



**bottineau**  
neighborhood association

# BOTTINEAU GAZETTE

A Publication of the Bottineau Neighborhood Association  
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  - Liz Reiser
  - Bob Marget
  - John Olson
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MARCH  
2017

## Minimum Wage Discussed



*Should the City of Minneapolis implement a \$15 an hour minimum wage within city limits and, if so, how?*

On February 27, Northeast residents, business owners, and restaurant workers met with Council Member Kevin Reich and City staff at the Fire Museum to discuss that very question. Most of the business owners in the room were from small, well-regarded Northeast restaurants like Sen Yai Sen Lek, Maeves, Crescent Moon, Anchor Fish and Chips, Mill City, Stanley's Northeast Bar and Grill and others. Their stake in this issue is probably obvious: the increased cost of labor and how it would affect their ability to thrive—or even survive—as local Northeast eateries.

Similarly, restaurant workers who attended the meeting—not just servers but “back house” kitchen workers, too—were concerned about potential job losses because they knew that their employers operate on a profit margin of no more than about 4-5%. Their fear is that if a \$15 minimum wage goes into effect, as currently outlined for the new City

## Community Connections Conference 2017

Saturday, April 1, 8am -3pm  
Minneapolis Convention Center

Join community members, neighborhood associations, non-profits, business leaders, members of Minneapolis’s design community, developers and City elected officials to put the unity in commUnity. Find out what new ideas are cooking in the neighborhoods and community organizations. Follow the link below to register for this FREE event.

<http://bit.ly/2mpHtAT>

ordinance, most of our beloved restaurants will either be driven out of business or forced to move to the suburbs where wages are lower.

A number of small retail operators also came to the meeting and explained that their profit margin is 2% and that unlike large corporate stores they don’t have the luxury of keeping a poor-performing outlet open until the market corrects itself. In fact, comparatively few large corporate outlets, retail or restaurant, operate in Northeast Minneapolis, and these are the places where wage theft and other injustices occur most frequently.

Everyone agreed that low-paid employees deserve higher pay.

# Phone

Police, Fire and Medical  
Emergency:  
911

Minneapolis City Info:  
311

Bottineau Neighborhood  
Association  
367-7262

3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilmember  
Frey  
673-2203

Hennepin County  
Commissioner Higgins  
348-7882

Parks Commissioner  
Wielinski  
230-6443

Bottineau Park  
370-4958

Family Violence,  
Domestic Abuse, Child  
Abuse  
673-3072

Housing Inspections  
673-5858

East Side Neighborhood  
Services (ESNS)  
781-6011

Community Crime  
Prevention  
673-2797

Pierre Bottineau Library  
630-6890

Minneapolis Park Board  
230-6400

Minneapolis Solid Waste  
and Recycling  
673-2917

Traffic Enforcement  
673-3443

## > **MINIMUM WAGE** cont.

At least two business owners explained that they pay their employees before paying themselves. Suggestions for modifying the ordinance included: allow a first year training wage for employees who have no prior work experience; increase the number of years it will take to phase-in the wage increase; raise the \$500,000 annual gross revenue limit for exempting small businesses from the ordinance, thus expanding exemptions. Finally, the restaurant owners suggested that the City should treat the locally-owned restaurant industry separately from other businesses.

## I-94 Construction Project

Bottineau leaders attended the I-94 reconstruction open house at Park Board Headquarters on February 23. This is what we found out.

When MnDOT begins construction on I-94 (expected to last from late March through September, with many lane closures), MTC intends to run 9 express bus routes down Marshall St NE, a 2 lane residential street. That means 190 bus trips a day minimum on routes that serve absolutely no local residents. As if congestion wouldn't be bad enough, the buses will also have a negative impact on our air monitoring project that is working to end the air pollution emitted by industries located across the river from Bottineau Neighborhood.

There are other issues, as well. For instance, MnDOT refused to consider keeping I-94's Broadway exit open for Art-A-Whirl weekend—a decision that could negatively impact turnout. We are currently working to get these issues addressed, but your input as community members is vital.

Sen. Dziedzic and CM Reich have helped us get representatives from

MnDOT and MTC to attend this meeting. With your help, we can change the MNDOT-MTC plan for the better. Therefore a community meeting has been called for:

March 6, 2017  
7pm to 9pm  
East Side Neighborhood Services  
1700 Second St. NE

Childcare will be provided. CM Frey's office has indicated they will send a representative to the meeting.

## Creating Weather Resilient Yards: \$15 Workshops from Metro Blooms



Unseasonably warm weather, long droughts and flooding rains are the new normal for spring and summer in Minnesota. Learn how your yard can adapt to and even help mitigate threats posed by these extreme weather events.

Participants receive:

- An overview of Minnesota's changing weather patterns and ways to minimize their impact in your yard by using alternative turf, raingardens, and other resilient-yard practices.
- 1 on 1 design assistance from Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb landscape designers and U of M Extension Master Gardeners from Hennepin County.

For more information and to register, go to [metroblooms.org](http://metroblooms.org) or call 651-699-2426.

Note: Space is limited.

**More news from Metro Blooms:**

Metro Blooms is pleased to announce the 2016 Top Minneapolis Garden Awards. These gardens represent some of the most beautiful, creative and sustainable gardens in Minneapolis, selected by volunteer evaluators from more than 1,000 nominations. To see the list of winners, visit: <http://bit.ly/2IXxDmV>

## Homework Helper at Bottineau Park

Every Tuesday and Thursday at Bottineau Park from 3-7pm, youth in grades 5-12 can receive help with their homework. If they need basic supplies like pencils, tablets and erasers, no problem: these essential items are available. In addition, BNA will soon be purchasing four laptops for students to use while doing their homework.

Our Homework Helper coordinator, **Thomas Madsen**, has organized volunteers from Graco, Wells Fargo and other corporations to tutor students at the park. While students are assisted on all subject materials covered by Minnesota standards, this helper program is focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). BNA provides funding through its Neighborhood Priority Plan enacted in January; the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provides the work space and conducts background checks on all tutors. Remember: We all win when our young people are well-educated.

## Summer Activity Guides

### Now Available

Seasonal activity guides provide details about events, sports leagues and other activities available to Minneapolis residents at their local parks. For a pdf version of the activity guide for Northeast recreation centers, go here:

<http://bit.ly/2IzN6sc>

But these activities are more than just something to do. They give your kids the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive! Kids will create a lifetime of memories, actively engage in activities and exercise, expand interest, meet friends and have fun in the summer sun!

The options for adventure are endless:

- Field trips to your kids favorite destinations!
- Swim at Webber Natural Filtration Pool – the first of its kind in North America
- Sport (of all varieties) camps for the sporty kid
- Free tennis lessons across the city
- Nature activities for the outdoorsy kid
- Themed preschool programs for the youngsters

Registration for summer activities begins March 8 at 12pm (noon). For more information stop in or call your local recreation center. Or, easier yet, you can register online here:

<https://apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolisparcs>



## Websites

Bottineau Neighborhood Association  
[bottineauneighborhood.org](http://bottineauneighborhood.org)

Minneapolis  
[www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov)

3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ward3](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward3)

Inspections  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections)

Hennepin County  
[www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us)

Park Board  
[minneapolisparcs.org](http://minneapolisparcs.org)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

Public Education NE  
[publicedne.blogspot.com](http://publicedne.blogspot.com)

Friends of the Mississippi  
[fmr.org](http://fmr.org)

NE Minneapolis Arts Association  
[nema.org](http://nema.org)

Northeast Investment Cooperative  
[neic.coop](http://neic.coop)

MN State Legislature  
[www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)

Minneapolis Crime Alerts  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimealert](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimealert)

Eureka Recycling  
[twincitiesfreemarket.org](http://twincitiesfreemarket.org)

Dislocated Worker Program  
[tinyurl.com/mn-gov-deed](http://tinyurl.com/mn-gov-deed)

Neighborhood & Community Relations  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr)

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## Mark Your Calendars



- 3/14 BNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
2205 California St NE, Suite 107  
(Call 612-801-7834 if door is locked)
- 4/1 Community Connections (see page 1)
- 4/29 Neighborhood & River Clean-up  
Meet at 9am at Gluek Park

## Living Well Workshop at ESNS

*Gain skills to live a healthier life!*

Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
March 23 - April 27  
@ESNS - 1700 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

**Living Well with Chronic Conditions** workshop covers many topics including healthy eating, exercise, medication usage, as well as managing fatigue, pain, and emotions. All participants receive a reference book. The cost of these classes is based on ability to pay. No one will be turned away due to financial constraints. To register, call 612-787-4102 or email Empowering Vital Aging at [eva@esns.org](mailto:eva@esns.org).

**NOTE:** The public is welcome at all BNA meetings. All meetings are accessible and requests for special accommodations at BNA meetings may be made by contacting us no less than one week prior to the event. This publication can be made available in an alternative format. Please contact BNA with specific requests.