



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

August 20, 2009

Contact Gary!

[Here to send Gary  
an email](#)

[More contact information  
Inspections](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

[Animal Control](#)

[Public Works](#)

## City holds the line on small business fees

The City of Minneapolis will help small businesses in the next year by not increasing license fees for 2010.

“Businesses already face enough challenges in this tough economy,” said Council Member Gary Schiff.

“Keeping the license fees flat is one thing we can do to help.”

Liquor, food, and other businesses licenses are typically raised each year to keep up with inflation. However, in 2008, the Department of Licenses and Consumer Services

increased revenues by about \$500,000 through working more efficiently and expanding collections efforts, and because of an increase in the number of business licenses. The increase has helped the city hold license fees flat despite significant challenges the city faces in its 2010 budget.

Annual licenses range from \$1 for a food shelf to over \$10,000 for bars. A wide variety of businesses are required to have licenses in Minneapolis, from construction and taxi cab companies to restaurants and hotels. Licensing fees are used in large part to carry out inspections and enforcement designed to keep the public safe. This includes things like food safety inspections in restaurants, and ensuring that taxi drivers have necessary training and insurance.

The City of Minneapolis also helps both large and small businesses through [financing](#) and support programs.



Osman Ali, from Ali's Catering received a city business loan.

## Minnesota Gubernatorial candidates meet at *Breakfast with Gary*



Clockwise from top left, gubernatorial candidates Margaret Anderson Kelliher, John Marty, Mark Dayton, Tom Bakk, and Matt Entenza.

With party endorsement efforts just six months away, candidates are traveling the state this summer seeking to replace Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, who has announced he is not seeking re-election.

Minnesota Gubernatorial candidates [Margaret Anderson Kelliher](#), [Tom Bakk](#), [Mark Dayton](#), [Matt Entenza](#), and [John Marty](#) are scheduled to participate in a candidate forum at this month's *Breakfast with Gary* on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Other invited candidates include [Pat Anderson](#), Chris Coleman, [Tom Emmer](#), [Susan Gaertner](#), [David Hann](#), [Steve Kelley](#), Tom Rukavina, R.T. Rybak, [Marty Seifert](#), and [Paul Thissen](#). During the forum, candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves and then will take questions from the audience.

"More than ever, Minneapolis residents recognize the effect the Minnesota Governor can have on our quality of life. Fair taxation, health care costs and the economy all need to be addressed without passing the buck from one unit of government to the next," said Council Member Gary Schiff.

*Breakfast with Gary* is a monthly meeting for held from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of the month at the [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. \$5 buys breakfast.

## Federal money to help reduce police layoffs

The City of Minneapolis will receive 3.2 million in [Recovery Act](#) funding through the Department of Justice [Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\)](#) hiring program to prevent layoff of thirteen police officers. Minneapolis and several other Minnesota cities were chosen as part of \$1 billion in spending nationwide. "This is great news for Minneapolis, and the entire region," Mayor R.T. Rybak said. "Minneapolis has made

tremendous strides in public safety, and these grant dollars will help us continue those gains.”

“Keeping crime low and neighbors safe is our top priority but cuts from the state and our economic crisis means we have to be innovative in the way we do this with less resources,” Council Member Gary Schiff said. “This funding allows us to keep officers on the job and on the streets.”

The COPS Hiring Program was a competitive application process, with 1,046 law enforcement agencies receiving funding. The City applied for this grant in April to pay for 13 police officers over the course of the grant cycle, which is January 2010 through December 2012.

## Final arsenic cleanup begins in September

The Environmental Protection Agency will begin the final phase of cleanup at the [South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Superfund](#) site. This work will remove



The EPA has produced a [fact sheet](#) about the soil cleanup. Photo from MPR.

arsenic-contaminated soil from 487 residential properties and will take approximately 2 ½ years to complete. The cleanup will be paid for entirely by stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act so property owners will pay nothing.

The EPA will hold an open house style meeting to give residents an opportunity to talk about the site on Wednesday, Aug. 26. 6 – 8 p.m. at Matthews Recreation Center, 2318 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Between 2004 and the fall of 2008, EPA conducted soil [excavation](#) and off-site disposal as part of a [removal action](#) at 196 properties with arsenic levels above the removal action level. In 2008, EPA chose the site’s [long-term cleanup](#) plan, which calls for addressing approximately 500 more properties. While arsenic levels at these properties are not immediately dangerous, the levels that are present still pose a long-term health threat to the residents.

## Midtown Farmers Market competes to be the best



Check out [www.midtownfarmersmarket.org](http://www.midtownfarmersmarket.org) for more information about the Midtown Farmer's or a schedule of events.

The hunt is on to find the best farmers market in the nation. A nation-wide non profit, Local Harvest is offering \$5,000 to the market that receives the most votes in an on-line competition. To vote for your favorite market [click here](#). The

Midtown Farmers' Market features a lively mix of local growers, food producers, artists, and community groups with live music.

Market lovers will also enjoy the fourth annual Parade of Community Gardens this Saturday, August 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This free and self-guided tour includes the Powderhorn Park East Garden at 3215 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, the Peaceful Patch Garden at 2444 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 40 other community gardens across the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. Gardens will feature a variety of attractions including music, cool treats, heirloom tomato festival, and beekeeping demonstrations. Details and brochure map can be found at [www.gardeningmatters.org](http://www.gardeningmatters.org) or call Gardening Matters at 612-492-8964.

[Unsubscribe from E-News](#) / [Subscribe to E-News](#) / [Learn About the Ninth Ward](#)