



MinneapolisConnects

News and Information from Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations
Call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov

August 2014

Upcoming Events

8/1: Riverfront Festival
8/1-8/3: Uptown Art Fair
8/2-8/3: Loring Park Art Festival, Powderhorn Art Fair
8/2: North Loop Sidewalk Sale
8/2: Owamni - Falling Water Festival
8/2: Kenny Summerfest
8/3: Victory Neighborhood Garden Tour
8/5: National Night Out
8/7: Lynnhurst Summer Festival
8/9: Windom's Home Garden Tour and Community Potluck Picnic
8/11: Armatage Summer Festival
8/12: Primary Elections
8/14: Runnin' with the Law 5K
8/14: 44th Annual Longfellow Corn Feed
8/14: Linden Hills Corn Feed
8/14: Live on the Drive
8/15: Powderhorn 24 Bike Race
8/16: Beltrami Neighborhood Festival
8/17: Open Streets – Franklin Avenue East
8/20: Cleveland Party in the Park
8/20: Somali Food Forum for Somali owned business in Minneapolis
8/23-8/24: League of Longfellow Artists (LoLa) Art Crawl
8/25: Linden Hills History Study Group
8/28: East Isles Ice Cream Social
8/28-8/31: North American Festival of Wales

Additional events and details can be found online:

www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/calendar

Submit your 2015 Community Connections Conference theme idea by August 15th

The 3rd annual Community Connections Conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The conference planning team is looking for neighborhood and community organizations to submit ideas for the 2015 Conference Theme!

The conference is an annual gathering of neighborhood and cultural organizations for the purposes of 1) sharing experiences and best practices; 2) facilitating connections between organizations; and 3) supporting stronger relationships with the City of Minneapolis.

Please send your theme idea to NCR@minneapolismn.gov by Friday, August 15, 2014.

Theme ideas will be reviewed by the conference planning team and announced in September 2014. The individual or organization whose theme idea is chosen will receive recognition in the program book and during the conference.

Questions can be directed to Cheyenne Brodeen, Cheyenne.Brodeen@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2052. You can learn more about the City Goals and Strategic Directions by visiting www.minneapolismn.gov/citygoals.

Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission welcomes four new members

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) welcomed four new members in July. Neighborhoods in NCEC District 6 elected Debra Behrens from Stevens Square to represent them on the commission. The City Council appointed David Zaffrann who lives in the Howe neighborhood and Eric Gustafson from the Corcoran neighborhood. Maleta Kimmons who resides in the Hawthorne neighborhood was appointed by the Park Board.



Additionally, three commissioners were re-elected, Denis Houle in NCEC District 2, Doron Clark in NCEC District 4 and Francisco Segovia in NCEC District 8. Ishmael Israel from the Willard-Hay neighborhood was re-appointed by the Mayor and Brittany Lewis from Shingle Creek was re-appointed by the City Council.

For more information on the NCEC, visit:

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/ncr_ncec_home.

City seeks election judges

With the Aug. 12 primary less than two weeks away, Minneapolis is still seeking election judges. Currently, over 1,000 people have agreed to serve as election judges for the primary. The Minneapolis Office of Elections & Voter Services estimates another 83 will be needed. In particular, judges who are fluent in a second language, including Somali, Hmong, and Spanish, are being sought. All election judges will take a two-hour training class.

Selection and placement of judges is based on applicant qualifications and party balance within the precinct. Preference will be given to those willing to serve a full day in a precinct with a vacancy. Anyone interested should contact Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services at 612-673-3870 or apply online at vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges.



Neighborhood Stories: Universal Access Play Area opens at Wabun Picnic Area

Thursday, July 31 marked the grand opening and dedication of a new universal access play area at Minnehaha Falls Regional Park's Wabun Picnic Area. This is the first universally accessible play area in the Minneapolis park system.



Photo Credit: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

A project of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the universal play area was supported by a variety of organizations and donors, including *Falls for All*, which raised over \$456,000 for the play area, and the Longfellow Community Council (LCC), which contributed toward the cost of accessible rubber surfacing to increase access for those using mobility aids. "Surfacing is one of the most effective ways to increase access, yet due to the expense, it is the easiest to cut from the budget," according to LCC's Executive Director Melanie Majors.

While all new play areas must meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, a universally accessible play area vastly exceeds ADA requirements, with at least 70% of its play areas being accessible. Accessible features in the the new play area include rubberized surfaces, multiple ramps and paths to play within a structure, sensory- promoting features that encourage swinging, rocking, spinning and rolling, and quiet areas that provide for less intense experiences. The goal is to allow all children and their caregivers to be included in play.

There is still time to enroll in the 2014 Minneapolis City Academy

Have you ever wondered how emergency calls in Minneapolis are dispatched? How streets get plowed? How the water gets to your faucet? Or, how property gets developed? The answers to these questions and more will be discussed at the Minneapolis City Academy program beginning September 17th.

The City Academy will be held weekly on Wednesdays from September 17th through October 15th at locations throughout Minneapolis. Each session will focus on one aspect of City government such as public safety, public works, planning and development and fire services. Sessions will run from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. The program is open to all Minneapolis residents who are 18 years or older. The academy is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete the application form that can be found online:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/MinneapolisCityAcademy>.



City approves open data policy

The Mayor and City Council have approved the City's first open data policy that sets in motion the creation of an open data portal so new kinds of City data can be accessed online by the public. Up until now, if residents or reporters wanted much of this information, they had to formally request it from the City.

Minneapolis now joins 38 states and 46 cities and counties that have open data portals that have made several hundred to thousands of data sets available to the public. By making the City of Minneapolis' data available online, the public can use it in a variety of ways, including to help identify efficient solutions for government, to promote innovative strategies for social progress and to create economic opportunities. Common uses of open data across the country include the development of web and smartphone applications such as applications that show when busses will arrive at a bus stop, where crime is happening, where public bikes are available and results of city inspections.

The approved policy states that a City open data portal will go live online by the end of the year. All data sets published on the open data portal will use a format that permits processing of the data for download through an application programming interface (API). City departments will work to make an initial set of data available when the portal comes online, and additional data sets will be added over time.

Beginning in 2015, all new City contracts will need to include provisions to ensure data sets can be made public when appropriate. City departments will also assign an open data coordinator to manage publishing departmental data. As part of the approval of the 2014 budget, the City Council directed staff to develop an open data policy for the city. The Information Technology department created the Open Data Group made up of department staff, Council Member Andrew Johnson, and subject matter experts from outside City government.

Absentee voting begins for August 12 primary

The City has begun accepting absentee ballots for the August 12, 2014 primary. Contests on the ballot in Minneapolis include federal, state, county, school board, and judicial offices. All Minneapolis voters are encouraged to vote in the primary and make their voice heard in selecting who will be the ballot in the November general election. This is the first time voters won't be required to provide a specific reason for not voting on primary day. That makes absentee voting available to all voters. Absentee voting for the Primary opened Friday, June 27 at the Minneapolis Office of Elections & Voter Services, 350 Fifth St. S. – Room 201.

Voters can choose to vote absentee either by mail or in person. City Hall has transformed into Minneapolis' largest polling place, open to all voters who want to come in to cast their absentee ballot in person. The Elections & Voter Services team has readied their office in room 201 to accommodate voters. They've also transitioned in-person absentee voting into the larger rotunda area of City Hall whenever high turnout requires more room.

For information about registering and voting in Minneapolis or to serve as an election judge, residents can visit the website at vote.minneapolismn.gov or call Minneapolis 311 or 612-673-3000.

Windom Community Council wins Neighborhood of the Year award at 2014 Neighborhoods, USA Conference

The Windom Community Council was awarded 3rd place for their Tots Rock project. The Windom Community Council began to see younger families moving into the neighborhood and wanted an event that could unite these families in a social setting. The concept behind Tots Rock is a dance party for children ages 6 months to 7 years of age. In addition to dancing to a live D.J., the event features a “chill” room with books, a craft and coloring station and bean bags for lounging. The variety of activities keep children engaged and entertained while giving parents the opportunity to meeting other parents in the community.

This year’s event brought over 150 families to the Windom South Community Center on March 22, 2014. You can learn more about Tots Rock by visiting: <http://www.windommpls.org>.

45 Day Review and Comment Period for Community Innovation Fund

The Community Innovation Fund is intended to provide grants to neighborhood organizations to foster innovative and locally-relevant approaches to City-identified goals. Scheduled to begin in early 2015, the program will make \$300,000 available in grants to neighborhoods for a two-year period.

The draft guidelines were developed by the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) after a series of nine listening sessions with neighborhood organizations held in early 2014.

The guidelines can be found at: www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr. The comment period is open until Monday, August 18, 2014. Questions can be directed to Howard Blin, Howard.Blin@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3163.



City of Minneapolis information is on cable TV in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong

In addition to English, you can learn about City services and programs on Minneapolis 14 (Comcast Cable channel 14) in Hmong, Somali and Spanish. Here are the times that you can watch programs in each language:

- Español programación (Spanish programming): 3 a.m., 11 a.m., 8 p.m.
- Barnaamijka Somaaliga (Somali programming): 2 a.m., 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
- Hmoob Kom Tswj (Hmong programming): 1 a.m., 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

City Information in Hmong, Somali, Spanish

You can find City of Minneapolis information in Hmong, Somali and Spanish on TV and online. Watch Comcast cable channel 14 or check the City of Minneapolis website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxRfrUBf2_0&feature=youtu.be.

Información en Español de la Ciudad de Minneapolis (City Information, Spanish)

Tú puedes encontrar información acerca de la Ciudad en español en la televisión y en el internet.

Macluumaadka Magaalada oo Af Somali ah (City Information, Somali)

Macluumaadka Magaalada oo Af Somali ah waxaad ka daawan kartaa teefeshinka iyo Barta inter-netka. Waxaad daawataa telefishka Comcast cable ee kanaalka 14naad ama waxaad boqataa barta inter-netka ee Magaalada Minneapolis

Nroog Minneapolis cov xov xwm (City Information, Hmong)

Koj nrhiav tau nroog Minneapolis cov xov xwm no tau hauv Comcast nyob tshoom 14 los yog mus xyuas nroog Minneapolis qhov website.

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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.