

5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

November 2008



5TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)

503 Irving Avenue North
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.374.4849

Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)

612.664.8195

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)

2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.886-3202

North Loop Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRR)

1313 Plymouth Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924

Old Highland Organization

www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization-

www.willard-homewood.org
info@willard-homewood.org

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5th Ward.

If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.

VOTE! Tuesday Nov. 4th

Tips for smooth voting on Election Day

Minneapolis voters will cast ballots on Nov. 4, 2008 for federal, state, county and local school board offices. A state constitutional question and two Minneapolis School Board questions will also appear on the ballot.

Polls for the Nov. 4 General Election are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Minneapolis residents can vote if they are at least 18 years old, are a U.S. Citizen, and have lived in the State of Minnesota for at least 20 days before the election. All voters in line at 8 p.m. are allowed to complete the voting process.

- **Know where to vote**

The City of Minneapolis Web site features a "Voting Precinct Finder" to help voters find the polling place in their precinct. Voters may also view a picture and map of their polling place, and see their sample ballot.

Thirteen polling places have moved to new locations this year, so voters should double-check to make sure they know where to go on Election Day. (see page 2)

Four polling places in Ward 5 have moved due to building remodeling or to improve ac-

commodations for voters. All pre-registered voters in these precincts received a postcard in July notifying them of the polling place change.

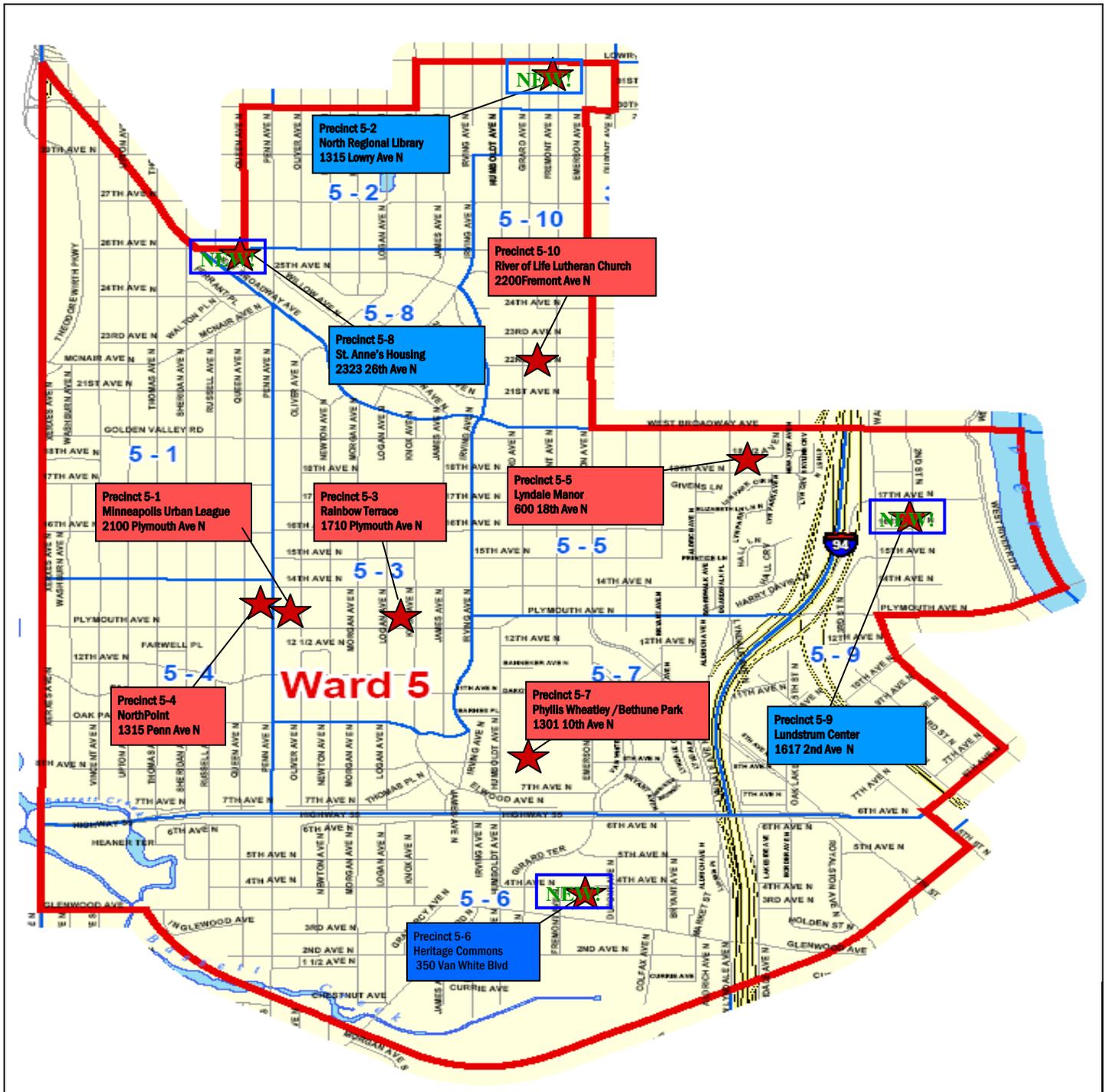
- **A couple of polling place changes may be confusing to voters:**

If you voted at **Phyllis Wheatley** in 2006 you may or may not still vote there. Phyllis Wheatley was formerly a double polling place serving voters from two precincts. It's still a polling place, but only for voters from Precinct 7. This year voters from Precinct 9 vote at **Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts**.

Heritage Commons at Pond's Edge is our new voting location for Precinct 6. It's a beautiful building, but some voters had trouble finding parking at the Primary. Van White Memorial Blvd is a one-way and there's no voter parking available there. For

Continue page 3





Ward 5 Polling Places !

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5-1 Minneapolis Urban League,
2100 Plymouth Ave N | 5-6 Heritage Commons at Pond's Edge,
350 Van White Memorial Blvd – <i>new in 2008</i> |
| 5-2 North Regional Library,
1315 Lowry Ave N – <i>new in 2008</i> | 5-7 Phyllis Wheatley Comm Cntr/Bethune Park,
1301 10 th Ave N |
| 5-3 Rainbow Terrace,
1710 Plymouth Ave N | 5-8 St. Anne's Housing,
2323 26 th Ave N – <i>new in 2008</i> |
| 5-4 North Point Health & Wellness Center Inc.,
1315 Penn Ave N | 5-9 Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts,
1617 2 nd St N – <i>new in 2008</i> |
| 5-5 Lyndale Manor Highrise,
600 18 th Ave N | 5-10 River of Life Lutheran Church,
2200 Fremont Ave N |



Know your Polling Place!

Continued from page 1

November 4th our Traffic Department will be removing parking restrictions on the east and south side of the building and recommends approaching the building from the corner of Glenwood and Fremont.

Some spaces will be available in the parking lot behind the building, but most folks will be parking on the street.

- **Be prepared to register to vote at the polls – bring state-approved identification**

Pre-registration is now closed, but voters can register at the polls by providing one of the forms of identification required by Minnesota law. For more details, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections and view the “Election Day Registration” link. City of Minneapolis Elections Officials encourage all voters to bring a state-approved ID to the polls. That way if you need to register to vote, or your pre-registration documents weren’t filed on time, you’ll be able to register on the spot, at the polls.

- **Time off from work to vote on Nov. 4 – Allow plenty of time for the record turnout**

Every employee who is eligible to vote has the right to

be absent from work for the purpose of voting during the morning of a state or federal election.

For more information visit the city website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us and click on the big “VOTE” button, or call 311

HEAT RULES! - What You Need to Know About Your Utilities



1. Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

YES, unless you take steps under the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) to protect yourself.

✦ You must contact your utility to apply for protection from having your heat shut off. This is true for all residential customers, including senior citizens and families with young children.

2. When is the Cold Weather Rule in effect?

From October 15 through April 15 each year.

3. Are all utilities covered?

✦ All natural gas and electric utilities must follow some level of the CWR.

✦ Delivered fuels, such as fuel oil, propane and wood, are not covered by the CWR. If you need electricity to keep your heat on, you may apply for the CWR with your electric company.

4. What steps must utilities take before disconnection my service?

Before the utility may turn off your service during the winter months (October 15 through April 15), the company must

send you the following information:

- ✦ A disconnection notice telling you the date you may be disconnected
 - ✦ Details on payment plans and how to avoid disconnection
 - ✦ How to appeal if you and the utility can't agree on a payment plan
 - ✦ A list of energy assistance and weatherization providers
 - ✦ No-cost and low-cost methods of conserving energy
- A Third Party Notice Form
- ### 5. How can I keep my heat on?

You must make and keep a payment plan with your utility. The payments don't have to be the same amount each month.

If your household income is: **At or below 50 percent** of the [state median income](#),

You are not required to pay more than ten percent of your household monthly income.

More than 50 percent of the state median income,

You may make a payment plan with the utility

6. How can I get reconnected if my heat is already shut off?

If your household income is: **At or below 50 percent** of the [state median income](#),

You are not required to pay more than ten percent of your household monthly income.

More than 50 percent of the state median income,

You may make a payment plan with the utility

7. How do I apply for the Cold Weather Rule?

Contact your utility to set up a Cold Weather Rule payment plan.

Continued on page 4

Don Samuels
5th Ward City Council
City Hall, Room 307
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415
612.673.2205

Don.samuels@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward5

PRST STD
Us Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2140
Minneapolis, MN

Heat Rules (continued)

8. What happens after I apply?

- ✦ If you make and keep a Cold Weather Rule payment plan, you're protected.
- ✦ If you and the utility cannot agree on a payment plan, you have ten days to appeal to the Public Utilities Commission.
- ✦ The Commission will help you set up a payment plan. Your service will stay on during the appeal process.

9. How long will my payment plan last?

Most payment plans under the CWR last until April 15 unless you make other arrangements with the utility. Call your utility before April 15 to make a new payment plan so your account will be current at the start of the next heating season.

10. What happens to my utility service after April 15?

As long as you make and keep a new payment plan, you will have service.

If you do not keep your payment plan and you have a past-due balance on April 15, your service could be shut off.

11. What happens if I can't make my payments as planned?

If you can't make your payments, call your utility **immediately** to make a new CWR payment plan.

If you do not make your payments, your service may be shut off

12. Can my electricity be shut off if I heat with propane or fuel oil?

If you make and keep your CWR payment plan, your electricity cannot be shut off if it affects your heat.

13. I am a renter and pay my own utility bill. Am I covered?

Yes. If the utility service affects the primary heat source of your residence.

14. What if I need help reading or understanding notices from my utility?

- ✦ The CWR has a "Third Party Notice" option.
- ✦ If you would like help applying for the CWR, you may arrange for another person to get a copy of any disconnection notices or other important information, at the same time you receive it.

This may be a friend, family member, or anyone who is willing to help you understand the notices or set up a CWR payment plan.

15. How do I sign up for

Third Party Notices?

1. Call your utility for a sign-up form.

The form must be filled out and signed by both you and the person you want to be notified and mailed back to the utility.

16. Does the person who gets my Third Party Notices have to pay my bill if I don't?

No. The person who receives the Third Party Notices is not responsible for paying your bill. This person is only agreeing to help you with notices from your utility.

17. I need help paying my bill. Who do I call?

Energy Assistance Hotline 1-800-657-3710 or call 211

The HOPE Collaborative	<u>YES</u> <u>WE CAN!</u>
	GRADUATE 100% Nationally recognized Urban Educator, Dacia Toll, offers free presentation!
November 13, 2008 6-7:30 PM Capri Theater 2027 West Broadway	
For more information contact Joe Nathan, Center for School Change, Humphrey Institute, 612.625.3506, or at jnathan@umn.edu	