



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

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## Ninth Ward Award winners announced



Tim Springer, Midtown Greenway Coalition director was recognized as Leader of the Year for his role in the completion of the Midtown Greenway.

At today's Breakfast with Gary, the sixth annual Ninth Ward Awards were handed out by Council Member Gary Schiff.

### Youth Leader of the Year: Waite House/St. Paul's Lutheran Youth Civic Engagement Group

[Waite House](#) and St. Paul's Lutheran Church teamed up in 2007 for a youth civic engagement project. The youth identified graffiti as their top issue and then worked with Chaka Mkali from Hope Community to develop a mural design. The mural stands as a deterrent against graffiti and a monument to youth empowerment.

### Block Club of the Year: 2400/2500 Blocks of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues South

When a group of youths vandalized their community garden and assaulted an elder, this block club did not back down. Bringing in anti-gang experts and going door to door, the block

approached the problems from every angle, and got the youth the intervention they needed. Block club leaders lent a hand to landlords to improve their properties, and evict problem tenants. "I have no doubt that this block club helped stop a new gang that was forming in Phillips," Council Member Gary Schiff said.

### Neighborhood Project of the Year: Corcoran Murals

The Corcoran Mural Project helped create six new murals in Corcoran in 2007, with seven more planned next year. Each mural now replaces frequent gang graffiti sites. Local artist Elyse Kylo led the project which helped inspire the city to create micro grants for other neighborhood groups to create similar programs.

### Citizen of the Year: Tim Springer

For the second year in a row, Minneapolis is again the number two bicycling city in the United States. Perhaps no individual can claim a larger roll in Minneapolis' biking boom than Tim Springer. Since 1992, Tim has worked on the completion of the Midtown Greenway, bringing neighborhoods together around a common vision of biking, transit oriented development and urban green space. The completion of the Greenway's final segment, the bridge over Hiawatha, will allow even more people to choose biking as a form of transportation.

## Schiff calls for legal action against predatory lenders

In the wake of a citywide foreclosure rate that has tripled since 2005 and now nears 3,000 properties, Council Member Gary Schiff has asked the city attorney to review the lawsuits of [Baltimore](#) and [Cleveland](#) for potential similar legal action against Wells Fargo and other predatory lenders. "The lawsuit claims the banks created a foreclosure crisis

by being purveyors of subprime mortgages, leaving the city to clean up the resulting mess." [Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson said](#) in explaining his city's suit. "Cities can rebound, however it is extremely costly to do so given that declining tax revenues are part of the fallout of foreclosures."

The city will spend over \$1 million dollars this year on foreclosure prevention programs. A proposal by Council Member Schiff to shift the cost of maintaining vacant properties from the city to the lenders will have a public hearing in February. "The city ends up cutting the grass, boarding the properties and even tearing down those that can't be economically rehabbed. Lenders should pay these costs, not homeowners." The proposal will increase the fee for owning a vacant residential structure to \$6,000 annually. For more information about the city's efforts against foreclosures, [click here](#).

## Longfellow's fire station 21 adds ladder

Fire Station 21 in Longfellow now has an additional ladder truck for fire rescues. The station answers calls from the Mississippi River to Cedar Avenue and from East 29th Street to East 50th Street. Fire officials say the new truck will decrease emergency response times. In the [Star Tribune](#), Station 21 Captain Roger Champagne said, "Station 21 also did a brisk trade in medical emergency runs. It is known among firefighters as a "thumper station" due to more frequent calls that administer CPR to the elderly. So Champagne regards regaining a second truck as a boon."



Station 21 is located at 3209 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street

According to the Minnesota Fire Marshal, Minneapolis had two fire deaths in 2007, one of the lowest fire death rates in the nation. "Residents of Minneapolis have benefited from a strong focus on fire prevention over the last several years," Fire Chief Jim Clack said. "Our firefighters are focused on getting to every 911 call within three minutes. Residents should take comfort in the knowledge that we have one of the most effective fire departments in the nation." To find the fire station nearest to a specific neighborhood, [click here](#).

## Travel down Lake Street's memory lane



Hennepin Avenue looking south toward West Lake Street-1938

Take a fun, funky trip through the heart and history of East Lake Street and Minneapolis' most vibrant neighborhoods.

Through March 9th, 2008 the [Minnesota](#)

[History Center](#) will feature a colorful, interactive gallery experience that highlights the connections between people and places in Lake Street's past, present, and future.

Lake Street encompasses 14 neighborhoods and is one of Minneapolis' most important commercial districts. Lake Street began as the path to the lakes, but for the last century and a half it has been an entry point for new arrivals, a thoroughfare for those on their way, a boundary line dividing neighborhoods, and a meeting ground bringing diverse ethnic groups together.

"Right on Lake Street" is a collaborative exhibit developed by the [Minnesota Historical Society](#) and [Macalester College](#), with design work provided by [In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre](#). Additional support was provided by the [Lake Street Council](#) and [Metro Transit](#). For more information on the exhibit [click here](#).

## Meetings announced to review future of NRP

Community meetings regarding the future the Neighborhood Revitalization Program will be held in February. A proposal, which calls for changes to NRP's funding and governance structure, was written by several Council Members, the Mayor and the director of NRP. The recommendations call for the popular program to be extended for another decade, but seek to lessen neighborhood group's autonomy. To view the full report of "Framework for the Future", [click here](#).

NRP was created to encourage neighborhood investment. The program was established through state legislation in 1990 and is governed by a joint-powers agreement between five government jurisdictions that serve the people of Minneapolis: the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Public Library. Informational Sessions will be held at Folwell Recreation Center at 1615 Dowling Ave N. from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.; at Lynnhurst Recreation Center at 1345 W. Minnehaha Pkwy. From 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.; and at City Hall, room 319 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. To learn more about ways you can give input, [click here](#).

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