



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.

April 2014

Upcoming Events

- **4/1, 4/3:** Ash Canopy Replacement Plan community meetings
- **4/4, 4/5:** African American Genealogy Conference
- **4/5:** South Minneapolis Housing Fair
- **4/5:** Victory Gear up for Spring Gardening Workshop
- **4/6:** Hotdish Revolution
- **4/7:** Linden Hills History Study Group
- **4/8:** Tell Your Story Northside
- **4/8:** Grow Beautiful Apples Organically – East Calhoun workshop
- **4/10:** Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- **4/10:** Love Loring
- **4/12:** Tangletown Green Day
- **4/16:** Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
- **4/16:** Central Avenue Closure meeting
- **4/17:** Windom Park Pampered Chef Fundraiser
- **4/19:** Minneapolis Recycle Run
- **4/22:** Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
- **4/22:** Seward Earth Day Naturalist talk and walk
- **4/26:** One Day in the Twin Cities
- **4/26:** Minneapolis Earth Day Clean Up
- **4/26, 4/27:** Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour
- **4/28:** North First: GREEN

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

Thank you for attending the 2014 Community Connections Conference!

Over 500 community leaders, residents, elected officials and city staff attended the 2nd Annual Community Connections Conference - "Common Ground: A City That Works for All" on Saturday, March 22nd.

The conference featured a Keynote Address by Dr. Verna C. Price, 50 exhibitors, 40 workshops, and entertainment from Southwest High School Jazz Combo, Cosmic Troubadours and Ginger Commodore, a buffet style lunch featuring foods from diverse communities and a post-conference reception hosted by the Minneapolis City Council.



A conference report will be available later this spring. The report will include feedback from the conference evaluations and registration data and will be used for planning of the 2015 Community Connections Conference. You can visit the Community Connections Conference webpage for more details: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr.

Applications are being sought for Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission neighborhood districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 are up for re-election

This year, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission seats from neighborhood districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 are up for election through the neighborhood election process. In addition, 1 Mayoral and 3 City Council positions are up for appointment through the City's appointment process.

For additional details, including the election process and candidate applications, please visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/nccec/WCMS1P-122610.

Apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions

Applications are now being accepted for more than 40 open positions on City boards and commissions. Board and commission members 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.

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions: www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm.

Winter Parking Restrictions end in Minneapolis

Minneapolis has lifted the Winter Parking Restrictions, so normal parking rules now apply on most city streets. Drivers should still be sure to follow all posted signs when they park.

The restrictions were put in place on Feb. 23 after snow accumulations narrowed many streets, making it difficult for fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles to navigate in some neighborhoods. Limiting parking to one side of most neighborhood streets created more reliable access for emergency responses.

Our recent milder temperatures and sunnier days have melted snow along city streets, widening them far enough that the fire chief, Public Works officials, and other public safety officials have determined the restrictions can be lifted. In the few areas where additional parking restrictions were posted using temporary signs, there will be a transition period of about a week in which those signs will be removed or replaced. As always, drivers should continue to follow any posted parking signs as long as they are in place.

Neighborhood Stories: Community Circles, a One Minneapolis Fund project puts theory into Practice

The Community Circles Project is grounded in the principles of circle leadership, and provides a forum for members to share ideas and empower one another to turn ideas into collective action. The members of the circles share roles and responsibilities and take collective responsibility for the vibrant health of the group.



The Community Circles Project is supported by the One Minneapolis Fund, which is designed to support the development of diverse leadership and community engagement in the City of Minneapolis.

Pillsbury United Communities - Waite House was selected as a grantee for the Community Circles project during the first cycle of the One Minneapolis Fund in 2013.

Four Community Circles were created in each of the four Phillips neighborhoods - Midtown, East Phillips, Ventura Village and West Phillips. Each circle attended five three-hour interactive conversations covering topics including power race-gender analysis, asset mapping, the role of neighborhood associations, running meetings and events, and E-democracy. A goal of the project was to increase the number of neighborhood organization board seats held by members of under-represented groups.

The Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Annual Gathering on February 25th, provided the opportunity for the Midtown Community Circle to put theory into practice.

At this well-attended meeting of Midtown residents, businesses and community organizations, the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association held their annual election of board members. From this Midtown Community Circles group, four Midtown Latino residents were elected to the Midtown Phillips board, with one serving as the new board chair for the neighborhood organization.

The Community Circles Project is seen as a project that can be replicated across the city. These positive results bode well – both for under-represented community members and for the neighborhood organization boards on which they serve.

Join Minneapolis to Celebrate American Indian Month on Thursday, May 1st



Each year, Minneapolis takes part in American Indian Month, which is a celebration of the community during the month of May in Minnesota. American Indian organizations showcase programs and services that are available to support and enrich the community. A parade held on Thursday, May 1st will kick off a month of events in the area with a number of festivities taking place in the City of Minneapolis.

The Kickoff Celebration is sponsored in part by the City of Minneapolis, the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) and the Native American Community Development Institute. For questions or more information, please call 612-235-4969 or email dyang@nacdi.org.

City Council approves vision, goals that will guide City work for next four years

The Minneapolis City Council adopted the City's vision, values, goals and strategic directions that will guide the City's work for the next four years. City leaders set new goals every four years, resulting in clear priorities that provide long-term direction and clarify the core function of City government.

The adoption of the goals follows a public comment period in February and March when residents were asked to give their feedback on the draft vision, values, goals and strategic directions.

The City Council approved the following five City goals:

- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper
- A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses, big and small, start, move, stay and grow here
- Great places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected
- A City that works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves



The vision, values, goals and strategic directions are also available in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. Visit the City's website to view the adopted vision, values, goals and strategic directions: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/citygoals>.

Get Your Free Radon Kit at Minneapolis Development Services Customer Service Center Open House

Learn how City Customer Service Center staff help contractors, developers, business owners, homeowners, and landlords navigate the City building and remodeling process effectively and efficiently to obtain all necessary reviews, licenses, permits, and inspections needed to complete projects.

Attend the event to:

- Tour the Customer Service Center and ask questions about your home remodeling project
- Meet Mayor Hodges and City Council Members from 4-4:30 p.m.
- Speak to a planner to make sure your building or remodeling project meet planning, zoning and building code requirements
- Attend free 15-30 minute "how to" presentations on:
 - Building a deck — What do you need from the City?
 - Zoning 101
 - Healthy home environments
 - Home-business licensing 101
 - Green initiatives — Green roofs, rain barrels, managing water runoff and more
 - Homeowner's guide to permitting — Which home remodeling projects need permits and which do not?
- Receive a free home radon test kit while supplies last
- Purchase residential building permits until 6:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served.

The open house will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Development Services Customer Service Center, 250 S. Fourth St. on the Third Floor. For more information including free parking information, visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/mdr.

Rain gardens and beyond - \$15 workshops

You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by making simple choices about your yard such as starting a rain garden. Metro Blooms workshops offer the latest information on a healthy yard and combine a do-it-yourself approach with expert help to put "rain gardening" in the hands of gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

For more information and to register, go to www.myraingarden.org or call 651-699-2426.

Look for your 2014-2015 recycling guide in the mail

If you're a City of Minneapolis recycling customer, watch your mailbox in April for the City's 2014-2015 recycling guide. The guide will tell you what you can and can't recycle through the City recycling service, and it will show all your recycling dates for 2014 and 2015. It's easier than ever to recycle in Minneapolis with one-sort recycling; just combine your glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard into your recycling cart. For more information about recycling in Minneapolis, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort.

Community input needed for northside bikeway plans



The City of Minneapolis is continuing to explore the possibility of converting low-traffic streets in north Minneapolis to a greenway with a safe, accessible route for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Residents can take a new online survey, www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMplsGreenway, now through June 15 to weigh in on the current greenway concept, including the proposed route and greenway types. If you completed similar surveys in 2012 and 2013, you provided valuable input into the current **CONCEPT**;

please weigh in on the new 2014 survey as well. Based on input from the 2012 and 2013 surveys and using what was learned from the community through a broader engagement process, a proposal has been developed for a greenway route that travels mostly on Irving and Humboldt avenues North.

Details on the proposal can be found at the project website:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/northminneapolisgreenway>.

April is the right time to search for emerald ash borer

Spring is here, and now is the best time for residents to look for signs of emerald ash borer (EAB). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is urging homeowners to search their ash trees for potential infestations.

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer:

1. Make sure you have an ash tree. This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.
2. Look for woodpecker damage. Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB
3. Check for bark cracks. EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) galleries underneath.
4. Contact a professional. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional, your city forester, or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684 (voicemail).



Remember to look high at the midsection of your ash tree for these symptoms. Also, using binoculars may help with recognizing these symptoms, which are a sign that your ash tree may be infested with EAB. For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.

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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.