



August 2011

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@minneapolismn.gov

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
www.welovebryant.org
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
Urban League South, 411 E. 38th Street

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

State budget agreement cuts funding to the City

As part of the budget approved by the Minnesota Legislature earlier this month, the State of Minnesota cut \$23 million in Local Government Aid (LGA) to Minneapolis for 2011. This cut from the State will trigger a waterfall of cuts to the City's 2011 budget that had been approved by Mayor Rybak and the City Council last December. These cuts come on top of cuts of 80 full-time positions that departments have already made in the 2011 budget.

The cuts will be felt across Minneapolis, not just by our residents but by the hundreds of thousands of people from across our state who visit Minneapolis for work, school, play, medical care or recreation. Some examples of what will be cut include:

- \$7.1 million that would've reduced pension debt.
- \$6.2 million in street paving — a more than 50% reduction to the City's 2011 paving program.
- \$2.8 million set aside to offset future property-tax increases.
- \$2.0 million across-the-board cuts to all City departments, recapturing reductions to health-care costs, savings that had been allocated to departments.

Due to these cuts, the City will eliminate much-needed street paving despite this year's record numbers of potholes, slow its debt repayment despite the fact that doing so has helped restore Minneapolis' AAA bond rating and save taxpayers money, and yet more positions must be cut from Police and Fire despite achieving record-low levels of crime this year.

The effect of these major state-wide cuts to Local Government Aid is to again put pressure on the need for property tax revenue, one of the most regressive taxes. At one of the most critical times for reducing property taxes, this is one of the few reliable sources of funding for critical services that have been cut to the bone. The cuts to Local Government Aid also means that State-City revenue sharing is basically a one way street: For instance, Minneapolis sends hundreds of millions of dollars to the State in sales tax and property taxes, but only receives a small portion of this funding back in LGA payments.

Minneapolis has supported a system that would diversify our revenue from the state — by allowing us to keep a greater portion of sales tax dollars in lieu of LGA payments. As this Legislative Session proved, however, the State can and will take local option sales tax dollars to fill its own budget holes. For instance, the legislature took sales tax funding raised by Twin Cities metro counties and intended for future transit improvements.

Thank you for your engagement in following the State budget process, its impact on City finances, and advocating for the issues that matter to you. You are the key to change for the State of Minnesota that benefits us all, not just a few millionaires.

Celebrate Rev. Dr Martin Luther King Jr



Minneapolis joins the nation in celebrating the MLK Memorial in Washington, DC by rededicating the Freedom Form #2 sculpture in Dr Martin Luther King Park. This sculpture was erected in 1970 to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when Park was renamed for him.

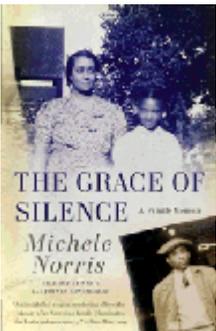
This event is **Sunday, August 28, 2-5pm, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave.** Enjoy a moving afternoon of speakers, musical entertainment, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the sculptor of Freedom Form #2. Presented by: MPRB and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Council. Questions? Jennifer Ringgold, 612-230-6464.

New Web Address for Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis has a new web address: www.minneapolismn.gov. It's shorter than the old one and includes the official "dot gov" reserved for public bodies. The old web address—www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us—will also continue to work indefinitely.

City email addresses will change to first.lastname@minneapolismn.gov, but old emails will be active indefinitely, so don't worry! Elizabeth's new e-mail is elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov. Change can be good!

One Minneapolis One Read: Oct 2011



Later this year, people all over Minneapolis will have something in common: a book. One Minneapolis, One Read will bring people in our city together and spark conversations by having everyone read the same book. One read will launch with some exciting events in October 2011.

The book is "**The Grace of Silence**" by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris. This memoir describes the experience of the Norris' as the first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Norris also details her discovery of race-based family secrets.

"The Grace of Silence" offers opportunities for conversation about race, family and neighborhood history that go beyond the accounts in the book. How can you get involved? Read the book, sponsor a book discussion, host a movie and discussion that explores issues of race, encouraging listening to family and friends and recording those conversations, or come up with your own way to participate!

The idea for a community read was inspired by Building Bridges, a group of residents in south Minneapolis neighborhoods whose mission is to understand how race and racism affect our communities. Norris' aunt, Doris Christopher, is one of the leaders of Building Bridges.

More details and updated information are at www.minneapolismn.gov/oneread, including a FREE copy of the first chapter of "The Grace of Silence"!

Community Singing at MLK Park

Looking for a fine evening in the park? Here's your chance to have a blast singing outdoors with friends and neighbors, young and old.

Join the fun on **Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 6:30-8 pm, Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet**. Almost a century ago, thousands of people would gather in Minneapolis Parks for community singing. Hear the juicy details of the amazing 35-year run of community singing in Mpls Parks that is part of our city history. Be part of the irresistible community singing resurgence sponsored by MN Community Sings www.mnsings.com.

Q's? (612) 729-7304, mnsings@gmail.com.

35W/Lake Transit Station: Open House

For Bus Rapid Transit to operate effectively on I-35W, a Transit Stations must be built at Lake Street/I-35W. Work is ongoing to create initial design concepts for a transit station and potential new ramps at that intersection.

A public open house will be held Wed, Aug 17, 5-7 pm, Zuhrah Center, 2540 Park Avenue, on the I-35W Transit/Access Project. Please attend to see drawings of alternative transit station locations and share your comments about transit service and facilities in the I-35W/Lake Street area. Go to www.35lake.com for ongoing information about this project, which is led by Hennepin County.