



The Victory View

Volume 14 3

Summer 2006

NNO –August 1—Join the Tradition

Upcoming Events

- Concert at the Flagpole— Thursday, July 20th 7pm - Classic Big Band and the Nostalgic Quartet
- The Camden Music School and Papa's Pizza and Pasta will be producing a series of community concerts at 42nd and Thomas during the month of August. Watch the Camden News for the concert schedule.
- Concert at the Flagpole— August 8th—6:30 pm—Jack Norton and the Mullet River Boys
- Headwaters Walk for Justice— September 17
- Annual Meeting and board elections—September 27

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For 4 out of the last 5 years, including last year, the City of Minneapolis has ranked #1 in the nation for cities of its size in the number of National Night Out participants. (The 5th year Minneapolis ranked #2.) Minneapolis' theme for this year is National Night Out—Join the Tradition. Be part of the effort to be #1 again this year by having a NNO party on your block.

If you have not had a National Night Out block party in the past this is the year to start the tradition. Your National Night Out party can be as elaborate or as simple as you want. Block clubs that have been having National Night Out parties for years may close off the street and have BBQs or potlucks. But many block clubs keep it simple by simply sharing some food or beverages and conversation in their back yards or on their front porches or lawns. What you do and how you do it is not important. What is important is that neighbors have an opportunity to get together and get to know each other. Getting to know your neighbors and building community is a great

crime-fighting tool.

If you have kids on your block get them involved! Include activities to generate youth interest and participation, such as volleyball, face painting, bean bag toss, or piñatas.



Use NNO as an opportunity to discuss issues or concerns, such as graffiti, on your block. Graffiti is a major problem in Minneapolis: there were more than 1,900 complaints in February of this year. The City of Minneapolis spends hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly to remove it from public and private property. Consider forming a graffiti removal crew on your block. Help those who are unable to remove graffiti from their property. Talk to the kids on your block about graffiti removal efforts. Let them know that graffiti is illegal, disrespectful and costly.

Don't wait any longer. NNO is just around the

corner, but it's not too late to plan your block party. If your block doesn't currently have a block club, NNO is a great opportunity for neighbors to create their own celebration and it could be the starting point for a new block club.

For more information about National Night Out call 311 (612-673-3000) or visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno

Having a block club and NNO party on every block in the neighborhood is a crime fighting strategy of ViNA. For more information about starting a block club call Crime Prevention Specialist Shannon McDonough at 673-2805 or the Victory Office at 529-9558.

Recreational Bonfires— Dos and Don'ts

Over the last few years the neighborhood has seen an increasing number of recreational fires being enjoyed in residents' back yards. Backyard bonfires can serve as a great gathering place for neighbors where they can get to know each other and enjoy a nice summer or fall evening. Some blocks may even end their National Night Out or other block parties gathered around one neighbor's fire ring.

If you or your neighbors enjoy recreational fires it is important to know the provisions that have been set



Enjoy your back yard fires safely!

forth by the City of Minneapolis Fire Marshall for the protection of you and your neighbors .

*Fires less than 3 feet in diameter and less than 2 feet in height are permitted.

*Fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of structures or combustible materials unless contained in a fire ring.

*Only unpainted, untreated wood, coal or charcoal may be burned; no burning of rubbish is allowed.

*Buckets, shovels, garden hoses or a fire extinguisher shall be readily available for use at a recreational fire.

*Every recreational fire shall be

constantly attended by a competent person and shall be completely extinguished before leaving the scene.

*Recreational fires shall be permitted only between the hours of 9:00 am and 10:00 pm.

*Recreational fires shall not be conducted if wind conditions exceed 10 mph.

*Minneapolis Fire Department personnel are authorized to require that recreational fires be immediately discontinued if such fires are determined to be hazardous

* Failure to comply with these provisions is a chargeable offense.

We can continue to safely enjoy our back yard bonfires by adhering to these few simple rules.

Thank You—Ice Cream Social Volunteers

A big hearty thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the 2006 Ice Cream Social a huge success. 500 ice cream sundaes were served, provided by the Victory Neighborhood Association and Jon Olson/Camden Dairy Queen. Through the auspices of Janet Zahn and the Camden Music School, the music was provided by the "Ice Cream Socializers" , Larry Thomas , Chris Johnson, Bruce Smith and

company. And thanks to Robin and Starla Krause and the Kid's Cook program, the "Katie Tomatie" puppet show in the community garden was a big hit.

Thanks to all who helped plan, set up/take down, make/serve popcorn, water and orange drink AND scoop those 500 sundaes. Volunteers who helped make the event a success are: Kris Brogan, Marge

Carlisle, Joe Gagne, Kathy Hartwell, Ann, Steve and Warren Kaari, Pete Lundin, Joe Madsen, Matt Massman, Marian Michael, Tim Nelson, Aaron and Diane Spector, John Trombley, Gladys Wassing, Brad Wicklund and Ann Kegley and her staff at Webber Park. It is these and other community volunteers that make the Victory Neighborhood the "Hidden Gem" that it is.



MPRB Plants 4,000 New Trees

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board planted over 4,000 new trees on boulevards and parks this spring. Forestry crews completed the first two waterings and placed 4 to 6 inches of mulch at the base of the trees by the middle of June. The Forestry Department will continue to care for the trees in the parks and on the parkway but



Please water your boulevard trees!

the trees on the boulevards are the responsibility of the home owner.

The best way to water a new tree is to use a garden hose turned on at a slow rate for two hours, letting the water soak into a depth of 18 inches where 90% of the trees roots grow. If a garden hose is not available 10 gallons of water

will soak a new tree. Try to use the same amount every watering.

To prevent the moisture from evaporating maintain a 4 inch deep, two foot radius of wood chips a few inches from the trunk . Free wood chips are available from the MPRB at its maintenance station on Fremont and Webber Parkway. Or call 370-4900 for other locations.

Victory Business Corner

Emily's F & M Café—A Family Tradition. This month *Emily's F & M Café*

(2124 44th Avenue) celebrates 25 years of dishing up fine homemade cooking to Northsiders and those who come from far and wide to get a taste of this Victory eatery.

Since 1981, owners Emily and Elliot Benincasa have been flipping the best pancakes around followed up by tasty homemade lunches with daily specials like homemade chicken ala king to tasty ribs and kraut (Thursday's). Originally from North Minneapolis themselves, the Benincasa's raised three children on the same tasty dishes patrons enjoy and the tradition carries on with son Elliot Jr. integral to current operations and three area businesses owned by the Benincasa's children. Asked the secret to success, Emily says good food and always treating every customer with respect and gratitude... "thank you Victory residents" for your business. So, while the best reason to patronize Emily's isn't new at all, on your way out you can now get a container of Emily's homemade Italian sauce to go, complete with labeling featuring a photo of Emily and her mother. Emily's is open seven days



Emily has been dishing up pancakes since 1981

a week (6:00AM – 2:30PM M-Sa, 8:00AM – 2:30PM Sunday).

Cutting Edge Barbers—Need to a fresh do or quality trim, check out **Cutting Edge Barbers** at 2134 44th Avenue North, just next door to Emily's F & M Café. At Cut-

ting Edge, owner Dee Ali not only provides quality hair care for all hair styles but has created a comfortable space to enjoy the always lively conversation, from pop culture to religion to politics, while you wait. You can even shoot pool in the back. Thanks to Dee, who lives in Victory with her husband Laprice and their two children, for the improvement she has made since purchasing the building in 2004. Cutting Edge is open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30AM to 4:00PM; walk-ins are always welcome but appointments are recommended.

Business News and Notes—WELCOME to *The Warren—An Artist's Habitat*, located at Osseo Road and 44th Avenue, held its grand opening on June 3. The Warren, owned by Victory residents Rob Jacoby and Duane Atter, offers work and commercial space for Duane's photography art (open M, Tu, Th, F 10 AM to 5 PM) and for

other artists. Welcome also to **Chiro Health Clinic**, 4400 Oliver Avenue North; **Wrightteam Realty**, at 2210 44th Ave No.

FOND FAREWELLS to *New Look Furniture Studio*, which owner Dan Gelfand says simply out grew its space after operating successfully in Victory for 38 years, most recently at 4201 Thomas Avenue North. Founded by his father, the New Look tradition carries on at 4000 Winnetka Avenue in New Hope. A sad farewell also **C & C Crafts**, which has closed its retail space but will continue its sales online.

Summer arrives with a plethora of business improvements, including: landscape, façade, paint, and security lighting improvements made by Rick Gullickson, the new owner of the commercial property at **42nd and Thomas**; new plantings at **Domino's**, now owned by Kaukuna of Minnesota LLC in Willmar; landscape improvements at **The Warren**; new window awnings at **Cutting Edge Barbers**; and façade and landscape clean-up at **Chiro Health Clinic**. Remember, the best way to keep neighborhood businesses around and thank them for their commitment is to give them your patronage!!! Please let us know if we missed any business goings on so we can get it in the next newsletter. For more information on joining the ViNA Business Committee call Matt Massman at

Livability Committee

The Livability Committee of the Victory Neighborhood Association meets on the **second Saturday of every month from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Papa's Pizza and Pasta**. The meeting is a forum for Victory residents to discuss issues affecting



The Livability Committee is neighbors working together

the livability and safety of the neighborhood, and to brainstorm and work on solutions to the problems. The committee is addressing issues such as graffiti, nuisance and criminal behaviors and problem properties and/or landlords and

is working to build and strengthen block clubs .

Join your neighbors at the next Livability Committee meeting , August 12th at 9:30 am and be part of the solution. Papa's Pizza and Pasta is located at 4159 Thomas Ave No. If you have questions please call Kris Brogan at 801-4942.

VICTORY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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Board of Directors.
Chairman: John Trombley
Vice Chairman: Matt Massman
Secretary: Diane Spector
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SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

The Victory Neighborhood Association is a not-for profit 501(C)(3) organization. As such, any contributions to ViNA are tax deductible for the donor. Please consider making a contribution in support of ViNA. Contributions can be directed to specific projects such as the Ryan Lake Trail Project , the Lincoln for Lincolns campaign or to general support of the Victory Neighborhood Association .

Help us make a difference!

Ryan Lake Shoreline Restoration and Trail Project

The Victory Neighborhood Association continues to work toward the goal of restoring the shoreline and the water quality at Ryan Lake, the only lake in North Minneapolis and creating a recreational trail that will connect the lake with Victory Memorial Drive and the “prairie” east of Osseo Road.

This spring the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, in partnership with the DNR, built and installed a new permanent fishing dock at the lake. This dock is handicap accessible and the MPRB will be installing a handicap accessible trail from Xerxes Ave to the dock.

Also this spring ViNA partnered with the Patrick Henry Garden Club to install a rain garden. The rain garden will help to improve the water quality of the lake because it captures rain water and al-



A new fishing dock at Ryan Lake

lows it to filter into the soil rather than to run off into the lake carrying pollutants that can cause unhealthy plant growth and kill fish. The PHHS Garden Club was assisted in planting the rain garden by Americorps volunteers and the project was funded by the Shingle Creek Watershed.

A major challenge facing both the rain garden and the shoreline restoration was the lack of rain. This challenge was overcome by securing a hydrant permit from the city, and running several hundred feet of hose from the street to the restoration area. Now both the shoreline and rain garden plants can get watered during what appears to be becoming a hot, dry summer. The PHHS garden club is maintaining the rain garden, but the remaining challenge for the shoreline is weeds!

Americorps volunteers also spent some time weeding last May but it's an ongoing challenge. ViNA is looking for help from residents who can contribute any amount of time to doing some weeding at Ryan Lake. If that is you—please call us at 612-529-9558 and we can make arrangements for you to help out.

The biggest challenge remaining is raising funding for the trail. Groundwork Minneapolis has secured a \$43,000 grant from the DNR , but these funds must be matched before the end of the year. ViNA has committed \$10,000 but another \$33,000 must be raised. ViNA and their partners , Groundwork Minneapolis, and the National Park Service are developing a capital campaign to raise these funds. We need help to make this capital campaign successful. If you want to help call or e-mail ViNA! Or make a donation !