5th Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

FEBRUARY 2009

5TH WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)
503 Irving Avenue North
Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612.374.4849

Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)
612.664.8195

Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)
2009 James Ave North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.886-3202

North Loop Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 582178
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178
612.339.3904

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)
1313 Plymouth Ave. North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
612.335.5924

Old Highland Organization
www.oldhighland.org
info@oldhighland.org

Willard-Homewood Organization-
www.willard-homewood.org
info@willard-homewood.org

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5th Ward.

*If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.*

For a Second Year Running—Crime is Down in Minneapolis

Successful crime-fighting strategies such as proactive policing, community outreach and youth violence prevention have helped Minneapolis achieve a second straight year of double-digit reductions in crime.

In 2008, violent crime in Minneapolis dropped 13 percent from the previous year, and 24 percent from 2006. Homicides were down 22 percent from 2007 and 39 percent from 2006. Robberies decreased 18 percent, aggravated assaults were down 8 percent, and juvenile crime fell 17 percent.

Every Minneapolis police precinct reported drops in violent crime last year. The Second Precinct (northeast) led the city with a 21 percent decrease, followed by the Fourth Precinct (north) with 15 percent, the First Precinct (downtown) and Fifth Precinct (southwest) with 12 percent and the Third Precinct (south) with 11 percent.

Over the last two years, North Minneapolis has seen a 17% decrease in total crimes and a 28% in violent crimes. Arrests for violent crimes are also up 25% since 2006.

Police and City leaders attribute the city's double-digit reductions in violent crime to

several proactive coordinated efforts which highlight prevention as the key to progress. Community-oriented policing strategies implemented over the past two years are helping police better connect to communities, combat juvenile crime, and improve overall public safety in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis' coordinated youth violence enforcement and prevention programs continued to show progress in 2008 and are making the City a national leader in the fight to end violent crime among youth. Less than 20 percent of all arrests in 2008 involved juveniles – a decrease from more than 30 percent in 2006. Juvenile violent crime fell 23 percent in 2008. Over the last two years, juvenile violent crime in Minneapolis has dropped 42 percent as a result of several interwoven innovative prevention and enforcement strategies.

Brush with Kindness Accepting Applications for Home Repairs

Brush with Kindness is a program of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity that helps low-income homeowners struggling to restore and maintain a safe and decent place to live.

Many low-income homeowners live in challenging circumstances which create issues that are beyond what they can handle alone. You may know of a neighbor, parent or grandparent who is struggling to keep their home in a livable condition. Homeowners must often choose between paying for food, medication, taxes, and basic utilities.

When basic family expenses exceed income month after month, home maintenance is the usual casualty. Years of deferred maintenance can cause a downward spiral of home deterioration and unsafe living conditions. Outside forces also play a role in putting the squeeze on low-income homeowners. Often they are faced with city code violations and homeowner insurance cancellation when their home is in disrepair.

Many of our homeowners have worked years to maintain their homes and now find themselves in an awkward and sometimes embarrassing position of asking for help. *A Brush with Kindness* helps ease wary homeowner concerns by providing home preservation services that are sensitive to homeowner circumstances.

After completing and application process, *A Brush with Kindness* provides caring volunteer groups who are willing to come alongside and assist homeowners in completing the necessary work. Able-bodied homeowners work also side by side with volunteers in a cooperative effort.

For an application or questions, call 612-788-8169 or go to http://www.tchabitat.org/content/category/6/33/28/

Paint-A-Thon Coming to North Minneapolis

Each year, metro Paint-A-Thon selects the first weekend in August and rallies volunteer teams from corporations congregations and civic groups to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. It serves the twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area.

This program from the greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) helps homeowners remain independent in their homes and improves neighborhoods.

Since 1984, Paint-A-Thon has painted 5,942 homes. In 2008, 2500 volunteers from corporations painted 139 homes.

What to Expect

Homeowners must meet low-income guidelines, and homes are inspected and ranked in terms of need. Teams are assigned to a house based on the number team members and their preference for house size and location.

Paint-A-Thon not only matches teams with a home, but provides all the necessary paint, many paint supplies and all the guidance and technical advice a team needs to have a fantastic volunteer experience.

For more information contact Deidre Pope, Paint-A-Thon Director, at 612-721-8987 or email at dpope@gmcc.org.

Applications are due by May 8, 2009.

THE COMMUNITY ROOM

Free Tax Preparation for Seniors and Low Income Persons now through April 18!

Free tax preparation for seniors and low income persons beginning February at the St. Olaf (2912 Fremont Avenue North) and Oak Park (1701 Oak Park Avenue North) Centers. These are secure IRS authorized e-file sites. Trained and certified AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers will help with personal income tax, rent credit, property tax refunds and other tax issues.

Bring a photo ID, Social Security cards for yourself and your family, and tax documents from employers, pensions, banks, etc. If you are a renter bring the 2008 CRP certificate from your landlord. If a homeowner bring your property tax statement payable in 2009. Bring last year's tax return and anything else you think may be important.

St Olaf Center hours: **Mondays & Wednesdays, through April 15, 9 a.m.–noon.** (Closed February, 16 for Presidents Day). People are encouraged to arrive as early as 8:30 a.m. - customers are served on a first come first served basis. Call 612-529-8054 with any questions.

· **Oak Park Center** hours: **Saturdays through April 18, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.**

Call 612-377-7000 for an appointment. Appointments will get preference but walk-ins are accepted if Tax-Aide Counselors are available.

A Taste of Soul On West Broadway!

Come join the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, KMOJ Radio and the MN Black Chamber of Commerce, for a early morning breakfast discussion meeting. The meeting will be held at the Plymouth Christian Youth Center, 2210 Oliver Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN 55411 (corner of West Broadway and Oliver Ave.).

Speakers for this event will include: Stephen Menya - Lion's Gym, Owner & Personal Trainer, Barbara Davis - Ken Davis Products, Inc., President and George Shannon - Digital City and 4seen Publications, Owner.

The event will be on Thursday, February 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A Complimentary Soul Food Breakfast will be served during the event.

This breakfast is sponsored by: Ackerberg Group, Catalyst, McDonalds, Comcast, WBC, MN Black Chamber, KMOJ, The Lions Gym

Spoken Word Open Mic @ the Capri

Tha Remix" Open Mic Series is being held at the Capri Theater in North Minneapolis every Tuesday from 7-9p.

Doors open at 6:30pm This is a FREE, ALL AGES event, open to the public.

The Capri is located at 2027 W. Broadway Avenue North and will be hosted by spoken word artist Tish Jones

For More Info: send an email to TruArtSpeaks@gmail.com

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NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

Block Club Leader Training Available in North Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Police Department is hosting a Block Club Leader Training Monday March 16, from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM at the 4th Precinct, 1925 Plymouth Avenue North.

Topics covered at this training include:

- Introduction to Community Crime prevention
- How to organize a block club
- Responsibilities of a block club leader
- How to use 911
- How to solve problems effectively and,
- Meeting your Crime Prevention Specialist

The benefits of organizing a block club are:

- Working as a team, neighbors can deter crime and improve the quality of life on their block
- Crime prevention Specialist can provide regular information about crime in your neighborhood
- You can hear about other block club successes and ideas that can benefit your block club

To register for the Block leader Training, call 612-673-3364.

An organized block is the best defense against crime!

Call 311 Minneapolis