



# Bancroft Banner

A Newsletter for the Bancroft Neighborhood

## Discounted Home Energy Squad Enhanced Visits



*Andy, a Bancroft resident, in front of his house after completing the Home Energy Audit.*

**B**NA is discounting over half the cost of 50 Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits for Bancroft residents. The visit involves two energy consultants—an energy technician and energy counselor who visit your home for two hours. The energy technician conducts diagnostic tests, while the energy counselor accompanies you around your home to point out energy saving tips and install energy saving materials.

At the end of your visit, the energy consultants go over the diagnostic tests and provide you with a Home Energy Fitness Plan. To help accomplish recommended home improvement projects, the

visit qualifies participants for 2.99% energy financing from the Center for Energy and Environment's Lending Center, which can be used in conjunction with BNA's Home Improvement Loan Program. Participants also receive an approved contractor list when insulation work is recommended.

Here is what two Bancroft neighbors have to say about the visit:

"Just do it. If nothing else you'll know that you're efficient or you'll know some areas of improvement...it was definitely helpful for us." — *Bryan B., Bancroft resident*

"The Home Energy Squad was an invaluable resource for me as a first-time home buyer. After moving in, I realized that I had a 30+ year old air conditioner and a furnace with a cracked heat exchanger. Luckily, I scheduled a home visit that qualified me for a low interest loan, that made getting new efficient units possible on a limited budget. Plus I was informed by their staff of simple ways I could save energy around my house that I didn't know existed, like turning down my water heater." — *Andy L., Bancroft resident*

If you want to take your neighbors' advice please call Beth at (612) 335-5874 to schedule a \$30 visit (normally \$70 in Mpls). Discounted visits are available on a first-come, first-served basis to Bancroft residents. For more information: [www.mncee.org/hes-mpls](http://www.mncee.org/hes-mpls). Visits are provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Join us on July 17 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Bancroft Meadows** for the annual Ice Cream Social. This year, we'll have ice cream from **Grand Ole Creamery**. There will be a bouncy castle, petting zoo, and pony rides for the kids, along with activities provided by Urban Arts Academy and Bethel Lutheran Church.

**Taco Taxi** will be selling tacos, burritos, and quesadillas, with a portion of the proceeds going back to BNA. So come for some good fun, great food, and support BNA. Follow us on Facebook for more information on live music and other event additions.

## Update on work by Southside United Neighborhoods

# Organizing Tenants to Improve Apartments

**T**he SUN Project is a coalition of seven neighborhood organizations (Bryant Neighborhood Organization, Bancroft Neighborhood Association, Central Neighborhood Development Organization, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Longfellow Community Council, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association) representing eleven neighborhoods in South Minneapolis. Representatives from those neighborhoods began meeting in 2010 to explore ways we could work together to support each other's work and make all of our neighborhoods stronger.

The focus of our work is to explore strategic partnership opportunities that will ensure the long-term sustainability of our neighborhood work. We also strive to improve our capacity to engage and build grassroots leadership and affect policy change.

After several months of study, with input from the board members of all SUN partners, we have developed a policy agenda to guide our work through the immediate future. We identified three primary areas that impact all of our neighborhoods: (1) the condition of multi-family housing; (2) Minneapolis Park and Recreation programming; and (3) concerns about inconsistencies and confusion with the City of Minneapolis property inspections policies.

Starting with multi-family housing, we learned that apartment buildings in Corcoran, especially in the Lake Street corridor, are in rough shape. Tenants who request repairs and basic maintenance in their building are being ignored by bad landlords, many of whom prey on vulnerable tenants as a way of doing business. The City of Minneapolis has the authority to inspect and order repairs in response to tenants' complaints, but too often

City inspection policies and practices only serve to empower a bad landlord while leaving tenants frustrated and living in substandard housing.

Corcoran staff has been organizing tenants in some of the most distressed apartments in that neighborhood. Tenants are speaking up, taking action, and getting repairs and improvements made. At the same time, we've built awareness and action by neighborhood partners in the Powderhorn Park and Central neighborhoods along Lake Street, who share many of these same tenant concerns and bad landlords. In January, SUN leaders met directly with our 4 City Council members to present findings from our recent tenant organizing work and our concerns about City inspections policy and practices.

The council members, including 8th Ward representative Elizabeth Glidden, listened and responded to our concerns and asked Nuria Rivera-

## 2014 Bancroft Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale Registration

**N**eed an excuse to clean out your basement, closets, or garage? Well, here it is—the neighborhood-wide garage sale! This year, we'll hold the garage sale on Saturday, September 13 from 8:00–3:00 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of the promotion and marketing the Bancroft Neighborhood Association will do through various media outlets. Handy guides and maps will be available at neighborhood businesses and at each garage sale location.

If you're interested in participating in this event by holding a garage sale, please fill out the information below and return it to the Bancroft Neighborhood Association's office. You can also access the electronic version on our website [bancroftneighborhood.org](http://bancroftneighborhood.org) (under Neighborhood News).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

What types of items will you have at your garage sale? (i.e. baby clothes, furniture, tools, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Please return this form to the Bancroft Neighborhood Association office no later than August 29, 2014.**

Phone: 612-724-5313 Fax: 612-724-3694

Email: [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org)

Mail: Bancroft Neighborhood Association

4120 17th Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55407

## Organizing Tenants *from page 2*

Vandermyde, the City's new Director of Regulatory Services, to begin meeting directly with SUN leaders to work on changes to inspections policy and practices. SUN had a productive initial meeting with Rivera-Vandermyde and her staff in February, and we're already changing the way the City does business in order to place a high priority on the concerns and needs of our most vulnerable tenants. Rivera-Vandermyde has expressed interest in meeting directly with concerned tenants in their apartments to see firsthand some of the maintenance issues and hear how they've been impacted

Do you have a concern about your apartment or your landlord? Please contact Luke at [info@bancroftneighborhood.org](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.org) or 612-724-5313. You can also call the Free Tenant Hotline (612-728-5767) run by nonprofit HOME Line, another key partner in our work.

## 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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### Bancroft Banner

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[www.bancroftneighborhood.org](http://www.bancroftneighborhood.org)

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## Meridian Garden, An Urban Food Forest

Last year, through outreach efforts, it was decided that the Meridian Garden would be a priority for BNA this year. The BNA worked with Dan Halsey, of Southwoods Permaculture Design, to turn the Meridian Garden into the first urban food forest in Minneapolis.

Volunteers from all over the Twin Cities to helped with the project. It was great to see so many people excited to make this space into a legacy

garden for generations of people to enjoy. The food that the garden produces is for anyone and everyone. There are pears, apples, plums, black and red currants, blueberries, two types of cherries, rhubarb, and more!

Thanks to an Art Blocks grant from Pillsbury House + Theatre, the adjacent block club will be completing three arts projects in the Meridian Garden — insect habitats, a retaining wall mural, and trash can mosaics. Look for these and other happenings throughout the summer and fall at the Meridian Garden. If you'd like to be involved, contact the BNA office.

## 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.*

### July

*(National Picnic Month, UIV Safety Month)*

3 Executive Committee, 6:00 p.m.

4 Independence Day

7 Yoga in the Yard at Bethel Lutheran

14 Yoga in the Yard

17 Ice Cream Social (Bancroft Meadows)

21 Green Initiatives Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Yoga in the Yard

24 Housing & Commercial Development Committee, 6:00 p.m.

28 Yoga in the Yard

### August

*(National Immunization Awareness Month)*

3 International Friendship Day

4 Yoga in the Yard

7 Executive Committee, 6:00 p.m.

11 Yoga in the Yard

14 BNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

18 Green Initiatives Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Yoga in the Yard

25 Yoga in the Yard

28 Housing & Commercial Development Committee, 6:00 p.m.

### September

*(National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month)*

1 Labor Day

4 Executive Committee, 6:00 p.m.

8 Yoga in the Yard

11 BNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

13 BNA Community-wide Garage Sale

15 Green Initiatives Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Yoga in the Yard

22 Yoga in the Yard

25 Housing & Commercial Development Committee, 6:00 p.m.

29 Yoga in the Yard

*Si le gustaría recibir esta información en español, manda un email a [info@bancroftneighborhood.com](mailto:info@bancroftneighborhood.com) o llama la oficina al 612-724-5313.*



## Bethel's Community Solar Garden

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church has announced that it will be the first community of faith in Minnesota to host a community solar garden. The Church has partnered with solar developer Minnesota Community Solar to host the project atop the education wing on Bethel's South Minneapolis property. The Church will be the array's anchor subscriber, consuming a significant portion of the electricity produced.

Community solar gardens allow Xcel electricity customers to subscribe to solar energy from large arrays at locations away from their own homes and businesses. Community solar dramatically expands the number of Minnesotans with access to clean, locally-produced solar electricity.

Describing the partnership, Pastor Brenda Froisland said, "We are very excited to be partnering with

Minnesota Community Solar; they've made this process easy. Our congregation has long had a spiritual commitment to environmental stewardship. Working with our community to create a solar garden is a concrete step toward better nourishing God's Creation."

What does this mean for Bancroft residents? Well, through July 3, subscriptions are open to residents of Bancroft. For more information, visit [mncommunitysolar.com/bethel](http://mncommunitysolar.com/bethel) or contact the BNA office. After July 3, the subscriptions will open up to anyone interested. Take action now to secure a piece of the solar array and save money on energy bills!

## City Appraisers Reviewing Properties

Appraisers from the City of Minneapolis Assessor's Office are currently conducting an official review of residential properties in the East

Harriet, Tangletown, Bancroft and Standish neighborhoods.

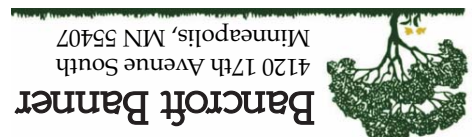
State law requires that appraisers from the City of Minneapolis physically review all properties in the city once every five years. This ensures that the Assessor's Office has the most current and accurate information to properly value your property and all properties throughout the city. Appraisers carry a City identification card and are required to show it if asked.

Appraisers will be viewing the exterior of the resident's property and will knock on their door to verify property information (if resident is home). Appraisers may also ask for permission to view the interior of the home (at the time of the review or at a later time via appointment) depending on if there are data discrepancies, such as changes in condition.

If residents have any questions about property reviews, please contact the Assessor's Office at 612-673-2483.

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