



The Victory View

Volume 16 Issue 4

Fall 2008

Special points of interest:

ViNA Neighborhood meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month with the exception of December and November because of the holidays. Meetings for the remainder of 2008 are:

October 22,

December 10

We meet at St John Missionary Baptist Church 4301 Thomas Ave No at 7 pm.

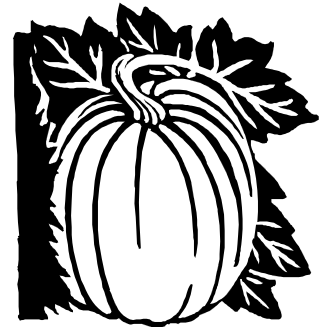
ViNA in its 16th Year !

Once again the cool, crisp days and early sunsets of fall have come to the Victory Neighborhood, bringing with it the conclusion of the 16th year of operations of the Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA). In spite of few bumps in the road, there were many successes this year that were summarized at the annual meeting. To highlight a few:

- The first year of the Camden Farmers Market. (see page 3)
- 16 neighborhood youth assisting 20 seniors with outdoor chores

through the ViNA Youth Corps (page 4)

- Receiving a *Great Streets* grant from the City of Minneapolis to conduct a Pedestrian Needs Study for 44th and Penn and Osseo Road. (page 3)
- Partnering with the "Support the Courts" Foundation for the renovation of the Webber Park tennis courts
- Providing 3 home improvement loans totaling \$18,690 and 1 commercial facade improvement grant for



The cool, crisp days of fall arrive.

\$5,000.

A complete annual report is posted on our website

www.victoryneighborhood.org.
Or by calling or e-mailing the office at 612-529-9558 or vina@mninter.net

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Sustaining ViNA for the Future

By Gary Mortensen

It is a new year for the Victory Neighborhood Association. We held our annual board elections last month and are working to finalize our goals and budget for the upcoming year. As the ViNA Board is planning for the future of the neighborhood it is important that we keep the residents of the community informed and engaged in the process. We especially want to keep you updated on the status of the ViNA budget.

Currently, neighborhood programs and the administration of the Victory Neighborhood are primarily funded through money from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). At the end of 2009, the legislation authorizing the current Neighborhood Revitalization Program will sunset and at this time it is uncertain as to whether any additional NRP funds will be available to support our neighborhood's activities beyond the \$370,000 in Phase II NRP funding

that has already been committed to our neighborhood.

In September, the Minneapolis City Council approved the creation of the new Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, which will replace the NRP and will work to more closely integrate the neighborhood organizations with the goals of the city. Now the City will be using 2009 to develop the details of the program and funding. However, at this time no official formulas or dollar

Sustaining ViNA in the Future

(Continued from page 1)

amounts have been developed for what will be available to the neighborhoods.

Due to this ambiguity, the ViNA is proactively working towards developing other resources to strengthen our community. To achieve this goal the ViNA board created the Sustainability Committee, which has been charged with making the Victory Neighborhood Association a viable and long-term organization in our community.

ViNA is constantly working to provide our neighborhood with important resources that build a strong community. This can be difficult with only volunteer resources, which makes our dedicated

neighborhood office and staff person a critical component of our successful neighborhood organization. We have developed a strong infrastructure that our residents have come to expect which includes a quarterly newsletter, an up-to-date website, monthly community meetings, consistent and dedicated office hours, and a neighborhood advocate and resource to help with issues regarding the city. All of these services in addition to countless hours providing support to volunteer committees as they work toward their goals are currently provided by Debbie Nelson, our staff person.

The difficult aspect of maintaining a staff person and neighborhood office is that only a small amount

(10%) of NRP funding can be used for administrative costs and future funding from the city is unknown at this point. To maintain our dedicated staff person and neighborhood office ViNA will be conducting an annual fundraising campaign, increasing volunteerism in the community and applying for more grants. ViNA is a 501 (c) (3) organization so that all donations to support ViNA are tax deductible.

We will be reaching out to everyone in the Victory Neighborhood and hope you will work with us to maintain and strengthen the strong neighborhood association we have all developed. Thanks for making the Victory Neighborhood a strong and vibrant community.

Go Green—Housing in Victory

by Michael Anschel

This year the Housing Committee has been working to identify ways in which the Phase II NRP funds can be better used to meet the stated goals of the neighborhood and provide the groundwork for improving the quality and sustainability of the housing stock.

We took a look at the growing concerns surrounding energy consumption and the cost of energy, the consumption of water, the durability of the homes, the impact of the homes on the community from both an environmental and economic stand-

point, and the quality of the environment inside the home that directly impacts our residents.

The new loan programs totaling \$182K over three years, will seek to address all of these concerns and help to set Victory Neighborhood as a leader in the City of Minneapolis for improved housing stock and quality of life through innovative programs that are

accessible and sustainable.

We are working on developing partnerships with MN Green Communities, MN GreenStar, and the Center for Energy and the Environment to provide education, assistance, and opportunities for Victory residents.

We are excited about this important and progressive step that we are taking to make Victory a safe, comfortable, healthy, and Green place to live.

We are working on developing partnerships with MN Green Communities, MN GreenStar and the Center for Energy and the Environment

ViNA Board Elections

The Victory Neighborhood Association returned 4 members to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting on September 24.

Directors Ann Kaari, Matt Massman, Diane Spector and John Trombley were each returned for another 2 year term in an uncontested election. Di-



Caption describing picture or graphic.

rectors Michael Anschel, Kris Brogan and Gary Mortensen complete the board, each having one year remaining in their terms.

At the October 1 board meeting the Board of Directors elected officers. Matt Massman was elected Chair and Gary Mortensen was

elected Vice-Chair for the next year. Diane Spector and Ann Kaari will remain secretary and treasurer, respectively.

John Trombley, who has served as chair for the last 6 years, declined to run for an office. We would like to thank John for his 18 years of service to the Victory Neighborhood Association.

Business Corner

In December 2007, ViNA was awarded a \$20,000 grant to conduct a pedestrian needs study for 44th and Penn and Osseo Road. In April 2008, ViNA selected Wenck Associates from among three reputable firms that had submitted a proposal to complete the study. Since then, the Business Committee has been providing active oversight of the study, including arranging for input from area businesses and residents. A few preliminary recommendations to



44th and Penn and Osseo Road intersection

be considered from the study are:

- Traffic signal changes that would allow for cars to exit the alley behind Sauced and the parking lot driveway next to Parson's Dental.
- Traffic signal changes that would allow for pedestrian crossing of Osseo Road and 44th Avenue north of Penn.
- A cul-de-sac on the 44th Avenue end of the north leg of Penn Avenue and a change to two way traffic on that street.
- Reduce to one lane the west-

bound traffic through the intersection and departing on Osseo Road.

- A single bus stop at the near side of 44th at Osseo Road for both 5 and 19 route busses eastbound.
- Streetscape improvements including new sidewalks, street trees and pedestrian scale lighting.

Wenck Associates and VINA have been meeting with city, county and MTC staff throughout the study, which is expected to be completed in early October 2008. Hopes are that it will lead to a subsequent *Great Streets* grant and other funding for the implementation of these and other improvements .

Camden Farmers Market

by Gary Mortensen

Thank you to everyone in the Victory Neighborhood who helped to make the inaugural year of the Camden Farmers Market a great success. We had a wonderful first season as a market and were one of the most successful mini-markets in the city. We would like to thank Lara Bollweg and Duane Atter for all their hard work organizing and managing the market this year. Unfortunately, the market has wrapped up for the season, but we

are starting the process to bring it back next year.

To build on the success of this year's market, we have formed a Camden Farmers Market committee to plan for the next season and the long-term future of the market. This committee will help with marketing (signage, website, e-mail, etc), farmer relations, events

and publicity and anything else we think to do! The commitment is a minimal 1 - 5 hours a month depending on your availability. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know by contacting the

ViNA office or e-mailing camdenfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support and interest in the Camden Farmers Market!

Camden Farmers Market was one of the most successful mini-markets in the City.

Holiday Lights—Holiday on 44th

Before we know it the cool breezes will turn to cold winds, the fall rains to icy snow and holiday activities will be upon us. Prepare now to enter the annual Victory Holiday Lighting Contest. Nominations and judging of Holiday lighting displays



Holiday on 44th and Holiday Lights

will take place between December 5 and December 31 and prizes of gift certificates to local businesses will be awarded in January.

December 5 is also the date of the much anticipated and celebrated North Minneapolis Festival, Holi-

day on 44th. Now in its 11th year, the festival will take place along 44th Ave No. , in Patrick Henry High School and Loring Elementary and in the businesses on the avenue. Complete details will be published in the November 28 Camden News. If you have never attended Holiday on 44th make this the first year .

VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

Help Wanted Youth Corps Coordinator

ViNA volunteers, Elissa and Joseph Madson, have served as the co-coordinators for the Youth Corps Program since 2004, but are no longer able to continue in this role with the program. Therefore, ViNA is looking for a Victory resident who is interested in working with youth and seniors by serving as the coordinator of the program. Because the program is well established, the new coordinator would only need to spend about one hour per week keeping the program running. Typical duties include: collecting, signing, approving, and submitting youth timecards in a timely manner; assigning youth to seniors who need yard work assistance; and working along side both youth and seniors as questions or concerns arise. Most communication takes place between the youth and the senior with the coordinator available as a liaison to assist as needed. If you are a Victory resident who wants to volunteer to help your neighborhood by connecting youth and seniors, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved. For more details please call the ViNA office at 612-529-9558.

Victory Neighborhood is looking for strong volunteers to represent the neighborhood at the Northside Neighborhood Alliance.

The Victory Neighborhood Association, in an effort to strengthen and grow the Victory Neighborhood's relationship with, became a founding member of the Northside Neighborhood Alliance (NNA) in 2005. The NNA is a regional, long-term, generational partnership to build wealth from within, ensure health parity, and promote regional equity and justice for all Northsiders.

To achieve this goal the NNA has four strategies to bring about a stronger Northside :

- Connect People, Place and Culture
- Strengthen Civic Engagement
- Build Wealth within Our Community
- Promote Regional Equity

The NNA has a core group of 3 representatives from each neighborhood organization that are part of the alliance. But the NNA is open to all residents of the Northside and anyone can participate and attend the meetings, **which take place the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Northway Community Trust office, 1501 West Broadway Avenue.**

However, in order to insure the goals of the committee continue to move forward there needs to be a core contingency of volunteers who are committed to the mission of the organization.

The ViNA Board of

Directors is looking for three residents of the Victory Neighborhood to participate in the Northside Neighborhood Alliance. It will be a 5 hour commitment per month, including the 2 hour committee meeting. If you would be interested in learning more about the NNA or would like to be a representative from the Victory Neighborhood, please contact the ViNA office.

The ViNA Board will review all candidates and select 3 volunteers from the Victory Neighborhood to be our representatives to the Northside Neighborhood Alliance.



NNA is a regional...partnership