



November 2007

Eighth Ward News

"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 8 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association
Meets 1st Tuesday, 8 pm
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, 3rd Floor conf rm

Central Weed & Seed
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm
1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kingfield.org
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Task Force
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Calvary Church, 39th and Chicago

Crosstown Commons Construction Update: 46th Street Bridge Demolition Scheduled for Early December 2007

Be prepared -- the 46th Street Bridge across I-35W is scheduled to be removed in early December 2007. The specific date for the demolition has not yet been determined. The 46th Street bridge will not be removed until the Diamond Lake Road bridge is re-opened, with that re-opening scheduled to occur by the end of November.

Closure of the 46th Street ramps will depend on the re-opening of the ramps at Diamond Lake Road. Not all of the Diamond Lake Road ramps will be available when the bridge re-opens, although they should all be open for use by the end of December. Until all of the Diamond Lake Road ramps are open, some of the 46th Street ramps may remain in use.

Once the 46th Street bridge is removed, the contractor has 460 days to rebuild the bridge. The 50th Street Bridge, which was demolished on September 7, 2007, will be re-opened within 460 days of that date, or approximately the end of 2008.

When rebuilt, the 46th Street Bridge will include a transit station for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) that is an "in-lane" station. Residents will enter the station from the bridge above by taking stairs or an elevator to the freeway below. The 46th Street Transit Station is one component of implementing BRT from Lakeville to downtown Minneapolis, utilizing a dedicated lane for busses and high-occupancy-vehicles (HOV).

A neighborhood open house is planned to provide information on the 46th Street Bridge removal, traffic detours, impacts to neighborhood residences from continued construction, and more. Metro Transit will participate in the open house to present information about the 46th Street BRT Station, as well as bus re-routing information impacted by the construction. The details of the open house are:

Crosstown Project Neighborhood Open House

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Field Community School
4645 4th Ave S, Minneapolis

More information about the Crosstown Commons reconstruction project is available at www.dot.mn.us/projects/crosstown, including e-mail list sign-up. You can also call the MnDOT hotline for more information or to report concerns at 1-866-743-6590.

Get the Lead Out! Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Health Department Announce New Window Replacement Program



Over the next three years, the City of Minneapolis will work to reduce lead paint hazards in the Central and Phillips Neighborhoods through a window-replacement program.

Exposure to lead and lead poisoning can cause serious, permanent health and learning problems in children. The City's goal is to eliminate lead poisoning in Minneapolis children by 2010.

Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis were recently awarded \$1 million in federal funds to eliminate lead hazards in Central and Phillips, two neighborhoods that have unacceptably high numbers of children with high elevated blood levels due to lead exposure. The program will focus on replacing lead contaminated windows with energy-efficient windows in eligible homes.

The first 20 homes or rental properties to enroll in the program will not require matching funds. At least one child under age 6 or pregnant woman must live at eligible properties. Approximately 120 homes and apartments built prior to 1978 will have full lead inspections. Minneapolis Health Department staff will canvass the neighborhood to enroll eligible families.

For more information, please contact Gloria Flores of the Minneapolis Health and Family Support Department at (612) 673-3529 or Gloria.flores@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Spotlight on Southside Community Health



Did you know, Southside Community Health (with clinics at 4243 4th Ave S, 4730 Chicago Ave S, and Green Central School) has been providing community health services for over 30 years?

While you may be aware of Southside's medical, dental, and vision care services, many residents do not know of SCHS's unique commitment to improve

health through its Community Outreach division led by Director Clarence Jones. SCHS's Community Outreach Division is located in Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street.

One example of Southside's Outreach work is its Plain Talk program, which seeks to reduce high rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted rates infections (SDI's) in the Central and Bryant neighborhoods. Minneapolis has the highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia among African Americans of the 50 largest cities in the United States. Although the teen birth rate has declined over the past decade, teen pregnancy is still prevalent in many low-income communities of color, particularly for African American and Hispanic residents. The Plain Talk/Hablando Claro strategy is quite simple: if you increase adult/teen communication about sex, and increase sexually active teens' access to contraceptives, you will decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies, STDs and HIV/AIDS.

Southside's Outreach unit has participated in HIV awareness activities, recently hosting Latino AIDS Awareness Day at the Mercado Central. Upcoming events include a Veterans Day Event at Sabathani Community Center on November 12th to inform veterans about community services available for them (Congressman Keith Ellison is expected to attend), and on November 29, 2007, SCHS will host "Celebration of Life", an event to raise awareness about organ donation in the African American community.

You can learn more about Southside Community Health, and the above events, at www.southsidechs.org or by calling (612) 822-3186.

What You Can Do This Season to Help the Environment



Minneapolis is considered one of the greenest cities around, and to keep it that way we all have to do our part. This fall, you can take a few simple steps to protect our environment and reduce global warming.

- **Bag your leaves.** As folks are cleaning up their yards and gardens in preparation for the winter freeze, please remember not to rake leaves and other debris into City streets. It's bad for our lakes and waterways and it's against the law.
- **Install a programmable thermostat – and use it!** Having a programmable thermostat decrease your home's temperature by 5 degrees when you are asleep or away reduces your heating bill and your impact on global warming. Wearing a sweater and turning down the heat while you're at home saves even more energy. In fact, each degree below 68 cuts the home heating bill by about 3 percent.
- **Let the sun shine in.** Now that there's a chill in the air, be sure to open your curtains when the sun is shining to give your home some free solar heat and natural lighting. It's a simple way to reduce your heating and electricity bills. On cloudy days or once the sun sets, close your shades to keep heat inside.
- **Take the Minnesota Energy Challenge.** The Minnesota Energy Challenge gives folks the tools and information to reduce your own emergency use, learn more about available resources, and calculate how you are contributing to the amount of CO2 emissions in Minnesota. You can get more information at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability.

Hardware, 3805 Nicollet Avenue. Something as small as changing a light bulb is a great way to contribute to the fight for a greener planet.

Proposed Development at 3700 Nicollet to Serve Homeless Youth and Young Adults

The Plymouth Neighborhood Foundation (www.plymouthfoundation.org) is working with the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) on a proposed development project at the site of the Werness Funeral home and surface parking lot at 3700 Nicollet. The development will entail the demolition of the vacant funeral home and construction of a mixed-use, 3-story building that will serve people age 16-22 at risk of homelessness. The new housing is now proposed to include 42 studio apartments and neighborhood-oriented retail (a coffee house has been proposed). The retail component of this project will provide youth with immediate access to jobs to gain employment skills and history.

KFNA is hosting a community meeting to discuss the 3700 Nicollet proposed development and address neighborhood concerns and questions. A preliminary design will be presented and Plymouth staff will discuss its plan for managing the property and other details. **The meeting will take place November 7, 2007, at Martin Luther King Park (40th and Nicollet).** Look forward to hearing more about this proposed development in the weeks and months to come.

Minneapolis Aglow in "Change a Light, Change the World" Campaign



Replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs can make a dent in your energy bills. And if enough people make the switch, it can help reduce our nation's energy consumption.

That's the ambitious goal behind the nationwide "Change a Light, Change the World" promotion. To help get folks in Minneapolis involved, discounts on these bulbs are being offered at select stores, including styles at below-normal prices with some as low as a dollar each. In the Eighth Ward you can find the discounted florescence bulbs at the Nicollet

Graffiti Update



Though winter is around the corner, graffiti is still a problem – particularly when there are warm spells this late in the year. Ward 8 neighborhoods have been hit particularly hard by graffiti vandals in 2007, with Central and Powderhorn neighborhoods in the list of top 10 neighborhoods with graffiti reports.

Neighbors regularly ask -- are graffiti vandals ever caught and prosecuted? Do they face consequences for their crimes? Graffiti vandals are prosecuted to the fullest extent by the City Attorney's office, with the number of cases prosecuted in 2007 already doubling those from 2006. To date for 2007, thirty-six (36) cases of

misdeemeanor or gross misdemeanor graffiti have been charged, compared with nineteen (19) from 2006. The average age of an adult offender is 23 years old (juvenile cases are prosecuted by the Hennepin County Attorney's office). And, **your 911 calls count** – 67% of all offenders charged in 2007 were apprehended due to 911 calls. Many of the 2007 cases are still pending (i.e. waiting for a court date), but penalties are regularly 10 to 15 days of jail or sentence-to-serve.

Minneapolis has an even better incentive for residents to call 911 on graffiti vandals -- **The Stop Graffiti Now! Reward Program** is one component of the City's effort to wipe out graffiti in Minneapolis. The reward program pays citizens for reporting graffiti vandalism to any property in progress if it leads to an arrest and conviction.

How does the Reward Program work? If you see a vandal applying graffiti to a home or a business—call 911 and Provide your name and contact information to police. If possible, take a picture of the vandal in action (Do not make contact with the vandal—just call 911). Then, complete a Graffiti Reward Program Claim Form and submit it. If your call leads to a conviction, you could receive up to \$500.

The Stop Graffiti Now! Reward Program is a partnership between The National Council to Prevent Delinquency, the Minnesota Paint Council, the Minneapolis Police Department, local businesses and concerned citizens. For additional information regarding the reward program, please go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/graffiti or call or e-mail 5th Precinct Inspector Kristine Arneson at 612-673-5504 or kristine.arneson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Neighborhood Convenience Store Update

After failing three youth tobacco sales compliance checks (i.e. the store sold tobacco products to minors), the tobacco dealer's license for Venus Grocery, 3751 Portland, has been revoked for one year starting in October 2007. The revocation has been delivered to the store and the tobacco was ordered removed from the shelves. Our area licensing inspector, Julie Casey, would appreciate

reports to her or 311 if anyone witnesses a tobacco sale. Venue Grocery can be open and sell all non-tobacco products, including 3.2 beer. Please call "311" or contact Julie Casey, License Inspector, at (612) 673-3905 or Julie.casey@ci.minneapolis.mn.us to report any concerns.

Minneapolis Supports Fully Inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is a proposed federal law that would prohibit discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation. Recent versions of this legislation have stripped discrimination based on gender identity – specifically job discrimination against transgendered persons – from the protections proposed by ENDA. This past week, the City Council approved an addition to the City of Minneapolis federal legislative agenda, proposed by Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, encouraging Congress to adopt a fully-inclusive ENDA. "It is a Minnesota value to prohibit discrimination against individuals because of their gender identify," states Elizabeth. Both the Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance and the Minnesota Human Rights Act were some of the first laws in the United States to prohibit discrimination based on gender identify.

8th Ward Community Office Hours



Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 129. You can always call the 8th Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208.