



# Sorensen Sideline

[www.SorensenNeighborhood.org](http://www.SorensenNeighborhood.org)

The Sorensen Neighborhood Association was organized to nurture friendship and communication between neighbors.

We encourage and welcome all residents to participate in meetings and activities.

Become involved in decisions that affect your community.



## Cancellation Update at March 28 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Join us, meet and greet your neighbors and get a timely update on important neighborhood issues at the Sorensen Neighborhood Association annual meeting. The meeting will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on March 28 in a **new location: the St. Louis Park High School cafeteria**. And we are keeping with our shameless enticement, **LOTS OF FREE PIZZA**.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) recently informed the City of St. Louis Park that it has removed the permanent reconstruction of Highway 100 from its next 10-year plan. The project had been scheduled to begin in 2014, and MnDOT was positioning the project so that construction could start earlier if funds became available. Read more in the "City Council Update," page 2.

City Council Representative Sue Sanger will attend our meeting to pass along the latest information about Hwy. 100 and other issues. According to Sue, the city will work with legislators, the City of Edina, the Chamber of Commerce, residents, businesses and others to attempt to reverse the MnDOT decision.

Additional speakers include State Rep. Steve Simon, Marney Olson, St. Louis Park's new community liaison, and Karen Atkinson from Children First. State Senator Ron Latz has also been invited.

Official business will include the annual election of the Sorensen Steering Committee. You'll have an opportunity to join the steering committee, serve as a volunteer and meet current committee members.

Once again, you can win an exciting door prize donated by a local business!

A nonperishable food item or personal care product to donate to STEP (St. Louis Park Emergency Program) would be greatly appreciated.

**New  
location—  
SLP High  
School  
Cafeteria**

### Date and Time

Wednesday, March 28th, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

### Location

SLP Senior High School Cafeteria  
6425 West 33rd Street

### What to bring

Nonperishable food item for STEP

Issue 19,  
Spring 2007

### In This Issue

2

Evergreen Winner  
Has "Gardener  
Angel"

Sue Sanger Update

3

Sorensen  
Garage Sales

Erin Hynes steps  
down as Chair

4

Fall Social Highlights

5

Hot Topics from  
Steve Simon

Sorensen Factoids

Spotlight on a  
Neighbor

6

Sunday Afternoon  
Escape

### Contributors

Diane Rose  
Meghan Phimister  
Sue Sanger  
Lois Zander

### Editors

Diane Rose  
Jan Loftus



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- MINNETONKA BLVD.
- SSO LINE RR
- SORENSEN
- Highway 100
- Highway 7
- Sorensen Park
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## Join The Sorensen E-Mail List

If you'd like to be reminded by email about upcoming Sorensen meetings and special events, send your e-dress to Meghan Phimister at [mphimis@yahoo.com](mailto:mphimis@yahoo.com)

The City Council is reviewing the dozens of excellent recommendations made by citizen action teams, as part of the Vision St. Louis Park strategic planning process. Many thoughtful and creative suggestions were made for the improvement of the city's natural and built environment, transportation systems, arts and cultural events, community diversity, housing, sidewalks and trails, gathering places, etc. We are considering how to prioritize and pay for them and of course will be seeking additional public input prior to any final decisions.


After several years of multiple major redevelopment projects, there seems to be a temporary lull in new projects, with one significant exception. The city has received a proposal to redevelop 44 acres southwest of the intersection of Highways 100 and 394, including some land located within Golden Valley. The proposal is to build a new retail development and several office towers, also including a movie theater, restaurants, and possibly a hotel. The city is

working with the developer to refine the site plans and address the numerous associated traffic, financial, environmental and legal issues. Demolition of existing buildings is anticipated to begin later this summer.

## And now, the really bad news:

MnDOT has informed the city that it has removed the permanent reconstruction of Highway 100 from its' next ten year plan. As you may recall, MnDOT had previously scheduled the project to begin in 2014, and as recently as December, 2006 had been expediting the highway design process, so as to be ready to build earlier if funds became available. As MnDOT previously indicated, this rebuild is vital due to the deteriorating bridges and long-term mitigation of traffic congestion, despite the temporary relief provided by the recent "interim" roadwork. The city will aggressively work with legislators, the City of Edina, the Chamber of Commerce, interested residents and businesses, and other partners to attempt to reverse this decision.

Please feel free to contact me below. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and concerns.

  
Sue Sanger,  
Ward One Council member  
952-926-4192  
suesanger@comcast.net

# Thanks to everyone who attended the Sorensen Fall Social!

About 70 people caught up with old friends and made new ones at the 2006 Sorensen Fall Social, while enjoying Angie's Kettle Corn and apple cider. Janine Cotton, Leslie Kline and Sandi Olson won the wine gift baskets donated by Napa Jack's. Look for info in the next newsletter about the 2007 Fall Social. A special thanks to Napa Jack's and Trader Joe's for their generous gifts.



Diane Dunlevy, Diane Rose  
& Meghan Phimister



Alyssa Crump



Heather  
Westwood



Our new co-chair,  
Lois Zander



Field Kline-Olson



Benjamin Burke



Madison Kozak and  
Eleanor Kline-Olson



Judy Lausen, Florence and  
Bud Seratzki, Tip Lausen



Elfriede Haeger and  
Janice Loftus

The Sorensen Sideline is the official newsletter of the Sorensen Neighborhood Association and is published twice yearly by volunteer members of the Association. To submit story ideas, contact Diane Rose at 612.922.0433.

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# Spotlight on a neighbor

Jean and Kenny Mangen were born and raised in Northeast Minneapolis. However, they were lured to St. Louis Park by enticing lot prices. They bought their lot on Zarthan Avenue for \$600. When construction of their home was completed they moved in on their wedding night, August 28, 1948. The construction cost of their home: \$15,000.



Jean and Kenny raised two sons on Zarthan and recall several reasons for moving here. Homes were new and owners took pride in the appearance of their homes. Neighbors and their kids socialized with one another. Even the firefighters came by at Christmas and handed out candy to all the kids.

Jean and Kenny continue to take great pride in their home. Quite often you'll find them working in their yard to keep it beautiful.

## Thanks, Erin!

Erin Hynes is stepping down from the invaluable role she has played as chair of the Sorensen Neighborhood Association steering committee since 2002. Erin organized volunteers, planned and attended neighborhood events, wrote and edited newsletter articles and worked with City Hall on grant requests and many other matters. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Karen Laukkonen, *Sorensen Sideline* graphic designer since 2002, commented: "Erin has been the driving force behind this neighborhood association. She has made my life easier, working diligently to bring fun ideas and great writing to a volunteer newsletter. She even magically made sure we always had good weather for the Fall Social."



ERIN HYNES  
SORENSEN NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON,  
2002-2007

Thanks, Erin!

*Your friends on the  
Sorensen Steering Committee*



## Evergreen Winner Has "Gardener Angel"

Sorensen residents Lauren and Greg Behl, 5917 Minnetonka Blvd., were honored in September for adding beauty to the neighborhood with their home's landscaping. The Evergreen Award they received from the St. Louis Park City Council was a surprise; they don't know who nominated them, although they suspect a neighbor.

"I'm not a skilled gardener, but I think I have an eye for design and color and I like to keep the landscape natural to the lot," said Lauren, who began updating her large yard following a home expansion project in 1995.

Lauren has tackled the landscaping in stages, doing almost everything herself. An old driveway was filled in with dirt and perennial flower beds have been added on all sides of the house. Lauren feels the work is "about two-thirds done" as she continues to replace grass with gardens. Coming up soon: landscaping the hill that wraps around the southwest corner of the lot.

"This house has been in our family since 1920, starting with my grandparents, Ray and Ethel Mosher," Lauren said. "My mother, Jean Martin, was born here and we bought it in 1980 when my daughter was born. It was hard for me to change things, but my grandfather was a gardener and I kind of feel like he's been an angel gardener on my shoulder."



## Children First Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 20, 2007  
2:00-5:00 p.m. at Wolfe Park

FREE Sebastian Joe's and kosher ice cream  
Family Activities & Entertainment  
For info visit: [www.children-first.org](http://www.children-first.org)



# Annual Garage Sale is Saturday, May 5

The tenth annual Sorensen Garage Sale will be on Saturday, May 5, 2007 with advertised hours of 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To participate, return the form below, along with the \$4 participation fee. The participation fee covers ads in the Star/Tribune & Sun Sailor and some neighborhood signage. Participants and local vendors will receive flyers listing participants' addresses and sale highlights. For more information contact Kathleen Perkins, garage sale coordinator, at 952-925-4208. Registration deadline is Friday, April 20th. Send form and \$4 participation fee (cash only) to Kathleen Perkins, 6212 W. 35th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Merchandise Highlights: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I can help distribute flyers to local businesses.



## Hot Topics from Steve Simon

*Steve Simon, District 44A, Minnesota House of Representatives:*

The 2007 legislative session is underway. I'm cautiously optimistic about the prospect of positive action. Here's a brief overview of the big issues.

**K-12 Education** Nearly everyone agrees that K-12 schools will get more resources. The only question is how much more—and under what conditions. In addition, there's a push to fund voluntary all-day kindergarten.

**Health Care** There's broad agreement that we need to move toward giving all children health care. This "Cover All Kids" initiative won't happen overnight, but we can make sure over time that all kids have health security.

**Property Tax Relief** People need a property tax break. The most likely package will include restoration of state aid cuts to cities, direct aid to seniors and low-income residents, and the use of existing state money instead of property tax revenue to fund our schools.

**Energy** The legislature will probably pass a requirement that utility companies use renewable energy in the production of 25% of their energy by 2025.

**Transportation** All sides concede that new spending is needed to keep up with increasing demand. The governor wants to borrow to pay for billions in backlogged highway projects—like the final phase of Highway 100. Legislators in both political parties prefer a modest increase in the gas tax (which hasn't been raised since 1988).

As always, please feel free to contact me about any issue, idea, or concern. You can call me at the Capitol (651-296-9889), call me at home (952-920-1611) or e-mail me (rep.steve.simon@house.mn).



## St. Louis Park Lions 50th Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

**Sunday, April 1, 2007  
7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

St. Louis Park Junior High School  
2025 Texas Avenue South

All proceeds are returned to the community through Lions sponsored service projects. This breakfast is their largest fund raiser of the year. Adults \$6.00, children (5-12) and senior citizens \$4.00. Children 5 and under are free. Free diabetes screening, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

## Meet the Sorensen Steering Committee

Lisa Miller, Board Co-Chairperson  
Lois Zander, Board Co-Chairperson

Barb Barbo, Committee  
Kristin Berns, Committee  
Janine Crump, Committee  
Karen Laukkonen, Newsletter design  
Jan Loftus, Committee  
Meghan Phimister, Committee  
Diane Rose, Newsletter writer  
Rebecca Thelen, Committee



**Sorensen Neighborhood Association**

c/o Marney Olson  
SLP Neighborhood Outreach  
3015 Raleigh Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

**Sorensen Neighborhood web site:**

[www.SorensenNeighborhood.org](http://www.SorensenNeighborhood.org)

**City of St. Louis Park web site:**

[www.stlouispark.org](http://www.stlouispark.org)

**St. Louis Park Historical Society:**

[www.slphistory.org](http://www.slphistory.org)

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## Mark these important dates in your calendar:

**March 28**

Sorensen Annual  
Meeting, SLP  
Sr. High Cafeteria  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

**April 15**

Sunday Afternoon  
Escape,  
Harvest Moon  
Coffee Shop, 2 p.m.

**April 19-21**

Friends of the  
Library  
Used Book Sale  
3240 Library Lane

**May 5**

Sorensen  
Neighborhood  
Garage Sale  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Aug 7**

24th Annual  
National Night Out,  
organize your own  
block party

### Fifth Annual

# Sunday Afternoon Escape

**Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.**

Harvest Moon Coffee House,  
5101 Minnetonka Blvd

Bring a neighbor and money  
for treats

For the fifth year in a row, we are escaping our busy lives for a couple of carefree hours at Harvest Moon. Catch up with old neighbors, meet new ones and enjoy sandwiches, soup, baked goods, ice cream and coffee. With luck, we'll be able to sit out on the patio. If not, we'll gather inside by the fire. Invite that neighbor you'd like to know better and escape to Harvest Moon.

The building that Harvest Moon occupies has been undergoing some changes. Since last summer, a construction company has been removing and replacing the original stucco, which was done incorrectly. Work on the front of the building was nearing completion as the newsletter went to press.

"We want to thank our loyal customers who have supported us during the construction," said Harvest Moon co-owner Melissa Swisher. "Raleigh, the street to the east of our shop, is a parking alternative if the lot is full."

