



# Bancroft Banner

*A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood*



## Celebrate Summer With Your Neighbors at the 3rd Annual Mid-Summer Festival

**Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 5-9 p.m.**  
**Bancrofts Meadows**  
**42nd Street and Bloomington Avenue**  
**Featuring:**

- ➡ Free Ice Cream
  - ➡ Music
  - ➡ Entertainment
  - ➡ Games and Activities for All Ages
  - ➡ Bike Parade 6:30 p.m.
- 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

## NCEC holds its first neighborhood elections

*By Jacque Passow, BNA representative to  
the NCEC*

Earlier this June, Neal Baxter and I attended the first Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) Neighborhood Elections in Southeast Minneapolis. The 16-member NCEC will make recommendations to the City Council about how funding will be allocated to neighborhood groups throughout Minneapolis. Through a series of neighborhood meetings the city of Minneapolis was divided up into eight districts, with each area having a representative. Bancroft has been placed in District 7 along with many of our neighboring 'hoods' to the north, east and west.

Electors and/or alternates from six of the nine District 7 neighborhoods were represented; five of the eight candidates came; and the election process was facilitated by the League of Women Voters. Working in District groups, the candidates explained why they wanted to serve on the NCEC, described their backgrounds and qualifications, and responded to questions. We had an impressive group of candidates that brought a wealth of community service background, diversity and knowledge to the table. After three rounds of voting, Melanie Majors was elected as the first District 7 representative to the NCEC.

Melanie is a long-time Minneapolis resident who currently lives in the Bryant neighborhood. She is the Executive Director of the Greater Longfellow neighborhood, and firmly believes that properly funded neighborhoods play a vital role in shaping a stable and vibrant city. Melanie's solid understanding of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) qualifies her to speak with first-hand knowledge about what works well and should be preserved. We believe that Melanie will do an excellent job representing the interests of not only our District but the city as a whole.

# Bancroft Neighborhood and 'Diva Rags' team up

**W**e must work as a collective to make change, and that is exactly what we will do. At the June board meeting the Bancroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) agreed to partner with the Diva/Suave Project-Junior Business Incubator as their fiscal agent, helping out as they search for grants to apply for non-profit status from the government. Both organizations are excited to be making a collaborative effort toward uplifting, educating and guiding at-risk youth and children in the right direction — simply

because the youth are our future.

Ashley Lauren is an entrepreneur who started Diva Rags at fifteen and recently began the Diva/Suave Project, which began in April of 2007 where it operated out of the Midtown Global Market.

“Diva Rags” are scarves, shawls, sarongs, etc, embellished with a unique application of glitter, paint and/or gems (every product is washable). Suave Clothing, which was recently added to Diva Rags, offers customized clothing, where the consumer may place a special design on used/new apparel and

shoes. Diva Rags and Suave Clothing serve as examples for young people, and help at-risk youth and children in the neighborhood realize there are options in life besides what poverty hands them at a young age. Ashley has a passion for fashion as well as uplifting the youth.

The Diva/Suave Project-Junior Business Incubator and Diva Rags & Suave Clothing are currently located at 1832 E. 42nd St. The project gives young people training, mentoring and the necessary skills to become small businesses owners while also offering a wealth of other resources. These future entrepreneurs will create jobs for people in the community and influence peers to utilize their time in a positive way. The Diva/Suave Project and the Junior Business Incubator is an effort to diminish the epidemics of unemployment, illiteracy, teen pregnancy, gang violence leading to young murders, homelessness, hunger, and the rising number of high school dropouts. It's time to give back to the community by molding the youth, our future, in a strengthening way. This will help lay the foundation for their future.

Ashley's inspiration for implementing change among young people derives from her grandfather, Danny Davis, who passed away approximately one year ago from cancer. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champ, compliance specialist for the Minneapolis Public Schools, and founder of Let's Work Together Club, an organization that issued scholarships to disadvantaged youth throughout Minneapolis who were going to attend college. His work will live on through Ashley who will carry on the torch her grandfather and past leaders ignited!

Ashley can be found at the shop at 1832 E. 42nd St., Wednesday–Sunday from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.–4 p.m., and can be reached at (612) 701-7436 or by email at [info@divarags.com](mailto:info@divarags.com) (visit online at [www.divarags.com](http://www.divarags.com)).

## Bancroft Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held Saturday, September 19

Time to get ready again for the annual neighborhood-wide Bancroft Garage Sale! We'll be hosting the extravagant weekend of bargains on Saturday, September 19 from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Handy guides that tell you where certain items are throughout the neighborhood will be available at Pro Fuel on 38th & Bloomington from Thursday, September 17 to Saturday, September 19, and at the garage sale sites on the day of the sale.

Enclosed is an application to fill out in order to participate in the sale. Participation is FREE for all residents of Bancroft, and we want everyone to participate! The sale will include furniture, antiques, household items, children's items and much, much more! So sign up NOW and get your extra stuff ready to sell. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, August 28th. Call the BNA office (612-724-5313) or email [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org) to register and/or for more information.

### 2009 Bancroft Neighborhood Association Garage Sale Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special items of interest (baby clothes, tools, furniture, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Please fax to: BNA at 612-724-3694  
Email: [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org)  
Or mail to Bancroft Neighborhood Association  
4120 17th Ave. So  
Mpls. Mn. 55407  
By August 28, 2009

## 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.

### July–September

June 23–Aug. 13

Youth Farm Free Summer Program  
[www.youthfarm.net](http://www.youthfarm.net) for details

June 27–Aug. 22

Kickball at Phelps Park  
39th and Chicago, Saturdays at 4 p.m.

June 2–July 30

Summer Urban Arts Camp  
[www.urbanartsacademy.org](http://www.urbanartsacademy.org) for details

July 16

Pedestrian Master Plan Open House & Walking Workshops  
5:30–8:30, Minneapolis Central Library

July 18

38th and Chicago Clean up and Festival

July 29

Midsummer Festival  
42nd and Bloomington, 5–9 p.m.

August 1

Southside Pride Up and Rising Festival  
Sabathani Community Center

August 4

National Night Out

September 19

Bancroft Neighborhood Garage Sale

If you would like more information about any of these activities call the

BNA office.

### BNA Committees

NOTE: There will be no BNA meetings in July.

**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.

**Outreach**

Contact BNA for time and location

**Meridian Garden**

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

# Revived activities bring life to Phelps Park

For years there were no Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board games at Phelps Park, located on 39th Street & Chicago Avenue. That all changed last year and, if you haven't noticed, the park is experiencing new life and excitement! Roughly one year ago the Phelps Activity Council, a non-profit organization, was founded to receive donations to help cover the costs of providing a good activities program for local kids coming to play organized sports in the park. Many neighborhood groups, foundations and private donors have contributed to PAC over the years. This year we are excited to include the Bancroft Neighborhood Association to that list. Their financial donation will help cover the costs for baseball jerseys for this year's teams. Without donations like these many kids would not have had a chance to participate, leaving them without a physically active, team building, and community-minded activity to participate.

Jim Halbur, who for many years has been the pastor of a neighborhood church, Fountain of Life, and is president of the Phelps Activities Council, says, "It is a whole different atmosphere with organized activities going on. It is especially noticeable at night



**2009 Father's Day Baseball Tournament –  
Winning 2nd Place!**

with the lights on. It keeps the park inviting and safe. What a great thing for the community."

John Ross, a park worker at Phelps, noticed, "It has been a definite improvement and positive impact . . . on days when the teams are having practice the park is easily manageable and calmer and it has developed a sense of pride in the community."

Mark Graves, director of the Boys and Girls Club, who has been at the park for many years, has seen the positive impact of the program on the park, especially on the day there were about eight football teams scrimmaging each other. "It's a great thing to see," he said.

The vision behind the PAC is to help Phelps Park and the Boys & Girls Club become a place to help develop character in kids through various activities. The new funding from groups like Bancroft Neighborhood Association and individuals, along with the hard work of coaches and other volunteers, is making a difference in the Phelps neighborhood.

If you are interested in knowing more about how to donate or get involved in the program please contact Jim at [phelpsactivitiescouncil@gmail.com](mailto:phelpsactivitiescouncil@gmail.com) or visit [www.phelpsfalcons.org](http://www.phelpsfalcons.org).

## 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:

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[info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org)

[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)

*Printed on recycled paper*

# BANCROFT BRIEFS

## Congratulations to Lavender Magazine!

The Bancroft Neighborhood Association has rewarded our first Façade Improvement grant! Lavender Magazine, located at 3715 Chicago Ave. S., received a well-overdue paint job to the exterior of their building. It was a simple project and the BNA was happy to be able to help this long-established business. Check them out and see if you can notice the change!

The Façade Improvement Grant Program is available to all businesses located at Fourth, Chicago, or Bloomington avenues along 38th Street. Significant funding is available to improve a businesses exterior façade according to certain guidelines determined by the program. Contact the BNA if you are a business or property owner in any of the above-mentioned locations and are interested in applying.

## Start planning now for National Night Out

National Night Out (NNO) is coming up fast and now is the time to start making preparations on your block for the night that brings neighbors together. This year, NNO is Tuesday, August 4. Register your NNO event online and you can even apply to close your street (you must register by July 21st). You need permission from 75 % of your neighbors to be approved for street closure. Get started at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) or call 612-673-3000 for more information.

## Virtual connections

Join the BNA's 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](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org) to join. You can also find us online on Facebook.

## BNA home improvement loans available

The Bancroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) has home improvement loans available to Bancroft residents at a fixed rate of 3% for homesteaded property and 6% for non-homesteaded property owners. Loans may be between \$1,500.00 and \$15,000.00. All permanent interior and exterior projects are eligible for this loan program, with the exception of projects deemed “luxury items for the Bancroft Neighborhood.” These would include in-ground pools, hot tubs, garages over 576 square feet and luxury landscaping. With each Bancroft Loan, we ask you contribute five volunteer hours toward the BNA project, committee, board meeting of your choice.

For more information or to obtain an application call the BNA at 612-724-5313 or email [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org)



## 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**

## The Bancroft Banner

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Minneapolis, MN 55407

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