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# October 2018 News and Updates from Commissioner Higgins

Hennepin County sent this bulletin at 09/27/2018 04:40 PM CDT

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October 2018

Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter.

Fall is in the air, it's time to try out that newest apple crisp recipe, and Hennepin County continues to work hard on behalf of our residents. Thanks to all our employees who go the extra mile to help clients, answer questions, and explore new ways to best deliver services.

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,



## Celebration of building the future at Penn and Plymouth Avenues North



On Friday, we joined residents and Penn-Plymouth partners in celebrating the grand opening of the new Thor Companies headquarters, named the Regional Acceleration Center. This exciting milestone is part of a larger investment in the corridor.

As part of our commitment to this area, Hennepin County has invested a total \$71 million for this development, the NorthPoint Health and Wellness expansion and construction of the new Estes Funeral Chapel.

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## New license/ID options at county service centers October 1



## **Service interruptions September 27 – 29**

Real ID, a new driver's license/ID card option will roll out across the state on October 1. Beginning on this date, county service centers will offer three identification options:

- Standard driver's license or ID card
- Enhanced driver's license or ID card
- REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card

[View information about the different options.](#)

**In preparation for offering these new services, the county will be unable to process driver's license and ID transactions September 28 and 29.**

- After 2 pm Thursday, September 27
- All day Friday, September 28
- All day Saturday, September 29

### **No need to act now**

A standard driver's license or ID card will remain a valid form of identification for domestic flights and access to federal facilities until October 2020. Minnesotans have two years to get an upgraded license/ID or a valid passport.

Residents who have no plans for air travel can still use the standard option for identification and driving purposes after October 2020.

See service center locations and make an appointment for a shorter wait time.

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## **Hennepin County welcomes nation's first Veterans Home fixed dental clinic**



The Minneapolis Veterans Home has recently opened a dental clinic on its campus. This is the first of its kind for a fixed dental clinic on a State Veterans Home campus and will make it easier and more efficient for residents to receive the care they need.

The dental clinic will serve the Veteran residents at the Minneapolis Veterans Home as well as up to 100 veterans from the Hastings Veterans Home.

[Read more information about the VA dental clinic.](#)

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**Save the date: Armistice anniversary  
commemoration November 11**



### **100 year anniversary of Armistice Day on Victory Memorial Drive**

Victory Memorial Drive serves as an important reminder of the 568 Hennepin County service men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. This year marks the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, the day World War I ended when a ceasefire was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In remembrance of Armistice Day, Hennepin County will host an event on Sunday, November 11 at the Flagpole Plaza located at 45th Avenue North and Victory Memorial Drive. The solemn event begins at 10 am and concludes at 11 am with a moment of silence, followed by the once a year shadow of the flagpole on the sundial marker at 11:11 am, weather permitting.

The event will feature local history about WWI veterans, local African American history during and after WWI, performance by musician Robert Robinson, and engaging speakers. For more information, [please click here](#).

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## **Work on Bottineau light rail continues**



On Friday, September 7, the Metropolitan Council released a revised timeline for the Bottineau LRT project, which moves opening day of revenue service out to 2024. Revisions of this type are common for LRT projects of this scale, but they can raise questions about related efforts, like the work of Bottineau Community Works. In

light of a revised Bottineau LRT timeline, we wanted to share some reassurance and information about the Bottineau Community Works program.

## **Collaborative Bottineau Community Works activities are continuing**

Bottineau Community Works is continuing its planned collaborative work with cities and community partners in the northwest metro to identify and pursue community and economic development opportunities.

### **Work is focused on building long-term value in corridor cities independent of LRT timing**

Through Bottineau Community Works, Hennepin County and cities in the Bottineau Corridor are making policy and infrastructure improvements that are benefitting communities today, in advance of LRT, and long into the future. These include:

- Supporting new and existing businesses
- Preserving and expanding housing options
- Improving connections for walking, biking and rolling
- Helping to attract and guide development and investment
- Engaging communities and residents in planning activities

Previous, ongoing, and future work is helping position the Bottineau Corridor for future growth and investment. This work is valuable in anticipation of LRT, but also independently of it.

Bottineau Community Works will continue efforts to support the broader Hennepin County Community Works mission and goals: Enhance the tax base; stimulate economic development and job growth; strengthen and connect places and people; innovate and advance sustainability; lead collaborative planning and implementation.

The Bottineau Corridor is ready for continued growth and investment. LRT-related development is expected to occur quickly once the line is running, as witnessed along the METRO Green Line in recent years. Additional time to prepare for, guide and attract development can help future investments meet community goals and interests.

[See Bottineau Community Works for more information.](#)

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## **Resource fair will raise awareness about domestic violence in immigrant communities**

The Hennepin County Fourth Judicial District will host a resource fair on domestic violence and immigration **October 3 from 11:30 am to 1 pm** on the Government Center skyway, 300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis. Several community organizations will provide information about resources for victims of domestic violence, particularly in immigrant communities.

Following the Resource Fair, a presentation by [Standpoint](#) (formerly known as the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project) on domestic violence and immigration will take place in Room A0723 of the Government Center. [Read more about the resource fair.](#)



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## Universal Plating site community information meeting



Come learn about the removal of buildings at the former Universal Plating location including the lots surrounding 1900 Monroe Street N.E. in Minneapolis. Demolition of buildings is set to begin in November 2018. A chemical and mechanical plating and finishing facility operated on the property from 1944 through 2009. The site has been in the [Minnesota](#)

[Pollution Control Agency's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program](#) since April 2014 and once before that.

### Community meeting:

Tuesday, October 30  
6-7:30 pm  
Firefighters Hall and Museum  
664 22nd Ave. NE, Minneapolis

For more information about the meeting, contact Lance Robinette, Hennepin County Environment and Energy, [lance.robinette@hennepin.us](mailto:lance.robinette@hennepin.us).

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## News you can use from the Library



Thomas Nicklow  
Joan Nilsen  
David Norby  
Jeffrey Norlin  
Michele Norris

### Hennepin County Yearbook Collection

With your library card, check out this collection that includes Minneapolis high school yearbooks, 1890-1977. The scope of the collection is expanding to include educational institutions in Hennepin County.

[Check out the yearbook collection.](#)

## October is Pride History Month

Here are some staff-recommended titles on local and national LGBTQIA+ historical events and important people.

[Find resources to learn more about Pride History Month.](#)

## October is Teen Read Month at our libraries

Learn how to make the most of your library with a new card, book lists and more for teens.

[Find out more about Teen Read Month.](#)

[Get a free library card.](#)

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## County administrator proposes 2019 budget



Hennepin County Administrator David Hough proposed a 2019 budget of \$2.4 billion to the Hennepin County Board.

The operating portion of this budget totals \$1.9 billion, a decrease of \$61.8 million from the adjusted 2018 budget. The capital portion totals \$475 million, an increase of \$38 million or 8.7 percent over the adjusted 2018 amount.

The proposed net property tax levy is \$831.9 million, an increase of 5.5 percent compared to last year. Property tax covers 34.7 percent of the overall county budget. State and federal sources, fees and services, and other revenues fund the remainder of the budget.

Hough's proposed budget includes funding for 8,384 full-time equivalent employees, a decrease of 229 employees or 2.7 percent from 2018.

## **Focus on reducing disparities**

The county is committed to reducing disparities that impact many residents in the areas of education, employment, health, housing, income, justice and transportation.

"Disparities drive our business and drive the cost of that business," Hough said. "Our determination in reducing disparities is critical to maintain a sustainable fiscal stance and to best position Hennepin County for the future."

## **Investments in child well-being**

The proposed budget supports continued work to flip the child welfare system to a child well-being model.

"We are proactively revising the system to a child well-being model, where we seek to improve children's quality of life, particularly those children at risk, to prevent the need for child protection," Hough said. "This opens up opportunities for creating systems that support healthy children and stable families."

## **Capital budget**

Some of the key drivers of the proposed 2019 capital budget include:

- \$252 million for bus rapid transit and light rail transit infrastructure
- \$78 million for road, bridge and trail infrastructure
- \$58 million for facilities supporting the Health and Human Services lines of business, including Hennepin County Medical Center, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center and Regional Medical Examiner's Office
- \$55 million for libraries and general office facilities
- \$20 million for public safety and judiciary facilities and infrastructure
- \$12 million for environment and energy infrastructure

## **Budget hearing schedule**

View the schedule of public meetings at [hennepin.us/budgets](http://hennepin.us/budgets).

## **Property values**

Property tax valuations affect the property tax portion of the budget. The Hennepin County Assessor's Office assesses property and estimates the value it would likely sell for on the open market, which is one factor used in determining property tax. Other factors include property tax levies set by the school districts, city, county or special taxing districts that the property is in.

[Find out more about property values](#)

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# Healthy community change: The practice of equitable development

Series by Blue Cross Blue Shield to discuss how development policy, projects can reduce disparities

As the Twin Cities region continues to grow, there are valuable opportunities for development and investment that can meet our evolving needs and shape our collective future.

Equitable development is a positive strategy that meets the needs of underserved communities through policies and practices that reduce disparities while fostering places that are healthy and vibrant for all.

October 10. Housing affordability grows healthy communities: preservation and production. [Register here](#)

November 8. Community development innovation and opportunity in diverse and challenging suburbs. [Register here](#)

All sessions will take place from 4 pm - 7 pm at Brookview Center, Golden Valley, 316 Brookview Parkway South, Golden Valley, 55426.

**Who should attend:** Municipal staff and elected officials, developers, businesses and investors,

community organizations and advocates, anyone interested in learning more about equitable development.

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## Board news

### September 6

#### **\$1.5 million grant will preserve natural habitat**

The board accepted a grant from the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund to permanently preserve some of the county's most unique and important natural areas. The project will expand conservation easement acquisition and habitat restoration activities in the county. The Minnesota Land Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization that protects natural and scenic land, is the county's land protection partner in this project.

A conservation easement is a set of development restrictions that a landowner voluntarily places on their property to permanently protect its natural resources. The landowner retains ownership of the land and continues to pay property taxes.

Fully protected and restored natural areas benefit county residents by facilitating groundwater recharge, aiding in stormwater management and flood control, protecting and improving air and water quality, providing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and increasing the value of neighboring properties.

[Learn more about this action.](#)

## **Hennepin County employees and community donate \$50,000 to support people in crisis**

The board received an annual report from the Special Gift Fund, which received more than \$50,000 in donations from county employees and the community in 2017. Donations provide financial assistance to Human Services and Public Health clients facing an emergency or special need. Last year, more than 110 people received grants to support physical and mental health, housing and other basic needs. The fund also supported transportation needs, contributed to the county's Backpack Challenge school supplies drive and provided reading glasses for people experiencing homelessness.

[Read the full report.](#)

## **Public hearing set for revisions to recycling ordinance**

The board set a public hearing for Tuesday, October 2, at 1:30 pm to receive testimony from the public on proposed revisions to the county's recycling ordinance. Key provisions under consideration include:

- Requirements for businesses that generate large quantities of food waste to implement food 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 state recycling requirements, service level standards, and labeling requirements

[Read the board action.](#)

[See a summary of the proposed revisions and findings of previous public engagement efforts.](#)

[Sign up to receive e-notices at each stage of the revision process.](#)

## **\$2 million in transportation safety projects will respond to community concerns**

Hennepin County is investing \$2 million to address transportation safety concerns voiced by residents of urban, suburban and rural communities across the county. The board approved various agreements to deliver these improvements.

District 2 projects include:

- First Avenue Northeast (County Road 52) and Fifth St. NE, Minneapolis, city will lead project
- Golden Valley Road (County Road 66) at the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, Golden Valley
- Penn Avenue (County Road 2) at 33rd and 34th avenues, Minneapolis

[Read the full news release.](#)

## **Board appoints member to Human Resources Board**

The board appointed Kay Schroven to the Human Resources Board.

# **September 25**

## **Board approves maximum tax levies for 2019**

The board voted Tuesday to approve an \$830 million maximum property tax levy.

State law requires the board to adopt a maximum property tax levy in September. The 2019 maximum property tax levy represents a 5.25 percent increase from 2018.

Last week, Hennepin County Administrator David Hough presented a \$2.4 billion proposed budget. The operating portion of this budget totals \$1.9 billion dollars, a decrease of \$61.8 million from the adjusted 2018 budget. The capital portion totals \$475 million, an increase of \$38 million or 8.7 percent over the adjusted 2018 amount.

The property tax levy that commissioners ultimately approve in December may be lower than the approved maximum, but it cannot exceed the maximum levy adopted at Tuesday's meeting. In November, property owners will receive a notice that shows the impact of the county's maximum levy on their properties, as well as the impact of those taxes proposed by other local units of government, such as cities and school districts.

## **Board approves maximum rail authority levy**

Acting as the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, the board approved the authority's proposed maximum property tax levy of \$36 million and a proposed budget of \$44.6 million for 2019.

The proposed budget supports advancement of the following priority projects:

- Southwest Light Rail Transit
- Bottineau Light Rail Transit
- Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit

The budget also supports debt service, maintenance of the 55 miles of corridor, staff support for transitways and oversight of infrastructure assets and operational needs.

## **Board approves maximum housing and redevelopment levy**

The board, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, approved an \$10.5 million maximum 2019 property tax levy and a \$12.4 million proposed budget for the authority.

Along with operations and administration, the budget supports affordable housing, including the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund, and community and economic development, including the Transit Oriented Development program.

The proposed maximum levy will be discussed at the county's Truth-in-Taxation hearing, Tuesday, November 27, at 6 p.m. The board will adopt the levy Tuesday, December 11.

## County to award tree canopy improvement grants

The board designated \$500,000 for tree canopy improvement grants available to cities, affordable housing providers and non-profit organizations. Grant funding will support tree inventory, management, preservation and replacement, along with education and outreach. The county will prioritize projects in areas with higher economic, environmental and health disparities.

[Learn more about trees and forestry in Hennepin County.](#)

## Health plan partnerships expand support for people in mental and chemical health crisis

The board accepted \$50,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to expand and improve services to help people safely withdraw from substances and support their work towards recovery. UCare and Hennepin Healthcare have also joined in this effort, and the county is seeking partnerships with other health plans. Providing additional supports at 1800 Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis can reduce demand on emergency departments and other high-cost crisis services, reducing overall costs per patient.

[Read more about this action.](#)

## DNR to provide county probationers with on-the-job training

The board approved an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to provide employment and training for residents on probation. As part of the county's Productive Day program, participants will work on tasks that support natural resources management at Afton State Park.

[Read more about this action.](#)

## Board recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The board declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an observance that raises awareness of the impact this issue has on victims, survivors, families and the community. The Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center serves a large and diverse population and reported 10,200 contacts with victims in 2017.

[Read more about this action.](#)

Current and archival board meetings, agendas and minutes are available at [hennepin.us/boardmeetings](http://hennepin.us/boardmeetings).

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## Events

### Northeast

- **Wednesdays, October 3 and 17, 11am to 2pm**  
*Employer of the Day Hiring Event.* Looking for a job in customer service, hospitality, or janitorial and maintenance work? This on-site hiring event is just for you. 1700 2nd St. NE. [esns.org](http://esns.org)

- Thursday, October 4 and Friday, October 5, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, October 6, 9am to 2pm**  
*Northeast Cleanup Days.* Volunteers needed for a Community Clean-Up Days. Invite your co-workers, neighbor, friends, and families together to help clean up Northeast. 2329 Central Ave. NE. [litterbegone.org](http://litterbegone.org)
- Friday, October 5, 7 to 11pm**  
*GPS Movie Night.* Come join Geek Partnership Society (GPS) for an evening of film and fun in the big room at GPS Event Horizon. BYO snacks (or dinner), beverages, and a comfy chair. There will be some snacks and soda available for sale. 1121 Jackson St. NE.
- Saturday, October 13, 9am to 12pm**  
*Historic Riverfront 5K Run/Walk.* Join the Historic Riverfront and Minneapolis neighborhood 5K Run/Walk, which follows the Mississippi River over the Stone Arch Bridge. Race starts/ends at Boom Island Park, 700 Sibley St. NE. \$30 per registration.
- Saturday, October 13, 12 to 4pm**  
*River Clean Up.* Gather at Keegan's Pub at noon to join the Northeast River Cleanup. Free beer and pizza after at Keegan's Pub, 16 University Ave. NE. [heartofnortheast.com](http://heartofnortheast.com)
- Saturday, October 13, 11am to 2pm**  
*Pet Adoption Day.* Meet a new furry pal and see if they are a good fit for your family. PetSmart, 1640 New Brighton Blvd.
- Sunday, October 28, 1 to 4pm**  
*1st Annual HERO-ween.* Indoor trick-or-treating throughout the Fire Museum and meet your local heroes from fire, police, and paramedics! Dress in costume or just come to visit. 664 22nd Ave. NE. [firehallmuseum.org](http://firehallmuseum.org)
- Friday, October 26, 10am to 12pm**  
*Tiny Tot Halloween Party.* Logan Park will be hosting a Halloween Party just for children under the age of 6. Dress in your favorite costume and be ready to party. Logan Park, 690 13th Ave. NE.
- Wednesday, October 31, 6 to 7:30pm**  
*Spooktacular Night.* Calling all ghosts and goblins, vampires and monsters, villains and superheroes, make sure to trick and treat at the park for a family fun event. Bottineau Park, 2000 2nd St. NE.
- Wednesday, October 31, 6 to 8pm**  
*Halloween Party.* Come join Upper Northeast Parks, as they celebrate the scariest night of the year. Enjoy some food, games, and entertainment. Windom Northeast Park, 2251 Hayes St. NE.

## North Loop

- Saturday, October 6, 6 to 10pm**  
*Breakfast Under the Stars.* At YouthLink's first annual Breakfast Under the Stars you'll enjoy drinks and dinner, as well as youth performances and a live auction supporting young people in our community. 41 N. 12th St. [youthlinkmn.org](http://youthlinkmn.org)

- **Wednesday, October 17, 6 to 8pm**  
*Quilt, Not Quilt: The Afterlife* is a new exhibition at Minnesota Center for Book Arts (MCBA) and the exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. 1011 Washington Ave. S. [mnbookarts.org](http://mnbookarts.org)

## North

- **October Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 6 to 7pm**  
*Zumba-Dance Fitness Class*. NorthPoint is offering free exercise classes on Mondays and Fridays at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N. and, Thursdays at NorthPoint Human Services building, 1315 Penn Ave. N.
- **Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 to 7:30pm**  
*Author Talk*: Curt Brown. Meet Minnesota journalist and author Curt Brown. Get a copy of his book "Minnesota, 1918: When Flu, Fire, and War Ravaged the State" at North Market Community Meeting Room, 4414 Humboldt Ave. N. [hclib.com](http://hclib.com)
- **Monday, October 22, 6 to 8pm**  
*Halloween Party* at North Commons. A festive, safe, and fun Halloween party for ghosts and goblins, young and old. Bounce house, carnival games, candy, and lots of fun. This program is geared toward kids 1 to 12 years old but all are welcome. North Commons Park, 1801 James Ave. N.
- **Sunday, October 28, 1 to 3:30pm**  
*Animal Masquerade Party*. Come dressed as your favorite animal to enjoy an afternoon of games, dancing and fun. It may not be so spooky, but you can disguise your identity in natural style by making a leaf mask to complete your costume. North Mississippi Regional Park, 5116 N. Mississippi Dr.
- **Tuesday, October 30, 6 to 8pm**  
*2018 Halloween Party*. Harrison Park Halloween Party will be on October 30th and will be for ages pre-k through 5th grade. There will be music, games, prizes and much more. Harrison Park, 503 Irving Ave. N.
- **Wednesday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm**  
*Halloween Spooktacular*. Farview Park Halloween event for all ages. Dress in a costume or come as yourself and witness the joys of Halloween. Farview Park, 621 29th Ave. N.
- **Wednesday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm**  
*Truck or Treat*. A new alternative to the traditional idea of going house to house trick or treating. Each trunk will be decorated and some will even have games to play in-between. Folwell Park, 1615 Dowling Ave. N.

## Golden Valley

- **Saturday, October 6, 8am to 1pm**  
*Golden Valley Annual Mighty Tidy Clean-up Day*. Dispose of items that you no longer use and that cannot be donated, such as old mattresses, sofas, bicycles, ancient appliances, and unwanted tires. 7800 Golden Valley Rd. [goldenvalleymn.gov](http://goldenvalleymn.gov)

- **Saturday, October 27, 8am to 1pm**  
*Fall Leaf Drop-off.* Dispose of leaves at no charge. Brookview Park, 200 Brookview Pkwy. [fallleafdropoff.com](http://fallleafdropoff.com)

## Bryn Mawr

- **Thursday, October 11, 6 to 8:30pm**  
*Sip and Stroll 2018.* Visit local stores and restaurants and enjoy a beautiful evening of shopping with a glass of wine and some nosh. Downtown Bryn Mawr 400 Penn Ave. S.

## Plymouth

- **Thursday, October 4, 6 to 8pm**  
The Music in Plymouth Endowment Fund will host a wine tasting fundraiser featuring hors d'oeuvres, live music and the opportunity to win prizes. Ticket cost \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Ave. N. [musicinplymouth.org](http://musicinplymouth.org)
- **Friday, October 26, 6 to 9pm**  
*Halloween at the Creek.* Halloween fun for the whole family! Carnival games, inflatables, entertainment, prizes, treats and more! Preregister to ensure your family's participation. Adults \$5, Kids \$10. (by Friday, October 26, 4:30pm); \$12 per person at the door. Cost includes a pizza slice and beverage. Plymouth Creek Center 14800 34th Ave. N.
- **Tuesday, October 30, 6pm to 8pm**  
First-ever Truck or Treat Open House by the Plymouth Fire Department. Stop by the nearest fire station to see fire trucks, police equipment and other public safety vehicles. Halloween costumes are welcome. For information and locations: [plymouthmn.gov](http://plymouthmn.gov)

## St. Anthony

- **Saturday, October 6, 1 to 4pm**  
*Village Big Rig.* Come see the big rigs that keep St. Anthony trucking. The kids can get a hands-on experience with a police car, snow plow and more. 3301 Silver Lake Rd. NE.
- **Saturday, October 6, 1 to 4pm**  
*The Fire Department annual open house.* Fire station tours, opportunity to try on the gear, hot dogs, s'mores and more. 3505 Silver Lake Rd. NE. [savmn.com](http://savmn.com)

## Multiple communities

- **Wednesday, October 10, 10am to 3pm**  
*People of Color Career Fair.* Attend the Fall POC Career Fair for your chance to connect one-on-one with top Minnesota employers who are looking for professionals of color. Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave S. [poccareerfair.com](http://poccareerfair.com)

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## Contact

Linda Higgins

Commissioner, District 2

612-348-7882

[www.hennepin.us/higgins](http://www.hennepin.us/higgins)

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

Tina Sanz

Principal Aide

612-348-5335

Jeff Vang

Administrative Assistance

612-348-3526



[www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us)

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