



The Victory View

Volume 14 Issue 1

Winter 2006

Build the Community You Want in 2006!

By Matt Massman

Special points of interest:

- * A new series of once a month Cultural Storytelling events at Camden Coffee House on 44th and Humboldt will begin with a Black History Month event on February 25th, from 2 to 4 pm; hosted by David Zander of Story Safaris and local storyteller Nothando Zulus and featuring members of the Black Storytellers alliance. Families and children are welcome. There is no charge for the event but donations are accepted.
- * The Lincolns for Lincoln campaign has received donations totaling \$1,641.66. This includes pennies donated by the School children at Loring, money dropped into jars at our local businesses and checks received from individuals who value the history of the Statue and the Drive.

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Still looking for a New Year Resolution for 2006? Or maybe you've wanted to meet more of your neighbors or feel more connected to your community? Or maybe you have ideas for improvements and you've been frustrated with someone else not taking action? Well here are some opportunities we hope you will consider in 2006 and beyond!

Get to Know All Your Neighbors in 2006...

...beyond the lasting friendships, sense of community and appreciation of diverse cultures that can come from meeting new folks, being familiar with all our neighbors is perhaps the single most important thing we can do to resist the negative influences of the few bad apples.

Come Have Some Fun...

ViNA sponsors various community events throughout the year and is always open to ideas for new events or improvements to existing ones to make sure there is something for everyone.

Whether it be free ice cream in June, an evening picnic and music concert in July, or the Holiday on 44th in December, plan to bring your family and friends to a neighborhood gathering in 2006!

Volunteers Needed....

Neighborhood volunteer needs range from ongoing assignments (committees/long-term projects) to helping out with events/tasks that may last only a few hours (clean-ups, socials, phone calling, gardening, etc.)



Resolve to build community in 2006

AND because a strong community benefits property values, a few hours of neighborhood volunteer work can be as beneficial as a few hours of yard work! If you offer to volunteer, we guarantee we will find you an opportunity in 2006! Call 612-529-9558 today and get on our volunteer list. **Buy Local in 2006....** of course we live in a free market and the right product at the right price is what attracts our hard-earned money....but

neighborhood businesses lack the resources available to national chains and others to convince us to reconsider our shopping or dining habits. And just like safe/clean streets and strong parks, appropriately sized, successful neighborhood businesses are an essential part of a healthy residential community.

Be Alert, Be Active....

it sounds like a broken record but effective crime fighting really does rely heavily on active citizen involvement. Whether it be starting or strengthening block club activities in your area or resolving to be diligent about calling 911 whenever you witness criminal or suspicious activity, make 2006 the year you refuse to turn a blind eye to crime.

Donations Welcome....

ViNA is an incorporated tax exempt organization and contributions you make are tax deductible. Whether you would like to make a general donation in lieu of volunteering or dedicate your donation for a specific purpose, such as the Lincoln State or the Ryan Lake Trail, your contribution will help to keep our neighborhood strong and attractive.

(Continued on page 2)

Build the Community You Want in 2006*(Continued from page 1)*

Be a Good Neighbor.....Report Problem Properties! Problem properties often go unreported because of our reluctance to tattle, we rely on someone else to complain, we think it is the city's problem and not ours or because a neighbor has physical limitations or down on their luck and we reason that we are doing them a favor by not complaining. But unsightly garbage, inoperable cars, deteriorating structures in need of repair, and unkempt yards/alleys all contribute to diminished living conditions and property values for surrounding properties, including properties owned by others who struggle with limited resources to maintain their property. The City and neighborhood offer programs to help people with needed property maintenance

when physical or financial limitations are an issue, but your help is needed to make sure city inspections and neighborhood staff are aware of problems. Be the squeaky wheel in 2006!

To learn more about code violations, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections/commonviolations.asp>

To report a problem property call 311 or report on-line at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-codeviol.asp>.

To report graffiti, call 612-673-2090 or report it on-line at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-graffiti.asp>

Implementing Great Ideas Requires Helping Hands

As an all-volunteer organization, there are often many great community building and safety promoting activities that simply do not get done because board members and others run out of time. Here are just a few examples of opportunities:

- * Assembling/delivering welcome packets to new neighborhood residents;
- * Identifying rental properties so that we can ensure they are properly licensed, in compliance with code requirements.
- * Writing occasional articles for our newsletter or soon to be up and running web site;
- * Gardening in the community
"Ask not what your community can

Kids Cook Brings Out Many Smiles at Loring School

By Robin Krause

Inviting young students into the kitchen at Loring Community School is a good learning experience. Through hands on cooking lessons, the children read recipes, measure with math, practice multiplication, division and have fun. While exploring fresh and nutritious ingredients, we are teaching life skills through cooking and sharing meals with friends and family.

The Kids Cook program is an after school program that is offered at our neighborhood school, Loring School. The program was founded by Robin Krause, a Victory neighbor. The program helps nurture creativity, develop self esteem and embrace individuality. Each group of classes includes 8 weeks of cooking, students learn to compost, make stock, roast a chicken, make homemade breads and complete healthy menus. The students have fun working together and creating meals, setting the table and celebrating the meal that they make

together. The classes end with a Saturday, all day cooking class and a community and school fund raiser.

As they begin a new year, Kids Cook is celebrating the fact that they have a fiscal sponsor for their program, Minneapolis Community Education, division of Minneapolis Public Schools. Having a fiscal sponsor will allow them to apply for grants. Until then, Kids Cook is completely self supported and assisted by neighborhood volunteers, Starla Krause and Susan Telleen. Two intern students from the Patrick Henry International Baccalaureate Program, Jasmine Avalos and Dursitu Hassan, help the students prepare the recipes. As a community, friends, alumni and teachers and the Victory Neighborhood Association have helped to support the program

Kids Cook invites you to celebrate with them on March 9th, for a Mexi-

can Fiesta and Cake Auction. Join us at 6:00, with dinner at 6:30, learn more about our program and meet new friends and neighbors. The kids will cook, and together we'll break a Piñata. Kids Cook will lead the cake parade, and you can bid on your favorite cake!

Dinner tickets are available at the door for \$15.00. Bring extra cash or your checkbook to participate in the exciting and fun cake auction! This dinner is a "fun"raiser for Kid's Cook and the 5th grade trip to Camp Audubon.

Kids Cook will greet you with a smile on Thursday, March 9th!



Ryan Lake Trail—a Capital Idea!

By Diane Spector

The Victory Neighborhood Association is gearing up to start fundraising for Phase II of the Ryan Lake project, and we're looking for help. We're looking for major donors to help us raise the funds it will take to complete all phases of the park and trail project. We're also looking for other donors that may be willing to support the community with smaller contributions. We need your help to identify and network with donors. We also need volunteers willing to be part of the fundraising committee.

We have identified a number of businesses in the area and around the Metro that make charitable donations and we'd appreciate help in identifying contacts at those businesses. Some businesses have programs to donate funds to projects supported by their employees. Does yours? Do you work at or know someone who works at any of the following businesses, or any others that might make contributions to projects such as this? If you know of anyone who might deal with charitable contributions at these businesses, please contact Debbie at ViNA with their name and contact information. Another big help would be an introduction for one of our fundraising team. Businesses are more apt to support projects when they know their employees or

In Partnership... ViNA has secured a \$43,000 grant from the DNR to help fund the trailthat funding must be matched dollar for dollar..

loyal customers also support the project.

We're also looking for volunteers willing to be part of the fundraising committee, writing letters or meeting with business owners, managers, or persons in the corporate headquarters for larger businesses. If you'd like to help out, please contact Debbie at the ViNA office.

Phase II of the Ryan Lake Project includes construction of the trail across the lakefront, through the woods, and under the Osseo Road overpass to the future Victory Prairie site on the east side of Osseo Road. At the lake, the trail will include a path to a new, permanent wooden dock that the Park Board staff will be constructing this winter and spring to replace the current roll-out dock. Some additional

shoreline plantings can be done, but most of the rest of the planting must wait until after the trail is constructed.

In partnership with the City and the National Park Service, ViNA has secured a \$43,000 grant from the DNR to help fund the trail construction. However, that funding must be matched dollar for dollar, and additional funds are needed to pay for the plantings, benches,

signs, and other features of the Ryan Lake project. A committee of Victory residents has been working with city and Park Service staff to develop a fundraising campaign to raise \$250,000 to fund the Ryan Lake projects.

In the Neighborhood:

United Horticultural Supply
Malmborg's Garden Center
Owens Corning
GE Energy Services
Metro-CAD

Other businesses along 49th Ave. N (Humboldt Industrial Area)
Canadian Pacific Railways
Xcel Energy

In the Twin Cities Region:

Denny Hecker
Target Corporation or Foundation
General Mills
Medtronic Corporation or Foundation
3M Corporation
Best Buy
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Foundation or Corporation
Wells Fargo Bank or Foundation
Andersen Corporation
Ameriprise Financial Inc.
Ecolab Corporation
Blue Cross Blue Shield Corporation or Foundation
RBC Dain Rauscher Corporation or Foundation
Deluxe Corporation or Foundation
Sam's Club (community matching grants)
US Bank
Bremer Bank
Allianz

Victory/Loring School Community Garden wins MSHS Award

15 green-thumbed Victory neighbors working with the Loring School principal and staff have created a beautiful community garden where once the ugly portables stood. In addition to presenting a picturesque gateway, the butterfly gardens have served as the site for a butterfly release by the school children and the herbs and vegetables planted in the raised beds were

used by the Kids Cook program last year. The Victory Neighborhood sign will be installed in the shade garden on the southeast corner.

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society recently recognized the partnership that produced the gardens

with the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association Award for excellence in contributing to community livability.

Victory residents Amy Chapman, Kris Pierre, Steve Modrow (who designed the gardens) along with principal Jane Thompson attended the awards banquet on February 4, 2006 to receive the award.



Butterflies were released in the gardens in spring 2005

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ViNA Meetings : February 22 Community Listening Project

Instead of a regular ViNA meeting on **February 22**, we will be conducting two focus groups for Northpoint Health and Wellness Center. North Point, formerly known as Pilot City, is located at 1313 Penn Ave No. and offers health and human services to those living in the 55411 and 55412 zip codes. Their highly skilled health and human services professionals provide thorough and comprehensive care and are working to make health happen in North Minneapolis.

Northpoint is currently facilitating the Community Listening Project. The goal of the listening project is to hear from the community what resources and services are needed to assist them with self-determination, self

sufficiency and building community.

Northpoint will facilitate two focus groups on February 22, at Victory Lutheran Church, 4301 Thomas Ave No. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm and the discussion groups will begin at 7:00 pm. Folks from Northpoint will be listening to community members' answers to such questions as :*What are the pieces that make a healthy community? Is North Minneapolis a good community? What are the challenges?*



Community Listening Project—February 22—Be Heard!

If you would like to participate in the Community Listening Project on February 22, please call ViNA at 612-529-9558. We are limited to 20 participants.

March 22 NRP Phase II

At the **March 22** Victory Neighborhood meeting, the ViNA board will be presenting the NRP Phase II Participation Agreement for neighborhood approval. The Participation Agreement is an agreement between the neighborhood and NRP outlining the policies and procedures that ViNA will use to get community and city agency input and develop a Neighborhood Action Plan for Phase II of NRP.

The Victory Neighborhood will be allocated \$482,182 in Phase II of NRP and in order to access these funds we must develop a plan for how they will be used to improve and maintain our neighborhood in a way that is beneficial to all Victory residents.

Copies of the Participation Agreement are available from the office.