



December 2020 Newsletter

GET INVOLVED!

PPA Board/Community Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2020
6:30-8:30 pm

Community Building Committee: Renters' Sub-Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
6pm

Environment Committee

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6:30pm

Land Use and Planning Committee

Thursday, December 10, 2020
7pm

Transportation and Safety Committee

Tuesday, December 15, 2020
7pm

PPA Board/Community Meeting

All are welcome!

Monday, December 7, 6:30-8pm

Meeting access starts at 6:20pm

[Click here for meeting Agenda](#)

To get Zoom meeting access for the 12/7 meeting, fill out the RSVP Form below. Zoom information will be emailed to you immediately following submission of the form.

If you have any questions, please email staff@prospectparkmpls.org.

Liza Davitch, PPA's new Administrative and Communications Coordinator

I'm pleased to join PPA as its new Administrative and Communications Coordinator.

My most recent work experience was with the Seward Neighborhood Group where I worked as Administrative Assistant. Supporting the board and committees, managing the social media accounts and handling the finances have given me a solid background in neighborhood work.

I grew up in Minneapolis and currently live in the Cooper/Longfellow neighborhood. Prospect Park became special to me starting in 2010 when I was part of the Pratt PTO community during my daughter's Kindergarten through 5th grade years. I volunteered at Pratt and did volunteer photography for the Luxton Summer Learners.

Staying connected to my creative side, I continue to work as an independent photographer and documentary filmmaker. Over the past years, my films have been shown in numerous international film festivals. My work

includes portraits of actors, musicians, and families in America and Eastern Europe and an investigation of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear tragedy on children in Minsk, Belarus.

I look forward to bringing my work experience, creativity and personal enthusiasm for the community to PPA.

You can reach me at liza@prospectparkmpls.org



Next Environment Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30 - 8 pm

Home Energy Squad Visits



To help customers increase energy savings and comfort throughout the year, Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy offer [Home Energy Squad](#), either virtually (free) or in-home (which has a fee of \$100 for those making over \$100,000 annually). The in-home service starts with a no-cost virtual consultation by phone or video chat. Before the Squad even arrives at your home, you will be able to discuss specific details about your home with an energy expert. This helps to minimize time in your home and hone in on what matters most to you in terms of comfort and savings.

The in-person portion of the visit includes an insulation inspection, recommendations for increased efficiency and comfort, as well as the installation of energy-saving products such as LED bulbs, door weather-stripping, faucet aerators and a programmable or smart thermostat.

The Home Energy Squad is provided by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy and delivered by Center for Energy and Environment, a local nonprofit. The service is available to owners and renters in buildings with 1-4 units. [Sign up online](#) or call 651-328-6220 today!

Rain Gardens for local organizations



PPA Environment Committee and Metro Blooms will be installing 4-6 rain gardens in community spaces in Prospect Park next year. **We are looking for organizations interested in installing and maintaining a rain garden on their property.** Rain gardens are critical to maintaining resilient landscapes and fostering a clean watershed.

Schools, churches, businesses and/or rental buildings (4 units or larger) that fall within Prospect Park would all be considered. For a map of Prospect Park, please see the first slide on the <https://prospectparkmpls.org/> website.

One of the primary grants that we are applying for is due on December 4th, so please reach out to the PPA environment committee at environment@prospectparkmpls.org **as soon as possible** if interested.

4D Program Information Session for Landlords - Thursday, December 3rd at 1 pm



Staff from the City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) will be on hand to share information about the City's 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program, which provides an opportunity to reduce property taxes and gain eligibility for energy efficiency funding in exchange for a long term (10 year) affordable housing commitment. For meeting information, please contact environment@prospectparkmpls.org.

City's website: www.minneapolismn.gov/4d

Application: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7c1f54159cbf4e638eeb6f247eb83ed5>



Snow Angels

Southeast Seniors is seeking Snow Angels in Prospect Park! The Southeast Seniors Snow Angel program connects a neighborhood volunteer with a nearby senior for season-long snow removal help. We are still looking for both season-long Snow Angel volunteers, as well back-up volunteers to help out occasionally. As a Snow Angel you agree to do the snow removal for your senior whenever it snows enough to warrant shoveling/snow blowing. If you're going to be out of town you just let us know and we provide a back-up while you're unavailable! We do our best to connect Snow Angels with seniors who live very nearby so that this can all happen with relative ease. You could also share this job with a friend or neighbor. We're looking for folks living in Marcy Holmes, SE Como and Prospect Park. Please contact Ann Carter, Volunteer Coordinator at Southeast Seniors, for more information or to sign up to be a Snow Angel! 612-331-2302, ann@seseniors.org

December Events Co-Sponsored by Minneapolis Community Education & Southeast Seniors

All programs will be held via Zoom. To register or for more information, please contact Southeast Seniors at 612-331-2302 or info@seseniors.org or click [here](#). Registration will close 4 hours before the start of each program to ensure enough time to send the Zoom link and course materials to all participants.

Gratitude Circle: Wednesday, December 9th 1:30-2:30 pm

Join with others to explore the powerful forces of mindfulness and gratitude. Discuss how to cultivate mindfulness as an inner resource for well-being. Experience mindfulness meditation to help focus attention and awareness. Join in a gratitude circle and discover how gratitude can improve happiness. Leave with resources and tips for bringing this uplifting practice into your daily life!

Presented by Laura Saher, a Master's student at Lesley University, with focused study on Mindfulness practices. She presents to many groups, nurturing meaningful and upbeat collaborative connections.

Lunch Bunch Reconnect: Celebration of Music: Wednesday, December 16th, 12-1:30 pm

Bob Walser and Julie Young will provide a performance of seasonal and holiday favorite songs as well as some of their own music, and a bit of dance for our extra enjoyment. We'll also share winter/holiday memories as well as affirmation and encouragement during our current challenging times.

PRATT PTO asks for your support

Goal \$10,000 by December 11!

Dear Parents, Guardians, Grandparents, and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your family happy, healthy, and safe. The Pratt Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) exists to facilitate family engagement and raise funds to support educational efforts not covered by Minneapolis Public Schools. Now more than ever, our students and teachers need your support to make distance learning as effective as possible for our kids.

Although we are all weathering the same storm, we are not all in the same boat. Some families in our community have been hit harder than others by illness, job loss, and other changes brought about by COVID-19. Some children in our community need more support than others – in the form of technology, time, and other resources – to have a positive and equitable distance learning experience.

Our goal is \$10,000 by December 11, 2020. Reaching this goal will allow us to create a fund of \$25 per Pratt student and \$100 per Pratt teacher. Student funds will be used to augment distance learning materials, based on needs identified by classroom teachers and specialists (Art, Enrichment, and Physical Education). Pratt teachers and school leaders are working hard to make sure all students have the same materials for class. We can use PTO funds to augment materials and minimize the amount that teachers are using their own money. Teacher funds will be used toward professional development and technology needs.

We know that some families are not in a position to give right now, but if you have the means, please consider making a donation to support our children's education. Pratt students do not sell goods to raise funds. Instead, the PTO asks for direct donations to maximize the dollars brought into the school. Donating to the Pratt PTO is the most direct way to support the teachers working so hard to adapt their teaching for virtual delivery, which allows us to keep our families safe.

Please donate what you can to support Pratt students!

- **Write a check payable to Pratt PTO:** 100% of your gift supports Pratt!
 - Send it via U.S. mail to:
Pratt Elementary School, Attn: PTO
66 Malcolm Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
 - Kate Needleman is available at Pratt to receive donations in person
- **Donate online:** Vendors keep a small percentage as processing fee, please consider adding a small amount to cover those costs.
 - Paypal: <http://www.prattpto.org/donate>
 - GiveMN: <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Pratt-Parent-Teacher-Organization>
- **Employer match:** If you work for a company that matches donations, please request that match, as the Pratt PTO holds 501(c)(3) charitable organization, tax-exempt status. (Tax number: 26-3583817)

We need your help. Please consider making as generous a contribution as you can and share this letter with relatives and friends who may also wish to contribute to Pratt's success.

Thank you and sincerely,



Leah Dunbar and Andres Irigoyen-Au
Co-Presidents, Pratt Parent-Teacher Organization



Hey Prospect Park!

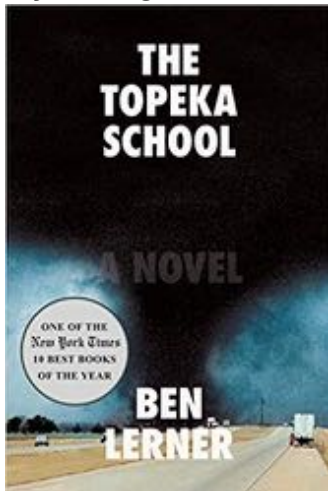
Just a reminder to keep your storm drains free of leaves and snow in this transition season so they don't get clogged and freeze. Water from storm drains can go directly into our local waterways so it's important to keep them clear. Always use mechanical snow removal methods like shoveling to clear off drains-never use salt!

[Lane Christianson ACG ALB](#)

Adopt-a-Drain & Storm Drain Stenciling Programs Manager

Arvonne Fraser Library staff invites you!

Elysian Nights Book Club: Thursday, December 10th, 7pm



Break through the pandemic doldrums by joining us for a lively discussion of current books and pop culture! This month we will be discussing [The Topeka School](#) by Ben Lerner. Copies of the book are available online as an ebook or a downloadable audiobook here:

<https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/item/show/5957067109>

The link to the live online discussion will be emailed to registrants in advance (within 48 hours of the event).

After Hours Happy Hour: Every Wednesday at 8 pm.



Join us for a free-flowing discussion of irrelevant topics and pop culture! Share what you've been reading, watching, or creating. Everyone is invited. Co-hosted by Kyle from Arvonne Fraser Library with Becky and Amanda from Minneapolis Central Library.

<https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/search?q=after%20hours/event/5f8a085f2c52c34500ee41ca>

The link to the live online discussion will be emailed to registrants in advance.

-Kyle Orcholski, Arvonne Fraser Library

The Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

Copyright © 2020 *Prospect Park Association, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

2828 University Ave SE, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Contact us:

staff@prospectparkmpls.org

Click here to [Unsubscribe](#)