



## Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

Issue Eight

### In Touch With District 2

## Webber Park Library closed indefinitely because of possible structural issues



Left: Shoring installed to add stability to the wall at Webber Park Library.

Below: Commissioner Higgins met with Council President Barb Johnson (not shown), Library Board members, Friends of the Webber Park Library, and residents to review structural issues, investigative work of the foundation, and steps for a geotechnical assessment.



During the week of July 1, some ceiling tiles buckled and fell at Webber Park Library at 4310 Webber Parkway in Minneapolis (no one was injured). Preliminary findings by a structural engineering consultant showed settling along one of the building's walls is causing the damage. For the safety of the public and staff, Webber Park will remain closed until an assessment can be completed.

Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins held an informational meeting with staff and community members on July 18 to share that a structural engineer has already begun work. Hennepin County Property Services have also identified a firm to

perform a geotechnical evaluation to assess the integrity of the foundation and structure. Using these evaluations, Hennepin County will develop analyses and recommendations to bring to the County Board for their determination in approximately 4 to 6 weeks.

Commissioner Higgins will hold a community meeting to discuss the results of the analyses at a date to be determined. To be notified of the meeting, email [Tina Sanz](mailto:Tina.Sanz), or call 612-348-7882 to indicate how you prefer to receive information.

**North Hub Update** After several May and June community meetings, Ackerberg Group and the County have been meeting with Ishmael Israel of [NRRC](#). NRRC is coordinating a community group to work on a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that is a commitment between parties to bring in benefits that can come from a project such as this. The County Board unanimously approved a resolution on June 25 directing staff to negotiate a lease with the Ackerberg Group for the North Minneapolis Hub at the southeast corner of Emerson and Plymouth Avenues. The current timeline calls for remodeling of the site to start this September with completion in the second quarter of 2014. For further information including feedback from the community meetings, visit [www.hennepin.us/northhub](http://www.hennepin.us/northhub).

### To Contact Our Office

Commissioner  
Linda Higgins

[Email](mailto:Linda.Higgins@hennepin.us)

Phone 612-348-7882

[www.hennepin.us/higgins](http://www.hennepin.us/higgins)

Principal Aide Tina Sanz

[Email](mailto:Tina.Sanz@hennepin.us)

Phone 612-348-5335

Administrative Secretary  
Roshonda A. Royston

[Email](mailto:Roshonda.A.Royston@hennepin.us)

Phone 612-348-3526

A2400 Government Center  
300 S. 6th St.

Minneapolis, MN 55487

[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.

## Call for committee members for Penn Community Works Project



Photo from the [Minnesota Historical Society](#) archives, circa 1947. Looking west across the intersection of West Broadway and Penn Avenue N. at a firefighter's funeral procession. A Robbinsdale streetcar is in the distance. Used with permission.

What is a “Community Works” project? Hennepin County Community Works projects are like a big public works project with economic development and a lot of community involvement thrown in. Projects are developed

**We are looking for community members who are interested in joining the PIC to guide the process of improving Penn Avenue. Applications (click [here](#)) are due August 30.**

with communities, cities and other stakeholders to focus public and private investment along designated corridors. This approach is grounded in the robust participation of residents, businesses, government agencies and community organizations.

Hennepin County, the city of Minneapolis, and Metro Transit are embarking on a long-term collaboration on Penn Avenue

North to support connectivity/mobility, stimulate economic development, and enhance livability along the corridor. Work will begin this summer with the establishment of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC). The PIC’s role is to guide project planning and implementation, provide technical review, and oversee community engagement efforts.

Also this year, a Penn Avenue inventory is under way to

survey the environment, programs, plans and projects in the corridor. These efforts include a physical survey of current street and sidewalk conditions that will inform a series of fall community charrettes (small design groups with community input) about what Penn Avenue should look like in the future. From July through the end of the year, you may notice Hennepin County surveyors taking measurements on Penn Avenue between I-394 and 49th Avenue North. If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact Patricia Fitzgerald of Hennepin County by email at [Penn\\_Avenue\\_Community\\_Works@hennepin.us](mailto:Penn_Avenue_Community_Works@hennepin.us).

We’ll be seeking input throughout the planning process. For project updates and information on how you can be part of the planning process, subscribe to updates on the project website at [www.hennepin.us/penn](http://www.hennepin.us/penn).

**Did you know?** On July 16, the Hennepin County Board approved [Natural Resources Incentives for Critical Habitat grant agreements](#) for implementation of best management practices that preserve critical habitat, and protect and improve water quality. Included in the approvals were grants for the Plymouth 400 project (\$50,000), Victory Rain Gardens (\$6,200) and the Holland Rain Gardens (\$4000).

**You're invited to take the survey:  
Bottineau Transitway Health Impact Assessment**

The public is invited to provide feedback on the draft [Bottineau Transitway Health Impact Assessment](#) (HIA) from now until September 15. The purpose of the Bottineau HIA is to analyze the relationships among health, transit and land uses; identify potential ways the transitway could impact health; and integrate this information into the transitway planning process.

Information and recommendations from the Bottineau HIA will be used to inform future planning of the Bottineau Transitway and proposed station areas.

Residents can visit the project website at [www.hennepin.us/bottineauhia](http://www.hennepin.us/bottineauhia) and review the summary or report and fill out a survey online. A public comment report will summarize and respond to feedback collected during the public review period and be posted on the project website after the public review period is completed.

Health impact assessments are a

**Hennepin County to host household hazardous waste events**

**Update: We're suspending work on the proposed household hazardous waste site at 27th and University NE, and the County is currently exploring options.**

Meantime, Hennepin County will host community collection events for residents to safely dispose of unwanted household hazardous wastes at no cost. The county will accept many hazardous wastes including household, lawn and garden products; items containing mercury; electronics; and fuel wastes. Waste will be accepted from households only; waste from businesses will not be accepted.



Map 1: The Bottineau Transitway



Sources: Hennepin County, MN Department of Transportation

new tool being used to consider the potential effects a proposed policy or project could have on the health of a population, and how those effects are distributed.

**Work for Hennepin County**

Our website shows 26 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include case management assistant, criminal information analyst/investigator, office specialist III, public service assistant-libraries, 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](http://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](http://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=](http://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=](http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RefDetails.cfm?DBAbbrev=OptimalResume&Topic=databases&Display=&SubTopics_Display=) (note: Subscription purchased with funding from Hennepin).

- August 15-17, 9 am to 4 pm**  
Minneapolis Public Works - Snelling Avenue, 3607 E. 44 St., Minneapolis
  - September 12-14, 9 am to 4 pm**  
University of Minnesota - Parking Lot C66 2904 Fairmount St. S.E., Minneapolis
  - October 3-5, 9 am to 4 pm**  
Hennepin County Public Works - Orono Shop, 3880 Shoreline Drive, Orono  
Hennepin County also provides residents with drop-off facilities that are open year-round at 1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington and 8100 Jefferson Hwy., Brooklyn Park.
- More info: 612-348-3777 or [www.hennepin.us/collectionevents](http://www.hennepin.us/collectionevents).

# Fill Up Your Calendar With These Upcoming Events in District 2

**St. Anthony:** *Friday-Sunday, August 2-4.* St. Anthony Villagefest. Go to [stanthonyvillagefest.org](http://stanthonyvillagefest.org) for list of activities.

*Friday, August 2, 6 pm.* St. Anthony Parade followed by street dance and celebration. See you there!

*Thursdays through August 15, 7 to 8 pm.* Salo Park summer concert series, 39th Ave NE between Silver Lake Rd and Stinson. Free. Info [here](#).

**Northeast:** *Friday, August 16, 10 am to 3 pm.* Senior Day event at Boom Island Park, presented by MAD DADS. 724 Sibley St. NE. Info [here](#).

*Sunday, August 25, 10 am.* Behind the scenes historical tour of East Hennepin, starting at the intersection of Main Street and East Hennepin Ave. \$8. Pre-register online at [preserveminneapolis.org](http://preserveminneapolis.org).

**North:** *Thursday, August 8, 6 to 8 pm. (rain date Aug. 15),* Live on the Drive, Lucy Michelle Trio. Victory Memorial Drive at 34th Ave. N. Free. Information at 612-588-1155 or visit [liveonthedrive.org](http://liveonthedrive.org).

*Tuesday, August 13, 11:30 am to 1 pm.* Washburn Center for Children groundbreaking ceremony, Glenwood and Dupont Ave. N.

**Bryn Mawr:** *Various dates.* Kids Summer field trips program. [Info](#).

**Golden Valley:** *Wednesday, August 14, 8:30-10:30 am.* Pancake breakfast and police bait car fundraiser. Covenant Village, 5800, St. Croix Ave. N. \$3.

*Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm,* Market in the Valley, under the water tower.

**Plymouth:** *Monday, August 5, 6:45 pm.* Zoomobile: Animals of the North, Hilde small stage, 3450 Plymouth Blvd. Geared toward elementary children, must be accompanied by an adult. Free. More info [here](#).

*Wednesday, August 7, 7 pm.* “[Shockwaves](#),” a water ski show including music, colorful costumes and water ski entertainment. Free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Parkers Lake Park, County Road 6 and Niagara Lane.

*Saturday, August 17, 9 am.* Paint the Pavement 5K, Hilde Amphitheater, 3450 Plymouth Blvd. \$17 in advance, \$20 on day. Info [here](#).

## Multiple Communities

*Tuesday, August 6,* see links for times and locations.

**Minnesota Night to Unite** (also known as **National Night Out**): [Plymouth](#), [Golden Valley](#), [Minneapolis](#) (see “Registered Event List”), [St. Anthony Village](#).

*Wednesdays, September 25-November 6, 6:30 to 9 pm.* Hennepin County Citizens’ Academy. See your government in action with behind the scenes tours and topics covering the many services the county offers. Register online by Aug. 2 at [Hennepin.us/citizensacademy](http://Hennepin.us/citizensacademy).

*Tuesdays starting September 10, 6:30-9 pm,* Family course on mental illness to help families gain a greater understanding of mental illness, discuss resources, build communication skills, reduce stress and find support. Presented by the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) of Minnesota. At the Bridgewater Lofts. Registration is required; call Gloria at 507-828-8082 or Helen at 763-227-0271.

*If you have events you would like to promote in our newsletter, drop an email to [tina.sanz@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:tina.sanz@co.hennepin.mn.us).*



**Battle of the Badges BBQ Cookoff!**  
**Saturday, Aug. 17, 12 to 5 pm**  
**North Commons Park**

Minneapolis Police and Firefighters are stoking up the smokers for a competition against each other with free food including hotdogs and pulled pork sandwiches! See the Fire Department’s smoke trailer as well as the MPD’s K-9, Mounted Patrol and Bomb Squad Units. The day will be full of entertainment including KMOJ, performances by James Grear, Paris Bennett, the Grammy-winning gospel group the Sounds of Blackness, drum corps teams, dance teams and more. North Commons Park is at 1801 James Ave. N. in Minneapolis. To volunteer or for further info: [mnbbqsociety.com](http://mnbbqsociety.com).