



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

March 17, 2008

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## Kandiyohi requests extension for biomass facility

Signaling that financing and critical agreements are not within reach, [Kandiyohi](#) development partners has requested a [five month extension](#) of a rapidly approaching March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline in their land sale agreement with the City of Minneapolis for the construction of the [Midtown Eco Energy](#) biomass facility.



The [Midtown Eco Energy](#) facility faces a rapidly approaching March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for financing and power purchase agreement.

Council Member Gary Schiff stated he will not support the deadline extension. "Enough questions have been raised by the neighborhood about the cumulative health effects of pollution," Schiff said. "The city should not drag this out much longer. Enough time has been given for the project to meet its obligations."

The deadline could be extended by City Council action. Only one Council meeting, taking place this Friday at 9:30 a.m., remains before the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. "We are encouraging concerned residents to attend and monitor the Council meeting, and we urge the Council to let this deal expire," said Jullonne Glad, with [Minneapolis Residents for Clean Air](#).

The project, once supported by neighborhood groups, has garnered growing neighborhood [opposition](#) since more information on air quality effects of the project came out at public hearings, conducted last fall by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

## Frank Theatre to perform at city Hiawatha facility



Grant Richey, who plays Mr. Puntila and Carson Lee as his hired man Matti.

In a partnership with the arts, the City of Minneapolis will postpone demolition of a vacant warehouse in order to host a theater production. The play, Bertolt Brecht's [Mr. Puntila and his Hired Man Matti](#), will have a three week run in the "bridge building" located in the city's Hiawatha public works facility, with entrance at 27th St. E. and Longfellow Ave S. The building will be demolished for a new [LEED-certified](#) facility once the lights dim on the final performance.

The show will run from March 20th through April 13th, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (Sunday, March 23 is a pay-what-you-can performance, with a suggested donation of \$12). Sunday performances will be followed by a post-show panel discussion with members of the community. Tickets are \$14-\$20 and are available by phone (724-3760) or on the Frank Theatre [web site](#).

According to Frank Theatre artistic director Wendy Knox, *Puntilla* revolves around a wealthy landowner who is caring and generous when he is inebriated, but when he suffers his "attacks of sobriety" becomes mean, petty and selfish. His hired man, Matti, navigates him through various adventures, and in the end, proves that he is the intelligent one. *Puntilla* echoes Charlie Chaplin's *The Tramp* with its broad humor, and the way in which the play turns issues of class upside down.

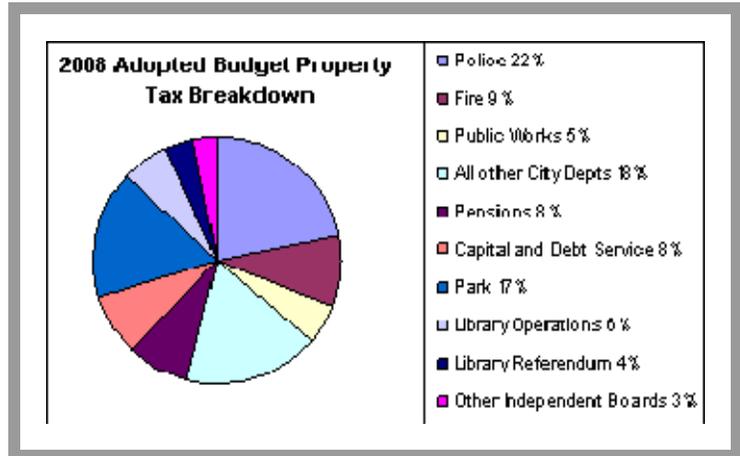
## Property tax assessments hit mailboxes this month

Minneapolis residents will receive property tax assessments in the mail this month.

If a property owner disagrees with a property value estimate, call to set up an appointment with the city's assessor's office at (612) 673-2382 and set up an appointment to discuss the concerns with the assessor responsible for valuing the property.

Other options for appeal

include the [Board of Appeal and Equalization](#), the [County Board of Appeal and Equalization](#) and [Tax Courts](#). Appeals must be made at the City Board of Equalization before appealing to the County Board of Equalization. Appeals may be made to Minnesota Tax Court at any time. To learn more, [click here](#).



Changes in the prior year's market value can only be made by one of two methods. The first is abatement. The second is tax court appeals, to the Minnesota State Tax Court. Appeals may be made until April 30 of the year when the taxes are payable. Contact the Tax Court Clerk at (651) 296-2806 for a packet of information about Tax Court and the forms needed for filing.

Property tax dollars go to several different government entities. Minneapolis typically receives about 43%, Hennepin County receives 25% and the School District 28%. The remaining 4% is split between the Metro Mosquito Control, Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority and the School Board referendum.

## March Breakfast with Gary: Minneapolis Public School

Minneapolis Schools Superintendent Dr. Bill Green will join School Board Members Tom Madden, T. Williams and Lydia Lee to speak about the future of the Minneapolis Public School district at March's Breakfast with Gary, on Friday, March 28, 2008.



From left: Minneapolis School Spt. Bill Green and board members Tom Madden, Lydia Lee and T. Williams will discuss the new Minneapolis School's strategic plan at the next Breakfast with Gary.

The district has recently unveiled a new strategic plan that focuses on [high school redesign](#), [facilities reuse](#), [budget/finance](#), [school choice](#) and the [North Side Initiative](#).

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event open to the public on the final Friday of the month at the Mercado Central (1515 East Lake Street), from 7:30 to 9:00am. \$5 buys breakfast.

## Get a dirt-cheap compost bin



Banana peels, coffee grounds and other kitchen plant waste often ends up in the trash or going down the garbage disposal. However, there's an easy and inexpensive way to turn that waste into some of the best garden soil you can get. Hennepin County has partnered with Bachman's, Lakewinds Natural Foods and The Reuse Center to sell compost bins at a reduced price. Composting garbage and yard waste creates finished compost that fertilizes the yard, suppresses weeds and holds moisture in the soil.

The bins are made of black, recycled plastic and cost \$35. They have a 13-cubic-foot capacity, a sturdy lid and two harvesting doors. There is a limit of one bin per household. County residents must [place their orders by April 1 online](#). Payment will be made at the time of pick-up during regular store hours. Bins will be available for pickup on April 19 through Earth Day, April 22. If

residents miss the ordering deadline, a limited quantity of bins will also be available at Hennepin County's Drop-off Facility in Brooklyn Park at 8100 Jefferson Highway. Bins will be available for purchase on a first come, first served basis on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., beginning April 23.

For general questions about the compost bin sale, see [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) and keyword search "compost bin" or call Hennepin County Environmental Services at (612) 348-9266.