



# Bancroft Banner

*A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood*

*Transportation Committee Update*

## RiverLake Greenway Phase III

*George Moore, BNA Transportation Committee*

In a well-attended public meeting at Roosevelt High on February 4, Don Pflaum, project engineer for the City of Minneapolis, presented the current state of planning for Phase III of the RiverLake Greenway Bicycle project which will begin construction in 2010. Phase III will extend the project from I-35W to the Mississippi River in the following three sections: a) 40th Street East — from Second Avenue South to Nokomis Avenue; b) Nokomis Avenue — from 38th Street East to 42nd Street East; c) 42nd Street East — from Nokomis Avenue to West River Parkway. The Concept Plan involves different treatments in different portions of the Greenway: a “bicycle boulevard,” two-way bike lanes, and “sharrow.” There will also be a set of new street signs marking a route from 42nd Street along 29th Avenue South and 38th Street to the 38th Street light rail station.

The 40th Street East portion — including the entire section that will transect Bancroft neighborhood — will adopt the “Bicycle Boulevard” concept for the first time in Minneapolis. This puts us among the cities pioneering new traffic technologies to encourage bicycling as a mode of transportation. Bicycle Boulevards involve giving bicycles and cars equal priority to use the whole lane. This is to be indicated by street markings and signage. Naturally this means cars will need to slow down in the presence of bicyclists. Mr. Pflaum explained a variety of “traffic

calming” designs that are included or proposed in the current design. These include new pedestrian signals and “bump-outs” at the 40th Street intersections with Chicago Avenue and Bloomington Avenue. 40th Street and Cedar Avenue will receive new “bump-outs” and the traffic signal will be retained. “Bump-out” is the term for bringing the curb, parkway and sidewalks at an intersection further out into the street to occupy the parking lane. This makes for a narrower intersection, and a shorter crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists. It has been shown to slow through car traffic as well. The BNA Transportation Committee is looking at additional intersections and designs for slowing car traffic on 40th Street inside the Chicago Avenue–Bloomington Avenue and Bloomington Avenue–Cedar Avenue sections. Those interested in participating should contact George at [harpoM@CorazonDigno.net](mailto:harpoM@CorazonDigno.net) and/or Celia at [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org).

Good pictures and explanations for all the specialized terms used in this article as well as more information (and a map) can be found at the project website, <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/riverlake> or by searching “RiverLake Greenway” at the main City of Minneapolis site. Be sure to click on “Open House Overview,” the slide presentation shown at the meeting, for pictures, examples and details of the entire route.

## Bancroft’s 2008 Annual Meeting

This year’s Annual Meeting was a lively and stunning success with more than 85 neighbors and business owners attending and contributing. We had a great dinner donated by Fat Lorenzo’s (5600 Cedar) and Jakeeno’s Pizza and Pasta (3555 Chicago) with beverages and cookies donated by CUP Foods (3754 Chicago). Bluegrass music was complements of Bluewolf Bluegrass (Jerry and Shirley Spanhanks, Holle Brian and Dave Hedding) and students from Urban Arts Academy dazzled us with a Stomp and Rhythm performance. All of that was followed by the Annual Meeting, where we heard from 8th Ward Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden (and met her baby daughter), and Principal Judi Golden from Bancroft Elementary School; updates were given by the BNA Council President Julie Zamora, and the Personnel, NRP, and Commercial Development Committees, the Bancroft Meridian Garden, and the Riverlake Greenway Project.

We rounded off the evening with the election for the 2008/2009 Community Council and officers were elected at the December Counsel meeting; this year’s council members are:

Matthew Ayres	Russell
Neal Baxter	Raczkowski
Emmett Bryant	Rebecca Ryman
Mandy Ellerton	Daniel Rauchman
Holly Hinman	Ryan Johnson
Ep Law	Mike Simons
Chris Little	Julie Zamora
Bud Moore	
Jacque Passow	

# GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

## Frustrated with Cedar Ave.? You're not alone!



Neighbors Reclaiming Cedar Avenue

Cedar Avenue United (CAU) is a grassroots group dedicated to improving our neighborhoods and local commercial areas by reclaiming and redesigning Cedar Avenue in south Minneapolis. The need for this group arose out of concern by locals for increasingly heavy and dangerous traffic, lack of safe pedestrian crossings, unsafe cycling conditions and

other severe environmental concerns.

CAU plans to work with the City, County and neighborhood residents and businesses to produce a comprehensive redesign plan focusing on neighborhood livability, traffic taming, multi-modal transportation, local business development and historic preservation.

Cedar Avenue United is currently seeking concerned residents, business owners and property owners to participate in the effort. Our group meets the first Wednesday of each month. You can read recent minutes and view announcements at [www.cedaravenueunited.blogspot.com](http://www.cedaravenueunited.blogspot.com)

For more information contact Will at 651-206-1459 or e-mail [cedartraffic@gmail.com](mailto:cedartraffic@gmail.com).



## Grow, bloom, inspire!

Dreaming about blooms and gardens?

With winter finally winding down and the coldest temps behind us (we hope), Bancroft's gardeners have been starting seeds and dreaming about gardens. Metro Blooms, a do-it-yourself volunteer run community group promotes and celebrates gardening to beautify the community and protect the environment. An extensive list of workshops can be found at [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) — check it out to become a member or join the mailing list. If you're looking for a sunny spot to garden, you may want to add your name to the waiting list of folks gardening at the Bancroft Community Garden locat-

ed at Bethel Church. After the spring thaw (it's not that far off, right?), stop by the Bancroft Meridian Garden to enjoy the colorful tulips and other spring blooms and join us at the Meridian beginning in May on the third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. for fun, gardening, and refreshments. We have a small group of gardeners interested in starting up Bancroft's Garden Club again; we tentatively plan a plant swap and sale in early June (watch for details in the *Spring Banner*). Give the BNA office a call if you'd like more information about our gardening opportunities.

## Volunteer with the Urban Arts Academy

The Urban Arts Academy, a non-profit located at 39th and Chicago, is looking for mentors, artists and volunteers to help in our arts afterschool program. Help support students in math, literacy, and art! Call 612-827-1641 or email [vista@urbanartsacademy.org](mailto:vista@urbanartsacademy.org).

Urban Arts Academy, una organizacion sin lucro, ubicado en la esquina de calle 39 y Chicago, esta buscando a voluntarios, artistas y tutores para ayudar nuestro programa de arte afterschool. Apoya nuestros estudiantes en los temas de matematica, alfabetizacion, y arte! Llama a 612-827-1641 o escribenos a [vista@urbanartsacademy.org](mailto:vista@urbanartsacademy.org).

## Our new community organizer — welcome!



We are proud to announce the recent hiring of Celia Kutz, our new community organizer! Celia comes from a diverse back-

ground of organizing experiences and we are happy to have her skill in the office and on the street. From working in her home town with local businesses, managing organic food co-operatives and opening a free health care clinic this woman is great at what she does. She is enthusiastic about collaborative work and excited about the projects, potential and people she has already met in the Bancroft community.

Celia can often be found in the office at Bethel Lutheran or riding the streets of Bancroft on her bike. She is always in need of helpful volunteers and with the weather changes and as she gets the basics down, you'll be seeing her more often out in the neighborhood. She is passionate about community, honest dialogue and change that fit the needs of the people.

## 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!*

If you would like to be added to our online mailing list please email us at [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org)

## BNA Calendar

### March–May 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.

#### March

BNA Board Meeting — Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m.

38th and Chicago Small Area Implementation Committee — Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave.

NRP/Housing Committee — Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.

Commercial Development Committee — Thursda, March 19, 7 p.m.

South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair — Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. South High, 3131 19th Ave. S.

#### April

38th & Chicago Business Association — Wednesday, April 1, 12–1 p.m.

BNA Executive Committee — Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

BNA Board Meeting — Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m.

Transportation Committee — Thursday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. (before Board meeting)

Commercial Development Committee — Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

38th and Chicago Small Area Implementation Committee — Monday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., Pillsbury House, 3501 Chicago Ave.

NRP/Housing Committee — Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Outreach Committee — meets monthly, contact Matt at [mcnurlen@gmail.com](mailto:mcnurlen@gmail.com)

Urban Arts Academy 6th Annual Spring Gala — April 18, 6 p.m., 3901 Chicago Ave. S. Reservations required.

All Neighborhoods Meeting — Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., location TBA

#### May

Artican, Urban Arts Academy — Saturday, May 16th, see [www.urbanartsacademy.org](http://www.urbanartsacademy.org) for more details.

## Update: BNA housing committee and NRP

The BNA is developing a forgivable home improvement loan program for qualifying low-income home owners that we hope to have available this year, and we're exploring a modification to our existing low-interest home improvement loan program that could make that program available to more homeowners. These programs have been made possible by our NRP funds. If you'd like to help shape these programs, give the BNA office a call for details.

As NRP as we've known it draws to a close, BNA's main neighborhood funding will be through a new program administered by the City of Minneapolis. BNA board members have participated in city wide meetings to establish criteria for the selection of eight neighborhood

representatives who will be part of the new 16 member Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, which will make recommendations to the City Council about the new program. While details about how this new program will work and how much funding BNA will receive are still sketchy, for a variety of reasons, it's anticipated that funds for all neighborhoods will be less than what we've had in the past. In response to that likelihood, BNA has been exploring ways to reduce costs while continuing to provide neighborhood & community programs, events, and services that make Bancroft a great place to live. If you have ideas for ways we can reduce our costs or if you'd like to donate a service, call or send us an email.



*Could your house use a new coat of paint?*

### Paint-A-Thon, 2009!

Paint-A-Thon, a volunteer program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, has been painting homes for low-income senior or disabled homeowners — free of charge — since 1984. Painting usually takes place the first weekend of August.

If your house is in need of paint, but not major repairs, we'd like to work with you.

Do you meet the following guidelines?

- You must be the owner and occupant of a single-family home.

- Your home and/or garage must be in one of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington.

- You must be over the age of 60 OR permanently physically disabled (if under 60).

- Your monthly income must not exceed \$1,735 per month (for one person in the home) or \$2,335 (for two people in the home).

If you would like more information or to apply to this program, call 612-721-8687 x321. The deadline to apply is May 8, 2009.

## Introducing the Election Trends Project

Imagine if you could look up any election in the history of Minneapolis. Learn about any city official, past or present, on-line. Thanks to the Election Trends Project, you can.

In just two years, Highwood Press has built a website of breathtaking scope: all city elections in Minneapolis from 1855 to the present. An authoritative, handy reference, right at your fingertips.

This site has the only complete list of members of the Board of Estimate,

the Library Board and the Park Board.

The site needs expansion — if you want to help you can volunteer to unearth new data and stories about elections past. We can put to work everyone from computer geeks to graphic artists to school kids. And, of course, we gladly accept donations of money as well as gifts of time and talent.

See the website, [www.electiontrendsproject.org](http://www.electiontrendsproject.org) or send Neal Baxter an e-mail at: [highwoodpress@hotmail.com](mailto:highwoodpress@hotmail.com).

## GET INVOLVED!

### Will you be our friend?

#### *BNA enters the 21st Century!*

That's right, we have a Facebook account. We know there are Bancroft residents who already communicate using this modern technology and we want in on the fun. Find us at [www.facebook.com/pages/Minneapolis-MN/Bancroft-Neighborhood-Association/44339689069](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Minneapolis-MN/Bancroft-Neighborhood-Association/44339689069) and keep up to date with all that is happening in Bancroft and beyond.

We are also working on our website so please, look forward to a re-launching soon!

### Block leaders wanted

The BNA invites you to help foster a sense of community in the neighborhood. Traditionally, block leaders have been asked to keep an eye on the block to prevent crime, and to help coordinate the annual National Night Out activities. The BNA is developing some new and easy ways for block leaders to engage community members in efforts to keep the neighborhood strong. Please join us by sending in your contact information (email and/or phone number) so that we can coordinate a block leader meeting to learn more about new possibilities for block leaders. Thanks for your support!

## 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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## Bancroft Neighborhood Association

Visit our website at [www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)

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Minneapolis, MN 55407

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