

## Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is April 30-May 1

“We’re finding more and more people interested in not only moving close to the city, but rather than tearing down and re-building a bit of the suburbs, they’re looking at houses like this and going restoration.” That’s Mark Bell, owner, with wife Gloria Bell, of one of the 38 Minneapolis and 17 Saint Paul homes on the 2011 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

The 55 homes will be open for free, self-guided tours Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, 1-5 p.m. The event gives homeowners inspiration and ideas on how to improve their homes. In this event offering “real homes, real people, real ideas,” residents open their doors to show creative and practical ideas for remodeling kitchens, bathrooms, and adding space in a way that’s sensitive to the surrounding architecture, historic restoration and their neighborhoods.



Mark and Gloria Bell (top) and Tanya and Langdon Laumbach have their homes on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour and were featured in the interview video playing on MCN Cable Channel 6 and Minneapolis Channels 16 & 17. Photos by Scott Amundson for the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

The Bells’ home has been nominated for historic designation as the home of an iconic entrepreneur. There are also some new, environmentally friendly

homes on the tour as well, and examples of rental properties, and universal design. “The tour has a wide variety of inspirations,” said coordinator Margo Ashmore. “Most reflect what can be done to remodel and reorganize, or add on to the most common eras of existing housing stock.”



“We love to go to the home tours,” said Kim Lerma, co-owner of a tour home at 613 North Street in Dayton’s Bluff, Saint Paul. “It’s a huge motivation. It’s like, okay, let’s go home and get out the tools and start working.” She and husband Rene’ have an 1878 Victorian that they’re returning to grandeur inside after winning recognition for exterior restoration.

On the tour, visitors talk directly with homeowners; and in many cases, their contractors, architects, and other trades people are available. Thirty-some companies are represented on the tour with a wide range of projects, and their sponsorship contributions make the tour possible.

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) has been involved in the tour since its early years and in fact took over coordination when the City of Minneapolis planned to drop it after the 15th year. “The tour recognizes and reinforces the work

of neighborhood groups attracting and keeping people in the city,” said NRP Director Bob Miller.

People like Tanya and Langdon Laumbach, who moved to the Fulton neighborhood after living in the suburbs. Tanya said, “People asked us where are you going to play ball with your kids, ’cause we don’t have a huge back yard anymore. Well, you just walk to the park, someone else mows for you.”

Or Luke and Jennifer Hartzell, who found their Hawthorne house under construction during a bike ride and love the neighborhood vibe. They, too, lived in the suburbs, and Atlanta before that.

(continued on page 2)

## Legislation Introduced to Restore Funds to Neighborhoods

Bills have been introduced in both the Minnesota House and Senate to make it clear that monies allocated under an existing neighborhood revitalization program in cities of the first class must be handled under the structure and procedures originally set out in the law that created the program. The bill also calls for orderly transition of staff and systems if a program shuts down.

The bills’ intent is to “unfreeze” the funds that a staff direction in the mid-December passage of the City of Minneapolis 2011 took away. Since that action, new Neighborhood Action Plans fully funded by the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board have been routinely passed by the City Council at only half funding.

**Senate File 953’s** authors include chief author Sen. Ken Kelash and Senators Linda Berglin, Patricia Torres Ray, Warren Limmer, and Linda Higgins, representing a diversity of inner city and suburban, Democrat and Republican Senators.

**House File 1358’s** authors are chief author Rep. Phyllis Kahn and Representatives Diane Loeffler, Karen Clark, Jeff Hayden and Joe Mullery.

As the bills’ wording and status can change daily, interested readers are advised to watch the progress online at [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us). Anyone who would like to reach their legislators about this matter will find contact information there as well. The session is due to end on May 23.

# Familiar Faces, Different Jobs

Two long time Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) staff have resigned from NRP and started new positions at the City's Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR)

Robert Thompson, who had been splitting his time between NRP and NCR to help with the transition approved by the Policy Board on September 27, 2010, is one of three new staff members hired by NCR director David Rubedor. The Policy Board ended all transition activity after the City Council action on December 13, 2010 to restrict neighborhood access to their Phase II NRP resources.

Thompson's 12 year career at NRP included providing NRP staff support to nine neighborhoods and conducting NRP's trainings for neighborhood organizations on topics ranging from fiscal responsibilities of boards of directors to how to recruit

volunteers. He also assembled the NRP Digest and blog. Prior to NRP, he was the Executive Director of Citizens for a Loring Park Community, a community organizer and worked on cause-based organizing.

Neighborhood Specialist Stacy Sorenson provided staff support to 10 neighborhoods and served NRP for 17 years. "Stacy is dedicated to helping neighborhoods become better places to live, work, learn and play. She has a keen sense of fairness and neighborhood leaders trust her. A straight shooter, she will be missed," said NRP Director Bob Miller. Her first day at NCR was April 16.

As the neighborhoods to which Thompson and Sorenson were assigned are still at various stages with their NRP-funded activities, remaining NRP staff will take up those duties. "It has been in our budgets



Stacy Sorenson and Robert Thompson

and plans to decrease staff as the funding for NRP has decreased. We are dedicated to making sure neighborhoods can carry out their Neighborhood Action Plans and contracts within the letter and spirit of the enabling legislation that created NRP," Miller said. Newly assigned NRP staff have already started contacting and working with leaders in their new neighborhoods.

## They're Coming to Core Cities from Suburbs

(continued from page 1)

These homeowners and Steve and Krista Hong at 5312 Park Ave. tell their Home Tour stories in a video assembled for NRP by John Akre and Beth Peloff at Minneapolis Television Network. The video is available online at [www.MSPHomeTour.com](http://www.MSPHomeTour.com) and can be viewed on Regional Channel 6 on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Mondays at 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. As part of Minneapolis Neighborhood News, the program is also shown on MTN Channel 16 in Minneapolis on Sundays at 5 p.m. and Channel 17 Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

To plan a tour for April 30-May 1, visitors

can go to [www.MSPHomeTour.com](http://www.MSPHomeTour.com) or pick up a copy of the Home Tour Guides with maps and home descriptions at local libraries.

The Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, a celebration of city living, is coordinated by Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) with the City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development department, with corporate and non-profit sponsors. For information, call 612-673-5103.

To support the Home Tour's lively vibe and increase the possibility of media coverage (which helps attendance), LINK readers are encouraged to "like" the tour on Facebook; see [www.MSPHomeTour.com](http://www.MSPHomeTour.com) for the link to Facebook and Twitter.

## Dottie Titus Will Be Missed

Dorothy (Dottie) Titus, who served on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board in 2006, died at age 64 on March 10 after a long battle with cancer. After serving as a board member of the Jordan Area Community Council, Titus became its Executive Director for a year in 2004-2005.

"She was a calming presence on the JACC board. But what neighbors may remember most is the work she did as part of her daily life," said NRP Director Bob Miller, "She believed in her neighborhood and worked tirelessly to make it a better place for all to live. She did everything from taping drug deals and sending the footage to police, to baking cookies with kids and getting them involved in her gardening."

Friends at her celebration of life service said she expected kids to be kind to each other and respectful. What she expected, she gave. She will be greatly missed.

## Northeast Library's Open, Nokomis is Next!

Crowds checked out the new computer stations at Hennepin County Northeast Library, 2200 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis April 2.

On Saturday, April 30 starting with a brief program at 9:45 a.m. and ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m., Hennepin County-Nokomis Library will open with more than 4,000 additional square feet.

Hours and program listings for all Hennepin County libraries can be found at [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org).

Photo courtesy Hennepin County Libraries



## This is Your Forum

Submit articles and ideas on any topic for the LINK by email to [link@nrp.org](mailto:link@nrp.org). Write between 300 and 600 words stating a problem or opportunity, how you dealt with it, and what you think others could learn from your experiences along the way. High-resolution photos are also welcome.

**Margo Ashmore, editor, 612-673-5103**  
NRP LINK is available in Braille or large print upon request. TTY 612-673-2626. Archives are on [www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org) "Resources"-Media.

# In Brief



## ▶ Redistricting Advisory Group Deadline Extended

There is still a chance for Minneapolis residents to participate in redistricting the city, creating boundaries for elections in 2012 and beyond. The deadline to apply to join the redistricting Advisory Group has been extended to April 29.

The job description and application form are posted at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission). For questions, call the Commission Coordinator, Peggy Menshek, at 612-673-2287 or email her at [peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:peggy.menshek@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

## ▶ Census Data Available to Neighborhoods

Did your neighborhood gain or lose population? Housing units? How many housing units are vacant? Find answers to these questions and more on a new website with data from the 2010 Census, [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/census](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/census).

The website includes the first round of data released by the Census Bureau in March and tables and maps that show results by ward, park commissioner district, neighborhood and Census blocks for: Total population, race and ethnicity of population, number of housing units and vacancy. In the coming weeks, additional maps and analysis will be posted. The site will be expanded as the remaining 2010 data pertaining to age, gender and households is released over the summer.

The site also features a compilation of news stories about the census. Particularly insightful is a MinnPost article "Census: MSP grows, but only on the edge; experts see trouble ahead," by Steve Berg, posted on March 31, 2011.

## ▶ Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board launches the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative (MR|DI) this month with several public and committee meetings, April 27-30. The public meetings (90 minutes of presentation by designers TLS/KVA, 30 minutes Q-A) are Thursday, April 28, 7 - 9 pm, Friday, April 29, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, and Saturday, April 30, 10 am - 12 noon all at the Minneapolis Park Board headquarters, 2117 West River Road, Board Room. The public is also welcome to observe various committee meetings on April 27 and 28, for which agendas will be posted on the blog/site below on April 26.

MR|DI (<http://minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com/>) is the successor of the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition which built on the award-winning Above the Falls master plan to address 5.5 miles of the Mississippi River and adjacent neighborhoods stretching from the Stone Arch Bridge to the city's northern border. The short-term goal is to decide on one key project to implement, which they intend to decide by end of June 2011.

## ▶ Paid Job Openings, CNO Needs PT Organizer

When NRP learns of positions open, we post them on our website and on the blog <http://nrpneighborhoods.blogspot.com> and email them in the NRP Digest. Recent postings can be found on [www.nrp.org](http://www.nrp.org). Cleveland Neighborhood Organization is looking for a part-time organizer to help determine issues and priorities, applications due April 30.

## ▶ Aquatennial Parade and NRP, Commitment Needed

The NRP Policy Board is looking at ways to celebrate 20 years of this highly successful and world acclaimed program. A sub-committee of the policy board was established to explore ways neighborhood volunteers could be engaged to become part of this fun celebration. One possibility is through participation in the 2011 Minneapolis Aquatennial Torch Light Parade on July 20. Neighborhood participants would march in the parade wearing their individual neighborhood t-shirts and carrying signs with their neighborhood logos. Transportation in the parade will be provided for those people who cannot walk the entire length of the parade. A light supper and transportation to and from the parade will be provided. A commitment of at least 50 people is needed to move forward with plans to register for parade entrance. Neighborhood organizations are asked to recruit volunteers and contact Barb Lickness at 673-5216 or [blickness@yahoo.com](mailto:blickness@yahoo.com) with your list of committed volunteers.

## ▶ Corcoran Calls for Art: Paid Opportunities for Artists

A new public art program is taking shape in the Corcoran neighborhood. Corcoran Neighborhood Organization has released two Calls for Art inviting local artists to apply for several paid opportunities with Corcoran GROWS.

Artists may view the Call for Pavement Art (due May 9) and the Call for Boulevard Art (June 1) at [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org) to review program objectives, remuneration, budget, timeline, and how to apply. Residents will get newsletter invitations to work with the selected artists to create several public art installations this year and next. The new public art program is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature.

## ▶ Looking for New Earth Day Ideas? Watch SE Como

The Southeast Como neighborhood will be promoting Earth Day activities for an entire 30 days from April 15 through May 14, 2011, ending with the starting weekend of the MIMO Free Store. Check SECIA's Facebook or [www.SEComo.org](http://www.SEComo.org) for promotions like "Mending Monday" where you fix something you would otherwise throw out, like a pair of jeans, etc... they'll provide some sewing kits and patches to those who come first. Cheap ideas, like "Frugal Friday" where the goal is to spend nothing. Or "Tire Pressure Tuesday" where you inflate your bike tire, or car tires, for best mileage and efficiency.

## ▶ Learn How to Use the Daily Planet

If you're thinking of contributing articles or blogging for the online news source Twin Cities Daily Planet, attend a session Thursday, April 28, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Peace Coffee Shop, 3262 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis. Staff will go over the basics - registering and uploading articles - as well as answering questions and problem-solving. If you don't have a laptop, email [editor@tcdailyplanet.net](mailto:editor@tcdailyplanet.net) and they will try to find one for you to use at the cafe. The coffee, tea or pop is free. Editor Mary Turk will stick around for a working news desk session (below.) You're welcome to stay and contribute your ideas, or just to show up for the news desk editorial meeting at 4:30. To pre-register, email [jeremy@tcdailyplanet.net](mailto:jeremy@tcdailyplanet.net). The Open News Desk Editorial Meeting, 4:30 to 5:30 pm. is for people who want to find out what stories are in the works for the Daily Planet or say stories you'd like to see. Organizers say they will have at least monthly meetings at different places around the Twin Cities.



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### Walking Tours During April 30-May 1 MSP Home Tour

Announcing a change from the printed Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour Guide: Beverly Fiman will substitute for architect Bob Roscoe, guiding walking tours of the Folwell Neighborhood at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. Fiman, a docent at the Purcell Cutts house whose own Cleveland neighborhood home was on the

Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour in 2007, shares Roscoe's eye for the details that may escape notice when driving by, details which give working class homes dignity and individuality. She will be working from his notes, adding her own observations and welcoming comments from participants and homeowners along the way.

The walking tours will step off from the home of David Brown and Alejandra Ishikawa de Brown at 3405 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis at

1:30 p.m. each day. This 1911 home with Mission-style wrap around porch has unique fieldstone features; sitting high on a hill it has captured the imagination of neighborhood passersby for years as it deteriorated under the previous ownership. Now, after several years hard work it's been much improved and the interior is on tour as well. More on the April 30-May 1 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour on page 1 of this LINK.



### NRP Policy Board Report March 2011

- Received and filed Windom Park NRP Phase I Review and Midtown Phillips NRP Phase I Review .
- Received updates on Legislation and NRP Celebration

**Complete reports:** [www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html](http://www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html)

**Policy Board Meets 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (arrive early to go through security)**

Remaining 2011 Dates: (no April meeting) May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, Dec. 19

**Room C-2350 Hennepin County Gov't Center, 300 South 6th Street**

Keegan Xavi [www.Northside365.com](http://www.Northside365.com), "Bruner Loeb Forum Conference visits Northside" Anders Gurda on [www.Powderhorn365.com](http://www.Powderhorn365.com), "Ryo with a handful of worms."



## New 365 Photos

Two new daily community photography blogs/image collections have started, inspired by Powderhorn365.com whose organizers offer to help still others (email using the "contact" box at Powderhorn365.com).

The Phillips+Whittier effort is looking for two more photographers to assign days of the week, and to be "guests" when others know they won't be able to cover their days; email PhillipsWhittier365@gmail.com.

In North Minneapolis, Northside365 did a soft launch on April 1 intending to go public May 1. With 7 daily photographers lined up, they're going strong yet will take guest signups at info@Northside365.com

In these projects, the assigned photographer, amateur or professional, photographs whatever speaks to them, from people to nature, commentary to event promotion (such as the start of the Youth Farm Garden season in Powderhorn in the Anders Gurda photo above). At left is a sampling of images and the URLs for the collections.



Jo Ann Musumeci on <http://Phillips+Whittier365.blogspot.com>, "One reason we're the #1 Biking City;" Lynn Riskedal on [www.Northside365.com](http://www.Northside365.com) "Spring is coming to the Northside."