



Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

Issue Three

In Touch With District 2

Groundbreaking for new 911 facility in Plymouth



Commissioners Jan Callison, Linda Higgins and Jeff Johnson, County Administrator David Hough, Sheriff Rich Stanek and Plymouth Mayor Kelli Slavik

Operations and Technical Services. The total projected budget is \$33.7 million.

The current Sheriff's Office 911 facility is located in Golden Valley. The Sheriff's Office provides 911 and emergency communications services for 23 law enforcement agencies and 20 fire departments in 37 communities.

Because the current facility was constructed in 1948, it lacks space to accommodate emerging communications technologies and cannot adequately protect the investment in equipment that is housed there.

Smiles were bright and the temperature was forging as people gathered on February 25 for the 911 Emergency Communications Facility groundbreaking ceremony.

The ceremony took place at the construction site in Plymouth near the county's Adult Corrections Facility, also known as the "workhouse." The new facility is expected to be complete in late 2014.

ceremonial first shovelsful of dirt.

The new 50,000-square-foot facility will significantly increase communications system reliability, improve operational efficiencies and optimize operating expenses by collocating three principal functions: the 911 Public Safety Answering Point, Critical Infrastructure Radio and Data Network Center, and Radio Systems

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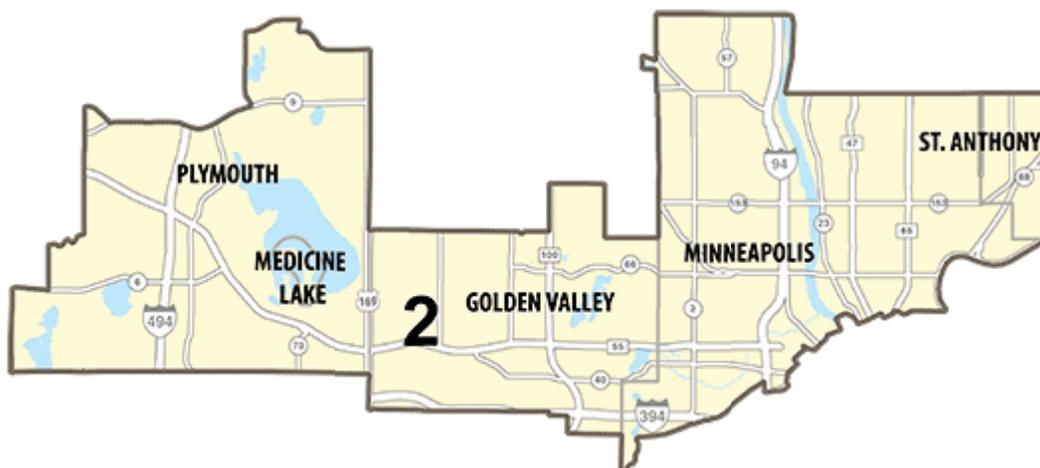
[Map It!](#)

Did You Know?

You can subscribe to many online services on the county website: Click [here](#) and see what information is interesting or useful to you.

Enter your email or cell phone number and then select which items interest you, such as tax-forfeited real estate auctions, public health updates, even property tax due date reminders.

Hennepin County District 2



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, April 13, from 10 am to 2 pm at the South Minneapolis Housing Fair at the YWCA located at 2121 E. Lake 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, 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.



Get help paying your heating bill

Utilities Xcel and CenterPoint Energy have affordability programs to help qualifying customers lower their monthly heating bills and pay past due balances.

To qualify for the program, customers must have received a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant for the current heating season. Households who are at or below 50 percent of the state median income are eligible. Click

here for [eligibility guidelines](#) and further information about applying for LIHEAP. [Click here](#) to read the Hennepin County fact sheet, which further explains emergency assistance programs.

For more information, contact the Energy Cents Coalition at 1-888-774-9070, CenterPoint Energy at 1-800-245-2377, or Xcel at 1-800-895-4999.

District 2 board appointments

Commissioner Higgins is excited to announce her most recent board and committee appointments:

Dacia Durham is the newest member of the Hennepin County [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#), which assists the Commissioners with ideas on how to incorporate bicycle accommodations into roadway and transit projects.

Lyssa Washington is the District 2 appointment to the [Designer Selection Committee](#), which assists in the selection of architectural and engineering consultants

for major facility construction and remodeling projects.

Alexis Pennie is Commissioner Higgins' appointment to the Capital Budgeting Tax Force, which reviews and prioritizes capital project requests.

There are many boards and commissions that deal with public policy areas. For further information about County board openings, visit [HERE](#). Constituents may also [subscribe](#) to receive email notification as openings are posted.

Free classes at Hennepin County libraries



Beginner and intermediate computer classes. Arts and culture. Health insurance counseling for seniors. History. Home and garden. Adult basic education. These are just a few of the topics covered in free classes conducted at the Hennepin County libraries.

How to register (required):
Online. Choose an offering at www.hclib.org/pub/events/ and click on the title.
By phone. Call the library offering the class.
In person. [Library locations](#).

Hennepin County Library's seventh annual teen job fair is March 23

Businesses, organizations can sign up now to participate in the free job fair

Are you a business or organization looking for teen employees? Or are you a teen looking for a job? [Hennepin County Library](#) will hold its seventh annual [Teen Job Fair](#) on Saturday, March 23, noon-3 p.m. at Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis.

Businesses and organizations can [sign up now](#) to participate (no charge). The free fair is open to teens age 14 and up. Average attendance over the years has topped 1,000.

For more information: 612-543-8049 or www.hclib.org/teenjobfair.

Work for Hennepin County

The county website shows 35 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include accountant, business office manager, IT professionals, dental assistant, office specialist, security dispatcher, nurse—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.

The Hennepin County Library also has help for job seekers at www.hclib.org/pub/search/Subject

Apartment house recycling now available

Did you know that recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV or computer for three hours?

Does your apartment house recycle? Hennepin County Environmental Services will help your building owners and residents create a system that works for you. Hennepin County even will provide recycling bags for residents so you can easily take your items to the recycling area.

Recycling conserves natural resources, saves energy, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Keeping recyclable items out of the waste stream saves us money, keeps us healthier, and makes you feel good too!

If you have questions, visit www.hennepin.us/apartmentrecycle.

Speaking of recycling...

Does your neighborhood or city use single sort recycling? In the first six weeks of one-sort collection, recycling increased 63% in Minneapolis, collecting nearly 400 tons more material. In Minneapolis, the city's goal is to have all households on [one-sort collection](#) by the end of June.

Nearly all cities in Hennepin County will

have single stream collection by the end of 2013. In addition, Hennepin County is working with the Downtown Improvement District to provide recycling containers along the Nicollet Mall and Hennepin, capturing 90% of recyclables. Visit www.recyclehalf.com to learn more.

More Lowry Avenue bridge awards!

It should come as no surprise that the Lowry Avenue bridge continues to receive accolades from the engineering community. It really is something!

Hennepin County is extremely proud of this landmark bridge, and it's my pleasure to announce that we have received two more awards.

The first is the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers Seven Wonders of Engineering Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of engineering.

The second award is the Minnesota Concrete Council 2013 Transportation

Award. This award is for bridges, roads, or other infrastructure projects using cast-in-place concrete.



Spring sports registration at Minneapolis parks

Registration is in process for spring sports including T-ball, coach pitch, softball, baseball and track and field. Volunteer coaches are also needed.

2013 league fees for Minneapolis residents are:

- T-ball and coach pitch \$25
- Baseball and softball \$40
- Track and field \$30

Program scholarships are available. Register in person at your local park or contact the Minneapolis Park Board (www.minneapolisparcs.org) for further information.



Upcoming Events in District 2

St. Anthony: *Saturday, March 23, 1 to 4 pm.* Silverwood Egg Hunt. Dress for the weather. Silverwood Park, 2500 County Road E. Cost: \$6 per person.

Northeast: *Friday, March 22, 5 to 7 pm.* Holy Cross Fish Fry. 1621 University Ave NE, Kolbe Center.

Saturday, March 30, 10 am to noon. Upper Northeast Egg Hunt and Bunny Party. Windom Park, 2251 Hayes St. NE. Free.

Saturday, April 6, 7-10 p.m. First annual "Feel the VIBE" event hosted by East Side Neighborhood Services, a family friendly event to celebrate youth in the NE Minneapolis. Tickets cost \$10 and kids under 12 get in free. ESNS at 1700 2nd St. NE.

Wednesday, April 10, 6 to 8 pm. Minneapolis Police Dept. Block Leader Training. New Boston Square Apartments, 2015 Central Ave. NE, rear entrance. Contact Susan Bradshaw, Crime Prevention Specialist, MPD, 612-673-2874, susan.bradshaw@minneapolismn.gov

Performances through Sunday, April 7. Nimbus Theatre presents *Bohemian Flats*, a portrait of the struggles of the immigrants who built Minneapolis in 1869. 1517 Central Ave. NE. Tickets \$10 to \$15. A pay-what-you-can performance will be held on Monday, March 25, 7:30 pm. 612-548-1380 or visit nimbustheatre.com.

Saturday, April 13, Local Food Resource Hub Seed Distributions. **North Minneapolis**, 10 am to 1 pm. St. Olaf Church 2901 Emerson Ave. N. **Northeast**, 10 am to 2 pm. Garden at corner of Lowry and Central.

North: *Wednesday, March 27, 7 pm.* Victory Neighborhood meeting, The Warren, 4400 Osseo Rd. Commissioner Higgins will be in attendance to hear ideas for the Webber Library.

Saturday, April 6, 9-11:30 am. Free "Landscaping in the City" workshop, featuring yard- and garden-related table displays, plus free advice from landscape professionals. Webber Park, 4400 Dupont Ave. N.

Bryn Mawr: *Thursday, March 28, 2013, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.* Bryn Mawr Elementary School Family Fun Night carnival and dinner. Enjoy activities galore, including hula hoop contests, gunny sack races, cake walk, face painting, moonwalk and much more! Dinner will also be available for a low price.

North Loop: *Saturday, March 30, 10 am.* North Loop Candy Grab. Prize eggs and age specific hunts. Free. North Loop playground at 4th Avenue North and West River Road.

Golden Valley: *Sunday, March 24, 5 to 9 pm.* "Going To The Dogs!" A jazzy evening of fun, food and music with the Twin Cities First Lady of Song, Debbie Duncan. Fundraiser Benefitting Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs). Tickets \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Golden Valley Golf and Country Club, 7001 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley. FFI: www.esadogs.eventbrite.com.

Saturday, April 13, 8 am. Run the Valley, the [Golden Valley Human Services Fund's](#) annual 5K/10K race and 5K walk. Race fee \$30 in advance, \$40 on race day. Begins and ends at [Brookview Community Center](#).

Plymouth: *Saturday, April 6, 9 am to 3 pm.* Northwest Remodeling Fair. More than 85 exhibitors displaying the latest in home remodeling products, services and design. Bobby Jensen, the well known Twin Cities garden expert, will share "Secrets of Successful Vegetable Gardening" at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. nwremodelingfair.com.

Friday, April 12, 6 to 9 pm, and Saturday, April 13, 9 am to 1 pm. Plymouth Yard and Garden Expo. Plymouth Creek Center Fieldhouse, 14800 34th Ave. N. \$3 admission. Huge plant sale when doors close at 1 pm on Saturday.

Multiple Communities:

Thursday, April 4, 7 pm. Heavyweight champion poet and writer Andrei Codrescu discusses "life as a writer and 41 years of wrestling the muse" at Talk of the Stacks, Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Pohlad Hall, Minneapolis. Free.

Thursday, April 4, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Congressman Keith Ellison's Gun Violence Prevention Town Hall Forum. Shiloh Temple Ministries, 1201 West Broadway, Minneapolis.

Saturday, April 27, 9 am to 2 pm. Minneapolis Homeownership and Banking Fair in Studio 185 at International Market Square, 275 Market St. This free event will feature lenders, property developers and representatives from local nonprofit housing organizations. Details at www.hocmn.org.

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