

Bancroft Banner

A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

Neighbors gather to celebrate and plan for the future

by Celia Kutz

On Saturday, April 25th, close to 150 neighbors from the 8th Ward gathered for the 1st Annual All Neighborhood's Meeting. Hosted in the Bancroft neighborhood, our own Julie Zamora, BNA President, welcomed the crowd of couples and families, seniors and youth. With coffee and muffins we clapped along to the Greater Friendship Choir whose voices rang out in the Bethel Church gymnasium. Elizabeth Glidden then introduced the great speakers who were to entertain us for the first part of the morning.

We first heard from Ta-coumba Aiken, whose artwork can be seen all over the Twin Cities. He first moved to Minnesota in 1970 and, as a muralist, uses the neighborhoods in which he works as a canvas, and the people as collaborators and inspiration. He was an inspiring presenter with pictures of his art work and his family history. Check out www.decemberdesigns.com for more of his artwork and keep your eyes on the street — we're hoping to have Ta-coumba do a mural in the Bancroft neighborhood soon!

Next up was Julie Ristau from Homegrown Minneapolis. She introduced us to the project which develops recommendations for the City of Minneapolis to improve sales, distribution and consumption of fresh, locally grown foods. Homegrown Minneapolis is about creating a local, healthy, and sustainable food supply that will positively impact all of us in South Minneapolis. Recommendations are currently being reviewed and commented on at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/



Residents of the 8th Ward share their thoughts with Elizabeth Glidden.

dhfs/homegrown-home.asp. Visit the website for more details.

We also heard from Maren Christenson, a board member of the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (CAFAC). These folks are working hard to bring a community arts center to Chicago Avenue that will focus on fine and industrial art farms that are produced by heat, spark, or flame

including sculptural welding, blacksmithing, glass work, jewelry-making, electronics and more. They are actively seeking support in the hopes of opening their doors this year! Visit www.cafac.org to find out more.

The bulk of our time was spent together in small groups, discussing ideas for improving our neighborhood. The topics included arts in our neighborhood, local/small businesses and homegrown initiatives. Lots of ideas were gathered by Elizabeth Glidden's office and we shared lots of good ideas for the future of the 8th Ward. Thanks, 8th Ward Office, for putting together such a nice Saturday morning gathering. And a special thank you to the Bancroft volunteers who helped staff the table, coordinate and donate food — Julie, Jacque, Matt, Daniel, Neal, George, and Rebecca. It was great to see so many friendly Bancroft faces.

Important Elections for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC)

NCEC is the advisory board that will work with the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations department (NCR) as this new department and program are developed and replaces the NRP that has administered funding to Minneapolis neighborhoods for nearly two decades. The NCEC will have 16 members; seven of the members have been appointed by the City; one member has been appointed by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; the remaining eight members will be

elected by the neighborhoods.

Meetings: Bancroft representatives have attended the two citywide neighborhood meetings (February and April), where it was agreed to divide the city into eight districts based on population; each district will elect one member to the NCEC; an election timeline was agreed to; and an Elections Task Force was formed to define the elections process. David Rubedor with NCR stopped by BNA's April Board meeting and explained that he sched-

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Big changes on Chicago and 38th Street

Maybe you've heard the rumors or seen some new faces — regardless, it's true, Chicago and 38th Street are getting lots of attention this summer. There are new business owners and commercial grant money is being used to increase this vibrant and visible transportation hub. Bancroft is at the forefront of these changes because we administer a Great Streets Façade Improvement Grant specifically for the Chicago and 38th Street node. We're here to update the status of that grant and let you in on some of the other money and opportunities coming to this corner of the city.

Façade Improvement Grant Update

We've had numerous businesses apply for and receive grants to help improve their façade. So far we've got eight businesses installing new lighting

fixtures, putting up bright colored awnings and getting a fresh coat of paint (some may even be a community mural!). Thanks to the participation of the business owners and the contractors they are working with, we're creating a 38th and Chicago 'look' that will stand out. Whether you're traveling by bus, bike or car, stop by periodically to take note of the changes and talk with the businesses owners about their plans. You'll be amazed at the history and commitment of the folks who call that corner home.

Great Streets Business District Support

After a competitive ranking process, the Center for Planning and Economic Development (CPED) will fully fund an application received by 38th and Chicago Business owners, residents and community members to do market and real estate

analysis and branding work at 38th and Chicago Ave. The proposal was approved by the City Council Community Development Committee on April 28, 2009. Congratulations and thanks are due to the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, the Neighborhood Development Center and Bryant, Central, Powderhorn and Bancroft (yeah us!) for participating in the application process. The council agenda item with the written proposal and its approval can be seen at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2009-meetings/20090508/CD20090428agenda.asp. This is an exciting step forward for 38th and Chicago. More community input and participation is always welcome. The Small Area Implementation Committee oversees these activities; they meet every third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave.

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uled the first two NCEC meetings in April and May and before the neighborhood's eight members have been elected because there is so much work to be done to develop this new program. Following the second all-neighborhood meeting, input from many neighborhoods and from Councilmember Glidden objecting to the NCEC meetings before the neighborhood representatives have been elected, the NCR canceled these two meetings; the first NCEC meeting will be on June 23, with a full 16-member council.

An Election Process was developed with input from the Elections Task Force emails from neighborhoods without representation at that meeting. An elector system will be used; each neighborhood has one vote and selects one elector and one alternate; NCR will collect candidate applications, post the profiles online and send hard copies to neighborhood organizations; the neighborhoods will announce/communicate to process and seek candidates for their district; a citywide forum will be held to meet the candidates; voting will be

from June 1 to June 16; paper ballots signed by the elector will be used; and the election results will be documented, recorded and verified.

Candidates to NCEC: Candidates must live in the district they represent; neighborhood staff can run for NCEC; and the terms will be 2 years for neighborhood representatives; with the first term being 3 years for half of the members and 2 years for the remaining. If you are interested in running as a candidate for NCEC from the 7th District (Bancroft, Bryant, Powderhorn, Central, Corcoran, the Phillips Neighborhoods, and Ventura Village) please contact NCR; and candidates will follow the NRP Policy Board's election process for candidate questions, profile and guidelines.

Important Dates: May 14, Bancroft's NCEC elector and alternate will be chosen at the BNA Board meeting; May 12 to 26, NCR accepting applications for NCEC neighborhood district candidates; June 1, voter guides available at the NCR website and distributed to the neighborhoods and voting opens; June 3, Citywide Forum where electors meet their district candidates; June 16, voting

Help support the BNA with a tax-deductible donation or check out our "wish list" below!

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

We are looking for specific donations of:

- A 2-drawer filing cabinet
- Website experience and/or skills
- Computer Equipment
- Indoor plants
- Gardening Tools

Thank you!

closes; June 19, winners announced; and June 23, first NCEC Meeting.

If you have questions, give BNA a call or contact David Rubedor at NCR (612-673-3129) or visit the NCR's website http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/NhoodAppsElectionProcess_Home.asp.



Join our email mailing list and Facebook page! We are compiling a list of emails to continue building our mailing list – so please email us at info@bancroftneighborhood.org to join.

BNA Calendar

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.

May

May 16, 9–11 a.m.

First day at the Bancroft Meridian Garden
on 38th Street at 12th Ave.

May 21, 7 p.m.

Mid-Summer Steering Committee Meeting

May 28, 6:30–8 p.m.

Block Club/Community Builder Training

June 3, 12 p.m.

38th and Chicago Business Association Meeting, Taco Blass, 3722 Chicago Ave.

May 17, 6:30 p.m.

38th and Chicago Small Area Plan Implementation Committee, Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave.

BNA Committees

BNA Community Council

2nd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

Executive

1st Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

Transportation

2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

Commercial Development

3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

NRP/Housing

3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. (for the month of May this meeting will be held on Monday, May 18)

Outreach

Contact BNA for time and location

Meridian Gardens

3rd Saturday of the month, 9–11 a.m.,
38th Street and 12th Ave.

Bancroft builds community, one block at a time

Become a Block Club Leader and Community Builder!

Training and Informational Meeting

May 28, 6:30–8 p.m.

4120 17th Ave. South

Childcare will be available!

In a time when technology and other social factors are moving individuals toward isolation, a true sense of community is being lost. While people can develop a sense of community through interactions with people across the city or even the world as members of social groups, it's the combination of developing a sense of community through personal interactions with others living close to one another that has started to slip away.

Neighborhoods used to rely on a sense of community for basic needs like food, safety and entertainment. With grocery stores, police departments and "American Idol" it may feel that we no longer need each other for anything. However, the basic need to feel a sense of belonging and membership will likely outlast the next reality show. People want to feel both positively influenced by and able to have a direct impact on their community.

In an effort to engage residents in building a strong community in the Bancroft Neighborhood, the Bancroft Neighborhood Association is reinventing the idea of what it means to be a Block Leader by reaching out to Bancroft residents to become not only Block Leaders, but Community Builders as part of the Bancroft Block Club Program. The goal of the Bancroft Block Club Program is to identify Block Leaders/Community Builders on every

block in the 90-block neighborhood; and to unite those leaders to offer support and a forum for ideas that will improve not only the safety of Bancroft, but develop a stronger sense of community both within blocks and throughout the entire neighborhood.

Block Leaders have traditionally been responsible for crime-prevention activities, maintaining a contact list for his or her block and organizing a National Night Out block party, but the position holds the possibility to be whatever a leader makes of it and can include however much involvement a leader is able to commit. There is no limit to the number of Block Leaders for each block and all ideas are welcome, from pick-up soccer games and parenting clubs to block-improvement initiatives. The purpose of the change is to think beyond just crime prevention to ideas that will help neighbors get to know one another and feel their sense of place within the Bancroft Neighborhood. Simply living close to other people is not enough to create a real sense of community; through the development of relationships with neighbors Bancroft, residents can experience true community.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Leader and Community Builder please join the Bancroft Neighborhood Association's Outreach Committee for a meeting to discuss the Block Club Leader Program. This meeting will be held at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave. S., on May 28, 2009 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. (child-care will be provided). Please RSVP to Celia Kutz at 612-724-5313 or email info@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Gardening Corner

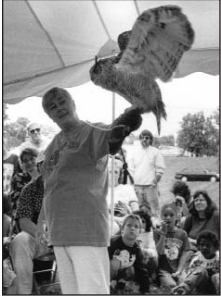
Bancroft Meridian Garden: The Meridian's gardening season began on May 1st, when a dozen students from Risen Christ School cut back last year's growth and filled our compost bins as part of the school's annual give back to the community event; and our neighbor, Paul Berg, has generously offered to spruce up our sign and benches so they are better protected from the ele-

ments. Because the Meridian has no grant income this year, we are hoping for some donations to help cover our costs (water, insurance, and Roundup, which is the only product we have found to keep the thistle and other aggressively invasive weeds at bay); our goal is to raise \$215; tax-deductible donations should be made to BNA (with a note that it's for the Meridian). The Meridian's first neighborhood gardening date will be Saturday, May 16th

from 9 to 11 a.m. We will meet every 3rd Saturday at the same time. Hope to see you at the Meridian this year.

Bancroft Community Garden: All 16 of our garden plots have been filled for this year. If you're looking for a sunny garden spot or want to meet other gardeners in the neighborhood give the BNA office a call and we'll add you to the list of gardeners.

Mark your calendars and get involved!



Annual Mid-Summer Festival
Wednesday,
July 29, 5–9 p.m.
Bancroft Meadows
(Bloomington & 42nd St.)

If spring is here, then summer is right around the corner. We here at the BNA have begun organizing for the Mid-Summer festival and we need your help! Organize to help bring together arts, food, entertainment, education and community from all across the neighborhood and beyond. We would love new leadership to come forward to help with this event — so, now is your chance to get involved. The Mid-Summer Festival Steering Committee will be meeting May 21, 7 p.m. at the BNA office. If you cannot make it but have ideas, let us know!

Mortgage foreclosure prevention program available

The Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP) is committed to providing accurate information and counseling to those who are falling behind on their mortgage payments. This program is for individuals not currently behind on mortgage payments, but will be soon, those who are having difficulties paying or are behind in paying property taxes, as well as persons who are behind on paying homeowners association fees.

Please contact 612-331-4090 ext. 3 for more information and to see if you qualify. In addition to this program Habitat for Humanity also organizes A Brush With Kindness and a Homeownership Program — both geared towards homeowners in need. Visit www.tchabitat.org for more information.

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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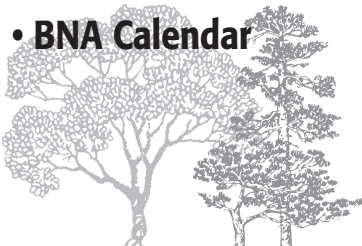
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