



Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

Issue Twelve

In Touch With District 2

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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.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays! Along with remembering favorite memories, Thanksgiving for me is a time for being thankful - for family and friends, good food, and all the good things in life.

Inside this newsletter, I hope you'll enjoy a few family recipes from me and all the chefs in District 2, as well as a story about new families who will enjoy their first Thanksgiving together through Hennepin County adoptions.

Wishing a happy and safe Thanksgiving to you and yours!

New County Website Launches December 4 - www.hennepin.us

Look for big changes to the Hennepin County website when a newly revamped Hennepin.us launches December 4. The innovative new site departs from the usual in a number of exciting ways. It is accessible on any device – desktop, laptop, tablet, mobile. Information is written in plain language, and is organized with the user in mind.



For the short term, some of the links you have used to find information on our site will change. We hope you'll bear with us through any inconvenience this might initially cause.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue to ensure that important information is easily to access for residents and partner organizations. Our new search engine should help you find the information you need, but if not send an email to webteam@hennepin.us. Hennepin County is committed to delivering services to audiences how and when they want them. This is how the county expects to do business in the future and is the first of many steps. We invite you to explore the new site design Dec. 4 at Hennepin.us.

Thanksgiving cooking 'throwdown' with the District 2!

Are you looking for a new Thanksgiving recipe to try this year? Don't know what to do with the leftover turkey? We hope you'll enjoy these recipes from all of us in the District 2 office!



Linda's Wild Rice Hotdish

I grew up in Iowa and had never eaten wild rice until I became part of Brian's family. My mother-in-law made fabulous wild rice. Here's her recipe.

1 bag of wild rice, washed

1 chopped onion

1 can of sliced mushrooms, including the liquid

1 can of cream of mushroom soup

Slivered almonds

OPTIONAL: browned hamburger, turkey burger or pork sausage

Put washed rice in heavy saucepan that has a lid. Boil a teakettle of water. When the water boils, pour it over the rice, put on the lid, and wait 15 minutes. During this 15 minutes, boil another teakettle of water. When the timer goes off, drain the old water and pour new boiling water on the rice. Replace the lid. Do this four times (about an hour total) until the rice is open and ready to eat.

If you're adding the meat, brown it in a frying pan. During the last parboiling, sauté onion in a little butter, then add the mushrooms and liquid. Add soup. When the rice is ready, put it all together. Then pour in a buttered oven-safe dish. Add some slivered almonds on top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes.

Roshonda's Turkey Tater Tot Hotdish

During the holidays, my grandmother would love to watch daytime television shows so that she could get some ideas for new dishes to make for the holidays. Here is a recipe that she saw for leftover turkey.

What you'll need

2 lbs. of leftover turkey (tear into shreds)

1 – 32 oz. bag of tater tots (you probably won't use the whole bag)

2 – 10.75 oz. cans of Campbell's Cream of Chicken and Mushroom Soup (1 can per pound of turkey and 3 cans if you want it extra creamy)

2 cups of mixed shredded cheese (whatever mix of cheeses you like and depending on how much cheese you like; I usually do Colby, Monterey Jack and Mozzarella)

Table salt and/or Lawry's Season Salt (use to your liking)

9 x 13 glass baking dish

Directions

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. While oven is heating, mix turkey and soup in a bowl, add salt to your liking and fold over well. Arrange a layer of tater tots in the bottom of the 9 x 13, then spread the turkey and soup mixture over the top of the tots, sprinkle with cheese (as much as you like); add another layer of tater tots and soup mixture (you should have about two layers). Put into the oven and bake uncovered for about 30 minutes or until you can see the bottom layer of the tots starting to brown. Take out of the oven and add cheese to the top (as much as you like); put back into the oven until cheese is thoroughly melted. After the cheese is melted, take out of the oven, let stand for about 10 minutes and serve with a tossed salad.

Tina's Creamy-Zingy Cranberry Relish

(as modified from a recipe by Craig Claiborne)

I love to cook, and my family (which includes a dear neighbor who has become family) includes traditionalists as well as a vegetarian, so I like to mix it up around the holidays. This recipe, though not traditional, is liked by everyone.

Ingredients

2 cups whole raw cranberries, washed

1 small onion

3/4 cup sour cream

1/2 cup sugar (or substitute 1/4 c sugar and correct proportion of Stevia or another sweetener)

2 tablespoons horseradish from a jar (for gentler taste buds, start with 1 tablespoon and add to taste)

Preparation: Grind or use a food processor to mix the raw berries and onion together. You want a chunky mix, not a puree. Add everything else and mix. Put in a plastic container and freeze (or refrigerate 2-plus hours). Early Thanksgiving morning, move it from freezer to refrigerator compartment to thaw. The relish will be thick, creamy and shocking **PINK**.

National Adoption Day at Hennepin



On Saturday morning, Nov. 23, Hennepin County Adoption and Foster Care staff hosted the 17th annual National Adoption Day event. Fourteen families adopted 20 children from Hennepin County's Adoption Program. I attended, along with Commissioner Dorfman.

These very special children ranged in ages from 1 to 13 years old. Families that finalized adoptions on Adoption Day included relatives, foster families and new adoptive families.

Fourth Judicial District Court Judges Herbert Lefler, David Piper and John McShane presided over adoption finalization hearings on the 3rd floor of Hennepin County Juvenile Court.

Meanwhile, the celebration continued throughout the morning on the 2nd floor with face painting, balloons, cake, arts and crafts, and family portraits. A program followed the hearings with speakers congratulating the families and presenting certificates of adoption to each child.

Beautiful roses were donated for the adoptive parents by [Floral Logic](#) of Minneapolis. Volunteer photographers from [Discerning Light Photography](#) set up a mini studio in an unused court room. [Target Corporation](#) sent a team of volunteers so each family had their own escort throughout the morning.

As we celebrate with these children and their new adoptive families, we urge everyone to keep in mind: foster and

adoptive families are truly needed right now in Hennepin County. Foster homes are needed to support family reunification and to be there when reunification is not possible. 71 of our Hennepin County children are currently waiting for adoption. Most of these children are age 9 and older. Many are teens. Each child deserves a family!



As President Obama said in his 2013 Proclamation on November as National Adoption Month:

"During National Adoption Month, we celebrate these families and stand alongside every child still looking for the warmth and stability of a permanent home."

Please visit our website to learn more or to find an information meeting on foster care or adoption at a local Hennepin County library.

www.hennepin.us/adoption or www.hennepin.us/fostercare.

Work for Hennepin County

Our website shows 29 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include administrative manager, coordinating librarian, database administrator, food service, office specialist III, 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).

Fill Up Your Calendar With These Upcoming Events in District 2

St. Anthony: Mondays, December 2, 9, 13 and 16. 7 pm. St. Anthony Band and Choir concerts. St. Anthony Village H.S. Auditorium, 3303 33rd Ave NE. stanthony.k12.mn.us/node/116 for further information (FFI).

Thurs., Sun., and Mon., Dec. 12, 15 and 16, 5:30 pm. The St. Anthony Fire Department is once again visiting the streets of St. Anthony bringing *Santa on the Fire Truck* and collecting toys for the USMC "Toys for Tots" program. See the events calendar at ci.saint-anthony.mn.us for multiple locations.

Northeast: Sunday, Dec. 1, 11 am to 4 pm. International Christmas Festival, featuring international music, plus a variety of crafts and jewelry, and an ethnic luncheon with pierogies, cabbage rolls, sausage and borscht. Adults \$5, kids 6 to 12 y/o \$1, under 6 y/o free. Ukrainian American Community Ctr., 301 Main St NE, Mpls. FFI.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 am to 5 pm. Empty Bowls NE. Local foodie destinations Hazel's, Chowgirls, and The Bulldog provide soup; artists provide bowls; guests pay what they can; and proceeds benefit hunger. Eastside Neighborhood Svcs., 1700 NE 2nd St, Mpls. emptybowlsne.blogspot.com.

North: Saturday, Dec. 7, 4 to 5 pm. Camden Music School FUNdraiser. Singalong, craft and bake sale. Luther Memorial Church, 3751 Sheridan Ave N, Minneapolis.



Friday, Dec. 6, 6 to 9 pm. Holiday on 44th. Horse drawn hay wagons, pony rides, roasted chestnuts, marshmallows, music, dancing, a craft show, cookie decorating, and more. Free, except the food for sale by local restaurants. Bring non-perishable food donation for the Camden Promise food shelf. 44th Avenue N between Morgan and Upton.

Monday, Dec. 9, 7 to 8:30 pm. A Christmas Gift Concert to benefit the Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC), which last year provided gifts for 1,300 low-income children. Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis. Tickets \$20. More info at thecapritheater.org.

Thursday, Dec. 26, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Families, celebrate Kwanzaa with stories and crafts with storyteller Auntie Beverly. Sumner Library, 611 Van White Mem. Blvd. Mpls.

Bryn Mawr: Thursday, Dec. 5, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Annual Anwatin Arts & Crafts Fair. Music by the Anwatin Music Department along with an "Empty Bowls" community

service project. Proceeds from the food and Empty Bowls sales will benefit local food shelves. Anwatin Middle School, 256 Upton Avenue S.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 4 to 10 pm. Saturnalia Winter Festival, presented by the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Business Association and held in downtown Bryn Mawr. Including musical performers, storytelling for children, hayride tours, masked reveling, hot chocolate and hot apple cider, toasted marshmallows, 'smores, chestnuts, and a visit from Santa Claus.

North Loop: Saturday, November 30. Celebrate Small Business Saturday Like a Local. North Loop. northloop.org

Golden Valley: Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 pm. Golden Valley novelist Charles Quimby will read from his new book, "Monument Road", a modern western that brings together unlikely characters in the rugged landscape of southwestern Colorado. Golden Valley Library Community Room, 830 Winnetka Ave N. FFI.

Plymouth: Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 to 5 pm. Old Fashioned Christmas. Step back in time with the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the holidays. Elves supervise as families visit Santa, nibble on cookies and listen to tales of Christmas' past. Horses and hay rides. No registration to attend. This family event provides activities for all ages. Plymouth Creek Park, 3625 Fernbrook Ln. More info.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m. The Plymouth Concert Band, along with the Maple Grove Jazz Ensemble, will hold a holiday concert at the Wayzata High School Auditorium, 4955 Peony Lane, Plymouth. plymouthconcertband.org.

Multiple Communities: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:30 to 8 pm. Learn about current drug abuse trends in your local community. Experts will provide simple, practical techniques to help kids make healthy choices and avoid substance abuse. Sponsored by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the Partnership for Change. Fellowship Hall, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 7401 CR 101, Maple Grove. Info: 612-543-0443 or lisa.kiava@hennepin.us.

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

Be the next Miss Teen Hennepin County

Applications are now being accepted for the title of 2014 Miss Teen Hennepin County. Contestants must live in Hennepin County, be between the ages of 13 to 18 years and single to qualify. Prize package includes scholarship totaling \$10,000. There will be no talent or swimsuit competition. Applications are due Dec. 31, 2013. Interestingly, the current Miss Teen Minnesota International - Megan Muehlberg - is from Hennepin County and represents her platform, Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) Awareness, across the state. Visit missteenminnesota.com for more information.