



MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations
Call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov

June 2014

Upcoming Events

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month in Minneapolis

- 6/10: Police Cadet Information Session
- 6/12: Live on the Drive
- 6/14: Green Line Open Day
- 6/14: 12th Annual Standish, Ericsson and Corcoran Neighborhood Garage Sale
- 6/14: Northeast Ride
- 6/14: Juneteenth
- 6/14: Loring Park Acoustic Music Festival
- 6/14: Northern Spark
- 6/14: Police Conduct Oversight Commission Listening Session
- 6/14 – **Sats through 6/28**: Hosmer World Music Series
- 6/16: FLOW Northside Arts Crawl RFP for Public Art deadline
- 6/17: Community Technology Survey Results meeting
- 6/17: Celebrate Northeast Parade
- 6/18: Cleveland Party in the Park
- 6/20: West Broadway Farmers Market Opening Day
- 6/20-6/21: NEighbors Garage Sale Weekend Northeast
- 6/20-6/21: Longfellow Neighborhood Garage Sale

- 6/21: FRNNG 25th Silver Anniversary
- 6/21: Windom Park Carnival Parade and Celebration
- 6/21, 6/23, 6/25: CARAG Garden Tour
- 6/24: Police Cadet Information Session
- 6/25: Victory Ice Cream Social
- 6/26: Seward Garden Tour and Tea Party
- 6/28: Lind Bohanon Home and Art Fair
- 6/28: Nokomis East Neighborhood-Wide Yard & Garage Sale

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

City receives award for advocacy on the Minnesota Dream Act

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota recently presented the City of Minneapolis with a legislative advocacy award for its efforts in getting the Minnesota Dream Act passed last year. The Minnesota Dream Act guarantees in-state tuition rates to undocumented students in Minnesota. It also commits financial aid to qualified, aspiring undocumented college students in the state.



A coalition including government, higher education, business, nonprofits, students and labor banded together to work on passage of the law. The Intergovernmental Relations and Neighborhood and Community Relations departments played a key role on behalf of the City of Minneapolis, joining together in a historic collaboration with the local Latino community.

Mariano Espinoza, the City's Spanish Access and Outreach Specialist, worked with the Latino community in Minneapolis to shape how they wanted to engage with the City, and the community created the Latino Engagement Task Force, an informal group comprised of community leaders.

The Minnesota Dream Act was part of the legislative agenda supported by the City. It will benefit hundreds of residents and their families in Minneapolis. According to the Office of Higher Education, in Minnesota 160 students applied for the Minnesota Dream Act this school year.

The 2014 Community Connections Conference Report to the Community is now available

Over 500 community leaders, residents, elected officials and city staff attended the 2nd Annual Community Connections Conference that was held on Saturday, March 22nd at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The 2014 Community Connections Conference was designed specifically for neighborhood organizations, cultural communities, nonprofit organizations, City departments and residents to share best practices of neighborhood engagement and alignment with our work.

Overall, the evaluation indicates that the conference was highly successful and provided a good experience for the attendees. The full conference evaluation report is available online: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr.

Join NCR in welcoming Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist

Please join the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department in welcoming Abdirashid Ahmed as the new East African Community Specialist.

Abdirashid is a public policy analyst. He has previously worked with public assistance programs in Ramsey, Hennepin and Dakota Counties. He has also worked with Metropolitan Council and Lutheran Social Services. Ahmed has a master's degree in public policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and an undergraduate degree in human services administration from Metropolitan State University.

Abdirashid can be reached at 612-673-3958 or abdirashid.ahmed@minneapolismn.gov



Neighborhood Stories: Diversifying engagement strategies – Whittier Alliance hosts community conversations



Recognizing that neighborhood meetings do not always fit everyone's schedule or taste and are not always conducive to getting to know one another, the Whittier Alliance Neighborhood Association took a different approach to cultural engagement this past winter. Osman Ahmed, the Whittier/Lyndale community organizer, set dates for "get to know you" community conversations. Invitations were extended for people to show up as they could. The result was a series of small group chats, coffee drinking and shopping together. No one was asked to go to a formal meeting, volunteer or show up for a neighborhood event.

The gatherings were attended by a diverse group of residents including Somali residents and vendors. The point was to sit down and shoot the breeze. Neighbors sat around the table and shared family, work and life stories. They acknowledged that busy schedules, and uncertainty of how to approach each other, were inhibitors to neighborliness. The real ice breaker came just before the Holidays with a walk around Karmel Mall. Neighbors got a chance to see a diverse display of culturally specific merchandise, chat with the vendors and enjoy their shopping experience. The conversations were easy, the common ground surprising and the community building results were so much more rewarding than attending a meeting ---go figure!

The frequency of the community conversations has slowed a bit due to some intense scheduling during the spring but Whittier Alliance has gained new insights and participating voices and residents have befriended neighbors. Osman has found a new a new direction for his career and Whittier and Lyndale will welcome a new Somali-East African community organizer soon to expand the community conversations.

The Minneapolis Police Department is Hiring Police Cadets

The Minneapolis Police Department is seeking:

- College graduates from ANY accredited institution possessing ANY two or four year degree
- Military personnel possessing ANY two or four year degree from ANY accredited institution seeking a law enforcement degree
- Professionals possessing ANY two or four year degree from ANY accredited institution seeking a career change

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) has prepared a detailed information session describing the Police Cadet program and the application process. You are highly encouraged to attend one of the following information sessions, located at 4119 Dupont Ave N Minneapolis, MN, 55412:

- Tuesday, June 10th 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 24th 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

To review a complete job announcement visit www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs between Monday, June 9 and Friday, June 27, 2014. Or contact Sgt. Dave Burbank at 612-673-5583 or e-mail: david.burbank@minneapolismn.gov for any additional information or questions.



Urban Scholars program expands, provides a diverse group of college students with resume-building professional experience

The Neighborhood and Community Relations department welcomes Nick Ngo, a graduate student at Hamline University studying Public Policy. Nick will be working on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and awareness throughout the City of Minneapolis during his time this summer.



Minneapolis' third cohort of Urban Scholars are now working in 14 different City departments and the City Council offices, developing leadership skills and learning about careers in government. The program has expanded this year as Urban Scholars will be working with the Metropolitan Council, Minneapolis Public Schools, Greater Twin Cities United Way and PCL Construction. The Urban Scholars program is a full-time paid internship experience that aims to provide college students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds with a professional employment experience focused on gaining essential leadership skills and creating a resume-building, career pathway. The 12-week program runs through Aug. 15.

This year's 39 Urban Scholars were chosen from more than 300 applicants. The students selected are working in key areas of City government and public policy, and in the long run, the City and partnering organizations hope to develop a group of young talent who can begin careers in the public and private sectors, and someday be the next generation of City leaders. The 39 Scholars attend colleges across the country.

Urban Scholars is managed by the Employment Equity Division of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, which aims to close the employment gap in a city and metro area that suffers from one of the highest disparities between white and non-white unemployment in the country.

Urban Scholars will be sharing their experiences all summer long on the new Urban Scholars blog: <http://minneapolisurbanscholars.tumblr.com/>. More information about the program is also available on the Urban Scholars web page: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/employmentequity/urbanscholars/index.htm>.

Help wipe out graffiti: free graffiti cleanup solvent at Minneapolis fire stations

Minneapolis residents and property owners are encouraged to help Minneapolis wipe out graffiti. Last year graffiti cost the City just over \$1 million, and 8,180 cases of graffiti were reported. But it has other costs too. It makes neighborhoods and commercial districts look and feel unsafe, and that can harm property values and retail revenues – especially for small, neighborhood businesses.

Left alone, graffiti attracts more graffiti. Graffiti that is not cleaned off or covered up promptly is more likely to return. The City is getting the anti-graffiti message out in June with an informational video in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong; a public service announcement (PSA) airing on Comcast Cable channels in Minneapolis; and digital billboards displayed by Clear Channel Outdoor. The public service announcement time is donated by Comcast, and the billboards are donated by Clear Channel Outdoor.

Report it: If you see someone vandalizing property or committing any other crime, call 911. Anyone who sees graffiti in their neighborhoods should report it to the City by:

- Calling 311.
- Using the City's 311 smartphone app, which lets you snap a picture of the graffiti and send it with your report along with the location provided by the GPS on your phone.
- Using www.minneapolismn.gov/graffiti.

Remove it: It is the property owner's responsibility to clean up graffiti. All Minneapolis fire stations offer free graffiti removal solvent to Minneapolis property owners, and the City website has instructions for graffiti removal.

Prevent it: The best way to fight graffiti is to prevent it. There are ways to make your property less of a target for graffiti. For instance, a wall with a mural or plants in front of it is less likely to be tagged by a graffiti vandal. It can also help to add lights to your property.

You can view the informational videos and find more tips on fighting graffiti online at: www.minneapolismn.gov/graffiti.

Minneapolis 311 adds weekend hours

To provide even better service to residents and visitors in Minneapolis, the Minneapolis 311 contact center is adding weekend hours. Now, callers can dial 311 for City information and services from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Since April 2010, Minneapolis 311's contact center has answered calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, but not during the weekends. Those who called 311 after hours or on the weekends were able to leave a message, and a contact center agent helped them the following business day.

In the last few years, Minneapolis 311 vastly improved its online service options, and it and developed a 311 mobile application in 2012. These self-service options make it possible for more people to request service and access information on their own, without needing to reach a 311 agent. Through the mobile app, folks are able to report a number of issues to Minneapolis 311, including:

- Abandoned vehicle
- Bike lane Issue
- Graffiti
- Debris in the street
- Parking meters
- Parking violations
- Potholes
- Traffic signal timing
- Broken street light
- Traffic sign repair
- Traffic signal trouble



The mobile app is free and available for download to iPhone, Android and Blackberry smartphones.

Just recently, Minneapolis 311 passed an important milestone: it answered its three-millionth call since it began service in January 2006.

June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month in Minneapolis

The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Betsy Hodges unanimously approved a resolution declaring June 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month in Minneapolis. The declaration coincides with the LGBT Pride celebration, which is held in June and is the largest outdoor festival in the city.

The City of Minneapolis has a long history of supporting LGBT rights. This year's resolution notes that Minneapolis was the first city in Minnesota to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Minneapolis was also the first city in the state to create a domestic partner registry, back in 1991. It was also a vocal proponent of the marriage equality statute passed in 2013 by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by the governor.

In 2014, Minneapolis was part of a partnership with the Minneapolis School District and numerous organizations that successfully advocated at the state capitol for passage of the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act, which focuses on bullying prevention in Minnesota schools.

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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.