

## NRP Policy Board neighborhood representative election set for Nov. 18

Six candidates are running to fill four neighborhood representative seats on the 2005 NRP Policy Board. The 19-member board provides overall direction to the program and is primarily responsible for the review and approval of neighborhood action plans.

In the past two years, NRP Policy Board members have also played a key role in several important decisions including: helping to revise the City of Minneapolis' NRP Ordinance so that a base funding source was secured for Phase II, issuing an NRP Affordable Housing Reserve Fund Request for Proposals so long-term, affordable housing units for low-income families and individuals could be developed, reviewing the Focus Minneapolis recommendations and issuing a report to the City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak, committing \$1 million of NRP funds to community-oriented public safety initiatives in 2003 and 2004, drafting a new NRP Housing Fund proposal and co-sponsoring the 2005 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

**Election proceedings will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2004 on the second floor of the Crown Roller Mill Building, 105 Fifth Ave. S.** Candidate forums will be held prior to the balloting. The At-Large forum will be held at 7 p.m., and the Redirection, Revitalization, and Protection forums will begin at 7:15 p.m. Balloting will follow the forums.

The election proceedings are free and open to the public. Only registered electors representing each of the 80 Minneapolis neighborhoods will be allowed to vote. For more information on the election or the elector selection process, please call the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis at 612-333-6319 or Carsten Slostad of the NRP at 612-673-5150.

### **At-Large candidate**

\* Debbie Evans – Linden Hills

### **Redirection candidate**

Carol Ann Pass – East Phillips

### **Revitalization candidates**

Al Bangoura – Howe

Sean Wherley – Kingfield

### **Protection candidates**

\* Nicholas T. Kakos – East Calhoun

Jeffrey L. Strand – Shingle Creek

\* = Incumbent

## **NRP convenes citizen participation focus groups**

On Wednesday, October 13, NRP staff convened six focus groups from 93 residents to obtain feedback about their thoughts and experiences with the citizen engagement processes of the City of Minneapolis. The focus groups were initiated by NRP to help inform the Minneapolis Community Engagement Project (MCEP) launched by Council Members Dan Niziolek and Scott Benson. The goal of the MCEP is to create a framework, guiding principles and specific actions for establishing a community engagement system for Minneapolis city government. The 93 residents in the focus groups were from 53 NRP neighborhoods. Feedback from the groups is being compiled for a report that will be published on the NRP Web site in the coming weeks. The report will also be submitted to Council Members Niziolek and Benson and the remaining members of the Minneapolis City Council, the NRP Policy Board, and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. A copy of the results will also be sent to each of the focus group attendees. For more information regarding the NRP focus groups, please contact Joe Horan at 612-673-5144.

# Nominate your block club for a 2004 Building Block Award

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) is seeking nominations for its 2004 Building Blocks Awards. These awards are presented annually to Minneapolis block clubs that have promoted outstanding crime prevention activities. Self-nominations are welcome. Beginning this year, however, block clubs are ineligible to receive awards in consecutive years (those honored in 2003 are not eligible for the 2004 awards).

To submit a nomination, provide the name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address (if available) for the leader of the block club being nominated. Your nomination material must include answers in writing to the following:

- What are the geographic boundaries of the block club?
- Describe the population of the block.
- When did the block club start?
- Describe the events, activities and meetings that the block club is involved in.
- How does the block club build connections between people?

- In what ways does the block club work with the MPD?
- On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest rating) how would you rate this block club? Why?
- How has life on the block improved through the block club's efforts?

**Nominations must be received by Monday, Dec. 6, 2004.** Nominations can be mailed to: Building Block Awards, c/o CCP/SAFE, 217 S. 3rd St., Minneapolis, MN 55401.

To e-mail your nomination, please send to: [ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or faxed nominations can be sent to 612-673-2512.

Each honored block club will receive "Sixth Annual Building Blocks Award" signs to post on each block belonging to the block club, a \$50 gift card and a special commemorative award for each block leader. For more information about the 2004 Block Club Awards, please contact Community Crime Prevention/SAFE at 612-673-3447.

## NRP-TV to feature environmental initiatives in Longfellow, Fulton, Victory and citywide

Beginning November 12, the **Minneapolis Neighborhood News (MNN)** cable television program will feature several NRP-initiated environmental projects that have tapped into the enormous energy, commitment and creativity of thousands of volunteers throughout the city. Tune in and see firsthand how vital a role these volunteers have played in serving as stewards of Minneapolis' environment. Featured projects include: Longfellow's Mississippi River Gorge preservation project, the Fulton neighborhood's Rainwater Management project, a twenty-two neighborhood clean energy coalition's role in securing a historic Metro Emissions Reduction agreement and the Victory neighborhood's Ryan Lake shoreline restoration project. While the Metro Emissions Reduction agreement is extraordinary in that it marks the first time in the nation that a public utilities corporation has voluntarily agreed to change the way it produces energy, all of these initiatives demonstrate the invaluable role that neighborhood groups play in recruiting volunteers to do work that benefits all of us.



Photo by Amy Luesebink

**Volunteers are the driving force behind the Ryan Lake restoration project.**

*Minneapolis Neighborhood News can be seen on cable in the city of Minneapolis on channel 16 on Sundays at 5 p.m., on channel 17 on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and on channel 14 on Sundays at 4:30 p.m., Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.*

## In Brief

### Register now for the Fourth Annual GIS Expo Nov. 10: Empowering Communities to Undertake Grassroots Change

Are you a neighborhood organizer, local government planner, county GIS specialist, land-use planning consultant, college faculty member or student with a focus on community planning issues? If so, then the Fourth Annual Community GIS Exposition is for you! The event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center on the Saint Paul campus.

Intended for everyone interested in community applications of geographic information systems (GIS) technology, the day-long expo will explore the theme of "Empowering Communities to Undertake Grassroots Change," with the goal of building collaboration among GIS users in the Twin Cities metro area and advancing a comprehensive GIS agenda for the region.

This year's exposition will include:

- A panel discussion of the challenges and opportunities of community GIS
- Poster sessions and presentations highlighting local and regional GIS projects in the areas of housing, community development and land use and the environment
- Hands-on workshops that will teach participants to use GIS software, locate data resources and integrate GIS applications more effectively into their community work

Whether you are a GIS beginner or use it every day, these sessions will give you insight into using these powerful mapping and analysis tools.

Registration for the conference is \$25 for full-time students and staff members and \$50 for all other attendees. For more information on the expo, including detailed directions on how to get to the venue, please call Kris Nelson at 612-625-1020 or visit [www.cura.umn.edu](http://www.cura.umn.edu).

**We want to know about activities and events going on in your neighborhood. Contact Brett at 612-673-5158 or by e-mail at [bfeldman@nrp.org](mailto:bfeldman@nrp.org).**

### Children's Book Week at the Minneapolis Public Library Nov. 13 to Nov. 18

**Saturday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m. at the Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S.** -- author Dan Graves will share his book, "Parcel's Notebook Presents: The Search for the Giant Stone Monkey Head, Truth, Friends and Strange Food." Explore the Ecuadorian jungle with Parcel as she journeys to find the Giant Stone Monkey Head and uncover its mystery. Based on a South American myth, this colorfully illustrated adventure story explores mythology, inspires journal writing and creativity and encourages respect for multiculturalism, nature, and healthy food. Please join the Minneapolis Public Library for an interactive reading and arts activity.

**Monday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m. at East Lake Library, 2727 E. Lake St.** -- Kate DiCamillo won the coveted Newbery Award this year for "Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread." The Minneapolis Public Library staff is pleased DiCamillo is returning for her "annual" visit during Children's Book Week. A National Book Award finalist and winner of the highest honor in children's literature, she's just as neighborly as ever in sharing her books and stories. Children and adults are welcome to attend.

**Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at Walker Library, 2880 Hennepin Ave. S.** -- A tricky guinea pig, a hungry fox and the world's second-highest mountain range come together in "Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale from the Andes Mountains." Author/illustrator Barbara Knutson will talk about the way she braided five different Spanish versions into one English story and demonstrate how she made the illustrations from rubber-cut prints.

**Thursday, Nov. 18, 3:30 p.m. at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N.** -- "Little Cricket" is both a gripping survival story and a gentle, heart-wrenching portrait of an immigrant family. In graceful, richly detailed language, award winner Jackie Brown portrays the memorable story of Kia, a Hmong child who lives through war and relocation, whose quiet triumphs will thrill young readers. Jackie will discuss researching and writing her book in a program designed especially for third to seventh graders. All age groups are welcome to attend this event.



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### Reps from 53 neighborhood groups attend NRP focus group on citizen participation



Ninety-three people representing 53 NRP neighborhood groups took part in a citizen participation focus group on October 13. See front page for more details.

### NRP Policy Board Report

October 25, 2004

-  Seward neighborhood Phase II Action Plan
-  Received and filed Marcy-Holmes neighborhood Phase I Review

For a complete NRP Policy Board report, visit:  
[www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html](http://www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html)

## — November 2004 Calendar of Events —

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| <p><b>4 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting</b><br/>Room 333 City Hall</p> <p><b>10 Fourth Annual G.I.S. Expo</b><br/>8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. See Page 3 for directions and more information or contact CURA at 612-625-1551.</p> <p><b>13 Children's Book Week at the Library featuring Author &amp; Illustrator Dan Graves</b><br/>11 a.m., Nokomis Community Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. See Page 3 or contact Rachel Fulkerson at 612-630-6174.</p> <p><b>15 Children's Book Week at the Library featuring Author Kate DiCamillo</b><br/>6:30 p.m., East Lake Community Library, 2727 E. Lake St. See Page 3 or contact Rachel Fulkerson at 612-630-6174.</p> <p><b>17 Children's Book Week at the Library featuring Author Barbara Knutson</b><br/>7 p.m., Walker Community Library, 2880 Hennepin Ave. S. See Page 3 or contact Rachel Fulkerson at 612-630-6174.</p> | <p><b>18 Children's Book Week at the Library featuring Author Jacie Brown</b><br/>3:30 p.m., North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N. See Page 3 or contact Rachel Fulkerson at 612-630-6174.</p> <p><b>22 NRP Policy Board meeting</b><br/>4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center</p> <p><b>24 November Link submission deadline</b><br/>Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.</p> <p><b>25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday</b><br/>City offices closed.</p> |
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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.

