Help is Available

We've all felt the impact of this unprecedented time. If you are struggling, there are resources to help with unemployment, food access, housing, chores (especially for seniors and those with disabilities), supporting local businesses, keeping kids engaged, and finding volunteer opportunities if you have time to give.

We've compiled links to the many assistance programs, funding, and resources at armatage.org/covid19 and hope this page can be a help to you during this time.

Call for Neighborhood Art & Creations

During this time of social distancing, what have you and your family members done to express yourselves creatively? Please share your creations with us as we compile a journal to document this moment of time in Armatage.

Your submission could be anything - artwork and paintings; sidewalk art and messages; original poetry or short stories; knitted, crocheted or sewn creations; new victory or perennial gardens; a home DIY project; recipes you've cooked up; a window decoration you've created; or images you have captured on your walks.

We will assemble your submissions into a free journal available to download at armatage.org/art and possibly feature them in ANA communications about this project or in a future community mural.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Email a high resolution image of your creation or a Word document to us at anacoordinator@armatage.org by June 30. Feel free to include yourself in any photos. If you share your creation on social media, tag the ANA and include the hashtag armatageart. We cannot wait to see your creations!

Online Board Election & Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
7:00-8:30 PM
AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Join your neighbors for a virtual Annual Meeting & Board Election. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, the board election has moved online and on June 16 the ANA will host a short, fascinating talk on the 2020 Census and its impact on Minneapolis before announcing election results.

BOARD ELECTION

Online voting will be available from June 9 through June 16 at 7:30pm. All Armatage residents 18 years and older and designated business representatives will be able to vote in the election through an online form posted at armatage.org.

Election results will be announced live at the end of Annual Meeting on June 16 and at armatage.org the following day.

JOIN THE BOARD

Please consider supporting your community and running for the board. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month with a small time commitment outside meetings. You will have a critical role in shaping our neighborhood nonprofit for years to come.

We especially encourage members of under-represented communities to run, including renters, seniors, residents with disabilities, and residents who identify as LGBTQ or BIPOC (black, indigenous and/or people of color).

Visit armatage.org/2020boardelection to enter a bit about yourself, why you want to run, and what you hope to bring to the board along with a picture.

The deadline to register to run is June 8.

2020 MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Meetings and happy hours will take place virtually on Zoom with links posted at armatage.org and on social media. All are welcome. Residents (18-yrs and older) and designated business representatives are eligible to vote on ANA business.

Due to COVID-19, all summer park events have been canceled, which unfortunately includes neighborhood events like our Summer Festival.

MAY

Virtual Organics Workshop • Monday 5/18 • 7:00pm • Zoom
Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 5/19 • 6:30pm • Zoom

JUNE

Virtual Happy Hour • Tuesday 6/9 • 8:00-9:00pm • Zoom
Annual Meeting & Board Election • Tuesday 6/16 • 7:00pm • Zoom

JULY

Virtual Happy Hour • Tuesday 7/14 • 8:00-9:00pm • Zoom
Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 7/21 • 6:30pm • Zoom

AUGUST

Virtual Happy Hour • Tuesday 8/11 • 8:00-9:00pm • Zoom

SEPTEMBER

Happy Hour • Tuesday 9/8 • TBD
Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 9/15 • 6:30pm

OCTOBER

Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 10/20 • 6:30pm

NOVEMBER

Happy Hour • Tuesday 11/10 • TBD
Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 11/17 • 6:30pm

DECEMBER

Monthly Meeting • Tuesday 12/15 • 6:30pm

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2020 Census

There's still time to win a $50 gift card to one of four local businesses: 1. Take the 2020 Census: my2020census.gov
2. Take action:
   • Share a Census selfie with hashtags #Census2020 #ArmatageTakesTheCensus and #WeCountMN
   • Share a social media post with my2020census.gov and hashtags #Census2020 #ArmatageTakesTheCensus and #WeCountMN
   • Reach out to a neighbor (or two!) about completing the Census while social distancing.
3. Enter your info at armatage.org/2020census for a chance to win a $50 gift card.

So, grab a drink or snack, check armatage.org for your link to log in, and come discuss each month’s topic. Kids and pets are welcome to say hello. Funny backgrounds optional. Open to all, even if they don’t live in Armatage.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:
• June 9 • 8:00-9:00pm • Topic: What neighborhood project could you do with $1,000?
• July 14 • 8:00-9:00pm • Topic: Summer fun (at a distance).
• August 11 • 8:00-9:00pm • Topic: TBD (likely back to school).

ZOOM TIPS:
If you’re new to Zoom, take a few minutes to download the free app on your device and test your video and audio. For help with joining a meeting, visit https://bit.ly/anazoommeetings

Meet the Board

DONTÉ MEARON
A little bit about me and my family: We moved to Armatage in the Spring of 2014 from Chicago (Nicole is a Minnesotan). Nolan was born at 23 weeks at one pound, eight ounces at the Mother Baby Center. The Ronald McDonald House was our home for five months. We finally landed a nesting spot where parks are in every direction, there is something to do outdoors year-round, and a community centralized around family values. My favorite thing to do in our neighborhood is go for walks or riding my bike to the lakes.

What makes being a part of the ANA meaningful? Being part of ANA is most meaningful to me because I share a common bond with other families. I feel like I help build and shape our community.

What do you bring to the ANA? I like to bring creative and artistic direction to the ANA.

What motivates you? I am motivated by sunshine!

What accomplishments are you most proud of or hope to see happen? My most proud accomplishment (to-date) is the First Annual Chili Cook-off.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? When I have a moment of peace to myself I enjoy visual art projects like silkscreen printing or paper marbling.

Armatage Park

Play Area

COMING SOON!
Please help weigh in on upcoming improvements at the Armatage Park Play Area!
Community Engagement for the Armatage Park Play Area and Site Improvements Project start soon. Visit the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s project webpage at https://bit.ly/ArmatagePark for more information and to sign up for project updates.
The MPRB will send out an electronic survey this spring to get feedback. All those who have registered for updates on the project webpage will automatically be notified when the survey opens.

Armatage Funding to Decrease

Funding for Minneapolis neighborhood organizations like the ANA expires at the end of this year. The City is considering a plan that changes the funding structure and work of neighborhoods. This plan would drastically reduce the annual funding for Armatage and many other neighborhoods.

Much of the change is related to increasing the funding to improve equity across the City. We support the equity goals outlined in the plan and believe they’re overdue.

However, the changes will reduce funding for Armatage and other neighborhoods to such a degree that many core services will be in jeopardy. Though we have some reserves that will last until 2023, the ANA will have to drastically reduce our programs and services should this plan pass.

We work hard to listen to your needs and make Armatage an awesome place to live through annual community-building events, safety rebates, environmental programs, advocacy, and neighborhood communications like this newsletter that help keep you informed. COVID-19 has reinforced how critical strong, local communities are.

We believe there can be a better balance in this funding plan that will increase equity while allowing small neighborhoods like ours to keep operating. We hope you take the time to weigh in.

SUBMIT A COMMENT:
• The deadline to weigh in is July 15, 2020.
• Visit armatage.org/n2020 for a sample letter you can modify and send.
• Read the full Draft Framework at Minneapolismn.gov/n2020