Spring 2014 • Vol. XXIV, Issue 2

Bancroft Banner

A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

South Minneapolis Housing Fair

Walk through the MRES Tiny Solar Home to see amazing energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. The Tiny Solar Home will be in the parking lot at 22nd Ave and E. Lake Street in conjunction with the South Minneapolis Housing Fair.

It's time to get those home improvement projects started! The 20th annual South Minneapolis Housing Fair is being held April 5th from 10:00-3:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Sports Center, Midtown YWCA at 2121 East Lake Street. The Fair is produced to provide home improvement information to Minneapolis residents and support local community resources.

The Fair is free to the public and this year features The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society Tiny Solar Home, local contractors, the University of Minnesota Master Gardener, and experts from the City of Minneapolis who will answer your questions on everything from building codes, solid waste and graffiti removal.

The Fair-goers also make their own non-toxic chemical at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization booth and build a birdhouse with Elpis Enterprises.

'How-to" sessions are being offered every half hour on a variety of home improvement topics including: landscaping, solar energy rebates and tax credits, growing a monarch garden, tile design, air conditioning for homes with radiators, working with contractors, how to work with a designer, preventing ice dams, and loan options from Neighborhood Housing Service of Minneapolis.

Pick up a resource directory that includes information on quality contractors, helpful articles about working with contractors, plus a list of evening workshops offered in collaboration with South High Community Ed. Directories are available at your local South Minneapolis library and Neighborhood Organization.

Visit *housingfair.org* for more information on exhibitors, sessions, or to volunteer.

Tiny Diner and Farm to open in May

by Anne Saxton

The Tiny Diner and Farm is a small place with big ideas. We believe it's the little things that count, so we're creating menus with as many local foods as we can, including the stuff we grow ourselves. Every month we pay tribute to diner towns across the USA, exploring different ways to use our midwestern bounty. We're producing energy with our patio roof/solar array, increasing urban soil fertility, and creating a natural habitat for pollinators and urban wildlife in what's basically our own backyard. We're partnering with the Permaculture Institute-Cold Climate to present skill shares and permaculture design classes, and working a plot on Garden Farm in Anoka, Minnesota's first organic farm. We'd like to you come join us! We're planning to open this May and you can find an employment application on tinydiner.com.

The Tiny Diner will be showcasing biointensive urban farming methods and efficient water use strategies through its edible gardens and rain water catchments systems. In partnership with the Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate and Master Water Stewards of the Freshwater Society and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, visitors can see and read about small-scale installations like an edible perennial garden and rain water catchment techniques. From its hardscape to its landscape, this Diner was designed to provide a renovated example of whole system design—low impact, educational, and tangibly tasty.

Tiny Diner *to page 3*

What's Selling in Bancroft?

Presenting 915 East 41st Street! This Bancroft gem is 3 bedrooms, 1 bath and has been freshly renovated. The home is seated on a large corner lot, and has a HUGE yard—perfect for gardening, or having summer BBQs! While on the subject of BBQs, it's important to note that there's also a nice patio directly off of the kitchen, which has been tastefully updated and includes granite counter-tops, stainless steel appliances, a gas range, ceramic subway tile back-splash and butcher-block bar area.

This home has an open layout, gets fabulous natural light, and is great for entertaining. With solid updated mechanicals including central AC, newer roof, windows and siding, this home will be low maintenance for years to come, allowing you to focus on all the other wonderful things life has to offer! $159,900 - MLS #4453849 - offered by Robin Voreis of Keller Williams Integrity Realty

Local Market Update – February 2014

A RESEARCH TOOL PROVIDED BY THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

MINNEAPOLIS AREA Association of REALTORS®

Bancroft

+ 33.3%	+ 100.0%	+ 0.8%
Change in **New Listings**	Change in **Closed Sales**	Change in **Median Sales Price**

	February			Year to Date		
	2013	2014	+ / –	2013	2014	+ / –
New Listings	6	**8**	+ 33.3%	12	**15**	+ 25.0%
Closed Sales	2	**4**	+ 100.0%	6	**7**	+ 16.7%
Median Sales Price*	$136,450	**$137,500**	+ 0.8%	$125,000	**$115,000**	-8.0%
Average Sales Price*	$136,450	**$152,975**	+ 12.1%	$128,483	**$142,882**	+ 11.2%
Price Per Square Foot*	$90	**$98**	+ 8.8%	$99	**$99**	+ 0.2%
Percent of Original List Price Received*	95.8%	**87.3%**	-8.9%	105.8%	**83.7%**	-20.9%
Days on Market Until Sale	73	**118**	+ 61.6%	53	**140**	+ 164.2%
Inventory of Homes for Sale	17	**14**	-17.6%	--	--	--
Months Supply of Inventory	3.0	**2.2**	-26.7%	--	--	--

* Does not account for seller concessions. | Activity for one month can sometimes look extreme due to small sample size.

Help support the Bancroft Neighborhood Association with a tax-deductible donation!

We warmly appreciate any amount you wish to give.

Yes, I want to support my neighborhood. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.

(Check one)

❏ $500 ❏ $250 ❏ $100 ❏ $50 ❏ $35 ❏ $_____other

❏ My employer will match my contribution.

❏ Please sign me up to receive the *Bancroft Banner* Newsletter (we will never give away your address).

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____Zip_____

Phone_____Email _____

Please make checks payable to BNA and send to:
Bancroft Neighborhood Association
4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407

Green Initiative Committee Update

The Green Initiatives met and set some priorities for the year. The first one is the renovation of the Meridian Garden on 38th and 12th. We have hired a landscaper and are moving forward with a new design and implementation of this spot for our neighborhood. The plan of the board and committee is to have a nice neighborhood garden and something simple to maintain.

The second priority is the Community Garden, located at the Bethel Lutheran Church on 16th and 40th. We have 18 garden plots that are 10 feet by 20 feet, and charge a $30 annual fee for each plot (which includes water). There is a limit of one garden plot per household and preference is given to residents of Bancroft neighborhood. After March 31st, it will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications have been sent out to previous gardeners and if you haven't had a plot before and would like to, contact our neighborhood office for an application. We are looking at securing a grant application for some fencing around the plots this year.

The third goal is to put permanent recycling bins in the Bancroft Meadows. The fourth goal is to recruit new members for the Green Initiatives Committee. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church.

Local Food Resource Hubs program supports growing healthy local food

The Local Food Resource Hubs are neighborhood networks of gardeners. The Hubs program is intended to provide home gardeners and community gardeners the support they need to grow, preserve, cook and compost their own fresh food by offering supplies, educational opportunities, and community connections in their neighborhood. The Local Food Resource Hubs program benefits neighborhoods by building community and increasing access to healthy food.

Residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul can join the Local Food Resource Hubs and select a small, medium, or large garden package—prices vary by size and partial scholarships are available. It's basically a bulk buying club; packages of seeds and plants are available at a fraction of their retail price. Members pick up their seeds and plants at distribution events held across Minneapolis and St. Paul, which are run by Gardening Matters, Hub members, and countless neighborhood partners and volunteers.

This is the fourth year of the Local Food Resource Hubs program. Last year in 2013 there were 900 members in the network, and the Hubs distributed more than 18,000 packets of seeds and 25,000 seedlings, 2,500 strawberry plants, 400 raspberry plants, and 30,000 pounds of compost.

Residents should contact Gardening Matters at 612-821-2358 or visit *gardeningmatters.org/hubs* for more information about the program, including a map of the Hub areas and the sign up form.

Tiny Diner *from page 1*

The Tiny Diner will be hosting a Farmers' Market this 2014 season. We would like to invite local farmers/gardeners and artists to the Market to sell their produce and crafts at the market.

Farmers' Markets will be held in the parking lot of the Tiny Diner at 1024 E. 38th St. every Thursday from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

BNA CALENDAR

All meetings and events are held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue South at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Childcare is available with advance notice. Call 724-5313.

April

(Stress Awareness Month, National Poetry Month)

1 **Programs & Outreach Committee**, 7:00 p.m.
3 **Executive Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
7 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran
10 **BNA Board Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
14 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
21 **Green Initiatives Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
Yoga in the Yard, 7:00 p.m.
23 **Administrative Professional's Day**
24 **Housing & Commercial Development Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
28 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.

May

(National Bike Month, National Physical Fitness Month)

1 **Executive Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
5 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
6 **Programs & Outreach Committee**, 7:00 p.m.
8 **BNA Board Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
11 **Mother's Day**
12 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
17 **Armed Forces Day**
19 **Green Initiatives Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
Yoga in the Yard, 7:00 p.m.
22 **Housing & Commercial Development Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
26 **Memorial Day**

June

(National Safety Month, Men's Health Month)

2 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
3 **Programs & Outreach Committee**, 7:00 p.m.
5 **Executive Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
9 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
12 **BNA Board Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.
15 **Father's Day**
16 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
16 **Green Initiatives Committee**, 6:00 p.m.
23 **Yoga in the Yard**, 7:00 p.m.
26 **Housing & Commercial Development Committee**, 6:00 p.m.

Si le gustaría recibir esta información en español, manda un email a info@bancroftneighborhood.com o llama la oficina al 612-724-5313.

Save the date!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

July 17, 2014

If you're interested in helping with planning the event, please contact the BNA office.

BANCROFT IN BRIEF

Open Gym / Yoga

BNA will continue to offer yoga on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. through May. There is no charge, so bring the family and get your exercise on! Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/bancroftneighborhood to find out about changes or cancellations

HOME Line Expanding Services to Minneapolis

Beginning April 1, 2014, if you are a tenant in Minneapolis and are interested in your renter rights, you can receive free legal advice by emailing our attorneys at *homelinemn.org/e-mail-an-attorney* or by calling our free Tenant Hotline at (612) 728-5767.

HOME Line provides free legal, organizing, educational and advocacy services so tenants throughout Minnesota can solve their own rental housing problems. For 22 years, HOME Line has provided Minnesota renters with legal information regarding their rights. Staffed by lawyers, law students, and community volunteers, the tenant hotline has prevented over 11,700 evictions and saved renters over 21 million dollars in returned damage deposits and rent abatements. All calls are free and all information is kept confidential.

Now, we are expanding our services to Minneapolis. To learn more about HOME Line and about volunteering opportunities on our hotline, please go to *homelinemn.org*.

The BNA has low-interest home improvement loans!

Start planning now for your summer home improvement projects. Check out our website, *www.bancroftneighborhood.org*, or contact the office for more information — 612-724-5313

Bancroft Banner

Published by the Bancroft Neighborhood Association and distributed in the Bancroft neighborhood, which is bordered by Chicago Avenue on the west, 38th Street on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, and 42nd Street on the south.

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