



## Hennepin County Commissioner Linda Higgins

October 2014

### In Touch With District 2

#### Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT) gets federal nod to go forward

On August 22, the federal government gave the Metropolitan Council approval to begin designing the METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT Project) - the region's fourth LRT project - by approving its entry into the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) New Starts program. The Blue Line Extension joins an exclusive list of 12 transitway projects across the country that are part of the FTA New Starts program, all of which have the same goal of securing federal funding. During this phase, preliminary engineering work begins and environmental review comes to a close with publication of the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

As the project moves into this next phase, the Metropolitan Council will become the lead local agency for engineering and construction of the Blue Line Extension. In order to make the Blue Line Extension a reality, the Metropolitan Council must move forward with engineering while continuing to engage stakeholders, obtain municipal approvals, and secure local and state funding. [Details about the METRO Blue Line Extension are available here.](#)



Photo credit: SRF Consulting for the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority

Hennepin County will remain active in the project, leading station area planning efforts in close collaboration with our city partners. Station area planning fosters a dialogue with cities, neighborhoods and residents along the route about their needs, desires and concerns for how the station will fit into their community. Station area plans also help prepare communities for a major transitway investment like the Blue Line Extension, and identify the investments needed to fit the line into neighborhoods by opening day.

This process is underway as part of the county's Bottineau LRT Community Works Project and will be completed by April 2016. [For more information and updates on station area planning, please visit the county's project website.](#)

#### To Contact Our Office

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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.

#### Property Taxes Reminder

Second half property taxes are due on October 15, 2014. For more information visit [hennepin.us/PropertyTaxPayments](http://hennepin.us/PropertyTaxPayments).

## Coming soon - Hennepin County Library gets a new website!

Hennepin County Library has upgraded its website [hclib.org](http://hclib.org) in response to new technology and changing patron needs. The new site is mobile-friendly and easy to use on your tablet or mobile device.

Please take a moment to explore!

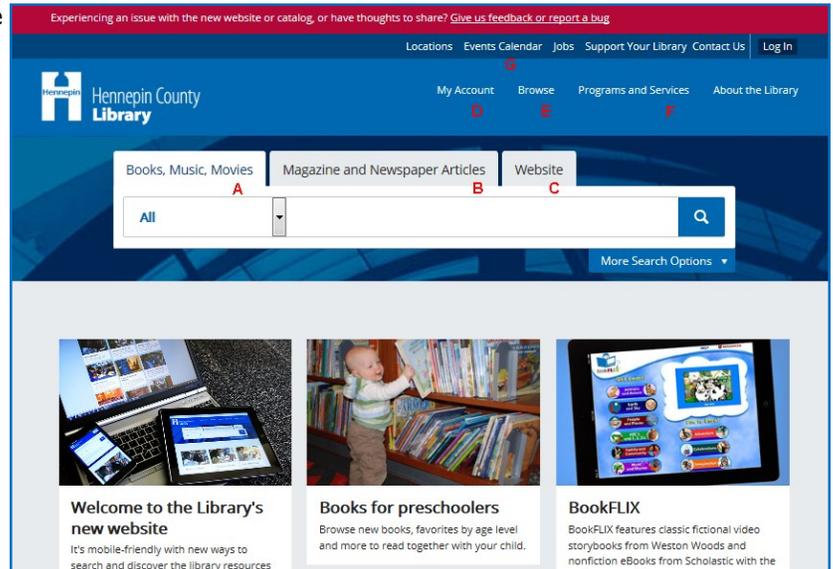
The site offers new search options and stronger search results to help you find the library resources and services you need. Search for library materials of all types under "Books, Music, Movies" [A, at right]; find articles quickly under "Magazine and Newspaper Articles" [B]; and search everything on the website, from resources to events, under "Website." [C]

The cutting-edge catalog under "Books, Music, Movies" has new features including improved access to eBooks and "You May Also Like" suggestions.

Under "My Account," [D] you can opt in to share your library account with someone else, or create a guest account without a library card to make lists, write book reviews and more.

Under "Browse," [E] you'll find book lists and new items for all ages, as well as nearly 200 online resources you can sort by category, for example "Health and wellness" or "Genealogy and local history."

Online resources are also grouped with events and other library resources under "Programs and Services." [F]. This



section features primary library services such as "Homework help" and "Early learning." For detailed event information, browse or search the "Events Calendar." [G].

The new website was built on a solid foundation of user testing and research to improve your experience with the Library.

*If you experience an issue with the new website or have thoughts to share, give your feedback using the link in the red bar at the top of each page or with the "Ask Us" link on every page.*



## North Minneapolis Human Services Center Public Art Installation Is Complete

The North Minneapolis Human Services Center at Plymouth and Emerson Avenues North now displays art designed by students at Juxtaposition Arts, a visual art center that works with youth. The public art also includes a light show through the windows behind the arrow.

Photos by Juxtaposition Arts



## Board adopts maximum property tax levy, sets public hearings about levy and budget



The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a maximum property-tax levy for 2015 of \$699.9 million – 2.75 percent higher than the 2014 levy. The impact of the proposed maximum property tax levy, along with the proposed property tax levies for the Regional Railroad Authority and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, results in an approximate increase in property taxes of \$36 or 3.8 percent for a median valued home. Including 2015, Hennepin County's property tax levy has increased by an average of just 0.19 percent per year over the past four years. [Read more...](#)

## Absentee voting started September 19. GO VOTE!

Absentee voting for the 2014 general election began on September 19 and runs through Monday, November 3. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. This year Minnesotans will elect a U.S. senator, U.S. representatives, the governor and a wide variety of state, county, city and school district offices. In Hennepin County, residents will elect three commissioners, the sheriff and the county attorney. For a sample ballot, visit my [ballotmn.sos.state.mn.us](http://ballotmn.sos.state.mn.us).

Any eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot for any reason, and absentee ballots can be cast by mail, in



person, or by having someone you know pick up and deliver the ballot. For more information about voting and elections, go to [www.hennepin.us/elections](http://www.hennepin.us/elections) or call Hennepin County at 612-348-5151.

## Fix-It Clinic celebrates two years of success

*Nearly 10,000 pounds diverted from the waste stream by Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics, while creating community and teaching basic repair skills.*

Hennepin County's popular Fix-It Clinic program celebrated its second anniversary in September. At Fix-It Clinics, residents can bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more – then receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix their items. Since 2012, the program has helped 1,419 attendees fix 1,529 items - with an average fix rate of 76 percent. Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections, and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash. To date, 9,885 pounds have been diverted from the waste stream, and volunteers have donated more than 2,400 hours. More information [here](#).

### Upcoming Fix-It Clinics

- Saturday, October 11, noon to 4 pm, Hennepin County Library – North Regional, 1315 Lowry Ave. N, Minneapolis
- Saturday, November 8, noon to 4 pm, Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center, 5600 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park
- Sunday, December 14, noon to 4 pm, Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Pkwy., Golden Valley

## Work for Hennepin County

Our website shows 26 positions currently available at Hennepin County. Positions include assistant engineering technician, database administrator, strategic communications officer, 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!**

## Volunteer opportunity

Hennepin County's Human Services and Public Health department is looking for friendly, reliable people to volunteer as greeters at the new North Minneapolis human services office at 1001 Plymouth Avenue North. Greeters will welcome and guide visitors, answer questions and assist with special projects.

Successful candidates will be 18 years old or older and will be good communicators and team players. Candidates will be expected to be reliable, self-starters who are respectful of client confidentiality. They also should enjoy working with diverse populations. Bilingual skills are a plus.

The department is looking for volunteers who can commit to two four-hour shifts each work week – morning or afternoon – for at least three months.

Interested volunteer candidates should call 612-348-5835 or contact

[kristine.poelzer@hennepin.us](mailto:kristine.poelzer@hennepin.us).

## Upcoming Events in District 2!

**St. Anthony:** *Saturday, October 11, 1-4pm.* St. Anthony Village Fire Department Open House, 3505 Silver Lake Road.

**Northeast:** *Wednesday, October 8, 6:30pm.* Minnesota Opera preview at Northeast Library, 2200 Central Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Registration required.

*Sunday, October 13, 11:30am-1:30pm.* Flu Shots at United Methodist Church, 2510 Cleveland Street NE, Minneapolis.

*Thursday, October 16, 6-10pm.* Farmers Market Harvest Gala. The Northeast Minneapolis Farmers Market (NEFM) will host this third annual event. Solar Arts Building, 711 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Minneapolis. \$15 in advance.

*Saturday, October 18, 1-4pm.* Northeast Big River Brew Fest. East Side Neighborhood Services will host this fourth annual event. 1700 2nd St NE. See [esns.org](http://esns.org). \$25 advance or \$10 for designated driver.

*Thursday, October 30, 5-7pm.* Northeast Celebration: An Evening of Business and Community Awards. The Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the East Side Exchange Club are hosting. Tickets \$40.

*Friday, October 31, 6-8pm.* Halloween Party. All kids and families are invited. Bottineau Park, 2000 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE, Minneapolis.

**North:** *Monday, October 6, 6-8:30pm.* North First: Education. The Northside Neighborhoods Council will host this get to know other residents and neighborhood organizations over dinner event. Capri Theater, 2927 West Broadway.

**North Loop:** *Saturday, October 4, 11am-5pm.* Blues 'N' Brew Festival. A classic fall neighborhood celebration. Admission is free. Target Field Station.

*Saturday, October 11, 2-6pm.* Explore the North Loop. Have you ever thought: What is it like to live in that building or to work in that building? Walk, bike or drive to some of the hippest homes and offices in the North Loop. Visit [northloop.org](http://northloop.org), tickets \$15/advance.

**Bryn Mawr:** *Thursday, October 9, 6-8pm.* Sip and Stroll. Have a sip, have a snack, have a chat with a business owner. Visit [bmna.org](http://bmna.org) for more information.

*Thursday, October 30, 6-8pm.* Harvest Dinner. Visit [bmna.org](http://bmna.org) for more information.

**Golden Valley:** *Saturday, October 11, 8am-1pm.* 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mighty Tidy Day. Dump your junk! Visit [goldenvalleymn.gov](http://goldenvalleymn.gov) for a list of dump items and fees.

*Saturday, October 11, 2-4pm.* Public Safety Open House for families with autism. Families will have the opportunity to interact with police officers and firefighters while learning about safety. Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7800 Golden Valley Road.

*October 25, 8am-1pm and October 31, 8am-4pm.* Annual Leaf Drop-Off. Golden Valley's recycling program includes a leaf drop-off program in the fall. Visit [goldenvalleymn.gov](http://goldenvalleymn.gov) for drop-off sites and more information.

**Medicine Lake:** *Thursday, October 9, 6:30pm.* Plymouth Lions Dinner Meeting, Medicine Lake City Hall. Visit [plymouthlions.org](http://plymouthlions.org) for more information.

**Plymouth:** *Saturday, October 11, 3pm.* Plymouth Fire Department Open House. Have fun while learning about safety. Fire Station III, 3300 Dunkirk Lane.

*Thursday, October 16, 6:30-7:45pm.* Home Alone Workshop. The Plymouth Police and Fire departments will host this workshop for children ages 8 to 10. Public Safety building, 3400 Plymouth Blvd. \$5.

*Saturday, October 25.* Pet Expo. This expo provides something for everyone from pet fanatics to the casual pet admirer. Visit [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov) for times and scheduled events. \$3 (under 12 free).

*Friday, October 31, 6-8pm.* Halloween at the Creek. Have a fantastically fun time during this family festival. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### Multiple Communities:

Get a behind-the-scenes history lesson by taking the East Hennepin Historic Walking Tour. Visit [northeastminneapolis.com](http://northeastminneapolis.com) for dates and times.

The Hennepin History Museum is proud to present free first Thursdays. Admission to the museum and archive reading room is free to all on the first Thursday of the month in 2014. Thursday hours are 1-8 pm for the museum galleries, and 1-5 pm for the archive reading room. 2303 Third Ave S, Minneapolis. [hennepinhistory.org](http://hennepinhistory.org).

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