



Connects

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A Monthly Newsletter for the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood

APRIL 2008



Notes from the Chair

Matt Perry, EHFNA president

What happened this week may not have made the national evening news, but its significance should still be trumpeted. We reached a milestone many thought would never occur: the Lyndale Reconstruction

Kickoff Meeting was held.

Some longtime ardent supporters of this undertaking, which began 14 years ago, have watched their newborn babies grow up to become teenagers! The beginning of this project closes a chapter on a significant cultural shift in how residents, businesses and government interact on transportation issues in Minneapolis. The activities leading up to the reconstruction are also a textbook example of how all these stakeholders can work together constructively.

In 1994, Minneapolis public works officials presented a proposal to residents to widen Lyndale Avenue South to four full lanes. This would mean a narrowing of its wide beautiful boulevards, the loss of many mature trees and more traffic. Four hundred residents in attendance at this public meeting let the presenters clearly know they were strongly against the city's plan.

And then a wonderful thing happened. A core set of residents went one step beyond simply saying they opposed the proposal. They created an alternative road design that would renew community connections and serve as a model for a 21st century urban transportation system. The Lyndale Avenue Task Force (LATF) was made up of residents from 10 neighborhoods between Franklin Avenue and the Crosstown. Working together, across neighborhood boundaries and through many community meetings, they accomplished their goal. In 1997, the City Council adopted the "Lyndale: A Vision" into the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.

Lyndale Avenue is a Hennepin County road. When the county received the task force's plan in 1997, officials set it aside. This was not how things were done then. When Commissioner Gail Dorfman was elected in 1999, she provided the leadership for "Lyndale: A Vision" to gain traction. In 2005, the city council adopted a preliminary layout for Lyndale between 31st Street and Minnehaha Creek. Over the next two years, the city, county, park board, neighborhood organizations and residents worked together to finalize the streetscape plan for this section of Lyndale.

How we got where we are today contributed to a change in how transportation projects are developed in Minneapolis. Now, residents and businesses expect to have a voice in the development of the public space we call roads. Transportation officials have come to value the input of these stakeholders. This project also demonstrates that it is not only possible for many organizations and individuals to work together as partners; it is beneficial to do so. Community activities best done are done best by the many.

Warm regards,
Matt

OUR NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING - JOIN US!

Hear a short presentation on the history of the Rose Garden which turns 100 this spring!

Wed., May 7, 2008 • 7:00 - 8:45 pm
Lyndale Farmstead Park

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

46th St. Bridge Closes April 25

The 46th Street bridge is open at this time, however, the bridge is scheduled to be demolished the weekend of April 25, weather permitting. The bridge will close at 9:00 am on Friday, April 25th. It is scheduled to re-open in spring 2009. For more information on the Crosstown Project, go to www.mndot.gov, email crosstown@rranow.com or phone the hotline: 1-866-743-6590.

RoseFest '08: Bigger and Better!

RoseFest '08 promises to be bigger, better and...later! This year's event will take place at Lyndale Farmstead Park, and will run from 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm/ All proceeds will go back into supporting special projects in our neighborhood.



Highlights of this year's event include: inflatables and games for the kids; pony rides; live music until 8 pm; dunk tank with surprise guests; tasty food; Wirth House tours; and a 100th birthday celebration at the Rose Gardens.

We have great sponsorship opportunities at all budget levels. Tables are available for a minimal cost for local businesses, non-profits and political campaigning. Call 612-824-9350 for more details.

Of course, we are also looking for volunteers to take a 1-3 hour shift that day. If you have any questions about volunteering or about RoseFest in general, contact the East Harriet office at 612-824-9350 or via email at info@eastharriet.org. Don't miss out on the FUN at our neighborhood's signature event!

More Connects on next page!

5th Precinct Leadership Change

Lt. Marie Przynski of the 5th Precinct has moved on to other projects and will no longer be serving our neighborhood. We have appreciated her service over the years and wish her well. Welcome to Lt. John "Jack" Kelly who has joined the 5th Precinct in her place.

Register for Sale-O-Rama by May 21

Join us for the East Harriet Sale-O-Rama, our annual neighborhood garage and yard sale. The event takes place on Saturday, May 31 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. A \$10



registration fee gets you great promotion, flyers, a Sale-O-Rama Kit and clean closets. The deadline to register is May 21, so act now. To get your

registration form, contact us at 612-824-9350 or visit the Sale-O-Rama 2008 page at www.eastharriet.org.

Bryant/BEAT Focus on Clean Air

Bryant/BEAT!, a collaboration between East Harriet Neighborhood Association and Barton Open School, is an exciting program that educates neighborhood residents on ways to improve our community's environment. This year, students are studying Clean Air and the program will culminate in an event at Barton the morning of Saturday, May 17. Plans for the Fair include tree planting, signing up for the MN Energy Challenge, the unveiling of a small wind turbine, student presentations and more. Please watch for more information on our website, www.eastharriet.org, or in the next newsletter.

Planning a Home Improvement?

Keep it "in the neighborhood" by taking advantage of the East Harriet loan program. Home improvement loans of up to \$15,000 are available at 2-4% interest rates to eligible residents through this neighborhood program. Contact the East Harriet office to learn more at 612-824-9350 or visit the loan program page on our website, www.eastharriet.org.

LYNDALE FARMSTEAD PARK NEWS

It is Time to Plan the Summer Schedule

Summer registration for park programs at all of the recreation centers starts on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 am. Visit www.minneapolisparcs.org or your area park to sign up!

Bring a Plant, Take a Plant on May 17

The annual neighborhood Plant Swap is on Saturday, May 17th, 11:00 am at Lyndale Farmstead Park. You must bring plants to be able to participate; plants are "for swap" not "for sale." Bring as much as you can spare, take what you can use!

Youth Soccer Coaches Needed

The Park is still looking for soccer coaches at the 7-8 year old and 9-10 year old levels. It's a fun way to make a difference for youth in the area! Call the park at 612-370-4948 for more information.



EVENTS IN AND AROUND EAST HARRIET NEIGHBORHOOD

Southwest Senior Center Fall Prevention Fair

Stop by the Senior Center on Wednesday, April 23, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. and learn how to take steps to avoid falling. Event features presentations by an occupational therapist and a physical therapist. Please call 612-824-5512 to register for lunch (\$3.25 recommended donation for people 60 and older). For more information, call 612-822-3194. The Center is located at 3612 Bryant Ave. So.

Thinking of Remodeling? Stop by the Home Tour and View Real Homes and Real Ideas

The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour is back. Fifty homes on the free, self-guided tour will be open Saturday, April 26, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 27, 1:00 - 5:00 pm. This event is coordinated by Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and supported by the Planning and Economic Development departments of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and other sponsors who encourage people to stay in the neighborhoods they love, and to maintain and improve the cities' housing stock. To learn more, call 612-673-5140 or visit the website: www.msphometour.com

Public Safety Fair to Serve Ward 13 Residents

Council Member Betsy Hodges, Ward 13, is sponsoring a community fair to bring neighbors together with public safety providers and services to strengthen the partnerships that keep our community safe. The event will include demonstrations and information on everything from block club organizing to graffiti prevention to community impact statements. Refreshments will be provided. Join your friends and neighbors on Saturday, May 3 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm at Southwest High School.

Trolley Operators for Streetcar Line Sought

The Como-Harriet Streetcar Line begins operations on May 3 and volunteer trolley operators are sought. The trolley operators are carrying on a neighborhood tradition that goes back to the 1890s when the first streetcars started rolling on Bryant Avenue. Come and be a part of living history. For more information, contact Rod Eaton at 763-576-0608 or rpeaton@comcast.net. Visit the website for more information: www.trolleyride.org

Spend Mother's Day at the Peace Garden and Support the Building of a New Bridge

Friends of the Peace Garden Project invite you to a special open house on Mother's Day, hosted by Mayor R.T. Rybak and his wife, Megan O'Hara. The fundraiser to complete the installation of the new Peace Bridge takes place on Sunday, May 11 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Rose and Peace Gardens. Meet Kinji Akagawa, designer of the new bridge, and Jerry Allan, its architect. Enjoy live music and refreshments, too!

Metro Paint-A-Thon Applications Due May 9

The Metro Paint-A-Thon, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, helps seniors and people with physical disabilities continue to live independently in their own homes. In 2007, 135 home exteriors were scraped, primed and painted for low-income clients, at no cost to the homeowner. August 2-3 is this year's Paint-a-Thon weekend. Please visit the website for a homeowner application and guidelines: <http://www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon/paint-a-thon%20homeapp%20main.html>