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The Bancroft Banner

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE BANCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH 2004 • VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 2

BNA gives Hosmer Library \$7000 to stay open for one more day a week

BY DONNA SANDERS, DIRECTOR, BNA

The BNA Board of Directors voted to donate a one-time amount of \$7,000 to Hosmer Library, 347 East 36th Street, towards expanding their hours from four to five days a week. Because of a large cut in state aid, Minneapolis libraries are seeing reduced hours and less staff. According to Hosmer Librarian Roy Woodstrom, Hosmer needs \$40,000 more a year to stay open an extra day a week. "Bancroft's generous gift is another piece to the puzzle in helping us provide services. With one more day of service we will have an increase of between 35,000 to 40,000 patrons coming through our doors over the year. This means not only people using our books, videos and CDs, but another day of pre-school services, more tutors after school, our tech center open for the public and seniors using our computers," said Ray.

Currently, Hosmer is closed on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday which means the Senior computer class, preschool story time and homework helper tutor programs were cut. Furthermore, Roy is very concerned about the upcoming summer vacation. He claims Hosmer is a "safe haven" for kids, a place for them to go after school and a place to go over the summer vacation. He fears what will happen to the kids because of the reduced hours and programs. He believes Bancroft's donation is a tremendous gift, and it will be a further stimulus for other neighborhoods and organizations to work towards helping expand library hours.

Roy is contacting all the neighborhoods surrounding Hosmer to ask for donations to expand Hosmer's hours. Also, Hosmer Library is investigating a potential 501c3 in order to fundraise for the needed costs. Furthermore, a referendum is pending. Bancroft residents heavily use Hosmer.

Mr. Woodstrom made a presentation to the BNA Board on Feb. 12 to ask for money. There was a heated discussion following his presentation. Many BNA Board Members are outraged by the state budget cuts, and angry because the costs of expanding library hours fall on the back of the neighborhoods. Many believe the library and access to the library is an individual's fundamental right and are appalled that the state has cut back on library hours and staff because Governor Pawlenty doesn't want to "raise taxes." Board member Dan Kramer was against the contribution. He supports the library and understands the need, however he believes "BNA is essentially providing cover for the misguided policies of our elected leaders. So, first government sees that a cut to library budgets didn't affect library operations because community groups kicked in the extra funds needed to keep them operating. We are now in danger

Bancroft Energy Efficiency Program: save \$50 a year on your energy bills!

BY JOEL HASKARD

How would you like to save \$50 a year on your energy costs for the next five years and protect the environment at the same time? BNA is offering each household in Bancroft five compact fluorescent light bulbs to do just that!

BNA has partnered with the Phillips Community Energy Co-op to purchase 500 compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) at a wholesale price. These top-of-the-line Maxlite 23 Watt bulbs use 78 percent less energy than the incandescent bulbs they replace, and last a whopping five years, or around 13 times the life of a regular incandescent light bulb. The Maxlite 23-watt bulbs retail in the stores for around \$6.50; we are suggesting a donation of \$1 a piece. One CFL will save you a little over \$10 a year on energy bills for five years. The first 100 residents who sign up for the Bancroft Energy Efficiency Program can receive FIVE bulbs per household. That means a savings of over \$50 a year for five years! Also, replacing 50 regular incandescent bulbs takes as much pollution out of the air as one car, so we will effectively be taking the pollution of 10 cars off the road for the five-year life cycle of the bulbs. And with an initial investment of around \$1,500, the BNA will save residents a whopping \$25,900 in energy costs over the next five years!

Here is how it works: Please call the BNA office at 612-724-5313 or email dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org, and say you would like to participate in the "Bancroft Energy-Efficiency Program," Leave your name, address and phone number, and please speak slowly and clearly. Unless you specify differently, you will also be registered to win one of ten free energy audits through Xcel Energy (a \$35 value). Deadline for order is Wednesday, April 7. Once our database is complete, we will contact everyone with the dates, times and place to pick up their CFLs (we're shooting for Bethel Church on Earth Day, April 22). Note: Each CFL contains an amount of

Hosmer Library *continued on page 3*

Energy Efficiency *continued on page 3*

LIVABILITY CORNER

24 garages tagged with graffiti in one week in Bancroft neighborhood

Bancroft Neighborhood Association and the City of Minneapolis Sentence to Serve department tackled graffiti in Bancroft neighborhood on February 25–26 after 24 garages were tagged up and down Bloomington and 16th Avenues. Block club leaders, neighborhood residents, BNA staff and Board Members took to the streets writing down addresses of tagged garages, and handing out flyers and knocking on doors in order to get permission to remove graffiti. Sentence to Serve removed the graffiti off of 23 garages and buildings. BNA is looking into a potential mural program for homeowners who have been tagged numerous times.



BNA CALENDAR - March-May

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

River-Lake Greenway Public Meeting—Bancroft Neighborhood

Tuesday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m.

38th and Chicago Task Force Meeting

Monday, March 15, 7:00–8:15 p.m.

Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

NRP Steering Committee

Monday, March 22, 7:45–9:00 p.m.

BNA office—Bethel Church

April

BNA Board Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 7:00–8:45 p.m.

38th & Chicago Business Association Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Angel's Restaurant, 805 E 38th St.

38th and Chicago Task Force Meeting

Monday, April 19, 7:00–8:15 p.m.

Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

NRP Steering Committee

Monday April 26, 7:45–9:00 p.m.

BNA Office- Bethel Church

May

38th & Chicago Business Association Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Angel's Restaurant, 805 E 38th St.

BNA Board Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 7:00–8:45 p.m.

38th & Chicago Task Force Meeting

Monday, May 17, 7:00–8:15 p.m.

Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago

NRP Steering Committee

Monday May 24, 7:45–9:00 p.m.

BNA Office- Bethel Church

Hosmer Library *continued from page 1*

of being seen as a permanent funding source for the library, and government has no reason to increase funding for libraries knowing we'll help if necessary. Second, we insulate government from the outrage of citizens. If people are not happy about library hours, their elected officials should be held accountable. We (BNA) essentially stuck our finger in the dike and diffused the criticism, which should be appropriately aimed at our elected leaders."

The BNA Board is planning a letter writing campaign to Governor Pawlenty, members of the Minnesota House and Senate, and to local politicians to show our outrage and plan on encouraging surrounding neighborhoods and residents to participate in the campaign too.

For more information call Roy Woodstrom at 630-6950 or Donna Sanders at 724-5313 or e-mail dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org.

Energy Efficiency *continued from page 1*

mercury about the size of this period. Although this amount is not harmful to your household (you could break all five CFLs inside your home and it would still cause less pollution than the amount you will take out of the air by using them) we will also include information on nearby recycling centers so they don't go into landfills.

Please join us in the Bancroft Energy-Efficiency Program. Together we can take pollution out of the air, keep some money in our pockets, and make our wonderful neighborhood more energy efficient.

This program is possible due to a generous donation from Ruth Kincaid, a Bancroft resident for 82 years, and a kind and thoughtful woman who loved the arts, nature, justice and education.

Bancroft Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Need You!

BY JOEL HASKARD

Once a week I head over to Bancroft Elementary to spend a lunch break with my Little Brother, Danny. Danny is a great kid to hang out with, and together we work on some of his reading and math assignments, or, often as not, sit at a really small table and read books, do jigsaw puzzles, and build really cool stuff out of legos.

If you would like the chance to help one of our great kids at Bancroft Elementary, I strongly suggest you look into the Big Brother Big Sisters (BBBS) program. I'll let BBBS give you all the statistics about what a difference this can make for a child; I just think it is sad there are currently at least five students at Bancroft Elementary on the waiting list for a big brother or big sister—one girl and four boys. If you can afford one hour a week to share with a child and feel that your crayon and play dough skills may need touching up, please contact Bancroft Match Coordinator Naomi Munzner at 651-789-2466 or cell 651-491-1266 or e-mail nmunzner@bigstwincities.org.

Spotlight on local businesses

Daniel Kieffer Photography/ Lone Tree Press

Daniel Kieffer has photographed people and places for over twenty-five years. His love of black and white landscapes has been the heart of his work. "There is great joy in capturing the emotions of the land," he writes. "My images express what I cannot say in words."



Photograph from the 2004 Minnesota Views calendar by Daniel Kieffer.

Lone Tree Press

Lone Tree Press is a calendar and card business. They have done a Minnesota calendar for over seven years, and they donate to Bancroft Elementary for their fundraisers.

Check out both Daniel Kieffer Photography and Lone Tree Press at:

www.LoneTreePress.com
3817 11th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612.825.7052 Office
612.644.1012 Cell
612.825.5953 Fax

38th STREET

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42nd STREET

CHICAGO AVENUE

CEDAR AVENUE

38th & Chicago/Minnesota Renaissance Initiative Community Celebration and Kick Off

BY DONNA SANDERS, DIRECTOR, BNA

The Minnesota Renaissance Initiative (MRI) Celebration and Kick off, on Wednesday, January 29 at Calvary Church, started off with a bang with a 12 below temperature and 25 below wind chill. However, the frigid weather didn't stop over 60 residents and businesses from attending the event to hear about MRI's redevelopment plans for the 38th & Chicago area. MRI will commit 15–20 hours per week over the next year to assist the four neighborhoods (38th & Chicago Task Force) in developing a land use plan, identifying streetscape elements and filling the high number of commercial vacancies at the node.

There will be updates and progress reports monthly at the 38th & Chicago Task Force meetings. The meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, 7–8:15 p.m. at Calvary Church, 39th & Chicago. All are welcome to attend.

The Bancroft Banner

4120 17th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

UPCOMING EVENTS

Skate 4 Peace—a Roller Skating Party at the Metrodome

The Tyesha Edwards Peace Project is sponsoring a roller skating party at the Metrodome on Saturday, March 20 from 7–10 p.m. Eleven-year-old Tyesha was killed by a gang-related stray bullet a year ago last November, as she sat in her dining room doing homework. Her family has founded the peace project in her name, to address concerns about gang activity and violence in the community. Its motto is “Together Educating and Promoting Peace”, and its goal is to make change happen through positive activity and education. Join children and families from all over the Twin Cities for an evening of fun. Admission is \$5. Skate rental is included. For more information call Linda Longino at 612-823-1753.

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The River-Lake Greenway: Past Accomplishments and Future Directions

Background

The River-Lake Greenway (RLG) is a grassroots, neighborhood-inspired project to construct a bicycle and pedestrian route connecting Lake Harriet and the Mississippi River. The goals of the project include creating a safe and clearly designated bikeway for commuter and recreational bicyclists, to create more green space, to create a safe corridor for pedestrians, and to increase the value of homes and neighborhoods along the RLG route. The proposed RLG route is along 40th Street from Lake Harriet to 30th Avenue South, at which point the RLG drops down to 42nd Street and continues to meet W. River Road.

The Planning Process

The RLG is nearly complete west of I-35W in the neighborhoods of East Harriet Farmstead and Kingfield. In the spring of 2003, Bancroft received a planning grant from the McKnight Foundation to initiate its planning process. With the help of an urban planning and landscape design firm, Bancroft developed a draft of the RLG design through our neighborhood. As part of the planning process, Bancroft's RLG Committee held several committee meetings and three public meetings, completed a door-to-door survey of homes near the proposed RLG route, completed several parking surveys, published three informational articles in the Bancroft Banner, and set up informational tables at the annual meeting and the summer ice cream socials.

For the past five months, representatives from each of the four neighborhoods along the RLG route have met monthly to establish a comprehensive and cohesive design plan for the RLG. In mid-February, this All Neighborhood Committee (ANC) hosted a meeting at the Sibley Park Community Center. Over 60 people from five different neighborhoods attended.

In April, a draft of the final plan will be submitted to members of the Minneapolis City Council and to the Capital Long-Range Implementation Committee (CLIC). The Council will then vote on whether to include partial funding for the project in the city budget for the year 2009.

Design Elements

Bike Lanes and Signs

The RLG contains several major design elements. First, the RLG will have painted, 6-

foot bike lanes on either side of 40th street and signs designating the RLG route.

Curb Bump-outs

The RLG will have curb bump-outs. A bump-out is an area along the curb line near an intersection where the curb flares out. Bump-outs accomplish several things: a) create more green space in the boulevard; b) improve the safety of crosswalks by narrowing the distance; c) calm traffic by creating narrow sections of 40th; and d) protect parked cars.

One-way 40th Street

A third design element is the change of 40th from a two-way to a one-way street. The one-way designation was necessary because the width of 40th (32 feet) would not accommodate two lanes of traffic (minimum 10 feet each), two bike lanes (minimum 6 feet each), and a parking lane (minimum 8 feet). Other RLG routes were considered but were ultimately rejected. One alternative was putting the RLG on 42nd Street, which is a wider street. However, participants at the public meetings thought that 42nd Street would not support our goal of creating a safe bikeway for recreational biking. Also, 42nd street is designated a "state-aid" road, which would make design changes more difficult. Another option was to split the RLG (part of it on 40th and part of it on either 39th or 41st). Meeting participants, however, rejected this option due to the duplication of some costs and the confusion this might cause bikers. Furthermore, splitting the bike paths would require eliminating parking on both sides of the two streets if two-way traffic were maintained. Finally, 40th Street was favored because it is mid-way between the Midtown Greenway and the bike paths at Minnehaha Creek, and 40th Street connects several city parks from Lake Harriet to the Mississippi River.

South Side Parking and East Bound Traffic

Because of the constraints due to street width, parking would need to be eliminated on one side of 40th. Furthermore, the choice of direction of the one-way street would dictate the side of the street on which parking would be available. A westbound 40th would mandate north side parking and eastbound 40th south side parking. In the end, participants in the planning process decided that an eastbound 40th was the best choice due to a number of

reasons. First, it was found that there are more homes facing 40th Street on the south side than the north. Thus, allowing south side parking would be more accommodating to these people. Second, the parks along 40th are on the north side of the street. Finally, bump-outs would be placed on the south side along with parking and any plantings would benefit from the southern exposure.

Boulevard Trees

A final design element is the replacement of missing trees in the boulevards along 40th Street. The RLG committee would identify areas along 40th, which have lost trees due to disease, old age, or storms, and replace them with new trees.

Other Design Options

Other possible design options, which are currently not priorities, are speed tables, ornamental lighting, information kiosks, and park benches.

Funding

Participants in the RLG project are committed to funding the construction and capital costs of the project without the use of tax assessments. Funding for the project would come from three sources: the city of Minneapolis, NRP funds, and from federal TEA-21 grants under the Department of Transportation. The city of Minneapolis is proposing \$100,000 in the capital budget request (CBR) for the year 2009. The four neighborhoods which have yet to complete construction would be asked to contribute between \$25,000 and \$50,000 each to the project depending on the design elements and amenities chosen. Finally, a federal TEA-21 grant would contribute funds (up to \$1 million) in an 80/20 split. For example, if the combined contributions from the city of Minneapolis and the neighborhoods totaled \$200,000, it is possible that the federal government would contribute up to \$800,000.

Future Actions and the Next Public Meeting

As noted above, the earliest that construction would begin for the RLG in the neighborhoods east of I-35W would be in 2009. Prior to this time, the ANC will continue to solicit input from the communities along the RLG route. Bancroft's RLG Committee will host a public meeting on Tuesday, March 9, at Bethel Lutheran Church. Also, if you have ideas or questions or would like to be involved in the planning process, please call Dan Kramer at (612) 823-4598.

Bancroft Banner River-Lake Greenway Survey

Please read the description of the Greenway project before completing this questionnaire.

Street Address: _____

- Q1. Do you support the River-Lake Greenway/Bikeway project? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q2. Do you support changing 40th Street to a one-way street to accommodate bike paths and additional green space? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q3. Would you prefer a west or east bound one-way street on 40th?
1. East (south side parking only) ____
2. West (north side parking only) ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q4. Do you feel you would suffer a significant hardship if parking were prohibited on one side of 40th? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q5. Do you feel there is a need to slow traffic on the Greenway route? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q6. Would you favor boulevard plantings along 40th street including flowers, shrubs, and native grasses that might require the care and maintenance by residents of Bancroft? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q7. Do you support replacing missing trees in the boulevards along 40th street? Please choose one.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q8. Would you favor ornamental lighting along the Greenway route? An annual assessment for maintenance and operation costs is possible which would be less than \$80 per household for residents along 40th street.
1. Yes ____
2. No ____
3. Undecided ____
- Q9. Do you have any additional other comments regarding the River-Lake Greenway?

Please return questionnaire to
Bancroft Neighborhood Association, 4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407
Questions: email dsanders@bancroftneighborhood.org or call 724-5313.