



# SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 4, August/September 2008 • www.standish-ericsson.org

## Neighborhood Garage Sale a Great Success



*June 14 was a perfect day for "sale-ing" at the Sixth Annual Standish, Ericsson, and Corcoran Neighborhood Garage Sale.*



The Standish, Ericsson, and Corcoran Neighborhood Garage Sale held on June 14 was the most successful thus far in the sale's six-year history. This year, 131 sales brought \$26,000 into the neighborhoods, for an average of \$204 per sale—plus, thousands of items were purchased for reuse and kept out of landfills. Special thanks to Tillie's Bean and Hudson's Ace Hardware for their financial support, the U of M's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs for laying out the garage sale map, and the City of Minneapolis Climate Change grants for covering the cost of printing and new signs. Look for next year's sale to occur in mid-June once again.

### SENA Annual Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Lake Hiawatha Park Building  
27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.

Watch for a postcard notice with additional details in your mailbox soon.

### National Night Out, August 5

Don't forget to gather with your neighbors on National Night Out (NNO), Tues., Aug. 5. You don't have to close off your street or have an elaborate picnic to celebrate NNO. Your event might be as simple as cookies and lemonade in someone's front yard. The important thing is to offer an opportunity for neighbors to get better acquainted. Neighbors who know each other are more likely to watch out for each other. See the Minneapolis NNO Web site for ideas ([www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno)).

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Action Group and Committee Updates.....page 3

Green for School.....page 4

Business Feature.....page 5

Neighborhood Feature.....page 6

Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor.....page 7

### Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival, August 6



Great news for basketball enthusiasts! The Minnesota Timberwolves will host a basketball shooting contest during the Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival on Wed., Aug. 6. The contest will have three age groups, and the winner of each age bracket will receive a Timberwolves prize pack. To learn more about the contest rules go to [http://lhrc.freeservers.com/Wolves\\_Shooting\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://lhrc.freeservers.com/Wolves_Shooting_Contest_Rules.pdf).

All festivalgoers will be able to enter the Timberwolves Summer Sweepstakes for a chance to win a pair of 2008–2009 season tickets. The Minnesota Lynx will also be represented with some prizes.

Of course, the festival will feature many more fun activities, including pony rides! Vendors will sell food (mini-donuts, snow cones, barbecues, and more). So come to the park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and enjoy a summer evening with family and friends. (Check out [www.lhrc.freeservers.com/festival.htm](http://www.lhrc.freeservers.com/festival.htm) for the latest information on food vendors and activities.)

## Where Is It? (No. 11)

What does this imposing entrance lead to? the answer is on page 4.



### Did You Know?

- Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) has an Epson image scanner available for public use. A volunteer tech-expert is available to teach you how to use the scanner. Call 630-6591 to schedule an appointment or stop by the library.
- Morris Park Players welcomes Standish and Ericsson adults and children to try out for its fall musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Call 724-8373 or visit [www.morris-parkplayers.org](http://www.morris-parkplayers.org) for audition dates, times, and location.

## SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

*SENA News* is a bimonthly publication of the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA). It is made possible by funds from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Citizen Participation (CP) funds. Copyright ©2008 by SENA.

Ann King and Judy Peacock  
Co-Editors  
Heidi Sonstebly-Naughton  
Photo Editor

Address correspondence to:  
**SENA**  
1830 E. 42nd St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407-3461  
Phone: (612) 721-1601

Web site: [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)  
E-mail: [office@standish-ericsson.org](mailto:office@standish-ericsson.org)  
*SENA News* is available in alternative formats (e.g., large type) upon request.

## Community Events Calendar

### August

Family story time at Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Thrilling Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.—book-related projects, puzzles, and other activities for kids.

- 1 Outdoor movie at Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) starting at dusk. (See p. 4.)
- 5 National Night Out. Get together with your neighbors for a block party. (See p. 1.)
- 6 Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.), 5:00–8:30 p.m. (See p. 1.)
- 7 Blood pressure checks following congregating dining, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.)
- 9–10 Nokomis Healthy Seniors hot-dog fundraiser, Bergan's SuperValu (4715 Cedar Ave. S.) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (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.
- 25 Sibley Park building (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.) closed for a week
- 26 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 28 Caregiver Support Group, Nokomis Healthy Seniors office (4200 Cedar Ave. S.), 1:00 p.m.

### September

Family story time at Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Baby story time every Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

- 1 Lake Hiawatha Park building (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) closed for a week
- 2 Senior congregating dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), \$5, 11:30 a.m. Call to register.
- 4 Blood pressure checks following congregating dining, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.)
- 11 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 12–14 Autumn Daze Festival, St. Helena Catholic Church (3204 E. 43rd St.). (See p. 4)
- 15 SENA Annual Meeting, Lake Hiawatha Park Building (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.), 6:00 p.m. Watch your mailbox for details.
- 23 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 25 Caregiver Support Group, Nokomis Healthy Seniors office (4200 Cedar Ave. S.), 1:00 p.m.



### Bee In-the Know with SENA E-mail Updates

*Do you want to know about SENA's upcoming meetings, as well as about community events and fun things to do? Then sign up for weekly e-mail updates.*

*Signing up is easy. Just send an e-mail to  
[office@standish\\_ericsson.org](mailto:office@standish_ericsson.org) with "subscribe" in the subject line.*

*The e-mail update is sent every Wednesday.*

## The Foreclosure Problem

In the first five months of 2008, 59 home foreclosures occurred in the 12th Ward (which includes the Longfellow and Nokomis-East areas, as well as most of SENA's two neighborhoods). The Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods saw 24 of those foreclosures. However, the foreclosure problem is still growing. Over the whole state, an estimated 80,000 Minnesota homeowners are expected to become delinquent on their mortgage payments in 2008. Many foreclosed properties are rental units, so renters also lose their homes when their leases are canceled by the new owners.

The City of Minneapolis has taken some steps to help with various aspects of the problem. It provides easy access to foreclosure counseling and assistance programs through its city services phone number (3-1-1). It is working with neighborhood organizations and developers to revitalize housing in the areas hardest hit by foreclosures, while securing and maintaining vacant properties until they are sold. It investigates suspicious practices and has taken some people to court for mortgage fraud.

### For Homeowners

If you or someone you know in Minneapolis is having trouble making mortgage payments, call 3-1-1 for counseling and information about assistance. Before you purchase or refinance a home, learn about mortgages and how to avoid risky ones by contacting the Minnesota Home Ownership Center (651-659-9336; www.hocmn.org). The Minnesota Home Ownership Center is a nonprofit intermediary organization whose goal is helping low- and moderate-income Minnesotans purchase and maintain homes. It supports community-based organizations, giving them training and technical support; the community-based organizations then help individual families with counseling and other services.

### For Renters

The Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis is a resource for tenants with concerns about landlords who are going through the foreclosure process. Its Tenants in Foreclosure Project offers legal assistance and advice. It can help tenants determine what their rights are. The Legal Aid intake line for tenants and new clients is 612-334-5970.

## A New Feature: Neighbor to Neighbor

Standish resident Anita N. called the SENA office and asked us to thank the unknown person who cleared her walks several times last winter. Anita, who lives in the 4000 block of 19th Ave. S., would have had to shovel by hand, so she was very appreciative when someone went down the whole side of the block with a snowblower after heavy snowfalls. Thank you to that helpful person from Anita.

The *SENA News* staff thought that other people might like to publicly thank their neighbors for good deeds or kindnesses. If so, we will regularly put them in a list called Neighbor to Neighbor. If you appreciate a person or an action, you can call the office or e-mail your thank you. We will need your name, address, and contact number (no anonymous messages) but will ask you how you want to be identified in print. Here's your chance to recognize some of the people who make our neighborhoods great places to live.

### Housing Action Group (4th Monday)

- Thank you to Steve Green and Angie Flemons of the Southside Housing Resource Center (SHRC) and Rick Broberg, City of Minneapolis Construction Code Services, for their input at SENA's Home Renovation Open House on June 21. Mr. Green emphasized that Standish and Ericsson residents are welcome to stop by the SHRC any time they have questions about home financing issues or home renovation projects. Mr. Green, a former construction manager, will gladly come out to your home, free of charge, and advise you on projects you may be considering. The SHRC, a nonprofit resource for all residents, is located at 3749 Cedar Ave. S. (phone: 722-7141).

### Quality of Life Action Group (1st Monday)

- The public art piece "Listening Vessel" by Craig David will be installed at Lake Hiawatha Park in late August or early September. A public unveiling will coincide with the SENA Annual Meeting on Sept. 15.

### Transportation Action Group (1st Thursday)

- There have been some delays in getting the bike racks installed. We're still working out some details but hope to have the racks installed soon, if they're not already in by the time this newsletter reaches residents. We would love to have more members who are interested in bicycle, pedestrian, traffic, or other transportation issues. Please join us and help us decide on our next project.

### Development Review Committee (Meets as Needed)

- Klodt, Inc., has received approval from the Minneapolis City Council to construct a 64-unit apartment building just north of the 38th St. light-rail station at 3725 29th Ave. S. Initial site preparation—including storm sewer and sidewalk relocation, and construction of a retaining wall—will begin this year. Building construction is expected to begin in March 2009 and run through early 2010.

### Graffiti Task Force (3rd Tuesday)

- We have received a \$3,000 grant from the Athwin Foundation to assist in our efforts to reduce the incidence of graffiti vandalism. This is the third grant the Athwin Foundation has awarded the task force. The money will help us continue our "Take Back 38th Street!" project.

### 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 (3rd Wednesday)

- Work on the Web has slowed down over the summer. If you have Web site development or maintenance skills, please consider joining our group.

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

## Going Back to School Green

What do going back to school and going green have to do with one another? This fall, try outfitting your children with school supplies that are environmentally friendly.

### Paper Products

Paper takes up a huge amount of landfill space as well as requiring large amounts of water, chemicals, and trees to produce. Recycled (and chlorine-free) paper notebooks and filler paper are becoming more readily available and price competitive. Look for these products at Staples, Office Depot, and other office supply stores. Try to avoid purchasing binders made with vinyl, because PVC—polyvinyl chloride—is extremely toxic to make, resulting in release of potent dioxins.

### Writing Utensils

Check out Paper Mate's EarthWrite pencils, which are made from recycled newspaper and cardboard. You can also supply your children with biodegradable pens made from cornstarch or recycled paper, instead of petroleum plastics.

### Other Supplies

Many other school supplies are now available with recycled content (including scissors, paper clips, and sticky notes). Check your drawers at home for supplies that you might have purchased last year and forgotten about.

### Backpacks

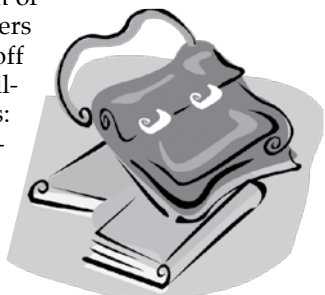
Instead of oil-based nylon and plastic backpacks, consider giving your children a cool, original backpack made of recycled rubber or natural fibers like hemp.

### Lunches

It has been estimated that a typical American kid who takes a disposable, brown-bag lunch to school generates 67 pounds of discarded packaging waste per school year. That adds up to more than 18,000 pounds yearly for the average-sized elementary school. Choose PVC-free wrappings: certified organic or recycled cotton canvas lunch sacks; cellophane wrap made from the cellulose of well-managed cottonwood trees; and biodegradable and compostable forks and spoons. One source of ideas for an alternative lunch box is [http://stuffwelove.ivillage.com/green/green\\_back\\_to\\_school\\_picks/pack\\_a\\_zerowaste\\_lunch.html](http://stuffwelove.ivillage.com/green/green_back_to_school_picks/pack_a_zerowaste_lunch.html).

### Beyond the Supplies

Once you've bought your children's supplies, encourage them to start their own school recycling program. Help them organize "waste-free" classroom or lunchroom days or educate peers to save energy by switching off lights. More information is available at the following Web sites: [www.thedailygreen.com/going-green/5264](http://www.thedailygreen.com/going-green/5264); [www.thegreenguide.com/doc/121/backtoschool](http://www.thegreenguide.com/doc/121/backtoschool); and [http://slideshow.ivillage.com/igo\\_green/green\\_backtoschool\\_guide/post\\_367.html](http://slideshow.ivillage.com/igo_green/green_backtoschool_guide/post_367.html).



## Events at the Parks

### Sibley Park (1900 E. 40th St.)

Practice for fall youth sports (soccer and football) begins in mid-August. Volunteer coaches and assistants for both sports are needed. Inquire at the park for details. The average commitment is three days a week (six hours a week).

Because of budget cuts, the Sibley Park building will be closed the week of Aug. 25 and will reopen on Sept. 2. Year-round hours are Monday through Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fall programs begin in September, with registration starting on Aug. 4.

A senior luncheon will be held on Tues. Sept. 2, at 11:30 a.m. Call 370-4954 to register and to be on the mailing list.

### Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.)

Lake Hiawatha Olympics for children 3–6 will be held Aug. 4–8, either from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. all week for a cost of \$20. Call for more information (370-4930).

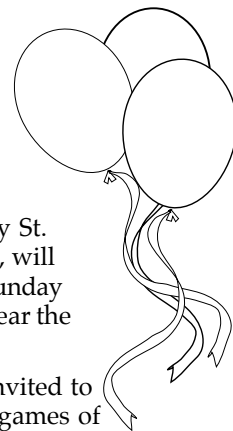
Bring the family to a movie in the park on Fri., Aug. 1, starting at dusk. The movie is "Over the Hedge." Come back on Wed., Aug. 6, for the Lake Hiawatha Festival (5:00–8:30 p.m.).

The Lake Hiawatha Park building will be closed the week of Sept. 1.

## Autumn Daze Festival, September 12–14

The Autumn Daze Festival, sponsored by St. Helena Catholic Church (3204 E. 43rd St.), will be held Friday evening, Sept. 12, through Sunday afternoon, Sept. 14. This will be the 25th year the church has put on the festival.

As always, neighborhood residents are invited to come and enjoy rides; games of chance, games of skill, and children's games; lots of food; live and silent auctions; quilt bingo; and many other activities. The festival runs from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday. The parade will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, followed by the other activities until 10:00 p.m. Sunday's hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## Answer to Where Is It? (No. 11)

This is the entrance to the football and soccer field (Gowans Field) for Roosevelt High School. It is located on 30th Ave. S. at E. 41st St.

# Business Feature

## Twisted Groove: The Arts and Clothing Shop

by William Fietzer, Standish Resident



Enter Scott Rohr's shop at 4503 34th Ave. S., and applied art designs from around the world hit your senses at every turn. Fragrant boucheron incense and Soul Tonic essential oils waft and linger under your nose. Stately Buddhist prayer flags from Nepal vie with colorful paper hangings from India and intricately embroidered handbags from Guatemala for your visual attention.

Mr. Mystic, Scott's 9-year-old black tabby, slides beneath display shelves where the CDs of local musicians like Wookiefoot mingle with scented candles, ceramic vases, and dolls handmade by other local artists. Under the front window, custom-colored hula hoops stand next to twisted didgeridoos from Australia.

In the midst of this sensual riot stands a circular clothes rack filled with cotton shirts, dresses, and pants. The shirts, in particular, constitute Scott's artistic specialty, a unique combination of tie-dyed prints and batik images. Using the ancient Indonesian art form of batik, in which wax designs are applied to fabric before it is dyed, Scott has created images of "anything you can draw" on his clothing items for 18 years. Fish are the most popular image, but "peace symbols are strong" also, along with frogs, lizards, suns, moons, and floral designs. Whether for custom orders, marching bands, or team logos, Scott strives always to "make nice handmade items"



that are "unique offerings."

Like his fellow artist and building occupant, glassmaker G. Scott Garver, Mr. Rohr rents studio space and shares the costs of building maintenance and upkeep with three other artists. This arrangement resembles the artistic communes of the 1960s, but unlike those self-focused operations, Scott and his colleagues reach out to the local community. Scott offers shiatsu massage to customers, drop-ins, and patients seeking release from their aches, pains, and stresses of life. His wife, Alexandra, is an accomplished musician and works as a licensed music therapist. Every month the building's parking lot is the location for the Sisters' Camelot's distribution of organic produce to the needy in south Minneapolis. With all of this activity, the Twisted Groove serves as "quite a point destination" for anyone interested in artistic and humanitarian activities within a 50-mile radius of the Twin Cities.

The Twisted Groove is open Wednesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment. Phone: 721-3524; Web site: <http://www.twistedgroove.com>

## Events at Roosevelt Community Library



Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) will be the scene for several special events in August and September. Call the library (630-6590) for information about ongoing book clubs for kids, teens, and adults. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to

8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### August Events

**Mad Science: Tues., Aug. 5, 4:00 p.m.** Discover the science behind disappearing water and a singing pipe. Watch a giant water bottle turn into a rocket engine and a methanol cannon fire with a handheld Tesla coil. Presented by Mad Science of Minnesota. For kids entering grade 1 and up.

**Dino Dig!: Thurs., Aug. 7, 4:30 p.m.** Have more fun than a megalosaurus in a mud pit! Become paleontologists and investigate the prehistoric world of dinosaurs. Discovery Trunks are from the Minnesota Children's Museum. For kids in preschool and up.

### September Events

**All About College: Sept. 25, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This presentation begins the library's Teen DIY Series, which will take place the last Thursday of every month from September to December. This event can help teens begin the transition from home to college as they learn about the application process, financial issues like grants and scholarships, and the student life experience. An admissions counselor and academic advisor from the University of Minnesota will answer questions from parents and students.

**Local Children's Book Author Susan Runholt: Tues., Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Susan Runholt will discuss her new book, *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, "an exciting mystery featuring two smart 9th-grade girls and their travel to Paris, Amsterdam, and London." The story opens up at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and takes readers to museums around the world in "a madcap pursuit [that] becomes deadly serious." Books will be available for purchase and signing.

# Neighborhood Feature

## What's Happening on 38th Street?

A lot is happening on 38th St. from Cedar Ave. to Hiawatha Ave. Largely because of the arrival of light-rail transit and the construction of the 38th St. station, the once-thriving thoroughfare is coming alive again.

### **New Businesses**

Several new businesses have opened recently on 38th St. or plan to move in soon. At the corner of E. 38th St. and 23rd Ave. S., Social Dance Studio has renovated the long-vacant Casalenda's site. DreamHaven Books—specializing in new and used science fiction, fantasy, horror, film, and media books, comics, and graphic novels—is remodeling the former J & D Video store and will have its grand opening on Aug. 30.

Citizen Café, which promises to be a “neighborhood restaurant,” opened in June at 2403 E. 38th St. (where Sweet Lorraine's used to be). Well-known local chef Michael MacKay is the new owner. A Tree Service and Landscape has spruced up the building at 1849 E. 38th St. (the old Sundem Carburetor location).

### **New Residences**

Covenaire Care is moving forward with plans to build a 77-unit, four-story assisted-living development for seniors across from Providence Place (3720 23rd Ave. S.). The site is currently a parking lot. Klodt Development will construct a 64-unit apartment building on the vacant lot just north of the 38th St. station. More people moving into the neighborhood should increase foot traffic and spark even more business development.

### **More Attractive Store Fronts**

SENA, in partnership with Seward Redesign, Longfellow Community Council, and the Longfellow Business Association, has been awarded a grant from the Minneapolis Great Streets Facade Improvement Program. Businesses from the light-rail station to 23rd Ave. are eligible to apply for matching funds for exterior improvement. (Businesses along 28th Ave. through the node at 28th Ave. and 42nd St. are also eligible.) The first round of grants has been approved. The deadline for the second round is Sept. 1.

### **More Murals**

Last summer, SENA's Graffiti Task Force brightened 38th St. with murals on buildings at the intersection of 38th St. and 28th Ave. Work on more murals is under way this summer.

### **Purina Mill Site**

Developer Dale Joel is planning a mixed-use development on the old Purina Mill site (east side of Hiawatha Ave. at 38th St.). Joel hopes to begin the deconstruction/construction process before the end of 2008. Although this project is outside the boundaries of the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods, it will still benefit the 38th St. area as a whole.

---

## Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Do you live in the Nokomis Community (which includes the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods) and find yourself itching to volunteer for a project that will benefit your own neighborhood? The Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) program is looking for committee members. You don't have to serve on the NHS board to serve on a committee. In particular, the program needs people with marketing or fundraising skills on the Development Committee, technology and Web development skills on the Outreach and Technology Committee, and program planning and evaluation skills on the Program Committee.

Here are other ways to get involved and support NHS: (1) Buy a hot dog from an NHS volunteer on Sat., Aug. 9, and Sun., Aug. 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., outside Bergan's SuperValu (4715 Cedar Ave. S.). (2) Visit the NHS booth at one of the many upcoming neighborhood fairs and get your blood pressure checked. You can learn more about NHS by talking with board members and other volunteers who will staff the booth. (3) Become a driver for the popular transportation program. Drivers are always needed to take seniors on errands or to doctor's appointments. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, call the NHS office (729-5499) to get started or for more information.

Finally, do you shop online? Let online merchants donate a portion of your purchase to NHS every time you shop! Log on to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and register so that your shopping goes to a good cause—for free! Every time you buy something online at one of igive's 680 online stores, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to NHS at no extra cost to you.

## Midtown Farmers' Market

The Midtown Farmers' Market (E. Lake St. and 22nd Ave. S.) has been having a great season! Thanks to all of the shoppers who continue to make the market “the place to be” in South Minneapolis!

The following are main events on Saturdays in August: Permi-Bus/Permaculture Day (2nd); La Feria (Latino Health Fair, 9th); Bike Day (16th); Corn Roast (23rd); Art Car Day (30th). Saturdays in September will feature these events: Cooking Demonstration by Ron Huff (6th); Scandinavian Day Festival (13th); Apple Variety Tasting (20th); North American Celebration Day (27th).

The Midtown Farmers' Market Advisory Committee will elect new committee members at its September meeting. The advisory committee works behind the scenes to keep the market running and to help plan its future. It meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization office (3451 Cedar Ave. S.). If you have an interest in serving on this committee, phone Market Director Laura Wolff at 724-7457 or e-mail her at [manager@midtownfarmersmarket.org](mailto:manager@midtownfarmersmarket.org).

The Marketing and Events Committee is also looking for volunteers. If you have an interest in serving on this committee or in helping with market day set up and tear down, contact Laura Wolff.

The Midtown Farmers' Market is open Saturday mornings through Oct. 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Tuesday afternoons, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The market accepts EBT (food stamps), VISA, and MasterCard and is the first and only market in Minnesota to serve the community with this technology.

# A New Chance to Shape the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor

by Robb Luckow, Hennepin County Community Works

No matter what neighborhood you live or work in, the Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor's historic mills, railroad, industrial uses, and major roadways have shaped your community. As Hiawatha was reconstructed and light rail added in recent years, new opportunities as well as some challenges have emerged. What hasn't changed over time, however, is that most residents and businesses came to—and stay in—this part of town by choice



An LRT rider completing a survey.

and demonstrate every day their commitment to making it a better place to live, work, and enjoy.

The Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor from the Midtown Greenway to Minnehaha Parkway has received increasing attention over the last few years. Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin led the effort to establish a community works project for the corridor and secured more than \$8 million for planning and implementation. This spring, the county launched this two-year effort to develop a *Strategic Development Framework* for the Minnehaha-Hiawatha corridor to guide revitalization investments by the county, city, and others. These decisions will be community driven and made in close collaboration with stakeholders. County investments will be based on the principles of strengthening communities through connections, maintaining and improving natural systems, building relationships for effective planning and implementation, stimulating employment development, and enhancing the tax base.

Members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) are serving as “stewards” of the public involvement process. Ap-



A shopper at the Midtown Farmer's Market discussing concerns about the corridor.

pointed by local elected officials, neighborhood associations, and a business association, they are Jamie Buss, Judy Corrao, Steve Krause, Ed Leaf, Lisa Middag, Sam Newberg, Karl Stoerzinger, Dan Swenson, and Greg Toltzman.

This county-led effort has four major components. Initial **community input** through spring 2009 will gather ideas from stakeholders through neighborhood listening sessions and other activities, supported by the CAC. As the work progresses, the CAC will identify **corridor issues** that emerge from the community input and the existing corridor plans and data and will seek additional community perspectives. A **corridor strategic investment framework** will then be developed in partnership with stakeholders, the county, and the city. And by the end of 2009, an **implementation strategy** will define how to leverage strategic investments in the corridor area to address issues and priorities, optimize revitalization opportunities, and reflect community values.

Community input began immediately after the program was launched, with support from the Longfellow, Standish-Ericsson, and Corcoran community councils and guided by the CAC. Pub-



Residents of the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods contributing ideas at a meeting.

lic participation teams started talking with people and gathering information at the Midtown Farmers' Market, at light-rail stations, and at neighborhood public meetings. The CAC has heard about issues and priorities from nearly 200 people to date and is looking for much more. For example, people appreciate the sense of community, neighborhood walkability, and locally owned businesses and services, but they are concerned about pedestrian and bicycle safety. Community members remain frustrated about the traffic flow along Hiawatha and are concerned about crime as well as vacant or poorly maintained properties that create a poor image and discourage new investment. People want more trees and other greenery along streets to make the community prettier and more attractive to residents and businesses; at the same time, they have mixed feelings about increased residential density and more commercial density along Minnehaha Ave.

The next major community input opportunities will be during National Night Out on Aug. 5 and at the Longfellow Neighborhood's Corn Feed on Aug. 7. For more information, visit the project Web site at [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com) or contact Hennepin County project manager Robb Luckow at 348-9344 or [robb.luckow@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:robb.luckow@co.hennepin.mn.us).



## SENA

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Minneapolis, MN

Permit No. 4429

## Our Small Town

*by Shirley Yeoman, Neighborhood Coordinator*

During a recent visit to the small town where I grew up, I bumped into one of my high school classmates who still lives there. My answer to the inevitable question “What are you doing now?” (“I work for a neighborhood association.”) was met with a blank look. However, we quickly moved on to the “Where’s Twila (Diane, Steve, Bobby, et al.) living now?” questions that generally dominate this kind of conversation.

After this exchange, I spent a lot of time thinking about how to explain what a neighborhood association does to someone who lives in a town of 800 people. Then I had one of those “Duh!!” moments. I realized that we’re just trying to make our part of the city be sort of like a small town—a place where people have a sense of pride about where they live, feel connected to their neighbors, and have an interest in making sure the community is a good place for everyone. Things that happen naturally in a setting where everyone knows everyone else, and has for generations, take a little more work in the city. SENA is here to help with that.

In my work at SENA, I get to meet, or at least communicate with, lots of the people who live in our “small town.” Even though people call us for a variety of reasons, at the root of almost all of those calls is a concern for the larger community, not just their own personal interest. We are a community of talented, friendly, and generous people.

At SENA’s Annual Meeting on Sept. 15, the community will elect some of those “generous people” to serve on the SENA Board

of Directors. The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), in *Principles and Practices for Nonprofit Excellence*, says, “Nonprofit organizations provide unique opportunities for individuals to combine their energy, talents, and values for community improvement and enrichment.” I really like that description. The effectiveness of our individual work is greatly expanded when we work together, and SENA provides that opportunity for the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods.

Here are two more statements from the MCN document that describe what it means to serve on a nonprofit board:

- “Nonprofit boards should be comprised of individual volunteers who are committed to representing the best interests of the organization and its mission.”
- “A nonprofit’s board of directors is responsible for defining the organization’s mission and for providing overall leadership and strategic direction to the organization.”

With proposed changes in city funding and structures, the future of neighborhood organizations promises to be both challenging and exciting. The work is also rewarding and sometimes a lot of fun. If you’re interested in becoming a board member, or if you want more information to help you decide if you’re interested, please contact the SENA office at 721-1601 or [office@standish-ericsson.org](mailto:office@standish-ericsson.org).