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MINNESOTA

August 2018 News and Updates from Commissioner Higgins

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August 2018

I hope your summer so far has been filled with great memories with friends and family. Summer is going fast. Don't miss a minute of it – whether it's an afternoon sitting under a tree reading a book or taking kids for a hike in one of our Three Rivers parks or visiting somewhere far away that's always been on your must-see list.

Our gardens are exploding with goodness now too. Tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, peas, dill, and basil are all ready for your old favorites or new recipes (pro tip: there are great cook books at your Hennepin County library). Speaking of food, Hennepin County is now working with vendors at the Farmers Market to make sure less food goes to waste (see video below).

Be sure to check out all the great upcoming events this month, and think about [subscribing](#) to other interesting topics offered by Hennepin County.

Regards,

Get ready for Night to Unite

Night to Unite, also known as National Night Out in Minneapolis, is Tuesday, August 1, and is an annual event that encourages residents to hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. Each year, the Hennepin County Attorneys, Sheriff's deputies, and local officials visit community gatherings. People are available to answer your questions about the justice system and provide crime prevention information.



Night to Unite is a great opportunity to promote community-police partnerships and enjoy a Minnesota summer evening surrounded by friends and family. Contact your city for more information. See these links for [Golden Valley](#), [Minneapolis](#), [Plymouth](#), and [St. Anthony](#).

Hennepin County voting progress update



People are loving the option of voting early! Here are the most recent statistics about Hennepin County's absentee voting progress and pre-registered voters for the 2018 primary.

Absentee voting

As of Monday, July 30, at 8 am in Hennepin County:

- Total ballots issued (mail and in-person absentee voting) – 19,900
- Total ballots received and accepted (mail and in-person absentee voting) – 9,500

For comparison, the final count of absentee ballots received and accepted in the 2016 primary was nearly 8,000. The final count of absentee ballots received and accepted in the 2014 primary was just over 9,000. The 2018 primary has already surpassed these two elections, with 9,500 ballots received and accepted to date in Hennepin County.

Preregistered voters

Hennepin County has 749,000 preregistered voters for the Minnesota primary. Preregistration ended July 24. Voters can register at their polling place on **Minnesota primary day, August 14.**

Voters also can look up their polling place, sample ballot, voter registration status, and absentee ballot status at mnvotes.org.

For more information about elections and voting in Hennepin County, visit hennepin.us/elections.

Hennepin County rescues food to feed others



In a new program, Hennepin County is taking vegetables leftover from farmers' markets and working with a vendor who washes, roasts and freezes the vegetables, then redistributes it to people in need of food. Learn more about it with this [video](#).

Free coupons - Go shopping and save the environment with Choose to Reuse coupons

Deals valid at reuse retailers August 1 – October 31

Now through October 31, redeem Choose to Reuse coupons to save money, support local businesses and protect the environment.

Coupons are valid at 59 local retailers that rent, repair, resell, consign and exchange used goods. Hennepin County organizes the annual Choose to Reuse coupon campaign with local reuse businesses and organizations. Together, we promote waste reduction and sustainable living.

Get Choose to Reuse coupons



- Download the Chinook Book App ([Google Play](#) or [iTunes](#)). Choose to Reuse coupons will load right onto your smartphone!
- Order the print version of the Choose to Reuse coupon book.
- Pick one up at participating retail locations, Hennepin County service centers, Hennepin County libraries and all Three Rivers Park District locations.

See more information about getting Choose to Reuse coupons at hennepin.us/choosetoreuse.

Applications being accepted for environmental education grants

Proposals are being accepted now for [Green Partners environmental education grants](#). Grants are awarded in two categories:

- **Motivating behavior change** for projects that focus on motivating adults and older youth to take one or two environmentally friendly actions using strategies to change behavior.
- **Youth environmental stewardship** for projects that work with youth on developing an environmental ethic and interest in environmental stewardship using environmental education best practices.



Proposals are due by 4 pm on Friday, August 31, 2018. [Learn more about the environmental education grants and new application process.](#)

Information meetings

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an information meeting or contact the program manager, Patience Caso, at patience.caso@hennepin.us or 612-348-9352, for feedback on project ideas before applying.

2018 Green Partners grant information meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, August 1 from 10 am to noon at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N., Minneapolis
- Thursday, August 16 from 1 to 3 pm at North Regional Library in Minneapolis (come early for a meal and the Green Partners networking meeting on food justice!)

RSVP to patience.caso@hennepin.us or 612-348-9352. RSVPs are appreciated but not required.

National Association of Counties (NACo) national conference



I had a great time attending the NACo annual meeting in Nashville. Here I'm shown with Commissioner Debbie Goettel and Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter at the Large Urban County Caucus, which is made up of the 200 largest counties in the country.

I participated in a panel discussion on home health visits and moderated a panel about the effect of the opioid crisis on medical examiners and coroners. Dr. Andy Baker, our own Hennepin County Medical Examiner, was on the panel, along with two elected county coroners from smaller counties.

Bon Voyage to Beverly and welcome to Jeff

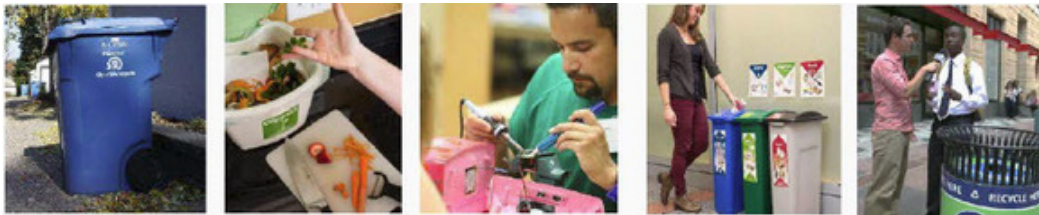
We in District 2 say goodbye with warm wishes to Beverly Hammond, Administrative Secretary for our office, as she goes across the Mississippi River to work with Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter (pictured in previous story) and Commissioner Blake Huffman. Since Beverly joined us two years ago from Baltimore, she has been a valuable and well-respected member of my team.

We welcome Jeff Vang (pictured) into the Administrative Secretary role. Jeff has a strong background at Hennepin coming from the Hennepin County Clerk's Office

and came to work at Hennepin County through the [Pathways Program](#). Please say hello if you contact or stop by the office!



Revisions to Hennepin County's recycling ordinance now available for public comment



The county has released its [draft revisions to the recycling ordinance](#) (ordinance 13 source separation of solid waste) to include new requirements.

Key provisions being considered include:

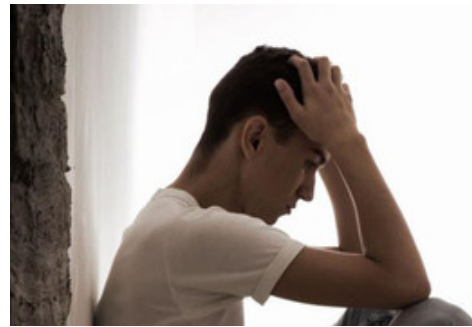
- Requirements for businesses that generate large quantities of food waste to implement food waste recycling by 2020.
- Requirements for cities to offer curbside organics recycling service to residents by 2022.
- Updates to the multifamily recycling requirements to add service level standards and education and labeling requirements.
- Requirements for businesses to meet the state recycling requirements, service level standards, and labeling requirements.

Provide feedback

- [Review a summary of the revisions](#)
- [See the draft revisions](#)
- Submit comments through August 17 via a [survey](#) or by email to environment@hennepin.us

Hennepin County to evaluate options for mental health stabilization housing

The board approved a study on potentially converting the Adult Corrections Facility Work Release building in Plymouth to secure mental health stabilization housing. This proposed facility is one way the county could help meet the complex health and human services needs of people with serious mental health conditions who are involved with the criminal justice system.



Earlier this year, the board also accepted state grant funding for a mental health triage program in Downtown Minneapolis that would address immediate needs of people in crisis and direct them to long-term supports.

[Star Tribune editorial: Getting nonviolent offenders the mental health care they need.](#)

[Read more about this action.](#)

[Learn more about mental health at Hennepin County.](#)

Southwest Light Rail clears roadblock with TC and W agreement



The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) held a special meeting to approve a settlement with the Twin Cities and Western Railroad Company, which was challenging property transfers proposed for the Southwest LRT project (SWLRT). These agreements clear a major roadblock for SWLRT, allowing the Federal Transit Administration to complete its evaluation of the project and proceed to construction.

Thursday, August 16

Owning Up: Racism and Housing in Minneapolis



Hennepin History Museum will host an exhibit created by graduate students in the University of Minnesota's new Heritage Studies and Public History program. The exhibit focuses on the history of racial discrimination and housing in Minneapolis and is part of a series of events marking the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Opening reception Thursday, August 23, 6 to 8 pm at 2303 3rd Ave. S. For information about other events in the series, please visit the [Racism, Rent and Real Estate](#) website. Tickets available. \$5; \$3 for seniors or students, free for museum members.

\$560,257 awarded to clean up contaminated sites



The board awarded \$560,257 to five development projects to assess and clean up contaminated sites where conditions present a threat to human health or the environment. Hennepin County awards Environmental Response Fund (ERF) grants bi-annually for projects where lack of funding and added environmental costs hinder site improvements or redevelopment.

The following projects will receive funding this grant cycle:

- 36 Bryant, market-rate apartment complex in Minneapolis – \$85,000
- 13250 Grove Drive Redevelopment, retail redevelopment in Maple Grove – \$27,723
- Calhoun Towers, market-rate and affordable apartments in Minneapolis – \$249,480
- Southern Gateway Redevelopment, affordable, assisted living and market-rate apartments in St. Anthony Village – \$44,400
- West Broadway Curve, affordable and market-rate apartments and rental townhomes in Minneapolis – \$153,654

[Learn more about this action.](#)

[Learn more about the Environmental Respond Fund.](#)

Region's third rapid bus line approved to begin design and engineering

D Line would replace region's highest ridership bus route; still needs \$35 million to construct entire project

The Metropolitan Council voted recently to approve locations for 40 stations along the 18.2-mile line from the Brooklyn Center Transit Center, through Minneapolis and Richfield, to the Mall of America Transit Center in Bloomington.

The vote allows Metro Transit to begin the design and engineering phase later this year. The D Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 5, the region's highest ridership bus route, with an average daily ridership of 15,000 rides.

When constructed, the D Line will be the third in the region's rapid bus system. The A Line opened in 2016, and construction is underway on the C Line, which is expected to begin service in 2019 mainly along Penn Avenue in North Minneapolis.

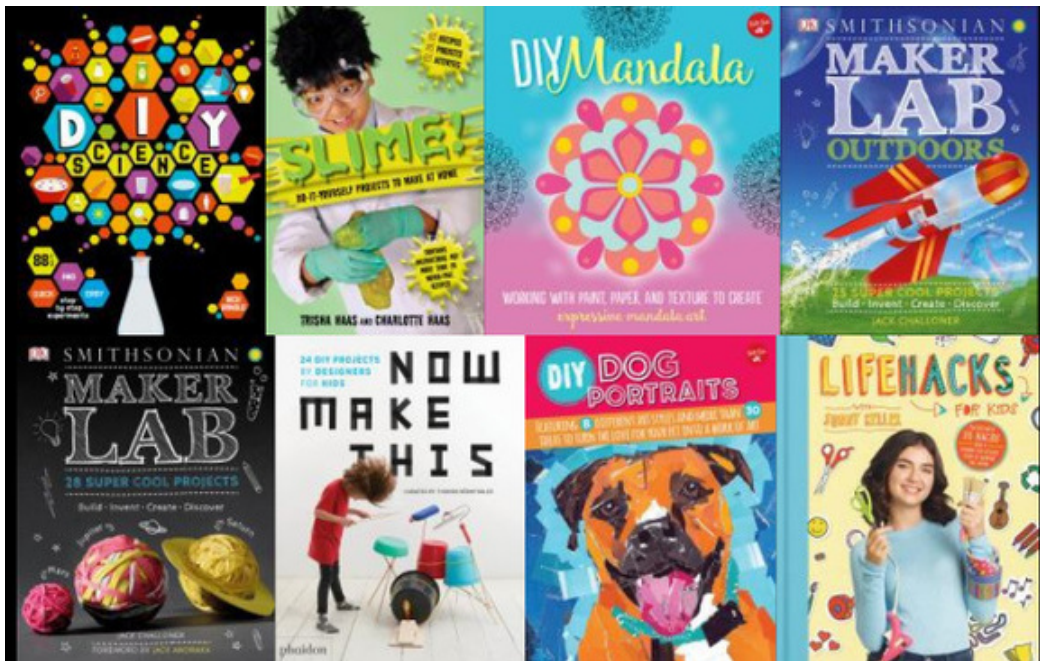
The total cost of the project is currently estimated at \$75 million and still has a \$35 million funding gap. The Council sought bonding for the project during the 2018 legislative session.

The arterial bus rapid transit system includes enhancements for faster and more efficient service. This includes curb bumpouts for boarding, which eliminate delay caused by merging back into traffic; off-board fare payment; and transit signal prioritization, which allows the buses to request early green time and/or extended green time to allow movement through the intersection.

[Read more about the D Line BRT.](#)



News you can use from the Hennepin County Library



Beat late-summer boredom

DIY (do it yourself) books for kids and teens (and fun adults) can open their eyes to new skills and interests, including science, art, games, fashion and more. Check out Hennepin County Library's DIY book lists.

[DIY nonfiction for children](#)

[DIY nonfiction for teens](#)

Golden Valley Reads: "Vacationland," by Sarah Stonich

Join your neighbors in reading and discussing "Vacationland," a novel that explores the tales of love and loss, heartbreak and redemption that live on in the hearts of those whose paths crossed at the now-shuttered Naledi Lodge in northern Minnesota cabin country. A series of programs starts with a meeting of the Golden Valley Library Book Club and continues through October.

[Learn more about Golden Valley Reads 2018.](#)

More MnSpin music, please!

Discover even more Minnesota artists with MnSpin, an online streaming and downloading tool on hclib.org. The most recent selection period is nearing completion, and more than 70 new albums will be available for your listening pleasure. Watch for a launch announcement on hclib.org and on social media.

[Check out MnSpin.](#)

Speaking of MnSpin ... MnSpin Live

Tuesday, August 21, 7 pm. Doors open at 6 pm

The Hook and Ladder, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis

The Friends of the Hennepin County Library, our fundraising partners, are hosting MnSpin Live, featuring five MnSpin artists.

[Register and learn more.](#)

Board news

July 24

Board approves initial design for regional medical examiner's facility

A new regional medical examiner's facility is expected to open as early as 2021 in Minnetonka. The board approved the initial design and a contract to develop further plans for the facility.

Hennepin County will enter a \$3.9 million contract with Leo A. Daly Company to continue architectural and engineering services throughout the duration of the project.

Restaurant will rent space at South Minneapolis Human Service Center

Voting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority on July 10, the board approved a 15-year lease with Gandhi Mahal LCC for a restaurant in a currently vacant space at the South Minneapolis Human Service Center. The restaurant, named Eden, will be located on the first floor of the building near the Lake St. and Hiawatha Ave. intersection.

[Read more about this action.](#)

Fort Snelling polling location to change

The board designated Mount Calvary Education Building in Richfield as the polling place for Fort Snelling residents during the primary and general elections. The county is seeking a partner to operate a polling location within Fort Snelling for future elections.

[Learn more about this action.](#)

Board sets maximum levies for watersheds

The board approved plan amendments and/or maximum levies for the following watersheds:

- Bassett Creek, \$1.4 million
- Elm Creek, \$462,500
- Pioneer-Sarah Creek Approval of a minor plan amendment
- Shingle Creek, \$479,900
- West Mississippi, \$106,050

Member appointed to workforce board

The board appointed Emily Watts to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board.

Board recognizes pretrial, probation and parole staff

The board acknowledged Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Appreciation Week, an annual observance that takes place in July. This observance recognizes Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and

Rehabilitation staff who supervise more than 24,000 clients a year, aiming to reduce recidivism and improve lives.

Current and archival board meetings, agendas and minutes are available at hennepin.us/boardmeetings.

Events

North

- **Thursday, August 2, 8:50-11:10pm**
Movies in the Park: Black Panther. North Commons Park, 1801 James Ave. N. [Movies in the Park](#)
- **Saturday, August 4, 8:50pm**
Movie Night: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Movies start 15 minutes after [sunset](#). Bring a lawn chair or blanket and go early to grab a good spot. Victory Park, 4414 Upton Ave. N. [MoviesinthePark](#)
- **Thursdays, August 9, 16 and 23, 3-7pm**
Camden Farmers' Market. North Market. 4414 Humboldt Ave. N. [camdenfarmersmarket](#)
- **Thursday, August 9 6-11:30pm**
[Live on the Drive](#). Music by Pavielle (6-8pm) and movie A Wrinkle in Time (PG) 15 minutes after sunset. Hennepin County will be hosting a table where you can learn about World War I history and the upcoming Nov. 11 [100th Anniversary of the Armistice event](#). Free entertainment, food trucks for purchase. 34th and Xerxes Ave. N.
- **Saturday, August 12, 12-4pm**
Festival for Fathers, a community-sponsored event that seeks to strengthen the positive role and perception of men, specifically fathers, in their families and communities. Free food, music, entertainment, petting zoo, pony rides, moon bounce, prize drawings and a free t-shirt for dads with kids. North Commons Park, 1801 James Ave. N. [FestivalforFathers](#)
- **Saturday, August 25, 10:15am-12:15pm**
Welcome to North Minneapolis: Explorations of a Rich Heritage Bus Tour. Learn about the Northside as you are guided on a bus journey by an historian and storyteller who has lived and taught in the community for five decades. \$25, Preserve Minneapolis. Utepils Brewing, 225 Thomas Ave. N. [NorthMinneapolisTour](#)

Hold the date: November 11, 2018 | hennepin.us/media/victory-memorial-drive



VICTORY MEMORIAL DRIVE

**100TH ANNIVERSARY
WWI REMEMBRANCE**

**FLAGPOLE PLAZA AT 45TH AND
VICTORY MEMORIAL DRIVE
10 A.M.**

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

Hennepin.us/victorymemorialdrive

Bryn Mawr

- **Thursdays, August 2, 9 and 16, 5:30pm**
Yoga in the Park with Annie Hayes Wellness, sponsored by Utepils Brewery.

A summer addition to the popular Sunday class held weekly at the brewery. Outdoors, weather permitting. Park and meet at Utepils around 5:20pm. Pre-register or just show up. All levels, bring a mat, water, sunglasses, and a smile. \$10. Utepils, 225 Thomas Ave. N. and JD Rivers Children's Garden, 1339 Theodore Wirth Pkwy. [Facebook registration and information](#).

- **Saturday, August 4 and 25, 8-11am**

Minnesota Youth Cricket League kick-off at Bryn Mawr Meadows, 601 Morgan Ave. S. minnesotacricket.com/mn-youth-premier-league-mypl/

North Loop

- **Sunday, August 19, 10am-3pm**

Chalk Art Day. Be an artist, see an artist. Free. Chalk provided. Corner of Washington Ave. N. and 6th Ave. Northloop.org/event

- **Wednesday, August 22, 7pm**

Film: Mary Poppins at Target Field Station, 335 N 5th St. Free. Northloop.org/event

Northeast

- **Sunday, August 5, 10am-10pm**

Open Streets Northeast, On Central Ave. NE, 22nd Ave. NE, Monroe St. NE, and East Hennepin Ave. openstreetsmpls.org/northeast

- **Sunday, August 5, 2-8pm**

12th Annual Red Stag Block Party: In Cahoots! A Collaboration of Craft. Minnesota breweries form seven teams to create seven new collaboration beers that will debut at the free block party. A portion of the proceeds will be given to the winning team's local charity. 509 1st Ave. NE. redstagblockparty.com.

Golden Valley

- **Mondays, August 6 and August 13, 7pm**

Free weekly concerts on Mondays at [Brookview Park](#) (in the large picnic shelter). Each concert lasts 60 to 90 minutes. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and a picnic supper. 200 Brookview Pkwy. N. goldenvalleymn.gov/events

- **Fridays, August 10 and August 24, 8:30pm**

Movie night: Space Jam and the Incredibles. Brookview Park, 200 Brookview Pkwy. N.

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/entertainmentintheparks/index.php>

Medicine Lake

- **Every day in August. 5am-10pm**

Enjoy the Medicine Lake Regional Trail as part of the Three Rivers Park District. 13.3 miles of paved trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. [Three Rivers Park District info](#).

Plymouth

- **Monday, August 6, 7-8pm**
A beachfront water ski show by the Shockwaves Shakopee-Prior Lake Water Ski Association. Free. Ice cream and kettle corn will be available for purchase. Parkers Lake, 15205 County Road 6. plymouthmn.gov
- **Wednesdays in August, 2:30-6:30pm**
Farmers' market. Parkers Lake Playfield parking lot, 15500 County Rd. 6. plymouthfarmersmarket.com.
- **Friday, August 3, dusk**
Free Movie in the Park: Coco. A food truck will be available at 6:30 pm, followed by live music at and face painting at 7 pm. Hilde Amphitheater, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.
- **Friday, August 10, dusk**
Free Movie in the Park: La La Land. Ballroom dancing begins at 7 pm. Free ballroom dance instruction will be offered by Constantine Dance School. Hilde Amphitheater, 3500 Plymouth Blvd.
- **Friday, August 17, dusk**
Free Movie in the Park: Moana. West Medicine Lake, 1920 W. Medicine Lake Dr.

St. Anthony

- **Friday, August 3 through Sunday, August 5, times vary**
St. Anthony Villagefest. Friday night parade, food and family fun. Central School Park, 3301 Silver Lake Rd NE. stanthonyvillagefest.
- **Wednesday, August 8, 4-6pm**
Join Hennepin Healthcare for a family open house at the newly expanded St. Anthony Village Clinic and Pharmacy, located in the St. Anthony Shopping Center at the corner of New Brighton Boulevard and Kenzie Terrace. Tours, activities, refreshments and a brief program at 4:30 pm. Learn about new services including pediatrics, OB/GYN, acupuncture and chiropractic. More information at hennepinhealthcare.org/sav.

Contact

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Commissioner, District 2

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www.hennepin.us/higgins

You can also send comments via my [feedback form](#).

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