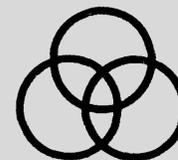


# NRP Link

February 2002

Volume 9, Issue 2

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News



## NRP Policy Board releases \$4 million to fund affordable housing initiatives

Six months after freezing the NRP Phase II Affordable Housing Reserve Fund because of questions about the program's financial future, the NRP Policy Board voted unanimously to release \$4 million from the fund to support neighborhood-sponsored affordable housing initiatives.

The decision follows recent commitments made by both the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak to assure full funding of the NRP by the year 2015.

The Affordable Housing Reserve Fund was established as part of Phase II of the program by the Policy Board in 2001 to demonstrate the NRP's commitment to developing long-term affordable housing units for individuals and families that earn less than half of the Metro Median Income.

Created in 1990 by the mayor and City Council as a \$20 million per year, 20-year revitalization program, the NRP took a direct financial hit when 2001 state tax law changes adversely impacted the funding stream that has been used to support the program.

The Policy Board chose to release the \$4 million in affordable housing funding after the City Council and mayor directed the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) "to prepare an annual budget assuming full funding for NRP Phase II by the year 2015."

By releasing the \$4 million in affordable housing funds, the NRP can now consider the nine proposals that were received prior to the July 13, 2001 Affordable Housing Reserve Fund request for proposal deadline. Submitted by developers in partnership with Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, the proposals were opened for the first time on Tuesday, January 29, 2002.

A five-member committee will review the applications and make recommendations to the Policy Board at its March 25 meeting.

### Affordable Housing Reserve Fund project proposals at a glance

- **East Phillips Commons** - Construction of 64 units of mixed-income, mixed-use housing in the Phillips neighborhood.
- **Jeremiah Program** - 20-unit expansion of an 18-unit residential facility built in 1997 for low-income single mothers and their children in the Loring Park neighborhood.
- **Lamoreaux Apartments Addition** - Construction of a three-story 39-unit addition to the existing three-story Lamoreaux Apartments in the Downtown West neighborhood.
- **Lofts on Arts Avenue** - Construction of 33 units of loft-style owner-occupied housing on a four-lot site in the Stevens Square neighborhood.
- **Olson Towne Homes** - Rehabilitation of a 92-unit scattered-site housing development built in 1956 near Olson Memorial Highway in the Harrison neighborhood.
- **Urban Village** - Construction of 190 units of mixed-income, owner-occupied housing along the Midtown Greenway in the Lowry Hill East neighborhood.
- **Ventura Village Carriage Houses** - Construction of 50 affordable rental carriage houses on the backyard lots of existing homes in the Ventura Village neighborhood.
- **Village in Phillips** - Construction of 28 new units and rehabilitation of 10 existing units of mixed-income transit-oriented housing as part of a mixed-use development project in the Phillips neighborhood.
- **Volunteers of America Senior Housing** - Construction of a 66-unit mixed-income, mixed-use senior housing development in the Holland neighborhood.

## Schedule of topics for NRP Training Series 2002 now official

In an effort to help neighborhood organizations better manage NRP activities and responsibilities, the NRP is once again hosting a training series catering to the needs of board members, staff and volunteers. The series, titled "NRP Training Series 2002," begins Monday, February 25, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. with a two-part Diversity Workshop.

All training series workshops will be presented by NRP staff and other seasoned neighborhood veterans, and will be held at the Crown Roller Mill building, 105 Fifth Ave. S., Suite 200, in MCDA Conference Room #3. All weeknight sessions will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and all Saturday sessions (March 9) will take place from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Other topics scheduled to be covered during this series of weeknight and Saturday workshops include: Board Chair Peer Group (March 9), Working with the Community (March 21), and the Minneapolis Plan and Your Neighborhood Action Plan (March 26).

If you would like to register to attend any or all of the NRP Training Series 2002 workshops, please RSVP to NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 or by e-mail at [rthompson@nrp.org](mailto:rthompson@nrp.org). More workshops will be presented throughout the year so please check the training workshop section of the NRP Web site at <http://www.nrp.org/R2/Resources/Training/Workshops.html> to learn about upcoming sessions. Light refreshments will be provided at all of the workshops.

## NRP Training Series 2002 schedule & topics

**Monday Feb. 25 & Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2002** - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Diversity Workshop - This two-part workshop is being presented for the first time by the NRP in response to numerous requests from neighborhood organizations. Presented by Ricardo Becerra of North Hennepin Community College, this workshop will focus on the ways neighborhoods can increase both the amount of neighborhood participation and the diversity of participants in your NRP planning, implementation and evaluation efforts. Please register for this workshop at least one week in advance.

**Saturday, March 9, 2002** - 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Board Chair Peer Group - Peer group workshops have proven to be an effective way of sharing information among neighborhood organizations citywide. This workshop provides an excellent networking and peer-to-peer learning opportunity. Please contact Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 if you would like to place an item on the agenda for this workshop.

**Thursday, March 21, 2002** - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

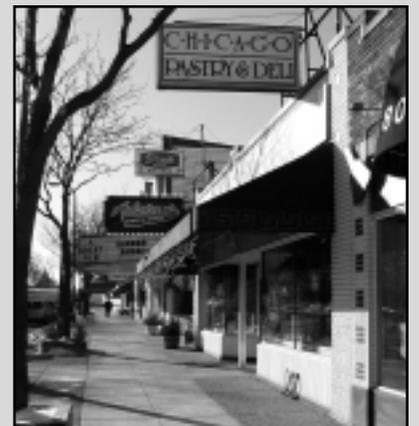
Working with the Community - This workshop will help prepare your neighborhood organization for both the positive and negative impacts of working with the community. Facilitated by Jana Metge of Citizens for a Loring Park Community and Rebecca Polston of the Harrison Neighborhood Association, this workshop will cover some of the proven techniques for community organizing and working with volunteers.

**Tuesday, March 26, 2002** - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Minneapolis Plan and Your Neighborhood Action Plan - Presented by Amy Tibbs and Julia Paulsen of the Minneapolis Planning Department, this workshop will focus on the way the Minneapolis Plan impacts neighborhood planning efforts. Learn more about your community's future and about designing your Phase II Action Plan.

## Chicago Avenue revitalization helps enhance street's character

Sustaining and enhancing the spirit of Chicago Avenue has been a major priority for the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG). Residents from the three neighborhoods chose to invest \$127,000 of NRP funds in a Chicago Avenue streetscape project spanning from 46th Street to 49th Street in south Minneapolis. In addition to repaving the street, NRP funds also paid for expanded street lighting, additional trees, decorative sidewalks and a fix-and-paint program for neighborhood businesses. Several Chicago Avenue businesses have used fix-and-paint funds to purchase new signs and make highly visible façade improvements. The finishing touches on the streetscape project are taking place this winter.



## Neighborhood representatives needed for NRP Management Review Team

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) announces an open appointment process for the selection of neighborhood representatives to the Management Review Team (MRT). The MRT is a committee established by the NRP Policy Board to review Neighborhood Action Plans and early access requests prior to consideration by the Policy Board.

Neighborhood Representatives to the NRP Policy Board will select MRT neighborhood representatives and alternates in late March 2002. The new members selected will begin their appointments to the MRT in April 2002 and serve until their successors are appointed in early 2003.

One representative and one alternate will be appointed for each of the three neighborhood types: protection,

redirection and revitalization. One representative and one alternate will be selected at large.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, NRP office, neighborhood organization offices and Minneapolis Public Libraries. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 15, 2002 at the City Clerk's office, Room 304 City Hall, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Applications can be mailed or delivered to the City Clerk's office.

If you would like additional information on the appointment process, please contact Carsten Slostad at the NRP office at 612-673-5150. For more information about the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program, visit the NRP Web site at [www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org). An NRP Policy Board roster is available on the NRP Web site or by calling the NRP office.

## Applications now being accepted for Community Leadership Institute spring 2002 session

The University of St. Thomas' Center for Nonprofit Management is again offering an exciting learning opportunity for neighborhood organization volunteers. Created in collaboration with the NRP and the Metropolitan Alliance for Community Centers (MACC) and presented for the first time in spring 2001, the Community Leadership Institute is a certificate program designed for neighborhood people engaged in NRP activities and staff members at MACC community centers.

The institute is offered in three separate sections, or levels. Level 1 consists of 10 sessions that address topics neighborhood leaders have ranked as their highest learning priorities: Understanding the Structure of Organizations, Fiscal Responsibility, Increasing and Maintaining Participation, Dynamics of Change, Leadership Styles and Planning.

Level 2 consists of 10 sessions that cover other key topic areas: Resolving Conflict, Building Dynamic Partnerships, Advocacy, Program Evaluation and Fundraising. Eligibility for Level 2 is dependent on successful completion of Level 1.

Level 3 will be offered for the first time in spring 2002. Class sessions will include panel discussions and independent work on a project, or practicum. The coursework will solidify the learning experience of Levels 1 and 2. Participants earn Continuing Education Units for each level completed plus a Certificate in Community Leadership after completing all three levels.

This spring, Level 1 will be held Tuesday nights, beginning Tuesday March 5th; Level 2 will be held Wednesday nights, beginning March 6th; and Level 3 will be held Thursday nights, beginning March 14th. Classes will not be held the week of March 25th. All classes will be held on the downtown Minneapolis campus of the University of St. Thomas.

Generous financial support for neighborhood volunteers is available for all three levels. For more information or to obtain a brochure and application, contact Margie Siegel at 651-962-4291. Both the program brochure and application are also available on the NRP Web site at [www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org). Space is limited, and applications are due February 11th, so fill out your application today!



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**NRP**

## Shingle Creek Commons to open February 28



A grand opening celebration for Shingle Creek Commons, a 75-unit retirement living community located at 4600 Humboldt Ave. N., will be held on February 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association and the NRP were among the partners that helped make construction of the facility possible.

## February 2002 Calendar of Events

- 7 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting** 4:30-6:30 p.m., Room 333 City Hall
- 11 Deadline for Applications to Community Leadership Institute**  
See page 3 or contact Margie Siegel at the University of St. Thomas Center for Nonprofit Management at 651-962-4291.
- 14 Valentine's Day**
- 18 President's Day Holiday**  
City offices closed
- 22 March Link submission deadline**  
Call 612-673-5158, or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.
- 25 NRP Training Series 2002: "Diversity Workshop"**  
6:30-8:30 p.m., Suite #200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. For a complete schedule of upcoming workshops see page 2 or call NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149.

- 25 NRP Policy Board meeting**  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center
- 28 Shingle Creek Commons Open House Celebration** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., 4600 Humboldt Ave. N. See page 4 above for more info. If you are going to attend this event, please RSVP by February 21 by calling the CommonBond Communities at 651-291-1750.

### February is Black History Month

See insert for a calendar of events

The NRP Link is published monthly by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

For more information, call

Brett Feldman, editor, 612-673-5158.

The NRP Link is available in Braille or large print upon request. TTY 612-673-2626.

