

Neighbors News

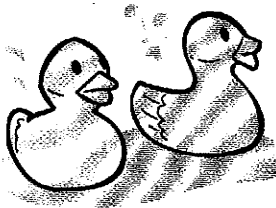
Late Summer
2008

2008-2009

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**Get Your Ducks in
a Row!**

**Join the fun on
September 20,
2008, at Kaposia
Landing and
WIN BIG
PRIZES**

The Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race

OR

How a Rubber Duck Can Win You a Motor Scooter

The first annual *Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race* will be held on September 20th at the new Kaposia Landing in South St. Paul (formerly Port Crosby) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The day is designed as a Family Fun Fest, with a variety of food booths, activity areas and fun games for the whole family, highlighted by the First Annual Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race. At 2:01 p.m., several thousand rubber ducks will be emptied into a contained race course and will float several hundred yards to a finish line. The first three ducks to finish the race will win major prizes for the persons who adopted them, as will the last duck to finish the race. Winners need not be present.

Ducks can be adopted for \$5 a piece (six ducks for \$25) and may be adopted at a variety of locations around the Northern Dakota County community. Volunteers will be available at the Cub, Rainbow and Wal-Mart stores in both West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, at Knowlan's in South St. Paul and at Lowe's in West St. Paul on Saturdays and Sundays throughout August and the first half of September. In addition, adoption certificates are available through many banks in West St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul and Mendota Heights.

(continued, p. 2)

Adopt A Duck Today!

Adopt your duck(s) at
www.neighborsmn.org!
Just log on and download
the adoption certificate.
Once you have printed the
adoption certificate, please
fill it out and mail it to
Neighbors with your
payment for the number of
ducks you adopted. We
will mail your portion of
the certificate back to you
with your Duck Number(s).
(We can't take credit card
payments online due to
MN Gaming Laws).

Thanks and good luck!

*With the help of its volunteers, Neighbors, Inc. will strive to reduce
poverty, promote self sufficiency and build community.*

Duck Race (continued)

Volunteers will also be selling duck adoptions at various community events in August and September, such as the Movies in the Park program in South St. Paul and the Farmers' Markets in West St. Paul and South St. Paul.

In addition, people interested in adopting one or more ducks can go to the Neighbors website (www.neighborsmn.org), print off and complete a certificate, and mail it with a check to Neighbors.

QUESTIONS?

Call Dan at (651)306-2148.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

DUCK RACE PRIZES

The first duck to finish will win for its adopter: a 50 cc motor scooter with a value of approximately \$2,000.

Second place is a Metrodome suite for 16 people, including non-alcoholic beverages, for a 2009 Twins game. The value of this prize is approximately \$1,750.

The third place prize will be a 32" flat screen television with an approximate value of \$600.

The last duck to finish will win the "Lazy Duck Award," a cash prize of \$100.

Our Local Businesses and Organizations Supporting The Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race

We would like to thank the Sponsors and Community Partners of ***The Great Neighbors' Mississippi River Duck Race*** and encourage all of our supporters to patronize these businesses, as they are supporting your community!

Sponsors:

Thomson Reuters
Heartland Credit Union
Roadware
Mainstreet Bank
South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights Rotary Club
RE/MAX Realty 100
RBC Dain Rauscher
Bremer Banks
LeVander, Gillen & Miller
Catch-A-Tan
CHS
Dakota Premium Foods.

Community Partners:

The South St. Paul Jaycees
Wakota CAER
West Central Environmental
The City of South St. Paul
South St. Paul Parks & Rec. Department
Upper River Services

Help! Our Server Crashed!

One day in May the staff at Neighbors arrived at work only to find that our computer network wouldn't work. When we called in our technical support person (an absolute saint named Rick Birmingham who works for MAP for Nonprofits) we found that our server had crashed. For those who don't know, a server is like a mainframe computer; it's the place where all the data is stored and people, working at their desks with desktop computers, access the information stored in the server.

As you can imagine, replacing a server is not an inexpensive proposition. If it had been, we would have replaced the server two years ago, before it had a chance to get old and worn out. But we put it off for economic reasons, and now our hand was forced; we had to replace the server.

Fortunately, we had obtained bids on a new server the preceding year, so we knew who we wanted to purchase from and about what it would cost, and we went ahead and ordered a new server. At the same time, we made a decision to try to find a Foundation that would give us a grant to pay for the new server.

Again, we were fortunate. In July we were notified by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation that we had been awarded a grant of \$7,000 to pay for the new server and software.

We are deeply grateful to the F. R. Bigelow Foundation for this grant. Their generosity means that we do not have to use funds to pay for the server that would otherwise be used to provide services.

Rubber Duck Race a Big Hit!

The first annual Great Neighbors Rubber Duck Race on the Mississippi River is over, and as Neighbors' friend and former Board Chair Paul Erickson wrote, "It was a quackerjack of an event."

"This event was successful in every way it could have been," commented John Kemp, Executive Director at Neighbors. "It exceeded our projections financially as we sold 700 more ducks than we had originally planned, and we had a wonderful turnout on a beautiful day at Kaposia Landing to enjoy the Family Fun Day and to observe the race."

Kemp noted that the success of the event came about because of the hard work and dedication of many people. "First and foremost, thank you to Dan Russell of our staff who worked so hard, for a long time, to organize and stage this event," Kemp said. "I don't think any of us anticipated just how much work would be involved and somehow, Dan made sure it all got done."

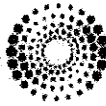
In addition, Kemp said that several highly committed volunteers also worked many hours to make the event happen. He listed Jody Hencier from Heartland Credit Union, Chris Blake from 3M and his wife Diane Blake from Thomson Reuters, and their colleagues from the South St. Paul Jaycees. "I have to say thank you, also, to Eva Treuer and David Miller of our staff for the job they did in recruiting and organizing volunteers, especially on the day of the event," Kemp said.

According to Dan Russell, Development Manager at Neighbors, the event also depended on the contributions of several other organizations. Chief among them was Wakota CAER and WCEC Environmental Consultants, which provided all on-water course development and management and Thomson Reuters who provided printing for the materials for the event. "Wakota CAER and WCEC Environmental laid out the course for us, using booms designed to contain pollution spills on the river. They provided the personnel and the boats to get the ducks on to the course, and to retrieve them after the race. Their service was invaluable," Russell said.

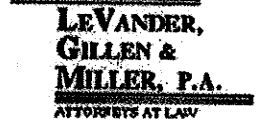
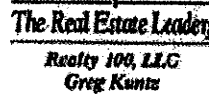
"Thomson Reuters offered to print all of our adoption certificates for us, and that was a tremendous help," Russell added. "There were thousands of certificates that had to be printed, and this made a huge difference in our budget."

Corporate and organizational sponsors included The South St. Paul/Inver Grove Heights Rotary Club, RoadWare Incorporated, Bremer Bank, Mainstreet Bank, Heartland Credit Union, ReMax Realty 100, RBC Wealth Management, Thrivent Financial Aid for Lutherans, the AmVets organization, Thomson Reuters, CHS, South Saint Paul Jaycees, Town Square Television, Catch A Tan, Big Ink display graphics, LeVander Gillen & Miller law firm, WCEC Environmental Consultants, Wakota CAER and Lee Wayne Corporation/Bob Slesinger.

"I was amazed at how much fun everyone had, and how much excitement the event created," Kemp said. "I think all of us are looking forward to the second annual Great Neighbors Rubber Duck Race on the Mississippi."



THOMSON REUTERS



RBC Wealth Management



*Thank you to the Sponsors of the Great
Neighbors Mississippi River Duck Race!*