




## July 2023 Newsletter

MEETINGS	Committee Meetings <i>virtual until further notice</i>	Community Meetings <i>22 Orlin Ave SE, PPUMC</i>
<p><i>For the most up-to-date list of meetings please check the <a href="#">PPA Calendar</a>. All committee meetings are taking place virtually unless otherwise noted.</i></p> <p><b>ABOUT PPA</b> Prospect Park Association is the official neighborhood association for the Prospect Park Area of the city of Minneapolis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Donate to PPA</a></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.</p>	<p><b>Community Building Committee</b> Thursday, August 3, 4:30pm</p> <p><b>Environment Committee</b> Thursday June 13, 6:00pm</p> <p><b>Finance &amp; Administration Committee</b> does not meet in July</p> <p><b>Land Use &amp; Planning Committee</b> Thursday July 13. 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Transportation &amp; Safety Committee</b> Wednesday, July 12, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>PPA Board Meeting &amp; Community Meeting</b></p> <p><b>--virtual meeting-- Monday August 28th 6:30pm - 8:00pm</b> <i>Note: access info on <a href="#">PP-elist</a></i></p> <p><b>(no meeting in July)</b></p> <p><i>All Community Members are welcome!</i></p> <p><b>Management Council Sets Community &amp; Board Meeting Agendas</b> Monday, August 14, 7pm</p>

**GET INVOLVED!**

**[PPA Event Calendar for Updated Meeting Information](#)**

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## Donate to Prospect Park Association

Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

[Please donate to PPA at GiveMN](#)

Simply click for online GiveMN or mail checks to PPA, P.O. Box 141095, Minneapolis 55414.



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## Witch's Hat Water Tower Update



Friends of Tower Hill Park, Prospect Park Association, Council Member Wonsley's Ward 2 office and the City of Minneapolis are working together to reopen the Witch's Hat Water Tower.

The City of Minneapolis engineers recently unsealed and inspected the Tower. Unfortunately, they found the interior stairway needs repair. We should learn in a month or so about the repair schedule.

The Tower is a significant historical resource for the City of Minneapolis and the Prospect Park neighborhood. Special thanks to Council Member Wonsley's office and the City of

Minneapolis for their work to help reopen the Tower!

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*Thank you to Jenny Michlitsch for a fabulous Yard Sale Event last month and to the Prospect Park Garden Club for organizing a successful Garden Walk!*

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## **PPA Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports approved at the June 26, 2023 Board/Community meeting**

[Annual Presentation-May Board/Community: May 15, 2023](#)

[Annual Board Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2023](#)

[Board Electronic Vote - Jackson Family Photographer](#)

[Environment: May 9, 2023](#)

[Finance and Administration: June 8, 2023](#)

## Jackson Family Playground Dedication Held at Pratt School

On June 2nd members of the Jackson family, Pratt School, and Prospect Park neighborhood came together to dedicate the “Jackson Family Playground” at Pratt School. The event was co-sponsored by the Pratt Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Pratt School, and Prospect Park Association (PPA).

Sharon Peters and Judith Claytor, granddaughters of Amy and Madison Jackson, attended the event and are key members of the Jackson Family Project committee. Jackson family history provides a compelling and inspirational source for Pratt students and our neighborhood to examine questions of race and to learn about Black history and resilience. During the event, Pratt School students showed a video they created celebrating and documenting Jackson family history and had the opportunity to talk with Sharon and Judith. A beautiful photograph of the Jackson family taken in 1909 in front of their home on Franklin Ave (see above) was enlarged and framed for the event. This photograph will be displayed in the school with an accompanying information panel.



The Jackson Family Playground project is designed to honor, memorialize, and learn from the first African American family in the Prospect Park neighborhood. The Jackson family built their home in Prospect Park in 1908. In 1909 they were subjected to racist protests because they were Black.

Amy and Madison Jackson were told that no one would play with their kids. In response, they built a playground in their yard. This was before the period of park and school playgrounds, and it turned out (as they suspected) many neighborhood kids wanted to play with their kids on the new playground. The Jacksons lived in the neighborhood for 20 years and became important members of the community.

Resilience marked the Jackson family, not only in their Prospect Park years but for generations. Helen Jackson, one of three daughters, who was a little girl during the protests became the first African American national president of the YWCA, devoting decades to leading the YWCA nationally to become an integrated organization, affecting millions of American girls. In 1968 the University of Minnesota (from which she graduated in 1928) awarded her the Regents Outstanding Achievement Award. Marvel Jackson, her older sister, became a well-known journalist in New York City. She was in a writing group with Langston Hughes, worked with W. E. B. Dubois during the Harlem Renaissance, and wrote acclaimed exposes of conditions of African American women for major newspapers. These two girls and their sister Zelma were the first African American students to attend Pratt school, also attending the University of Minnesota.

A joint volunteer committee of PPA's Community Building group and PTO have been working together for three years to develop this project, learn about the Jackson family, and create wider engagement in the community. The joint school and neighborhood group have spent hundreds of volunteer hours, traveled to archives in Michigan and Washington D.C., elicited significant leveraged contributions already, and have laid the groundwork for this event and those to follow.

Additional activities planned for this project include a plaque placed at the site of the Jackson house, a sign for the newly named Pratt school playground, fundraising for a new playground designed by 4RM+ULA with significant input from the community, a family history repository with QRC code available to the wider community so the lives of Jackson family members will be accessible to all who want to learn about this amazing family, and a curriculum with learning modules about the Jacksons to engage students. The Jackson daughters were the first Black students at Pratt school 100 years ago. A first-grade teacher at Pratt has already spearheaded this work and is ready to lead a committee to work on developing similar units for other class levels. Introducing students to these issues via stories about the Jackson girls from the neighborhood has proven to be very powerful.

The Jackson Family Project is funded in part by Pratt PTO, PPA, the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund, Prospect Park Coop Legacy Fund, City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Community Relations, and individual gifts. To learn more about this project visit: <https://www.jacksonfamilyplayground.org>



# BF50 4th Street Festival & Garden Gathering

during National Night Out! August 1st from 5:30 - 7:30pm

We will be partnering with MPLS Park Coordinator at Bridal Veil Gardens, formerly known as Towerside. We encourage everyone to bring your own Lawn Chairs, Water Bottle, Sunscreen and Good Vibes. Enjoy an Awesome Evening of entertainment & getting more acquainted with neighbors and business owners in the area. Learn more about applying for a Garden Plot at Bridal Veil and how to get involved with BF50 Indigenous Health Initiative Environmental & Sustainability Events.

This is a Neighborhood Event. We look forward to seeing our neighbors!

**Join Us!** **GARDEN FESTIVAL** **8/1/23**  
**BF50 Indigenous Health Initiative**  
**Presents**



**3rd Annual 4th Street Community Festival & Cultural Garden Gathering**  
**National Night Out 2023!**  
**Date: 08/01/2022 Time: 5:30 - 7:30PM**

**Fun** **Lawn** **Games**  
**Spoken Word** **Artists** **Music** **Dance!**

**2909 4th Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414**  
**2905 4th Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55414**  
**Bridal Veil Community Park**

**Environmental Justice Is Community Justice!**  
**Community Safety! Civic & Equitable Engagement!**  
**Fun For Everyone!**

**Community Organizer/Curator: Britt Howell**  
**Participating Sponsor: LC Productions**  
**Participating Partner: MPLS Park Coordinator**

**Bring Your Lawn Chairs!**



**UrbanFarmDirect@gmail.com**

# Information on Replacing Your Air Conditioning with Heat Pumps/Mini Splits

- Mary Britton, PPA Environment Committee

Hi, all - a neighbor reached out to me recently asking for contractor and financial information around heat pumps. Below is a slightly more polished version of what I sent her. (Note: I refer to heat pumps, which are used with furnaces because the venting is already in place. If you have a boiler, you would want to ask about mini-splits. Same mechanics, just no vents. Information on contractors and finances is the same.)



1) One thing to know is that you will still need a backup to the heat pump, since it only works down to a certain temperature. 15 degrees is usually the cutoff point, but the heat pump should work down to negative 15 degrees. (15 degrees is the most efficient.) A furnace should be fine.

2) Here is a link to an article on how they save you money in the long run - <https://carbonswitch.com/heat-pump-vs-ac/#Is-there-any-reason-to-go-with-traditional-A-C->

3) I now have 2 heat pumps since I live in a duplex. The one downstairs (installed in 2021) is backed up by a gas furnace and cost about \$11,000 - \$12,000, which included replacing my furnace with a high efficiency furnace. Perfection Heating put it in. The upstairs unit (installed this past spring) is backed by an electrical coil, cost about \$13,000 (including the coil) and was put in by 4Front Energy. I would recommend both companies. The only reason I switched to 4Front Energy was they provided a lower bid than Perfection Heating, which I believe was caused by the electrical coil. I don't know what impact the electrical coil will have on my electric bills this coming winter, so can't yet recommend it.

If you are wondering how I afforded this, I signed up for Minneapolis' 4D Program for landlords - [4d Affordable Housing Incentive - City of Minneapolis \(minneapolismn.gov\)](https://www.minneapolis.gov/4d), which paid 70% of the cost. If you are a landlord and have questions about that, feel free to reach out.

4) If you want more names of contractors you could call, check out this list - <https://www.mnashp.org/preferred-contractor-network-homeowners>. You can try other contractors, but may get someone who tries to talk you out of it. Heat pumps are relatively new in Minnesota and some HVAC companies aren't quite comfortable with them yet.

5) MNCEE offers 0-2% financing if you've had an energy audit in the last 3 years. <https://www.mncee.org/mpls>

6) There should be a rebate with the unit as well, which the contractor should take care of for you.

7) I'm attaching a summary of what tax credits you would also get. Be sure to read the second page. MNCEE can help you walk through these decisions as well. [https://mcusercontent.com/8a12b3152d8f70e97e090b501/files/91022625-c715-4f1e-c2ab-1c105c0e7081/IRA Tax Credits for Households compressed 1 1 .pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/8a12b3152d8f70e97e090b501/files/91022625-c715-4f1e-c2ab-1c105c0e7081/IRA_Tax_Credits_for_Households_compressed_1_1_.pdf)

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## The Prospect Park Neighborhood Guide



- Upcoming things to do or see in Prospect Park
  - Ways to stay connected
  - Business and Nonprofit Directory
    - Renter Resources
  - Local Government Resources
    - How to Get Around
- Ways to volunteer on behalf of our neighborhood and more!

[Please share this guide with neighbors—and check it out yourself.](#)

Do you have a suggestion or correction? PPA will update the guide several times per year. [Please suggest a resource for the guide here.](#) Thank you!

**See Minneapolis with Friends from The Pillars of Prospect Park!**  
(free bus tour of Minneapolis, Thursday, August 10th; RSVP by Aug 3rd)



The poster features a photograph of a park bench overlooking a lake with a city skyline in the background. The text on the poster includes the title 'Free Bus Tour of Minneapolis!', a description of the tour, a schedule, a QR code, and contact information.

*Free Bus Tour of Minneapolis!*

See all that Minneapolis has to offer by taking this FREE Twin Cities Highlights Tour by Award Winning City Tours & Grey Line with friends from The Pillars of Prospect Park!

Peer into the glass and steel of Minneapolis, the stately stonework of Saint Paul, and the diverse neighborhoods in between. With educational and entertaining live narratives provided by their expert tour guides, this motor coach tour is sure to be engaging, educational and fun!

- 9:00-10:00am Coffee and Gather at The Pillars
- 10:00am-12:00pm Tour Minneapolis
- 12:00-1:00pm Lunch at the lake provided by The Pillars
- 1:00-2:00pm St. Paul and return home

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH**  
RSVP by Thursday, August 3rd  
612-623-7007 | jay.benedict@farview.org  
Or scan the QR code

\*Limitations apply. Call for details.

**Council Member Wonsley:**

**Contact or Share Your Opinion or Address an Issue Any Time**

E-mail Council Member Wonsley and her staff at [ward2@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ward2@minneapolismn.gov)

Or contact staff directly:

[Policy Aide Celeste Robinson](#)

[Policy Aide Qannani Omar](#)

[Sign up for Council Member Robin Wonsley's Ward 2 newsletters and get updates on the ward and the city.](#)

[Subscribe to MN Representative Mohamud Noor's newsletter. \(District 60B\)](#)

[Subscribe to MN Senator Kari Dziedzic's newsletter. \(District 60\)](#)

[Subscribe to MN Representative Samantha Sencer-Mura E-list \(District 63A\)](#)

[Subscribe to MN Senator Zaynab Mohamed newsletter. \(District 63\)](#)

[\*\*\*Locate your Congressional and Legislative district in Prospect Park\*\*\*](#)





[Follow the Off-Campus Living Facebook Page](#) and [sign up here](#) for their newsletter to receive updates on safety, business, and more in the University of Minnesota Campus area. Non-students are also encouraged to participate!



[Go to our Website / Like us on Facebook / Follow us on Instagram](#)

**The Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Our mailing address is: PO Box 141095 Minneapolis, MN 55414**

Contact us: [staff@prospectparkmpls.org](mailto:staff@prospectparkmpls.org) 612-767-6531

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