



# The Victory View

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### Special points of interest:

- The City of Minneapolis will be sweeping the streets in the Victory Neighborhood beginning the end of October and through the first two weeks of November
- **Please do not rake your leaves into the street .** They go into the stormwater sewers and pollute Shingle Creek and the Mississippi. Even the street sweepers sweep some of them into the storm sewers .

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## ViNA Welcomes New Board Members

The Victory Neighborhood Association conducted its 2009 Annual Meeting and Board elections on September 23, 2009. ViNA welcomes residents Alan Hooker and Paul Schulz as the newest members of the ViNA Board. Incumbent Gary Mortensen was re-elected to a second term.

Alan Hooker has lived in the Victory neighborhood for nine years and formerly served on the Minneapolis Library Board until its dissolution . Paul Schulz and his wife Katie moved to the Victory Neighborhood nearly 4 years ago and they not only live in North Minneapolis , but also work

in North Minneapolis. Kris Brogan declined to run for another term citing family obligations. We thank Kris for her 4 years of service to the neighborhood , both on the board and chairing the Livability Committee and congratulate Alan , Paul and Gary on their election.

The 2008-2009 Annual Report was also presented at the annual meeting highlighting the activities of the organization over the last year, including the second season of the Camden Farmer's Market, receipt of a Great Streets grant from the City for business façade improvements and



ViNA welcomes fall and new board members

a Community POWER Grant from the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board to educate Camden residents on how to reduce the amount of trash we produce.

If you would like a copy (either paper or electronic ) of the Annual Report please call or e-mail the Victory office.

## Candidates Forum –October 15

ViNA in conjunction with the Camden Alliance of Neighborhoods (CAN!) will host a 4th Ward Candidates Forum on Thursday, October 15 , 7—8:30 pm in the Loring School Gym. The four candidates for the City Council seat representing the 4th Ward, Grant Cermak, Marcus Harcus, Barbara Johnson and Troy Parker have indicated their intention to participate in

the Forum .

The Forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters (LWV). After opening remarks from each of the candidates, they will respond to one or more questions provided to them in advance and then to questions from the audience members. All questions from the audience will be written and collected at the Forum and the LWV

will determine which questions will be asked. No campaign banners, signs, literature handouts or campaign paraphernalia will be allowed in the Forum Hall.

Those who attend the Forum will also have an opportunity to learn about Ranked Choice Voting , the voting system that will we use this November 3, so mark your calendar for October 15.

# Home Improvement Loan Program Goes Green

The Victory Neighborhood Association is very close to launching their new Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) under their Phase II NRP Plan. The new program will replace the Phase I HILP which has been closed since last October. The Phase I program began in 1997 and over the life of the program the funds revolved almost 3 times, providing over \$400,000 in home improvements for the neighborhood.

New parameters and guidelines have been written for the Phase II program, allowing for a higher loan amount but still hoping



The new HILP program will support green home improvements.

to keep the payments affordable. At the same time the new program will be more “green” in the improvements that will be eligible for the loans.

The new program will have a maximum loan amount of \$15,000 at 3% interest for a maximum of 7 years. While most home improvements eligible in the Phase I program will be eligible in the new program, improvements will be required to meet green standards including using low VOC paint, roofing and vinyl siding materials that carries

a minimum of a 40 year warranty, and windows, doors and appliances that are Energy-Star efficient. In addition all interior projects must include a blower door test and infrared scan and a combustion spillage test prior to construction and consider the recommended steps for improvement.

ViNA is currently in discussion with their loan administrator, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, and hopes to have a contract in place shortly. When the program is ready to roll, notice will be sent to all residents in the neighborhood. In the meantime if you would like to see the program guidelines please contact the ViNA office.

## Hennepin County to Meet with Residents –October 13

Hennepin County Commissioners Opat and Stenglein will have two meetings to update residents on four important projects that affect our neighborhood.:

**Renovation of Victory Memorial Drive**— Street reconstruction is nearly completed and now that HC has received input from residents on the other planned renovations, final designs can be completed and

the work can be finished next year.

**New Library for North Minneapolis**— The county continues to work on a new \$12M library for North Minneapolis, but because of their inability to acquire the final parcel the project is on hold

**Osseo Road**—In response to the community’s concerns about some intersections of Osseo Road, the County’s transportation staff devel-

oped options along the corridor for neighbors to consider at the meeting.

**44th and Penn**— The County will support CPED in examining options for improving the area for its businesses and especially the pedestrians who frequent them.

The meeting on October 13 is 6:30—8:30 pm in the Loring School Gym, 44th and Thomas Ave No.

## Lowry Avenue Harvest Festival

Join the celebration and grand opening of the new Lowry Avenue! After four years of construction on the avenue the businesses and neighborhood organizations are hosting the Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 10 from 10 am to 4 pm on all four corners of the Penn



Celebrate at the Lowry Avenue Harvest Festival

and Lowry intersection. The Festival will include music and performances on the southeast corner. On the southwest corner there will be information tables, a farmer’s market, artists and Judo demonstrations. The Kid’s zone will be located on the

northeast corner and a classic car show will be on the northwest corner. There will be food for sale by local restaurants at various booths. The official ribbon cutting will be at 11 am.

Celebrate Fall and the new Lowry Avenue at the Harvest Festival.

# Business Corner - ViNA has a Plan ....

Last October, Wenck Associates and Damon Farber Associates prepared a strategic plan for improvements to the intersection of Penn Avenue N., 44th Avenue N., and Osseo Road. That plan was developed at ViNA's direction with the support of a Great Streets grant from the City of Minneapolis. The planning process brought together residents, business owners, and technical staff to identify creative but workable solutions to the safety, aesthetic, and livability concerns expressed by residents and businesses.

So, now we have a plan. But how do we realize it? Implementation of the public improvements called for in the plan are not automatic. Implementation will require funding from the county and city, including recommendations to replace the out-dated traffic signals with new signals that accommodate pedes-

trian crossings, elimination of uncontrolled exits from alleys and parking lots, a single dedicated northbound lane with expanded sidewalks, bicycle accommodation, reconfigured bus stops, better striping and signage, curbs, and the planting of trees and other foliage along with other visual improvements.

Over the past several years, hundreds of Victory residents have participated in shaping this vision through completion of a business interests survey, development of ViNA's NRP Phase I and II funding plans, and monthly business committee and neighborhood meetings. All of this input has underscored the

importance of vital community business areas to the safety and livability of the neighborhood and by extension, to attracting new homeowners and sustaining home values. The continued voice of residents and business owners is important to realizing positive changes.

You can learn more about ViNA's strategic plan for Penn Avenue N., 44th Avenue N., and Osseo Road by visiting [www.victoryneighborhood.org](http://www.victoryneighborhood.org) and following the useful links on the left hand side of the homepage. On October 12 at Webber Park and October 13 at Loring School, county officials are hosting two public meetings to discuss proposed and potential public improvement projects in our neighborhood with residents, including the 44th and Penn intersection.



44th/Penn/Osseo Rd is not pedestrian friendly

## Youth Corps Coordinator Needed

The ViNA Youth Corps is a team of Victory youth ages 12-17 who help senior and disabled residents with outdoor chores. Residents apply to participate in the program and are matched one-to-one with a young person who mows, rakes or

shovels for them. The youth are paid a small stipend for their work. The Youth Corps is in need of an adult to serve as the coordinator of the program. This is a volunteer position that would require 2-3 hours per week, matching youth to sen-

iors, processing the youths' time sheets and forwarding them for payment. If you are interested this opportunity to contribute to the neighborhood or have questions, please call or e-mail the office.

## Community Policing Plan—Provide Input—October 10

This will be your opportunity to meet with the Minneapolis Police Department 4th Precinct and provide input on what you would like them to do to make your neighborhood a safer place to live in 2010. Neighborhood Policing Plans, begun in 2007, are part of continuing community



Provide Input to Victory's 2010 Community Policing Plan

and Police Department efforts to focus on neighborhood concerns. Residents are the eyes and ears of the MPD and are most knowledgeable about what crimes and livability issues need to be addressed in their neighborhood. Neighborhoods and their MPD precincts develop

plans together, with everyone participating in future activities to address mutual concerns. The Neighborhood Policing Plans are updated each year and the 2010 plan will be the agenda of the regular monthly Livability Committee meeting, on October 10, 2009 beginning at 9:45 am. The meeting will be held at The Warren 4400 Osseo Road.

VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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## Community POWER

# RETHINK RECYCLING

The Victory Neighborhood Association is the recipient of a Community POWER grant from the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board .  
POWER = Partners on Waste Educa-

tion & Reduction and with the help of this grant we hope to educate Camden residents on how to reduce the amount of trash we produce, not only through recycling, but by pre-cycling - not buying products that contribute to the waste stream.

You probably don't go to the store saying, "I think I'll buy some garbage today." But depending on which products you choose, that is at least partly what you're doing. By purchasing stuff that's over-packaged, disposable or of poor quality, your cash can soon end up as trash.

And we pay for this garbage again and again — when it's picked up by the garbage haulers, and through your taxes which help pay for things like recycling, landfilling, incineration and clean-up. Reducing the waste you create through your buying habits helps prevent the costs and hassle of trash. A few suggestions: Purchase reusable and refillable containers to use in your home instead of disposable items. Avoid buying single-use items like paper or plastic plates, cups and disposable silverware. Purchase products in bulk or with the least amount of packaging .

Look for our monthly column in the Camden News with more ideas about how you can reduce the amount of trash your household produces.

## FYI—Thank you—Welcome –Vote—Holidays

**Thank You** to all the volunteers who made our summer and spring events possible. Without you there would not have been a Memorial Concert, Spring Cleaning Day , Garage Sale, Ice Cream Social , Movie in the Park or pit stop for the Grand Round Bike Tour. Special thanks goes to the Events Committee, Kristan Nalezny and Lee Arvidson for coordinating the Garage Sale and to Lara Bollweg and Duane Atter for managing the Camden Farmers Market for another successful season.

**Welcome** to all of our new neighbors and there are quite a few of you! We have distributed 30+ Welcome Packets over



... new neighbors!

the last year and have a request for more. We are having a hard time keeping up with the demand . If you are reading your first Victory View and have not received a Welcome Packet or you are a long time resident with a new neighbor who may have not received one please call or e-mail the office and request one.

### **Vote on November 3.**

This is a municipal election at which citizens of Minneapolis will elect a Mayor, City Council and Park Board Commissioners. We will also be using the Ranked Choice Voting system for the first time. To learn more about how to cast your ballot with ranked choice voting , come to the Candidates

Forum on October 15 (see page 1.) If you are not sure of your polling place you can find out at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/precinct-finder.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/precinct-finder.asp) or call the Victory office.

**Holiday on 44th** will take place on Friday , December 4 from 6-9 pm along 44th Avenue N between and inside of Loring Community School and Patrick Henry High School. This free family event is in its 12th year.

**Holiday Lights** contest will once again be conducted in the Victory Neighborhood. Some changes are proposed to the contest to make it more of a community event. Watch for more information in our ad in the Camden News.