

## NENA Proposes Changes to its NRP Neighborhood Plan

by Rita Ulrich, Executive Director

### Your Vote Is Needed!

At the January 30th Town Meeting, NENA will be asking the neighborhood to approve changes to our Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) plan. The changes are to fund office administration and programs that have or will soon run out of funds. In order to continue our work, we will need to modify our NRP plan—a process known as a *Plan Modification*. A major plan modification such as this (over \$25,000) requires approval by the neighborhood at a town meeting.

2003 will be the seventh year of NENA's NRP Action Plan—and the final year for which funds were originally allocated. This does not mean that we will completely run out of money in 2003, but it does mean that we will have to make some adjustments to our administration and operating budgets or face the prospect of closing our doors this coming fall. The \$4.4 million action plan (which included a "First Step" beginning in 1997 and the "Full Plan" which started in 1999) has 46 funded strategies, or projects, designed to address goals and objectives set by the neighborhood in 1996 and again in 1998. The plan mod proposes moving a total of \$645,703 between strategies.

This will be the first of several plan mods needed as NENA gets closer to completing its NRP Plan and further refining the strategies. Information on all of the strategies and projects is available online at [nokomiseast.org](http://nokomiseast.org) or from the NENA office, 3000 E. 50th St.

### Reviewing the Plan

Many of our strategies have been completed. Others are ongoing, and some have not been implemented. Each of NENA's task forces (**People Services and Safety, Economic Development, Environment, and Housing**) recently conducted detailed and lengthy evaluations of our existing NRP projects and the unimplemented strategies in our plan. The project evaluations looked at what was accomplished, the extent to which the project met the intended goals, problems encountered, unexpected results, and what should be done differently if the project were to be repeated.

*Plan Mod continues on Page 2*



Join us for hot apple pie and refreshments while we discuss the upcoming Plan Mods and NENA's and NRP's role in your neighborhood's future.

**Thursday, Jan. 30, 7-9 PM**  
**Minnehaha United Methodist Church,**  
**3701 E. 50th St.**

The NENA Review  
Circulation 6,300  
is produced and published by the

**Nokomis East  
Neighborhood Association, Inc.**  
3000 East 50th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
main: 612-724-5652  
fax: 612-724-2770  
email: [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org)

Printed by Mooers Printing, Inc., Mpls.

**Thank you! to the following  
contributors in this issue:**  
Mary Ann Anglim, PS&S  
Janet Kurpierz, Consultant  
Rita Ulrich, Executive Director  
Doug Walter, Associate Director

For the latest neighborhood & metro updates, issues, and NENA events & schedules, please visit:  
**[www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)**

*Plan Mod* from Page 1

The process yielded some interesting observations. Projects that went well had clearly defined objectives, the agencies and other partners needed to implement the project were involved from the very beginning, and there was a high level of awareness and support for the project in the community.

Successful projects often had a either a dedicated volunteer who followed the project from planning through completion or had a high level of staff support. Projects had less success if the goals were too ambitious, if they required a lot of volunteers, if they weren't well thought out, or if there wasn't adequate supervision or staff support.

Looking at the reasons some strategies haven't been implemented also reveals some trends: Some were ideas that simply didn't go anywhere, others projects lacked community or volunteer support. In some cases, the goals were too vague, or the need wasn't clear. We also have a number of strategies that were partly implemented. The projects may have been put in place, but only a portion of the funds were spent because the demand didn't meet expectations.

After completing the evaluations, the task forces discussed which projects to go forward with. They looked at our ongoing projects, considered new ideas, and made recommendations on dropping un-implemented strategies. Their recommendations were approved by the NENA Steering Committee and Board in November. The result is the Plan Modification proposal that the neighborhood will be asked to approve on January 30th.

### Administration

NENA's NRP plan includes strategies for administration and implementation of the plan and for community building activities. These strategies pay for a variety of functions, including office expenses and other overhead, advertising, staffing, meetings, special events, volunteer recognition, newsletters and other communications—all of which are essential to implementing the NRP plan and furthering NENA's mission of neighborhood improvement and advocacy. NENA will run out of funding for these activities in approximately October 2003.

The plan mod would move a total of \$199,931 from nine different strategies

into the administration/implementation and ensure strong neighborhood association strategies. Forty percent would go into the Ensure a Strong Neighborhood Association strategy, which pays communications and outreach, special events, part of the staffing, and other community building activities. The remaining 60% would go into the Administration and Implementation strategy, which pays for overhead, project management, the remainder of the staffing costs, and other operational expenses.

The original NRP allocation for these expenses made up 16% of our total NRP allocation. That percentage is low compared to most other neighbor-

*Table 1: Additional funding for continued operations*

<b>Redirect to People Services 3.1.3, Ensure a Strong Neighborhood Association and Administration and Implementation 1.1.1</b>					
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Project/Program</b>	<b>Original Allocation</b>	<b>Balance<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Amount to Redirect<sup>2</sup></b>	
Safety	1.1.1	Recruit block clubs and McGruff houses	\$2,340	\$1,340	\$1,340
Safety	1.1.2	Establish crime alert phone tree	530	530	530
Safety	1.2.1	Sponsor Police Athletic League teams	4,050	647	647
Safety	1.2.2	Police substation/ Citizen patrol	74,500	67,465	67,465
Safety	1.2.4	Citizen patrol equipment	9,000	9,000	9,000
Safety	1.3.2	Hire off duty police	3,520	49	49
People Serv.	2.1.5	Wenonah School service workers	9,000	200	200
Housing	1.1.3	Rental rehab	122,000	116,675	50,000
Economic Dev.	2.1.1	Small business improvement loans	79,200	70,700	70,700
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$199,931</b>

<sup>1</sup> Uncontracted or unspent funds. Based on latest information available.  
<sup>2</sup> Redirect 40% of total to People Services 3.1.3, *Ensure a Strong Neighborhood Assoc.* and 60% to *Administration and Implementation 1.1.1*

*Plan Mod* continues at top of next page

hoods (20-25% is common), and is well under the Minnesota Charities Review Council's guideline that administrative costs not make up more than 30% of a nonprofit organization's budget. The percentage is particularly low given the high number of strategies in NENA's NRP plan. Not surprisingly, NENA is known for keeping its administrative and operating expenses low and within the budget.

Some of the funds to be redirected are leftover from projects that have been completed, and some are from unimplemented or partly implemented strategies. The article at right summarizes the status of the affected strategies.

### Housing Programs

A plan mod will be needed to fund part of the next housing program. The 2003 program will include low interest loans, deferred loans, emergency grants and loans to augment the Part 150 sound insulation program. The plan mod is needed to fund the deferred loan program, which allows residents with limited incomes to make home improvements even if they cannot afford a loan payment.

In order to continue this popular program, the neighborhood will have to approve the funding. The money will come from the repayment of low interest loans. NENA is asking the neighborhood to approve moving \$320,000 of repaid loans into the deferred loan program.

At the same time, the plan mod proposes moving funds from one unimplemented and one partially implemented strategy into the low interest loan program. Specifically,

*Plan Mod continues on page 6*

Table 2: Additional funding for Low Interest Home Improvement Loans

<b>Redirect to Housing 1.1.1, Low Interest Loans</b>					
Strategy	Project/Program		Original Allocation	Balance <sup>1</sup>	Amount to Redirect
Housing	2.1.2	Demolition Fund	\$152,532	\$144,332	\$60,000
People Services	5.1.2	Assisted Living Opportunities	50,000	50,000	50,000
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
<b>Redirect to Housing 1.1.2, Deferred Loans</b>					
Strategy	Project/Program			Balance <sup>3</sup>	Amount to Redirect
Housing	1.1.1	Income from Low Interest Loan Repayments		\$320,000+	\$320,000
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Uncontracted or unspent funds. Based on latest information available.  
<sup>3</sup>As of last available balance, August, 2002



## So, whatever happened to those 13 projects and strategies?

The funds for the plan modification come from a combination of sources: money leftover from completed projects (\$1,896), unimplemented strategies (\$59,530), partially implemented strategies (\$264,277) and the repayment of housing loans (\$320,000).

### Unimplemented Strategies

The **Assisted Living Opportunities** Strategy allocated \$50,000 to study the possibility of building an assisted living facility for seniors. A lack of land available for development and less neighborhood interest in the project than anticipated are the main reasons the project wasn't implemented.

The **Citizen Patrol Equipment** funds were never spent because the project was canceled along with the Police Substation (More on that below). The **Phone Tree**, which was to notify residents of crime alerts, was not implemented due to the potential for passing on mis-information.

### Partially Implemented Strategies

Some projects were started but not completed, either because the need for them faded as circumstances changed or because participation was less

*Whatever Happened? continues on Page 6*

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Night Before New Years Eve Party

NENA's third annual "Night Before New Year's Eve" party held on December 30, was an enjoyable evening of music, dancing, magic, food, good conversation and, of course, general merriment for all.

The Nokomis Community Center was transformed into a veritable feast for the senses as residents of all ages from Nokomis East and surrounding neighborhoods came together to celebrate the New Year. All of this was made possible by the remarkable efforts and energy of NENA volunteers and staff, Park staff, and by the generous donations of area businesses.

The Sanok Jazz Band entertained attendees in the Recreation Center's lounge with their peppy instrumental sound. In the

gymnasium, the DJ's of KidsDance kept children and parents alike boppin' to a variety of classic pop and contemporary tunes. Kids had their faces artfully painted and played games to win candy and other highly desirable prizes.

At the other end of the building, food and drink was served in the multi-purpose room where a magician captivated his audience with clever sleights-of-hand. In the craft rooms, children created imaginative masks, noisemakers, and spin-art masterpieces to take home.

The outdoor chill was tempered by a bonfire and an old-fashioned hayride. The wagon, pulled by two giant, white



Percherons, was often heard more than seen in the dark recesses of the Park as festive riders broke into impromptu caroling. Back indoors, a traditional New Year's countdown, complete with squawkers, poppers, and other noisemakers, concluded the festivities.

What a great night! With food, entertainment, crafts and games, residents celebrated the upcoming New Year with friends, family and neighbors in a safe, congenial environment. If you weren't one of the roughly 400 participants at this year's "Night Before New Year's Eve Party," you missed a truly magnificent event!

We would especially like to thank the following for their generous contributions: McDonald's Liquor Store, Bergan's SuperValu, Johnson Brothers Meats, Nokomis Beach Coffee Shop, Old Dutch Potato Chips, Best Maid Cookie Company, Pan-O-Gold Bakery, and Scandia Bake Shop. Special thanks go to Hub Hobby (located at 6410 Penn Avenue South, Richfield) for donating cases of Beanie Babies and other toys that made the fishing pond and the other games so much fun for kids of all ages.

We'll see you next year, same place, same time!



All photos by FDW/NENA

*Whatever Happened?* from Page 3

than expected. The **Demolition Fund** set aside money to pay half the costs of removing hazardous or boarded vacant properties owned by the city. It was a requirement to receive matching funds from the City Inspections department. The fund was used only once. Some funds will remain in the strategy for the time being, but the full amount will not be used.

Two loan programs, the **Rental Rehab Program** and **Small Business Loans** had less demand than expected. Rental Rehab offered loans to improve apartment buildings with 5 or more units. The Small Business Loans were available to commercial property owners for “bricks and mortar” projects. Each program made only one loan. Neither of the programs were as attractive to property owners as had been hoped—hence the limited participation.

Some funds will remain in the Rental Rehab strategy until other plans are made for the money. The Small Business Loan program will be replaced by the Commercial Facade Improvement Program being developed.

The **Substation/Citizen Patrol** project was discontinued after conducting extensive research on its feasibility and holding a Town Meeting on the subject in 1999. An initial round of **Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)** classes was successful, but later attendance dropped off and the

NENA is proposing to move \$60,000 from the Demolition Fund and \$50,000 from the Assisted Living strategy. The \$50,000 will supplement the funds available for low-interest loans. The remaining \$60,000 is expected to be used to provide home improvement counseling services to seniors—a project that Nokomis Healthy Seniors plans to develop. If that project does not go forward, the funds would be used in the regular low-interest loan program.

**Children First**

The Children First Grant Program is in the middle of making its second round of grants. The response to the program has been excellent, and the projects approved for funding are very promising (see article at right). The plan mod proposes adding funds leftover from the Minnehaha Falls Athletic Club (MFAC) and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) strategies to the Children First Program.

*Table 3: Funding for the Children First Program*

Redirect to People Services & Safety 2.1.8, <i>Children First</i>					
Strategy		Project/Program	Original Allocation	Balance <sup>1</sup>	Amount to Redirect
People Services	2.1.7	Minnehaha Falls Athletic Club (MFAC)	\$5,500	\$1,000	\$1,000
People Services	2.1.3	Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)	18,760	14,772	14,772
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$15,772</b>

<sup>1</sup> Uncontracted or unspent funds. Based on latest information available.

project ended. The **Recruit Block Clubs and McGruff Houses** strategy funded a recognition event for block club leaders.

**On the bright side**

Completed projects with small amounts of leftover funds include Wenonah School Service Workers, Sponsor Police Athletic League (PAL) Teams, Hire Off-Duty Police, and Minnehaha Falls Athletic Council (MFAC). The **Wenonah School Service Workers** project hired male tutors to serve as role models when the school had only one other male teacher. **The Off Duty**

**Police** project provided an extra 90 hours of police coverage in the neighborhood during the summer of 1998. Hiring off-duty police can be continued through a different fund that paid for the 2002 Police Buy-back program (see article at right). The **Police Athletic League** funds were used for equipment, coaching and transportation costs to extend the PAL program into Nokomis East. **MFAC** used the funds to purchase equipment for its youth sports programs. PAL and MFAC are both eligible to apply for Children First Grants.

## NENA's Children First Grants Support Reading, Arts, and Community Service Projects

NENA recently approved grants for seven projects through the Children First Program. **Morris Park School** was approved for a \$2,000 grant to buy books for the Accelerated Reader Home School Partnership—program that improves students' reading comprehension. When the school closes, the books will be given to Keewaydin and Wenonah schools.

**Roosevelt High School** received grants for 3 arts programs. One grant will support "Mosaic 2003: A Community Intercultural Arts Festival," to be held May 16th. Another grant will pair a Roosevelt art class with one of NENA's elementary schools in a project called "Linking the Arts." The high school students will mentor the younger students in art and the elementary kids will be invited to submit their art for display at Mosaic 2003. The third grant will support "Improve for Teens," giving students with developmental disabilities an opportunity to participate in an improvisational workshop put on by the Galumph Theater.

The **Minneapolis Police Athletic League (PAL)** will receive a grant to purchase equipment for the Keewaydin Koppers/Warriors Softball Team.

**Sanford Community Education** and the **Hiawatha YMCA** are partnering to create a service learning project for middle school age kids. The project, called "Teen Heros," will involve kids in community service projects over the summer. The walls of the **Nokomis Community Center** will be a little more colorful when it becomes home to the "Girls in Power" art show. The project will teach the basics of sculpture, photography and painting.

The Children First Grant Program supports projects for kids of all ages. Qualifying organizations may be schools, community centers, churches, nonprofits, and other community organizations. For more information on the program, call the NENA office (724-5652). The next deadlines are February 14 and April 18, 2003. Applications are available from the NENA office and online at [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org).

## Police Buy-Back Project Worth Repeating for Nokomis East

Last spring, NENA's People Services and Safety Task Force identified the need for greater attention to crime prevention and safety in the neighborhood, based on concerns expressed by citizens and discussions with CCP/SAFE and the Police Department.

The task force proposed a police buy-back project for summer and fall of 2002, which the NENA Board approved. Police Buy-Back hires police officers during their off-duty hours to add extra hours of police time in the neighborhood. The project began in mid-July and used bike, foot and squad patrols to increase the presence and visibility of police in the neighborhood. Patrols were conducted between the hours of 6am and 1:30 am on various days of the week throughout the summer and fall.



Comments from residents indicated a very positive response to the project. The officers focused on developing citizen contacts, traffic enforcement, checking on suspicious activity and problem properties, and assisting with 911 calls. Cards

reminding residents to keep their garage doors closed & locked were left when officers notices unattended open garages.

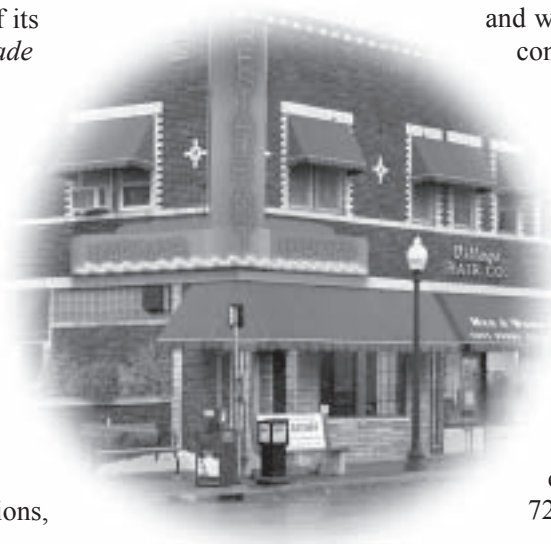
The People Services and Safety Task Force received a well documented report from Sector Commander Lt. Jack Kelly on the project in October. From mid-July to mid-October, officers logged over 200 hours in the neighborhood. Of those, 35 hours were bicycle patrols. They logged the following statistics: 205 citizen contacts and business checks, 74 traffic enforcement contacts, 57 suspicious person contacts, and 77 miscellaneous calls. They assisted on a robbery, two stabbings, complaints about parties, and other calls for service.

The consensus of the task force and the police is that the project will be well worth repeating in the summer and fall of 2003. By building and reinforcing strong working relationships between the police and neighbors and by increasing the visibility and availability of officers in the community, we help ensure a safer neighborhood.

# Commercial Design Committee Members Sought

NENA is gearing up for the start of its much-anticipated *Commercial Facade Improvement Program*. This new program will provide matching funds to neighborhood commercial property and business owners to improve and restore the visual appeal and condition of their exterior building facades.

As part of the program, a new sub-committee of the Board is being formed. Members will develop a marketing plan, promote the program, review grant applications,



and work with the applicants to ensure consistency with the program's goals.

We are looking for a half-dozen volunteers with an interest in the restoration of our commercial buildings, preferably with some expertise in design, architecture, commercial construction, or a related background.

If you or someone you know might be interested in working on this challenging project, please contact the NENA office at 612-722-5256 or [nenan@nokomiseast.org](mailto:nenan@nokomiseast.org).

**Next Town Meeting: Thursday, January 30, 7:00-9:00 pm**  
**Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis.**

## NENA Review

**Nokomis East Neighborhood Association**  
 3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55417

[www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 MPLS MN  
 PERMIT 29183

### ***In this Winter 2003 Issue:***

- Plan Mod changes - Page 1
- So, whatever happened? - Page 3
- Night before New Years - Page 4
- Children First program - Page 7
- Police Buy-back - Page 7
- New committee members sought - Above