



Minneapolis Connects

a bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

November/December 2010

Minneapolis to host 2013 Neighborhoods USA Conference

Minneapolis has been selected to host the 2013 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference. NUSA is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and to promote productive communications and collaborations between those associations and both the public and private sectors.

The conference is expected to bring 500 to 600 people to Minneapolis from across the country in May of 2013, and will provide an opportunity for people from all backgrounds and perspectives to discuss the pressing issues of the times, share experiences and learn from each other. The City of Minneapolis is committed to neighborhoods, citizen participation and community involvement as integral to the success of our city. We celebrate and welcome the diversity of all residents and look forward to having conference attendees experience Minneapolis' diverse culture.

The City's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR), in collaboration with Meet Minneapolis, will plan and develop the conference. City Council President Barb Johnson and Mayor R.T. Rybak will serve as the lead elected officials.

Multiple ways of learning about Snow Emergencies

Snow Emergencies are declared whenever there's enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of our streets. Minneapolis offers residents, workers, and visitors a number of tools to learn about and know what to do when Snow Emergencies are declared. It's important to follow the Snow Emergency parking rules so plows can do the best job possible clearing snow.

- **Call the hotline** - By calling the automated (612) 348-SNOW hotline, folks can find out if a Snow Emergency has been declared.
- **Check out the City's website** - Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow
- **Mail** - Every fall, a Snow Emergency informational brochure is mailed to every household in Minneapolis.
- **Phone alerts** - Minneapolis uses a phone alert system to notify residents when Snow Emergencies are declared.
- **E-mail alerts** - You can sign up to get Snow Emergency alerts automatically e-mailed to you. Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/esubscribe.asp for more details.
- **The media** - News releases are sent to TV, radio stations and other news outlets.
- **On cable** - Tune in to cable channels 14 and 79.
- **Log on to Facebook and Twitter** - Go to www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency and twitter.com/minneapolisnow.
- **Call 311**

Courtesy of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department snow emergency information has been translated into Spanish, Hmong and Somali. Translated information is available on the hotline, the City's website and on Cable channels 14 and 79.

St. Stephen's Street Outreach

Ending homelessness is one of the goals of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR). In partnership with the NCR, neighborhoods and the police department, St. Stephen's Street Outreach is assisting people experiencing homelessness with housing and other needed services. Since Oct, 2007, St. Stephen's Street Outreach has been able to house over 200 people directly from the streets, most of whom had been homeless for years. If you know about someone experiencing homelessness in your neighborhood, call the street outreach team at 612-879-7624.

In addition, the Office to End Homelessness organizes a biannual, one day event that links more than 1,500 homeless households with support services. The next Project Homeless Connect will be held on Monday, December 13, 2010 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. For more information please visit the website: www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org

How is Minneapolis achieving results?

Results Minneapolis makes it easy for you to learn how the City is achieving key service goals. Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results for more information.

NCEC recommends Community Participation Program guidelines to City Council

A milestone was passed on October 26th when the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission finalized a set of proposed guidelines for the new Community Participation Program. The Community Participation Program provides the foundational aspects of our neighborhood program for the future. The guidelines have been reviewed by and recommended for approval by the City Council's Committee of the Whole. They will now go to the full City Council for review and approval on December 10th.

These draft guidelines represent significant time, thought, and input from NCEC members, Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, and other interested groups and individuals. During May, June, and July 2010, Commissioners and staff from the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department met with more than 60 neighborhood organizations throughout Minneapolis to gather input prior to developing a draft set of guidelines for the Community Participation Program. The draft guidelines were open for community review in a 45 day review and comment period that started on August 27, 2010.

Suggested revisions to the guidelines came from several sources including guidance and direction from the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission; original source documents including the Framework for the Future; input from neighborhoods gathered during the May to July meetings; and comments received during the 45-day review and comment period. All of these documents, including the draft guidelines, can be found online at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/>. The Community Participation Program is expected to be operational Jan 1, 2011.

Minneapolis says, "Hello Neighbor" to new immigrants, recent arrivals to the city

At an event held on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at Community Action of Minneapolis, Council Vice President Robert Lilligren, Council Member Cam Gordon and staff from the City's Neighborhood and Community Relations department announced the kick-off of "Hello Neighbor" – a new initiative designed to personally welcome recent immigrants to Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Beginning in November, Hello Neighbor volunteers from local resettlement agencies and the City will greet recent immigrants at their homes with one-on-one personal welcomes and give them a gift bag filled with free information about City services and resources. The City's Neighborhood and Community Relations department is focusing on areas of the city with a large East African population and hoping to reach approximately 500 new arrivals in the first year of this initiative. If the pilot program succeeds, the goal is to eventually take it citywide to everyone moving into Minneapolis.

Hello Neighbor is a holistic effort to establish a human connection with newly arrived immigrants at an early stage with the hope that these new residents will learn about City services and resources, feel part of a community, connect with civic and neighborhood organizations, and improve their overall quality of life. To get involved with Hello Neighbor contact Mohamed Hajin or for more information see the NCR website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/>

City services in three languages

In October 2010, the Access and Outreach Division of Neighborhood and Community Relations' Department produced cable TV programs devoted to issues and information about the City services and its departments in Spanish, Somali and Hmong. The show is produced quarterly and broadcasted on Access Minneapolis (channel 14 cable).

For this fall segment, the topics covered included 2010 Elections, Boards and Commissions, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Energy Awareness, Pet licensing, Street sweeping, snow emergency information and others. To watch the show visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cable.

Minneapolis 311

Need to report a broken street light? Is there a stray dog roaming your neighborhood? Do you just want a question about the City of Minneapolis answered? Dial 311. If you're calling outside city limits: 612-673-3000 and for TTY: 612-673-2157

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