



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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### Columbia Park Neighborhood Association

meetings are open to the public, and are held on the **third Monday (except February)** of the month at Columbia Manor, 3300 Central Avenue, beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Coming meeting dates:

**February 26 (6:30 p.m.)**

**March 19**

**April 16**

*Bring yourself — bring a neighbor.*

*Share your ideas and concerns.*

*Get involved in your neighborhood - a little . . . or a little more.*

## "Clean Sweep" Comes to the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward this Spring

The "Clean Sweep" Program is an aggressive curb-to-alley Housing Code enforcement effort that will begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward this spring. City housing inspectors will focus their attention on homes and yards in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward to make sure that our neighborhoods are safe, healthy, well-maintained, and livable. Inspectors will also look for nuisance-type violations, such as tall grass, inoperable vehicles, and rubbish in the yard. The inspections will start in March and continue throughout the summer.

Inspectors will look for things like:

In the Yard:

- Grass and weeds taller than 8 inches (starting in May)
- Overhanging brush in the alley and public sidewalks
- Surface grading that is low for drainage away from the foundation
- Rubbish or litter in the yard
- Lack of ground cover
- Parking in the yard that is not on an approved parking surface
- Inoperable vehicles, car parts, loose vehicle tires, and vehicles with expired tabs
- Firewood must be stacked neatly on a non-rotting, well-supported base, at least 8 inches above the ground
- Too many cars parked on the lot
- Fences in disrepair

## CAN'T PAY YOUR MORTGAGE? ASK FOR HELP!

Missing your mortgage payments could lead to losing your home. The best way to prevent this is to get help as soon as you have trouble paying your bills. In Minneapolis, call 311 for help in avoiding foreclosure.

A call center agent will connect you directly with someone who will help you assess your options. Your information will be kept private.

## ¿NO PUEDE PAGAR SU HIPOTECA? ¡PIDA AYUDA!

Si deja de pagar la hipoteca usted puede perder su casa. La mejor manera de prevenir esto, es solicitando ayuda en cuanto aparecen los problemas para pagar su hipoteca.

En Minneapolis, llame al 311, ellos le conectarán con los recursos adecuados.

Un agente del centro de llamadas le conectará directamente con la persona que le ayudará a considerar sus opciones.

Primary residential structures and accessory buildings:

- Garages and sheds with deteriorating surface conditions and peeling paint
- Missing address numbers from either the front or rear of properties
- Deteriorating exterior surfaces such as peeling paint, broken siding, rotting trim boards and soffits
- Porches in disrepair
- Required guardrails and handrails that are missing or in disrepair
- Broken glass in the windows or doors
- Steps which are attached to the primary structure that are in disrepair
- Roofs that are missing shingles
- Chimneys that have missing bricks or missing tuck-pointing/mortar
- Exterior doors that are in disrepair

Learn more about the Inspections Sweeps and the resources that are available to assist you at a public meeting on Saturday, February 17, 2007, at the Columbia Park Manor, 3300 Central Ave. N.E., from 8:30 a.m. to noon. In addition to meeting the Housing Inspectors, you'll be able find out information about financial assistance and grants for fix-up expenses, resources for seniors, neighborhood-group resources, assistance from volunteers, contractors, and more. To find out if your property is located in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/about/maps/ward-finder.asp> - click on "Find your ward."

## A Busy, Safe Spring Is Planned for Northeast

*Paul Ostrow, First Ward City Council Member*

Starting this spring, your neighborhood - along with other neighborhoods in the First Ward - will have a curb-to-alley Housing Inspection sweep. Inspectors will look at the exterior of houses to make sure the structures and yards are properly maintained. The sweep will last through the summer. My top priority is the livability of our Eastside neighborhoods. For that reason, I have been a big supporter of the aggressive code-enforcement efforts by the city's Regulatory Services Department. The goal is that no matter where you live in the First Ward, you can be proud of your block and your neighborhood.

To learn more about the Inspection Sweep and how to get prepared for it, please consider attending the

**Community Meeting and Revitalization Fair on February 17, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Columbia Manor, 3300 Central Ave. N.E.** At this event, you'll be able to meet inspectors and other city staff who can explain the inspections sweep and answer your questions. You will also be able to connect with the resources available to you: fix-up grants and loans, repair and remodeling contractors, resources for seniors and disabled individuals, volunteer organizations that can help meet your exterior fix-up needs, and more. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 612-673-2201 or [paul.ostrow@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:paul.ostrow@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

*In addition ....*

•Good news at the Second Police Precinct! The precinct has added six new officers and now has three beat officers on Central Avenue. I will continue to push for more police presence in Northeast. As we add more officers to the force consistent with our 2007 budget,

there will be additional increases in personnel for the precinct.

•We are moving forward on a plan to update the Central Avenue Plan. The current Central Avenue Plan was developed in 1996-1997. Since then, the Zoning Code has been changed, affecting land uses on the Avenue. The Planning Division will be working with our office, neighborhoods, and businesses that border Central Avenue to develop an updated plan that can be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2008. We will continue to work with neighborhood leaders and our planning staff on efforts to facilitate the long-term redevelopment of the Shoreham Yards property on Central Avenue. We will also be evaluating potential reuse options for the historic roundhouse.

It will be a very busy year in planning for the future of your neighborhood and Northeast.

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## Columbia Parkway Repaving Project

The repaving project will start on 5<sup>th</sup> St. N.E. at St. Anthony Boulevard, go north, and continue along Columbia Boulevard.

The roadway is under the Park Board jurisdiction, but the City will serve as the contractor to do the repaving.

The Park Board plans to hold a

public meeting this spring (no date available as yet), and affected residents will be notified in advance. At that time the MPRB will inform property owners about the project and answer questions.

The Park Board will not assess property owners until AFTER the project is completed, but if property owners want to know what their assessment will be prior to project completion, they can find out at the spring meeting.

The project will start after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and last approximately three weeks.

The work crew will remove the existing paving, and the repaving equipment will follow them right behind. The mill and overlay will be done on one side (one lane) of the street at a time.

(This information provided by Council Member Paul Ostrow's office.)

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## Property Information at Your Fingertips

A recent trend in neighborhoods that were mainly single family, owner occupied homes has been their conversion to rental properties. Many people do not realize that they need to file for a rental license. The City had provided access through their website to check by address on many pieces of information about a property. If you

owner occupied have a for rent sign on its lawn you can check to see that the owner has filed the proper permits for that home to be rental. This allows the City to make sure the property is being handled and maintained properly.

If you would like to check on a property, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and look under the heading, "Frequently Used." Choose "property information" and follow the "search by address" directions. Information

that will be available includes such things as the owner of the property, if the taxes are current, what neighborhood the home is in, and what it is zoned for. You can see if any licenses have been obtained such as a rental license, or you can check on the inspection history of the property. If you have any further questions, call 311. The number is staffed every day and they will help you with any questions you have, or file any type of complaint with the correct department.

## In the Parks.....

### Winter

#### KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

Stuck inside this winter? Let's experiment! There are many things that most people keep around their house that make for great science experiments. You can build bottle volcanoes, test cola, vinegar, milk and orange juice. Use everyday household items to learn science. Children will be introduced to the creative possibilities that hide in their kitchen cupboards, refrigerators and toy boxes. You'll also get to play detective as we dust for fingerprints using an item found in all kitchens. These are one-hour sessions offered four consecutive weeks

Waite Park – 1810 34th Ave. NE  
Fri., Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Free with Rec Plus program. Call 612-370-4959 to register

### Spring

#### YOUTH SPORTS & LEAGUES

– Boys and girls ages 5-14 can participate in badminton, gymnastics, baseball, fast pitch softball, track, tennis and lacrosse camps. Registration dates and fees vary by park. Registration is online at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) or at local MPRB parks. For information on registration and programs, call the Recreation Line at 612-230-6475, your local park, or visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).

#### ADULT SPORTS & LEAGUES

– Adults ages 18 and older can participate in various divisions and skill levels in dodgeball, kickball, soccer, softball and sand volleyball. Registration dates and fees vary by sport. To register or for information, go online at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) or call the MPRB Recreation Line at

612-230-6475.

#### Rec Plus+

Registration for the MPRB Rec Plus+ School-Age Care summer program begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20. Nineteen sites offer the all-day summer session that is from June 18-Aug. 24, 2007. Special accommodations are provided for children that attend summer school. Rec Plus+ offers year-round

recreation-based child care for children ages 5-12. Fourteen recreation centers offer before school and kindergarten care Monday through Friday, and all-day care on school release days. The calendar is based on the Minneapolis Public School schedule. For information check [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) or call 612-230-6475.

### Teen Teamworks

Applications for Teen Teamworks are available after March 19 at MPRB recreation centers and most Minneapolis public schools. The 2007 program runs from June 18-Aug. 17. For information contact Linda Tkaczik at 612-230-6418 or go online at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org). Teen Teamworks is a summer employment and educational program for youth ages 14-18. Through Teen Teamworks, youth receive supervised on-the-job training performing basic grounds maintenance in MPRB parks. Youth receive a bi-weekly paycheck. Certified teachers teach weekly educational and life skill sessions. Teen Teamwork participants are eligible to retake the Minnesota Basic Skills Test and may earn one high school elective credit for successfully completing the program. Recreational opportunities are offered on bi-weekly basis.

## Columbia Recreation Area

(3300 Central Ave. NE) has one of the steepest sledding and tubing hills in Northeast Minneapolis. We do not have a tow rope operation so sliding requires you to walk back up the hill, but the ride down is worth the effort! Concessions are available in the clubhouse. Call 612-789-2627 for equipment reservations and more information.

#### Columbia Tube Rental

Adults- \$10\*

Age 17 and under- \$7.50\*

No-Tow Tube- \$4\*

\*Deposit of a driver's license or \$5 per person or group is required

2006-07 Columbia Clubhouse Regular Hours Thursday-Sunday and all Minneapolis school release days and holidays - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board grooms cross country skiing trails at Columbia Golf Course, 3300 Central Ave NE, 612-789-2627

Gross Golf Course, 2201 St. Anthony Blvd 612-789-2542

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board requires ski passes for customers ages 12 and older to ski on all groomed cross country ski trails.

Basic passes – \$4 daily, \$17.50 for season – are for MPRB groomed trails with natural snow.

Premium passes – \$6 daily, \$27.50 for season – include snowmaking loops and all MPRB trails.

Season passes can be purchased at Columbia Golf Clubhouse.

Equipment Rentals are available at Columbia Golf Clubhouse. Rental fees are:

Skis- \$4\* Poles- \$1.50\* Boots- \$3\*  
Package (skis, poles, boots) - \$8.50  
Supplies limited, especially in children's sizes.

\*Deposit of a driver's license or \$5 per person or group is required.

Updated January, 2007. Rates are subject to change. Please call to verify information.





## WHO ARE THE

### Columbia Park Neighborhood Association board:

Liz Wielinski, president

Judy Meyer, vice president

Ciara Schlichting, secretary

Melody Devine, treasurer

Peter Doughty

Wes VanVickle

#### *Staff*

Tracy Rognrud, community organizer

Special thanks to those who help make this newsletter possible, especially Custom Business Forms for printing.

The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA).

Let your ideas and concerns be heard! Contact the editor, Peter Doughty, c/o CPNA, P.O. Box 21593, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

Your ideas comments and submissions are always welcome. The Columbia Park Neighborhood News reserves the right to reject or alter any submissions used in publication. Due to costs, submissions cannot be returned.

## Columbia Park web site

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/minneapolis/colpark/main.html](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/minneapolis/colpark/main.html)

Our neighborhood web presence is changing, for the better. Nothing fancy—yet. Have a look—it's being kept more up-to-date. If you wish, send a message to CPNA at this address:

**CPNA-NRP@yahoogroups.com**

## northeastbeat.com

Last November, Dan Haugen began a new web site dedicated to news and information relating to our own Northeast Minneapolis. It is called the Northeast Beat, at [www.northeastbeat.com](http://www.northeastbeat.com). Haugen, a journalist and Northeast Minneapolis resident himself, invites readers to post their own comments or reactions to stories as well as provide stories for the Northeast Beat. You can find links to neighborhood associations, music and the arts, restaurants, politics, shopping, nightlife, and other Northeast Minneapolis related items. He wants to foster the growing trend of citizen journalism, and is looking for local writers, reporters, bloggers, vloggers, and photographers to be contributors. Anyone interested can send him a message at [thenortheastbeat@yahoo.com](mailto:thenortheastbeat@yahoo.com)

## Thank You

Many thanks go to long-time neighbor **Sue Bembenek**, who recently stepped down as a Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) board member. (She has also served as community organizer and book-keeper.) Watch the next newsletter for a feature article on Sue, who has made a great impact on our neighborhood!

Thanks also to **Judy Meyer**, another neighbor who has recently stepped down as a board member of the CPNA. Judy has served as the Vice President of the CPNA, a neighborhood representative for the 2nd Precinct Advisory Council (2PAC), as well as the coordinator of our local walking group for the Northeast Citizen Patrol (NECP). Her watchful eye and active community involvement will be missed!

## St. Anthony Parkway Bridge and California Street Reconstruction

The existing bridge is a five-span Warren through-truss built in 1925, providing one vehicular traffic lane in each direction and a sidewalk on the south side. It has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Because it is part of St. Anthony Parkway, the bridge is part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board "Grand Rounds".

The proposed improvement has several alternatives being considered. Based on the historical significance, replacement of the existing bridge with a contemporary structure and using current design and construc-

tion methods is unlikely.

The existing St. Anthony Parkway roadway accommodates vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The reconstruction limits of the St. Anthony Parkway roadway will likely be determined by the final horizontal and vertical alignment required for the bridge. 100-300 feet on each side of the bridge can be expected. The new roadway will accommodate vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The reconstruction limits of the California Street N.E. roadway will be from 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE to St. Anthony Parkway and will likely remain

on a similar alignment. The existing roadway is constructed on an embankment and is scheduled for reconstruction due its deteriorating condition.

No construction start date has been set, although the City has determined that the bridge no longer meets the scoped rehabilitation requirement. The bridge re-scoping requirement may indicate the need for reconstruction. At this time the City is coordinating with our State, Federal and local partners to determine this.

[Provided by City of Minneapolis]

## Citizens' Academy

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a police officer? Do you wonder why officers do what they do? Do you want to learn more about the Police Department? At the Citizens' Academy, you can learn directly from investigators, trainers, precinct commanders, and officers about police procedures, what it is like to be an officer, and how the Minneapolis Police Department is organized. Two Citizens' Academy classes are scheduled for 2007.

The spring class will take place from March 19 through May 21 on Monday evenings, and will be held in the 3rd Precinct. The fall class is tentatively planned for Wednesday evenings, September 5 through November 7, and will be held in North Minneapolis. The deadline for registering for the spring class is March 1, 2007, and the deadline for the fall class is August 22, 2007.

This 10-week course offered by the Training Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department is open to people who are at least 18 years of age and who live or work in Minneapolis. Topics include use of force, investigations, K-9 unit, 911 operations, Emergency Response Unit, and much more. Some of the activities will be hands-on experiences. Students will participate in scenarios and simulation exercises. For any questions or for information on registering for the class, please visit: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp) or call the Training Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department at 673-3420.

## Central Avenue Plan Steering Committee

The Columbia Park neighborhood needs a representative to the Central Avenue Plan Steering Committee.

The committee will be meeting throughout 2007 to develop a small area plan to be adopted into the City of Minneapolis Master Plan in 2008. The time commitment will be five to six, 2-hour meetings, and require reporting back to the neighborhood association regarding the progress of the group as well as presenting any ideas of the neighborhood to the committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact our community organizer, Tracy Rognrud, for more details. The CPNA board will vote to appoint a representative at the February 26th meeting.

If you are a Central Avenue business owner and would be interested in serving, you may go through CPNA or become a business appointee through the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. Please contact Maude Lovelle, executive director, at 612.378.0050 or [maude@nemplschamber.org](mailto:maude@nemplschamber.org) for more information.

## Earth Day 2007

is **Saturday April 21st**, 9:30 am-noon, cleanup starting from the playground area of Columbia Park. In cooperation with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, CPNA will be hosting a cleanup of Columbia Parkway and St. Anthony Parkway within the Columbia Park neighborhood. Come help keep our neighborhood clean. Bags, gloves and garbage sticks provided.

Questions, contact Liz Wielinski at 612-788-5688.



## Mail Tampering Alert

There have been reports of vandalized and stolen residential mail on both sides of Columbia Park Neighborhood. Please be watchful of any suspicious behavior in your area. If you believe your mail has been stolen, tampered with, or vandalized, report it to our local Post Office, which is the Eastside Station: 612-706-0263.

## Free House Painting for Low-Income Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

The 2007 Metro Paint-A-Thon is accepting applications to their house-painting assistance program. If you would like to apply or know someone who could benefit from this service, call 612-721-8687, extension 321 for more information about application guidelines.

This information can also be downloaded from this website: [www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon](http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon).

The application deadline is May 11, 2007. The Paint-A-Thon will take place August 4th and 5th, 2007.

Note: There will be copies of this application and guidelines in the Columbia Park Neighborhood's file at the Northeast Library, 2200 Central Avenue NE. Ask a librarian for assistance in finding the Neighborhood Organization file cabinet.



# Get Fit Twin Cities Challenge

Let's Show Them What Our NE Neighborhoods Are Made Of...  
Join The Challenge Today!

**Runs from January 10-May 10, 2007**

The East Side Neighborhood Services' Walking Program invites you to make your New Year's resolution to join **Get Fit Twin Cities!** Get Fit is a fun, team-based challenge designed to jump start healthy habits that help adults feel better, look better and live longer, healthier lives.

Teams of **2-10 adults** register in the **Minutes of Activity Division and/or the Weight Loss Division.** Minutes and Weight Loss are recorded collectively as a team. Participants receive a Get Fit Passport to access free or reduced fitness opportunities at area locations. All teams are eligible for incentives and prizes!

Family members, friends and co-workers are encouraged to join. A free toolkit makes Get Fit Twin Cities easy to implement. Registration is \$5; **the first 10,000 people who live or work in Minneapolis/Saint Paul are free (so far there are plenty of spaces available!)**

For more information, visit the Get Fit Twin Cities website [www.getfittwincities.org](http://www.getfittwincities.org). Each team needs a captain who has access to a computer to report monthly totals on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**It would be great to have our neighborhood teams challenge each other and see how we're doing as a community! To do this, please make sure to use the ESNS Start Code when you register your team:**

**GFTCESNS.**

**Suggestion – please put your neighborhood as first name of your team name, i.e. Columbia Park or CPNAWaist Watchers, Audubon Active-ites. Since teams are fairly small, there can be several teams from each neighborhood.**

**Then the comparison information can be shared among the neighborhoods. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at [sbiernat@esns.org](mailto:sbiernat@esns.org) or 612-787-4020.**