

NRP LINK

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News • April-May 2009 Vol. 16, Issue 2

Home Tour Highlights Remodeling, Neighbors Improving Community

Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour 2009 Guides are available at local libraries, and the website, www.MSPHomeTour.com, has descriptions of all 60 homes on the free, self-guided tour. This 22nd annual tour, coordinated by NRP and sponsored with other public and private entities, is a celebration of city living and home improvement inspiration. The event is Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, April 26, 1-5 p.m.

Twenty four Minneapolis neighborhoods are represented, and Audubon Park, Linden Hills, Lynnhurst and Stevens Square have at least three locations in the 2009 Tour. Minneapolis has 39 featured homes, and Saint Paul has 21. Mark your calendar to tour the homes or to help your neighborhood group have a presence at the home or homes in your area.

This year's homes have a wide variety of kitchen solutions, bath options, space additions and basement remodels (such as Longfellow activist Candyce Anderson's basement). Neighborhood organization input had an impact on some of the projects.

They include 4307 Wentworth Ave. where a small foreclosed one-bedroom, one-bath house was stripped to the foundation and transformed into a three-bedroom, two-bath, "green," energy-efficient home in the style of

surrounding homes, with a two-car garage. It's for sale at \$142,000 through the City of Lakes Community Land Trust to a qualified low-income buyer. The home's green reconstruction was a collaboration between Hennepin County Taxpayer Services and Environmental Services (which financed part of the work with a \$25,000 environmental grant) and the Kingfield Neighborhood development group.

A green, LEED certified home at 1415 18th Ave. NE, constructed with the guidance of the Windom Park Citizens in Action, is another of the dozen featured Eco-Tour homes within the larger tour.

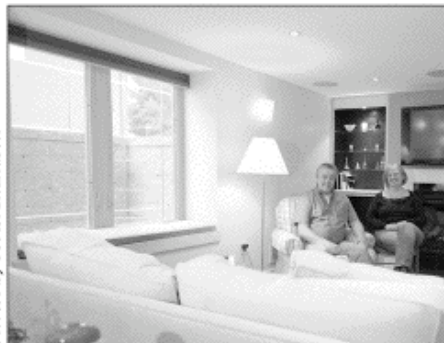
The University District Alliance (a partnership featured in a recent LINK) will be promoting home ownership incentives and their www.livenearyourwork.net website. The five locations are: 201 SE 6th St., 518 7th St. SE, 1022 16th Ave. SE (for-sale, featuring architect ideas for its new kitchen), 901 20th Ave. SE (solar) and 204 Cecil St. SE (studio).

For information and a link to the half-hour Home Tour Preview Show featuring five of the tour homes, go to www.MSPHomeTour.com. Questions? Call 612-673-5140.

Fred Retzlaff and Brian Marquis of Lyndale, and Candyce Anderson of Longfellow, with contractor Allan Miller, show what can be done to find and improve space within the footprint of typical Minneapolis houses.



Photos by Scott Amundson



Follow-Up 4/19 on Selection Process for NCEC Reps from Neighborhoods

A meeting of Minneapolis neighborhood group designees is set for Sunday, April 19, to continue discussion on how to select neighborhood representatives to the City's new Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). It will be held 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Northeast Armory, 1025 Broadway St. NE, and it is open to the public.

Neighborhood designees from all neighborhoods of the city first met February 21 to discuss how to select their representatives to the Commission. They requested that a follow up meeting be held.

Given the other meetings and events already scheduled for Saturdays in April, and to avoid conflicts with neighborhood meetings already scheduled during the week nights, Sunday afternoon, April 19, was selected as the best time.

In an effort to help guide the April 19 discussion, NRP and city staff have drafted six models for electing the neighborhood representatives to the NCEC. The models are based on the facilitator's notes from the last meeting. Three of the models are based on six districts and two at-large positions and the other three models are based on all eight representatives being elected from districts with no at-large positions.

The link to download the packet sent out to neighborhood group designees is: http://www.nrp.org/R2/News/NewsArch/2008/April_19_Meeting_Packet.pdf

Anyone with a different selection model that they want discussed should send it to the NRP office by Thursday, April 16 to allow copies to be distributed at the meeting. Call 612-673-5140 for information.

A list of the other eight commission representatives designated by either the mayor, city council or park board is on page 2 of this NRP LINK newsletter.

Resources

Bring an HOURCAR to your neighborhood

Bring an HOURCAR to your Neighborhood HOURCAR, the Twin Cities' nonprofit car-sharing program, seeks sponsors to support expansion into new neighborhoods.

Sponsors make a one-time financial contribution to establish a new HOURCAR hub. For a limited time, sponsors' contributions are being matched by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, making new hubs even more accessible. Anyone can be a sponsor—housing developers, corporations, colleges, neighborhood groups, and individuals. Contributions to HOURCAR are tax deductible.

HOURCAR currently offers 19 vehicles, shared by 750 members. HOURCAR members enjoy affordable rate plans, low-emissions cars, and all of the convenience of a private car without the headaches of ownership. HOURCAR is proud to be a local, environmentally-focused car-sharing program. HOURCAR even offers the world's first solar-powered, plug-in hybrid shared cars!

HOURCAR is a program of the nonprofit Neighborhood Energy Connection. For more information about hub sponsorship, see www.HOURCAR.org, or call Mary Morse, 651-221-4462 Ext. 113.

Charter Commission Changes

The Minneapolis Charter Commission has finalized its 11th draft reorganizing and rewriting the entire City Charter, culminating a five-year effort. In a letter to community organizations, it was stated, "Please note that [these] amendments drafted by the Charter Commission do NOT include the recent substantive proposals made by Council Members Ostrow, Samuels, and Remington regarding the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, the Board of Estimate and Taxation, and changes in city government."

To review the proposed changes, which the commission terms "non-substantive," but intended to "simplify, modernize and organize that which should be in a City Charter while relegating applicable items to the jurisdiction of City ordinances," go to the Charter Commission website www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter commission and click on "Proposed Revised Charter" and/or "Executive Summary" in the upper left hand portion of the page. Questions? Email peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

HandsOn Twin Cities Day Offers Volunteers

HandsOn Twin Cities is looking for organizations that are in need of volunteers.

Participants will be a part of HandsOn Twin Cities Day, which is an annual serve-a-thon focused on benefiting the community through volunteerism.

Four hundred volunteers will be available starting from downtown Minneapolis Friday, June 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. "These volunteers are eager to make an impact in the Minneapolis community," said Zeeda Magnuson of

Encouraging Planners to Involve Residents

Thousands of city planners and others in the planning field will visit Minneapolis from April 25-29 for the national American Planning Association convention. NRP staff will show how planning efforts can make a real difference in neighborhoods and cities with two tours that focus on results achieved by Minneapolis residents through NRP.

NRP Director Bob Miller will lead a walking tour of Nicollet Avenue and "Eat Street" to discuss how multiple neighborhoods and business interests collaborated to reverse the effects of previous city decisions that had gradually desolated the commercial corridor. Representatives from Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Stevens Square Neighborhood Association, the Whittier Alliance and local businesses will help describe, explain, and assess the impact of the changes

HandsOn Twin Cities. "The projects need to be within an easy transportation distance of downtown." If you have ideas for projects that need 30+ volunteers, e-mail Zeeda@handson-twincities.org or call 612-379-4900 ext. 13.

Minneapolis Advantage Homebuyer Programs

The Minneapolis Advantage homebuyer program application is available to help with the purchase of foreclosed homes by owner occupants in impacted city neighborhoods. The application is posted at the website www.gmhchousing.org as the last item in a list at the left hand side of the page.

that the neighborhoods created.

NRP staff will also narrate a bus tour visiting Pratt School, Whittier Community Center and the Windom School/Community Center. Stops will be made at each site to hear from residents who were involved in these major multi-jurisdictional efforts. Each is an example of neighborhoods working to create a community resource, adding community-building functions tailored to the specific area's needs and desires.

"The challenge, with any tour for visitors," Miller said, "is to communicate enough about the factors involved, that they realize each of these processes is unique...we want to encourage others to actively involve residents in their planning processes to create truly successful projects."

NCEC Seated Reps

The Minneapolis mayor, city council and park board have chosen their representatives to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. Those individuals are, with their source of appointment, wards and neighborhoods listed:

Parks	Ami Thompson		
Council	Breanne Rothstein	11	Windom
Mayor	Crystal Johnson	5	Near North
Council	David Crockett	6	Stevens Square /Loring Heights
Council	Ed Newman	7	Loring Park
Council	Jeffrey Strand	4	Shingle Creek
Mayor	Matt Perry	13	East Harriet/ Farmstead
Council	Tony Anastasia	1	Audubon Park

A process for choosing neighborhood representatives is being devised. (See page 1)

Recession Responses - Are We Building Community?

How is your neighborhood organization answering your residents' concerns about the economy and the housing market? Do you see more people at community windings as they look for lower cost entertainment? Are you pairing the "haves" with the "have nots"? Let the LINK know of your experiences or ideas (collective or individual); we'll incorporate them into a future article.

Submit articles and ideas on any topic for the LINK by email to link@nrp.org. Write between 300 and 600 words stating a problem or opportunity, how you dealt with it, and what you think others could learn from your experiences along the way. High-resolution photos are also welcome.

Margo Ashmore, editor, 612-673-5103
NRP LINK is available in Braille or large print upon request. TTY 612-673-2626. Archives are on www.nrp.org "Resources"-Media.

In Brief



Learn About Rain Gardens, Possible Grant

Want a garden that attracts birds and butterflies, helps protect our water resources and may even help reduce your monthly stormwater utility fee? Build a rain garden! Metro Blooms is sponsoring workshops for \$10 that will teach you how to install a rain garden using native plants that don't require fertilizers or pesticides. Participants will also learn about downspout redirection and more eco-friendly lawn care. A complete listing of workshop dates and registration information is at www.metroblooms.org/workshops.php. To register in advance (space is limited) and to see if you may qualify for a \$65 reimbursement grant for native plant materials, visit the website or contact Noelle Hechtman at 651-699-2426.

Como Green Village Day is Saturday, April 18

Como Green Village Day will be held April 18 (rain or shine) 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave. SE. For more information, go to www.comogreenvillage.org. Celebrate the beginning of spring, Earth Week, and the first year of a successful Como Green Village with Southeast Como Improvement Association. Reduce, Reuse and FREecycle with the Como Swap-Meet...support green (and cheap!) transportation with the bicycle auction, and learn about solar ovens, wind power, bike trailers, rain barrels and more at the green demos as well as checking out local organizations and opportunities at the resource fair.

Stevens Square Annual Rummage Sale April 18-19

On April 18 and 19, Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO) will hold its annual rummage sale at the Van Dusen Event Center, 1900 LaSalle Avenue. Admission is \$2 per adult on Saturday, April 18, free on Sunday, April 19. Hours: Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds from the resident-organized event will fund neighborhood arts, greening, safety, and outreach programs.

"It's going to be an incredibly tough year for nonprofits," says Steven Gallagher, executive director of SSCO. "There just isn't enough funding to go around. To maintain our current level of programming, we'll be depending heavily on the proceeds from the rummage sale and our other fundraising events."

Items donated by area residents and local businesses include furniture, housewares, antiques, collectibles, art, jewelry, toys, tools, books, bikes, and baby, kids, and adult clothing. Snacks and beverages will also be for sale. "We put a lot of effort into obtaining high-quality items," says Linda Ferris, chair of the sale planning committee. "This definitely isn't your average rummage sale. It offers collectors, bargain hunters, and green consumers the chance to find some amazing deals." For more information, call 612-874-2840 or visit www.SSCOweb.org.

Hotdish Revolution is April 26

Sunday, April 26: The Hotdish Revolution, sponsored by Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association, happens from 4-7 p.m. at the Grain Belt Studios near Marshall Street and 13th Avenue NE. Bring your favorite hotdish, friends and

family. Dining begins at 5:15 for \$15 or \$5 if you enter a hotdish or Jello. More info at www.nenorthnews.com (click on "events" and sort by date).

Audubon Park's Spring Wing-Ding April 25

The Spring WingDing is an annual celebration of nature in the city hosted by the Audubon Park neighborhood and many sponsors/partners at the park, 1320 29th Ave. NE. The event is held on a Saturday near the birthday of the neighborhood's namesake, John J. Audubon. This year, it's Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine. Fun for all ages will include making your own environmentally-friendly household cleaners and making bird feeders from plastic soda bottles. The Minneapolis Audubon Society will lead birdwatching tours within the park and have a display on what to do with baby birds or animals you find in your yard. There will be a stage, carnival games, a moon walk, face painting, and a cake walk. More info: <http://audubonneighborhood.org/WingDing>.

Northside Arts Collective Spring Art Party

The Spring Art Party will be held Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Webber Park, 4310 Webber Parkway, hosted by the Webber Camden Neighborhood Organization in partnership with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Artists from all communities may apply to display and sell work, due May 1. Applications are downloadable at www.nacarts.org or contact Rick Burgess, Event Coordinator at sap@nacarts.org or 763-229-9833. A prep workshop is offered on May 9 to help with everything from an effective display to closing the sale. Organizations are also invited to exhibit and provide a make-n-take art activity.

Northside Arts Collective (NAC), which organizes the Spring Art Party, has become an important resource for North Minneapolis. For information on a NAC fundraiser Saturday, May 2, at Papa's Restaurant & Deli, call 612-643-2050 or go to the website www.nacarts.org.

Huge Earth Day Watershed Clean Up Effort

As part of the Minneapolis Earth Day Watershed Clean Up, the Bottineau Neighborhood Association coordinates one of the city's largest cleanups starting at Gluek Riverside Park, 1926 Marshall St. NE. This year sights are set on cleaning up nearly 500 acres along the river from Broadway to the Xcel Energy Riverside Plant Saturday, April 18 starting at 9:30 a.m. For information on this and efforts in other parts of the city, go to www.minneapolisparcs.org and click on "activities and programs" then "Earth Day."

Foreclosure Crisis Response Symposium May 12

A Symposium on Neighborhood Responses to the Foreclosure Crisis will be offered Tuesday, May 12, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota, 331 19th Ave S., Minneapolis. Put on jointly by National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), it will include afternoon workshops on strategies for dealing with the foreclosure problem on the ground, including: Outreach/Organizing for Prevention, Managing Foreclosed Properties, Acquisition of Foreclosed Properties, and Land Banking. Contact Sara Bielawski, biel0032@umn.edu or 612-625-9040.



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Hanging Out at the Housing Fairs

NRP and our partners, the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour and Live MSP, talked with interested residents at housing and home improvement fairs on the last two weekends in March. The photo is from the North Housing & Home Improvement Fair March 21, where attendance was good and a wide variety of contractors and community organizations and services were represented.



At the South Minneapolis fair March 28, "we were really really happy with how busy we were," said coordinator Laura Mullen. "So were our vendors—one got 39 leads." The largely volunteer effort of neighborhood organizations participating in NRP, supplemented with sponsorships and vendor fees, make these fairs successful. As Mullen said, "we weren't sure what would happen with the weird economy, but we increased our promotion just like we suggest the businesses do, and it worked!"

NRP Policy Board Report February 2009

- Approved Stevens Square Plan Modifications reallocating \$824,018.13 of program income and \$22,105 of Phase I unused funds from the Phase I Plan to roll over into the Phase II plan, with the exception of \$231.64 which is moved to Phase I strategy 9.3a "Commercial Revolving Loan Fund"
- Approved development of a partnership with NUSA to produce web tools that will foster more avenues of communication with neighborhood programs and neighborhood organizations across the country.

NRP Policy Board Report March 2009

- Received Hawthorne Phase I NRP Neighborhood Action Plan Review
- Complete reports:** www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html

Japanese Visitors Studied Neighborhood Indicators and Participation System

Ms. Tazuko Ouchi, Professor at Edogawa University in Japan, and Instructor Yoshiyuki Paul Terai visited Dayton, Ohio and Minneapolis in early March to look at how Americans use neighborhood indicators and systems for participation.

Prof. Ouchi commended the "progressive approach to GIS by the American university and the forward-thinking team of NRP for the neighborhood planning and participation." She was surprised at how many people are fascinated by GIS (geographic information systems) but don't take the step of actually using it.

Mr. Terai, commenting on his visit, contrasted Minneapolis with Dayton where Model Cities and Community Development Block Grant money are managed by a Priority Board System as the official citizen participation vehicle somewhat separate from city government. Dayton's citizen participation manager is the vice president of Neighborhoods USA.

"It was a real pleasure to be able to host Ms. Ouchi and Mr. Terai and to spend some time discussing NRP and the many creative efforts neighborhoods and others are making to improve the quality of life for residents," commented NRP Director Bob Miller. "This visit was also part of our continuing effort to assist and support the activities of Neighborhoods USA and we are very pleased that we were able to help."



Top Photo: Tazuko Ouchi, Professor at Edogawa University, met with Ken Meter of Crossroads Resource Center and Bob Miller of NRP. Ms. Ouchi and Yoshiyuki Paul Terai, Instructor at Edogawa University, also met with Jeff Matson of CURA (center, lower photo) and Julia Burman, the GIS specialist at Northeast Community Development Corporation. CURA and NECDC provide free or low cost GIS services for organizations.

Photos by Stacy Sorenson

Local Data Informs Local Development

CURA's Community GIS program has made use of a variety of widely available public data sources at the block level and below to help neighborhood organizations achieve their community development goals. The program will be the focus of the next CURA Housing Forum.

Jeff Matson of CURA (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs) will highlight several recent projects and explore data resources available to local non-profits on Friday, April 17, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (bring lunch if desired); in Mondale Hall (Law School): Room 50, 229 19th Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (West Bank Campus). Parking is available across the street in a public parking ramp. RSVP required by April 15 to 612-625-2086 or curahf@umn.edu.

CURA Housing Forums are free of charge and open to the public. To sign up for forum notices visit www.cura.umn.edu or email curahf@umn.edu.