



The Victory View

Volume 15 Issue 1

Winter 2007

Victory Neighborhood Association 15 Years Serving the Neighborhood

Special points of interest:

- The 2nd annual North Housing and Home Improvement Fair is on Saturday, March 3 from 10 am to 3 pm at North High School, 1500 James Ave No. It is FREE.
- Two new businesses have opened in Victory Neighborhood.

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The Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation within the State of Minnesota in April of 1992. This year, we will mark the 15th year of the organization's existence. As stated in the articles of incorporation the mission of ViNA is to.. "protect and promote neighborhood interests and the health, safety and general welfare of the residents within the organization's geographic jurisdiction in a non-partisan, educational and cooperative manner."

The first few years of ViNA were spent building the organization with volunteers from the neighborhood who were committed to furthering the mission. They worked together to develop a vision for the neighborhood and goals, objectives and strategies for reaching that vision. Out of this came the Phase I NRP Neighborhood Action Plan (NAP), which was approved by the Minneapolis City Council in December of 2000.

Once the NAP was approved, ViNA opened an office at 2200 44th Ave No. and hired part time staff to implement the strategies they had developed. Since that time through GMHC and the Housing Resource

Center, ViNA has invested more than \$500,000 in home improvement loans and grants. In addition they have invested \$250,000 in band equipment and a computer lab at Loring School and the playground in Victory Park, \$120,000 in the Camden Physicians Clinic and business development and facade improvements in the neighborhood and hopes to leverage \$15,000 into additional investment for the Ryan Lake Trail Project. ViNA also holds in reserve \$50,000 intended to be invested in additional technology at Webber Park Library when it reopens and is expanded.

In addition ViNA provides support and grants to neighborhood block clubs, has supported the community garden and Kid's Cook's program at Loring School, and formed the ViNA Youth Corps, a group of neighborhood youth that provide senior and disabled residents with help with their outdoor chores. ViNA conducts a variety of community building events such as the annual Ice Cream Social, the Garage Sale, the band concerts at the flagpole, the Holiday Lights contest and in partnership with other neighborhoods, Heritage Days and Holiday on 44th. ViNA is recog-



nized by the city as the official representative and liaison for neighborhood residents and as such will be working with Minneapolis Park and Recreation staff on the rehabilitation of Victory Memorial Drive.

Who is ViNA? It is YOU. Membership is open to all residents and business owners in the Victory Neighborhood. The Board of Directors is comprised of neighborhood volunteers who govern the organization and are elected at the annual meeting in September.

In 2004 ViNA was recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization. With funding for NRP scheduled to end in 2009 ViNA must look for other sources of funds to continue the mission. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to:

ViNA
2200 44th Ave No.
Minneapolis, MN 55412
Support the organization that supports the Neighborhood!

2007 Calendar

The 2007 calendar of events and meetings, approved by the ViNA Board of Directors, includes a wide variety of opportunities for you to be involved with your neighbors and your neighborhood. Included are some of the tried and true events that we have enjoyed for 13–15 years and others that are relatively new activities. Copies of the complete month-by-month calendar are available from the Victory Office. Below is an abbreviated Calendar of Events for 2007.

March 3

2nd Annual North Housing and Home Improvement Fair

May 19th

3rd annual North Minneapolis Spring Cleaning and Greening Day

May 24th

Memorial Concert at the Flagpole

June 2nd

13th Annual Garage Sale

June 27th

14th annual Ice Cream Social

July 19th

Big Band Concert at the Flagpole

August 7

National Night Out

August 14th

Concert at the Flagpole

September 16th

Headwaters Walk for Justice

September 26th

Annual Meeting and Board Election

December 7th

Holiday on 44th

December 16th—31st

Holiday Lights Contest



ViNA celebrates community!

For a complete calendar of meetings and events visit the ViNA website: www.victoryneighborhood.org.

Home Improvement Loans Available

A limited number of home improvements loans and emergency deferred loans are still available from the Victory Neighborhood Association for Victory homeowners.

Loans at 4 1/4% interest are available for most home improvements, including painting, electrical, plumbing, doors, windows, roofs, garages, driveways and permanent landscaping to name a few. There is no annual income limit for eligibil-

ity, but recipients must demonstrate an ability to repay the loan.

Emergency deferred loans are available for residents who are in financial hardship and have an immediate and serious home repair situation that threatens the health or safety of the occupants, such as

a heating, electrical, plumbing or sewer system failure or a written housing code violation. Borrowers must have a gross income at or below 50% of the area median income based on family size.

More information or applications are available by calling ViNA at 612-529-9558 or GMHC at 612-588-3033.

Loans at 4.25% are available for most home improvements

Help Wanted—Garage Sale Coordinator

June 2 is the date for the 13th annual Victory /Camden Garage Sale. However, we are seeking a volunteer to serve as the coordinator for this year's sale. A neighborhood resident, Leah Carlson, has served us admirably in this position for the last 3 years, however due to a job change, Leah has moved out of



The Victory Garage Sale is June 2

state.

The main responsibilities of the coordinator are to accept the registrations, create the Garage Sale map from the registrations, arrange for its printing and distribution and place all the advertising for the event. As time allows the coordinator arranges for

the updating of the signs and banner. Direction and assistance on each of these tasks will be provided.

If you would like to be instrumental in the continuation and success of one of the premier events in the Victory Neighborhood contact us at 612-529-9558 or vina@mninter.net.

Policing Plan for 2007.

The Minneapolis Police Department has committed to a number of steps to improve policing services through collaboration with the neighborhood associations. With that in mind, the personnel at the 4th Precinct asked each neighborhood what crime reduction strategies they should focus on in 2007. With input from the Board of Directors, the Livability Committee, and the recently completed NRP Phase II survey several suggestions were offered and

the MPD agreed to the following strategies for 2007.

- Increase police presence in Victory with more traffic details as staffing allows. The traffic details will be primarily in the mornings and concentrating on Osseo Road, Penn and Xerxes. MPD has already been doing increased traffic detail at 42nd and Thomas
- The Part I crime occurring most frequently in Victory is burglary, therefore CCP/SAFE will work to

increase resident participation in Operation ID.

- The 4th Precinct will resume sending weekly police bullets via e-mail. The bullets highlight police activity for the past week
- Crime Prevention Specialist Shannon McDonough will attend one neighborhood meeting each month, most likely the Livability Committee meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Papa's Pizza and Pasta, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Business Corner

The Warren: An Artists Habitat— Our Hotspot for Arts & Entertainment. Since opening in June 2006, Victory resident and business owner Duane Atter has been successfully turning an old service garage into a hub of artistic activity. Located at the intersection of Osseo Road and 44th, The Warren's mission is to provide a place for local artists to display their work and share information about their research and artistic techniques. Atter himself is a nature and wildlife photographer whose vivid works are always on display and for sale, along with a steady schedule of refreshing visual and performing arts. In January, the gallery displayed the work of Christi Furnas titled *Crazy in Love* and in February The Warren underscores its commitment to community with a showing by young artists from Patrick Henry and Cityview schools. Performances by Camden's own **Workhouse Theatre** have become a fixture at The Warren. You can see for yourself what *The Pulse* had to say about The Warren at <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/node/3282>. Visit www.thewarrenhabitat.com for more information on performances, openings, art shows and fairs and plan a visit to The Warren...you could even follow it up with coffee or dinner at **Rix, Papa's, Emily's, or Steamworks!**

The Warren's regular hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and weekends by appointment at 612-703-9609.

A & N Victory Market—A Friendly General Store for Neighborhood Needs—like **The Warren**, our newest neighborhood business is also owned and operated by a Victory resident. The A & N Market, owned and operated by Margaret Awasum, is located at 4155 Thomas Avenue and offers a wide range of discount and bargain items intended to suit the daily consumer needs of neighbors without having to leave the neighborhood. From toys to toilet paper, personal care products to baby items, beauty supplies to cleaning supplies, and blank CD's/DVD's to discount music, if you need it, there is a good chance the A & N stocks it. And, if they don't stock what you are looking for, just talk to Margaret as she is always looking for suggestions on the type of items the community would like to see in stock. Although A & N was unable to get city approval to sell grocery items, Margaret's proven com-

mitment to community keeps her motivated to succeed with the sale of general merchandise for now and the hopes of other items down the road. Having left a position as a food shelf coordinator at Northpoint Health and Wellness Center to establish the A & N Market, Margaret also serves as community HIV coordinator for the Red Cross and plans to put some of A & N's profits toward Project Valentine, an HIV Awareness program she founded and that also conducts educational dramas about HIV for the Minnesota Department of Health. The A & N Market is open Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM and offers free delivery for seniors and other home bound persons.

Business News and Notes—More funds remain in the ViNA Business Matching Grant program, so if you are a neighborhood business, contact ViNA to learn more about how we can help you with exterior improvements. To report business events or to volunteer for the ViNA business committee, contact the ViNA Office at 612-529-9558.

*...Margaret's proven
commitment to community
keeps her motivated to succeed
with the sale of general
merchandise for now...*

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VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Board of Directors.
Chairman: John Trombley
Vice Chairman: Matt Massman
Secretary: Diane Spector
Treasurer: Ann Kaari
Kris Brogan
Steve Campagnola
Pete Lundin

North Housing and Home Improvement Fair March 3

Mark your calendar for the 2007 North Housing and Home Improvement Fair to be held on March 3 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The 2nd annual fair will be held at North High School , 1500 James Avenue No.

Last year, the event's first, attendance was estimated to be over 1400 in spite of sub-zero temperatures. This year's event is expected to host over 80 vendors providing resources for prospective homebuyers and education and resources for current homeowners. At the same time it will support reinvestment into the community by connecting area contractors, businesses, financial institutions and neighborhood associations with resi-



ViNA was both a sponsor and a participant in last year's Housing Fair and will be again this year.

dents. Besides vendor booths, educational seminars will be scheduled throughout the day and a birdhouse building workshop will be available for the children.

Last year's vendors, 94% of whom

said they planned to return to this year's event , included 30 contractors and service provider's offering electrical, plumbing, flooring, windows, concrete, asphalt, heating , air conditioning, and general contracting . Financial institutions offered mortgage services, and insurance and real estate professionals were present as well as many community organizations, including ViNA, providing information on the housing services they offer.

If you have housing needs ranging from becoming a home owner to locating a contractor for home improvements, be sure to attend the 2nd Annual North Housing and Home Improvement Fair on March 3.