

# THE RIVER BEACON

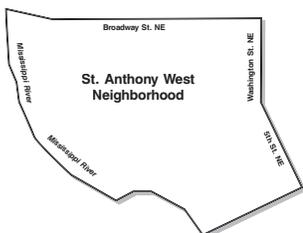
## Welcome

Our goal with the River Beacon is to communicate local news and activities while engaging you and your neighbors in active participation in its publications.

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Please submit articles/comments to [neighbors@stawno.org](mailto:neighbors@stawno.org) or call Bob Margl, 612-378-8886.



## News from the St. Anthony West Board

*By Pete Gamades*

The St. Anthony West Neighborhood Board has been working on two large projects in recent months: creating the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Plan and beginning the process of updating its by-laws. After gaining approval from the members of St. Anthony West (STAWNO), the STAWNO Board unanimously approved the plan at its October Board meeting. Subsequently, the plan was presented to the NRP Policy Board to get their approval. They too unanimously approved it and as this article is written the City Council will be voting on it. After the City Council approves it, we will then begin implementing the various strategies outlined in the plan to improve our neighborhood. We need many volunteers to be successful, so please email [neighbors@stawno.org](mailto:neighbors@stawno.org).

The By-Laws Taskforce has been meeting to update the neighborhood's by-laws. The main goals have been to create greater flexibility in meeting times and to create more clarity in certain areas. Once the Board has approved the changes, you will get a chance to voice your opinion and vote on them. We will need approval by at least 2/3 of the membership at a Dec./Jan. neighborhood-wide meeting.

If you have any suggestions, please contact us at [neighbors@stawno.org](mailto:neighbors@stawno.org) or 612.378.8886.

## Residential Placement Of Level 3 Sex Offenders

*By Bob Margl*

Under current Minnesota Statute MS244.052 Community Notification Bill and Sexual Offender Act a convicted felon, prior to release, must complete a risk level assessment, register as a predatory sex offender and forward specific living arrangements to the affected local law enforcement agency. This information becomes part of a database maintained by the Minnesota Bureau Of Criminal Apprehension and utilized as an on-going investigative tool.

Many St. Anthony West residents received a recent notification from the Minneapolis Police Department identifying the placement of two of the city's approximately 100 Level 3 Sex Offenders within our community (600 block of University Ave NE).

Block Club reaction to the concept of community placement, neighborhood notification, and the residents' ability to adopt a reasonable response to placing two convicted Level 3 Sex Offenders in one domicile was one of confusion, anger and frustration. Subsequent neighborhood research into the elements involved in the statutes, policies, and implementation of the Sex Offender Program found significant sympathy and understanding from most agencies with many feeling hand cuffed by funding issues, legislative process, demographics and apathy, while others washed their hands and point to the system.

Two neighborhood meetings were held in November to address the Sexual Predator Placement Program resulting in the formation of a Third Ward Care Communities Task Force, chaired by Diane Hofstede, created to look into the various aspects of legislative language, landlord involvement, proximity to potential victims, warehousing of sexual offenders and other related issues.



## News from the City Council

*By Council Member Diane Hofstede*

Seasons greetings! I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

As you begin your holiday shopping I would like to send a reminder to shop locally and support local Third Ward Businesses. There are a wide variety of places to shop, eat and enjoy entertainment in Northeast to Dinkytown and be sure to check out the West Broadway businesses on the otherside of the river.

Check out The Northeast Neighbors & Business Association at: <http://www.northeastnba.com/>. Also check out The West Broadway Business & Area Coalition at: <http://www.westbroadway.org/>. These two sites provide listings of great local businesses in our community.

### **The Third Ward Summit/ Neighborhoodfest**

On a warm September night at the edge of the Mississippi River, the Nicollet Island Pavilion was full of energetic members of the community eager to learn, network, socialize, and work together to make the Third Ward of Minneapolis a better place. We celebrated the 8th annual Third Ward Summit/Neighborhoodfest focusing on Economic Development and the Mississippi Riverfront.

The night started off with food and registration and a traditional American Indian water ceremony given by the Women's Three Fires Society. The significance of their participation in this event was to show how not only is the river important to us from a developmental standpoint but how important the river is to others such as the American Indians and how the river has a sacred meaning.

Also kicking off the event was entertainment from the bands Time For Sale and The Cowardly Lions, and comedic performances by Gus Lynch, Wayne Burfiend, and Ian Rans. Guests had

the opportunity to visit the many creative display booths featuring local businesses and organizations. Highlights included a bike-powered generator for guests to try, Segway riders, food samples from various businesses, voting information, information on City & County projects, and much more!

Starting off the program was a Native Drum performance followed by introductions and a Third Ward update by Council Member Hofstede. Next was a panel discussion on Economic Development and the Mississippi Riverfront with participation by Council Member Hofstede, Third Ward residents, guests and a panel featuring: Paul Labovitz- Superintendent, National Park Service/Mississippi National River and Recreation Area; Tom Nordyke- President, Minneapolis Park Board; Patrick Seeb- Executive Director, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation; Tom Fischer- Dean of the U of M College of Design; Ann Calvert- Principal Project Coordinator, Community Planning and Economic Development; Business Development; Jan Morlock- Director of Community Relations, U of M; David Frank- Director of Development, Schafer Richardson Development; Linda Mack- Journalist and Author; Michael Klick- Resident, Hawthorne Neighborhood; and Victor Grambsch- Nicollet Island/East Bank Neighborhood Association President and moderator of panel discussion.

A special award was presented to panel participant Ann Calvert for 20 years of dedicated service in working on projects relating to the Mississippi area.

Following the Program were performances by Artist J.MOST who sang his single "Ready To Do This" and a dance performance from the ComManD sTeppers! featuring J.MOST who showed off the fastest growing couples dance in the country. Dancer Ashley Selmer helped close the event with an energetic performance and then taught the audience some new dance moves.

The Summit was a great success and we received such wonderful comments including, "I enjoyed the event you and your team hosted last Wednesday night on Nicollet Island. What a show!"

This event would not have been a success without the participation from so many members of the community. Thank you!

### **New Funding for North Minneapolis**

Great Neighborhoods Development Corp. Receives \$15 Million to help finance major project that will help improve the Hawthorne Neighborhood!

Nonprofit developer Great Neighborhoods Development Corp. received a \$15 million allocation of tax credits from the U.S. Treasury to sell to investors in a pivotal north Minneapolis project scheduled to break ground in 2010. The credits, the only ones awarded directly to a Twin Cities project, are part of \$5 billion in tax credits announced last week by the Treasury.

The \$15 million awarded to Great Neighborhoods will be used to attract investors in the "Broadway Business Center," a 47,000-square-foot retail-and-office building at W. Broadway and Aldrich Avenue N. This project is part of the nonprofit developer's larger Broadway Plaza, a 150,000-square-foot development that will include a fitness center, full-service restaurant, retail and offices. Broadway Plaza is expected to create up to 500 construction jobs and 225 permanent jobs. Additionally the tax credits will help with the efforts to build and sustain a safer and more vibrant Hawthorne neighborhood.

The Treasury also awarded \$75 million to Minneapolis-based National New Markets Tax Credit Fund, which will use its allocation to fund small business and rural community-improvement projects through 48 lenders around the country.



## Winter Tips for Your Home

By Joyce Vincent

- Drain all garden hoses.
- Insulate exposed plumbing pipes.
- Use weather stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.
- If your home has a basement, consider protecting window wells by covering them with plastic shields.
- Tuckpoint or seal foundation cracks. Mice can slip through space as thin as a dime.
- Service or tune-up snow blowers.
- Sharpen ice choppers and buy bags of organic ice-melt or sand.
- Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean it.
- Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly.
- If your home is heated by a hot-water radiator, bleed the valves by opening them slightly and when water appears, close them.
- Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for a while, call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote.
- Buy firewood or chop wood for a fireplace. Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.
- Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing.
- Add extra insulation to the attic to prevent warm air from creeping to your roof and causing ice dams.
- If ice dams tend to form along garage roof edge, place every 3 feet along the edge an old nylon filled with 2 cups of ice-melt so water can flow out.
- Install (or test) a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and/or water heater.
- If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.

## Have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season

By Nick Juarez

The Minneapolis Police Department wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season and wishes to give you some tips for the holiday season.

### Transporting Gifts in Your Car

Gifts left unattended and visible in your car can be tempting.

- Lock purchases in your trunk.
- Pick up large items at the end of your shopping trip.
- Remove packages when you reach your destination.

### Displaying Gifts

Many households display gifts before and after the holiday. Remember that homes are vulnerable, because of the time spent away and the long hours of darkness.

- Keep presents away from windows or out of sight.
- Put presents away before you leave your home.

### Walking after Dark

With the long hours of darkness, be extra aware when you are on your way to work

and on your way home.

- Walk with relaxed confidence.
- Walk in well lit areas. Avoid alleys or poorly lit areas.
- Try to walk with another person.
- Have your keys ready and in your hand when approaching your car or home.
- Carry as little cash or valuables as possible. If you carry a purse, place valuables in a pocket or consider a fannypack.
- Turn on lights in and on your home, so you are not entering a dark area when you reach home.

### Auto Security

- Always remove the keys from your car - Never leave a car running unattended.
- Park vehicles in a garage or in a well-lit area.
- Keep all car doors locked – even when the car is in the garage. Also, lock all garage doors and secure and cover garage windows.

### Be a Good Neighbor

- Keep a watchful eye out on your block. If you see or hear suspicious

activity call 911. Call if you witness curfew violations, someone appearing to be casing cars, or hear the sound of breaking glass.

- Leave outside lights on at night, so you and your neighbors have better visibility.

## PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

“Safe” Crime Prevention Specialist 2nd Precinct

Carol Oosterhuis: 612-673-2874

Minneapolis Housing Inspectors  
612-763-5858

City of Minneapolis Information Number  
311

Third Ward Council Member  
Diane Hofstede: 612-673-2203  
diane.hofstede@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

St. Anthony West Neighborhood  
Organization, 612-378-8886  
www.stawno.org

Block Club Training and Information  
612-673-3204



## St. Anthony West Resident Predicts Weather, Economy, and Baseball

By Joe Biernat

*"They say we are going to have a harsh winter. But I recall lots of tough winters in my time". Chuck Hacker*

In Minnesota we talk weather a lot. It's part of our way of life. Most often our discussions pertain to the present weather or perhaps the recent dearth of rain. In the end, meaningless rhetoric really. No personal impact. For if it becomes too hot, we merely power-up our air conditioning machines. Too cold outside? We stay comfortable inside our warm homes made increasingly warmer with the mere touch of a dial. So the forecast of "harsh winter" does little to disquiet our comfort zones. But what if you lacked a place to call home? No place to sleep. No place to stay warm. "They say we are going to have a harsh winter".

Meet Mr. Chuck Hacker, a 62 year-old St. Anthony West resident – to use the word perilously. Chuck has lived in our neighborhood "5 or 6 years" in spite of not fitting into our neighborhood's two neighborhood revitalization classifications: homeowner or renter. Chuck is homeless.

If one pays any attention to the daily routine of a member of the mounting group called "Street People", one would seldom envision a morning ritual to include a trip to the store to buy the morning newspaper. "Can't start my day without it" admits Chuck smiling, a prelude to a gentle and often-used laugh. Every morning, no matter what bridge he slept under or what park bench he laid his head, Chuck walks along Second Street to buy a newspaper at Sentyrz Supermarket. Without radio, cable t.v talking heads, or the internet, Chuck needs the morning newspaper as his primary source of news. He can talk contemporary national issues with anyone, and enjoys doing so...with anyone.

For years Chuck was a high pressure boiler specialist working in Wisconsin. A divorce, job layoff, and sudden illness caused him to lose everything in short

order. After a stint as a cattle hauler it was on to Minnesota where he landed a maintenance job while residing at the old Fairmont Hotel, a place he called home for nearly a decade. Chuck suffered another illness and lost the hearing in his right ear. After he recovered his health he again had to start over going to work at the Metrodome where he recalls telling then Twin's manager Tom Kelly in April of 1987 that his team was "going to win it all" – a prediction that proved true with a World Series Championship six months later. "Mr. Kelly asked me 'do you really believe that?' "Of course" cherishes the sentimental Mr. Hacker.



Chuck is a survivor of 12 years on the streets pointing to his worst memory as the night temperatures plummeted to minus thirty-something and he went to check on the welfare of another street person below the Hennepin Avenue Bridge only to find the person frozen to death.

As a street person Chuck has been attacked by other street people, robbed by juveniles, witnessed a few stabbings, and even been arrested a few times proudly disclosing that he was always released and "never charged with anything".

Chuck has seen the number of street people increase severely in recent years revealing "people would truly be surprised

if they knew how many people spend their nights sleeping along the riverfront in this very community". He has also observed an increase in the violence among street people saying "I mind my own business; don't bother anyone. I don't want to be associated with the troublemakers. I choose my friends and I choose good friends who are good people. Friendship means a lot to me". And it bothers Chuck to see so many young people in our society appearing to be watched by no one "It really saddens me to see so many parents today too busy to spend time with their own children". He affectionately talks of his late mother who dedicated lots of time helping others during the 1950's while tending to the needs of her own family.

And why not find a shelter to spend the night? "First, shelters are only located on the south side of town; how do I get there when buses don't run at night? Second, they are always full. And third, lots of street people fear shelters because they harbor too many criminals and people who aspire for trouble. Most street people do not want to be connected with any law-breakers."

Chuck walks St. Anthony West with a mystery novel always in his back pocket. You can frequently spot him sipping coffee at McDonalds or taking pleasure in the quietness of the Pierre Bottineau Library. And Chuck on the economy? "It's going to get a lot worse before it gets better". And so is the weather.

P.S. Winter clothing that Chuck had gathered this Fall were stolen by another street person. Ways we can help our neighbor Chuck: if you have extra winter clothes, Chuck's pant size is 36/30 length and he is in particular need of winter boots size 13w. Or if you wish to donate a dollar or two, kindly slip a donation into my secure mail slot at 701 Main Street Northeast and I will make sure Chuck gets it. God Bless and Happy Holidays. Joe Biernat, 612.331.5181.