



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

September 1, 2006

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## Minneapolis is one step closer to Wi-Fi

A contract negotiations team made up of city staff, elected officials, and community and tech experts has recommended that the City of Minneapolis select US Internet as the vendor to build and manage a broadband wireless network that covers the entire city. The Minneapolis City Council approved the selection today and the City will now enter into final negotiations with the firm.

“As the original sponsor of the Wi-Fi plan, I take great pride in this selection,” Council Member Gary Schiff said. “Affordable high-speed internet access is a utility that brings the City of Minneapolis fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” When completed, the wireless network will help the City provide core services more effectively and efficiently, and will expand programs like the Minneapolis Safe City Initiative, using wireless video cameras to provide real-time visual information to police in squad cars and at police precincts. In addition, high-speed broadband access will be available to residents for approximately \$20 per month, a fraction of the cost of an outside vendor.

The proposed contract with U.S. Internet includes a comprehensive set of community benefits to help bridge the digital divide. The wireless network will also make Minneapolis a competitive location for businesses, a world-class center for education, and an attraction for visitors.

## Community needed to solve hate crime



Police are asking for help in identifying two men who broke into the Abubakar Assadique Islamic Center in the Midtown Phillips neighborhood on the morning of Thursday, August 24th, setting fire to prayer books.

Security camera footage from Abubakar Assadique Islamic Center shows two men breaking into the mosque, one at 2:54 a.m. and another at 5:18 a.m. The second man is believed to have started the fire as he exited the building. "There can be no mistake, the deliberate burning of prayer books is a hate crime, offensive to people of all faiths." Council Member Gary Schiff said. "We need the community to help us identify these two men and to stand up against this vile act."

Based on security camera images, Police are describing the first man as black, between 20 and 30 years old, between 5 feet 9 inches and 6 feet tall, and with a muscular build and a neatly trimmed beard along the edge of his jaw line. He could be seen on the video wearing a light-gray sweatshirt, light-colored pants and athletic shoes with a reflective emblem on the heel. The second man is white, 20 to 30 years old, between 5 feet 9 and 6 feet tall, with a slender build and sporting a full beard. He was seen wearing an oversized T-shirt with a large logo in the front and short pants. The man also had a tattoo on his right shoulder and dark-colored tennis shoes with vertical stripes on the side.

If you have information on the crime, please contact the Minneapolis police arson squad at 612-673-3070.

***New Ninth Ward Landmark!***

**New and improved Hi-Lake Shopping Center coming soon**

use development on the Lake Street side of the shopping center's parking lot. [Corridor Flats](#) will include 36 new homes priced from \$140,000 to \$225,000. Units range from 750 square feet up to 1200 square feet and are within one block of the Lake Street station for the Hiawatha Light Rail line, the Midtown YWCA and the Midtown Greenway.

In addition to the Hi-Lake Shopping Center's current tenants, an Aldi grocery store will anchor the first floor of the building while a Starbucks coffee shop and a relocated liquor store will be next door in a second building. "Corridor Flats is yet another sign of the continued resurgence of Lake Street," Council Member Gary Schiff said. Construction on Corridor Flats is scheduled to finish in May 2007.

## **Longfellow and Seward partner in restorative justice program**

The [Longfellow Community Council \(LCC\)](#) and the [Seward Neighborhood Group \(SNG\)](#) have partnered to bring restorative justice to Longfellow, Seward, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha residents. Restorative justice is a crime prevention strategy used as an alternative form of discipline, diversion from court or support for a youth returning from the corrections system. Offenders are held accountable and given the opportunity to make amends. "When we work with youth we can make a big difference in their lives" says Joan Vanhala of the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership. "Through our process youth have the opportunity to make amends to our community and participate in our community with healthy relationships.

Structured face-to-face meetings between youth offenders, victims, their support people, and community members offer the community a better way to address crime and disciplinary problems. Anyone in the community is welcome to participate by making use of our process through referrals, joining the coordinating committee, or participating in a restorative justice process. If you are interested in having a restorative justice process available, volunteering, or have any questions please contact [Joan Vanhala](#) at 612-338-6205 x108.

## **Minneapolis celebrates Mexican Independence Day**

Mexican immigrants will celebrate Mexican Independence Day on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 -11:30 p.m. in front of the

[Mercado Central](#) on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave South and East Lake Street. Mexican Independence Day, September 16, is one of the most important holidays in the Mexican immigrant community. On September 15, the Mexican “Grito de Independencia” or “Shout for Independence” is celebrated. The first call for independence was issued by Curate Miguel Hidalgo on the evening of September 15, 1810. Every year, the President of Mexico comes out of the government palace in Mexico City to lead the “Grito”. The Consular General of Mexico for Minnesota will lead the “Grito” a few minutes prior to the “Grito” from President Fox in Mexico City, which will be played live on large screens at the main stage.



A continuation of the celebration will be held on Sunday, September 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fourth Avenue South and East Lake Street. The celebration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a parade that travels down East Lake Street from Bloomington Avenue to Third Avenue South. After the parade, event-goers can visit the many booths featuring sponsoring organizations, local Latino businesses, food vendors, schools, churches and nonprofit organizations serving the Latino community. For more information email [GoLatino!](#) or call 612-455-4620.

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