



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

August 8, 2008

Hiawatha public works facility to go green



Brad Kaspari and Carolyn Braaksma will design public art for the city's new Hiawatha Maintenance Facility.

The city's former concrete and asphalt plant, at 26th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in Phillips, will undergo a dramatic transformation later this year when ground is broken for a new facility. When complete, the \$15 million Hiawatha Maintenance Facility will be the highest rated environmentally- friendly building ever built by a city in Minnesota. The building will house over 300 employees who build and maintain the city's sewers, bridges and streets.

According to Council Member Schiff, 25 percent of the site will be landscaped,

including the planting of nearly 300 trees. Impermeable pavement will help manage storm water on site, and buildings will feature the latest in energy efficiency. The former asphalt processing plant will be removed and replaced with an asphalt storage silo that does not emit fumes. Two artists, Brad Kaspari and Carolyn Braaksma are designing large-scale public art for the site.

"This project demonstrates the city's commitment to sustainability while we maintain our roads, bridges and sewers," Council Member Schiff said. A public presentation explaining the sustainability



The new Hiawatha Maintenance facility will house over 300 city workers who fix city roads, sewers and bridges.

components of the new buildings will be taking place at the August 14th East Phillips board meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church, 1614 East 24th Street.

Gang prevention funds available

On Monday, the City of Minneapolis will issue a request for proposals for youth violence prevention services for inner city neighborhoods. Up to \$200,000 in federal funds will be available in grants of up to \$50,000 per year.

The purpose of the funds is to develop programs to provide support, education and opportunities for skill-building to parents of teens. "We hope we can give parents the skills they need to keep kids out of gangs," Council Member Gary Schiff said. This work is a part of the City's larger [Youth Violence Prevention Blueprint for Action](#). Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agencies or governmental agencies serving Minneapolis Empowerment Zone residents.

Proposal requirements are detailed in the full Request for Proposals that will be available no later than the end of day on August 11th, and can be obtained by [downloading the RFP](#), [emailing your request](#) for an electronic copy to the Department of Health and Family Support, picking-up a copy at the Department of Health and Family Support at 250 South 4th Street (Public Service Center), Room 510, or calling 612-673-2301 to have a copy mailed to you.

Serious crime drops second year in a row

Livability crimes remain number one neighborhood complaint

Serious crime rates have dropped for the second year in a row, including lower incidents of murder, rape, robbery and assault. Council Member Gary Schiff and Police Chief Tim Dolan credit the results to more resources for juveniles, investments in technology, community partnerships and more police officers.

Through June 2008, citywide violent crime fell 14 percent from 2007 and 27 percent from 2006. There has been a 31 percent drop in homicides from 2007 and 44 percent

reduction since 2006. Other types of violent crime— rape, robbery and aggravated assaults—have seen a 13 percent drop from 2007. Statistics in the Third Precinct, which includes the Ninth Ward, show violent crime falling 8 percent in the past twelve months and 17 percent in the past two years.

Strategies to prevent youth violence have been a growing priority for the city. The new MPD juvenile unit has handled more than 2,000 cases of missing and runaway youth, robbery and assault. As a result, youth are being connected to supportive services at the first sign of violent behavior.

Over \$2 million in technology investments are also paying off. There are now more than 135 public safety cameras in high crime areas, many of which connect to gun shot sensors. The MPD has added 32 more officers to its ranks this year, bringing the total number of sworn officers to 879, the highest number since 2000. For more information about crime statistics and anti-crime initiatives go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police.

Ecuadorian community celebrates consulate



15,000 Ecuadorians live in Minneapolis, the highest concentration north of Quito.

After five years of presence on Lake Street, the Ecuadorian government has approved consulate status for its Minnesota office, previously an honorary consulate. The office will join Canada and Mexico as the third consulate in Minnesota.

On August 9th and 10th the Ecuadorian Civic Committee will holding on a block event on 13th Avenue at Lake Street. There will be traditional Latin American food, live music, dance and children's activities beginning at 10:00 a.m. each day. This event will celebrate the

Ecuadorian Independence and honor honorary Consul Mr. Juan Moreno. The Ecuadorian independence's celebration will take place on Sunday, August 10 at 12:30 p.m. For more information call 612-716-1667 or email comcivecu@hotmail.com

Breakfast with Gary: Tackling livability crimes

Join Council Member Gary Schiff on Friday, August 29th as he welcomes newly appointed city attorney Susan Segal and Police Chief Tim Dolan. Both will talk about new strategies for prosecuting livability crimes such as drug dealing and prostitution.

Breakfast with Gary takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of every month at Mercado Central, 1515 East Lake St. \$5 buys breakfast.



Susan Segal
City Attorney

