



New Faces Dot Commercial Landscape

by Dick Saunders

Four new or remodeled retail stores or studios have appeared on the HPDL scene in the past three months.

Curves for Women, a 30-minute fitness and weight loss center owned by Nancy Lund, opened April 9th at 5356 Chicago Ave. S.

Mike Mauch's Take and Bake Pizza Kitchen opened in late June in Mike's Corner Store at 56th & Chicago as part of the renovation of the former Diamond Lake Pharmacy site. New signs and awnings now adorn this site.

First Course, a 32-seat restaurant featuring light American and Mediterranean lunches and dinners, is scheduled to open July 14th in the space formerly occupied by Mike's Movies. Travis Metzger is owner and chef.

Michael Johnson's Barber & Beauty Shop has moved into larger space at 5257 Chicago Ave. S., next door to its former location. It has more chairs, new street signage, and will complete parking lot modifications in July.

HPDL's Commercial Development Committee provided matching grants for some of the exterior improvements at Mike's Corner Store, First Course, and Johnson's Barber & Beauty Shop.

Business owners planning to make exterior improvements in the near future should contact the HPDL office at 824-7707 for grant request details.

The Picnic is Coming! The Picnic is Coming!

*Listen my neighbors and you shall hear—
Of the big summer picnic we have once a year.
On the 26th of July in two thousand and one,
Come one and come all, we will have lots of fun.*

*Todd Park is the scene of carnival games,
Music and food; it's never the same.
H P D L, Pearl Park and P I R C
All put in a great deal of work.*

*To put up the tents, and get lots of loot
For people to win – it sure is a hoot.
Local businesses help to sponsor the day,
So for attractions and info, you hardly must pay.*

*So join us dear neighbors, from 5:30 to 8:00
Bring the whole family, and please don't be late.
56th and Chicago is the place where it is,
Come on, you sure can arrive in a whiz.*

*The Picnic is when we eat, drink and be merry
Together as one, you'd better not tarry.
It's one fun-filled time if you come to Todd Park;
And two, if with neighbors you'll have such a lark.*

*So, listen my neighbors and you shall hear—
Of the big summer picnic we have once a year.*

(With apologies to Longfellow and his poem "Paul Revere's Ride"!)

10th Annual Picnic in the Park, featuring: Face Painting, Morris Dancing, Balloon Sculptures, Moon Walk, Ball Crawl, Community Group & Church Booths, Carnival Games, Dunk Tank, Basketball Shoot, NSP Science Experience, Safety Tent, McGruff, Fire Truck, Bike Patrol, Chance for door prizes & raffle items, plus free frozen treats as long as they last!

Musical Entertainment by "D. Crew."

Raffle Items: (call the office at 824-7707 for ticket information)

HPDL Quilters: Handcrafted quilt "Ten Years of Stars" \$250.00 value

First Course (56th & Chicago): Appetizers & Dinner for Two: \$50.00 value

Toro Company Lawn Blower/Vac: \$70.00 value

MN Children's Museum Four Admissions: \$23.80 value

Mikes Corner Store (56th and Chicago): Gift certificate: \$50.00 value

Highway 35W and Crosstown 62 Plans Delayed 10 Months

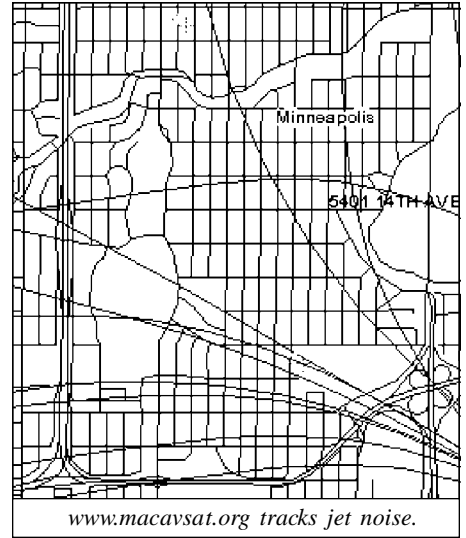
by Dick Saunders

The Minnesota legislature delayed plans to rebuild the Highway 35W/Crosstown 62 as part of the final compromise negotiated during the special session. The 10 month delay gives the Senate and House a chance to revisit the issue next year. The compromise instructed MnDOT to study expanding the right-of-way, tunneling, stacking of roadways and shortening the time required to complete construction. The compromise did not provide additional funding for the project.

MAC Postpones Decision on Next Home Insulation Program

by Dick Saunders

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) delayed a decision on the scope of funding for the next round of Part 150 home insulation work at its June 18th and July 10th meetings. The staff is analyzing the feasibility of a plan that would provide each home in the new 60-64 average day/night noise level (DNL) contour with a previously proposed air conditioning package plus a modified insulation package for homes needing to meet the FAA's current 45 DNL internal sound maximum. The MAC could vote on the proposal at its Aug. 20th meeting.




HPDL Websites

Be sure to browse on over to the HDPL Business Association website: www.rabbithood.com.

And don't forget the HPDL office website at www2.bitstream.net/~hpdl. There you will find our Board's minutes, our Action Plan, and links to previous issues of this newsletter.

Happy surfing!

Community Garden Parkway Site

by Laurie Frevert

The plants are all in. The garden's cleared of weeds. Now, we water and enjoy! Thanks to the following people who've put time in: Beth Balck, Mel Wiemken, Leslie Berger, Kendra McConnell, Gert Frevert, Tina Kise, Ruth Tank, Verona Forest, Cyndi; Ben, Amelia & Doug Frevert.

The garden will need a fall clean-up and preparation for winter, as well as continued watering. Your time is needed at either the Parkway or Pearl site. Contact HPDL (824-7707) to sign up with the adopt-a-garden program.



It must be summer, the Community Gardens are in full bloom.

First Course Opens Its Doors

by Ruth Tank

You may have noticed that a new restaurant has moved in at 56th and Chicago. We'd like to introduce you to *First Course*, the tapas-style restaurant and to the people responsible for its creation.

First Course head chef, Travis Metzger, received his culinary training from the New England Culinary Institute in Vermont. Metzger worked in restaurants throughout the United States, including in Atlanta, Phoenix and St. Louis, before he decided to move to Minneapolis and partner with his sister and brother-in-law, Tamara and Mark Gebhardt, to open the restaurant. All three currently live in the HPDL community.

One of the main goals of the business, says Tamara Gebhardt, is to create a dining experience that offers first rate, affordable cuisine, paired with world class wines and still retain a family friendly atmosphere. For this reason, a kids' menu will be available for children twelve and under.

The restaurant, with seating for thirty-two, features American and Mediterranean lunch and dinner cuisine, prepared with fresh and seasonal ingredients. A mainstay on the menu is the minestrone soup with cheese tortellini and basil

pesto. Lunch items to try out include a vegetarian sandwich with portobello mushrooms, sweet bell peppers and eggplant, and a buffalo chicken sandwich with a blue cheese sauce. Soup, salad and/or sandwich combos are also available. The dinner menu features fresh seafood and pasta dishes, along with appetizers and a variety of salads such as a ceasar and calamari salad and an antipasto. Be sure to save room for dessert and a cup of specialty coffee or espresso, as you won't want to miss Metzger's crême brulee or his seasonal fruit crisp with crême anglais.

Tamara, Mark and Travis extend their appreciation to the HPDL Neighborhood Association for awarding them a Community Improvement Grant. Part of the funds were used to commission local metal sculptor, Simeon Stoilov, to construct a unique copper sign for the front of the restaurant. Stoilov also created several interior accent pieces to complete the restaurant design.

So the next time you want to go out to eat, instead of driving to down-, up-, or mid-town, visit *First Course* and enjoy the first class restaurant right in our own neighborhood.

From the Chair

by Doug Frevert

Survival

Together, the legislature and governor have stripped NRP of its funding. About ten years ago, a tax increment financing (TIF) district was set up in downtown Minneapolis. Within the district, property tax proceeds were directed to various purposes, among them, the financing of the twenty year NRP program. That funding relied on two things, 1) approval of the State, and 2) property tax levels. As a direct result of the State reworking Property Taxes this year, local property taxes have fallen which reduces the revenues generated from TIF districts. The State provided assistance to existing TIF districts to make up for the expected shortfall. However, the State specifically excluded NRP from this assistance.

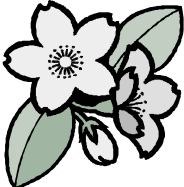
Basically, HPDL has lost its funding because NRP lost its funding. Unless the City decides to fund NRP through some other means, NRP will grind to a halt.

Phase II

Our volunteers delivered the HPDL Phase II Survey to you. Please take the time to fill it out and mail it back. The results of the first survey were used over and over. Those results provided a basis for deciding what needed to be done and what was done. That process is being repeated. Results of the survey will be examined. Focus groups are meeting and you can still get involved. I realize that it seems odd to be looking at our future, when HPDL's survival is in question, but I sense that HPDL will survive. NRP may change drastically, but the hopes and dreams and volunteers that make up HDPL will still live here.

Yes!

I want to help HPDL keep my neighborhood a great place to live.



Here is my tax deductible contribution:

\$10 \$15 \$25

\$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please return this form with your check payable to:
 HPDL, 5144 13th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55417. **Thank You!**

It's OK to call 911



At City Hall

Ward 11 City Council Member
S. Doré Mead

We do have Summer after all.

The reconstruction of the Crosstown Commons continues to have its “iffy” status, with the Minnesota Legislature having delayed the project until at **least next** spring while an additional study is performed. Unfortunately, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has made it clear that the new study will consider adding at least two more lanes (one in each direction) throughout the City. That is likely to reopen the environmental process, which in turn could delay the project for several more years.

On a related note, any improvements intended to improve water quality in Diamond Lake are on hold, since those improvements are part of the Crosstown Commons phase of I-35W’s reconstruction.

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has approved the concept of a dog park near 58th Street and 13th Avenue. The Park Board has not yet, however, reached agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (the owner of the property) regarding this use of MAC’s property. Discussions of a lease between the two entities continue.

At Lake Nokomis, heavy construction has been completed of the outlets for the new water-quality ponds. The landscaping should be planted this Summer, following completion of the site preparation work. Additional trees are also to be planted. The shoreline restoration work is also now under way.

As usual, feel free to call me at 673-2211 with your news, views and questions.

Doug Frevort



Deep in the woods of HPDL it's possible to imagine you're lost in a wilderness.

Southwest Center

by Robbie Kress at 822-3194

Southwest Center, part of Volunteers of America – MN, brings seniors together for fun and educational activities and a daily noon lunch program at 3612 Bryant Avenue South. Please call 822-3194 for a monthly calendar, to find out more about a program, or to arrange for a tour of the center. Lunch reservations must be made at least two working days prior by calling 824-5512. Transportation can be arranged.

Volunteers of America is a national, non-profit organization providing local human service programs and opportunities for individual and community involvement.

VOTE
HPDL Board of Directors
Pearl Park
7 p.m. Monday
September 11th, 2001

Iris VonBergan



Barb Duthler and Paul Dykes handed out Survey packets to volunteers.

Meet Your Neighbor

by Laurie Frevert

HPDL volunteers

Geneva Dorsey



Inis VonBargen

Geneva Dorsey

Picnic in the Park. Geneva has lived in HPDL for seven years. She works for the Minneapolis Public Schools. Her family includes her other half, Thomas and daughter LaTresha (12).

HPDL's annual Picnic in the Park appealed to Geneva as a way to get involved in the neighborhood. She first volunteered five years ago at the event and has chaired the committee for the last two years. She thinks the picnic is a positive way for neighbors to connect. Geneva finds other ways to help out HPDL, such as the Housing Fair and Teen Job Fair. She also helped to start the HTDL Teen Center; is on the Board of Directors for "The Phelps Community Builders," and mentors two children.

Picnic in the Park

Thursday, July 26th – Todd Park

You can help too!

Set-up and take-down, work at a booth, Geneva says there are, "lots of opportunities."

Jane Stonich

Community Garden — Pearl Park.

Jane and husband Mark, originally from Duluth, have lived in HPDL for 25 years. They began renting and liked the area so much that they bought a home. Their family includes two grown sons, Matt and Eli. Jane teaches preschool for the Wiggles and Giggles program in Richfield. She also taught at the Little Pearls program at Pearl Park.

The garden site by Pearl Park is a place Jane enjoys working. Good bird and wildlife watching in a pleasant, relaxing setting – no phones! She is a contact for Minnesota Green, of which HPDL is a member. On short notice, Minnesota Green makes donated plants available to members and that is how our community gardens are filled.

Jane has served on several committees including the Bike Pathways on the Park-



Inis VonBargen

Jane Stonich

way and the Ponds at Lake Nokomis committees. She likes to have input and improve the outcome of local projects.

Community Garden at Pearl Park



Diamond Lake Road & Hampshire

To keep the garden looking kept, come down on Wednesday nights from 7 – 8. Help with weeding, dead heading flowers and watering. Any time, any day – your help is needed!

Clean Sweep 2001 Saturday, August 25th



Ride the garbage trucks that pick up trash from HPDL alleys (Read the rules on page 6).

Kevin Hurbanis

Kevin is from Chicago. There, he met his wife Julie, who's from Minnesota. He says Chicago was a fun place to live for a couple, but when their son Jack was born they decided to raise their family in Minneapolis. They have lived in HPDL for two years and now Jack (3) has a little sister, Emma (5 months). Kevin is a stay-at-home dad. Kevin worked as a Jr. High School teacher in math and science. He has a Minnesota teachers license. Kevin spent two years living in Paraguay, working as a Peace Corps volunteer. He learned to speak Spanish and has taught math and science for spanish speaking students.

Kevin and wife Julie want their own children to learn the value of volunteering. They take action so that their children can learn by example.

Kevin helps with the HPDL Clean Sweep. Trucks go through HPDL alleys collecting garbage. Kevin noticed, "You get a glimpse of our neighborhood that offers a unique view of the back gardens." The event is well organized and fun. Kevin is also a garden helper at the Pearl Park site and he helped distribute the HDPL Phase II Survey.



Inis VonBargen

Kevin Hurbanis

Clean Sweep 2001



Join us for our annual neatness campaign as we scour HPDL's alleys Saturday, August 25th.

We must follow these specific guidelines to participate in CleanSweep. The city of Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling department provides the city employees, drivers and trucks, and the neighborhoods must provide volunteers to follow the trucks and pick up trash.

The items we collect for CleanSweep are the same items that the city will normally collect at no cost. Did you know that . . .

Garbage Day Items/Large Items: You are allowed to place up to **two** large burnable items out every week. Just place the items where you garbage is normally collected by 6 a.m. on your collection day. Attach a note that says "For Solid Waste."

- Carpet rolls (less than 5 ft. long, no heavier than 40 lbs., less than 12 inches wide, must be tied with string) mattresses, wood or plastic furniture (chairs, couches, shelves, tables, etc.).

Recycling Day Items: The following items can be left out on your regular recycling day, and will be collected the following day:

- Computers, computer monitors, and TVs, hide-a-beds, large metal appliances such as air conditioners, aluminum doors (remove glass), clothesline poles (remove concrete), freezers (remove doors), microwave ovens, pipes (less than 8 ft.), refrigerators (remove doors), stoves, washers etc.).

Not Collected: The following items are not collected with garbage or large items. For questions, call Solid Waste & Recycling at 673-2917.

Asphalt, concrete, lumber: Get a Clean Up Voucher

Auto batteries: Any store that sells auto batteries is required by state law to accept up to four at a time with no charge.

Auto parts: Fenders, door, engine blocks, etc. Bring to scrap metal dealer. Look in the Yellow Pages under Scrap Metals.

Auto Tires: Bring to any store that sells tires. There is a small fee or get a Tire Voucher from the City.

Please call the office (824-7707) to volunteer and make this neighborhood event a great success.

Legislative Tax Reform *from page 8*

ment financing) districts. Much of the funding for development projects of the MCDA has also come from TIF districts. The Tax Bill recently passed by the legislature mandated that funds from TIF districts formed before 1979 are limited to repaying development debt and paying for NRP programs already under contract.

The NRP was set up in two phases. Neighborhoods entered the first 10-year phase on a staggered basis. HPDL was one of the first neighborhoods to enter the planning process and develop a Neighborhood Action Plan. Many of the projects and activities in the HPDL Action Plan have been implemented or at least started. Some neighborhoods have just begun to implement phase I activities. It does now appear that there will be sufficient funds available for all neighborhoods to complete their Phase I Plan Implementation. However, funds for phase II are in question.

Why does anyone care?

Star Tribune reporter Steve Brandt wrote, in the July 8, 2001 article *NRP's midlife crisis has City Hall, neighborhoods scrambling:*

"NRP was conceived as an effort to let residents determine priorities for addressing blight and other issues in their communities. The program has drawn plaudits nationally and internationally not just for sending money outside City Hall but also for dispersing considerable control over it, although neighborhood participation often has been narrower than envisioned." (full text of the article is at www.startribune.com)

This comment summarizes the ambiguity surrounding this innovative program. There is no doubt that many projects and neighborhood goals throughout the city have been achieved through the opportunities the NRP program offered. However, the NRP has suffered the inevitable growing pains of any new program. Also, as in any true democratic process, carrying out the planning and goal setting activities necessary to develop an action plan at a neighborhood level can be a messy process. People disagree on philosophies and priorities.

We, in the HPDL neighborhoods were able to leverage NRP funds to help carry out many neighborhood goals. The recent survey delivered to each HPDL household contained a partial list of these projects. They include this newsletter, improvements to the local parks and school, a housing loan program, commercial loan program, and many community-building activities from events to gardens.

What Action is Necessary?

Many neighborhood activists called, wrote, e-mailed and visited senators and representatives during the legislative session and the special session to exempt the NRP from the tax reform restrictions. Elected officials and city departments also pushed hard to retain the funding for the NRP. Now that the legislative restrictions have been put on the funding, many

continued on page 7



Tuesday

August 7th

Legislative Tax Reform

continued

are working hard to find alternative sources. City officials are saying they are still committed to the program. Mayor Belton and City Council President Cherryhomes have convened a working group to address redevelopment revenue deficits. There is talk of reactivating a housing and redevelopment authority levy for MCDA purposes. Some neighborhood activists are pushing to have a referendum placed before voters for a charter amendment that would require the city to give the NRP its full \$20 million a year that had originally been committed. Others seek a court declaration of the city's obligation. As of the time of the writing of this article, it was not completely clear what the ultimate effect of the tax changes will be; nor had any one approach to counteracting negative effects achieved consensus.

Where can I learn more?

There are several ways to find out more about this issue as it develops.

1. Check the Mpls. Community Development Organization (MCDA) web site at www.mcda.org/whats_new/cd_finances/letter.htm
2. Contact the Mpls. Center for Neighborhoods, an organization started years ago to advocate for enhanced livability and vitality of urban neighborhoods. They can be reached at 2600 E. Franklin Avenue, Mpls., MN 55406, at 612-339-3480 or at www.center4neighborhoods.org. They are hosting a forum on July 31, 2001 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. called "The Neighborhood—Where do we go from here?" at Bandana Square Conference Center 1021 Bandana Boulevard in St. Paul.
3. Participate in discussions on this issue found at "Minneapolis E-Democracy – Government, Politics, Public Policy and Community Information and Discussion," the Minneapolis Issues Forum at www.e-democracy.org or Community Zero – Honoring the City's Community Commitment at www.communityzero.com/savenrp/index.cfm



HPDL Environmental Committee Awarded Grant

by Ruth Tank

In late March, the HPDL environmental committee applied for a matching grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund. The committee requested and received \$2500.00 to fund a Diamond Lake restoration project to be completed by August 2002. Some of the projects that will be supported by the grant include:

- Native flora planting
- Non-native species abatement; eradication of buckthorn
- Wildlife habitat enhancements including placing wood duck houses at various points around the lake
- Public education campaign

These projects will help to improve the water quality of Diamond Lake, reduce erosion and buffer runoff as well as reinforce the good practices of protecting the watershed. The committee looks forward to much community involvement in these upcoming projects and will notify area residence as opportunities to participate arise. A special thanks to Bob Lind who spearheaded the grant application process.



Great Part-Time Positions!

Help local seniors live independently in their homes.

Service Coordinator
Administrative Coordinator
Home Health Aide

For more information call Elana Gravitz, The Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program. 612-729-5499.

Resumes/applications accepted through 7/16.

HPDL Needs You!

If you can spend a few hours a month, have an interest in your community, and want to affect what happens in your own neighborhood, please give us a call. Rosie, Judy or Viola at the HPDL office would love to hear from you – 824-7707.

HPDL Committees

- Airport — Call
- Building Community — Last Wednesday
- Business Association — Call
- Commercial Development — 3rd Monday 4:30 p.m., Nokomis Cup
- Crime and Safety — 1st Tuesday
- Housing — Call
- Newsletter — Call
- Environment — Call
- Gardening — Every Wednesday



HPDL Board:

Lauren Altschuler 861-6696
Dana Bacon (Vice Chair) 821-0993
Joshua Carlson 728-3890
Bert Ellenbogen 825-5054
Doug Frevert (Chair) 823-4504
Doug Hill 869-4086
Max Richter 827-4627
Margaret Sullivan (Treasurer) . 825-9615
Eric Swanson (Secretary) 822-1327
Ruth Tank
Gail Von Bargaen 729-4228

HPDL Staff:

Rosie Doege
Viola Carlson
Judy Cooper Lyle
HPDL publishes this newsletter quarterly and distributes it to the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake Neighborhoods. If you have questions or comments, would like to contribute, or join the Newsletter Committee, please call the HPDL office at 824-7707.

Newsletter Committee:

Doug Frevert Kerry Reiling
Laurie Frevert Gail VonBargaen
Dan McGrane Iris VonBargaen
Karen Pritz

Newsletter Staff:

Rosie Doege, Judy Cooper Lyle

HPDL was formed in 1991. It is bounded by 35W, 62nd Street, Cedar Avenue, and Minnehaha Creek. HPDL serves as a forum/clearinghouse for ideas; provides a meeting place to air grievances, define concerns and develop solutions; provides opportunities to work with other organizations across the city; serves as a conduit between residents and government; and helps us to celebrate our neighborhoods and their own special uniqueness within our diverse city.

Phone: 824-7707 Fax: 824-6824
email: hpdl@juno.com
5144 13th Ave. So., Mpls., MN 55417



You make the call:

Bus Ride Info 373-3333
 Humane Society 522-7130
 Animal Control 348-4250
 CCP/SAFE 673-3015
 Robin Liljeberg 673-2502
 Burned Out Street Lights . 673-2429
 Airport Noise 726-9411
 Graffiti 673-2090
 Pearl Park 370-4906
 City Council Member
 Doré Mead ⁽¹¹⁾ 673-2211
 County Commissioner
 Gail Dorfman ⁽³⁾ 348-7883
 Peter McLaughlin ⁽⁴⁾ 348-7884
 State Senator
 Julie Sabo ⁽⁶²⁾ 651-296-4196
 Jane Ranum ⁽⁶³⁾ 651-297-8061
 State Representative
 Mark Gleason ^(63B) 651-297-9001
 Wes Skoglund ^(62B) 651-296-4330
 Jean Wagenius ^(63A) 651-296-4200
 SMAAC 822-8118
 Minnesota Public Lobby . 378-0285
 HPDL Office 824-7707
 hpdl@juno.com
 www2.bitstream.net/~hpdl

HPDL Community Association
 5144 13th Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55417

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HPDL Community Calendar

Thursday, July 26 5:30 - 8:30	Picnic in the Park	Todd Park 57th & Chicago
Monday, July 23 7:00 PM	Board Meeting	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave S
Tuesday, August 7	National Night Out	Your Block
Saturday, August 25 8 AM - 2 PM	Clean Sweep	HPDL Office
Monday, August 27 7:00 PM	Board Meeting	HPDL Office
Monday, Sept. 17 7:00 PM	Community Meeting & Board Elections	Pearl Park 414 E. Diamond Lk. Rd.
Monday, Sept. 24 7:00 PM	Board Meeting	HPDL Office

In this edition . . .

Picnic In The Park 1	From the Chair 3
Commercial Landscape . . 1	At City Hall 4
35W & Crosstown 2	Meet Your Neighbor 5
MAC Insulation Decision . . 2	Clean Sweep Rules 6
First Course 3	Environmental Grant 7
	Legislative Tax Reform . . . 8

**Legislative Tax Reform –
 What Impact Will It Have On
 Neighborhoods?**

by Karen Pritz

How does the Tax Bill affect HPDL?

The MN State Legislature passed a Tax Bill in its recent special session. This bill contained many changes, whose full impacts are still being assessed. It is apparent, however, that some of the changes will particularly affect, in both positive and negative ways, the City of Minneapolis including residents of HPDL. On the positive side, property taxes will be lower. On the negative side, many City development projects are threatened.

In his “From the Chair” article, HPDL Chair Doug Frevert told us that the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), the main funding source for many of the projects of the HPDL Community Association has had its ability to continue severely diminished. Funds for the NRP, a 20-yr program set up in legislation in 1991, were generated from excess taxes produced from downtown development in TIF (tax-incre-

continued on page 6