



January 2010

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

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council

www.bancroftneighborhood.org

Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm

4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association

Meets 1st Thursday, 7 pm

Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO

www.CANDOmpls.org

Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38th Street, Room 304

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

City 2010 Budget Prioritizes Public Safety and Reduced Spending

The City Council adopted its 2010 budget in early December 2009, a budget which reduced spending by \$100 million. This budget involved many tough decisions about how to maintain critical services in light of large cuts from state aid programs and increasing financial obligations to pension funds in Minneapolis.

Our top priority for this budget was public safety. This goal was made all the more difficult by the large deficit of \$4.2 million within the police department for 2009, in addition to ongoing funding challenges for police and fire. To this end, we made several cuts to other departments including Health, 911, and Business Information Systems, to save firefighter jobs and police jobs for the future. We also identified funding for our civilian crime prevention specialists, which the police department had originally proposed to cut. I believe our focus on preserving public safety services was the right thing to do among many tough choices.

The other major action taken by the council was to approve a reduction to the mayor's proposed property tax levy – reducing the average property tax increase from 6.6% to 2.1%. The approved levy reflects reduced city pension obligations due to a recent court decision that the pension funds were overcharging the city.

After the 2010 budget adoption, Minneapolis received good news with a federal grant for COPS Hiring. These federal stimulus dollars allowed the City to rehire 13 of 25 officers laid off in the 2010 budget. In addition, 2 more officers were rehired to work with problem properties and Animal Control as part of the Regulatory Services Department. In total, 15 officers have been rehired by Minneapolis Police Department.

Please contact me with your questions and concerns about the budget or any other issues at elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or (612) 673-2208.

Nominate a Community Leader: Ward 8 Leadership Awards Ceremony January 29

On Friday, January 29, Elizabeth will present the **Fourth Annual Ward 8 Community Leader Awards** and the **Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leader Award**. If you know of a neighbor, block club, organization, business, youth group, or faith-based program in the 8th Ward that deserves recognition, we would like your input! Please note that the Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leader Award is intended to recognize youth and young adults for their leadership and community contributions.

Please send nominations (in 150 words or less) for either award to

Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or mail to Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415 no later than Monday, January 25.

The awards will be presented at Early Mornings with Elizabeth on **January 29, 2010, from 7:30 – 9 am** at Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Ave. Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun filled event where great neighbors will be recognized! Free coffee courtesy of Turtle Bread!

RiverLake Greenway Begins Construction in 2010

After years of community organizing and planning, the River-Lake Greenway layout is approved and construction will start in 2010. Special thanks go to the representatives of six participating neighborhoods, including those from Bryant and Bancroft neighborhoods, who put in dozens of hours discussing various layout proposals and meeting with neighbors along the route about options.

The River-Lake Greenway is a bike route primarily along 40th Street from Lake Harriet to the River, moving south to 42nd Street as the route crosses Hiawatha. It will be the first bike boulevard in Minneapolis, where bikes share the road with cars but traffic calming measures are used to reduce car traffic along the route.

Highlights of the route include:

- The River-Lake Greenway will allow two-way traffic along the route, sharing the road with bicycles, and parking will be allowed on both sides of the street.
- Trees will be planted in the boulevards to add extra greening, with a particular focus on the blocks between 2nd Avenue and Portland.
- Bump-outs, or curb extensions, will be put in at the intersections of Park, Portland, and Bloomington at 40th Street. These curb extensions will reduce the length of space for a bicycle or pedestrian to cross the street.
- A median will be installed on Chicago at 40th Street, preventing left turns on 40th Street and reducing traffic on 40th.
- A diverter will be installed at 40th Street and 12th Avenue, providing green space and traffic calming
- Changes on Cedar Avenue will also reduce vehicle traffic along 40th Street, as well as traffic on Cedar will be prevented from turning onto 40th Street.

You can view the layout plan for the entire route at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/riverlake.

Don't use phonebooks? Opt out now!

With phone numbers just a click away, people are using bulky phone books less and less. To opt out of phone book delivery, go to www.yellowpagesoptout.com. The Web site is the only online opt-out service recognized by publishers.

You can also call these companies to opt out:

- Dex (Qwest) – 1-866-606-9339.
- Idearc Inc. (Verizon – 1-800-888-8448, then select option 2.
- Yellow Books USA Inc. – 1-800-929-3556, then select option 2.

Need a job? The Census is Hiring

Next year is a Census year, and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to hire thousands of people between now and next spring to work in the Twin Cities metro area. This is critical work that will determine whether Minnesota keeps all of its Congressional districts and the amount of resources Minnesota receives from federal programs.

The positions are **good paying, temporary jobs** that range from \$11.50 to \$20 per hour plus mileage for the field positions of recruiting assistants, crew leaders, crew leader assistants and census takers. The pay for census clerks ranges from \$7.50 to \$12.75 per hour depending on location. There may be some opportunities for advancement.

The Minneapolis Census office is looking to hire people in all neighborhoods throughout the city who have diverse backgrounds and/or the ability to speak multiple languages. Anyone interested in applying should call toll-free 1-866-861-2010 or go to www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Applicants must pass a 30-minute test that focuses on critical reading, math and clerical skills. Census leaders are encouraging people to sign up early to take the practice exam and to take it more than once.

Free test prep classes will be held in two locations. No registration is required.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, 1-3 pm
Eastside Neighborhood Services
1700 Second St. NE

Every Saturday, 10 am – 12 pm
Redeemer Missionary Baptist
116 E. 32nd St.
For more information, call (612) 823-1081

School Board chooses senior housing developer for Northrop

The Minneapolis School District has chosen United Properties to purchase and redevelop the Northrop

School site at 1611 E. 46th St. and the Howe School building located on 38th Street between 43rd and 44th Avenues S. The goal is to redevelop these sites to accommodate the housing needs of seniors 55 and older who are looking to stay in the neighborhood but would prefer a maintenance-free, senior-oriented housing option.

Meetings will be held in January to present additional details on the building designs, cooperative lifestyle, floor plans and pricing.

A meeting focusing on the Northrop site is set for Thursday, Jan 14, at 9 am at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1720 East Minnehaha Parkway.

RSVP to 952-884-6400 as seating is limited. Refreshments will be served.

Minneapolis Makes History with Ranked Choice Voting

One of the biggest stories of 2009 was the smooth implementation of Ranked Choice Voting by the City of Minneapolis in November. Many thanks go to our fantastic Elections Staff, as well as hundreds of election judges who lead this effort.

Minneapolis is now the largest jurisdiction in the United States ever to implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) using a hand count. A hand count was necessary because Minnesota law requires voting equipment to be certified, and there is currently no federally- or state-certified voting equipment capable of counting a Ranked Choice election.

Minneapolis elections staff trained hundreds of election judges about Ranked Choice Voting for work in the precincts on election, as well as conducting specialized training for the large number of election judges involved in conducting Minneapolis' historic handcount.

In all, 240 ballot sorters and counters working at the Minneapolis Elections Warehouse completed the count in 15 days.

Initial reports, including an independent evaluation conducted by St Cloud State professors, indicate that a strong majority of voters understood RCV and were confident that their vote would be accurately counted. The full St Cloud Research Report can be read at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections.

Minneapolis now looks to partner with St Paul, where voters approved RCV for its municipal elections this past year, and Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, in looking at elections equipment options for RCV compatible equipment.

Congratulations to Elections Staff, election judges, and Minneapolis voters for your role in our historic RCV election!

Use Facebook to tell friends when a Snow Emergency is declared

When a Snow Emergency is declared, you need to park out of the way of the plows so they can clear street of snow and ice. Most drivers comply with the Snow Emergency parking rules, but there are still some out there who need to get informed.

This Snow Emergency season, the City of Minneapolis is asking folks on Facebook to change their profile picture whenever a Snow Emergency is declared so their friends can find out about it and park out of the way of the plows.

Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there's enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our 1,500 miles of streets, parkways and alleys. There are many ways to find out when a Snow Emergency is declared:

- Call 348-SNOW. The hotline includes information in English, Spanish, Somali, and Hmong.
- Check out the City's Web site to find out whether a Snow Emergency has been declared, and for a wealth of information on Snow Emergencies in many languages. Also, check out the street lookup, which lets you put in an address or a neighborhood to see what streets you can park on during a Snow Emergency.

- Sign up for phone alerts, e-mail alerts, and text alerts at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow.
- Become a fan of Snow Emergency on Facebook and Twitter. Go to www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency or twitter.com/minneapolisnow.

Ward 8 Applicants Needed: Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee

The Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) makes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on capital improvement program development and budgets for the City.

This is one of the most important and influential volunteer committees in the City, impacting capital spending for the entire city.

Councilmember Glidden can appoint two 8th Ward residents to this critical committee – please contact us if interested at elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or (612) 673-2208.

Rebates available for energy-efficient improvements

More and more people are making their homes more energy efficient to save money on energy bills and create less pollution. If you've had energy efficiency upgrades done on your home using the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's fix-up loan, you may be eligible for energy saver rebates of 35 percent of that loan, up to a \$10,000 rebate.

Qualifying improvements include windows, doors, insulation, water heaters, heating and cooling. However, those improvements must meet certain energy efficiency criteria to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the energy saver rebate, the fix-up fund loan and other home improvement loans, contact the Center for Energy and Environment at www.mncee.org.