



January 2022 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 PPA Calendar. All committee meetings are taking place virtually unless otherwise noted.</i></p> <p>ABOUT PPA Prospect Park Association is the official neighborhood association for the Prospect Park Area of the city of Minneapolis.</p> <p>Donate to PPA Prospect Park Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.</p>	<p>Community Building Committee Thursday January 6, 4:30pm</p> <p>Environment Committee Tuesday, January 11, 6:30pm</p> <p>Finance & Administrative Committee Thursday, January 27, 6pm</p> <p>Land Use & Planning Committee Thursday, January 13, 7pm</p> <p>Transportation & Safety Committee Wednesday, January 12, 7:30pm</p>	<p>PPA Board Meeting & Community Meeting --virtual meeting-- Monday Jan. 24th 6:30pm - 8:00pm <i>Note: access info on PP-elist</i></p> <p><i>All Community Members are welcome!</i></p> <p>Management Council <i>Sets Community & Board Meeting Agendas</i> Monday, Jan. 17 7pm</p>

GET INVOLVED!

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

Happy New Year Prospect Park!

Thank you to all the resident contributions to the Prospect Park New Year's Eve luminarias event. The neighborhood shined brighter and no doubt made shoveling that light snow in freezing temperatures more enjoyable.

May our lights continue to shine bright in 2022!



Photos: Liza Davitch

Message from the PPA Transportation and Safety Committee

Dear Neighbors, the PPA Transportation is looking for your feedback on priority work areas for the upcoming year. We invite your feedback at identifying problems and opportunities, and how we might address them via a structured survey you can find here: <https://bit.ly/3JrIYXM>

Please join us at our new monthly meeting time: the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30, which will be **Wednesday 12 January**. With best wishes to the new year to all neighbors.

25% by 2025 Initiative - First Year Status Report

Mary K. Britton, PPA Environment Committee Chair
environment@prospectparkmpls.org December 27, 2021

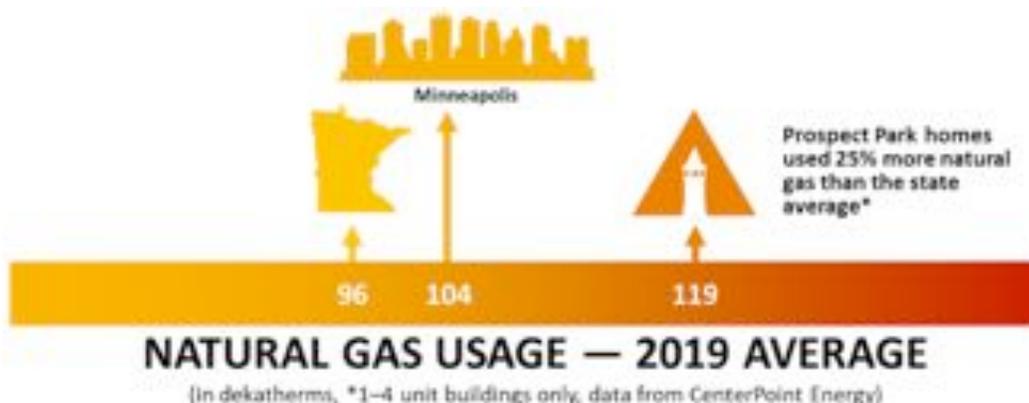
In January, 2021, the PPA Environment Committee rolled out the initiative – “**25% by 2025**”.

Goals:

- Bring residential natural gas use down by 25% by 2025 through better insulation and energy equipment upgrades
- 100 new energy audits annually in the neighborhood
- Ensure everyone who wants to take part has support and information

Where are we starting from?

The baseline data for this project is from 2019, is based on census tract 1256 and was provided by CenterPoint Energy.



As an example, that year my duplex used 122 dekatherms of natural gas for heating and cooking, producing 1400 pounds of CO₂. Like the majority of houses in Prospect Park, it was built over a hundred years ago, long before insulation was standard in houses.

Why focus on Natural Gas?

According to Minneapolis' Office of Sustainability, natural gas is the leading cause of greenhouse gases in the city. And while electricity and transportation have initiatives, natural gas does not.

We are focusing on residential buildings first for several reasons – they are a large part of an individual's carbon footprint; it is where the most effort is needed, and goals are measurable. Also – importantly – better insulated homes help build neighborhood resiliency in the face of extreme weather. *A third of the lovely old homes in Prospect Park have the highest heating bills in the state.* While some of our residents may be able to afford it, others may be struggling.

Why is this initiative important?

It can be tempting to assume our individual efforts do not make a difference in preparing for and mitigating climate change. And that would be correct – *if only one or a few people make an effort.* But when making an individual effort, you have to have faith that there are others like you, trying just as hard.

The scale of the '25% by '25' initiative (roughly 1000 residential buildings over 5 years) will show that our neighbors want change. It can also give those who join in the effort a more immediate feedback loop and sense of satisfaction. As our gas use goes down, year over year, they will know that their effort helped move that needle.

Why the goal of 100 energy audits in the first year?

It may take years for the work people put into their houses to start showing up in lower gas use at a neighborhood level. Getting folks to take the first step of getting an energy audit is a good indicator of whether or not we will be successful.

Support and Information

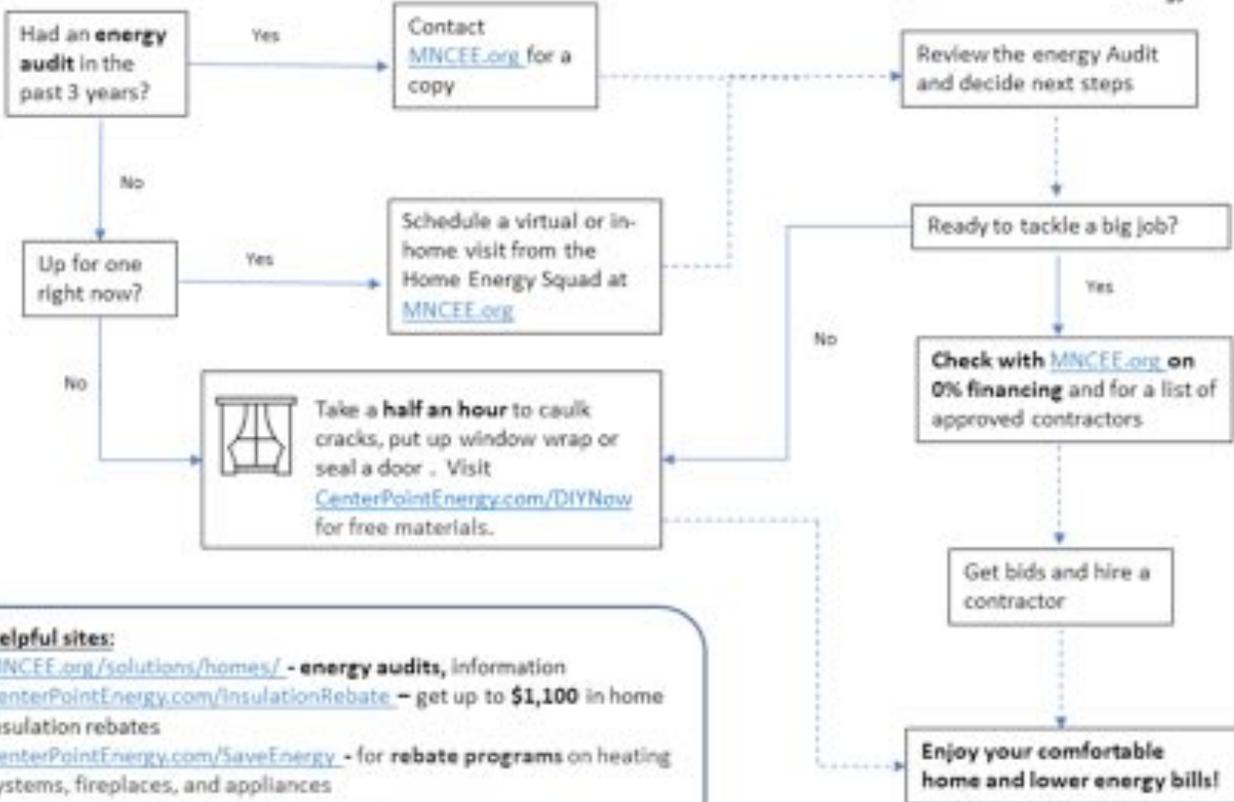
We know that home improvement projects can feel overwhelming. Folks may not know where to begin or think they have to replace all their windows or get solar paneling to make any difference. As a committee, we want to make sure folks know they are not alone in this effort.

In January and February, **we distributed fliers to every house, duplex, triplex and quad in the neighborhood.** On the back was the following flowchart, with information on where to go for free materials and 0% financing.



Easy Steps to 25% less by 2025

(Repeat every 6 months and share your progress at #WeAreProspectPark)



Helpful sites:

[MNCEE.org/solutions/homes/](https://www.mncee.org/solutions/homes/) - energy audits, information
[CenterPointEnergy.com/InsulationRebate](https://www.centerpointenergy.com/insulationRebate) - get up to \$1,100 in home insulation rebates
[CenterPointEnergy.com/SaveEnergy](https://www.centerpointenergy.com/SaveEnergy) - for rebate programs on heating systems, fireplaces, and appliances
prospectparkmpls.org/ppa/committees/environment.html
- information on classes, neighborhood help and options for renters

Other PPA Environment Committee efforts:

- Co-hosted a 'Healing the Earth' Garden Walk with Prospect Park Garden Club that showcased homes with alternative energy sources in June.
- Virtual sessions in February and October with [MNCEE \(Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment\)](https://www.mncee.org) presenting information on home energy audits and improvements
- Virtual information session on [Minneapolis' 4D Program for Landlords](https://www.minneapolis.gov/4d-program-for-landlords) in December
- Door hangers distributed and virtual posts sent about free home energy audits through MNCEE
- Launched National Night Out Ambassador program – volunteers were present at NNO events to answer questions on the '25% by '25' Initiative

How does this fit into the bigger picture?

Right now, we need to do everything in our power to slow and mitigate climate change. While protests and contacting senators and donating to environmental organizations are all absolutely fantastic things to do, *we need to take that extra step and reduce our own demand for energy that creates greenhouse gas emissions.*

We have roughly 1000 old homes in our neighborhood. Energy audits in the last 2 years revealed that 20 – 25% of audited homes had *little or no* wall insulation. (My duplex did have wall insulation in 2019.) That is one upgrade where a financial return on the investment is almost guaranteed, either through lower energy bills or a higher selling price.

Potential for success

We reached 105 energy audits in 2021. (Thank you to everyone who had one done! You rock!)

Natural gas use went down by 2.6% in 2020 (taking adjusting for temperature into account.) Of course, this was prior to the launch of our initiative but indicates that folks are already taking action to bring down their natural gas usage. The ball is already rolling – we’re just giving it a little push to go faster.

Summary

A neighbor recently asked me if I had reached a 25% reduction yet. I was happy to tell him that I had. The first 12% came about through small shifts in behavior and insulating around the problem areas called out from my audit. The latter included weather stripping doors, caulking around a couple problem windows and insulating where I could reach in crawl spaces.

Last spring, I qualified for a high energy furnace and heat pump through [Minneapolis' 4D Program for Landlords](#). I'm happy to report that has brought my natural gas use down by over 30%. (Sometimes, when I mention to someone that I'm switching an appliance from gas to electric, they will respond "Electricity uses coal" to which I always reply, "I signed up for Xcel's wind energy years ago." That step of going green is easy.)

I will keep making updates when and where I can – I still need to re-seal my attic floor and replace my back door. But it's a start and I know that I have helped move the needle down.

Luxton Tree Pick Up

~ Tree Pick up will be the following dates:

~ **Wednesday, January 5th and Wednesday, January 26th.**

~ Please email szimmer@minneapolisparks.org for tree pick up.

~ Disclaimer: The days we are out picking up trees we will not go in yards, driveways or patios to retrieve a tree unless we receive an email. If a tree is on the berm/boulevard we will pick it up.



Fire & Ice Festival 2022

Luxton Park - Glendale, Saturday, February 5th, 6-8 PM

~Confirmed activities: Bonfire, Horse Drawn Hayrides, Food and Book Giveaway.

For more information: Steve Zimmer, Luxton Park, 612-370-4881

Happy Holidays from Adopt-a-Drain

Thanks to the over 2,600 City of Minneapolis participants who have adopted more than 5,500 storm drains in the Adopt-a-Drain MN program!

This year you helped contribute to the over 48,000 pounds of debris kept out of our local waterways! We are so grateful for you all adopting a storm drain and working with us to protect Minnesota lakes and rivers.



Lane Christianson DTM, *Adopt-a-Drain & Storm Drain Stenciling Programs*
Manager, Minneapolis Public Works

Count Me in Como

Join us for this monthly social hour where we will gather to enjoy conversation as we play cards and board games together. Co-sponsored by Southeast Seniors and Pratt Community Education. Participants must wear a face covering, maintain social distance and assess their own health prior to joining this group. All in-person programs will follow Minneapolis Community Education's [current COVID-19 safety protocols](#).

Location: Van Cleve Park, 901-15 th Ave. SE

Dates: Thu Jan 6, Thu Feb 3, & Thu Mar 3

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Cost: Free

Call Southeast Seniors at 612-331-2302 to register!

The programs below are co-sponsored by Southeast Seniors and Minneapolis Community Education and will be held via Zoom.

The programs below are co-sponsored by Southeast Seniors & Minneapolis Community Education and will be held via Zoom. They are offered on a sliding fee scale, with a suggested contribution of \$0-\$5. To register or for more information, call 612-668-1100 and provide your name, phone number and email. Registration closes at 5 pm the evening prior to the program to ensure that all participants receive the Zoom link and handouts (if applicable) prior to the start of the class.

Pen Your Memoir

Wednesday, January 19th , 2022, 1:30-2:30 pm

Have a personal story to tell, but not sure where to begin? Whether you are writing for publication or simply want to pass on your story to your loved ones, get started by learning approaches to memoir-writing, idea-generation techniques, outlining

methods and productivity tips for completing your first draft within the year.

Kate Leibfried has a freelance writing business and has written several self-published novels. She has worked in training and development, tutoring people on writing and specifically on how to write a manuscript.

Dental Health for 55+: A Window to Overall Health

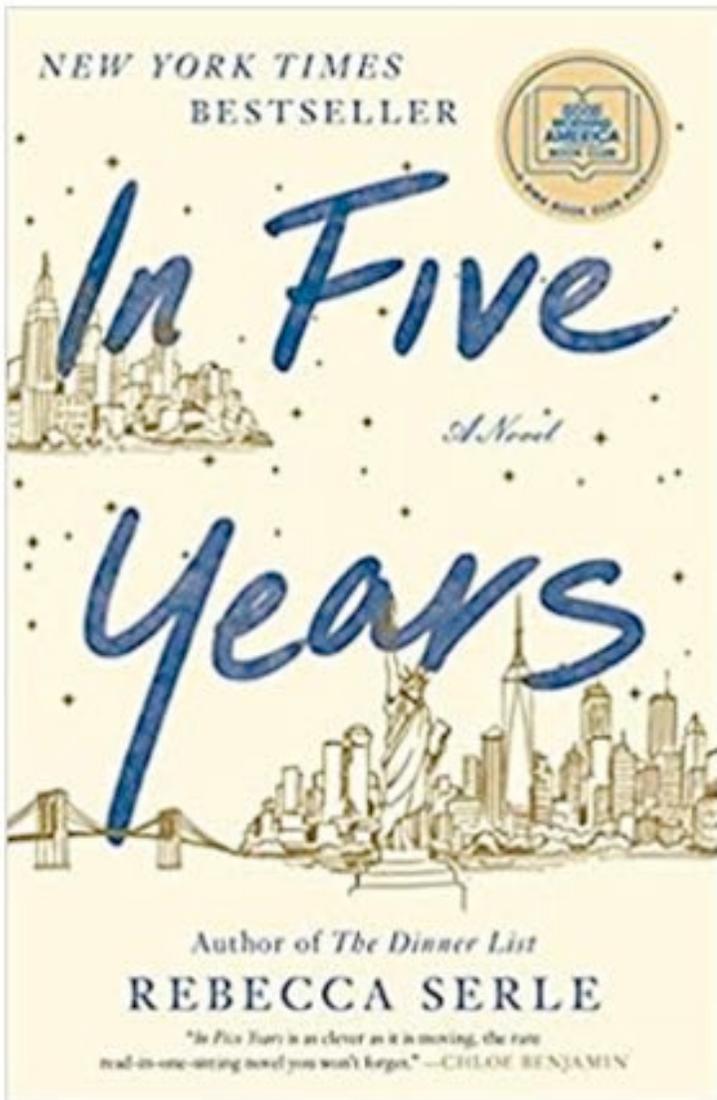
Saturday, January 22nd , 2022 ,10-11 am

Oral health has a significant impact on our overall well-being and quality of life throughout the lifespan and, more importantly, as we age. Tooth loss, tooth decay (dental caries), gum disease (periodontitis), dry mouth (xerostomia) and oral cancers are commonly experienced by older individuals. Management and prevention of these conditions can be achieved by routine oral health assessment, oral health care planning, proper daily oral care, and timely dental checkups. Aisa will discuss some of these aging-related conditions, while offering management and preventive strategies, plus answers to your questions.

Aisa Zamani is preparing for her dental career in the School of Dentistry at the University of Minnesota. She carries a special passion for older adult health and wellness, and hopes to help class attendees to better understand the hows and whys of maintaining a strong commitment to their own dental health.



Virtual Meeting - Thursday January 13th, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
In Five Years by Rebecca Serle



Are you ever at a loss as to what to write in an attempt to convince people of the general public to attend your free book club? That said, if you enjoy reading and hearing what other people have to say about books and pop culture in a very welcoming and fun space, you should join us!

Hosted by Kyle from Arvonne Fraser Library, this book club will meet the second Thursday of every month.

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

January 13: [In Five Years](#) by Rebecca Serle

February 10: [Deacon King Kong](#) by James McBride

eBooks or downloadable audiobooks available through www.hclib.org. Physical copies available for checkout at Arvonne Fraser Library.

[Click here to read Councilmember Cam Gordon's December Newsletter for Prospect Park](#)

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

Helpful COVID-19 Resources

Governor Walz' Response and Preparation

[Click here for updated Covid-19 news from Governor Walz](#)

"Stay at Home" does not mean "Stay Inside". The order states that everyone is encouraged to stay active outside during this time, provided they practice safe social distancing.

Free Covid-19 Testing Hennepin County

[Click here](#) for information on FREE testing open to those with or without symptoms

Additional Resources

[City of Minneapolis](#) [MN Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS

[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!



[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 612-767-6531

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