



June 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:

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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

Elections Update: Minneapolis Supreme Court Rules IRV Constitutional!

This has been an exciting week, with several milestones for Minneapolis voters.

First, the **Minnesota Supreme Court rules IRV constitutional!** After a long court process, the Minnesota Supreme Court has provided certainty to the City and voters that Ranked Choice Voting is constitutional. In a unanimous ruling issued on Thursday, June 11, 2009, the MN Supreme Court referenced respect for the democratic process – critical as the voters approved IRV 2:1 in 2006 as the method of voting in Minneapolis.

While we are sad to see Elections Director Cindy Reichert leave for a position as Director of Elections for Anoka County, we enthusiastically **welcome Pat O'Connor as Interim Elections Director.** As the long-time director of tax payer services in Hennepin County, he has overseen many elections and been hands-on in handling elections issues. Pat brings exactly the set of management skills, elections expertise, and relationships with elections directors across the Twin Cities that is needed. We are so pleased he will be taking on this role for Minneapolis.

To help steer the work of ensuring a well-run election using ranked choice voting, the City Council has established a Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Steering Committee, which will include Council Member Glidden as Elections Chair, the Council President Barb Johnson, and key city staff such as the City Clerk, City Coordinator, City Attorney, and Director of Communications.

Interim Elections Director Pat O'Connor has already promised that a key part of the work ahead is educating voters about Ranked Choice Voting. He has also committed to run the best possible election under the new system so that it can be fairly evaluated after the counting is complete. Stay tuned for more IRV/Ranked Choice updates – coming soon!

Elizabeth

Heritage Preservation Award to "Preservation Central"



Congratulations to "Preservation Central", a group of neighborhood activists who have received the 2009 Preservation Award for Community Education and

Activism. This award recognizes the incredible work of Central neighborhood residents David Piehl, Brian Finstad, Connie Nompelis, Montana Scheff, and Ryan Knoke plus other historic preservation activists including Kingfield resident Madeleine Douglass.

The work of Preservation Central activists includes roles in established a record-attendance-breaking historic tour of Park Avenue, the preservation and planned adaptive reuse of the historic building for the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, community organizing and research for preserving and saving from demolition 3021 Park (the former home of historic figure Pauline Fjelde), and implementing a home loan program for architectural preservation for Central neighborhood.

Congratulations Preservation Central!

Bicycle Improvement Projects



There are several bicycle improvement projects in the works for Ward 8 neighborhoods. Here is an update on two of them:

- **Bicycle lanes on Blaisdell and 1st Avenue.** In 2007, funding was awarded through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program to put bike lanes on Blaisdell and 1st Avenue from downtown to 40th Street. These improvements are scheduled for implementation in 2010. To complete this project, the roadway will be seal coated with a new layer of asphalt, and then bicycle lanes will be part of the restriping of the road.
- **River Lake Greenway.** This long-awaited project will provide bike lanes, traffic

calming, trees and greenway from 2nd Avenue to the River, with the route through Bryant and Bancroft neighborhoods along 40th Street, with construction planned to start in 2010. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been meeting monthly with City staff to develop the final design. You can see meeting minutes of the CAC and other details at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/riverlake/, including preliminary design plans. The RiverLake Greenway concept is now a bike boulevard – meaning that through traffic will be discouraged, but bikes will share the road with local cars and parking on both sides of the road will be permitted throughout Bancroft and Bryant. Some proposed treatments include a median on Chicago at 40th Street, a traffic diverter somewhere between Chicago and Bloomington; bump outs at Portland and Park, and a substantial amount of new tree planting through the Bryant neighborhood. The CAC will finalize design for the River Lake Greenway in fall of 2009.

Congratulations to SPEAK Project and Walldogs on Nicollet for Art Awards!



The Minneapolis Arts Commission has selected public art projects to be recognized with the first annual MAC Awards.

- **Award for Community Involvement in Public Art.** The **SPEAK project**, a project of the 8th Ward's Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, received the Award for Community Involvement in Public Art for its work on the Cottage Park Community Park Bench. SPEAK project artists include many Ward 8 residents, such as metal sculpture artist Heather Doyle, photographer Emmett Bryant, and spoken word artist Andrea Jenkins. Twenty five neighborhood youth and former street gang members worked with SPEAK Project artists to learn to express themselves through poetry,

photography and metal arts in the process of creating a brightly colorful park bench to replace a bench that had previously been stolen from Cottage Park. The bench incorporates the word JUSTICE into its frame, and is a symbol of hope for the neighborhood.

- **Award for Celebrating the City through Public Art.** The **Walldogs project** created ten murals along Nicollet Avenue in the Lyndale and Kingfield neighborhoods during July 2008, which were painted by local and national artists, as well as community members. The murals depict elements from the history of the City, including the City's historic and current skyline, the work of Joseph Nicollet, the Nicollet Baseball Park, the history of the Lyndale neighborhood, and the historic street car system. This award recognizes the work of the Kingfield and Lyndale neighborhoods, businesses, artists, and hundreds of volunteers in fostering the city's sense of spirit and heritage and is work that has become a symbol for the city.

2,600 in paid employment positions through 2009, including summer employment with local employers, the Park Board, and community based organizations. This includes about 500 summer jobs funded by federal stimulus dollars for 2009. Here are some details on specific opportunities:

- **STEP-UP.** Minneapolis will offer employment to 1,300 youth through STEP-UP this year, a program that places youth in paid jobs after work readiness training. As part of this program 1,600 youth completed STEP-UP work readiness training and 610 youth attended STEP-UP mock interviews.
- **Year-Round WIA (Workforce Investment Act).** 4-21 year-olds needing help setting education and employment goals anytime of the year can receive free services via the Year Round WIA program. Contact Teresa Harrold at 311 (or direct at 673-5119) for more information.

Summer Employment Guide for Minneapolis Youth.

A detailed guide on summer youth opportunities is available at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Summer_Employment_Guide_for_Minneapolis_Youth.pdf

46th Street BRT Station



On June 1, 2009, Metro Transit hosted a meeting to discuss design and operations of the planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station on I-35W at 46th

Street. Meeting participants were asked for feedback on elements of the station, as well as ways residents will connect to the station through existing bus routes. You can view the presentation, which includes rider projection details, at www.metrotransit.org/35W-BRT. You can provide comments directly to Metro Transit about the station and its operations at 35W-BRTstation@metc.state.mn.us.

Summer Youth Employment



One of the first questions from teens as summer rolls around is, "Where can I get a job?" City Job programs will place approximately

Kingfield Farmer's Market



The Kingfield Farmers Market is now in full swing! This is a neighborhood-run farmers' market located in South Minneapolis, serving neighbors since 2001.

The Market is held Sundays from 8:30am-1:00pm from May 31st through October 25th, 43rd & Nicollet Ave S.

Stop by for local food, good music, and handmade crafts. Coming Sunday, June 14 – rhubarb bake-off competition! Find out more at www.kingfieldfarmersmarket.org.

TIF Funding Plan for Target Center and Neighborhood Revitalization



The City of Minneapolis is asking for input on the [Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\) Plan](#) for the proposed Consolidated Redevelopment TIF District. The Consolidated Redevelopment TIF District will be a non-contiguous redevelopment TIF district comprised of all, or portions of, the property currently located within the City's 15 existing pre-1979 TIF districts that are due to terminate on Aug. 1, 2009.

The new district is being established to **help pay off Target Center debt and to fund neighborhood revitalization activities (commonly known as NRP)**. The district may be certified after Jan. 1, 2010 and must terminate no later than Dec. 31, 2020, according to a special state legislation passed in 2008 and approved by the Minneapolis City Council. The TIF Plan will be available for public review until July 20, 2009.

Please submit comments via e-mail to Jeff Streder Director Development Finance, at Jeffrey.streder@ci.minneapolis.mn.us, or contact Mr. Streder by phone at 311 (direct 673-5130). If you or your group would like to meet to discuss the proposed TIF district and TIF Plan, or if you have any questions, please contact us. Your input is important.

The Minneapolis City Council is expected to consider the proposed district and plan on Friday, July 31, 2009 following a public hearing at the Community Development Committee at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009. The hearing will be held in Minneapolis City Hall, 350 S. Fifth Street, Room 317.

You can view a full copy of the TIF plan at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Consolidated_Redevelopment_TIF_Plan_Document.pdf.

Chicago Ave Fire Arts Center and Other Projects Get Stimulus Funding



On June 2, 2009, the City Council approved an award of 3.6 million for 9 projects. These are CDBG

(Community development block grant recovery funds), one source of federal stimulus dollars.

One project receiving funds was the **Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center** – CAFAC received \$275,000 to finance construction costs for renovation and build-out of an arts education, studio space, and gallery space at 3749 Chicago. The project will create 30 construction jobs and 3.5 permanent jobs. With this last piece of funding, the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center will be able to start renovations in 2009.

The largest amount of funding, \$2 million, went to the Shubert Theater – these were the last funds needed for this project to start construction this year, creating 48 permanent full-time jobs and 101 prevailing wage construction jobs. A partnership with Summit Academy OIC and Louis King has already begun to ensure that the construction workers reflect the diversity of our city.

Some residents have asked why another great funded project, TenKSolar manufacturing facility didn't get a greater share. (TenKSolar received \$284,047 to assist in the creation of a full-scale solar panel production facility in Minneapolis – ultimately producing 360 jobs). The primary reason was "project readiness", as the these CDBG federal funds – which had only a little more than one month for Minneapolis to develop an application and selection process -- were intended to ensure "job creation now!" TenKSolar is still at the beginning of its planning process – needing to identify and purchase a site for its manufacturing plant and secure most of the financing needed to then complete design and engineering work. This will be a critical project to support in the coming months as more flexible funding becomes available.

For more information on **federal stimulus opportunities** for Minneapolis (the Minneapolis Economic Recovery Strategy) visit

www.minneapolisrecovery.us. This website provides transparency around available federal funding strategies, opportunities for grants and contracts, applications made and funding received by the City of Minneapolis, and more.

New Website Lets Residents Monitor City's Performance



The City of Minneapolis places a high value on being a results-focused, accountable and transparent local government. As part of its ongoing effort, the City has launched a new Web site – Results Minneapolis – where you can track and watch in a dynamic way how Minneapolis is performing in key service areas. Check it out online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results.

City officials have put in place several enterprise-wide systems that track the City's performance toward achieving its five-year goals and 2020 vision, which you can see online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/goals. Since 2006, City leaders have been regularly meeting with different departments to track progress and discuss strategies on key performance measures. After years of planning and measurement, and inspired by discussions with residents, the new Results Minneapolis Web site is the next step in institutionalizing a results-focused, accountable and transparent government.

Minneapolis Keeps Excellent Credit Ratings Through Hard Economic Times



Minneapolis has again been assigned some of the highest credit ratings, despite financial challenges that are affecting both the public and private sectors in this difficult economy. This year Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's Ratings Services assigned Minneapolis the highest rating possible: AAA. Moody's also gave the City a very high Aa1 rating. All three rating

agencies noted Minneapolis strong financial management as key to earning high ratings.

As a result of the high ratings, the City of Minneapolis was recently able to sell \$84.37 million of its general obligation bonds at an average interest rate just below three percent. The bonds will finance various capital improvements in Minneapolis for streets, water, sewer, parks, buildings, and other infrastructure.

Local Grants Help Fight Climate Change



Minneapolis has awarded a total of 15 grants to help local neighborhoods and organizations fund creative ways to engage residents to fight climate change.

Each grant fights climate change by creating learning opportunities and empowering Minneapolis residents and businesses. Here are some of the exciting projects that will happen in Ward 8 neighborhoods:

- Establish community gardens to build community and promote eating local food (Kingfield)
- Establish an HOURCAR hub at 38th and Nicollet (Kingfield)
- Launch a campaign to promote a "sustainable park" for reducing green house gas emissions and increasing community gathering (Powderhorn)

Start Planning Now for National Night Out



National Night Out is coming up fast, and now is the time to start making preparations on your block for the night that brings neighbors together. This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4.

- **Register your NNO event.** There is a single online process to register your NNO event and apply to close your street. If you

want to close your street for your event, street closure is free if you apply by July 21. You need permission of 75 percent of your neighbors to be approved for street closure—please have their names and addresses with you when you apply. (You do not need their signatures.) Get started at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno. If you don't have Internet access, you can register your event and apply for street closure by calling 311 (or 612-673-3000).

- **Want a police officer, firefighter, or canine officer and dog to visit your event?** Because demand can be very high for visits, we can't promise that one will be available. But feel free to request a visit when you register by calling 311 (or 612-673-3000) to put your name on the list. Sorry, we can't take requests for mounted patrol.

Good luck as you start planning for NNO!

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.