



September, 2015

Special points of interest:

Profiles of neighborhood businesses are in development.
 We continue to work with the MPRB to finish the Ryan Lake plaza and trail
 We are developing a comprehensive Block Leader list.
 We are working with Hennepin County on the redevelopment of Penn Ave

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September 23, 2015

Annual Meeting

Annual Report

Victory Neighborhood Association

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings! As we come to the end of another Victory year, we reflect on all that we have accomplished as a neighborhood organization. The past year has seen the continuation of many of the neighborhood's most

popular programs and activities. This year we celebrated our 22nd Annual Ice Cream Social, our 21st Annual Garage Sale, and our 7th Annual Garden Tour, as well as Music in the Heart of Victory, the Memorial Concert, and Movies in the Park. We also participate in Camden-area events such as Live on the Drive and Holiday on 44th.

We can't stress enough how much we value and appreciate our wonderful volunteers, without whom we would not be able to undertake most of our activities. Thank You! Throughout the year the Board of Directors, committee members, and community at large depend on our part-time staff person Debbie Nelson to assist us with our work and serve as an information source and advocate with City Hall and the Park Board. We are truly fortunate to have someone who is as knowledgeable, helpful, and tenacious as Debbie.

In this ViNA Annual Report you will find

information from each of our standing committees about their activities in the past year, and what they will be focusing on in 2015-2016. The committee volunteers organize and make happen all the programs and projects that make our neighborhood a great place to live and work.

The Board is focused on increasing engagement with and in the community. Last year I reported that the Victory Neighborhood Facebook page had over 850 members; a year later it has just under 1,200 members who keep it vibrant, useful, and entertaining. And we continue to grow the number of block clubs and people who volunteer to be Key Communicators for their blocks.

Finally, thanks to my fellow Board members Duane Atter, David Younk, Ann Kaari, David Bubna, and Matthew Kunkel. It's been a great year, and fun to boot! We all have busy schedules and serving as a Board member takes time and dedication, and I appreciate all that you do for our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood motto is Promote, Engage, Preserve. As Board members we pledge to continue to work with you and on your behalf to build a stronger, better community.

Sincerely,

Diane Spector, Chair

Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA)



BUSINESS

BY DAVID YOUNK, CHAIR

The Business Committee has been working to engage with residents and the business community to cultivate a hospitable business environment that matches community needs.

They have also put together a plan to define, beautify and promote the business nodes at 39th/Thomas and 42nd/Thomas in the Victory Neighborhood. This plan is currently under review with NRP/NCR.

Plans and budgets for the coworking space to serve small and home-based businesses in the Victory neighborhood has been under review as well.

Profiles of neighborhood businesses (both in-home and traditional settings) are in development with the idea of a)

engaging with the business community b) indexing neighborhood businesses and c) finding a method of promoting same.

Goals and a strategic plan for 2015 were developed and it became apparent that participation from both the business community and Victory residents needs to increase, if we are to realize any of our goals, so the committee had an increased presence at community events and on social media.

A monthly meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8AM at Emily's F&M is being held on a regular basis and we invite all residents interested in working towards a vibrant and thriving business community in Victory to attend.



ENVIRONMENT

BY DIANE SPECTOR

The Environmental Committee undertook a wide variety of activities in 2014-2015, and looks forward to taking on challenges in the year to come.

On August 2, 2015, the Environmental Committee hosted the seventh annual Victory Garden Tour, which showcased a variety of gardens throughout the neighborhood and attracted nearly 200 garden tourists on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. For the fifth year the event was kicked off with a community picnic at the Loring Community Garden hosted by the Livability Committee.

The Committee will continue to work together with the Park Board to finish the Ryan Lake trail and lakeshore plaza and plantings project. Benches, a picnic table, garbage receptacle and bike rack have been in storage since we bought them with a National Park Service grant a few years ago. The Park Board expects to complete the trail and plaza work yet in 2015, and the Committee will complete the rain gardens and other plantings in 2016.



On April 11, 2015, the Committee hosted a spring gardening workshop highlighting urban vegetable gardening-beyond tomatoes. The Victory Tiny Fields program expanded again in 2015 with a solid presence and volunteers in the Cleveland neighborhood. This program is an

effort to encourage property owners to plant vegetables on their boulevards or front yards, both as community engagement and to promote sustainability. There is a Tiny Fields Facebook page and website, and participants share gardening tips, recipes, and other information. In 2015 we have 23 Tiny Fields in Victory, and have expanded to 11 fields in Cleveland. In 2016 we hope to expand Tiny Fields to the Jordan Neighborhood.

Throughout the year the Committee continued its Do Not Disturb Our Lakes and Streams campaign encouraging people to clean up after their pets and avoid getting lawn clippings and leaves in the street. The Committee looks forward to 2015-2016 and continued and new challenges. The spring 2016 gardening workshop is already being planned, as well as the eighth anniversary of the Garden Tour.



EVENTS

BY ANN KAARI

Residents of the Victory Neighborhood were once again able to enjoy a whole range of events in 2015, many of which have been part of our tradition for years. The year also saw Katie Fitzpatrick Schulz and Mathew O'Brien take on the jobs of co-chairs of the Events Committee—Thank you Katie and Mathew.

September 2014 brought the Grand Rounds Bike tour and although we were not an official stop, bicyclists were greeted at the Flagpole with snacks and smiles. In December we had the Holiday Lights Contest and thanks to Brad Sutton and volunteers for taking the time to judge the

entries and select our winners. May was a busy month with the annual Memorial Concert with music by the Robbinsdale City Band and the 21st annual Garage sale with over 60 participants. Thanks to Soni Froyen and her technological expertise in preparing the map and to

Gilded salvage for printing them, which they have done for many years. June brought the 22nd annual Ice Cream social with many traditional activities along with some new ones. Thanks to Travis Hegland and his staff for their help and Park Commissioner Jon Olson for providing the Ice Cream. August 7 and 14 were nights for Music in the Heart of Victory at The Warren presenting great local musical talent and food trucks for attendees. August also brought our Movie in the Park to Victory Park which was "Boxtrolls" this year.



Thank you Victory Volunteers! None of these events /activities would be possible without you. Some of you volunteer year after year and you helped us make this year another success. We appreciate all that you do. We have a neighborhood that we can be proud of and our residents make the difference.

HOUSING

BY DEBBIE NELSON

There were two big achievements in housing in the Victory Neighborhood this year. First, three vacant and neglected houses in the neighborhood were saved from the Hennepin County auction block in 2015. Each had been 'seized' by the county for back taxes and in order to prevent them from being auctioned off, ViNA requested, through our councilperson, that the City purchase the properties, which they did. The property at 3950 Thomas was beyond redemption and was demolished but the properties at 4238 Thomas and 4551 Russell were sold for rehabilitation, one to a developer who is committed to selling it to a home owner and the second to an individual who will rehab the property and live in it himself. Because the properties were City owned, ViNA was asked for input on the disposition of the properties. The Board recommended the one



4238 Thomas being rehabbed

demolition, and met with several individuals who had made proposals to rehab the other two properties. In each case the City agreed to ViNA's recommendations. The neighborhood now has two rehabbed homes that will welcome new owner occupants whom we are confident will be good neighbors and a vacant lot that is available for

redevelopment.

The other good news for the neighborhood is the hiring of a Housing Coordinator, Will St Germaine. Will is an architect who while he does not live in Victory grew up in the neighborhood and has a great appreciation for it and its housing stock. He will undertake a complete inventory of the housing in the neighborhood, identifying vacant, substandard and rental property in the neighborhood. He will also develop new construction guidelines and work to develop programs that will assist residents with improving and sustaining our housing stock.



LIVABILITY

BY CHRIS O'NEIL

The Livability Committee was newly formed in 2015 and both the Safety Coordinator and the Housing Coordinator are now members of this committee. A key focus for increasing safety is maintaining a strong network of block club leaders. These leaders have either attended the official 4th Precinct training for block club leaders or they serve as a key communicator/organizer for their block. The committee has been reviewing several of the Victory block club leader lists to develop one updated list of current leaders, identify the blocks they are leading and obtain their permission to include their names in our database of block club leaders. The block club leaders organized 31 registered National Night Out parties in Victory this year, up from 28 registered parties the previous year.

The committee organized a Home Security Workshop in March in cooperation with Community Crime Prevention. Our Crime Prevention Specialist, Tim Hammett conducted the workshop which was open to everyone in the 4th Precinct. Victory residents who attended the workshop were then eligible for a Home Security Rebate on any of the recommended security improvements that they made. ViNA has awarded \$2859 in rebates to 26 home owners since the Home Security Rebate

Program began in 2010. Two rebates were paid to homeowners this year. There is \$7,141 remaining in the program. The Livability Committee and the Board of Directors will consider the best use for these funds along with continuing to encourage homeowners to apply for the Security Rebate Program.

The Livability Committee again hosted the Garden Party luncheon before the annual Garden Tour in August. They provided tea sandwiches, iced lemonade tea and cookies from the Cookie Cart to more than 100 people who attended. Safety Coordinator Barb hosted a table at the Garden Party and also at the Ice Cream Social in June with information to answer questions and help recruit block club leaders.

The Livability Committee has helped advise neighbors on livability issues and if needed, report issues to 311 and the proper city department to address these issues, such as noise problems, houses in need of repair, junk in yards and negligent mowing or shoveling.

The committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm at Victory 44 restaurant. Please join our efforts and mission to promote high quality living through a safe and respectful community.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BY DEBBIE NELSON



students . In addition to our continued support of the *Footlights* drama program we have provided some funding for staff and equipment for an Archery

In the last year ViNA partnered with Loring Community School to provide after school activities for the Loring

program, Spanish Club and the Irish Dance Team. We look forward to continuing our partnership with our neighborhood school and providing enriching activities for the students in 2016.





PENN AVENUE COMMUNITY WORKS

BY DEBBIE NELSON

Since last year ViNA has been working with Hennepin County Community Works on a vision for a redesigned Penn Ave. In addition to having a representative on the Citizen Advisory Committee we have hosted several meetings with Hennepin County staff engaging residents and soliciting ideas from them on their desires for a new roadway and streetscape on Penn.



vision for a greener and more pedestrian friendly streetscape at 44th/Penn and Osseo Road that incorporates planters, plantings, signage and art that will enhance the business node and make it a welcoming destination .

In addition, the ViNA Environmental and Business Committees have partnered to develop a

As a result of all of this the Hennepin County staff will be presenting a plan to the

County Board in late September that calls for a Penn Avenue with a narrowed roadway, wider boulevards , more trees and wider sidewalks. Our ideas for 44th/Penn/Osseo Road will also be included in the final plan .

FINANCIAL REPORT

BY DEBBIE NELSON

BALANCE 9/1/2014	\$ 37,084.60	Music in the Heart of Victory	\$ 833.00
INCOME		Victory Garden Club .	\$ 55.00
NRP	7,167.82	Home Security Workshop	\$ 226.00
Youth Activities	\$ 3,000.00	Projects	
Community Participation Program	\$ 39,802.37	Tiny Fields	\$ 498.27
Contributions	\$ 1,643.86	Ryan Lake Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Fundraiser	\$ 206.19	Insurance	\$ 540.00
Program Income		Meeting Space	\$ 450.00
Garage Sale 20	\$ 700.00	Mileage	\$ 114.38
Ice Cream Social 22	\$ 513.85	Communication:Nwltr/CCN/Flyer	\$ 4,740.98
Grants		Office	\$ 7,798.89
IBM/Farmers Market	\$ 1,000.00	Programs	
Reimbursement	\$ 141.28	Youth Corps	\$ 690.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 54,175.37	Youth Activities	\$ 2,850.00
EXPENSES		Home Security Rebates	\$ 375.00
Community building activities		Welcome Program	\$ 915.17
Memorial Concert	\$ 426.00	Professional Services	\$ 750.00
Farmers' Market	\$ 562.00	Refreshments	\$ 338.29
Garage Sale 21	\$ 265.50	Staff	
Garden Tour	\$ 186.99	Coordinator	\$ 22,931.78
Garden Workshop	\$ 286.00	Safety Coordinator	\$ 500.00
Holiday Lights Contest	\$ 200.00	Housing Coordinator	\$ 316.60
Holiday on 44th	\$ 500.00	Taxes	
Ice Cream Social	\$ 1,616.22	Employers tax	\$ 2,904.35
Live on the Drive	\$ 500.00	Unemployment taxes	\$ 42.00
School Carnivals	\$ 100.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 52,562.42
		BALANCE 8/31/2015	\$ 38,697.55



Discover
Victory
neighborhood



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