



# 9th Ward E-News

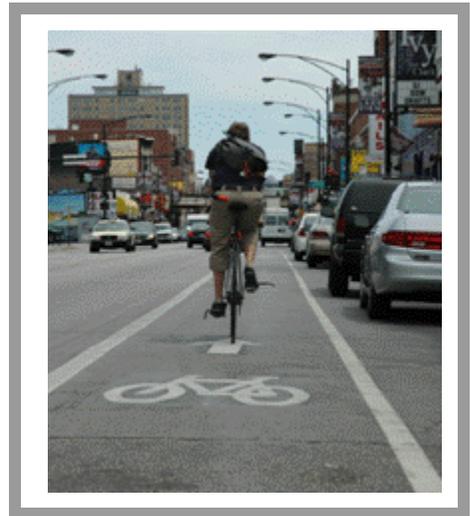
From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

September 26, 2008

## City to start tracking crimes against bicyclists

The Minneapolis Police Department will begin tracking statistics for crimes against bicyclists, thanks to a motion authored by Council Member Gary Schiff.

“As more people bike in Minneapolis, it’s important that cyclists have the information they need to stay safe. Cyclists have been targets for robberies and assaults. Knowing what crimes are happening helps us figure out how to prevent them in future,” Council Member Schiff said. Click [here](#) to read more of Council Member Schiff’s comments on a KARE 11 story from last week about the council request.



In the past, an assault on a cyclist would only be listed with other assaults, Schiff explained. By creating a category in the uniform crime report for bicycles, police will be able to generate year-end statistics for crimes involving anyone on a bike.

The Council action comes at the same time as a number of tragic accidents involving bicyclists, including this week’s death of a [bicyclist hit by a truck](#) in downtown Minneapolis, the September 11th and 17th hit and runs on [Excelsior Boulevard and Lyndale Avenue North](#) and the death of a [bicyclist struck by a truck](#) in Blaine on Monday.

Minneapolis is currently ranked as second in the nation for biking by the U.S. Census, with 40 miles of dedicated bicycle lanes along Minneapolis streets and 82 miles of off-street bicycle paths. For more information on biking in Minneapolis, click [here](#).

## Phillips to get new pedestrian LRT lighting



New lights in Phillips will help improve safety for light rail customers.

New lighting will make walking to the Franklin Avenue light rail station safer, thanks to a grant from Hennepin County.

A total of 46 lights will be installed before the end of the year on Bloomington Avenue between Franklin Avenue and East 24<sup>th</sup> Street, East 24<sup>th</sup> Street between Bloomington Avenue and Cedar Avenue and Cedar Avenue between East 24<sup>th</sup> Street and East 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

Future pedestrian improvements along the Hiawatha corridor are possible. Potential sites for expanded pedestrian level lighting

include Franklin Avenue from 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Minnehaha Avenue, Bloomington Avenue south of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue South beside East Phillips Park.

“Phillips has the lowest rate of car ownership in the city,” Schiff pointed out. “Safety for pedestrians will help encourage use of mass transit. It’s just one more thing we can do to help make Minneapolis a more walkable, transit-friendly city.”

**Early voter registration deadline approaches**  
**Absentee ballots available October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The deadline to register in advance for voting is October 14th. Minnesota law allows same-day voter registration, but pre-registering helps speed up the voting process on election day. Eligible voters can fill out voter registration applications at Minneapolis City Hall, Hennepin County offices, public libraries, park buildings and fire and police stations. Applications in several languages are available [online](#).

Voters can vote by absentee ballot either in person at Minneapolis City Hall or by mail. Ballots are available October 3rd. Voters permanently unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability may apply year-round to automatically receive absentee balloting applications before each election. For an absentee ballot application and more details, visit [the Minneapolis elections webpage](#) or call 311.



The City of Minneapolis Web site also features a [Voting Precinct Finder](#) to help voters find the polling place in their precinct. Voters may also view a picture and map of their polling place. Shortly before the general election, voters will be able to view a sample ballot for their precinct.

The Minneapolis Elections and Voter Registration Office is responsible for administering elections in Minneapolis. For registering and voting information in Minneapolis or to serve as an election judge click [here](#) or call 311.

## CenterPoint offers help with natural gas bills



Minnesota's [cold weather rule](#) providing protection for renters from heat shut-offs starts Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

With cold weather fast approaching, CenterPoint Energy is offering help for residents faced with rising natural gas bills.

CenterPoint will be available to meet individually with residents at [Andersen School](#), 1098 Andersen Lane on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. For a list of more opportunities to meet with CenterPoint Energy representatives, [click here](#). If you are unable to attend a meeting and need help, call 612-372-4680 or visit [CenterPoint Energy](#).

CenterPoint Energy representatives will explain how citizens can apply to Community Action's [Energy Services Program](#) as well as instructions on setting up payment plans. Residents should bring their most recent gas bill and verification of household income to

complete energy assistance applications.

This past May, the Minneapolis City Council passed legislation requiring landlords to provide an indoor temperature of at least 68 degrees between October 1 and May 1, and an indoor temperature of at least 65 degrees September 15 through October 1 and May 1 through May 15. Renters experiencing violations of this ordinance are urged to call 311 or 911 if 311 is closed.

## Foreclosure workshops prepare potential homeowners

Hennepin County Library is holding foreclosure prevention workshops for new homeowners. Foreclosure counselors will answer questions including what happens during foreclosure and what rights homeowners have. Counselors will talk with borrowers about their options and provide free advice.

Workshops will be held in Minneapolis on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the [East Lake Library](#) located at 2727 East Lake Street and on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the [Pierre Bottineau Library](#) located at 55 Broadway Street

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