

Annual Neighborhood Meeting is April 21

Join your neighbors for NENA's **Annual Neighborhood Meeting** on Thursday, April 21, at Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 East 50th Street). The open house will begin at 6:30 pm with a silent auction and pasta, bread & salad dinner provided by Fat Lorenzo's, followed by the business meeting at 7:30 pm.

During the open house, you'll have a chance to bid on many items in the silent auction (see the list on page 7), talk with a representative from the National Park Service about the future of the old Bureau of Mines site, take a short survey on an idea for a neighborhood bus route, chat with neighbors, and view changes to the neighborhood bike routes project.

The meeting portion of the evening will include volunteer recognition, NENA's annual report, Board elections and a short break to make your final bids on silent auction items.

Bring TP, Stay for the Meeting

This year we are asking that people bring an item for the Minnehaha Food Shelf, operated by Minnehaha United Methodist Church. Wonder what to bring? **Toilet paper** tops the list of "most requested but don't have" items, followed by laundry soap, sanitary products, sugar and toddler-size diapers. Of course, nonperishable canned and dry foods are also needed (suggestions include beans, spaghetti and sauce, canned meat, peanut butter, cereal, chili, crackers, etc.) You may also make a monetary contribution to the food shelf at the meeting.

Silent Auction

The silent auction will open at 6:30 and then pause while the meeting gets underway. We will have a short break during the meeting when people may place their final bids. Winning items may be picked up and paid for when the meeting ends at 9:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the silent auction support neighborhood community events such as the popular Night Before New Year's Eve Party. Don't forget your checkbook!

Annual Meeting continues on Page 2



Bike Routes & Signs Coming This Spring!

It's been almost four years since NENA volunteers began the sometimes controversial process of joining our neighborhood with the rest of the Metro-wide bicycle trail system.

This past few months, NENA volunteers and staff worked with Public Works and Council Member Sandra Colvin Roy to refine a new system of smaller and more descriptive signs that eventually will be installed citywide. The new plan calls for fewer routes in Nokomis East. That, of course, means less signage and a reduced overall cost.

The main route runs along 50th Street, from the lake to Minnehaha Park. A secondary route runs along Nokomis Ave. from 50th St., across Minnehaha Creek and north to the new River-Lake Greenway.

Installation is expected to start later this spring. Updated maps and details are at www.nokomiseast.org

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Board Elections

Three at-large positions on the NENA Board of Directors are up for election this year, along with four neighborhood alternates (one each for Morris Park, Keewaydin, Wenonah and Minnehaha). As we go to press, we have three candidates for the at-large positions. Brief bios of them are provided at right.

The Board has eleven positions, plus the four alternates. Eight of the positions are neighborhood representatives (2 for each neighborhood) and 3 are at-large. Neighborhood representatives and alternates are elected by residents of their respective neighborhoods. The at-large positions are elected by the entire membership. Anyone over age 18 who lives, owns property or a business, or works in the Nokomis East neighborhood may be a member of NENA and may vote in the elections for the at-large Board members.

Board members serve two-year terms. The elections are alternated each year, with at-large and alternates elected one year and neighborhood representatives the next year. All candidates for the Board are asked to sign a copy of the "Roles and Responsibilities of NENA Board Members" acknowledging their commitment and duties as board members, if elected. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting, or in advance, by calling the NENA office at 724-5652.

Stay Informed on the Issues

- ❖ A representative from the National Park Service will be on hand to answer questions and solicit your comments on the future of the old Bureau of Mines site. Comments cards will be available at the meeting. What should the site's future bring?
- ❖ A researcher working with NENA will be handing out short surveys on the potential for a local recirculating bus for the neighborhood.
- ❖ There will also be a display and information on the status of the Nokomis East bike routes project. We will have mock-ups of how the signs are expected to look (see the mock signage on page 1) and a map showing location of the signs, bicycle routes and signage.



The Candidates

Three people have announced their candidacy for the three at-large positions on the NENA Board of Directors. In keeping with our tradition, we have asked them for short bios. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates before the elections at the Annual Neighborhood Meeting.

George D. Jelatis: George has been active in NENA since the association began its NRP planning process in 1997. He serves as Board Chair and NENA President. Before his election as Chair, he served as Secretary for the association. George has lived in Nokomis East since 1976.

Ryan Marth. Ryan is an attorney, a two-year resident of the Keewaydin neighborhood, and an active member of the Economic Development Task Force.

Ryan hopes to engage other newer residents to be a part of the community planning process. He believes that, in this way, we can create an inclusive and active community that creates positive results. Ryan has extensive history of community involvement both in local politics and public interest volunteerism.

In addition to his work in the community, Ryan dedicates a portion of his law practice to civil rights litigation, assisting those in need of legal help who cannot afford representation.

Al Schneider: Al joined the Naturescape Gardening Group and the Environmental Task Force in 2000, after moving to the neighborhood in 1999. He was appointed as an at-large Board Member in 2002, and currently serves as the Board Secretary. He represents NENA on the Blue Water Association, and has served on several citizens advisory committees.

Neighborhood "Local Loop" Bus Study

NENA Board member Earl Netwal is directing a study on the feasibility and desirability of an alternative bus routing system within our neighborhood. The study envisions small, efficient buses providing internal circulation within the neighborhood. The idea is to link residents with LRT and local destinations such as the library, business districts, parks and schools.

NENA received a grant from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota for a research assistant to do preliminary research. Although the project is simply an exploration of possibilities at this point, NENA is very interested in getting your input. Besides area demographics and route potential, we need to know if the idea of a more local transit approach appeals to Nokomis East residents.

A short survey will be available for residents to take at the NENA Annual Neighborhood Meeting on April 21.

The survey is also being delivered to 330 randomly selected households in NENA. If you received the survey in a bright yellow envelope, please take a few minutes to complete and return it. The more responses we get, the better the survey will be in telling us if this idea merits further study!



Is there a Short Bus in Nokomis' future? (Photo, Met Transit / NENA)

FREE Rain Garden Workshops

The *Minneapolis Blooms Program* is offering free workshops at Nokomis Community Center on creating a rain garden with native perennial plants. The workshops are a two-part series, with the first session (May 3) giving an overview of watersheds and how appropriate gardening can help protect river and lakes from polluted rainwater runoff and snowmelt. It will also include garden design and native plant information.

The second session (May 17) will provide hands-on design help from landscape architect interns and Master Gardeners. Gardeners can bring their ideas on the area of their yard to be worked on and will get advice on design, how to divert water runoff to their garden, and types of native plants to use for their particular area - shady, sunny, wet, or dry. Both sessions will run from 6:30-8:30 pm.

During the second workshop, Minneapolis gardeners residing in the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) area will qualify for a \$50 reimbursement on the purchase of native plants for their rain garden. The reimbursement grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with a total of \$7,000 available. To register for the workshops, contact Laura Wieland, at 612-673-3014, or by e-mail, laura@stepbystepbkg.com.

Rave Reviews for Local Restaurants

Three Nokomis East restaurants have received regional recognition in recent months. The spareribs and country-style ribs at **Cap's Grille** were rated best in the Twin Cities in the annual Best Restaurants issue (March 2005) of *Mpls-St. Paul Magazine*. Cap's came in 2nd overall among the top ranked local barbecues.

In the same magazine, the unique blending of Malaysian and Ethiopian cooking earned **Singapore!** the highly coveted Editor's Choice designation.

Nokomis East's newest restaurant, **Al Vento Italian Cucina** has also received high ratings from the critics in it's first year. It was one of three Twin Cities restaurants featured in the *Star Tribune's* "2004: The Year of the Neighborhood Bistro" section on December 30th.

Al Vento's, 5001 - 34th Avenue S, 724-3009

Cap's Grille, 5000 Hiawatha Avenue, 722-2277

Singapore!, 5554 - 34th Avenue South, 722-0888

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Minnehaha Food Shelf

You Can Help!

The Minnehaha Food Shelf, located at Minnehaha United Methodist Church (3701 East 50th Street), started last May to replace the location the Salvation Army consolidated to Lake Street. It serves households south of Lake Street and east of 35W.

The food shelf is open from 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday and Wednesday, and from 1pm to 6pm on Thursday.

It costs \$300 per month plus \$1,000 per year to operate the food shelf. You can help by making a financial donation, gathering non-perishable foods or hygiene products, or volunteering your time. (All items should be non-perishable and unopened).

NENA maintains a list of needed items at www.nokomiseast.org.

The Most Requested Items That They Usually Don't Have Enough Of...

- Toilet Tissue
- Laundry Soap
- Sanitary Products
- Sugar
- Diapers (toddler sizes)

If you are willing to help by donating or volunteering, please contact Gail Johnson at (612) 721-6231.

MinneHarvest

Minnehaha also sponsors an event called the *MinneHarvest*. On the fourth Saturday of each month, they bring in a truckload of mostly produce, breads and dairy gathered from local grocery warehouses and invite people to “shop” for two grocery bags each. Although free to the recipients, it costs the food shelf about \$650 per month. Donations are appreciated.

NENA's Spring Calendar

Saturday, April 16	Ward 11 DFL Convention. Registration at 9am, Convenes at 10am, Washburn High School, 201 West 49th Street
Thursday, April 21	NENA Annual Neighborhood Meeting. Open House and Silent Auction start at 6:30. Meeting runs 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.
Saturday, April 23	Ward 12 DFL Convention. Registration at 9am, Convenes at 10am, Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Avenue South
	Earth Day at Nokomis. Clean up activities, 9:30 -11am, Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway
	Environmental Fair, 11am -2pm, Nokomis Community Center. Information booths, activities for the kids, music and refreshments.
Monday, April 25	Third Precinct Advisory Council (3-PAC), 6:30 pm, Third Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue
Thursday, April 28	NENA Board Meeting, 7pm, NENA office, 3000 East 50th Street.
Tuesday, May 3	Raingardens Workshop. 6:30-8:30pm, Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway. Call (612) 673-3014 to register. This is the first of 2 sessions; the second session is Tuesday, May 17.
Sunday, May 8	Green Party Fifth Congressional District Endorsing Convention, 1-5pm, Park House, 2120 Park Ave, (612) 871-1264
Saturday, May 14	Citywide DFL Convention. Registration at 9am, Convenes at 10am, Melby Hall on the Augsburg Campus, 715 23rd Avenue South
	GOP Congressional District 5 Convention, 8:30am, Embassy Suites Hotel, 7901 34th Avenue South, Bloomington
Wednesday, May 18	Third Precinct Open House, 10am – 2pm, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South. Food, SWAT, bomb squad, mounted patrol, K-9 demonstrations, motorcycle unit, State Patrol helicopter, and precinct tours.
Saturday, May 21	Grand Reopening and Dedication, Third Precinct, noon – 2pm, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South. Ribbon cutting at 12:30pm

Monthly NENA Task Force and Committee Meetings:

- Economic Development,** 1st Wednesday
- Environmental Task Force,** 4th Monday
- Housing Committee,** 2nd Tuesday
- Oversight Committee,** 3rd Thursday
- People Services & Safety,** 1st Tuesday
- Board of Directors,** 4th Thursday

Unless stated otherwise, all NENA meetings start at 7pm at the NENA office, 3000 East 50th Street. Please call (612) 724-5652 for last minute schedule changes.

Wanted: Nokomis Area Artists and Arts Supporters

The **Twin Cities Artists' Forum** is a fledgling grassroots organization composed of Nokomis, Longfellow and adjoining neighborhood artists, craftspersons, writers, performers and other creative individuals as well as arts enthusiasts and supporters. Their mission is one of "artists helping artists," to be stewards of the arts, and to serve our local communities through the arts by encouraging and nurturing creativity in individuals.

Their next meeting is **Monday, April 18th from 7-9 pm** at the Center for Training and Careers, 3408 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. The program will be an organizational meeting, to revisit mission statement and bylaws and develop program ideas for future meetings. They plan to set aside time for viewing artists' work, for those who wish to bring one piece or project.

Artists of all disciplines are invited to attend. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested.

The Forum is also planning a couple of neighborhood arts initiatives including a group booth at the **Powderhorn Summer Arts Fair** and a Holiday Arts and Craft show and sale. Admission is, as always free and the building is handicapped accessible.

For questions, or to be put on the email list, contact:
Shirley Neilson (612) 722-8266, artonalimb@aol.com, or
 Nokomis area artist **Richard Bonk** (612) 727-3562, bonkrv@core.com.



Blue, green and white glass art

2005 Minneapolis & St Paul Home Tour

The 18th Annual *Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour* will happen on Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8.

The Home Tour is a free, self-guided event coordinated by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Program (NRP), in partnership with the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and others. It is an inspiring celebration of city living that brings thousands of home enthusiasts together for a weekend of sharing home remodeling ideas and new ownership and rental opportunities.

The Tour showcases a wide variety of homes including vintage Queen Annes, hip downtown condos and lofts, cozy bungalows and charming Arts & Crafts. Last year, more than 10,000 visitors made nearly 50,000 visits to the 50 homes on the tour.

Homes will be open to visitors from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, May 7, and from 1 pm to 5 pm on Sunday, May 8.

For more information, look for the Official Home Tour Guide in the *StarTribune* in late April. For additional information or to volunteer for the event, call NRP at (612) 673-5140.

Then and Now



August 18, 1937. Heavy rail wins over street car in a collision on 42nd Ave. just west of Minnehaha Ave. The steam locomotive is stopped on the 1907 concrete RR bridge over Minnehaha Creek. (Minnesota Transportation Museum)



June, 18, 2004. All that remains of 42nd Ave. east of Hiawatha now are some patches of broken asphalt between the old rails. The crumbling RR bridge is now hidden by weeds and brush at left. Photo looks NE towards Minnehaha Ave. and the park pavillion.

NENA Briefs

Concerned About Crime?

Let NENA know! If you have any concerns about crime or safety on your block or in the neighborhood, please give us a call at 724-5652.

We will take your concerns to the 3rd Precinct Advisory Council (3-PAC), and represent your interests at monthly meetings. The Precinct Commander, Sector Lieutenants and Crime Prevention Specialists attend the meetings and want to know your concerns.

Hearing from you will help in identifying trends and targeting problems that we can then direct to the 3rd Precinct for special attention.

Everyone is welcome at 3-PAC meetings, which are held on the 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the 3rd Precinct Station, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South.

3rd Precinct to Hold Open House and Dedication



The newly remodeled 3rd Precinct is finally ready for visitors!

An Open House will be held Wednesday, May 18, from 10 am to 2 pm. You can tour the precinct and see canine unit, SWAT team, bomb squad, mounted patrol, motorcycle unit, and the state patrol helicopter.

The following Saturday, May 21, there will be a formal dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony with Chief McManus and Mayor Rybak at 12:30 pm.

The precinct is located at 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South. Parking is available on the street or in the Target Store lot across Lake Street.

Hazardous Waste Drop Off Planned for Nokomis East

This summer, watch for a Hazardous Waste Drop-Off collection event in Nokomis East.



NENA is working with Hennepin County and the Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association (HPDL) to co-sponsor a day when residents can unload those household hazardous waste materials that have been collecting in your garage or basement.

Hazardous materials include items such as paint, household batteries, flammable liquids, fluorescent lights, and pesticides which cannot be disposed of in the garbage.

We will advertise the event in the *Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger* and on www.nokomiseast.org when the date, time and location are confirmed.

Children First Grants Available

Schools, community centers and nonprofit organizations serving children in Nokomis East can apply for Children First grants up to \$3,000 from NENA. The grants are for programs that support developmental assets in children and youth up to age 18.

Interested organizations should contact the NENA office for an application and program guidelines. The application process is simple, and takes about 6 weeks. For more information, please call Rita Ulrich at 724-5652.

Planning for the Bureau of Mines Property

The National Park Service (NPS) is inviting the public to participate in the planning process for the old Bureau of Mines (BOM) property. Located between Minnehaha Park and Historic Fort Snelling, the 27-acre BOM site includes 11 vacated buildings and the Camp Coldwater Spring historical site.

To begin the planning process, NPS held an open house at the end of March providing information about the property and asking for comments on what it's future use should be. If you missed the open house, NENA can provide you with copies of some the materials that were available. You will also have a chance to ask questions and provide input at the NENA Annual Neighborhood Meeting on April 21. An NPS representative will be on hand during the Open House (6:30-7:30) and will give a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

You may also contact Kim Berns of the National Park Service at 651-290-3030, ext 244 or kim_bern@nps.gov for more information or go to the website: www.nps.gov/miss/bom/



Housing Fair Contractor & Vendor Information

Thank you to everyone who attended, participated and volunteered at the 2005 South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair. Once again, this year's Fair proved to be one of the most successful and well attended community events in the city.



If you missed the fair, or want to find a contractor you visited, the Fair's directory is available from the NENA office (612-724-5652). You can also find contact information for all the exhibitors at www.housingfair.org.

NENA is a sponsor of the housing fair and has designed and maintained the website for the past three years.

Reminder: Home Improvement Loans Are Still Available

The home improvement season is starting and NENA has low interest loans available to get you started. Interest rates are 0-5%, depending on income, and the terms are designed to be more flexible than loans from other financial institutions.

For a loan application or more information, contact the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), our program administrator, at 612-335-5885, or the NENA office.

Silent Auction Item List

As we go to press, over 70 donations for the silent auction have arrived, and many more are expected to come in before the Annual Meeting. Listed below are what we have so far.

Please let our donors know that you appreciate their support by patronizing their businesses. And tell them that Nokomis East sent you!

Theatre and Entertainment

- Acme Comedy Club – free admission for a group of 10
- Brave New Workshop Theatre – two performance passes
- Chanhassen Dinner Theater – show pass for two
- Guthrie Theatre – two tickets
- History Theater – two tickets
- Illusion Theatre – two tickets
- Jungle Theatre – two tickets
- Lagoon Cinemas – two movie passes
- Mixed Blood Theatre – two tickets
- Park Square Theatre – two tickets to *Oh Coward!*
- Riverview Theatre – six movie passes
- Science Museum – four exhibit hall passes
- Theatre de la June Lune - two tickets
- Theatre in the Round - two performance tickets
- Walker Art Center – Household Membership

Restaurants

- Black Forest Inn - \$25 gift certificate
- Broder's Cucina Italiana – gift certificate for pizza
- Bruegger's Bagels – bagels by the dozen – 7 gift certificates
- Cafe Latte – gift certificate for a dessert - \$20 value
- Highland Grill - \$25 gift certificate
- Joe's Garage - \$25 gift certificate
- Singapore! - \$50 gift certificate
- The Malt Shop - \$10 gift certificate
- Timberlodge Steak House - \$20 gift certificate

Sports

- Minnesota Twins – two family four packs
- Two tickets for Twins vs. Cleveland Indians (May 3) from Hiawatha Cleaners
- Minnesota Vikings – autographed photo of Daunte Culpepper
- Minnesota Thunder – family four pack
- Minnesota Wild – insulated lunch bag
- Bud Light Minnesota Wild sign (McDonald's Liquor)
- St. Paul Saints – four general admission tickets

Around the House and More!

- Lake Nokomis Sweatshirt (Nokomis Shoe Shop)
- 2004 Olympics T-shirts (Betty Jones)
- 2004 May Day poster (In the Heart of the Beast)
- Mary Kay bath spa gift basket (Marian Streitz)
- Tea for Two set from Purple Crayon Factory
- Beaver Tree Service – coupons for \$100 off a \$500 job
- A Day of Beauty and other gift cards from Village Hair
- River Parkway Chiropractic – gift certificates for spinal exam
- Miller Studios – free 8x10 family portrait and sitting
- Plantique – rustic garden bench
- Curves – coupons for free one-month membership
- Caribou Coffee – a pound of coffee a month for a year
- Bar signs and mirrors – great selection from McDonald's Liquor
- Windsor Minnesota Neon Sign (McDonald's Liquor)
- Barcardi "bat" lighted sign (McDonald's Liquor)
- Camp chairs, coolers and patio umbrellas (McDonald's Liquor)
- Garden package (Tangletown Gardens)
- The Book Trader - \$25 gift certificate
- Tires Plus – full service oil change and inspection

You are Invited

Nokomis East's 2005 Annual Neighborhood Meeting *Celebrating Community Involvement*

6:30 Open House

- ❖ Silent Auction - many interesting items!
- ❖ Complimentary dinner from Fat Lorenzo's
- ❖ Displays and project updates

7:30 General Meeting

- ❖ Volunteer recognition
- ❖ 2004 Annual Report
- ❖ NENA Board elections

Bring the Entire Family!



This year, we ask that you bring food or paper goods to help keep the shelves at Minnehaha Food Shelf stocked. (See Page 4)

Thursday, April 21, 6:30-9:00 pm

Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis.

NENA Review

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association
3000 East 50th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55417

www.nokomiseast.org

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