



SENA NEWS

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 6, December 2010/January 2011 • www.standish-ericsson.org

River-Lake Greenway Finished

by Ann King

SENA's Annual Meeting



Meeting attendees watched both the reports and the sunset.

SENA's Annual Meeting was held on Oct. 13 at Lake Hiawatha Park. Before the meeting, neighborhood residents enjoyed food from local restaurants and looked at displays about projects along the Hiawatha/Minnehaha Corridor. These projects were explained during the meeting by several representatives from Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

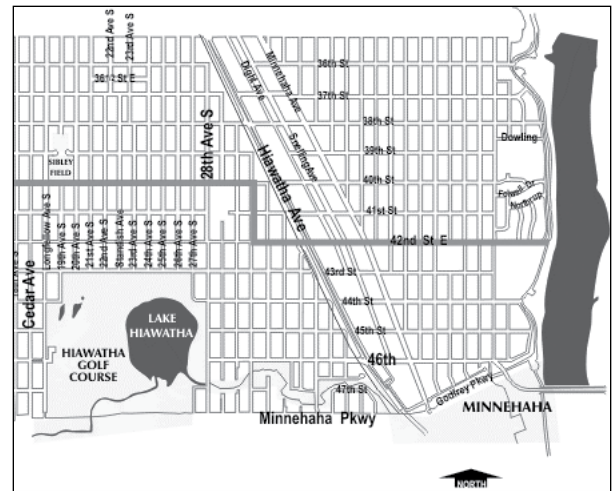
Reports were given on several other neighborhood projects. Rachel Fang and Virginia Bach described the first year of the Southside Star Community Garden. Amos Deinard, from the Nokomis Pet

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Bicyclists can now travel all the way across Minneapolis on the River-Lake Greenway, most of which is on 40th St. The western portion has existed for several years, including a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across Highway 35W, but the portion east of the highway has just been completed. Construction took only a few months, but the planning and community meetings have stretched over nearly seven years. (See the article on page 3.) Federal transportation funds are paying 70% of the cost, and the City of Minneapolis 30%.



Signs officially designate E. 40th St. and parts of Nokomis Ave. S. and E. 42nd St. as a bicycle boulevard.

The River-Lake Greenway is for walkers, too. With less auto traffic and some landscaping yet to come, it will be a pedestrian-friendly place, adding another amenity to our neighborhoods.

In the Standish Neighborhood, the Greenway follows E. 40th St. to Nokomis Ave. and then goes south to E. 42nd St. There it turns east again and goes all the way to the river, through the Longfellow Neighborhood. Various methods are used to create a bicycle boulevard out of city streets. In some places, bicycles have a specific lane; in others, they share the street with motor traffic. Cyclists and motorists will need to pay attention to marks on the pavement and posted signs.

Some alterations have been made to 40th St. to slow down or discourage automobile traffic. Motorists going west on 40th St. are no longer able to cross Cedar Ave. directly. They have to turn right at Cedar; and, if they need to continue on 40th St., they must go around the block and back to 40th. At the bottom of the hill by Sibley Park, at 19th Ave., the stop sign has been taken out, but medians have been added to help people cross to the park. Parking is not permitted on one side of the street in several areas, including the north side of 42nd St. between Nokomis and Hiawatha.



Medians being constructed at 19th Ave. S. to help pedestrians cross 40th St. to get to Sibley Park. The stop sign will be removed.

Where Is It? (No. 25)

What business shows this lively scene on its side wall? The answer is on page 7.



Hiawatha Heart Warmer February 12

The Third Annual Hiawatha Heart Warmer will be Sat., Feb. 12, 2011. This annual neighborhood festival celebrates the Standish-Ericsson community and helps support local businesses. Details are still being worked out, but look for more information in the next newsletter. If you'd like to donate to or be part of this family-friendly event, contact Jessica Hill at jessica.hill.minneapolis@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

The SENA Board elected the following officers for 2010–2011: president, Tom Evers; vice president, Sam Newberg; secretary, Deanna Croes; treasurer, John Saunders.

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), Citizen Participation (CP) funds and individual donations. Copyright ©2010 by SENA.

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

Community Events Calendar

December 2010

- 2 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. Call 729-6668 two days ahead.
- 7 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 9 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.
- 13–17 Roosevelt High School Operation Holiday Basket (food collection and distribution project)
- 13 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 16 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 28 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon

January 2011

- 4 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)
- 6 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. Call 729-6668 two days ahead.
- 10 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible
- 13 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Deadline for applications for 2011 Home Tour. (See p. 3.)
- 25 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon
- 26 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "Memory Loss and Dementia," Gerontologist Dr. Abigail Hailey, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m.
- 27 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.
- 29 Sno Daze activities at Sibley Park, 9:30–11:00 a.m. (See p. 7.)

Roosevelt Library Partners with Local Schools

by Lisa Stuart, Librarian

Roosevelt Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) has partnered with Roosevelt High School and Wellstone International High School to make sure that students know about the resources available through their public library. English language learners are taking part in the Story Circle Book Club and other specially designed programs, and there are monthly orientations to the library for teen parents. We are proud of our efforts in reaching teens who may not already know what their library offers. Thank you to everyone for welcoming our newest library customers.

Roosevelt Library Events

Family Story Time. Thursdays at 3:15 p.m. (new time!) and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. For children age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children.

Parent-Child Book Club. Sat., Jan. 8 and 29, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. For kids in grades 1–3 and their grown-up of choice. Register online at hclib.org or call (952) 847-2703. Then, pick up your book at the information desk before or during winter break, and read during your time off from school!

Mystery Book Club. Third Tuesdays (Dec. 21 and Jan. 18), 6:30 p.m. Join other adults at Roosevelt Library to discuss the best mysteries out there. To sign up, e-mail Francie at bjbug@comcast.net.

Roosevelt Library is open 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays. The library will be closed Sat., Dec. 25, and Sat., Jan. 1.

Waters Assisted Living Continues to Rise



The Waters of Minnehaha gained two more stories and a roof during September and October. This photo shows the building from the corner of E. 38th St. and 23rd Ave. S.

SENA's Annual Meeting

— Continued from page 1 —

Clinic, talked about the new business group, West of the Rail Business Association, and Tom Evers reported on the progress of the tennis court renovation. Rob Atkinson announced that the River-Lake Greenway will finally open this fall.

Voting with stickers, attendees approved a modification to SENAs Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Plan. The "plan mod" will allow SENAs to access \$86,475 that was unused or left over when plan strategies were carried out in the past. The money will be moved into strategies that will provide support for the regular operating budget. This was necessary because NRP funds have run out, and new funding for neighborhood groups will not be available until 2012.

Two new board members, Tim Ittner and Nathan Lewarne, were elected. John Saunders and John Pignatello were elected to serve an additional term.

Each neighborhood also needs an elector for the NRP Policy Board. Electors meet only once, to elect representatives to that board. This year's electors are Stephanie Howes for Standish (with Rob Atkinson as alternate) and Deanna Croes for Ericsson (no alternate at this time).

SENA Says Thank You to:

- Businesses that donated food for SENAs Annual Meeting: Chris and Rob's Chicago Taste Authority, Colossal Café, Grand Ole Creamery, and Cardinal Restaurant and Bar.

2011 Home Tour

The 2011 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour is already looking for homeowners and home improvement professionals who would like to be featured on the tour. Nominations and applications are due Sat., Jan. 15, and early submissions are encouraged. The tour, in its 24th year, will be held Sat., Apr. 30, and Sun., May 1.

"People who attend the tour are looking for ideas on how to remodel or expand their homes," said Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore. "Homeowners on the tour enjoy fabulous feedback and find it's also a great promotion for their neighborhoods."

Contractors and other vendors may nominate homes they have worked on and are encouraged to call for information about sponsorship. Green, energy-efficient, and historically sensitive remodels and expansions get special notice among the 50 homes. It is not necessary to have remodeled the whole house.

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) manages the tour as a celebration of city living that encourages homeowners to improve existing homes. For more information, call Margo Ashmore (867-4874) or e-mail link@nrp.org. The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.com under "nominate."

NHS Fall Frolic a Big Success!

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) held its third annual Fall Frolic on Oct. 16 at Bethel Lutheran Church. The frolic featured live music by the Choralaires and Southside Singers, a silent auction, bingo and other games, and a book sale. Food was provided by Fat Lorenzo's. The event was attended by almost 300 people and raised over \$4,500 for NHS.

Committee UPDATES

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

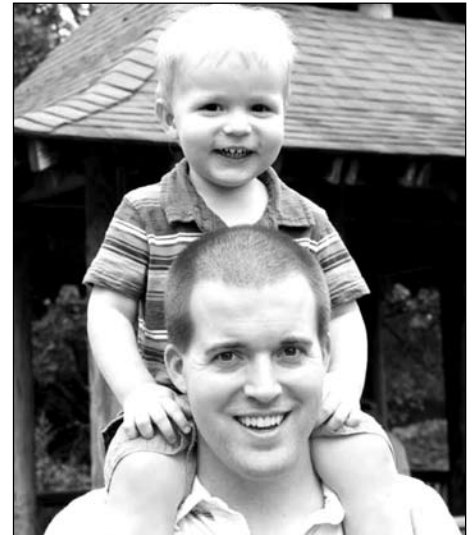
Meetings are held as needed for the **Communications Committee, Newsletter Subcommittee, Graffiti Task Force, Housing Committee, and Quality of Life Committee**. Call the office (721-1601) for more information.

Meetings are generally held at the SENAs Office, 1830 E. 42nd St.

Volunteering Yields Results

by Tracy Phan

After many years of discussion and planning, the River-Lake Greenway is now a reality. The four-mile stretch that runs through the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods (see the map and photos on p. 1) was completed at the end of November. The Greenway provides an east-west "bicycle boulevard" from Lake Harriet to the Mississippi River. This project resulted from the hard work of many people, including volunteers like Rob Atkinson.



Rob Atkinson and son, Elliot, age 2, a future volunteer

Rob moved into the Standish Neighborhood in 2003. He wanted a part in shaping the neighborhood in which he lives. In particular, Rob has a passion for neighborhood transportation issues. Volunteering to represent SENAs on the Greenway project provided the ideal opportunity to become involved.

Rob thinks it is important to have an opinion about how your neighborhood should work and what things it should do. He doesn't believe in just complaining about something. If you hold a belief strongly enough to complain, Rob says, then you should put that energy to work by coming together with others to make the change you want. Pick something you care about and get involved, which is exactly what he did.

Finally seeing the River-Lake Greenway completed has been rewarding for Rob, especially since the project had been put on hold for several years. (Neighborhood discussion about the Greenway actually began in 1997.) Rob hopes the Greenway will encourage more bikers and runners to visit our neighborhood businesses. He's excited to see how the techniques and ideas implemented along the route will work out, and he's confident that any issues that arise can be easily resolved.

Rob's optimism and dedication make him a tremendous asset to our neighborhoods. He is a model for how we all can impact our neighborhoods and make a difference.



Easy-to-Follow Safety Tips Can Decrease Fire Danger in Your Home

With winter approaching and temperatures dropping, the Minneapolis Fire Department wants to make sure people follow some easy fire safety tips to ensure that the holidays and the rest of winter will be a safe season. A few simple steps can make your home safer and decrease the chances of accidental fires that can endanger lives and property.

Home Heating Safety

- Have your furnace inspected and cleaned annually. Most filters should be changed once a month.
- Don't leave a space heater unattended, and turn it off when you go to sleep. Leave at least three feet between the space heater and any object.
- Keep your fireplace and chimney clean and inspected regularly. Have a screen in front of your fireplace at all times and put out the fire before leaving or going to bed. Don't hang stockings on the mantle of a fireplace used for burning.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector. Check/replace batteries every six months.
- Test smoke detectors and check/replace batteries every six months.

Fire Safety during the Holiday Season

- Keep fresh holiday trees watered regularly. Keep all trees (artificial and real) and holiday decorations away from any fire sources, including fireplaces.
- Place all candles in holders that will catch dripping wax and keep them out of reach of children and pets (a 12-inch circle of safety is recommended). Extinguish candles before leaving the premises or going to sleep.
- Check holiday lights and extension cords for damage; discard damaged items. Do not overload power outlets; use power strips with surge protectors.
- Turn off all lights and decorations before you leave the house or go to bed.

For year-round fire safety, consider purchasing a fire extinguisher for your kitchen and garage. Check with a local hardware store for sizes and types.

SENA News gratefully acknowledges a donation from:

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45 Years Combined Experience

LinkedIn

Northrop Embraces New Role as Community School

by Sam Ridenour

Many changes have come to Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center (4315 31st Ave. S.) this year. Among them is a change in designation from magnet school to community school as part of the Minneapolis Public Schools' Changing School Options plan. Two key objectives of the plan are to reduce transportation costs districtwide and to educate students closer to home. As a result, Northrop now serves as the community school for K-5 students in parts of the Standish, Ericsson, Northrop, Bancroft, Corcoran, and Powderhorn Park neighborhoods.

Another significant change this year came about with the retirement of Northrop's former principal, Dr. Kathy Alvig, and the welcoming of a new principal, Ray Aponte, who brings 25 years of experience with Minneapolis Public Schools to the job.

"I am pleased to be joining the Northrop community," Aponte says. "I value Northrop's environmental focus. For the past 20 years, my wife and I have been practicing concepts that reflect good environmental stewardship. We support local businesses, urban green projects, community gardens, and alternative transportation. I look forward to promoting partnerships at Northrop that will reinforce this environmental focus."

One thing that remains unchanged is Northrop's commitment to its mission: to ensure that each Northrop student receives a balanced, individual, and rigorous education embracing all academic disciplines with environmental education as its core.

Toward realizing this goal, Northrop again welcomed students from the University of St. Catherine in a special partnership called EcoSTARS. The college students work in classrooms teaching lessons in environmental science. Northrop students conduct research with the college students, and the information collected is added to an international database. Some topics include weather, hydrology, and soil science.

The S.T.E.M. Program (for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) also took root this year as a pilot program in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota. Northrop students are being introduced to the engineering design process and are becoming involved with real-world problems and local, environmental landform issues such as how erosion along the Mississippi River affects homeowners and the effects of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka.

Northrop is a K-5 community school offering three full-day kindergarten classrooms and a High Five half-day preschool program. Families of prospective students are invited to tour Northrop Nov. 30 through Feb. 8 to see all that it has to offer. Please contact Northrop's family liaisons at (612) 668-4546 to schedule a tour. For more information about Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center, visit the website (<http://northrop.mpls.k12.mn.us/home.html>).

Did You Know?

- A local business, Diva Rags, and its owner, Ashley Lauren, were featured in the September 2010 issue of *Minnesota Women's Press*. (You can still find the issue online.)
- Tiny (16-seat) Colossal Café (1839 E. 42nd St.) has changed ownership. New owner Elizabeth Tinucci has promised to keep the same menu, including former owner Bess Giannakakis's fabulous flapjacks and wonderful chicken pot pies.

Business Feature

Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening

by Nykol Johnson



Denny Hogan and Rolf Holmgren, owners of Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening

Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening have been at 42nd St. and 28th Ave. since 1983. Last year, Denny Hogan and Rolf Holmgren purchased the businesses from Barry St. Mane. Rolf and Denny, who happen to be brothers-in-law, were attracted to Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening for several reasons.

The partner businesses are strong, long-standing businesses in a neighborhood that has a small-town feel; they are businesses that people know and recognize; and they are businesses with great employees. Denny and Rolf's purchase included the business names and all of the equipment. Most importantly, employees that had been with the companies for years chose to remain.

Ve-Nel Lettering is the embroidery part of the package and All Service Screening is the screen printing part. Both shops take in any size order, from 1 to 100 and beyond. The bulk of their business comes from corporations, sporting goods stores, promotional products, and athletic apparel (although they have been known to screen-print underwear for bachelor and bachelorette parties). Customers can bring in any design they would like embroidered or screen-printed or they can work with the in-house graphic designer to develop the perfect design.

Denny and Rolf enjoy getting feedback from happy customers. Customers who go to Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening will find something here that they won't find at the screen printing and embroidery shops in the malls—full service for any size order they place. This includes the option of having their orders delivered.

If you're looking for that perfect, one-of-a-kind holiday gift, or matching shirts for your next family reunion or vacation, keep Ve-Nel Lettering and All Service Screening in mind.

You can stop in to place orders or work out design ideas from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 2806 or 2805 E. 42nd St. You can also call 721-7520, e-mail contact@venellettering.com, or fax 721-7941.



Rolf Holmgren and Denny Hogan in front of 12-head embroidery machine

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. 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. 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

(Use this form or include this information.)

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.

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SENA does not share or sell its mailing list.

Neighborhood Feature

Wellstone International High School: English Language Learners

by Judy Peacock



Going past Roosevelt High School, you've no doubt seen the green-and-white Wellstone International High School sign in the southwest corner of the building. You've probably noticed the wooden pole with a lot of writing on it next to the sign. What is Wellstone? you may have wondered.

Wellstone is an accredited Minneapolis High School housed in the Roosevelt High School building.* It serves immigrant students ages 15 to 21 who speak little or no English or those who have had a disrupted formal education. Students can spend their entire high school experience at the school. Approximately 130 students currently attend Wellstone. Daniel Hertz, Wellstone counselor, estimates that the student population is 45% Latino, 45% Somali and Oromo, and 10% Asian or other. Many of the students are refugees from worn-torn areas of the world.

The school has existed since 2001. Originally called the International Center for Accelerated Language Learning, it was located in the Lehmann building on W. Lake Street. It was renamed Wellstone International High School in 2003, in honor of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone. When the district closed the Lehmann building in 2008, Wellstone International moved into the Roosevelt High School building.

The official entrance to Wellstone is at the south end of the building. The school occupies

nine classrooms on the second and third floors. Wellstone has its own main office (room 301), its own principal (Michael Bradley), and a staff of 20. It uses Roosevelt's auditorium and cafeteria. The gym is available to students after school hours.

Wellstone students start the school day at the same time as Roosevelt students, but they stay an hour longer. They take both ELL (English language learner) classes and content-area classes (math, science, and social studies) throughout the day. Because of language and cultural differences, Wellstone students are allowed to take longer than the traditional four years to earn their high school diploma.

Wellstone offers typical high school activities such as student council and clubs. This fall, the school had its second homecoming celebration, which centered on a soccer match against Roosevelt (Wellstone won 3-2 in the last two minutes). Students go on field trips, such as to Fort Snelling, and they celebrate their native cultures on Culture Day.

Wellstone is an International Peace Site. Schools and organizations that participate in this program sponsor activities that promote peace and justice in the world. The pole outside Wellstone is a peace pole, and it proclaims "May peace prevail on Earth" in 16 different languages.

* Actually, there are three schools in the building: Roosevelt, Wellstone, and the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPPP).

Student council members (from left to right) Kalid Yusuf, Salam Girmay, and Pateng Her



Did You Know?

Wellstone is looking for people from the community to assist students in becoming more fluent in English. You can help by volunteering to be an in-class tutor or after-school tutor. Coaches and advisors for after-school sports and activities are also needed. For more details, contact Aaron Rangoonwala, program developer and community partnership liaison, at 366-8826 or Aaron.Rangoonwala@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Meet Wellstone Graduate Phuoc Huynh



Phuoc Huynh

Phuoc Huynh is a 2010 graduate of Wellstone International High School. She was valedictorian of her class, a National Honor Society inductee, a member of the student council, and a peer mediator. The recipient of four college scholarships, Phuoc is currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota and hopes to pursue a career in business.

Phuoc's achievements are extraordinary considering that she did not know a word of English when she arrived in the United States from Vietnam in 2007. She immigrated with her mother and father and an older sister. Phuoc's father had supported the United States during the Vietnam War, and the family suffered many hardships after the communist takeover.

Phuoc struggled in a traditional Minneapolis high school before coming to Wellstone. In addition to the intensive English language instruction she received, Phuoc benefited from friendships with other students who were learning a new language and a new culture. "Wellstone is like a family," she says.

Friendship Academy Celebrates 10 Years

Friendship Academy of Fine Arts (2600 E. 38th St.), a Minneapolis-sponsored charter K-6 grade school, recently celebrated its 10th year of existence. It began and remains in South Minneapolis, providing positive educational options for the families of this community. In 2010, it received a "Wellness by Design" Silver Award, given by Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department. The school was recognized for going above and beyond in creating a healthy environment for its students and staff and promoting healthy lifestyles through nutrition, physical education, community/family involvement, social services, and counseling. Congratulations to Friendship Academy for the award and for 10 years of "Building Leaders Through Arts Education."

Events at the Parks

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

Preschoolers. The Little Lakers, a curriculum play-based preschool program new to Lake Hiawatha Park, continues Dec. 1–16 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.). Our longtime preschool teacher, Ms. Jenny, has a degree in early childhood education and has been teaching for 25 years. Your child will spend the year exploring science, math, reading, our environment, and the arts along with so much more! All children need a lunch and drink every day, and each child must be able to use the bathroom independently. The program is for children ages 3–6, and the cost is \$120. Call the park for information about the days for this program in January.

Ages 5–7. Fundamental hockey will be played from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The class runs from Jan. 12 to Feb. 9. Put on those skates and start with the basics! Kids will learn skating, balance, gripping, teamwork, and how to have fun on the ice. The cost is \$20.

Pilates for everyone. A gentle but challenging exercise, Pilates incorporates focus, strength, flexibility, and coordination into a workout that works the body from head to toe. Come learn the basic exercises and principles that strengthen the deep core muscles of the abdomen and back, improve posture and body awareness, and make you feel great. People of all ages and fitness levels can enjoy the benefits of the Pilates method. Please bring a mat and wear comfortable clothing. The class meets 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 4 and 11, and every Saturday in January. The cost is \$5 per class.



The tennis courts at Lake Hiawatha Park are being renovated and a new one added, making five courts. The renovation, financed by a private group called Support the Courts, will provide improved facilities for the neighborhood and for Roosevelt High School.



Construction of the new wading pool at Lake Hiawatha Park.

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

Senior luncheons. Join friends old and new for a delicious lunch and socializing. Park Director Brian and his faithful staff will prepare lunch for everyone. Call to be put on the mailing list for upcoming trips and luncheon menus. Cost: \$5, pay when you come, but call ahead to reserve your seat. Luncheons are at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4. After the January luncheon (at 12:30 p.m.), enjoy a show by the senior tap dancing group called “Rhythmic Feet.”

Winter sports. Basketball and hockey are offered for ages 6–15. Register any time at the park. Practices begin in December and games in January. Volunteer coaches are needed; apply at the park.

Come skate for fun. The warming room will open in mid-December depending on weather conditions for ice skating and hockey.

Winter activities and field trips are available on school-release days. Check out flyers at the park or go to www.minneapolisparcs.org.

On Sat., Jan. 15, come watch high school girls’ junior varsity and varsity hockey games (Minneapolis Novas vs. St. Paul United). The time is yet to be determined.

Family event. Sibley’s Sno Daze activities will be Sat., Jan. 29 (9:30–11:00 a.m.). Breakfast will be served for a small fee. You can enjoy hockey games and fun activities indoors and outdoors from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Roosevelt High School News and Notes

by Jim Hoskyn, Parent Liaison

Roosevelt High School’s Auto & Construction and Health Careers programs have been designated as citywide programs for the 2011–2012 school year. That means students who live outside Roosevelt’s attendance area may enroll in these programs. However, since the school district no longer provides school buses to transport students to citywide programs, students must find their own way to Roosevelt. The district issues Metro Transit Go-To passes to assist students with transportation.

Roosevelt senior Lincoln Forsell has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Lincoln plans to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after graduation. In addition to being a leader in the classroom while at Roosevelt, Lincoln is

a member of the Robotics Club and held a lead role in the school play. He is a talented guitarist. (You may have heard him play at SENA’s Annual Meeting.) Congratulations, Lincoln, on this great accomplishment!

Roosevelt senior Kolburn Kersten can now add “author and illustrator” to his credentials, with the publication of his children’s book *What’s on Kolburn’s Mind?* He recently talked about his publishing experiences with the *Longfellow Messenger*, as reported in the publication’s November 2010 issue. Kolburn’s book is now on sale locally at Magers & Quinn Booksellers.

Answer to Where Is It? (No. 25)

If you noticed the cardinal at the left in the picture and the train in the middle, you probably guessed that this is on the wall of the Cardinal Restaurant and Bar (2920 E. 38th St.).



SENA

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President's Corner **Tom Evers**



I've been thinking a lot about schools lately. Our daughter is bouncing-off-the-walls excited at the thought of attending kindergarten (next year), despite the fact that both Christmas and her birthday will occur sooner than her start date. Imagine if kids held that same energy for school through graduation—it would be a different world!

I share her excitement. As my wife and I begin exploring our options in Minneapolis, I am thrilled at the choices we have in our own neighborhood through the Minneapolis Public Schools, beginning with Northrop, our newly assigned neighborhood school. Principal Ray Aponete is committed to making Northrop the first choice of families in Standish and Ericsson, not just the fallback option. When I toured the school for the first time, I saw a team of engaged teachers working with bright kids in a warm environment.

And Northrop isn't the only option for us. Just across Bloomington Ave. is Bancroft Elementary, where Principal Paul Marietta is leading the effort to become an International Baccalaureate certified school, a proven education model adopted around the globe. In addition to these two schools, there is an environmental magnet program at Dowling and a Montessori School in the Seward Neighborhood—each providing superb programs, and additional options both public and private.

SENA is not an educational organization, but our neighborhoods' health is closely tied to the success of our schools, just as our children's futures are tied to a quality education.

A school's location and the support it receives from the surrounding residents and businesses are critical elements of a school's success. Often, the community a school serves provides the keys to long-term school health. No school or system is perfect, but I am energized watching our schools (including Roosevelt and South high schools) emerge from the recent district restructuring in a way that puts the focus back on the communities and the children in them.

At SENA, we want to continue to support the community so that families who live here find it a difficult choice to leave because the schools, businesses, and neighbors are irreplaceable and the quality of life is unmatched. We have much work to do; we will never be completely finished, but I encourage everyone to think about what their ideal community can be and how they can help to bring that about. For me, the schools are a critical part of the equation.

Did You Know?

- The SENA website lists neighborhood businesses, with contact information and brief descriptions. Home-based businesses are welcome on the list. If you own a home-based business that's not included, call the office with your information.