

## Annual Neighborhood Meeting is April 22

A silent auction, complimentary pasta dinner, Board elections, and volunteer recognition are all part of NENA's Annual Neighborhood Meeting on Thursday, April 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th Street. The theme of the meeting is "Celebrating Community Involvement."

Starting at 6:30, you can bid on silent auction items and enjoy a free pasta dinner, compliments of Fat Lorenzo's. The business part of the night will start at 7:30 and include volunteer recognition, a presentation of the annual report, and election of neighborhood representatives to the NENA Board of Directors.

### Silent Auction

Donations are still coming in for our Third-Annual Silent Auction from businesses all around the Twin Cities. As we go to press, we have over 50 items ranging from restaurant and theater gift certificates to gardening tools, Serengetti sunglasses and waterproof binoculars. Some of the items are listed in the box on the back page. The silent auction will open at 6:30 and then pause while the meeting gets underway. We will hold an intermission 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 and the Aquatennial Festival of Neighborhoods. Don't forget your checkbook!

### Elections

Each of NENA's four neighborhoods (Keewaydin, Morris Park, Minnehaha and Wenonah) will elect two people at the Annual Meeting to represent them on the Board of Directors. The NENA Board has a total of eleven representatives and four alternate seats. Board members serve two-year terms.

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*Last year's Annual Neighborhood meeting was well attended.*



## Metro Paint-A-Thon

**A great way to get involved**

Can you roll up your sleeves for a weekend? NENA is putting together a volunteer team for Metro Paint-A-Thon on August 7 and 8.

Volunteers will spend the weekend scraping, priming and painting the exterior of a house for a low income senior or disabled person. Volunteer teams need to sign up by June 2. Call the NENA office (612-724-5652) if you can join the team to make our neighborhood a little better, one house at a time.

Low income seniors and disabled persons interested in having their house painted can call the NENA office for an application. The deadline for applying is May 10, 2004.

More information is available on the Paint-A-Thon Website: [www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon](http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon)

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Three positions on the Board are for At-large members, and the remaining eight positions are for Neighborhood Representatives.

Each neighborhood has two representatives plus an alternate, who sits as a voting member on the Board when the regular representative is unable to attend a meeting. Elections for Neighborhood Representatives are alternated every other year with elections for the at-large positions and alternates. We have asked the candidates to provide short bios so residents have an opportunity to learn a little about them before the meeting. The candidate bios start at right.

Anyone over age 18 who lives in Nokomis East may vote in the elections. In order to vote or run for a neighborhood representative position, you must live in that neighborhood. If you're not sure which neighborhood you live in, you can call the NENA office at (612) 724-5652 or you can ask at the meeting, where maps will be available.

## New Neighborhood Directory Coming Soon

It has been five years since the last Nokomis East neighborhood directory was published, so a new one is long overdue. NENA is producing a new directory that will list businesses, local parks, schools, and other resources, along with useful phone numbers and other information. The project will also create an on-line directory on the NENA website ([www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)).

If you own or run a business in the neighborhood and haven't responded yet, you still have a chance to be included. Please call the NENA office at 612-724-5652 as soon as possible. Home-based businesses will be included in the directory; to be eligible for a listing, the business should have a dedicated phone line.

## Meet the Board Candidates

### Morris Park

**Marian Streitz.** Marian has lived in the Morris Park neighborhood for 29 years. She has been on the Board of Directors since 1996, serving as Secretary for two years. Marian first became involved with NENA in 1995 by volunteering on the People Services & Safety Task Force, which she now chairs. She attends 3-PAC (Third Precinct Advisory Committee) meetings to keep NENA informed of police and safety issues. She also helps plan special events.

Marian would like to focus on getting more people involved with NENA and fostering communication with residents on neighborhood and city issues. With NRP funding decreasing, it will be important to find low-cost ways to improve the neighborhood and strengthen our sense of community.

**Richard Streitz.** Richard has served on the Board of Directors as a neighborhood representative and alternate for Morris Park for several years. He is also active on the People Services and Safety Task Force, and volunteers for community events.

### Wenonah

**Betty Jones.** Betty was elected to the Board of Directors in 2000, and has served as its Treasurer since 2002. She has lived in the Wenonah neighborhood for over eight years. She is an active member of the Housing Committee and the People Services and Safety Task Force, and works on events such as the Night Before New Years Eve Party. In addition to her work for NENA, Betty has served nine years on her union board.

At press time, there was no second candidate for the Wenonah neighborhood.

### Keewaydin

**Greg Bastien.** Greg is a teacher, an 18-year resident of Nokomis East, and the Keewaydin representative on the Board since 1997. He is also a member of the Housing Committee.



**David Hughes.** David has lived in the NENA neighborhood with his wife for 5 years. He joined the Economic Development Task Force last year, and has volunteered at the Night Before New Years Eve Party. David works for Life Time Fitness, Inc., the host of the annual LIFE TIME Triathlon based at Lake Nokomis each summer.

### **Minnehaha**

**Earl Netwal.** Earl has lived in the NENA neighborhood with his family for over 25 years. He has been active in the community in a number of capacities over that time period, including many years on the NENA Economic Development Task force and as Alternate Board Member for the Minnehaha Neighborhood over the last year. Earl runs several home based businesses from his home and does occasional consulting on economic development as well. His background in community participation dates back to 1971 with his participation in the then Model Cities Program.

**Dave Schmidt.** Dave has served on the NENA Board of Directors since 1997, and is currently the Vice Chair. He has also served on the Environmental Task Force since 1996. Dave has lived in the Minnehaha neighborhood for 15 years and has represented the neighborhood on the Longfellow Gardens Citizen Advisory Committee, the Hiawatha Light Rail Community Advisory Committee and the Blue Water Commission. As a Board member, Dave attends many meetings and represents NENA at community events. He also administers NENA's computer system. In 2001, Dave was one of two people selected by NENA as an Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteer.

Dave would like to continue serving on the Board to help implement the results of NENA's strategic planning process and ensure that NENA continues to be of value to the Nokomis East neighborhood. He believes that strong neighborhood organizations can empower citizens to improve their communities, and that NENA can be a leader in keeping Minneapolis neighborhoods strong. He would like to see more diverse communities involved in NENA so that the organization can represent the best interests of everyone in our neighborhood.

### **What Makes Good Board Members?**

#### **Characteristics of good board members:**

- They are honest.
- They are enthusiastic.
- They keep an open mind.
- They are team players.
- They tackle complex problems with relish.
- They take an orderly approach to decision making.
- They are competent.
- They have a sense of humor.

#### **Characteristics of "problem" board members:**

- Obsession with a single issue.
- Always taking the "contrarian" view just for show.
- Expounding on strongly held opinions that are rarely backed up by fact or research.
- "Board hopping" or sitting on many boards, but serving none well.

## **Blue Water Network**

The Blue Water Association is a non-profit group, funded by NENA, whose mission is to improve the water quality of Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha.

The BWA recently had a review of the City of Minneapolis Public Works' practices concerning water quality, such street sweeping and storm water flow. The group hopes to work with the city to optimize these practices. They are currently planning a website and are creating an Action Alert Network comprised of people who want to be informed of issues at our lakes. If you would like to be part of this network, please e-mail [bwa@nokomiseast.org](mailto:bwa@nokomiseast.org) or call the NENA office at (612) 724-5652.

## **Home Improvement Fund; \$ Still Available**

NENA still has NRP-funded home improvement loans available to Nokomis East homeowners. Interest rates range from 0% to 5% depending on income. Funds are also available for Emergency Grants and Part 150 Deferred Loans (for homeowners going through the Sound Insulation Program). Applications are available at the NENA office or by calling the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5884. Applications are considered on a first come, first served basis.

Recipients of previous NENA Loan Programs (low-interest loans, deferred loans and deferred matching loans) are not eligible for additional low-interest or deferred loans. However, CEE, the program's administrator, has several other financing options available at attractive rates if you have home improvement needs you would like to address. For more information about this and other home improvement loans and funds available, please contact Jim Hasnik at 612-335-5885.

# You are Invited

## **NENA's 2004 Annual Neighborhood Meeting**

**Celebrating Community Involvement**

### **6:30 Open House**

- ❖ **Silent Auction - many interesting items!**
- ❖ **Complimentary pasta dinner from Fat Lorenzo's**

### **7:30 General Meeting**

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

### **Partial list of silent auction items:**

- ❖ *Bowling Package – Skylane Bowl*
- ❖ *Curves membership*
- ❖ *Bushnell Waterproof Binoculars*
- ❖ *Family Portrait at Miller Studios*
- ❖ *St. Paul Saints Tickets*
- ❖ *Honeygold Apple Tree from Plantique*
- ❖ *Desert at Café Latte*
- ❖ *Twins Tickets from Hiawatha Cleaners*
- ❖ *Pet Grooming at Wendy's Doghouse*
- ❖ *Guthrie Theatre Tickets*
- ❖ *Savings Bond from Wells Fargo*
- ❖ *Stained glass panel from Stained Glass Creations*
- ❖ *Tickets to the Omni Theatre*
- ❖ *Water Ride passes at Wild Mountain*

**Thursday, April 22, 6:30-9:00 pm**

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

# NENA Review

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association  
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