



Dear Julia,

We wish you a Happy New Year from all of us here at WSCO. We are ready to launch a new chapter of community organizing, and can't wait to connect with all of our neighbors about how to keep the West Side the best side!

Here are just a few of the things we're looking forward to in 2022:

"I'm looking forward to building West Side People Power to continue to create the neighborhood we want and deserve to live in. We're working on housing, community wealth building, arts, parks, a thriving local business corridor, and so much more— always staying grounded in the cultures that make our neighborhood strong and proud." -- Monica Bravo, Executive Director

"I am looking forward to working with the West Side renters. Gaining close relationships and having fun along the way!" -- Cintya Canales, Housing Justice Organizer

"I'm looking forward to deepening connections with my neighbors; continuing to learn and share knowledge around growing food and flowers to increase our joy, health, and power; and to helping reframe both housing justice and energy justice as human rights!" -- Ellie Leonardsmith, Health & Environmental Justice Organizer

What are you most looking forward to here in the neighborhood in 2022? Send us an email at info@wsco.org and let us know!



Your home, your health, your voice

What's in our air, our water, our soil, our homes? Our health as a neighborhood is tied to our environment. In addition to working to make sure you have access to healthy food, green space, and tree cover, we would like to know if there are environmental harms that we should be addressing on a neighborhood level. These could include air pollution from heavy traffic, proximity to a toxic industry, or even air quality issues inside your home due to poorly maintained rental properties or lack of funds to pay heating and cooling bills.

We want to learn what the most pressing health and environmental concerns of our neighbors are, so we can plan together to take action and create positive changes.

Share your voice! [Fill out this survey](#) for a chance to win \$100! (Drawing will be held at the end of March or early April.)

Take the survey



West Side Voices Forum

In December, as we prepared to hunker down in the cold, spend time with loved ones, and dream of what's to come in 2022, we invited West Siders to look inward. At our December Voices forum, neighbors shared their intentions for the new year, including: "resilience, interconnection, patience, calm, softness, kindness, daring, presence, unity, compassion, positivity, intentionality," and a call to "strike while the iron is hot!"

We invite you to join us for the next West Side Voices Forum, coming up the second Tuesday in February at 6:00PM. Learn more and sign up at <https://www.wsco.org/westsideoices>.



Winter Activities at El Rio Vista Rec Center

From Badminton to Seniors Group, Video games to Pickleball, check out all the great activities happening this winter at El Rio Vista Recreation Center! [Click here](#) to learn more and see the full list of fun activities!

Interested in teaching a class? St. Paul Parks & Rec is looking for instructors! These can be one-time demonstrations, 4-6 + week classes, or a special event, on a range of subjects, from art and dance to model cars or self defense— share your skills with your neighbors! Volunteer and paid opportunities available. Contact: Jody Griffin at 651-472-3925 or jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us.



Community Announcements

- **Bubbles and troubles:** Free legal clinic at Beautiful Laundrette on Stryker! January 28th from 2-4PM. Check out upcoming laundrette news on [their blog](#)!
- **Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...** sign up for Snow Emergency alerts and use the City's new Snow Emergency Parking Map: www.stpaul.gov/snow
- **Free gardening classes:** St. Paul Parks & Recreation & the U of MN Extension Master Gardener Program are offering free online classes every month through May 2022. Everyone is welcome. Fourth Tuesday of each month, from 6:30PM -8 PM, the next session, "[All About Seeds](#)," is January 25th.
- **Diabetes prevention program:** Join a [free diabetes prevention program](#) hosted in partnership by theNEWmpls and Ramsey County!
- **Radon, radon, go away:** Did you know that radon levels go up in the winter? [Click here to get a free home radon test kit](#).

Have a community announcement you'd like to share? Email our Communications Manager at genevieve@wsco.org!



In Case You Missed It

Want to meet the winners of the 'West Sider of the Year' and 'Spirit of the West Side' awards? How about watching exciting highlights from 2021? Or a fun-filled video of neighbors sharing why they love the West Side? We've just launched four new videos on our website— [check them out here!](#)

#WestSideStrong

WSCO organizes people of West Side to build collective power to advance justice and racial equity in the community for all people. We envision a just, united, self-reliant West Side where all of our people are connected, safe, healthy and successful. We are West Side proud. We are West Side strong.

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Please note: WSCO staff are currently working via a hybrid model, both remotely and in-person. All in-person community events require participants to follow COVID safety precautions recommended by the CDC.