



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.

October 2013

Upcoming Events

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- **10/1:** City and Neighborhood Film Festival – contest opens
- **10/5:** Como Solar Tour
- **10/5:** Stevens Square Fall Harvest Festival
- **10/5:** East Calhoun Rain Garden Tour
- **10/5:** Fire Safety Workshop
- **10/6:** Fire Prevention Week begins
- **10/7:** 2nd Annual Riverfront Summit
- **10/10:** Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) Gala
- **10/10:** 5th Annual Bryn Mawr Sip & Stroll
- **10/12:** 10th Annual Historic Riverfront 5K Run/Walk
- **10/12:** Fire Safety Workshop
- **10/12:** Standish-Ericsson Harvest Fest and Chili-Stew Cook-off
- **10/12:** Healthy & Housed: Race for the Key
- **10/13:** Cedar Isles Dean Fall Festival
- **10/14:** Linden Hills History Study Group: 1862 Dakota Peace Coalition
- **10/16:** Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration and Reception
- **10/17:** Minneapolis American Indian Mayoral Forum
- **10/17:** UROC Community Day
- **10/24:** Bryn Mawr Harvest Dinner and Mexican Cuisine Competition
- **10/30:** 30th Annual Community Wine Tasting to benefit Uptown area neighborhoods

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month



Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities uses their regularly scheduled October meeting to gather community members, City staff and Elected

Officials to bring awareness to Disability Employment issues and issues important to employees and citizens living with disabilities. At the event, the committee also recognizes individuals and/or organizations whose work, knowledge, advocacy or passion in the disability community or on disability issues has been exceptional.

The celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 from 5:30-7:30PM at the Crown Roller Mill Building 2nd floor Rotunda (105 5th Avenue South). The evening will begin with a reception hour, followed by a guest speaker and finishing with the presentation of awards. Please RSVP your attendance to Cheyenne Brodeen at Cheyenne.Brodeen@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2052.

The DREAM Act becomes a reality

For the first time ever in Minnesota, undocumented students who attended high school for at least three years and graduated from a Minnesota high school are eligible to receive in state tuition and student state financial aid in any public college or university. The measure passed by legislators and signed by Gov. Mark Dayton in May took effect this school year.



The new law was part of the legislative agenda supported by the City of Minneapolis and it will benefit hundreds of residents and their families in Minneapolis.

According to the Office of Higher Education, in Minnesota 160 students applied this school year. For more information about the MN DREAM Act visit: <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2056>.

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.



After three years in the Tri Tech Center and six months in temporary quarters in the Public Service Center, NCR moved to our permanent location at the Crown Roller Mill on June 17. This new location allows us to be closer to our CPED partners. We also hope that the location will offer neighborhood and community organizations easier access to NCR resources.

At the Open House, you will be able to:

- Connect with other neighborhood and cultural 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 additional opportunities to get involved; and
- Celebrate the accomplishments of NCR partners!

There will be a brief presentation at 4:45. Light refreshments will be served. Please kindly RSVP your attendance to Stacy Sorenson, Stacy.Sorenson@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2241.

Neighborhood Stories: Marcy-Holmes and community organizing that worked



Not every successful neighborhood effort requires thousands of dollars. Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA) recently used good solid, community organizing to defeat the proposed installation of freeway sound walls.

MnDOT had proposed a series of 20-foot sound walls as part of an I-35W expansion. While the proposal included a neighborhood input process, the process limited voting by the number of residents who could vote and weighted certain votes over others. Unreturned mail-in ballots – even those from vacant properties - were counted as “yes” votes supporting the sound walls.

MHNA opposed both the input process and the sound walls, claiming the new walls would further divide the neighborhood sliced by I-35W, would cost millions, and wouldn’t significantly reducing noise. MHNA also argued that the sound walls would hurt quality of life by tearing out greenery planted by neighborhood volunteers.

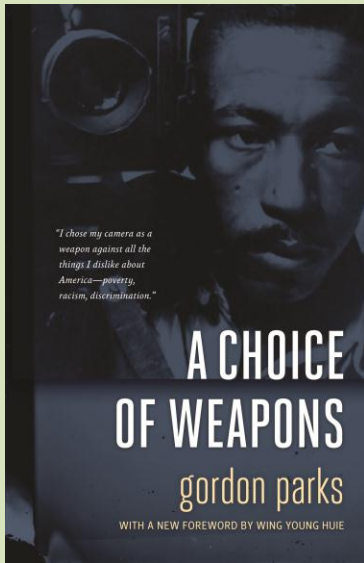
MHNA addressed the issue from a variety of fronts. Board members became “citizen experts” on freeway sound walls. MHNA worked with MnDOT, convincing them to include information on the neighborhood group’s position in their mailings. “VOTE NO” yard signs went up, raising awareness of the issue even amongst people just driving through the neighborhood. Most important, MHNA reached out and gained the support of absentee property owners, whose votes were crucial to defeating the proposed sound walls. In the end, enough “no” votes were received to prevent the construction of the proposed walls in Marcy-Holmes.

MHNA shared news of the victory, adding “WE WON!” to the yard signs - but it didn’t stop there. MHNA provided MnDOT with recommendations on how to improve the community input process. As MHNA Executive Director Melissa Bean stated, “We want other neighborhoods to benefit from our experience”.

There is still time to 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. 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.

One Minneapolis One Read - It's time to join the conversation



October brings several special events to One Minneapolis One Read, a community read where everyone in Minneapolis is invited to read the same book and join the conversation. This year's book is *A Choice of Weapons* by Gordon Parks. Parks, a photographer for Life magazine, writer, composer, artist, and filmmaker, was 16 when he moved from Kansas to Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1928.

This compelling autobiography, first published in 1966, tells how Parks managed to escape the poverty and bigotry around him, and launch his distinguished career, by choosing the weapons given him by "a mother who placed love, dignity, and hard work over hatred."

Oct. 7 - Gallery reception and program. Meet Robin Hickman, great-niece of Gordon Parks; Wing Young Huie, author of the book's foreword and photographer; and Steve Floyd, photographer.

Oct. 8 - Screening of *Half Past Autumn: The Life and Works of Gordon Parks*. The film will be followed by a panel discussion including the film's director Craig Rice, Parks' niece Robin Hickman, tpt filmmaker Daniel Bergin and The Loft Literary Center Associate

Program Director Bao Phi.

Oct. 11 - Community photography workshop. Nationally acclaimed photographer Jamel Shabazz will conduct an interactive community photography workshop. RSVP required by Oct. 7.

Oct. 24 - Photography exhibit opening reception and panel discussion. Two exhibits will include photographic works by Gordon Parks on loan from the Gordon Parks Foundation and works by students participating in the One Minneapolis One Read photography residency at Juxtaposition Arts. The students will work with nationally acclaimed photographer Jamel Shabazz using inspiration from Gordon Parks. RSVP required.

See www.oneminneapolisone.com for more information on these and other One Minneapolis One Read events.

A Minneapolis pet license is your pet's free ride home

Minneapolis Animal Care and Control (MACC) is making sure lost pets find their way home through a newly refreshed pet licensing campaign. A public service announcement is now available on the City of Minneapolis YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofminneapolis>. In addition, a billboard campaign has been launched and Animal Control staff have canvassed in neighborhoods educating residents that all dogs and cats in the city are required to be licensed.

Licensing your pet support Minneapolis Animal Care and Control's work to create safe and healthy communities for people and animals. Plus, there are many benefits to pet licensing including:

- **It's a free ride home.** If your licensed pet is found in Minneapolis, it will get a ride home instead of a ride to the Animal Shelter.
- **Your pet is more likely to get back home.** Licensed pets are three times more likely than unlicensed pets to go home again.
- **It makes our community safer by ensuring pets are vaccinated against rabies.** There is no known cure for rabies.
- **It's the law for dogs, cats, ferrets and rabbits.** Unlicensed pet citation: \$100.
- **It helps other pets.** Your pet's license helps Minneapolis Animal Care and Control:
 - Shelter and feed lost dogs and cats and find them new homes
 - Educate the public about responsible pet ownership
 - Reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners.



For more information and to License your pet online, visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/animals>.

Volunteers needed for Minneapolis Emergency Response Team: Cultural Services Unit

The City of Minneapolis is seeking a select group of community residents to actively serve in a new Minneapolis Cultural Services Unit as registered Hennepin County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to assist in emergencies. The goal is to have a team of 12 to 20 trained community members able to support community disaster recovery and outreach activities. Members will gain valuable experience in the field of public health and safety and will serve as cultural liaisons for their communities. Minneapolis residents with strong connections to their respective cultural communities are being sought.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- are bilingual in English and another language or represent a cultural group that primarily speaks English.
- have an interest in health and safety initiatives.
- participate in a background check.
- are willing to be on-call in case of emergency.

Training sessions will be held at the Minneapolis Police 3rd Precinct Station, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406 (located near Hiawatha and Lake Street) on the following dates:

- Orientation: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.
- Day 1: Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6-9 p.m.
- Day 2: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m.
- Day 3: Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6-9 p.m.
- Day 4: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m.
- Day 5 and Graduation: Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m. OR Saturday, Dec. 7, 12-3 p.m.

More information is available at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/preparedness.

City in need of election judges

Are you interested in serving as an election judge, or do you know someone who is? Election judges are essential to a successful Election Day. They are the officials that staff local polling places, administer election procedures, and ensure that the rights of voters are protected on Election Day. Serving as an election judge provides an opportunity to learn about the elections process and is a great service to our community.

Although hundreds of people are already signed up to be election judges, Minneapolis is still in need of several hundred more judges to staff up for Election Day. Election judges open and close the polls, register and sign in voters, distribute and collect ballots, operate voting equipment, and record and certify vote totals.

To be an election judge, you must be:

- Eligible to vote in Minnesota.
- Willing to attend a two-hour training class
- Able to work either a full day (6 a.m. – 9 p.m.) or a part-time shift (6 a.m. – 2 p.m. or 2 p.m. – 9 p.m.) on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

To apply, visit: vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges/application.



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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.