



Bancroft Banner

A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

Fall 2010 • Vol. XX, Issue 4

Bancroft Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 11

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.

Mark your calendar! It's the BNA's Annual Meeting with food, entertainment and information about the Bancroft Neighborhood. This is a great opportunity to learn about the area, meet others in the community and get involved! There are plenty of ways to help this neighborhood grow.

The meeting will include an update on BNA's accomplishments and goals by BNA's Board President, an 8th Ward overview by Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, Crime and Prevention stats from Karen Notsch and updates about the Facade Improvement Grant, the Nokomis Center, NRP Phase II programming and the Riverlake Greenway. We'll also be electing new board members! Being on the board is a fun and interactive way to get to know the neighborhood. We have a lot of laughter at our meetings and people are involved in the projects that interest them. It's a small commitment of one, sometimes two, meetings a month.

We want all of you to be able to attend, please plan on it! The food is delicious and the entertainment inspiring. Childcare is available, however, please call to let us know how many young people you'll be bringing. For more information about the event or to volunteer your time please call or email the BNA office, 612-724-5313, info@bancroftneighborhood.org.



Bancroft is bursting with bike lanes

Two new bike projects are coming to the Bancroft Neighborhood: The Riverlake Greenway and the Southern Bike Connection.

The Southern Bike Connection is a proposed bicycle boulevard on 17th Avenue S. between 24th Street and 47th Street, and 12th Avenue South between 54th Street and 60th Street. Bicycle boulevards improve local, residential streets for bicycling by including features such as traffic calming, safer crossings at busy streets, large bicycle pavement markings, and way finding signs. Bicyclists and motorists share the same lanes. A bicycle boulevard does not use bike lanes, and it does not remove on-street parking. For more details visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/SouthernBikeConnection.asp> and come to the informational meeting on October 12, 6:30 p.m. at 4120 17th Ave. S. If you have questions or concerns about this project, please let us know early!

The Riverlake Greenway is a bike/walk street connecting the Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River midway between the Midtown Greenway and Minnehaha Parkway. The project consists of bike lanes, traffic calming, trees and landscaping amenities. Construction on the Bancroft section of the Greenway is scheduled to begin at the end of September.

What's the same? Traffic along 40th Street will remain two-way and parking will be allowed on both sides of the street. All local access to driveways, alleys, and streets will be preserved.

What's new? Traffic calming measures, including medians and bump-

38th and Chicago Update

If you've been watching the intersection, you've probably noticed some significant changes! Thanks to the Great Streets Facade Improvement Grant, we've been able to fund at least nine projects to improve the exterior facade of commercial businesses along 38th Street in the last two years — and we'll be continuing next year! The 38th and Chicago intersection is growing and blooming in various new directions: the Fire Arts Center coming to the neighborhood, vacant commercial property next to the SA and in the Furniture Warehouse, facade improvements to CUP Foods, delicious food and entertainment at Willie's Soul Food — and the list continues. Do you want to be involved in these changes? A great way to is join the Chicago Business Association's board! Their annual meeting is October 6 at 12 p.m. at Willie's Soul Food on the corner of 38th and Chicago Ave. Please consider joining the board or nominating someone you think might be a good fit! Contact the BNA office for more info.

Event spotlights new commercial spaces

On Monday, Sept. 13, a marketing event sponsored by the City of Minneapolis Great Streets program, the PPNA, Central, Bancroft, and Bryant Neighborhood Associations, as well as the 38th and Chicago Business Association and MCCD was held at 3734 Chicago Ave. The purpose of the event was to showcase the recently renovated and available commercial space owned by Mike Stebnitz, as well as other available commercial spaces located along the East 38th Street and Chicago Avenue corridors, including properties within the 38th and Bloomington Avenue, 38th and Chicago Avenue, and 38th and 4th Avenue commercial nodes. The event was a hit with more than 100 estimated attendees.

Guests enjoyed refreshments while taking in a photography exhibit provided by Roxanne Anderson from the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition (3405 Chicago Ave. S.), a fiber art exhibit provided by Steven B's-A Yarn Garage Workshop (3448



Sunshine Tree Child Development Center at 3641 Chicago Ave gets a paint-job!

Chicago Ave. S.), Chicago Avenue Fire Art Center (CAFAC) tours provided by CAFAC members (3749 Chicago Ave. S.), and a host building history exhibit provided by Mike Stebnitz. A big thanks goes out to Harvey McClain and John Wolf for donating bread and wine as well as all of our community volunteers who helped before, during, and after the event! For more information regarding this event, please contact Jessica Thesing at Jessica.thesing@gmail.com.

Zoning changes

Zoning changes are being considered for the 38th Street and Chicago Avenue business corner. Your input is important to this process.

In 2008, after many community meetings and a vote of approval from the four neighborhoods surrounding 38th and Chicago, the City Council approved the 38th and Chicago Corridor Framework Small Area Plan. One of the required steps after a Small Area Plan is approved is to perform a rezoning study of the affected area. While most zoning at 38th & Chicago will stay the same, there are some proposed changes. Come and participate! You can review the entire plan here: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/chicago-38.asp.



Thank you to SOL Farmers Market!

So much delicious food was enjoyed by shoppers at the South of Lake (SOL) Farmers Market. Local produce (grown as near as two miles away and at the farthest, Marine on St. Croix) was sold by local farmers and their family members. Tell us, did you eat any of it? SOL Farmers Market was piloted this year by Crossroads Community Organization in response to the food access issues faced by many living in our "food desert" of South Minneapolis. It is part of the mini farmers' market project of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and City of Minneapolis. As Minnesota's local growing season winds down, we are working to support our local growers and provide for our neighbors while planning for the coming year. If you are interested in getting involved (or you're looking for a CSA for next year), please contact SOL's market manager Marie at 612-306-7667 or mre07@yahoo.com.

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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Printed on recycled paper

Check out our new and improved website!

www.bancroftneighborhood.org

Join the BNA's Community Council Board of Directors

Bancroft is a vibrant neighborhood full of diverse programs, people and sources of power. We need you to help keep these things alive by running for the 2011 BNA board elections this November 11th. Being on the board means attending one-two meetings a month, staying active on a BNA committee and being committed to communicating and engaging with the Bancroft community — your neighborhood! We work on lots of exciting things including the Riverlake Greenway, Façade Improvements on 38th and Chicago, organizing Community Builders/Block Club Leaders, creating housing and social programming with NRP funding, greening the community with plot gardens and environmental initiatives and more. We work with great groups across South Minneapolis including the 8th Ward Office, Bancroft School, Diva/Suave Project, 38th and Chicago Business Association, the Urban Arts Academy, El Colegio High School, Phelps Activity Council and others. Being an active member on the board is rewarding — and we have fun, imagine that!

If you are not able to become a board member but want to stay involved consider joining a committee. No matter your ability, there's a place for you to volunteer at the Bancroft Neighborhood Association. If you have questions, please call the BNA office.

Come to Nokomis Healthy Seniors Fall Frolic Fundraiser

October 16, 9-4 p.m.
Bethel Lutheran Church
4120 17th Ave. S.

There will be a silent auction, bingo, musical entertainment, a book sale, and door prizes. Fat Lorenzo's will provide the food. All ages welcome. Tickets are \$7 for seniors, \$10 for adults, \$4 for children and students and \$25 for a family of four. Call the NHS office for more info (612) 724-3693.

Too busy to have a garage sale?

Donate your items to Crossroad Community Organization and Calvary Lutheran Church's 8th Annual Rummage Sale. Your gently used items can be dropped off at the Calvary parking lot entrance at 3901 Chicago Ave. S. on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 17 from noon to 4 p.m. The sale will be held Friday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This sale serves as a fundraiser to support neighborhood outreach programs, as well as provide our neigh-

bors with quality goods at super affordable prices.

If you are interested in volunteering for the sale between Oct 16 and 23, contact www.clchurch.org.

THE SALE CANNOT ACCEPT televisions, mattresses, box springs, tires, batteries, exercise equipment, large appliances, console televisions, computers or monitors, storm windows/doors, sinks, toilets, home-recorded audio or videotapes (copyright problems), baby food, cosmetics, over the counter medicines, or prescription medical devices.

BNA Calendar

All meetings and events are held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue South at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Childcare is available with advance notice. Call 724-5313.

October

- 4 Chicago Ave Fire Arts Center Classes Start (612-294-0400 for more info)
- 6 38th and Chicago Ave. Business Association Annual Meeting, noon, Willie's Soul Food
- 6 NA Commercial Development Committee Meeting, 1 PM, Willie's Soul Food
- 7 BNA Executive Meeting, 7 PM
- 12 Southern Bike Connection Info Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 14 Low Vision Support Group, 10 AM
- 14 BNA Community Council, 7 PM
- 16 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Fall Frolic, 9 AM-4 PM
- 18 Chicago Avenue Small Area Implementation Committee, 6:30 PM
- 20 West of the Rails Business Association, Creating a Business Plan, 12:15-1:30 PM, Location TBD
- 21 BNA Housing Committee, TBD
- 22 Early Mornings with Elizabeth, TBD
- 22 Calvary's Annual Garage Sale, 9-5 PM, 3901 Chicago Ave
- 23 Calvary's Annual Garage Sale, 9-4 PM, 3901 Chicago Ave
- 26 National Community Planning Month Open House, 11:30-1 PM City Hall, 350 South Fifth Street
- 28 Caregiver Support Group, 1 PM

November

- 2 Election Day
- 3 38th and Chicago Ave. Business Association meeting, noon, Willie's Soul Food
- 3 BNA Commercial Development Committee meeting, 1 PM, Willie's Soul Food
- 4 BNA Executive Meeting, 7 PM
- 10 West of the Rails Business Association, 12:15-1:30 PM, Location TBD
- 11 Low Vision Support Group, 10 AM
- 11 BNA Green Initiatives Committee, 6 PM
- 11 BNA Annual Meeting, 6:15-8:15 PM
- 15 Chicago Avenue Small Area Implementation Committee, 6:30PM
- 18 Caregiver Support Group, 1PM

December

- 1 38th and Chicago Ave. Business Association meeting, noon, Willie's Soul Food
- 1 BNA Commercial Development Committee meeting, 1 PM, Willie's Soul Food
- 2 BNA Executive Meeting, 7 PM
- 9 BNA Green Initiatives Committee, 6:15 PM
- 20 Chicago Avenue Small Area Implementation Committee, 6:30 PM

Chicago Fire Arts Center soon to open

The Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center is putting the finishing touches on construction and is about to begin its fall semester! If you've driven by recently, you've seen that the construction is almost complete: the façade is in, the new mezzanine has been constructed, the lighting is up, and the gallery space is almost ready to go. Many thanks to the countless neighborhood volunteers and to the Great Streets program for helping to make this happen!

We are still waiting for the last part of the electrical work to be completed and the final permits to be signed off before we can officially open our doors, but we are planning to begin the first set of classes in going in mid-October. These will include:

- Oxy-Acetylene Found Object Sculpture
- Build Your Own Propane Forge
- Blacksmithing Basics (If I Had a Hammer...)
- Jewelry Sampler: Glass Fusing, Enameling & Metal Clay
- Gifts in Glass

The cost of classes ranges from around \$230 to \$360 for a ten week class, and scholarships are available for low income learners. For more information about our classes or to register please contact us 612-294-0400 or fireartscenter@gmail.com.

We can't wait to see you there!

Bike Lanes from page 1

outs, will help make 40th Street a preferred route for bicyclists and pedestrians — allowing local access but discouraging traffic from using 40th Street as a destination route or cut through street. Share-the-road lane markings for bicycles and many newly planted trees will also be featured on 40th Street.

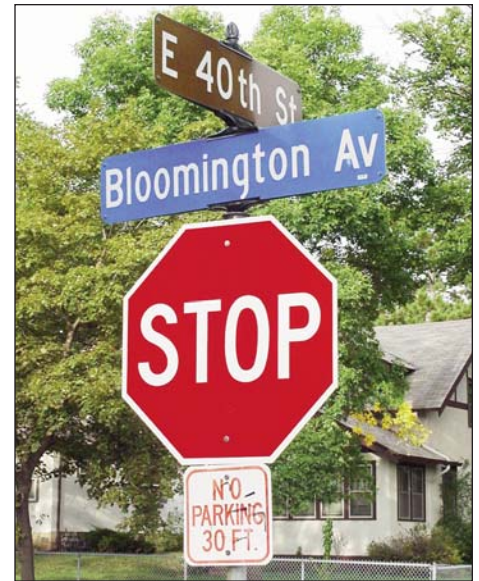
Changes in the Bancroft neighborhood will include:

- **Chicago Median:** A median will be constructed at the intersection of Chicago and 40th Street, with space for bicycles and pedestrians to pass through. East and westbound traffic on 40th Street will be required to turn right on Chicago Ave — traffic is prevented by the median from crossing Chicago at 40th St.

- **11th Avenue Diverter:** The 11th Avenue Diverter will prevent traffic from traveling straight on 40th Street, but allow bicycles and pedestrians to pass through. East and west-bound traffic on 40th St will be required to turn right on 11th Ave.

- **Bumpouts at Bloomington and 40th Street:** Bump-outs will be constructed at the NW and SW corners of Bloomington and 40th Street, to reduce the distance for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the street and increase visibility and green space. Bus stops will be moved to the corners opposite the bump-outs and new concrete bus pads constructed.

- **Cedar Ave/40th Street:** Signage and the addition of medians on 40th



Street will prevent Cedar Avenue traffic from turning onto 40th Street. In addition, east and westbound traffic on 40th Street will be able to make right turns only onto Cedar. Vehicle traffic will not be able to cross Cedar at 40th Street and cannot make left turns onto Cedar from 40th Street. Bicycles and pedestrians will be allowed to cross Cedar on 40th St.

Questions may be directed to:


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You can view detailed project layout information at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/riverlake/.

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