

Powderhorn Park NRP Phase II action plan approved by NRP Policy Board

The Powderhorn Park neighborhood made history on September 23 when it became the first Minneapolis neighborhood to have its NRP Phase II action plan approved by the NRP Policy Board. The plan must now go to the Minneapolis City Council and mayor for final approval.

The Powderhorn Park plan directs the allocation of \$3.6 million in Phase II investments, building upon the neighborhood's experience and work of Phase I.

Nearly 40 percent of the Phase II plan is aimed at ensuring affordable housing options for residents in the neighborhood while another 19 percent is directed to improving the existing housing stock. Most importantly, the plan focuses on the long-term sustainability

of housing funds by recycling them through loans rather than giving them away through grants.

Highlights from the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association's Phase I plan include: providing home repair grants to more than 300 homeowners and 36 rental property owners, providing grants to more than 100 first-time homebuyers, assisting in the production of several three- and four- bedroom housing units including the construction of 10 artist housing units, completing more than \$500,000 worth of physical improvements to Powderhorn Park, providing investment capital to several large commercial ventures including the Mercado Central and the Midtown YWCA and providing grants to improve more than 30 existing neighborhood businesses.

City Council approves Focus Minneapolis to strengthen planning and community development functions

The Minneapolis City Council approved Focus Minneapolis - a major initiative aimed at making Minneapolis planning and community development functions more effective, responsive and accountable. The Council approved the resolution on an 11-2 vote on September 13.

Focus Minneapolis highlights include:

- Creating an Office of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) to oversee, coordinate and streamline all city planning and development activity and incorporate the functions of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) into the department;
- Creating a Development Services Department to make it easier for residents, businesses and developers to do business with the city. The city will evaluate which functions of the current Regulatory Services Department to include in this new department by Jan. 1, 2003;

- Establishing housing and economic development as the city's top development priorities and committing the city to setting specific, measurable goals during its strategic planning process this fall;
- Strengthening management and decision-making processes to improve strategic planning and focus development activity on these development priorities;
- Evaluating the incorporation of functions of the NRP, Regulatory Services and the Department of Health and Family Support into the CPED structure;

The city will begin this process by appointing an interim Community Planning and Economic Development director, who will serve jointly as executive director of the MCDA.

For more information on the Focus Minneapolis initiative, please visit the City of Minneapolis Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

New book documents rich and proud history of Tangletown neighborhood

Minneapolis residents have long had a strong sense of neighborhood identity. That is why a new Tangletown history book titled *The Doors of Tangletown* marks the third such neighborhood history book published in the city in the last three years. The book, written by Tangletown resident Liz Vandam and edited by Twin Cities historian and writer Virginia Martin, is based on more than three years of research. The book gives readers a glimpse at the lives of early Tangletown residents and provides an architecturally stimulating gallery of photographs featuring neighborhood homes. The book even shares some interesting stories about the famous Minneapolis architect Harry Wild Jones and several prominent Tangletown families.

The Doors of Tangletown closely follows the publication of two other Minneapolis neighborhood history books. In 1999, the Marcy-Holmes NRP and author Penny Peterson published the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission Award-winning book *Hiding in Plain Sight: Minneapolis' First Neighborhood* and last year the Linden Hills History Study Group published *Down at the Lake: A Historical Portrait of Linden Hills and the Lake Harriet District*.

Only 500 copies of the Tangletown book were published. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact author Liz Vandam at 612-825-1442 or by e-mail at vandam5@aol.com.

NRP Policy Board elector registration deadline Nov. 13

The deadline for registering neighborhood electors and alternates for the upcoming NRP Policy Board election is noon on Wednesday, November 13. Each Minneapolis neighborhood organization can select an elector and alternate to vote on behalf of its neighborhood on election night. Neighborhood organizations representing more than one neighborhood need to select one elector and alternate from each neighborhood represented by the organization. Electors and alternates **MUST** reside in the neighborhood they are representing. Neighborhood organizations are encouraged to select electors/alternates at a well-publicized open meeting. Electors/alternates must be at least 18 years of age as of November 21, 2002. Elector registration forms have been distributed to all neighborhood organization board chairs. The forms must be completed, signed by the organization board chair or co-chair and returned to the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis office no later than noon Wednesday, November 13, 2002.

The annual election of neighborhood representatives to the Policy Board is Thursday, November 21, 2002 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Candidate filing is now completed. A voter's guide featuring candidate responses to several questions will be available Monday, October 21. Complete election information will be featured in the November issue of the *NRP Link*. Election information is also available on the NRP Web site at www.nrp.org.

Powderhorn Park residents celebrate new Urban Garden Townhomes project



Powderhorn Park residents joined representatives from the Minneapolis Urban League and the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) on September 21 at a barbecue and groundbreaking celebration for the new six-unit Urban Garden Townhomes project. The housing development will be built at E. 35th St. and Bloomington Ave. on a former Super America store site that has been vacant for more than a year. Construction on the housing development will begin later this month.

Other partners in the \$1 million project include the NRP, the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), the Family Housing Fund and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In Brief

Getting to the bottom of the ballot group to host candidate forum October 17

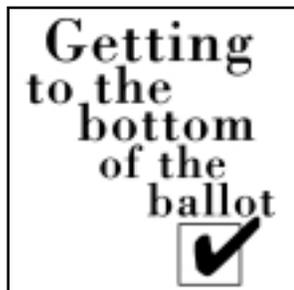
Getting to the bottom of the ballot is a voter education initiative recently launched by the Southwest Citizens for Civic Engagement.

While residents in southwest Minneapolis have 80 to 90 percent voter turnout for federal elections, the percentage drops to nearly 50 percent for local general elections and nearly 35 percent for local primary

elections. Southwest Citizens for Civic Engagement is focusing its efforts on the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 so that Minneapolis residents will have knowledge of all of the candidates' positions on issues. The group will hold a General Election Candidate Forum from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, 2002 at Lake Harriet Community School, 4912 Vincent Avenue South. Residents attending the event will be able to find out all of the candidates' positions on issues that matter most. All city-wide and state-wide candidates as well as candidates who have districts or wards in any of the nine southwest neighborhoods have been invited to participate in this event. Light beverages will be available. For more information about the Getting to the bottom of the ballot initiative, please contact Southwest Citizens for Civic Engagement at 612-922-3106.

After the election: In order to maintain the increased connection between citizens and local government following the election, a series of community gatherings will be held through Southwest Community Education. Examples of possible topics include: **Dollars and Sense** – following your tax dollar at City Hall, **People and the Legislative Process** – how individual citizens can impact policy and **Embrace Your Inner Wonk** – a discussion with an upper-level City Hall policy-maker about how Minneapolis sets policy.

Ongoing publications will be produced for varied outlets, including a Web site and list server, to continue the bottom of the ballot discussion. For more information about this initiative, please call 612-922-3106.



Tune in to *On CUE* throughout October

Tune in to *On CUE* and explore our urban environment, taped on location—this month in green, sunny North Mississippi Regional Park. Sponsored by the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE), the program looks at the diverse people, issues, trends and physical elements that influence—and are affected by—our built and natural surroundings.

This month, *On CUE* host Phill Lindsay's guests discuss partnerships between neighborhoods and the park district, between cities and within the political dimension of working with the urban environment. Lindsay's guests this month include: MaryLynn Pulscher, education coordinator for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board who oversees a wealth of park resources; Weiming Lu, an early influence on CUE who worked as a city planner with southeast Minneapolis in the late '60s and early '70s and Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman who serves on CUE as well as the NRP Policy Board. Tune in also for *CUE Facts*, hear CUE Awards juror and columnist Barbara Flanagan speak, and join "planners" on the street. *On CUE* airs on Minneapolis City Cable 14 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registering makes it easy to vote Nov. 5

City elections officials would like to remind Minneapolis voters that Oct. 15, 2002 is the deadline to pre-register to vote on election day. Eligible voters can pick up voter registration cards at City Hall and other government offices, public libraries, park buildings and fire and police stations. Residents can download registration cards in English, Spanish, Somali and Russian from Hennepin County's Web site at www.co.hennepin.mn.us/taxsvcs/vote/geninfo.htm.

Why pre-register? Before you can vote, you need to be on the official list of registered voters. You must register if you just became eligible to vote, moved, changed your name or have not voted in the last four years. Voters who pre-register will receive a postcard notifying them where to vote. By pre-registering, you help speed up the voting process on Election Day for yourself and for other voters. If you need to register on Election Day, bring state-required identification and allow extra time at the polls. For more information, please contact the Minneapolis Elections and Voter Registration Office at 612-673-2070.



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Lofts on Arts Avenue project now underway



Residents of the soon-to-be-developed Lofts on Arts Avenue participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on September 26. The project will create 36 one- and two- bedroom condos on 19th St. and 3rd Ave. S. The NRP invested \$490,000 from its Affordable Housing Reserve Fund in the project. Other partners include the Stevens Square Community Organization, the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone, the MCDA, the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation and Brighton Development Corporation.

NRP Policy Board Report

Approved September 23, 2002

-  Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan
-  Logan Park Neighborhood Association Phase II Participation Agreement
-  North Loop Neighborhood Association Phase I Participation Agreement
-  Minneapolis Public Schools Second 7.5% NRP Funds for the Lynnhurst Neighborhood

— October 2002 Calendar of Events —

- 10 Management Review Team (MRT) Meeting**
4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Room 333 City Hall
- 14 Columbus Day**
City offices closed.
- 17 Getting to the bottom of the ballot**
7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Lake Harriet Community School, 4912 Vincent Ave. S. See page 3 or call 612-922-3106 for more information.
- 21 NRP Policy Board election Voter's Guides available**
See page 2 or call Brett at 612-673-5158 for more information.
- 21 NRP Policy Board meeting**
4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center.

- 25 November Link submission deadline**
Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.
- 27 Daylight Savings Time ends**
Roll clocks back one hour.
- 31 Halloween**



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.

