



# The Victory View

Volume 16 Issue 1

Winter 2008

## Victory Neighborhood in 2008

- How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.  
—Anne Frank
- Do what you can with what you have, where you are.  
—Theodore Roosevelt
- Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world—indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.  
— Margaret Mead



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Happy New Year from the Victory Neighborhood Association Board and Staff!. We are looking forward to an eventful and productive year in the neighborhood and hope that your new year's resolutions include making 2008 the year that YOU make a contribution to your community. We are not talking about a monetary contribution (although those are certainly welcome—see page 4.) , but a contribution of your time and talent to making the Victory Neighborhood a model community; safe, vibrant and engaged with attractive quality housing, successful businesses, first rate neighborhood schools, well maintained green spaces and recreational and cultural opportunities for all phases of

life. This is the vision ViNA has for the neighborhood and there are a variety of ways that you can contribute to realizing this vision. You can help make Victory a safe community by starting or participating in your block club , participating on the Livability Committee or just remaining vigilant and reporting anything that seems amiss on your block.

You can add to the vibrancy of the community by helping to plan the myriad of events that Victory hosts each year, volunteer to help out at one of them or become part of our neighborhood ambassador program which welcomes new residents to the neighborhood.

You can help maintain our housing stock by join-



*A lot of people like snow—I find it an unnecessary freezing of water—Carl Reiner*

ing the Housing Committee or using a Home Improvement loan to enhance your own property, ensure successful businesses in our neighborhood by supporting the ones we have or join the Business Committee and work to attract new businesses to the neighborhood and/or improve the attractiveness of business nodes. You can help maintain the green spaces in our neighborhood by joining the Envi-

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Thomas Avenue Aglow with Holiday Lights

Twenty-one Victory residences were nominated for the 2008 Holiday Lights Contest. Seven judges viewed and scored the nominees independently, each awarding up to 25 points for creativity, number of lights, theme and aesthetics. And when all the scores were in and

tallied, the 42nd block of Thomas Ave No. earned 1st , 2nd and 3rd place!

1st place—4254 Thomas  
2nd place—4243 Thomas  
3rd place—4258 Thomas

All nominees will be awarded certificates and winners will be awarded

cash and/or gift certificates to neighborhood businesses. 1st place- \$65 cash and \$65 in certificates; 2nd place-\$25 in cash and \$55 in certificates; 3rd place \$50 in certificates . All awards will be made at the January 23rd ViNA meeting.

# North Housing and Home Improvement Fair III

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual North Housing and Home Improvement Fair will provide an excellent opportunity for North Minneapolis homeowners and renters to connect with contractors, real estate agents, lenders and community organizations. Attendees can learn about home buying programs, including programs only available on the Northside. The Housing Fair will attract individuals from the entire city to provide a "one-stop" shop for residents. Topics will include:

- Homeownership opportunities
- Financial resources available for prospective homebuyers

- Transitioning from renter to homeowner
- Resources for home improvement and maintenance
- Learning how to avoid predatory lending and purchasing
- Foreclosure Prevention
- Community reinvestment



Saturday, March 15, 10 am to 3 pm

The event, free and open to the public, will be on Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at North Community High School, 1500 James Avenue North in Minneapolis.

**Day of event:** Enter through the southwest corner of the school (14<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Knox Avenue) through doors 1, 28 or 29.

Last year, the housing fair was sponsored by the Center for Energy and the Environment, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Community Planning and Economic Development, North Community High School, Wells Fargo, TCF and the Northside neighborhood organizations: Cleveland, Folwell, Harrison, Hawthorne, Jordan, Lind Bohanon, McKinley, Near North, Shingle Creek, Sumner-Glenwood (Heritage Park), Victory, Webber-Camden, and Willard Hay.

## Webber Park Library Reopens!

January 1, 2008 was the date of the merger of the Minneapolis Library and Hennepin County Library systems. The merger was the solution to the financial difficulties that the Minneapolis system had been experiencing in the last few years that had resulted in the closing of Webber Park and two other community libraries. December 29, 2006 we were saddened by the clo-

sure of our beloved and well used library, but on January 3, 2008 we were elated by the reopening of the library as a result of the merger. Library hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 8 pm and Saturdays, 10 am to 6 pm for the time

being, but Hennepin County Commissioners have also announced their intentions to build a bigger and better Webber Park Library in 2009!

Many thanks to all the Camden volunteers whose vigilance ensured that Webber Park Library would not remain dark!

*The Webber Park Library will be open  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
noon to 8 pm  
Saturdays 10 am to 6 pm*

## Help Wanted—Youth Corps

The Victory Youth Corps is a group of neighborhood youth who assist senior and disabled residents with outdoor chores, such as snow shoveling in the winter, lawn mowing in the summer and yard work in the spring and fall. Many of the senior and/or disabled residents would not be able to remain in



Join the Youth Corps and help out your neighbors

their homes without this help and the youth are compensated with a stipend for their work. Many of the participants in the Youth Corps have found that an added benefit is the relationship that is forged between the youth and the residents they are serving.

If you are a resident of the Victory Neighborhood between the ages of 12 and 17, who is interested in helping out some of your senior neighbors and earning a little bit of money at the same time, call the VINA office for an application to the Youth Corps. 612-529-9558. Or e-mail us at [vina@mninter.net](mailto:vina@mninter.net)

# Out With the Old ! E-Cycle

New electronic gifts this holiday season ? Got old electronics in your basement or garage? You're not alone. Experts estimate that the average US household is storing two to three old televisions and computers.

When you upgrade, don't stockpile your old electronics. Recycle them for free! Electronics recycling has never been easier or more important. Most electronics contain toxic metals such as lead, mercury



Electronic recycling has never been easier or more important !

and cadmium. If any of these contaminants gets into our rivers, streams or lakes, they can harm our health and damage the environment.

Hennepin County takes electronics free of charge, year-round, from residents at drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park at the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station

8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park.

The facility is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Electronics accepted include TVs, computers (CPUs, monitors, laptops), computer peripherals (keyboards, printers, etc), VCRs, DVD

players, stereos, and more. Some quantity limits apply. These items are accepted from households only. Electronics from businesses are not accepted at the facilities.

City of Minneapolis residents can recycle electronics through the city's curbside recycling program. Place next to the garbage cart on the recycling day. Limit of two items per recycling week. Please post a sign or write on the item "Please Take". Item will be picked up on next business day after recycling day.

For more information on Hennepin County's Drop-off Facilities call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) search: A to Z Guide. For more information on the City of Minneapolis Recycling program call 612-673-2917 or visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste).

## Business Corner

### A New Year Brings Exciting Dining Opportunities

**Papa's Pizza and Pasta** and **Rix Bar and Grill** (soon to be **Sauced**) are ringing in 2008 with great food and friendly atmospheres. On Saturday, January 12, **Papa's Deli and Gelato Café** will host its Grand Opening at 4159 Thomas Avenue North. The deli will be offering free samples of its meats, cheese and eight flavors of imported Italian gelato from Noon – 2:00 while special guest and artist Jan Marx discusses her *Highly Textured Art* currently on exhibit at Papa's. The deli will eventually add salads and other offerings of interest to the neighborhood. Hours of operation will be similar to those of Papa's dining room as the deli and gelato café will serve as the entry point for Papa's dining room and order pick-up. And,



New dining opportunities in Victory

by the way, Papa's already delectable menu now includes some even more delicious sandwiches. For more information, go to [www.papaspizzaandpasta.com](http://www.papaspizzaandpasta.com) or call 612-521-7272.

**Rix Bar and Grill** is under new ownership with a revamped menu focusing on fresher ingredients and more in-house creations. The Rix name and menu will eventually give way to **Sauced** as business partners John Conklin and Susan Applegren apply their traditional French cooking mentality to bring us classic rustic dishes. The combined energy and experience of John, a former sous chef at the Sample

Room and Susan, with front-of-the-house experience at many area restaurants, promises diners delicious en-

trée's and a vibrant atmosphere. Check out the changes, get acquainted with some good cooking and relaxed atmosphere and look forward to **Sauced!**

*Rix Bar and Grill is under new ownership.... Papa's Deli and Gelato Cafe is open!*

Also exciting for the New Year, ViNA has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the City's Great Streets program to help develop a strategy for reclaiming a foothold for pedestrians at 44<sup>th</sup> and Penn Avenues. The ViNA business committee meets regularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the ViNA Office, 2200 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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Kris Brogan  
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## Make 2008 the Year that YOU Contribute to the Neighborhood

*(Continued from page 1)*

ronment Committee or just by learning about and practicing environmentally friendly landscaping.

You may have other ideas about how you and your neighbors can contribute to maintaining Victory as a model community—let us know what those are so we can share your ideas in future newsletters. Whatever you choose to do, let us make 2008 the year that everyone contributes to revitalizing and sustaining the Victory Neighborhood!

### Victory Neighborhood Association Contribution Form

**I would like to contribute to the Victory Neighborhood Association\* with a gift of :**

\$5       \$10       \$25       \$50       \$100       Other \_\_\_\_\_

The Victory Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3) corporation and as such all donations are tax deductible by the donor.

**I would like my contribution to go to :**  General Operating Funds       Youth Corps       Ryan Lake Shoreline

Community Building Events       Newsletters       Welcome Packets       Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to contribute my time and talent to the Victory Neighborhood by participating on the:**

Housing Committee       Business Committee       Events Committee       Environmental Committee

Livability Committee       Sustainability Committee       Welcome Ambassador       Block Club Leader       Other

Please Contact me with more information about these opportunities

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\* Make checks payable to the Victory Neighborhood Association