

## Community meetings will give Minneapolis residents an opportunity to have a say in NRP's future

The NRP Policy Board will present several options addressing the NRP's immediate and long-term future during a series of five community meetings beginning Monday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S. Dates, times and locations of all five meetings are listed in the box in the center of this page.

The community meetings represent the culmination of more than seven months of work that began with a joint NRP Policy Board/City of Minneapolis staff work group charged with developing options and making recommendations that specifically address long-term funding, governance and staff support for the NRP in the face of mounting city budget constraints.

The options and recommendations forwarded by the work group and a proposed change to the city ordinance that established the NRP will be discussed. Residents will be asked to complete a survey that will help guide the NRP Policy Board, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak as they determine where the NRP fits into the Five-Year Financial Direction recently

approved by the City Council. The Five-Year Financial Direction identifies the sources for funding city development activities including the NRP.

The NRP was created in 1990 by city officials and community leaders as a response to growing concerns about the declining condition of Minneapolis neighborhoods. The program was originally established as a 20-year, \$20 million per year program to empower residents to develop neighborhood-based plans that address priorities and direct the expenditure of NRP funds. Legislative reform of the tax system in 2001 dramatically reduced the funding source that has historically supported the NRP.

Minneapolis residents are encouraged to participate in these meetings so their perspectives on how the NRP should operate in the future can be submitted to the NRP Policy Board, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor Rybak. Individuals will also be able to provide feedback

through a Web-based survey that will be available on the NRP Web site at [www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org) beginning June 9.

### The meetings:

#### Monday, June 9

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Ave. S.

#### Tuesday, June 10

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Folwell Community Center  
1615 Dowling Ave. N.

#### Wednesday, June 11

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Logan Community Center  
690 13th Ave. NE

#### Monday, June 16

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Andersen School  
2726 12th Ave. S.

(use main entrance on  
Andersen Lane)

#### Tuesday, June 17

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
4000 28th Ave. S.

## Ideal weather doesn't discourage people from attending NRP Neighborhoods Conference

Despite heavy competition from one of the nicest days of the year so far, 86 people turned out to participate in the 2003 NRP Neighborhoods Conference. The conference was held on Saturday, May 17, at the Harrison Community Center in north Minneapolis.

With temperatures in the 70s and a clear blue sky vying for their attention, many participants balanced their day between the conference and other activities, from Art-A-Whirl and Arbor Day events to community cleanups.

Keynote speaker Greg Nelson kicked off the day by sharing his experiences as the general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. As a council aide, Nelson was instrumental in pushing for changes in the Los Angeles City Charter that led to the recent creation of the new department. Nelson had high praise for the Minneapolis NRP, referring to it as the "Mecca" for citizen participation programs throughout the nation. Following his address, Nelson graciously spent much of the day chatting with individuals and answering questions.

More than 20 presenters facilitated the nine workshops held during the morning and afternoon sessions.

Two of the most popular workshops were "Using Maps To Enhance Neighborhood Understanding" and "Community Development Case Studies."

Nelson's appearance was made possible thanks to the Minneapolis Community Development Agency. Lunch was paid for by the General Mills Corporation.

**Keynote speaker Greg Nelson of the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment**



## NRP's presentation of the 2003 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour a rousing success

More than 5,000 people converged on the City of Minneapolis on May 3-4 to see real homes and real people during the 16th annual Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. Vintage Queen Anne Victorians, hip downtown condos and lofts, cozy bungalows and charming Arts & Crafts were among the 39 Minneapolis homes where doors were opened to creative remodeling ideas and new ownership opportunities as part of the Twin Cities' biggest weekend city living showcase. Home Tour visitors made 27,282 visits in 2003—an average of 5.34 visits per visitor. Both numbers represent increases from 2002.

The NRP was proud to present the Home Tour this year as it provided the ultimate showcase for its more than \$90 million investment in programs and projects aimed at maintaining and improving the city's housing stock. Ten tour homes benefited from NRP housing investments.

The NRP would like to extend a special thanks to all of the homeowners, volunteers and sponsors for making the 2003 Home Tour a rousing success.



**Large crowds and an assortment of shoes were familiar sights during the 2003 Home Tour. Several homes drew more than 1,000 visitors in only 11 hours.**



## Tune in to *On CUE* throughout June and focus on Minneapolis cultural districts

Tune in to *On CUE* and explore our urban environment, taped on location—this month in the Birchwood Café in Minneapolis' Seward neighborhood. 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.

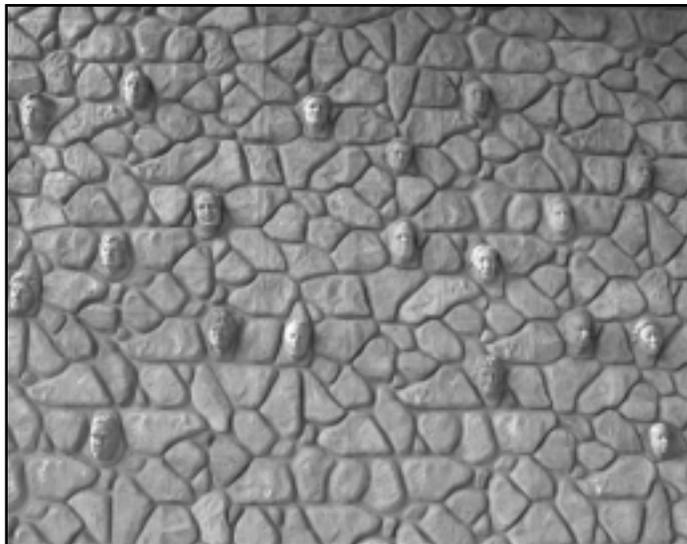
This month, *On CUE* host Phill Lindsay's guests discuss cultural districts and the way they contribute to the urban environment:

Architect Peter Goelzer represents the West Bank Entertainment District; it is his work on the façade of Theatre in the Round.

Joe Holladay is the executive director of the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA), has just survived the ninth annual Art-A-Whirl and is also involved in the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Jana Metge is the coordinator of Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC), where there is a very large community hungry for theater.

The roundtable discussion gives an overview of the cultural districts represented, from the West Bank's range of culture and music, resistance and protest to Northeast's tornado of artistic talent to Loring Park, which host Lindsay says has the most arts attendance of

any neighborhood between Chicago and the West Coast. The guests also discuss their districts' impact as well as some of the challenges they face and participation and partnerships within the community.



The faces in the 4th Ave. Art Bridge at the 29th St. Midtown Greenway have drawn considerable attention.

Tune in also for an introduction to Birchwood Café by its manager Tracy Singleton, an update on the state of CUE by D. Bauknight and join Northrup King building manager Debbie White and Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association President and CEO Greg Ortale for comments on the value of arts districts from their perspectives.

To contact CLPC, call 612-874-9002. To contact

NEMAA, call 612-788-1679 or visit the Web at [www.nemaa.org](http://www.nemaa.org). For more information about the West Bank Entertainment District, contact the Cedar Riverside Business Association at 612-332-8226 or [proz@bitstream.net](mailto:proz@bitstream.net)

*On CUE*—available in Minneapolis to anyone with a basic cable connection—is on Minneapolis City Cable 14 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., reaching some 75,000 households. This edition will run throughout June. For more information about *On CUE*, call CUE at 612-673-3014 or e-mail [CUE@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:CUE@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

### **NRP Training Series 2003 continues on June 3 with workshop focusing on housing development**

NRP Training Series 2003 will continue on Tuesday, June 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a workshop titled "The ABCs of housing development." While the Minneapolis building boom thrives and developers rush to meet housing needs, neighborhood groups are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of understanding the fundamentals of the housing development process. This workshop will cover

several development topics including site acquisition, zoning issues and project financing. The workshop, which will be presented by the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers and the NRP, will be held in Suite 200 of the Crown Roller Mill building located at 105 Fifth Ave.S., one block off Washington and Portland avenues. Please RSVP to Robert at 612-673-5149 if you plan on attending.

## Considering a home improvement project? Minneapolis Inspections has some good news

Most home improvement projects require a City Inspections Division permit. Here are a few updates for folks who may need a permit in the coming months.

### • **Reduced rate parking coming soon**

Starting in early June, reduced rate parking will be available in the rear of the Public Service Center at 250 S. Fourth St. for customers of the Inspections Permit and Development Review counters, located on the third floor. Customers will enter the lot on Third Street and receive up to two hours parking for only \$3. Customers must obtain a validated parking token from Inspection Permit staff in order to receive the special rate. Non-validated parking will cost \$15. Entrance to the building from the parking lot is on Third Avenue.

### • **Monday night is Homeowner's Night**

Homeowner's Night is back for a fourth year. Every Monday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the Inspections Permit and Development Review counters will be open exclusively to Minneapolis homeowners. This highly successful program provides a relaxed and low-key environment for homeowners to review home

improvement projects with staff from Inspections Plan Review, Zoning and Planning. If required, customers will also be able to obtain necessary permits for their projects. Appointments are strongly encouraged. Call 673-DECK (3325) for more information or to schedule an appointment.

In addition, the Inspections Permit and Development Review counters are adding at least one staff member from the Business Licensing Division to better serve its business customers. The added staff will ensure that customers with business licensing needs have additional information for their development projects.

These improvements represent the first step toward the City of Minneapolis' long-term plan to bring a "One Stop Shop" to its customers. In the meantime, the city's goal is to continue to develop fast, easy and customer-friendly initiatives for its citizens and customers. If you would like more information about any of the items listed above, please call 612-673-5839, or visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/inspections).

### **Southside Neighborhood Housing Services to dissolve as a result of State Auditor's review**

The Board of Directors of Southside Neighborhood Housing Services (SNHS) has agreed to dissolve the agency after a recent NRP-requested special contract compliance review conducted by the Office of State Auditor Patricia Awada revealed several disturbing business practices. SNHS has administered home loan and grant programs for several south Minneapolis neighborhoods participating in the NRP.

The review found numerous problems within SNHS. Funds were used for ineligible purposes and recipients, numerous files lacked required documentation and financial management practices were questionable at best.

In response to the dissolution of SNHS, Northside Neighborhood Housing Services (NNHS), which has been an exemplary housing program administrator, and like SNHS is a subsidiary of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC), has indicated a willingness to expand its service area to cover the

entire City of Minneapolis so that those neighborhoods affected by SNHS's problems can do business with a responsible fiduciary intermediary.

The NRC has hired a consultant to assist with the process of determining the way SNHS's assets will be distributed following its dissolution. As one of SNHS's major creditors, the NRP has requested significant financial repayment on behalf of the Minneapolis neighborhoods that were injured as a result of SNHS's negligent business practices.

"NRP also deserves a lot of credit for stepping forward and asking for help when it suspected there may be a problem at Southside," said Minnesota State Auditor Patricia Awada. "Minneapolis neighborhood associations and residents will be better served and taxpayer dollars better spent as a result of this review. We are pleased the Office of the State Auditor has been able to assist NRP, and the neighborhood organizations, to ensure that the public funds are better spent."

# In Brief

## Northside Arts Collective to host Spring Art Party June 7

The Northside Arts Collective, in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and KBEM radio, is sponsoring the inaugural Spring Art Party Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the new Upper Mississippi Regional Park, 4900 Mississippi Ct. Visual and performing artists from north Minneapolis will present their crafts on stage and at several booths. Families are encouraged to come for the art, music and poetry. Plan a family picnic to make the day even more enjoyable. For more information, visit [www.ONWorks.org](http://www.ONWorks.org) and click on Spring Art Party, or call Beverly Roberts at 612-588-3723 or Connie Beckers at 612-521-0399. Parking and entry to the one-year-old North Mississippi Regional Park are free and open to the public.

## RED HOT ART: Unique works by local artists at Stevens Square Park June 7

RED HOT ART is definitely not your mother's art fair. Come find out why. RED HOT ART will be held on June 7-8 from noon to 7:00 p.m. at Stevens Square Park, Second Avenue South and 19th Street. You will find unique works by emerging local artists, live performances from local musicians including Man from Fiery Hill, the Fess/Sumera Duo, Josh Cobb, Oliver Thayer and hands-on arts activities for kids and adults. For more information, please contact Julie Filapek of the Stevens Square Community Organization at 612-871-7307.

## Hennepin County making compost bins available to public for small fee

Approximately 4,000 compost bins will be distributed throughout Hennepin County on a first-come, first-served basis as part of two compost bin distribution events this month. Bins will cost \$25 and kitchen scrap buckets will cost \$5. Backyard composting is an easy way for residents to turn much of the waste from their yards and kitchens into a rich material that can be used to improve the soil. Using finished compost on lawns and gardens will provide an organic fertilizer, suppress weeds and hold moisture in the soil. The compost bin features a 13-cubic-foot capacity, a sturdy, easy-to-open lid, two

harvesting doors and is made with recycled plastic. The kitchen scrap bucket holds 9.7 quarts and has a charcoal filter to control odors. The limit is one compost bin and kitchen bucket per Hennepin County household. Residents must reserve a bin and bucket by June 6, and then pick up and pay for them at Anne Sullivan Communication Center parking lot, 3100 E. 28th St., from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, or the Brooklyn Park Operations and Maintenance Facility parking lot, 8300 Noble Ave. N. from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25. County residents are encouraged to order online at [www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental) or call 612-348-9266 for more information.

## Fourth annual National Night Out planning week set for June 16-20

In order to help active block clubs prepare for National Night Out on August 5 as well as to encourage inactive and new block clubs to organize, CCP/SAFE is promoting the fourth annual National Night Out (NNO) planning week June 16-20. Block clubs are groups of neighbors who get to know one another, who watch out for each other and report crimes and suspicious activity to 911. Block clubs are asked to hold a NNO planning meeting so that block parties go smoothly when NNO arrives. Neighbors attending planning meetings can help decide such things as who will be responsible for bringing food and utensils, the types of activities that will be available for adults and children and whether or not the street should be blocked off. Planning meetings are also a good time for neighbors to decide who will make invitations and how they will be distributed. Be aware that there are changes this year for procedures and costs for blocking off streets. After June 15, information will be available at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno). For more information about NNO planning week or about starting a block club, please call the NNO hotline at 612-673-3568.

## Celebrate Northeast! Annual parade and NE royalty June 24 along Central Avenue

The annual Celebrate Northeast parade will travel south on Central Avenue from 28th Avenue NE to 13th Avenue NE beginning at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24. Volunteers for the event are still needed and appreciated. If you would like to help with the parade, please leave a message on the Infoline at 612-379-2255, extension 22.



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



Nearly 100 people attended the NRP Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, May 17, at the Harrison Community Center. See Page 2 for conference details.

## NRP Policy Board Report

Approved May 19, 2003



June NRP Policy Board meeting date changed from June 23 to June 30



Armatage Neighborhood Association  
 Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

## June 2003 Calendar of Events

### 3 NRP Training Series 2003: "The ABCs of housing development"

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Suite 200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. Call NRP Training Specialist Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149.

### 5 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Room 323M City Hall

### 7 Northside Spring Art Party

See Page 5 or visit [www.ONWorks.org](http://www.ONWorks.org) for more information.

### 7 RED HOT ART: Works by local artists

See Page 5 or contact Julie Filapek of the Stevens Square Community Organization at 612-871-7307.

### 16-20 National Night Out planning week

See Page 5 or call 612-673-3568 for more information.

### 23 July NRP Link submission deadline

Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.

### 24 Celebrate Northeast! Annual parade and NE royalty

See Page 5 or call the Infoline at 612-379-2255, extension 22.

### 30 NRP Policy Board meeting

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
 Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center

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.

