



# Connects

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A Monthly Newsletter for the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood

FEBRUARY 2008



## Notes from the Chair

Matt Perry, EHFNA president

Ah, now this past January and February have been what we Minnesotans consider real winter weather. Brutally cold. Too frigid for snow to fall. Too freezing for last December's snow to melt. As the wind chill plummets to -40 degrees, the number of times we have casual contact with our neighbors drops as well. People who are friendly with each other during the warmer weather now have little contact, other than maybe a muffled hello through their scarves as they shovel their walk. Perhaps, the reason is that it just isn't practical to have a nice chat if your jaw is frozen stiff.

This winter hibernation may be due to the weather. However, I don't think that is the full story. During some of the most recent coldest evenings, I've seen tons of people—young and old—skating at Farmstead Park, proving that weather alone does not keep us from coming together.

Or maybe our winter isolation is one way to recharge our internal batteries before revving up for those summer days when we compress a year's worth of activities into two precious months. Even I need a breather after a couple of days of being surrounded by thousands of people at the State Fair! However, this theory also falls by the wayside when I think of the huge numbers of people who enthusiastically came together for the Winter Kite Festival and this year's political caucuses.

A fundamental belief of mine is that people in a community have an almost primitive need to come together to reaffirm that they are part of a larger social system. The ways in which we gather may change over time, but the need has not. I have heard my older neighbors speak with fond memories of the progressive dinners that were a fixture of the winter culture here. Although those types of gatherings have faded, we are still coming together—but in a less geographically based way. Still, in order to keep our sense of community strong, we must revitalize ways to regularly celebrate our commonality of being neighbors.

My colleagues on the neighborhood association board and I emphasize this theme in many of our programs. We must continue to rebuild and keep vital our neighborhood-based social infrastructure, which requires every resident's participation. Our neighborhood association can help your initiatives to bring neighbors together by providing staff, organization and communication support. We would love to hear how you keep your part of our neighborhood connected during these cold winter months.

Warm regards,

Matt

## Our Next Neighborhood Meeting:

Wed., March 5, 2008  
7:00 - 8:45 pm  
Lyndale Farmstead Park  
39<sup>th</sup> & Bryant

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



The Lyndale Farmstead Park Ice Rink has sadly closed for the season. It was enjoyed by many skaters—young and old—this winter. Thank you to the park staff for taking such great care of this idyllic rink!

## East Harriet Garage Sales Planned for Saturday, May 31

Spring is just around the corner and that means it's time to start thinking about the East Harriet Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale! We've selected a date—Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We're still finalizing the details so watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Pass the word along to your neighbors—the more residences involved the better! If you know you want to participate or would like to learn more, email us at [info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org).

*More Connects on next page!*

## Ward-Wide Meeting Planned on Community Engagement

We are seeking input from residents on what they feel have been valuable contributions by the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association during its 17 years of work in collaboration with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). This is part of the process started a year ago to improve the city's community engagement system. Your insight will help us provide a neighbor-centric organizational response to the City's proposed "Framework for the Future" and its proposed changes to the NRP structure. This input will also help us form a more effective neighborhood organization as we continue to interact with the City on the neighborhood's behalf. Lakes-area neighborhood organizations, including EHFNA, are sponsoring a ward-wide meeting to provide some background and gather your local perspective:

**Monday, March 10, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Lynnhurst Recreation Center,**  
**1345 W Minnehaha Pkwy.**

Your input is valued equally whether provided at this session or submitted by phone or email. If you cannot attend the meeting, you can contact EHFNA Coordinator Emily Winter ([info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org) or 612-824-9350 or Jennifer Lastoka, Community Engagement Coordinator for the City ([community.engagement@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:community.engagement@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or 612-673-3163) directly with your comments. You can learn more about the Framework for the Future by following this link to the City's website:  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp)

## Lyndale Reconstruction Update

After many years of hard work by residents, six neighborhood organizations, city and county officials and staff, the Lyndale Reconstruction project is set to begin this Spring. Commissioner Dorfman, who has championed this project, has confirmed her office is working with the other government agencies involved to finalize the many detailed logistics. The Commissioner is planning a construction kick off community meeting prior to the start of the reconstruction. Communication will be very important to residents throughout the project and will be a featured topic at this community forum. A special announcement will be made when the kick off meeting date is finalized.

The reconstruction project will reduce the number of traffic lanes to one in each direction for the majority of Lyndale from 31st Street to Minnehaha Creek and pedestrian level lighting will be added. We have set up a special page on our East Harriet website with links and current project information which will be updated while the Avenue is under construction.  
([www.eastharriet.org/lyndale-project](http://www.eastharriet.org/lyndale-project))

If you have questions concerning this project, you can contact EHFNA Coordinator Emily Winter (612-824-9350 or [info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org))



## Court WATCH Volunteer Sought

Court WATCH was founded in 1992 to improve the way the courts in Hennepin County Minnesota handle cases of violence against women and children. WATCH trains volunteer court monitors to observe hearings, and, in a typical year close to 100 volunteers monitor more than 5,000 hearings. Based on what we see in court, WATCH makes recommendations for changing the justice system to increase safety for women and children.

We'd like to have an EHFNA resident participate in this valuable program. Volunteer training is offered just two times each year, and the next training is on Saturday, March 1 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Chrysalis, 46th & Chicago Ave. So, EHFNA would be happy to cover the \$25 suggested fee which covers the costs of the volunteer manual and lunch for any resident who would like to attend. For more information about Courtwatch and the volunteer commitment, please visit their website: [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org) where you can also register for the training. Please contact the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350 if you plan to attend so we can arrange to pay the training fee.

## QUICK NOTES IN AND AROUND EAST HARRIET NEIGHBORHOOD



### "Art in the Park" Classes Offered

Come and get creative at the Art in the Park classes at Lyndale Farmstead Park on Saturday, Feb. 23 and March 8 from 1-2 p.m. Please register in advance at 612-370-4948.

### Senior Center Brain-a-thon Returns

The Center is sponsoring a whole host of programs to help you understand how you can impact the health of your brain. The March 5th Kick-Off begins with a brain-healthy meal at noon and a program at 1:00 pm explaining how you can make lifestyle choices that affect your brain. Over the next three months, there will be multiple programs focusing on different aspects of brain health and ways for you to earn Brain-a-thon points. For more information or to receive a newsletter with all the events, call (612) 822-3194 and ask for Mary Ann. Southwest Senior Center, located at 3612 Bryant Ave. So., offers a wide variety of programs and services to the community.

### Program Registration to Begin March 10

Registration for Park Board spring programs begins on Monday, March 10th, 6:00 p.m. You will be able to view the listings by March 1st. You can register online at [www.minneapolisparks.org](http://www.minneapolisparks.org) or stop in at a recreation center. You can register for programs at all the centers at any one center. Volunteer coaches will be needed for our spring soccer program at Lyndale Farmstead. If you are interested, call the park for more information: 370-4948.



### Join us at the Park's Annual Egg Hunt!

This annual event at Lyndale Farmstead Park includes a petting zoo, basket-making activity, egg hunt and treats for the whole family. Stop by on Saturday, March 22, 10:00 a.m. - noon. Fee is \$2/child.