



December 2008

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, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
PHELPS Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm
Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, Room 304

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

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 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, 6:30 pm
821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Implementation
Committee
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

Council Approves 2009 Budget

On December 11th, the City Council approved the City's 2009 budget. Much has happened since the Mayor presented his budget on August 14th and now, including turmoil in the markets, confirmation we are in a recession, and the State of Minnesota announcing a deficit of just under \$5 billion. As a result of the national credit crisis, the City learned in November that due to lower market returns it would owe an additional \$38 million in pension debt. The 2009 adopted budget addresses these growing pension obligations and other tough budget choices. Here are some highlights of the budget:

- The **Council approved an 8% property tax increase for 2009**. This is up from the Mayor's original proposal of 6.9%, and will increase total property taxes collected by \$2.6 million. These funds, plus an increased bond levy, will go to pay increased pension debt of at least \$38 million.
- The budget **increases spending on road maintenance and infrastructure repairs** in a five-year program of \$5.5 million per year. Minneapolis has not adequately funded road repairs for many years – more than a decade – and we are seeing the results in our decaying infrastructure. As road conditions worsen they are much more expensive to fix; I supported the accelerated infrastructure repair program as an important way to reduce debt for Minneapolis taxpayers.
- **Public safety remains the top priority** for Minneapolis, with these additions funded by the budget:
 - \$75,000 for juvenile prostitution pilot project
 - \$75,000 for Somali gang prevention
 - \$75,000 for graffiti prevention grants
 - Funding for a criminal prosecution manager in the city attorney's office
- The Council will re-authorize 100% of the TIF districts that will support neighborhood funding for neighborhood associations and community development, and Target Center debt relief (these districts will produce up to \$24 million per year for 10 years).

Because of the state budget deficit, the **Governor will announce cuts this week (December 15th) to cities, counties, and state agencies** (a process called unallotment, which has not occurred since the early 1980's). The City of Minneapolis could experience a funding loss in the range of \$3.5 to \$20 million. If these cuts do occur, the City will need to revisit the budget starting in January 2009.

Minneapolis Police Department – Citizen’s Academy



The Minneapolis Police Department is offering a spring Citizens’ Academy in 2009. This is a great opportunity to learn from investigators, officers, and precinct commanders about police

procedures, what it is like to be an officer and how the police department is organized. The class is planned for Tuesday evenings from March 17th through May 19th from 6-9 pm. The deadline for applications is Saturday, February 14th, 2009. Apply early as there is limited space in the class!

An application form and more information are available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp. You can also call Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch at (612) 673-2856 or e-mail her at karen.notsch@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Shop and Support Local Businesses and Organizations!



As you prepare to finish holiday shopping, please remember to support our local business owners and community organizations. Here are some ideas:

- Midtown Global Market at Lake and Chicago – www.midtownglobalmarket.org. FREE parking is available – bring in your ticket and have it validated with a purchase.
- There’s a lot to see on Lake Street, East and West of the Global Market – www.lakestreetcouncil.org
- Chicago and 48th Street, home of Pepito’s, The Parkway, Amazon Books, Shop in the City, and much more – www.48chicago.org
- Nicollet Avenue and 38th Street to Grand – www.experiencesouthwest.org

Many of our community organizations that provide food shelves, youth programming, workforce training and more are experiencing major funding cuts. Please consider supporting these people-serving organizations, such as Sabathani Community Center (www.sabathani.org), Pillsbury House (www.puc-mn.org), Circle of Discipline (www.circleofdiscipline.org), and many more.

Minneapolis Approves \$5.6 Million Foreclosure Plan



In late November, Minneapolis approved a plan to spend \$5.6 million in federal **Neighborhood Stabilization Funds** to address foreclosures by

acquiring and redeveloping properties. The funds are the result of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in July to help state and local governments respond to rising foreclosures and falling home values. The funds have some restrictions – they cannot be used to assist homeowners facing foreclosure or for general prevention activities, for example. The \$5.6 million plan adopted by Minneapolis is focused around purchasing, re-developing, and rehabilitating foreclosed properties:

- **\$500,000** will be used to help homeowners to purchase and redevelop foreclosed homes. These could include Contract for Deed or incentive programs geared to home ownership.
- **\$1,464,800** will support the [First Look Program](#), a new national pilot project launched in Minneapolis to coordinate the transfer of real estate-owned properties from financial institutions nationwide to local housing organizations, in collaboration with state and local governments.
- **\$1,515,200** will be used to acquire and hold vacant foreclosed properties that are not candidates for rehabilitation.
- **\$1,700,000** will be used to demolish blighted structures.

These funds will be available to rehabilitate foreclosed multi-unit residential buildings – a need highlighted by Central neighborhood residents and championed by Councilmember Glidden. Prior to the Neighborhood Stabilization Funds, no funding source was available for foreclosed multi-unit buildings, which are large neighborhood blights.

STEP-UP Program Seeks Minneapolis Youth for 2009 Summer Jobs



Minneapolis youth, ages 14 - 21, who would like to participate in the 2009 STEP-UP summer jobs program should submit an application now through Jan. 30, 2009.

STEP-UP is a summer job program for Minneapolis youth ages 14-21. Youth must complete a competitive application process and work readiness training to be considered for a position with the STEP-UP program. Youth ages 14 and 15 are offered a first job experience and matched with positions at non-profits. Youth ages 16-21 are matched with jobs in private businesses, government and education.

Youth interested in the STEP-UP program will need to complete a competitive application process and attend a work readiness training session to be considered for a summer position. More information and applications are available on the Web at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/stepup.asp> or by calling (612) 673-5041.

Digital Inclusion Fund Grants



The Digital Inclusion Fund is an effort to increase digital access and skills in communities that are non-traditional users of technology in Minneapolis. It was established as part of the first city-required community benefits agreement in a contract between Minneapolis and wireless provider U.S. Internet.

The Digital Inclusion Fund awarded eight grants totaling just under \$200,000 to these organizations: [Casa de Esperanza](#) (free internet and technology access at Mercado Central); **CommonBond Communities** (technology access and literacy efforts at Seward Towers); [Employment Action Center](#) (software and equipment for the Community Technology Center's English language learning program); **Library Foundation of Hennepin County** (technology training in Hmong, Somali and Spanish); Minnesota Computers for Schools (distribution of refurbished laptop computers and tech support to students); [PACER Center](#) (technology access and literacy training); [Patchwork Quilt](#) (incorporation of computer literacy into all programs); [St. Paul Neighborhood Network](#) (digital literacy training and workforce readiness at Minneapolis agencies).

For more information on the Digital Inclusion Fund, including past award recipients, go to www.digitalinclusionfund.tmfportal.org.

Downtown Special Services District



After many years of organizing, the downtown business community has agreed to tax itself in order to provide special services to downtown – making it cleaner, greener, and safer for everyone. Services will include cleaning crews for city streets and sidewalks and green streetscape upgrades.

This is a **huge investment of about \$5.6 million per year**, or close to \$30 million in 5 years. In a time of job loss and economic recession, this is a **job creation** program for those in the cleaning and security service industries. As part of this new service district, Councilmember Glidden led an effort to ensure that vendors and subcontractors would provide notice to their employees of domestic partner benefits, which the Downtown Improvement District had already agreed to require of all vendors. Thank you to our downtown businesses for investing in a great downtown!

Snow Emergency Rules and Alerts



With another snow season upon us, the City of Minneapolis is turning to fun, creative ways to get drivers informed about Snow Emergencies.

Minneapolis residents will get a Snow Emergency brochure in the mail which explains the snow emergency rules.

The City has an automated phone system that contacts residents when Snow Emergencies are declared. However, only listed residential phone numbers are called automatically. If you want to get these alerts, you'll need to sign up for the service. Just go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/ and click on "Stay informed about Snow Emergencies" OR call "311" to make the same request. You can also request e-mail alerts and cell phone text messaging.

You can now find "Snow Emergency" on Facebook and MySpace. Along with offering some fun facts about Snow Emergencies and plowing, these pages will be updated whenever a Snow Emergency is declared. By "friending" Snow Emergency, you'll be able to keep tabs on the latest Snow Emergency status.

- For MySpace, visit www.myspace.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency.
- On Facebook, search for Minneapolis Snow Emergency.

As always, you can call the Snow Emergency hotline at any time to find out if one is in effect. The number is 348-SNOW (TTY: 673-2116) or go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/ to get up to date parking and snow emergency information.

Ward 8 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.



**Happy Holidays from your 8th Ward
Council Staff
Elizabeth, Andrea, and Jen!**