



The Cleveland Connection

A Newspaper by and for the residents of the Cleveland Neighborhood of Minneapolis

<http://www.clevelandneighborhood.org>

Cleveland Neighborhood Community Meeting and Personal Safety Workshop

Come and learn how to reduce your chance of becoming a crime victim at a community meeting on Tuesday, March 2! The Cleveland Neighborhood Association in partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department will host a FREE Personal Safety Workshop from 6:30 – 9:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose room of Lucy Craft Laney School, 3333 Penn Avenue North.

Learn to recognize a possible attack in the making and what role distance awareness, body language, tone of voice, etc. can play. Simple "last-ditch" physical self-defense techniques will also be presented, practical even for people who have little physical skill or ability.

Instructor Mary Brandl has worked with numerous crime victim's services for over 30 years, and has presented workshops throughout the state, nationally, and in Canada. She is a 4th degree black belt with the Midwest Karate Association and co-author of the DVD and book entitled Scenarios in Self-Defense.

If you need a disability related accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, wheelchair accessible meeting site or materials in alternative format, please contact Mary Etzioni at 612-673-

March 2nd Community Meeting Door Prize Drawing.

Prize: \$25 Tooties Gift Card. Must be present to win.

Bring this entry form to the meeting!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Preventing Burglaries

Preventing your home from being burglarized is always a concern, and there are many things you can do to prevent this from happening to you:

- 1) If you purchase something expensive such as a flat screen TV, wait until recycling day to put out your boxes, and fold them with the **labels inside** so you don't advertise your recent purchase.
- 2) Lock your doors whether or not you are in the house and when you are working in your yard, and keep your garage doors locked. Consider installing double-cylinder locks.
- 3) Lock your windows when they are closed and pin them so they will only open to 6 inches maximum.
- 4) Leave an outdoor and indoor light on when you are gone for the evening.
- 5) When you are on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to watch your house, pick up your mail, move drapes and shades, mow the lawn/shovel snow.
- 6) Keep ladders, lawn equipment, tools and bicycles locked up when not in use.
- 7) Keep bushes and shrubbery well trimmed so thieves cannot hide behind them.
- 8) Install exterior and interior motion sensor lights.
- 9) Get to know your neighbors and participate in a block club.
- 10) If someone comes to your home asking to use the phone, offer to make the call for them instead of letting them into your house.
- 11) Call 911 for the police if you notice any suspicious activity, and report problem properties to the city by calling 311.



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Census 2010 - Now Hiring!

The US Census Bureau is hiring in Minneapolis this spring and needs people from our neighborhood. The 2010 Census is critical for the State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis. Because Minnesota is about 1000 people away from losing a congressional seat and the federal funding that goes with it, it is critical that every Minnesotan is counted in the 2010 census. North Minneapolis is one of the most UNDER-counted regions in the state. To help insure that everyone in North Minneapolis is counted, the US Census Bureau will send a census taker to every address that does not return their census form by April 1st, and they want those census takers to be from the neighborhoods where they will work.

The work is temporary and most positions are part-time as a census taker which offers flexible hours and pay starting at \$16.50/hr. Contact the Minneapolis Census office at 612-216-6150 to schedule an appointment to take their standardized test. You may also learn more by going to their website, www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities

Community members are always welcome to participate in the Cleveland Neighborhood Association and it's projects. Here is a list a some potential volunteer opportunities:

- 1) Help to label and get the newsletter ready for bulk mail - commitment 3 hours quarterly
- 2) Help to set up and support Live on the Drive- commitment times vary
- 3) Be a mentor for Cleveland residents who wish to put in a rain garden this Spring
- 4) Change the CNA kiosk sign outside of Lucy Craft Laney School- commitment 1 hour per month
- 5) Help to advertise community events in Cleveland by calling your neighbors or delivering flyers door-to-door.
- 6) Join a CNA committee (see back of flyer for options)- commitment approximately 2 hours per month

Call the CNA office at 612-588-1155 if interesting in volunteering

Live on the Drive

We are looking forward to another great summer of Live on the Drive Concerts. Save these dates, and there will be information about the bands in the next newsletter: **June 10th, July 8th, and August**

Planning for Your Spring Garden

Start your engines- your creative engines that is. While your landscape may be buried beneath several feet of snow and the temperatures are in the double digits – below zero it may not seem like the time to think about planting, but it is the ideal time to think about planning. This is the perfect time to curl up with a hot beverage and the garden catalogs that may soon fill up our mailboxes.

As visions of fruits and flowers begin to dance in your head, try to imagine a rain garden filled with native plants in your yard. Rain gardens are indented gardens that capture rainwater where it falls, allowing it to sink into the ground rather than runoff into the stormwater system which brings all of the pollutants in our air, yards and streets into our rivers, streams and lakes. Allowing the stormwater to penetrate the ground helps to improve our water quality and to alleviate potential flooding problems when the stormwater system is overwhelmed.

Native plants are plants that have grown in Minnesota for thousands of years and have adapted to our climate. They are colorful, attractive, hardy and have developed long thick root systems that serve as pipes for the rainwater to sink into the ground. The deep root systems also make the plants drought tolerant as they can draw moisture from several feet below the surface.

Last year the Cleveland neighborhood saw nearly 20 new rain gardens in the neighborhood and they would like to see more. [Most of the stormwater in the neighborhood flows to Crystal Lake which is an impaired body of water and when there are heavy rain events the stormwater system is often overwhelmed causing flooding in the neighborhood.] Metro Blooms will once again conduct a Rain Garden Workshop at Lucy Craft Laney School on May 25, and several residents who installed rain gardens last year have volunteered to serve as mentors to any Cleveland resident who attends the workshop and would like to install a rain garden. For more information or to sign up for a mentor please contact the Cleveland Neighborhood Association at 612-588-1155 or cna@clevelandneighborhood.org.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Neighbors,

In this real estate market, it's tough for anyone trying to sell a home for any reason. Let's face it..."It's a buyer's market," and it's not a good time to sell unless you are able to substantially drop your price to make yourself competitive with foreclosed properties.

Many sellers have thought, "Why not just rent out my home until the market improves?" **Please think twice before taking this approach.** Many don't realize that the city of Minneapolis requires you to pay a one-time \$1,000 fee to convert your home from an owner-occupied home to a rental property in addition to a small annual rental license. Suppose you are willing to pay the fee...great. The next obstacle will be the rental inspection. City inspectors will require you bring everything up to code...this could cost you thousands more, especially if rental codes require new windows, plumbing/electrical updates, or even foundation repairs.

Think you can squeak by and avoid this process? **Think again.** Neighbors who live in nearby owner-occupied properties generally are not happy about having a rental property next door. These "nice neighbors" can anonymously call the city (311) to complain and to verify if a license has been pulled...if not, the city will contact you. If your neighbors don't complain...**Still Think Again.** Renting is no piece of cake, especially if you relocate out of the area. Tenants don't generally take a financial interest in maintaining your property. If something small goes wrong, it could potentially turn into something much bigger, such as a small leak in the bathroom. You will also be held accountable by your neighbors and the city if you rented out to some "bad apples". Repeated police calls to your property could be disastrous.

Facing foreclosure if you don't sell? Call the neighborhood office at 612-588-6299 and they can get you in contact with a foreclosure specialist.

Sincerely, Kurt Lawrason, Cleveland resident

Cleveland Neighborhood Association

The CNA Board of Directors met in November and elected new officers:

John Helgelund, Chair

Lynne Zeigler-Moriarty, Co-Chair

Mike Theisen, Treasurer

Daniel Field, Secretary

Other Board Members include Trevor Tungseth, Kurt Lawrason, Jeannette LaVerne, and Mary Vignola.

After the Roadway - What's Next for Lowry Avenue?

After 5 years, Hennepin County completed the roadway work on Lowry Avenue in August 2009. Now we enjoy a new street with sidewalks, lighting, and bicycle lanes which make it easier to drive, walk or bike down the corridor and with trees, art work and street-scaping that make it more visually appealing. However, does Lowry Avenue really look the way we want it to look, and does it serve its function as a community corridor?

The five neighborhoods along the corridor including Cleveland, Folwell, McKinley, Hawthorne and Jordan decided that Lowry Avenue is not "finished" so in late Summer 2009 they applied to the City of Minneapolis for a Great Streets Grant which they were awarded. Along with contributions of NRP funds from each of the neighborhoods the grant was used to hire a consultant, the Cuningham Group, to look at the residential and commercial properties along Lowry, consult with residents, gather ideas and create a strategic plan for development on the community corridor.

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS! Which parcels need redevelopment? What do we want to keep? Do we need more housing on Lowry, and if so, then what mix of single family, multi-unit, owner-occupied, and rental? What kinds of goods and services do we want to have available on Lowry? Where should they be located? **WE NEED YOU...** to attend the public workshop on January 28 to give us your answers to all of these questions and more. See the newsletter insert for all of the information about the public workshop and mark your calendar.

Send Us Your Letters

Because this is a newsletter by and for the residents of Cleveland Neighborhood, we would like to hear from you. If you have concerns, helpful hints, or praise for a neighbor who goes above and beyond, please write to us and let us know. You can e-mail or mail your letters to The Cleveland Connection at: cna@mtn.org or to the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, PO Box 11635, Minneapolis, MN 55411. Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number so that we can contact you. **PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for all articles is the second Monday of each Month. Articles featured are selected by the editor AND the CNA Board.

Cleveland Neighborhood Association
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**Cleveland Neighborhood office is located at the south end
of Lucy Craft Laney at Cleveland Park School—3333 Penn Ave No.**
OFFICE HOURS: 8 am-4 pm Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment on Friday
CNA: PO Box 11635 Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: 612-588-1155 E-mail: cna@clevelandneighborhood.org

This newsletter is made available through the sponsorship of the
Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)

Cleveland Community Calendar

Board meeting

7 PM, CNA office
Monday
January 25, February 22, March 15, April 19

Events

6:30 PM, CNA Office, Thursday
February 11, March 11, April 8

Community Development

6:30 PM, CNA office, Monday
February 8, March 8, April 12

Community Meeting and Personal Safety Workshop

Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 PM
Lucy Craft Laney Multipurpose Room

Crime and Safety

6:30 PM, CNA office, Monday
February 1, (Tues) March 2 Personal Safety
Workshop, April 5

Lowry Strategic Plan Public Workshops

Thursday, 5:30-7:30 PM
January 28, March 25
North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry

Any one of these events are a great way to contribute and meet your neighbors!