



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.

January 2014

Upcoming Events

- 1/7 and 1/9: Southwest Light-Rail studies - public meetings
- 1/11: Corcoran Book and Bake Sale
- 1/11: Webber Park Library: temporary location grand opening
- 1/18: Winter Kite Festival
- 1/20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- 1/25: Forum on Race, Climate and Community Health
- 1/25: Art Sled Rally
- 1/27: Metropolitan Council State of the Region
- 1/28: Proposed Conservation District Ordinance – public meeting

Additional events and details can be found online:
www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

Calling all Workshop Presenters – 2014 Community Connections Conference

This year's conference theme – **Common Ground: A City That Works for All** - aims to explore how we can hone our organizational and communication skills, ways we can work with and influence city government, and opportunities to build broad based efforts that involve all segments of our increasingly diverse neighborhoods and community-at-large. The Conference will be held on Saturday, March 22nd from 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center and the cost is **FREE!**

A Call for Workshop Proposals is now open through January 24th. It seeks proposed conference sessions that will help participants build successful neighborhood and community organizations, effectively involve an increasingly diverse spectrum of residents in our work, and develop a deeper understanding of how to work with and influence our city government.



The workshops will be organized around these four themes:

- **Making the City Work for Me:** Helping Residents Better Understand and Influence City Government
- **Thinking Bigger:** Collaborations Will Get You There
- **Finding Common Ground:** Gathering Diverse Communities Around the Table to Share Common Goals
- **Running an Effective Organization:** Managing Your Work, Finances and Communications

This year's conference is being planned by the Community Connections Conference Workgroup made up of representatives from Neighborhood Organizations, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and City Staff. Members of the workgroup are, Rita Ulrich from Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, Cathy Spann from Jordan Area Community Council, Brittany Lewis and Kirk Roggensack from the NCEC, Greg Simbeck from CPED and David Rubedor, Cheyenne Brodeen, Christina Kendrick and Jack Whitehurst from the NCR Department.

Conference Registration will open mid-February. For more information about the conference or to download the Call for Workshop Proposals, please visit:
www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference

Neighborhood Stories: Standish Ericsson Big Idea!



Participants at the November Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) Annual Meeting listened to several proposals for improving the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods and then voted on the one they liked best. Now in its third year, SENA's "What's the Big Idea?" contest invites residents to present bring their proposal for a neighborhood project. Those in attendance choose the winning idea. "What's the Big Idea?" has been an effective way to get ideas directly from the neighborhood, along with the volunteers who are willing to make projects a reality.

"Ski Hut" was the winning Big Idea for 2013. This idea is to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to open the clubhouse at Hiawatha Golf Course on Sunday afternoons so that the public, especially families with children, will have a place to warm up and get refreshments after cross-country skiing. The Big Idea was put forth by neighborhood ski

enthusiasts who have already founded a children's ski race called the "Hiawatha Hustle." They will have \$1,000 from SENA to pursue their Big Idea.

Of the four other ideas offered, two of them "won" in a different way. After the vote, SENA staff announced that an anonymous donor would give \$1,000 to fund a non-winning idea focused on improving the environment. "Save the Beach" and "Adopt a Storm Drain," both of which address improving the water quality in Lake Hiawatha, will share this award. *(excerpted from SENA Newsletter and SENA 2012 Annual Report).*

If you would like to have your Neighborhood Story shared in this newsletter, please send information to Stacy Sorenson at Stacy.Sorenson@minneapolismn.gov.

Help bridge the digital divide by completing a survey

The City of Minneapolis is once again surveying residents for perspectives about how they use computers, mobile devices and the Internet to better their daily lives. About 12,400 households will receive the survey in the mail from National Research Center, Inc., an independent research firm that will conduct the survey. Households contacted to complete the survey will be selected randomly throughout the entire city, with the goal of reaching a diverse cross-section of Minneapolis residents.

The survey will be used to see how the state of the digital divide in Minneapolis has changed each year since 2012 when the City conducted the first survey. The digital divide is the gap between individuals and groups in their access to information and communication technologies, and their use and knowledge of these technologies. This year the survey will also include questions about Minneapolis City government television programming.

Results from the 2013 survey showed that overall 84 percent of City households have computers with Internet access, yet differences in access at home and comfort level varied, sometimes considerably, across the city's 11 communities and different sociodemographic characteristics. The survey also showed that while ownership of Internet-enabled computers varied greatly across the City, ownership of Internet-enabled mobile phones was higher in 2013 than 2012 – even among those households least likely to own a computer.

Residents who wish to complete their survey in Spanish, Somali or Hmong will see an instruction in their language on the postcard and cover letter letting them know how to request a survey in their language. People can request the survey in additional languages by calling 311 or 612-673-3000.

More information about the City's efforts to close the digital divide, along with the reports from the 2012 and 2013 surveys are at www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion. Folks are also able to use an interactive map to compare neighborhood data to city-wide data.



Nominate your home for the 2014 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour!

Nominations are being accepted through January 20 for the 2014 Home Tour. The tour brings thousands of home enthusiasts together for a weekend of sharing home remodeling ideas and a celebration of City living. Unlike many tours, the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is FREE to visitors. The focus is on homeowners sharing their experiences and ideas; even where contractors are present, so are the homeowners.

The 2014 Home Tour will be held April 26 and 27. For more information, visit <http://msphometour.com/> or call Home Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 612-867-4874.



Proposed ordinance could help neighborhoods become conservation districts

To protect visual character in neighborhoods, the City of Minneapolis has begun developing a conservation district ordinance. Using public input, the City is designing the proposed ordinance to safeguard notable visual character in a manner that offers more protections than the zoning code but is less stringent than historic district design guidelines.

Public meeting

The City will host a public meeting to discuss the proposed conservation district ordinance:

4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28
City Hall, Room 319
350 S. Fifth St.

The proposed conservation district ordinance is designed to ensure that development in notable areas respects neighborhood character. Under the proposal, two-thirds of property owners in a contiguous area with notable visual character would have the opportunity to request conservation district status.

If passed, the proposed ordinance would amend the City's existing Heritage Preservation Regulations. Comments on the draft of this ordinance will be accepted in person during the public meeting or by emailing City staff member John Smoley at john.smoley@minneapolismn.gov by 4:30 p.m., Feb. 4.

Following the gathering of public input, the proposed ordinance will be revised and prepared for review by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Heritage Preservation Commission, and the Minneapolis City Council.

For updated project information please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/hpc/conservation_district_ordinance.

New Minneapolis mayor and council sworn into office



The new Minneapolis mayor and council members have now been formally sworn in, and the new Minneapolis City Council has started its work for 2014. The council voted to name Barbara Johnson as council president and Elizabeth Glidden as council vice president. The City Council also approved a slate of standing committees and committee leadership.

Along with Betsy Hodges becoming the new mayor, there are seven new council members officially joined the City Council on January 6th: Jacob Frey in Ward 3, Blong Yang in Ward 5, Abdi Warsame in Ward 6, Alondra Cano in Ward 9, Lisa Bender in Ward 10, Andrew Johnson in Ward 12 and Linea Palmisano in Ward 13. They join six returning council members: Kevin Reich in Ward 1, Cam Gordon in Ward 2, Barbara Johnson

in Ward 4, Lisa Goodman in Ward 7, Elizabeth Glidden in Ward 8 and John Quincy in Ward 11.

More information about City Council committee meetings and the 2014 meeting schedule is online at www.minneapolismn.gov/council.

Stay warm and save energy this winter

It's winter, and that means everyone is using more energy to keep their homes warm. But did you know that there are low-cost and no-cost steps you can take to use less energy? Reducing the amount of energy use is not only good for the environment, it also saves on your utility bills.

Learn more about saving energy and money by watching the short video "Save Energy, Save Money" from the Minneapolis "Did you know..." video series. The City of Minneapolis has videos in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong. The videos can be found online: <http://tinyurl.com/nsbn3ry>.



Now is the time to sign up for STEP-UP internships

Even though summer might feel a long way off, 2014 summer internship deadlines are coming up fast, so now is the time for youth and employers to get on board. The City's STEP-UP summer internship program prepares youth for future employment by offering summer work experience and training at Minneapolis businesses.

STEP-UP trains and matches Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 in summer internships at local businesses. STEP-UP is focused on serving youth from low-income families or youth that have risk factors making it challenging to find employment on their own.

Minneapolis youth ages 14 to 21 can apply for a summer internship with STEP-UP until Feb. 21, 2014. All applications must be completed online. As part of the process of getting a STEP-UP internship, youth must complete a competitive application process and work readiness training through the program. Internships are paid, and youth are matched up with a wide range of local businesses for summer jobs.

Internships are generally 20 to 40 hours per week for 6-10 weeks from mid-June to August. Depending on the age and skill level of the intern, interns may work in subsidized jobs at a non-profit organizations or employer paid positions in the business community.

To apply and for more information on the City's STEP-UP program, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup.

Join the NCR Department in Welcoming Claudia Diggs!

Please join us in welcoming Claudia Diggs as a Program Assistant in the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department.

Claudia joins the administrative team and will be supporting the Director and management staff on scheduling and other department wide projects. Claudia brings over 14 years of public service experience with public schools and Fire Departments including the City of Maple Grove and most recently the City of Fridley. We are excited to have her join the department.



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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.