



May 2010

# Eighth Ward News

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

## From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8<sup>th</sup> Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

[elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

### Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council

[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm

4120 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

### Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7 pm

Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

### Central

CANDO

[www.CANDOmpls.org](http://www.CANDOmpls.org)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:15 pm

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 304

### Field-Regina-Northrop

[www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 pm

1620 E 46<sup>th</sup> Street

### Kingfield

[www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm

ML King Park, 40<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet

### Powderhorn

[www.ppna.org](http://www.ppna.org)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 pm

821 E 35<sup>th</sup> Street

### 38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago

38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago Implementation Committee

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm

Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

## Legislative Update:

**Vikings Bill:** Just days before the end of session, a bill has been introduced to fund a Vikings Stadium – a shocking move when the state is dealing with a deficit of over \$5 billion and cuts to essential services everywhere. The bill proposed taking funding now used to support our Convention Center for a Vikings Stadium. On behalf of the City of Minneapolis, I testified against the bill with these key messages:

First, Minneapolis opposes any proposal to rely that relies on Minneapolis taxpayers as funders. This is a state-wide issue not one to put on the back of a municipality. Second, Minneapolis opposes diversion of the sales tax that now supports the Convention Center for any Vikings stadium proposal. The Convention Center is one of the biggest economic generators in the State, with an economic impact of about \$270M annually -- this is about 4x the impact of any Vikings stadium. Diverting critical support for the Convention Center is bad policy for our region and our state.

While the Vikings proposal appears dead for this year, we must be ready for proposals sure to come in 2011.

**Budget:** Recently, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that Governor Pawlenty's "unallotment" action used last year to unilaterally balance the budget was illegal. While this ruling confirms that the executive branch must work with the legislative branch to get things done, our State is left with an even bigger deficit to address by the end of session - Sunday, May 16. For the City of Minneapolis, we remain uncertain if state aid to cities will be further cut, forcing further reductions to city budgets – funding for police, fire, and roads - across Minnesota. Stay tuned for budget and other updates based on the end of the legislative session after May 16.

## No Pruning for Ash Borer!



Emerald ash borer is present in the Twin Cities. It quickly spreads and has caused the deaths of millions of ash trees in 13 states. Emerald ash borer is active between May 1 and Labor Day – this is the time a beetle

that attacks and kills ash trees comes out of dormancy for the season.

If you have an ash tree in your yard, **it is important not to prune it** this time of year or move any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) while the pest is active. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borer.

For more information on emerald ash borer, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at [www.saveourash.net](http://www.saveourash.net) and the Minneapolis Park Board at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).

## We welcome Velma Korbel as our new Minneapolis Civil Rights Director



On April 30, the City Council approved Mayor Rybak's recommendation of Velma Korbel for Minneapolis Civil Rights Director. Ms. Korbel joins the City from the State of Minnesota Department of Human Rights, where she has served as

Commissioner since 2003.

Velma Korbel brings strong management skills, plus essential knowledge of civil rights enforcement organizations gained from her years at the Minnesota Department of Civil Rights and the Met Council as director of Equal Opportunity. In total, she has worked in the field of human rights for over 20 years.

Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden praised this appointment, saying, "Ms. Korbel is exceptionally

qualified for the job of Civil Rights Director and has impressed me as someone personally committed to making positive change. I look forward to introducing her to Ward 8 residents and working with her to ensure our Civil Rights Department is fully functioning with a commitment to excellence."

## Minneapolis Promotes Community Gardens



The City of Minneapolis is making 20 City-owned vacant lots available for community gardeners to lease, in a pilot program to promote healthy food, community building, and neighborhood beautification. Minneapolis

already has more than 100 community gardens.

The 20 community garden opportunities are on "non-buildable" lots – meaning they are not appropriate for development. Thus, these lots can remain community gardens for years into the future, even as the economy changes and redevelopment picks up.

Lots are available on a first-come, first-served basis to non-profits or gardening groups with a non-profit sponsor. The garden will need to have liability insurance; usually this is liability insurance with the City as an additional insured party. This pilot program is part of the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative to promote healthy local food options for all city residents.

Most available southside lots are in the Phillips neighborhoods, with one in Powderhorn Park at 3437 15<sup>th</sup> Ave S that already has a group of residents actively organizing a community garden for that space.

For more information on the Homegrown Minneapolis Community Gardens Pilot Program, including locations of available lots and application materials, call 311 or go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and type "Homegrown Minneapolis" in the search engine.

## Kingfield Farmer's Market Opens May 23<sup>rd</sup>



kingfield  
farmers market

Get ready – the Kingfield Farmer's Market is open for another season! The market takes place every Sunday starting May 23, from 8:30 am-1 pm at 4310 Nicollet Ave S.

The Kingfield Farmer's Market features fresh produce, flowers, and a variety of changing vendors selling products from clothing to fresh bread. Live music adds to the fun atmosphere at the market, where you will surely run into your neighbors and friends.

Check [www.kingfieldfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kingfieldfarmersmarket.org) for more information, to sign up for e-news, and for volunteer opportunities.

## Minneapolis Obtains "AAA" Ratings from All Major Credit Ratings Services

As of April 2010, Minneapolis joins an elite group of fewer than 5% of cities in the US with triple-triple A status – meaning the highest ratings from all three major credit rating services. Minneapolis regained its triple-A ("Aaa") rating in April 2010 from Moody's Investors Service, which has rated Minneapolis "Aa1" since June 2001. The City is currently rated triple-A ("AAA") from Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poors.

Top credit ratings are the result of outstanding work by the City's elected and management leadership to constantly improve financial condition and make difficult financial decisions, always with an eye to long term benefits.

Reduced debt, moderate reserves, budgets that match revenues with spending, and timely budget decisions have put Minneapolis in a better position to weather the twin storms of the worst economy since the 1930s and persistent state budget deficits leading to large cuts in state aids.

## Census Workers Start Door Knocking in May 2010



The U.S. Census Bureau is starting to send census takers to households that didn't return questionnaire by mail.

Minneapolis is currently leading the nation with the highest response rate for cities with populations over 300,000. As of April 28, 76 percent of households in the city have completed and returned the 2010 census form. This means about 50,000 Minneapolis households have not yet returned their census form.

Official census takers will present an identification badge with a Department of Commerce seal when interviewing households. Collectors will also carry a U.S. Census Bureau bag and provide their supervisor's phone number for verification.

By answering the census you are standing up for what your community's needs are, helping to insure that you receive your fair share of federal funding and political representation.

If you would still like to obtain a census form or respond to the census questionnaire over the phone, you may call these numbers: English: 1-866-872-6868; Spanish: 1-866-928-2010.

## Resources for Neighborhood Businesses



Minneapolis has just awarded another round of Great Streets grants to business districts at targeted business corners. Business support organizations couple apply for a variety of programs like technical assistance for businesses, branding and marketing, merchandising, business recruitment, and design services.

Ward 8 businesses groups that have received funding include:

- For 38th and Nicollet and other nearby corners, the Nicollet East Harriet Business has been awarded \$40,000 for branding and marketing purposes
- For 38th and Chicago, the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers has received \$15,000 for continued technical assistance and capacity building for area businesses.
- Other nearby areas receiving funding include Lake Street Council, the Midtown Global Market, and 42nd and Cedar.

These funds are in addition to recent façade improvement funding awarded to 38th and Chicago-Bloomington-4th Ave, 42nd and Bloomington, and 38th and Nicollet.

Local Theater at the Parkway: Alice in Wonderland

The Parkway Theater continues its tradition of hosting local theater productions with an upcoming spring production of “Alice in Wonderland”. Shows are May 22 at 2:00 pm and May 23 at 7:15 pm at the Parkway Theatre, 4814 Chicago Ave S.

This show, written and directed by Judy Cooper Lyle and based on the story by Lewis Carroll, is billed as a “rap, hip hop, fashion, fantasy” version of the original tale. Local fashion designers will be showcased in this unique new stage play, adding to the fun. Dance numbers will include students from the Performing Arts Program of the City Inc., a charter school located in Wilder School on Chicago Ave.

Tickets are available at the door or at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

## Want a Rain garden? Call Metro Blooms



Metro Blooms serves the metro area by offering low-cost rain garden workshops. Workshop dates are still available through May and June.

Registration for any workshop is \$10. Workshops are offered in two parts. “Part A” features a presentation on why, where, and how to install a rain garden. “Part B” includes hands-on assistance in designing your rain garden. “Part A” and “Part B” can be taken on separate evenings (\$10 each) or in one combined session (\$10).

Detailed descriptions at [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) or call 651-699-2426.

## Landscaping Along Sound Walls: 42<sup>nd</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> Streets



As part of MnDOT’s project along I-35W, it will install landscaping along the soundwalls from 42nd street to 35th Street on 2nd

Avenue, and 42nd to 38th Street along Stevens Avenue. Landscaping work, which will start in late April/early May, will include planting trees, vines, and some shrubs, in addition to re-establishing grass.

Landscaping along the soundwalls will also occur in the Crosstown Commons section of I-35W work, which proceeds through Richfield and Minneapolis to the farthest north point of 42nd Street. MnDOT will work with neighborhood associations, residents, and other stakeholders to determine the landscaping desired for this area. Look for more information to come on this landscaping project!

## Community Office Hours



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