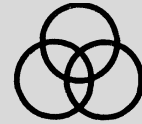


NRP Link

February 2003

Volume 10, Issue 2

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News



Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour nomination deadline is February 14

Do you wish you could showcase some of the creative home improvements that have been made in your neighborhood? Are there new homes in your neighborhood that need new owners? Are there rental opportunities in your neighborhood that you want to publicize? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to consider nominating these homes for the 2003 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

The home tour, now in its 16th year, is a free, self-guided event where thousands of housing enthusiasts can share home remodeling ideas and new home ownership opportunities. For more information about the home tour, including how to nominate your home, please visit the official home tour Web site at www.msphometour.com. The deadline for home tour nominations is Friday, February 14, 2003. Don't hesitate to shine the spotlight on your neighborhood – fill out a nomination form today!



Shingle Creek Commons, a 75-unit retirement living community located at 4600 Humboldt Ave. N., is just one of the many diverse housing options that will be featured on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour this year. The Lind-Bohanon, Shingle Creek and Webber-Camden neighborhood associations invested \$250,000 of NRP funds in this CommonBond Communities development.

No decision made on long-term funding of NRP

One of the most common questions being asked by Minneapolis residents these days is how will the NRP be funded in the future. There is no simple answer to this question.

City leaders have been making difficult budget decisions that address a projected \$55 million budget deficit over the next five years in a way that also reflects the priorities of Minneapolis residents.

On January 31, the Minneapolis City Council approved a Five-Year Financial Direction for the city. This financial direction provides city departments with a clear picture of the level of financial resources that will be available over the next five years. The Five-Year Financial Direction includes \$33 million annually for

community development. This is the resource from which NRP funds would be drawn. Deciding how these resources will be allocated will be one of the decisions the City Council and mayor will have to address soon. For more information about the Five-Year Financial Direction, please visit the City of Minneapolis Web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/financial-forecast/>.

The NRP was created in 1990 by city officials and community leaders as a response to growing concerns about the declining condition of Minneapolis neighborhoods. The program was originally established as a 20 year, \$20 million a year program. Legislative reform of the tax system in 2001 dramatically reduced the funding source that has historically supported the NRP.

Schedule of topics for NRP Training Series 2003 now official

In an effort to help neighborhood organizations better manage NRP activities and responsibilities, the NRP is once again hosting a training series catering to the needs of board members, staff and volunteers. The series, titled "**NRP Training Series 2003**," begins Saturday, February 15, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. with the always popular Board Chair Peer Group workshop.

All training series workshops will be presented by NRP staff and other seasoned neighborhood veterans, and **will be held at the Crown Roller Mill building, 105 Fifth Ave. S., Suite 200, in MCDA Conference Room #3.** All weeknight sessions will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and all Saturday sessions (Feb. 15) will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Other topics scheduled to be covered during this series of weeknight and Saturday workshops include: How to Leverage Investment through the Community Reinvestment Act (February 25) and Preserving Your Neighborhood's History (March 6).

If you would like to register to attend any or all of the NRP Training Series 2003 workshops, **please RSVP** to NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 or by e-mail at rthompson@nrp.org. More workshops will be presented throughout the year so please watch upcoming issues of the NRP Link to learn about upcoming sessions. Light refreshments will be provided at all of the workshops.

NRP Training Series 2003 schedule & topics

Saturday, February 15, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Board Chair Peer Group - Peer group workshops have proven to be an effective way of sharing information among neighborhood organizations citywide. This workshop provides an excellent networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunity. Please contact Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 if you would like to place an item on the agenda for this workshop.

Tuesday, February 25, 2003 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

How to Leverage Investment through the Community Reinvestment Act - Enacted into law in 1977, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) was established to encourage banks to help meet the credit needs of their communities. Each bank is evaluated on its level of engagement in local community development initiatives, including housing and economic development for low- and moderate- income individuals and areas. Presenter Margaret Tyndall of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis will provide information on how your organization may be able to use the CRA to form useful partnerships with banks in your neighborhood.

Thursday, March 6, 2003 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Preserving Your Neighborhood's History - Your neighborhood organization may be a rich store of history, but does it seem more like a cluttered nightmare? How do you sort through the acres of paper? How do you identify the essential information or valuable historical record? How can you make sense of it, organize it, preserve it? What do you keep for how long? Presenters Craig Wright of the Minnesota Historical Society, Joellen Haugo of the Minneapolis Library, Jay Clark of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) and Jean Johnstad of the Seward neighborhood will help you begin the important process of preserving your neighborhood's rich and proud history.

Getting to the bottom of the ballot group to host After the Election 2003 workshop series

Getting to the bottom of the ballot is a voter education initiative launched in 2002 by a group called Southwest Citizens for Civic Engagement. The group's goal is to keep Minneapolis residents informed about local issues year round. In order to achieve its goal, the group is hosting a year-long series of local-issue seminars beginning at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, 2003 with a seminar titled *Follow the Money II*. The seminar focuses on restoring the city's financial health at a time when the city faces a budget deficit. The seminar will look at how the state deficit may create further challenges for

the city. Council Members Barret Lane and Scott Benson will lead a panel of southwest state legislators—including Senators Scott Dibble and Jane Ranum and State Representatives Frank Horenstein and Paul Thissen—through a discussion about how the state deficit will affect Minneapolis.

All of the seminars in the series will be held at Southwest High School Community Education located at Chowen Ave. S. and W. 47th Street. Those who attend should enter door number 16 at the school.

In Brief

Celebrate Black History Month by attending one of these great events sponsored by the Minneapolis Public Library

The Minneapolis Public Library is hosting several Black History Month events. They include:

The Writer Next Door series presents W. Harry Davis
7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2003
Sumner Library, 611 Emerson Ave. N.

Join Minneapolis civil rights leader W. Harry Davis and Star Tribune editor Lori Sturdevant as they read excerpts from *Overcoming: The Autobiography of W. Harry Davis* and discuss the history of the civil rights movement in Minneapolis.

Black History and the Media: Making the Invisible Visible
6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2003
University of St. Thomas Thornton Auditorium

(Room #260 in Terrence Murphy Hall), 1000 LaSalle Avenue,

Star Tribune columnist Syl Jones will lead an all-star panel discussion about the media's role in representing and misrepresenting African Americans and other people of color. Participants will discuss the difficult issues facing journalists of color, the power of the media to set political and social agendas and the ways the media will need to change as the "browning of America" continues. Additional panelists will include: Fox News anchorwoman Robyne Robinson, Pioneer Press columnist Ruben Rosario, Minnesota Public Radio's Brandt Williams and Pioneer Press reporter Hannah Allam.

Black History and the Media: Syl Jones Live!
7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2003
East Lake Library, 2727 East Lake St.

Join award-winning playwright, Star Tribune columnist, and communications consultant Syl Jones at the East Lake Library for an irreverent fast-paced discussion. Topics will range from his often-humorous encounters with readers to the impending war with Iraq, from the mainstream media's treatment of black athletes like Randy Moss to coverage of police brutality and the prison system.

For more information, call Rachel at 612-630-6174.

The Northeast Cultural Heritage Committee is also sponsoring Black History Month events. Contact Val Barnes at 612-379-7405 for a schedule of these events.

Minneapolis Public Library now has tax information resources available online

Do you have all of the tax information you need to get your taxes completed before the April 15 filing deadline? If not, you may want to visit the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) Web site for tax information, tax forms and other assistance that is now available on a special tax information resource Web page at

<http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/taxes.asp>. The MPL has also assembled an assortment of Web links that should make filing much less stressful this tax season. Check it out!

Pierre Bottineau Library update

As construction on the Historic Grain Belt Brewery Campus nears completion, northeast residents are preparing to bid a fond farewell to the overcrowded Pierre Bottineau Library's storefront location that has served them since 1957. The library will close in early March to allow library staff time to prepare for the grand opening of the new Pierre Bottineau Library on the corner of Broadway and Marshall streets NE in late May. The new library will feature larger collections, a neighborhood history area, a "kid's tech zone" and a new conference room. The library will also have bike racks and pedestrian walkways to promote environmentally friendly transportation to and from this neighborhood centerpiece. Neighborhood volunteers are currently fundraising to build a new Legacy Fountain to front the library on Broadway Street. For more information on the many ways you can contribute to this effort, please contact Mike Rainville at 612-661-4745.

City seeks public art proposals

Does your neighborhood organization have ideas on how to connect public art projects to city building efforts? Well, the City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places program provides financial support to such projects. For more information on the program, including how to apply, please contact Mary Altman at 612-673-3006. The deadline for applications is February 14.

Hearts & Hammers accepting applications

Once a year, volunteers participating in the Hearts & Hammers program gather to revitalize home exteriors at no cost to qualifying homeowners. Hearts & Hammers is now accepting applications for 2003 from deserving homeowners with limited resources who are elderly or permanently disabled and have trouble maintaining the exteriors of their homes. If you or someone you know would like to apply, please visit www.heartsandhammers.org or call Susan Humiston at 612-335-1445.

Hearts & Hammers home improvements typically include painting, caulking, roofing, ramp construction, siding replacement, landscaping and other services that restore the character of the home and improve its weatherproofing and security.

The annual Hearts & Hammers Program Day is Saturday, September 13 (rain date, September 27). **Applications are due May 1.**



Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program
Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425
105 Fifth Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401 Phone: (612) 673-5140

May 17 2003

Mark it on your calendar!

2003 NRP Neighborhood Conference

NRP Policy Board Report

Approved January 27, 2003



Hennepin County 7.5 percent funds for
the Webber-Camden neighborhood



Hennepin County 7.5 percent funds for
the Ventura Village neighborhood

— February 2003 Calendar of Events —

6 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting
CANCELED - Next Meeting March 6

14 Valentine's Day

15 NRP Training Series 2003
"Board Chair Peer Group"
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Suite #200,
Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. For a
complete schedule of upcoming workshops see
page 2 or call NRP Training Specialist Robert
Thompson at 612-673-5149.

17 President's Day
City offices closed

20 Fair share solutions to city housing goals
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Crown Roller Mill second floor atrium,
105 Fifth Ave. S. For more information, contact
Jeff Langaard of the Whittier Alliance at 612-
871-7756 or by e-mail at jlangaard@usfamily.net.

21 March Link submission deadline
Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission
to Brett at 612-673-5138.

24 NRP Policy Board meeting
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Room C-2350 Hennepin County
Government Center

25 NRP Training Series 2003
**"How to Leverage Investment through
the Community Reinvestment Act"**
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Suite #200,
Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. For a
complete schedule of upcoming workshops see
page 2 or call NRP Training Specialist Robert
Thompson at 612-673-5149.

**Celebrate Black
History Month**
See page 3 for event info

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