



## 7th Annual Standish, Ericsson, and Corcoran Neighborhood Garage Sale!

Saturday, June 13  
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Start spring-cleaning now for the largest neighborhood garage sale in Minneapolis! The 7th Annual Standish, Ericsson, and Corcoran Neighborhood Garage Sale will be on Sat., June 13. The garage sale is a community-wide event that extends from Lake St. to the Minnehaha Pkwy. and from Cedar Ave. to Hiawatha Ave. Last year's event involved over 130 households, brought approximately \$25,000 into the neighborhoods, and recycled thousands of items. The sale will be held rain or shine.

**For those who would like to have a sale:** Individual households will set up their own sales at their own homes, and SENA will take care of the publicity, including advertising in the *Star Tribune* and press releases to area newspapers and other media. SENA will also create a "sales guide" and map of all homes having sales that day. To be added to the list of sales and to the map, simply call the SENA office at 721-1601 by Fri., June 5. You'll be asked for your address and the type of merchandise being sold at your sale.

**For shoppers:** A map and guide to all of the sales will be available from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the day of the sale at these locations: Tillie's Bean (2803 E. 38th St.), Midtown Farmers' Market (E. Lake St. and 22nd Ave. S. until 1:00 p.m.), and Caribou Coffee (4745 Cedar Ave. S.).

# SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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## Lake Hiawatha Heart Warmer Event Warmer Than Expected



The Heart Warmer event at Lake Hiawatha Park on Feb. 14 drew well over 400 people, in spite of a thaw the previous week that had melted most of the snow and kept the lake and golf course from being used. Families from the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods enjoyed the hayride along the lake and roasting marshmallows over a

bonfire. Although skiing and snowshoeing were not possible, the skating rink had refrozen and was perfect for skating. All food, refreshments, and activities were free, thanks to donations by local businesses. The hotdog and hamburger grillers were busy for all three hours. Inside the recreation center, people gathered



around the information tables of several local businesses, and live music drew many listeners. Children could have their faces painted, make valentines, or participate in a scavenger hunt.



The Lake Hiawatha Heart Warmer, which was hosted by the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center,

was the brainchild of neighborhood residents Jessica Hill and Brett Lambert, along with Ryan Vossen, director of Lake Hiawatha Park. Many volunteers helped on the day of the event, making it truly a neighborhood festival.

The event organizers would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters: Colossal Café, Mother Earth Gardens, A Tree Service Inc., Pure Point Acupuncture, Bergan's SuperValu Foods,



Cedar Small Engine, Bill Zuehlke Photographer, Jungle Theater, Southside Kettlebells, Hudson's Ace Hardware, Bill St. Mane Sporting Goods Co., Nokomis Pet Clinic, Pizza Lucé, Laughing Waters Studios, Reddy Rents, Tillie's Bean, SENA, and the office of Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy.

The Lake Hiawatha Park staff saw the Heart Warmer as a huge success and plan to make it an annual event. It will take place next year on Sat., Feb. 13.



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## Where Is It? (No. 15)

If you were to open this door and walk in, where would you be? The answer is on p. 4.



### Neighbor To Neighbor



- Barbara P. would like to thank Ralph and Jean for being the best neighbors ever. Many times this winter Ralph cleared her front and back sidewalks before she got home from a long day at work. She hopes someday to be able to "pass it forward."
- Judy would like to thank her across-the-alley neighbor Karen, who made a special effort to check on her when things "didn't look right" at Judy's house.

If you would like to recognize the thoughtfulness of a neighbor, send an e-mail to [office@standish-ericsson.org](mailto:office@standish-ericsson.org) with "Thank You" in the subject line.

## SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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*SENA News* is available in alternative formats (e.g., large type) upon request.

## Community Events Calendar

Roosevelt Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### April

- 2 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon.
- 7 Senior congregare dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 4.)
- 9 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 11 Bunny Brunch and egg hunt, Sibley Park, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (See p. 4.)
- 13 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 17–18 *Oliver!* Morris Park Players, Folwell Middle Sch. (3611 20th Ave. S.), 7:30 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 18 Earth Day Watershed Cleanup, Nokomis Community Center (2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. and at Sibley Park), 9:30 a.m.–noon. (See pp. 3 and 4.)
- 19 Minneapolis 5K Recycle Run, Lake Harriet Bandshell (4135 Lake Harriet Pkwy.), 7:45 a.m. (See p. 3.)
- 21 Senior congregare dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 24–25 *Oliver!* Morris Park Players, Folwell Middle School, 7:30 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 25 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Clean-A-Thon. (See p. 7.)
- 26 *Oliver!* Morris Park Players, Folwell Middle School, 2:00 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 28 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon  
Neighborhood meeting, Roosevelt High School (4029 28th Ave. S.), 6:30 p.m. (See p. 4.)
- 29 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "Gardening for the Spring," Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 30 Caregiver Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.

### May

- 1–2 *Oliver!* Morris Park Players, Folwell Middle Sch. (3611 20th Ave. S.), 7:30 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 2 Midtown Farmers' Market (2225 E. Lake St.) opens for the season (8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.). (See p. 7.)
- 5 Senior congregare dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 4.)
- 7 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon.
- 8 Deadline for homeowner applications for Metro 2009 Paint-A-Thon. (See p. 6.)
- 11 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 14 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 19 Senior congregare dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 26 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 27 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "What Exercise Is Good for Me?" Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 7.)
- 28 Caregiver Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.



## Big Brothers Big Sisters Needs Mentors

For 89 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS) has been matching young people ages 7–13 with adult, volunteer mentors. Big Brothers and Sisters (mentors) provide friendship, emotional support, and hope to young people.

BBBS offers two programs for volunteer mentors. In the School-based Program, Big Brothers and Sisters meet with young people at their school for one hour per week for activities such as reading, games, or art. In the Community-based Program, Big Brothers and Sisters get together with their Little Brothers and Sisters two to four times a month at the location of their choice.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is currently looking for mentors in South Minneapolis. As 71% of the young people waiting for mentors are boys, there is a huge need for male mentors in both the Community-based and School-based programs.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, call (651) 789-2400 or visit [www.bigstwtwincities.org](http://www.bigstwtwincities.org).

## Earth Day Watershed Cleanup, April 18

On Sat., Apr. 18, join hundreds of people in cleaning up Minneapolis's watersheds—the land that drains directly into local lakes, rivers, and streams. If this land is polluted, precious waterways will be, too.

The SENA Quality of Life Committee will again organize the cleanup at Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis, and Minnehaha Creek East.

The schedule is as follows:

### 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.—Cleanup

Meet at Nokomis Community Center (2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). You'll be given trash bags and cotton gloves to use for cleaning up, and you'll be directed to a nearby area for cleaning—a shoreline, open green space, park, or parkway. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Volunteers will work even if there's a light rain. If there's a downpour, bags and gloves will be distributed and you'll be asked to clean up on your own time.

### 11:00 a.m. to Noon—Celebration

Following the cleanup, participants are invited back to Nokomis Community Center for free refreshments and activities.

**Questions?** Please call the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at (612) 230-6484 or visit [www.minneapolisearthday.com](http://www.minneapolisearthday.com). No pre-registration is required.

## Minneapolis 5K Recycle Run, April 19

The Minneapolis 5K Recycle Run will be held on Sun., Apr. 19, at Lake Harriet. Proceeds from the run, which is presented by the Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis, will benefit future Earth Day Watershed Cleanup efforts.

To encourage participants to save paper, the \$3 service fee will be waived to all participants who register online ([www.minneapolisrecyclerun.com](http://www.minneapolisrecyclerun.com)). Online preregistration is available until 11:59 p.m. on Apr. 13. Mail-in preregistration must be postmarked by Apr. 11.

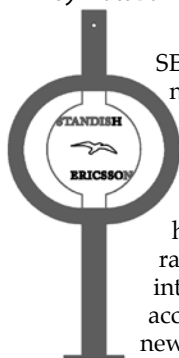
5K Run: \$25 online or mail-in preregistered; \$30 race day. Kids' Half-Mile Run: \$10 online or mail-in preregistered; \$15 race day.

Race day registration will take place from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. at the Lake Harriet Bandshell (4135 Lake Harriet Pkwy.). Bring in your used running shoes and shirts and receive prizes including Minnesota Twins tickets and Aveda Products! Questions or to volunteer, contact Mary Anderson at [mary@andersonraces.com](mailto:mary@andersonraces.com) or (651) 688-9143.



## Coming Soon—New Bike Racks!

by Matt Bakker, Standish Resident and Member of the Business, Development, and Transportation Committee



SENA has been working with neighborhood businesses and the City of Minneapolis to improve the quality and availability of bicycle parking in our neighborhoods. After significant planning, we hope to have 25 hitch-style bike racks installed this spring, through a program available to neighborhood businesses at no cost to the business. These bike racks will be sited in locations with high potential use, interested business partners, and insufficient existing accommodations for bicycle parking. Watch for these new bike racks!

## Committee UPDATES

SENA action groups and committees are in the process of restructuring and redefining their work. The updates below are based on the new structure. Meeting times could change. Call the SENA office (721-1601) to verify meeting times and dates.

### Business, Development, and Transportation Committee (1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.)

- We still hope that bike racks will be installed this spring (see the article below). The group will continue to be responsible for reviewing potential new development as it comes forward. On the "business" side, we are beginning discussions about helping neighborhood businesses to form a business association and have partnered with Seward Redesign on a grant proposal to achieve that goal as well as other services for local businesses.

### Communications Committee (aka Citizen Engagement Committee)

- The Newsletter Subcommittee meets every two months to plan the next issue of *SENA News* and then carries out the writing and production of the newsletter. We would love to have new people who are interested in writing articles. The Web Site Subcommittee continues to discuss Web page options. The group will meet as a whole on a quarterly or as-needed basis.

### Housing Committee (4th Monday)

- Recipients of SENA's 2009 matching-deferred home-improvement loan program funds will be notified by Apr. 13. If you have questions, please call the Housing Resource Center at 722-7141.

### Quality of Life Committee (1st Tuesday)

- We have been helping to plan a dedication ceremony for the public art installation "Listening Vessel" at Lake Hiawatha Park. We are also reviewing planting options for around the sculpture.

If you are interested in purchasing ad space on the back of this year's garage sale map, please call the SENA office.

### Graffiti Task Force (3rd Tuesday)

- We are planning our 2009 projects. Please join us on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

We expect this project to accomplish several goals. By increasing the availability of secure and appropriate bike racks in our neighborhoods, this project will encourage the wider use of bicycles and reduce the risk of bicycle theft. As more neighborhood residents and visitors take to their bikes, we may see a reduction in automobile traffic. This would have environmental, health, and safety benefits. Additionally, getting people out on the streets and engaged in active pursuits such as biking is the key to neighborhood vitality and thriving neighborhood businesses.

Our bike racks will carry a custom design, allowing them to also serve as neighborhood identifiers. With this standard design, incorporating elements of the SENA logo, installed in many locations, we hope to contribute to the unique identity and sense of cohesiveness in the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods.

# “Framework for the Future”: The New City Plan for Community Engagement

by Shirley Yeoman, SENA Staff

On Sept. 26, 2008, the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution adopting the provisions outlined in its “Framework for the Future” document. This “Framework” forms a new structure for neighborhood and community involvement and interaction with the city (through a Neighborhood and Community Relations Department). Some people refer to this as Phase 3 of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). It really isn’t that. This is a new program within the structure of the city government, rather than an independent agency with dedicated funding like NRP had.

Some of the work will be overseen by a newly established Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. This 16-member resident commission will have seven members selected by the City Council, one member appointed by the Park Board, and eight members selected by neighborhood organizations. The City Council did not identify a process for selecting the neighborhood representatives; that has been left up to the neighborhoods.

On Feb. 21, a group of representatives from neighborhoods throughout the city met to begin “hammering out” a process for neighborhoods to use to select their representatives to the new commission. As of the deadline for this newsletter, that work was still going on. Taking the ideas of volunteer representatives with many viewpoints and melding them into one cohesive process promises to be a challenge.

The City Council action also commits funding to support neighborhood groups and activities, but the amount of that support will be part of the annual budget process and may change from year to year. The new funding will begin in 2011. It is not yet clear whether the city will be able to provide gap funding for those neighborhood organizations (including SENA) whose NRP funds for operational support are exhausted in 2009.

You can find many of the details of the Framework and the Community Engagement Commission and Department on the city’s Web page at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp>.

## SENA Gives Grants to Schools

SENA’s Quality of Life Committee, as part of the second phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), awarded two grants to schools this winter. Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center (4315 31st Ave. S.) will receive \$2,000 for plantings along the building. Students will plant this spring. Folwell Middle School (3611 20th Ave. S.) will receive \$2,000 for a cross-curricular project in which students build a replica of the space shuttle and International Space Station at one-fourth size. They will use skills and knowledge from science, math, language arts, and history as they build the model and will end the project with a mock launch.

The NRP plan included \$3,000 for each school, to fund projects over three years. Schools received grants in 2007; in 2008, the money was not available, so the amount was doubled this final year.

## Answer to Where Is It? (No. 15)

If you walked through this doorway, you would be in Roosevelt Library (4026 28th Ave. S.), now a part of the Hennepin County Library system. The building, which is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1927. The library was closed during all of its 80th year (2007) but was reopened by the county early in 2008.

## Events at the Parks

### Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St., 370-4954)

Apr. 11 is the Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt (9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.). Brunch (\$4/adult, \$2/kid) is served from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Entertainment by the “Okee Dokee Brothers” starts at 11:15 a.m., and the egg hunt begins at noon. All activities are free except for the brunch.

Earth Day Watershed Cleanup (Apr. 18, 9:30 a.m.–noon). All supplies provided. Clean up the neighborhood and learn about recycling. Coffee and doughnuts provided.

Sign up for baseball and softball before it’s too late! Practices begin in April and games in May. Volunteer coaches are needed! Call for more details.

Summer RecPlus child care registration is open for kids 6–12 years. Care goes from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be field trips and fun all summer long! Call for details.

### Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St., 370-4930)

T-ball, baseball, and softball start in April and go through June. Come and sign up today.

Tot and Family Time—Saturdays (1:00–3:00 p.m.) from Apr. 11 to May 16 (cost: \$30 per family). Parents and children will meet other families from the neighborhood during this fun, friendly, family activity.

Basics of Cooking class for kids 8–14. Learn how to make a meal and about nutrition, table settings, and more! We will eat our creations, and on the last day of class, fix dinner for our families. Mondays (6:30–8:30 p.m.), \$20 per month.

Fun Fridays (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) are for kids 3–6 years old. We will do crafts, play with friends, listen to stories, do science experiments and math activities, and play games. Apr. 17 to May 22, cost: \$70.

## Roosevelt High School Neighborhood Meeting

Roosevelt High School (RHS, 4029 28th Ave. S.) held a meeting for neighborhood residents on Jan. 27, the second of three for this school year. Principal Bruce Gilman gave an update on the school and answered questions. He noted that the RHS building now contains three programs. The Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPPP) has a site there, including a daycare center for infants and toddlers. It moved in over the winter break, consolidating the programs in two other schools. Gilman said having toddlers in the hall is fun and makes the school atmosphere gentler. The Wellstone Academy also has space in the building. This program is for immigrant youth 17–21 and offers English language learner (ELL) classes as well as core classes taught in English. These two new programs are separate from the RHS programs, which include health, auto, and digital media magnets and other courses.

Gilman noted that the Minneapolis School District faces a large deficit, which affects each school’s budget. After seven years of budget cuts, he says, there is nothing left to trim. Enrollment at the high school level decreased 2.7% this year, as feeder schools got smaller. The district is rethinking where to put programs and whether to consolidate them. With the help of a grant, RHS is putting public relations messages on billboards and transit shelters to attract back students who left for private or charter schools.

The next neighborhood meeting is Tues., Apr. 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the high school.

## New Group Working to Improve Cedar Avenue

by Ann King, Standish Resident



Neighbors Reclaiming Cedar Avenue

Cedar Avenue United (CAU), a grassroots organization that started last September, wants to make Cedar

Ave. safer and more liveable. The avenue, which is a county road, runs from Franklin Ave. on the north to the Crosstown freeway on the south, passing through or forming the border between 11 Minneapolis neighborhoods. It is the western border of both the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods. Because it's an artery from the Crosstown into the city, its traffic is very heavy. According to the City of Minneapolis 10-year traffic plan, Cedar Ave. is over capacity. The high volume of traffic makes it not only a busy street but also a noisy one.

The neighbors who formed CAU are concerned about the noise, the speed, and the fact that many drivers see it as a thoroughfare, not as part of a neighborhood. Will Peterson, the organizer of the group, says that, between 42nd St. and 46th St. (which happens to be the border of the Ericsson Neighborhood), there are smaller trees and fewer of them beside the road, making it feel wider than it is. Also, when you start up from a green light, you can see the next green light. It's impossible to make that light—but many people try.

The members of CAU have discussed actions that would slow traffic, which would increase safety and also give drivers time to notice the several business nodes along the way. Some suggestions, such as making curb bumpouts, are long-term, but others can be done

more quickly, easily, and cost-effectively. One set of ideas has to do with giving the neighborhoods more identity—with banners, boulevard gardens, benches, bike racks, etc. As member Jeri Elsner says, "Things that catch your eye slow you down."

Another aspect of Cedar Ave. is that, south of 38th St., parking is allowed on both sides of the street, making it one driving lane wide on each side. However, there is no line to indicate the parking lane, so some drivers try to make two lanes, and people who park are not sure how much room they have. Crosswalks, only at lights, are four blocks apart, making it difficult to cross the street at some times of day, especially near neighborhood bus stops and parks or recreation areas.

CAU members, who come from each of the neighborhoods Cedar Ave. passes through, are proud that the avenue passes parks and historic places (such as the former fire station at 42nd St., which now houses HCM Architects). They want to make it easier for people to use the parks and to walk and bicycle along Cedar Ave.

The group knows that Cedar Ave. is an important entrance to downtown and members are not trying to make it simply a residential street, but they believe the traffic needs to be controlled. They plan to work with the county, the city, the neighborhoods, and Cedar Ave. businesses to produce a comprehensive plan for the avenue. They are looking for more members, especially people who have technical skills or knowledge. Anyone who is interested is welcome at the monthly meetings (Sibley Park, first Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.). CAU has an informative Web site (<http://cedaravenueunited.blogspot.com>) that contains the issues and ideas that members have discussed thus far.

## Spring Events at Roosevelt Library

4026 28th Ave. S., 630-6591, [www.hclib.org](http://www.hclib.org)

**Ongoing Events:** Toddler Thursdays, noon to 1:30 p.m. Toddlers! Bring your grown-ups to a special story time and play-date! First, shake your sillies out with stories and songs. Then, develop those parallel play skills at the sensory table. And, then, by goodness, go home and take a nap!

Family story time, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. For children ages 2 and up and their parents. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

**Tuesday Events:** For kids: LEGO® Mania! Apr. 7, 6:30 p.m. Get together with your friends and start building. Come back on Sat., Apr. 11, at 11:00 a.m. to finish your masterpiece. Judging will take place at noon. You could win a gift certificate to Legoland!

For kids: Music-Makers, May 5, 6:30 p.m. Learn how to make a music-maker and leave with a rhythm instrument all your own!

For teens: Mini-Comics Workshop, Apr. 28, at 3:15 p.m. Learn how to create your own eight-page comic book.

**Book Clubs:** Kids Jr. Book Club for kids in grades 2–3, Sat., Apr. 11, May 9 (2:00–3:00 p.m.). Register online or call the library. Pick up a copy of the book at the information desk.

Time Travelers Book Club for kids in grades 4–5, Sat., Apr. 18, May 16 (1:00–2:00 p.m.). Go back in time and learn about history by reading great chapter books! Register online or call the library. Pick up a copy of the book at the information desk.

Graphic Novel Book Club for teens, Tues., Apr. 14, May 12 (3:15 p.m.) at DreamHaven Bookstore. To register, call Lisa at 630-6591 or ask at the desk at Roosevelt.

## River-Lake Greenway Meeting

The River-Lake Greenway public meeting held on Feb. 4 at Roosevelt High School had a good turnout and spirited discussion. The meeting began with a review of a series of photo/drawing overlays representing the route. (The Greenway follows 40th St. from Highway 35W east to Nokomis Ave., then goes south two blocks to 42nd St., and stays on 42nd to West River Pkwy.) Don Pflaum, the city project engineer, gave a presentation on the current state of the project's plan. This was followed by audience questions, answers, and comments, both verbal and on feedback sheets. Concerns were raised about stop signs, traffic mitigation methods, the crossing of busy streets, the safety of crosswalk flashers, and a variety of other topics. The next steps in the process will be for the Greenway's community advisory committee to meet again, review all of the feedback that has been received, and try to improve the plan based on that feedback. The project's Web site is <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/riverlake>.

## Did You Know?

- Ashley Colema, owner/founder of Diva Rags (1832 E 42nd St.) has won a Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leadership Award from Council Member Elizabeth Glidden. She founded Diva Rags at the age of 15 and now, at 23, promotes a business model that incorporates community service and "giving back."
- Neil Thompson, whose law firm is on the corner of 38th St. E. and 23rd Ave. S., has won a Citizen of the Year award from Council Member Gary Schiff. Thompson discovered, while working at Walgreens as an undercover investigator, that the pharmacy chain was greatly overcharging Medicaid, which led to a federal lawsuit and eventually a large settlement.

# Neighborhood Feature

## From South Vietnam to South Minneapolis

by Judy Peacock, Standish Resident

I went to Trinh's Auto Repair on 38th Street to gather information for a business feature. Instead, I was drawn into the life story of Trinh's manager, Mua Doan.

Mua (pronounced *MOO-uh*) had been a helicopter mechanic for the South Vietnamese Air Force during the Vietnam War. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Mua, his wife, Tuyet, and their three small children were forced to flee from torture and oppression under the new communist government. Surviving by their wits, the family eventually became part of the mass exodus known as the "Vietnamese boat people." The family spent a harrowing two weeks at sea in an overcrowded boat before reaching safety in Malaysia. They lived for a year in a refugee camp, while waiting to emigrate to the United States.

Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program arranged for Mua and his family to come to Minnesota. They arrived on March 12, 1980. Seven families in the Burnsville area helped the Doans find housing, get medical care, and learn their way around. The families also took turns babysitting the Doan children while Mua and Tuyet went to school and worked.



*Mua Doan repairing a brake*

Mua is a "fixer," says Bill Kones, one of the family's sponsors and a long-time friend. "He has a natural ability to fix things—washing machines, TVs, cars, anything—without having to consult a manual." Mua spoke no English when he came to this country. Nevertheless, he went from place to place on his own, somehow communicating his skills and getting odd jobs. He eventually made his way to Northwest Airlines, where he was employed as a ground mechanic.

Mua worked for Northwest for 23 years. He was laid off in 2002 as a result of the airline's economic downturn. A realtor friend put him in contact with Trinh's, where Mua, now age 60, works as business manager and mechanic.

Mua and Tuyet are proud of their family's accomplishments, which includes building their own house. They taught their children the importance of education and discipline. "In our family," says Mua, "the teacher was always higher than the parent." Today, their son Tuan is a product development engineer, son Tu is a pharmacist, and daughter Thanh is an account representative for a medical laboratory.

"My father is ambitious, hardworking, and honest," says Tuan. These days, Mua is finding that many financially strapped customers, when presented with the estimate to repair their cars, decide not to have the work done. He's seeing more and more bounced checks. Mua, however, seems not to worry. After all, he has survived much worse times.

*Trinh's Auto Repair,  
3753 28th Ave. S.*



## Events at Northrop

by Glenn Shoemaker, Teacher Naturalist

The Environmental Kids Club at Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center (4315 31st Ave. S.), which meets after school, and the Green Team made a snow shelter this winter called a "quinzee." It was modeled after traditional Inuit snow shelters and lasted for a few days before a thaw caved the roof in. Students piled snow in a mound, let it harden ("cinter"), and inserted rulers into the sides before digging out the interior. The rulers helped students gauge the width of the shelter wall. (10 inches is ideal.)

The after-school Service Learning Club has been making supplies for traditional Native American games. The supplies are being given to the school for future use as students learn about native culture in the Upper Midwest. Students made snow snakes, which are decorated wooden dowels that are tossed across the packed snow. The person whose snake slides the farthest wins. Students also fashioned gaming sticks out of tongue depressors and are currently making supplies for a tossing game that is a cross between soccer and lacrosse.

Northrop received a \$2,000 grant from SENA that will be used to plant native shrubs along the west side of the school, near where the minibuses load. A bench may also be installed. Students enrolled in the spring service learning class and Green Team members will help with the project.

Northrop is planning to participate in a composting/recycling project next fall that focuses on lunch waste. The district is working to secure grant money for participating schools. Students would

recycle most of their lunch food waste into bins that would be hauled away by Hennepin County to compost. Milk cartons would be included with the waste. In addition, many plastic items that are now thrown away would be recycled. Burroughs Community School and Lake Harriet School have food recycling programs in operation this year. Recently, Northrop students, staff, and parents visited Burroughs to view how the program works.

## Metro Paint-A-Thon Looking for Houses to Paint

Does the exterior of your house need painting? If so, you may qualify for a free house painting through Metro Paint-A-Thon, a program sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

To qualify, you must be 60 years old or older or have a permanent physical disability; own and live in the house you wish to have painted; and meet monthly household income guidelines. In addition, the house must be located in the seven-county metro area, and it must be a single-family home, structurally sound, and free of major repairs.

Homeowner applications are due May 8 and may be obtained by calling 721-8687 or by going online at [www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon](http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon). The 2009 Metro Paint-A-Thon will take place Aug. 1-2.



## News from the Midtown Farmers' Market

The Midtown Farmers' Market will open for the season on Sat., May 2, and continue to be open on Saturdays through Oct. 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For six seasons, the market has enjoyed use of school district property at 2225 E. Lake St., but the district has signaled that it will likely sell the property for redevelopment in 2009. A committed group of volunteers is working to ensure that the market remains at its current site indefinitely.

David Nicholson has accepted the market manager position. David's past work includes positions at Ames Farms, Peace Coffee, and Linden Hills Co-op.

The market will continue to accept food stamps (EBT) or VISA/MasterCard. Shoppers can obtain tokens at the visitor information tent and use them like cash throughout the market! The Midtown Farmers' Market is the first market in Minnesota to serve the community with this technology.

The market is a project of the Corcoran Neighborhood Association. For more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation, go to [www.midtownfarmersmarket.org](http://www.midtownfarmersmarket.org).

## Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival, August 5



This summer will be the 14th year for the Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival. This year's festival will be Wed., Aug. 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Lake Hiawatha Park (2701 E. 44th St.). Expect the return of the family fitness challenge, the talent contest, pony rides, moon walk, and other popular activities. Businesses are welcome to have display tables for a fee.

Volunteers are needed to help plan activities and line up vendors. If interested, send an e-mail to [lhfest@yahoo.com](mailto:lhfest@yahoo.com). Check the festival Web site ([www.lhrc.freesevers.com/festival.htm](http://www.lhrc.freesevers.com/festival.htm)) for up-to-date information on festival plans.

## NHS Clean-A-Thon, April 25

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) Annual Clean-A-Thon will be Sat., Apr. 25. This event, which is now in its seventh year, is an important fundraiser for the NHS program, as well as a key outreach into the local community. Teams of three to five volunteers arrive at registered seniors' homes and provide a thorough cleaning. The Clean-A-Thon is one more way NHS helps seniors to stay in the home they love. If you would like to be part of this spring-cleaning event, call 729-5499.

NHS sponsors monthly health programs for seniors. On Wed., Apr. 29, the program will be "Gardening for Spring," with Master Gardener Mary Tessman, and on Wed., May 27, the program will be "What Exercise Is Good for Me?" with Dori Brandon, YMCA senior exercise instructor. Programs are at Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.) at 1:30 p.m.



## Morris Park Players presents

### Oliver!

April 17, 18, 24, 25 and May 1 and 2, 7:30 p.m.  
April 26, 2:00 p.m. (audio described)

Folwell Middle School Auditorium  
3611 20th Ave. S.

Present this coupon at door for \$3 off the price of one regular admission

## Oliver! Coming to a Theater Near You!

Fun, affordable Broadway-style entertainment is closer than you think! This spring Morris Park Players will present the hit musical *Oliver!* at the Folwell Middle School Auditorium (3611 20th Ave. S.). Tickets cost only \$15 at the door. If you bring the coupon on this page, you'll receive \$3 off the price of one regular admission.

*Oliver!* is based on a Charles Dickens' novel about tough economic times in London. It has many familiar Broadway songs and won a Tony Award for Best Musical Score. Performance dates are Fridays and Saturdays, Apr. 17, 18, 24, and 25 and May 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., as well as Sunday, Apr. 26 at 2:00 p.m. The Sunday performance is audio described. Morris Park Players encourages theatergoers to bring school supplies for Folwell students to the show.



*Fiddler on the Roof, Morris Park Players Fall 2008 production*



*State Fair, Morris Park Players Fall 2007 production*



## SENA

Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association  
1830 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55407-3461

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## President's Corner

**Lea Johnson**

I live in a fantastic neighborhood. Not just because of the historic bungalow homes, Hiawatha Light Rail Line, and Lake Hiawatha and Lake Nokomis, but because of my amazing neighbors. I have many wonderful neighbors—far too many to write about here. So, as an example, I'm going to tell you about my neighbor Donna.

I first met Donna on a cold January morning many years ago. Over night, five blocks of garages along 25th Avenue—including mine—had been tagged. I was out there feeling discouraged and angry, trying to scrub the red paint off my white garage. Then, Donna came out and started scrubbing with me. Together, we scrubbed off my garage, my out-of-town neighbor's garage, and the garages of several elderly people on the block. As the morning progressed, my spirits were lifted.

Donna knows all about being neighborly. She does grocery shopping for elderly folks on the block and waters their gardens. She offers respite for parents by taking their young children on walks to the park. She talks to teens on their way home from Roosevelt and encourages them to be their very best.

Last year, Donna did something to create community in our neighborhood that is so amazingly simple—but has had extraordinary results: She installed a garden and patio in her front yard! Most summer days, you can find Donna working in her front garden. People walking by stop to talk and admire her perennials. She gives them the "tour" and offers cuttings. Most nights during the summer—rain or shine—you will find neighbors relaxing on Donna's front patio.

Donna is our block club leader and has been so for practically a decade. She takes the job seriously. When there are safety concerns, she works diligently to get information out to neighbors. She works tirelessly to make National Night Out (NNO) a great event. Approximately 100 people attend each year. These last few years, she has also facilitated a fall street party that draws over 75 people.

Donna has, in her own way, created a culture of community on our block. I think that because of her, we all expect a little more of ourselves as neighbors. As Ralph Nader said, "When strangers start acting like neighbors . . . communities are reinvigorated."

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