



October 2007

# Eighth Ward News

*"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"*

## From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8<sup>th</sup> Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

[elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

### Neighborhood Meetings

#### Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council  
[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm  
4120 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

#### Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 8 pm  
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

#### Central

CANDO  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 pm  
Sabathani Community Center  
310 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor conf rm

Central Weed & Seed  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 5:30 pm  
Green Central School

#### Field-Regina-Northrop

[www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm  
1620 E 46<sup>th</sup> Street

#### Kingfield

[www.kingfield.org](http://www.kingfield.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 pm  
ML King Park, 40<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet

#### Powderhorn

[www.ppna.org](http://www.ppna.org)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7 pm  
821 E 35<sup>th</sup> Street

#### 38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago

38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago Task Force  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm  
Calvary Church, 39<sup>th</sup> and Chicago

### Spotlight on MAD DADS!

There is a fantastic organization creating positive change in Minneapolis, with its home base in the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward -- the Minneapolis Chapter of MAD DADS, led by V.J. Smith. Men Against Destruction and Defending Against Drugs and Social-disorder (MAD DADS) was formed to mobilize strong drug-free men of faith to reclaim their neighborhoods, one child at a time, and focuses on engaging African American men.

At the beginning of September, Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden door-knocked in Central neighborhood with VJ and the MAD DADS, meeting with neighbors who regularly combat crime and safety issues on their blocks. We concentrated on the 3000 block of Oakland, the 3100 block of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, and the 3000 block of Clinton – blocks where neighbors had reported concerns to the police and the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward office.

MADDADS member George Jackson and Walter Lewis also deserve special thanks for distributing lists of home repair resources, printed by the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward office, door-to-door in Central. Thanks George and Walter!

On Saturday September 22, MADDADS spearheaded the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Southside Community Festival, at Green Central Park. VJ Smith and MAD DADS, founding members of the Southside Festival, have always taken a leading role in planning and organizing the celebration.

Earlier this year, Smith and MAD DADS received the Governor's Best Practice Award for outstanding demonstration of community outreach. Congratulations, MAD DADS, your efforts serve as a model of excellence for us all! You can contact MADDADS at [www.mplsmaddads.org](http://www.mplsmaddads.org) or (612) 822-0802 for more information.



VJ Smith Developing Strategies with MAD DADS Volunteers

## Crime and Safety Forum Update



On Monday September 24<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office hosted a Community Safety Forum at Park Avenue Methodist Church. The forum was organized in response

to concerns about recent violent acts in our neighborhoods, including shootings that injured residents at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago, 37<sup>th</sup> and Oakland, and the murder of Mark Loesch. Over 275 residents joined in this important community dialogue, posing questions and concerns to Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, Mayor Rybak, Chief Dolan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Inspector Lucy Gerold, Homicide Lt. Amelia Huffman, and others.

The meeting was organized and facilitated with the help of many volunteers and co-sponsors, including the neighborhoods of Central, Powderhorn, Bancroft, Bryant, and Kingfield and the community organizations MAD DADS, Sabathani Community Center, and Central Weed & Seed. The 8<sup>th</sup> Ward office, Police Department, and community partners are working to review questions and recommendations for action submitted by residents at the meeting. We will follow up with individual residents and the broader community regarding these steps. For more information, please contact Elizabeth at (612) 673-2208 or [Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## An Aide's View: by Andrea Jenkins



As the Senior Policy Aide to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward City Councilmember, I have an interesting vantage point on the issues that confront residents. For example, I see that

younger and younger offenders are perpetrating much of the senseless violence that is plaguing our communities. There are many factors related to this startling fact: hopelessness, poverty, lack of responsible parenting, failing schools, and low expectations.

By working in the community, I get to witness first hand some young people that seem to have it all together! The Youthline workers from Green Central Park are a hardworking group of teenagers that are "doing the right thing." These teens are employed by the Minneapolis Park Board to perform various duties throughout the summer and school year. Marshall Wylie, Green Central Park Director, and Sherinia Gibbs, Youthline Director, supervise the group.

The Youthline workers volunteered at the Minneapolis Grand Rounds Bike Marathon last month. They were at Parade Stadium at 6:00 a.m. to register riders, provide refreshments and generally keep the parks clean.

Later that same day they assisted me by distributing over 900 flyers and door hangers in the Central Neighborhood with resources for residents needing home repairs. I was thoroughly impressed with this multi-cultural group of young people (they represented Hmong, Latino, African American and Somali cultures).

I became a true believer in the "Youthline Crew" the following weekend when the same group of young people volunteered at the Southside Community Festival. They set up for the festival, prepared and sold food, and still had enough energy to perform as part of the entertainment for the afternoon. This is one group of young folks that are doing great things!

From this Aide's view, we must work with the young people in our communities and encourage them to succeed by providing positive role models. I am sure you know of others youth engaged in positive activities. Please contact me if you have stories to share – we would love to hear them. Andrea Jenkins can be reached at (612) 673-2208 or [Andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Andrea.jenkins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## Get a Glimpse of Minneapolis' Transportation Future



One of the top concerns we hear from 8<sup>th</sup> Ward residents is the need for better traffic calming measures and traffic safety, particularly on

Portland and Park. The City of Minneapolis is working on a 10-year Transportation Action plan, which presents a perfect opportunity for you and your neighbors to raise these concerns!

Community meetings are scheduled for October to discuss the City's comprehensive transportation plan, which includes everything from streets to streetcars.

The 10-year Transportation Action Plan (*Access Minneapolis*) was created to identify steps that the City and its partner agencies (Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minnesota Department of Transportation) need to take within the next ten years to improve the current transportation system and ready it for continued growth. While the action plan is based on a long-term (2030) view of transportation needs, it focuses on actions that should be undertaken throughout the city in the coming years, recognizing that this timeframe is subject to the availability of funds.

One of the elements of the 10-year Transportation Action Plan is to analyze the one-way street pairs, including Portland/Park and Blaisdel/1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and make recommendations for these streets to remain one-way or be converted to two-way. Because Portland and Park are Hennepin County roads, Hennepin County is an essential partner and must agree to any changes. Please contact your elected officials to voice your thoughts about traffic calming measures on 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Streets: you can reach Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden at (612) 673-2208 or [Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us); County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin at (612) 348-3085 or [commissioner.mclaughlin@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:commissioner.mclaughlin@co.hennepin.mn.us); and County Commissioner Gail Dorfman at (612) 348-7883 or [gail.dorfman@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:gail.dorfman@co.hennepin.mn.us).

The downtown action plan of Access Minneapolis has already been finalized. The October meetings will discuss the citywide action plan as well as the Streetcar Feasibility Study, which recommends a long-range streetcar system and identifies initial operating segments that might be good short "starter" segments.

The October meetings near 8<sup>th</sup> Ward neighborhoods are:

- Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Oct 23
- Bryant Square Park, 3101 Bryant Ave S, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Oct. 25

For more information on Access Minneapolis and the Streetcar Feasibility Study, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/).

## Resident Input Sought on Community Engagement Recommendations

After three months of work, Minneapolis' Community Engagement Task Force unanimously approved a preliminary report regarding characteristics of organizations that are eligible to receive city resources for community engagement activities.

Please attend one of the following forums to give your input and review the recommendations:

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (open house format), Tuesday, Oct. 16  
Central Library board room, 300 Nicollet Mall
- 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18,  
MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.

Following the community forums, the task force will reconvene to incorporate the community's input into its final report, to be presented to the City Council and Mayor.

The task force recommendations are designed, in part, to broaden the ways the community can be engaged with the City, expanding beyond geographic-based groups to encompass other community organizations such as business associations, cultural communities, and advocacy groups.

A full copy of the draft Community Engagement Task Force report is posted on the City's Web site at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp).

## 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago Developer's Forum



On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Office and the Center for Neighborhoods hosted a Developer's Forum at the Baha'i Center, located at 37<sup>th</sup> and Chicago. The

forum was a venue for non-profit and private developers to meet city staff and 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago community planners to discuss sites available for development along Chicago Avenue and 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Development agencies, neighborhood organizations, and also some residents attended this event.

You can read more about the 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Chicago Avenue plan at [www.38thandchicago.org](http://www.38thandchicago.org). As well, the City of Minneapolis has provided new financing programs in 2007 that can stimulate economic development at the corner of 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago, including gap financing. You can find out more about these city programs by calling Kristin Guild at (612) 673-3358 or going to [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/great\\_streets\\_home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/great_streets_home.asp).

The small area plan for 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago will be finalized and submitted to the City of Minneapolis at the end of October. This will trigger the start of a 45-day public review period, where residents and property owners will all have an opportunity to provide comment on the plan. After the plan is reviewed by the Planning Commission, it will be forwarded to the Minneapolis City Council for final review and approval.

Our next steps include creating an Implementation Committee to work on action steps for specific development and streetscape opportunities in the project area. As well, Powderhorn Residents Group (PRG) and the Powderhorn Neighborhood Association are applying for city funding to perform a marketing study that will identify the specific needs and capacity of the neighborhoods. Please let us know if you are interested in working on 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago implementation teams – some of your

neighbors are working to organize these teams right now.

We would like to thank all of you who have been involved in this process, as well as city staff who have contributed to this work as well. We are positive that good things will come from our efforts, even though we still have a long way to go.

## Apply for Positions on Boards and Commissions

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

For more information about the positions below, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/> or call (612) 673-3358.

### Open Positions

- [Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board \(closes 10/19/2007\)](#)
- [Housing Board of Appeals \(closes 10/26/2007\)](#)
- [Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 11/16/2007\)](#)
- [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority \(closes 10/19/2007\)](#)
- [Zoning Board of Adjustment \(closes 10/19/2007\)](#)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Community Office Hours



Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 129. You can always call the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208.