



SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 6, December 2008/January 2009 • www.standish-ericsson.org

2008–2009 SENA Board of Directors



The newly elected SENA Board of Directors is (left to right) John Pignatello, Tom Evers, Deanna Croes, Jen Newberg, Lea Johnson, Maggie Dykes, Sam Newberg, and John Saunders. (Not pictured: Jessica Hill, Bob Johnrow, Jeff Smith, and Joel Zylstra.) Board members are standing in front of SENA's 10th-anniversary banner.



Morris Park Players to Present an Original Holiday Musical

If the kids from the musical *Annie* got caught up with the gangsters from *Guys and Dolls* during Christmas, the result might look something like *The Skid Row Kids Save Christmas!* Morris Park Players will perform this locally written, high-energy musical comedy on Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Folwell Middle School (3611 20th Ave. S.). The show's writers, Minrod and Shirley Mier, also direct the fun, full-length musical, which features a dozen original songs. Tickets are available at the door. Donations of school supplies are collected for Folwell students at each performance. For more information on tickets, shows, or volunteering, visit www.morrisparkplayers.com.

"The Listening Vessel" Comes to Lake Hiawatha Park



The Listening Vessel.

A big stone parabola carved by artist Craig David and his apprentice Nick Blahna was installed just west of the Lake Hiawatha Park building (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) in early November. David won a City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places award last year to make this piece. He designed the sculpture so that it will amplify the sounds of the lake and the surrounding environment. Visitors can sit inside the stone's curve and listen to the natural and created sounds around them.



Inger Stenseth, Ericsson resident, tried out the listening area.

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The stone, which is rainbow granite from a Minnesota quarry, weighs 9,500 pounds. It took the two men six months to hollow out the listening area and carve the outside of the sculpture into shapes that suggest animals. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board hopes that it will come to be a "destination spot" for visitors and residents. A dedication ceremony will be held in the spring.

Students Participate in 2008 Federal Duck Stamp Activities

A duck painting by selected 5th and 6th grade students at Friendship Academy of Fine Arts (2600 E. 38th St.), a Minneapolis charter school, was displayed on the grounds of the Bloomington Art Center as part of the activities in connection with the 2008 national Duck Stamp Contest. The 4 × 5 ft. acrylic painting on plywood was designed and painted by the students and then exhibited outdoors from late September to mid-October, along with paintings by civic groups, individuals, and other schools. Their proud schoolmates took a field trip to see the exhibit. The 2008 contest was held in Minnesota for the first time.

Friendship Academy is hosting four artists-in-residence this school year, in the fields of poetry and spoken word, storytelling, writing literature, and theater. The four artists from the Givens Foundation come three or four days a week and work in various classes as part of the ongoing art instruction. In November, students presented a program to showcase their work to parents and the community.

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

Community Events Calendar

Roosevelt Community 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.

December 2008

- 2 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 4 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon (See p.7.)
- 4-6 Morris Park Players, *The Skid Row Kids Save Christmas!* Folwell Middle School (3611 20th Ave. S.), 7:30 p.m. (See p. 1.)
- 8 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 11 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 11-13 Morris Park Players, *The Skid Row Kids Save Christmas!* (See p. 1.)
- 13 Winter Fun Days, Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.), 1:00-4:00 p.m. (See p. 8.)
- 16 Senior congregate dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 17 Winter Snow Ball, Lake Hiawatha Park, 5:30-7:00 p.m. (See p. 8.)
- 20 Winter Fun Days, Lake Hiawatha Park, 1:00-4:00 p.m. (See p. 8.)
- 23 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon

January 2009

- 6 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 8 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 12 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 20 Senior congregate dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 23 Applications due for Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour (See p. 4.)
- 27 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
Roosevelt High School Neighborhood Meeting (4029 28th Ave. S.), 6:30 p.m. (See p. 8.)
- 29 Caregiver Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 31 Sno Daze, Sibley Park, 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon. (See p. 8.)

Neighbor to Neighbor

- Liz M. would like to send a thank you to her next-door neighbor Greg K. for helping with her rear windshield after someone shattered it.
- M. Hanson observed a man standing in the middle of 34th Ave. at the intersection of 54th St. He was alerting traffic to wait for a disabled man in a wheelchair who was crossing 34th. She says thank you to the unknown man.
- Todd and Christine, who recently moved into the 4200 block of Standish Ave., thank the generous neighbor who left a green push mower in their backyard so they could take care of their lawn.
- Thank you from a neighborhood blogger to resident Steven Clift, manager of the Standish-Ericsson Neighbors Forum (<http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/mpls-staneric>). Steven always encourages bloggers to give opinions on local favorites and happenings. Recently he initiated a daffodil bulb planting effort to make our neighborhoods more beautiful come spring. Each person who purchased bulbs got extra bulbs to share or plant in a public place.
- Kari B. would like to thank her neighbor, Ann K., for planting and caring for the beautiful flower garden in the boulevard in front of her house this spring and summer. Kari's daughter was born on Earth Day, right about the time of planting and spring yard work. Needless to say, her hands were full of baby blankets, burp rags, and, of course, the little one. The flowers brightened the view from Kari's front door all summer long. Ann, thanks for making what would have been a pile of dirt and weeds a beautiful sight on our block!

If you would like to recognize the thoughtfulness of a neighbor, send an e-mail with your "thank you" to office@standish-ericsson.org with "Thank You" in the subject line.

Meet Your New SENA Board Members

Four new board members were elected at the SENA Annual Meeting in September. A photo of board members is on page 1.

Deanna Croes is a 14-year resident of the Ericsson Neighborhood and has been active with SENA for much of that time. She served as a member of the former People and Community Action Group and the former Parks and Environment Action Group. After an absence of several years, she was encouraged to rejoin the board. Deanna works in pharmaceutical clinical research as a project manager.

Margaret (Maggie) Dykes and her husband have lived in the Standish Neighborhood for four years. Maggie has been co-chair of the SENA Development Review Committee for three and a half years. A south metro city planner, she has long been actively involved in a variety of organizations dedicated to the advancement of good city planning. Maggie says, "I'm excited about the great businesses and residents that have moved into our neighborhood, and I think we have amazing opportunities for our future. I hope by serving on the board, I'll be able to help the neighborhood retain its vitality and continue its growth."

Jessica Hill has been a resident of the Standish Neighborhood for six years. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and currently works for the Metropolitan Council on the Central Corridor to connect with the Hiawatha light rail line. Jessica is the block club leader for her block.

Jennifer (Jen) Newberg is an original Wisconsinite who has found her Home (with a capital H) on 29th Avenue in the Standish Neighborhood. She is the annual fund director with the Animal Humane Society, spouse of Sam Newberg (another SENA Board member), and mom of 2-year-old Ellis. Jen says, "I bring to the board a genuine interest in our neighborhood, a strategic mind, and 10 years of nonprofit work experience."

SENA Online Business Directory

At SENA's Annual Meeting, a young woman (new to the neighborhood) commented that she'd like to patronize local businesses but didn't know what businesses are available. A neighborhood business directory would be helpful, she suggested. Well, guess what! There is a directory of businesses in the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods.

SENA's online business directory (www.standish-ericsson.org/businesses) lists approximately 200 local shops and services. You can find restaurants, grocery stores, hair stylists, tax accountants, clothing stores, auto repair shops, and much, much more—all within walking distance of your home. The directory is updated regularly. Check it out!

SENA Says Thank You

SENA's Annual Meeting in September was a great success thanks to –

- businesses that donated items — Grande Ole Creamery (ice cream), Caribou Coffee (coffee, creamer, cups, etc.), Dave's Popcorn (popcorn), Bergan's Supervalu (miscellaneous extra items).
- Don Fitzwater and his friend, who played music before the meeting.
- Lake Hiawatha Park for use of the building and help from the staff.

Action Groups & Committee

UPDATES

Housing Action Group (4th Monday)

- We have worked out the parameters for a \$100,000 deferred loan program for spring 2009. The program will be very similar to past programs, with an adjustment only in the required loan-to-value ratio. Watch for information about the program in the February/March 2009 edition of *SENA News*.

Quality of Life Action Group (1st Monday)

- We decided on guidelines for a School/Community Collaboration Grant and will offer these programs to the area schools this December. A community action committee is looking at options for storm water removal and retention for the area around E. 43rd and 44th streets and 19th Ave. S. Around a dozen or so neighbors are serving on this committee, as is Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy. The committee will come up with recommendations for the Minneapolis City Council.

Transportation Action Group (Meets as Needed)

- Our bike rack project will move forward again in the spring, which means we currently don't have ongoing business to conduct. We've decided to meet only when there are agenda items we need to address. Rob Atkinson will continue to represent the group on the River-Lake Greenway Community Action Committee.

Development Review Committee (Meets as Needed)

- The mission of our committee is to produce guidelines for use in future development in the neighborhood. We consider issues pertaining to architectural style, size/scale, streetscape, existing businesses, and appropriate urban design.

Graffiti Task Force (3rd Tuesday)

- We would like to thank all of the volunteers who painted the mini-murals for the Hennepin Overland Train Museum. Half of the murals are logos of retired train lines that used to serve Minneapolis. The other half are train-themed paintings. Neighbor Don Olson, owner of Brushed Monkey painting service, painted the building at a significant discount to the neighborhood association.

Grant-Writer's Group (Meets as Needed)

- Members of our group work individually or in subgroups on specific grant applications. The entire group only meets occasionally. If you have grant-writing or program development skills, we would appreciate your expertise. Contact Shirley at the SENA office for more information.

Web Site Committee (4th Tuesday)

- The committee continues to monitor the Web site and review ways to improve and update it. Please visit the site at www.standish-ericsson.org. We would love to have more members who have Web design and maintenance skills.

All meetings take place at the SENA office.
Please call the office (721-1601) to confirm meeting times.

SENA Volunteers—The People Who Make Things Happen

Thanks to all of you who contributed your time, energy, care, and concern over the past year. Where would we be without you!

Maria Arboleda	Bob Lemoine
Robert Atkinson	Nathan Lind
Glenn Austin	Judi Linder
Matt Bakker	Doug Lone*
Phil Behrend	Ann Mason
Lisa Beller	Jay Mastrud
Sue Bittner	Erik Mitchell*
Joyce Boettcher	Mike Moran
Laura Burlis	Bonnie Nelson
Charles Carlson	Sam Newberg*
Dan Cooke	Ryan North
Deanna Croes	Ann Novitske
Maggie Dykes	Dan Olson
Barb Earley	Doris Overby*
Mary Esjornson	Judy Peacock
Tom Evers*	John Pignatello*
Sheila Fehler	Peter Racer
Bill Fietzer	Molly Rolfsmeier
Susan Fitzwater	Steve Roos
Dan Flo	Jodi Sarles
Geoff Garton	Rachel Sarto
Jeff Gerhardson	Nathan Saul
Dan Goodman	John Saunders*
Tori Hansing Mandal*	Francy Scurato
Melanie Helvig	Jeff Smith*
Emily Hennemann	Heidi Sonstebly-Naughton
Ed Hoch	Doug Souza DeSanto
Bob Johndrow*	Cecilia Thompson
Lea Johnson*	Vince Tuss
Zach Jorgensen	Natalie Wass
Kurt Kimber	Bob Weber
Ann King	Andrew Zimmer
Bella Leathers	Joel Zylstra*
Graham Leathers	

*SENA Board members

2009 Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour Applications

The 2009 Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour is looking for homeowners and home-improvement professionals who would like to have their homes on the tour. The tour, in its 22nd year, will be held Sat. and Sun., Apr. 25 and 26. Nominations and applications are due Fri., Jan. 23, and early inquiries are encouraged.

Homeowners enjoy being part of the tour because, as one of last year's participants said, "It is an amazing ego boost" and because sometimes it gives them a goal for finishing a project. Community leaders can help promote their neighborhoods by identifying well-kept and remodeled homes and encouraging them to join.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) manages the tour as a celebration of city living that encourages homeowners to improve existing housing stock. Many organizations and businesses sponsor the tour. Contractors and other vendors may nominate homes they have worked on. They are encouraged to call for more information. Green, energy-efficient, and historically sensitive remodels and expansions get special notice.

For more information, call Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 673-5103 or e-mail her at link@nrp.org. The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.com; look under "nominate."

Green Holiday Giving

Are you an environmentally conscious person looking for green holiday gift-giving ideas? The following suggestions were found at: <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/25-great-consumer-less-gift-ideas.html>.

They are wonderful, simple gift ideas that benefit not only the recipient but also other organizations and the environment.

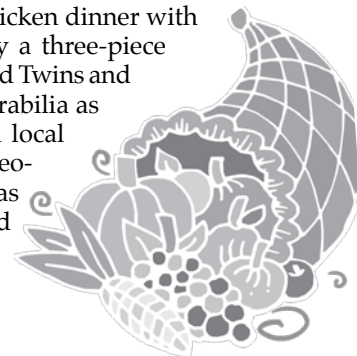
Give a gift of yourself or your time. Make homemade bread or other baked goods and deliver them. Collect family recipes and put them into a recipe box or a three-ring binder. Make one dinner a week for a month—deliver it or invite the recipient to your home for the meal. Offer baby-sitting time. Offer a monthly lunch date with a relative or friend. Offer free lessons in a sport you enjoy. Weed a friend or neighbor's garden. Offer your talents, such as photography, financial planning, or hairstyling. Offer yourself as a worker for a day. Put together a photo album or memory book. Make a video of people the recipient loves. Offer to do a chore for a month that a family member dislikes.

Give a gift that isn't just merchandise. Give tickets—to concerts, sporting events, theater, etc. Give a pair of weekend tickets to a local ski area or get-away. Give some of your frequent flyer miles. Give a pass or membership to a local museum or art institute. Provide a gift certificate for a lesson (tennis, swimming, drums, for example). Provide a gift certificate for a massage or hair salon service. Provide a gift certificate for a dinner for two. Donate something in the recipient's name to something the person is interested in (such as the Midtown Farmers' Market or other nonprofit organization). Give a gift certificate to a used book store. Give a plant or a tree. If you have extra personal time at work, donate it to a co-worker who is dealing with illness or stress.

Give a gift for the earth. Give a membership to a nonprofit organization working to protect the Earth's ecosystem or solve other social issues. Not only do you enrich the life of the person to whom you give the gift but also you help organizations that are trying to make a difference.

Fall Frolic a Success!

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) held its first "Fall Frolic" on Oct. 25 at Bethel Lutheran Church. Almost 200 people attended the event and helped NHS raise over \$2,000. The event featured a delicious chicken dinner with all the fixings, live music by a three-piece band, and a raffle that included Twins and Vikings signed sports memorabilia as well as gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses. People also enjoyed games such as bingo and an old-fashioned cakewalk.



Community Stakeholders Offer More Insights for Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor

By Robb Luckow, Hennepin County Community Works

In May 2008, Hennepin County Community Works launched a two-year effort to develop a Strategic Development Framework for the Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor to guide county, city, and other revitalization investments. Decisions about such investments will be made in close collaboration with stakeholders.

Members of the Community Advisory Committee for this project have been listening to what people have to say through a variety of input opportunities. Information about this project, all input to date, and a Web-based survey are available at www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com.

On a beautiful day at the end of September, more than 100 visitors to the Midtown Farmers' Market offered their ideas to members of the Community Advisory Committee and consulting team. The visitors varied by age, race, and neighborhood, and all responded to the question, "What kinds of improvements do you think would create a more vibrant community and increase your quality of life?" A number of respondents arrived at the market by bicycle or on foot and thus had a lot to say about more and better-connected bikeways and walking paths; they also concurred with previous participants about Hiawatha now being difficult and often unsafe to cross.

Many also were interested in multifamily housing and more active and passive parks and green space. They stressed better landscaping and more community gardens and trees and, in one case, suggested using green space to create a "bold redefinition of what is happening here." Market visitors encouraged more opportunities that would appeal to children and teens; more local businesses to attract community residents and workers; active beautification to clean up graffiti, aesthetically integrate industrial areas, and better maintain industrial and commercial sites; and additional murals, banners, benches, and sculptures to highlight and define the community. A number also offered entertainment ideas, including an outdoor movie theater, water park, climbing walls, ice rinks, mini-golf, and other options for community members of all ages.

Members of the Bethany Lutheran Church adult forum also offered their input in late September, highlighting their concerns about crossing Hiawatha not only for themselves but also for high school students. And even though most participants were retired seniors who had the option to travel outside of rush hours, they nonetheless experienced the same frustrations expressed by others and the sense of being forced onto Minnehaha to get anywhere. They appreciated the LRT but insisted on more and safer off-street parking that would keep cars out of neighborhoods.



Bethany Lutheran Church Adult Forum

Participants also recommended highlighting the rich history of the area through information and options such as audio tours along the entire LRT line. Many wanted more green space including "quiet oases," improved lighting to make it safer and less industrial-looking, cleaned-up graffiti and scrap yards, and more vibrant, local businesses with improved "curb appeal" to create an "upscale" gateway to downtown. They were also well aware of the need to meet the needs of all residents, and recommended opportunities for teens that would provide local alternatives to the Mall of America and downtown.

In mid-November, the Community Advisory Committee and Longfellow Community Council hosted a major community forum at Sanford Middle School. This evening event was open-house style, where visitors could learn about information and input gathered to date and offer their own ideas on improving the quality of life in the corridor. The forum included stations covering mobility; land use and physical resources; environment and natural resources; cultural resources, heritage, arts, and entertainment; economic development; and livability and community image. In separate rooms, county consultants presented results of concurrent studies on the railroad corridor, area retail and industry, and corridor culture and history. There were also activities for children to put their creativity to work. We welcomed more than 100 community members and several elected officials who came to both listen and contribute as the county continues to gather community perspectives to guide investments in the corridor.



Participants at the community forum at Sanford Middle School gathered around one of the many displays.

As always, the Community Advisory Committee and project team welcome your input and ideas via the Web page and



Forum participants added their own suggestions and comments.

future community input sessions. Visit www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com to see all the input received to date as well as current studies and links to past studies, or contact the Hennepin County project manager, Robb Luckow, at 348-9344 or robb.luckow@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Date submitted	
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Type of Work	
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Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association
Contractor / Tradesperson Referral Form

Please help us update our **Contractor Referral Book**. Your completed form will be available at the SENA office for residents and/or business owners contemplating repairs.

Neighborhood home/business owners who have had work performed by a contractor are asked to fill out this form to acknowledge those contractors who have done a good job and, conversely, to advise other residents/business owners about contractors who have not performed well.

Please take a moment to complete this form. You can mail the completed form to: **SENA, 1830 East 42nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407** or drop it by the SENA office. You can also find the form on our website at <http://standish-ericsson.org/get-involved/contractor.htm>. If you have any questions, call the SENA office at 721-1601. Thanks!!!

Commercial: _____	Residential: _____
Date(s) work performed:	
CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Contact Person:	
Would you recommend this contractor to a friend?	

Please assign a value on a scale of 1 to 5 to the following:
 (1 = poor, 2 = below average, 3 = average, 4 = above average, 5 = excellent)

1	2	3	4	5	Please rate each statement by checking a box.
					The printed contract was clear, concise, and easy to understand.
					Quality of materials used.
					Quality of workmanship.
					Contractor's employees were courteous and respectful.
					Contractor began / finished as promised.
					Cleanliness of the job site after completion.
					Warranty or follow-up work completed.
					Overall satisfaction with contractor and job performed.

Comments:

Your Name (required):	
Neighbors with questions can contact me:	_____ Yes _____ No
If yes, include phone or e-mail:	

Neighborhood Feature

Ralph Dokken: Good Neighbor for 42 Years

by Judy Peacock, Standish Resident

Late last summer, Ralph Dokken, longtime proprietor of Dokken's Superette, retired from the grocery business. Although not exactly on the corner, Dokken's Superette represents the iconic American corner grocery store.

Small-Town Feeling

Dokken bought the small store at 2809 E. 42nd St. in 1966.* He was 39 years old and had previously been a Navy pilot, bookkeeper, and distributor of Schweigert's meat products.

Dokken was drawn to the corner of 42nd St. and 28th Ave. because of the variety of businesses and the small-town feeling. "It was like being in Mayberry," said Dokken, referring to the fictional town in the popular 1960s sitcom *The Andy Griffith Show*.

Scott's Drugstore was on the southwest corner (where A Baker's Wife is today) and there was a gas station on the northwest corner (where Flanery's is now located). Bill St. Mane's Sporting Goods, Buzz's Barber Shop, and Lake Inn (now Buster's) were already established when Dokken moved in. A butcher shop and bakery were located across 42nd St.

After renting for 20 years, Dokken purchased the building in 1985. The building, which he continues to own, has three rental units (presently occupied by an accounting firm, office space for St. Mane's, and one vacancy).

Family Business

Dokken operated his grocery store as a family business. At one time or another over the years, his wife, Gladys, and each of their six children worked in the store. Son Steve became a co-owner.



Dokken's employed people from the neighborhood, too. High school kids did odd jobs. Donna Tanner, who lives up the alley from the store, began working there in 1967. She continues to come into the store on Tuesdays and Thursdays to order candy and restock the candy counter.

Convenience

Dokken's provided the neighborhood with quick access to grocery staples. It was literally possible "to run to the store" for a quart of milk and a loaf of bread. Grocer Dokken had fresh produce available as well. After he discontinued his meat counter (the butcher died), Dokken continued to supply his customers with hamburger (purchased from Everett's on 38th St.) for the weekend.

Roosevelt students only had two blocks to go at noontime to purchase pop and sandwiches. Dokken recalls seeing Jim Janos (later to become Gov. Jesse Ventura) in the student crowd.

Friendly Service

A pleasant, friendly man, Dokken knew most of his customers by name. He never bothered with credit cards but instead allowed regular customers to run a tab. The trust was mutual. Upon learning of his retirement, one woman recalled that when she was a little girl her grandmother sent her to Dokken's with a shopping list and a blank check.

Now 80-plus years old, Dokken hasn't yet settled into retirement. He says he has too many loose ends to tie up.

"He's a very nice man," says the grocery's new owner Amr Elsewehy. "He drops by every morning to help with the milk order." When asked if he planned to change the store's name, Elsewehy replied, "Oh, no! The name *Dokken* is good advertising in this neighborhood!"

**Neighborhood historians might like to know that the store was called Enroth-Johnson when Dokken purchased it. Business partners Enroth, the grocer, and Johnson, the produce manager, operated the store from 1950 to 1964. Their meat counter was known as "Jack's Meats."*

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) 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. (2) Congregate dining 12:00 noon Monday-Friday, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). Call 729-6668 two days ahead. \$3 donation requested. (3) Seniors Card Club at the Hiawatha YMCA (4100 28th Ave. S., 729-7397), every Monday (12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.). Call Dori Brandon (728-7626) for more information. (4) Crafty Ladies at Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St., 370-4954) on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Knitting, crocheting, and all types of crafts items are worked on. Bring your craft ideas and join in. (5) Coffee, Cards, and Conversation at Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.), Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



RHS Students Awarded Prestigious Scholarships

Driving by Roosevelt High School this fall, you may have seen the maroon-and-gold banner proclaiming "Roosevelt High School Is Proud of Its 3 Millennium Scholars" and wondered what this was all about. The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, established in 1999, was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential.

In 2008, the GMS Program chose 18 students in Minnesota to receive scholarships. The fact that three of these recipients are from Roosevelt speaks well for the school's programs. The Roosevelt Millennium scholars are Omar Bile, Rahmo Omar, and Kiana Williams. These students—participants in the school's health careers program—will receive funds for the cost of tuition, fees, books, and living expenses for each year of their educational careers, including graduate school!

Events at the Parks

Sibley Park (1900 E. 40th St., 370-4954)

Winter program registration begins Mon., Dec. 8, at 6:00 p.m. at all recreation centers in Minneapolis. You can check out all city park programs online at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Kids, sign up for winter release-day trips. Check out the flyer at the park or call for more details.

Senior luncheons will be held on Dec. 2 and Jan. 6 at 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$5. Call the week before to reserve a space.

Basketball and hockey registration opens in December; games begin in January for both sports. Grades K–9 teams are available.

The volunteer athletic council (SIBAC) is looking for more volunteers to help with Sibley sports. Make a difference in your community and volunteer. Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Sibley. Call the park for more information.

Sno Daze, Sibley's big winter event, will be Sat., Jan. 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Enjoy hockey games, a medallion hunt, sledding, snowman building, ice skating, breakfast, a coloring contest, games, and much more family fun.

The ice rink and warming room hours will be posted by Dec. 1. Come enjoy the Sibley winter wonderland on ice. A limited number of skates are available for free use.

RecPlus school-age child care has openings before and after school for K–6th grade. Please call Becky for more details.

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

Winter Fun Days will be held on Sat., Dec. 13 and 20 (1:00–4:00 p.m.) for kids ages 6–13. Come and join the activities, which include making cookies, doing arts and crafts, and watching movies. The cost is \$6 per child.

On Wed., Dec. 17, a Winter Snow Ball will be held for kids ages 3–7 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Cost: \$5 per child.)

Adult yoga classes are offered on Saturdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (\$5 per session). You can drop in at any time to join.

Where Is It? (No. 13)

Where can you see lovely sunsets like this one?
The answer is on page 9.



Roosevelt High School Community Meeting

Three times each school year Roosevelt High School (4029 28th Ave. S.) hosts a community meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen the relationship between Roosevelt and nearby residents.

At the Sept. 30 meeting, neighbors expressed concern about the large numbers of young people moving through the neighborhood after the homecoming dance. Attendees commented that the mural on the Oromo Evangelical Church building and the special coating on the Multiply building (both across the street from Roosevelt) have been successful in discouraging graffiti.

Principal Bruce Gilman noted that Roosevelt was over-enrolled at the beginning of the year (140 more students than expected), but staff adjustments are being made. He described school initiatives such as the Reflect and Repair program to reduce litter around the school.

Minneapolis Police Sgt. Joey Sandberg (police liaison and a Roosevelt alum) talked about efforts to shut down two gang houses close to the school.

Upcoming meetings are Jan. 27 and Apr. 28. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the school. Contact Roosevelt Community Liaison Bev Kennedy with questions or concerns at 237-6866 or millie0712@comcast.net.

Students Take Home Trees to Plant

Students at Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center (4315 31st Ave. S.) each received a small tree in a plastic tube this fall. The trees, Norway spruces, were made available by Hy-Vee, a grocery store chain. Students were asked to plant the tree in their yard, or, for those who live in an apartment, to care for it in a pot over the winter and then give it to a friend or relative to plant.

Teacher naturalist Glenn Shoemaker teaches second graders about trees but will also discuss trees with the other classes during the year and help students monitor the growth of their seedlings. Norway spruce trees grow quickly and keep growing for 25 years, so the students will be making a big difference in their environments.



Environmental science and gifted/talented teacher Stacy Severson talks with first and second graders about why we plant trees—for beauty, oxygen, and shelter. Students are holding the little trees, which are packaged in plastic tubes suitable for making bird feeders after the trees are planted.

Events at Roosevelt Community Library

There's a lot going on at Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S., 630-6590) this winter!

Special Events

On Tues., Dec. 9 (6:00–8:00 p.m.) enjoy the locally grown music of Mother Banjo (a one-woman band featuring Ellen Stanley on banjo and vocals) and listen to neighborhood author Patricia Cumbie read from her gripping debut novel *Where People Like Us Live*.

Author John Coy will present his latest work on Tues., Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Coy has created some of the best picture books and young adult novels around, so this event will be interesting for all ages.

Teens, here's a new way to carry your dollars, and it won't cost you a dime! Come to the library on Thurs., Dec. 18, at 3:30 p.m. to learn how to create a wallet (or two!) out of duct tape.

Book Clubs

Manga and Graphic Novels is for teens in grade 9 and up. It will meet on Tues., Dec. 2, at 3:15 p.m. Discussions are held at Roosevelt High School (4029 28th Ave. S.).

Time Travelers Book Club, for kids in grades 4 and 5, will discuss *Orphan Train Rider* on Sat., Jan. 17, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Kids Book Club, for kids in grades 2 and 3, will meet Sat., Dec. 6 and Jan. 10, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pick up a copy of the book at the information desk.

Registration for these book clubs is required. Go to www.hclib.org or call 630-6591.

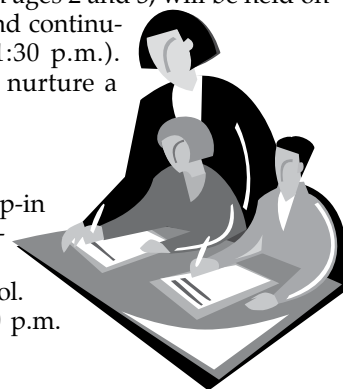
Story Time

Family story time is every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Parents and their children ages 2 and up share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement.

Toddler story time, for children ages 2 and 3, will be held on Thursdays, beginning Jan. 8 and continuing through Feb. 26 (12:00–1:30 p.m.). Interact with your toddler to nurture a love of books.

Homework Hub

Homework Hub provides drop-in help with homework and research projects for students in kindergarten through high school. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Answer to Where Is It? (No. 13)

This is the view of the October sunset that *City Pages* said was the best in the city. The photo was taken from the east shore of Lake Hiawatha, down the hill from 28th Ave. between 44th and 45th streets.

Please Add SENA to Your Year-End Donations

The end of the year is coming, and you may be thinking about making donations that will be deductible at tax time. Please consider putting SENA on your donation list. If you've read SENA President Lea Johnson's column on Page 10 of this issue, you know that SENA has done a lot for our two neighborhoods over its lifetime. Many of the accomplishments were funded through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The NRP is now being revised and will not be able to give as much money to neighborhoods as before. So SENA needs to look for other sources of funding, one of which is you—the residents and other stakeholders of the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods who benefit from its activities.

You can send a donation to the office (1830 E. 42nd St.) or stop by and drop it off. The staff members, Shirley Yeoman and Bob Kambeitz, are happy to meet residents. They are usually there in the afternoons, but call first. If you come on the evening of the second Monday of the month, you can sit in on a SENA Board meeting and share your concerns. The action groups also meet at the office at various times (see page 3).

Any size donation will be appreciated. It's everybody pulling together—offering their time, money, ideas, and energy—that makes these neighborhoods the fine places they are.



SENA Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association" or "SENA."

I would like to designate my gift for:

Friends of SENA Fund (General Operating)*
 SENA News Other _____

*Donation will go to general operating unless indicated differently.

Name _____

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President's Corner **Lea Johnson**

Recently, I was chatting with Bob Johndrow, a fellow SENA board member, and he said, "Lea, I don't think people know what SENA actually *does!*"

Well, simply put, the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association is comprised of two part-time staff people and scores of volunteers, who work together to make our neighborhoods a better place to live, work, and play. We look at how we can invest dollars and volunteer time to improve our neighborhoods' housing stock, business nodes, parks and environment, safety, transportation, and community engagement. So, what does that mean?

Over the last two decades, since the inception of SENA—through funding from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), the City of Minneapolis, and gifts from foundations and individuals—we have accomplished the following:

- Loaned over \$1,000,000 for home repairs and renovations, and worked with volunteers and the city to identify and "fix" problem properties;
- Provided over \$200,000 to improve commercial facades, by investing in awnings, signage, paint, windows, and brick work;
- Invested over \$500,000 to improve the playground, recreation center, and landscaping at Lake Hiawatha Park and restore the shoreline along Lake Hiawatha and Minnehaha Creek;

- Engaged residents in the design of the LRT stations at 38th and 46th streets and the installation of bike racks near commercial areas to encourage bicycle transit;
- Engaged and informed the community by publishing this newsletter and by hosting meetings on issues such as crime and zoning. SENA has also invested \$75,000 in programs that help seniors stay in the community and \$150,000 in programs that engage youth in positive activities.

And finally—and this is a project I am extremely proud of—SENA has worked intensively with residents and businesses in a project entitled "Take Back 38th Street!" We published a study on the problem of graffiti and came up with solutions to discourage it in our neighborhoods. To see the result, just drive down 38th Street and notice all the buildings with new paint schemes, murals, and landscaping, which not only deter vandals but also add public art and beauty to the streetscape.

These are just a few examples of the work SENA does. All this is a lot for a nonprofit that is made up of just two staff people and volunteers!

Lea Johnson is a consultant working with nonprofit organizations to improve governance and fundraising. Lea has lived in the Standish Neighborhood for 15 years. She resides in a 1928 bungalow with her husband, Tom, and their two shih tzus, Basil and Chile.