

Northeaster

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Lowry Avenue Bridge is on track

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~\$2 million to improve Edison

by Gail Olson

The federal government is giving Edison High School almost \$2 million over the next three years. That's the good part. The not-so-good part is the reason: it was listed as one of Minnesota's lowest-performing schools.

Nineteen Minnesota schools will share more than \$24 million, according to Minneapolis Public School (MPS) district information. The idea behind the money is to help the schools turn around students' low test scores and graduation rates.

District's perspective

Eric Molho, MPS director of strategic planning, said that the

federal government left it up to the states to identify the lowest performing five percent of schools. "The Minnesota Department of Education went through a number of different iterations on how to identify those schools. They reached out to us and St. Paul. What they wound up with was looking at three years' worth of data." The school years were 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009.

Edison was "Fresh Started" in 2008-2009. MPS administrators have used Fresh Starts to help under-performing schools by changing staff and curriculum. In Edison's case, the entire staff was given notice and had to re-apply for their jobs, with

no guarantees that they would be re-hired. Principal Carla Steinbach, who had been assigned to Edison a year earlier, did the interviewing and hiring, with assistance from the school's administrative team.

Edison showed up on the state's lowest performing list, Molho said, because "there was a combination of data prior to the Fresh Start and in its first year. Unfortunately, there was not a dramatic difference in the data after the Fresh Start."

When Edison was Fresh Started, Molho said, "Nobody had any expectations that there would be anything like this kind of program or money. In 2007,

EDISON ▶ 3

Hitting the wall?



by Gail Olson

It's been closed for months, now, and some people are still wondering what happened to Porky's. The owners blame city officials, saying that their demand for a costly masonry wall was unreasonable. City officials say that they had approved the owners' most recent site plan, and that the owners had opted to close.

Porky's, at 1851 Central Ave. NE, arrived two years ago with fanfare and promise. Prospective patrons anticipated a replica of the popular St. Paul Midway area drive-in—also named Porky's—on University Avenue. They hoped for a back-to-the-1950s experience right out of Happy Days and American Graffiti, with yummy burgers off the grill and heaps of French fries. Classic car enthusiasts were welcome, maybe (although that was unclear).

At the very least, it might have been a good place to grab a quick and affordable meal in Northeast.

But some neighbors—notably those in the Windom Park Citizens in Action neighborhood group—were unhappy with a drive-through hamburger joint landing in the heart of Northeast's commercial corridor. They pointed to another Truelsen family-owned restaurant, the upscale Tryg's [named for one owner, Trygve Truelsen] near Lake Calhoun in South Minneapolis, and wondered why Northeast got the drive through instead of the nice sit-down restaurant version. They demanded changes to the site plan and more indoor seating, to prevent customers from zooming through the drive-up and creating more traffic congestion. First Ward City Council Member Paul Ostrow and Truelsen attended neighborhood meetings where tensions ran high.

PORKY'S ▶ 12

VillageFest in St. Anthony

St. Anthony held its VillageFest Aug. 5-8, with the parade from St. Charles to the shopping center on Friday evening, the 5K Run Saturday morning, and activities in the St. Anthony Shopping Center parking lot all day Saturday. Below, the Revanssi-Finnish folk dancers. The Kiwanis also held their pancake breakfast Sunday under the tents, which kept remarkably cool in the hot day.



Photos by Carol Jensen

New library building on schedule

by Gail Olson

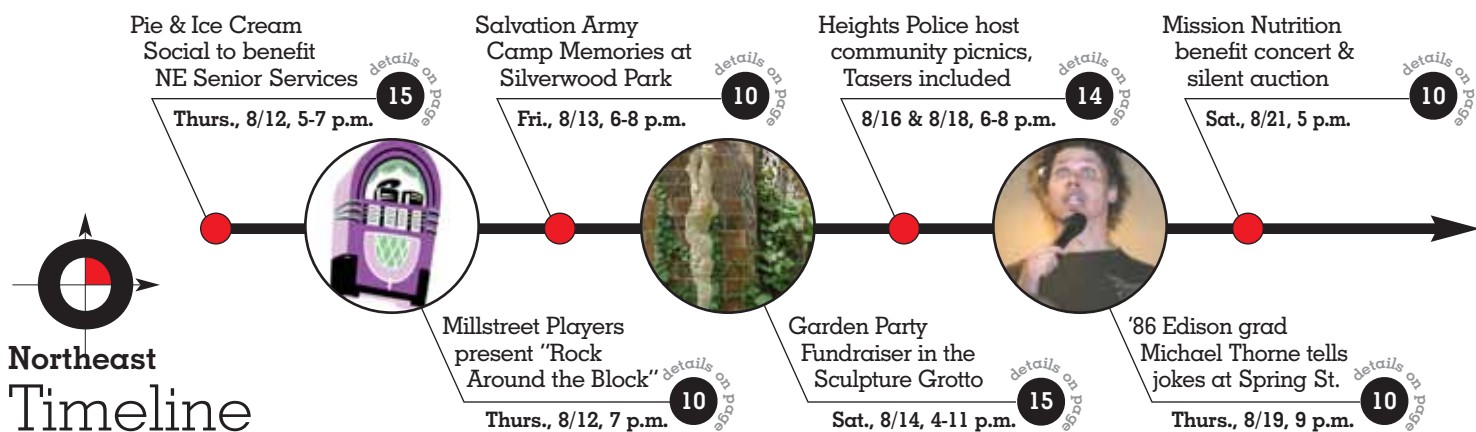
Ever since 1915, when industry magnate Andrew Carnegie was promoting library construction (in his name, and with his money) around the country, Northeast Minneapolis has had a library at 22nd and Central avenues. In 1973, the Minneapolis Public Library board decided to tear down the historic Carnegie building—which was not hand-

icap accessible and was considered outdated by some—and replace it with something more modern. Now the library is in its third life as a Hennepin County library, and undergoing extensive renovations.

The building closed October 29, 2009, for the work. The upgrade will include new and updated mechanical systems, fire sprinkling and electrical sys-

tems, an expanded and enhanced children's and teen area, an early literacy/interactive discovery zone for young children, a homework help space, and a display area for local art. Hennepin County spokesperson Carla Biermaier said the project is on schedule, with a grand opening tentatively scheduled for early 2011.

NORTHEAST LIBRARY ▶ 4



Think Tank

editorials & reader commentary

EDITORIAL:

READER COMMENTARY:

Stand up and support Edison High School

(We published the following editorial 13 years ago, when Edison High School celebrated its 75th anniversary. Edison is in trouble, the federal and state governments are stepping up to help, and the community also needs to increase its commitment to Northeast's high school. Most of the message from 13 years ago is applicable today, and Northeast is in an even better position to help because of the arts community's tremendous success. Institutions such as Edison prepared Northeast for that success. It's time to give back.)

They hadn't lived through the Great Depression, it hadn't happened yet. They couldn't study the First World War in American History class, because there hadn't been a Second World War to make the recently-ended war anything but "the World War." It was the early 1920s, and Thomas A. Edison High School was about to open its doors to its first students.

Edison had a tall order: Educate and unify a community of diverse nationalities, religions and appearances. Teach young people to respect their differences, yet bond together and help each other as members of the same team, the same academic pursuit, or the same performing group. Teach them the skills and motivation they need to continue their education and become the best they can be.

As the years went by, Edison and the Northeast community influenced each other, and helped to make each other great. The bond between them has survived unprecedented governmental and societal efforts to separate schools from their communities. In more recent years, desegregation rules meant many Northeast students couldn't go to Edison, and many from other communities had to go to Edison. Teachers, especially young teachers, had more difficulty finding job security and planting roots in their school's community. Still, Edison and Northeast remain synonymous.

The '20s, '30s and '40s were tough days for Edison and for Northeast. Edison did its job of bringing the Swedes, Poles, Lebanese, Italians and many others together to become educated and to build a great community. Those people, many of whom came from poor immigrant families that had fled the violent oppression of dictatorial European governments, built an enviable way of life and saw to it that their children would not have to face many of the struggles they faced. In many ways, for practical, educational purposes, Edison's and Northeast's blended communities were as one.

While an impressive number of graduates continue to contribute to Edison, too many others look at Edison's population and say, "Edison has changed, Northeast has changed," as they make plans to move to the suburbs and keep their children out of Northeast's high school. They fear the poor immigrants who fled the violent oppression of dictatorial Asian and African governments. They fear the poor immigrants from other American cities. They say, "Thanks Edison, Northeast, but I'm getting out."

How ironic. The tremendous economic strength that gives these people the choice to move to the suburbs came from the strength and hard work of their parents' and grandparents' generation. Their parents and grandparents grew strong because they faced the task of unifying an impossibly diverse community, hung in there and made it happen.

Seventy-five years after opening, Edison continues to do its job, strengthening, educating and unifying what would appear to be an impossibly diverse group of students. It's nothing new for Edison. The school isn't perfect, and it should, as always, strive to improve the education its students receive.

Many people in the community around Edison, however, are not keeping up their end of the Edison-Northeast partnership. They are running away just when Edison needs all the help it can get to do what it does best. Those who flee today's diversity need to realize that their community wasn't homogeneous—it merely appeared that way because Edison did its job so well.

If you're thinking about leaving, think again. If you must leave, or if you've already left, you have every right to go. But think hard, and if you have a moral debt to Edison, give something back, as many others do. Give money to scholarship funds, do volunteer work at Edison or nearby schools, write an encouraging letter to teachers or coaches when they lead students to significant accomplishments.

Today we celebrate 75 years of a great school. Tomorrow, take a good look at what Edison has done for you, and what you have done for Edison. If you come up a little short in the latter category, fix it.

"We the people" letter plugged state rep campaign

I must respond to a letter written by Timothy Utz (*Northeast*, July 28), the Republican candidate for state representative. He states that the government "owns the people," instead of vice-versa. He then quotes the preamble of the Constitution, and, in typical conservative fashion, picks out whatever he wants to prove his point. Yes, "We the people" created the Constitution and government through our elected officials, acting on the peoples' behalf, to "establish justice" and to "promote the general welfare."

Mr. Utz referred to a new law passed in the 2010 legislative session, saying that one, new law, concerning tattoos for minors, "further stripped parents' rights." First of all, it doesn't say that. It says that tattoo technicians would temporarily be prohibited from providing tattoo services to minors, regardless of parental consent, pending coursework on topics inclusive of blood-borne pathogens, infection control and the completion of at least 200 hours of supervised experience in their field.

Then, Mr. Utz unabashedly plugged his own campaign for House of Representatives, by criticizing 50-A Representative, Carolyn Laine.

Needless to say, Mr. Utz isn't going to change my vote.

James P. Johnson
Columbia Heights

More on closing the Central Avenue Porky's restaurant

Unlike the letter writer in the June 23 issue I can't share any of the smiles and glee over the closing of Porky's. Let's not forget that they are a local business that made a sizable investment in a new building on what had been a vacant and abandoned gas station for over a decade.

That even their name "Porky's" is culturally insensitive had never crossed my mind and seems like an absurd level of politically correctness, but is indicative of the other half-baked arguments against Porky's before they ever opened; such as that there would be too much traffic, even though it is Central Ave. with thousands of cars already going

Edison: How about a student's perspective?

The government's nearly \$2 million says Edison's a poor school. A fourth place finish in national Junior Achievement competition says at least certain Edison students have it in them to succeed.

Want to know what would help kids learn at Edison, or any other school? Ask them, and watch them. Ask Stephanie Xiong.

She's a 17-year-old newspaper intern from Edison. We attended the wrap up for a Patrick Henry High School summer class. They'd spent three weeks hands-on at Shingle Creek and on other watersheds learning about hydrology, planning to save the creek.

Stephanie lamented that she wished all

by; or that it was going to be a magnet for criminal activity, even though it is across the street from a police station; or that juvenile delinquents would be street-racing their hotrods up and down Central Avenue, when the car gatherings at the St. Paul location are a bunch of retirees with their restored classic cars that they park and show off for a few hours.

I was disappointed that Porky's was not allowed to re-create the Drive-In style of their St. Paul location which I often go out of my way to go to. And the classic car gatherings are exactly the type of thing that should be encouraged, in my opinion. When I heard that Porky's wouldn't be allowed to have them here, I couldn't believe it.

A successful Porky's would have been good for the neighborhood whether you chose to eat there or not. Unfortunately I don't see most businesses along Central faring much better and I could probably count on one hand the number of establishments that have more than two customers at a time. Perhaps the opponents of Porky's who claim to know what the neighborhood wants and needs could make a similar investment in Central Avenue, there are plenty of vacancies.

Andy Hersey
Northeast Minneapolis

I was very sad to see Porky's close. It sure didn't make me smile. I thought they had some of the best food on Central Avenue. I was very excited when they opened, it was great to see someone come on Central that served American food, so I say kudos to you Porky's for giving it your best shot.

I feel that there are too many Arabic, Indian and Mexican restaurants around. I'm sure that's all good and fine for the people who enjoy that kind of food but what about the folks who would enjoy some American food? At least when we had Porky's we had that opportunity.

The Northeast community used to be a very diverse community and had a little of everything for everyone, so it's very sad to see it all change for the worse, so hopefully someday soon this will make a turnaround for the better.

Ruth Stachowski
Northeast Minneapolis

classes could be hands-on, rather than lecture, and that Edison could do fun things like Henry. She crowed when she heard of something similar at Edison during summer school, and she happily documented the Legacy Amendment-funded Edison Summer Arts Camp you see on page 7 of this paper.

We've been to several science-oriented hands-on experiences at the public libraries.

The ideal experience may take extra hands, creativity and community contributions. But Stephanie had one simple suggestion: Truly invite students ask questions during class.

Margo Ashmore
Northeast Publisher

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Other Minneapolis schools get money, in North

1 ◀ EDISON

the landscape looked very different."

Edison got the largest grant in the state and will be hiring a number of different individuals, he added. "One piece of the model requires a school administrative manager (SAM) at least for the length of the grant. We want to be able to free up Carla [Steinbach] and the assistant principals so that they have more time to spend in the classroom and facilitate connecting with teachers. A SAM would handle operational issues in the building: things like the physical plant, running the front office, supervising building engineers, and other things not directly related to the instructional core. We know our principals spend too much time on issues not related to teachers and learning."

Molho said the grant is for three years. "There will also be some additional money we can apply for next year, only available to the selected schools."

How will Edison spend the money? "Our central office and each school worked collaboratively with Carla and the school's leadership team; plans for each school were developed on-site. Edison's plans are not yet finalized, but they have to have a SAM and add time to the school day. The staff will be working on how best to make it happen."

In Edison's case, he said, "The first trigger was that its graduation rate was below 60 percent." According to district data, Edison's graduation rate in 2007 was 51.65 percent; in 2008, 46.53 percent; in 2009, 54.98 percent.

Its 10th grade reading scores, based on 2009 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment tests, were 28.2 percent. The district average in reading was 54 percent, while the state average was 74.2 percent.

Edison's 11th grade math proficiency results were 7 percent; the district average was 28.3 percent and the state average was 41.6 percent.

According to a district report, "Student poverty and a high concentration of English Language Learning students are significant social challenges the school faces." Edison also is below the district average in the number of students enrolled for the full year, and those attending school 95 percent of school days. It has more students (86 percent) eligible for free/reduced lunch, more receiving special education services (15 percent) and more receiving English language learner services (33 percent) than the district averages.

Molho said that when the state first listed the lowest performing schools, "some schools found that to be very upsetting. People in Northeast and Edison were

upset. But as we have moved forward, people began to understand more what the grant was going to look like and what resources came with it."

In addition to Edison, five other schools received the federal funding. One, Wellstone, is in South Minneapolis. The others are in North: Bethune, Hmong International, Lucy Craft Laney, and Broadway Arts and Technology. Another Northside school, Cityview Performing Arts Magnet, got a waiver until the 2011-2012 school year.

Principal's perspective

Steinbach said that Edison received the highest grant, \$1,900,000, because it is a high school, with more students and more staff. When asked about students' low test scores, she said, "It takes time. There has been progress. We've worked very hard in the first and second year of Fresh Start to put systems in place. We have the foundation; this coming year you'll continue to see progress."

Graduation numbers are always a year behind, she added. (For instance, when the numbers are released next year, they will actually be reflecting the 2009-2010 school year.)

What will be different for Edison students and staff this coming school year, because of the money? "We will put it toward improving our math and reading scores and the graduation rate," Steinbach said. "We will have smaller class sizes and extra support for students who need help in reading and math. We will find ways to ensure that students [have enough credits] so they graduate and are prepared for post-secondary education. We're being more focused and intentional about what we're trying to achieve. Some money is going toward mentors for new teachers."

A SAM, she said, "will be doing the managerial piece, taking those things off my plate. I would want that person to be familiar with education, high schools, and with what I do. This is a new thing for Minneapolis, but the research that I've read and the principals I've talked to [who have them] have loved them. Those schools have seen good and positive change."

"I'm excited, because I will be able to be in the classroom more. They want me in the classroom at least 80 percent of the time. Times are changing. The push is for the principal to be an instructional leader. You have to be in the classroom to understand teacher practices."

"High school is more complex; the offerings include physics, chemistry, physical education. All teachers are responsible for ensuring that kids know how to

read, write, and do math. A physical education teacher, for example, would learn strategies to get his class to support reading and math. We are now launching the middle years IB [international baccalaureate] program; its concept is that classes are connected."

Steinbach added, "The money will augment what we're currently doing and accelerate the progress. But things take time. You can't all of a sudden be in the 60's and 70's [for test scores] over the next year. It could take three to five years, even sometimes five to seven years."

She said that in September, school will start at 8 a.m. instead of 8:30 and classes will last 52 minutes instead of 45. There will be more time for "advisory," sessions in which teachers or counselors build relationships with students and talk to them about their individual goals. They will also have a silent sustained reading class, in which students read books of

their choice.

"We want them to enjoy reading," Steinbach said. "So many of them have jobs or have to go home after school and take care of siblings. They don't have time to read for pleasure. We have piloted a reading program with the 10th grade team and they wanted to start a book club."

When asked if the teachers and staff she hired when the district Fresh Started the school are still at Edison, she said they are. "The staff is sticking with me. I've not had to hire a lot of new teachers; there haven't been a lot of vacancies. It's a lot of work being a teacher here. There are long hours. Teachers easily could have bailed, or left because they didn't want to do it all. The district has supported this building, as well: I was able to keep all of my least senior teachers. I'm pretty fortunate, really."

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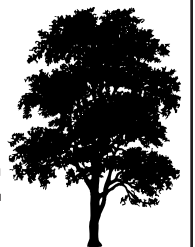
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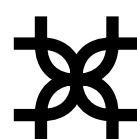
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Still noodling over whether to replace library's boiler

1 ◀ NORTHEAST LIBRARY

"The partition walls are completed and the plumbing and electrical systems are roughed in. After vandals broke in and damaged the boiler, Hennepin County Property Services staff is evaluating the extent of water damage in the basement, and will determine whether to repair or replace the boiler," she said.

The former meeting room at the building's southeast end has been demolished to prepare for the addition. The remodeled library will have a larger footprint; the old building was 14,500 square feet, and the new building will be 16,221 square feet. MPL had originally allotted \$3.76 million, from a 2000 city referendum, for the work.

The meeting room is being relocated to

the northwest corner, just off the children and teen area. When this change was initially proposed by the Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) staff and the Cuningham Group in December, 2007, it did not prove popular with some Northeast residents, who said they didn't want the entrance to the meeting room—where many evening meetings were held—at the rear of the building off the parking lot. When Hennepin County Library merged with MPL in 2008, its officials decided to continue with the plan.

Biermaier said the meeting room will be a flexible space to meet changing program needs, from children's story time to adult programming. The area that was the meeting room will house part of the book collection, as well as a lounge/read-

ing area and a periodicals area. There will be more computers (the exact number hasn't been determined), more study tables, and more lounge seating. In the computer area, where the computers are positioned 8 to a table and across from each other, plastic partitions down the middle of the tables will be decorated with historical photos (from the Minnesota Historical Society) of Northeast Minneapolis. There will be a new family rest room, in addition to the remodeled men's and women's rest rooms.

While the library is closed, patrons can use two other nearby community libraries, the Pierre Bottineau Community Library, 55 Broadway St. NE, and the St. Anthony Community Library, 2941 Pentagon Dr. NE, St. Anthony.



Construction progress, and an overview of the work, can be viewed at www.hclib.org, under "Northeast Library."

ASK THE PROFESSIONALS

Q: What is conjunctivitis?

A: Conjunctivitis is one of the most common and treatable eye infections in children and adults. Often called "pink eye", it is an inflammation of the conjunctiva, the tissue that lines the inside of the eyelid. This tissue helps keep the eyelid and eyeball moist.

Conjunctivitis can be caused by a virus, bacteria, irritating substances (shampoos, dirt, smoke, and especially pool chlorine), and allergens (pollens, molds etc.) Common symptoms include redness in the white of the eye, greater amount of tears, discharge of various colors, burning eyes, increased sensitivity to light and itchy eyes (especially with allergies).

If you have any of these symptoms please call and schedule an appointment with Dr. Hanson. Your treatment options will be based on the type of conjunctivitis you have.

St. Anthony Eye Clinic

Dr. Todd J. Hanson, O.D.
2929 Pentagon Drive
St. Anthony, MN 55418
612-781-4730
www.St.AnthonyEyeClinic.com



Dr. Ray Hellickson of the Advanced Dental Group

Dear Doctor H: I am 52 years old and have noticed recently friends back away from me when I talk. I asked my wife, what she thought, and she commented that I have had bad breath for some time. What can I do for it?

Dear Bad Breath Sufferer: More than 90 million Americans suffer from chronic halitosis or bad breath. Causes for it include food choices, smoking, dry mouth, medical conditions such as diabetes, gum disease [pyorrhea], and sinus conditions. The most common cause involves poor oral hygiene leaving food particles between the teeth or on the tongue. These particles decay and a sulfur compound is produced, which we identify as "bad breath." Your saliva plays a crucial role in washing away these particles, and so folks with poor oral hygiene and/or "dry mouth" are more likely to have bad breath. Frequently brush your teeth and tongue, chew sugarless gum to increase saliva flow and have regular checkups at your dental facility. Visit our office for a free 15 minute consultation or call for a free report.

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Q: Why do I hear so many sounds with my new hearing aids?

A: This is a very common comment. Most people wait about seven years to get hearing aids from the time they and their families start noticing problems hearing. By then, their brains have adjusted to not hearing extraneous noises, like paper rustling or water running. It takes a while to re-learn that these sounds exist and to learn to tune them out as best as possible. Some studies suggest six to eight weeks as an adjustment period—it's not automatic! Keep wearing the aids and remember that your audiologist can help you orient to the new sounds and focus on the things you want to hear.

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Q: Why do I keep petting bumble bees?

A: I don't know, but stop it. OK, let me explain. Ice is nice. Ice is our golden retriever, and heat is our bumble bee. Stop petting bumble bees! Nothing is more confusing than deciding whether to put heat or ice on your back. Well, here's the skinny . . . always pet the golden retriever (but wrap the ice in a towel please). Moist heat will increase any swelling that could be going on and if you're in pain, that is bad. Yes, I know that it feels better to use heat, but remember this if you do, you will be petting bumble bees – ouch!

WARNER CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Leanne Warner • Dr. Mark Lampman
612-789-1010
2726 Johnson Street NE

Q: I recently prepared a will. Do I need to do anything else to protect my assets?

A: Yes. Living trusts avoid probate, wills do not. Do you have health care directives and a living will completed? These documents are extremely important to have, otherwise the court gets involved. We will come to you and review your situation. No cost. No obligation. We promise.

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ASSET STRATEGIES GROUP
Craig Gordon – President
Office: 763-571-8285



Q: I've seen Central Liquors signs in a lot of places lately. What's up?

A: You are right! We are neighborhood family owned and we think it is important that WE support our neighborhood and all it has to offer. We are a primary sponsor of the Minneapolis River Rats speed boats, and the NE Central Avenue Parade. You may have tasted our rootbeer recently at the Windom Park Carnival, the Wilshire Park Ice Cream Social or the yearly Edison High School picnic, or been the lucky recipient of our donations to the Wilshire Park, Marcy Open School or Waite Park school fundraisers. We believe in supporting OUR neighborhood and the people that make it great; we ask that you do too!

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Q: How do I start to research the process of remodeling my basement?

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What is Northeast's Family Public Housing share?

by Margo Ashmore

"Last time I was advised, it was over 8,000 and we had to stop counting," said Cora McCorvey, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) executive director. "It" is the waiting list for family housing, which opened in late June, receiving 8,000 applications in four days. The city's family housing comprises 733 scattered site houses throughout the city (52 in Minneapolis' Ward 1 and 85 in Ward 3, for example) and 184 townhome units at Glendale in Southeast Minneapolis.

"Every time we open, we get a tremendous response. There is a great need, and it is growing," McCorvey said.

MPHA employees will take literally months to enter all the data into computers, so it will be near the end of the year before they know where the applicants are coming from, and how many qualify for the opportunity to pay just 30 percent of their income, no matter how small, to rent these MPHA-owned homes.

Mary Boler, managing director for the public housing programs, said, "Last time we opened [the list] was four years ago, and we took in 5,000 applications for family housing. We have housed about

120 family turnovers a year." That means a total of about 480 during the four years. The balance - about 4,500 - have either been denied or lost contact. "They could have relocated, or landed a good job, which is our hope and prayer," said Boler.

Boler said that a year ago, MPHA policy changed so that if an applicant has no "local preference points," they don't get on the list at all, but are immediately denied. Preference points are:

- paying more than 50 percent of their income to rent,
- living in substandard housing (as defined by MPHA),
- being a person affected by the Violence Against Women Act (woman or man),
- being a veteran,
- being a full-time student, or
- being someone in a self-sufficiency program such as MFIP, Minnesota Family Investment Program.

The list will be opened again briefly in September. Even though the number of applications already received might be considered overwhelming, MPHA officials

were concerned they may not have cast the net wide enough. Boler said "for years we have advertised in various periodicals, Hmong Times and the Hispanic newspapers. We have sent information to community partners," organizations that may involve likely residents or those concerned about them. She said they had public service announcements on various radio stations and paid ads in smaller newspapers.

McCorvey said "our intent would be to advertise more holistically to reach all of the community," and that the September application time was "still being strategized."

The family housing waiting list is for just one of type of housing assistance offered by MPHA.

The Family Public Housing program is different from the Section 8 program, which gives vouchers to families who can rent from any approved landlord anywhere in the city. In Minneapolis Ward 1, there are 355 households using Section 8 vouchers, in Ward 3 there are 478. The city's highest concentration is Ward 6, with 723.

"Section 8 was opened for two days two years ago, and got 15,000 pre-applications," Boler said. That boiled down to 13,000 who actually qualified, and

then "we can turn about 30 a month," replacing those who go on to other programs, leave the area, gain more income or are terminated for other reasons.

Waiting lists are always open for yet another category, the elderly and people with disabilities. They can live in 41 MPHA-owned apartment buildings throughout the city. Eleven of those are designated for elderly only, and eight provide assisted living services. With current economic conditions, these units are not becoming available as often as they used to, Boler said. The waiting lists are keeping the 4,958 elderly/disability units filled at 99.6 percent occupancy lately. "Some units are being modernized, so those are off-line," Boler said.

Among the improvements recently made are several at Northeast Minneapolis high rises. At 828 Spring St. Boler said there's been major pipe replacement, at 616 Washington and 710 Second, "major modernization." At 1815 Central, workers are almost done with "a long project done with the residents in their units, nice new kitchens."

For more info on the various public housing options, see www.mphaonline.org.

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Preparing to make the 2010-11 school year a great year

By Bernadeia H. Johnson



We are busy preparing to welcome students in grades 1-12 back to school on August 30 and welcome our new kindergarten students on September 1.

Families often ask me what they can do to help their children do their very best. Families play a critical role in their child's academic progress. You can help your child prepare to learn each day.

- Help your child get ready in the morning so he or she arrives on time and ready to learn.
- Ask your child what he or she learns in school each day.
- Set aside time each night to help your child with his or her homework.
- Visit the open house at your child's school before the first day. Your child will come to school confident and eager to succeed.

We are working hard to make every school a great school. That means every classroom has an effective teacher, every school has a strong principal and every staff member shares the same high expectations for all students. How will we make that happen? We have a plan to deliver on this promise and it starts with clear priorities.

My chief priority this school year is to develop a more tightly aligned system of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. What students are taught, how they are taught and how they are measured is the foundation of a system of great schools. All three of these elements will be consistently implemented at schools district-wide. That means that no matter which Minneapolis Public School your child attends, you will encounter a predictable and consistent curriculum. That means academic rigor regardless of where you live and where you choose to send your child to school.

To accomplish this, I am going to make sure that teachers have time to plan for their lessons. This is critical. I also want to recognize our very best teachers and hold them up as models for what effective teaching looks like. We have many talented and accomplished educators in our midst.

And that is where family comes in again. I hope you will take some time early this fall, as soon as school starts, to get to know your school's principal and your child's teachers. Open lines of communication between families and teachers make for a better education. This is a chance to celebrate your child's successes and to identify and correct small issues before they become big ones.

With our focus squarely where it should be — on the classroom and learning — and your involvement in your child's education, I am confident that 2010-11 will be an exceptional year in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Bernadeia H. Johnson is Superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools



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Lowry Bridge on schedule - 2012

by Gail Olson

The Lowry Bridge replacement project is on schedule, but it's still a long time away (about two years) from the day drivers, bikers and pedestrians will be able to use it.

Work on the new basket-handle bridge, with colored LED night lighting, will likely be completed sometime in summer, 2011, according to Paul Backer, Hennepin County senior construction engineer. However, the project's second phase on the North Minneapolis side near 2nd Street N., won't be finished until 2012. That phase includes a land-based span over the Canadian Pacific railroad yards and roadway approaches.

Backer said the project is going well. "We're putting footings in for the bridge now." By the end of last week, he added, "We will have completed three of four bridge footings. We'll work in the water through the fall."

The next step is work on the "falsework," or temporary piling supports for the main bridge—which Backer described as the substructure: "steel piles we pound into the ground and fill with concrete so we can support the underpinnings." (The temporary falsework will support the bridge before the arch is installed.)

When asked if the recent high temperatures and humidity have had an effect on the workers and the project's progress, he said, "Heat hasn't really been a factor. It hasn't slowed us up."

They expect to put up some of the arch "roughly in June, 2011," he said, adding that he hesitates to get "too optimistic" about timelines, and that it is difficult to give exact dates for some parts, especially the second phase, which is still being designed.

The history

Design work started on a replacement

Lowry Bridge in 2007. After the I-35W bridge collapsed and engineers began intensive investigation into the integrity of all of the state's bridges, Hennepin County closed the Lowry Bridge in April, 2008, as it became apparent that one of its piers had shifted. That bridge, comprised of five truss spans, was built in 1958 and replaced a 1915 bridge at the same site. Workers constructed it using the original 1915 piers.

Bridge demolition was June, 2009. The construction progress on the new bridge, with photos and descriptions, is available on the bridge website, www.lowryavenuebridge.com. Paul Backer can be reached at 612-282-1714, and the contact e-mail for information on the bridge is lowrybridge@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Below, one of the new bridge footings. At right, work on the "east abutment stem" where the bridge joins the riverbank. (Photos by Carol Jensen)



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Hoping people can "think of Edison as the arts school"

by Margo Ashmore
Photos by Stephanie Xiong

Thanks to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the "Legacy Amendment" money, about 70 middle school and high school students learned how to draw and do ceramics for an intense four hours a day for two weeks during Summer Arts Camp. They'll have an exhibit of their work during the Aug. 26 Edison Community Barbeque, 4-8 p.m. at the school.

Intense expressions, intricate drawings, and broad smiles tell the story of how the students got into their work. Visual Art Teacher Gabrielle Bliss, who coordinated the experience, said the classes were not credit makeup, they were an opportunity to work on arts skills for longer stretches than would be possible with 45-minute classes during the year.

Bliss said the professional artists who taught at the camp were amazed at how the kids's skills grew. She counts the turnout and participation as success, and said "I got to listen to the middle school kids arguing with each other about what could be considered art, and that told me they were really thinking about it."

Bliss said the high schoolers were thriving on the longer hours, the middle schoolers got wiggly so she'll said she'd be figuring out how to change up their day differently. The experience included breaks and the free lunch served to students at the school. Each group explored one art medium for a week and then switched to the other, for a total of two weeks.

Northeast Artist Dennis Lo taught drawing in a comic book style. "He is so technical," Bliss said. Minneapolis artist Susan Warner taught ceramics. In the room between the two classrooms, artist

Kimyibo was designing a mosaic that will end up in the Edison courtyard. She worked on that project, and students could watch and ask questions.

Bliss saw more interest than there were initial spots this year for middle school students, and they found a way to accommodate them all. Other adults volunteered in the middle school classrooms; without them, she said the artist would have had a hard time teaching. Bliss said she would like to get STEP-UP interns next year (from a city-funded jobs program) if the Summer Art Camp program can continue. This first year, the \$14,000 expense for artist compensation, materials and student transportation, was entirely paid by Legacy funds, and in future years would require matching funds.

The school received word of the grant at the end of May, Bliss said, just as school was winding down. She rounded up participants by getting recommendations from Sheridan and Northeast Middle school art teachers and sending letters to the students' homes. "About half responded." This year the grant application is due in October, and it's hoped there can be earlier notice, more outreach, more students, greater variety of offerings (still more Northeast artists hired) and smaller groups.

"I'm hoping people can think of Edison as the Arts school," Bliss said. Anyone interested in helping match the grant funds, or with any questions about Edison Arts Summer Camp, can email Gabrielle. bliss@mpls.k12.mn.us or call the hotline at 612-668-7332.

The 4th Annual Edison Staff, Parent and Community Barbeque will be held Thursday, Aug. 26, with the grills going from 3-7 p.m. on 22nd Avenue NE be-



tween Quincy and Monroe. As First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich put it in his e-newsletter, the grills will be "under supervision of Legendary Grill Meisters Niles Schulz and Shaun Wakaruk and a

host of helpers and community sponsors. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, greet the Edison staff, students, and parents, and while away a summer evening."



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News Notes

by Kerry Ashmore

Three Northeast artists—**Layl McDill, Karen Wilcox and Loretta Bebeau**—will be part of the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota (WARM) exhibit **The Art of Mentoring** Sept. 3-Oct. 8 at Bloomington Theater and Art Center, Inez Gallery, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington.

The **City of St. Anthony** received the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) **Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention** for re-using filter backwash water, which is waste by-product from the city's wastewater treatment and storm water runoff. This water is used to irrigate a 20-acre site that includes a municipal park and City Hall. Prior to this project, the city used 5 million gallons from the treated municipal water supply each year to irrigate the area. The volume of water discharged from the site has been cut by more than 90 percent during the growing season. Phosphorus is reduced because it is captured by plants instead of running off as pollution. This project will be a demonstration site for future water reuse projects, according to an MPCA news release.

Connect Anoka County, a partnership of Anoka County and a private firm, Zayo Bandwidth, will receive more than \$13 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to expand fiber broadband connectivity across the county, according to a county news release. The effort to secure an ARRA award began nearly a year ago with the creation of the Connect Anoka County project team, led by Commissioners **Jim Kordiak** and Robyn West. Connect Anoka County plans to link public safety, public works, libraries, law enforcement, license centers, city and town halls, county, and community buildings. It will serve 56 public safety agencies. The link will provide a direct advantage to local businesses, passing directly through the county's key business districts and economic development zones, allowing Zayo Bandwidth to offer fiber optic speeds directly to businesses.

Columbia Heights native **Chuck Briscoe** is the Anoka-Hennepin School District's new associate superintendent of high schools. He has also been a high school principal in Willmar, Stillwater and Rochester.

Kelley Gaines, Madson Gallagher, Tina Gross, John Herou, Margaret Jondahl, Steven Merrill and **Dawn Newbrough** of Minneapolis received degrees from Metropolitan State University.

Veronica Pettini of Northeast was named to the dean's list at DePaul University in Chicago, for achieving a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

Nicole Hale and **Sarah Peterson** of Minneapolis, and **Daniel Vogel** of St. Anthony, received degrees from Bethel University in St. Paul.

Kelli Ferguson of Minneapolis and **Heidi Thuesen** of St. Anthony were named to the dean's list at Winona State University.

John Chandler and **Katie Miskowic** of Minneapolis; and **Christina Loyas** and **Heidi Thuesen** of St. Anthony; received degrees from Winona State University.

Krystine Portlance and **Jacob Grothjan** of Minneapolis were named to the dean's list at Augsburg College, for achieving a 3.5 or higher grade point average.



Planning to rebuild

"The building was dangerous, it had to come down," said Waheed Hussain, who owns the car lot at 37th and Central with her brother. She watched the demolition with neighbors across the alley. The fire-damaged structure's remains crumpled easily under the machine's bite. There was only a small basement under a portion of the former building; the now-empty lot has been smoothed over with new dirt. Hussain said they have had the business for about five years. They are operating Automobile Giants now out of their vehicles on the paved corner lot while figuring out just how they want to rebuild.

(Photos by Margo Ashmore)

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Summer Theater

by Stephanie Xiong

"I can't stand the word can't!" Director Dennis Spears responded to his theater students, paused and realized the irony of what he just said and laughed along with everyone else. He is directing Karlos and Kendra's Kiddie Kabaret which will show at the Capri Theater at 2027 West Broadway, on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 12 and 13.

Naiydda Jernigan of Northeast Minneapolis is in the show; when the *Northeaster* observed an early practice, roles had not been completely set yet. She was in two previous productions, as a cloud in "Literal Les" and as a river crossing guard in "N to the Mirror." She said "it's more fun this year, you get to pick who you want to be, and help out with the staff."

The show's theme comes from the imagination, scenes from childhood—starting with Spears'. He remembers clothes hanging on the line, and has the actors taking sheets to make curtains and signs. He got some funny looks from kids who've grown up with indoor washers and dryers. But they played along and helped develop characters, who are engaged in putting on a variety show for folks in the neighborhood.

It was week two of the Capri Summer Theater Institute, and the kids, 23 girls and one boy, ages 9-14, had developed some of their characters and acted out some scenes. Working Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the kids are excited about the show. In the play there isn't much talking but mostly silent acting and dancing.



Karlos and Kendra's Kiddie Kabaret is Aug. 12 & 13, 6 p.m. at the Capri, 2020 West Broadway. Northeast's Naiydda Jernigan is in the show. Photo: Karla Nweje (in purple at right) leads the dance class. (Photo by Margo Ashmore)

The kids learned that they needed to keep their bodies in shape. Spears started the actors with pantomime, using the entire body. "Go big and find the moments. You can always tone it down. They do a different dance every morning to get them out of themselves, and warmed up."

In the afternoons, Karla Nweje starts the dance class, to work in more detail. She works on specific moves used to develop the characters in the production—the day *Northeaster* was there, we heard a lot of "Dancing in the Street," the 1964 tune made popular by Martha and the Vandellas. There were other exercises to loosen up and strengthen bodies, and build self-confidence and comfort with

the body.

Through the experience the kids started to bond. Another student, Larijina said, "Here it's like family, giving you something you can learn from. What you can't do in front of your family, you can do here."

In a family it's not always perfect, but in this one they're pretty close, Akeitha said. "When you have a room full of girls, there's going to be bumpy times, but at the end we all have fun. We have to support each other, even if we may not be friends."

Of the 24, many were returning actors or experienced elsewhere, some were new. "The returning kids know what the end result looks like and they know it's

going to be a lot of work and is going to be worth it," said Karen Goodenough, director of Youth and Family Development for Plymouth Christian Youth Center, which manages the Capri.

The show admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for youth. Walk-ins are welcome, and groups of 10 or more are advised to reserve with Gillette Anderson at 612-643-2062 or ganderon@pcyc-mpls.org. Showtimes are 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12 and Friday, Aug. 13. For more information go to pcyc-mpls.org or thecapritheater.org.

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Performance Arts

Acoustic open mic at Lily's
#6353: Lily's Coffee Shop, 3301 Central Ave. NE, hosts an open mic event on the **second Friday of each month, 6:30-10 p.m.** (Next event will be **Aug. 13**.) Those who would like to perform should **sign up at 6 p.m.** For more information, call 612-789-2158.

Free concerts at Salo Park
#7206: St. Anthony's Salo Park at Silver Lake Village (39th Ave. NE & Harding St. NE) will host free out-

door concerts **Thursdays at 7 p.m.** through Aug. 26, weather permitting. Upcoming concerts include: **Aug. 12:** Draper Daniels - Heartland Rock & Roll; **Aug. 19:** The Fabulous Fairlanes - A Capella Doo Wop, www.fabulousfairlanes.com; **Aug. 26:** Wild Honey & The Locusts - Inspirational Jazz
Silverwood Acoustic Jam
#6562: Start your weekend with family-friendly acoustic music and good company in the Silverwood coffee shop at **Silverwood Park**, 2950 West County Rd. E. All are welcome to gather near the fireside **Saturdays through Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-noon** to strum, pluck, listen and sing. For more information, call 763-694-7707.

Father Hennepin Bluffs concert series
#7099: Free outdoor concerts will be held at **Father Hennepin Bluffs Park**, 420 Main St. SE, **Mondays and Wednesdays, through Sept. 1, 7 p.m.** in the bandstand on the northeast bank of the Mississippi River near the Stone Arch Bridge. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and an umbrella. **Aug. 16:** The Funky United (instrumental jazz and funk); **Aug. 18:** Brad Dunse (acoustic performing songwriter); **Aug. 23:** Erin Rogue (Irish with a twist); **Aug. 25:** Wild Honey and the Locusts (inspirational jazz); **Aug. 30:** Ben Siems (acoustic blues, singer-songwriter classics); and **Sept. 1:** Nigel Egg (original American roots-based blues)

Twin Cities River Rats
#7258: The Twin Cities River Rats are back on the Mississippi proving free family water ski shows that incorporate music, themed skits, actors, announcers and talented skiers doing stunts, jumps, human pyramids, barefooting and doubles. Events are held **Thursdays through Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.** along the Mississippi River on West River Rd. near 17th Ave. N. Bring a blanket or chair; parking is free. For more information, visit www.tcriverrats.com.

Mission Nutrition benefit concert and silent auction
#7361: **NE Dinner Bell Meals on Wheels** presents "Mission Nutrition," a music benefit **Sat. Aug. 21** at the **Ritz Theater**, 345 13th Ave. NE. Bands include The Mighty Mofos, The Roe Family Singers, and Screaming Vermilion. A silent auction at the **Rogue Buddha Gallery**, 345 13th Ave. NE, starting at **5 p.m.**, will include gift certificates and products from local businesses, Minnesota Twins items and a custom made table from Aron Woodwork and Design. There will be a meat raffle hosted by Jim Grell from Modern Café and Craig Drehmel from Gastro Non Grata. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** and music starts at **7 p.m.** Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact Eileen Hafften at 612-789-6548.

Northeast Music Festival
#7443: The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization presents the first annual Northeast Music Festival, **Aug. 20-22**, at various Northeast locations including the Ritz Theater, 331 Club, Shuga Records, Shaw's and Mayslack's. Visit www.northeast-musicfestival.com for details.

1950s musical theater with dessert
#7426: The Millstreet Players, a theater program through Columbia Heights Recreation, will perform "Rock Around the Block," a 1950s musical comedy, **Thurs., Aug. 12, 7 p.m.**, at **Murzyn Hall**, 530 Mill St. The group is made up of actors in high school and up. Event includes dessert and coffee. Tickets cost \$6 and all proceeds go back into the youth theater arts programs. For more information, call 763-706-3730.

Arts
Minneapolis Indie Xpo
#7433: The Minneapolis Indie Xpo (MIX), Minneapolis' first independent comics festival, is scheduled to debut on **Sat., Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** at **The Soap Factory**, 518 2nd St. SE, and will feature work by local and national independent cartoonists and publishers. Admission to this event is free. More information at mplsindieexpo.com.

Location - Volume Two
#7430: **Location Books and Editions**, located in the Historic Thorp Building, 1618 Central Ave. NE #227, will feature a collaborative experiment between artists Adam Caillier and Michael Mott, during an opening reception, book sale and signing with the artists on **Sat., Aug. 14, 7-10 p.m.** Caillier (photography) and Mott (painting, collage, sculpture) have produced a series of 2700 individual book pages, using three-dimensional abstract collages from a variety of materials and a film camera. For more information, call 612-217-1410.

Outdoor drawing co-op
#7316: **Silverwood Park** will host an open outdoor drawing co-op **Sun., Aug. 15, 1-3 p.m.** This is an unsupervised activity; participants provide their own drawing supplies. Drawing boards will be available for free checkout.

Robert Roscoe's work featured at Rosalux
#7445: Architect and photographer Robert Roscoe will display works at **Rosalux Gallery**, 1224 Second St. NE, **through Aug. 29**. Hours are Thursdays and Fridays 4-8 p.m., and Saturdays 2-6 p.m. For more information, call 612-747-3942 or visit www.rosaluxgallery.com.

Film documents fur in the fashion industry
#7425: On **Thurs., Aug. 19**, the Minneapolis premier of the film, *Skin Trade*, a documentary about emerging fashion trends through an exploration of fur industry practices, will take place at the **Ritz Theater**, 345 13th Ave. NE, starting at **6 p.m.** with a social hour including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, gift bags and a silent auction. After the viewing, director Shannon Keith will be present to discuss her film.

RSVP at www.skintrademinneapolis.com, or call Dallas at 612-822-6161 for more information.

Comic Art: Lutfisk Sushi D
#7441: **Altered Esthetics**, 1224 Quincy St. NE, presents "Comic Art: Lutfisk Sushi D," a bento box full of mini-comics by Minnesota artists. The show runs **through Aug. 26** with an artists discussion **Sat., Aug. 21, 6-8 p.m.** Artists' discussions are casual, free, and open to the public. For more information, call 612-378-8888.

Open calls for art
#6726: **Altered Esthetics** is seeking artists to exhibit their work in the following upcoming gallery shows. For more information, call the gallery at 612-378-8888.
Featured Artist Competition for 2011: Submit work for a chance to be a featured artist of one of our upcoming 2011 theme exhibitions. Deadline for submission: **Aug. 30**.
O.C.D. - Nov., 2010: How artists have creatively responded to the struggles associated with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder often resulting in extreme anxiety or depression. Deadline for submission: **Sept. 15**.

Camp Memories
#7364: **Silverwood Park Gallery** at Silverwood Park, 2950 West County Rd. E, 763-694-7707, will host a free opening reception **Fri., Aug. 13, 6-8 p.m.** for its newest exhibit celebrating the park's history as the former site of the Salvation Army Camp through a multi-media exhibition of photographs, written materials, art, memorabilia, and spoken word.

Curtiss A's first gallery show
#7414: **Gallery 122** at Hang It, 122 8th St. SE, presents "Something to do Until the End of the World," the first gallery showing for Curtiss A (Curt Almstead). The exhibit runs **Aug. 18-Sept. 18** with an artist reception **Fri., Aug. 20, 7-10 p.m.**, with some acoustic music from Curtiss A from 8-9 p.m. A special preview will take place on **Wed., Aug. 18, 3-7 p.m.**, where Curtiss will be filmed installing his sculpture for the inclusion in a documentary film produced and directed by local artist, Amy Buchanan. The exhibition, preview and opening reception are free and open to the public. For more information, call 612-874-7222.

More event listings
on Page 14

A ZERO-WASTE EVENT

RED STAG

block party

Sat Aug 21 3-10pm
509 1st Ave NE FREE
E.L.n.O.

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Boom Boom Belam
Clementown music for kids

SPOT hula hoop contest
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NORTH STAR Roller Girls

WWW.REDSTAGSUPPERCLUB.COM

Comedian and '86 Edison grad Michael Thorne will perform at Spring Street Aug. 19



#7446: Northeast native Michael Thorne will bring his stand-up comedy to **Spring Street Tavern**, Spring and Monroe streets, **Thurs., Aug. 19**. Doors open at **9 p.m.**, show starts at **9:30**. Bryan Miller will also be featured. For more information, visit www.michaelthornecomedy.com.

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Will you have an excess of apples?

"When we were kids, taking apples from our neighbors' tree was about the biggest mischief we would get into. And probably if we'd have rung the bell and asked if it was okay, they'd have given us some."

Fruits of the City is matching up "gleaners" of all ages (like my friend, quoted above) with fruit tree owners whose apples or other fruit would largely go to waste if not picked in time. They make sure the fruit goes to needy families through local food shelves.

It's great for the homeowner to not be constantly picking up and composting rotting fruit, or afraid to go out and battle the wasps in the yard, said Josh Grinolds, who runs the program for the Minnesota Project, a group that gets into a lot of different "food justice" issues, part of their mission "advancing sustainability for communities across Minnesota."

Mid-August starts the picking season. Grinolds said that in the Northeast area, they now have quite a few volunteers lined up, but no trees to pick.

Last year, there were more trees offered region-wide than there were pickers, but the system of engaging volunteers was lacking, he said. This year, he's using an online tool called VolunteerHub to keep track of both. In 2009 nonetheless, 5,500 pounds of fruit came from urban locations.

Ironically, the causes of obesity and hunger are often the same, lack of access to reasonably priced fresh food, Grinolds said at the July 11 kickoff for the program. One of the speakers read a letter from a local food shelf telling how one of their visiting families saw the apples coming in and asked if they could have some. "Apples top the list of fruits kids like."

Various Fruits of the City organizers have commented that some homeowners have wormy trees, and their fruit



may not be acceptable for picking. But once they know there's somewhere that the produce could be used, many are taking steps to rid the trees of pests so that in a future year, they can contribute.

If you have a fruit tree that you'd like picked, go to the website www.fruitsofthecity.org for more information, or call Josh Grinolds at 651-645-6159, extension 3324. His email is jgrinolds@mnproject.org.

Gleanings are scheduled by neighborhood (multiple trees picked in a night or Saturday) Thursdays 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 9-noon, with additional dates as more fruit ripens.

Fruits of the City is also looking for an enclosed trailer to haul ladders and produce, either an outright donation, the use of a trailer, or a gleaner with a trailer.

—Margo Ashmore

A group of last year's gleaners with some of their haul for local food shelves. Northeast's biggest need is trees to pick. (Provided photo)

Business Notes

Compiled by Northeast staff

Becky Benoit has opened **BB's Sewing Nook** at 4104 5th St. NE. She provides mending, wedding, alterations, and home decor. She can be reached at 763-788-9201.

Northeast ad agency **Preston Kelly** received the midwest Small Agency of the Year award from Advertising Age Magazine.

Yasmin LLC has bought the commercial building at 4301 Central Ave. N.E. in Columbia Heights from David and Celeste Johnson. The building, which once housed Domino's Pizza, is the new home of **Filfilah Market and Restaurant**.

St. Anthony resident **Lynn Bjornnes** has opened **Fit Right Medical** in St. Anthony Shopping Center, at 2904 Pentagon Drive, specializing in compression garments, bath aids, walking aids, lift chairs and other medical equipment.

Stock Watch

Company	8/6/10	2/5/10	8/6/09
Graco (GGG)	32.04	26.60	25.18
Medtronic (MDT)	37.81	41.67	35.58
Bemis (BMS)	29.57	27.84	26.54
US Bank (USB)	23.22	23.97	22.40
Wells Fargo (WFC)	27.75	27.42	27.97
Xcel Energy (XEL)	22.12	20.13	19.66
Qwest (Q)	5.69	4.41	3.98
TechneCorp (TECH)	62.39	61.48	60.46
Supervalu (SVU) ¹	11.64	14.59	15.18

¹Supervalu is parent company for Cub Foods; Source: bigcharts.marketwatch.com

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Did too many cooks [city conditions] spoil this broth?

1 ◀ PORKY'S

Some people wanted to give Porky's a chance. Others didn't.

In November, 2006, the City Planning Commission agreed with city staff recommendations and denied Porky's request—actually, it was Porky's parent company, Truco's, request—for re-zoning, site plan approval and a conditional use permit. All fast-food restaurants need conditional use permits because they "have the potential for a negative impact" according to city planner Tara Beard in a 2006 Northeast interview. The rezoning was necessary because the site was C-1, and a fast food restaurant needs a C-2 zoning. When Porky's appealed, however, the city council's Zoning and Planning committee overrode the planning commission and city staff and gave Porky's the go-ahead.

So Truco forged ahead and opened Porky's the second week of December, 2008. And then

closed it after three days, when a city licensing inspector declared it unlicensed. Porky's opened back up Dec. 26, 2008, when the issue was resolved. In the meantime, a Porky's manager posted a note on the front window, criticizing Ostrow—who had actually supported Porky's all along—for the situation, and also called KSTP Radio to sound off about it.

Anyway, Porky's opened. The place was cute and pink, but its site was compact, with a parking lot that offered little room for maneuvering. Porky's closed on April 13, 2010. According to 1st Ward City Council member Kevin Reich (who took office in January), employees had posted a note on the door suggesting that the City of Minneapolis was holding things up with licensing. "Since it was an item on the [council's] consent agenda that passed without comment, that was not true. It was an interesting gambit, though," he said.

Reich mentioned the "promise" people had

expected from Porky's, adding that it was supposed to be a retro-50s kind of place. "The mayor said he'd walk over glass to eat their onion rings." (Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak had been referring to the University Avenue restaurant.) "It was supposed to attract car enthusiasts, but there were only 12 parking spots."

Reich said that in the early planning days, the Truelsens kept saying that they understood the business. "But we were saying, we understand the community. The shoe didn't really fit the foot."

So why did Porky's close? Tryg Truelsen said, "The city wasn't going to renew our license because of the masonry wall they wanted. It would have meant a \$70,000 investment for us. People are closing up shop on Central Avenue. Business wasn't good enough for us to pay \$70,000 for a wall. We decided to close. We had to lay off 10 people."

(Some history: although the city had always

required a masonry wall to act as a sound buffer between the restaurant and the neighborhood, Truco built a wood one instead, contending that it buffered sound better than a masonry wall. The wall was one of about 20 conditions that the city council had imposed on the business before agreeing to allow it to open. The \$70,000 figure mentioned came from Truco.)

Linda Roberts, who works in the city's licensing department, said (in a June 18, 2010 e-mail), "Porky's submitted a site plan to the City that was approved by the Planning Commission. Porky's is responsible for complying with the site plan that was submitted or going through the process to consider a revised site plan. Porky's has voluntarily closed."

Meanwhile, whatever really happened and who was ultimately right, Northeast now has two fewer hamburger places on Central Avenue. Porky's, like the nearby Burger King to its south, sits empty.



Northeast Area

Worship Directory

If you would like to see your place of worship listed in this directory, call Bob at 612-788-9003 or Kerry at 612-781-4821.

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Pastor Kevin Hanson
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Wednesday:
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Worship 10 am
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www.GloriaDeiLCMS.org info@gloriadeilcms.org

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www.stbonifaceminneapolis.org
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9 am English
Wed. & Fri. / Mier. & Vier.
9 am English
Revs. Edison Galarza & John Pilaczynski

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2215 NE 3rd St. N.E., Mpls 612-789-6252
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website: stjohsminneapolis.webs.com
email: stjohminneapolis@comcast.net

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www.stjohnslutheranmpls.org
Bible Study & Sunday School 8:45 am
Worship 10 am
Pastor Daniel Lindner

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www.stmarysoca.org
Divine Liturgy: Sundays
8:30 am at Annunciation Chapel, 3025 Stinson Blvd. NE
9 am at the Cathedral, 1629 5th St. NE
Vespers: Saturdays, 6 pm at Annunciation Chapel
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www.stmatthew-ch.org
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Sunday Worship 8 & 10:45 am
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David's Christian Learning Center:
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The Northeast EXPERIENCE

Event listings
cont'd from Page 10

Events

Twin Cities Polish Festival

#7231: The second annual Twin Cities Polish Festival will be held **Sat., Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.** on Old Main Street across from Riverplace and St. Anthony Main.

The festival will feature the return of many food and merchandise vendors, polka bands, Polish folk dance and musical groups, highland sheepdogs, the Chopin Celebration classical piano showcase and the "Na Zdrowie" 5k Fun Run. This year's event will also feature new vendors, exhibits and acts. More information can be found at www.tcppolishfestival.org.

Korean Independence Day

#7352: Sejong Academy of MN is hosting a Korean Independence Day Festival and Fundraiser on **Sat., Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** at the **Church of All Nations**, 4301 Benjamin St. NE, Columbia Heights. The festival will include free traditional Korean Fan and Drum dance performances, taekwondo and Korean cooking demonstrations and mini-Korean lessons. There will also be communi-

ty resource tables, food vendors and crafts and games for the entire family. For more information go to www.sejongacademy.org or call Grace Lee at 763-300-0609.

NE area sales feature clothing, crafts and art

#7436: The **Senior's Place**, 1801 Central Ave. NE, will host an outdoor **Arts and Crafts Fair** on **Sat., Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** For more information or to register for a \$10 vendor table, contact The Senior's Place at 612-787-4000 or 612-788-9186.

#7411: **Antiquified**, 1519 Central Ave. NE, will hold a flea market **Sat., Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** For more information, call 612-789-1989.

#7437: **East Side Thrift Store**, 1928 Central Ave. NE, will hold its annual summer clearance sale **Mon., Aug. 16-Sat., Aug. 21**. 50 percent off everything, storewide, except for auction items. Store hours are Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Sunday. For more information, call 612-789-0600.

#7442: **Altered Esthetics**, 1224 Quincy St. NE, will be having its annual **Arty Garage Sale** on **Sat., Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** in the parking lot at Quincy and Broadway. To participate as a vendor/artist/arty garage sale-r, set up by 8 a.m. on Aug. 28 in the parking lot on the Northwest corner of Broadway and Quincy. There is no cost to participate. Vendors are responsible for

providing their own tents, tables and chairs. For more information, call 612-378-8888 or visit the event page on Facebook.

NE area farmers markets

#7340: The **Northeast Farmers' Market** takes place **Saturdays (through Oct. 16), 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** in the parking lot of **St. Boniface Church** at 7th and University Ave. NE. Over a dozen local farmers will be selling fresh produce and other foods. Stick around and have breakfast or lunch while you enjoy music and entertainment, plus art by local artists and artisans, and kids' programming and cooking demonstrations. More information at www.nemplsfarmersmarket.com.

#7320: The **Village Farmer's Market** at **St. Anthony Village Shopping Center**, located just off Highway 88 and St. Anthony Blvd., will be open **Mondays through mid-October, 3-7 p.m.** and features music, storytelling, history, crafts, juggling and more, as well as fresh produce and homemade treats. More information at www.thevillagefarmersmarket.org.

Homegrown Experience

#7242: The Homegrown Experience is a new event by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) that promotes local, sustainable and organic food. Coming to the **Nicollet Island Pavilion** in Minneapolis on **Sun., Aug. 22, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**, the Homegrown Experience will give people a greater

understanding and appreciation of where food comes from, and how to enjoy it the Homegrown way. Tickets are available at www.thehomegrownexperience.com or by calling 612-230-6400. Cost is \$25 in advance; \$35 at the door. The event is for ages 21 and over.

Heights Police host community picnics

#7435: The Columbia Heights Police Department is inviting residents to a community picnic. The first picnic for residents who live south of 44th Avenue will be held **Mon., Aug. 16, 6-8 p.m.** at Huset Park at the new pavilion behind **Murzyn Hall**, 530 Mill St. NE. The second picnic for residents north of 44th Avenue will be held **Wed., Aug. 18, 6-8 p.m.** at **Sullivan Park**, 721 51st Ave. NE. The public is welcome to come and enjoy food, demonstrations, and visit with police staff and other city departments including the public library, fire department, recreation department, community development and public works. Information will be available on police initiatives including crime reduction strategies, and current information on activities from other city departments. The picnics will include Taser demonstrations, laser shot shooting simulator demonstrations, K-9 demonstrations, Minnesota State Patrol Display, Jacob Wetterling Foundation child safety information and more.

Edison's 4th annual community get together

#7405: On **Thurs., Aug. 26, 3-7 p.m.**, the grills will be going outside of **Edison High School** on 22nd Ave NE, between Quincy and Monroe, under the supervision of Legendary Grill Meisters Niles Schulz and Shaun Wakaruk and a host of helpers and community sponsors. Meet with neighbors and to greet Edison staff, students and parents.

Zero waste block party

#7410: The 4th annual Red Stag Block Party will take place, rain or shine, **Sat., Aug. 21, 4-10:30 p.m.** at the **Red Stag Supperclub**, 509 1st Ave. NE. The free event features Cory Chisel and the Wandering Sons, E.L.n.O, Black Audience, Boom Boom Belam, Bight Club, and Heiruspecs. Street entertainment provided by North Star Roller Girls, Familia Skate Shop, and Spot Spa Hula Hoop Contest. For more information, call 612-767-7766, or visit www.redstagsupperclub.com.

Salem MOPS group in New Brighton

#7413: Salem MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers) will hold a registration event **Wed., Aug. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** at **Salem Covenant Church**, New Brighton (2655 - 5th St. NW). MOPS provides an open, caring, and accepting atmosphere to share parenting experiences with other women. All mothers with children

from birth through Kindergarten are welcome. The Salem MOPS program meets one to two times per month on Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Salem Covenant Church. Meetings include speakers, activities and childcare. For more information, email Holly at vanderhyde21@yahoo.com or visit mops.org.

5th annual Parade of Community Gardens

#7431: Community gardens from across the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota will open their gardens to the public on **Sat., Aug. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** This is a free and self-guided tour. Northeast area gardens include **Mulberry Junction**, 2301 California St. NE; and **SACA Community Garden of Hope**, 40th and Jackson St. NE, Columbia Heights. Details and map can be found at www.gardeningmatters.org or call Garden Works at 612-492-8964.

#7439: **Mulberry Junction Community Garden** will host an art exhibition entitled, "**Celebrating Art and the Garden**," by artists who create art for, or about, the outdoors on **Sat., Aug. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**, as part of the Parade of Community Gardens. The event will also feature garden tours, activities for kids and refreshments. For more information, email origin@pcspeed.com.

More event listings
on Page 15

Wanted Classifieds

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Downsizing Sale
Thur, Aug. 12 & Fri., Aug. 13,
8 a.m.-1 p.m. & 4-6 p.m.
Sat Aug. 14, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

NW corner of 13th Avenue & 6th Street, on alley
Tools, men's clothing, books, women's clothing 10-16, business furniture & supplies. Home decor, craft & sewing, household & garden. Full house set of window boxes! So much stuff, we'll be adding new items each day...

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1000 41st Ave. NE, #118, Col. Hts., 3 BR, \$122,000, R. "Mickey" Rooney Team, Counselor Realty, 763-229-1133

1431 4th St. NE, Mpls., 3 BR, \$159,850, Michael Gacek, Edina Realty, 612-781-1337

1567 Creek Meadow Dr., Coon Rapids, 2 BR, \$95,000, Bill & Kathy Daniels, Coldwell Banker Burnet, 763-574-6976

2601 Kenzie Ter., St. Anthony, 2 BR, \$108,900, Cindy Cadwallader, JA Cadwallader, 612-250-3447

2601 Kenzie Ter., St. Anthony, 1&2 BR, Bill & Kathy Daniels, Coldwell Banker Burnet, 763-574-6975

3959 Tyler St. NE, Col. Hts., 2 BR, \$124,875, Michael Gacek, Edina Realty, 612-781-1337

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The Northeast EXPERIENCE

**Event listings
cont'd from Page 14**

Church Events

St. Cyril Polka Mass and Church Festival

#7416: **Ss. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church**, 1315 2nd St. NE, will host its annual church festival on **Sun., Aug. 15, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**, preceded by a Polka Mass at **10:30 a.m.** with music by Twin Cities Soundz. Food includes polish sausage, hot dogs, cabbage rolls (holubky), and Hispanic food. Games include cake walk, pic-a-chip, big wheel and raffles, kid games and bingo. The raffle will have \$1,400 in prize money with 10 chances to win. Raffle drawing at 5 p.m. Entertainment by Don Paiko and Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers.

Fundraisers

Pie and ice cream social

#7434: **Northeast United Methodist Church** (formerly Grace UMC), 2510 Cleveland St. NE, will host a pie and ice cream social **Thurs., Aug. 12, 5-7 p.m.** Free-will donations will be collected to benefit NE Senior Services, which has offices in the church. For more information, contact NE Senior Services at 612-781-5096.

Garden party in the Sculpture Grotto

#7438: The **Sculpture Grotto**, is home to art by various artists in the 2010 Art Block. **Foci Minnesota Center for Glass Arts** and The Sculpture Grotto will host a fundraising garden party **Sat., Aug. 14, 4-11 p.m.** at 2010 E. Hennepin Ave. (enter at building 10 or 11), featuring live music, appetizers catered by Gardens of Salonica and lots of art. Handmade art glasses and screen-printed t-shirts will be available for purchase. Music schedule: Tortuga! (latin jazz), 5-6 p.m.; Javier of Javier & The Innocent Sons (solo blues), 7-8 p.m.; Jack Klatt's Trio (acoustic country), 8:30-9:30 p.m.; and JazzFunk Underground, 10-11 p.m.

St. Timothy's Bake Off

#7421: **St. Timothy's Lutheran Church**, 825 51st Ave. NE, is hosting its first Bake Off competition on **Sat., Aug. 21, 1 p.m.** (entries must be received between 9 a.m.-noon) to raise funds for their nursery renewal. Cost is \$5 per baked good entered in competition. All entries will be sold following the Aug. 22 service. For more information, call Marjie Hay at 612-210-4762.

Maya's Miracles dance and silent auction

#7424: Maya is a 2-year-old child with a rare brain condition called lissencephaly (smooth brain syndrome). On **Mon., Aug. 23, 6-10 p.m.**, at **Murzyn Hall**, 530 Mill St., there will be a benefit will raise

money for medical expenses and handicap accessibility for her home. For more information, contact Chris and Anna Carlson at 763-781-0871.

Knocking Down Hunger

#7415: The **Greater Lake Country Food Bank** will host their third annual Knocking Down Hunger fundraising event with silent auction, food and bowling on **Tue., Aug. 24**. Bowling is **4-6:30 p.m.**, buffet is **5:30-7:30 p.m.** at **Elsie's Restaurant & Bowling**, 729 Marshall St. NE. Cost is \$10/adults; \$5/children 12 and under. For tickets or more information, call 612-340-9694. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Volunteers and Donations

Solar Trivia Night

#7412: The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) is looking for volunteers interested in solar energy for the Minnesota State Fair's Eco Experience exhibit. Volunteers get a t-shirt plus free admission to the fair. To sign up to be a volunteer, visit www.pca.state.mn.us/eco-experience-volunteer. To help volunteers learn more about solar energy, the **Red Stag Supperclub**, 509 1st Ave. NE, is hosting a "Solar Trivia Night," **Wed., Aug. 18, 6-8 p.m.** For more information, call the Red Stag at 612-767-7766, or visit www.mnRenewables.org.

AmeriCorps

#7432: **Bridges to Self-Sufficiency** participants will work for one year with people who are economically disadvantaged to help them connect with community resources and become more self-sufficient. The project **begins Sept. 7**; the **deadline for applying is Aug. 27**. For more information about the project, contact Alison Griffin at 612-706-5208 or visit www.rise.org.

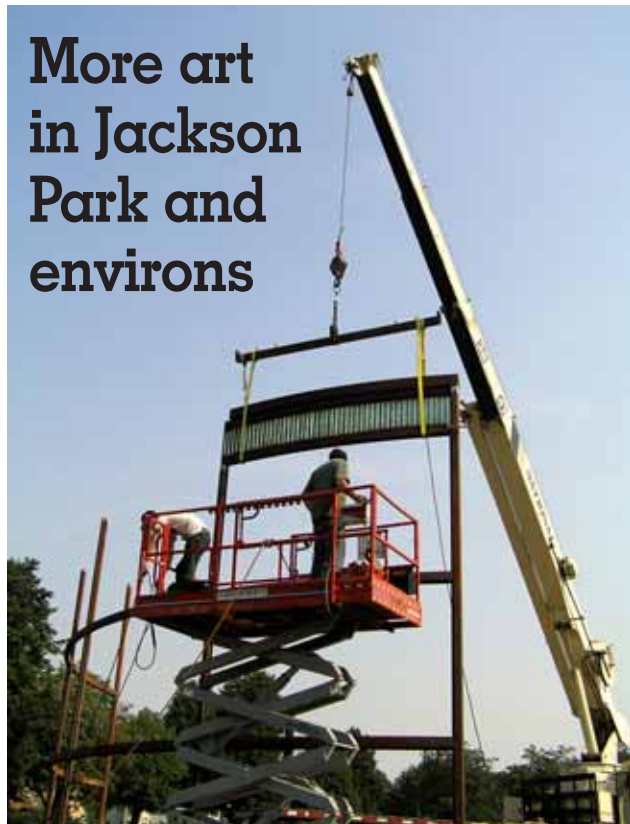
Youth Activities

Fall Soccer and Football

#7440: **Northeast Minneapolis parks** are now taking registrations for fall football and soccer. **Flag Football** (9U, 11U & 13U) costs \$50 plus a \$50 refundable uniform deposit. **Fundamental Soccer** (11U, 13U, 15U, 18U) costs \$30. Practices begin the week of **Aug. 16**. Games start **Sept. 11**. Register at your neighborhood park: **Northeast**, 1615 Pierce St. NE; **Waite**, 1810 34th Ave. NE; **Windom**, 2251 Hayes St. NE; **Audubon**, 1320 29th Ave. NE; and **Logan**, 690 13th Ave. NE.

Free yoga classes for kids

#7428: **Learning Tree Yoga**, 500 38th Ave. NE #200, is hosting the YogaKids 4-day Foundations Training and is looking for children to join their demonstration classes. Two dates are available: **Fri., Aug. 13, 2:30-3:30 p.m.** (ages 3-6) and **Sat., Aug. 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m.** (ages 6-10). Call 612-916-9369 to RSVP.



More art in Jackson Park and environs
Sculptor James Brenner, who created In Flux for the southeast corner of Jackson Park, has been installing the Innovation backstop in the park, Double Flux across the street at the Basin, and a new Edison sign on the northwest corner of the Edison High School campus. The backstop celebrates both the high school's namesake, Thomas Alva Edison, and firefighter Louis Rober, Sr., who is credited with bringing kitten ball, an early form of softball, to Minneapolis. See www.chicagosculptureworks.com for artist's renderings of the various pieces. (Photo by Margo Ashmore)

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Sat. 12-2	11122 Aberdeen St. NE #8	Blaine	2Br/3Ba	\$144,888
Sat. 12-2	11681 Tulip St. NW	Coon Rapids	2Br/3Ba	\$225,000
Sat. 12-2	11589 Marigold St	Coon Rapids	5Br/3Ba	\$215,000
Sat. 3-5	2801 Cleveland Ave. NE	NE Mpls	3Br/2Ba	\$385,000
Sat. 3-5	2858 Arthur St. NE	NE Mpls	4Br/3Ba	\$315,000
Sat. 3-5	2412 33rd Ave. NE	St. Anthony Village	3Br/2Ba	\$179,888
Sun. 12-2	2330 Erin Court	New Brighton	5Br/3Ba	\$250,000
Sun. 12-2	8458 Pleasant View Dr.	Mounds View	3Br/2Ba	\$300,000
Sun. 1-3	1246 Ryan Ave. W	Roseville	2Br/1Ba	\$168,888
Sun. 3-5	2946 12th St. NW	New Brighton	3Br/4Ba	\$350,000
Sun. 3-5	2521 13th Terrace NW	New Brighton	5Br/4Ba/3 car Gar	\$450,000
Sat. 3-5	3501 Xenia Ave. N	Crystal	3Br/2Ba	\$225,000

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3014 Grand St. NE Hotline #45498

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3019 Cleveland St. NE Hotline #45491

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2219 Polk St. NE Hotline #45492

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3971 Quincy St. NE Hotline #45486

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3000 Benjamin St. NE Hotline #45480

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