



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

January 11, 2008

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## Reserve your seat for the 2008 Ninth Ward Awards

Neighborhood activism will be honored at the January *Breakfast with Gary*. The State of the Ward Address and 2008 Ninth Ward Awards will take place Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. "The Ninth Ward is a community of activists. The hard work for our community by groups and individuals deserves recognition and celebration," Council Member Gary Schiff said.



The highly coveted Ninth Ward Award

Reserve your seat by [e-mailing](#) or calling the Ninth Ward office at (612) 673-2209. Awards will be given for the Leader of the Year; Block Club of the Year; Neighborhood Project of the Year; and Youth Leader of the Year.

To nominate someone for a Ninth Ward Award, write a brief description of the category and accomplishments that you think deserve recognition. Submit your nominations via [e-mail](#), fax (612-673-3940) or by mail to Ninth Ward Office, 350 South 5th Street, Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Nominations must be received by Friday, January 18th. Food is \$7.

## East Phillips withdraws biomass support



The city began negotiating in 2004 with the Green Institute on plans for a biomass project at 29<sup>th</sup> Street E and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

A required 'good neighbor agreement' for a proposed Phillips biomass project has fallen apart, putting the future of the project in question.

A unanimous vote this week by the general membership of the East Phillips Improvement Coalition follows a similar vote by the EPIC board in December to withdraw support for the wood-burning power plant. The agreement with [Kandiyohi Development Partners](#) was one of many requirements for a city land sale. The neighborhood originally entered into the agreement in 2005.

In a statement explaining the reversal, Carol Pass, EPIC board president said, "This neighborhood already is host to two asphalt plants, a foundry, a superfund site and serious lead issues. The neighborhood's willingness and ability to absorb more was extremely stretched."

Council Member Gary Schiff says he will not support the extension of a March 30<sup>th</sup> project deadline. "The city required a good neighbor agreement for a reason. We are not going to force a project with environmental impacts in a neighborhood where it isn't wanted."

Negotiations to convert a former incinerator into a biomass energy and district heating facility began with the [Green Institute](#) in 2004. After competition emerged to develop the

site, the city issued a request for proposals and awarded the rights to [Kandiyohi Development](#), the only company that responded. Seventy-eight million dollars in Empowerment Zone bonds were issued in the fall of 2006, and have since expired. A power purchase agreement with Xcel Energy, plus financing commitments must be in place by the March deadline.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is reviewing Kandiyohi Development's application for an air emission permit. The MPCA may order an Environmental Assessment Worksheet as part of their conditions for approval. The deadline for public feedback is January 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the public comment period, [click here](#). Comments, requests and petitions should be sent to: Paula Connell, Air Quality Permits Section, Industrial Division, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, call (651) 282-2605, or fax (651) 296-8717.

## Minneapolis pledges to reduce domestic violence

Advocates are teaming up with the City of Minneapolis in a new focus to reduce domestic violence rates. [A pledge](#) adopted by the city spotlights prevention, criminal justice interventions, evidence-based prosecution and police training.

Council Members received a detailed [Domestic Violence Report](#) this week in response to a motion made by Council Member Gary Schiff for implementation steps. "Pledging to reduce domestic violence is an important step for crime prevention," Schiff said. "I hope this plan can be replicated to prevent other forms of violence and pushes Minneapolis to think more about what we can do to work with grassroots organizations."

Under the new effort, police will track domestic violence cases in weekly reports and will be directed to carry out new protocols to collect evidence for prosecution. In addition, new prevention efforts will be launched in immigrant communities.



## Funds available for auto theft victims



Nearly three thousand stolen vehicles ended up in the Minneapolis impound lot in 2007.

Car theft victims can now seek reimbursement for towing and storage fees when they retrieve their car from the Minneapolis impound lot. Up to \$300 is available for car owners of vehicles retrieved after July 1, 2007 thanks to a fund established by the Minnesota legislature.

Each year over three thousand vehicles are stolen in Minneapolis. "Never leave your keys in your car,"

Karen Notsch, a Minneapolis crime prevention specialist urges. For more tips on preventing car theft during the winter, [click here](#).

To receive funding a police report must have been filed and the vehicle needs to have had insurance at the time it was stolen. To apply, call (612) 340-5400.

## Block club turns sledding into a work of art

Residents of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ave block club in Powderhorn Park are brushing up on their artistic skills in preparation for the 'First Annual Art Sled Rally.'

The event will beautify the slopes of Powderhorn on Saturday, February 16th starting at 2:00 p.m. Event organizer Julian McFaul describes the event as, "part extreme sledding, part art car parade, part monster truck rally."

Awards will be given for the most creative sleds and the most outrageous feats on a sled. Workshops with local artists for anyone interested in creating an art sled will be held at the Powderhorn Community Center, 3400 15th Avenue South on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Feb 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and Feb 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The event is being organized in coordination with Powderhorn Park and the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association. Residents are raising funds for a matching grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. To make a donation, contact PPNA at (612) 722-4817. To create art sleds, decorate the slopes, find local sponsors or donate materials, a sound system and/or live music, contact Julian McFaul at (612)-722-8640.



Art Sled: Anything built to slide in the most fashionable, ridiculous or artistic way.

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