

## Blue Water Association Moves Forward

*By Joan Lawless, member of the Environmental Task Force and the Blue Water Association*

The **Blue Water Association (BWA)**, the multi-neighborhood nonprofit organization to improve and protect the water quality of Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha, is currently working on several wide-ranging projects. These include:

- ❖ **Gathering information this fall and winter for a *State of the Lakes Report*, a baseline report which would contain up-to-date information on the quality of the Lakes.** The Report is anticipated to be released in the spring, and will contain available information from various sources as well as results of testing by the BWA where necessary. The Report is intended to supply the neighborhood with a compilation of sources for water quality information so that residents can easily reference these sources for information in the future.
- ❖ **Surveying existing water related public education efforts in the watershed area and developing a survey for the BWA that would pinpoint information directly pertinent to water quality education needs in the Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha area.** This will determine where the BWA can be effective in forming strong partnerships to develop an effective public education campaign.
- ❖ **Researching information for a fisheries program for both Lakes.** The object of the effort is to make the Lakes as fishable as possible—local fishermen should be encouraged to know that their favorite pastime at the Lakes is directly connected to the water quality at the Lakes and is part of the BWA goals.
- ❖ **Continuing to seek funding for the long term goals of the Blue Water Commission which will allow the BWA to become self-sustaining.** Funding sources opportunities are being explored with the McKnight Foundation, the DNR, Metropolitan Council and other organizations, as well as fundraising efforts within the neighborhoods.

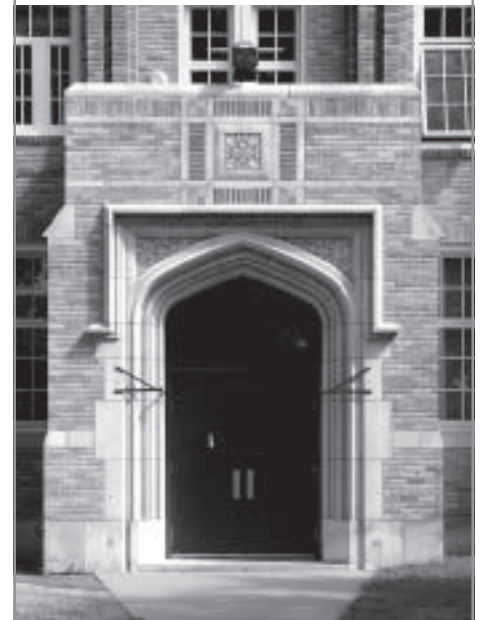
We encourage those interested in working with the Association and would welcome your participation. Please call **612-722-9811** for more information on participating in Blue Water Association projects.

### Public Hearing on Proposed Morris Park School Closing

Concerned about the future of Morris Park School?

A public hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept 24, 7-9pm** at Morris Park School, 3810 East 56th St.

This special hearing will provide an opportunity for parents, students, and interested community members to share opinions and concerns with Minneapolis School Board members about a proposal to close Morris Park School at the end of the 2002-2003 school year.



*Many generations of children have passed through the 38th Street entrance at Morris Park School.*

# Nokomis History: Charles Lindbergh on 34th Avenue

*[Editor's note: Wilfred Lind sent this piece to us after we put out a call in the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger for memories and photographs of Nokomis East's past. If you have memories of our local history that you are willing to share please call us at 612-724-5652.]*

I was an eight-year-old youngster living in south Minneapolis on Wenonah Place, a short distance from Wold Chamberlin Airport. Thirty-fourth Avenue South at that time was an active street that led to the concentration of hangers and aircraft tie-downs. Also at that time, and in the present location of the Military Reserve, was a Naval Reserve Hanger which, if my memory is correct, was used to hanger the Spirit during his stay at Wold Chamberlin.

As young as I was, the Lindbergh flight and knowledge of his coming or passing through Minneapolis was a cause for great excitement for me. Wenonah Place was a three-block long street between 31st Avenue South and 34th Avenue South. Lindbergh was to be driven from the airport into the city on 34th Avenue. Thirty-Fourth Avenue was a street usually as rough as streets were in those days. To provide Lindbergh a smooth entry into the city, Minneapolis turned on all necessary resources. Our only knowledge that something was going to happen was triggered by

all of the maintenance activity, especially when it went well into the night.

I don't recall how we were made aware of his arrival time, but I was standing on the corner of 34th and Wenonah and saw the Spirit pass overhead. He flew at a fairly low altitude, probably under 500 feet, so that is easy to recognize the Spirit.



The Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation

We stood on the corner waiting for the motorcade to pass so that we could see Lindbergh. The motorcade arrived and passed us at a speed that left us with no opportunity to see him.

This was a disappointment that stayed with me for many years. There was no explanation for this arrival until a few years ago, when a friend of mine

who recognized my interest in Lindbergh's accomplishments, gave me two old National Geographic magazines, one January 1928, "Seeing America with Lindbergh," and the other, September 1934, "Flying Around the North Atlantic," written by Anne Morrow Lindbergh – a priceless gift!

I remember the Wold Chamberlin of those days. It's easy to understand how a crowd could overrun a field (the same experience he had in Paris). He was trying to fly according to a schedule to prove that an airplane could operate on a schedule. Somewhere I remember reading that he had to make an appointment at the State Capital in St. Paul which accounted for the speed they were running when they passed us.

The Spirit was put under cover in a Reserve Hanger on the North side of the field. Lindbergh's mother flew along on this trip in a chase plane, or at least for part of the trip. I have a photograph that was taken in the Reserve Hanger of Mrs. Lindbergh with her son standing next to the Spirit. I'd have to do a search for it if it's of any interest to you.

I was a WWII pilot. I flew a B-24 out of Africa, and a B-29 out of Saipan. The appreciation I have for what Lindbergh accomplished knew no limits as I gained years and experience. I've spent many, many hours flying over water, and it has always been overwhelming for me to realize what he accomplished in the cockpit of the Spirit with the equipment he had.

Wilfred N. Lind  
Minneapolis, MN

*Thank you for sharing this memory with all of us, Wilfred!*

## NENA Review

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### Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

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# Newly Created *Children First* Grant Program

by Sarah Koschinka, *People Services and Safety*

This fall, NENA will begin making small grants available to organizations serving Nokomis East youth. This new program is the culmination of meetings and conversations between neighborhood residents and representatives from local schools and parks to create an initiative that would increase Developmental Assets in youth.

## What are Developmental Assets?

Why does it seem like some kids make all the right decisions and others get in trouble? The Search Institute, located in Minneapolis, has developed a philosophy about what key things help youth make positive choices in their lives or rebound from situations in which they have made poor choices. The Search Institute has performed surveys of children throughout the United States, and they have created a list identifying 40 Developmental Assets they believe kids need to thrive and be successful in life.

The list of the 40 Developmental Assets are broken down into two categories - *External Assets* and *Internal Assets*. External Assets are things we can give to and provide for youth such as: family support, other adult relationships, caring neighborhoods, caring school climate, adult role-models, high expectations, and involvement in youth programs.

Internal Assets are things that adults can role-model, encourage, and seek to bring out in youth such as: reading for pleasure, integrity, honesty, responsibility, planning and decision-making,

cultural competence, positive self-esteem, and sense of purpose. These 40 Assets have been identified as forming foundations for healthy development in adolescents. Search Institute's research has shown that children who possess 30 or more of these Assets are far less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as violence, early sexual activity, and drug & alcohol use and instead are likely to engage in positive behaviors such as succeeding in school, valuing diversity, maintaining good health, and delaying gratification.

## Everyone can build Assets

Another key component of Asset building philosophy is that all members of a community can have a role in helping kids obtain more assets in their life. You may have noticed that many Assets have to do with other adult involvement in a youth's life in addition to their family. Everyone can be an Asset builder - parents, neighbors, schools, businesses, city leaders, etc. It can be as simple as knowing all the kids on your block and smiling at them every time you see them or being a volunteer at your local school. The goal of Asset building is to raise healthy, responsible, caring kids who make good choices and have beneficial behavior. NENA has gotten involved in Asset building by choosing to support programs that increase these Assets in our neighborhood youth.

## How the program was created

About two years ago a group of individuals began meeting and brainstorming about what types of programming might be supported to help increase Assets. Many ideas were tossed around, but one thing was

consistently shared by teachers, principals, and park staff - they had no problems coming up with creative and asset-rich programming ideas. What they did lack was the funds to support these ideas. That is when the idea of creating a grant program surfaced. It seemed a perfect solution: qualifying organizations could evaluate the specific needs of the children they serve and how best they might increase Assets and then develop programming around those needs. NENA could supply additional funds to make them happen.

Over the past nine months, a Grant Committee has been organized to review the grant proposals and forward recommendations to the NENA Board. This group is excited to kick off this program. Look for more updates later this year as they share what creative projects have been supported.

## Grant program overview

- ❖ Grants will be awarded to projects that serve youth (0-18 yrs) in the Nokomis East area. Individual organizations are limited to a \$2,000 maximum per project grant and collaborations involving more than one organization may apply for up to \$4,000 per project. Grant recipients will have one year to complete their projects.
- ❖ Grant proposals will be reviewed three to four times per year by the Grant Committee. The first round of applications was due September 13, and a second round due November 15.

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- ❖ Preference will be given to projects that show partnership or collaboration between two or more community groups. Preference will also be given to proposals that have a community service component or involve neighborhood residents in the project. Examples might be: displaying artwork at a neighborhood business, making a presentation at a NENA town meeting, or a youth choir performing for seniors.
- ❖ Proposals will have to describe how they plan to measure the success and impact of the project and groups will have to turn in an evaluation form upon completion of the project.

For more information about this program or about receiving a grant application, please contact the NENA office at 612-724-5652.

For more information about The Search Institute and Developmental Assets, check out their website: [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)

## Correction:

The June/July issues of the NENA Review incorrectly stated that the Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program (NHS) was not chosen to receive another round of State funding. NHS continues to receive annual funding from the State of Minnesota, and in fact was recently awarded additional dollars as part of a one-year grant to increase outreach and service coordination activities.

# Demands on the Property Tax Levy: Ten-Year Projection

*by City Council Members Scott Benson & Sandy Colvin Roy*

From now through December, the City Council will be engaged in the annual exercise of writing the city's budget. And once again, the Council will have to make cuts in order to balance the budget.

There is good news: The City is making budget decisions with our eye on the long-term impact to taxpayers, and we will limit tax increases.

Both Council members representing NENA joined our colleagues in a 12-1 vote in July to limit the increase in property taxes. The resolution caps the combined levy increase for city, parks, libraries and Board of Estimate and Taxation at 8% annually through 2010. Approximately 4% of that will go to pay off obligations, both internal and external, and 4% for cost-of-living adjustments (inflation).

We want to be clear: We don't take talks of any tax increase lightly. But even with the tax policy passed by the Council, we will be cutting \$12 million from the city's budget this year in order to balance the budget. Not raising taxes would lead to a drastic reduction of services that we think our neighborhoods can't afford.

For the past few years, the City has made policy choices to fund park and library expenditures at a greater level in order to improve these services. Since 1994, property taxes and state aids have grown by 60% for the park

board, and by 42% for the library board. (This does not count the voter approved Library referendum, which will start to show up on property tax payments in 2003.) The growth in the same set of resources--property tax and state aids--for general City services has been about 35%. What this means is that the City, like the Park and Library Boards, has had and will continue to find efficiencies and reductions in its budget in order to meet the normal costs of doing business (inflationary increases on wages, health insurance, and utilities). However, finding major cost reductions from efficiency gains in the major services areas funded by the property tax--police, fire and public works--is getting more and more difficult and, as a result, future funding cuts to these areas will have an impact on service delivery.

As your city representatives, we are working to make important decisions to balance the priorities of infrastructure investments, parks and recreation, public safety and library services. The NENA Town Meeting on September 12 featured a briefing by Tammy Omdal, the City's Budget Director, on the property tax pressures for the next ten years. We will continue to keep neighborhoods informed as we move forward with budget decisions. Please contact our offices with your ideas and questions.

**Sandy Colvin Roy, Ward 12:**

**(612) 673-2212**

**Scott Benson, Ward 11:**

**(612) 673-2211**

# How it Grows at Lake Nokomis

by Vicki Bonk, *Environmental Task Force*

## The Nokomis Naturescape

Five years ago, in the spring of 1998, the steep hillside south of the Nokomis Community Center was planted in native grasses and wildflowers. The dream was to bring back a glimpse of the ecosystem that once covered this area of Minneapolis before 1850. This oak savanna plant community is now very rare, with only 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% remaining.

Today, the Nokomis Naturescape Oak Savanna Restoration looks fabulous and is a premier example of a successful restoration project. The native plants have taken hold, are out-competing weeds, and are providing a dynamic array of



colors and textures. The presence of native plants reclaims our natural heritage and gives Lake Nokomis a “sense of place.” Turf grass and nursery cultivars land you in “anyplace U.S.A.” but an oak savanna speaks of our home place.

High in diversity, the gentle weave of plants provide each other with sustenance – recycling vital nutrients and retaining precious water within the deep absorbent root systems. Not only do the plants support each other, they provide a much-needed refuge for numerous birds, bees, and butterflies. In mid-August the landscape dances with migrating monarchs renewing their energy with the nectar provided by the flowering liatrus, butterfly-weed, and coneflowers.

With much of the land now covered with turf, pavement, and buildings, the Nokomis Naturescape is indeed an oasis for many species.

The hillside savanna has a long-term management plan including prescribed burns and mowing. This regimen will ensure the prairie plants continued success by diminishing competition from undesirable weeds and woody plants. Currently, the hillside presents two management concerns. First is the invasion of the tenacious Canada thistle whose deep root system requires a spot application of a non-persistent herbicide. The second concern is the growth of mulberry and buckthorn trees (from seeds deposited by birds) under existing trees. This fall there will be a concerted effort to eradicate these seedlings that can grow to overshadow prairie plants and lessen diversity.

## The Native Plant Gardens

Planted at the same time as the oak savanna were three native plant gardens known as the Hillside, Boulevard, and Lakeside Prairie Gardens. The gardens serve as educational demonstration sites for sustainable landscaping. Each year the gardens change some in form and content as the native plants best suited to a particular location “choose” to

establish themselves there. It is as if a subtle, natural intelligence is working and, if paid attention to, something of lasting value can be learned – we can learn to work alongside nature rather than trying to force a preconceived notion. Yet we have observed some tall, over-zealous plants migrating to borders reserved for shorter species. In this case, selective editing happens.



The Lakeside and Hillside gardens both had extensive beds of a Black-eyed Susan cultivar known as Goldsturm – one of the very few cultivars planted here. Last year, the Goldsturm contracted a devastating leaf spot disease endemic to that species. Since cultivars lack genetic diversity within their species, if one plant is susceptible, all are. On the other hand, most thriving native plants have high genetic diversity within the species, which contributes to a higher survival rate. That diversity is diminishing, though, as more of our natural world is being destroyed. Next spring, the Goldsturms will be replaced with another type of Brown-eyed or Black-eyed Susan.

The Nokomis Avenue Block Club diligently maintains the Lakeside Garden. Their faithful efforts through the years have produced a native plant

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showcase that is a highlight for Lake Nokomis patrons. The Boulevard and Hillside Gardens are maintained by the Wild Ones - the local chapter of a national native plant landscaping club, NENA Environmental Task Force members, and a number of NENA residents. The volunteer Nokomis Naturescape (NN) gardeners deserve a round of thanks! Continuing on the note of gratitude, any NN gardener can say that a gardening session does not go by without passerby thanks and encouragement. A bicycling Mayor R.T. Rybak even took pause to commend a group of volunteers, and to remark, "This is what the area needed." From the vantage point of the Hillside garden, viewing the sweep of grasses, colorful mix of flowers, the sun low in the sky, and beautiful Lake Nokomis – the gardeners readily agreed.



### **The Hillside Garden Revisited**

A hillside garden presents a number of maintenance challenges and the NN Hillside is no exception. Keeping weeds and invading turf grass in check has been an uphill battle. This plus other problems inherent to the site has spurred the NN gardeners to look for new solutions with the goal of reducing maintenance and increasing efficacy as a demonstration garden. Fortunately, project money has been reserved for garden modifications. NN gardeners and representatives from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) have been meeting to examine the situation and bring forth possibilities.

Current improvements considered include extending the seeded oak

savanna into hard-to-reach garden areas, add more compactly structured native plants to the borders, showcase more native grasses, highlight butterfly gardening, add a flat boulder sitting area, and hold a native plant sale promoting Butterfly Alleys.

Mary MaQuire Lerman, the well-known MPRB horticulturist, is serving as project manager and heading meetings that are informative, enjoyable, and offer an excellent opportunity to participate in planning a native planting. Our challenge is to

respect the dynamic nature of a native plant garden, yet provide a model that area residents can use in their own yards.

### **New Signs**

August 14<sup>th</sup> saw the long-awaited arrival of informational signs at the Nokomis Naturescape. The attractive, durable signs explain the project history and the environmental benefits of native plant and shoreline restorations, as well as list project participants. A pedestal sign is located at the base of the Hillside Garden on 50<sup>th</sup> Street and Nokomis Parkway, and a two-sided sign is next to the Lakeside Garden near the walking path.

### **The Shoreline Restoration**

As a continuation of the Nokomis Naturescape, NENA provided Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding for the restoration of a degraded stretch of north shoreline adjacent to the NN. The project was also awarded two DNR grants and received additional funding from the MPRB. Goals of the project include improving water quality, reducing shoreline erosion, providing natural habitat, and increasing plant and animal diversity.

During the 2001 summer and fall, the shoreline area was cleared, ground prepared, wave-breaks set, the upland areas seeded in wet prairie, and beach, emergent (in water) and submergent (below water surface) transplants were planted.

Unfortunately, the shoreline restoration plantings have not established well due to a number of circumstances for which the contractor is

responsible. The bottom line is the project plantings are under warranty and all lost will be replaced next spring. The necessary fencing protecting the new plantings is saggy and unattractive. NENA Environmental Task Force members are seeking ways to fix the fence.

Within two to three years, we can expect a much more appealing shoreline with plantings similar to those around the wetland detention ponds on the south side of the lake. Not only will the plantings add beauty, they are a vital link in improving water quality and, thereby, your recreational experience at Lake Nokomis.

## OPPORTUNITY

With help from the Tree Trust and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), NENA is offering trees for homeowners' property *not including boulevards*. Many trees were lost during the storms of 1998 and this is an opportunity to get a replacement tree simply for attending a planting clinic and a paying a minimal \$5 fee. Limited quantities available!

You must be a Nokomis East Neighborhood) resident or property owner to qualify. There are five easy steps:

- 1 Call NENA (724-5652) and ask for a Planting Sheet. Fill it out, listing tree selections (see right column) by order of choice, along with a simple Site Drawing.
- 2 Submit it to the NENA office at 3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55417, by October 1, 2002.
- 3 A Master Gardener will check your Site Plan Drawing to make sure it will work for your selection and location.
- 4 Attend the Tree Planting Clinic on Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m., at the Keewaydin Neighborhood Center, 3030 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, and pay your \$5 fee.
- 5 Pick up tree for planting – date/location to be determined. For best tree health, it should be planted after pick-up.

### TREES FOR ENERGY SAVING LANDSCAPES

Trees shade our homes in summer and shelter us from harsh winter winds. Estimates indicate that, in Minnesota, strategically placed shade trees could reduce an air conditioning bill by up to 25% and a windbreak could reduce annual fuel bills by up to 10%-20%.

A tree-canopied neighborhood is cooler in the summer and winter winds are cut in half. When summer temperatures are cooler, fewer air pollutants form. Thus, trees create a more comfortable and cleaner place for people to live.

## TREES FOR NENA YARDS

### Plant Trees Strategically

The most critical actions for planting for energy conservation are:

- ❖ Shade east and west windows
- ❖ Avoid trees south of windows
- ❖ Create windbreaks
- ❖ Increase tree canopy

### Strategic Shade

Deciduous trees that provide maximum summer shade and minimum winter shade are ideal for reducing air-conditioning use, but they must be located and selected properly for best year-round results.

### Shade East and West Windows

Give highest priority to planting shade trees directly west of west windows. Planting shade trees directly east of east windows is a second priority. Select a tree that can be planted within twenty feet of the window and will grow at least ten feet taller than the window.

### Avoid Trees South of Windows

In summer, when sun is high at midday, the shadow of a tree falls directly under the tree and misses a home to its north. In winter, the same trees shadow will fall on the house throughout most of the day.

### Accolade Elm

*Ulmus japonica x wilsoniana* 'Morton'  
Vase-shaped growth habit resembling American Elm at maturity. Resistant to Dutch elm disease and elm leaf beetle. Fall color: yellow leaves. 70' high, 40'-50' wide.

### Hackberry

*Celtis occidentalis*  
Moderately fast-growing native tree with unique gray, corky bark. Purplish skinned fruit ripens in September. Important food source for several wildlife species. Tolerant to harsh, urban conditions. Fall color: yellow leaves. 50'-75' high, 50' wide.



### Northwood Red Maple

*Acer rubrum* 'Northwood'  
A seedling selection from Northern Minnesota. Ascending branch habit forms a symmetrical round to oval crown. Prefers moist, slightly acidic soil. Does not tolerate poorly aerated soils. Fall color: outstanding orange to orange-red leaves. 50' high, 35' wide.

### Majesty Sugar Maple

*Acer saccharum* 'Majesty Sugar'  
An improved form of Sugar Maple selected for its symmetrical, oval shape. Performs poorly in compacted soil with limited root space. Fall color: clear yellow to golden orange to orangish-red leaves. 50'-75' high, 50'-60' wide.



### Swamp White Oak

*Quercus bicolor*  
A fast-growing oak with flaky, gray-brown bark. Will tolerate drought and heavy, poorly drained soil. Good resistance to oak wilt. Requires slightly acidic soil. Fall color: yellowish-tan to orange-brown leaves. 50'-60' high, 40'-50' wide.

# 2002 Candidate Forum on October 10

## Meet the Candidates

It's election season again and the October NENA Town Meeting will feature a Candidate Forum. Candidates from Minnesota Senate District 62, House District 62B, and Hennepin County District 4 will be participating.

The District 62 Senate race has four candidates: **Kelly Bailey** (Republican), **Holle Brian** (Green), **Wes Skoglund** (DFL), and **Tim Sullivan** (Independence).

Running for House District 62B are **Ron Moey** (Republican) and **Jean Wagenius** (DFL).

Running for Hennepin County Commissioner in District 4 are **Peter McLaughlin** (DFL) and **Ed Felien** (Green).

## NRP Electors

Also on the agenda for the October meeting will be the selection of Electors and Alternates for the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program) Policy Board elections.

Electors will participate in elections of neighborhood representatives to the Policy Board on Thursday, November 21, 2002.

The Policy board has four neighborhood representatives: one at large and one for each type of neighborhood—redirection, revitalization and protection. Each of NENA's four neighborhoods needs to select an Elector and an Alternate.



**Thursday, October 10, 7:00-9:00 pm**

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

# NENA Review

## Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

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