



The Victory View

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ViNA Annual Report

Special points of interest:

- Copies of the NRP Phase II plan and the Victory Neighborhood Annual Report are available from the office or on the ViNA Website
- Two new directors were elected to the ViNA Board at the ViNA Annual Meeting
- Vacant properties should be reported to the neighborhood office; 612-529-9558

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The Victory Neighborhood Association concluded its 15th year of operations with their annual meeting on September 26th, where the Board of Directors presented a report on the accomplishments of the organization this past year.

The most significant accomplishment was the completion of the NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, which was approved by those in attendance at the annual meeting. This strategic plan for the neighborhood was developed by a dedicated group of volunteers over a 14 month period and is headed for approval by the NRP Policy Board and the City Council. (For more on the Phase II plan see page 2.)

Other significant accom-

plishments of ViNA in 2007 were:

- ◇ The continued activity of the Livability Committee in learning what the community can do to be healthy and in developing a positive community response to the foreclosed and vacant properties in the neighborhood.
- ◇ The investment of \$30,518 into the improvement and maintenance of the neighborhood housing stock through the Home Improvements Loan programs.
- ◇ The investment of \$39,245 into the improvement of the facades and landscaping of our neighborhood businesses through the ViNA Business Improvement Matching



Businesses at 44th and Penn received a ViNA Business grant to install awnings.

Grant Program .

- ◇ Identifying matching funds for the \$43,000 DNR grant to construct a trail on the shoreline of Ryan Lake
- ◇ Continuing to build a sense of community with a variety of neighborhood events, including the Ice Cream Social , Garage Sale, concerts and a movie at the flagpole.

A copy of the complete Annual Report is available from the office or soon on our website.

New ViNA Directors Elected

The Victory Neighborhood Association welcomes 2 new members to the Board of Directors. Michael Anschel and Gary Mortensen were elected to two year terms at the annual meeting on September 26th, along with Kris Brogan return-

ing for her 2nd two year term.

Michael Anschel is a relatively new resident of the Victory Neighborhood , and is a partner in the Otogawa- Anschel design with offices at 42nd and Fremont.

Gary Mortensen has

lived in Victory for several years and served as a co-chair of the NRP Phase II Steering Committee.

ViNA welcomes Michael and Gary and looks forward to the enthusiasm and energy they will bring to the Board.

NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan Approved

Residents in attendance at the September 26 annual meeting unanimously approved the Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan (NAP), which is a strategic plan that will guide the neighborhood for the next 5-10 years. The plan will be submitted to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) for funding. It will be presented to the NRP Policy Board on October 22, 2007 and once approved by the Policy Board will be submitted to the City Council for approval.

The NAP was developed over the last 14



Input was gathered from residents

months by a group of neighborhood volunteers co-chaired by Gary Mortensen and Steffen Runquist. From June of 2006 through early 2007, the committee gathered input from neighborhood residents through interviews, surveys and focus groups, after which they met weekly to develop a draft of the plan which was presented to the Board and the neighborhood in April of 2007. The final plan was adopted by the Board of Directors on August 2.

The plan outlines many activities, programs and projects for the revitalization and maintenance of the

neighborhood. The majority of the plan focuses on housing and includes a home improvement loan program, a rental advisory committee, a housing coordinator and rehabilitation of vacant properties. Other programs include a graffiti removal team, a safety coordinator, a "welcome wagon", education on environmentally friendly landscaping, start up loans for targeted businesses, a continuation of the Youth Corps and other youth activities.

Copies of the complete NAP are still available from the ViNA office and on the website:

www.victoryneighborhood.org

Foreclosure Crisis

The Victory Neighborhood is not exempt from the foreclosure crisis that is plaguing the nation. Between July of 2005 and March of 2007 there were 54 foreclosures in the neighborhood, with the number continuing to grow. Many of these properties remain vacant and in some cases are boarded and unmaintained.

The City of Minneapolis has joined

with the Family Housing Fund, MN Housing and the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation and neighborhood organizations to identify, quickly acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed or boarded and vacant properties and get

them back into the hands of stable homeowners and out of the hands of predatory investors. If there is a

house on your block that you know is vacant (it does not have to be boarded) please call the office with the address. 612-529-9558.

If you face foreclosure call 311 for help!

Call 311 if you are in danger of missing even one house payment —there may be help to prevent foreclosure!

Victory Homes Wanted—Minneapolis Home Tour

It is not too early to think about putting your house on the 2008 Minneapolis –St Paul Home Tour. The Tour is Saturday and Sunday, April 26th and 27th but the recruiting, planning and choosing get done long before that. Home nominations are due January 23,



Put your home on the Minneapolis Home Tour

2008.

The NRP Program coordinates the free self guided tour that celebrates city living. The Tour puts people in touch with real homes, real people, and real ideas for re-decorating, landscaping or remodeling. Public and pri-

vate sponsors, including architects and contractors, defray the cost of the tour and work with homeowners to show how existing homes can be reworked to help people to stay in the neighborhoods they love.

If you are interested in putting your home on the 2008 Tour call Margo Ashmore at 612-673-5103.

October—Choose to ReUse Month

Every year, 32 million pounds of usable items are thrown away in Hennepin County. Residents can Choose to Reuse and help reduce the volume of waste thrown away by supporting businesses and organizations in our community that provide opportunities to rent, repair, resell, consign, trade, sell bulk and exchange used goods. Residents can save money, help reduce waste, and support the local economy by thinking about reuse when shopping. Helping the environment has never been so much fun!



October is Chose to ReUse month

In an effort to encourage more reuse, Hennepin County will host the sixth annual Choose To Reuse program. This year's program includes: **Save Cash, Save the Planet! Get Great Stuff** Choose To Reuse Month Coupon Books. The county has partnered with 80 local retail partners with 124 locations including the Habitat for Humanity ReStore on West Broadway, The Silver Angel Thriftstore in Northeast Minneapolis and Maranatha Storehouse in Crystal. Customers may pick up a "Choose To Reuse" coupon book at participating loca-

tions, Hennepin County Services Centers and Libraries, and all Three Rivers Park District locations, or download a copy at www.hennepin.us, search "Choose To Reuse Month."
Scrap Art – The County is hosting a “trash to treasure” art activity for children at five Hennepin County Libraries, showing elementary school-age children how to apply their imagination and creativity in reusing scrap material that would otherwise be thrown away. Visit www.hennepin.us, search “Choose to Reuse Month” for locations and times.

Think Outside the Bottle

Did you know that making bottles to meet Americans’ demand for bottled water required the equivalent of more than **17 million barrels of oil last year** – enough fuel for more than 1 million U.S. cars for a year - and generated more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide? In addition, each year more than 4 billion pounds of PET plastic bottles end up in landfills or as roadside litter.

Though many bottled water brands come from the same source as public tap water, they are marketed as somehow more pure. What’s more - bottled water corporations sell water back to the public at thousands of times the cost! In taste tests con-

ducted in Minneapolis, people regularly chose tap water as tasting the best over several brands of bottled water. You can help to change all that by pledging to stop drinking bottled water. **Take the pledge at www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org.**

Take the pledge to stop drinking bottled water @ thinkoutsidethebottle.org

Holiday on 44th— Holiday Lighting Contest

Leaves are falling, the temperatures are dropping and the days are shortening, all heralding the impending Holiday activities. Holiday on 44th, the highly acclaimed and attended community festival for North Minneapolis, will be held on December 7th. Now



Holiday Lighting Contest December 7-31

in its 10th year the festival will take place along 44th Ave No. and in Patrick Henry High School and Loring Elementary. Watch your November 30 Camden News for a complete schedule of event activities. Thanks to two neighborhood volunteers, Victory

will once again conduct their Holiday Lighting contest. Nominations will be made December 7-21 and the final judging will take place December 22–31. If you would like to nominate your home or your neighbors’ please call the office at 612-529-9558. Nominees will be notified by postcard to insure that those nominated will have their lights on during the judging period.

VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Board of Directors.
Chairman: John Trombley
Vice Chairman: Matt Massman
Secretary: Diane Spector
Treasurer: Ann Kaari
Michael Ansel
Kris Brogan
Gary Mortensen

Can ViNA Continue Without NRP?

When the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) began in 1990, it was scheduled to run for 20 years and receive funding of 20 million dollars per year. Even though it has not been funded at that level, the NRP program is still scheduled to sunset at the end of 2009.

What is the future of the Victory Neighborhood Association if NRP no longer exists? Can the organization continue its mission and work to reach its goals of improving and sustaining the neighborhood?

That will be determined by the residents of the neighborhood who value the work that ViNA has done. ViNA will need a predictable source of revenue if it is to continue to build and engage the community.

In order to provide for the sustainability of ViNA the Board of Directors has established a committee to explore ideas for long range funding of the organization. One resident has already stepped forward to help in this effort, **BUT WE NEED YOU!** If you value ViNA and want to help ensure that it continues to serve you and your neighborhood, please consider joining this committee.

For more information about the Sustainability Committee please call the ViNA office at 612-529-9558.

What is NRP and What Has it Done for Your City and Neighborhood?

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) makes the city's residential areas better places to live, work, learn and play. NRP is an investment program based on truly empowering residents by bringing them into the priority-setting process of the city. It is based on the belief that the empowerment of residents and the mobilization of untapped resources, energy and creativity can make our collective desire for a better future for our neighborhoods a reality. The four main goals of NRP:

- ◇ Build neighborhood capacity
- ◇ Create a sense of community

- ◇ Redesign public services
- ◇ Increase inter-governmental and intra-governmental collaboration

Thousands of NRP neighbors across the City and hundreds (yes hundreds) in Victory Neighborhood have willingly volunteered to help their elected officials and neighborhood organizations, through their NAPs, increase their level of participation and improve their neighborhoods. It has led to millions of dollars being invested city-wide in housing, crime and safety, schools, and parks. In Victory, hundreds of thousands of

dollars have been invested into our housing stock, Victory Park, Loring School, livability initiatives, youth programs, and community building events. Currently, there are over 1,000 invested neighborhood board members and leaders City-wide who interact with thousands more in their community.

The City of Minneapolis has an award winning engagement process in NRP and has been recognized by the **United Nations** for this fact. However NRP, is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2009 and the Mayor and City Council are exploring the future of community engagement in Minneapolis. If you think the NRP has made a difference in our neighborhood and should continue, let the Mayor and City Council know now!



NRP has invested millions of dollars into the revitalization of neighborhoods.