



Minneapolis Minds

Today is the Future for Minneapolis Students

by Steve Kotvis

Today, I spent the morning at Southwest High School. It's not like being at Southwest is all that unique. I've found myself there many, many times over the past years. By the end of this coming semester, we'll have had two children graduate from Southwest. This has given us many fond memories in our public schools, from Kenwood to Anwatin to Southwest.

My school experience this morning really got me thinking about the future. Today's role as a test proctor to the NALT math test was very different from last year when I proctored an AP (Advanced Placement) test. My memories last year were about seeing some of the best and brightest students. Their tests scores were for college admissions and credit. But today it was different. Today's test was a basic math test. It's one that's used to determine if students have learned in high school what they need to know to have a promising future. The test administrator who I assisted today was hopeful, but lamented that several of the students taking the test today were taking it for the second or third time. I couldn't help but think about how the future of the students I was proctoring today versus last year could potentially be so different.

I'm not alone in my thoughts. In response to pressing challenges the Minneapolis Board of Education committed in May to the development of a Strategic Plan. The process of developing the Plan was led by global management consulting firm McKinsey and Company, and was sup-

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Resident Writes, Directs, and Produces The Black Orchid

Performance at Parkway Theater!

The Urban Spectrum Theatre Company, Minneapolis, will remount "The Black Orchid: Josephine Baker, Snapshots from her Life", written and directed by Judy Cooper Lyle, and produced by Phyllis Productions. The show, which will play at the new Parkway Theater in south Minneapolis June 19 - 22 and 26 - 29, is "back by popular demand" following a 2005 run at Sabathani Community Center, where it played to full houses and standing ovations, and a 2006 Midwestern tour around Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Josephine Baker was born in East St. Louis, Missouri in 1906, and after spending a short time in stage shows in New York with Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake, she went on to become an overnight sensation in Paris, France, where she maintained her notoriety throughout her 50 years of performing around the world, and was the favorite of artists and performers everywhere. She was considered outrageous, exotic, and beautiful. She was one of a kind. "The Black Orchid" captures the essence of Josephine in this delightful play.

The theatre company, which has been in existence for 35 years, serves inner city Minneapolis, and offers a unique opportunity for newcomers to the theatre to work with more experienced professionals and semi-professional performers and artists. The company has staged over 75 live productions in its history. Its mission is to offer quality, accessible entertainment to the inner city, and to provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents to work with more experienced performers.

Cooper Lyle has re-assembled a formidable production team to assist her in bringing this show to the stage, including Florence Lyle, a former south Minneapolis resident,



Maddie Howie

and dancer of television fame who has toured with Marvin Gaye, as the choreographer. The show is presented in vignettes, beginning in 1917, and ending with Ms. Baker's last concert in Paris in 1975. Everyone will recognize music by the likes of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and many others from the early days of jazz and the Harlem Renaissance.

Madeleine Howie, area actor and dancer, again takes the lead as Josephine Baker, and the show brings together local "legends" of the stage, offering a unique opportunity for neighborhood performers, as well as high school students, to be involved in this elaborate project. Other "cameo" appearances will grace the stage, including Mari Harris as Bessie Smith, Bill Gorman as Ms. Baker's lifelong friend Stephen Papich, and Ava Brown as "Lady Day", Billie Holiday.

"The Black Orchid: Josephine Baker" will be staged at the Parkway Theater at 4814 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, currently under renovation by Joe Minjares, owner of Pepito's Mexican Restaurant. It will be the first full scale theatrical production to be held at the Parkway.

The show will run June 19 - 22 and 26 - 29, with Thursday and Friday night shows at 8:15 PM and Saturday and Sunday shows at 2:15 and 8:15 PM. Tickets for the show are \$30, \$20, and \$10. The event is being

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Nokomis Healthy Seniors

By Sarah Tellijohn, Board Chair, Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program

Greetings!

This marks my first newsletter column as the chair of the 2008 Nokomis Healthy Seniors Board of Directors. I've served on the NHS board for two years, and in my professional life I work as a nurse case manager with seniors for Fairview Health Services. My husband Andy and I have lived in the Nokomis community neighborhood for nearly 10 years.

We said goodbye to three faithful board members with a potluck party at our January meeting. John Sanchez, Linda Laird, and Deb Gleason will be sorely missed, but all three continue to be involved in volunteer and fund-raising projects. We hope to welcome new board members soon, and we continue to look for people with development, fund-raising, and finance experience to serve on the board.

When I first learned about Nokomis Healthy Seniors, what struck me about the organization was its focus on neighbors helping neighbors. A woman calls our help line concerned about her next-door senior neighbor, a resident who lives near the office signs up for volunteer driving, a community resident leads a monthly education session, a neighborhood organization funds a home improvement program, a local business sponsors an event - all of these are examples of how the Nokomis Healthy Seniors program involves people from our community to meet the needs of our seniors.

This year, the board will be busy exploring new ways to pay for our programs in an effort to diversify our funding sources. If you are already a faithful donor to NHS, you may soon be introduced to our new monthly giving program. We will also begin a strategic planning process that will help us set short and long-term goals as an organization. We know there are more seniors in the community that we should be reaching, and we want to find creative ways to make sure all of our senior neighbors have an opportunity to be involved with Nokomis Healthy Seniors.

May

May 28, 2008 1:30 P.M.
"Arthritis 101"
Speaker from the Arthritis Foundation

June

June 25, 2008 1:30 P.M.
"Music and Memories"
Wally Hannes, Local Musician



The Black Orchid from page 1

billed as a fund-raiser for the children's holiday show and to take "The Black Orchid" on tour into the schools. Tickets may be purchased online at www.brownpaper tickets.com. For further information about the show, you may call 612-821-2385.

Pearl Park Happenings

By Liz Kraus, Recreation Supervisor

We're in between sport seasons right now, so we're taking a deep breath and gearing up for the spring and summer.

Sports registration was held in March and we've got almost 500 kids signed up for baseball, softball, track and badminton. Before you know it, the baseball and soccer fields will be humming with activity. Drive down Portland Avenue as the sun goes down and see the fields lit up with all of those kids running around..it is an awesome sight!

By the time you read this, summer class registration will have been held at Pearl, but always check to see what classes may still be open. In case you didn't know, the park has classes/programs for kids of all ages year-round, but our biggest offering is during the summer. If you're new to the neighborhood, stop by and let us show you what we have to offer! You can always see our online class listing at www.minneapolis parks.org.

I don't want to rush you through the summer, but mark your calendars now.

Pearl Park Fall Sports Registration dates:

Thursday, July 17 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Tuesday, July 22 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, July 30 6:30 - 8:00 pm

The sports league offerings are listed on the Pearl Improvement and Recreation Council's website at www.PIRC.US. Specific information regarding fall sports will be available on the website and at the park in late June.



Did you know? The Minneapolis park system is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year. What an incredible system of parks, lakes and trails that we have! Be sure to get out there and enjoy them in any season, but especially this summer.

Hope to see you soon!

Yes!

I want to help HPDL keep my neighborhood a great place to live.

Here is my tax deductible contribution:



HPDL, 5144 13th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55417. **Thank You!**

\$10 \$15 \$25
 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please return this form with your check payable to:



Amelia Frevert

Firefly Coffee Bistro

Firefly Bistro

Address: 5155 Bloomington Avenue

Phone: 721-3473

Internet: www.fireflybistro.net

Hours: 6:30 am - 8:00 pm daily

Owners: Channa Kuch Tastsides and Troy Lerch

Features: a full menu including; pizza, salad, sandwiches, pasta and daily soup specials. Sebastian Joe's ice cream, pastries, scones, cakes, bars, pies and cookies. Beverages include a full offering of specialty coffees (from local roaster B & W), smoothies, shakes, and teas of all varieties

Special Events: Valentine's dinner special, mother's day brunch, and the June anniversary party and summer kick-off.

The Firefly Bistro opened two years ago in our neighborhood and, last fall, a second Firefly Bistro opened at 3445 Cedar Avenue. Partners Channa and Troy divide their time. Channa is at the Bloomington location and Troy at the Cedar spot. Channa is a charming woman; she makes you feel welcome and is quick to smile. She works every day and says that the community has been supportive to the business. She says that most of the regulars have become great friends and network with each other. It is a kid-friendly spot too. Kids of all ages can color an "I'm a little Firefly" sheet and hang them up on the walls. There is a location with books for adults and children to read and check-out on the honor system. She has two computers for customers to use and is wi-fi connected for laptops. She has cribbage boards and enjoys playing with customers. There are some retail items too: a Firefly mug, tea and cards from local artists. Plan a stop and sit inside or outside on the patio.



Scott Straczak

Some pre-order, other pick and choose.

Hale-Field Community Plant Sale

Hale and Field Community Schools will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hale, 1220 East 54th Street. Bedding plants and other annuals, ornamental grasses, hanging baskets and mixed pots for sun and shade (from award-winning Pahl's Greenhouse in Apple Valley) will be available for sale, and the garden store will also include garden tools and decorations and even some shrubs. Weather permitting, there will be musical entertainment and activities for the kids too. And don't forget to check out the HPDL Business Fair inside the building from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Amelia Frevert

Channa serves a great cappuccino.



Family Fun Fair

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Hale School 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Featuring the Splatter Sisters - A very lively concert of classic kids songs with LOTS of audience participation from 10 - 11 a.m.

Eats and Special Treats
Door Prizes every half hour
Grand Prize Drawing

Check out the Hale and Field Schools' plant sale - same day, same location 8 - 2 p.m.!

Sponsored by the HPDL Business Association in partnership with Hale and Field Schools and the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development.



Scott Straczak

Splatter Sisters perform among the kids.

Parkway Garden

Please consider helping with the community garden located at 49th and Bloomington on the Parkway. Help is needed with planting, weeding and watering. Volunteer for any amount of time, any day and with any task. For example you could water the garden for a week in July, or help at the end of the season to clean-up. Lets keep this pretty garden looking good to welcome ourselves and others to our neighborhood. Contact the HPDL office or Laurie Frevert at 612-823-4505.

From City Hall

By Scott Benson
City Council Member, Ward 11

To my friends and neighbors in HPDL

Thank you for the opportunity to update you about the happenings at City Hall. I will try to keep my column short but in-

formative. If you have any questions or want to learn about something more in depth, please feel free to e-mail me scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call my office at (612) 673-2211

Council votes to encourage legislature to extend NRP funding

The Minneapolis City Council unanimously approved a resolution on Friday, March 21 to urge the State of Minnesota to enact legislation that would effectively fund the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) beyond 2009. The proposal passed by the council was originally conceived by Council Member Scott Benson.

Specifically, the resolution urges the legislature to extend the pre-1979 tax increment districts in the Minneapolis Common project that are used to fund NRP. Additional funding from the extension would also go to pay off the Target Center debt for which the city is responsible.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a redevelopment tool authorized by State statute and used by cities and development authorities. When a TIF district is established, the tax capacity of the properties located within the district are "frozen," and for the duration of the district, the property taxes resulting from any increase in the tax capacity above the frozen level are available to the city. The 15 pre-1979 tax increment financing districts in Minneapolis are set to decertify in 2009.

Council Member Benson developed a plan which encourages Minnesota Legislature to act to extend the TIF districts that are set to decertify in 2009. The resolution asks the legislature to extend the districts for the minimum time necessary to cumulatively provide \$100 million to fund the needs of a neighborhood revitalization program that



Scott Benson

Marie Foss

includes support for neighborhood organizations and neighborhood-direction action plans after 2009. The resolution also calls for the TIF district extension to fund \$100 million to repay Target Center bonds and fund capital improvements at the center.

Public and community leaders originally conceived of the NRP in the late 1980s as a way to invest in neighborhoods and quell the trend of people moving from urban areas into the suburbs. The NRP was established through state legislation in 1990 and is governed by a joint-powers agreement between five government jurisdictions: the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and (originally) the Minneapolis Public Library.

Electronic Newsletter

I publish an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

It's OK to call 911

From the Chair

By Melanie Countryman

Spring arrived late this year. But, even though the ground was wet from rain the night before and the temperature was a chilly 45 degrees, the turnout at Pearl Park for the 14th annual Earth Day Watershed Clean Up on April 19, 2008 was one of the largest ever. Over 110 volunteers arrived to pick up trash around Diamond Lake, Hale School, Minnehaha Creek and other sites throughout the HPDL neighborhood. The Earth Day Watershed Clean Up was sponsored by the HPDL Community Association's Environment Committee, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling Department. This year's event featured a number of kid-friendly activities, including recycled art projects led by ArtStart, an outdoor nature game provided by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and a science activity led by a member of Friends of Diamond Lake. Many of the volunteers returned to Pearl Park for a pizza lunch and door prize drawing. A special thank you goes to Kowalski's Market, Pizza Hut and Dairy Queen for providing food for this event and to Friends of Diamond Lake and Kowalski's for providing door prizes.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Earth Day celebration and helped to make our neighborhood clean. It is wonderful to see people of all ages getting together to do something good for the neighborhood.



Scott Straczyk

Friends of Diamond Lake and neighbors at the Earth Day Watershed Cleanup.

Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour

April 26-27, '08

Looking for remodeling ideas and resources? Some of the most financially accessible and environmentally responsible homes are featured on this homeowner-focused tour.

Who: Getting up the courage to go ahead with a home project? On the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour of "real homes, real people, real ideas," residents open their doors to show creative and practical ideas for home additions, kitchens, bathrooms and more. Talk directly with homeowners and find out what it's like. At many homes, their contractors, architects, and other trades people will also be on hand to answer questions.

What and Where: See your choice of 50 homes; there are 35 in Minneapolis and 15 in St. Paul on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. It's a celebration of city living!

When: Homes on the free, self-guided tour will be open Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, April 27, 1-5 p.m. It will be held April 26 & 27, 2008 regardless of weather conditions. Wear easily-removed shoes as most homeowners will ask you to take off shoes.

How: Decide where to start by looking at the "Homes" page on this website: www.MSPHomeTour.com. Or, to help plan your tour, Home Tour Guides with maps, descriptions of all the homes and special features will be available by April 1 at local libraries in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Guides are also available at all the homes on tour days.

How much: The tour is FREE - you'll pick up a passport at the first home you visit, and turn it in (with the survey on the back filled out) at the last home you visit.

Why: The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour is coordinated by Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and supported by the Planning and Economic Development departments of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and other corporate and non-profit sponsors who encourage people to stay in the neighborhoods they love, and to maintain and improve the cities' housing stock. For information, call 612-673-5140.

Eco-Tour:

A dozen homes feature some aspect of environmentally responsible remodeling or operation; there are Minnesota GreenStar Pilot Projects, a location seeking LEED certification, three that use solar power or residential water heating, some rain gardens and many other Green ideas. Visit homes numbered: 2, 7, 8, 13, 19, 25, 28, 37, 38, 42, 43, 45.

Historic Mini-Tour and Neighborhood History:

Three homes (#7, #9, and #36) will have volunteers present from Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and/or Preserve Minneapolis, to talk with visitors about historic preservation and restoration resources, and their organizations. At 60 Arthur Ave. SE in Prospect Park, architect Bob Roscoe will give guided walking tours for an hour on both Saturday and Sunday, April 26 & 27, starting at 1:00 p.m. At 4821 Pleasant Ave. S., neighborhood historian Tom Balcom will be present to talk about Tangletown neighborhood history 1-3 p.m. on both days. And on Saturday only in Dayton's Bluff in Saint Paul, Historic Saint Paul volunteers will guide walking tours on the hour leaving from 619 Bates Ave. Check out other homes with the "H" icon for various commentary on honoring a home's era.

Special Spaces:

Kitchens, baths, whole-house renovations and additions will always be popular. The 2008 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour also includes: - A unique garage and teahouse combination - Basements remodeled into wonderful living spaces - Breathtaking third-floor spaces from formerly scary attics - Several home office ideas - Artists' live/work/gallery spaces .

Contractors, Architects, Vendors:

Intrigued by this remarkable opportunity to feature a home? Make a point of visiting the tour, and have your clients visit the 2008 Tour. Call 612-673-5103 for suggested sample locations; it's never too early to call for 2009.

This Home Tour is sponsored by :

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)

City of Saint Paul Community Planning and Economic Development

City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development



South H.S. hosted the Housing Fair.

Time to think about Summer Safety

With the summer weather just around the corner, more and more people are outside enjoying the outdoors. We want everyone to have a fun, safe summer so now is a good time to review some basic crime prevention techniques that should be a part of everyone's life-style.

By taking a few simple precautions, you can avoid or considerably reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Personal Safety

Be aware of strangers loitering in the area when coming home or when you leave your house. If you see someone loitering near your home, stay in your vehicle or your home and call 911. Be extra alert after dark.

Be on the lookout. The police want you to call 911 for any suspicious activity such as strangers walking in yards or between

houses, the sound of glass breaking or loud banging, and unfamiliar trucks or vans lingering in your alley.

Carry just what you need and know what you have in your wallet or purse. Make a copy of any credit cards or personal information that you are carrying. If it is lost or stolen, it will make it easier to replace.

Home Security

Keep your doors locked at all times.

Make your home look occupied.

Install deadbolt locks (with a 1" throw) and a high-security strike plate (with 3" screws) on home and garage doors. If you have glass within 42" of the door lock, consider: 1) a double-cylinder deadbolt lock; 2) tempered glass; or 3) a decorative grille over the glass.

Use window pins, track fillers, or additional locks to prevent windows from being opened more than 6".

Don't leave your garage door opener in your car if you are parking outside.

Mark your property with Operation Identification (OPID). Call 612-673-2749 to get your personal number, marking pen and instructions. OPID is a national computerized system that often helps recover stolen items.

Protect young people

Have your children observe the Hennepin County curfew hours (Ordinance #16).

Under 12 years old: Weekdays, home by 9 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., home by 10 p.m.

12-14 years old: Weekdays, home by 10 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., home by 11 p.m.

15-17 years old: Weekdays, home by 11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., home by midnight

Call 911 to report any curfew violations.

For more suggestions or help on getting your block club organized, contact the Crime Prevention Specialist for your area.

Working together, we can make a difference!

Home Security Habits Checklist:

DO YOU LOCK UP?

Are your doors locked while you are in the house?

Is your front door locked while you are in the backyard (and vice versa)?

Do you lock your doors when you leave the house for even a few minutes?

Do you pin your windows when you leave your house?

Are your basement windows locked or permanently secured with screws or bars?

Do you keep your garage doors closed and locked at all times?

DOES YOUR HOME LOOK OCCUPIED?

When you are gone for the evening, do you leave an outdoor and an indoor light on?

Do you leave a radio, TV, etc., on when your home is not occupied at night or during the day?



WHEN YOU GO ON VACATION DO YOU...?

Have a neighbor watch your house?

Move drapes, shades, and blinds?

Mow the lawn/shovel snow?

Collect mail, newspapers?

DO YOU PRACTICE YARD SECURITY?

Do you keep valuables such as bicycles and lawn equipment locked up and out of sight?

Do you lock up tools and ladders after you use them?

Do you keep shrubbery and bushes well trimmed?

If you have a fence, can your neighbors see through it or over it?

If you have exterior lights, do they prevent shadows where burglars could hide at night?

DO YOU PRACTICE OVERALL SECURITY?

Is the Minneapolis emergency number 911 by the phone?

Do you have a block map listing neighbors' names, phone numbers, and addresses by your phone?

Do you know how to report suspicious activity or crimes to the police? Do your children know how to report?

Do you ask strangers at your door for proper identification before talking to them?

Do your children tell strangers "Mommy (or Daddy) is busy" rather than "Mommy (or Daddy) is not home"?

If someone came to the door needing help, would you make the phone call to the police (or other necessary calls) rather than letting the person come in?

3rd Precinct Open House

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2008
Place: E. Lake St. and Minnehaha
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Stop by and visit!

INFORMATION DISPLAYS

- ◆ Bomb Squad
- ◆ Canine Unit
- ◆ Community Crime Prevention/SAFE
- ◆ Community Response Team
- ◆ Fire Department
- ◆ Horse Patrol
- ◆ McGruff
- ◆ Sheriff's Water Patrol
- ◆ S.W.A.T. Team

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



If you need a disability related accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, wheelchair accessible meeting site or materials in alternative format, please contact Officer Tom Lopez at 612-673-5703.

HPDL Needs You!

If you can spend a few hours a month, have an interest in your community, and want to affect what happens in your own neighborhood, please give us a call. Rosie at the HPDL office would love to hear from you. The number is (612) 824-7707.

HPDL Committee Meetings

- Building Community Call
- Business Association Call
- Commercial Development Call
- Crime and Safety Second Tuesday
- Housing Call
- Newsletter Call
- Environment Call
- Gardening Every Wednesday
(Spring - Fall)
- Phase II Planning Call
- Transportation Call

HPDL Board:

- Melanie Countryman (Chair)
- Margaret Craig
- Molly Gravholt (Treasurer)
- Kim Guild
- Bill Helgeson
- Sally Hoover
- Repa Mekha
- Tim Olken-Hunt (Vice Chair)
- Craig Opitz
- Steve Spaulding
- Joyce Suek (Secretary)

HPDL Staff:

- Rosie Doege Dryden
- Judy Cooper-Lyle

HPDL publishes this newsletter quarterly and distributes it to the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake Neighborhoods. If you have questions or comments, would like to contribute, or join the Newsletter Committee, please call the HPDL office at 824-7707.

Newsletter Committee:

- Melanie Countryman Sam Krainak
- Doug Frevert Brian Scott
- Laurie Frevert Scott Traczyk
- Bill Helgeson

Newsletter Staff:

- Rosie Doege Dryden

HPDL was founded in 1991. It is bound by 35W, 62nd Street, Cedar Avenue, and Minnehaha Creek. HPDL serves as a forum/clearinghouse for ideas; provides a meeting place to air grievances, define concerns and develop solutions; provides opportunities to work with other organizations across the city; serves as a conduit between residents and government; and helps us to celebrate our neighborhoods and their own special uniqueness within our diverse city.

Phone: 824-7707 Fax: 824-6824
 email: office@hpd.org
 5144 13th Ave. So., Mpls., MN 55417

Thank you to all Participants



Thank you to all who participated in the HPDL Community Crime and Safety Committee's March Safety Meeting. We extend a special thanks to MPD's Commander Inspector Lucy Gerold, Lieutenant Arthur Knight, and Crime Prevention Specialist Shun Tillman.

Mpls. Minds *from page 1*

ported by The Itasca Project, an alliance of Minneapolis business and civic leaders. The Plan is focused on a vision to "Make Every Child College Ready." It includes nine key strategies with measurable outcomes for 2012. It's a critical document to focus the district's work for the coming years.

This coming November an important voter issue will be on the ballot: the Referendum to renew an expiring property tax levy. Passing the levy will have profound affect on the District's ability to implement the Strategic Plan and on the future of many of its students. While state and federal funds pay for the lion's share (about 90 percent) of public education, local property tax dollars through referendums are, as Minneapolis Public Schools' CFO Peggy Ingison refers to it as the "third leg" of funding the district. The district is dependent upon it.

While the ballot issue is six months away, planning has begun now to develop a campaign to inform and promote the next term of local funding. An important first step has been the forming of a Citizens Steering Committee comprised of volunteer parents, teachers and district staff. Kenwood School parent Courtney Cushing Kiernat and community leader and inter-district school parent Hussein Samatar have agreed to serve as co-chairs. Congressman Keith Ellison and Mayor R.T Rybak will serve as honorary co-chairs.

Initial steps in the campaign process include finalizing a Campaign Plan, fundraising to support the campaign efforts, and public polling of Minneapolis residents about their sentiments regarding potential levy amounts and messages. Very importantly, the campaign will work to develop a grassroots approach to promoting support. Initial research tells us the closer, more familiar and more involved the public is to our schools, the greater support for the referendum. But with just 15 to 20 percent of Minneapolis households with school age children, that's more of a challenge, especially as compared to surrounding suburban districts. We want the greater public to see all the great things happening in our schools. And we need volunteers to help. If you are interested in working on the campaign, please contact us. (A web site and email address are in the works.)

It's a critical time for the district. With a newly seated board and superintendent with a Strategic Plan in hand, there's hardly been a time in recent history when expectations have been greater. The campaign needs to help our public recognize the value of supporting the future promise of all of our children today.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident, is spearheading the communications subcommittee on the referendum Citizens Steering Committee. He will provide a

monthly Hill & Lake Press "Minneapolis Minds" column on the work of the Committee between now and November. He can be reached at stevek@elemenoP.us.

HPDL Community Association
5144 13th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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You make the call:

Bus Ride Info	373-3333
Humane Society . . . (763) 522-4325	
Animal Control	311
CCP/SAFE	
Spec. Sue Roethle	673-2839
Burned Out Street Lights	311
Airport Noise	726-9411
Graffiti	311
Pearl Park	370-4906
City Council Member	
Scott Benson ⁽¹⁾	673-2211
County Commissioner	
Gail Dorfman ⁽³⁾	348-7883
Peter McLaughlin ⁽⁴⁾	348-7884
State Senator	
Patricia Torres Ray ⁽⁶²⁾ (651) 296-4274	
State Representative	
Jean Wagenius ^(62A) (651) 296-4200	
Minnesota Public Lobby	378-0285
HPDL Office	824-7707
. office@hpd.org	
. www.hpd.org	

HPDL Community Calendar

April 28 Monday	HPDL Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.
May 10 Saturday	HPDL Fun Fair 10 AM – 1 PM Hale & Field Schools Plant Sale 8 Am – 2 PM	Hale School 1220 E. 54th Street
June 23 Monday	HPDL Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.
July 21 Monday	HPDL Treasure Hunt Look for a post cards in your mailbox with more information	
July 28 Monday	HPDL Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.
July 31 Thursday	17th Annual Picnic in the Park Event 5:30 – 8:30 PM	Pearl Park 414 E. Diamond Lake Rd.