

town square

news briefs

HOPKINS

Hopkins Elks expand aid to homeless teens

Homeless young people in the west metro area in need of kindness and essential items will benefit from a \$10,000 grant the Hopkins Elks Lodge recently received from the organization's national foundation to expand its "Teaming Up for Teens" program.

For the past four years, the Hopkins lodge has partnered with other community groups to gather items to help homeless teens, including coats, school supplies, bus passes, gift cards and care packages to help assure day-to-day hygiene, such as shampoo, toothbrushes, soap and laundry detergent.

The grant will be used to expand the items provided monthly to west metro schools, police departments and community partners for distribution to teens in need, as well as the distribution range.

According to the lodge, 150 to 250 teenagers are at risk of homelessness on any given night in the west suburbs, often couch-hopping or living on the street. "We want to reach these kids before they are drawn into higher-risk areas or situations," the lodge said in a news release.

One of the ways community members can help is to donate \$5 to sponsor a care package and include with it a personal note of encouragement to a homeless teen.

For more information about the program and donations, go to <http://teamingup-forteens.hopkinselks.org>.

BLOOMINGTON

City suggests name for new regional trail

Bloomington city staff has suggested that Three Rivers Park District name a new biking and walking trail that will run from Lake

Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Poor Richard's Commonhouse, 8301 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington.

Severson will speak on how "education"



Star Tribune file photo

With the holidays come the annual performances of the "Nutcracker." Tickets for the Metropolitan Ballet's two performances at Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis on Dec. 21 are on sale now.

It is a collaboration of the Richfield and Fridley historical societies.

BLOOMINGTON, RICHFIELD, EDINA

Cities get state grant to continue health efforts

Bloomington's Public Health Division has received \$886,000 from the state Department of Health to continue work in 2014-15 on projects to improve the health of residents in that city and in Richfield and Edina.

The State Health Improvement Program money, as it is called, is used at schools, worksites and in the community to promote healthy eating, physical activity and tobacco-free living.

Working with residents and city partners, the three cities are working on projects like promoting healthier food and beverage choices at city-operated concessions, trying to get more fresh food donations for emergency food programs and making changes that make it easier to bike, walk and use mass transit in the cities.

MINNETONKA

Applications being accepted for Grays Bay Marina slips

Starting at 8 a.m. Dec. 2, Minnetonka residents can apply to be placed on the waitlist for boat slip vacancies at Grays Bay Marina on Lake Minnetonka.

Applicants can either mail or drop off the completed application and \$100 deposit to the city facilities division at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345.

Once an applicant is accepted for an available boat slip, the deposit will be applied to the first-year lease payment. More details are