents over the winter.

**There are still Low Income Heating Assistance dollars available** – if you are having difficulty paying your gas bill, contact CenterPoint Energy at (612) 372-4680 as quickly as possible to learn about payment options and energy assistance.

## Support Sabathani's Food Shelf



Sabathani needs your help to support its food shelf, Mrs. Walker's Market. For donations provided by **Friday, April 30**, Sabathani will receive a matching contribution from Minnesota Food Share. Non-perishable goods of all kinds are needed. Financial donations are tax deductible. Questions? [www.sabathani.org](http://www.sabathani.org), **Kevin Sanders at 612-821-2302**, [tfuller@sabathani.org](mailto:tfuller@sabathani.org).

## Improved Domestic Violence Investigations Increase Convictions



The Police Department and City Attorney's Office are launching a citywide program designed to reduce domestic violence. Based on work from a pilot in the Fifth Precinct, officers who arrive at a misdemeanor domestic violence call will do more investigative work at the scene, such as getting witness statements.

The Fifth Precinct pilot program successfully increased the prosecution rate of misdemeanor domestic violence-related cases by nearly 23 percent in the Fifth Precinct. Prosecutors are praising the additional evidence obtained by patrol officers, calling it critical to obtaining convictions especially when victims recant or cannot be located.

For more information on what you can do to help prevent domestic violence or to help victims of domestic violence contact the Minnesota 24-Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line: 1-866-233-1111 or

visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-reporting/domesticabuse.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-reporting/domesticabuse.asp).

## Micro Grants Offered for Programs That Fight Global Warming



Does your organization have a creative idea to help fight global warming? Do you need funding to jump-start your project? Minneapolis is taking applications for grants to help reduce global warming. Neighborhood, business and faith-based associations are eligible to apply, along with other nonprofits, libraries, park and recreational centers, and other public organizations that serve Minneapolis.

In 2008, the City awarded 25 similar grants that leveraged thousands of dollars in volunteer time resulting in 1,954 new participants in the Minnesota Energy Challenge. This amounted to saving about 2.7 million pounds of carbon dioxide and \$647,220 annually on energy use.

- **Grassroots Climate Change Micro Grants.** Grant amount: up to \$1,500. Deadline: 4 pm, April 16.
- **Climate Change Innovations Grants.** Grant amount: Up to \$10,000. Deadline: 4 p.m. April 20.

To learn more about the grants, to get an application, and to see project ideas, visit the City's sustainability Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability).

## Get Answers to Your Property Tax Questions at Neighborhood Meetings



Throughout March and April, Minneapolis property owners are receiving their Notices of Valuation and Classification from the City Assessor's office. These valuations are used to calculate the property taxes property owners will pay next year. **Your Notice of**

**Valuation also includes important information on how to appeal the value or classification of your property.**

The City Assessor's office is hosting two open houses to give property owners an opportunity to learn more about their property taxes, as well as programs that may provide some property tax relief. Folks can get information on subjects ranging from homestead credit and market value to lead abatement rebates, senior citizens deferrals and disabled veteran programs.

- **Wednesday, April 8**, 4:30–7 pm, Webber Park, 4400 Dupont Ave N
- **Thursday, April 9**, 4:30–7 pm, Pearl Park, 414 Diamond Lake Road E

## Help Grow Minneapolis' Urban Forest: Buy a Tree for \$25



A thousand trees are being made available to city residents for planting this spring. Since 2006, the City Trees program, which is funded by the City of Minneapolis, has provided a low-cost way for folks to help build the city's urban tree forest.

The trees cost \$25 each, and are approximately six feet tall with a one-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and all trees will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Orders for trees can be done online starting on April 3 by visiting Tree Trust at [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org).** In past years, the trees available through this popular program have gone fast! Varieties include Black Hills spruce, Korean mountain ash, prairifire crab; accolade elm, bur oak, and Mount Royal plum trees.

Trees can increase property values, help improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon dioxide, save energy, keep the city cooler, provide homes for wildlife and help manage storm water.

For more information on how to order a tree, contact Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.

## Ward 8 First Annual All Neighborhoods Meeting: Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>



Please join us on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> for our first Ward 8 All Neighborhoods Meeting!

**Neighborhoods United to Build a Strong Community:  
Celebrating Connections on Chicago Avenue and 38<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17<sup>th</sup> Ave South  
Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Featuring:

- Vocal selections by Rev Billy Russell and the Greater Friendship Choir
- Your neighbors!
- Council Member Elizabeth Glidden
- Mayor RT Rybak
- Refreshments from local vendors

## Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



(located at 48<sup>th</sup> and Chicago).

Mark your calendars, the next Early Mornings with Elizabeth! meeting will be held on **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 9:00am** at Turtle Bread

## Ward 8 Community Office Hours



Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 129. You can always call the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208.