



Connects

Your source for neighborhood news

MAR 2007

On the web
www.eastharriet.org

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) is represented by a group of volunteers that you - the neighborhood - elects each October. EHFNA is working to improve the neighborhood through programming that is only made possible through the work of neighborhood residents and business owners like you. We encourage your feedback and contact at 612-824-9350 or info@eastharriet.org

Notes from the Chair Matt Perry, EHFNA chairperson



"Meet John Doe". That is one of the movies I watched between testing out my atrophied shoveling muscles during our recent two spring snow storms. The timing could not have been more appropriate. In times of mutual trouble, I am always emotionally overwhelmed with the generosity people will show each other even to complete strangers. Pushing stuck cars; figuring out who forgot to move their car during the snow emergency to save them a ticket and a tow; shoveling your neighbor and their neighbor's sidewalk. I even saw a Traffic Control Agent forgo having a car towed to help the owner push it to freedom from its snow barricade! Wouldn't it be wonderful if such "sense of community" could be carried beyond the crisis?

This is where "Meet John Doe" comes in. It is a great old movie (1941) directed by the populist director Frank Capra. It's a story of desperate people and institutions that for their respective parochial reasons hatch the idea of creating a persona who would give up his life as a protest to how poorly people treat each other. In the process of telling his fictional story, lots of newspapers are sold and, to their surprise, a political movement is created - The John Doe Clubs. In one scene, Gary Cooper's character, posing as John Doe, wants out of the charade but changes his mind after meeting up with members of the local John Doe Club. Still thinking he is the real deal, they convince him to not end his life so that he can continue to lead the movement. They each step forward to give their story of how, by following his advice of getting to know their neighbors better than a perfunctory "good morning", they learned most of their preconceptions about each other were completely wrong. Their neighbors are not cranks or hermits, but good and interesting people who together have great power of the heart. In the end, the good work and good will of the "little guys" overwhelms those who started it all to make a buck.

You can see the roots of reality of this movie in how we City dwellers react when faced with a collective crisis. Somehow, being in a mutual pickle allows us to break down the barriers that keep us from getting to know, help and appreciate each other. Warmer weather brings a blossoming of events as evidenced in this issue of our newsletter. Take time to participate in these events not only with your friends, but with the neighbor you don't know as well as you should. I think you will be surprised at how good it feels to help make your community grow.

In the spirit of getting to know each other better, I would like to introduce our new East Harriet Neighborhood Coordinator, Emily Winter. Emily has a long history of volunteer organizing experience in her home neighborhood of Armatage having chaired numerous Armatage School PTA programs such as Art Adventure, Scholastic Bookfair and Volunteer/Staff Appreciation as well as serving as one of the event coordinators and board members of the popular Southwest Hockey Association. Some of you may already know Emily and her family through their church activities at Bethlehem Lutheran. Please join me in a warm East Harriet neighborhood welcome to Emily!

Regards,
Matt

East Harriet Rosefest 2007 Looking for Volunteers!

RoseFest is Saturday, July 14 at
Lyndale Farmstead Park, 10 - 6 pm

One - three hour time commitment is all we're looking for! Volunteers are needed in all areas. Take a look at these volunteer opportunities and give us a call.

Entertainment: Special help needed in supervision and ticket taking for rides and games, setting up and taking down chairs and table. Contacts: Bruce Wadman, 612-822-1164, Dean Carlson, 612-822-5910

Finance: Help needed in ticket sales and assistance to the treasurer. Contact: Bruce Wadman, 612-822-1164

Food & Beverage: Much help is needed for selling food and beverages. Also looking for "gophers" with a truck and cell phone. Contact: Jane Swatosh, 612-824-3633

Publicity: Volunteers needed for poster hanging and flyer distribution. Contact: Maryjo Hackett, 612-501-2618

Garden Tour: Volunteers needed for discovering gardens and selling maps the day of the tour. Contact: Matt Perry, 612-839-3320

If you have any questions about volunteering or about RoseFest in general contact the EH Rosefest Festival Standing Committee: Maryjo Hackett, 612-501-2618, Jane Swatosh, 612-824-3633

East Harriet's Home Improvement Loan Program

Planning a home improvement project? Use the East Harriet loan program! EHFNA has low interest loans available to help homeowners and rental property owners finance almost any type of improvement. You may be eligible to borrow up to \$15,000 at 2-4% interest. More information contact the EHFNA office at 612-824-9350 / info@eastharriet.org or to request an application call CEE Financial Resources at 612-335-5885.

Take the Online Survey for Cyclists & Pedestrians

Provide your suggestions and priority to increase rates of bicycling and walking in Minneapolis by taking the City sponsored online survey. Go to: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/news-survey.asp> Be part of the process and have your voice heard!

Lyndale Farmstead Park Spring Programs

Spring Program Registration is already in full swing. Stop by the park (39th & Bryant Av S) to sign up or sign-up online at www.minneapolis.parks.org

ATTENTION ALL GREEN THUMBES:

RoseFest Garden Tour 2007

Sign Up Now, Plan Your Gardens!

This is an early notice because we know a gardener likes to plan. The tour will run during RoseFest (Saturday, July 14) from 10 am - 2 pm. To sign-up or find out more information contact, Matt Perry at 612-827-5442.

FREE TREE for the first 20

EH Residents who Help Restore East Harriet's Urban Forest... by April 15

The last three years of Dutch Elm disease have been very hard on our neighborhood's urban forest. You can help in the restoration process. The City of Minneapolis and Tree Trust have 1,500 trees for Minneapolis residents. Residents can order one tree per address and choose from six varieties: Cathedral Elm (dutch elm disease-resistant), Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Bur Oak, Cockspur Hawthorn, River Birch and Austrian Pine. The cost of the tree is just \$15 and must be ordered by April 15th. To help the restoration of East Harriet's urban forest "take root", EHFNA will reimburse the first 20 residents who take advantage of this great offer from Tree Trust.

First, order your tree by calling 651-644-5800 or by going to treetrust.org and completing the order form. Then, send us your receipt by June 1st and we will reimburse you the \$15. Hey, that means you are getting a FREE tree! Include a photo of your new tree and we'll include it in our summer newsletter. The Tree Trust website has more detailed information including pictures of the available tree varieties. In addition, free workshops on tree planting and care will be held Thursday March 26th at 6 pm at the Nokomis Recreation Center (2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway) and Saturday March 31st at 8:30 am at the Minneapolis Urban League (2100 Plymouth Ave N). For more info on the rebate offer, contact EHFNA at 612-824-9350 or info@eastharriet.org

Walk or Bike to the Sunshine

Summer Day Camp

East Harriet's own Sunshine Montessori is offering fun summer programming for kids 3-6 years old. Two-week themed sessions throughout the summer will include creative art, science, outdoor fun & field trips. Session themes are: Gardening & Farming; Dinosaurs & Archaeology; People & Transportation; Amazing Animals & Insects; Around the World; Food: From Garden to Table. This flexible program fits in well with family vacations and other summer activities. Dates: June 4 through Aug 24 (6 two-week sessions); 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. Check out the full program flyer online at www.sunshinemonessori.net

Registration runs from April 2 - May 11.
Phone: 612-827-4504

Save the Date:

Clean Water Fair - May 19 at Barton School

EHFNA will be co-hosting the 2nd Annual Clean Water Fair at Barton School on Saturday, May 19th from 9 am-noon. East Harriet has been supporting an environmental education curriculum at the school for its 7th and 8th graders for the past several years. The last two years the students' have been focusing on water quality and how they and the neighborhood can have an impact on what ends up in nearby lakes and streams. The Fair is the culmination of the students hard work and a chance for them to display the environmental-themed projects they have been working on this semester. We also will be offering workshops for people. Build your own rain barrel and bring it home to collect rainwater from your roof, or learn how to construct your own rain garden to capture water runoff on your property. Space in the workshops will be limited, so please contact Bruce Wadman, 612-822-1164 or brucewadman@msn.com, to reserve a spot.

Next EHFNA Meeting: Wednesday, April 4 Lyndale Farmstead Park 7:00 - 8:45 pm

All welcomed! Childcare provided. If you would like to be added to the agenda, contact Matt Perry: 612-839-3320