



## 8th Ward News

Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us (612) 673-2208

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### Minneapolis Will Provide Citywide Wi-Fi

On February 24, 2006, the Minneapolis City Council voted to pursue a public-private partnership plan for providing wireless service to our city. Minneapolis will be turned into a wireless “hot spot”, allowing city employees to access broadband service anywhere within the city limits and residents and businesses will be able to purchase wireless service at reasonable rates. The two RFP finalists for providing citywide wireless are now implementing two pilot projects – one in Cedar-Riverside and the other in Near North – to test their ability to provide wireless services.

**Community Benefits Agreement.** Councilmember Glidden made a motion, which passed unanimously, to require a community benefits agreement as part of any RFP and directed staff to develop a community

engagement plan for community input into that agreement. Crafting a strong community benefits agreement with community member input, and providing ongoing funding to increase access to computers and the internet for all members of our city, is essential to the purpose of Minneapolis Wi-Fi.

**Ownership and options for the future.** The city will own all fiber optic backbone needed to operate wireless broadband in the city. We will thus have the tools to turn to a public ownership model in the future, if the city so desires.

**Local Control.** The city’s agreement with any vendor is not be a franchise or a monopoly. In fact, the selected vendor will be required to sell wholesale space on the network to competitors, which can sell competing wireless services to residents and businesses.

formation.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Office will sponsor a community meeting on Wi-Fi in the weeks to come, so look out for meeting notices! **Please contact the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward office, at 612.673.2208, for more in-**



#### Inside this issue:

Minneapolis Will Provide City Wi-Fi	<b>1</b>
Calling All Artists	<b>2</b>
Upcoming Meetings	<b>2</b>
Transit on I-35W (BRT) Community Meeting	<b>2</b>
Meet the 8th Ward Team	<b>2</b>
8th Ward priority issues	<b>1</b>
Neighborhood Association Meetings	<b>2</b>

To contact the 8TH WARD Office call  
**(612) 673-2208**  
**(612) 673-3940 Fax**  
 or visit our homepage at :  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward8/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward8/)  
**Sign up for our e-newsletter**  
 We look forward to hearing from you.

On Monday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 several residents from 8<sup>th</sup> Ward neighborhoods and throughout the city gathered with Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden and other elected officials, to discuss Transit and BRT on I-35W. BRT stands for Bus Rapid Transit, and simply means that there would be dedicated bus lanes along the I-35W corridor. Staff persons from MN DOT, the Met Council, and the City of Minneapolis were on hand and provided the group with computer-generated graphics of the new lanes and the proposed transit station to be constructed

on the 46<sup>th</sup> street Bridge. The majority of the meeting was devoted to questions. The next community meeting on BRT will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> at King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. South at 7:00

**Neighborhood Association Meetings:**

- Bancroft**—meets the 2nd Thursday of each month contact Donna Sanders (612) 724-5424
- Bryant**—meets the fourth Thursday of each month- contact Dennis Tiffit (612) 3453
- Central Weed and Seed**— meets the 2nd Wednesday of month- contact Sheryl Kabat (612) 824-0708
- CANDO**— meets the 3rd Thursday of each—contact Patti Cramer (612) 824-0708
- FRRNG**— meets 3rd Wednesday contact Kate Ellis (612) 721-5424
- Kingfield Neighborhood Association**— meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month contact Sarah Linnes-Robinson (612) 823-5980
- Parkside West**— meets the 2nd Tuesday -contact Jeff Smollar- (612) 342-3775
- PPNA**— meets the 4th Tuesday of each month—contact Elena Gaarder—(612) 722-4817

**Upcoming neighborhood meetings:**

**Transit on I-35W**

Discuss bus rapid transit and how it can serve our neighborhoods.

April 24, 2006, 7 pm, MLK Park.

**Art is the Key: Art Show and Silent Auction**

March 25, 2006, 7-10 pm

Anodyne/Leonardo's Basement (entrance off 43<sup>rd</sup> Street)

**Minneapolis Property Taxes**

City Assessor's Annual Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 4 to 6:30 pm

Pearl Park, 414 East Diamond Lake Road

## Meet your 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Team

Andrea Jenkins—Council Policy Aide

Jennifer White— Council Associate



Andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us



Jennifer.white@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

## 311 UPDATE

### “311” Now Two Months Old

One of the most useful things about the new 311 system for the City is that now we have a reliable, consistent way to track our performance, which was difficult to do before. And it gives us a ruler that we can

use to gauge whether we're improving in certain areas. 311 is available Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is able to handle a wide range of non-emergency calls whether it to report a stray dog in your neighborhood or to request that a pothole get fixed on street.

### Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Artists!

The 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office wants to support and promote artists in our neighborhoods. To spotlight 8<sup>th</sup> Ward artists, Councilmember Glidden will host a rotating art exhibit in her office. Please contact the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward