



# MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations  
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*January 2015*

## Upcoming Events

- **1/14:** Lyndale Immigration Workshop
- **1/15:** Linden Hills Pocket Park Visioning Meeting
- **1/16:** West Calhoun Neighborhood Council seeks Neighborhood Coordinator – application deadline
- **1/16:** Minneapolis - Saint Paul Home Tour nominations due
- **1/17:** 14th Annual Winter Kite Festival
- **1/19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
- **1/19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest - submission deadline
- **1/21:** Camden Community Historical Society Meeting
- **1/22:** Phillips West Winter Social
- **1/23:** HPDL Frost Fest
- **1/24:** Corcoran Book and Bake Sale
- **1/25:** Annual Neighborhood Lake of The Isles Skating Party
- **1/25:** Longfellow Winter Warming Party
- **1/30:** Fix-It Tech Event
- **1/31:** Art Sled Rally

Additional events and details can be found online:  
[www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar)

## Save the Date! 2015 Community Connections Conference



The 2015 Community Connections Conference – ***Creative Engagement and Action using arts and placemaking***- will be held on **Saturday, March 21st** from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m., at the [Minneapolis Convention Center](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference).

The conference is **FREE**.

The conference theme – ***Creative Engagement and Action using arts and placemaking*** - is an in-depth look at creative engagement strategies and creative placemaking. Participants will be immersed into a experiential atmosphere where they will gain the skills and strategies to take creative placemaking techniques back to their own community and do it from start to finish.

This year's conference is being planned by the Community Connections Conference Workgroup made up of representatives from Neighborhood Organizations, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and City Staff. Members of the workgroup are, Rita Ulrich, Cathy Spann from Jordan Area Community Council, Kenya McKnight and Kirk Roggensack from the NCEC , Greg Simbeck from CPED and David Rubedor, Cheyenne Brodeen, Christina Kendrick and Jack Whitehurst from the NCR Department.

The Exhibit Hall Registration will open early-February and Conference Registration will open mid-February. For more information about the conference, visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>.

## Sign up to receive email notifications from the NCR Department

To receive this newsletter electronically and to receive other Community Engagement updates subscribe at:  
[https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MPLS\\_77](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic_id=MPLS_77).

## Neighborhood Stories: Minneapolis neighborhoods lead the way on tenant organizing and renter advocacy

One of the core principles of NCR's work in community engagement is to recognize the needs of all. The Community Participation Program (CPP) specifically requires funded neighborhood organizations to conduct activities that promote the inclusion of all age, ethnic and economic groups in their work, including renters. Another requirement is to explore new methods to stimulate participation and work cooperatively on common issues with other neighborhood organizations. Several Minneapolis neighborhood organizations are leading the way and setting an example of the best strategies to advocate for tenants and assist with renter organizing.



An informal Tenant Organizing Table has been meeting monthly and is attended by neighborhood staff, board members, residents and other community stakeholders. The table includes over 25 neighborhood staff and board members from every sector of Minneapolis as well as many reps from non-profit/advocacy groups. Each neighborhood takes turns setting up the "table" and advocates share ideas about what is working across the city and how to pilot strategies focused on residents who rent. Each attendee then brings these ideas back to their home communities. Their collective goals are to: support and expand base building in neighborhoods; share rights-based trainings and leadership development; advance actions in shared interest.

Some neighborhoods like [Corcoran](#) have set up local tenants' councils to help build leadership within the rental community and help renters address common problems shared across various multi-family dwellings. The Southside United Neighborhoods (S.U.N.), a group of seven neighborhood organizations, presented a "Livability Agenda for Apartment Housing" to the area's four council members to address concerns shared by constituents who rent. They gathered this data over a period of eight months in 2014. The neighborhood staff and resident volunteers worked in 19 buildings and engaged 188 households. They came up with core action items and areas where they need support from City leaders and policy makers. These are: raise standards for livability and inspections; foster energy efficiency and fair utility billing; equip renters and landlords to eliminate bedbugs; make housing standards and renters' rights transparent and legible; and support tenant hotline and Renter organizing capacity.



When asked about advice for other neighborhoods on tenant organizing, Corcoran Lead Organizer Ross Joy states, "First you have to throw out all those excuses that you've been told that "renters don't care about the neighborhood", or that they're "transient" and "destabilize the block." All community members get involved when you address something that they care about. Second, you have to ask a lot of questions and listen to lots of folks, to be able to present a solution to the issue that residents care about. That solution must involve their participation in order to win, and it's a good idea to make it fun."

Windom Community Council will be doing just that in 2015. With a series of workshops coordinated with [Homeline](#), they will reach out, educate and engage the large percentage of renters in their community. The focus of the workshops will include topics from Homeline's book: "[How to be the Smartest Renter on Your Block.](#)" The workshops will also be a forum to hear tenant concerns and help with problem solving. They will be set up in the community center and they also plan to go to larger rental complexes such as Windom Gables and City Limits. Windom will also engage landlords and property managers to provide information and build community in Windom. Check [www.windommpls.org](http://www.windommpls.org) for upcoming workshop dates.

*Footnote: On Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, the [Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing \(MCNO\)](#) will be hosting a "Tenant Organizing Think Tank" where community organizers can have a space to share tenant organizing challenges, and learn from each other's work in identifying solutions. Contact Ned Moore <[nedmoore@umn.edu](mailto:nedmoore@umn.edu)> for more information.*

**Have a Neighborhood Story that you'd like to share? Email us at [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) .**

## The Soccer Connection: A new way to engage the Southeast Asian community



Beginning in September 2014, the Southeast Asian community in Minneapolis has been gathering at Farview Park every Saturday morning to play soccer and learn about programs and opportunities at the City of Minneapolis. This initiative was started by Michael Yang, Southeast Asian Community Specialist in the Neighborhood and Community Relations department to engage the community and share information about the City in a new way.

Soccer is a popular sport in the Southeast Asian community and Michael saw this as an opportunity to build a positive relationship with the community and the City. Every Saturday over 50 individuals from the Southeast Asian community participate. So far information has been shared from the Minneapolis

Police Department, Civil Rights Department, City Coordinator's Department and the Public Works Department. This initiative has proven to be a great way for City departments to connect with the Southeast Asian community. For more information, contact Michael Yang at [Michael.Yang@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Michael.Yang@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2162.

## Sign up to be notified whenever a Snow Emergency is declared

You may have already received mail that could help you avoid tickets and tows when snow season arrives. The City of Minneapolis sent out about 176,000 Snow Emergency brochures, one to each household in the city. The brochure has graphics and text showing where to park during the three phases of a Snow Emergency.

### Stay informed

There are a number of ways to learn when Snow Emergencies are declared and what to do when they are. Put many of these tools to use, not just one or two. The more ways you use to learn about a Snow Emergency, the more prepared you will be, and the less likely you will be to be towed because you didn't know one was declared.

Visit the City of Minneapolis website: [www.minneapolismn.gov/snow](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow) to find all the ways to stay informed about snow emergencies.

Spread the word in multiple languages

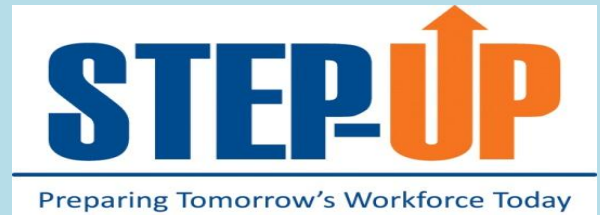
The City of Minneapolis has developed informative videos in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong are available online to help explain where you can park when a Snow Emergency is declared:

- [Minneapolis Snow Emergency Parking Rules](#) (English)  
Find out where to park your car when a Snow Emergency is declared to avoid a ticket and a tow. Learn more in this edition of the Minneapolis "Did you know..." series.
- [Reglas de Estacionamiento de las Emergencias por Nevada](#) (Spanish)  
Averigüe dónde estacionar su carro cuando se ha declarado una Emergencia por Nevada para evitar una multa y remolque. Más información en esta edición de las series de Minneapolis Sabía usted.
- [Xanibaada Goobaha Baabuurta La Dhigto Xilliga Gurmada Barafka](#) (Somali)  
Hel meel aad baabuurka dhigato marka lagu dhawaaqo gurmada barafka looga xaaqayo wadooyinka si aan gaariga lagaaga jiidin laguuna ganaaxin. Faahfaahin dheeraad ah waxaad ka heli kartaa nuqulkaan magaalada Minneapolis ee taxanaha "Ma ogtahay..."
- [Kev Cai Li Choj Txog Kev Kub Ceev thaum Daus Tau Lo](#) (Hmong)  
Thaum muaj daus tau lo, lub nroog yuav tsum tau kaus kev. Pej xeev yuav tsum tau tshem lawv lub tsheb, lub nroog thiaj li kaus tau kev du lug. Yog xav paub ntxiv, sais nroog Minneapolis cov tshooj xov xwm hu, "Koj pos paub".



## Now is the time to sign up for STEP-UP summer internships

It may feel like summer is a long way off, but 2015 summer internship deadlines are coming up fast. Now is the time for students to get on board the City's STEP-UP summer internship program, which prepares youths for future employment by offering summer work experience and training at Minneapolis businesses.



STEP-UP is accepting [online](#) applications through Feb. 18. STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program in partnership with AchieveMpls, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Project for Pride in Living. Last summer, STEP-UP placed nearly 1,650 Minneapolis youths in jobs with more than 230 businesses, public agencies and nonprofits in the metro area. In 2014, STEP-UP had a diverse class with 94 percent youths of color, 35 percent youths from recent immigrant families and 23 percent youths with disabilities or other significant barriers to employment.

To apply and for more information on the City's STEP-UP program, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped\\_stepup](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup). Anyone needing help with the application process can contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, Minneapolis City Council, and the Minneapolis Mayor are pleased to present the 2014 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. This contest is open to all Minneapolis students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. There will be three winners chosen from each grade level. The contest winners will receive a gift card to be awarded at a ceremony before the Minneapolis City Council in the spring of 2015.

The topic for this year's contest is: Jokes or comments are commonly made, both accidentally and intentionally, at the expense of certain groups of people. Some individuals and organized groups actively work to stop hurtful speech. What could you do to stop these stereotypical/hurtful comments?

Essays should be submitted no later than Monday January 19th, 2015. For more details, please visit [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civilrights/commission/civil-rights\\_commission\\_announcements](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civilrights/commission/civil-rights_commission_announcements).

## Three neighborhood organizations seeking qualified candidates to fill vacancies

The **West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC)** seeks a Neighborhood Coordinator to provide administrative support for the Board of Directors. This is a part-time, flexible, contract position at approximately 20-30 hours/month. Compensation is \$25-\$30 per hour. A full job description can be found at [westcalhoun.org](http://westcalhoun.org). To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to [info@westcalhoun.org](mailto:info@westcalhoun.org) by January 16.

The **Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA)** is currently seeking an Interim Executive Director to help the Board of Directors address important systems and capacity issues, lay the groundwork for the following Executive Director's success and manage NENA operations. This is a temporary (4-6 months) full-time position. Salary is commensurate with experience. View the complete announcement at <https://db.tt/hHV7cQwK> and learn more at [www.nokomiseast.org/](http://www.nokomiseast.org/).

The **Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Association (LBNA)** is seeking a part time staff person to provide administrative support for the board and the organization and other duties as needed. Compensation for this position will be \$15.00 - \$24.00 per hour commensurate with experience. A full job description can be found at: <https://db.tt/FexeMyyC>. The position is open until filled.

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*The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in an alternative format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737.*