

FEBRUARY 2012

A horizontal banner image. On the left is a portrait of Commissioner Mark Stenglein, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and orange tie. The background of the banner shows a blurred outdoor scene with trees and a building. To the right of the portrait, the text reads "County news for the 2nd District from" in a smaller font, followed by "Commissioner Mark Stenglein" in a larger, bold font. To the right of the text is the Hennepin County logo, a blue stylized letter 'H' with the word "Hennepin" written in white inside the top bar of the 'H'.

County news for the 2nd District from
Commissioner Mark Stenglein

Hennepin

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

Bottineau Transitway enters scoping phase, comments welcome through Feb. 17

The [Bottineau Transitway](#) project is in what is called the "scoping phase" and is soliciting public comment through Feb. 17, 2012 on its scoping booklet, which includes:

- The history, purpose and need of the project.
- Information about proposed alternatives under consideration for study and other issues that will be covered in the Environmental Impact Statement.
- A general timeline for the project, including key decision-making milestones.

The Bottineau Transitway is a proposed project that will provide for [transit improvements](#) in the highly traveled northwest suburbs of the Twin Cities. The Bottineau Corridor generally follows Bottineau Blvd (County State Aid Highway 81), extending approximately 13 miles from downtown Minneapolis through North Minneapolis to the northwest suburbs of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, Osseo and Robbinsdale.

Public meetings hosted by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority were held in Golden Valley, Brooklyn Park and North Minneapolis Jan. 23-25, with one more taking place on Tuesday Jan. 31, 6-8pm, Robbinsdale City Hall, 4100 Lakeview Ave N., Robbinsdale.

[Materials from the meetings, as well as the scoping materials](#), are available on the project website.

Comments can be [submitted online](#), by faxing 612-348-9710, by emailing

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- [BELOW:](#) Lowry Bridge arch progress; citizen advisory openings; citizens academy now enrolling; find your precinct caucuses; learn

Brent.Rusco@co.hennepin.mn.us or by U.S. Mail
using the address:

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Grant funds approved for Bottineau Health Impact Assessment

The board approved the funding of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) along the Bottineau Transitway. The county received one of 15 national grants from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts](#).

The HIA is being conducted concurrently with the Bottineau Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The HIA will:

- Identify potential health risks and benefits of the proposed Bottineau Transitway.
- Recommend mitigation strategies for any negative health impacts identified.
- Engage community members around health issues in the corridor.

The results of the HIA will be available [online](#).

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District Two office news

Congratulations to [Kari Dziejczak](#) from our office, who on Jan. 10 was elected to State Senate in SD59, replacing Larry Pogemiller in the district that spans NE and SE Minneapolis. Kari's in session now at the Legislature and so she's taking a leave from the County. We are so proud of her and wish her luck!

On Jan. 3, Commissioner Stenglein was unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chair of the County Board. Comm. Mike Opat (1st District) was elected Board chair. Comm. Stenglein will also

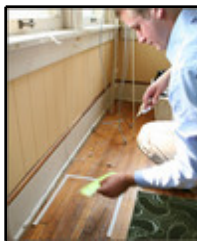
Public hearing for The Interchange Feb 1



The public is invited to attend a public hearing for the [Interchange draft Environmental Assessment](#), starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Metro Transit [Fred T. Heywood Office Building](#), 560 Sixth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

The Environmental Assessment is being conducted by the Federal Transit Administration, in cooperation with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority. A short presentation outlining the initial findings of the Environmental Assessment will take place at 5:15 p.m. and will be followed by the public hearing. The public hearing provides individuals with an opportunity to formally enter comments about the project's draft Environmental Assessment into the public record.

Find more information, [including instructions for submitting comments](#), [visit the Interchange online](#).



\$1.4 million in ERF

continue to chair the Budget and Capital Investment Committee throughout 2012.

Links

- [Board meeting minutes/videos](#)
- [Waste and Recycling drop-off sites](#)
- [Road construction locator](#)
- [Property information search](#)
- [Join Hennepin Library Friends](#)
- [Home Page for County residents](#)
- [HC Libraries - events and classes](#)
- [Road/Bike Maps](#)

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The board authorized negotiation of agreements awarding \$1.4 million in [Environmental Response Fund \(ERF\) grants](#) for [10 projects](#).

The program, funded by a county mortgage registry and deed tax, provides grants for environment assessment and cleanup of sites that present a known threat to human health or the environment; provide community benefit from the cleanup; and lack funding from other sources. Priority is placed on projects that promote public/green space, affordable and moderately priced housing, and economic development.

Since November 2001, when the ERF program was established, a total of \$38 million has been awarded for 270 grants, increasing property values by more than \$433 million.

The current grant awards will provide for soil and groundwater evaluation, asbestos and lead-based-paint assessment and abatement, and contaminated soil cleanup. The awards will assist in the renovation or construction of 532 affordable housing units.

The Board also approved its 2012 legislative agenda, which includes an effort to remove the ERF sunset date, set for Jan. 1, 2013.



Lowry Avenue Bridge arch progress

The first arch segments have been installed! The arches are comprised of 22 segments, each weighing between 70,000 - 130,000 lbs. Ten pieces have been put into place, with the remaining segments being placed throughout the month. For more bridge updates, check out the [project website](#).

Attend your Precinct Political Caucuses on Feb 7

Caucuses, held on February 7 this year, are public meetings where political parties begin the process

Plymouth Fire and Ice event on for Feb. 4

From the [City of Plymouth](#):

The Fire & Ice Event is on as scheduled from 2 – 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 4 at Parkers Lake. Come and partake in the many family oriented outdoor activities scheduled for that day! Some activities are subject to snow/ice conditions and no cars/trucks will be allowed on the lake. Bus shuttles will run between Oakwood Playfield and the event area from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Check the [Plymouth website](#) for more details and the schedule of events.

[Read more from Patch.com.](#)

Low cost immunization clinics available

Hennepin County Public Health is offering low-cost immunizations to people who don't have health insurance or their insurance does not cover immunizations.

A vaccine is your best defense against many illnesses, including the flu. All are walk-in clinics so no appointments are needed. The clinics will be:

- Bloomington Clinic: Bloomington Division of Health, 1900 W. Old Shakopee Road, Feb. 7 and 21, 3 to 5:30 p.m.
- Brooklyn Center Clinic: Hennepin County's

of selecting candidates for the 2012 election. Caucus attendees are encouraged to offer policy resolutions that may go on to become party policy positions. For additional information about upcoming caucus locations and contact information for each of Minnesota's political parties visit the [Secretary of State 2012 Caucus website](#).

Board passes 2012 legislative agenda

The board approved state legislative priorities, bonding requests, and a preliminary legislative platform for 2012.

Legislative priorities include:

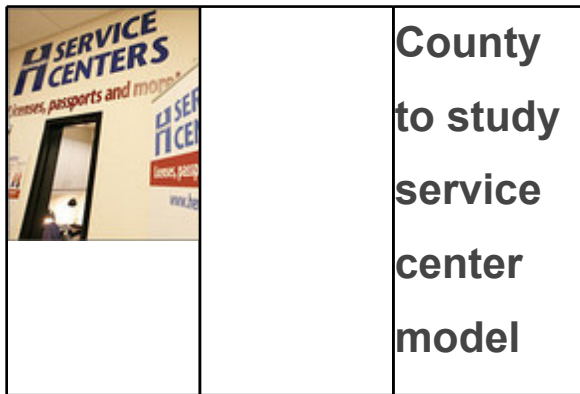
- State

bonding requests - [see more detail online.](#)

Brookdale Service Center, 6125 Shingle Creek Road, Feb. 28, 9 to 11 a.m.

- Downtown Minneapolis Clinic: Hennepin Health Services Building, 525 Portland Ave. S., Feb. 3, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

For more information about these clinics, call 612-348-2884 or go to www.hennepin.us/vaccines. Donations are requested but not required for the immunizations.



The Board approved a resolution, directing the county administrator to [appoint a study group](#) to review the county service centers.

The county's six service centers offer more than 40 services, including driver's license duplicates, renewals and reinstatements; motor vehicle tabs, plates, titles and registrations; and passports. The resolution states that the portion of fees the county is allowed to retain is often less than the cost of offering state license services, resulting in "sharply increasing Hennepin County property tax support for service centers' operations."

The county closed its Eden Prairie Service Center last Friday, Jan. 20. The resolution says review of the service centers is needed so that "important public policy questions concerning the long-term viability of the centers" can be addressed by the board.

- Create a mechanism for sharing the burden of uncompensated care created by [changes to Emergency Medical Assistance](#).

- Remove Environmental Response Fund sunset date.

- Transfer Hennepin Conservation District duties and authority to the board.

Citizen Advisory Board Openings

The Hennepin County Board is seeking applicants for a vacancy on the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board. The deadline for applications is Feb. 23.

This includes the option of eliminating county operation of the centers, except for mandated operations, and “more aggressively seeking market share to reduce property tax subsidy.”

The study group, which will include private-sector representatives, will report back its recommendations to the board by April 16.

Interviews for the vacancy will be held at the following board committee meeting. For more information about this vacancy or other advisory board appointments, and to apply online, visit the [Citizen Advisory Boards page](#). See the volunteering web page for additional volunteer opportunities.

Citizens Academy registration now open

The [Hennepin County Citizens Academy](#) is a great way to get a better understanding of the scope of county government, by giving residents the chance to interact face-to-face with county leaders and elected officials, including the commissioners,

county administrator, sheriff, county attorney and department directors. Sessions will be held weekly at facilities throughout the county on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 9 p.m. April 4 – May 23 (no class April 11).

Residents interested in participating may [register online by March 2](#). There are 35 seats available that will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis - and seats are filling up! For more information, including details on the variety of topics covered, visit the [Citizens Academy page](#).



Hennepin

Snow Plow

Fast Facts

- The county's fleet consists of 77 snowplow trucks.
- The county uses approximately 17,000 tons of salt and 7,500 tons of treated salt annually.
- It takes approximately one pound of salt to melt 46.3 pounds of ice, so the goal of spreading de-icing materials is not to melt the ice, but to prevent or destroy the bond that the ice has with the roadway.
- County snowplow operations are based out of five satellite truck stations strategically located throughout the county: Bloomington, Medina, Minnetonka, Orono and Osseo.
- On average, the county has 48 emergency "call outs" each snow

season.

Snowplows hit the roads at 2 a.m. after snow starts falling the previous evening.

- Approx.


85 pieces of equipment are available to accomplish this work including plows, motor graders, front-end loaders, and snow blowers.



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