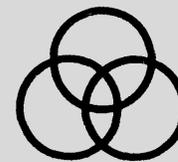


NRP Link

April 2002
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Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News



NRP board approves \$4 million for seven affordable housing projects

The NRP Policy Board took a lead role in addressing the city's affordable housing shortage on March 25 by approving nearly \$4 million to be invested in seven projects that will create or renovate 195 units of affordable housing. Combined, the seven projects will leverage an additional \$33 million in private and public financing and will include the production of another 104 market rate units.

The projects were approved to receive NRP funding through the program's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund established last year to demonstrate the NRP's commitment to developing long-term affordable housing for individuals and families that earn less than half of the Metro Median Income.

A description of each of the approved projects follows.

- **Jeremiah Program** - \$1 million approved for a 21-unit expansion of an 18-unit residential facility for low-income single mothers and their children in the Loring Park neighborhood.
- **Volunteers of America Senior Housing** - \$624,000 approved for construction of a 51-unit mixed-income, mixed-use senior housing development in the Holland neighborhood.
- **Olson Towne Homes** - \$555,000 approved to rehabilitate a 92-unit scattered-site housing development built in 1956 near Olson Memorial Highway in the Harrison neighborhood.
- **East Phillips Commons** - \$515,000 approved for construction of 32 units of mixed-income, mixed-use housing in the East Phillips neighborhood.
- **Village in Phillips** - \$360,000 approved for construction of 28 units of mixed-income, mixed-use housing in the East Phillips neighborhood.
- **Lamoreaux Apartments** - \$400,000 approved for construction of a three-story, 39-unit addition to the existing three-story Lamoreaux Apartments in the Downtown West neighborhood.
- **Lofts on Arts Avenue** - \$490,000 approved for construction of 36 units of loft-style owner-occupied housing on a four-lot site in the Stevens Square neighborhood.

Neighborhood Information System awarded U.S. Department of Commerce grant

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The grant was one of 74 Technology Opportunity Program (TOP) grants totaling \$42.8 million awarded to nonprofit organizations and state and local governments across the United States and Puerto Rico.

MNIS is a joint project of the NRP, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), the City of Minneapolis and several participating Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. The project provides detailed housing information and analysis to help neighborhood organizations plan and evaluate housing

improvement strategies and programs as well as assists them in a variety of community planning efforts. The MNIS partners plan to use the award to create an integrated property database system that will give neighborhoods real-time internet access to basic housing information as well as problem property indicators such as code violations, delinquent property tax status and utility arrears. Neighborhoods will be able to incorporate local data with city and county data and produce maps of past and current housing programs, housing conditions and areas at risk. These tools will allow neighborhood organizations to track the health of their neighborhoods' housing supply and target resources and strategies for addressing housing deterioration problems accordingly.

Minneapolis says goodbye to longtime neighborhood activist Shirley Murzyn

The Columbia Park neighborhood lost an activist and a good friend when Shirley Murzyn died February 16, 2002, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Shirley was one of the four residents who founded the Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) in 1988. She was elected to the first CPNA Board that same year and had served as a member of the board until her untimely passing.

The goals of the CPNA include developing a sense of community, encouraging maximum participation in neighborhood decision making and facilitating neighborhood improvements. With Shirley's help, the neighborhood has accomplished these goals and more. Shirley served as CPNA's treasurer for many years while the neighborhood's NRP plan was being implemented. She helped assure that housing was improved, sidewalks were built, intersections were made safer, the Cargill site was transformed into a gateway and community garden site and the Columbia Park playground was renovated. Shirley was especially proud of the playground renovation. She and her husband Ed often recounted how the park's equipment was old when their children were young. The couple finally saw their efforts for a new playground become a reality in 1988 when their children were in their forties. Shirley's persistent and tireless work made the neighborhood a great place to live and raise children.

Friends of Shirley's children remember her as a good neighbor. They say her door was always open and that she listened – really listened – and shared in their trials and triumphs. She continued to share their good times and bad for the entire 40 plus years that they knew her.



Shirley Murzyn

Shirley will be remembered most for her smile and for her love for her husband, Edward. The two were a team. They served on the board together and they went to church together. Ed drove Shirley to her job as a health unit coordinator at Hennepin County Medical Center. She told fellow board members that they should appreciate their husbands. "You never know how much time you'll have together," she said. "You should enjoy the hours together that you do have."

How true. We did not expect to lose her so soon and suddenly. We mourn the loss of our good friend and neighbor.

– **Written by Nancy Pirsig, CPNA past editor of the Columbia Park Neighborhood News.**

NRP to host two workshops in April

The NRP is hosting two workshops this month that are specifically designed for neighborhood association board members and staff who are responsible for managing NRP and MCDA activities. To the right you will find a brief description of each upcoming workshop. If you would like to attend these workshops, please RSVP by phone to Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 or by e-mail at rthompson@nrp.org. Light refreshments will be provided! Both sessions will be held in MCDA Conference Room 3 at the Crown Roller Mill building, 105 Fifth Ave S., Suite 200. Please visit the NRP Web site <http://www.nrp.org/R2/Resources/Training/Workshops.html> to learn about upcoming training workshops.

"Treasurer peer group workshop"

Saturday, April 13, 2002

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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 for all neighborhood organization treasurers.

"Preparing for your audit"

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Presented by Scott Post of the Office of the State Auditor, this workshop will help neighborhood organization staff and volunteers get the most out of annual audits. Learn about the NRP Audit Policy and how to work with state auditors.

In Brief

Minneapolis Affordable Housing Summit April 7

Come join Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak at a community dialogue to address citywide affordable housing issues on Saturday, April 7, 2002, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Zuhrah Shrine Center, 2540 Park Avenue South. This Affordable Housing Summit is a follow-up to the mayor's inaugural housing summit held in January. Mayor Rybak will give an update on the progress that has been made during his administration's first 90 days. Help chart the course for future public investments and policy changes regarding affordable housing in Minneapolis. For more information about this event as well as a complete list of event sponsors, please contact Maura Brown of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability at 612-332-4471.

Minneapolis Blooms Day events to be held April 20

Minneapolis Blooms Day is held annually to recognize citizens who have put forth tremendous effort and time to beautify the urban environment surrounding their homes and throughout their communities. This year Blooms Day festivities will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at three separate locations simultaneously. Locations include: **Longfellow Park Center, 3435 36th Ave S; Linden Hills Park Center, 3100 W 43rd St; and Catholic Eldercare Atrium, 817 Main St NE.** Outstanding gardeners will be acknowledged by the Minneapolis Planning Department through the Blooming Boulevards Program of the CUE (Committee on Urban Environment). Volunteers from the Blooming Boulevards Program nominated and judged over 2,000 gardens last year. Three hundred of those gardens received first place rankings and will be recognized for their contributions to improving neighborhood livability on Minneapolis Blooms Day. Join CUE in honoring your community's gardeners and celebrate Earth Day at the same time. There will be a short educational program and time to share gardening stories. Please bring questions, garden photos and bright ideas to share. For more information about Blooms Day events, please call Lonnie Nichols at 612-673-3014.

Upper River Citizens Advisory Committee seeks 10 additional members by April 12

A new 30-member Upper Mississippi River Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is now forming. This broad-based group will play a unique role in implementing the city's "Above the Falls" master plan, especially in the areas of policy, funding allocation, project approval and communications. The master plan area extends from Plymouth Ave. /8th Ave. NE to the north city limits on both sides of the river. Already 20 members have been selected through a grassroots neighborhood-oriented process and will convene for the first time soon. The CAC, which will select the remaining 10 members, is soliciting applications for those positions. Of the 10 remaining members, eight will be representatives from neighborhoods not immediately adjacent to the Upper River area; one will be a business representative and one will be an environmental representative. There will be two alternates for every member. Applications will be accepted through April 12 and are now available online at www.mcda.org/whats_new/Newsreleases/cac_app.htm or at the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA)'s front desk at 105 Fifth Ave. S., Suite 200. If you would like an application by e-mail, please call or e-mail Wayne Olson at MCDA, 612-673-5090 or wayne.olson@mcda.org.

Living Green Expo to be held April 27 at the State Capitol grounds and Armory

Do you yearn for the really good life – simple, satisfying and sustainable not just for you but for future generations? Then plan to attend Minnesota's first Living Green Expo, a free April 27 Earth Week family event exploring fun, food, earth-friendliness and future trends in workshops, exhibits and demonstrations. The day-long event will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the State Capitol Grounds and Armory. Environmental information will be in abundance. The Community Garden Fair and the Food and Farm Festival share the space and run concurrently with the Living Green Expo. Sponsors include state and local agencies, environmental groups, food organizations and businesses. Exhibitors will demonstrate how products or processes reduce environmental impacts. Free event parking, as well as secure bike parking, are available for participants. For more information as well as updates on sponsors and exhibitors, visit www.livinggreenexpo.org or contact Ned Brooks at 651-296-7242.



Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program
 Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425
 105 Fifth Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55401
 (612) 673-5140

NRP



**Chicago Avenue Streetscape,
 Bryn Mawr Saturnalia Festival
 and Shingle Creek Commons to
 be featured this month on
 Minneapolis Neighborhood News**

Throughout April the **Minneapolis Neighborhood News (MNN)** cable television program will showcase the Bryn Mawr Saturnalia Festival, the Chicago Avenue Streetscape, Shingle Creek Commons, the NRP's Diversity Workshop and more. Be sure to tune in to the following channels at the following times:

- **Channel 14** Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 9:30 p.m.
- **Channel 17** Fri., 6:30 p.m.
- **Channel 16** Sun., 5:00 p.m.

April 2002 Calendar of Events

4 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting 4:30-6:30 p.m., Room 333 City Hall

7 Minneapolis Affordable Housing Summit 3:00-6:00 p.m. Zuhrah Shrine Center, 2540 Park Ave. S. For more information see page 3 or call Maura Brown at 612-332-4471.

13 NRP Training Series 2002: "Treasurer peer group workshop" 9:00-11:00 a.m., Suite 200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. For a complete schedule of upcoming workshops visit the training section of the NRP Web site or call NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149.

17 NRP Training Series 2002: "Preparing for your audit" 6:30-8:30 p.m., Suite 200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. For more information see page 2, visit the training section of the NRP Web site or call NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149.

20 Minneapolis Blooms Day 10:00 a.m. to noon. For information about this event, including event locations, please see page 3 or call Lonnie Nichols at 612-673-3014.

22 NRP Policy Board meeting 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center

24 May Link submission deadline Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.

27 Living Green Expo 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Minnesota State Capitol Grounds and Armory, 600 Cedar St., St. Paul. For more information see page 3 or call Ned Brooks at 651-296-7242.

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.

