



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

March 9, 2007

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## DATE CHANGE – Earnell Luster candlelight vigil

The candlelight vigil to remember Earnell Luster has been changed to Sunday, March 11. The vigil will start at 4:00 p.m. at the corner of E. 26th Street and Longfellow Ave. Earnell died March 3rd while being treated at Hennepin County Medical Center for injuries sustained during the February 15th assault. Earnell was assaulted while defending two women from being beaten. "He died a hero," Luster's twin brother, Earnest, said in today's [Star Tribune](#) article about the incident. "He was a good Samaritan all the way," said police Sgt. David Voss.



Earnell Luster

Police are asking any witnesses to the crime – a woman who was with Luster and a person who called 911 from a pay phone – to call 612-673-2941.

## Potential merger of city and county libraries

On Thursday, March 8 there will be an information meeting at Nokomis Library (5100 34th Ave. S.) at 7:00p.m. to update the public on a proposal to consolidate the Minneapolis and Hennepin County library systems. Both the [Library Advisory Committee](#) and the [Committee on the Future of Libraries in Hennepin County](#) recommended that the Minneapolis Public Library system be merged with that of Hennepin County. You can review the reports of both committees and supporting documents at the [Minneapolis Public Library website](#).

The Minneapolis City Council will vote Friday, March 9 on a plan for consolidation and will also review a financing plan that will allow the Roosevelt, Webber-Camden, and Southeast Libraries, which were closed at the end of 2006, to reopen. "Financial resources for the City's libraries are inadequate and not improving while the county system is fiscally healthy" Council Member Gary Schiff said. "The merger of city and county libraries will avoid the need for future cuts in service, staff and materials." The consolidation vision calls for creating a premier library system that would provide better service to the public, preserve each system's complementary strengths, and adopt the best practices of both systems. Under the proposal, all existing library names would remain the same and would become a Hennepin County department governed by the [Hennepin County Board of Commissioners](#). The effective date of merger would be on or before December 31, 2008 if approved by county, city and state lawmakers.

## Breakfast with Gary: Rep. Keith Ellison



On March 30<sup>th</sup>, join Council Member Gary Schiff for Breakfast with Gary will feature Congressman Keith Ellison (MN – Fifth District). Before being elected to Congress in 2006, Ellison represented House District 58B in the Minnesota State Legislature. Keith has a long history of community service and has been active on issues including privacy, welfare reform, indigent defense, environmental justice and others.

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event held 7:30 to 9:00am the final Friday of the month at the Café of the Americas (3019 Minnehaha Avenue South). \$5 buys breakfast.

## Job and wage growth outpaces metro

The number of jobs located in Minneapolis continued to increase in the second quarter of 2006, with the city adding 9,182 jobs from one year earlier (a 3.2 percent increase over

twelve months). According to CPED's Minneapolis Trends: A Quarterly Overview of Socioeconomic & Housing Trends in Minneapolis, this compared to 1.4 percent increase in metro area jobs for the same period. "This is a great sign for Minneapolis," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "Minneapolis continues to be the economic center of the state."

In inflation-adjusted dollars, weekly wages grew 2.5 percent in the city during the second quarter of 2006 – ahead of the 2.4 percent wage growth in the metro area and 0.6 percent in the state. In addition, the unemployment rate decreased to 3.7 percent during the fourth quarter of 2006, which is slightly lower than the same quarter last year. It is the lowest unemployment rate reported since the second quarter of 2001. On an annual basis, the unemployment rate averaged 3.9 percent for 2006, down from 4.2 percent in 2005, and the lowest annual rate since 2001. You can find more information or read the whole report at the CPED [Minneapolis Trends](#) website.

## Plant a tree this spring

The City of Minneapolis and [Tree Trust](#) are making fifteen hundred trees available to Minneapolis residents to help repair some of the damage done by storms and Dutch elm disease in 2005. Planting a tree is the easiest way to improve the value of your property, reduce your energy needs and improve our air and water quality. Residents can order one tree per address and can choose from six varieties: Cathedral Elm, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Bur Oak, Cockspur Hawthorn, River Birch and Austrian Pine. The cost of the tree is \$15 and need to be ordered by April 15. You may [order your tree online](#) or call Paul Wierzbicki at 651-644-5800 for a City Tree Order Form to fill out and mail back.



Clockwise from top: Pine, Birch, Elm, Serviceberry

Residents may also attend a free workshop on tree planting and care and the latest tree pests. The workshops are Thursday, March 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Nokomis Recreation Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway and Saturday, March 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Avenue North. For more information on workshops and tree ordering and pick up email [Paul Wierzbicki](#) or call 651-644-5800.

## Annual Spring Festival at Holy Rosary

Holy Rosary is holding its annual Spring Festival on Sunday, April 1, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A chicken dinner will be served as well as Mexican food such as tacos, Mexican soup, tamales and more. There will be kids' games, a jewelry booth, the emporium, pot-of-gold and more. Join Council Member Gary Schiff for an afternoon of fun, good food and activities with friends and family. Holy Rosary is located at 2424 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. For more information call 612-724-3651.

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