



# Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association

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## ESPNA CLEAN-UP PROJECT

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) held its first annual neighborhood clean-up project on Saturday, June 9.

The project was a tremendous success. Waste Management of Rochester supplied our association with 2 huge dumpsters for the event. The dumpsters were centrally located at Holmes school parking lot. Flyers, advertising the neighborhood clean-up, were distributed around the Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association. Our goal was to help neighbors rid themselves of the junk that invariably piles up on all of us around the house over the months and years.

The response was overwhelming. Our dumpsters were overflowing just 3

hours into our designated 5



*ESPNA sponsors the first annual neighborhood clean-up project.*

hour project time. The total amount of refuse, collected in that 3 hour time span, came to over **4 tons**.

Neighborhood volunteers were kept busy hauling junk to the dumpsters for those unable to do so themselves.

The ESPNA has received

many favorable responses since and definitely plans to do another neighborhood clean-up project again as soon as funds become available

Many thanks to Waste Management who helped to make this project possible. A special thank you to Steve Mattson, project chair and to the following volunteers for donating their time, energy and resources on our neighborhood clean-up project: Sgt. Bruce Sherden, Kevin and Mari Fleming, Don Flott, Kathy Fritsche, Ben and Heidi Kunde, Gary Drugg, Paul Wilson, Joe Walsh, Paul Scanlon and Don German.

If you have any suggestions concerning future neighborhood projects, please contact us at 282-2667.

## ESPNA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) values your participation as well as your advice and support.

Our continued success in addressing your needs and concerns is totally dependant on your direction and sup-

port  
How can you help?

There are a number of possibilities including: 1) **consider a monetary donation**, 2) serve on our board or in some other capacity within our association, 3) sharing ideas for a project you would

like to see done, 4) share association concerns or problems or let us know of someone in need.

Contributions to ESPNA: make checks out to ESPNA and send to 1312 3 1/2 St SE Rochester, MN 55904.

**Volume 1, Issue 3  
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### Inside this issue:

<i>Town Hall Estates</i>	2
<i>Meth Labs</i>	2
<i>DM&amp;E Railroad</i>	3
<i>Holmes School Ideas</i>	3
<i>Charter Schools</i>	3

### FUTURE ESPNA MEET- INGS:

- **Thursday August 9, 7:00 pm, St Francis Parish Center Activity Room, 1114 3rd St. SE.**
- **Due to the transition to Riverside Central, future meeting locations are uncertain. Please check the Post-Bulletin or our website for meeting announcements.**



A renowned local developer wants to transform Town Hall Estates into an affordable apartment complex.

## TOWN HALL ESTATES

As you may know the owners of Town Hall Estates retirement center have been looking for a buyer.

The Salvation Army had given serious consideration to purchasing Town Hall and moving its administrative offices as well as a number of its programs to the facility. However, after careful deliberation, the Salvation Army has decided not to pursue this transaction.

Recently, a renowned local

developer, approached our association about the possibility of developing Town Hall into an income-qualified apartment complex.

The developers proposal is to transform Town Hall into between 40-72 rental apartments, with the intent to rent to a constituent group whose income is between 30-80% of the median.

Preliminary plans indicate that there is access to ample parking and that the remaining

residents shall be taken into consideration.

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association has submitted an endorsement letter on this project in which we stipulate, among other things that whoever redevelops Town Hall will do so in a manner that will contribute to the residential character of our neighborhood that we have fought so hard to preserve.

For more information contact ESPNA.

*“ Our intention is to pursue every legal prospect possible to insure not only the safety of our neighbors but members of our community as well.”*



The ESPNA intends to sponsor educational forums concerning our criminal justice system.

## METH LABS AND THE OLMSTED COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Late last year 2 meth labs were discovered within our neighborhood association.

Meth is an abbreviation for Methamphetamine an illegal and very addictive drug. It is made in illegal laboratories hurriedly set up in bathrooms, basements, garages and many other places in and around a residence. Given the toxic and volatile nature of the chemicals used in producing meth, meth labs are environmentally hazardous extremely dangerous operations, especially in densely populated areas such as neighborhoods. Moreover an offshoot of this particular drug is its apparent connection to violent crime. Meth use causes extreme paranoia, and there is a strong connection to child abuse and neglect as well as violent behavior. It is typical to find a cash of weapons present to protect these drugs and given the high para-

noia level of meth drug dealers and manufacturers this makes for a highly dangerous situation for both neighbors and law enforcement officials alike. Locally we have become aware of the growing popularity of this easily manufactured drug and the continued involvement of repeat meth drug offenders in the creation of these potentially lethal operations.

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) has written and met with a number of state and local officials concerning this very important issue. Our intent is to pursue every legal prospect possible to insure not only the safety of our neighbors but members of our community as well.

ESPNA intends to sponsor

public forums at our monthly meetings designed to inform citizens about our local and state criminal justice system.

Our goal is to hear from law enforcement officials, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys and from various supporting agencies concerning drug related crimes.

The ESPNA is also looking into the possibility of starting a court monitoring program in Olmsted County geared toward drug related crimes. This would be similar to the WATCH program in Hennepin County. We would also like to find out if there is interest in starting a coalition of Citizen Patrols in Rochester to work in cooperation with the Community-Policing Program similar to the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols.

## DM&E RAILROAD

Once again the DM&E railroad is back in the news, with breaking news stories becoming almost a daily occurrence.

Subject matter for news stories have been: 1) DM&E seeks waiver to avoid fault on bond payments, 2) Federal agencies concerns about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, 3) Court cases and favored legal rights of railroads, 4) The STB statements concerning completion of its environmental assessment by

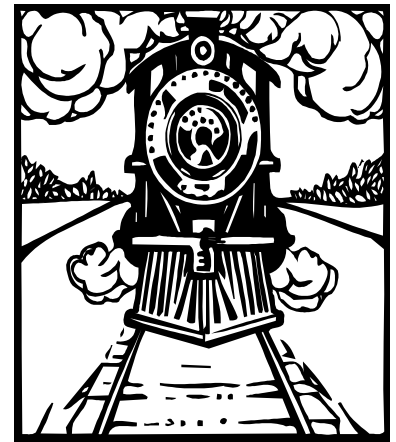
Fall of 2001, 5) Legislators thoughts on predicted Fall 2001 release of environmental assessment, 6) The Surface Transportation Boards (STB) statements that it could order a bypass.

The DM&E's proposed expansion of its operations to 34 or more fast-moving unit coal trains is a serious concern to our neighborhood association. This proposal, as it stands, will severely impact the viability of our neighborhood.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has sent out notices stating that they are now working on a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Current speculation is that the STB will issue the FEIS on the DM&E project before mid-December 2001 and that a second comment period will follow.

Watch for neighborhood action alerts on this issue.



*Watch for ESPNA ACTION ALERTS in the upcoming months concerning developments on the DM&E coal train expansion project.*

## HOLMES SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE USE

With the completion date for the new elementary school only a few months away, discussions have once again resumed on alternative uses for Holmes elementary school.

The alternative uses committee will meet again in early August to review proposals. Ultimately recommendations will be made to the school

board where the final decision will be made as to the fate of the Holmes School property.

Topics for discussion thus far have included, neighborhood concerns, district budgetary constraints, possible sale of the property, zoning, estimated costs, as well as some proposals from the United Way, First Homes Projects,

Community Housing Partnership, Rochester Montessori, District 535( Staff Development Center) and the Boys and Girls Club.

What are your thoughts? What would you like to see done with it? What do the neighbors closest to Holmes school think should be done?

*“The alternative uses committee will meet again in early August to review proposals.”*

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

Bonnie Jean Flom, a consultant to schools exploring innovative programming for students, addressed our June ESPNA meeting.

Ms. Flom, an experienced public school teacher and principal, indicated that charter schools are one way for a small group of committed

people to transform a shared educational dream into reality.

The teachers and parents involved in a charter school are truly in control of the school. Charter schools are alternative public schools that are freed from many of the regulations that may slow innovation in traditional public schools.

Being in control, however, means a lot of work and it is important to use this freedom wisely.

There are Federal and State start-up funds available for those interested in starting charter schools.

Interested ? Contact ESPNA.



*Charter schools was the topic of concern at the ESPNA June meeting.*

**NEED HELP?  
CALL US**

We can help you with:

- **CRIME PREVENTION AND INFORMATION**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY**
- **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**
- **IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**
- **AND MUCH MORE**

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ESPNA is located in an area next to downtown Rochester on the east-side, west of the prison, south of Silver Creek and north of 4th St. SE.

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# **EASTSIDE PIONEERS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (ESPNA)**

Our motto is neighbors helping neighbors. We want to enhance, maintain, and preserve property values and common interests of the neighborhood. The ESPNA promotes safe neighborhoods. We speak with a united voice for the neighborhood and take appropriate actions to advance neighborhood interests.



**Call or e-mail us anytime.  
We want to hear from you.  
Be sure to visit our website.**



**Eastside Pioneers  
Neighborhood Association**