



Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

August 2014

In Touch With District 2

Celebrate opening of North Minneapolis human services center August 7



Hennepin County is celebrating the grand opening of its third regional human service center in North Minneapolis with a celebration and ribbon cutting on **Thursday, August 7, from 6 to 8 p.m., at 1001 Plymouth Avenue North**. The public is invited to this free event.

Part of regionalization plan The new, transit-friendly site is only one part of a larger, regional plan to expand access to human services from downtown Minneapolis to six sites spread across the county and closer to where residents live, work and attend school.

“It’s all about making our services accessible to people in their community,” said Rex Holzemer, assistant county administrator for human services. “It’s about intervening earlier to get people back to self-sufficiency and working closely with community partners to provide a full range of services people can benefit from.” And Hennepin County will continue to work with established North Minneapolis nonprofits and community resources.

Community engagement As part of the planning process for the human services offices last year, the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) and Hennepin County invited residents to weigh in on their wishes for the selected site through a series of engagement meetings. A community benefits agreement between NRRC, the county and the building’s owner, Minneapolis-based Ackerberg Group, was developed during this time also.

One of the results of the community engagement process was the addition of Wednesday Hennepin County service center hours, when residents can apply for a variety of licenses and permits, on the North Human Service Center site.

The reuse project transformed a former printing plant into a bright, attractive space for Hennepin County workers and clients. The project also met hiring goals for women and minorities, another important piece of the community benefits agreement.

We heard from residents that they would like more services to be offered at the office. Each Wednesday, residents can apply to renew a driver’s license or get a fishing license, apply for birth and death records, or enact some other transaction that otherwise would have required a trip downtown or to one of the suburban service centers.

To Contact Our Office

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A2400 Government Center

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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.

August is Child Support Awareness Month

The board proclaimed August 2104 as child support awareness month to recognize the staff who work in the child support program. Hennepin County staff, the County Attorney's Office and the Fourth Judicial Court serve more than 71,000 children each year by establishing paternity, locating parents, setting up child support orders, collecting child

support payments, providing employment and parenting resources and enforcing court-ordered financial obligations that help families become and remain self-sufficient and financially stable. More than \$102 million is collected each year and for each dollar spent by the county in this program, \$10 is collected for kids.



City of Plymouth kicks off groundbreaking for extra lane on I-494



Linda attended a ceremonial groundbreaking on July 23 for a third general-purpose lane to I-494. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) recently announced that it had identified construction project savings that will allow it to fund a third general-purpose lane on I-494 at a cost of approximately \$25 million.

This is a major step toward adding a permanent third lane to I-494 from Highway 55 to East Fish Lake Road, an improvement that the City of Plymouth has advocated for

because of traffic congestion. MnDOT plans to add the third lane in conjunction with a three-year maintenance project that will affect I-494 from I-394 to I-94 that will reconstruct pavement, replace 6 bridges, repair 11 bridges and add a general-purpose lane from Highway 55 to I-94 on both sides of the road. The project will start this summer and is estimated to be completed in 2016. To see design layouts (under project documents), learn more information or sign up for MnDOT project updates, visit dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494plymouth/.

Board approves deconstruction services that will divert 85 percent of building waste

The board approved a contract with Better Futures Enterprises to provide deconstruction services from August 2014 through July 2016. Better Futures will deconstruct up to 25 residential buildings and divert 85 percent of the buildings waste for reuse or recycling.

The contract amount is not to exceed \$464,000 and is

expected to create at least seven full-time jobs.

Better Futures hires high-risk men with histories of imprisonment, substance abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, and homelessness, and provides them with access to employment, housing, health care and community re-engagement.

Changes in employee health care coverage brings savings

The county is seeing significant cost savings through a series of changes to employee health care coverage. In 2014, the savings on health insurance premiums will be \$11.7 million.

In the past five years, the county has seen insurance premiums increase by only two percent after moving to self-insurance and implementing initiatives to control the rising cost of healthcare, resulting in fewer health claims. Most recently, employees were offered a less expensive health plan choice with a narrower network of health care providers that focuses on quality care and health outcomes, saving money for the county and employees who choose the plan.

Events *(continued from page 4)*

Saturdays, through October 25, 9am-1pm. Northeast Farmers Market. St. Boniface Church, 7th and University Avenue NE, Minneapolis.

Minnesota Night to Unite Events – Tuesday, August 5
(see community web sites for full list):



2:30-5pm. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue N.

4-6pm. NorthPoint Health and Wellness, 1315 Penn Avenue N.

5-7pm. RCCS Men's Program Building, 800 42nd Avenue N, Minneapolis. (rear parking lot).

5-10pm. Downtown Minneapolis and North Loop Neighborhoods, Nine Flags Park on West River Parkway (just North of the Hennepin Avenue Bridge, below the Federal Reserve building).

6-9pm. St. Anthony Police Dept., 3301 Silver Lake Road NE.

6pm. Waite Park Wesleyan Church, 33rd and Lincoln St. NE.

Events for Multiple Communities:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board presents Music and Movies in the Park. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on. Movies start at dusk. Info: mplsmusicandmovies.com.

The Minneapolis Public Schools offers a summer food service program through Friday, August 15 providing meals to all children ages 1 to 18 without charge from 12-2:30pm at select school and community sites. Visit nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us for locations and information or contact Sara Eugene at 612-668-2836.

Get a behind-the-scenes history lesson with the East Hennepin Historic Tour. Visit northeastminneapolis.com.

*Wednesdays, Sept. 11 through Oct. 22, 6:30 to 9 pm. **Hennepin County Citizens' Academy.** Are you interested in learning how county roads are plowed every winter? How Hennepin County is involved in light-rail transit? What about learning how county taxes are assessed and HCMC? The Hennepin County Citizens Academy will address questions like these and more. For further information and registration, see hennepin.us/citizensacademy.*

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



Work for Hennepin County

Our website shows 34 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include appraisers, community health worker, sentencing to serve crew leader, highway maintenance operator, IT positions 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.

The Library also has help at www.hclib.org/pub/search/SubjectGuides.cfm?Topic=Jobs/Careers
Hennepin County is a great place to work!

Job assistance is as close as your computer

Job seeking assistance is available as close as your computer from the Hennepin County Library.

Many tools are available at hclib.org/pub/search/subjectguides.cfm?topic=jobs/careers.

For online resume and interview coaching and career advice from job help professionals, visit hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=JobNow&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=.

A tool to create and save resumes and cover letters (including tools to help you prepare for a job search) is available at http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display= (note: Subscription purchased with funding from Hennepin).

Upcoming Events in District 2!

St. Anthony: *Thursdays, through August 14, 7-8pm.* Salo Park Summer Concert Series. Visit nema.org for info.

Hazardous Waste Events: Dispose of your household hazardous waste at Jenny Lind School, 5026 Dupont Ave N. August 21-23, 9am-4pm. 340 27th Ave. NE. hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste.

North: *Saturday, August 2, 10am-4:30pm and Sunday, August 3, noon-4pm.* North Regional Library Book sale. Library Friends groups throughout Hennepin County host book sales. North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue N.

Sunday, August 3, 1-4pm. Victory Neighborhood Annual Garden Tour. This free self-guided tour will highlight a wide range of gardening styles and the diversity of Victory's landscaped spaces. Loring School yard garden, 2600 44th Avenue N.

Thursday, August 7, 6-8pm. Grand opening for the Hennepin County Human Services office. Tour the new facility and learn about the services provided. 1007 Plymouth Avenue N. Free (see page 1).

Friday, August 8 and 15, 5pm. Music in the Heart of Victory. Live music and food. The Warren, 4400 Osseo Road. Bring a blanket/chair.

August 11-15, 10am-3pm. Hip Hop Camp at the Capri. MacPhail Center for Music will offer a Hip Hop camp for students ages 13-19. Visit nenorthnews.com for more information.

Thursday, August 14, 6-8pm. Live on the Drive featuring Bomba De Luz. 34th Ave. N. and Victory Memorial Parkway. Visit liveonthedrive.org for info.

Wednesday, August 20, 5:30-7:30pm. Cleveland Neighborhood presents Party in the Park. Connect with neighbors, find out about different resources and opportunities in the community. Cleveland Park and Lucey Craft Laney School green space, 3333 Penn Avenue N.

Saturday, August 23, 10am-4:30pm. Friends of the Webber Park Library host a book sale. Guided Salvage Antiques, 4430 Lyndale Avenue N (Hint: Early entrance for Friends members, join at door).

North Loop: *Saturday, August 2, 8am-12pm.* Sidewalk Sale. Sell your stuff (just bring it) and buy other people's treasures. In front of Corner Café, 514 N 3rd Street.

Saturday, August 9, 6-10pm. North Loop Fest. Join with neighbors and friends to celebrate live music and food from your North Loop restaurants. Cuzzy's parking lot, 507 Washington Ave. N. Tickets \$15, northloopfest.com.

Golden Valley: *Monday, August 4 and 11, 7pm.* Concerts in the Park. Every summer, the Park and Recreation Department sponsors free weekly concerts. Brookview Park, 200 Brookview Parkway N.

Thursday, August 14, 8:30-10pm. Movie In The Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, sit back and enjoy "The Lego Movie." Brookview Park large shelter, 200 Brookview Parkway N.

Medicine Lake: *Thursday, August 14, 6:30pm.* Plymouth Lions Corn Feed and Potluck, Medicine Lake City Hall. Visit www.plymouthlions.org for more information.

Plymouth: *Monday, August 4, 6:30-7pm.* Walk with a Doc. Residents are invited to take a walk with a local doctor. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue N.

Tuesday, August 12, 7-8pm. Roe Family Singers. Old-time hillbilly band from Kirkwood Hollow, MN. Parkers Lake Stage, County Road 6 and Niagara Lane.

Friday, August 15 and 22, 8pm. Movies in the Park. Enjoy a summer evening in the park with your family and friends to see "Little Big League" and "The Wizard of Oz." Zachary Playfield, 4355 Zachary Lane, Plymouth.

Farmers Markets:

Thursdays through September 25, 4-7pm. Audubon Mini-Market, Johnson Street NE and 27th Avenue NE, Minneapolis.



Saturdays through September 27, 8am-1pm. Mill City Farmers Market, 704 South Second Street, Minneapolis.

Wednesdays through October 1, 2:30-6:30pm. Farmers Market. Plymouth Ice Center parking lot, 3650 Plymouth Blvd.

Thursdays through October 2, 3-7pm. Camden Farmers Market. The Warren, 4400 Osseo Road, Minneapolis.

Mondays through early October, 3-7pm. The Village Farmers Market, Saint Anthony Village Shopping Center parking lot, St. Anthony.

Fridays through October 17, 3-7pm. West Broadway Farmers Market, 900 West Broadway Avenue (at Dupont). (Events continued on page 3)