



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

January 23, 2009

[In the News](#)

[Contact Gary](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

[Inspections](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

[Animal Control](#)

[Public Works](#)

Reserve your seat for the 2009 Ninth Ward Awards



Neighborhood activism will be honored at the January *Breakfast with Gary*. The State of the Ward Address and 2008 Ninth Ward Awards will take place Friday, January 30th from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at [Mercado Central](#), 1515 East Lake Street. "The Ninth Ward is a community of activists. The hard work for our community by groups and individuals deserves recognition and celebration," Council Member Gary Schiff said.

Reserve your seat by [e-mailing](#) or calling the Ninth Ward office at (612) 673-2209. Awards will be given for the Leader of the Year; Block Club of the Year; Neighborhood Project of the Year; and Youth Leader of the Year. Food is \$7.

Council considers resolution to bury power line

A proposal by [Xcel Energy](#) to place a high-voltage power line over the Midtown Greenway is facing strong neighborhood opposition amid concerns about community and health impacts.



An image by Xcel Energy of new power lines proposed to run down the Midtown Greenway from Hiawatha to Oakland Avenue. To learn more and get involved visit www.midtowngreenway.org/

[Xcel](#) says the power line is needed to meet growing demand for electricity and says they will submit a plan to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the first quarter of 2009.

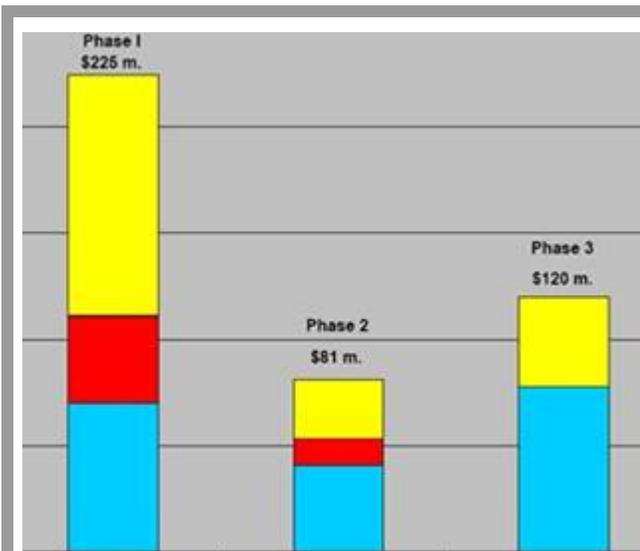
The City Council's Health Energy and Environment Committee will consider a [resolution](#) by Council Members Gary Schiff, Robert

Lilligren and Cam Gordon calling on Xcel to pursue energy conservation and to bury the line below 28th Street East. The HEE committee will meet Monday Jan. 26th at 1:30 in the Council Chambers. Council Member Scott Benson, Chair of the HEE committee, said the committee will take testimony from the public and continue the matter to HEE meeting of Feb 9th for more testimony.

“Although only the Public Utilities Commission has the power to approve these lines, I hope the City Council will weigh in on this issue,” Schiff said. “Xcel hasn’t added new power lines in the city in a long time. Whether this line is buried or not will set precedence for other neighborhoods.”

Tim Springer of the [Midtown Greenway Coalition](#) hopes residents will be active. “Neighborhoods should know that outcomes of the proposed transmission line project will probably not be to their liking unless they become involved through policy resolutions and participating in the upcoming Minnesota Public Utilities Commission process.”

Ten more years of funding approved for NRP groups



Neighborhood funding by jurisdiction: Funds for NRP Phase I and II came from City of Minneapolis (shown in blue) as well as Hennepin County (red). Other jurisdictions and earned interest are represented in yellow. Hennepin County asked the State Legislature to be exempted from Phase 3

Last month the Minneapolis City Council approved ten more years of funding for neighborhood groups that are nearing the end of the second phase of the successful [Neighborhood Revitalization Program \(NRP\)](#).

The funds were made possible by legislation introduced by State Rep. Jim Davnie in the 2008 legislative session. The funds will come from tax increment financing, the source that funded NRP Phase 1. The legislature severely restricted use of tax increment as a funding source in Phase 2.

The City Council also outlined changes to the advisory board that oversees neighborhood group funding. Neighborhood groups will appoint eight members, an increase from the four seats for neighborhoods in Phase I and II. Five residents will be appointed by the City Council, two by the Mayor and one by the Park Board.

“Neighborhood groups will continue to operate, and with less restrictions on

Neighborhood	Phase II	Additional \$
Corcoran	410,440	41,044
East Phillips	489,220	48,922
Longfellow, Howe, Hiawatha, Cooper	2,306,477	230,648
Midtown Phillips	243,645	24,365
Powderhorn Park	687,638	68,764
Standish, Ericsson	1,087,274	108,727
TOTALS	5,224,694	522,469

The \$120 million in Phase 3 will be divided into four funds: *Community Innovation*—a competitive grant program for neighborhood groups, *Neighborhood Investment*—a fund that will be allocated to neighborhood groups based on poverty levels and other demographic factors, and city administrative costs. The fourth fund, *Community Revitalization* will total \$35 million and will be used for neighborhood prioritized commercial revitalization projects.

New anti-prostitution efforts get tougher on johns

The City Council approved its 2009 legislative agenda in December with new initiatives to reduce prostitution and human trafficking.

Council Member Schiff worked with the City Attorney’s office to prioritize anti-prostitution efforts. “During the nomination process last year for our new City Attorney, I stressed the need for new tactics to get tougher on johns. Susan Segal heard me, and she has delivered.”

The City will seek changes in State law that will make prosecuting prostitution-related offenses easier and bring stiffer penalties. The city will also seek dedicated state funding for drug treatment programs that help women get out of prostitution. In addition, the city is working with a coalition of community groups that are seeking to separate the laws regarding patrons and prostitutes into two different statutes. “State law needs to recognize the power difference between women caught in prostitution and johns. Women with drug dependency need treatment programs that work, not a court system that rotates them in and out of prison,” Schiff said.

Art Sled rally sledding into a work of art



The Art Sled rally has been described as “part extreme sledding, part art car parade, part monster truck rally.”

Powderhorn Park residents are brushing up on their artistic skills in preparation for the [‘Second Annual Art Sled Rally.’](#)

The event will beautify the slopes of Powderhorn Park on Saturday, February 7th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Event organizer Julian McFaul described the event as, “part extreme sledding, part art car parade, part monster truck rally.”

Awards will be given for the most creative sleds and the most outrageous feats on a sled. Workshops with local artists for anyone interested in creating an art sled will be held at the Powderhorn Park Community Center, 3400 15th Avenue South all day on January 31st.

The event is being organized in coordination with Powderhorn Park and the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association. To create art sleds, decorate the slopes, find local sponsors or donate materials, a sound system and/or live music, contact Julian McFaul at (612)-722-8640.

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