



# 9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

December 7, 2007

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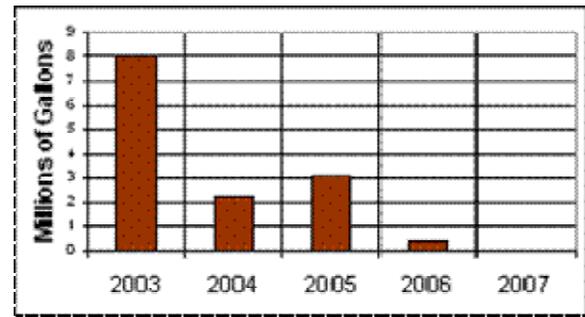
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## Minneapolis ends sewage flows into Mississippi

The City of Minneapolis will celebrate an environmental landmark on December 31st, making 2007 the first year on record with no raw sewage dumped into the Mississippi River.

River advocates are hailing the news. "Years of investment in sewer separation are now paying real dividends for the Mississippi River and those of us who use and love it," said Whitney Clark from Friends of the Mississippi River.



Upgrades to Minneapolis' sewer system have reduced sewage flow in the Mississippi River into from eight million gallons annually to zero.

Sewage overflows have vexed older cities for decades. During heavy rains, storm water fills pipes beyond capacity, causing overflow into adjoining sewage pipes. The overflow dumps untreated sewage into the Mississippi River, causing health and environmental concerns.

Work to eliminate sewage overflows began in the 1960s and was stepped up in recent years under the threat of federal fines. Over 20,000 private properties were inspected to disconnect roof drains; new rain gardens have been installed on school properties; and a citizen education project was launched. To learn more about how a rain garden on your property can help keep your watershed clean, [click here](#).

## Snow emergency information available by cell phone



Minneapolis has 100 vehicles for snow and ice control.

To help people avoid the inconvenience and expense of tickets and tows, the City of Minneapolis has been increasing the ways it alerts residents about snow emergencies. In addition to e-mail notices, automatic phone messages and media alerts, residents can sign up to add a cell phone for calls or text messages.

During snow emergencies, (612) 348-SNOW continues to provide information about parking

restrictions. Hotlines are also operated in Spanish (673-3819), Somali (673-2141) and Hmong (673-2933).

To add a phone number to the call list or to sign up to receive a text message when a snow emergency is declared [click here](#).

To keep roads drivable, Minneapolis workers salt, sand and plow more than 1,000 miles of streets and parkways throughout the winter, whenever it is needed. Parking residential vehicles in garages when possible helps make room for better plowing.

## Ninth Ward Award nominations open

January's Breakfast with Gary will feature the Sixth Annual State of the Ward Address and Ninth Ward Awards. Awards will be given for Citizen of the Year, Block Club of the Year, Neighborhood Project of the Year and Youth Leader of the Year. "The Ninth Ward is a community of activists who impressively fight for the betterment of their community. This event is a time to celebrate our successes."

To make a nomination, write a brief description of the accomplishments that you think deserve recognition. Please submit your Ninth Ward Award nominations via [e-mail](#), fax (612-673-3940) or by mail to Council Member Gary Schiff, 350 South 5th Street, Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415 by Friday, January 18th.



Catherine Settani receives the 2006 Ninth Ward Citizen of the Year award.

Breakfast with Gary will take place Friday, January 25, 2008 from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at [Mercado Central](#), 1515 E. Lake Street. Food is \$7. RSVP encouraged: (612) 673-2209 or via [e-mail](#).

## Not too early to apply for summer youth jobs

Applications for the STEP-UP summer jobs program are now available. STEP-UP is a program of paid summer jobs for 14-21 year-olds, operated by the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program and Achieve Minneapolis. STEP-UP teaches youth good work habits and skills they need to succeed on the job as well as providing paid positions with local employers. Participants work full-time or part-time from mid-June to mid-August and can earn more than \$10 per hour as a landscaper, childcare worker, maintenance worker or in fields such as business, health care and creative arts. Youth can earn high school credit by attending C.L.A.S.S., take part in a business mentoring program or spend a week, for free, at a multi-cultural camp called Camp Sunrise. The program also provides youth with the opportunity to explore career interests and gain job skills in a professional setting. The application deadline for STEP-UP is January 11, 2008.

The application for 14-15-year-olds may be downloaded [here](#). Applications are also available to be picked up at Achieve! Career and College Centers in Minneapolis public high schools, the South Workforce Center at 777 E. Lake St. or The North Workforce Center at 1200 Plymouth Ave. N. Complete application may be returned to any pick up location or mailed to: Attn: STEP-UP Program, Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, 777 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407. For more information call Xuong Tran at 612-673-6231 or Anne Fischer at 612-673-6221.

The application for 16-21-year-olds may be downloaded [here](#) or picked up at Achieve! Career and College Centers in Minneapolis public high schools. Completed application may be returned to an Achieve! Career and College Center in a MPLS public high school or mailed to: Achieve!Minneapolis/STEP-UP, 111 Third Avenue S. Suite 5, Minneapolis, MN 55401. For more information call or email Jennifer Petersen at Achieve!Minneapolis at 612-455-1563.

## La Natividad features Mexican holiday traditions



The traditional Mexican Christmas show La Natividad combines street theatre, puppetry and a procession based on the Mexican tradition of [La Posada](#) (The Inn). Produced by St. Paul's Lutheran Church and In The Heart of Beast Puppet & Mask Theater, La Natividad is a candle-lit procession that starts at Mercado Central and follows actors who portray Maria and José as they look for refuge.

Performers of all ages and experience levels are welcome to be part of La Natividad.

This year, there will be six performances: Dec 14-16 and 20-22. For tickets or information on how to volunteer or perform in the show, call [Heart of the Beast](#) at 612-721-2535. Each night, St. Paul's hosts a fiesta following the performance.

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