

# COMMUNITY INSIDER

## EDITOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to this issue!

Fall is a great time of year. The days are cooler, the leaves are changing, and the new TV season is starting. I hope you get a chance to take in nature's beauty and enjoy the harvest bounty.

Don't forget our email and regular mail addresses: [insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org).

Mail can be sent to Insider c/o Presidents Council  
555 Wabasha St. N, Suite 400  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Cheers!

*Melissa Pappas*, Editor



**The Doctor:** *It's not my fault. I got distracted.*

**Clara:** *By what?*

**The Doctor:** *You can always find something.*

## HI-RISE SPOTLIGHT

This month: Neill

by Ruby Steward

*Next on our tour de hi-rise is Neill hi-rise, located at 325 Laurel Avenue southwest of the Cathedral.*

*Neill is a seven story brick hi-rise building with 104 one-bedroom apartments. It was constructed in 1964 and renovated in 1991. Neill has a large Community Room, free parking, and a lovely outdoor patio area.*

A St. Paul police officer resides at the hi-rise to provide a police presence and some community policing services.

Neill is located in the Summit-University neighborhood and is near the St. Paul Cathedral and St. Paul College.

The bus runs regularly, only one block away, with access to St. Paul and Minneapolis for those who really want to get shopping. For exercise, the walking area is great with a beautiful view of the city from the hill and small businesses along Selby Ave., if you want to stop and eat. OOPS I blew the exercise but the food sure is good. Take a day this fall to go by and see. Stop and eat too, I won't tell, but if you eat like I do, your waist will.

**Information provided by the front office of the PHA**



## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

By *Mary Puente*

Hello all. I hope you all enjoyed your summer. I did. It felt good to feel the warmth. I would like to introduce additional information from the Board of Commissioner's meeting you will find in this and future articles.

I will include some of the topics discussed and voted on during the meeting. I hope you will find this information informative and give some insight to what goes on during our monthly meetings. Please understand that some subjects seem repetitive. This is because each step in a process might need to be voted on in order to complete the process.

You will also notice how much work is put into the running of our agency. I've been in awe many times. We have a hard working staff here in St Paul.

I look forward to getting some feedback from you. I can be reached at [front727@hotmail.com](mailto:front727@hotmail.com) In the next issue I will begin to introduce you to the other commissioners currently on the Board. Until next time...Mary

Here are some things that were discussed at the last Board of Commissioners meeting.  
Information provided by Mai Moua

### **FISCAL YEAR 2015 LOW**

**RENT PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING BUDGET: PROPOSED REVISION NO. 2; FISCAL YEAR 2015 SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER OPERATING BUDGET: PROPOSED REVISION NO. 1**

The Board approved Revision No. 2 to the Fiscal Year 2015 Low Rent Public Housing (FY2015 LRPH) Operating Budget, increasing expenses by \$166,500, and a corresponding housekeeping revision (Revision No. 1) to the Fiscal Year 2015 Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 (FY2015 HCV) Program

Operating Budget, increasing expenses by \$14,980.

### **HEARING OFFICERS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANT GRIEVANCE HEARINGS AND SECTION 8 VOUCHER INFORMAL HEARINGS**

The Board approved contracting with three new hearing officers and to enter into new contracts with four existing hearing officers, to conduct hearings requested by public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program participants. Federal regulations require the PHA to provide a hearing for public housing residents or voucher participants who disagree with PHA decisions on program eligibility, rent calculations and other issues affecting their tenancy.

### **REVISING FLAT RENTS**

**IN PUBLIC HOUSING; ADMISSION & OCCUPANCY POLICIES; AMENDING AGENCY PLAN FOR FY 2015**

The Board approved Rescinding its February 26, 2014 approval of higher flat rents for all public housing units, and to approve new flat rents effective October 31, 2014. This would be an amendment to the Agency Plan. The recommended new flat rents are based on 80% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR), reduced by an adjustment for utility costs only in the family units, where the residents pay for some of their utilities. All households paying the flat rent would see their rent payment go down retroactive to June 1, 2014, and then most flat rents would rise again to different amounts on November 1, 2014. Staff also recommended that the Board rescind the policy allowing automatic flat rent adjustments as FMRs change, and instead review and approve future flat rent adjustments each year as needed.

**PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY PLAN AMENDMENTS; ANNUAL PLAN FOR PHA FISCAL YEAR 2015; 12 NEW UNITS AT MCDONOUGH (AMP 1); POSSIBLE SALE OF LAND BY VALLEY HI-RISE (AMP 5)**

The Board approved amendments to the Annual

Agency Plan for the PHA's Fiscal Year 2015 (Federal Fiscal Year 2014), to include the PHA's plan to build two new six-plex rowhouses at McDonough Homes (AMP 1), and to describe the possible sale of the vacant land by Valley Hi-Rise (AMP 5)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Here are events and holidays coming up in the next three months

Holidays:

Eid al-Adha: October 4<sup>th</sup>

Columbus Day: October 13<sup>th</sup>

Halloween: October 31<sup>st</sup>

Dia De Los Meurtos: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Daylight Savings Time Ends: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Election Day: November 4<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day: November 11<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving: November 27<sup>th</sup>

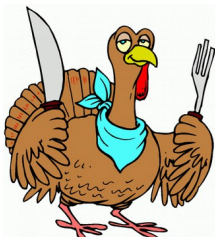
Hanukkah begins: December 16<sup>th</sup>

Winter Solstice: December 21<sup>st</sup>

Christmas: December 25<sup>th</sup>

Kwanzaa begins: December 26<sup>th</sup>

New Year's Day: January 1<sup>st</sup>



## NEED MORE TRAINING?

Is there something your council would like more training in? Something you would like to know how to do? (Conflict resolution, training for officers, Quickbooks training, how to lead a meeting, etc.)

Contact the Presidents Council at: Presidents Council

555 Wabasha St. N, Suite 400

St. Paul, MN 55102

[ptreasurer@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:ptreasurer@stphapresidentscouncil.org),

[eileen.tittle@stpha.org](mailto:eileen.tittle@stpha.org)

## LET YOUR MOUSE DO THE WALKING

**Do you know about the wealth of information available on the Presidents Council website?**

You can find minutes from past Presidents Council, RPC, Community Building, and Computer Team meetings, information on upcoming meetings and events, photos from past events, and much more.

There is also contact information and links for the Presidents Council Board and Maintenance Contracts, and the computer help desk.

Recently, highlights from the Board of Commissioners meetings have been added. You can find them under the "Commissioner's Corner" link on the left sidebar of the main page.

The site address is

<http://www.stphapresidentscouncil.org>

The helpdesk address is

<http://help.stphapresidentscouncil.org>



# EXPRESS YOURSELF

A Short Story

By Tonya Simms

What is a woman?

A woman is a gift wrapped in a package of love,  
warmth, understanding the know how, the  
willpower, the ray of sun, the light in someone  
else's life

A woman is a mother and father

A son or a daughter

A woman is a whole lot of charter

She's a judge

She's a jury

She's the man, the plan

Just like I am

She's strong

She's wrong

Just sing a song

Can we all just get along?

She's a whole lot more

but know I am out the door

## ***THIS IS A WOMAN'S WORLD***

### An Old Victorian House

by Jimmy Mach

Cherished memories, so vivid, so lucid...  
yet is beyond my grasp  
in my attempt to reach out  
to hold on to whatever is left  
of Chesterfield Commons.

Echoes of a child's voice  
spring from wall to wall  
a clapping upon the wooden floor  
from little white polished shoes  
before the final recital.

A soft tender affectionate touch

beckons for undivided attention  
a bone chilling cold slaps awareness  
as the clock on the mantle  
silently stands still.

Cherished memories, so vivid, so lucid  
slowly fades into the past  
of a home that once was alive  
now is just an old Victorian frame



with a faded welcome sign  
to Chesterfield Commons.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

From *The Saturday Evening Post*

A mime died and his passing was mourned with a  
moment of noise.

"Fall descends on St. Paul and softly our  
ancestors call,  
'Put your amusements on the shelf and hark to  
your nobler self'. "- Garrison Keillor

From *Ruby & Reader's Digest*

These are jokes my great nephews who are 10,  
11, and 14 thought were so funny this July fourth.  
I did not have the heart to tell them they are older  
than their mom and dad. That really would have  
made them laugh.

What happened when the two antennas got  
married? Well the wedding ceremony wasn't  
really that hot. But the reception was great!

*One Man's Weapon is Another Man's Banana*  
According to the bus driver, it was a brutal unprovoked attack. A woman got on his bus and assaulted him with a half-eaten banana. "I had banana all over me," he insisted. "On my tie, my shirt, and my eye." The woman explained that the driver had almost hit her car and that when she entered the bus to rationally discuss the matter, the banana slipped ...right into his tie, shirt and face. The court may not have believed that, but it did believe her when she argued that it was "unreasonable that a banana could cause this much damage." She was slapped with a fine of \$100.

*"What if the Hokey-Pokey really is what it's all about?"*

## HELP WANTED

The Community Insider needs more volunteer "eyes and ears" from all the hi-rises. Know of something cool going on in your area? We want to know about it. Had a fun party or event? We'd love to see pictures. Cultural events and celebrations happen throughout the year. If you know of some in your area or that celebrate the cultures of residents of your hi-rise we'd like that information. Information and pictures can be sent to [insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org) or mailed to Insider c/o Presidents Council  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Here are the upcoming meeting dates

**Presidents Council:** 9/22, 10/27, 11/24, 12/22

**RPC:** 9/19, 12/12,

**Community Building:** 9/12, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5

**Peer Team:** 9/12, 10/10, 11/7, 12/19

**Executive Committee:** 9/19, 10/17, 11/14, 12/12

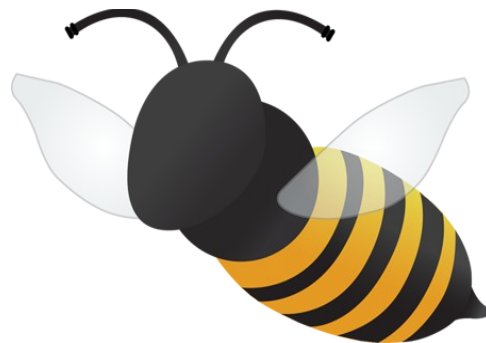
*"I wouldn't have ate it, only I'm too ladylike to take it out of my mouth"- Eliza Dolittle, "My Fair Lady"*

## COMMUNITY INSIDER TEAM

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## Editorial Policy

All submissions are welcome. Items may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is subject to approval of the committee and Residents Council Coordinator. We have a policy of non-discrimination and non-censorship. Questions and comments can be sent to [editor@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:editor@stphapresidentscouncil.org)  
Article submissions can be sent to [insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org)



# PICNIC ROUND-UP

Summer was picnic season. Here are some pictures from various Hi-Rise picnics.

**Seal:**



Unfortunately we only got pictures from Seal. All hi-rises are still encouraged to send in pictures from their picnics. Any pictures received will be

used in future issues or on the PC website.

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