



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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Study begins examining children's arsenic levels



100 children will participate in a study measuring exposure to arsenic in south Minneapolis.

Children are being recruited for a study to determine their levels of arsenic as a result of potential exposure to the [CMC Heartland Lite Yard Site](#), where arsenic-containing pesticides were manufactured and stored between 1938 and 1963. In May, Minnesota Department of Health officials will begin recruiting 100 youth between the ages of 3 and 10 who live in the south Minneapolis neighborhoods near the area of contamination including parts of Corcoran, Longfellow, Midtown Phillips, Powderhorn, Seward, Ventura Village, and all of East Phillips.

"We've tested the soil, and now it's time to test our youth," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "This study will allow us to answer many questions about potential health effects from arsenic

exposure."

The pilot project, a result of legislation passed by [State Rep. Karen Clark \(61a\)](#), focuses on children because they have the greatest chance of being exposed to arsenic in soil from playing outside and putting dirt in their mouths. Children eligible for the study are those who live in homes where soil testing showed an arsenic level of over 20 parts per million. All eligible households will receive a letter in the mail from the MDH describing the project and asking them to fill out a form about the children living in the home.

This year 34 more residential properties with high contamination levels will be cleaned and an additional 130 properties will be tested. For more information on EPA's cleanup standard and cleanup process, or to find out how to obtain the soil sample results from your yard, [email Tim Prendiville](#) or call 800-621-8431 ext. 65122.

Graffiti prevention grants awarded

Seventeen neighborhood groups, including eight in the Ninth Ward, have been awarded micro grants by the City of Minneapolis for graffiti prevention. The grants in the Ninth Ward totaled over \$72,000 for projects that incorporate landscaping, murals and other preventative approaches.

"Neighborhoods have consistently come up with innovative approaches to fight graffiti," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "Whether it involves working with youth or landscaping, the best solutions can often be found at the grassroots level."



[Corcoran Neighborhood's](#) mural project in 2007 helped inspire the City of Minneapolis graffiti prevention micro grant program.

In Corcoran, a plan to reduce graffiti with residents and business owners will identify solutions for the neighborhood's most victimized graffiti "hot spots" including lighting, landscaping, graffiti-proof fences and murals. Community members are invited to a series of meetings to identify hot spots and share prevention ideas. A final plan will be reviewed on Monday, May 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the Corcoran Neighborhood office, 3451 Cedar Ave. For more information [click here](#).

Homes needed for booming cat population



[Underdog Rescue](#) is looking for foster homes for dogs and cats awaiting adoption. Every spring brings dozens of unwanted kittens because of the tendency for cats to breed when the weather gets warmer.

April showers brings more than May flowers, as the unwanted cat population increases with monthly temperatures. To reduce the number of pets euthanized at the [Minneapolis Animal Shelter](#), [Underdog Rescue](#) is looking for foster homes for dogs and cats.

Underdog Rescue and Placement is a small nonprofit dedicated to [adoption](#) of homeless companion animals. "We are a foster-based rescue group that works to rehabilitate dogs and cats of all ages and breeds," Executive Director Shannon McKenzie said. "We believe that all animals deserve caring, responsible

homes and work to place pets with responsible individuals or families."

Minneapolis Animal Shelter took in approximately 1,400 cats in 2007. "Through partnerships with local rescue groups nearly 450 cats were returned home or found a new home. Unfortunately, more than 900 were euthanized," Dan Niziolek, director of Animal Care and Control said. "By ensuring cats are spayed or neutered, local rescue groups are supported, and all cats are licensed, Minneapolis residents can help reduce the number of cats without a home in the City of Minneapolis."

Underdog Rescue will provide food and crates to foster homes for the animal to use during their stay. On average, sponsored pets remain in care for two to four weeks until adoption. For more information or for an application, [click here](#).

New businesses come to 38th and Hiawatha

Four years after a light rail station opened and street reconstruction completed, a number of small business are coming to the 38th Street light rail station area, attracted by affordable rents and stable housing.

Michael and Seae Mackay will be opening the *Citizen Cafe* this Spring in the former *Sweet Lorraine's* on 24th Ave S. "We saw an opportunity with Sweet Lorraine's and felt that the neighborhood was a good fit for us," Michael Mackay said. "We live in northeast Minneapolis and are very active in the Sheridan neighborhood. We hope to continue that tradition in our new second home." Michael is the former chef from the *Sample Room* and reports that *Citizen Café* will be serving a menu of American cuisine prepared fresh daily that will include breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Performance by the Salsa Sirens at the April grand opening event of Social Dance Studio.

On the corner of 23rd Ave South, Joy Davina and Todd Paulus opened [Social Dance Studio](#), this month, offering private and group dance classes. Some of the classes offered are salsa, swing, hip hop and tango and social dancing. New classes starting this week can be found [here](#). "The space is gorgeous", Todd Paulus said. "Everyone who visits us loves it and talks about the energy of the space." Just around the corner, negotiations are continuing for new retail including a possible bookstore to move in to the building that used to be home to J&B Movie Rental.

Also on 38th Street, two new housing developments with commercial space will break

ground this year. [Shelter Corp](#) will be breaking ground this summer on a new senior assisted-living facility on the corner of 23rd Ave S. The project, which will complement the adjacent 225 bed [Providence Place](#) skilled nursing facility, features 63 assisted living units, seven memory support units and seven care suites for seniors. At least 25 units will be held for seniors with incomes below 50% of the metro area's median income. "This housing will bring an affordable option for seniors who want to stay in south Minneapolis without owning a home," Council Member Schiff said. "Assisted living communities let seniors live independently, yet receive needed services." The project will create 40 new full time jobs and include a beauty salon open to the public.

[Capital Growth Real Estate, LLC](#) is finishing plans on redevelopment of the old Purina site, on the corner of 38th Street E. and Hiawatha Avenue across from the LRT station. *Longfellow Station* will be a mixed-use development with 198 apartments and 40,000 square feet of retail which is expected to open in the fall of 2009. "We're hoping for a mix of businesses including a restaurant, coffee shop, grocery store and other neighborhood service retail," Dale Joel, a partner in Capital Growth said. Joel says the project features an emphasis on green design.

Win a home energy makeover



The Center for Energy and Environment will be giving energy-efficient improvements to thirty-five homeowners, including one lucky winner who will win a home energy makeover valued at \$15,000. The project will demonstrate how making energy improvements can save money and help the environment.

Following the May 15, 2008 application deadline ten finalists will be selected through an application screening process aimed at identifying those homes that use the most energy and that can benefit the most from the installation of energy efficiency measures. Each of the ten finalists will receive a complete energy analysis from the Center for Energy and Environment, an estimated \$600 value. Based on the results of the energy analyses of the finalists, one grand prize winner will be selected to receive up to \$15,000 worth of energy efficiency measures.

In addition, a random drawing will be held to select 25 winners who will receive a variety of prizes, including certificates toward energy star appliances, programmable thermostats, compact fluorescent light bulbs, appliance energy meters and more. To apply, go to www.mnenergychallenge.org. For more information or to request a paper application, contact the Center for Energy and Environment at (612) 335-5852

