



A PUBLICATION OF THE CLEVELAND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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# The Cleveland Connection

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

<http://www.clevelandneighborhood.org>

## Community Energy Services Coming to Cleveland Neighborhood

Want to learn how to reduce your energy consumption, save money and stay comfortable? Now you can through the Community Energy Services program, a comprehensive one stop residential energy program now being offered in the Cleveland Neighborhood. Through the program, you will have access to a free workshop on energy efficiency and conservation and a home energy visit by two qualified professionals.

The free Energy Efficiency and Conservation workshop is scheduled for March 1, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of Lucy Craft Laney School. The workshop will last about an hour and a half and will provide an in-depth look at the Community Energy Services Program, including information on saving energy in your home. You must attend the workshop in order to schedule an in-home energy audit. The energy audit would normally cost \$30, but thanks to the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, it will be FREE for the first 100 Cleveland residents who sign up for and attend the workshop.

At the home visit, two qualified professionals will spend about 1-1/2 hours identifying your home's unique energy needs, completing a blower door test and helping you to install free energy saving materials in your home. Up to \$400 worth of goods and services are provided to you, including as many compact fluorescent light bulbs as needed, a programmable thermostat if appropriate, low flow showerheads, gasket seals,

pipe wrap, water heater thermostats and more! At the end of the visit, you'll receive a packet identifying energy improvements you can make to your home along with financing and rebate information.

Tired of weeding through complicated energy bills? Community Energy Services will also provide an energy use inventory for the past twelve months of use and then send you regular updates for the twelve months following your home visit. The reports quickly and easily show you what your home energy usage and costs are and how they compare, on average, to homes of similar size in our neighborhood.

It's easy to participate in the Community Energy Services Program and receive all of the free products, services and information that will help you to be more energy efficient in your home and reduce your energy costs. Just be one of the first 100 Cleveland residents to contact Kyle Boehm at the Center for Energy and the Environment at [kboehm@mncee.org](mailto:kboehm@mncee.org) or 612-219-7334 and register for the March 1 workshop.

*-Community Energy Services is administered by the Center for Energy and Environment and is a partnership between Centerpoint Energy, Xcel Energy, the City of Minneapolis, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).*



## Snow Safety

More snow is on the way! Do your part to keep the neighborhood safe and walk-able by clearing the snow and ice off of your sidewalks. The City of Minneapolis requires that sidewalks be clear of snow and ice 24 hours after a snowfall for residential properties and within 4 daytime hours (after 8 AM) for commercial properties. Failure to clear your sidewalk may result in a fine from the City of Minneapolis as well as an assessment if the City clears the walk for you.

Spreading sand may also be helpful to improve traction on slippery sidewalks. The closest location for FREE sand for Minneapolis residents is at 1809 Washington St. NE, at the corner of 18th and Jefferson.

Also, if you have a fire hydrant on your boulevard, please be a good neighbor and remove snow and ice a few feet around it. This will make it accessible in the event of a fire on your block. The home you save may be your own.

To report unsafe, snow-covered sidewalks or snowed in fire hydrants, please dial 311.



## but...Spring is just around the corner...

Look for the guidelines for the 2011 Landscaping Grants in the April Newsletter.

Funds will be available for perennial plantings on the boulevard or for a rain garden installation. If you are interested in putting in a rain garden, please consider registering for a rain garden class through Metro Blooms. Visit their website [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org).

Residents who install a rain garden may be eligible for a reduction in their Storm Water Fees.

For more information, please contact the CNA office.

## Winter Safety Tips

Yes indeed, it's cold and snowy outside, but be aware that criminals are not deterred by the cold. Here are some important safety reminders to keep in mind throughout the winter months:

### General Safety

- If you see another motorist in trouble, do not stop. Call 911 for assistance.
- Park in well-lit areas. Look around before you get out of your car and head directly to your destination.
- Put valuables and packages in the trunk or out of sight before you arrive at your destination.
- Always lock the doors, no matter how soon you plan to return.
- When returning to your car, have the door key in hand. Look inside before you unlock the door and get in.
- If you are being followed while driving, go to the closest police station or drive to an open business or gas station where there are other people. Do not drive home or pull over to the side of the street.

### Deter Snow Blower Theft

- Record the make, model and serial number of your snow blower and paint a portion of it a different color so it is easier to find and identify.
- Secure the service door of the garage with a deadbolt and a maximum security strike plate.
- Block in the snow blower by parking a vehicle in front of it.

### Prevent Auto Theft

- Always lock your car when unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition when you are not in the car; it is against the law. If your car is stolen, and your keys are in the ignition, you may get a ticket!
- It is not illegal to use a remote car starter to warm up your car, but be aware that it takes seconds for a thief to jimmy the door lock or break a window and steal your car.

For further crime prevention tips and resources please visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimeprevention/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimeprevention/).

## Parking Restrictions Until April 1st

The City of Minneapolis has instituted Winter Parking Restrictions that last until April 1st. You may not park on the even side of the street (except for day 3 of a declared snow emergency) on non-snow emergency routes.

For the east-west streets, like 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, there is no parking on the north side of the street. You can get more information by calling (612) 348-SNOW or at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow). A tag and tow can cost about \$200 so be aware of where you park.



## Streetlight Outages

Do you have a street light out on your block? If so, call 311. Most of the street lights in the neighborhood are on wooden poles which are maintained by Xcel Energy. To report the outage, give the location of the light by providing the operator with the address of the home that "hosts" the light pole. Generally, the lights can be in working order within one to two weeks.

## Camden Winterfest and Chili Cook-Off

Calling all crockpots, kitchen masters, and chefs extraordinaire! Mark your calendars for the third annual Camden Winterfest and Chili Cook-off on Sat Feb 5th, 2010, 11-2pm at Bohanon Park, 49th and Bryant Ave N at the Bohanon Warming House. Come out and taste Camden's best chilies competing for the prestigious golden ladle! Enter your favorite chili recipe! Be one of the first 10 to enter your chili recipe by January 30th and receive a gift. The winning entry and runner up receive prizes! Go to [www.lindbohanon.org](http://www.lindbohanon.org) for more details. Try out the Snowball launcher, make a pinecone bird feeder, try snow shoeing, snow golf, ice skating, roast a hot-dog over an open fire, s'mores, music... wintry fun for the whole family! All this food and fun for \$5.00 for those 16 and older! Children under 16 free!

## Neighborhoods' NRP Funds Frozen by the City

Recent actions by the Mayor and City Council point to an uncertain future for neighborhood organizations, including Cleveland Neighborhood Association. On December 14, as part of the 2011 budget approval process, and in an effort to provide property tax relief, the City Council adopted a Staff Directive that the City go to the State Legislature to request the elimination of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and secure City control of NRP funds that have been committed to neighborhoods but have not yet been spent. In addition, the Staff Directive would limit neighborhood NRP Phase II allocations to 50% of the allocation that the City had previously approved at 100% on June 18, 2010.

For Cleveland Neighborhood that means \$224,223 of NRP funds will be frozen and unavailable for programs for home improvement assistance, home buyer education and incentives, recruiting new businesses to Cleveland, exploring and implementing new models of policing in the neighborhood, calming traffic, events and programming in Cleveland Park, and redevelopment on Lowry and Penn Avenues. Meanwhile, the City will request that the State Legislature end the NRP so the City can gain control of the funds to provide property tax relief in 2012 and 2013. State legislation in the late 1980's allowed for the creation of the NRP so it cannot be dissolved without amended legislation by the State.

While everyone can appreciate tax relief, it should be pointed out that NRP funded initiatives in neighborhoods leveraged several times the tax investment: new businesses opened in neighborhoods, parks and playgrounds were improved, residents fixed up their homes raising everyone's property values, and grant makers and other government jurisdictions contributed to bricks and mortar and infrastructure improvements.

If you are concerned about the efforts of the City to end the NRP, contact the Mayor at 612-673-2100 ([rt@minneapolis.org](mailto:rt@minneapolis.org)) or your councilperson Barbara Johnson at 612-673-2204 ([Barbara.Johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Barbara.Johnson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)). Also encourage your state legislators NOT to dissolve the NRP: Representative Joe Mullery 651-296-4262 ([rep.joe.mullery@house.mn](mailto:rep.joe.mullery@house.mn)) and Linda Higgins at 651-296-4262 ([sen.linda.higgins@senate.mn](mailto:sen.linda.higgins@senate.mn)).

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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](mailto: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 24, February 28, March 21, April 18

### **Community Development**

6:30 PM, CNA office, Monday  
February 14, March 14, April 11

### **Crime and Safety**

6:30 PM, CNA office, Monday  
February 7, March 7, April 4

### **Events**

6:30 PM, CNA Office Thursday  
February 10, March 10, April 14

### **Community Energy Services Workshop**

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 PM  
Lucy Craft Laney School - Multipurpose Room

### **4PAC**

7 PM, Fourth Precinct, Tuesday  
January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19

**Hold the Date - Saturday May 21  
Spring Cleaning and Greening Day**

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