



SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 5, October/November 2010 • www.standish-ericsson.org

Purple Martin House at Lake Hiawatha

by Diana Doyle

Community to Vote on NRP Funds

The SENA Board is proposing a change (Plan Mod) to move approximately \$90,000 in inactive funds into the strategies that will provide support for our regular operating budget. This move will require support from the community, so **there will be a vote at the annual meeting**. Details of the Plan Mod can be obtained at the SENA Web site, www.standish-ericsson.org, or by calling the SENA office at 721-1601.

Although Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding is still available to continue serving our neighborhoods, SENA has expended the funds allocated for staff support, office maintenance, and community communications, including this newsletter. In order to bridge the gap through next year, a modification to the previous community-approved plans is necessary. The modified plan will allow SENA to maintain its annual operations and begin planning for new funding sources beginning in 2012.

The city's new Neighborhood Community Relations Department is in the process of creating a new program that will provide some funding for neighborhood organizations. These funding cycles are projected to start in 2012. SENA expects some transition funds for 2011, but the exact timeline and amount will be uncertain until later this year.

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Thanks to the support of the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association, a purple martin house was installed this summer along the shoreline restoration area of Lake Hiawatha in Minneapolis. Funding was also provided by the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club, with the support and assistance of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Hundreds of people walk, run, bike, roller-blade, or picnic by this location every day. Hopefully they will someday enjoy the sight of purple martins hawking insects over Lake Hiawatha.

Purple martins, our largest American swallow, are unique: they are the only songbird that is nearly completely dependent on human-supplied housing for reproduction. Native Americans fostered martin colonies in their campsites, hanging clusters of hollowed-out gourds. European settlers continued the tradition, installing gable-roofed martin houses at their farms near a lake or pond.

Purple martin houses, with their white multiunit houses mounted on tall poles, were once a common sight on Minnesota farms. But with fewer family farms, and the invasion of nonnative house sparrows, purple martin numbers have plummeted—down an alarming 78% since 1966. The population continues to decline 3.9% each year, according to the Audubon Breeding Bird Survey and the East Central Minnesota Purple Martin Recovery Project (www.purplemartinrecovery.org). For more information on martins, visit MNmartin.org.



Purple martin "apartment" house along the shore of Lake Hiawatha

— Continued on page 3 —

SENA's Annual Meeting, Wednesday, October 13

Join your neighbors at SENA's Annual Meeting on Wed., Oct. 13, at Lake Hiawatha Park Building (2701 E. 44th St.). Here's the agenda.

5:30–6:30 p.m. Sample food from neighborhood restaurants while you review information tables, meet old friends, and make some new ones.

6:30–7:45 p.m.

- Presentations on exciting neighborhood projects: Minnehaha/Hiawatha Corridor strategic development update; River-Lake Greenway; Save Our Courts—restoration of tennis courts at Lake Hiawatha Park; Southside Star Community Garden; West of the Rail Business Association
- Community vote on proposed modification of NRP dollars (**see the article on this page for more information**)
- Election of SENA Board members

7:45–8:30 p.m. More time to mingle, ask questions, and review information

Where Is It? (No. 24)



Where in our neighborhoods can you see large, bright umbrellas? The answer is on page 6.

West of the Rail Business Association

The West of the Rail Business Association and Longfellow Business Association (WRBA) will cohost a membership meeting on Thurs., Oct. 14 (1:00 to 2:00 p.m.), about the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit and the Affordable Care Act. It will be at the CWA Hall (3521 E. Lake St.). The Nov. 10 WRBA meeting will focus on creating business plans. Contact Shirley Yeoman (721-1601 or shirleyy@standish-ericsson.org) for more information.

Erratum: The August/September issue of *SENA News* incorrectly designated the acronym for the West of the Rail Business Association. The correct acronym is WRBA.

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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

October

- 1 Roosevelt High School (4029 28th Ave. S.) homecoming. Watch the parade (3:00 p.m.) in front of the school and the football game (5:00 p.m.) against Edison High School.
- 5 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 7 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. (See p. 6.)
- 9 Fall Art Festival, Word of Grace Baptist Church (2120 E. 38th St.), 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (See p. 4.)
- 11 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 13 SENA Annual Meeting, Lake Hiawatha Park building (2701 E. 44th St.), 5:30–8:30 p.m. (See p. 1.)
- 14 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.
- 16 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Fall Frolic, Bethel Lutheran Church, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (See below.)
- 19 Senior congregate dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 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: "Safety While on Vacation," Sue Roethele, CCP Safe Officer, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m.
- 28 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 30 Midtown Farmers' Market closes for the season
Family Halloween party at Minnehaha Falls Park (4801 Minnehaha Ave. S.), 2:00–4:00 p.m. (See p. 7.)

November

- 2 General Election Day. Get out and vote!
- 4 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. (See p. 6.)
- 8 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 9 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 11 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.
- 16 Senior congregate dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 17 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "Holiday Music," Burnsville High School Choir, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 23 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon

NHS Fall Frolic, October 16

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) will hold its Fall Frolic on Sat., Oct. 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.). There will be a silent auction, bingo, musical entertainment, a book sale, and door prizes. Fat Lorenzo's will provide the food.

All ages are welcome to this fun event. Tickets are \$7 for seniors, \$10 for adults, \$4 for children and students, and \$25 for a family of four (children under 12). Call the NHS office (724-3693) with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.



Nokomis Healthy Seniors summer hot dog sale, held at Bergan's Super Valu in August, raised over \$1,200 for services for area seniors.

Wally Sibell (seated), a long-time volunteer driver with NHS, relaxes at the hot dog sale with his family.



Bountiful First Season for Southside Star Community Garden

by Sam Ridenour



The garden, overflowing with tomatoes and other fine vegetables and flowers, was stop number 35 in the Parade of Community Gardens tour in August.

It starts with a seed. Dig a little hole and drop in the seed. Let sun, rain, and soil do their work, and eventually the seed will grow into something much bigger.

The same thing can happen with an idea, especially when people work together to help it grow. That's how a group of Standish-Ericsson residents transformed an idea and a barren field into a flourishing community garden.

After a year of hard work and planning, the group secured a site in the triangular lot along the light rail line in the 4100 block of 32nd Ave. S., and one chilly morning this past April, nearly two dozen people showed up to break ground on the new Southside Star Community Garden.

Less than five months later, Southside Star was a featured stop in the statewide Parade of Community Gardens, held Sat., Aug. 21, and a community gathering was hosted on-site to celebrate the culmination of a very successful first season. By then, 37 plots had been assigned, many to multiple users. Nearly 50 names were on the official list of gardeners, not including all the friends, neighbors, and family members who would come along to work and share in the bounty. Fifteen households were on the wait list. From the beginning, neighborhood response has been nothing short of enthusiastic.

During the celebration, neighbors swapped gardening stories and nibbled on homemade baked goods while several children ran and played on the periphery or sat at a table painting large rocks. A few gardeners continued working, pulling weeds and harvesting the fruits of their labor. All visitors at the celebration were encouraged to take home some red ripe tomatoes. The garden is "a very social thing," remarked Dana Tuss, one of the organizers. "I have a plot right along the sidewalk, and all the time people are walking by and stopping to talk."

Committee UPDATES

The Business, Development, and Transportation Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are held as needed for the Communications Committee, Newsletter Subcommittee, Graffiti Task Force, Housing Committee, and Quality of Life Committee. Call the office (721-1601) for more information.

Meetings are generally held at the SENA office, 1830 E. 42nd St.

Purple Martin House at Lake Hiawatha

— Continued from page 1 —

Unfortunately, with less housing available, purple martin numbers will only continue to decline. Over the centuries, this species has come to coexist with human settlements, becoming totally dependent on human-provided housing. It is now our responsibility to provide housing in order to preserve the species in Minnesota.

The purple martin house consists of 12 gourds, specially designed to deter nonnative species such as European starlings and house sparrows. The gourds will remain up into the early fall, in hopes of attracting migrating sub-adults on the lookout for available housing where they can start their own colony next spring. The nearest known active purple martin colony is at the Braemar Golf Course in Edina, about eight miles away. Keep your fingers crossed!

Minneapolis resident Diana Doyle contributes her time and knowledge to projects that help attract birds to the urban environment.

Harvest Time at the Market



The harvest was bountiful at the Midtown Farmers' Market (E. Lake St. and 22nd Ave. S.) in September. Patrons had plenty of choices of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, as well as crafts and prepared foods. Although the market season ends on Oct. 30, activity goes on through the winter. Director Amy Behrens (whose office is at the Corcoran Neighborhood Association but who is a new Standish resident) will spend the winter months planning next year's market. Her biggest job will be lining up the vendors, starting in January. The market staff tries to provide some new options each year. Midtown Farmers' Market will reopen in May 2011 at the same location.

Community Energy Services, a Residential Energy Program

by Judy Peacock

Last July, I attended a free workshop for Standish and Ericsson homeowners on ways to reduce home energy use and save money. The workshop was part of a program called Community Energy Services (CES), a joint project of the City of Minneapolis, the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), CenterPoint Energy, and Xcel Energy. After the presentation, I signed up for a home energy inspection.

A few days later, Tom and Kyle, the inspection team, arrived at my house. Tom checked out the insulation in my attic and did a blower door test to measure for air leaks. He lowered the temperature on my water heater and did a pipe wrap. Meanwhile, Kyle installed energy-efficient light bulbs throughout the house. He also installed a low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators, and a programmable thermostat.

My 100-year-old house did not do well on the blower door test. Kyle recommended ways to make my windows more airtight. The team's number one action item for me, however, was to replace my refrigerator (harvest gold, circa 1970) with an energy-efficient model. They also said to replace my dehumidifier (another ancient clunk).

Tom and Kyle had lots of energy-saving tips for me, as well as information on utility rebates, the federal tax credit, and financing available through CEE. They stayed for an hour and a half. Since their visit, I have also contacted CEE for advice on how to purchase a new furnace and central air.

I got all these materials and information for a co-pay of only \$30. If you missed out this summer, it's not too late to participate. Standish and Ericsson homeowners can attend these upcoming workshops: Thurs., Oct. 7, Window Open School (5821 Wentworth Ave. S.); Tues., Oct. 19, Ramsey Fine Arts School (1 W. 49th St.); and Wed., Nov. 10, Zion Lutheran Church (128 W. 33rd St.). All workshops begin at 6:30 p.m. To preregister or for more workshop dates, contact Ashley Robertson at 335-5869 or arobertson@mncee.org.

Waters Assisted Living Rises



Construction on The Waters of Minnehaha, an assisted-living facility at 3717 23rd Ave. S., rose quickly above the ground this summer. At the end of August, this façade faced 38th St.

Emergency Preparedness Drill



Police cars and safety vehicles gathered outside the Folwell Middle School building (3611 20th Ave. S.) on Aug. 11 during an emergency preparedness drill. Responders from city and state emergency departments, as well as from hospitals and other private groups, practiced how to handle a school attack. The mock attack started at 8:00 a.m., and streets surrounding the school were blocked off until about 1:00 p.m.

News from Roosevelt High School

Changing School Options, an initiative of the Minneapolis Public Schools, went into effect this fall. The initiative eliminated many of the bus routes that crossed the district's three zones. As a result, area residents are likely noticing fewer school buses at Roosevelt High School (4029 28th Ave. S.) in the mornings and afternoons and more students using public transportation.

Last spring, Roosevelt received authorization to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. The school now offers 15 IB courses to students. The IB Diploma Programme is an internationally recognized, academically challenging curriculum.

For the second consecutive year, Roosevelt received a Gold Wellness by Design School Award from Hennepin County's Human Services and Public Health Department. The award recognizes schools that demonstrate excellent health and safety practices.

Roosevelt teacher Molly McCarthy received a 2010 leadership award from the National Council of Teachers of English. Ms. McCarthy teaches in the school's digital media studies program.

Fall Art Festival, October 9

Word of Grace Baptist Church (2120 E. 38th St.) will hold a fall festival on Sat., Oct. 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will be outdoors, on the church's parking lot. There will be art, crafts, and other fun things for sale, as well as a bake sale, puppet making for kids, and lunch. All are welcome.

Business Feature

There Are a Lot of Monkeys in the World, but Only One Brushed Monkey

by Nykol Johnson



Brushed Monkey's Donnie Kimbler Olson

Brushed Monkey is not just another house-painting company—it is an artist collective. The artists in the group can paint anything from murals to sophisticated finishes with plaster and other materials. Brushed Monkey also stands out because of the passion and enthusiasm of its originator, Donnie Kimbler Olson.

Donnie—an artist who is renovation, repair, and painting (RRP) certified—has spent his career in the construction and hospitality industries. After working for a custom homebuilder in Ari-

zona, he moved back to Minnesota to be with, and eventually marry, his love, Denise. Brushed Monkey was born in 2007 when Donnie won a bid to paint a newly constructed home for professional basketball player Devean George.

Brushed Monkey is continually evolving. One example of this evolution is that in the beginning Brushed Monkey only painted interiors. After Donnie painted the exterior of his own home, requests began coming in from neighbors who wanted their houses painted.

As more artists join, the company will expand beyond painting and continue to evolve. The goal of Brushed Monkey is to make customers feel strong ties to and pride in a home that reflects their personality and vision, while offering creativity, value, and professional work. Donnie and the other artists work with homeowners to ensure that the end result is one the homeowner wants, not one that the artist envisions.

Currently, Brushed Monkey is booked about two to three weeks out for interior painting, but start in February to make your appointment for exterior painting. The artists have flexible schedules based on client need. They will send the artist with the best abilities to make your vision become a reality.

Brushed Monkey Artistic Painting Co.: 2419 E. 38th St.; www.brushedmonkey.com/index.html; (612) 803-1356; donnie@brushedmonkey.com

Lake Hiawatha Festival

Lake Hiawatha Park was bursting with activity on the evening of Aug. 4. Festival goers enjoyed games, pony rides, a giant water slide, face painting, music, food, and informational displays.

Winners of the talent show were Elodie Prew, first place; Lila Allgood, second place; and JoAnna Lynes, third place. Winners of the family fitness challenge were Matt and Alexy Timm, first place; Josh, Simon, Madelyn, and Anna Rendon, second place; and Dana, Audrey, Sophia, and Joe, third place.

The Festival Planning Committee would like to thank the park staff for working so hard to make this year's festival another amazing event. Thank you also to the volunteers who assisted at the festival, including Barbara Venovich, Sam Ridenour, and Ann King.



Neighborhood Feature

Purina Mill

by Judy Peacock



Purina Mill demolition, 2010

This past summer, a wrecking company began demolishing the Purina Mill complex at 38th St. and Hiawatha Ave. Abandoned in 2003, the buildings had become an eyesore, and people were glad to see them come down.

Besides proximity, Purina was significant to the family for another reason. Their beloved grandfather, Joseph Flanders, worked at the mill for over 20 years. The children recall seeing Grandpa Joe wave to them from his upper-floor window. During World War II, Mr. Flanders got permission to plant a “victory garden” in front of the mill, at the foot of a huge sorghum tank. By-products from plant production provided an excellent fertilizer. Grandpa Joe gave his mill-grown vegetables and dinner-plate-size dahlias to neighbors on Hiawatha Ave.

In the 1960s, houses along Hiawatha—including the Hafvensteins’ house—were demolished for a proposed highway expansion.

History of the Site

Purina was not the first mill on the southeastern corner of 38th St. and Hiawatha Ave. Clarx Milling Company, a whole-wheat flour mill, occupied the site from 1918 to 1921. Ralston Purina began operation in 1923. At first, the mill produced flour and cereal products. By the mid-1930s, it had converted the plant to a feed mill, most notably producing dog chow. In 1951, the mill reached peak capacity of 250 tons of feed per day.¹ Land O’ Lakes purchased the mill in 2001.²

The Hiawatha light rail has turned the Purina Mill site into a prime target for redevelopment. A mixed-income housing and retail development, called Longfellow Station, has been proposed for the site. As *SENA News* went to press, the future of that project was uncertain.

One Family’s View

The Hafvenstein family remembers when Purina was a thriving animal-feed manufacturing plant. They lived at 3904 Hiawatha Ave. (across the street from the mill), from the late-1930s to the early 1960s. Purina’s famous red-and-white checkerboard logo could be seen from their front yard.

As teens, the two older Hafvenstein brothers climbed a downspout at the mill to catch pigeons. For a time, one brother, Larry, was an office boy at Purina. He recalls that every Monday morning, Mr. Danforth, the president, would come on the intercom and lead the workers in a “moment of prayer.”

Mrs. Hafvenstein sewed several dresses for her daughters out of Purina feed bags. At that time, feed bags were made of wearable cloth and printed in beautifully flowered patterns. A dress for Barb required two feed bags while a dress for Millie, who was shorter, required only one.



Purina Mill, 1951. Photo by Norton & Peel, courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.



Purina Mill, 1928. Photo by Hibbard Studio, courtesy Minnesota Historical Society.

- 1 Eric Hart, *The Neighborhood by the Falls: A Look Back at Life in Longfellow* (Minneapolis: Longfellow Community Council, 2009), pp. 99–100.
- 2 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, June 19, 2001.

Senior Activities

Activities for seniors that occur on specific dates are listed in the calendar on page 2. The following are recurring social activities. (1) Creativity and Conversation, an art group for women, at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S., 724-3693) every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring whatever project you would like to work on. There will be coffee and treats and, of course, good conversation. (2) The Nurse Is In at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S., 724-3693) on Thursday mornings. Seniors can chat over coffee and cake, have a blood pressure check, or schedule a pedicure. (3) Tuesday Morning Ladies Social meets at Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St., 370-4954) at 9:30 a.m. Free! Come join the group to chat, have

some laughs, and enjoy great discussions over coffee and homemade treats. The group meets “downstairs” in the computer lab. (4) Congregate dining 12:00 noon Monday–Friday, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). Call 729-6668 two days ahead. \$3 donation requested.

Answer to Where Is It? (No. 24)

These umbrellas are outside Chris and Rob’s Chicago Taster’s Authority (3101 E. 42nd St.), waiting for hot dog and pizza eaters.

Roosevelt Library Events

Do you want to be more involved in your neighborhood library? Then join the Friends of Roosevelt Library group. Watch for information in the library (4026 28th Ave. S.) and on www.hclib.org.

Family Story Time. Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. For children age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Metal Tooling. Tues., Oct. 5, 2:00 p.m. For kids in grade 2 and up. Mexican artisans have created bright, bold tin ornaments for a long time. You will make your very own colorful tin-work piece to take home! Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Mexico Lindo Folk Dance. Thurs., Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. For kids in preschool and up. Enjoy Mexican folk dancing by local children and learn about the origin and significance of their dazzling dances and costumes!

Story Circle. Tuesdays, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30, 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. For teens in grade 9 and up and at all levels of reading. Join the circle and talk about life from many perspectives. The group will read a short story together and talk about it. Register online or call (952) 847-2700.

Mystery Book Club. Tuesdays, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m. Join other adults at Roosevelt Library to discuss the best mysteries out there. To sign up, call Robin at 722-2763 or e-mail Francie at bjbug@comcast.net.

Roosevelt Library is open 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Events at the Parks

Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.; 370-4930; lakehiawatha@minneapolisparcs.org)

For Preschoolers. Ms. Jenny's Little Lakers is a curriculum play-based preschool program that is new to Lake Hiawatha! Our preschool teacher Ms. Jenny has a degree in early childhood education and has been teaching for 25 years. Your child will spend the year exploring science, math, reading, the environment, and the arts. All children need a lunch and drink every day and must be able to use the bathroom independently. Choose between Mondays and Tuesdays (October, \$105; November, \$120) or Wednesdays and Thursdays (October, \$105; November, \$90). All classes are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Baby and Me Music. Inspire a love of music in your young child through song, finger plays, movement, and instrument play. Activities are geared toward children 3 and under, but older siblings are welcome to attend. Leader Angelica Mortensen has been engaging children in creative play for 20 years. Classes are Fridays, Oct. 8 to Nov. 11 (9:30–10:15 a.m.); cost \$40. They are for ages 0–3 with an adult.

For Children: Trash to Treasure. Come turn everyday trash and household items into your own treasures to take home. Each week, we will use a different common household or recyclable item for our arts and crafts project. A snack will be provided. This is a *free* class made possible by contributions from the neighborhood. It is for ages 6–12 and runs Mondays from Oct. 25 to Nov. 22 (6:00–7:30 p.m.).

For Adults: Where to Go Green. Join us for an hour (Wed., Oct. 27, 7:00–8:00 p.m.) as we discuss the best eco-friendly updates for your home—and your wallet. Learn about the impact that sustainable updates have on the equity in your home, its potential resale value, and your monthly utility costs—as well as having the comfort and joy of a greener home! This is a free class.

Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St., 370-4954; sibley@minneapolisparcs.org)

Senior Luncheons. Join friends old and new for a delicious lunch and socializing. Park Director Brian and his faithful staff will prepare lunch for everyone. Call to be put on the mailing list for upcoming trips and luncheon menus. Cost: \$5, pay when you come, but call ahead to reserve your seat. Luncheons are at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 5 and Nov. 9. (The November luncheon is a week later than usual because Nov. 2 is Election Day and Sibley is a voting site.)

Preschool. The preschool programs are changing days! Now there are four-hour-long sessions! Your preschooler will get to enjoy music, letters/numbers/shape recognition, storytelling, creative movement, art projects, playground time, and more. Join Diane for a great opportunity for your preschooler! For more details, call Diane at the park.

Rainbow Kids, 3–4 years, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., now Mondays and Fridays. Session 1 (currently under way) runs until Oct. 29; Session 2 is Nov. 1 to Dec. 31.

Busy Bees, 4–5 years, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sessions are monthly, with beginning dates of Oct. 5 and Nov. 2.

Winter Sports for Ages 6–15. For volleyball, register in October, with games in November through mid-December. For basketball and hockey, register in October, practice in late November through December, with games beginning in January. Players must register at Sibley Park. Volunteer coaches are needed! Apply with Brian.

For Both Parks

Come to a Halloween party at Minnehaha Falls Park (4801 Minnehaha Ave. S.) on Sat., Oct. 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Check out the flyer at the parks!

Budget/holiday closure dates for the Sibley Park building and staff are Oct. 11 and Nov. 11–13 and 22–27. For Lake Hiawatha Park, they are Oct. 4 and 11 and Nov. 11 and 25–29.



SENA

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President's Corner

Tom Evers



Remember the 1996 presidential campaign? In hindsight, it seems like a benign political climate compared to today. What I remember most from that summer was President Bill Clinton and Senator Bob Dole engaged in a heated contest over who could use the analogy "Bridge to the Future" more often and more absurdly than the other. Although the rhetoric was at times odd and cumbersome, the point was not. They implored Americans to consider how America was going to address the challenges of the future.

I want to resurrect that old idiom and use it to describe SENA's work next year. In order to remain relevant and effective in years to come, we need to spend next year as if it were a bridge to the future—reestablishing our priorities and reorganizing to meet the new challenges of the next decade.

This effort is prompted by a change in our funding that will be better defined by the end of this year and made available beginning in 2012. As Minneapolis begins to roll out its funding plan for local neighborhood associations, SENA has a responsibility to adapt and develop new strategies to shape the future for our neighborhoods. We have an opportunity as a community—homeowners, renters, tenants, business owners, employees, and customers alike—to envision what we want our neighborhood to be and design the path to get there.

After serving on the SENA Board for the past five years, I can safely say that there is never a shortage of issues important to

our neighborhood. Many priorities fall within the categories of public safety and community vitality, but our work is as diverse as the perspectives we each bring. SENA must develop a plan of action involving volunteers and staff to ensure that the community we love today remains healthy, safe, and vibrant.

So I have two simple questions for each of you reading this: How can SENA best serve the neighborhood in the coming three to five years? What are you willing and able to do to help us succeed?

You can tell us your answers on Wed., Oct. 13, at Hiawatha Park. Please join us at our annual meeting, meet your neighbors, enjoy food and beverages provided by local businesses, and stay to hear about what has been accomplished recently. And even more importantly, volunteer to help shape a vision for the future.

Your Vote Is Needed

People attending SENA's annual meeting on Oct. 13 will vote on an important budget adjustment to keep the office and the newsletter going next year. See details on page 1.