

Published Monthly by the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council

April, 2009

Vol. 19, No. 4

## Voice of the Five Thousand

### MPHA explains its plans for federal stimulus money at MHRC Board meeting



MPHA Deputy Executive Director Facilities and Development Emilio Bettaglio (left) and MPHA Executive Director Cora McCorvey (right) discuss the funds available to MPHA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) at the March 19 MHRC Board Meeting held at 2121 Minnehaha Ave.

It won't take care of the \$220 million backlog of unmet capital needs (for building repairs and improvements) but the \$18.2 million MPHA is receiving as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), recently signed into law by President Obama, sure helps.

MPHA Executive Director Cora McCorvey and MPHA Deputy Executive Director Facilities and Development Emilio Bettaglio attended the MHRC board meeting last month to explain this new funding source and how MPHA plans to spend the money.

Nationwide, \$4 billion is included in ARRA to fix public housing, \$3 billion distributed by formula and the rest through competitive grants. Not only will these new funds help with the preservation of public housing, but they will lead to the creation of new jobs and promote economic recovery.

MPHA must obligate the funds within one year and expend them within three years. The first phase of the construction will start within 2-4 months and, for the highrises, will include a variety of activities such as roof replacements, façade and parking lot repairs, elevator modernization, highrise access/security improvements and some apartment rehab. Construction for the second phase will start within 5-8 months and will include some of the same work as well as some major piping replacement.

MPHA has also budgeted \$550,000 of ARRA funds for administrative expenses some of which, McCorvey said, may go toward resident job training, work readiness and employment.

For information about specific ARRA expenditures, talk to your property manager or visit the MPHA website at [www.mphaonline.org](http://www.mphaonline.org).



## MHRC Board Meeting Wrap-up

The MHRC Board meeting was held March 19 at 2121 Minnehaha Ave. Board action included:

- ◆ Discussion with MPHA Executive Director Cora McCorvey and MPHA Deputy Executive Director Facilities and Development Emilio Bettaglio about MPHA's plans for spending \$18.2 million of federal stimulus money for building repairs and improvements;
- ◆ Consideration of a report by Cora McCorvey about live-in caretaker positions; starting April 1 all remaining live-in caretakers will have to either move out or start paying flat rent;
- ◆ Discussion about MPHA cockroach treatment and prevention strategies;
- ◆ Consideration of legislative updates by MHRC Executive Director Barb Harris: Met Council is no longer planning to increase bus fares or cut routes; over 1000 highrise signatures were collected on petitions opposing the Governor's proposed 27% cut to the Renters Credit Program; Congress has passed the 2008-2009 budget with some increase for public housing; President Obama has committed to pushing for an additional \$1 billion to fund the National Low Income Trust Fund; and
- ◆ Review of resident council election timeline and activities.

## Residents learn about MPHA cockroach prevention and treatment strategies



MPHA is winning the battle on cockroaches, according to MPHA Principal Asset Operations Manager Judy Johnson (above, left) who spoke about MPHA pest control strategies at the MHRC's March board meeting. Johnson said the most effective treatment method uses a combination of spraying, baiting and identifying the source of the infestation. Johnson also stressed the importance of residents reporting infestation immediately.



## Here are some tips for keeping a roach-free apartment

- ◆ Clean up spilled food and beverages immediately. Do not let grease accumulate on the sides of refrigerators and stoves.
- ◆ Line trash containers with plastic bags and remove trash frequently.
- ◆ Do not store grocery bags and newspapers under your sink or between your stove and refrigerator. Cockroaches love to hide in these areas.
- ◆ Do not leave food or drinks lying around. These attract cockroaches.
- ◆ Store food, including cereals and flour, in tightly closed containers. Storing some products in the refrigerator will also help. Get rid of food items that are not being used.
- ◆ Leaking faucets provide a water supply for cockroaches. Report them to the work order department (342-1585).
- ◆ Report infestations to your property manager right away.

## Wax yaabaha yareya amaba ciribtira baraanbarada waxaa ka mid ah arimahan hoos kuxusan

- ◆ Adigoo sida ugu dhakhsaha badan u nadifiya maylaha cuntada iyo cabitaanka ay ku daateen. Yaysan ku ururin subag filintijerka geesaskiisa iyo makiinada cuntada lagu kariyo.
- ◆ Si fiican u gali bacda caaga qashinka ha isla sugin qashinka ee marwalba soo daadi.
- ◆ Ha ku kaydin jornaalada iyo bacda qashinka makinada wax lagu karsado ama fintijeerka geeskiisa. Paranbarada waa meelahay jacashahay inay ku dhuumato.
- ◆ Cunto ama cabitaan ha oga tagin dibadda waxay keenaan in ay baraanbaradu timaado .
- ◆ Ku xaray cuntooyinka ay ka mid yihiin siiriyalka iyo burka meelaha loogu tala galay wixii kale oo cunto ah waad gashankartaa filintijeerka cuntadaadan u bahneen isticmaalkooda is ka daadi.
- ◆ Tuubada biyaha oo biyo daadisa waxay keentaa in baraanbaradu waraab u soo raadsato ee sida u gu dhakhsaha badan u wac qolada dayactirka guriga ee namborkoodu yahay (342-1585).
- ◆ U sheeg maamulka baranbarta & dhiqlaha.



## Getting ready for May resident council Elections

*Nominate someone to run for an officer or MHRC board member position, or, nominate yourself!*

Highrise nominating committees will present names of candidates for resident council officer and MHRC Board Member positions at resident council meetings this month. These nominations will be posted for one month prior to the resident council elections in May.

The officers will be responsible for planning and running the monthly resident council meetings and helping to carry out the decisions voted on by residents at the council meetings. MHRC board members will attend bi-monthly MHRC board meetings and keep their councils informed about MHRC activities. All residents are members of their resident council and are strongly encouraged to attend resident council meetings in April and May to help nominate and elect officers who will work for the benefit of all residents and work well with others. Interested residents may also nominate themselves at council meetings this month or at the election in May.

## Magacoow Qofkaad Dooneyso inuu Noqdo Musharax Gollaha Guryayaha ee MHRC!

Bishaan waxay golloyaashu ay isu diyaarinayaan magacoowgii musharaxiinta xubnaha kala duwan sida madaxweyne, kuxigeen, khasnaji, xoghayn iyo lugta shanaad. Waxaa kaloo laga doonayaa gudigga magacoowgu ay soo dhiiri geliyaan dad isu sharaxa xubnaha wafuuda ee MHRC. Magacaabidaas waa in lasoo dhajiyaa bil kahor bisha May oo doorashooyinku dhacayaan. Waxay mas'uul kayihiin dadka ladoorto, qorsheynta iyo fullinta hawlaha guud ee dadwaynaha doortay. Wafuuda la doortay waxay tagayaan labadii bil-lodba mar shirarka guud ee MHRC taasoo ay uga soo waramayaan dadwaynihii dirsaday xaaladu meeshay mareyso. Dhamaan qof kasta oo degan guriga ayaa xubin ka'ah gollaha. Waxaa kama dambeystii lagu dhiiri gelinayaa in aad looga qeyb qaato shirka bisha April ee gollaha. Lana magacaabo qofkii dadka wax u qaban kara.

## MPHA residents attend, speak up at meeting with affordable housing advocates



MHRC Board Alternate and housing advocate Lawrence Martin (630 Cedar Ave. S.) speaks on the importance of improving communication between MPHA & residents.

Over 100 affordable housing advocates from around the state attended a forum in March at Plymouth Congregational Church to discuss the impact of federal housing policy on affordable housing needs in Minnesota.

In her keynote address Sheila Crowley, President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, shared her views about the potential for positive changes in federal housing policy, as well as some continuing struggles, under a President Obama administration and, in particular, with new leadership at HUD.



MHRC Community Organizer Abdirizak Said (L) and MHRC Vice President Matt Gerard meet with National Low Income Coalition President and CEO Sheila Crowley following her address at the Minnesota Federal Housing Action Coalition meeting in Minneapolis in March.

## Lovin' the "new" Art Love Manor



Residents of Art Love Manor (800 5th Ave. N.) enjoy an open house celebrating the completion of major modernization work at the highrise. Pictured L-R: Gloria Walker, Denise Wright, and Kelsey Coleman.




## Artists, crafters, and performers wanted for Art-A-Whirl



MPHA VISTA Community Worker and Art-A-Whirl Co-ordinator Tim Martin encourages resident participation in this NE Minneapolis Arts event at the March MHRC Board meeting.

Art-a-Whirl is an open-studio and gallery tour of Northeast Minneapolis, running the weekend of May 15—17th. Resident performers, artists, crafters and entrepreneurs interested in reserving space to exhibit or perform at 1801 Central Ave. N.E. during any or all of the scheduled Art-A Whirl exhibition times should call MPHA VISTA Community Worker Tim Martin by 4:30 p.m. on April 9 at (612) 342-1448.

Today Everyone was Irish!   
Submitted by Alice Geronson, 616 Washington St. N.E.



Residents of 616 Washington St. N.E. joined together for a St. Patrick's Day dinner party. Residents represented over 15 nationalities, but today everyone was Irish, even our manager John Fabian. We served 26 people but only had one true Irishman, Dorothy Kwatera. I just love this place!

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.



## April Area Meetings

All residents welcome. Topics will include:

- Preparations for May resident council elections and review of election procedures;
- Update on the development of MPHA's moving to Work (MTW)/Agency Plan;
- Nominations for MHRC committee Positions;
- VOAMN social services contract review

North/Northeast residents meet

*Wednesday, April 8, 1:30 p.m.*

*314 Hennepin Ave.*

Southeast/Southwest residents meet

*Thursday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.*

*2121 Minnehaha Ave.*

## Deadline for applying for VISTA positions extended to April 27

Due to technical difficulties with the online application process MPHA has extended to April 27 the application deadline for the following three VISTA Volunteer Community Worker positions: 1. A bilingual/Somali Community Worker position working with Glendale family housing; 2. A Community Worker position with a financial focus working with MHRC to support resident councils; and 3. A community Worker position with an employment and training focus working through MPHA Resident Initiatives Department.

These are paid volunteer positions providing a monthly stipend of \$909 plus other financial benefits including a \$4,725 educational award. These benefits do not count towards rent calculation for MPHA residents. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on April 27 and must be made online at: [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov). Click on the link for My Americorps and follow the steps to login. For MPHA positions you will need to know the following: Program type: *Americorps VISTA*; Program Area: *Housing*; Program Location: *Minnesota*; Program Name: *Minneapolis Public Housing Authority*. For more information call MPHA's Resident Initiatives Department at 612-342-1449 or the Americorps Vista Help Desk at 1-888-507-5962.



## This Month's Events

**Thursday, April 2, 9:30 a.m.:** MHRC Executive Committee meets at 1710 Plymouth Ave. N.

**Wednesday, April 8, 1:30 p.m.:** N/NE Area meets at 314 Hennepin Ave.

**Thursday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.:** SE/SW Area meets at 2121 Minnehaha Ave.

**Friday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.:** Security Advisory Committee meets at 2121 Minnehaha Ave.