

Don't forget these upcoming CLCLT events!

Roller Skating

Roller Garden, 5622 W Lake St, St. Louis Park
Sunday, April 27 ~ 5pm-7pm

Join the CLCLT staff and other homeowners
for some fun on four wheels!

RSVP to victoria@clclt.org or (612) 594-7146

Mother's Day Gift Making

CLCLT Office, 1930 Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis
Saturday, May 3 ~ 10:30am-12:30pm

Children of CLCLT homeowners should join Victoria and Jenn to
create a one-of-a-kind homemade treasure.

RSVP to victoria@clclt.org or (612) 594-7146

*Thinking about an educational
or personal goal?...*

Consider applying for

The CLCLT Homeowner Opportunity Fund

To support one-time fees for trainings, conferences, books, tuition, or business development that provide an opportunity for the applicant to work toward a goal that would further their ability to create wealth or build assets for their household or better the community.

For more information:

Victoria at (612) 594-7146
or victoria@clclt.org



1930 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55405

612.594.7150
www.clclt.org

The CLT Homeowner Connector

Spring 2014

Brought to you by...



Participating members of...



Spring Home Maintenance

Spring is the time to get your yard in shape and take care of any exterior problems that developed over the winter. See your CLCLT Homeowner Manual for more detailed information.

- Check caulking around window and door frames any other places where different materials meet (like where wood meets brick).
- Check underside of roof for water stains or dampness- if you see any, find how the water is penetrating the roof and eliminate the leakage.
- Check all painted and natural finished surfaces for damp spots, mildew, discoloration, cracks, or bulges caused by leaks or condensation of water (including ceilings in closets). If ceilings show any of these problems, determine whether water is coming from above or condensing from humidity within the living space.
- Check caulking around bathtubs, showers, sinks, and toilet base. Caulking should provide a solid seal to prevent moisture from seeping into walls and floors. If necessary strip away old caulk and lay a new line of caulk; caulk should lay at a 45 degree angle; you can smooth the caulk with a wet finger.
- Check fascia (outward face) and soffit (downward face) of the "overhang" at the low edge of the roof for any rotting wood or flaking paint. Paint or repair as needed.
- Check any retaining walls for signs of cracks or movement due to water pressure. Clean out weep holes that allow water to drain through the retaining wall.
- Patch worn sections of driveways and coat asphalt with sealer.

Native Plants for Summer Planting

Native plants are an excellent choice for any landscaping project because once established they seldom require watering, mulching, protection from frost or continuous mowing. Their deep and spreading root systems naturally help to combat erosion, and they provide the necessary nectar, pollen and seeds for native birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Some plants that are native to our area include butterfly milkweed, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, and Solomon's seal. And while there are many different regions in Minnesota – each supporting a different occurrence of native plants - the basic rules for selection and placement are the same:

1. Gain an understanding of the native plant communities in your area. Visiting existing natural areas in your community (or region) so that you can see for yourself what the native vegetation is like will help you to understand what will – or won't – work for the site.
2. Get to know your site. Many factors impact the type of site preparation needed to support native vegetation. Make sure to understand if you have existing native plants in your area, the amount of sun exposure the site receives, the type of soil found at the site, and if the site has good drainage or holds moisture.
3. Consider your budget. The cost for using native plants is often lower than that of using non-native plants when factored over time, therefore, it is important to consider there may be an initial investment in site preparation, plant materials and maintenance. Also keep in mind your time required for site pre and planting.

Once you have determined the above, you are ready to move forward with purchasing plants and preparing and planting your site. Remember that "low maintenance" does not mean "no maintenance." It will take some time for the native plants to establish themselves and so it is important – especially in the first few growing seasons – to develop a plan that will factor in weed control as well as protection from wildlife if necessary.

For a detailed list of native vegetation or more information on using native plants for your landscaping project visit www.mndnr.gov/eco or call (651) 296.2835.

NEWS FROM CITY OF LAKES COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

CLCLT Homeowners In the Spotlight: A Conversation with Mamo & Safiya

Ethiopia. Kenya. United States. No, this is not the itinerary for an overseas vacation but the journey that Mamo Jale and Safiya Sani took on their path to homeownership in Minneapolis.

Originally from the Oromia region in Ethiopia, Mamo and Safiya left Ethiopia and traveled to Kenya as political refugees. During their 5-year stay in Kenya they dreamed of the United States for its freedoms and eventually settling in Minneapolis due to the large Oromo population already in residence. In 2004 Mamo arrived in Minneapolis, and Safiya joined Mamo in 2006.

A sponsorship by the International Institute of Minnesota - which provided English lessons and some job skills training, assisted both Mamo and Safiya in finding employment, and Safiya was able to obtain her driver's license. However, homeownership eluded them for 6 years. Having come from a country where they owned a home as well as a small business, Mamo and Safiya were disappointed with the idea of renting an apartment long-term, but they were hesitant to pursue homeownership due to their unfamiliarity with the building codes in the United States. It was at this time that Mamo and Safiya learned of the CLCLT from a friend in the Oromo community, who also happened to be a CLCLT homeowner, and they began the application process.

Safiya says the assistance from the CLCLT in navigating the homebuying process was invaluable. "In Ethiopia all buildings are made of concrete. They last for a long, long time. We didn't know about water damage or structure problems. There is [a] lot to know."

After an exhaustive search of almost 30 homes, Mamo and Safiya were able to purchase a like-new, foreclosed home in the Heritage Park neighborhood in North Minneapolis. Safiya looks back fondly at the assistance she received from the CLCLT saying that the CLCLT not only advised them on buying a house but what to do if something happened to the house that they would not be able to manage on their own.

Even after having closed on their home, Mamo and Safiya still feel the support of the CLCLT. When their home needed an emergency repair before a large party, Safiya says that the CLCLT was available, even though it was after work hours, to provide Safiya with the necessary information to help resolve the problem. In fact, Safiya feels like the CLCLT is part of her family.

With the purchase of this home, Safiya and Mamo are able to entertain – and be entertained – by their children and grandchildren. According to Safiya both she and the grandchildren (5 years, 3 years, and 7 months) listen to music and dance, and run through the house without worrying about being too loud. Both Mamo and Safiya plan to continue their education and eventually hope to bring Safiya's young son over from Ethiopia where he currently lives with his grandparents.

And while Mamo and Safiya say that they had a nice life in Ethiopia they feel that they have so much more freedom and opportunity here in Minneapolis. All that they need to do is work hard because they already live in a good neighborhood with neighbors they love. "We are happy. We are good."



Thank You for Joining Us at the 4th Annual CLCLT Fundraiser!



Thank you to all who joined us at our 5th Annual CLCLT Fundraiser, *Coming Home – Opening Doors to New Futures* held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the International Market Square. Devean George was our featured guest speaker and spoke about his nonprofit organization Building Blocks. The Brothers and Sister Grimm, featuring Reed Grimm, rocked the house and even got a few people out on the dance floor! This year's event had over 180 attendees and generated \$10,000 in net income. We also had 43 silent auction donors and 12 sponsors. Thank you to all who contributed to making this event a success.

A special thank you to all the CLCLT homeowners who contributed to the event, specifically, Leticia Selmon and Simon Gruber for all their work planning and preparing for the event; Kevin Obsatz for his amazing production of our first-ever homeowner video; Jessica Cressey, Jessica Bergman Tank, Georgia Mrazek, and Alison Guessou for donating to the silent auction; Bertha Daniels, E Burnett, Georgia and Ivo Mrazek, Jody King, Barbara Lightsey, Kevin Obsatz, JoAnne Kelty and Angela Haughton for volunteering at the event; and all who attended. The event was a success because of all of you and we sincerely appreciate your support.



Ideas for Planning your Summer

Whether your list includes working on your garden and lawn or taking in more of what the City has to offer we have come up with a list to help you get the most out of your summer.

- ❑ **Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board (MPRB)** "Activities & Programs" page includes a large list of events starting in April and continuing through the 4th of July with updates to the calendar happening monthly. Events featured include free concerts, ice cream socials, and individual neighborhood celebrations.
- ❑ **Minneapolis Institute of Arts.** One Sunday every month the MIA hosts a free event that includes making art, going on "artful adventures," meeting local artists, dancers, musicians, and storytellers. For a list of upcoming Family Day events go to www.newartsmia.org/plan-your-trip and click on the "Youth and Family Programs" link, or call 612.870.3132 for information.
- ❑ **Come out and Play Family Nature Club.** This no-registration, no-obligation program provides fun opportunities for children and grown-ups to be outside together. One weekday a month and one weekend day each month leaders pick a different park to explore, and while no registration is required they do ask for an RSVP to know whom to expect. For more information you can e-mail them at natureclub@minneapolisparcs.org.
- ❑ For those planning on working in their yards remember that many gardening centers and do-it-yourself stores offer inexpensive and/or free workshops to help you in planning, purchasing and implementing your ideas. Workshops vary from container gardening, to installing and/or replacing a retaining wall. Stores to consider include Bachman's, Home Depot and Lowe's.
- ❑ **Minneapolis Farmers Market.** Saturday, April 26, 2014 marks the official opening day for the 2014 season. At this time you should expect to see bedding flowers and baskets but come May the fruit and vegetable stalls will be overflowing with produce. Stalls are open Saturdays and Sundays, 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cash only (ATM on site).