



The Victory View

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2009

Victory Plans a Neighborhood Garden Party

By Diane Spector

Dates to Note

- **January 22**—MTC meeting re: Bus Route 19R
- **January 23**— Deadline for registering for the Home Tour
- **January 28, February 25, March 25**, ViNA meetings at St John Missionary Baptist Church —4301 Thomas Ave No
- **February 28**— Garden Party pre Workshop Information Session
- **March 26**—Metro Blooms Part A Workshop

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What's a neighborhood rain garden party? A day this spring when Victory Neighborhood residents will turn out to plant at least 15 new rain gardens across our neighborhood.

What is a rain garden, and why a rain garden party? Simply put, a rain garden is an upside-down garden. Instead of a raised bed, the garden bed is a depression planted with native plants that is intended to capture and soak up runoff directed from roofs, down spouts, driveways, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces. Rain water is infiltrated into the ground instead of running off into the storm sewers. Runoff carries grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer, pet waste, sediment, and trash into the storm sewer and into our lakes and streams, causing algae blooms, sediment buildup, and poor water quality.

Our neighborhood drains to Ryan and Crystal Lakes, both of which have high levels of phosphorus and poor water quality. One way to help improve the lakes is to reduce runoff, nutrients, and sediment from entering the storm sewers. An

easy way to do that is to plant rain gardens – the more the better.

A rain garden has to be located and designed properly to work well. This spring ViNA will team up with the non-profit Metro Blooms to offer information and design workshops for Victory residents. The Cleveland Neighborhood is also teaming up with a goal of 15 rain gardens in that neighborhood as well.

Some of you may already have taken a rain garden workshop from Metro Blooms. The Victory and Cleveland workshops will be a little different than past offerings. The workshops will still be offered in two parts – Workshop A, which is an overview of rain gardens and other practices such as rain barrels and pervious pavements to reduce runoff, and Workshop B – a hands-on “design your rain garden” session.

Victory and Cleveland are participating in a pilot program with Metro Blooms. Workshop B for 15 lucky residents per neighborhood will be one-on-one design sessions *at your home*. Landscape



Rain gardens are planted with deep rooted native plants.

architecture students will help you locate a good site and lay out your rain garden, and help you select the proper plants. Then, on the day of the neighborhood garden party, a work crew from Metro Blooms will come to your home, dig up the garden, and prepare it for planting. All you need to do is supply and plant the plants, and then take care of the garden.

Sound like something you're interested in? The ViNA Environment Committee will hold a free pre-workshop informational meeting about rain gardens and other practices on Saturday, February 28 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at The Warren, 4400 Osseo Road. Master gardeners and other neighbors experienced with rain gardens will be there to present informa-

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Victory Plans a Neighborhood Garden Party

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tion, answer your questions, and help you decide if a rain garden or something else will work for you. If you are interested in attending please RSVP with the ViNA office at 612-529-9558 or vina@mninter.net so the Committee knows how many copies of handouts are needed.

The Workshop A general session in our neighborhoods will be



Get help to plant a rain garden

held on March 26, 2009 at Lucy Craft Laney School, but Metro Blooms offers workshops across the Metro area and you can attend any Workshop A that is convenient for you. Find out more about Metro Blooms and the full workshop schedule at www.metroblooms.org. Each workshop costs \$15 per person to attend.

You must attend a Workshop A to participate in the special

Workshop B. Both ViNA and Cleveland will be taking applications for Workshop B, and if more than 15 applications are received will randomly select 15 to participate. The applications will be available at the February 28 informational meeting or from the ViNA or Cleveland office. If you are not one of the lucky 15 we hope you will participate in one of the other Metro Blooms Workshop B's and join us in the neighborhood rain garden party.

2009 North Housing and Home Improvement Fair

Mark your calendar for the 2009 North Housing and Home Improvement Fair to be held on March 21 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The 4th annual fair will be held at North High School, 1500 James Avenue No.

Attendance at past fairs is estimated to be between 900 and 1400 in spite of sub-zero temperatures and snow storms. This year's event is expected to host over 80 vendors providing resources for prospective homebuyers and education and resources for current home owners. At the same time it will support reinvestment into the community

by connecting area contractors, businesses, financial institutions and neighborhood associations with residents. Besides vendor booths, educational seminars will be scheduled throughout the day.

There will also be Foreclosure Prevention counselors available at the fair to provide confidential counseling on a walk up basis to homeowners who fear they may be in danger of missing mortgage payments and/or facing potential

foreclosure. Many people dealing with job loss or medical problems could be facing this problem now or in the near future and it is best to find out what options are available to prevent foreclosure.

If you have housing needs ranging from becoming a home owner to locating a contractor for home im-

provements, be sure to attend the 4th Annual North Housing and Home Improvement Fair on March 21.

*There will be Foreclosure
Prevention counselors at the
Housing and Home
Improvement Fair*

Buy a home in Victory with City of Lakes Community Land Trust

Victory Neighborhood Association has partnered with the City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) to provide four \$5000 grants to purchase homes in the Victory Neighborhood through CLCLT's Homebuyer Initiated Program.

The CLCLT Homebuyer Initiated Program (HIP) helps families and individuals purchase and fix-up homes that are for



Home ownership in your hands with CLCLT

sale in Minneapolis, putting homeownership within the reach of low-to moderate-income households with the help of grants. Homes purchased through HIP become CLCLT homes – that is, the homes will be owned by the CLT homeowners, the land is held "in trust" so that affordable housing will be available to future generations of low-to-moderate

income homebuyers. The CLCLT and HIP buyers enter into the long-term agreement to preserve affordability through the resale formula. CLCLT homebuyers also receive extensive training and counseling on home ownership.

For more information on CLCLT's Homebuyer Initiated Program visit their website at www.clclt.org, call them at 612-721-7556 or the Victory office at 612-529-9558.

Business Corner

By Matt Massman

Resolve to Support Neighborhood Businesses in 2009: A New Year is here again and while the ringing in of this New Year is more like a constant clatter of bad news, there is something we can do to help maintain the strength of our own neighborhood—buy and shop local whenever possible! These tough economic times have all households watching their budgets closely but many of the needs and services residents seek can be found right here on the Northside, whether in Victory or in adjacent neighborhoods. Access to



Shop Locally

desirable, convenient neighborhood services not only strengthens the quality of life experience in a neighborhood but also helps sustain property values. So as 2009 gets off to a “singing the blues” start, consider resolving to increase your support of neighborhood businesses this year for purchases you might otherwise make outside the neighborhood. From morning coffee to great breakfasts, lunches and dinners, from deli to dining, for art exhibits and live theatre, massages and music lessons, tailoring services and dry cleaning, hair services and tanning, realty and design services, hardware needs and pet care, your neighborhood businesses are just around

the corner. Links to Victory businesses are available at www.victoryneighborhood.org.

Pedestrian Needs Study Available Online—Also available for viewing on the Victory website is the recently completed study by Wenck Associates, Inc. providing a range of recommendations for pedestrian and public infrastructure improvements at the 44th and Penn Avenue North business area.

Want to Help? The ViNA Business Association meets monthly on the third Wednesday to advance projects such as the pedestrian improvements and other efforts to strengthen Victory and its businesses. Please contact ViNA at vina@mninter.net.

METRO TRANSIT TO SEEK COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ROUTE 19 ROUTING

Metro Transit will host a community meeting on January 22 to discuss routing options for Route 19, which connects downtown Minneapolis, the Victory Neighborhood of Minneapolis and Robbinsdale.

Over the last two years, Metro Transit has been working to respond to increased demand and customer requests to both maintain popular bus service to the 42nd Avenue North and York Avenue North area and to extend Route 19 to downtown Robbinsdale and the Robbinsdale Transit Center, where connections can be made to routes serving several northwest metro area communities.

Since May, buses have followed a temporary routing on Thomas Avenue, 44th Avenue, Upton Avenue, 45th Avenue and Lake Drive. At the meeting, attendees will discuss the merits of this routing and eight other potential options to determine a permanent routing. Representatives from Metro Transit and from the cities of Minneapolis and Robbinsdale and the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board are expected to attend.

Meeting to discuss Route 19 options

Thursday, January 22 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church (lower level, daycare area)

4512 France Avenue North, Robbinsdale

Those who arrive by car should use the parking entrance off Lake Drive. The church is also served by bus routes 19 and 717. For help planning a trip by bus, customers can use the online Trip Planner at metrotransit.org or call 612-373-3333 to speak to a transit expert.

Details about the project and routing options are available at metrotransit.org/Robbinsdale.

Those unable to attend the public meeting may submit comments through 5 p.m. on January 30:

· **E-mail:** Route19comments@metc.state.mn.us

· **Phone:** 612-373-3333 (Customer Relations)

· **U.S. Mail:** Metro Transit, Attn: Service Development,

560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411

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January 28 ViNA Meeting - 7 pm—St John Missionary Baptist Church – 4301 Thomas
Holiday Lights Contest— Awards and Certificates will be presented to the nominees and winners of the 2009 Holiday Lights Contest

CTSI— A Victory resident will present information about the programs and activities of Correctional Transitional Services Inc. (CTSI) , formerly located at Dowling and Queen in the Victory Neighborhood

Thomas Avenue Paving Project— Larry Matsumoto of Minneapolis Public Works will inform residents of the paving project to take place on Thomas Avenue between Dowling and 42nd Avenues in the summer of 2009.

19R Bus Route— Discussion of the potential routes for the 19R MTC bus connecting Victory and Downtown Robbinsdale and consideration of a resolution regarding the route.

Looking for Wedge Coop Members

Are you a member of the Wedge or another food co-op in Minneapolis? Would you be interested in having a food co-op in Victory/Camden? A meeting to discuss the possibilities is being planned. If you are a member or think that having a food co-op in our community is a good idea , please give board member, Kris Brogan a call at 612 801 4942 or drop her a line at krisbrogan@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Real Homes, Real People needed for 2009 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour, deadline January 23

“Homeowners and home improvement professionals considering putting their homes on the 2009 Minneapolis & St Paul Home Tour have until Friday, January 23, 2009 to apply. Early inquiries are encouraged so that Tour coordinators may visit each home and explain what’s involved; recruiting helpers, for example, before the homeowners commit. Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) manages the tour as a celebration of city living that encourages homeowners to improve existing housing stock. Green, energy efficient, and historically-sensitive remodels and expansions get special notice. For more information, call Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 612-673-5103 or email link@nrp.org. The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.com under “nominate.”