



The Vista View

Official Publication of the Minikahda Vista Neighborhood Association*

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012

Association E-Mail Address: vistaview6@gmail.com

Official Website: <http://www.stlouispark.org/minikahda-vista.html>

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The deadline for ads, articles and photos for the April-May-June Vista View is April 5. E-mail: lindapaul3925@q.com

or call Linda Jennings at 952-925-4283. Your ideas and contributions are welcomed.

Join Your Neighbors!

2012 promises to be an eventful year in Minikahda Vista thanks to residents who have volunteered to begin planning new events and activities as well as coordinate the neighborhood's ongoing popular events.

The annual meeting on Nov. 30 generated enthusiasm for a community garden, park improvements, two-way communication venues, grants to community nonprofits, a winter event, and a fall event, plus continuing the Plant Swap and Sale, Garage Sale, and National Night Out.

If you have ideas to share and would like to get involved, contact these neighbors (lead contacts are *) or Steering Committee Chair Claudia Johnston-Madison (922-1324).

PLANT SWAP AND SALE (*Saturday, May 12*): Christine Lehman* (612-229-4545); Judy Brink (920-4364); John Fox (612-860-8153)

GARAGE SALE (*Saturday, June 23*): Jane Hallett (928-0201); Rose Doherty* (612-998-9574)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (*Tuesday, Aug. 7*): Erica Gibbons* (609-947-1307); Rebecca Phelan (285-7164); Jodi Wiken (924-0944); Heidi Weller (612-310-0867); Renae Kuehl (612-207-3623)

PLANNING FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN: Erica Gibbons*; Judy Brink (920-4364)

PLANNING A MINIKAHDA VISTA GRANT PROGRAM TO BENEFIT SLP NONPROFITS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING A SERVICE COMPONENT

John Herbert* (922-1405)

--article concludes on page 3--

Forum Aims to Help Residents Build a Better Neighborhood

The City of St. Louis Park is sponsoring its annual Neighborhood Leaders Forum **Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** in City Council Chambers in City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd.

Plan to attend if you are interested in discussing why neighborhoods are important and what the City can do to keep neighborhoods strong. The forum also provides the opportunity to share ideas about activities and to network with leaders from the City's 26 other neighborhoods.

City Manager Tom Harmening will give a "mini" State of the City address and Officer Sysko will discuss "Safe Neighborhoods: Active Neighborhood Watch & Crime Prevention Strategies." Call 952-924-2184 for more information.

20th Remodeling Fair Offers Latest Advice

The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair will take place **Sunday, Feb. 26**, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. The fair is open to the public free of charge.

The 20th version of this popular event features current information on ways to improve your home and yard. There will be more than 100 exhibitors and seminars and demonstrations will be presented throughout the day.

Among the “green” programs to be offered is one on **Building Your Personal Solar Station** (the station can be used to run 12V appliances, lights and more).

Other program topics include:

- Sustain Your Terrain: Green Landscaping**
- Plumbing Repair Basics**
- Organic Lawn Care**
- Bath Remodeling 2012**
- Install Laminate Flooring**
- Plan Your Project Online**
- Maximizing Your Backyard’s Potential**



- Tips to a Successful Kitchen Remodeling**
- Decorative Painting Techniques**
- Refinishing Wood Floors**
- Rain Gardens and Barrels**
- Planning & Executing a Home Remodeling**

At the Ask a Pro booth, you can get advice from architects, landscape experts, kitchen designers, and interior designers. There is no charge or obligation. Bring photos, sketches and questions. For more information on the program schedule, go to the website:

www.homeremodelingfair.com

Face painting and project building will be available for children. Many door prizes will be awarded, and The Wetlands Cafe will be open for snacks, lunch and beverages.

The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is sponsored by the cities of St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, Golden Valley, and Hopkins as well as the community education departments of St. Louis Park, Minnetonka, and Hopkins.

 <p>EDINA MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST <i>We are an Open & Affirming Congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities.</i></p> <p>4201 Morningside Rd. Edina, 55416 - 952-926-6555 or www.emcucc.org Rev. Rosemary Rocha, Pastor</p>	
<p><i>Sunday worship 10 am, Nursery care is always provided. Sunday School includes classes for preschool thru 12th grade. We hope you'll visit soon.</i></p> <p>Sat. Feb 11, 3 pm - Cole Porter Concert</p> <p>Third Sunday of the Month - 7 pm - Taize Worship Half hour service of music, scripture and silence.</p> <p>Sun. Feb 19 - Mardi Gras Sunday & Pancakes Wear a costume, or just show up for this wonderful, lively and spirit-filled worship followed by pancake breakfast fundraiser for summer Youth Mission Trip.</p>	<p>Wed. Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday - 6 pm - soup supper 6:30 pm - Service of Ashes & Communion; 7-8 pm—Education for all ages; childcare</p> <p>Palm Sunday, April 1 Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7 pm Communion & Tenebrae, readings of texts for the last hours of Jesus' life, extinguishing candles and light. Good Friday, April 6, 12:15-12:45 pm - Readings EASTER, April 8. 7:30 am—service in Browndale Park 10 am - Traditional Easter Worship</p>
<p>Edina Morningside Nursery School</p>  <p>4201 Morningside Road 952-926-6555 Beth Henrich, Director www.emcucc.org</p>	<p>Wonderful preschool nestled in the charming Morningside neighborhood of Edina since 1946.</p> <p>♥ Fostering Confidence, Independence, Empathy, & Friendships ♥ ♥ Creative Play ♥ Problem Solving ♥ Kindergarten Readiness ♥</p> <p>Accepting children 3 to 5 years of age for Fall 2012 9-11:30AM or 12:30-3PM Sessions</p>

Little Free Library Encourages Book Sharing

The Little Free Library -- a new movement that promotes the love of reading and builds a sense of community -- has come to the Minikahda Vista area.

Many of you likely have seen the Little Free Library at 4011 Natchez Ave. S., Edina (see photo).

The Wisconsin creators of the Little Free Library intend that people share their favorite books with others -- that is, take a book, leave a book. The more people who participate, the better. Leaving notes, bookmarks, and original reviews add the personal and meaningful touch that can make all the difference. Donated books should not be just old discards.



In about a year, little free libraries have been established in dozens of states and in Africa, with most of the interest in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. For more information, go to:

www.littlefreelibrary.org

The website includes directions on how to build your own little library, as well as several types of ready-made little libraries that can be purchased online.

Settergren Ace Hardware store in Linden Hills (2813 43rd St.) has libraries in stock.

The Little Free Library website also includes specials, such as free books being provided by Minnesota publishers Coffee House Press, Milkweed Editions, and Graywolf Press.

Join Your Neighbors!

(continued from page 1)

PLANNING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN

MINIKAHDA VISTA PARK: John Herbert (922-1405); Claudia Johnston-Madison (922-1324) Note: John and Claudia were recently appointed to the new citizens advisory committee -- the Community Recreation Task Force which will consider ideas and locations for a community center based on demographics.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATION

Renae Kuehl (612-207-3523); Heidi Weller (612-310-0867); Linda Jennings* (925-4283)

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered!

See Dollars for Scholars Letter

Accompanying this newsletter is a letter from the St. Louis Park Chapter of Dollars for Scholars, an all-volunteer organization that provides financial support to local students. Dollars for Scholars is seeking donations for 2012 scholarships.

Last year, two students received scholarship awards from the Minikahda Vista neighborhood -- Ellen Calder and Erika Kjos -- and your donations made this possible.

St. Louis Park Again Named Among 100 Best Communities for Young People

For the fifth consecutive time, St. Louis Park has achieved national recognition as one of America's Promise Alliance's "100 Best Communities for Young People."

The competition recognizes communities across the country that focus on reducing high school dropout rates and on providing services and support to its youth. St. Louis Park makes youth a priority through such programs as BARR, Children First, and HEROES. The St. Louis Park high school graduation rate is 95.2 percent. For more information, go to the City website: www.stlouispark.org

Anyone interested in learning more about how to support youth in the community is invited to the **Children First Asset Champion Fair on Tuesday, Jan. 31**, 7-9 p.m. at AAA Minneapolis, 5400 Auto Club Way.

The fair is an opportunity to connect with people committed to the healthy development of youth. More than 25 local organizations will have display tables.

Crave Restaurant will provide light refreshments. Reservations are not required and there is no charge.



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St. Louis Park, MN
952-545-6544**

"Offer valid at Fourteen Foods locations (or store specific location/s if applicable) only. Not valid with other offers or promotions. Limit one coupon per customer, per visit. Void if altered or copied. No cash value."



In early January, a red fox was spotted drinking from a backyard bird water station on the 39th and Joppa Ave. block. According to Becky McConnell, naturalist at Westwood Hills Nature Center, the fox is likely suffering from mange (hence, the scruffy appearance, especially the hairless tail). She notes that foxes are crepuscular -- meaning they tend to be active at dawn and dusk. Their diet at this time of year could include mice, rabbits, squirrels, and birds, as well as berries and seeds. They live in dens only when it is very cold. During a milder winter, they may live under decks, in hollowed-out logs, and even in a thicket of plants.

Check the Nature Center's schedule to register for programs on the rebel robin, maple syruping, phenology (study of seasonal change), and more. Call 952-924-2544 for more information.

Have you updated your resume lately?
I can help!

Julie K. Huber

Business Writer
&

SLP Resident ~ Browndale Neighbor

612•720•6609 ~ juliehuber@me.com

Resumes • Coverletters
Related Correspondence

Resolve to Get Involved

The **St. Louis Park Historical Society** was founded in 1971 to collect, preserve, and disseminate the history of the City of St. Louis Park. The Historical Society is a nonprofit organization and is wholly dependent on membership dues and donations for its operating costs, including the cost of mailing the Re-Echo newsletter. The archives of the Society are located in the Historical Depot in Jorvig Park, 37th and Brunswick, and at the Lenox Community Center, 6715 Minnetonka Blvd. For more info: <http://www.slphistory.org/about/default.asp>

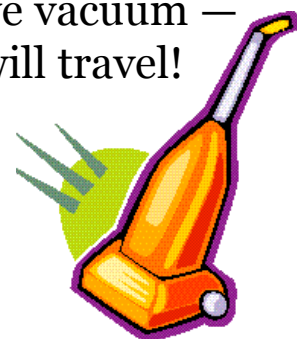
St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts is seeking board members for three-year terms. The community group is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing arts in St. Louis Park. For more information, go the group's enhanced website, including an interactive community calendar and blog: <http://www.slpfriendsofthearts.org/>

Meyers Housecleaning



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- Bi-Weekly
- Monthly



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Fine Gardening's blog entry on Nov. 14, 2011 featured Kendall and Diana Kamp's Minikahda Vista backyard garden. Their son, John Benjamin Kamp, a landscape designer and urban planner, created the garden. His goal was to turn a somewhat haphazard perennial garden into one with more structure but one that still retain its wild roots. "I like to play with those kinds of contrasts - formal/wild, modern/rustic - and so that's what guided this project," John said. He cut a series of pathways and a gathering circle into the landscape. Then he added mostly grasses and shrubs to give the landscape more muscle and winter/year-round interest. Nectar and pollen sources were situated to create a good monarch butterfly habitat. At one point last summer, 20 monarchs were fluttering about. For more info: www.finegardening.com/item/21381/reader-photos-johns-parents-garden-in-Minnesota

Congratulations to...

◆**Local St. Louis Park High School students** who participated in the fall play, "Little Shop of Horrors." The Hennepin Theatre Trust recently announced winners of its fall SpotLight Theatre program and St. Louis Park High School received outstanding overall performance, outstanding performance by a student orchestra, and honorable mention for overall production, as well as five student awards.

◆**Rebecca Phelan**, Minikahda Vista resident, who recently completed Children First's Asset Champion training. Susan Lindgren School and Wooddale Lutheran Church also are included among the Asset Champions for kids.

◆**Max's**, a jewelry store at Excelsior & Grand. A retail trade magazine awarded the store first place in the small store division in its 2011 "America's Coolest Stores" competition. Judges stated: "It would be unusual for one factor to make a store cool and Max's exemplifies a really cool store. The combination of jewelry, home decor and chocolates wonderfully captures customer attention."

Greg Loffhagen, Agent
4801 Excelsior Blvd
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www.gregloffhagen.com

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Idioms

By Lorrie Moen

Last fall I joined a writing group – not so much to learn how to write, but to have new writing experiences, and believe me, I have had them! Early on, our leader instructed us to write haikus in class, which I have never done, but desperation is inspiration, and I wrote four in about three minutes. The instruction to write a twenty-six line story with each line beginning with a different letter of the alphabet was a snap, and although mine was not particularly good, it was fun and I finished in six minutes. When our homework was to write an entire story using idioms, I loudly proclaimed, “This is

going to be hard!”

On the way home in the car, I was listening to the news from the Iowa caucus, and suddenly my story using idioms write itself. Even though I respect anyone who is willing to run for public office, this is my story:

A ringing endorsement
for ‘Idioms’ --
a story that will
tickle your funny bone!

IDIOMS

I’m going out on a limb to say that sometimes politicians drive me up a wall.

The minute a politician throws his hat in the ring, he starts talking out of both sides of his mouth, tooting his own horn and slinging mud. Sometimes he is a

broken record!

When he takes the stage, he promises to run a clean race and stick to his guns. He promises to keep his shoulder to the wheel and his nose to the grindstone. He shoots his mouth off about things costing an arm and a leg and about big bankers preying on the little people.

He says his opponent is a barefaced liar, doesn’t care about the blue-collar people, is pulling the wool over people’s eyes and is constantly painting a dark picture. After a speech he invites people to grill him and to ask him anything because he is all ears.

He says he will jump through hoops to prove he is the best candidate, when actually he is talking through his hat and doesn’t have a leg to stand on.

In the end, he throws in the towel, and hits the road.

After surviving this writing challenge, I had a chocolate moose for dinner. Yes, language is fun.

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952-926-7603



STEP's Empty Bowls Scheduled March 8

STEP will sponsor its 11th annual Empty Bowls event on **Thursday, March 8**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m., to raise money for SLP's food shelf.

As usual, the event takes place at The Rec Center and features a variety of soups donated by local restaurants. Attendees are encouraged to make a free-will offering. In addition to soup and bread, diners also can enjoy music performed by community residents and take home a handmade bowl.



Last year, Empty Bowls attracted more than 850 guests and raised more than \$13,500 for STEP, including matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Because the event takes place during MN FoodShare's March Campaign, STEP can leverage funds raised to buy more food.

Minikahda Vista Neighborhood Association Steering Committee

Claudia Johnston-Madison, <i>Co-chair</i>	952-922-1324
Erica Gibbons, <i>Co-chair</i>	609-947-1307
Julie Wells, <i>Treasurer</i>	952-929-7626
Linda Jennings, <i>Newsletter</i>	952-925-4283
Christine Lehman*, <i>Plant Swap</i>	612-229-4545
Judy Brink, <i>Plant Swap</i>	952-920-4364
John Fox, <i>Plant Swap</i>	612-860-8153
Rose Doherty*, <i>Garage Sale</i>	612-998-9574
Jane Hallett, <i>Garage Sale</i>	952-928-0201
John Herbert*, <i>Grants</i>	952-922-1405
Rena Kuehl, <i>Communications, NNO</i>	612-207-3623
Heidi Weller, <i>Communications, NNO</i>	612-310-0867
Rebecca Phelan, <i>NNO</i>	952-285-7164
Jodi Wiken, <i>NNO</i>	952-924-0944

Minikahda Vista Website

Website: http://www.stlouispark.org/minikahda_vista
If you have suggestions for the website, contact Christine Lehman at vistaview6@gmail.com.

Minikahda Vista Historian

A long-time resident or interested in SLP history? Contact Dell Askegaard at 952-922-6254.



Residential Homes
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St. Louis Park Dollars for SCHOLARS®



Dear Minikahda Vista Neighbors,

Winter 2012

Each new year brings our renewed drive to raise money for the St. Louis Park chapter of Dollars for Scholars. A donation to the **Minikahda Vista Neighborhood Scholarship** will help a St. Louis Park graduating senior with the costs of postsecondary education. The St. Louis Park Chapter of Dollars for Scholars is an all-volunteer organization that provides financial support to local students. Our newsletter explains more about our community program to help local students with college expenses.

Last year, two students received scholarship awards from the Minikahda Vista neighborhood – Ellen Calder and Erika Kjos – and your donations made this possible! Ellen, who is attending Drake University, wrote “Thank you for making this scholarship possible. I have been a volunteer for Dollars for Scholars for the past seven years. I am excited about starting this next part of my education in Iowa.” Erika wrote, “Thank you so much. I’m gearing up for the University of Minnesota. I am excited to begin at the College of Food, Natural Sciences and Agriculture as I pursue an interest in a Nutrition and Dietetics degree. Thanks for believing in me and my quest to earn a college degree.”

Generous support from neighborhoods has kept scholarship funds growing and has allowed Dollars for Scholars to honor St. Louis Park graduates each year. In fact, this past school year, over \$79,000 was awarded to more than 108 seniors graduating from Park High. Your support for this program shows our students that as a community we value their hard work and demonstrates support for the Children First initiative as well. Providing financial support for higher education and investing in the education of young people has an impact not only on their lives but also on our community as a whole. A small contribution from each household in the neighborhood will add up to a significant scholarship. Contributors will be recognized in the program for Awards Night in May.

Make a difference in a young person’s future with a scholarship donation. It is easy to donate and your gift is tax deductible – choose one of these options:

1. **Mail to: SLP Dollars for Scholars, Minikahda Vista Neighborhood,
PO Box 16403, St. Louis Park, MN 55416-0403**
2. **Log onto GiveMN.org and type “St. Louis Park Dollars for Scholars” as the nonprofit group in the DONATE box and follow the instructions to donate**

On behalf of all the students in our community, thank you so much for your generous support and for the leadership you provide as good citizens of St. Louis Park.

Sylvia Timian and Diane Vig, Board members, SLP Dollars for Scholars

***If mailing your donation, please complete your name and e-mail address below and send this with your gift. Thank you!**

2012 Minikahda Vista Neighborhood Scholarship

Name: _____

E-mail: _____