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Happy New Year!

Residents share highlights from the past year and resolutions for the next at Area Holiday Celebrations



Residents enjoy special holiday refreshments and good company at the Area Holiday Celebrations. Photo left: MPHA VISTA Abdullahi Elmi translates during a discussion about resident council highlights at the SE/SW Area celebration held at Horn Terrace (115 W. 31st St.) Photo right: MPHA staff and resident volunteers serve special refreshments at the N/NE Area celebration at Heritage Commons (350 Van White Blvd.)

Well over 200 residents, plus staff from MHRC and MPHA, attended either the North/Northeast or Southeast/Southwest Area Holiday Celebrations in December, primarily to enjoy each others company and special refreshments purchased through resident council contributions. This annual tradition also included residents taking the time to share resident council highlights from the past year. Many of the highlights included resident council-sponsored events including National Night Out block parties, holiday celebrations, and multicultural dinners. Other residents spoke about their resident council efforts to promote voter education, registration and turnout activities as part of MHRC's major 2008 election initiatives. These activities including door knocking to first to register new voters and later to remind folks to go to the polls, debate watching parties, and providing refreshments on election day.

Residents also spoke of their efforts to reorganize their resident councils resulting in their ability to purchase amenities for their
Area Holiday Celebrations to next page

Who will be your next mayor and city council member? Get involved now and help shape the outcome of the November 3 Election!! Attend your Precinct Caucus! (To learn more, see page 4)

MPHA Managing Director of Low Income Public Housing Mary Boler thanks residents at the December Area events for their cooperation in recent efforts to prepare for HUD's PHAS inspections. MPHA again achieved high PHAS scores and retained their "High Performer" designation by HUD. Boler also praised resident voter registration and get-out-the vote efforts.



Holiday celebrations continued

highrises, such as exercise equipment and community room televisions. Other residents expressed their appreciation for the many hours of service provided by Project Lookout volunteers towards making the highrises safer places in which to live.

Alice Brier, 2415 N. 3rd St., expressed her appreciation to MPHA staff and the police and emergency medical personnel for their professional and caring response to a tragedy in her highrise earlier last year.



Words for thought for the New Year!

- ◆ "We can not direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." (How will you adjust your sails?)
- *Bertha Galloway, Founder of the Great Plains Black Museum*
- "It took a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get to where we are today, but we have just begun. Today we begin the earnest work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little better than the one we inherited today."
- *Barak Obama, United States President Elect*
- "I wish you peace in your heart and peace in your home."
- *Alice Brier, resident of 2415 N. 3rd St.*



Have a peaceful, hopeful & happy New Year!

Share your heritage at the multicultural celebrations in February!

MHRC is still hoping to hear from residents who are interested in participating in next month's multicultural celebrations. Last year, hundreds of residents were able to learn about their neighbors through ethnic dance, storytelling, music, poetry, cultural displays, not to mention delicious snacks, at these annual events held as part of the February Area meetings.

The celebrations will be held at 1:30 p.m. on February 11 at 1815 Central Ave. N.E. (for north & northeast residents) and February 12 at 115 W. 31st St. (for southeast & southwest residents)



A Native American display was featured at last year's multicultural celebration.

If you or a resident you know has some talent in the areas of music, singing, dance, storytelling, poetry or art, which would showcase cultural or ethnic heritage, we definitely want to hear from you. We would also like to hear from you or someone you know who has items that could be part of an interesting cultural display. February is fast approaching so please contact John Stumme at the MHRC right away. The success of these events depends on resident participation. Call John at (612) 342-1331 or send him an email: jstumme@mplshighrise.org. Thank you!



Last year, residents enjoyed African dance performed by MPHA AOM Donuette Smith.



A Project Lookout Closer Look:

Preventing Identity Theft

Identity fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Here are some tips from the Minneapolis Police Department for how you can **protect yourself from identity theft**:

- ◆ Don't have your driver's license number or Social Security number printed on your checks.
- ◆ Don't carry your social security card in your wallet or purse.
- ◆ Don't carry account passwords with your cards or write them on the cards.
- ◆ Never give your credit card number or bank account information to anyone calling you.
- ◆ Review monthly bills carefully for unexplained charges.
- ◆ Order your credit report from the three major credit bureaus and make sure the information is correct (numbers printed below).
- ◆ Shred all documents with account numbers before disposing of them.
- ◆ Order only from secure, reputable internet sites.

If someone has stolen your identity:

- ◆ Call your local police department and file a report. Get a copy of the report in case the bank, credit card company or others need it later.
- ◆ Notify all three credit reporting bureaus. Tell them to put a fraud alert on your file and ask that no new credit be granted without your approval. (Equifax: 1-800-685-1111, Experien: 1-888-397-3742, Trans Union: 1-800-888-4213.)
- ◆ Change your account numbers for banking, credit cards and utilities. Put passwords on all new accounts.

Ka Hortaga Xadditaanka

Aqoonsiga:

Qofka aqoonsigiisa oo la xadaa ayaa noqotay dambiyada ugu badan waqtigaan xaadirkaa dalka Maraykanka. Boliiska magaalda Minneapolis ayaa noo soo diyaariyay sidaad isku ilaalin lahayd:

- ◆ Ha kuqorin lambarka laysankaaga iyo sooshal sakuurigaaga jeeqta bangiga marnaba.
- ◆ Ha kuqaadan sooshal sakuurigaaga jeebka.
- ◆ Lambarada sirta ah meelna ha kuqorin sida kuwa bangiga ama internetka aad ku gashid.

- ◆ Marnaba hasiin lambarka kridhit kaarkaaga qof kaa soo wacay telefoonka. Amaba qof kaasoo wacay bangiga oo ku waaydiyay.
- ◆ Si fiican u baar "Bank Statement" isteetmantiga bilaha ah oo uu bangigu kuu soo diro bil kasta inay tahay mis sax ah.
- ◆ Sanadkiiba mar baar taariikhda kiridhitkaaga adoo laxirriya saddexda xafiis ee waaweyn ee hoos ku qoran.
- ◆ Dhamaan waxii ay kuqoran yihiin lambarada akoonadaada iyo waxii kaloo sir ah jeexjeex intaada qashinka kudar. Dadka tuugta ah waxay soo fatashaan qashinka.
- ◆ Hadaad internatka wax kadalbanaysid, kadalbo kuwa la hubo oo maamuuska leh. **Hadii qof aad garanayso kaa xado aqoonsigaaga ama sharcigaagasamee falkaan ;**
- ◆ Wac booliiska si dagdag ah oo xaree dacwo. waydiiso in lagaa siiyo koobi dacwadaas si'aad ugu gudbisid ciday khuseyso.
- ◆ Waxaad kaloo udirtaa koobi dhamaan saddexda xafiis oo qaabilsan wararka kiridhitka oo kala ah sida hoos ku xusan una sheeg in alaabtaadii laxaday si' aan qofna loogu siin kiridhit adigoon ogeyn; (Equifax: 1-800-685-1111, Experian 1-800-888-4213, TransUnion 1-800-888-4213. Intaas waxaa dheer hadii lagaa xado badal lambarka bangi akoonadaada oo dhan si'aan laguugu qabsan waxii lagala baxo markaad dacwootay intii ka dambaysey.



Get Free Tax Help!

Free help with tax preparation is available through a Hennepin County Community-Wide Partnership.

For a list of free tax preparation sites:

- ◆ United Way 2-1-1 (Dial 2-1-1, or from a cell phone dial 651-291-0211)
- ◆ Minnesota Dept. of Revenue—651-297-3724 or 1-800-657-3989
- ◆ Minnesota Relay for hearing impaired 711 (TTY)
- ◆ www.taxes.state.mn.us—search for "free tax preparation sites"

Look for postings in your building for more information.



Digital TV Update

The U.S. government is not currently distributing \$40-off coupons for converter boxes for the transition to digital TV because of a funding shortage. However, folks who have not gotten their converter box are still encouraged to apply and get on the government's waiting list. See your VOAMN social worker for help with applying or apply on-line at www.dtv2009.gov.



Residents encouraged to attend precinct caucuses

Why not keep alive the excitement of the November 2008 election?! Attend your precinct caucus in March.

So what is a precinct Caucus? Every neighborhood falls within a specific voting area called a precinct. Precinct caucuses are the first step used by Minnesota's major political parties to select the candidates and issues they will support in upcoming elections; in this case, the November 3, 2009 election for Minneapolis mayor and city council. Minnesota's three major parties are the Democratic-Farmer-labor (DFL), Independence and Republican. As of press time, the Lowdown could only confirm the DFL Caucus which is March 3 at 7:00 P.M.

What happens at the Caucus? Delegates and alternates are elected who will go to the party conventions later in the spring and summer to determine which candidate the party will support. Caucuses also provide a chance for you to voice your views on a wide range of important political issues. You will have an opportunity to submit and vote on resolutions that could become part of your political party's platform.

Where will my caucus be held?

The MHRC will distribute notices to all highrises informing residents where their caucuses will be held. You may also contact your chosen political party to learn this information: DFL: (651) 293-1200; Independence: (651) 487-9700; and Republican: (651) 222-0022.



Drivers Needed

The MHRC is seeking residents to deliver the Highrise Lowdown to all of the highrises each month. Compensation includes a stipend of \$8/hour plus mileage reimbursement of \$.55/mile.

Interested candidates must have their own vehicle, a valid drivers license and proof of insurance. Please call John at (612) 342-1331 for more information.

The Highrise Lowdown is a publication of the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council, 1627 S. 6th St., 55454 (612) 342-1330. The Lowdown will print reader responses as space permits; we reserve the right to edit all submissions.

MHRC recognizes Project Lookout volunteers



Twenty Project Lookout Coordinators from across the city were treated to a holiday outing at Old Country Buffet in appreciation for their many hours of volunteer work. These efforts include recruiting and scheduling volunteers, speaking about Project Lookout at resident council meetings and completing various reports for the MHRC Project Lookout staff.

Many highrises also had parties for their own Project Lookout groups where volunteers received special recognition gifts and shared a meal together.

Since 1987 Project Lookout volunteers have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours towards making their communities better and safer places to live. Congratulations and "thank you!" to all of you! To find out how you can get involved with Project Lookout in your highrise call (612) 342-1331.



This Month's Events

Monday, January 5 2:00 p.m.: MHRC Diversity Committee meets at 314 Hennepin Ave.

Thursday, January 8, 9:30 a.m.: MHRC Executive Committee meets at 1710 Plymouth Ave. N.

Tuesday, January 13, 1:30 p.m.: Maintenance, Modernization and Management Committee meets at 1710 Plymouth Ave. N.

Thursday, January 22, 9:30 a.m.: MHRC Board meets at 314 Hennepin Ave.

Friday, January 23, 10:00 a.m.: Security Advisory Committee meets at 600 18th Ave. N.

Tuesday, January 27, 1:00 p.m.: Laundry Project Committee meets at 600 18th Ave. N.