



July 2009

# Eighth Ward News

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

## From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

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### 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 Organization  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7 pm  
Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

#### Central

CANDO  
[www.CANDOmpls.org](http://www.CANDOmpls.org)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:15 pm  
Sabathani Community Center  
310 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 304

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, 6:30 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, 6:30 pm  
821 E 35<sup>th</sup> Street

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

38<sup>th</sup> & Chicago Implementation  
Committee  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7 pm  
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

## Weigh In On Proposed Street Light Fee At Two Public Meetings

Two meetings are set for public comment on a proposed change in the way the City pays for the operation of thousands of street lights throughout Minneapolis.

Currently, the \$3 million a year needed to keep the street lights on in the City comes from the general fund. Because Governor Pawlenty recently cut \$21.3 million from local government aid (LGA) Minneapolis was slated to receive in 2010, City leaders are looking for all possible ways to keep basic City services funded.

One option being considered is a street lighting operations fee for all property owners, to pay for such things as the \$3 million electricity bill to Xcel Energy. **A typical single-family property owner would pay around \$20 per year.** Before any such fee can be assessed, the City's ordinance will need to be changed to allow such funding.

Two community meetings are being held for you to learn about that proposal, and the timeline for the City Council to consider this ordinance change:

**Tuesday, July 14, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Fairview Park, 621 29<sup>th</sup> Ave N

**Thursday, July 16, 6:30-8:30pm**  
Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S

The City operates and maintains approximately 17,000 street lights and 1,700 Parkway lights. It also contracts with Xcel Energy to operate and maintain an additional 28,000 wood pole street lights.

## Be Safe and Feel Safe This Summer



It is important to be extra vigilant of your home and surroundings during the summertime, when residents keep doors and windows open and work in and outside of the house.

Here are some tips from the Minneapolis Police Department to help residents be safe and feel safe this summer:

- If you're working in the front yard, lock the back door and garage. If you're working in the back yard, lock the front door and garage.
- Make sure to leave your garage door closed and locked whether you're home or not. When closing your garage door, either on your way out or on your way home, watch it to make sure it goes down all the way and that no one sneaks in.
- Never leave your gate unlocked or doors and windows open or unlocked while doing yard work or other outdoor chores (washing the car, taking the dog for a short walk, getting the mail).
- Move all ladders, garbage cans, tool boxes (anything that can offer easy access to windows or decks) away from the side of your house.
- Never leave windows or doors open or unlocked while sleeping.

**Please report crimes to your garage and car, as well as your home** – this helps the police track crime trends and apply appropriate policing strategy in your neighborhood. For a crime in progress or one that has just occurred, call 911. Otherwise, property crimes can be reported by calling 311.

## Verbal Harassment During Pride Raises Concerns



A video posted on YouTube captured a disturbing incident of verbal harassment based on sexual orientation during the Minneapolis Gay Pride Festival. This incident has been of particular concern

because the harassers and the victim, young men and boys, were of different races and because the video shows uniformed guards walking by during the

incident. These private security guards were not from the Minneapolis Police Department, which requires officers to wear MPD uniforms even when doing security jobs. Allowing verbal harassment to take place is unacceptable behavior that would not be tolerated by the Minneapolis Police.

Following this public act of harassment, OutFront Minnesota is taking a leadership role along with Somali Action Alliance and other groups to sponsor educational events with the goals of increasing understanding and equality in Minnesota for all people. Council Member Glidden will work with OutFront, the Somali Action Alliance, and other organizations in support of their educational efforts.

Hate and bias are unacceptable in whatever form expressed. All persons, no matter their race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected status, have the right to feel safe and welcome in Minneapolis.

## Farmers Markets in Ward 8



There are two farmer's markets in Ward 8 neighborhoods, making fresh produce and other products available to residents.

- Stop by the Sabathani Farmers Market every Wednesday, 3-7 pm, at Sabathani, 310 E 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Sabathani's Farmer's Market started July 1.
- The Kingfield Farmers Market is every Sunday, 8:30 am -1 pm, 43<sup>rd</sup> and Nicollet. For more information go to [www.kingfieldfarmersmarket.org](http://www.kingfieldfarmersmarket.org).

## Lyndale Avenue Construction



As we are partway through the second year of Lyndale Avenue reconstruction, residents have asked questions about the design and maintenance of the street.

Here is information provided by Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman and Project Manager Don Shaffer about this project:

**Q: How will Lyndale be plowed in the winter? This past year the snow was not cleared around**

## Governor Cuts Minneapolis Funding by \$30 Million Through 2010



On June 16 Gov. Tim Pawlenty announced \$2.7 billion in cuts he is making to provide a short-term fix to the State's budget crisis. These cuts, known as an "unallotment," slash Minneapolis' funding by \$8.5 million in 2009 and \$21.3 million in 2010, for a total cut of \$30 million through 2010. Including the governor's action this week, Minneapolis receives 43 percent less in local government aid than it did just six years ago.

Over the past several years Minneapolis has eliminated nearly \$90 million in debt, controlled its spending much better than the State and made city services more efficient.

Although Gov. Pawlenty cut from funds Minneapolis uses to pay for basic city services, City officials will work harder than ever to maintain the highest level of service possible and maintain the public safety gains made in reducing crime for more than two years in a row.

## Website Tracks City's Economic Recovery Priorities and Investments



As Minneapolis applies for federal stimulus dollars, we have a heightened responsibility to be transparent in how these funds are distributed. The Minneapolis Economic Recovery site, [www.minneapolisrecovery.us](http://www.minneapolisrecovery.us), has an up-to-date list of recovery grants that the City has either received or that are in the application pipeline. It includes economic recovery resources for residents and businesses, and there's also an opportunity for you to submit your ideas for making the most of the federal recovery funding.

Some projects receiving Recovery Act funding include:

- The rehabilitation of the Camden Bridge over the Mississippi River. This project will create around 90 construction jobs and add 35 years to the life of this 34-year-old span. Plus, the work will reduce the bridge's yearly maintenance costs, saving the City money.

**the Lyndale bumpouts.** A: The final layer of pavement on Lyndale from 38<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> was not down last winter, so plows could not get in as close to the curb as they normally do, plus they were getting used to the new layout. Bumpouts are harder to plow. Hennepin County crews plan to plow to the face of the curb along Lyndale once construction is complete.

**Q: Why does the new pavement on Lyndale look shoddy?** A: The final layer of Lyndale (called the "wear course") is not down yet, although it should be in place in the next couple of months. The striping currently on Lyndale is temporary striping, not meant to be durable. The final striping will go down after the wear course layer is completed.

**Q: Why haven't the signal lights at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Lyndale been installed and turned on?** A: The signals on Lyndale Avenue are all interconnected; they will be turned on at the same time.

You can direct more specific questions about Lyndale Avenue reconstruction to Hennepin County project manager Don Shaffer at (612) 282-5538. Project updates are on the Hennepin County website at [www.hennepin.us/lyndalenorthofcreek](http://www.hennepin.us/lyndalenorthofcreek).

## Bancroft Mid-Summer Festival



Celebrate summer with your neighbors at the **3rd Annual Mid-Summer Festival**.

Wednesday July 29, 2009, 5-9 pm  
Bancroft Meadows  
42nd Street and Bloomington Avenue

This is a great summer festival with lots of family friendly fun! Featuring **FREE Ice Cream**, music, entertainment, games and activities for all ages.

**Bike Parade at 6:30 - Decorate Your Bike, Wagon or Stroller.** BYOP (Bring Your Own Picnic). Come enjoy a fun summer evening outdoors!

Brought to you by the Bancroft Neighborhood Association. For more information contact the Bancroft Neighborhood Association at [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org) or 612-724-5313.

- Energy efficiency funds, with 20 percent of the \$3.9 million grant going toward helping small businesses conserve energy and save on energy costs. Minneapolis is among the first cities in the country to commit the highest possible amount of this grant toward small businesses.
- Nine community development programs and projects. Community Development Block Grant Recovery funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will help create hundreds of construction jobs and permanent full-time jobs in Minneapolis.

The City's Economic Recovery Team is working to prioritize projects and aggressively pursuing those that advance both the City's goals and the federal government's goals. This staff leadership team is also in active discussions with regional public and private sector partners to maximize opportunities for the region.

For more information on the Minneapolis Economic Recovery Strategy, go to [www.minneapolisrecovery.us](http://www.minneapolisrecovery.us).

## Living Well Report Shows Improvement in Livability Issues

**Minneapolis** *living well* Lead poisoning in Minneapolis children has decreased, juvenile crime is down, and water quality has improved at some of our lakes. Those are some of the ways our city is making progress toward becoming a more vital, livable city, according to **Living Well**, the City's 2009 sustainability report found at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/).

Highlights in **Living Well** include:

- **Testing for lead.** In the past year, Minneapolis achieved a 22-percent decrease in the number of children identified with lead poisoning and made the standard that triggers mandatory home inspections for lead more stringent.
- **Youth violence.** There was a 29-percent decline in violent crime with juvenile suspects, which follows a 27-percent decrease the previous year.

- **Local, healthy food.** Minneapolis supported the development of six mini farmers markets that provided 58 market days of locally grown, fresh produce in primarily low-income neighborhoods.
- **Land cleanup.** Minneapolis facilitated \$4.35 million in grants to clean up 26 brownfield sites covering 62 acres in 2008. These are current or former commercial or industrial properties that are difficult to redevelop because of actual or suspected contamination.

The quality of life in Minneapolis is linked to the health and well-being of our community and our environment. The City's sustainability indicators serve as a means to measure progress and inspire critical thinking about our priorities and the impacts of our behaviors.

## Share Your Thoughts on Making Minneapolis a More Walkable City



Minneapolis is already an active, walkable community, but there is more to do to make our city a better place to walk to work, to play or just to stay active. City staff are

seeking public input on a draft pedestrian master plan for Minneapolis. Attend an open house to learn about it and give your feedback.

### Pedestrian master plan walking workshops and public meeting

Thursday, July 16

Walking workshops at 5:30 pm, Public meeting 6-8:30 pm

Minneapolis Central Library  
300 Nicollet Mall

You can also learn about the plan and provide your comments online at

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian).