

**EAST
HARRIET**



Farmstead Neighborhood

Connects

Your source for neighborhood news

On the web

www.eastharriet.org

MAY 2007

The East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) is represented by a group of volunteers that you - the neighborhood - elect 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



As May comes into full bloom I am reminded of the first time I visited Fenway Park, the home of the Boston Red Sox. Wait! Before you say "oh no, not some sports analogy," let me explain.

Fenway Park is in an industrial part of Boston. The streets are narrow, the traffic is heavy and the buildings are tall, faceless and without noticeable character. The average out-of-town pedestrian would not even distinguish the ball park's façade from the other buildings that make up this urban jungle save the large tree that somehow got lost and ended up in front of the main entrance.

After waiting in a long line to get inside, then meandering through the dark and dingy underground concourse, I walked up the ramp to get to my seat. When I entered the field, I saw before me the field framed by the dark walkway from which I was emerging. In one brief moment I had been transported to some emerald green island. I could smell the dirt and the freshly cut grass. All of my senses were stunned by the contrast of this place with its surroundings. The mirage was real.

I have this same feeling this time of year when I go into people's back yards. Generally we all do a good job of keeping our front yards in respectable shape. But if you want to see the glory of mixing the frantic growth of greenery in Minnesota with unequalled human creativity, the treasures are in our backyards. Like my Fenway visit, I feel transported to a different land when I spend time in the backyard of a neighbor. Pergolas, wisteria, vegetables mixed with herbs mixed with flowers, cobble stoned paths and statuary, songs birds and butterflies. The mix is delicious and our urban wildlife knows it. Life and creative soul are bustin' out all over in our backyards. Can you imagine if this were collectively available for all to see!

We cannot very well just start traipsing around in people's backyards, but there are alternatives.

First, get to know some of those neighbors you don't already know. It's always a great conversation starter to talk about the challenges of getting rosemary to grow in this climate. I have yet to meet a person who does not appreciate showing me, with pride, the hard work they have put into making their backyard a place of respite.

Secondly, take advantage of the EHFNA garden tour being held the morning of this year's RoseFest on July 14th. Then head over to the Farmstead Park to participate in all the other RoseFest activities and share your stories of the organic fantasia you have seen hiding in our neighborhood.

With warm (and green) regards,
Matt

EAST HARRIET ROSEFEST

SATURDAY, JULY 14 10 AM - 6 PM
LYNDALE FARMSTEAD PARK 39TH & BRYANT AV S

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event -

Saturday, June 23, 9 am - 1 pm at 3800 Bryant Av S

It's time to dispose of all of those paint cans and batteries that have been piling up in your garage! Residents are invited to drop off those and other materials harmful to the environment at 3800 Dupont Ave So. Sponsored by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in cooperation with Minneapolis Parks and area Neighborhood Associations, this collection is being offered to encourage residents to safely and properly dispose of their unwanted household hazardous waste.

The county will accept many household hazardous wastes, including: mercury items (fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats and thermometers); pesticides; automotive wastes (fuel additives, starter fluid, waxes); aerosol cans, paint, lead-based paint chips, solvents and thinners; pool, photographic and hobby chemicals; and household batteries. Proof of residency is required-please bring your driver's license. Materials are accepted from individual households/apts/condos only. Please call 612-348-3777 with questions or for other disposal options.

Just for participating, you will receive a FREE compact fluorescent light bulb!

Please contact the EHFNA office for more information at 612-824-9350 or info@eastharriet.org

Volunteers Needed for HHW Drop-off Event

On June 23, East Harriet will be co-sponsoring a household hazardous waste drop-off event at 38th & Dupont Ave. So. Hennepin County will be handling the disposal, but two volunteers from our neighborhood will be needed that day to help greet residents, post signs, and keep a tally of drop-offs. If you can help for an hour or two between 8:45 - 1:15 p.m., please contact the East Harriet office by phone at 612-824-9350 or by email at info@eastharriet.org.

NEXT EHFNA Neighborhood Meeting:
Wednesday, June 6, 2007
7:00 - 8:45 pm

SUMMER LOCATION:
Walker Methodist Center
3737 Bryant Ave S

ALL Welcomed! FREE Childcare Provided
To get on the agenda, contact: Matt Perry at 612-827-5442

MORE CONNECTS ON OTHER SIDE!

East Harriet RoseFest Volunteer Time Slots Now Available!

East Harriet RoseFest Saturday, July 14 at Lyndale Farmstead Park 10 am - 6 pm

Please call or email the East Harriet office to claim your time slot

Phone: 612-824-9350

Email: info@eastharriet.org

Remember to give your full name, email (if you have it) and phone number so we can get you more information as we near the event.

Rides & Games:

Supervision and ticket taking

TIME SLOTS Available:

10 am - Noon (6 slots)

Noon - 2 pm (10 slots)

2 pm - 4 pm (10 slots)

4 pm - 6 pm (10 slots)

Ticket Sales:

Sell tickets for rides, games & food

TIME SLOTS Available:

10 am - Noon (3 slots)

Noon - 2 pm (3 slots)

2 pm - 4 pm (3 slots)

4 pm - 6 pm (2 slots)

Assistant to the Treasurer:

Ticket counting and money handling

TIME SLOTS Available:

10 am - Noon (1 slot)

Noon - 2 pm (1 slot)

2 pm - 4 pm (1 slot)

4 pm - 6 pm (1 slot)

Food & Beverage:

Ticket & food handlers, hot dog cooks, etc.

TIME SLOTS Available (Great for families or groups):

10 am - Noon (17 slots)

Noon - 2 pm (17 slots)

2 pm - 4 pm (17 slots)

4 pm - 6 pm (15 slots)

Publicity:

Poster and flyer distribution

Time commitment:

1 hour = 2 square blocks in EH Neighborhood

Garden Tour Map Table:

Sell maps

TIME SLOTS Available:

9 am - 10 am (1 slot)

11 am - Noon (1 slot)

Noon - 1 pm (1 slot)

Lyndale Reconstruction Project Rescheduled for 2008

The long anticipated reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue from Minnehaha Creek to 31st Street project will not start until 2008. In late March, Commissioner Dorfman notified affected property owners the project be delayed citing the need for additional time required by City traffic engineers to address design challenges at the 50th and Lyndale intersection and the location of traffic signals.

Commissioner Dorfman, Hennepin County Transportation and City of Minneapolis Public Works staff have emphasized that no changes to the streetscape elements overwhelming supported by Lyndale Avenue property owners are expected. City and County staff have also stated they expect no change in the special assessment rate for the enhanced lighting project from that in the Lyndale Lighting Enhancement Project petition.

The Lyndale Streetscape Committee (LSC) got agreement from City of Minneapolis Public Works and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to plant and maintain trees and turf in the new medians that will be present from 38th Street to 31st Street. The LSC also secured signatures from property owners representing 70.2% of the assessable property for enhanced lighting from 31st Street to Minnehaha Creek. Special assessment petitions exceeding 65% are deemed "successful" by Public Works. The enhanced lighting would include pedestrian level lighting.

Proposed changes to either signal locations or the road configuration at the 50th Street and Lyndale Avenue intersection would be presented for community comment through a public meeting process this summer. This same community based input process was used last year to fine tune other details of the road design.

The original reconstruction staging was to start at Minnehaha Creek to avoid the construction occurring this summer at the Lyn-Lake intersection. Since that might not be as much of a factor next year which end of Lyndale the reconstruction starts on is under review. Regardless of where reconstruction begins, a traffic lane in both directions will remain open along the entire project zone throughout reconstruction. Reconstruction is expected to take two construction seasons.

The lighting design chosen for this project avoids glare for drivers reported to be caused by some existing pedestrian level lighting that use a different design. New optics being tested by the City as part of a lighting visibility study could further minimize the possibility of glare. You can see examples of the new optics being tested in the lights on the 47th and 48th hundred blocks of Nicollet Avenue. Changes to the lighting optics would not change the lantern style fixture selected by the LSC for the pedestrian level lights.

For more information, contact Matt Perry at 612-839-3320

Southwest Senior Center News

New opportunities for people with visual impairments

The Center is becoming more user friendly for people with visual impairments by adding a closed circuit television that will magnify printed materials onto a TV monitor and by adding software to a computer in the lab that allows the user to enlarge images on the computer screen. In addition, the Center will have the following on-site: Magnifiers and other low vision devices, large print cards and games, and improved task lighting. Please call the Center for further information. These tools and staff training are being made possible through a grant from the Minneapolis Foundation's Smith-McCarthy Funds for the Blind and Visually Impaired to The University of Minnesota's Visual Rehabilitation Center.

Computers available - No waiting

Seven computers with high speed Internet are available for use by people age 55 and up. This is a great place to practice your computer skills, surf the web, and get a free e-mail address. The room is available from 8 am - 4 pm, except for Wednesdays from 11 am - noon.

The Center is located at 3612 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

For more information, call Volunteers of America of MN's Southwest Senior Center at 612-822-3194