



The Victory View

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2010

Special points of interest:

- Energy audits are available from Centerpoint Energy and Excel Energy .
- Make your own non toxic cleaner at the workshop on January 25.
- Energy Saver Rebates are available through the Minnesota Fix-up Fund.
- Buy green products from LetsGoGreen.biz and 25% of your cost will be donated to ViNA
- Four Energy Meters are available for check out form the Victory Office.

Victory Home Improvement Loan Program All New “Green” Program

The Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) is pleased to announce that their all new “green” Home Improvement Loan Program will launch on February 1, 2010.

The program is designed to promote environmentally –friendly , sustainable and energy efficient home improvements . Loans are available for interior or exterior improvements on owner occupied homes in the Victory Neighborhood .

ViNA will make \$73,000 available for

loans at 3% interest . The minimum loan amount is \$2,000 and the maximum is \$15,000 . Loan terms are such that it makes the payments affordable spread out over a maximum of 7 years.

There is no household income limit to be eligible for the loan , but applicants must meet basic underwriting criteria and pass credit checks and income verification.

Prior to applying applicants whose projects include interior improvements must secure a home energy audit that includes



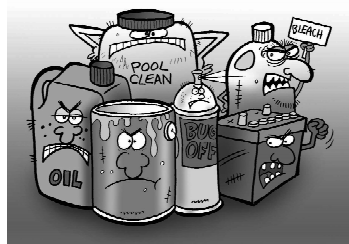
- a blower door test
- an infra red scan
- a combustion spillage test .

More information about Victory’s new “green” Home Improvement program is available on the flyer inserted into this newsletter.

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Reduce Your Household Toxins Workshop



Monday, January 25, 2010, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

at
Patrick Henry High School
Offered through Minneapolis Community Education
The Workshop is FREE,
but there is a \$5 materials fee (pay at class)

Register at: <http://www.mplscommunityed.com/>
or call 612-668-1922

- Learn to properly manage household hazardous wastes
- Reduce exposures to potentially harmful substances in your home and yard
- Get practical advice and recipes to make your own cleaners, pesticides, and fertilizers
- Make a solution of your choice **to take home**

Funding for this project was provided by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board through Community POWER Partners on Waste Education and Reduction, and the **Victory Neighborhood Association**



Energy Saver Rebates are Here

Minnesota Federal Stimulus rebates of up to \$10,000 are available through the Minnesota Housing Fix-up Fund in the form of an "Energy Saver Rebate." The "Energy Saver Rebate" offers a 35% rebate for all qualifying energy improvements. These qualifying improvements include windows, doors, insulation, water heater, heating and cooling. Improvements



Insulation qualifies for a rebate.

must meet certain energy efficiency criteria to be eligible for the rebate. Only borrowers who access Minnesota Housing's Fix-Up Fund loan will be eligible to apply for the rebates which are available on a First Come, First Serve basis.

The Fix-Up Fund has a maximum loan amount of \$35,000 and a maximum term of 20 years with an interest rate of 5.99% as of Nov. 22, 2009. The Fix-

Up Fund Loan Program has a maximum household income limit of \$96,500.

The Fix-up Fund and the Energy Saver Rebate is available from the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis. CEE was established in 1979 and is the leading nonprofit resource on energy efficiency in the state. More information on the Fix-up Fund and the "Energy Saver Rebate" can be found on www.mncee.org or by calling 612-335-5884.

Camden Winterfest and Chili Cook-off

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 6 to celebrate a Camden winter at the second annual Winterfest. Come to Bohanon Park at 49th and Bryant Ave North between 11 am and 2 pm to try the famed snowball launcher, play hockey, ice skate, meet friends around the bonfire, roast marshmallows, look for the Winterfest Gold medallions and help judge the Chili Cook-off.

Or do you think you make the best chili in Camden? If so, submit your recipe by February 2 to enter the Chili Cook-off and you could be this year's winner of the Golden Ladle. The Camden Winterfest is hosted by the Lind Bohanon,

Shingle Creek and Victory Neighborhood Associations in partnership with Jenny Lind Community Ed, Creekview Park and the Herb Brooks Foundation. For more information on how to enter the Chili Cook off go to www.lindbohanon.org or call 612-588-7641.

*The 2nd annual Camden
Winterfest and Chili Cook-off
February 6, 2010 11 am*

Let's Go Green and support ViNA !

Are you interested in living a greener lifestyle with the products that you use regularly? Are you also interested in supporting the Victory Neighborhood Association with a contribution? You can do both by buying green products for your home, office or business from LetsGoGreen.biz.



Buy green products
and support ViNA

LetsGoGreen.biz is an on-line one stop resource for many green products such as low toxic cleaning products, recycled paper products, compostable plates, cups and utensils, water saving devices and energy saving lighting. In addition when an order is submitted through the LetsGoGreen.biz website, ViNA supporters

can select the organization and designate 25% of the sale directly to the Victory Neighborhood Association.

Check out the website and when you review your order chose the Victory Neighborhood Association from the Fundraiser menu. Go Green and support the Victory Neighborhood Association at the same time !

Reserve an Energy Meter Now

Energy consumption in the United States has skyrocketed in the past decades, as has the cost per kilowatt. To reduce our electricity bills we replace old appliances, install CFL light bulbs, and make sure our computers go on stand-by mode when we're not using them. But still our electric bills don't go down. Why not? We now use more electricity-consuming stuff around the house, such as multiple televisions, computers, DVD players, and game consoles.

Also, many electronic devices, rechargers, and appliances draw power even when they're switched off or not in use, and though it may seem trivial, this "phantom load" can add up to between 5 and 20 percent of the energy use of a typical household. This increases our energy bills, but also increases demand on our electrical power stations and transmission grid. It is a



ViNA has 4 Energy Meters for residents' use

national – and local - priority to become more energy efficient.

You can use a simple energy meter to check how much electricity a device in your home uses and to calculate how much it costs to operate each year. The Victory Neighborhood Association recently purchased four energy meters, which are available for check out from the neighborhood office. You will need a photo ID and can check out a meter for one week. You can also check out an energy meter

from the Hennepin County Library System, although in early

January the reserve list was at 726 requests for the 49 available meters.

The meters are easy to use – just plug the meter into the wall socket and then plug your device or appliance into the meter. The meter will display how much energy is being consumed, and if you enter the cost per kilowatt hour, how much the

device or appliance costs to operate.

One resident used an energy meter to discover that the extra refrigerator in her basement accounts for about 14 percent of her electric bill! You can also use the meter to find out whether devices such as televisions, DVD players, phone rechargers, toasters, portable tools, etc. are drawing power even when they are turned off. These types of devices often continuously draw 1-3 watts of power. One resident found out his electric shaver drew 3 watts when it was on, but even more when it was charging – 5.5 watts. These loads may be small individually, but several devices plugged in add up to a significant draw per month. It may be more cost-effective to unplug devices or appliances when not being used, or to plug them into a power strip that can be turned off between uses.

To find out more about the energy meters or to check them out, and to get more information on how to become more energy efficient around your house, contact the ViNA office at 612-529-9558, or email us at info@victoryneighborhood.org.

Volunteer with VINA in 2010

The mission of the Victory Neighborhood Association is to protect and promote neighborhood interests and the health, safety and general welfare of its residents. But with only one part time staff person, most of the work is done by volunteers. Make it your new year resolution to be one of those doing the work of the neighborhood association.



Helping hands are needed

There are several on going committees on which one could serve: Business, Environment, Events, Housing, Livability and Sustainability. Most meet monthly and pursue a number of projects for the improvement of the neighborhood.

Committee work not your thing? There are other areas where we could use your help—preparing the

newsletter for distribution, delivering newsletters, filing and organizing in the office, being a block leader, helping out at one or more events, coming to neighborhood meetings and sharing your ideas and/or other one time activities.

By attending our monthly meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month you can find out about other opportunities to volunteer in your neighborhood. We meet at 7 pm at St John Baptist Church, 4301 Thomas.

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VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Census 2010—Now Hiring !

The US Census Bureau is hiring in Minneapolis this spring and needs people from our neighborhood. The work is temporary and most (but not all) positions are part-time as a census taker which offers flexible hours and pay starting at \$16.50/hr.

The 2010 Census is critical to Minnesota , to the City of Minneapolis and our neighborhood. Census data is used to determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts and Minnesota is just 1000 people short of losing a congressional seat . Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion dollars to states and communities based in part on the census data. Census data is also use to determine locations for retail

stores, schools hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

That is why it is critical that everyone in the state, city and neighborhood be counted. North Minneapolis is historically one of the most UNDERCOUNTED areas in the City and the State, which is why the U.S.Census Bureau wants to hire people to work as census takers in their own neighborhoods .



Census takers are needed.

The U.S.Constitution requires a national census every ten years to determine the number of seats that each state will have in the U. S. House of Representatives . All U.S. residents must be counted , both citizens and non-citizens. Each household will

receive a census questionnaire in the mail in March . Each questionnaire will have only 10 questions (no long forms this year) and should take only about 10 minutes to complete. The completed questionnaire should be mailed back by April 1. Census takers will visit each household that does not return a questionnaire to take a count in person. By law , the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone , including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

If you are interested in working for the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census, contact the Minneapolis Census office at 612-216-6150 to schedule an appointment to take their standardized test. You may also learn more by going to their website, www.2010censusjobs.gov.