

“Year of the Bridges” summer activities

Dandelion Day

Noon – 3 p.m., Sunday, May 15

Ard Godfrey House, University and Central Avenues SE

- Visit Minneapolis’ oldest wood frame house in Minneapolis and celebrate Harriet Godfrey bringing dandelion seeds to the St. Anthony Falls area in 1849. For more information call 612-813-5319 or visit www.ardgodfreyhouse.com

Nicollet Island Walking Tour

1 - 3 p.m., Saturday, June 4, and Sunday, June 5

Information kiosk by the Nicollet Island Inn, 95 Merriam St.

- Join one of the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission’s knowledgeable guides on a free walking tour of historic Nicollet Island and learn about the unique industrial and social history of the island in the heart of the city. For more information call (612) 673-2996 or visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc.

Biking the Bridges

1 p.m., Saturday, June 11 and Saturday, July 9

- Explore the bridges of the Mississippi River on this leisurely two-hour guided bike tour. Meet at the Mill Ruins Park trailer at the west end of the Stone Arch Bridge. For information call 612-313-7793 or visit www.minneapolisparcs.org

Stone Arch Festival of the Arts

10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19

Main Street SE, from East Hennepin to Sixth Avenues

- This annual juried art festival offers quality food and attractions, 200+ artists with art for sale, musical and theatrical performances and other highlights such as the “Art of the Classic Car” display and “Art in the Park.” For information call 612-378-1226 or visit www.stonearchfestival.com

Bridges of Minneapolis Walking Tour

1 p.m., Saturday, June 18

Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd Street

- Hike the Minneapolis riverfront and learn about the city’s historic bridges. To make a reservation, call 612-341-7555. For more information visit www.millcitymuseum.org

Solstice River

8:15 p.m., Saturday June, 18 and Sunday, June 19

Stone Arch Bridge

- Watch as the site explodes with dancers, colorful fabric, boats and kayaks for this performance honoring the Mississippi on the longest day of the year. For more information call 651-523-2591 or visit www.cgee.hamline.edu/solstice/

Digging Under the Bridge

10:30 a.m. – noon, Sunday, June 19; 1 – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, July 23

- Take part in a simulated archaeological dig under the Stone Arch Bridge and learn about the lost bridges of the Mill Ruins Park area. To make a reservation, call 612-313-7793. For more information visit www.minneapolisparks.org

Engineering the Falls: Walking tour by history player William De La Barre

1 p.m., Saturday, June 25

Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd Street

- Join a walking tour led by a costumed interpreter portraying William de la Barre, the Austrian engineer who spent half a century developing Minneapolis flour milling and waterpower and protecting St. Anthony Falls from destructive bridge projects. To make a reservation call 612-341-7555. For more information visit www.millcitymuseum.org

Riverfront Walking Tours

11 a.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays 2 p.m. July – September

Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd Street

- Guides from Mill City Museum will lead visitors across historic bridges to learn about the dramatic past and bright future of the Minneapolis riverfront. To make a reservation call 612-341-7555. For more information visit www.millcitymuseum.org

July Fourth Celebration

Parade at 2 p.m., fireworks at 10 p.m., Monday, July 4

- Watch the neighborhood parade and enjoy fireworks over the river. For more information, visit www.mpls4thofjuly.com

Ibaraki Day

2 p.m., Sunday, July 17

Nicollet Island

- Gather at the “Bell of Two Friends” sculpture on Nicollet Island for speeches and light refreshments recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Minneapolis/Ibaraki sister city relationship – a bridge between two cultures

Aquatennial KOOL 108 Riverblast and Target Fireworks Show

6 – 10:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23

West River Parkway, fireworks visible throughout riverfront

- The annual RiverBlast extravaganza will return to the banks of the Mississippi River featuring family fun, food and live entertainment. Be sure to stay for the Target Fireworks Show – the fourth largest in the nation! For more information call 612-376-7669 or visit www.aquatennial.org

A Bridge to a Bridge

1 p.m., Sunday, July 31 and Sunday, August 28

Nicollet Island Pavilion.

- Nicollet Island served as a stepping stone for the first Hennepin Avenue Bridge. Discover more about the island on this fun, informative walking tour. For more information call 612-313-7793 or visit www.minneapolisparks.org.

Landmark: 24 Hours at the Stone Arch Bridge

Sunrise – Sunrise, Saturday, August 27 to Sunday, August 28

- A 24-hour public art event created will feature interactive performance tours that lead audience members through surprising installations, secret videos,

mill-inspired dances and live music compositions. Watch the event planning process evolve at the Soap Factory beginning in May. For more information visit www.soapfactory.org.