

# WELCOME

## Renewing Members

Minnehaha Oaks Association  
McGuire & Sons  
First Minnetonka City Bank  
Dealer Automotive Services  
Sun Newspapers  
Hopkins Raspberry Festival  
Schatz Real Estate Group  
Augustana Care Services



*Mr. Bag - The Interview - continued from page 1*

a lot of fun – and I've learned a lot about Hopkins.

### ***And your impression of Hopkins?***

I love my new home! Lots of great people, a walkable, historic Downtown, things to do - restaurants, theater, arts, and everything one could need - a grocery store, post office, drug store, library – a cool place.

### ***What about your next adventure?***

Guess who's on the thinkhopkins.com website! *Me!* Just click on Bag'em Promotion and there I am – photos and all. Plus a listing of all the great deals. I've been told that we don't have any appearances planned for the next several months – so folks can now download the Bag'em Promotion information and then head to Frame Design at 8 North 10th Avenue and pick up a Think Hopkins/HBCA logo bag. And in January there will be a new list of Bag'em offers on the website. *Way cool.*

*Interested in participating in the next Bag'em Promotion starting in January? Just send an e-mail to nora719@earthlink.net. There is no charge for HBCA members.*

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## MusicBarn.com

*By Nora M. Davis*

I know many of you have passed that barn on Shady Oak Road – the one with the PT Cruiser with the musical motif, and the farm implements in front – and wondered just what “MusicBarn” was all about!

Owners Billee Kraut and Butch Johnson have interesting backgrounds – both are former teachers, Billee's also a CPA, and they once owned a sailboat business in St. Louis Park! But a trip down Shady Oak road in the late 80's changed their lives. Billee saw the barn – and told Butch they just had to buy that barn! And buy that barn they did. The barn was part of the original Dvorak farmstead, built in 1924 and converted to office use in the 80's.

And still living on the property in the original farmhouse were sisters Gladys and Olga Dvorak, daughters of the original owners. Both sisters were wonderful gardeners, and continued to raise those raspberries that are part of local history. Butch and Billee shared wonderful stories about the sisters and how they soon became extended family. Both sisters are gone now – but the memories live on.



*Butch Johnson and Billee Kraut of the Music Barn*

But I digress. MusicBarn sells music software, digital pianos, keyboards and sound equipment. According to Butch – they're primarily an internet business for folks who like to check things out on the internet – but want to “touch and feel” the product before purchasing. Their customers are varied – from the mom who wants to purchase a piano for her 7 year-old, to the 70 year old who wants to learn a new skill. Their showroom featured a number of pianos, sound equipment and keyboards. Butch explained that their customers appreciate being able to talk to someone, ask questions, and problem solve. Prices are very competitive with sales tax included. Renting equipment has also become part of the business – they rent out sound systems and keyboards – great for weddings and special events. I was very impressed to learn Josh Groban had rented a MusicBarn keyboard when he was in town for practice in his hotel room! Butch and Billee also work with school districts and faith communities – helping them set-up sound systems and music labs.

So – if you're in the market for a piano, keyboard or portable PA. – please check out the specials at [www.MusicBarn.com](http://www.MusicBarn.com). And visit the Barn at 5750 Shady Oak – and perhaps Butch or Billee would give you a tour. In addition to keyboards and pianos you'd see the silo with the built in staircase, the area where the cows once entered the barn and where the stanchions once stood. And if you're *really* lucky – perhaps a peek into the top of the barn! Info call 952-933-7307.