



County news for the 2nd District from **Commissioner Mark Stengle**

Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, north and northeast Minneapolis, south New Hope, southeast Plymouth and St

July 2010

Welcome back to the District 2 newsletter. In this edition, we look at the winning cities of the 2010 Step some Affordable Housing Grants that the board handed out; learn how Hennepin County residents are environment; see some nice recognition for HCMC as well as approved funding for a new hyperbaric o be eligible to fill out an absentee ballot for the August 10 primary; get updated on the Lowry Avenue B Drive projects; and preview National Night Out, which will be held this year on August 3.

[View all Board meetings and minutes online.](#)

\$3.15 Million in Affordable Housing Grants Approved

The Hennepin County Board, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, approved \$3.15 million in Incentive Fund (AHIF) grants.

AHIF was created to work with municipalities, other government and non profit agencies, private and lenders to encourage the preservation and development of affordable housing opportunities throughout Ten projects received funding, seven in Minneapolis, two in the suburbs and one project that is County assist 384 affordable housing units, including 125 new housing opportunities that meet the recommend

[Hennepin](#), a 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. See the detailed list of funding awards online.

AHIF has been operating since 2000 and has committed \$39.6 million to assist 3,771 affordable units County.

[See more County Board Actions online.](#)

Plymouth, Golden Valley Log Top Steps in the 2010 Step-To-It Challenge

Step-To-It, the annual four-week physical fitness competition that ended June 13, attracted thousands of participants and resulted in significantly higher step totals than last year. The City of Plymouth has 'walked' away with the "Most Active City" award with 96,518,543 overall steps reported! The City of Golden Valley came in a close second, with 87,848,543 steps. All told, residents in 18 Hennepin County cities took an unbelievable 630 million steps towards a healthier lifestyle. Thank you to our city partners in ensuring that this year's Challenge was the most successful yet.

Hennepin County Residents Saving Enough Energy to Heat, Cool 20,000 Homes

Hennepin County residents recycled more than 117,000 tons of metal, plastic, paper glass and organic materials. This recycling effort helped the county achieve a 49-percent recycling rate.

Recycling saves landfill space, conserves vital natural resources such as trees and water, and saves energy. Recycling is one of the easiest ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By recovering valuable materials from the waste stream, recycling substantially reduces the carbon dioxide emissions associated with raw material extraction, manufacturing and waste disposal.

By recycling at their homes in 2009, county residents:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 41,300 cars from the road annually
- Saved enough energy to provide heating, cooling and electricity for 20,500 households for an entire year!
- Saved natural resources equivalent to protecting 1,500 acres of forest or 579,300 trees.
- Saved enough water to supply 38,000 households for an entire year.
- Reduced the need to mine 3,000 tons of iron ore, 1,700 tons of coal and 145 tons of limestone

All this, and residents are only recycling half of the recyclables they could be! Find more online on how to recycle.

Funding Approved for Hyperbaric Chamber at HCMC

The County Board approved capital expenditures needed to complete \$9.8 million in funding to replace the Hennepin County Medical Center's 50-year-old hyperbaric chamber facility. The chamber has become increasingly difficult and expensive to maintain and is nearing the end of its life expectancy.



\$5.4 million has already been allocated through state bonding (\$5 million) and local funds (\$400,000). An additional \$4.4 million was previously allocated from the HCMC Facility Plan.

HCMC is a national leader in the medical use of hyperbaric medicine, in which patients breathe 100-percent oxygen while inside a chamber at increased atmospheric pressure. This treatment is used to treat a number of critical medical conditions, including carbon monoxide poisoning, burns and deep wound infections. HCMC also recently released research showing that hyperbaric medicine appears to help patients recover from severe traumatic brain injury.

HCMC has the only hyperbaric emergency/critical care facility in the state. The closest similar facilities are in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. HCMC is the only hyperbaric facility in the Twin Cities. The facility has three treatment chambers, the largest of which can simultaneously treat five patients. HCMC is the only hyperbaric facility in the state that is board-certified in emergency and undersea and hyperbaric medicine.

Currently most patients must be transported to the facility by ambulance from the hospital. The new chamber is currently under construction. HCMC.

In other HCMC news, the hospital has been named to [US News and World Report's annual list of Best Hospitals](#).

Work Continues on the Lowry Avenue Bridge

Observers of the site will have noticed a good deal of activity in the past few weeks. On the west side of the bridge, the concrete for the completed Pier No. 4 stem. In Pier No. 5, the western river pier, reinforcement bars are being set in place and concrete has been poured for the footing.

On the east side, pile driving is complete for the East Abutment and Pier No. 6. Pile driving has resumed for the temporary falsework that will support the bridge structure prior to arch installation.

The footing has been poured for the East Abutment and crews have begun placing reinforcement bars for the East Abutment stem.

[Check online for more Lowry Avenue Bridge Construction Updates.](#)

Historic Improvements to Victory Memorial Drive Continue This Summer

In early July, crews will begin removing the current components of the flag plaza. The new flag plaza will include granite balustrade walls, a granite flag base and benches, and new plantings and lighting.

Forty-seven new trees will be placed to allow for expanded programming and family events throughout the plaza.

New lighting and irrigation systems will be installed to improve the appearance, safety and maintenance of the plaza.

Existing sidewalks will be expanded and new sidewalks built around the southeast corner of the plaza to improve pedestrian access.

A new sidewalk will also be constructed around the Lincoln/Grand Army of the Republic Circle, and a series of new trees will be planted.

Existing trees will be replaced by 10 disease-resistant elms.

With your patience, input and comments, these will be spectacular improvements to our community and the city.

When this work is complete, VMD will be the grand amenity worthy of the 568 Hennepin County men and women who served in World War I.

[See more details online.](#)

Absentee Ballots Available

The state primary is August 10. If you can't make it to the polls to vote, [absentee ballots are now available](#) through the Hennepin County website.

You can apply for an absentee ballot if:

- You are going to be absent from the precinct on the day of the state primary;
- Illness or disability prevents you from going to a polling place;
- Religious discipline or observance prohibits you from going to a polling place;
- You are an election judge in another precinct.

National Night Out is August 3

Communities throughout Hennepin County are currently planning **National Night Out/ Night To Unite** events 2010. This is a great time to get out in your community and meet your neighbors. Get together for a potluck social - use your imagination, have fun and get out on August 3!
Check your city's website for more information and locations.

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