



# MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations  
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May 2015

## Upcoming Events

- 5/1: 2015 Minnesota American Indian Month Kick-Off
- 5/2: Tangletown Garage Sales
- 5/2: Cinco de Mayo Parade
- 5/2: Midtown Farmers Market Opening Day
- 5/2: Audubon Spring WIngDing
- 5/2: North Minneapolis Community Public Safety Fair
- 5/2: Northeast Minneapolis Tool Library Grand Opening
- 5/2-5/3: Bryn Mawr Festival of Garage Sales
- 5/3: MayDay Parade and Festival
- 5/5: Spice and Slice of Asian America begins
- 5/7: Whittier May Day Soiree
- 5/11: Twin Cities Bike Week begins
- 5/13: Portland Avenue Placemaking Event
- 5/14: Hmong American Day Celebration
- 5/15-5/16: Beltrami Community Art Show
- 5/15-5/17: Art-a-Whirl
- 5/16: East Calhoun Pollinator Workshop
- 5/16: Neighborhood Garage Sales in CARAG, East Harriet, Kingfield, Linden Hills & Seward
- 5/17: Linden Hills Festival
- 5/20: Runnin' with the Law 5K
- 5/23: Kenny/Armatage Neighborhood Garage Sales
- 5/27: Downtown East Commons Public Meeting
- 5/27: NCR Learning Lab: Tips for Neighborhood Organizing
- 5/29: Pratt Ice Cream Social
- 5/30: Garage Sales in Victory and Hale, Page and Diamond Lake
- 5/30: STEAM Expo in Shingle Creek
- 5/30: Friends of the Mississippi River Planting Event
- 5/30: Field Regina Northrop 50th Anniversary Celebration

## Community engagement in action

### The Southeast Asian Soccer team wraps up another season:

Since September 2014, the Southeast Asian community in Minneapolis has been gathering at Farview Park every Saturday morning to play soccer and learn about programs and opportunities at the City of Minneapolis. This initiative was started by Michael Yang, Southeast Asian Community Specialist in the Neighborhood and Community Relations department to engage the community and share information about the City in a new way. The winter season ended on Saturday, April 25th, Mayor Hodges was there to present the winning teams their trophy's.



**Northside residents learn important safety skills at Public Safety Fair:** On Saturday, May 2nd, the Neighborhood and Community Relations department hosted a Public Safety Fair at North Commons Park. The purpose of the event was to allow residents to meet and interact with public safety officials. City, County, and Park Board public safety officials shared the most up to date public safety information with attendees. Hennepin county offered free Hands Only CPR & AED training.

**Hundreds attend the American Indian Month Kick-off Parade:** A parade held on Friday, May 1st kicked off American Indian Month in the City of Minneapolis. Each year, American Indian organizations showcase programs and services that are available to support and enrich the community throughout the month of May. For a list of events, please visit [the 2015 American Indian Month Facebook](#) page.



**Residents get "Ready" at Ready Camp:** On April 29th and May 5th members of neighborhood organizations, City staff, and the City's Cultural Services Unit (CSU) volunteers attended a two evening training program that teaches individuals how to prepare, sustain, and recover from natural and man-made catastrophes with little assistance for 72 hours. The training was offered through co-sponsorship between the Neighborhood and Community Relations and Emergency Management Departments. CSU members represent diverse and non-English speaking communities in Minneapolis. They are trained to be prepared to get information out to their communities in the case of a disaster or epidemic.

## Neighborhood Stories: Neighborhoods reinvesting in housing programs

Since the inception of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), neighborhood organizations have invested dollars to housing programs such as: Low interest home improvement loans, down-payment assistance, commercial façade improvements, emergency fix up funds and more.

Recent changes in the fee structure and services available at several non-profit housing vendors, have prompted many Minneapolis neighborhood organizations to re-tool and update their home improvement programs to bring them in sync with current market conditions. Several groups have taken positive steps to update these programs and make them more attractive to residents. Many loans have lowered interest rates, and neighborhoods are updating their marketing plans and materials to reinvigorate program interest.

Residents in NE Minneapolis can now borrow tools through an innovative new agency called the Northeast Minneapolis Tool Lending Library – A separate 501c3, the Northeast Minneapolis Tool Library’s mission is to cultivate a more resilient and equitable community and reduce waste by empowering residents with access to tools, training, and workspaces. The membership costs \$55 per year and a grand opening was held on Saturday May 2nd. Seed money was provided by Windom Park Citizens in Action NRP Funds.



Photo Credit: Thomas Ebert, Director NEMTL

The Southwest neighborhoods of Kenny, Armatage, Lynnhurst and Fulton have pooled their housing dollars and created a cooperative “Fix It Fund” for local residents on a first-come, first-serve basis. This program is managed by the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation. The loans are for home improvements (\$5,000 to \$20,000) and emergency repairs (\$3,000 to \$8,000). For more information contact the neighborhood directly at [info@fultonneighborhood.org](mailto:info@fultonneighborhood.org), [info@kennyneighborhood.org](mailto:info@kennyneighborhood.org), [info@lynnhurst.org](mailto:info@lynnhurst.org), or click “contact us” at the Armatage Website.



The Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) recently completed a move of all their housing program dollars from Northside Housing Services (NHS) to Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). The total investment in their programs is approximately \$405,000 and includes Low Interest Loans (3%), Safety Loans (0%) and a down payment assistance program (0%). For more information you can check the JACC or CEE Web Sites.

Because of the complexity of moving dollars between contractors or involving a neighborhood wide process, sometimes the housing programs take a while to get launched, re-tooled, or re-branded. Some of this is due to City / Vendor process of financial verification, but some is also due to lengthy community discussions about the best way to invest money back into community and determine what is most attractive to residents.

For example, the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) has been updating their programs for many months and will remain at CEE, expanding from four programs to six or seven. The neighborhood group has been working hard to gain resident input for new lower interest housing programs and aspiring to include a program for renters as well. Until the new contract is finished LHENA loans remain at the same terms at CEE.

If you have questions about your neighborhood or loan program, please contact your neighborhood staff person which can be located on the [Neighborhood Map](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/links/index.htm): <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/links/index.htm>.

## NCR offers “Learning Lab” series to neighborhood organizations

NCR is pleased to continue a new series of Learning Labs. The idea is to create a learning rich environment for staff and volunteers to explore best practices on a variety of topics and garner skills that enhance their community work and civic participatory life. Learning Labs are geared toward neighborhood staff, board and committee members, but anyone is welcome.

Run Well labs offer neighborhood organizations resources to effectively manage their organizations. One Minneapolis lab provides ideas helping to further the City’s goal of One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper.

Upcoming labs will be held on:

- **May 27** – Tips for Neighborhood Organizing – presented by Jay Clark, Center for Neighborhood Organizing;
- **June 30** – Financial Management – presented by the Nonprofit Assistance Fund and NCR.

Learning Labs begin at 6:30 pm at the Crown Roller Mill – 2nd floor. Space is limited. Please RSVP to [NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov) with your name and neighborhood.

## Now accepting applications for the Community Innovation Fund

The Community Innovation Fund provides grants to Minneapolis neighborhood organizations to foster innovative and locally relevant approaches to City-identified goals. The aim of the program is to provide funding for projects to test concepts in neighborhoods that may later be replicated throughout Minneapolis.

All Minneapolis neighborhood organizations are invited to apply for the new Community Innovation Fund. Priority on project funding will be given to projects which involve collaboration between two or more neighborhood organizations or between neighborhood organizations and community-based organizations.

**The deadline for submitting applications is June 3, 2015 at 4:00 PM.** Applications must be submitted to [NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov).

You can download a copy of the full Community Innovation Fund Guidelines or detailed program and application requirements by visiting: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/programs/CommunityInnovationFund>.

## Four neighborhood organizations seek qualified candidates to fill vacancies

**Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) seeks Executive Director** – apply by May 20

NENA is seeking an experienced Executive Director committed to ensuring strong organizational foundation, building grassroots leaders, fostering cultural relationships, maintaining and building partnership, and sharing power. For more information, visit <https://db.tt/UcHVChGU> or <http://www.nokomiseast.org/>.

**Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) seeks Community Organizer** – apply by May 21

PPNA is hiring a full time Community Organizer to increase participation by neighborhood members, build community leadership and expand the capacity of residents and businesses to determine our hopes, needs and solutions. For more information, visit <http://ppna.org/news/ppna-is-hiring-for-our-fulltime-community-organizer-postion/>.

**Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNA) seeks Neighborhood Coordinator**

MPNA seeks a part-time neighborhood coordinator to provide administrative support/assistance to help ensure the smooth functioning of MPNA. This position will be hosted by Project for Pride in Living. For more information, visit <https://ppl-inc.hiringthing.com/job/21613/neighborhood-coordinator-midtown-phillips?s=cw>

**Northeast Park Neighborhood Association seeks Community Organizer**

The Northeast Park Neighborhood Association is seeking a part-time (10-20 hours per month) contracted staff to provide community organizing services. For more information, visit <https://db.tt/yLHmTOB3>.

## Sign up for organics recycling



Minneapolis residents like you are already big recyclers, saving plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, paper, cartons and other containers from homes for their recycling pickup. Soon, you'll also be able to save your organics for the City to collect for composting. There is no extra charge to take part, but you do need to sign up.

The organics recycling carts will be distributed only to customers who opt in. More than 10,000 households have already signed up. The carts will be distributed in two phases: about a quarter of households will have service available in August 2015 and the rest in spring 2016. Once you get your cart, you can start filling it with organics in a compostable bag.

If you're a Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling customer, you can request a cart by emailing [swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:swrcustomer@minneapolismn.gov) – make sure to include your address – or call 612-673-2917.

### What will be collected?

Organics collection will include all food scraps, including fruits, vegetables, bones, meat trimmings, breads, pasta, nut shells, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags and dairy products. Organics collection also includes food-soiled paper that can't be recycled, including paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, waxed paper, egg cartons and pizza boxes. Just make sure the paper is not lined with plastic. Other things that can go into organics recycling include wood chopsticks, wood Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, dryer lint, animal and human hair, certified compostable plastic and houseplant trimmings.

Some of these items can't be managed in a backyard compost bin, so even if you do your own composting at home you can still benefit from the program. And collection continues all year round, so if you put your own composting on hold in the winter you can benefit from the collections too.

### What won't be collected?

Items not accepted include milk cartons, plastic-lined paper products, vacuum cleaner bags, liquids, oils, greases and fats. If an item can go into the regular recycling, it should go there instead of in the organics collection. Yard waste must remain separate; customers should keep using yard waste collection for branches, leaves, grass clippings and other outside plant material.

### How does it work?

Just like having a separate bag or container to collect recyclables at home, people use separate containers for organics recycling. It is recommended that home users keep a small organics container conveniently near the kitchen to collect materials. There is no reason to expect a new household smell from organics; separating organics doesn't introduce any new materials that aren't already there. It's simply putting them in a different place to make use of a resource, instead of managing it as trash.

Residents now get a black cart for garbage and a blue one for recycling. Organics will be collected in green carts. Any organics from the home can be put in the green cart for pickup on the weekly collection day. Organics will need to be placed in compostable bags inside the cart to keep it clean year-round and to avoid freezing to it in the winter.

With people starting to divert "garbage" into the organics recycling, a lot of people will be able to switch to smaller garbage carts if they want to and save \$3 every month on their utility bills. Composting creates a resource out of valuable materials that would otherwise become trash. Using compost returns nutrients to the soil, reduces erosion, and reduces the needs for watering and for chemical fertilizers. For more information visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/organics](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/organics).

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*For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.*