



May 2009

Eighth Ward News

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

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
www.CANDOmpls.org
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm
Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, Room 304

Central Weed & Seed
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kingfield.org
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

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

Thanks for a Great 8th Ward All Neighborhoods Meeting April 25, 2009

We want to thank the many neighbors and volunteers who helped to make our first 8th Ward All Neighborhoods Meeting a success. From an incredible opening performance by the Greater Friendship choir, to presentations on Homegrown Minneapolis and the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, to good food and discussion, this was a great first event promoting community amongst our neighborhoods.

Discussion focused on arts, local businesses, Homegrown Minneapolis (food, gardens, greening), and youth development. Thank you to neighbors BethMarie Ward and Julie Ristau for helping to organize and facilitate our discussion. Common feedback from meeting participants included:

- Communication is a key force in bringing collective information to all 8th Ward residents & Neighborhood Associations
- Neighborhood Associations need to share their assets, successes & challenges with each other better to gain information for improvements
- The 48th and Chicago business association can provide modeling to other business corridors in the ward
- Think of the Ward as a whole, rather than fragmented neighborhood silos
- Youth Farm Market is a great, holistic model for local businesses, arts, and local food projection.

Thank you to photographers Emmett Bryant and Elisa McBrayer for recording the All Neighborhoods meeting. You can see photos of this event on the "I Love the 8th Ward" Facebook page at www.facebook.com.

Rosemary Williams Stands Up for Residents Facing Foreclosure



Rosemary Williams, a 55 year resident of the Central neighborhood, has turned her own foreclosure situation into a fight on behalf of tenants and

homeowners facing foreclosure as well as neighborhoods pockmarked by vacant and foreclosed homes.

Williams has been in the news many times over the past several weeks, as she has taken her fight public and involved her neighbors, the CANDO neighborhood association, the Minnesota Coalition for a People's Bailout and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, and other partners. Her eviction trial, originally set for April 28, is now scheduled for May 26. Rosemary has been an inspiration and role model for many in her situation, as well as to neighbors saying "no" to yet another vacant home that can become a public nuisance and a safety hazard.

In support of the work of Rosemary Williams and the Coalition for a People's Bailout, Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden authored an amendment to the Council's state legislative agenda, specifying city support for provisions of the People's Bailout Bill dealing with foreclosure. As well, Elizabeth authored a resolution, approved by the Council May 8, 2009, *Calling on Mortgage Lenders to Allow Renters and Former Owners to Stay in their Homes* by adopting policies similar to those of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to keep tenants and former owners in their homes. These policies allow residents to enter into rental agreements with mortgage holders so that home occupancy can continue. According to Elizabeth, "This resolution is strongly supported by the Council because it is good for families, promoting stability by keeping residents in their homes, and it is good for neighborhoods, by preventing yet more abandoned nuisance houses from harming our communities."

Census Workers in Minneapolis to Verify Addresses



You might see workers with clipboards walking in your neighborhood. This may be a Census Bureau worker hitting the streets, trying to verify addresses for millions of Americans.

Although Census questionnaires won't be mailed out to households until March 2010, workers are already out preparing for the Census.

Census workers may knock on doors to verify addresses and inquire about additional living quarters on certain premises. They may also ask people in some neighborhoods simple questions about housing units. The information collected will be kept confidential.

The census is performed every ten years to determine populations for congressional seats and government program funding. This current count has added significance here in Minnesota because the state could potentially lose a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Locally, census results are used to determine everything from state legislative districts to school district boundaries.

Anyone with concerns about the U.S. Census can call (612) 216-5950.

Greenprint Marks Progress Toward Making Minneapolis a More Sustainable City



The fourth edition of the Minneapolis Greenprint, an annual report that shows our progress toward some key ecological goals, is now available. Along with tracking ten indicators from previous years, a new indicator focuses on green jobs and the green economy including eco-friendly construction, transportation, energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy.

Some highlights of Greenprint include:

- The City met its target for no combined sewer overflows all year during rainstorms – for the second year in a row. Upgrades to the sewer system in Minneapolis have resulted in a dramatic reduction in overflows, which are harmful to our lakes and river.
- The City supported biking as a transportation choice by adding more trails, building the Midtown Bike Center, launching the Bike Walk Ambassador program and revising the zoning code to require bicycle parking for most developments.
- The City awarded a second year of climate change grants to support grassroots efforts motivating residents and businesses to take action to reduce global warming and save money.

Find the entire 2009 report at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability under “What’s New.”

Bike Walk to Work Day Wednesday, May 14th



Spring has sprung, and Bike Walk Week is May 10-16th. The 5th Annual **Bike Walk to Work Day Celebration** is on **Wednesday May 14th, 6:30am - 9:00am** and will be

held at the Hennepin County Government Center, North Plaza. This year, Bike Walk Week is region-wide and encourages bike walk to school and worship events.

Bike Walk to Work Day is full of incentives and encouragement to get people out of their car and pedaling or walking. Register to participate in Bike Walk Week to support biking and walking as a part of transportation and a chance to win prizes, such as bikes, gear, gift certificates and more. To register and to find out about all the Bike Walk Week events, go to www.bikewalkweek.org.

Minneapolis is a Great Place to Live



Are you looking to buy a home or just want to find out more about your neighborhood? Check out www.LiveMSP.org, an interactive website that

has incredible detailed information about Minneapolis neighborhoods and homes that are for sale.

For instance, the Central neighborhood section of LiveMSP.org has information on neighborhood history, amenities and community centers, and city and neighborhood loans to assist with home purchase and home repair. There is also a way you can submit neighborhood testimonials, so you can share your neighborhood pride!

LiveMSP.org hopes to attract prospective home buyers who want to learn more about what Minneapolis and Saint Paul have to offer – and the great thing is that information on the dozens of home purchase/renovation incentives, including home renovation loan and grant programs, is all in one place. Social networking sites Facebook and Twitter are also linked to www.LiveMSP.org – as well as real estate sites www.realtor.com and www.OwnaHomeMN.org. Minneapolis hopes this partnership will reduce residential vacancy rates, increase the cities’ resource base, and encourage homeownership in existing, compact, walkable neighborhoods.

Minneapolis Monitors Swine Flu Situation



On April 26, the federal government declared a public health emergency as a result of several confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States.

The City of Minneapolis, like other government agencies, has been actively preparing for the potential of a pandemic for a number of years.

Minneapolis' public health officials are reminding people to observe routine public health recommendations for preventing the spread of the flu:

- Stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often to protect yourself from germs.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- If you become ill with flu-like symptoms, you may wish to contact a physician, particularly if you are worried about your symptoms.

Anyone with questions regarding the swine flu can call the Minnesota Department of Health public information line at 1-800-657-3903. Additional information is also available at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/swine.

Learn About Homegrown Minneapolis!



Minneapolis is hosting public meetings in May on Homegrown Minneapolis, a City initiative to find ways to get more fresh, locally grown food sold,

distributed and eaten. Recommendations include:

- Using public and private land for community gardens and food production,
- Increasing access to farmers' markets,
- Encouraging restaurants, schools, and other organizations to use locally grown food on their menus, and
- Supporting entrepreneurs who want to create small businesses focused on local food production

The public meeting closest to 8th Ward neighborhoods is **Monday, May 18, 6:30-8:30 pm, Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S**

Want to know more? Go to

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp or contact Kristen Klingler at (612) 673-2910.

Trader Joe's – Coming to Minneapolis?



I have received many questions about the proposal by a developer to include a Trader Joe's store as part of a project on Lyndale Avenue near the Wedge Coop.

What has happened to date? The Council *has not* made a final decision on a development proposal or on whether to allow a Trader Joe's store at that location to sell wine & beer. In April 2009, the Council considered whether to support a bill asking the state legislature to give permission to the city to consider the liquor license issue (if approved by the State, this would start a city process including public hearings and other steps). The city has a 2,000 ft spacing rule for liquor uses, meaning you can't have a liquor store within 2,000 ft of another liquor store, although the state legislature could give a variance to this rule. A grocery store can sell liquor if it has a separate entrance to its liquor store, as long as it complies with the 2,000 ft rule.

The Council voted 7-6 to approve the question to the state legislature; I voted "no". I have viewed this primarily as a local issue -- meaning that although I do not generally support elimination of the spacing requirement, as I think it protects local small business and protects neighborhoods from overconcentration of liquor stores, I would consider the issue if the immediate stakeholders were supportive. The Wedge has taken a strong stand opposing any variance for Trader Joe's, arguing that it is unfair to grant a variance on wine & beer to Trader Joe's only. While I don't believe it is the role of the council to "control competition", I agree that one exception to wine & beer should not

be made unless we are prepared to grant other similar exceptions. Because I am not prepared to grant multiple exceptions or to advocate for wholesale change, I voted “no” to asking the legislature to let the City make an exception. At this point, you should call your state representative or senator to voice your opinion on this bill.

process to vet any changes is critical before any such action is taken.

Great Streets Grant Supports Work at 38th and Chicago



At its meeting May 8, 2009, the City Council approved an award of \$30,000 to the Metropolitan Consortium of Community

Developers (MCCD) and the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) to perform work at the corner of 38th and Chicago. The work to be performed in partnership with the Bancroft, Bryan, Central and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods includes real estate and market analysis, marketing and branding work, and business technical assistance. MCCD (www.mccdmn.org) and NDC (www.ndc-mn.org) bring important expertise to the corner to assist in developing strategies for filling vacant storefronts with viable businesses.

Congratulations to 38th and Chicago stakeholders and nearby neighbors – this is one more important step in revitalizing this critical business corner! Want to get involved? Attend the 38th and Chicago Implementation committee, which meets every 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, at Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave S.

Ward 8 Community Office Hours



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

Charter Change Proposals



You may have heard that Council Members Ostrow, Samuels, and Remington have proposed several changes to the Minneapolis City Charter (our governing document for the city). The most well-known

proposal is to eliminate the Minneapolis Park & Rec Board. They also recommend elimination of the Board of Estimate and Taxation and creation of a City Administrator.

What has been clear in the months since the proposal was publicized is that it does not have public support, with the most vocal and widespread opposition to elimination of the Park Board. Councilmember Glidden has consistently supported an independent Park Board, and does not support any of the changes as brought forward. While there is room for improvement with our city government structure, and there are potential changes to the City charter that could facilitate these improvements, we should engage the community about the problems or shortcomings of the current structure and the full range of alternative options *before* specific proposals are made.

We must proceed thoughtfully, inclusively and carefully, given what is at stake. If we move too quickly we risk seriously diminishing our park system, rightly treasured by so many inside and outside of our City. In our haste to fix the identified issues, we risk creating a new set of obstacles to transparent, efficient and accountable governance. Minneapolis' governance structure has been debated for decades. In short, Councilmember Glidden does not support putting the proposed charter changes on the ballot for 2009 – a better