SENA *NEWS*

The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 1, February/March 2011 • www.standish-ericsson.org

SENA's 2011 Home Improvement Program

If you are looking for financial help for some exterior home improvements, you can take advantage of the SENA 2011 Matching-Deferred Loan Program. This year's program is designed to assist SENA homeowners with significant *exterior* maintenance problems. For 2011, a total of $100,000 will be available to Standish or Ericsson Neighborhood homeowners for loans of up to $6,000 per household.

- Loans are offered at 0% interest and do not have to be repaid if the homeowner remains in the home for more than 20 years.
- Homeowners will be required to match SENA loans on a 1:2 basis. (Example: for every $1 of the matching-deferred loan, the homeowner must expend an additional $2 on the project.) For those with household income below 80% of the area median income, a 1:1 match is required. For those with household income below 50% of the area median income, no match is required. Median income levels per family size are included in the program guidelines.
- Acceptable projects are also listed in the program guidelines.

Applications and guidelines will be available Feb. 1 from the Housing*Resource* Center (3749 Cedar Ave S) and are due Apr. 1.

This is a competitive program, with loans awarded to homes with the greatest need for improvement. All applications will be reviewed and rated by the construction manager at the Housing*Resource* Center. Contact the Housing*Resource* Center at 722-7141 for more information.

South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair, February 26

The 17th Annual South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair, one of the most successful and well-attended community events in South Minneapolis, will take place on Sat., Feb. 26, at South High School (3131 19th Ave. S.) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join your neighbors at this free event, which provides attendees a "one shop stop" where they can learn more about how to complete their home improvement projects.

The event, which draws approximately 2,000 people every year, offers attendees a chance to participate in educational seminars and visit with exhibitors. Seminars are taught by local professionals on home improvement, safety, home purchase, decorating, and financing. Exhibitors include local contractors, financial institutions, real estate agents, neighborhood associations, and nonprofit and government agencies. Children can construct birdhouses, and door prizes are given away periodically.

The event is free and open to the public. For up-to-date information, visit the website at www.housingfair.org or search for "South Minneapolis Housing & Home Improvement Fair" on Facebook.

Plans for Development of Purina Mill Site

Regular readers know that *SENA News* has been reporting on plans for new development at the site of the old Purina Mill (southeast corner of Hiawatha Ave. and E. 38th St.) since early 2006. Plans have gone through many revisions, and a few months ago it seemed like the project might be permanently stalled. However, there are now positive signs that the development will move forward.

— Continued on page 2 —

Hiawatha Heart Warmer, February 12

It's a good bet that there will be plenty of snow and cold for the Hiawatha Heart Warmer on Sat., Feb. 12. The Heart Warmer, now in its third year, will be held at Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) from noon to 3:00 p.m. The festival features ice skating, hayrides, free grilled beef hot dogs, live music, and a bonfire for roasting marshmallows.

To warm up, you can go inside the park building and meet-and-greet local merchants and representatives from nonprofit organizations. Besides providing winter fun, the Heart Warmer encourages residents to support the neighborhood economy.

The Heart Warmer has become a popular winter celebration. Last year, 650 people attended from all across the metro area, and 23 local businesses participated. Volunteers are needed before and after the event. If you'd like to help out, e-mail event organizer Jessica Hill (*jessica.hill.minneapolis@gmail.com*).

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Where Is It? (No. 27)

Granted, most sidewalks in Minneapolis looked like this at the end of December, but can you tell where this particular one is? The answer is on page 6.

An Additional Note on the River-Lake Greenway

SENA News was a bit premature in announcing the completion of the River-Lake Greenway (see the December 2010/January 2011 newsletter). Because of the timing of the first snow, curb work for the lanes on 42nd St. on the west side of Hiawatha Ave. and pavement markings (such as crosswalks, some new lines, and bike symbols) must wait to be completed in the spring.

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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 individual donations.

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

Community Events Calendar

February

1 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)

3 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. (See p. 4.)

9 Black History Month program, Friendship Academy (2600 E. 38th St.), 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (See p. 7.)

10 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.

12 Hiawatha Heart Warmer, Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.), noon to 3:00 p.m. (See p. 1.)

14 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible

22 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon

23 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: "Caregiver Respite," Marge Spagl from Catholic Charities, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 5.)

24 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.

26 South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair, South High School (3131 19th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (See p. 1.)

March

1 Senior congregate dining, Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.), 11:30 a.m. (See p. 7.)

3 Congregate dining and blood pressure checks, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.), 12:00 noon. (See p. 4.)

10 Low Vision Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S.), 10:00 a.m.

14 SENA Board meeting, 1830 E. 42nd St., 7:00 p.m., handicapped accessible

22 Senior blood pressure checks, Standish Green (2210 E. 40th St.), 12:00 noon

30 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Health Program: Musician Mary Hall, Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.), 1:30 p.m. (See p. 5.)

31 Caregiver Support Group, Bethel Lutheran Church, 1:00 p.m.

Roosevelt Library Events

Roosevelt Library (4026 28th Ave. S.) 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.

Family Storytime. For children age 2 and up. Share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with your children. Thursdays, 3:15 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Parent-Child Book Club. For kids in grades 1–3 and their grown-up. Meets every three weeks on Saturdays (3:00 p.m. on Feb. 19, and 4:00 p.m. on Mar. 19). Join others to talk about a great book! Books are available for checkout at the information desk. Register online at hclib.org or call (952) 847-2700.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Party. Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with stories, games, and more Seuss-a-licious fun. Tues., Mar. 1, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Kids Book Club. For kids in grades 4–5. Meets every three weeks on Saturdays, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., starting Mar. 12. Registration opens Feb. 12. Join others to talk about a great book! Books are available for checkout at the information desk. Register online at hclib.org or call (952) 847-2700.

Plans for Development of Purina Mill Site

— Continued from page 1 —

On Dec. 8, the Longfellow Community Council hosted a community meeting to allow George Sherman, with Sherman Associates, to present revised plans for the redevelopment of the site. Although some changes were made to the plan design, the basics remain the same as the last plans presented by the previous developer: a 180-unit rental housing building and a 10,000-square-foot commercial building. On Dec. 10, the Minneapolis City Council officially transferred the project from the original developer, Capital Growth Real Estate (Dale Joel), to Sherman Associates.

Demolition of the old structure has been under way for several months and is scheduled to be completed in early 2011.

March Is Food Shelf Month

by Sybylla Yeoman Hendrix

If you were to take the 7 bus on a Tuesday morning, you might be surprised at how many people get off at 34th Ave. and 50th St. Businesses on that corner do well during the day, but the real destination on a Tuesday morning is three blocks east, the food shelf at Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 E. 50th St.), which is the local food shelf for the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods. The Minnehaha Food Shelf serves southeast Minneapolis from Cedar Ave. to the Mississippi River and from 62 Crosstown to Lake St.

According to the Emergency Foodshelf Network, 5% of Minnesotans use food stamps to feed their families each month. Three hundred food shelves operate in the state of Minnesota, and 56% of those visiting food shelves are families with children. As the economy worsens, more and more people are unexpectedly finding themselves in need of support from places like the Minnehaha Food Shelf.

Every March, Minnesota FoodShare, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, encourages businesses, churches, schools, and civic groups to collect donations for their local food shelves. This March, please consider how you can help to end hunger in our community. Keep an eye out for food drive activities in the neighborhood, at your church or local business, or at Cub and Rainbow stores. It is also very helpful to food shelves to receive monetary donations, since a food shelf can often buy food in bulk at a much better price than an individual shopping in a grocery store can.

If you would like to help and are not able to make a donation at this time but have a Tuesday morning free, you may also want to consider volunteering at Minnehaha Food Shelf. The food shelf can always use help to check in visitors, set up in the morning, or distribute food throughout the day. Donations are accepted during the church office hours, Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information about volunteering, call the church during those same business hours at 721-6231.

Neighbor to Neighbor in a Snowy Winter

- The even-numbered side of 39th St. and 29th Ave. sends a big thank you to Greg for snowplowing down the block after the big snowfall the first weekend of December!
- Michelle from Cedar Ave. thanks her neighbor, Rob, who shovels her front sidewalks after each snowstorm! She really appreciates it and is sure all who walk on the sidewalks do too.
- Ann is glad to live on a block where a dozen neighbors got together during the Dec. 11 snowstorm to dig out cars and move them to the proper side of the street.
- Judy thanks A Baker's Wife Pastry Shop (4200 28th Ave. S.) for baking a fresh cherry pie when the snow prevented her from picking up her original order.

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

Committee UPDATES

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

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

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

SENA Thanks Its Volunteers

Volunteers are really important to nonprofit organizations, and SENA is no exception. It relies on volunteers to serve on its board and committees, to organize and help with events, to write for the newsletter, and to represent it in activities of the wider community. The following list names people who were active in late 2009 and most of 2010. The starred names are members of the SENA Board of Directors.

Robert Atkinson
Matt Bakker
Steve Basile
Phil Behrend
Lisa Beller
Joyce Boettcher
Sheila Craycraft-Fehler
Deanna Croes*
Zamara Cuyun
Amos Deinard
Maggie Dykes
Mary Esjornson
Tom Evers*
Rachel Fang*
Susan Fitzwater
Jeff Gerhardson
John Haupt
Jessica Hill*
Ed Hoch
Lea Johnson
Nykol Johnson
Ann King
Nathan Lind
Mike Moran
Jennifer Newberg*
Sam Newberg*
Doris Overby
Judy Peacock
Will Peterson
Tracy Phan
John Pignatello*
Sam Ridenour
Kelly Ryan
John Saunders*
Laura Schwartz
Francy Scurato
Jeff Smith
Heidi Sonsteby-Naughton
Anthony Thompson
Kyle Werremeyer
Terra Widdifield
Andrew Zimmer
Joel Zylstra*

SENA Says Thank You to

Tracy Phan for being on the newsletter staff for the past couple of years. Good luck in your new endeavors, Tracy.

Did You Know?

Winter is here but your neighborhood parks are just heating up. There are fun activities for the entire family. Get down to your local park and grab a detailed list of programs. You can also check them out on www.minneapolisparks.org.

Street Lighting Project

Residents gathered at Minnehaha Café (4554 Minnehaha Ave.) last November to celebrate the pilot lighting project on 46th St. The project stretches from 34th to 46th avenues, running through both the Ericsson and Longfellow neighborhoods. Light poles and fixtures were installed during 2010.

The project is a pilot because the county and the City of Minneapolis want to study several types of lights. They will be able to directly compare standard high-pressure sodium (HPS) street lights to light-emitting diode (LED) lights and induction lights and to study the lights' energy consumption, maintenance, and operating costs. In addition to different types of lights, poles of different heights were installed to allow the study of high-level lights (30-ft poles) and low-level lights (15-ft poles). The LED lights are from six different manufacturers, the induction lights from three different manufacturers.

Residents, local business owners, and anyone traveling through the corridor are encouraged to comment directly on the types of lights—how they're working and what people do or don't like about them. Each grouping of streetlights has a sign indicating which type of light it is, as well as contact information.

In addition to providing information to public agencies, the new lighting project improves street lighting for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles using 46th St. and accessing the light-rail transit station. The project is part of the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Strategic Investment Framework, a long-term plan for the area between Hiawatha and Minnehaha avenues.

News from Northrop Community School

by Sam Ridenour

After an especially snow-packed winter break, students and staff returned to the warm, welcoming halls of Northrop Urban Environmental Learning Center (4315 31st Ave. S.) to ring in a new year full of fantastic learning opportunities.

Parent volunteers received training at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) to bring the Art Adventure Program to Northrop. Volunteers visited classrooms with reproductions of artworks from around the world, engaging students in discussions on common themes found in the works. Field trips to the MIA to view original artworks and to continue the discussions are scheduled in early February.

Third graders enjoyed a concert at Orchestra Hall, entitled *Musical Tales*, and kindergarteners learned about Minneapolis history while visiting the Mill City Museum. The fifth-grade spelling bee also took place in January. The winner was Diana Taylor-Miklasavics, who won after correctly spelling "pretzel."

Comprehensive assessments for kindergarten and first grade, as well as schoolwide testing in reading and mathematics, took place throughout the month of January. All Northrop students are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort.

The CPEO program (Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities) will come to Northrop at the end of February. The seven-week program helps parents become more active participants in the education of their students. Contact Aundreta Harris at 668-2098 for more information.

Only three more tour dates remain for families of prospective students: Feb. 4, 7, and 8. It's not too late to come see all Northrop has to offer. Contact the family liaison office at 668-4546 (right away!) to schedule a tour.

Parks & Environment Memo

Salt on the Pavement Is Salt in Your Water

Many Minnesotans consider salt a necessity for getting through winter unscathed by the slippery ice accumulating on sidewalks and roads. However, they may be surprised to find out that too much of a "good thing" is severely hurting Minnesota's greatest treasures, our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

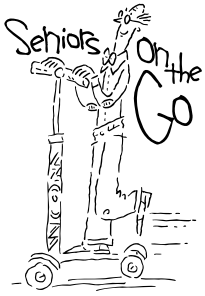
Salt doesn't stay on the roads and sidewalks. As the snow melts, it flows (untreated) into the storm sewer, which leads directly into the closest water body. Once the salt gets into the water, it accumulates there because it doesn't ever break down. As little as one teaspoon of salt in 5 gallons of water is harmful to aquatic life and affects the taste of drinking water.

You can do several things to reduce salt use and still stay safe.

- Avoid using salt when the temperature is below 15°F. Salt doesn't work then.
- Use only the minimum amount of salt at the *beginning* of the snowstorm to stop the ice from bonding to the surface. Salt grains should be 3 inches apart; using more than recommended does not make the snow melt faster.
- Physically remove as much of the ice as possible instead of just using salt.
- Sand alone can be used for traction, but remember to sweep it up in the spring so it doesn't wash into the lake.
- Eco-friendlier alternatives to salt are available at hardware stores. Products that mix salt with calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) or potassium acetate (KA) are better than salt alone.

A little extra work will keep you and Minnesota's waters safe.

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)** Congregate dining 12:00 noon Monday–Friday, Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.). Call 729-6668 two days ahead. $3 donation requested. **(2)** Creativity and Conversation, an art group for women, at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S., 724-3693) every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring whatever project you would like to work on. There will be coffee and treats and, of course, good conversation. **(3)** The Nurse Is In at Bethel Lutheran Church (4120 17th Ave. S., 724-3693) on Thursday mornings. Seniors can chat over coffee and cake, have a blood pressure check, or schedule a pedicure. **(4)** Tuesday Morning Ladies Social meets at Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St., 370-4954) at 9:30 a.m. Free! Come join the group to chat, have some laughs, and enjoy great discussions over coffee and homemade treats. The group meets "downstairs" in the computer lab.

Business Feature

Flag Foods: Convenience Plus Good Health

Convenience stores provide quick access to bread, milk, canned food, pop, and snacks. Flag Foods (2820 E. 42nd St.) offers something more—fresh fruits, including apples, oranges, bananas, and mangoes, and fresh vegetables, including potatoes, lettuce, celery, and onions.

Flag Foods is one of 10 convenience stores participating in the city of Minneapolis's Healthy Corner Store Pilot Program. The goal of the program is to provide customers with more healthy, fresh foods as part of the city's larger effort to combat obesity and chronic disease. The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) is heading the effort with funding from the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

MDHFS staff identified barriers convenience store owners must overcome in order to stock and sell fresh produce. A top issue that the department resolved was finding a wholesaler who could provide and deliver produce at a more affordable price. The department also recommended ways to handle, store, and display healthy foods.

Students from Roosevelt High School's Health Careers program assisted with the healthy makeover of Flag Foods. They surveyed classmates—many of whom are frequent customers—to determine the types of healthy foods they would like to see in the store, and they developed a plan to better display fresh fruits and vegetables (for example, placing tiered baskets with produce at the front of the store). The students also planned the celebration that launched the project on Dec. 10.

The Healthy Corner Store Program is scheduled to continue until June 30, 2011. If data indicate that the program boosts or sustains store sales, city officials hope to expand it citywide. Thus far at Flag Foods, store owner Nadeem Khalid says that the program is going well and that it is "a good thing for the store."

Flag Foods is open every day from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Phone: 729-9291.

Flag Foods, 2820 E. 42nd St.

Healthy Corner Store Program. Left to right: MDHFS intern Kate Bernauer from the Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota's Simply Good Eating Nutrition Program, Assistant Laura McAlister, Flag Foods store owner Nadeem Khalid, student Dulce Gonzalez Sanchez, MDHFS/SHIP Project Specialist Aliyah Ali, and student Fartun Ahmed.

Happy New Year from Nokomis Healthy Seniors!

Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS) will continue to provide all you "healthy seniors" with opportunities to stay that way: exercise, health information, and chances to socialize.

The "Nurse Is In" program (Thursday mornings at Bethel Lutheran Church) is a good way to keep track of your blood pressure and an equally important chance to meet with other seniors over treats and coffee. The conversations are lively and lots of fun! A jigsaw puzzle table is now available so stop by and help find the pieces that fit. You can also play cards each week during game time at 11:00 a.m.

Don't forget the monthly health education programs at Faith Lutheran Church (3430 E. 51st St.). February's program (on the 23rd) features Marge Spagl from Catholic Charities and the topic is caregiver respite. The topic of the March program (on the 30th) is music with musician Mary Hall. Programs begin at 1:30 p.m.

The exercise classes are going great and there is still room for more of you. Improving your flexibility and balance is key to keeping fit and avoiding falls (especially at this time of year). The exercises are done sitting or standing—no getting down on the floor so *everyone* can participate. Men and women are welcome to come every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. at Bethel (4120 17th Ave. S.).

NHS will also be offering a lunch and movie on the fifth Thursday of each quarter. Watch for further information at "Nurse Is In" or call the office (724-3693) for more details.

All the NHS programs are great, but *your* participation is needed to make them successful. NHS is counting on you!

Neighborhood Feature

What Can You Do with 500 Worms in a Box?

by Nykol Johnson

To most of us a worm is a worm. To Standish resident Neil Cunningham, worms are an important part of the nitrogen cycle that helps life thrive.

When Neil worked for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, he cultivated insects and mites. This led to an interest in worms and a curiosity to learn how worms multiply. In the past two years, Neil has gradually scaled up his worm collection. Starting with one bin and 500 worms, he now has dozens of bins filled with worms making rich compost. The bins, all stored in his basement, are labeled to indicate the bin's stage of composting.

Both worm composting and the more traditional composting give you the same result—fertilizer for your garden. The quality of each will vary based on the quality of what you add to your compost bin. The main difference is that worm composting is a cool process that relies on larger organisms (worms), while typical backyard composting is a hot process that relies on smaller organisms (microbes) to break down the organic materials. One great benefit to worm composting is that the scale is smaller, which allows you to adjust the conditions in the bins more easily. Plus, you don't have to go outside in the snow and cold to tend to them!

Neil shares his knowledge of worms and worm composting through presentations at local schools and through workshops at Amelia Flower and Garden Shoppe in Minneapolis and Egg | Plant Urban Farm Supply in St. Paul. Each store hosts worm-composting workshops for $10 per person. Participants can gather their own supplies or they can purchase a complete worm-composting kit at the workshop for $45. Each kit contains 500 red worms (and, yes, Neil counts them all), a bedding base of coconut husk, sand (to help the worms' digestion), rabbit food pellets (to kick-start the microbes), calcium carbonate, and instructions.

The workshops cover more than just how to set up and take care of your worm bin. Neil connects worms to life overall by teaching participants about the nitrogen cycle, the benefits of soil management on crops and plants, and how all of this intertwines to make the process of composting more interesting and our urban garden soil healthier for plants.

If you're interested in learning more about worm composting, attend one of the workshops! You can check the class schedules at Amelia Flower and Garden Shoppe and Egg | Plant Urban Farm Supply. If you can't make a workshop, you can contact either store and request a kit. Neil can deliver complete kits to either location in two to three business days.

Amelia Flower and Garden Shoppe: 910 W. 36th St., Minneapolis; (612) 208-1205; http://www.ameliaflower.com

Egg | Plant Urban Farm Supply: 1771 Selby Ave., St. Paul; (651) 645-0818; http://eggplantsupply.com/Home.html

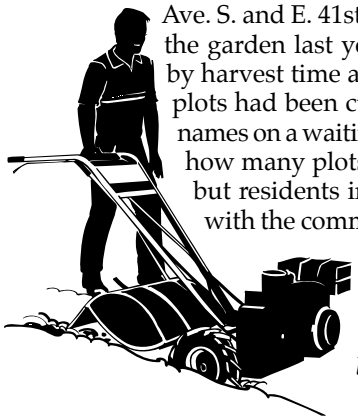
Neil Cunningham with a handful of worms

A complete worm-composting kit

A complete worm-composting kit with a bowl of worms and rinds for food

Digging In to a Second Season

It may be hard to believe with all this snow and ice still on the ground, but in a few short months Standish-Ericsson residents will be tilling the soil and planting the seeds for the second season of the Southside Star Community Garden (32nd Ave. S. and E. 41st St.). Neighborhood response to the garden last year was really enthusiastic, and by harvest time a flourishing garden of nearly 40 plots had been cultivated, with an additional 25 names on a waiting list. At this time, it is uncertain how many plots may become available in 2011, but residents interested in becoming involved with the community garden can find out more at the Southside Star information table at the Hiawatha Heart Warmer on Feb. 12 (see page 1) or by e-mailing Laura Hansen at *bigelle71@yahoo.com*.



Librarian Lisa Stuart Leaves Roosevelt Library

Librarian Lisa Stuart has accepted a youth services position at the Walker Library. Lisa came to the Roosevelt Library in 2008 when the library reopened. Her last day was Jan. 15. "I will miss the neighborhood spirit that made working at Roosevelt Library such a pleasure," says Lisa. Library patrons will miss Lisa, too. Thank you, Lisa, for being so helpful and friendly!

Answer to Where Is It? (No. 27)

If you walked through the curbside snow pile and down the sidewalk, you would be at the front door of Standish Green, senior condominiums, at 40th St. and 22nd Ave. Standish Green is on the site of the former Miles Standish Elementary School.

Events at the Parks

Community Service Areas

The Recreation Division of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has reorganized into service areas. A community service area (CSA) is a geographic area of the city and the park and recreation resources within it. The primary goal of each CSA is to tailor its park and recreation resources to best meet the program and service needs of the community it serves.

Lake Hiawatha Park and Sibley Park are both located within the Standish-Ericsson borders, but they are in different CSAs. Sibley Park (19th Ave. S. and E. 40th St.) is in a CSA with Powderhorn Park, Central Green Gym, Corcoran Park, and Phelps Park. Lake Hiawatha Park (27th Ave. S. and E. 44th St.) shares its CSA with Hiawatha School, Longfellow, and Lake Nokomis parks.

Sibley Park CSA

Spring Break Central: Sibley Park (370-4954), Mar. 21–Mar. 25, ages 9–16, time varies (call for information), free

Senior Luncheons: Sibley Park, first Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m., ages 55+, $5

Preschool Classes: Sibley Park, classes Mon.–Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., ages 3–5, price varies per month

Central's Teen Café: Central Gym (370-4918), Mon.–Thurs., 5:00–8:00 p.m., ages 11–17, free

Beginning Drums, Bass, and Guitar Classes: Corcoran Park (370-4919) Mondays and Tuesdays, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., ages 6–17, $2

IDEAWERKS—Recording Studio: Powderhorn Park (370-4960), Tues., Wed., Thurs., 6:00–8:00 p.m., ages 11–17, free

Skating and Sledding: Rinks open at Sibley and Powderhorn parks until Feb. 21 (pending ice conditions), free skate rentals and hot chocolate; reservations for free sleds available at Powderhorn during business hours

Lake Hiawatha Park

The Little Lakers preschool program has a play-based curriculum for children ages 3–6. Classes are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday or all four, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The program started in January, but charges can be prorated for February and March if space is still available. Call 370-4930.

Adult yoga is held on Saturdays, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., $5 per class.

Roosevelt High School's Operation Holiday Basket

Despite the December snowstorm that dumped 18 inches of snow on the Twin Cities, the 41st annual Roosevelt High School Operation Holiday Basket campaign, held Dec. 10–17, was a great success. Roosevelt students and staff, the Hiawatha YMCA, and community members rallied to provide 325 turkey dinners with the fixings for needy families in South Minneapolis. Approximately, 6,000 food items and $6,500 in cash were donated to the campaign. Thanks to all who helped make the holiday season brighter for many people.

President's Corner

— Continued from page 8 —

been preparing for contingencies like we now face. The SENA Board is committed to ensuring that SENA continues to be a valued partner for neighbors and a conduit for ideas that come from residents.

In 2011, we need to chart a new course—we need to draft a new strategic plan for the future and align the organization to support that vision. We have done this twice before with NRP as a framework. I have no doubts that we can do it again. In the coming months, we will develop a new framework to seek community input on our future, and I encourage everyone to offer their ideas.

The mayor and City Council members are doing their best to address the challenges the times present—I will not begrudge them the difficult choices they have to make, and I am saddened when state legislators and leaders are blind to the economic importance of a vibrant and healthy Minneapolis and St. Paul. Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods are only as strong as Minneapolis—we thrive or fail as one city and one region. Working at a grassroots level, SENA can continue to be a catalyst for fresh ideas and creative solutions, an incubator for ideas that will define the urban neighborhood for the next generation.

Friendship Academy of Fine Arts

Friendship Academy of Fine Arts K–6 is currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2011–2012 school year online at www.friendshipacademy.org or by phone at 879-6703. Tours are available by appointment. A Black History Month program will be presented on Feb. 9 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the school (2600 E. 38th St.). Community members are invited.

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President's Corner

Tom Evers

After 20 incredibly successful years serving the City of Minneapolis, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is in the process of being eliminated and defunded. This is not a foregone conclusion, but, at this writing, it is a likely outcome. The unique and nationally recognized program has provided tens of millions of dollars for residents to invest in local priorities and has leveraged millions in additional investment and volunteer time.

NRP requires collaboration and has helped shape the careers of many Minneapolis elected officials in the last two decades. Yet, in an austere era when cities and states nationwide are facing massive deficits, Minneapolis faces difficult decisions. At the direction of the mayor and city staff, the City Council set in motion this past December a process that will use millions of committed, but unspent, neighborhood funds to offset the growing tax burden facing city property owners.

Whether or not you agree with the move by the city to close the books on NRP and use much of its remaining assets to offset an increasing tax burden, this decision changes how every neighborhood in the city will operate—and may cause several to merge or scale back drastically.

As president of the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA), I am deeply concerned about the impact this move will have on SENA. If the city continues in its plan, it is most likely that our budget next year will be cut by half, and there will be even fewer resources available for local initiatives.

Despite this glum assessment, there is much to celebrate and there are opportunities. First, it is important to recognize and celebrate the 20 years of achievement delivered through SENA and the NRP. We have been fortunate to have had stable staffing for more than a decade, and we have been wildly successful at reaching the goals set by all of us. With NRP funding (as well as some additional funds from other sources), we have improved homes throughout the neighborhoods and built a small reserve from repaid loans; we have improved our playgrounds, fields, and park buildings at Hiawatha and Sibley parks; we've created a new business association to support our local businesses; we've addressed traffic concerns and created new bike lanes; we've addressed the scourge of graffiti; and we've helped guide a vision for our vital business nodes and light rail stations. All of this came from individuals coming together and defining what we want our community to be.

Secondly, it is critical that we recognize this as only a new phase for SENA. In spite of the drastic change in funding available, we have been fiscally responsible over our history and have

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