



**bottineau**  
neighborhood association

# BOTTINEAU GAZETTE

A Publication of the Bottineau Neighborhood Association  
2205 California Street #107 Minneapolis, MN 55418  
612.367.7262 [bn@bottineaneighborhood.org](mailto:bn@bottineaneighborhood.org)

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Please Recycle

MAY  
2019

## Impound Lot Update

On April 15, 2019, Council Member Steve Fletcher held a long and thorough discussion with Sheridan and Bottineau residents about the proposed impound lot at 1901 Grand St NE. Of the 64 neighborhood residents in attendance, not a single person spoke in favor of the proposed impound lot.

Since the meeting, Bottineau Neighborhood Association has done some fact checking regarding Bobby & Steve’s answers to community questions raised about the lot.

When asked a variety of questions about their existing Columbia Heights lot at 37<sup>th</sup> and Madison, Bobby & Steve’s answered with “no comment,” while adding that the two impound lots are not in any way connected. But this is a false statement. A quick call to Bobby and Steve’s towing line revealed that cars from anywhere in Minneapolis may be towed to any of the four impound lots that B&S operates, including the one in Columbia Heights and others in St. Louis Park, South Minneapolis (at Nicollet and 61<sup>st</sup>) and West St. Paul. The B&S towing operations to their four existing impound lots are clearly connected and relevant to the decision making process. All questions about MPCA storm and ground water orders to clean up pollution at the Columbia Heights impound lot are clearly relevant to issues about the B&S proposal to operate an impound lot

## Beautify Bottineau:

*Free Veggie & Flower Plants*

Saturday, May 11  
9am – Noon  
2301 California St. NE

Garden plant give-away for Bottineau Residents!



in our neighborhood and should have been answered truthfully and forthrightly.

Often the best indication of future corporate behavior is past behavior. Here are some specific questions about past behaviors of B&S that were posed at the meeting:

1) Does B&S move cars out of the lot at Columbia Heights on to City streets, unattended vacant lots and park property?

B&S: “No comment.”

Fact: B&S has been cited for these exact violations in Columbia Heights.

2) Has B&S fought MPCA orders to clean up ground water and storm water pollution caused by their towing operations in Columbia Heights and Minneapolis?

B&S: “No comment.”

**IMPOUND LOT** next page >

# Phone

Police, Fire and Medical  
Emergency:  
911

Minneapolis City Info:  
311

Bottineau Neighborhood  
Association  
367-7262

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

Hennepin County  
Commissioner Fernando  
348-7882

Parks Commissioner  
Meyer  
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

## > **IMPOUND LOT** cont.

Fact: Public records verify that B&S has been fighting MPCA orders to mitigate pollution caused by their impound lot operations.

3) Will B&S trucks tow to a lot at 1901 Grand ST NE from all directions? B&S says no, they will tow vehicles from only one direction on Marshall St NE and that they have GPS on their trucks to monitor the course and speed of their trucks.

Fact: B&S also uses sub-contractors whose trucks do not have GPS and are not monitored by B&S technology. Their answer to this question is an artful deception and essentially false.

Below are pictures from the B&S operated impound lot at 304 W. 61<sup>st</sup> St. in Minneapolis (61<sup>st</sup> and Nicollet).



Ugly fencing, hundreds of cars kept for auction, and 24-7 operations are the likely result of a B&S operated impound lot regardless of location. But the Nicollet Ave. impound lot has major road access from all directions. The site

proposed for our neighborhood at 1901 has access from only one road, Grand St. NE. To get there tow trucks will have to drive through blocks and blocks of residential neighborhood filled with family homes.

**What can you do?** Contact elected officials: Mayor Jacob Frey at 673-2100 or by email at [jacob.frey@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:jacob.frey@minneapolismn.gov); Council Member Steve Fletcher at 673-2203 or by email at [steve.fletcher@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:steve.fletcher@minneapolismn.gov); Council Member Kevin Reich at 673-2201 or by email at [kevin.reich@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kevin.reich@minneapolismn.gov). Explain to them why you oppose this impound lot.

You can also help with outreach by signing up to be on the public hearing alert system, or help with public records research regarding B&S's impound lot management. Contact BNA at 612-367-7262 if you want to get involved.

**Next Steps:** B&S has to submit a plan to city planners. Once a plan is submitted it will be subject to a Planning Commission review (the Planning commission meets the first Monday of every month at 4:30 in City Hall). Then it will go before the City Council Zoning & Planning Committee which meets at 10am on Thursdays of the first week of the City Council cycle (this date varies from month to month). Then the full City Council will vote on the impound lot. At every step of this process, concerned residents need to be ready to act.

Northeast is plagued with zoning that allows areas zoned for industry to exist right next to areas zoned for residential housing. This is an unfortunate disadvantage that exposes local residents to industrial

pollution — on their property and in their homes — without protection from City of Minneapolis zoning rules that protect other areas of the City.

Northeast is the most pollution-burdened area in Minneapolis and, therefore, the State of Minnesota. Bottineau is already burdened with ground water, air and soil pollution that we are working hard to address and alleviate. Maybe you remember the signs from a number of years ago that said, "Don't Dump on Northeast." Now is the time to let the City of Minneapolis know that Northeast is no longer the City dump. We expect better.

## Standout Bottineau Student: Jasmine Smoter



In March, 2019, Jasmine Smoter (3<sup>rd</sup> from left in the photo above) and the other students pictured were recognized by Council Member Kevin Reich for earning the opportunity to represent Edison High School at Tours France, a City of Minneapolis Sister City.

Students were housed with local families to ensure an authentic cultural experience. Jasmine, an Edison volleyball outside hitter and softball shortstop, said that her favorite part of the trip "was the real experience of French life ... I learned how to speak French much better and got to attend a volley ball game."

Students were chosen based on

their fluency in the French language (Edison has an International Baccalaureate French program), having good grades and being positive role models in school and assets to the community.

Jasmine is the daughter of Bottineau residents John Smoter and Koral Purdy. For many years, Jasmine has helped the neighborhood by providing child tending so parents can participate during community meetings and has also helped recruit other child tending volunteers when needed. On many occasions, Jasmine volunteered to help with meeting set-up and clean-up at East Side Neighborhood Services. Thank you, Jasmine, for representing Bottineau in our Sister City and for being a great example for the neighborhood!

## Adopt a Drain

When it rains, stormwater carries grass clippings, leaves, pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, and animal waste directly into Minneapolis lakes, creeks, and the Mississippi River. Minneapolis residents and businesses can help keep our waterbodies clean by adopting storm drains in their neighborhood and committing to cleaning them regularly.



Local residents on 22nd Ave NE adopted four drains on their block – a great way to make sure debris does not pollute the River.

The adoption process is easy and quick, and you will be able to adopt or un-adopt storm drains instantly. Visit <https://adopt-a-drain.org/> to sign up!

Bottineau Neighborhood Association  
bottineauneighborhood.org

BNA's Facebook Page  
tinyurl.com/zmgldlw

Minneapolis  
www.minneapolismn.gov

3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
www.minneapolismn.gov/ward3

Inspections  
www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections

Hennepin County  
www.hennepin.us

Park Board  
minneapolisparcs.org

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
www.pca.state.mn.us

Public Education NE  
publicedne.blogspot.com

Friends of the Mississippi  
fmr.org

NE Minneapolis Arts Association  
nema.org

Northeast Investment Cooperative  
neic.coop

MN State Legislature  
www.leg.state.mn.us

Minneapolis Crime Alerts  
www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimealert

Dislocated Worker Program  
tinyurl.com/mn-gov-deed

Neighborhood & Community Relations  
www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr

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## Mark Your Calendars



5/11 Garden Plant Give-away (see page 1)

5/14 BNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
2205 California St NE, Suite 107  
(Call 612-801-7834 if door is locked)

**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.

## Vital Living

at East Side Neighborhood Services

Vital Living supports an intergenerational community that focuses on health and well-being for all generations. They serve older adults through:

- **Caregiving Services:** Gain Emotional and Practical Support
- **Classes:** Maintain your Well-being
- **Events:** Lifelong Learning
- **Engagement:** Connect through Volunteering
- **Resources:** Tools for Staying Independent

For more information call 612.787.4086 or send an email to [VitalLiving@esns.org](mailto:VitalLiving@esns.org)

For more information or for deadlines,  
please call 612-367-7262