



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

March 26, 2007

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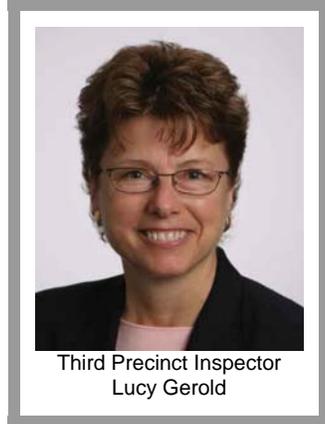
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Breakfast with Gary: Lucy Gerold

This Friday, join Minneapolis Police Department Inspector Lucy Gerold at Breakfast with Gary. Inspector Gerold is a twenty-eight year employee of the city and a life-long Minneapolis resident. She created the city's first comprehensive community policing programs in the mid-1980's as the Director of Community Crime Prevention/SAFE and served as Deputy Chief for fifteen years. Gerold has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Concordia University and is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police at the Kennedy School.



Third Precinct Inspector
Lucy Gerold

Gerold will talk about her new position overseeing public safety throughout the Third Precinct, which stretches from I-94 to the airport, and 35W to the Mississippi River.

Congressman Keith Ellison, previously scheduled to be the March speaker, has been rescheduled for later this year. Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event held 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of the month at the La Loma Café of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Avenue South. \$5 buys breakfast.

New spray paint age check program

This Friday, the Minneapolis City Council will vote on an ordinance amendment authored by Council Member Gary Schiff that would require retailers to take steps to limit spray paint sales to minors. The new rules require spray paint to be in an area of the store continuously observable by staff or in a locked cabinet. Retailers must display a sign which contains the words "We ID - No Spray Paint Sales to Minors."

In addition, the City will begin a new compliance check program thanks to a grant from the National Council to Reduce Teenage Delinquency, a retailing industry group. The grant will be used to hire teenagers this summer in a program modeled after the city's successful underage alcohol and tobacco programs. Retailers caught selling spray paint to minors will be issued fines. "You only need to look up and down alleys to see that far too many youth are getting access to spray paint," Council Member Schiff said. "It has been illegal to sell spray paint to minors for over a decade in Minneapolis, but we've never had an enforcement program until now."

The city will also pursue efforts to get cooperation from surrounding suburbs for similar efforts. Minnesota's state law restricting sales to those eighteen and over was repealed in 1997. Minneapolis recorded nearly 25,000 reports of graffiti in 2006.

Rain barrels now available through Re-Use Center



New rain barrels are made entirely of recycled plastic.

This May, rain barrels will be available for pick-up at the ReUse Center, 2801 21st Avenue South, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Residents can [order rain barrels](#) on-line or by calling (612) 724-2608. The cost of a rain barrel is \$45 and quantities are limited, so ordering in advance is encouraged.

Rain barrels will also be available for sale and pick up at three neighborhood events. They are Nokomis Park Recreation Center (2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway) on Saturday, May 5 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Victory Neighborhood/Loring School (2600 44th Ave. N.) on Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; and Northeast Bank Parking Lot (77 N.E. Broadway) on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. As part of the program, Metro Blooms will include rain barrel information in its Rain Garden

Workshops this year. To sign up for a workshop, call (612) 673-3014 or visit the [Metro Blooms website](#).

Renters needed to serve on action committee

Renters are needed to join the Tenants' Rights Action Committee, a project of Family and Children's Services. The committee will bring together those who are committed to improving conditions for all tenants and improving city intervention with problem landlords. The first meeting of the committee will be Monday, April 2 from 6:00p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the first floor Community Room of Family & Children's Service, 4123 E. Lake Street. RSVP by emailing [Sara Hagestad](#), community organizer at (612) 728-2040.

New gang prevention efforts funded

The [Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support](#) announced grant awards to three community youth organizations as part of the Youth Opportunities Project. Each program will connect with high risk youth ages ten to fifteen to help prevent delinquency, crime, and violence. "I believe that the course of a young person's life can change when given opportunities to participate in positive relationships and activities," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "I am encouraged by the City's work with its community partners to reduce youth violence."



Youth and mentors from Bolder Options participate in Bolder Dash, an annual 5K race.

Grant recipients include the [Minneapolis Parks Youthline](#) program, [Bolder Options](#) and [Yo the Movement](#). Youthline provides eighteen youth workers who are focused on engaging youth in positive recreational activities and leadership experiences. Bolder Options is an organization serving high risk youth combining mentoring, athletic activities, learning support and community opportunities. Yo the Movement is a youth serving organization working to facilitate youth leadership, cultural opportunities and making referrals to other youth serving organizations as host of the What's Up Youth information Line.