



Connects

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A Monthly Newsletter for the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood

DECEMBER 2007



Notes from the Chair

Matt Perry, EHFNA president

When it comes to change, America has a split personality. On the one hand, we feel good when the world around us remains as we have known it. As we age, we tend to reminisce about what used to be. On the other hand, however, our society is built on a history of exploration and our economy rewards progress. The nature of today's technology and its ever-increasing role in our lives has only accelerated this. I believe change is inevitable. Whether it is considered "good" or "bad" depends on how much opportunity you feel you have had to influence it.

Many years ago, my wife and I took a community education self-defense class. The instructor told us that a hallmark of aging was a lack of physical flexibility. We spent half of every class doing stretching exercises. How odd, I thought. This was supposed to be a self-defense class. As I did my best to touch my toes, I pictured babies who could bend in ways where I would break. After many weeks, the instructor demonstrated how the increased flexibility we had developed prevented us from being subjected to unwanted holds. I began to see why this had been such a large part of our self-defense instruction. Suppleness of both body and mind is a strength when dealing with the unexpected.

Hope is another powerful way to influence change. As we get older, we do an important mental trick of immediately eliminating alternatives that experience tells us are not feasible or likely. This technique helps us to not repeat mistakes. It allows for thoughtful change. But what happens when assumptions from the past no longer apply? Hope, and its close cousin trust, kick into action; they are the engines for the imagination. By its nature, imagination requires a degree of fancifulness and suspension of disbelief. When we engage our imagination, an unbounded passion emerges. Think about when you have felt most energetic. Were hope and imagination a part of it?

Our neighborhood will be facing changes in 2008. Some of them will be planned, such as the long-awaited reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue. The discussion of how to continue to fund neighborhood organizations will begin. Work to stem the tide of burglaries and mobile drug dealing will be another major challenge. Other changes will be unexpected and could require as much energy as those we are anticipating. With a mix of experience, adaptability, hope and imagination, we can come together as neighbors to take on change with a positive passion and energy that is certain to create an even better neighborhood than we have today.

Warm regards,

Matt

Join Us at our Next Neighborhood Meeting:

Wed., January 2, 2008
7:00 - 8:45 pm
Lyndale Farmstead Park
39th & Bryant Av S

Free childcare provided. For more information, call Emily Winter at the EHFNA office: 612-824-9350.

7th ANNUAL
LAKE HARRIET
WINTER KITE
FESTIVAL
NEAR THE LAKE HARRIET BANDSHELL
SATURDAY JANUARY 12 NOON-4 PM
Alternate Date: January 19 if weather conditions cancel event on January 12

Join Us at the Winter Kite Festival

Help Make it Happen—Volunteer!

There's only one way to really enjoy the ice and snow in Minnesota and that is to become a part of it! On Sat., July 12, East Harriet is one of several organizations sponsoring the 7th Annual Winter Kite Festival on Lake Harriet, near the bandshell.

Events include kite flying, demonstrations, horse and wagon rides, DNR ice fishing expo, children's medallion hunt and a marshmallow roast. Bring your own kite or purchase one at the event. Members of the Minnesota Kite Society will demonstrate their skills maneuvering spectacular kites and will be available to help newer kite fliers. The event is free. In case of extreme weather or poor ice conditions, the event will be re-scheduled for Jan. 19.

Several volunteers are needed to make this possible—please call the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350 or Lyndale Farmstead Park at 612-370-4948 to sign up now! Mark your calendar and join us next month.

More Connects on next page!

Update on 46th St. Bridge Project

The 46th Street bridge was scheduled for demolition this fall as part of the Crosstown/I-35W reconstruction project. The bridge removal is now being delayed until the spring of 2008, however, the freeway ramps in both directions are closing soon. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has posted a FAQ (frequently asked questions) for the project <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/projects/crosstown/faq.html> You can sign up for project updates from Mn/DOT here: <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1101510483087&p=oi>

Court Watch Program an Asset

In Minnesota, "court watch" programs developed in response to concern by advocates for victims of domestic violence who felt that offenders were not receiving adequate sanctions from the criminal justice system for their criminal conduct. Early court watch volunteers attended court hearings with distinctive red clip boards in hand—the clip boards were a signal to court participants that they were being watched and would be held accountable.

At the December East Harriet Crime and Crime Prevention Forum, we learned how we as residents can assist in the prosecutorial phase of the criminal justice system through court watch. Since early 2007, the Lyndale, CARAG and Kingfield neighborhoods have been meeting to create a court watch program for our part of the city. This group meets monthly to focus on crimes and criminals plaguing these neighborhoods. One aspect of the meetings is to provide updates to volunteers of recent court activity on selected offenders. Neighbors and beat cops discuss what they've observed on the streets, probation officers talk about their efforts to ensure compliance with court-imposed conditions. Another key contribution of volunteers has been submission of community impact statements to prosecutors and judges, asking the courts to take seriously the cases being monitored.

Our neighborhood association wants to be a member of this important program but we need residents to volunteer to participate. If you would like to be involved in a group such as this, please contact the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350.

If you would like to learn more about what we as neighbors are doing about crime and crime prevention in East Harriet stop by the East Harriet Crime Prevention and Safety Committee meeting held at Java Jack's the third Monday of each month at 7pm. You don't have to be a committee member to participate. Crime Prevention Specialist Tom Thompson and Minneapolis Police Department sector Lieutenant Marie Przynski are regular attendees.

Park Rink is Open Now

Join in the winter fun and lace up your skates at our neighborhood rink! There are several new skating programs scheduled this year including hockey skills, first steps and family skating programs. Check the park board website or brochures available in the building for more information. A limited number of donated skates are available for those without their own. With park budgets being cut again, and six rinks scheduled to close next year, the best way to keep our neighborhood rink is to use it! For warming house hours and skate availability, call the park at 612-370-4948.



Community Building Committee Meeting Dates Set

The East Harriet Community Building Committee (CBC) has set meeting dates for the coming year. Meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at Java Jack's, 46th & Bryant Ave. So. We are planning for the Kite Festival, RoseFest, a neighborhood-wide garage sale and much more. If you are interested in joining this committee or simply helping plan an event, please contact the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350 or via e-mail: info@eastharriet.org.

QUICK NOTES IN AND AROUND EAST HARRIET NEIGHBORHOOD

Winter Registrations at the Park

Registration for winter park program at Lyndale Farmstead and other parks began on Monday, December 10, 2007. You can still register online at www.minneapolisiparks.org or at the recreation centers.

Opportunities at Southwest Senior Center

The Senior Center, at 3612 Bryant Ave. So., is hosting a holiday party on Sat., Dec. 21 at 1:00 pm and a New Year's Party on Sat., Dec. 28 at 1:00 pm. For more information, call 612-822-3194.

NEHBA Annual Meeting and Elections

On Wed., January 16, the Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association will hold its annual meeting and board elections. Business owners within the NEHBA boundaries are invited to attend. The meeting will be held from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Frame-Ups Gallery at 4325 Nicollet Ave. So. Questions? Please email: info@nicolleteastharriet.org

**EAST HARRIET
ROSEFEST
SATURDAY, JULY 19**

SAVE THE DATE FOR ROSEFEST - JULY 19, 2008

The date has been set for our annual RoseFest and residents can expect the biggest and best event yet! This year, we will be celebrating several milestones, including the 100th birthday of the Rose Garden and the 25th birthday of the Peace Garden. Once again, plan to hear great live music all day long, enjoy the games and rides (the ponies will be back!), and get ready to eat to your heart's content. We are just starting to plan for the event and welcome your help! Please email us at info@eastharriet.org if you are interested in heading up a particular area or simply wish to sign up for a shift.