



SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 1, February/March 2008 • www.standish-ericsson.org

Roosevelt Community Library Reopens



Librarian Lisa Stuart conducts the first children's story time in the reopened library.

Housing and Home Improvement Fair, March 8

2 0 0 8
south minneapolis



housing & home improvement fair

MARCH 8

The South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair will take place Sat., Mar. 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at South High School (3131 19th Ave. S.). The fair, now in its 14th year, has become one of the most successful and well-attended neighborhood-based events in Minneapolis, drawing over 2,000 attendees annually. It is free and open to the public.

The South Minneapolis Housing Fair promotes home improvement, project financing, city living, and local neighborhood involvement. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to meet over 100 reputable contractors, real estate agents, lenders, community organizations, and neighborhood representa-

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The Minneapolis libraries and the Hennepin County Library system merged on Jan. 1, and the three closed libraries, including the Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.), reopened on Jan. 3. A celebration was held at the library on Jan. 12 to mark the library's reopening after a year of being closed. Community members enjoyed refreshments and heard remarks by elected officials.

Hereafter, the Roosevelt Community Library will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Patrons can use their current library cards. In preparation for the opening, collections were reorganized for easier access, additional computers were installed, and new materials were added. Story times are Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

On Mar. 23, the library will host an all-day program of hands-on activities designed by the Minnesota Children's Museum. It is called "Discovery Trunk: Insects." Children ages 4-8 can drop in any time to learn about insect characteristics, behaviors, needs, and life cycles.

Update on the NRP

The Dec./Jan. issue of *SENA News* included an article called "Uncertain Future of NRP Funding." Although the future of funding is still uncertain, a lot of activity that could impact the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the future of SENA has taken place at many levels. This article presents a brief summary of the situation at the time this issue went to print, along with links to Web sites that can provide more detailed information.

On Dec. 7, 2007, the Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution committing the city to a guarantee that at least 70% of the 2004 Phase II NRP allocations to neighborhoods would be available, regardless of what happened to other revenues. This meant that SENA's allotment would decrease from \$1,100,000 to about \$760,000. Because of all the uncertainty surrounding NRP funding, the SENA Board decided to move funds from

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Where Is It? (No. 8)



The Standish Neighborhood has many hills. Which one is a good place for sledding?

SENA Says Thank You to

- the businesses and organizations that supported the skating and games party on Jan. 13: ReGifts, Saint Mane's Sporting Goods Co., The Twisted Groove, the University of Minnesota, and the YMCA of Metropolitan Minneapolis.

Did You Know?

- People who wish to know more about the MN Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program (see *SENA News* for October/November 2007) can now access a Web site with easy-to-understand information. Follow the link at www.standish-ericsson.org.

SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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Community Events Calendar

The Roosevelt Community Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Story times are Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

February

- 5 Senior congregating dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), \$5, 11:30 a.m.
- 7 Blood pressure checks following congregating dining, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). (See Senior Activities on p. 7.)
- 14 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 19 Senior congregating dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 23 Roosevelt Community Library, "Discovery Trunk: Insects," hands-on activities presented by the Minnesota Children's Museum, for ages 4-8, drop in any time (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) on this day.
- 26 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 27 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "The Benefits of Exercise in the Elderly," Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 4.)
- 28 Caregiver Support Group, Nokomis Healthy Seniors office (4200 Cedar Ave. S.), 1:00 p.m.

March

- 4 Senior congregating dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), \$5, 11:30 a.m.
- 6 Blood pressure checks following congregating dining, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). (See Senior Activities on p. 7.)
- 8 South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair, South High School (3131 19th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (See page 1.)
- 13 Low Vision Support Group, Ebenezer Lutheran Church (1830 E. 41st St.), 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Senior congregating dining, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 12:30 p.m., followed by a short program and blood pressure checks
- 22 Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt, Sibley Park (1900 E. 40th St.), 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (See p. 4.)
- 25 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 26 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "The Key to Life," Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 4.)
- 27 Caregiver Support Group, Nokomis Healthy Seniors office (4200 Cedar Ave. S.), 1:00 p.m.

Housing Fair

— Continued from page 1 —

tives. Attendees will also be able to attend free seminars from local professionals on home improvement, home purchase, decorating, and financing.

The theme of the 2008 Housing Fair is "Safe Homes/Safe Neighborhoods." The keynote seminar, held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., will feature a police department representative. Other seminars, exhibitors, and presenters will discuss many topics relating to home security and community safety.

Additional seminars will be offered by industry professionals from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. on topics such as ceramic tile installation, home electrical wiring system basics, and how to select a remodeling contractor. A complete list of Housing Fair seminars for 2008 can be found at www.housingfair.org.

The Housing Fair is a family event, and a free children's woodcraft project will be offered throughout the day. Other attractions will include hourly drawings for over \$2,000 in door prizes. Refreshments will also be available for purchase to make your visit more enjoyable.

The Housing Fair is presented by South High Community Education and participating South Minneapolis neighborhood associations, including SENNA. Visit the fair's Web site for further information.

Update on the NRP

— Continued from page 1 —

SENA's housing program income to cover administrative and some program costs for the first eight months of 2008 (see article below). SENa will still have to deal with the changes required to reduce its plan to 70% of the original amount.

On Dec. 17, the NRP Policy Board (the top NRP group) passed a resolution calling for the original allocations to be restored and for the NRP to continue past its completion date of 2009, with funding provided for competitive projects as well as for day-to-day operation of neighborhood groups. Although the Policy Board doesn't have the last word (that belongs to the Minneapolis City Council), this was a major endorsement of the NRP. You can find the complete resolution on the NRP Web site (<http://www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBAgenda2007/PBA20071217.html>).

On Dec. 20, a proposed "Framework for the Future" of the NRP beyond 2009 was presented and discussed at the City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting. It calls for continuing the NRP, with funding for administration and for discretionary spending by neighborhoods. It also recommends a change in the structure of the NRP within the city government. All council members were in favor of having the NRP continue, even though they knew that money for it would have to be found outside the city budget. They voted to study ways to fund it and, meanwhile, to have the "Framework" presented to the neighborhoods for discussion.

Therefore, meetings will be held throughout the city during the first quarter of 2008 so that neighborhood organizations, representatives of other government groups, and other community stakeholders can comment on the proposed structure for keeping the NRP going. Unfortunately, the details were not available in time for this issue of *SENA News*. A lot will happen in the next few months. SENa encourages residents to stay involved and informed about this important issue.

To view the full report of "Framework for the Future," go to the city's community engagement Web page (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/CETrack3_home.asp). You can sign up there for updates. SENa will also have information in its weekly e-mail updates. If you're not already a subscriber, you can become one by sending an e-mail to news@standish-ericsson.org with "subscribe" in the subject line.

NRP Plan Modification Approved by Community Vote

Thanks to everyone who took the time to stop by the SENa office to vote on the proposal to use program income funds to cover general operations, personnel, communications, and community events through August 2008. The proposed modification to SENa's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Plan was approved by a vote of 24 to 1.

As a result of the community vote, the SENa Board was able to submit the request to redirect funds to the NRP office for approval. Please take a minute to read the article on page 1 for an update on NRP funding activity.

Action Groups & Committee

UPDATES

Housing Action Group (4th Monday)

- If you are concerned about properties in your neighborhood, either because of deteriorating condition or detrimental behavior, please call the SENa office, and the issue will be investigated by the SENa Problem Property Caucus. The caucus now includes a representative from the Minneapolis Fire Department to help address problems with multiunit buildings.

Quality of Life Action Group (1st Monday)

- Thanks to the staff at Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center for a fun "Skating and Games Party" in January. Be sure to check out the newly remodeled recreation center for upcoming programming for young children.

Transportation Action Group (Check with Office for Meeting Time)

- We are working on plans for installing bike racks this spring or summer. We still have lots of work to do, so it's not too late to get involved if you have an interest in bike racks or any other transportation issue.

Development Review Committee (Meets as Needed)

- Klodt Incorporated, a Minneapolis developer, has purchased the property at 3701 29th Ave. S. (the empty triangular parcel just north of the 38th St. light rail station). Initial plans are for 64 market-rate rental units in a four-story, brick structure. Underground parking will be included. If you would like more information, please call the SENa office.

Graffiti Task Force (3rd Tuesday)

- We will have our first 2008 meeting on Tues., Mar. 17, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us as we plan for the upcoming year.

Grant-Writer's Group (Meets as Needed)

- We have completed the follow-up report for our environmental micro-grant from the city. The work of our group will become vitally important as funding from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the city changes. We anticipate that more of SENa's funding will be provided through competitive processes, so proposal writing will need even more attention. Please join us if you have an interest in contributing to this important work.

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

Online Neighborhood Issues Forum Now Available

Local neighborhood volunteers Steven Clift and Victoria Ford invite their fellow neighbors to join them on the new online Standish and Ericsson Neighbors Forum. The purpose of the forum, which must have at least 100 participants to open, is to promote discussion about neighborhood issues related to schools, crime, the environment, and other concerns. The forum will also welcome event announcements from neighborhood churches, schools, and other organizations. Organizers Clift and Ford will insist that participants conduct themselves with civility and use their real names in order to build trust. The Standish and Ericsson Neighbors Forum is part of a group known as E-Democracy.Org, which has organized online forums for other Minneapolis neighborhoods. To sign up, go to <http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/mps-staneric>.

Note: While the forum is not officially hosted by SENA, SENA will provide a link to the forum from its Web site to encourage participation. The forum promises to be a great place to get to know your neighbors and stay informed.



Greening Your Office

The following tips are useful for home offices as well as workplaces. You can even apply them to other rooms in your home.

1. **Recycle paper, bottles, and cans.** Have separate bins for recycling.
2. **Use compact fluorescent or LED lights throughout.** CFs use one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times as long as standard lights. LEDs are even more energy-efficient.
3. **Get lighting motion sensors for offices, conference rooms, and bathrooms.** There's no reason for lights to be on when no one's in the room.
4. **Turn off the lights when you leave, and shut down your printers, faxes, and computers.** Some people are under the false impression that it's more efficient to leave computers on overnight. This is not true—shut off all the electronics.
5. **If possible, use laptop computers** rather than desktop computers. Some models use up to 90% less energy.
6. **Ditch the bottled water habit.** Americans throw out over 35 billion plastic water bottles every year.
7. **Stock your office's kitchen with reusable ceramic plates** and mugs rather than paper toss-aways.
8. **Use recycled/recyclable office papers and other office products.** You can get paper, envelopes, folders, pads, post-it notes—everything comes in a recycled version now.
9. **Get a programmable thermostat.** It will help you save power and money when the people are away.
10. **Investigate green power options.** Many local utilities offer you the opportunity to pay a little more per month to buy "green power" that comes from wind farms and other sustainable sources.

These useful suggestions are adapted from an article by Jessica Jensen on <http://www.lowimpactliving.com/blog>.

Events at the Parks

Sibley Park (1900 E. 40th St.)

People 16 years old or older can learn yoga on Tuesdays (6:00–7:00 p.m.) or Saturdays (2:30–3:30 p.m.). The cost is \$8 for drop-ins or \$6 for people registered for the session. Yoga can help you increase flexibility, gain strength, and reduce stress. For more information about this and other programs, call the park (370-4954) or see the Web site at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Parent and Tot Time is Wednesdays (10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.). Enjoy some time with your toddler(s), ages 0 to 3. You and your toddler will socialize with other parents and tots. Sibley Park has a variety of toys for the kids and coffee for the parents. This is a free activity.

The annual Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt will take place on Sat., Mar. 22 (9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon). The brunch, served from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., includes pancakes, sausages, doughnuts, juice, and coffee. The cost is \$3. Free activities (e.g., coloring contest and face painting) run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The big egg hunt starts at 11:30 a.m. Bring the whole family and enjoy this kickoff to spring!

Your children will enjoy RecPlus Child Care (before and after school, K–6th grade). This affordable program includes supervised activities, self-directed time, specialized classes, indoor/outdoor sports, special events, and field trips. Nutritious snacks are served every day. The cost is \$128 per month for after-school care (2:00–6:00 p.m.) and \$105 per month for before-school care (6:30–9:30 a.m.). Part-timers are welcome as well. Contact Becky (370-4954) for more information.

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

Tae kwon do classes started in January but run month to month. They are held in conjunction with Keewaydin Park (3000 E. 53rd St.), Tuesdays at Keewaydin and Thursdays at Lake Hiawatha. Classes for youth ages 6–18 are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; those for adults are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tai chi (10:00–11:00 a.m.) and yoga (11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.) classes meet on Saturdays. Call the park for more information about classes and activities (370-4930).



The skating and board games party on Jan. 13 offered participants a chance to enjoy the remodeled park building.

Vintage Music Co.: Keeping the Connections

by William Fietzer, Standish Resident



On a grim, gray New Year's Eve day, Scott Holthus, owner of Vintage Music Co. (1820 E. 38th St.), paused while taking inventory of hundreds of 78 rpm records and considered why he continues to sell an entertainment technology most people feel is outmoded. Scott sipped from a cup of reheated coffee and scanned the record bins, Victrolas, and refurbished radios that line the store's walls.

"I am anti-digital," Scott announced and then explained why analog recordings are inherently superior in his opinion. Despite their high resolution, digital recordings—by the black-and-white nature of their transcription process—poorly recognize the gray areas that mark musical performances. When he hears a digitized transcription of Bing Crosby singing, Scott misses the coughs of the sidemen, the throat clearing between phrases, and "the richness and depth" provided by sound waves bouncing off objects and people in the room. Today's music sounds sterile because "music doesn't exist in a vacuum," Scott said.

Though the market for the rare and one-of-a-kind 78 recordings in his store still flourished into the 21st century, the advent of e-Bay and other online marketplaces has made the sales of rare recordings less lucrative for small bricks-and-mortar store owners. In response, Scott has modified his business plan in the past year. Buying and selling rare record titles and high-end phonographs remains an important part of his business, but radio-console refurbishing and turntable repair have

"made a huge difference" in his bottom line and now carry the business.

That admission resurrected the question of why he continues to collect and sell antiquated technology. "Somebody should save this stuff," he rejoined, adding that the items in his store reflect a time in our culture, the 1920s through the 1950s, when people sang the words to popular songs because everyone heard them over the radio. Some day he hopes to take the collecting and selling of his old recordings and "talking machines" online to preserve this period of our national "connectedness."

Vintage Music Co. is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: (612) 729-8929.



March—Foodshelf Month

March is the month when community members are officially reminded that many people need help from foodshelves and that foodshelves need help from the community. The foodshelf for the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods is the Minnehaha Food Shelf, located at Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 E. 50th St.), which serves households located south of Lake St. and east of Cedar Ave. Its hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. People using it for the first time must present photo identification and proof of current address for all members of the household and must fill out a government form.

The Minnehaha Food Shelf distributes about 9,000 pounds of food to nearly 150 families each month. It gets frozen entrees, produce, breads, and shelf-stable groceries from a number of sources, including Second Harvest Food Bank, Hope for the City, Hunger Solutions MN, and neighborhood donations. The foodshelf is a combined effort of Minnehaha United Methodist, St. James Episcopal, and Lake Nokomis Lutheran churches.

Minnehaha United Methodist Church accepts shelf-stable donations for the foodshelf during regular church office hours (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.).

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Programs

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS, 4200 Cedar Ave. S.) holds monthly health programs for seniors. On Feb. 27, Emily Griffin, R.N., a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, will present "The Benefits of Exercise in the Elderly." The Mar. 26 program will feature Dr. William Norlin, chiropractor, whose presentation is entitled "The Key to Life." The programs are held at Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.) at 1:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public.

Did You Know?

- Tillie's Bean (2803 E. 38th St.) has new hours. It is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Answer to Where Is It? (No. 8)

This sledding hill is at Sibley Park. The photo was taken from 20th Ave., looking northwest.

Neighborhood Feature

Neighborhood Names

by Judy Peacock, Standish Resident

Minneapolis has close to 90 neighborhoods. Many of these neighborhoods were named after local public schools. Thus, the Standish Neighborhood takes its name from Miles Standish Elementary School (now Standish Green Condominiums), and the Ericsson Neighborhood takes its name from John Ericsson Elementary School (now Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center).

Minneapolis public schools tend to be named after literary and political figures. Many of us recall that Miles Standish was the bashful Pilgrim captain who sent his friend John Alden to propose marriage to Priscilla Mullins on his behalf, an event immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish." John Ericsson, on the other hand, is not so familiar.

John Ericsson (1803–1889) designed and built the *U.S.S. Monitor*, an all-iron ship with a revolving gun turret. His design revolutionized naval construction and helped the North win the Civil War. He also invented the first screw-propelled warship and a variety of marine engines that could be placed below the waterline.

Why would an elementary school in the Midwest be named after a 19th-century naval engineer? Did I mention that Ericsson was a Swedish-American? (He was born in Sweden but lived in Manhattan for 40 years.) Back in 1916, when Ericsson School was constructed, South Minneapolis was rapidly becoming an enclave for upwardly mobile Swedish immigrants. Perhaps by naming their community school after a national hero, these Swedes hoped to instill cultural pride in their children.

Other schools and libraries in the United States have also been named after John Ericsson. There's a monument to him on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. If you'd like to learn more about Ericsson and his inventions, a number of biographies are available, including Olav Thulesius's recently published *The Man Who Made the Monitor: A Biography of John Ericsson, Naval Engineer* (McFarland, 2007, 264 pages).



John Ericsson

Local Standish-Ericsson Businesses: Friendly, Unique, Ours

by Rachael Sarto, Standish Resident

January, February, and March are quiet months for many businesses. The holiday shopping frenzy is over, and Minnesotans more or less hibernate till spring. If there's no pressing reason, who wants to leave the house when it's less than 20 degrees out? (You may have noticed that this doesn't apply to the cross-country skiers among us, who can be seen celebrating the cold and snow all winter at the Hiawatha Golf Course.)

No one can fault us for curling up and staying warm! The only problem is that the business owners in our neighborhoods still have to pay rent and other overhead expenses while we wait for the daffodils and tulips. So if one thing you like about living in South Minneapolis is the charming cafés, bars, or shops around the corner, these are months when it particularly matters to visit your favorite local businesses.

Want to grab a drink with friends? Try Buster's on 28th (4204 28th Ave. S., 729-0911). Buster's makes tasty crab cakes; serves lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch; and offers more than 25 tap beers from around the world.

Looking for a kid-friendly café with delicious drinks, sandwiches, and acoustic music? Tillie's Bean (2803 E. 38th St., 276-0100) inspired its loyal customers to fill a City Council meeting on Nov. 28, where a unanimous vote changed Minneapolis law to allow small venues like cafés to host up to three unamplified acoustic musicians without paying for an expensive music permit.

Or maybe you need a gift for a special someone between the ages of 1 month and 115 years? Local "green" gift shop ReGifts (1832 E. 42nd St., 276-0105) has received national attention as a Minneapolis gem. Local artists and other U.S. artisans create the charming, environmentally friendly finds at ReGifts, from quirky home décor to natural soaps to a fun collection of safe, nontoxic children's toys.

These are just a few of the one-of-a-kind businesses to be found in Standish and Ericsson. For a list of more than 80 local businesses, created and updated by Roosevelt High School students, visit www.standish-ericsson.org and click on the "businesses" tab. You may be surprised to discover eating and shopping establishments that are cozy and appealing enough to lure you those few blocks from home. They need our business to keep their furnaces running—and to keep making our neighborhoods like nowhere else.

Be a SENA News Sponsor

Did you know that *SENA News* is delivered bimonthly into the mailboxes of 4,300 homes? If you have a business, advertising in the newsletter is an efficient way to reach potential customers. The SENA Board and the newsletter staff have decided to renew a sponsorship program that was tried earlier, in order to increase SENA's sources of income. The program has two options: you can be an issue sponsor or a donor. An *issue sponsor* is a person who purchases the right to write a half-page article giving useful information based on his or her area of expertise,

as well as specific information about his or her business (picture, logo, hours, address, etc.). The sponsor can write the article alone or with help from the staff. A *donor* is a person who makes a \$75 contribution and is thanked in a business-card-size box that describes the person's business, expertise, or connection to the community. If you need to have your name and area of expertise known in the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods, call the office (721-1601) for details and sponsorship rates.

Affordable Housing—Something We All Need

by Ann King, Standish Resident

In this year when foreclosures of homes have hit an all-time high, the topic of affordable housing seems especially relevant. Many of the people who lost homes to foreclosure did so because they were encouraged and helped to buy homes that they really couldn't afford. As the housing market boomed, buyers and financiers didn't consider the meaning of "affordable." Housing is "affordable" if it costs no more than 30% of a family's income—which means not just the income at the time the house is bought but also the income that the family will have in a few years when the grace period is over and the monthly cost rises. Over-optimism, or foolishness perhaps, led many people to commit to spending a higher percentage of their income on housing, leading to their inability to pay and, eventually, the loss of that housing.

Looking beyond the mistakes of individuals, though, there is a deeper question. Why doesn't Minneapolis have enough housing at different levels of affordability so that some type of housing is available to everyone at no more than 30% of their income? Why isn't there as much housing for people making \$30,000 a year as for people making \$80,000? If you look at the development projects started in the areas near Standish and Ericsson in the last few years, you will see that they typically offer "market rate" housing—some of it "luxury condos," which are at the high end of market rate. (In our own neighborhoods, only one development project was completed, and it has market rate units.) Of course, developers prefer to build high-end properties so that the prices (or rents) are higher. But the City of Minneapolis wants to increase affordable housing and offers subsidies to builders who will include "affordable" units. Why aren't more builders doing that?

This is where emotion and misunderstanding frequently enter the picture. Neighborhood residents often get upset at the idea

of "affordable housing" and fight against it. The term may evoke pictures of very poor people living in high-rise housing projects. But this is an extreme way of looking at the situation. Everybody needs affordable housing. One thing the city is trying to do is increase the availability of housing for people whose income is at 50% of the "metropolitan median income" (MMI). What would you guess that 50% of MMI is? It may not be evident to us in South Minneapolis, but the median income of the metropolitan region (that is, the point at which half of the incomes are higher and half are lower) is about \$76,000. So a family making 50% of MMI has an income of about \$38,000. That's who is targeted when housing is made affordable at the 50%-MMI level. (The city also wants to increase housing for people at the 30% of MMI level; they make around \$24,000.) Looking at it another way, the housing that is in very short supply in Minneapolis is that available to people in service jobs (teachers, nurses and nursing home workers, day care providers, bank tellers, taxi drivers, sales clerks), to many self-employed people, to many seniors, and to young people starting out in life.

The Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods have long been seen as particularly affordable places to live, and residents are proud of their houses. We have so many small, affordable houses that there is practically no room for larger developments. Eventually, though, change will come and we will have the opportunity to make affordable housing available to more people. The 38th St. corridor is slated for some multiunit housing. The Hiawatha corridor will eventually have lots of development. When those projects begin, let's be thoughtful about affordable housing, remembering that it offers to people something that we have had and appreciated—a place to live that doesn't cost us an unsafe amount of our earnings.

News from the Midtown Farmers' Market



Market Assistant Dayna (left) and Market Manager Rekha (right).

It's a busy winter for staff at the Midtown Farmers' Market. Market staff and the Market Advisory Committee recently met to develop plans for the coming season, including diversifying vendors and entertainment, developing events, and promoting the market. Staff are also organizing several vendor workshops to take place this winter. Rekha Banerjee replaced Joanna Stone as market director in December.

Another big wintertime task is fundraising since vendor fees cover only a third of the cost of bringing the community a fun, diverse, and abundant market. The market needs business sponsors as well as individual donors, especially at this time of year. To support your market, send a check payable to the "Midtown Farmers' Market" to the Midtown Farmers' Market Manager, at the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, 3451 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, or donate online at www.midtownfarmersmarket.org.

The Midtown Farmers' Market, located at 22nd Ave. and E. Lake St., is open to the public Saturday mornings from May through October and Tuesday afternoons from July through October.

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) 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. (2) The "Nurse Is In" at the foot care clinic at Bethel Evangelical 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) Congregate dining 12:00 noon Monday–Friday, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). Call 729-6668 two days ahead. \$3 donation requested. (4) 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 (821-2976) for more information. (5) 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.



Did You Know?

- In late 2007, Minneapolis school system advisors considered closing Folwell Middle School because of declining enrollment. A strong show of support from parents and community, emphasizing the strong programs at Folwell and the continued effort to close the achievement gap, brought a decision to keep the school open.



SENA

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

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President's Corner **Joel Zylstra**

I am extremely honored to serve as SENA's president this year. By way of background, my wife Karin and I have lived in the Ericsson Neighborhood for nearly six years. When we were looking for a neighborhood to call home, we were constantly impressed with not only the homes in the neighborhood but also the sense of the community we felt. We were looking for a mix between an urban community and an area with a neighborly feel. We found it here.

This year, Ericsson had a new addition: our son Nicholas. We love the opportunities that the neighborhood has for children and look forward to raising Nick here.

This year will be an eventful one at SENA. As many of you know, the core of SENA's funding for nearly two decades has been the NRP, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. However, the NRP is scheduled to end in 2009, and a future program in any form is far from certain. Because of this, many of the various neighborhood organizations that have served Minneapolis for years are at risk. I encourage any Standish and Ericsson residents who are concerned about the NRP and

its future to contact their City Council representatives and state legislators and encourage them to work to fund the NRP in the future.

Within the next few months, the SENA Board plans many important meetings to explore the future of SENA. The board will seek your input in this process, so please feel free to contact me, the other board members, or SENA staff with your ideas. SENA is your organization, and we welcome what you have to say. Without great residents, our neighborhoods are just a place to live, not a home.

