



'Where the biggies leave off...'

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FLOATING ISLANDS HUGE SUCCESS IN LOWRY HILL

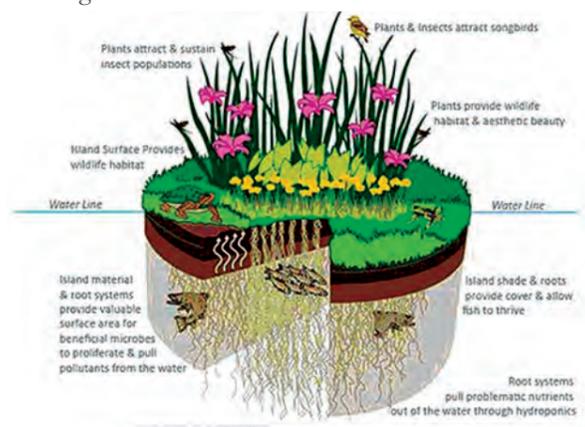
By Craig Wilson

On August 17, 2011 the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) launched a nation-wide campaign to raise public awareness and understanding of the landscape architecture profession. Roughly 150 events occurred in all fifty states and the ASLA Minnesota Chapter (ASLA-MN) held one of the most ambitious events by launching seven "floating islands" on an impaired lake in Minneapolis.

Spring Lake, located in the Lowry Hill Neighborhood between I-394 and Kenwood Parkway, was acquired by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) as a wildlife refuge in 1893. Since then, it has become a severely impaired body of water with a shoreline and park riddled with invasive species. This year, ASLA-MN partnered with the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA) to analyze ways to revitalize Spring Lake and its surrounding park. LHNA allocated funds to restore the area to its original designation as a bird and wildlife sanctuary and pledged to have the area removed from the Impaired Waters List of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Clean Water Act.

These islands, known as floating treatment wetlands (FTWs), are powerful tools in water stewardship. They mimic natural floating islands to create a concentrated wetland effect. Constructed of durable, non-toxic post-consumer plastics and vegetated with native plants, the islands float on top of the water, providing a beautiful habitat for birds and animals, while underneath the surface, the FTWs aid in cleaning the water by attracting microbes that are responsible for breaking down water-borne pollutants.

ASLA-MN landscape architects designed the floating islands with native wetland species that will provide much-needed habitat and greatly improve the water quality. The islands are manufactured by St. Paul-based Midwest Floating Islands.



"The Spring Lake floating islands project is a first for Minneapolis, setting an important precedent for all of Minnesota's impaired water bodies," said Craig Wilson, ASLA-MN President-elect. "Minnesota-designed and manufactured floating islands support both our environment and the local economy."

Installation was an impressive two-day affair; project



Floating Island Installation at Spring Lake

Photo by Dorothy Childers



Ribbon cutting ceremony Left to Right: ASLA-MN President-Elect Craig Wilson, Council Member Lisa Goodman, Commissioner Anita Tabb and Arlys Freeman of Midwest Floating Islands.

Photo by Dorothy Childers

partners and volunteers worked tirelessly to plant and install the floating islands on August 15th and 16th. On August 17, 2011, as part of the ASLA nation-wide "08.17.11" campaign, the ASLA-MN chapter and project partners hosted a celebration over the noon hour. Over 100 people attended and watched as the last island was secured into place.

Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb mentioned, "This project illustrates what happens when true partnerships are formed. When people work together, wonderful things happen." With little less than a month to plan this ambitious undertaking, she's right. In-kind donations and sponsorship dollars (to the tune of an estimated \$50,000) were essential to this event, but equally as important were the relationships that were established and willingness to tackle a marginalized space. Minneapolis Council Member

Lisa Goodman was also on hand and echoed Tabb's sentiments. "Many are disillusioned with government right now, but this effort is a wonderful example of when we remember we are the government and take initiative, good things happen," said Goodman.

Goodman also added, "I've had the opportunity to work with many landscape architects in the past years, and it is one of the most treasured professions in our City." Suffice it to say that to landscape architects, ASLA-MN, and the ASLA 08.17.2011 nation-wide campaign team that is music to our ears.

Thank you to all our project partners, volunteers, and everyone who attended the celebration!

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Free soccer camp at Kenwood

Photo by Dorothy Childers

The Bridge for Youth

by Jean Deatrick

The Bridge for Youth, our neighbor on Emerson Avenue South at 22nd Street, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Forty years of helping young people, 40 years of being a resource in the East Isles neighborhood—The Bridge is a good neighbor! In addition to occupying the old telephone building on 22nd street near Emerson, The Bridge recently expanded westward into a new building having offices, meeting rooms, and living areas. Services include both emergency shelter for youths aged 10 to 17 and transitional living for youths aged 17 to 21.

Those in the transitional program are either too old for foster care or are homeless; they can live at The Bridge for up to 18 months at no cost before transitioning out to other environments. In the impressive commercial kitchen, residents can help with meals. A living area with comfortable sofas is adjacent. Bedrooms are small but with private bathrooms. A computer area is nearby. Staff members emphasized that security and safety are important to the residents, and a zero tolerance for violence is enforced. Although there is a curfew and buildings are locked from the outside, residents can leave during the day whenever they

wish.

An additional house across Emerson is the crisis center and is staffed 24 hours daily. This short term emergency shelter is for ages 10-17 who need safety from trauma. Some are escaping troubled homes, physical abuse, sexual abuse, gender bias, and homophobia, and others are suffering from addictions.

The Bridge has a contract with Hennepin County for illegal offense pickup. If a first offense, the juvenile is taken to The Bridge rather than to juvenile detention. Each juvenile intake receives a physical and a family meeting and then referral to the correct service. 80% of residents are from Hennepin County and the rest from the surrounding counties and outstate Minnesota. 700 young people were treated in 2010.

According to Chelsea Miller, Development Coordinator, and Annie Nelson, Development and Communications Director, who graciously gave me a tour of the facilities, The Bridge is a strength-based program that helps young people identify their strengths rather than being defined by problems, with a goal of trying to keep families together.

The Bridge wants to reach out to its community.

Classified Advertising

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HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

August 22, 6-7:30 Parade rehab meeting
 September 8, 6-8pm Kenwood Cafe artist reception
 September 9, 1pm, Audubon meeting
 September 9, 6:30 to midnight, Bridge fundraiser
 September 10, 6-9 pm, TLP fundraiser
 September 14, 7pm Kenwood Cafe writers reception
 September 18, 1-4pm CIDNA Fall Festival
 October 26, noon, Lunch with Lisa
 Neighborhood monthly meetings:
 CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm at Jones-Harrison; no meeting in August
 EIRA: 1st Tuesday 7pm at Grace-Trinity Church
 KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm except for July 11, Sept. 12, & Jan 9. Kenwood Rec Center, No mtg in August

Bridge funding comes from foundations and government in addition to individual contributions. The Bridge welcomes your donations to its important programs. To celebrate its 40th anniversary, a gala fundraiser will be held on September 9, 2011, 6:30 to midnight, at the Van Dusen Mansion on LaSalle Avenue. Plan to attend this festive event. Or contact Chelsea Miller, Development Coordinator
www.bridgeforyouth.org (612) 230-6657
c.miller@bridgeforyouth.org

On Wednesday, September 14 the Birchbark Books Reading Series will present writers Denise Low and Kathryn Kysar. The reading will take place at the Kenwood Cafe at 7:00 p.m. Denise Low, Kansas Poet Laureate 2007-2009 and author of 20 books of poetry and essays, will feature her acclaimed book, *Ghost Stories of the New West*. Well known local poet Kathryn Kysar will feature her newest volume of poetry, *Pretend the World*. Kenwood Cafe will offer a lovely prix fixe menu that will include a soup and salad with bread. Beverages and sweets will also be available. The Cafe will start serving at 6 pm.

Minnesota Artists Trapped in Lithuania Works on Paper by Peter and Solvei Stohl. Kenwood Cafe will display works by Peter and Solvei Stohl September 8 through October 5, 2011. **Opening reception: Thursday, September 8, 6:00-8:00pm.** The Stohls are Minnesota artists who have been living in Europe the last 20 years. In 2005 they moved to Kaunas, Lithuania where they serve as Christian family counselors.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will host a public meeting to review plan options for the reconstruction of Parade Parkway and possible modifications to surrounding parking lots August 22, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Kenwood Recreation Center. Members of the public are invited to provide comment on layout options before the MPRB decides on a final alignment and proceeds with final construction plans.

Parade Parkway is a short segment of street from Dunwoody Boulevard to Kenwood Parkway. The parkway and parking lots are in need of reconstruction, and the improvement project is included in the MPRB 2011 Capital Plan for Parkway and Parkway Lighting.

Minneapolis Audubon Society, Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S), Friday, September 9, 2011 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our first meeting of the season! Pot luck at noon – bring a dish to share and utensils. Program at 2 p.m. Carrol Henderson, Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor for the Minnesota DNR, will present “Exploring Northeast China and Russia.” Please join us! For more information call 952-926-4205

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, DAN TROCKMAN

Craig Wilson interviews self-described ‘Eco-Geek’ Dan Trockman of the Blake School about ‘floating islands’, invasive species and a new age for impaired Spring Lake in Lowry Hill.

What do you do at The Blake School? I might have the world’s longest title: Assistant Director of Information Support Systems for Learning Technology and Environmental Science Teacher. I need a two-sided business card. Part of my day is spent with teachers and students helping them solve problems with cool technology tools. I teach a single section of Environmental Science to a wonderful group of juniors and seniors. A good deal of my day is spent in meetings.

Wow, technology and the environment. What a combination. How do you reconcile them? Would you consider yourself Geek-co? Eco-Geek might be a better fit. My attraction to technology is more about leveraging technology tools to transform learning and create efficient and engaging learning systems. I have always been enthralled with natural systems and love teaching, especially when I am outside. Luckily, I have found an employer who let’s me do both every day.

How did you get involved with Spring Lake Park and where exactly is it located? Spring Lake Park is on the North side of Kenwood Parkway, just west of the Parade Ice Arena. Being so close to The Blake School Northrop campus allows my class to visit it all year long and use it in our studies. It has also been a regular service area for all the Upper School grades for many years. We have seasonal service events where groups of Blake School students work with the park board and Lowry Neighborhood to work on clearing up invasive species in Spring Lake Park. High-five to Rob Reul for years of encouragement and help in making those service days possible. Rob is a practicing Six Sigma Black Belt and knows how to show buckthorn who is boss.

What is water and habitat quality like in Spring Lake? Despite our on and off attempts at eliminating invasive species in the park, this summer we have made very little progress. The park has seen a recent rapid regrowth of invasive buckthorn, the aggressively oppor-

tunistic box elder, and the herbaceous invasive garlic mustard. In a recent meeting with the Park Board, we talked about getting more help from the forestry peo-



Dan Trockman Photo D. Childers

ple to help us make a more comprehensive approach to tracking those plants that change the habitat and crowd out the native upland and wetland species in the park. The water is an interesting question. Because the lake sits in a small basin at the bottom of this hill, it is not affected by winds, which would normally stir the lake and mix oxygen to lower depths. The geography of the lake collects water from a large area and forces storm water to flow over the top surface of the lake and out the north end; finally to Bassett Creek and then the Mississippi only 2 miles to the northeast. Because this lake does not naturally mix, the water may never be swimmable or support fish. That said, a large amount of nutrient rich storm water flows from the neighborhood and directly into the lake, carrying with it sediments, which have polluting phosphates, and other elements which cause algae blooms in the lit surface of the lake. We hope to mitigate some of that nutrient load with addition of the floating islands. There is good historical data on water quality of the lake; it will be interesting to see how the seven new floating islands affect that.

How does your environmental studies curriculum integrate Spring Lake? I help students find good information on what water quality means and then let them loose in the park to find good research questions. Last year the class co-wrote a paper on alternative buckthorn chemical treatment on a study plot in back of the school. It is just plain good practice to work outdoors when we can.

What do you think of floating islands? I think the

idea is sound and cannot wait to see how they grow and affect the water quality. It should be a great migrating bird attractant too. We want birds to eat at the lake and then fly away with full bellies carrying away some of the nutrient that have been drawn out of the lake water.

How will Blake students be involved in bettering Spring Lake? We are fortunate to have service learning coordinators who will help get groups of students into the park and get on top of the invasive plant issues. All this helps gather attention in the neighborhood too. Hopefully neighbors will become more active and do what they can by helping to pull buckthorn and pressure the Park Board to stay active in managing the habitats.

Where did you grow up? I am from Golden Valley. I lived in Duluth for several six years but have been a Minneapolis resident since 1998.

Your wife, Anne, is also an environmentalist and grew up not far from Spring Lake in Lowry Hill? She grew up in Kenwood and Lowry Hill. Her parents, Mel and Patti Frisch still live on Mount Curve. It makes going to Passover dinner from work really easy.

You and Anne live in Linden Hills and are founding members of Linden Hills Power and Light (LHPL). What is LHPL and why do so many innovative things emanate from Linden Hills? LHPL is a non-profit neighborhood-based organization committed to reducing the carbon footprint to the neighborhood. We have a great breadth of talented neighbors who have porches and talk a lot to each other. When we see a problem, we get together to solve it.

You also have a connection with Cedar Lake and have been involved in CIDNA? Anne and I lived in CIDNA and served on the neighborhood council and environmental committee until we had kids and grew out of our 1900 cottage home. We hope to move back into that home some day. Our kids will have to move out first. Our youngest is 5 so we are being patient.

What is your vision for Spring Lake? I would again like to be able to see the lake from the pathway by removing invasive plants and see a dense collection of birds and a healthy native plant population on the forest floor.



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Two Residents Lead French American Chamber of Commerce

By Bob Corrick

Two residents of CIDNA and Kenwood have been elected to the French American Chamber of Commerce Minneapolis-St. Paul: Beth Parkhill, President, and Hervé Sarreau, Vice President. Parkhill is the President of Mentor Planet, and Sarreau is a Senior Partner at CarVal. A member-driven, non-profit organization, the Chamber provides services and cultural insights to foster economic growth between France and Minnesota. During the past year, the French American Chamber has grown significantly. This was highlighted by 2 major events:

- The Chamber welcomed French Ambassador François Delattre, for his first public appearance outside of Washington D.C., together with Mayor RT Rybak.

- The Chamber co-hosted a Business Symposium with the Minnesota International Center.

The French American Chamber holds monthly seminars and networking events to inform members and non-members about opportunities to do business with France. By year-end, the Chamber will launch a business incubator to attract French companies and create jobs in Minnesota.

On Tuesday, September 13th, the public is invited to attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Minneapolis and Tours Sister Cities relationship. It will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Avenue (across from the Basilica). Tickets are \$20 and available online at <http://www.mplstours.org>.

On Thursday, September 15, The City of Tours will be featured as part of the French American Chamber's Business Outlook Series on the topic of sustainability. The breakfast meeting will be held at the Red Stag, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20 (free to members) and available online at www.faccmn.com. For more information contact Sébastien Tavenas, Executive Director at director@faccmn.com, or the Minneapolis and Tours Sister Cities Vice President, Bob Corrick, at robcorrick@gmail.com. Or visit <http://www.faccmn.com> or <http://www.mplstours.org>.



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MINNEAPOLIS MINDS

This past week I was fortunate enough to stroll along Manhattan's High Line, a repurposed and revitalized rail line to walking trail that once served the city's meat packing industry. It's a remarkable two-and-a-half mile model of vision, design, and public-private partnership. Of course we have our own prideful models

Public-Private Partnerships Best Serve Greater Good

By Steve Kotvis

here in Minneapolis, including the progress taking place in the visioning of our nearby Wirth Park, where the Park Board is facilitating a process that will converge interests as diverse as Nordic skiing, golfing, off-road-biking, orienteering, and hiking.

I can't help but believe that progress and problem solving is and will be best accomplished when the collective energies come together in collaboration and cooperation. And when our public leaders and institutions take on an enviable position to help facilitate the positive energies to result in a greater good.

But what happens when a private, not public, entity is in the position of determining the fate of public institutions, such as our schools? That's a broad question that I've tripped upon in my own personal quest to help build support behind Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) high school sports.

With some wonderful exceptions, like last year's Southwest High School soccer team, and recent years girls basketball teams going to state, Minneapolis high school sports programs have struggled to field the most competitive teams. In general, MPS like many other urban districts has its teams going to state much more the exception than the rule.

It's not to say that going to state is necessary, but in my view, fielding competitive high schools athletic programs is. High school athletics, like many other extracurricular activities delivers benefits in mind, body and spirit to the participants and greater community. As such, a personal passion has been to photograph Minneapolis high school sports under the name f/go. I

shoot because I wish to see students from all backgrounds realize that their efforts, passion, and commitment means something, and that they are valued and supported. For perspective, there is a cable channel that follows western suburban teams with cameras and announcers to all kinds of sports. Why shouldn't our Minneapolis athletes deserve the same value and attention? Most photos posted on my web site are given away, downloaded, shared among participants, families, fans, and the greater community. I have even had coaches tell me they used the photos for recruiting and training too!

All of this photo taking and sharing takes place throughout the many sports and seasons. That is, however, until it comes under the control of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), an organization that controls state championships. When the calendar date flips to high school state championships, the MSHSL says "stop" to all that f/go is doing by repeatedly denying access to its events. The rationales for denials have varied and are seemly a moving target.

Interestingly, the MSHSL is a private membership organization that controls and affects most high school teams, state tournaments, and sports season operations. They proudly state that they accept no public monies. But as a private entity with seemingly more interest in the success of their own organization, they choose to block and limit private boosters and media entities (such as f/go and others) who wish to provide coverage and support of teams. And it seems their interest is to provide coverage where they will most benefit, for example not covering North High School's football sectional game and at the same time denying others wishing to cover it. I doubt this would have happened if one of the teams was powerhouse Eden Prairie. These actions support the big and popular teams and keep the smaller less competitive teams with less access and fewer resources to promote themselves.

While f/go's appeal to gain access to high school state tournaments is still pending, and we hope their management will acknowledge and resolve the ramifications of their present policies and actions, the question remains. How can less competitive school districts like MPS can break through the glass ceiling imposed by a private entity? And how comfortable are we as a public, in yielding the power of our public high schools, in this case affecting high schools sports, to a private entity that seemingly behaves in its own self-interests over those of the greater good? As the market for education has changed, all schools are put into a position of needing to compete. To do that, I would want to know we are operating on a level playing field.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident for 26 years, has written this monthly column Minneapolis Minds column about public education since January 2008. He is an active volunteer in community and public education issues, and with his passion for sports photography shoots high school and other sports under the name f/go. Please feel free to share your comments, opinions or insights with him at stevek@f-go.us.



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Community Invited to Celebrate 75th Anniversary of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church — Sunday Sept 11th.

By Beth St. John



You might have walked in the door because you weren't all that satisfied with your current situation, or maybe it was because somebody in the neighborhood suggested you should pay the place a visit. Possibly, like me, you were a recovering Catholic hoping to simply find a water fountain halfway through your walk around Lake of the Isles. Whatever the reason, if you walked in the door, you most likely ended up staying a while because most folks who take a moment to get to know Lake of the Isles (LOTI) Lutheran Church end up being grateful that they did.

The day I walked in that door, about seven years ago, was the day before Rally Day. I saw the poster promoting all of the events: the barbecue, the ice cream social, the sign-up for Sunday School and I figured our family should give it a go. Next thing you know, the following day, I was helping serve hot dogs to a hundred people. LOTI Lutheran Church immediately felt like a family to me, and when you're at a family event, you pitch in when help is needed.

LOTI Lutheran Church welcomes guests and neighbors at any time but would like to officially extend an invitation to all community members to join in the festivities of this year's Rally Day — Sunday, September 11th following the 9:30 a.m. service. The barbecue and ice cream social begin at 10:45 on the church's front lawn and all are welcome to attend — members, past members, neighbors and non-members alike. There will be children's activities and an open house with guided tours given by some of the older children in the congregation who are busy learning the tour path and various points of interest of their church.

Rally Days have been happening for quite some time on the front lawn at Lake of the Isles Church given that this year will be commemorating its 75th anniversary as well as the church's mission of being a "... loving and open community of worship."

The history of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church is unique in that the building came before congregation. The building originally housed the Lowry Hill Congregational Church and was built in the 1920s. It

sat vacant in the early 1930s for several years after the demise of the Congregational Church.

In 1934, Pastor William Christy, went in search of a church organ and ended up finding much more than an organ. . . The Lake of the Isles English Lutheran Church was founded in 1936, in the then predominantly non-Lutheran area of Kenwood/Lowry Hill. Under Pastor Christy's leadership a vital congregation was established and he served until his retirement in 1950.

During Pastor Christy's tenure, a few church members joined LOTI Lutheran Church who are still members today: Lucille Stirratt joined LOTI on February 20, 1944 (born in 1920); Shirley Carlson joined LOTI on March 28, 1948 (born in 1922); and Dr. Frederic (Fritz) Kottke joined LOTI on October 16, 1949 (he was born in 1917).

Many pastors filtered through the church during the 50s and 60s and in 1965 Pastor Otto Sotnak joined the church. His previous experience in Chicago instilled in him the view that churches should be active institutions within their communities, not private societies. Pastor Sotnak worked with other local churches to form and fund the Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP).

Today, NIP is one of our city's strongest providers of social services, including counseling, a health clinic, a dental clinic, a Rape and Sexual Assault Counseling Center, seniors and income assistance and youth programs. Many of the church's long-term members were crucial to the early and ongoing success of NIP.

On May of 2002, Rev. Dr. Henry (Hank) French began his tenure as pastor. During his ministry, worship attendance increased and many young and growing families joined the congregation (and one woman walked in the door in search of a water fountain). Pastor French retired in 2006 but the commitment to children's religious education continues through Jennifer Vaillancourt, Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries.

LOTI offers Sunday School classes, confirmation classes for 7th-9th graders, a Youth Group that is currently working on going to New Orleans to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July, "Club 56" for 5th & 6th graders which offers various fun activities like lock-ins, trips to grand slam, swimming, and ice skating events.

Children also participate in a Lenten project which is one of the church's fund raising events for benevolence — kids plan and organize everything and in past years have raised money to send 20 children to school in Haiti. They also raised more than \$5,000 to buy a gift ark through the Heifer International Project. This gift ark provides livestock—two each of pigs, cows, trios of rabbits, donkeys, beehives, sheep, llamas/alpacas, flocks of geese, goats, oxen, flocks of

chicks, trios of ducks, trios of guinea pigs, water buffalo, camels and pigs—and training for struggling families worldwide.

Of course, the children also participate in a Tony Award-worthy holiday pageant each year, this year's pageant will be held during the service on December 18th. (Possibly that Tony comment may have been an exaggeration, however, you will surely be entertained.)

Today, Rev. Hollie Holt-Woehl, is the interim pastor at Lake of the Isles. The congregation welcomed her into their community a month ago, just in time for all of the 75th Anniversary Celebration events:

Rally Day — September 11th, 10:45 a.m. (after 9:30 a.m. service) on the church lawn.

Hymn Festival with David Cherwien — October 2 at 4pm. Conducted by Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir.

Celebration Dinner at Calhoun Beach Club — October 9. Reception, dinner, and silent auction in the beautiful Solarium at the Calhoun Beach Club — all members, former members and friends of LOTI are invited.

Vivaldi's Gloria - Special Music Service — December 11. LOTI Choir and Soloists celebrate the anniversary through music.

Many thanks to LOTI's Anniversary Planning Committee: Susanne Haas, Susanne Melbye, John Bergford, Beverly Bergford, Ed Peitso, Maxine Peitso, Wendy Westerberg, Marty Carlson, Melissa Rubel, and Kathy Hering for bringing all of these wonderful celebratory events to fruition for our community.

Partners (from page one Spring Lake)

American Society of Landscape Architects Minnesota Chapter (ASLA-MN); Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA); Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (Park Board); City of Minneapolis (City); Blake School; Minneapolis Parks Foundation; Midwest Floating Islands; Minnesota Native Landscapes.

ASLA-MN is the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) — Minnesota Chapter which represents nearly 300 professionals in the landscape architecture profession through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. ASLA, the national organization, has more than 18,000 members and 48 chapters, representing all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 42 countries around the world.

As a licensed profession in the state of Minnesota, landscape architecture encompasses the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments. Landscape Architectural projects range from academic campuses, conservation and natural areas, historic landscapes, parks and recreation, transportation corridors, urban design, water resources, and commercial and residential properties. To learn more about landscape architecture visit www.asla.org or the Minnesota Chapter homepage at www.asla-mn.org.

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Lowry Hill Ice Cream Social



Children enjoying ice cream and the pools at Thomas Lowry Park Photo by Dorothy Childers



Eric Aronsen.....the juggler Photo by Dorothy Childers

Resident shows work at Kenwood Cafe, 2115 West Twenty First Street



Photo by Dorothy Childers

“The Neuse Circus,” with paintings and drawings by Jon Neuse, opened on August 5 and runs through September 6, 2011. Shown here are Kit (Goodale) Prendergast, a former resident, and Jon Neuse at the opening reception. Jon’s focus was to create paintings of circus events as metaphors of his own experiences of his family, a visual acknowledgement of contemporary family life.

East Isles Ice Cream Social



Feeding animals at the EIRA Ice Cream Social Photo by Dorothy Childers

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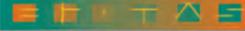
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FRIENDS OF THOMAS LOWRY PARK

By Barry Lazarus

Hello friends and neighbors. I hope you enjoyed the very warm month of July. Thomas Lowry Park did—and looks better than ever! Once again, the beauty of this Park is not accidental. In addition to what was done by the MPRB, Bill Payne has devoted many hours of time and sweat to weed, plant, trim, and the like. He was assisted by Barbara Fogel, Suzanne Payne, Dr. Eric Schned, Colleen Doran, Jordan Smith, volunteers from the First Unitarian Society, and Tangletown Gardens. All of us in the hood owe them a big thank-you.

Many of you, your children, and dogs attended the Ice Cream Social in the Park on July 26. This year not only Sebastian Joe’s, but the new Lowry Grill provided ice cream and root beer respectively. This event was co-sponsored by LHNA and Friends of TLP. Eric (the Juggler) Aronsen not only performed, but taught many of the children the basics of juggling. Also in attendance was Commissioner Anita Tabb of the MPRB who mingled with the attendees and related Park and MPRB news.

There has been more preliminary discussion about the sculpture of Thomas Lowry being moved to the Park. In addition, a donor would like to donate four stone benches, which were part of the original edifice, and another donor may have an interest in donating the funds to move the sculpture to the Park from Smith Park. Currently, the sculpture is being defaced by teenagers with their skateboards or by pranksters. Mr. Lowry and the rest of the piece deserve better. There are many more meetings and procedures to be undertaken to determine if this project is acceptable to the MPRB, East Isles Neighborhood Association, neighbors of Smith Park and TLP. Consideration to the fea-

Friends to next page



Kenwood School

Kenwood Community School fourth grader, Peyton D'Emanuele, enjoys the school's garden on an August afternoon. The garden was planted and is being tended throughout the summer by Kenwood School families and students. It's full of flowers, vegetables, and the occasional gnome. The school's Back-to-School BBQ will be Thursday, August 25 from 5:30 to 7:30. Classes for first through fifth grades start Monday, August 29. Kindergarten begins Wednesday, August 31.

Friends from page 6

sibility of the move and the placement in the proposed new location in TLP must be determined. Friends is aware not all will find this proposal a good idea. Let Friends hear your thoughts.

On September 10, from 6 to 9pm, at the home of Rob and Commissioner Anita Tabb, Friends of TLP is having a fundraiser to help maintain and beautify the Park. Meet your friends and neighbors. There will be swell food and drink for \$75 per person (\$50 tax deductible). Please contact John Peterman, Barry Lazarus, Barb Fogel, Suzanne Payne, or Dr. Eric Schned, all of whom are sponsors in addition to Anita and Rob Tabb. Chair of this fun event is Sara Peterman, who will send you a personal invitation and reservation card if you leave your name and address at 612-217-0051.

Have a good month. Friends will "see" you at the beginning of Fall.

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CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, August 3, 2011

The August Board meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board Members in attendance: Chair Gail Lee, Vice Chair Art Higinbotham, Secretary Ryan Fox, Treasurer Ed Bell, Stephen Goltry, and Craig Westgate. Staff: Monica Smith. Chair Gail Lee called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Parks update

Claire Ruebeck reported on her work with the Park Board for improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach and Park Siding Park. The following maintenance will be completed at South Beach: removing and replacing dead trees, new sand for the beach, and cleaning out gardens in planters. Also requested is to paint markings on the shared pedestrian/bike trail, add a canoe rack, and move the porta-potty farther from the lake and place on a cement pad with screening.

The following improvements are proposed for Park Siding Park: add an irrigation system, improve the plantings in one garden bed, add a park sign to the Kenilworth entrance, replace the drinking fountain, and add a permanent table tennis platform. Half court basketball is being considered for the future. The CIDNA Board unanimously approved a NRP Phase I plan modification (shifting \$24,000 from unspent bridge railing funding to Park Siding improvements). The planning committee of the Park Board will vote on the improvements on August 17th.

Nonprofits Assistance Fund Contract

The contracts are complete for CIDNA's housing loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund. The executive director will be invited to the next NRP meeting to discuss specific projects.

West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC)

Meg Forney, WCNC reported on their efforts to use their NRP funds to establish an association for businesses in the area. Their consultants (& Partners) conducted a brainstorming session with local businesses in July; a second meeting is being planned for the week of September 19.

Kenwood Park

The Board unanimously approved a donation of \$180 to Kenwood Park to support extended bathroom hours during the summer.



15th Annual

CIDNA Fall Festival

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011

Park Siding Park, 1:00-4:00 PM *Free event!*

Rain or shine!

Fun activities for the entire family!

Mark your calendar now!

For more information, visit CIDNA's Web-site at www.cidna.org



Sunset Boulevard Reconstruction

The third community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 6-8 p.m. at Jones-Harrison. Survey results will be reviewed. City and Park Board staff will also be in attendance. Met Council is mailing an invitation to 360 households. An e-blast reminder will be sent to the distribution list one week prior to the meeting.

Southwest LRT

The SW LRT Coalition scheduled their first meeting in many months for this evening (conflicting with the CIDNA Board meeting). The St. Louis Park Sun Sailor published an interview with Art Higinbotham regarding freight rail/LRT (July 21 edition).

Safety in the Park is submitting an appeal to the MN Court of Appeals in regard to MNDOT's decision to not open an EIS for the re-route project. They requested that CIDNA join the appeal, however the deadline was prior to the CIDNA Board meeting so no decision was made.

Fall Festival Planning

The Board unanimously approved the \$100 rental fee for a gas grill. Board members are seeking donations from area businesses to support the festival. Volunteers are needed for set up, supervising the moon walk and for tear down.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Bell reported on checks written since last month

were for Monica Smith wages and expenses, one energy audit, and Kenwood Park donation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday, September 14, at Jones-Harrison, 6:00 p.m.

CIDNA BOARD MINUTES, July 13, 2011

The July Board meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board Members in attendance: Chair Pro Tem Ryan Fox, Treasurer Ed Bell, Judy Berge, Ed Ferlauto, Stephen Goltry, Art Higinbotham, Gail Lee, and David Shirley. Staff: Monica Smith. Board Chair Pro Tem Ryan Fox called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Election of Officers

Results of the election of open officer positions: Gail Lee, Chair and Art Higinbotham, Vice Chair.

Anita Tabb, District 4 Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner

The Park Board will be making the following improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach this summer: add more sand to beach, paint and fix signage, replace felled tree, and remove the old stump.

Commissioner Tabb will attend the 7/27 meeting of CIDNA's NRP Committee to discuss improvements to Park Siding Park.

The Park Board has added a road closure feature on their website. Weekly email updates available soon.

Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman's Report

The next Lunch with Lisa will be in October.

CM Goodman's new assistant, Patrick Sadler will attend the 9/14 CIDNA meeting.

CM Goodman expects that Hennepin County will take an official position regarding the co-location of freight and LRT on the Kenilworth corridor in the next two months.

A task force is working on amendments to CM Tuthill's patio ordinance.

The City continues to receive Local Government Aid

July CIDNA to page 9



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CIDNA from page 8

during the government shut down.

The City Council approved \$600,000 to neighborhood association in areas affected by the N. Minneapolis tornado.

NRP Committee Reports

Sunset Blvd Reconstruction/Forcemain

The second community meeting regarding Sunset Blvd reconstruction was held 6/29. The project consultants presented nine different options for reconstruction of the street. A survey will be released to solicit feedback on design options. The next community meeting will be held the third week in August (details to be confirmed). Plans will be revised based on survey results and will be presented to the CIDNA Board. Information will be available on www.cidna.org. The Met Council has additional resources to distribute information to residents. The Met Council is meeting with Public Works and Park Board during the planning phase of the project.

Park Siding Park

The NRP Committee has been in discussion with the Park Board regarding an irrigation system at Park Siding Park. The next step is to identify roles and responsibilities for winterizing the system, ongoing repair, and plan for when the system reaches the end of its lifecycle. Door hangers will be delivered to residents to recruit additional volunteer gardeners.

Housing

The Board unanimously voted to amend the contract for Nonprofits Assistance Fund from \$70,000 to \$87,000.

The NRP Committee is working on a matching donation fund (CIDNA resident donations matched by CIDNA) to help N. Minneapolis tornado victims. The funds would go to established NRP housing programs in affected areas.

Miscellaneous

The Board unanimously voted to amend Monica Smith's contract from 300 to 500 hours.

CES workshops continue to be offered this summer. 31 CIDNA households have participated to date. Keep encouraging participation to the challenge grant.

NRP staff recommends evenly distributing \$2.68 million in previously frozen Phase II money to the neighborhoods restricted to 50% of allocation.

CIDNA expenses for the first half of 2011 will be paid by NCR funding.

Southwest LRT

Ed Ferlauto reported that the LRT DEIS is expected to be released in November (after a one year delay). Ed recommends creating a plan to review this 500+ page document during the 45-day comment period. Documents will be made available on www.cidna.org.

Fall Festival Planning

Judy Berge presented a \$1700 budget for the 15th annual Fall Festival (Sun, 9/18 1-4 p.m.) The budget was unanimously approved. New this year: grilled hot dogs. This is the last year that Judy will Chair this event. The Board thanked Judy for her work on this event over the years. CIDNA is looking for a volunteer to take over the event next year.



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Taxi Stands

Meg worked with the City of Minneapolis Police Department, the City of Minneapolis Licensing Department, Uptown Association and local businesses to create taxi stands in Uptown. The goal was to make it easy to find a taxi and reduce traffic congestion. By creating taxi stands, people needing a taxi will be able to quickly and conveniently find one. Also, taxis would no longer need to cruise the area decreasing traffic congestion. The new taxi stands went into affect on Friday, July 8th at 10 p.m.

The taxi stand locations are on Girard Ave South next to Stella's and Cowboy Slim's, on Fremont and Lagoon next to Bar Abilene, and on Lagoon near Drink.

Congratulations to ECCO for being selected to participate in a One-Sort Recycling Pilot Program. The City and Hennepin County selected two neighborhoods to participate; the other is Willard-Hay in North Minneapolis. Residents will receive a large blue bin for ALL recyclable materials that we currently sort (cans, bottles, cardboard & office paper). The pilot project will begin later this summer. ECCO residents should watch their mail for a letter from the City with details about the project.

On June 28th, the Hennepin County Board awarded 11 grants totaling \$2 million for the evaluation and cleanup of contaminated sites through the Environmental Response Fund (ERF). Grants were awarded to projects in Hopkins, Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park and six projects in Minneapolis. Of the six projects in Minneapolis, the Lehmann Education Center at 1006 W. Lake St was one of the grant recipients. This grant will go

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes, Tuesday, July 26, 2011, Thomas Lowry Park
By Janis Clay, Secretary

Members of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board took a brief break from the Ice Cream Social in Thomas Lowry Park to discuss an opportunity to dramatically improve Spring Lake, a small severely impaired body of water between 394 and Kenwood Parkway, originally acquired by the Park Board as a wildlife refuge in 1893. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Dan Aronson, noting a quorum was present.

Attendees: David Weinstein, Vice President; Janis Clay, Secretary; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Rebecca Graham; Maggie Thurer; Kathy Byrn; Craig Wilson; Sherie Tazelaar; Maureen Sheehan; Marty Broan. Guest: Arlys Freeman, President, Midwest Floating Island, LLC.

Biohaven Demonstration Project for Spring Lake: Craig Wilson presented background information on the proposed project and distributed a handout, which the Board discussed.

Motion: Dan Aronson proposed and Marty Broan seconded the following motion:

LHNA allocates up to \$25,000.00 in NRP funds for the purchase of seven Biohavens and a launch dock for Spring Lake in order to help restore it to its original designation as a bird and animal sanctuary, make it a livable fishing habitat and take it off the MPCA impaired waters list by improving phosphorus, chlorophyll, turbidity, alkalinity and salinity to acceptable levels.

All approved.

LHNA's next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

for the redevelopment of the Lehmann Education Center, which will preserve the historic, vacant building and create 134 affordable housing units. To find out more on what specific projects received grant money, check out the ERF Awards page on Hennepin County's website.

The ERF program, funded by a county mortgage registry and deed tax, provides grants for environmental assessment and cleanup of sites where such activities have been hampered because of insufficient funding. Priority is placed on projects intended for public space including green spaces, establishing affordable and moderately priced housing, and economic development.

Join us for Meet with Meg for lunch on Tuesday, August 9th from 12 pm to 1 pm at the 5th Precinct's Community Room (3101 Nicollet Ave S). Meet with Meg is a time for you to talk with her, ask questions, and voice concerns. Bring your sack lunch! Cookies and lemonade are provided! Meet with Meg is held the second Tuesday of every month.

Hill & Lake Press

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Letters

Editor:

I read John's column today. (July issue) I don't have something to advertise and I don't have a lot to give, but I love the Hill & Lake Press. Enclosed is a donation to express my appreciation and commitment to the success of the paper. I read a lot of news, but the Hill and Lake Press is the only paper I read nearly cover-to-cover. I especially love the monthly columns.

Glenna Case, CIDNA

Thank you, Glenna, for your generous contribution and longtime support of Hill and Lake Press.

Editor:

Madeleine Lowry's article "Prodigy in the Hood" of 7/15/11 on her young Chinese pianist stirred all kinds of positive vibrations in our house. As many others in Kenwood, Vicki and I have long hosted resident artists of the Minnesota Opera at our home. They are a never ending source of joy and wonderment; great skills, superb developing artists and delightful young adults. Supporting young artistic professionals to take wing is a truly rewarding experience.

Chip Emery, Lowry Hill

Editor:

Safety in the Park, a St. Louis Park-based neighborhood advocacy group, is dedicated to keeping our community safe and livable with regard to freight rail traffic. We share many of the same concerns as readers of the Hill Lake Press, and we also wholly support and welcome light rail in our community.

During the last 18 months, Safety in the Park has studied this issue and many facts have come to light: Most importantly, we now understand, based on the 2010 publication of the Minnesota State Rail Plan, that the re-direction of freight rail traffic is being caused, not by the introduction of light rail, but the County and State's desire to convert the Dan Patch (or MN&S) into a main line by connecting it with other rail lines. The County and State are using the introduction of light rail to pressure St. Louis Park into accepting the freight rail increase and to provide a convenient funding mechanism to build the \$75M plus infrastructure that includes elaborate ramps, bridges, and rail-beds.

The Dan Patch, which runs just a few feet from our high school, multiple businesses, library, food shelf, and hundreds of homes, was not built to handle the high level of traffic projected. Without a great financial investment in mitigation, it is a terrible and likely tragic choice.

Many years ago, St. Louis Park stated that the Dan Patch line could be used for re-directing freight but only on two conditions—first, that there was no viable alternative, and only if the City's residents were kept as safe as our neighbors in Minneapolis who live along the Kenilworth corridor. In recent months, it has been shown that there are indeed viable alternatives to the Dan Patch. They include western Minnesota routes where the environmental impacts are not as great. However, only the Kenilworth alternative has been studied in-depth by the County's consultants, and the



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Hill & Lake Press welcomes stories, poetry, articles, photos, and ideas. Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatruck at 612-377-5785

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route appears to be the least expensive, least disruptive choice. Thus, we have identified Kenilworth not as the preferred route, but simply as one route that meets the city's condition as a viable alternative.

The second condition has always been that there is no reason St. Louis Park residents should be any less safe than other communities with mainline freight rail running through them. Most mainline corridors are relatively straight, relatively flat, have a wide buffer zone on each side of the tracks (true along Kenilworth with the exception of a 1/4 mile "pinch point" south of Cedar Lake Rd.) and have few at-grade vehicle/pedestrian crossings (Kenilworth has two such crossings about one mile apart).

In St. Louis Park, however, the Dan Patch, has nearly no buffer zone for its entire length, passes within 35 feet of our high school, climbs a .86 grade, features multiple blind curves, and crosses 14 streets at grade. Again, we are not advocating the Kenilworth route; we are merely comparing the two to illustrate how poor the Dan Patch route is for increase freight traffic. We could also compare the Dan Patch to the BNSF corridor to the north of our communities, which is flat, straight and has no at-grade crossings at all.

Hennepin County and MNDOT have put both of our communities into a difficult position. Their lack of foresight and poor planning have forced an unnecessary set of circumstances. We would like to see the best for all communities in the area—in other words, move the freight rail to rural areas where the environmental impacts are far fewer.

However, we know that this is not MNDOT's intent. The intent is to make the Dan Patch into a mainline so that the Minnesota rail network can be improved. We are not railroad experts. If the best thing for our state's economy is to make the Dan Patch into a mainline, we would only support that plan when the conditions that the City of St. Louis Park has set forth

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are met, when no other viable alternative exists and when the State and County commit, if the re-route were to happen, to keep our schoolchildren, our residents and our businesses as safe as any other community with a freight rail mainline running through them.

Thom Miller, Two Rivers
Safety in the Park, Minneapolis

Editor:

I listened to the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority presentation to the Commissioners yesterday. No action was taken, but Peter McLaughlin raised the issue of whether they should be working with the SLP City Council on mitigation so long as a suit is filed against MNDOT on the environmental statement. Jan Callison pointed out that this issue may take the Mn. Court of Appeals a year to resolve; she and Jeff Johnson supported dialogue with SLP even through a legal challenge is pending. The HCRRA (Phil Eckhert) stated that the consultants it hired to respond to SLP's requests for alternatives did not believe that co-location of the LRT, freight rail and a bike trail on the Kenilworth corridor is feasible and that the 4 other options for freight rail were too costly and impractical.

Susan Haigh met with the head of the FTA earlier this month; he (Peter Rogoff) expressed concerns about the lack of a freight relocation decision and lack of funding support for the project (Rep. Matt Dean of Shakopee, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, is opposed to such funding.) I e-mailed Peter to add our concerns about the probability that the DEIS will take exceptions to the Kenilworth route through our system of parks and trails and the lack of any discussion of the traffic impacts of the stations, W. Lake St. in particular, but also 21st St. I also pointed out that money should not be authorized for preliminary engineering until the DEIS issues are presented and that no mitigation funds are included in either the freight relocation or the LRT proposals. Lastly, I reminded him that the LRT proposal is based on overstated ridership and understated capital costs.

I think we are spinning our wheels on station planning and specific mitigation until the DEIS is out and the freight relocation is resolved.

Art Higinbotham
CIDNA Transportation Committee

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THE MALL OF AMERICA.

Unfortunately this is what nine out of ten potential visitors to the Twin Cities think is our major attraction. This is sad.

I have a friend who made the trip from Boston to attend a convention in Minneapolis this summer. He tried to convince his wife and daughter to accompany him. But, they decided against because our main attraction seemed to be the Mall of America.

Like I said, it's sad.

I keep trying to tell people that we have a thriving city here, fully functional, with two or three million people outside the Mall. But no one is really listening.

Frommer's Guide is not helping either. They list thirteen attractions in the Twin Cities—at the top is the Cathedral of St. Paul, followed by the Weisman Art Museum and then Fort Snelling.

Huh?

We need help here, folks, or no one is ever going to want to visit us.

So, here it is, what you've all been waiting for, (cue the drum roll, please)...

What to Do on Your Trip to the Twin Cities, a Primer for Leery First-Time Visitors:

Mall of America – Let's get this out of the way, shall we? It's easy to find; it's near the airport, right next to IKEA. You'll find an oversized mall with an amusement park in the middle. Knock yourself out.

Ride the Light Rail – take a train from the airport or the Mall to downtown. It's fast, it's easy, it's efficient. It cost a bazillion dollars to construct, but you can ride it for two bucks.

Discover downtown Minneapolis – take in a baseball game at Target Field, check out the extensive skyway system (a whopping eight miles of climate-controlled bliss with shops, restaurants and just about anything else you need to survive), check into a hotel, eat at great restaurants.

Ride a bike – rent a tandem at the Freewheel Midtown Bike Center and explore the Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis— twelve miles of bike paths around a series of city lakes: Cedar, Brownie, Isles, Calhoun, and Harriet. Or rent a canoe at Lake Calhoun and take a turn on the water. If you are feeling brave you could try stand-up paddle boarding. Afterwards, eat at Tin Fish or, if you feel like something more substantial, walk

By Madeleine Lowry

over to Lucia's Restaurant.

See a play – betcha didn't know that the Twin Cities is a theater town! The place to start is at the Tony Award winning Guthrie Theater, in its new blue building. Make an afternoon on of it and stroll around Gold Medal Park and over the Stone Arch Bridge. Check out the Mill City Museum. Eat at Spoonriver, Sea Change, or Kindee Thai.

Historic Walking Tour of St. Paul – join a guided walking tour of Summit Avenue and see stunning Victorian residences starting with the James J. Hill mansion.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory – It's a zoo! It's a conservatory! It's an amusement park! It's a mini-golf! It's a Japanese garden! Fun for the whole family. Check the website for special events such as the Japanese lantern lighting festival in August.

Ride the big river– the Mississippi river is one of the unique features of the Cities. Get out on it in a historic paddle-wheeler. Try the Minneapolis Queen's narrated sightseeing cruise.

Visit a farmer's market – The Twin Cities are rich in farmer's markets. Here are a few favorites: the Minneapolis Farmer's Market is the big daddy. It's open daily through the summer. Then there's the St. Paul Farmer's Market for a more intimate experience. For organic produce, prepared foods and more head over to the Mill City Museum's Farmer's Market.

Get on a big lake – Minnesota is home to 10,000 lakes, so let's make sure you get to see a big one. Take the Saturday lunch cruise on the Queen of Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka. While you're there, poke around the charming town of Excelsior.

See great art – The best art museum in town is the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for the breadth and depth of their collection. If you're a fan of modern art you should definitely see the Walker Art Center and its park-like sculpture garden. Another gem is the Museum of Russian Art. And just in case you don't care for art, we also have a great Science Museum, a Minnesota History Museum, and a Children's Museum.

I could go on, and I'm sure you can too. But this should do for a start. I'll send it to the next friend who's



Madeleine Lowry

on the fence about whether to visit the Twin Cities. You do the same. We'll see what happens.

Oh, and don't forget to fluff the pillows in the guest bedroom.

MARVELOUS HIDDEN BEACH

By Carol White

One hot July Friday afternoon, nine-year-old Ariella and I walked over to Hidden Beach to swim. What crystal-clear water and smooth sandy beach welcomed us! The water was refreshingly cool. Looking back to the shore we saw a colorful mix of people of all ages.

Two women came down to the water's edge with their leashed dogs who stepped into the water to get a drink. Later, while we were swimming, one of the dogs (still held by the short leash), came swimming alongside us. "How wonderful"! I said to his mistress. The lifeguard was on duty, police also present. This was a far cry from a few years ago when my husband was delivered a stern lecture from a park policeman about having our dog in the water and was slapped with a \$40.00 ticket. What a change - on a beautiful summer day to have a glorious swim with a beach full of children, parents, and many others, all colorfully dressed, enjoying the sandy beach and the clear cool water. Yes! Marvelous "Hidden Beach"

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LEGAL NOTICE

If you used a personal credit or debit card at Monte Carlo Restaurant between November 23, 2008, and December 27, 2010, you may be entitled to benefits from a class-action settlement.

A settlement has been reached with Monte Carlo Restaurant, Inc. ("Defendant") in a class-action lawsuit about not removing the expiration date from credit and debit card receipts. The settlement provides vouchers for food and beverages up to a value of \$30 to people who submit valid claim forms. The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota will have a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement so that vouchers can be issued. Those included may ask for a voucher, exclude themselves from the settlement, object to it, or ask to speak at the hearing. For a detailed notice and claim form go to:

www.MonteCarloSettlement.com.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

The lawsuit claims that Defendant violated the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681c(g)) when Monte Carlo printed expiration dates on customer receipts. The Defendant does not admit any wrongdoing, and the parties agreed to the settlement to avoid the costs and risks of a trial.

WHO'S INCLUDED?

The settlement includes anyone who used a personal credit or debit card at Monte Carlo between November 23, 2008, and December 27, 2010, and received a copy of Monte Carlo's receipt.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement will provide vouchers to those who submit valid claim forms, good for food and beverages, up to \$30 in value, excluding taxes and tip, at the restaurant known as Monte Carlo, which is located at 219 - 3rd Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

HOW DO YOU ASK FOR A VOUCHER?

Get a claim form at www.MonteCarloSettlement.com. Fill out the form and mail it to the address on the form so that it is postmarked by October 3, 2011. Vouchers will be mailed after the Court grants final approval to the settlement.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

You may choose whether to stay in the Class or not. If you submit a claim form or do nothing, you are choosing to stay in the Class. This means you will be bound by all orders and judgments of the Court, and you will not be able to sue or continue to sue the Defendant about the legal claims resolved by this settlement. If you stay in the Class you may object to the settlement if you do not like some part of it. You or your own lawyer may also ask to appear and speak at the hearing, at your own cost, but you don't have to. Objections and requests to appear are due by October 3, 2011. If you do not want to stay in the Class, you must submit a request for exclusion by October 3, 2011. The detailed notice explains how to file a claim, object, ask to appear and speak, or request exclusion.

THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case, known as Curtis Zaun, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. Monte Carlo Restaurant, Inc., No. 10-CV-4693 (JSM), on November 3, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. to consider whether to approve: the settlement; a request by the lawyers representing Class members for attorney fees, costs, and expenses and a payment to the Class Representatives who helped the lawyers on behalf of the entire Class. These fees, costs, expenses, and payments will be paid separately by the Defendant and will not reduce the amount of benefits available to Class members. If the settlement is approved, it will release the Defendant from all claims listed in the Settlement Agreement. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is available at the website.

HOW DO YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more, visit the website, or write to Monte Carlo Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 2004, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2004.

www.MonteCarloSettlement.com

sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

Largest private university donations (2009):
Stanford \$640.1 million,
Harvard \$601.6 million.

— LA Times February 4, 2010

Kennedy Center receives \$22.5 million in single gift.

— Jim Handy, NBS News May 4, 2010

U.S. Treasury Department operating balance: \$73.76 billion; Apple Corporation operating balance: \$76.156 billion
—Matt Hartley, The Financial Post July 28, 2011

Health club membership: \$1,238.56; Hair care: \$333.87; Gift shop allowance: \$1,666.73; Use of Foreign Currency: \$44,164; Miscellaneous costs: \$135,249.22. A few of the perks for each U.S. Senator which, coupled with salary, benefits, retirement, total \$8,162,000 per Senator each year!

—Joshua M. Brown, The Christian Science Monitor July 29, 2011

Since The Hill and Lake Press is a monthly newspaper, pressing issues of the day may resolve themselves, which is why I tend to write about garage sales and dogs. At the risk of belaboring old news, as I write, the debt ceiling has been grudgingly and sloppily raised with the result being Standard and Poor's downgrading the U.S. economy from a AAA rating to AA+. S&P warns that we may lose our + and possibly an A if we do not figure out a way to increase our revenue. In the meantime Americans have been ordered to tighten their belts, stop talking smack about Uruguay, and put away their giant foam fingers that proclaim "We're # 1."

In spite of evidence to the contrary I have always believed that a nation capable of producing Abraham Lincoln, Silly Putty, and baseball cards will prevail. Lately I am having serious doubts. We seem hopelessly paralyzed politically and philosophically between militant, uncompromising forces that decry as treasonous even the mention of shifting the tax burden toward the wealthy, and more moderate Americans who spend much of their time seeking deductions, underreporting income, and searching for loopholes to avoid paying taxes.

We need money, and unless the government can quickly create a better iPad it appears our economy is in for very

difficult times. Searching for ways to cut spending, we against all logic turn to the people who have the least to sacrifice. We blithely raise the public transportation fees for those who cannot afford cars, cut back on free and reduced lunch programs (ketchup as a vegetable is ready for a revival), reduce aid to dependent children, and trim Medicare for seniors. There are relative pennies to be saved.

As first-hand survivors of The Great Depression dwindle, there are too many public officials who seem to have no sense of history. Their simplistic ideas are at best naive and more likely mean-spirited. They seem inured to the number of lives their rhetoric could affect. Aside from money for foreign wars, they believe in a small "g" government in providing aid to our citizens. Their take on A Christmas Carol is that if Jacob Marley had only lived, he and Ebenezer Scrooge could have taken the company public, moved it to Belize, inflated stock prices, and sold short before Tiny Tim died of consumption. For a final touch, they have persuaded contemporary Bob Cratchit to refuse government medical aid as socialism, even as Tim's leg is deemed a preexisting condition and therefore not covered by insurance.

How can we raise revenue and get back on par with Finland when we have so little trust in the politicians that allowed this to happen? Who can blame us? Our hard earned money seems to go for unpopular wars, even less popular defense contractors, bank bailouts, and Senate haircuts.

If Apple won't lend us the money, we can only cut expenditures so far. The poor and the middle class have done more than their share. On the whole we are a generous people. Some of the most fervent opponents of raising taxes, privately spend more than their progressive tax share would be in funding organizations and candidates to beat back the dreaded tax man. A further irony is that many hardline tax opponents give very generously (and tax deductably) to their alma mater, the arts, hospitals, disease research, the disadvantaged, and religious organizations.

Many of us believe in helping others but resent paying taxes to the weasels in Washington.

If we are unable to get the Bush tax cuts eliminated, can we at least find appealing ways to interest the super

wealthy in helping to support their government? Hospital wings, art museums, opera houses, and college buildings are named for their benefactors. The local Kiwanis club sponsors a mile of highway clean up. We need a few philanthropists to step forward and adopt an underfunded federal government Department in exchange for naming rights. Imagine The Warren Buffet Department of Commerce. The Mark Zuckerberg Department of Education or, my favorite, The Steve Jobs Department of Labor.

Tom H. Cook is a formerly local writer who remains in exile. He will be returning home and reading stuff like this with the poet Tom Cassidy on September 17th at Black Forest Inn (26th and Nicollet).



One night only! Saturday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.

FEATURING

Richard Rousseau ♦ Laura Winton ♦ Ted King
Tom Christ ♦ Tom Cook ♦ Tom Cassidy
hosted by Erica Christ

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1712 Humboldt— Great opportunity to own a home filled with natural charm & character-perfect 'as is' or remodel with some plans available. Additional square footage awaiting your ideas in the lower level. \$649k.



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