

## BANCROFT BRIEFS

### From the Garden Corner

Another successful gardening season is drawing to a close. If you haven't seen the beautiful flowers at the Bancroft Community Garden (located on the west side of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church), be sure to stroll by soon. And don't forget to take a walk through the Bancroft Meridian Garden to see our fall blooms and our brand new 3-bin compost bin. We also have about 180 bulbs to plant this fall; so come help on Saturday, October 18 from 9-11 and watch in the spring for all the tulips! Happy gardening!

### Mid-Summer Festival

The 2008 Mid-Summer Festival was a stunning success. Many thanks to Mankwe Ndosu for organizing the interactive entertainment and to the folks from Leonardo's Basement, who worked with the younger Bancroft residents (including those of us who are young at heart) to make and shoot off

the coolest pop bottle rockets. Thanks also to the folks from the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center for the welding demonstration. And thanks to TCF for the generous donation that provided the Ben & Jerry's ice cream to keep us all cool.

### Bancroft Resources

**Foreclosure:** If you are a Bancroft resident facing foreclosure, please call the BNA office at 612-724-5313 to learn about resources that may be available to you.

**Disposing of Hazardous Waste:** Do you have old gasoline, oil, fluorescent bulbs, or lawn and garden chemicals in your garage? Don't throw them in the trash — take them to one of Hennepin County's drop-off facilities. For information call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us/dropoffs](http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs).

**Energy Assistance:** contact BNA to find out about important meetings in October to help residents apply for energy assistance with CenterPoint Energy.

## The Bancroft Banner

Published by the Bancroft Neighborhood Association and distributed in the Bancroft neighborhood, which is bordered by Chicago Avenue on the west, 38th Street on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, and 42nd Street on the south.

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For information, or to receive your copy of the *Banner*, write:

### Bancroft Banner

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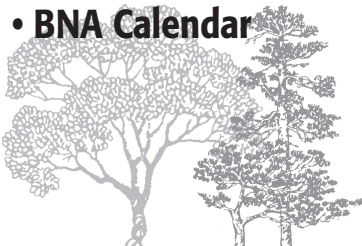
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## The Bancroft Banner

4120 17th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

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# Bancroft Banner

*A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood*



## Bancroft Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 13 • 6:15–8:15 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue South

Buffet Dinner (with entertainment!) 6:15 p.m.

Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

BNA's Annual Meeting will be a fun event this year, so be sure to mark the date on your calendar! We'll have a free buffet dinner, complements of our neighborhood businesses; dinner entertainment will be complements of Bancroft's very own Shirley and Jerry Spanhanks who will be playing bluegrass music, followed by a performance by youth from Urban Arts Academy; and be watching for McGruff!

The meeting will include an update on BNA's accomplishments and goals by BNA's Board President Julie Zamora. Also, updates on Nokomis Center, 38th & Chicago, NRP Phase II and neighborhood social events. City council member Glidden's office will provide updates and take questions. Last of all, elections will be held for 2008–2009 BNA Board Members.

*Please call to reserve childcare during the meeting.*

For more information, please call or email the  
BNA office at 724-5313 or  
[info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org).

## You can make a difference!

***Join Bancroft  
Neighborhood  
Association's  
Community Council  
Board of Directors!***

This is where you come into the picture. We need dedicated individuals (neighborhood leaders) to help Bancroft Neighborhood remain a vibrant presence in the City of Minneapolis. Lots of exciting things are going on in Bancroft, come be a part of it! Work on commercial and housing issues, 38th & Chicago, plan and participate in fun-filled social events, help create new NRP Phase II housing and social programs, work on crime and safety issues, environmental projects and community gardens, to name just a few of the many things happening in Bancroft. Be an active participant in you neighborhood. BE A BNA BOARD MEMBER!

Not interested in being a board member but interested in being involved? Come and hear more about the committees — there's something for everyone!

## Urban Arts Academy teams up with Full-Cycle to give back to kids

**12** Urban Arts Academy (UAA) Kid-Power kids have enjoyed new (to them) bikes when tooling around the city this past summer, courtesy of Full-Cycle bike shop. On Tuesday, June 17, the Kid-Power students, led by Elisa McBrayer, were met with bikes that were ghost-ridden from up the street at Pillsbury House, the home of Full-Cycle, to the Urban Arts Academy at 39th and Chicago.

Full-Cycle is a nonprofit bike shop that offers homeless youths paid internships and a path to independence. The three Full-Cycle interns rebuilt youth bikes, planning to give back to the community. The UAA youth were overwhelmed to be on the receiving end of such a generous gift. Angelo Perez said, "They were really cool, and my bike is so fast, I raced it and won against the other bikes."

This small group of young UAA participants learned life skills and grew as leaders, while developing new relationships before the UAA summer camps began on June 23.

Urban Arts Academy offers free and low-cost after-school art based education, pre-school classes, and summer camps. The partnering of these two community organizations and what they do for their neighborhoods are just a part of what makes South Minneapolis such a unique place.

**Full-Cycle**  
3501 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone: 612-718-7521

**Urban Arts Academy**  
3901 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
Phone: 612-827-1641

## VOTE on November 4th!

**T**he 2008 election includes the presidential election, district judges, state representatives, as well as other local officials. Minneapolis voters will elect three school board members and decide on two Minneapolis Public Schools referenda (see article.) In Minnesota, you can register to vote on Election Day. For information about Election Day registration requirements, call 311 or 612-673-2070.

**Minneapolis Public Schools Referenda:** Minneapolis voters will be asked to vote on two school-related questions on November 4th.

**Funding Referendum:** If approved, this referendum will provide \$60 million per year to the Minneapolis Public Schools starting in the 2009-2010 school year. It would replace the current referendum that will expire next year if it is not replaced. Half of the referendum funds would go to education essentials such as textbooks, early reading, math, and science. The other half would go to managing class sizes. "Strong Schools, Strong City" is a city-wide campaign supporting the referendum.

**Redistricting Referendum:** This question is related to the election of the school board members. Voters will answer yes or no to expanding the number of school board members from seven to nine and electing six members from geographic districts and three members at large. This change would be phased in over time. All school board members are presently elected at large.

### Help support the BNA with a tax-deductible donation

We warmly appreciate any amount you wish to give. Please make checks payable to BNA and send to:

Bancroft Neighborhood Association  
4120 17th Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Thank you!

## BANCROFT NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT

### For 20 years, EOC has helped adults return to school

**S**ince 1988, Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) has helped thousands of Twin Cities adults pursue their dreams of obtaining training and education.

A TRIO program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and hosted by Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), EOC provides a number of services to its clients: assistance with student financial aid applications, information on careers, guidance in selecting programs and schools, and general help in navigating the process of post-secondary education.

Bancroft resident Russell Raczkowski started working for EOC three months after the program was first funded. "This is a unique program," says Raczkowski, "in that it does not recruit for any one school, while working with clients on their own terms and focusing on practical strategies for achieving educational and career goals." EOC does not provide direct funding to individuals. According to Raczkowski, that is a good thing from a service standpoint. "We're not bound by the requirements that come with direct funding, allowing EOC advisers to be true advocates for our clients."

EOC has two locations convenient to Bancroft residents: the South Minneapolis WorkForce Center at Chicago and Lake, staffed by long-time EOC adviser, Nardos Senbeta; and the main EOC office at MCTC, staffed by Russell Raczkowski and other EOC advisers. To set up an appointment with an EOC adviser or to arrange for an adviser to speak to your group, call 612-659-6534.

## BNA Calendar

October 2008–January 2009

BNA meetings and events are open to the public—in fact, they depend on community involvement. All meetings and events are held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue South at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Childcare available with advance notice. Call 724-5313.

### October

Saturday, October 18, 9 to 11  
**Bancroft Meridian Garden**  
(38th Street at 12th Avenue); our last gardening day of the season - we'll be planting tulip bulbs and would love some help.

Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19  
**Acanthus Floral Art Grand Opening** (see article below right)

### November

Tuesday, October 21  
**NRP Committee Meeting**  
7 p.m. at Bethel Church

Wednesday, November 5  
**Cedar Avenue Restoration Project**  
6:30 at Sister Sludge Coffee Shop (46th Street & Bloomington Avenue; see article)

Thursday, November 9  
**Free Dinner, Entertainment & BNA Annual Meeting**  
6:15 at Bethel Church

Tuesday, November 21  
**NRP Committee Meeting**  
7 p.m. at Bethel Church

### December

Thursday, December 11  
**BNA Board Meeting**  
7 p.m. at Bethel Church

**December NRP Committee Meeting**  
To be announced

### January

Thursday, January 8  
**BNA Board Meeting**  
7 p.m. at Bethel Church

Tuesday, January 20  
**NRP Committee Meeting**  
7 p.m. at Bethel Church

## The Cedar Avenue Restoration Project seeks members

by Will Peterson

Recently a small but motivated group of neighbors met to discuss their concerns related to increased traffic on Cedar Avenue. In recent years, residents living along Cedar have noticed a significant increase in traffic, higher speeds, elevated noise levels, very dangerous situations for pedestrians and bikers, and a sharp decrease in livability in our neighborhood.

The Cedar Avenue Restoration Project seeks motivated members and interested residents to help find ways to

fix this problem. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 at Sister Sludge Coffee Shop at the corner of 46th Street and Bloomington Avenue. If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please e-mail [cedartraffic@gmail.com](mailto:cedartraffic@gmail.com) to be added to our Google group. From there you can see what is happening with the group and find ways you can help. If you do not have access to e-mail, contact your neighborhood organization to see who can represent you at our meetings. We look forward to working with you to make our neighborhoods save and livable!

## BNA needs: Can you help?

The Bancroft Neighborhood Office needs the following items, graciously accepts in-kind donations, and we're always looking for your input; call the BNA office if you have questions (612-742-5313):

- A ream of copy paper
- Printer cartridges: "Epson 69 Black" and "Epson 69 cyan, magenta, yellow"
- Postage stamps (envelope and/or postcard)
- Hanging file folders (1 box, letter size)

- Surge protector power strip
- Tax deductible donations are always appreciated
- Neighbors for our "Neighbor Spotlight" — do you know someone we should meet?
- Businesses for the "Business Spotlight" — tell us about where you do business in Bancroft
- Volunteers to help out with limited projects in the BNA office
- Committee volunteers to meet once a month

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

### Acanthus Floral Art

3932 Cedar Avenue South  
612-729-9222

Hours: Tuesday to Friday (10 to 7);  
Saturday (10 to 5)

Grand Opening: October 18 & 19

The acanthus plant symbolizes creativity, quality and longevity. It has long inspired artists and architects alike and has inspired Bancroft neighborhood's newest business, Acanthus Floral Art. Stop by to meet business owner and Bancroft resident, Jodi Irwin, during the Grand Opening or anytime you're looking for a special gift. Acanthus Floral Art offers a daily fresh flower selection, gifts created by



**Acanthus Floral Art.** Photo by Jodi Irwin

local artists and custom designed arrangements for your home or event.

*(Bring in this article and receive 15% off your purchase of \$30 or more.)*