

Bancroft Banner

A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

Bancroft resident Polly Kavanaugh receives 2006 8th Ward Community Leader Award



Polly Kavanaugh (left) and Monica Nillson.
Photo by Emmett Bryant

Bancroft resident Polly Kavanaugh was the winner of the 2006 8th Ward Community Leader award. She was nominated for the award by neighbor Monica Nillson, who wrote the following recommendation for her on the nomination form:

“Polly has led her surrounding neighbors in many efforts to improve our quality of life.

“Polly began and leads our National Night Out events; she organized residents to shut down not one but two crack houses that also had prostitution and child protection issues and she is known as the watchdog of our area: collecting license plates, regularly calling 911 as crime occurs and engaging with all neighbors, law-abiding or not, to let them know that eyes are present.

“Polly makes a stroller ride with two little ones and a dog into a tour of a few graffiti hot-spots that need photographing or cars that have been abandoned (I believe her total is now six stolen cars reported).

“As if fighting crime would not be enough of a volunteer activity for this full-time mom, she has worked to beautify the neighborhood by organizing alley clean-ups, creating a system of sharing perennials and plantings and keeping a mental list of who on the block is in need and who on the block might be able to give.”

Congratulations Polly!

The award was presented at “Early Mornings with 8th Ward Council Member Elizabeth Glidden” on Friday, Jan 26th at Turtle Bread Restaurant & Bakery.

NRP Phase II Plan approved by Bancroft Neighborhood

The Bancroft neighborhood approved its Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II plan on Wednesday, January 31 at an all-neighborhood meeting held at Bethel Church. The NRP Policy Board approved the plan on February 26. BNA and the NRP Steering Committee will start working on the details of the specific strategies at individual BNA committee meetings. The committee meetings are open to Bancroft neighborhood residents and we welcome your feedback. Committee meetings will be announced in the BNA calendar and will start this summer. If you have any questions or if you would like to see the NRP Phase II plan, contact Donna Sanders at BNA, 612-724-5313 or dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Current BNA Committees

(See BNA calendar on page 3 for meeting dates and times)

- Re-development Committee (Housing & Commercial)
- 38th & Chicago Task Force Meeting
- NRP Steering Committee
- River Lake (40th Street) Greenway Committee

Future Committees

- Special Events Committee
- Youth & Arts Committee
- Communications Committee
- Environmental Committee

Get ready for the Bancroft Elementary School Plant Sale!

By Natalie Weiss Jackson

What is the first sign of spring? Do you know it's here when tulips start pushing through the frigid soil? Do you know it's here when temperatures finally warm up? At my house, we don't truly believe that the season is changing until we hear that the Bancroft Elementary School Plant Sale is about to happen. Well, it's time!

Bancroft Elementary has been a pillar in our community since 1912. It now serves 425 students from preschool through fifth grades. Eunice Dietrich, the school's Family and Community Liaison, started the sale eleven years ago. It has replaced other fundraisers at the school and has become a part of yearly garden planning for many Bancroft households.

The plant sale is a team effort involving not just the students, but also their families, school staff, and other community members. Parents help out by accompanying their kids while they sell door-to-door. They also help with setting up the gym for the plant pick-up. The teachers explain to the students how the process works and are among the first to be approached for a little sales practice. Community members are welcome to volunteer their time and, of course, to support the school through their purchases.

Bancroft students benefit from the plant sale in many ways. The proceeds fund fieldtrips, the school arts program, and other educational enhancements that would not otherwise be possible. Thanks to the sale, fifth graders can afford to have a promotion ceremony each year. And, if enough money is raised this year, part of the earnings will be used to help pay for new playground improvements.

The list of available plants varies slightly from year to year. Despite being annuals, Impatiens are a perennial favorite. It's no wonder they are so popular in the shady yards of many South Minneapolis homes. Ours thrive under the spruce tree in the backyard. In addition to numerous annuals, there



are tomatoes, jalapenos, and basil. A few perennials have even been added by request. The four-packs and pots range in price from \$1.90 - \$4.25, and for a little more you can walk away with a lovely hanging basket. These prices are quite reasonable, and you can feel good that your purchase will not only make your yard and garden beautiful, it will also benefit our community's children.

The sale begins on March 20th, and you have until April 17th to place your pre-paid order. The pick-up days are Friday and Saturday, May 18th and 19th. If you haven't been to the school to pick up plants before, you are in for a treat. The gym is filled with gorgeous, healthy plants just waiting to relocate to your home. It is so much fun to push the cart around to pick up the items you bought. And, if you miss the ordering period for any reason, you might still be in luck on the second day; from 1:00-2:00 on Saturday, any plants that are left over or forgotten are sold at a reduced price.

Because of the high cost of printing, order forms will not be mailed out or delivered to all residents this year. If a student doesn't stop by your home, there are two places you can pick up an order form: the BNA office at 4120 17th Avenue South or Bancroft Elementary at 1315 East 38th Street. To request a form by mail, call Eunice Dietrich at 668-3557.

Don't miss out this year! Make the Bancroft Elementary Plant Sale part of your springtime ritual.

Creative Bancroft residents needed to help plan and participate in the Bancroft Midsummer Festival July 25.

Bancroft residents interested in the arts or anything creative are needed to help plan and participate in the Midsummer Festival. The festival is a joint collaboration between Bancroft Neighborhood Association and the Center for Independent Artists. It will take place at Bancroft Meadows, 42nd and Bloomington, on Wednesday, July 25, 2006, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Creative Bancroft residents wanting to participate in the festival contact Mankwe Ndosu, Center for Independent Artists, 724-8392 or mankwe@c4ia.org

Bancroft residents interested in being on the Midsummer Festival Planning Committee call Donna Sanders, BNA, 724-5313 or dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org

Roll out the rain barrel

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the City a \$100,000 grant to provide 2,000 rain barrels to Minneapolis households at a reduced price (\$45). A rain barrel helps to manage storm water by collecting runoff from roofs when it rains. A downspout from a gutter or a roof's edge empties into the rain barrel, which is equipped with a spigot that connects to a standard garden hose. By storing water for later use, you can irrigate you lawn and garden, reduce water consumption, and protect the water quality of our lakes and streams.

Starting in mid- to late March, Minneapolis residents will be able to order rain barrels on-line, or by phone for those who do not have internet access. Sales will be limited to one per household. When the online order-placing process is ready to go, Public Works will send a memo to neighborhood organizations and activate the online-ordering websites. To check for online ordering, to see what a rain barrel looks like, and to find answers to frequently asked questions about rain barrels, please see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso/rainbarrel.asp.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Cedar Country Boy has new owner

Cedar Country Boy
4164 Cedar Ave So.

By Natalie Weiss Jackson

The next time you're rushing to work and just need a quick cup of coffee and a copy of the *New York Times*, consider stopping at the Cedar Country Boy convenience store. After a long day, you can also pick up a frozen pizza or any number of other fast meals on your way home. The new manager and part owner, Etefa Tinti, would love to have you drop by.

Tinti graduated from Augsburg College with a degree in business administration and is a ten-year resident of Minneapolis. He also owns a Sinclair service station in Richfield. You might see his wife or sister at the Country Boy when they are helping to staff the front counter.

The store changed owners in December and has been open for business since January 20. Tinti has made some obvious changes, like a coat of fresh paint, a new cash register, and a new spot for the front counter. Some of the changes you might not notice right away include electrical and plumbing

work as well as some new stock.

In addition to the hot coffee and tea, the store now carries beer and pork products. If you would like to try Ethiopian coffee beans or are yearning to add some Mexican spices to your next meal, look no further. You can expect doughnuts to be available soon, as well. He has applied to participate in the WIC program and hopes to also accept food stamps. Plans for this summer even include a new deli counter.

The "convenience" part of the convenience store doesn't end with the food choices, either. There is still an ATM in the back, and there are postage stamps available for purchase. This is handy, since there's a mailbox right outside on Cedar Avenue. And it won't be long before a copy and fax machine will be installed.

If you're new to the neighborhood, Cedar Country Boy is located at the corner of Cedar Avenue and 42nd Street. It is open for business seven days a week, from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Tinti is happy to be here, and has enjoyed meeting his customers. Stop in sometime to say hello and welcome him to Bancroft.



Cedar Country Boy was one of the recipients of a mural last year through a collaboration between Bancroft Neighborhood Association, El Colegio Charter High School and Helping Youth Promote Empowerment, a Minneapolis Public Schools program.

BNA Calendar

March-June 2007

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 2007

38th & Chicago Task Force
Monday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.
Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago Ave.

Re-development Committee (Housing & Commercial)
Monday, March 26, 7:15- 8:30 p.m.

April

38th & Chicago Business Association
Tuesday, April 10, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Baha'I Center, 3644 Chicago

BNA Board Meeting
Thursday, April 12, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

38th & Chicago Task Force
Monday, April 16, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

BNA Re-development Committee
Monday, April 23, 7:15 - 8:30

May 2007

38th & Chicago Business Association
Tuesday, May 8, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Baha'I Center, 3644 Chicago

BNA Board Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

38th & Chicago Task Force
Monday, May 21, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

Re-development Committee
Wednesday, May 30, 7:15- 8:30 p.m.
(Date change because of holiday)

June 2007

38th & Chicago Business Association
Tuesday, June 12, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: to be announced 724-5313

BNA Board Meeting
Thursday, June 14
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

38th & Chicago Task Force
Monday, June 18, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m.
Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

BNA Re-development Committee
Monday, June 25, 7:15- 8:30

BANCROFT BRIEFS

3% home improvement loans available to Bancroft residents!

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 and \$15,000. 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.

BNA has contracted with TCF Bank, to originate and service continued home improvement loans in Bancroft. This program utilizes Bancroft's Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds designated for home

improvement. For more information or to obtain an application call the BNA at 612-724-5313 or email dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Quarterly *Bancroft Banner*

The *Bancroft Banner* will now come out four times a year instead of six times. If you would like to receive the Banner electronically please email dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Tutor available

A licensed English teacher is available for private lessons or homework help in many elementary and high school subjects, study skills, advanced English and writing, and German. Please call 612-377-4166 or email natalie.weiss.jackson@gmail.com for more information.

The Bancroft Banner

is 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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Bancroft Banner

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