



Corcoran Rocks National Night Out

Despite a drought-ending deluge that dampened or delayed a few events, Minneapolis saw record-breaking turnouts for NNO block parties. Corcoran residents showed extraordinary enthusiasm, with nearly 80% participation by block. You can see from the map below which blocks participated in National Night Out this year (they are various shades of gray).



Atrebla Day Care Plans Building and Program Expansion

By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Atrebla Early Learning Center, an academic child care center located at E. 35th Street and 21st Avenue, plans to expand its building and programming. Director Alberta Smith explained, "We're adding two new classrooms to accommodate 20 more toddlers and infants. We'll now be able to care for 54 children aged 6 weeks to 12 years."

Atrebla's building, originally built as a convenience store, features a dark brick façade below steep pitched shakes that meet a flat roof. Atrebla moved into the space in 2000, and has since expanded operations with a new location in north Minneapolis. The addition to its Corcoran facility will match the existing brick and feature ample glass on its north and west elevations.



The main entrance facing 35th Street will remain. The project will add a wing coming north from the east side of the front façade, creating an 'L'-shaped plan that will reduce the existing parking lot. Smith says the parking area that will

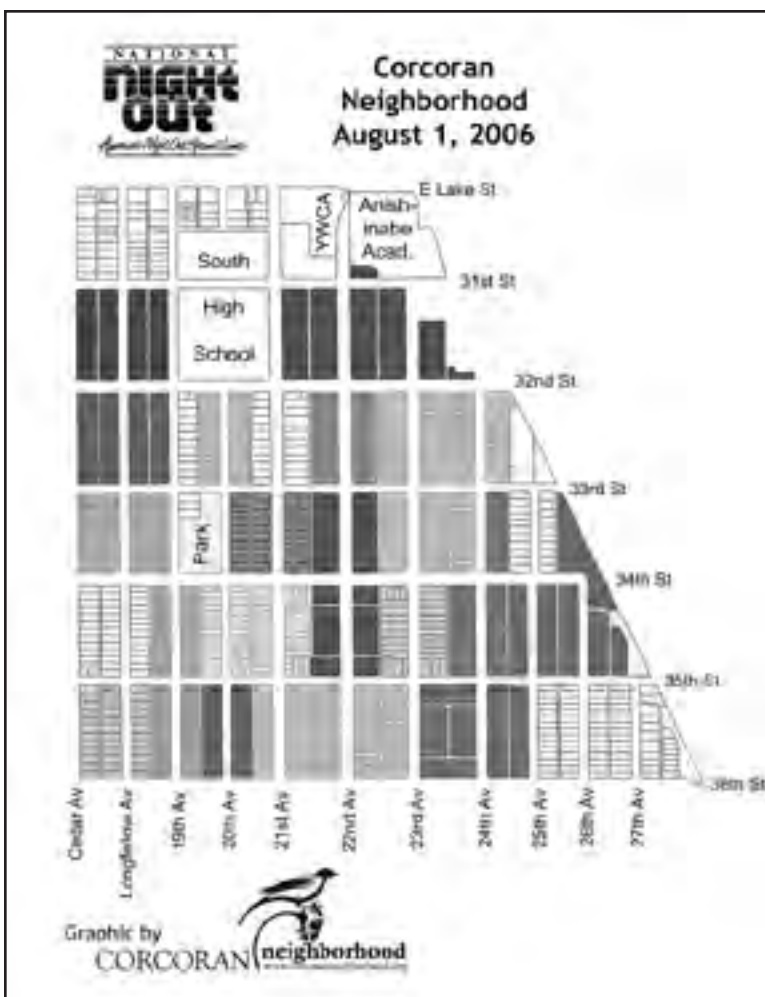
remain is ample for drop-offs and pick-ups by parents, and meets the city's off-street requirements.

On August 10, CNO convened a community meeting to allow neighbors to learn more about the project and express any concerns. Smith and her architect were on hand. Attendance was minimal, and CNO staff heard no concerns about the project from neighbors or from the

CNO Land Use and Transportation Committee. The project went before the City's Planning Commission on

August 14 and was approved. Smith expects the addition to be completed before winter.

Smith calls Atrebla's services 'high quality academic childcare,' and notes they are in the process of becoming accredited. For more information about Atrebla Early Learning Center, contact Alberta Smith at (612) 724-0788, or visit www.atrebla.com.



Register to receive CNO's new e-mail newsletter, the Neighborhood Advocate, by visiting www.corcoranneighborhood.org. The Advocate will augment the information about neighborhood events and volunteer opportunities found each month in the Corcoran News, but in a timelier fashion. Subscribers will receive the newsletter as an e-mail, and publication will occur roughly once per week. Some articles that appear in the Advocate will also appear in the Corcoran News. Look for the symbol in this issue, which indicates that an article first appeared in the Neighborhood Advocate.



Camp Fire club members meet regularly at Corcoran Park with their club leader to have fun while building important life skills like teamwork, leadership, and communication. This summer, club members had fun playing in a kickball tournament and creating art projects like animal masks.

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All is coming and that means changes! A new school year is just beginning for some and about to begin for others, the night air is cooler, political ads abound on television and in yards, and the Vikings are set to test their new team.

Things have been changing at CNN as well. This is my second issue as Editor of this newspaper. Our goal is to keep you informed about information that is important to our community. That includes not just Corcoran, but the areas around us as well. If there is anything that you feel has been missing, please let us know. We are here to keep you up to date with information.

Last year CNN started publishing the paper using the computer instead of the old cut and paste method that had worked for so many years.

We are keeping up with technology in another

way to keep you up to date. CNO has a new publication via email called the Neighborhood Advocate. It comes out every week with the most recent information that you need to know. The two publications will share much of the same information with a goal of reaching a wider audience. That does not mean they will be the same by any means. Each will have some articles specific for that publication. Please go to our website at www.corcoranneighborhood.org to register for the newsletter. Please enjoy our sister publication!

You can also get back issues of CNN and the Neighborhood Advocate online at our website www.corcaranneighborhood.org.

Alexis Bell, CNN Editor

CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD BOOKSALE!

Saturday, October 7th 10AM-2PM

Sunday, October 8th 12PM-4PM

Sale located at 3451 Cedar Ave. S.

Books of all varieties, Corcoran Cafe -Drinks rolls, and more available at the book sale!

Come and support Corcoran Neighborhood Organization!

Council Considers Two New Anti-Graffiti Measures

By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

After considering substantial and passionate testimony at a public hearing on Wednesday, August 21, a committee of the City Council voted to require all spray paint sold in Minneapolis to be kept either behind a counter in employee control or under lock and key. The proposed new ordinance is aimed at curtailing a gang graffiti problem that has skyrocketed in recent years, representing the most frequent complaint by residents to the City according to 311 data.

The hearing occurred during a meeting of the Council's Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee. Speakers providing testimony included residents and neighborhood organizations frustrated with vandalism and gang activity, hardware store owners skeptical of the measure's efficacy, and trade associations concerned about its burden on retailers. Eric Gustafson described Corcoran

Neighborhood Organization's graffiti prevention and abatement program, shared photos of vandalism in Corcoran, and talked about the negative impacts of graffiti on the perceptions of visitors and residents, including youth who are susceptible to the lure of gang activity. Representatives from East Phillips, Standish and Ericcson, and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods also testified.

A gentleman who owns a paint store on Minnehaha Avenue expressed skepticism common among retailers present at the hearing: that offenders can easily procure spray paint without purchasing it, and also use alternative tools such as wide-tipped markers. He noted that as a young man in the 1970s, he was involved in graffiti vandalism and easily found available spray paint in neighborhood garages left open.

Council Member Gary Schiff,

who introduced the "lock up" ordinance, spoke at length about the gang and graffiti problems in Minneapolis, and described the many policy measures recently put into place in search of a viable solution. "These measures share one thing in common," Schiff said, "they haven't worked. We need new solutions." He acknowledged that locking up spray paint won't be a cure-all, and that more work is necessary, but called the spray paint ordinance an important step. Council Members voted in favor of the proposed ordinance, which will be subject to a vote of the full Council before becoming law.

Also under consideration at the August 21 meeting was a proposed ordinance change that would limit pedestrian traffic in city alleyways to that of adjoining residents and public service agencies. The change was introduced by Council Member Robert Lilligren. Like the previous matter, the policy is aimed

at curtailing criminal activity, especially graffiti vandalism. The PS&RS committee chose to make no recommendation on this matter at the meeting, but rather forward the proposed ordinance to the full Council for a vote.

Residents Continue to Help Abate Graffiti Swiftly

Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Skrivseth observes that gang activity and graffiti often spike this time of year – just before school starts – around area high schools such as South. "The gangs often use graffiti to send a recruitment message to kids heading back to class. Be watchful, and call 911 if you observe illegal behavior in progress." Watchful residents have been the key component in CNO's anti-graffiti program, which continues to offer free paint and labor to property owners vandalized by graffiti.



BIKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS local destinations and trails

Get on a bike and join us! Saturday 23 September at 10:00 am

 Sponsored by CNO's Land Use and Transportation Committee

This fun event will introduce new and experienced bicyclists to bike-only and shared street routes, and some of the unique cultural and retail destinations they connect. A few shops and cafes may offer free demonstrations or samples.

Highlights will include The Midtown Global Market, East Lake Library, The Hub Bicycle Co-op, the Midtown Greenway, and the Chatterbox Pub.

Sign in at the Midtown Public Market (Lake Street and 22nd Ave) at 10:00 a.m. Park your bike at the steps of the adjacent school building and buy a pastry or raffle from market vendors, and enjoy some live music. We'll depart at 10:30.

Please wear a helmet and plan to ride at your own risk. Everyone is welcome, including young riders. There will be plenty of chances for snack and water breaks along the way, including an extended stop at The Global Market around 1:00 pm. After that, we'll head out for a longer, scenic ride on the Greenway and trails along the river and creeks. We'll wrap up with beverages at Corcoran's very own Chatterbox Pub.

For more information contact:
 Email: quadrifarms@gmail.com
 Web: www.corcoranneighborhood.org
 Phone: 612-724-7457

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The Corcoran Neighborhood News
 Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
 3451 Cedar Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407

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By Sue Redmond, Corcoran Resident



Where can you go to eat and shop, finding goods from Scandinavia, the Middle and Far East, the Caribbean, the West Indies, Africa and Europe? The Midtown Global Market on East Lake Street and Chicago Avenue is *the* place. Open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily since May 15, 2006, the market offers an international flavor for living, eating and shopping in south Minneapolis. The old Sears building where we shopped and enjoyed Swedish fish candy when I was a little girl has been revived. As you enter the market, there is a feeling of an outdoor market. This once drab and crime-ridden area is now a vibrant, diverse community center. The Midtown Exchange, which incorporates the entire site, is designed to create an atmosphere to deter crime.

The market is a one-stop shop to pick up meals and groceries – including organic and ethnic foods, bakery goods, flowers, and gifts. There are a variety of sit-down eating spaces sprinkled throughout the market. The foods hail from all over the world including Mexico, Jamaica, Nepal, Scandinavia, the

Middle East, Italy, and Vietnam. The businesses are locally owned, supporting our community.

The market added outdoor vendors from the Midtown Farmers Market on Thursdays from 3:30 -7:30 p.m. through September. Above the market are 359 condominiums, lofts and apartments. A Hennepin County Service Center (and being rather undiscovered it's not busy yet!) and Allina headquarters occupy the rest of the space. Next door is a Sheraton hotel and the MCTO transportation hub.

The market has added a much needed boost to the south Minneapolis community. It's a great place to go when you can't decide on exactly what you want to eat and to explore new foods from our diverse community.

Visit these websites for more information: Midtown Exchange website www.midtowncommunityworks.org/exchange and the Midtown Global Market website www.midtownglobalmarket.org



Construction continues on the new single-family house at 3028 19th Ave S. Of the three proposals solicited by the city in January -- all two storey houses -- the Housing Committee and 19th Avenue neighbors considered this one the best architectural fit for the block, which is mostly comprised of 1-1/2-storey bungalow-style homes. Local contractor D & J Steele is building the house for its future owner-occupant.

CNO Still Offers Housing Programs to All Corcoran Residents

By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Neighborhood funds are still available to all Corcoran residents for home improvements. Corcoran's programs are administered through the non-profit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), who offers additional services at no cost (such as remodeling advice). Visit www.mncee.org to learn about CEE's additional services.

Homebuyer Assistance

If you plan to buy or have purchased a home in the Corcoran Neighborhood within the past 12 months, and you plan to live in the home, you are eligible for this attractive program, which can be used for down payment assistance, rehab assistance, or rental conversion. The program offers a \$2,000 zero-interest deferred loan, forgivable after five years. In other words, you pay no interest or principle until you move or sell. And if you remain living in the property for

five years, you pay nothing back.

Low-Interest Loans

Borrow between \$1,500 and \$10,000 at an interest rate of 3% (if your income is \$35,000 or less, based on gross income for the current year) or 4% (if your income is higher than \$35,000; there are no upper income limits). The repayment term, not to exceed 7 years, is roughly a year for every thousand dollars you borrow. Eligible properties include absentee or owner-occupied properties. Eligible projects include interior or exterior, rehab or maintenance.

Emergency Deferred Loan

This program is for residents with a demonstrated emergency situation with their property. An applicant must not be able to qualify for funding from another of CEE's

housing programs. Eligible improvements are determined through a visit to the property by CEE's construction manager.

Remodeling Advisor

If you need assistance in identifying and prioritizing improvements, CEE Financial Resources employs a Remodeling Advisor. You can receive objective remodeling advice. The service is free to Corcoran residents and includes an informational visit to your property and assistance with collection and evaluation of bids. To schedule an appointment call 612-335-5856.

The ReUse Center's New Location Offers Opportunities for Purchase, Donation, and Tax-Savings

The spacious new ReUse Center showroom just a block north of Lake Street accepts and sells donations of full kitchens, doors, windows, flooring, lighting, antique plumbing fixtures, millwork, lumber, and more. And when planning a remodeling project, be sure to consult their Deconstruction Services. This 'construction in reverse' process on a full kitchen, for example, can yield a tax deduction that nets the homeowner hundreds of dollars. The material donation gives items a second life, diverts them from the landfill, and creates a living wage job in our community. To learn more, visit www.thereusecenter.com.



Get Rid of It Guide, From A-to-Z

So your garage sale was a hit, but the house is still full clutter. These hot summer nights, a defunct vacuum cleaner haunts your dreams. Your high-end cassette deck works great, but doesn't play MP3s. And the bread maker still bakes – as long as you hold a finger on the 'start' button. What's to be done with this unwanted 'stuff'?

Someone took the haunted vacuum off your hands for parts, thanks to a free post on www.twincitiesfreemarket.org. But despite a compelling photo and an unbeatable price of \$15 posted on www.minneapolis.craigslist.org, the tape deck got no bites.

Have you tried the A-to-Z Disposal Guide? Part of Hennepin County's website, it's a clearinghouse of answers to the questions posed by clutter. A great tool for all kinds of 'garbage,' the A-to-Z Guide helps aim your junk to its healthiest end. To check out the Guide, visit www.co.hennepin.mn.us and do a keyword search for 'A to Z guide.'



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City ordinance offers new tool to encourage peaceful neighborhoods

Since July 1, 2006, Minneapolis Police have a new way to help keep neighborhoods peaceful and livable. In February, the City Council passed a new ordinance in response to neighborhood complaints that police lacked an effective set of tools to manage the noise, litter, and unruly behavior that accompany many house parties and residential events.

On July 1, police began enforcing a new ordinance that allows landlords and property owners to be put on notice and possibly fined for noisy or unruly activities on their properties. Police will mail warning notices to property owners or landlords when they have sufficient evidence that a noisy or unruly gathering has happened on their property.

The warning notices let owners and landlords know they could be fined if there is a similar incident in the next 180 days. After the warning letter is sent, landlords have a 21-day grace period before they can be fined, to give them time to take steps to correct the problem without paying fines.

The measure asks property owners and landlords to work with police to implement a plan to reduce the frequency and severity of noisy or unruly activities in the future. Community members, landlords, or property owners who have questions about the new process should call the neighborhood crime prevention specialist located in their police precinct. Please contact Corcoran's crime prevention specialist Karen Skrivseth at 612-673-2856 for more information.

Road Construction Update

Construction work continues on schedule for both the middle and eastern segments of Lake Street (Hennepin County State Aid Highway 3) in South Minneapolis as part of the first major reconstruction of the east-west corridor in 50 years, according to the Hennepin County Transportation Department, the project's lead agency.

Middle segment, 21st Avenue to 14th Avenue The contractor is putting down gravel and getting ready to place bituminous pavement on Lake Street from Bloomington Avenue east to 21st Avenue.

Both middle and east segments Streetlighting work continues, as does concrete

sidewalk, and concrete curb and gutter installation. Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis transportation officials emphasize that one lane of traffic remains open in each direction on Lake Street at all times. Motorists should expect delays. Metro Transit buses that normally operate on the middle and east portions of Lake Street have been rerouted one block south to 31st Street during construction.

Lake Street businesses are open during construction, and the Lake Street Council encourages increased customer support of area businesses during construction.

A road renovation project is also underway at 35th and Cedar, where construction crews told CNO staff they were digging to install new electrical conduit that will accommodate new, cantilever arm-type stoplight supports which will be installed in coming weeks.

For more information about the Lake Street reconstruction and streetscaping project, contact Don Shaffer, Hennepin County Transportation Department project engineer, at 612-596-0416 or 612-282-5538 (cell).

Corcoran Booksale Book Donations now accepted!

The annual neighborhood booksale is only two months away, so prepare those stacks of books you have already read and bring them to the following locations:

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
3451 Cedar Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Corcoran Park
3334 20th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55407

We will be accepting books and music in good condition in August and September. The booksale is a fund drive for CNO, so we need the books, music, etc. to be lightly used, and sellable. Call us at 612-

724-7457 to make sure we are in the office before you drop off your goods. If you have books that are not in great condition, please consider donating to one of the following places:

Women's Prison Book Project
c/o Arise Bookstore
2441 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
WPBP gladly accepts new or used paperback books only. Contact the Project directly if you have more than 100 paperbacks to donate.

The website www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/donate.cfm also contains a list of several book donation locations with instructions for drop off. Thank you for your donations!

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ART OF THIS DESIGN STUDIO
 is currently seeking graphic designers/artists to work on various design projects associated with promoting Art of This Gallery as well as other innovative print and web design projects. Currently, this is not a paid position.
 Please call 612.721.4105 ask for joAnn or email: designs@artofthis.net
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