



NORTHforce

A Newsletter from the City of Minneapolis

Working together to build a better future for the Northside

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About this newsletter

The Northforce Newsletter, launched in May 2007, highlights some of the City's efforts to improve livability in north Minneapolis.

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/subscriptions and click on "Northforce." To view past newsletters online, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/north.

About Northforce

Northforce is the City's coordinated strategy to address the challenges facing the Northside and integrates the work of City departments and community partners to address safety, health, housing, economic and infrastructure issues.

This coordinated strategy builds on the resources already being deployed on the Northside and uses new and creative ways to improve livability in north Minneapolis.

To learn more about Northforce, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/north.

Policing tailored to neighborhood needs

Recognizing that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to policing, the Minneapolis Police Department worked with residents to create 83 different Neighborhood Policing Plans last year. The tailored plans address each neighborhood's specific challenges and crime reduction priorities.

As 2007 comes to a close, the department is preparing to measure its results and revise each neighborhood's plan for 2008. To update the plans, precinct sector lieutenants and crime prevention specialists will review crime statistics and, once again, ask for suggestions from block clubs and neighborhood groups. In November and December, 4th Precinct staff will attend regularly scheduled community meetings to ask for input. Residents also will be invited to make suggestions at an upcoming 4th Precinct Advisory Council meeting. The precinct anticipates completing all neighborhood plans in January.

The 4th Precinct has separate plans for 13 neighborhoods: Bryn Mawr, Cleveland, Folwell, Harrison, Hawthorne, Heritage Park, Jordan, Lind Bohanon, McKinley, Shingle Creek, Victory, Webber Camden and Willard Hay. Each plan reflects the neighborhood's specific crime statistics and concerns. In addition to outlining specific police strategies aimed at curbing the neighborhood's most problematic crimes, each plan outlines what neighborhood residents and businesses need to do to complement police efforts.

For example, the Bryn Mawr plan calls for police to increase late night patrols and conduct home security assessments to address concerns about a spike in burglaries. The plan also commits the neighborhood association to hosting crime prevention meetings and organizing 20 to 25 home security surveys.

Noting concerns about vagrants and panhandlers, the Heritage Park plan calls for the police to aggressively enforce panhandling ordinances and step up patrols in problem areas. At the same time, the plan calls for housing complex managers to learn about the City's trespass and panhandling ordinances and encourage greater reporting of trespass violations.

To view a copy of your neighborhood's plan, check the Police Department's Web page at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/> and click on Community Outreach and then click on Neighborhood Policing Plans. (Computer access is free at all Minneapolis Public Libraries.) You may also call 612-673-2803 to have a copy of the plan mailed to you.

Home & Business Initiatives



City employees were among the volunteers who helped with home repairs and lawn work at 10 Northside homes.

Volunteers help with home repairs

On a Saturday in September, more than 100 volunteers helped five Northside homeowners with home repairs and yard work. Over the course of a few weeks, another five homes benefited from volunteer labor organized by Rebuilding Together Twin Cities and supported with funding from the City of Minneapolis and the Northside Home Fund.

Volunteers helped replace cracked window panes, re-roof a garage, remove mold, increase insulation, paint, make accessibility modifications, clean up yards and make other home repairs. Among the volunteers were City staffers from the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Inspections, and Licenses and Consumer Services. They joined volunteers from Allianz, BAE Systems, Castle Building & Remodeling, Countrywide Financial, M.A. Mortenson Company, Medtronic, MidCountry Bank, Seagate, SVTC, Vol-n-Seeds, Wells Fargo Bank and 3M.

Rebuilding Together is a private, nonprofit organization that helps homeowners remain in their homes by bringing together volunteers and supplies to make basic repairs that these homeowners can't afford or don't have the skills or tools to undertake.

Three of the 10 homes receiving repairs are located in the Northside Home Fund's cluster project areas. The partnership between the City, the Northside Home Fund and Rebuilding Together is an important part of the effort to support homeowners in the clusters and throughout north Minneapolis. This year is the second year that the City has supported a Rebuilding Together event in north Minneapolis. In 2006, 10 homes received repairs.

Livability Efforts

It's time to think about summer jobs

Even though there's a chill in the air, now's the time for young people to think about making the most of their 2008 summer. The deadline to apply for a summer job through the STEP-UP program is Jan. 11.

In 2007, the City of Minneapolis placed more than 2,050 Minneapolis youth in summer work experiences as part of Mayor R. T. Rybak's and the City Council's summer jobs campaign. Of these youthful workers, more than 1,200 were placed through the STEP-UP Summer Jobs Program.

Approximately 630 young people ages 16 to 21 gained professional skills working for 131 local employers including U.S. Bank, Star Tribune, Best Buy and Target.

Another 603 teens ages 14 and 15 benefited from a first-time summer work experience at 38 community-based organizations and seven school programs including Northside Child Development, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and MIGIZI Communications.

This summer's experience was valuable to both employers and employees. Ninety-three percent of supervisors felt their intern made a valuable contribution to their workplace, and 95 percent of the young people said their summer job was a valuable learning experience.

Young people can pick up STEP-UP applications in the career and college centers in Minneapolis public high schools as well as at Minnesota WorkForce Centers and libraries. Applications are also available online at http://www.achievetwinneapolis.org/programs/stepUp_students.html

We're in the neighborhood

Did you know that many housing inspectors now office in the former Hamilton School at 4119 Dupont Ave. N.?

The move from City Hall to Hamilton was the first time in the Inspection Department's history that staff members have had the option of officing in the neighborhood they serve.

After a few months in the new location, inspectors have found that their new location has reduced gas consumption and opened up more time to handle inspections and respond to neighborhood service requests. In one instance in early October, housing inspectors even provided emergency aid to an injured individual until help arrived.

Safety Initiatives

Cameras help police fight crime

CityWatch, Minneapolis' public safety camera network, has expanded to priority locations in the 4th Precinct, adding more tools to the Police Department's crime fighting arsenal. Recently, 50 cameras were mounted in the area bounded by West Broadway, Lowry, Penn and Lyndale to give police another set of eyes on the street. The cameras allow police to watch for criminal or suspicious activity and keep tabs on traffic. When problems come into view, help can be quickly dispatched.

These cameras and the ShotSpotter network put cutting edge technology to work for Northside businesses and residents. ShotSpotter, which is also in use on the Northside, immediately notifies police of the location where the sound of gunshot fire is detected. Soon, both systems will be integrated with each other, providing police with more tools for fighting crime.

The system's \$1 million installation cost was funded by the City of Minneapolis. The City hopes to expand the camera network through grants and partnerships with businesses and community associations.

Security cameras are also successfully in use in the Downtown Safe Zone and the Cedar/Riverside and Bloomington/Chicago areas. In the first 18 months in operation, the cameras helped lead to nearly 500 arrests in south Minneapolis. Now that the camera installation in north Minneapolis has been completed, police anticipate similar success in the coming months.



Firefighters connect with kids

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, Engine 16 and Rescue 9 visited Harvest Preparatory School at 1300 Olson Memorial Highway. Students received free books from the Firefighters & Kids Book Giving Program, a partnership between the Minneapolis Fire Department, Minneapolis African American Professional Firefighters' Association and the Network for the Development of Children of African Descent. Students were also able to explore inside fire rigs and ask questions about firefighting careers.

Livability Efforts

5 Northside agencies receive grants aimed at improving residents' health

Thanks to Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis, five Northside agencies have recently been awarded more than \$83,000 to boost nutrition awareness and promote exercise among residents of north Minneapolis.

These programs were selected through a competitive process aimed at reducing the risk of diabetes, excess weight and obesity. While these issues are a health threat to all Americans, they touch Northside residents in disproportionate numbers. According to the Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population and the Environment, the incidence of diabetes is 7.2 percent in Near North compared to 5 percent in the city overall.

Grant recipients are:

- **East Side Neighborhood Services** was awarded \$26,950 to offer nutrition education, promote healthy eating, and offer neighborhood walking clubs in northeast Minneapolis.
- **Lao Advancement Organization of America** was awarded \$18,000 to partner with the Association of the Advancement of Hmong Women to provide weekly exercise classes in Hmong and Lao, offer weekly family exercise events, and sponsor monthly walking expeditions in north Minneapolis.
- **Minnesota FoodShare** received \$17,238 to develop nutrition and healthy eating education opportunities for food shelf clients in Near North.
- **Pillsbury United Community's Oak Park Center** received \$18,500 to develop Families in Motion – a series of physical activity and nutrition opportunities for families in Near North.
- **Resources for Child Caring** received \$20,000 to increase children's access to healthy food by increasing participation of non-English-speaking home daycare providers in the USDA food program.

In addition to these Northside agencies, four agencies in the Phillips neighborhood also received grants.

Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis is part of Steps to a Healthier Minnesota, a five-year effort supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information, contact Lara Tiede, Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, at (612) 673-3815 or lara.tiede@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Coming Up

Northside Marketing Plan Kickoff

- **Saturday, Nov. 10**

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Park Board Headquarters, 2117 W. River Rd.

The Northside Marketing Task Force spent the summer listening to residents tell them why they value the Northside, and now the group is ready to launch a campaign aimed at spreading the word that the Northside is strong, beautiful and moving forward. The public is invited to come learn how the campaign will promote the area's strengths and change how people think about the north Minneapolis. Meeting attendees will also elect board members to help implement the marketing plan.

4th Precinct Advisory Council

- **Tuesday, Nov. 20**

6:30 p.m. - meet and greet / 7 p.m. - meeting
1925 Plymouth Ave. N.

Northside residents and businesspeople are invited to meet officers and hear an update on precinct activity. Attendees may also bring addresses of problem properties. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. For an agenda, contact Mary Rainville at (612) 673-2947 or mary.rainville@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Community Conference for Offenders

- **Tuesday, Dec. 4**

5:30 p.m.

North Minneapolis location to be determined

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) will hold a conference for offenders to meet with community members to discuss the impact of their crimes and work out constructive ways to repair the harm to the community. Offenders who successfully complete their restitution agreements have their fines cancelled or charges dropped if they do not re-offend within a year. To sign up or learn more about RJCA (www.rjca-inc.org), contact Kolu Paye at (612) 746-0784 or kpaye@rjca-inc.org.

Hawthorne Huddle

- **Thursday, Dec. 6**

7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Farview Park, 621 29th Ave. N.

This month's Hawthorne Huddle is the group's annual celebration of the past year's accomplishments and a look at the opportunities ahead. Over the course of the year, each monthly meeting focuses on a topic of interest to the Northside such as education, race relations, housing or crime prevention. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, call (763) 764-3413.

You Can Help

Give a kid valuable work experience

STEP-UP, a City of Minneapolis youth program, is looking for local employers willing to pledge job opportunities for the upcoming summer.

Your organization will help inspire a young person's career dreams, and you'll gain a reliable and motivated employee. Ninety-three percent of the employers who supervised STEP-UP interns last summer reported that the students made valuable contributions to their workplaces.

Participating students are competitively selected by STEP-UP and complete a rigorous work readiness training program certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. Employers who pledge a STEP-UP job are also assigned a job coach to help ensure the experience is positive for both employee and employer. STEP-UP is operated by Achieve! Minneapolis in affiliation with the Mayor's and City Council's youth jobs campaign.

Employers interested in offering jobs to 16 to 21 year-olds should contact Anne Krocak at (612) 455-1562 or akrocak@achieveminnneapolis.org. For information about the program for 14 and 15 year olds, contact Anne Fischer at anne.fischer@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or (612) 673-6221.

Help market north Minneapolis

The Northside Marketing Task Force is looking for 13 people to help implement its marketing plan to promote the positive aspects of life in north Minneapolis. Board members will be elected at a meeting on Nov. 10. Board members will help hire staff and raise funds for the campaign as well as ensure the money is well spent. If you or someone from your organization is interested in serving on the task force's board, call Allan Malkis at (612) 521-4500 or Jim Wentzell at (651) 329-6883.



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