



Minneapolis Connects



Minneapolis **Neighborhood & Community Relations**

Call **311** or visit www.minneapolismn.gov

If you need this material translated or in an alternative format, please call 673-2162.

September 2013

Upcoming Events

- **9/4:** Community Participation Program Information Session
- **9/7:** Minneapolis Monarch Festival
- **9/7:** Fulton Fall Festival
- **9/7:** HPDL Neighborhood Garage Sale
- **9/7:** East Isles Super Sale
- **9/9:** Nicollet Central Transit Alternatives Open House
- **9/9:** Elder Enrichment Series: Musical Pictures - Worth A Thousand Words
- **9/10:** Elliot Park Night to Unite
- **9/10:** North First Fall 2013 Social Event
- **9/10-9/12:** 7th Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count (volunteer now!)
- **9/12 and 9/21:** Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
- **9/14:** Waite Park Push Cart Derby
- **9/15:** Como Cookout
- **9/17:** Towards Financial Inclusion: Investing in Immigrant Futures
- **9/18:** Healthy Homes for Seniors: Indoor Air & Environmental Hazards
- **9/18:** Minneapolis Emergency PrepareFair
- **9/19:** Minneapolis Mayoral Debate
- **9/21:** Central Neighborhood Fair
- **9/21:** Lowry Open Streets and Harvest Fest
- **9/21:** Lynnhurst and Fulton Garage Sales
- **9/21:** Seward Neighborhood King's Fair
- **9/27:** Lyndale Fall Fundraiser
- **9/28:** Native American Day Celebration

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

Help Minneapolis Celebrate Latino Heritage Month



Join the City of Minneapolis as we celebrate Latino Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th. This month-long celebration is a way to celebrate the heritage, culture and traditions of Latino residents who trace their roots to Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The City of Minneapolis will use this month to celebrate the rich heritage and reflect on the many contributions the Latino Community has made to our city.

There will be a kick-off celebration on Saturday, September 14th from Noon to 11:00p.m. at the Mercado Central located at the corner of Lake Street and Bloomington Avenues. The event will feature the presentation of a Proclamation declaring September 15th to October 15th as Latino Heritage Month in the City of Minneapolis, food and entertainment.

Save the Date! NCR to host Open House on Thursday, October 24th

Join the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department on

**Thursday, October 24th
from 4:00-7:00p.m.**

for a department-wide Open House at our new location in the Crown Roller Mill.



At the open house you will be able to:

- Connect with other neighborhood and cultural community leaders;
- Share your ideas with NCR staff, other City Staff members, NRP Policy Board members and NCEC Commissioners;
- Visit interactive stations highlighting the work of neighborhoods, cultural communities and the City;
- Learn about even more opportunities to get involved;
- Celebrate the accomplishments of NCR partners!

Light refreshments will be served. Watch for more information.

If you are interested in participating and sharing your organization's work, please contact Stacy Sorenson at 612-673-2241.

Get ready for the Nov. 5 election



The City of Minneapolis is gearing up for the Nov. 5 municipal election, which will be city's second election to use ranked-choice voting. Candidate filing for the election is now closed, so voters can see who will be on the ballot in November by visiting the elections website: vote.minneapolismn.gov.

As we get closer to the election, the City is working to remind folks how to use ranked-choice voting, as well as to make sure people know how to register to vote, how to find their polling place, and to answer any other questions folks have about voting.

Absentee voting begins Sept. 20 - Request a ballot now

Voters who will not be able to vote at their polling place on Election Day are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Voting absentee can be done in person at City Hall, or entirely by mail. If a voter chooses to cast an absentee ballot in person, that can be done beginning September 20 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or on the final two Saturdays before Election Day, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To vote absentee by mail, voters may request a ballot now. Ballots will be mailed out beginning Sept. 20, and will include everything a voter needs to send back a completed ballot. Visit vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/absentee for absentee ballot applications in multiple languages that can be printed out and mailed in to request a ballot. Also online is a link to the Secretary of State's absentee ballot lookup tool to follow the status of an absentee ballot that has been submitted. Voters who are not pre-registered can still vote absentee. If voting by mail, voter registration materials will be sent with the absentee ballot for voters who are not already registered.

This election uses ranked-choice voting, and it's easy as 1, 2, 3

Minneapolis voters will use ranked-choice voting this fall to elect a mayor and members of the City Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park and Recreation Board. Ranked-choice voting is used only for municipal elections in Minneapolis, but voters only need to remember a few things to ensure they are prepared for Election Day.

Voting on Nov. 5 is as easy as 1, 2, 3, especially with the help of the new elections website voters' section at vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters.

First, make sure you're registered to vote. You can check your registration status or download a voter registration application on the website. Second, find out where to vote. Use the polling place finder to find your assigned polling place for voting, or if you cannot get to your polling place on Election Day, fill out an application for an absentee ballot. The third and final step to voting is completing your ballot. Just remember 1, 2, 3 again. Each ballot will have three columns, and you have the opportunity to rank up to three candidates in order of your preference for each office. You can learn more about Ranked Choice Voting by watching the videos on the website; videos are available in Spanish, Somali and Hmong.

Volunteers needed now to serve as ambassadors and election judges

Consider becoming part of a network of community volunteers who will provide resources and information about this year's election directly to their friends and neighbors. Volunteers are needed now to serve in the inaugural class of Minneapolis Voter Ambassadors. Training and materials will be provided, and being an ambassador can be as simple as talking to your friends and neighbors about the election on Nov. 5 and how ranked-choice voting works, or it can be more involved, by taking opportunities to participate in special events and presentations designed to help ensure all Minneapolisians are election-ready.

Election judges are also needed to serve voters in local polling places. Serving as an election judge provides an opportunity to learn about the election process and is an important service to our community. The City especially needs judges who are fluent in a second language to provide additional language support in the polling place, including Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Vietnamese, Oromo, Laotian, Russian, and American Sign Language.

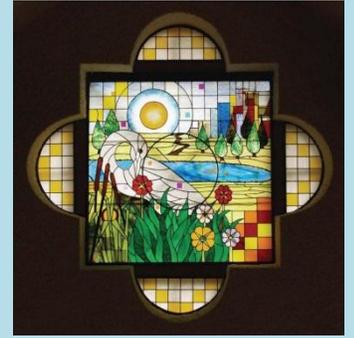
To find out more about either or both of these volunteer opportunities, please visit vote.minneapolismn.gov/volunteer or call 612-673-2296

Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan Awarded 2013 Planning in Context Prize by the Minnesota APA

The Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan has been awarded the 2013 Planning in Context prize by the Minnesota chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The plan, which is now going through city approval process, is the result of a three and a half year community-driven planning effort.

The plan provides a comprehensive twenty year vision for the neighborhood, including important direction on:

- Preservation of historic Loring Hill;
- Increased density and greater vitality along Nicollet Avenue;
- Important Public Realm improvements for a place that is both a dense residential neighborhood and also one of the city's most important civic crossroads;
- A strong commitment to sustainability that includes an innovative use of the LEED certification program.



To view the full Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan visit, <http://loringpark.org/masterplan.html>.

Help shape our city – apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions

Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards and commissions positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

There are 71 open positions on 12 City boards and commissions. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 18, 2013. However, the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.

The City of Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based boards, commissions and advisory committees that advise the City on issues and help with policy development and administration of services. Boards and commissions fall into a handful of categories: appeal boards, development boards, general advisory boards, and special service districts, which are defined areas within the city where special services are rendered.

Appointments to board and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensure a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increase the diversity of the applicant pool.

City offers \$25 trees after June 21 storm losses



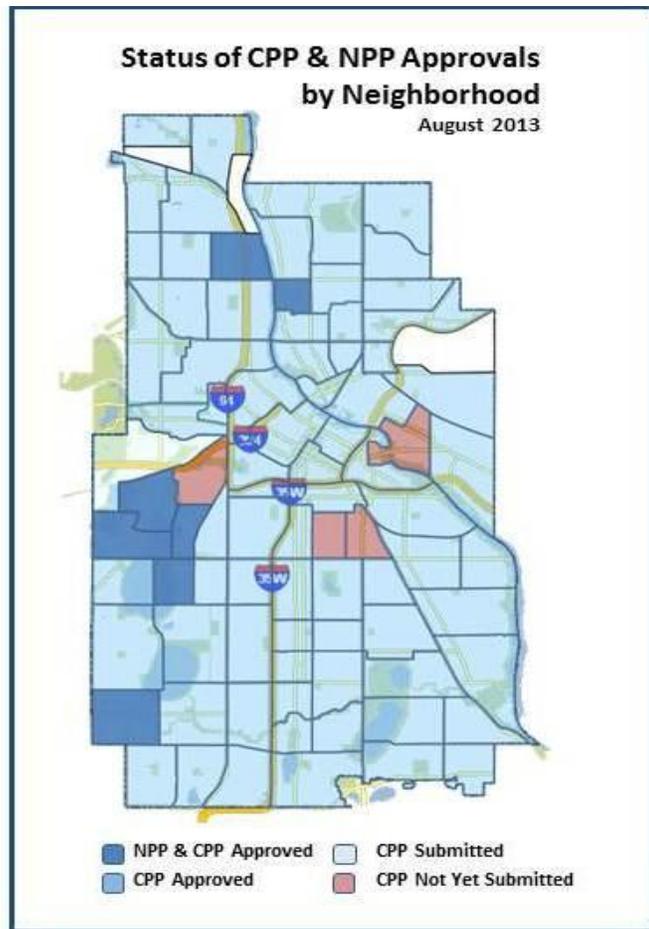
Minneapolis homeowners affected by the June 21 severe storm will have the opportunity to order a \$25 tree to plant on their private property. The City of Minneapolis is offering about 500 trees to Minneapolis homeowners who lost trees on their properties during the June 21 severe storm. Ordering will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, Sept. 9, and end Sept. 20 (earlier if the trees sell out first).

Tree pickup will take place 2 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept 26, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Minneapolis Impound Lot, 51 Colfax Ave. N. There will be no refunds for trees that die or are not picked up. If the purchaser is unable to pick up the tree, they are

encouraged to have someone else pick up their tree on their behalf. Six species of trees will be available for order: hackberry, harvest gold linden, heritage oak (English oak and bur oak cross), heritage river birch, Honeycrisp apple, and royal star magnolia.

Volunteers will be available at the pickup location to help load each tree and a complimentary bag of mulch. The Park Board estimates 3,000 trees on public land were destroyed or damaged in that storm; the number on private property is not known. The City still plans its regular spring distribution for property owners citywide. Homeowners who lost a tree in the June 21 storm can find more information and order their tree at www.treetrust.org.

Neighborhood Priority Plans



Nine Neighborhood Priority Plans (NPPs) have been approved to date, and all but a few neighborhoods have submitted their Community Participation Plans (CPPs). Neighborhood Priority Plans approved so far address priorities such as crime solutions, livability impacts and local business partnerships, and can be viewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/cpp/npp>.

Have questions developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan? Contact your NCR Neighborhood Specialist.

Monarch Festival (Festival de la Monarca): Saturday, September 7th

Join the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for the 5th Annual Monarch Festival from 10-4 on Saturday, September 7 at the Lake Nokomis Naturescape Gardens.

The Monarch Festival celebrates the monarch butterfly's migration from Minnesota to Mexico. Using art, music, dance, games, native plants, prairie tours and food, the festival also raises awareness of the need to provide and protect monarch habitat.

In addition to getting an up-close look at live monarch caterpillars and butterflies, festival participants can enjoy food, art activities, a Kid's Butterfly Fun Run and live music. The festival stage will be ASL interpreted throughout the day. The event is expected to draw 8,000 participants, 40% of whom are native Spanish speakers. View complete event details at <http://www.monarchfestival.org>.

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The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737.