

Reduce, reuse, recycle isn't just a trendy phrase. It's a way to reduce costs for both consumers and Hennepin County.

Fix-It Clinics help the unhandy

Hennepin County, as part of its waste reduction efforts, is asking residents to sort through basements, closets and garages for clothing and household items that need repair. At the Fix-It Clinic, skilled volunteers will help you learn to disassemble, troubleshoot, and fix your broken household items and electronics, clothing in need of mending, and more.

The next clinic is Saturday, March 9, from noon to 3 PM at TC Maker Hack Factory, 3119 E. 26th St., Minneapolis. The clinic is first-come, first-served. You don't need to pre-register. Items must be carry-in. Please take along any tools that might be helpful, a digital camera or phone to document the disassembly (to help you re-assemble it), and small boxes or bags to organize and carry home parts.

The event is family friendly. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic.

Another clinic will be held Saturday, April 13 from 10 am to 2 pm at the South Minneapolis Housing Fair at the YWCA located at 2121 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis.

Another clinic will be held Saturday, June 15 noon to 4 pm at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington.

The county also is looking for handy people to help at the clinics. If you know your way around tools and would like to help others, please email Nancy Lo at nancy.lo@co.hennepin.mn.us or call 612-348-9195 for more details or to volunteer.

New HCMC chief executive officer chosen



The board of Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc (HHS) approved the appointment of Dr. Jon Pryor as the new CEO of Hennepin County Medical Center. Dr. Pryor replaces David Jones, who stepped in as interim CEO in August, when Art Gonzalez left to become CEO of Denver Health.

Dr. Pryor served a surgical residency at HCMC nearly 30 years ago, and says he

looks forward to returning to help continue to improve the delivery of care and position HCMC to succeed in a challenging health environment.

Dr. Pryor most recently was CEO of the Medical College Physicians at the Medical College of Wisconsin, based in Milwaukee. He has an MBA in addition to his MD.

Free lead paint testing; possible new windows too

If you meet certain criteria, you may be eligible to receive new windows through a Hennepin County grant program. Call Sustainable Resources Center at 612-872-3281 to schedule a free home visit. Communication available in Somali, Spanish, and Hmong. www.src-mn.org.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Home built before 1978.
- Child age 5 or under lives in or frequently visits your home.
- Live in Hennepin County.
- Meet certain income qualifications.

Youth sports equipment grants available

Consider applying for the spring round of the Hennepin County Youth Sports capital equipment grants if your organization needs things like field maintenance equipment, nets, or backboards. Grant requests must include a local government partner.

Applications are due by 4 pm on Monday, March 11. Hennepin County has operated the program since 2009, awarding up to \$2 million each year in capital grants to build, repair,

renovate or expand youth sports facilities in the county.

Grants are awarded in two rounds and are based on these criteria:

- Partnership between sports organization and local government units.
- Number of youth served and their population characteristics.
- Ratio of matching funds to the amount requested.

For more information: www.hennepin.us/youthsports

New county administrator chosen

The county board appointed Deputy County Administrator David Hough to serve as county administrator. County Administrator Richard Johnson retired after many years overseeing Hennepin County work. Hough has served as deputy county administrator since 2008. Before that appointment, he was a deputy county attorney in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where he served as the board's chief legal counsel as well as representing the county in both civil and criminal matters.

The Hennepin County administrator oversees a county organization serving 1.2 million residents with a staff of 8,000 and an overall budget of nearly \$1.8 billion. The administrator directs the strategic management of the county's business lines – health and human services, justice, libraries, public works and government operations. The position is also directly responsible for budget and finance, human resources, information technology and property services.

Work for Hennepin County

The county website shows 35 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include seasonal laborer, nurse, IT professionals, veterans service representative, engineer, bilingual victim advocates, building operations manager, business office manager—and more! If you're looking for a job or know someone who is looking, please check out this resource.

Click [here](#) to see the list of positions that are available.

Changing how we sell tax-forfeited properties



evaluation is in process.

We will no longer sell condemned properties using the contract for deed method, except in certain circumstances. Buildings that are not up to code will be sold only through full cash payment at the time of purchase. Other requirements include bringing the house up to code within one year, agreeing to live in the rehabilitated property as

Hennepin County is reviewing our tax-forfeited land sales program (TFL) to ensure we are meeting the purpose and mission of the program. We have begun a joint review process with University of Minnesota Professor Ryan Allen to review the TFL program, and we are examining the program and will improve the program to best meet the needs of our county.

Recently, concerns have been raised about the use of contract for deed sales. Currently, a tax-forfeited property can be purchased using a 10-year contract. We are hearing that this isn't being used in the manner in which it was intended and have implemented a moratorium on contract for deed sales while the

owner-occupant for five years, and prohibiting subsequent sale or assignment during the terms of a contract for deed.

Two other exceptions are included in the new policy. One is if the purchaser is a state agency or governmental subdivision of the state acquiring the property to correct blight or for housing redevelopment. The other is if the purchaser is a former owner making repurchase through the county's Repurchase Policy.

I'm pleased that the county could make these changes in response to concerns raised by our residents. I thank them for being engaged with the county and working to find a solution.

Step-Up Applications are Due Soon!

Do you know a Minneapolis teenager who is looking for a summer job? Step-Up is a program for youth between 14 and 21 that connects them with great paid jobs they can't find on their own. It provides job training and real work experience that can help build a resume.

Step-Up interns earn at least \$7.25 an hour and up to \$10 an hour, depending on the company.

This is a great opportunity! If you know someone who needs a summer job, pass this along!

Applications are due soon! Apply for STEP-UP on the web! There are no paper applications this year. If your application is late or incomplete, it will not be considered. The STEP-UP application deadline is March 4, no exceptions.

Upcoming Events in District 2

St. Anthony: *Saturday, Feb. 23, 6:30 to 10:30 pm.* St. Anthony Village High School Jazz Band and Choir Winter Gala. New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW. Tickets \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. 612-706-1166.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 to 3 pm. Walk with an artist through the Silverwood Park Gallery to hear about the current show, then head out to the trail (weather permitting) for an artist-led exploration of the sculpture and poetry throughout the park. Dress for the weather and wear comfy shoes. Free and open to all ages.

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6 to 7 pm. St. Anthony preschool open house, 3301 Silver Lake Rd. Visit preschool classrooms, meet teachers, learn about options, and register for preschool for the 2013-2014 school year. Call 612-706-1166 to learn more.

Northeast: *Thursday, Feb. 28, 6:30 pm.* St. Anthony West Neighborhood Organization annual meeting at the MainStreet Lodge lower level meeting room, 909 Main St. NE. Learn how to get involved in neighborhood activities, run for a seat on the board, get updates on activities. 612-378-8886 or www.stawno.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 3 to 4:30 pm. Minneapolis Public Schools workshop for parents who are trying to complete FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Edison High School, 700 22nd Ave. NE. Contact Nora 612-668-1370 for what you need to take to the workshop to complete the form.

North: *Tuesday, Feb. 26, 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.* Black History Month Philanthropy Breakfast. MPS district headquarters, 1250 West Broadway. Program begins at 9:15 "Renewing Hope in the Promise of Minnesota's Youth." To register visit: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5180262304>

Bryn Mawr: *Saturday, May 4.* Bryn Mawr yard sales. Don't miss this!

North Loop: *Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.,* North Loop Neighborhood Board meeting at Heritage Landing 415 1st St N.

Golden Valley: *Friday, March 22, 7:30 am,* Mayor Shep Harris's state of the city address, Golden Valley City Hall council chambers.

Plymouth: *Sunday, March 10, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.* Healthy Living Fair at the Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. Free. Take charge of your family's health with a variety of health screenings, educational sessions, vendor booths, prizes and more. For more information, see the calendar at <http://plymouthmn.gov/>

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the City Sampler at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., offers a casual setting to meet the Mayor and Council with a sampling of city services, light refreshments and a chance to win prizes.

Multiple Communities: *Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6 to 8 pm.* Minneapolis Park Board community conversation about Bottineau Transitway, MPRB headquarters, 2117 West River Road.

Saturday, March 2, noon to 2 pm. Minneapolis Park Board community conversation about Bottineau Transitway, MPRB headquarters, 2117 West River Road.

Thursday, March 7, 5 pm, Metropolitan Council Bottineau public meeting, Robbinsdale City Hall

Monday, March 11, 5 pm, Metropolitan Council Bottineau public meeting, Metro Council Heywood Office Building Chambers, 570 6th Ave. N., Minneapolis

If you have events you would like to promote in our newsletter, drop an email to tina.sanz@co.hennepin.mn.us.



I was thrilled that President Obama came to North Minneapolis to talk about his public safety initiatives and that I got to be there!