



# Connects

On the web  
[www.eastharriet.org](http://www.eastharriet.org)

A Monthly Newsletter for the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood

MARCH 2009



## Notes from the Chair

Matt Perry, EHFNA president

Disruption is defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary as "to break apart" or "to interrupt the normal course or unity of." The world economic crisis is a disruptive event causing a review of current practices, tactics to respond to it and, hopefully, the formulation of structural changes to prevent its reoccurrence. Disruption leads to reassessment of the way things are and, inevitably, to change.

The Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) system is facing a \$28M deficit. To reduce that deficit the Board of Education and its staff are assessing its current practices and preparing to make systemic changes to provide a more stable and sustainable system by the beginning of the 2010 school year.

The East Harriet Farmstead and Kingfield neighborhoods define an open attendance area and Barton Open School is a magnet school (drawing students from throughout Southwest Minneapolis). East Harriet parents submit a prioritized list of schools they would like their children to attend. The school district does not guarantee that school will be Barton. The structural changes being considered by the school district could potentially affect the open attendance area and Barton Open School.

Since February, the Board of Education has wisely sought input from residents on the options under consideration. Parents are becoming better informed of the causative factors of the deficit and the options to address it. Community input will continue to be a part of the process until the Board of Education votes on a recommendation May 12th. Working with the Kingfield Neighborhood Association, our neighborhood association can provide the organizational framework for our individual voices to be heard within the context of our community. This is a classic example of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts.

When there is broad and deep disassembly, redefinition and realignment of our social, government and business structures, to take no action is action but without any control. If there was ever a time to become active in the community this is it.

We can have influence and control over our future and the future of our children if we actively work together. Just as with disruptive technology, disruptive social events can lead to innovation and creative improvement. I want to hear how you think the neighborhood association can best serve as a partner in this process of change.

Warm regards,

Matt  
([mattp@pobox.com](mailto:mattp@pobox.com) / 612.839.3320)

## Citizen's Advisory Committee for Lake Harriet Concessions to Include East Harriet Resident

### Applications Due March 31, 2009

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) has approved establishing a Citizen's Advisory Commission (CAC) for the Lake Harriet Concession



Project. The original proposal introduced a seafood restaurant in the current concession building and created a new building for standard concessions. At the request of residents and EHFNA that proposal was withdrawn to gather more extensive community input.

The charge for the committee is "to review and discuss the scope of concession opportunities; the general atmosphere of the band shell; to review a schematic design and site for a potential auxiliary concession or other structure; and present a report with recommendations to the Board."

Twelve residents will be appointed to the CAC. EHFNA has been asked to make one these appointments.

If you are interested in being part of a group of residents who will be giving advisory recommendations to the MPRB on the future of food options and the layout of the band shell pavilion area please consider applying to be EHFNA's appointee. The CAC will be meeting 3-4 times over the next three months to meet its charge.

The ideal candidate will have knowledge of the Minneapolis Parks system, have no expressed opinion about concessions at the Lake Harriet band shell, and be able to attend all CAC meetings. Experience serving on an advisory board or commission is a plus. Having experience in business is also a plus. Candidates must be East Harriet residents of age 18 or older. Applications are due by March 31st.

Visit the East Harriet website to download the application: <http://www.eastharriet.org/> or contact the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350 / [info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org).

*More Connects on next page!*

## MPS Representative to be Present at F2 Open Area Meeting

All F2 Open Area neighbors (Kingfield and East Harriet) are invited to attend a conversation with Jackie Turner, Head of Minneapolis Public Schools' (MPS) Student Placement, regarding potential school attendance and program changes and the District's viewpoint on how changes may impact Open Area F2.

Monday March 23 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church • 4100 Lyndale Ave. So.

This is an opportunity for community residents to hear from the District and to express their concerns and ideas before both the March 24th School Board Meeting and the final School Board vote on May 12th. Seating is limited to 200—please arrive with adequate time to sign-in.

For more information on the program changes being explored by MPS to implement in Fall 2010, visit the MPS website: <http://mpls.k12.mn.us/>. For more information about the meeting, contact Emily Winter at EHFNA: [info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org) or 612-824-9350 or Sarah Linnes-Robinson at [Sarah@kingfield.org](mailto:Sarah@kingfield.org).

## A City Property Tax Primer

The City of Minneapolis is hosting two open houses to give property owners an opportunity to learn more about their property taxes, as well as programs that may provide some property tax relief. Folks can get information on subjects ranging from homestead credit and market value to lead abatement rebates, senior citizens deferrals and disabled veteran programs.

**Wednesday, April 8, 4:30 - 7:00 pm,**  
Webber Park Community Center, 4400 Dupont Ave North  
**Thursday, April 9, 4:30 - 7:00 pm,**  
Pearl Park Neighborhood Ctr, 414 E. Diamond Lake Road

Staff from the City Assessor's Office will be on hand to provide you with information about Minneapolis property taxes, and to answer your questions. Cookies and refreshments will be served. Please visit the City website ([www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)) to view the flyer.

**EAST HARRIET**  
*Sale-O-Rama*  
GARAGE & YARD SALES

**Sale-O-Rama**  
**Applications**  
**Due May 20**

Join us for the East Harriet Sale-O-Rama, our annual neighborhood-wide garage and yard sale, on Sat. May 30 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. To sign up, send an email to [info@eastharriet.org](mailto:info@eastharriet.org) or call 612-824-9350. Be sure to include your name, mailing address, phone number and email address. We will get an application to you so you can start planning (you can also download one from our website). The \$10 fee will get you: advertising, flyers, a Sale-O-Rama Kite and clean closets. Deadline for applications is Wed., May 20, 2009.

## PES Committee Update

The Parks, Environment and Schools (PES) committee is gearing up for another busy year.

### Earth Day Clean-up: Sat., April 18

Please join us for the Earth Day Clean-up at Lake Harriet on Sat., April 18 from 9:30-noon. Catch up with your neighbors while collecting trash around our beautiful neighborhood lake - one of 41 clean-up sites around Minneapolis. Last year, almost 200 people at Lake Harriet helped contribute to the 22,500 pounds of trash that was collected city-wide. Bags and gloves will be provided at the check-in location by the bandshell.

### Bryant/BEAT Environmental Fair: Sat., May 16

The Barton Environment Awareness Team (Bryant/BEAT) at Barton School is a 7th and 8th grade environmental science class in its fifth year. This spring the kids are tackling an energy conservation curriculum and helping the school expand its recycling program. A community fair revolving around the students' projects on the topic will occur at Barton School on the morning of Sat., May 16.

### Dutch Elm Disease Treatment Rebate Program

Once again, EHFNA is offering \$200 rebates to East Harriet residents who immunize their elm trees against Dutch Elm Disease. This still-spreading disease kills dozens of trees in our neighborhood every year. An injectable treatment is available that will protect these attractive trees for three years. Please contact our office at 612-824-9350 for more information on this program.

The PES committee meets on the 4th Monday of every month to discuss all things "green" in the East Harriet neighborhood. We also focus on school-related issues important to our residents. Join us at Java Jacks at 7:00 pm for one of our monthly meetings. Feel free to email the PES chair, Patty Selly, [patty@domware.com](mailto:patty@domware.com) anytime!

## Quick Notes In and Around East Harriet Neighborhood

### It's Spring at Lyndale Farmstead Park!

The ice rink has melted to make way for ducks..and soccer! Sign-ups for Spring activities at Lyndale Farmstead and other parks is now underway. Activities at Lyndale Farmstead this spring include dance and nature classes, table tennis, soccer for ages 5 - 13 and track & field for ages 9 - 16. Register online or in-person at the MPRB website ([www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)) or at a park. Coaches are still needed at all age levels for soccer. Please call the park if you can help: 612-370-4948.

### Thank you for the Donations at the Park

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated food for the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf in our warming room this past skating season, and to all who made pledges for our park staff who participated in the Polar Bear Plunge. We collected 42 pounds of food for the food shelf and raised over \$1300 from the Lakes District parks for Special Olympics!