COMMUNITY INSIDER

Editor's Welcome

Midsummer Dream
Soft, green grass
Softly ruffled by the breeze
Flowers turned towards the sun
Their petals wet from a passing shower
Bees buzz and fireflies flicker
Children play
People sit and drink chilled lemonade
Time moves slowly
Nowhere to be
Nothing to do
But just relax
Live
Drink in the moment
This is summer
Wonderful
Fleeting
Hot
Humid
Relaxing
Refreshing
Summer is here.

Melissa Pappas
Editor

Mark Your Calendar

Computer Team: July 25th, August 22nd, September 26th at 1:00PM

A little beauty from the St. Anthony Park pollinator garden

President Council Contact Information
Presidents Council, 555 Wabasha Street North Suite 400, St. Paul, MN 55102

Email:
presidentscouncil@stphapresidentscouncil.org
Website:
http://www.stphapresidentscouncil.org

Important Numbers
Maintenance Work Order: 298-4413

Emergency Maintenance: 227-9919

Police Non-Emergency: 292-1111

A Cup of Thanks

In this issue, we would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all those who have chosen to serve their Hi-Rises as a Residents Council officer or in another volunteer capacity, such as being a Computer Administrator or Computer Peer, a Quickbooks Peer, or a general Peer Advisor. We could not do it without all of you and your continued hard work.

Officers Recognition 2024

Every year, a luncheon to thank and recognize our Council Officers is held at the end of May. Unfortunately, this had to be put on hold for a few years because of Covid.

This year, we were able to have an in-person event again. It was held on Monday, May 20th at the Wellstone Center.

We were able to get the nicer of their large event spaces. This room had tables that seated six and large windows that looked out over the Westside neighborhood.

The event started with a short program where recognition certificates were handed out.

After the program, there was social time and lunch was served.

The Computer Admins, Computer Peers, and general Peer Team were recognized this year, along with the recognition of each Hi-Rise Residents Council. There also was an award given to volunteers who helped with the Bone builders program at their hi-rises.

A playlist featuring a variety of musical types was on in the background while people mingled and ate.

Overall, the event was very enjoyable and
we have only heard good things from those
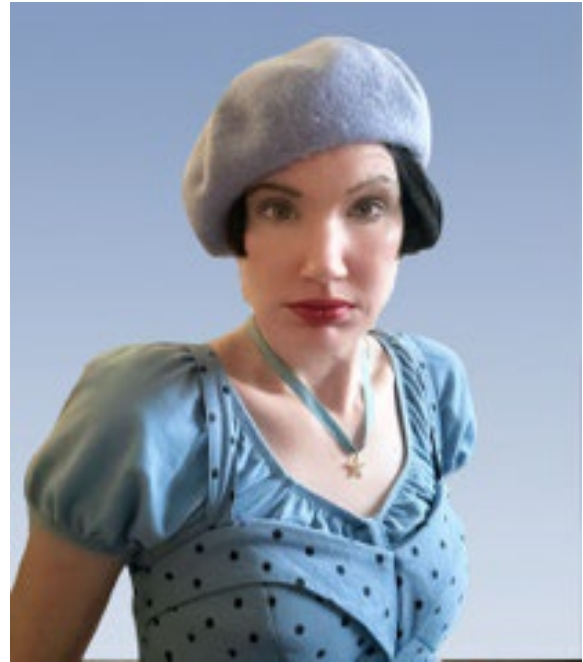who attended.

Commissioner Thomas

"I decided to run for Hi-Rise Commissioner after serving as the council President of Seal hi-rise and then signing up as an election judge, where I interacted with residents and saw the common concerns shared across different hi-rises. This experience spark my desire to make positive changes for our residents in the hi-rises.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Council Officers, Election Judges, Peers, and committee members for taking their time to volunteer to improve the lives of their neighbors."
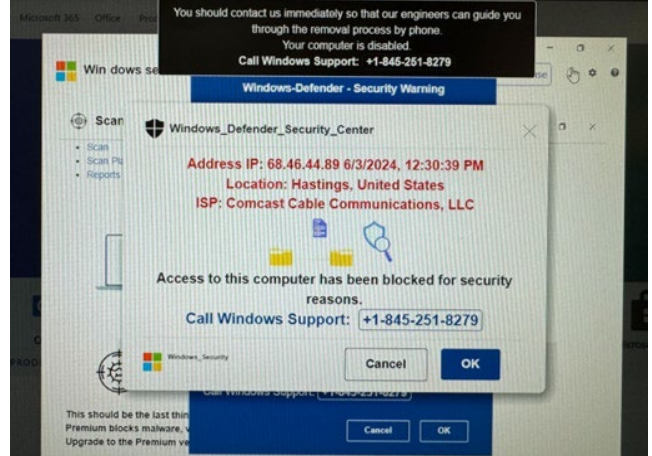
Commissioner Thomas

Computer Corner

When I was doing one of my monthly site visits I saw this on one of the computer screens:

Because of that, I would like to share resources on ransomware and malware.

What is ransomware?
Ransomeware is malware that infects a computer and takes it over. It usually manifests itself by one or more popups on the screen that prevent you from doing anything on the computer and ask you to call a number or send an email to a provided address. If you do so, you

will be asked to pay to remove the malware and get access to your files again. (Ransomware usually includes threats of wiping all your data if you don't comply. This is especially common when the target is a business. There is usually a deadline for paying the ransom and getting your data back. Ransomware also often encrypts the contents of your hard drive so the files are unrecoverable unless you pay what is asked and get the key to decrypt them.

How do you get a ransomware infection?
The most common ways of getting infected with ransomware are visiting an infected website, opening an attachment from a phishing email, or attaching an infected flash drive to your computer. In the latter two cases you need to click on an infected file to get the malware on your computer. In the first case though, just visiting certain websites is enough as the malware will download without any action from you (drive by downloads.)

How can you prevent getting malware and ransomware?
There are a few things you can do to keep yourself safe from malware and ransomware. First, be aware of suspicious emails and don't click on attachments you weren't expecting to receive. If the email was from someone you know you can contact them and ask if they meant to send you something. It's always a good idea to check because scammers can spoof the email they use and make it look like it came from someone you trust. (This is called a social engineering attack.)

Don't connect unfamiliar flash drives to your system.

Keep software and operating systems up to date. Be careful about questionable download sites and websites. Using an adblocker can also be helpful because ads can be infected with malware as well.

Be aware of possible scam pop-ups. Microsoft, Apple, and other legitimate security software companies do not use pop-ups like in the picture above. (They also don't ask you to call a number when your computer is infected with a virus.

Any calls of that nature are scams and should be ignored.)

What if you do get ransomware?
Hi-Rise computers have software called DeepFreeze that prevents any permanent changes from being made to the system. In the case of the computer that had the popups I photographed, once I restarted it, any malware was removed, and the computer was returned to the state it had been in before. Your computers don't have that protection. If you notice popups like the ones pictured, you should either press the power button and turn the computer off or press ctrl+alt+delete or ctrl+shift+esc and turn the computer off using the option on the task manager window.

Turn the computer back on and boot into safe mode. Disconnect the computer from the Internet. Run a virus scan and a malware scan with a program like Malwarebytes Anti-Malware. For serious ransomware infections you might have to completely reinstall Windows and other programs. (This can actually be the simplest thing if you have your important files backed up somewhere else.)

Hi-Rise Gardens

Here are how a few of the hi-rise gardens are doing so far this year.

Front:

Seal:

Wilson:

Wabasha:

Central:

On June 11, 2024, Comcast and St. Paul Public Agency celebrated their partnership at Central Hi-Rise. They announced PHA as the first in the state to provide pre-installed internet for low-income homes. The event included Comcast reps, PHA Board members, staff, and residents, with a program and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Resident Council Coordinator

Hi Everyone!

I want to give a big thank you to the outgoing officers and congratulate the incoming officers. It has been a very exciting and fun year! I look forward to working with the new officers in this new council year. If you have any questions regarding the councils, I can be reached at 651-228-3205. I encourage everyone to attend the Council meetings at your hi-rise

and bring your ideas for activities and improvement to share with your council. – Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator

I can't wait for warm summer nights, outside on the patio.

326 mosquitos liked your post

Word from the Newsletter Team

The Newsletter committee team would like to encourage everyone to practice being kind and continue to show compassion towards each other. We hope everyone would continue to enjoy the warm weathers. Please send us pictures from your picnic event! We look forward to connecting with you all again this fall!