

Windom Community News

Spring 2020



Welcome and Note from the President

On behalf of the Windom Community Council, we are thrilled to reintroduce a quarterly newsletter to provide relevant information and upcoming events to our neighbors and friends. This year the Council is focusing on outreach to the community through various initiatives including an Engagement Survey (more information provided below), Home Improvement Loans, events, and the launch of a new website. We are always seeking to better serve our community and your feedback, whether through the Engagement Survey or feedback on the website, is valued and appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.

Our relaunched quarterly newsletter is transitioning from a printed version to an electronic version. Our e-newsletter is available on our website and through our email distribution list. This Spring 2020 newsletter will be the last printed newsletter. If you wish to receive the Windom Community News, please register your email with us at our new and improved website at www.windommpls.org

This February we hosted another successful Windom Reads at the Windom School. Windom Reads helps to promote literacy in youth and adults and includes a free book giveaway, book readings by local authors and organizations in various languages, and attendance by members of the community including the Minneapolis Police Department and Fire Department. Please look to the calendar on our website for additional events throughout the year.

COVID-19 is on the minds of all our neighbors. It is a stressful time and we encourage everyone to stay apprised of updates from the Center for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov>), the state of Minnesota (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>) and the city of Minneapolis (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/>). Please also reach out to your

block leader if you need anything during this time or to the Windom Community Council at our website or email us at windomcommunity@gmail.com.

We encourage neighbors to utilize local restaurants for delivery and pick-up services. It is important that we help to keep these businesses operating for as long as possible, so consider ordering from Orale on Nicollet and Diamond Lake for Taco Tuesday or Mac's Fish and Chips for Fish Fry Friday.

Windom Reads 2020

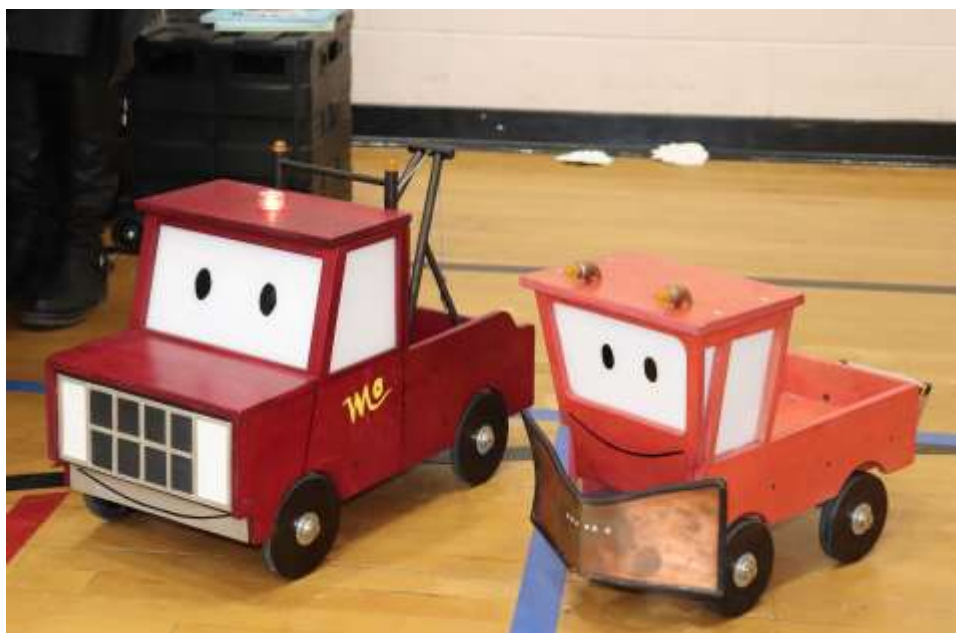
The community and school came together in celebration of February Reading Month on Saturday, February 8th.



"Big Cat, Little Fox" author, Cheryl Stefani, provided fun masks for young visitors



Author Elizabeth Verdick with a young fan



"Mo" The Tow and Small Walt, from the book by Elizabeth Verdick



Officer Aikens of MPD and Lily Coyle of Beaver's Pond Press

Telephonic Monthly Meetings

Until further notice, all Windom Community Council monthly meetings will be held telephonically. Please view our website, Facebook, and NextDoor for details. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 7pm.

Annual Meeting Postponed

According to our bylaws we are required to hold an annual meeting. In the past few years, our Annual Meeting was hosted in May. Due to health concerns surrounding the Coronavirus, we are postponing our Annual Meeting until the Fall, with a date to be announced on our website and other social media outlets at a later time. It is an important meeting as it is the only meeting

in which board members are elected. All Windom residents who are 18 or older are members of Windom and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Call for Board Members

Any Windom resident who is 18 years or older and is interested in being more involved in the neighborhood is invited to join the Windom Community Council as a board member. Board members meet every month for the monthly meeting held on the second Thursday of each month. In addition, board members meet occasionally throughout the year for planning and strategy sessions. It is a great opportunity to make a tangible difference in your community! Board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting, date TBD in Fall 2020.

Windom Engagement Survey

While visiting our new website, please complete our first-ever online engagement survey. If you live, work, have kids in school in Windom or enjoy spending time in Windom, we want to hear from you. Furthermore, we want to hear from individuals in a household, young and old, renters and owners - so please encourage your Windom friends, housemates and colleagues to complete the survey. The survey is available in English, Spanish and Somali.

Complete it Online at <https://tinyurl.com/u5v3953>

Windom Community Garden Now Accepting Applications for 2020 Growing Season

The Windom Community Garden is now accepting gardener applications for Windom residents interested in renting a plot for the 2020 gardening season. This will be the garden's 9th year of operation, providing Windom residents, especially area renters, with an opportunity to grow their own food, get to know their neighbors, and create a productive and beautiful community gathering place in our neighborhood.

The garden, located on 62nd Street and Nicollet Avenue, near the Windom Gables Townhomes, is home to 44 raised beds, including both 4x10ft and 4x20ft plots, as well as herb spirals, strawberry beds, and a wide variety of fruit trees and shrubs that are available to all participating gardeners.

If you are interested in obtaining a plot for this year's gardening season, or are interested in becoming more involved with the Windom Community Garden, please contact Brian O'Shea at brian.patrick.oshea@gmail.com or visit www.windommpls.org/community-garden. Plot fees for the 2020 season will be \$20 for 4ft by 10ft raised beds and \$40 for 4ft by 20ft raised beds.

Gardeners will meet for their annual garden clean-up day on April 25, which coincides with the Windom Community Council's neighborhood-wide litter clean-up event. Following the clean-up, there will be a "work weekend" on May 15-17 for gardeners to repair raised beds, add compost and mulch to trees and plots, and make other improvements to the garden. All participating gardeners are expected to assist in the work weekend and provide 8 hours of volunteer work during the growing season.

Home Improvement Loans

Your neighborhood has funds dedicated to low-interest home loans which can be used to repair a driveway, garage, sidewalk, improve insulation, or any number of other improvements which are fixed parts of your home. The funds are provided by the Windom Community Council and the loan process is managed by the Center for Energy and Environment. This program is designed to complement existing loan programs available from the City of Minneapolis, MHFA, CEE, private lenders and other housing resources. For more information, please visit our website www.windommpls.org/copy-of-resources.

Census 2020 - Beginning April 1

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you and everyone in your household live as of April 1, 2020. It is important to include all members of your household, including babies and children.

You can complete the census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>

The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous.