



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

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JANUARY 18, 2013

Cedar Lake / Dean Parkway Trail Renovations Planned

by Michael Wilson

Bicyclists, walkers, and users of Cedar Lake and Dean Parkway will soon be enjoying significant improvements to the trails along these beautiful parts of our Hill and Lake Press neighborhood, thanks to a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) planning initiative that got underway during a Jan. 8 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) session at the Kenwood Community Center.

MPRB has assembled \$1.2 million for the renovations and improvements, including \$561,000 in Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding for Dean Parkway trails, \$137,500 in 2013/14 Regional Park Operating & Maintenance (O&M) funds for Dean Parkway trails, and \$500,000 in 2011 Regional Park O&M funds for Cedar Lake trails.

Feelings of optimism and "let's get this done" excitement pervaded the Jan. 8 CAC session because plans for spending the Federal TE (Dean Parkway) funds must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) by April 15. If plans are not finalized by then, MnDOT may give the TE funds to a different shovel-ready project.

The sixteen appointed CAC members represent neighborhoods within or adjacent to the project area as well as other stakeholder groups such as the Midtown Greenway Coalition and the Minneapolis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees. CAC members also were nominated by MPRB commissioners; Ward 7, 10, and 13 City Council members; and the Mayor. CAC meetings are open to the public, and all residents are encouraged to attend.

The Cedar Lake and Dean Parkway segments of the



Photo: Tyler Pedersen

Dean-Cedar Parkway CAC members (from right) Aaron Shaffer, Ivy West, Michael Wilson, and Janice Gepner discuss trail improvements with Jennifer Ringold (seated, far left), MPRB manager of public engagement & city planning, while Amanda Prosser (standing) of WSB Engineering listens in.

project area present different challenges and opportunities, according to Deborah Bartels, MPRB project manager. Both are part of Minneapolis' famed Grand

Rounds Scenic Byway, the circumferential route dating from the 1880s which links the city's many natural features. The trails on the west side of Cedar Lake are well-

CAC to page 7

Later with Lisa, December 2012



Photo by Dorothy Childers

On December 13 Council Member Lisa Goodman hosted "Later with Lisa" at the Normandy Inn, an event well attended by constituents and friends. Shown here, left to right are: Ben Horn, New County Board Member Linda Higgins, Lisa Goodman, and the new Deputy Chief of Police Kris Arneson.

February 2013 issue

For all you fans of Tom Cook's column Sand Upon the Waters, he will return in February.

We are honored and pleased to once again read the Urban Coyote. His column appeared on page one in our December 2012 issue and is on page 16 in our January issue.

And in February watch for more about our esteemed Minneapolis council member Lisa Goodman.

Happy New Year and
Happy Valentine's Day

INSIDE

Happenings	2
Meet your Neighbor	3
Minneapolis Minds	4
Thomas Lowry Park	7
CIDNA, KIAA, EIRA, LHNA	10-12
Masthead	14
Real Estate	14
Madeleine Lowry	15
Urban Coyote	16

Lunch with Lisa The next Lunch with Lisa is January 23, noon at University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. Guest speaker: Michele Kelm-Helgen of the public board overseeing new Vikings stadium. The February topic will be about water distribution and recycling. St. Thomas University-Minneapolis

\$10 Lunch is offered

Come early to get your lunch and a good seat

Audubon Society

Friday, February 8, 2013 1 p.m.

Dr. Scott Sharkey will share outstanding photography from his Minnesota River world in "Scenes from a Bloomington Marsh." The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join us for the program and refreshments! For more information call 952-926-4205.

Minneapolis Ice Rinks Now Open

All Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) outdoor ice rinks have reopened.

The warm weather and rain caused rinks across the city to close. However, thanks to colder temperatures and the hard work of the MPRB crew, the rinks are again open and ready for use.

The daily status of each of the MPRB's 47 rinks at 22 parks can be viewed online throughout the season at www.minneapolisparcs.org/rinks.

Ice Skating Party

Don't Miss The Annual Ice Skating Party at Lake of the Isles Ice Rink & Warming Hut. It will be Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy Skating with your Neighbors and Family. Get Warm by a Blazing Fire. Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat Cookies. Have Winter Fun!

Sponsored by East Isles, Lowry Hill & Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Associations 2013

Metro Transit open houses:

To provide information about creating a new transitway at Midtown Greenway or Lake Street.

Colin Powell Center, 3rd Floor, 924 4th Avenue S. Monday, Jan. 28 – 6pm to 8pm,

Whittier Park Recreation Center 425 W. 26th Street Tuesday, January 29, 2013 6-8 p.m.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

CAC Meeting 2: Tuesday, Jan. 29, 6:30pm
Kenwood Community Center

CAC Meeting 3: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30pm
Kenwood Community Center

Project Open House: Thursday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm
Bakken Museum Great Hall, 3537 Zenith Av. S.

What are YOUR concerns and recommendations for the W. Cedar Lake/Dean Parkway project?

Go to
<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1418>

and complete the survey. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 20.

See pages 1 and 7 for more details.

Birchbark Books Reading Series

Curated by Michael Kiesow Moore, the Birchbark Books Reading Series features new, emerging, and established writers on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from September through May. Birchbark Books is located at 2115 West 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405. (612) 374-4023.

Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

www.clubrunner.ca/mplsuptownrotary

Uptown Rotary meets at the Minikahda Country Club 7:30 to 8:30 am on Thursdays

3205 Excelsior Blvd, Mpls MN 55416

Visit www.clubrunner.ca/mplsuptownrotary for a good time.

A hearing will be held on January 22 at 6 PM at the Kenwood Park Center on the liquor license application for the restaurant in the former Burch pharmacy building. The purpose of the hearing is not to determine whether or not liquor should be sold but to determine whether or not the applicant is fit to hold a license.

Kenwood School

Kenwood's annual parent information night for prospective families will be Tuesday, February 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. During the event, parents can visit the kindergarten classrooms, talk with the kindergarten teachers, and hear from a panel of current Kenwood parents. Tours of the school continue most Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. Contact Community Liaison Chris Madden at kenwoodpta@yahoo.com or 612-668-2778 with questions or to reserve your spot on a tour or at info night.

Bockley Gallery Opening Reception

January 18, 6-9 pm

Angelena Luckerth

Korla Luckerth

Andrew Mazorol and Tynan Kerr

Jim Proctor

Lindsay Rhyner

Lauren Roche

Dietrick Sieling

John Henry Toney

2123 W 21st St, 612-377-4669

information@bockleygallery.com

Minnesota Concert Opera

Il Trovatore January 25 & 27

The Goodale Theater

The Cowles Center for Dance & Performing Arts

528 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis

Ticket Office: 612-206-3600

\$25 adults \$15 students

thecowlescenter.org

mnconcertopera.org

St. Mark's Music Series

Dedicatory Organ Recital

Sunday February 17, 5pm

Raymond Johnston, Director of Music

No admission charge. Goodwill offering taken.

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

WINTER in WONDERLAND at ARTrageous

Saturday, Jan. 19th 1-3pm OR 5-7:pm

Celebrate the beauty of the season with storytelling, face painting, a Creation Station, Cocoa and edible snowman sculptures too! This is a family event so you can come anytime between 5-8pm. Stay for an hour or two.

Cost: \$15

Purchase a 2013 ARTrageous Family Membership and leave with a gift!

Location: Beautiful downtown Kenwood

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Jan. 18 6-9pm Bockley Gallery opening

Jan. 19 4:30-6:30 Snowshoeing at Lake Nokomis

Jan. 19 Winter Wonderland at ARTrageous Adventures

Jan. 22, 6pm Burch restaurant liquor license hearing
Kenwood Rec Center.

Jan. 22 Roe Wade anniversary celebration

Jan. 23, noon, Lunch with Lisa, St. Thomas

Jan. 25 & 27, Il Trovatore, MN Concert Opera

Jan. 26, 4:30-6:30 snowshoeing on Chain of Lakes

Jan. 28 & 29, 6-8pm Metro Transit open houses

Jan. 29 6:30 CAC meeting Kenwood Rec Center

Feb. 8, 1pm, Audubon Society Meeting

Feb. 12, 6:30pm CAC meeting Kenwood Rec Center

Feb. 17 5pm St. Mark's Music Series

Feb. 22, 6-8pm Kenwood School Parent Info night

CLASSIFIED JANUARY

CARPENTRY. Windows, doors. Siding. Fences, decks, finish carpentry. Drywall, plaster repair, taping. Local refs, free ests. Tom 612-824-1554.

Rates: \$7.00 for two lines, \$4.00 for each additional line. Send ad and check to Hill & Lake Press, c/o Jean Deatrick, 1821 Dupont Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403, payable to Hill & Lake Press. There are approximately 48 characters (letter, punctuation, space, number) per line.

Sunset Snowshoeing at Lake Nokomis

Saturday, January 19th, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Take a tour of Lake Nokomis and Minnehaha Creek on snowshoes. With a beautiful sunset as our backdrop, we'll explore our winter wonderland while floating above the snow on snowshoes. Snowshoes provided. Meet at the Nokomis Beach parking lot on E Lake Nokomis Parkway just east of Cedar Avenue S. Register here or call 313-7725. \$15

Sunset Snowshoeing on the Chain of Lakes

Saturday, January 26th, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Snowshoe on the chain of lakes passing through canals and getting close to islands. Watch for wildlife as you tromp through the snow. Snowshoes provided. Meet at the North Beach parking lot at Lake Calhoun on Excelsior Boulevard. Register here or call 313-7725. \$15

The 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

{the long march towards justice}

MN Choice Coalition partners are kicking off 2013 with reflection and hope.

We'll be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade with a casual and informative evening designed to bring friends and colleagues together. Find out how you can protect choice during 2013.

Join us in celebrating the landmark decision with special guest Dr. Willie Parker.

Dr. Willie Parker, abortion provider

JANUARY 22, 2013

5:30 PM Private Reception with Dr. Parker

6:00 PM Doors Open for Main Event

6:30 PM Program Begins

(includes a special performance by the History Theatre and Keynote by Dr. Willie Parker)

7:30 PM Program Ends

McNamara Center, University of Minnesota

Suggested Donation: \$40A

Visit plannedparenthood.org for information.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, JOHN GRIDLEY



By Craig Wilson

Sadly, our dear neighbor, friend and Hill Lake Press business manager, John Gridley, passed away on Dec. 21, 2012 at age 73. Survived by his wife Jean Deatrick, the editor of the Hill Lake Press, John loved and was loved by his stepchildren and other family members who were a constant helpful presence during his long battle with cancer. John was a financial executive and CFO of a Fortune 500 company. He attended Hamline, Princeton, Harvard Business School, and the University of Southern California. In addition to his work with the Hill & Lake Press, in retirement John was also the former treasurer of political campaigns and Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, a member of the City of Minneapolis Development Finance Committee, and he assisted Council Member Lisa Goodman and Mike Christensen at the Humphrey School. John's great love was sailing, particularly ocean racing. He enjoyed his Bayfield vacation home and sailed his Oday 30 on Lake Superior.

In celebration of John's life we decided to publish Council Member Lisa Goodman's stirring eulogy given at John's funeral at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and rerun our interview of John for the Meet Your Neighbor Column that was published in June 2009. Rest in peace dear John.

Craig Wilson interviewed John Gridley about growing up in Southern Minnesota and becoming a Fortune 500 executive, his marriage to Hill Lake Press editor Jean Deatrick, and his real passions in life.

Lately, your name has been popping up quite a bit in community affairs, but a few years ago, you weren't even on my radar screen. What happened? In 2000, I was transferred to California. I kept my Lowry

Hill home, rented apartments out there, and Jean commuted back and forth. Now that I've returned, I have the opportunity to get involved in Twin Cities organizations again.

What are some of the activities you are involved in? I took over as business manager of Hill & Lake Press because Jane Johnson, our long-serving manager, is moving back to England. I'm the treasurer of Anita Tabb's campaign for District 4 Park Board Commissioner, and also the new treasurer of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association. At the municipal level, I'm a member of the City of Minneapolis Development Finance Committee, which reviews economic development proposals for the City Council. And more recently, I've become involved with the Minnesota School of Business Accounting and Business Program Advisory Committee.

I understand you grew up in Southern Minnesota, worked your way through college and became a successful financial executive? I'm no Horatio Alger. When I was young, college was relatively less expensive, and I could earn enough working in canning factories during the summer to pay most of my expenses. Although I later became controller, treasurer, and chief financial officer of major companies, a lot of it was just being at the right place at the right time. Wasn't it Woody Allen who quipped "Eighty percent of success is just showing up"? It also helped that I was willing to be a corporate gypsy, but I don't recommend that. It's much healthier to put down roots and nurture friendships than to move around every few years.

Since you've lived in quite a few places during your career, which do you prefer? That's really a softball question, Craig. I've lived in New York, Detroit, California, and the Deep South, but Minnesota wins hands down. The quality of life; educational, cultural, and medical facilities; and relative freedom from congestion and pollution make Minnesota my residence of choice in general, and Lowry Hill my choice in particular.

What are some of the issues you feel most passionate about, either locally or at a broader level? On

a neighborhood level—and I'm thinking of the Hill & Lake footprint—I love living on a tree-lined street filled with late 19th Century and early 20th Century houses. I'd like to keep it that way, and am opposed to teardowns and speculative development. McMansions belong in the suburbs. At the city level, I think the Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development department has done an outstanding job in recent years. I'm thinking of the Phillips Neighborhood public/private partnerships, the Hiawatha Corridor revitalization, affordable housing assistance to non-profits like Project Pride for Living and Aeon, Franklin Avenue improvements in the Phillips Neighborhood, and currently, various West Broadway projects that are underway or in the planning stage.

Nationally, however, the thing I feel most strongly about is health care. I think it's even more important than our current economic crisis. We pay more per capita for healthcare than any nation, yet 46 million of our citizens don't have access to healthcare other than waiting for hours in public hospital emergency rooms. Equal protection under the law should include protection from illness and disease. I'd like to think that if Madison and Jefferson were drafting the bill of rights today, they'd have less to say about the right to bear arms, and more to say about the right to healthcare access.

What do you do for fun? The big love in my life—besides Jean—is sailing. I used to do a lot of ocean racing, but have focused more on cruising in recent years; I'm too old to go up the mast at night under sail. My primary sailboat is still in California, but I plan to bring it back and moor it in Bayfield.

Can you describe your best sailing experience?

In 1976, I crewed in a series of races called the Pacific Ocean Racing Championship on a boat owned by Gordon Frost, Past Commodore of the San Diego Yacht Club. We won several individual races and the series overall, but what I remember most was that Gordon was a gentleman yachtsman of the old school, gracious and polite, even during the heat of battle. They say it's not whether you

Neighbor to page 5



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Josh Zuehlke

Michael Wille

Marcy Libby

First Impressions**MINNEAPOLIS MINDS**

By Steve Kotvis

“The swearing in ceremony itself. The formality of actually swearing to the oath of the Constitution. It reiterated the importance to serve the public and our country,” answered elected School Board director Josh Reimnitz to the question about what was most memorable to him about the inauguration event on January 8th. It was a joy to attend this event and witness Josh as his mother swore him in and he joined eight other school board members, three at large and five from geographically defined Districts.

Josh will serve on three internal School Board Committees, Policy, Finance, and Superintendent Evaluation. “I wanted to be on the Policy Committee because pretty much everything runs through this group,” he explained. While he does not have an agenda per se just yet, explaining that he still feels like he wants to understand the processes, he does have some areas of interest on which he’d like to focus.

Given Josh’s background running the youth leadership nonprofit *Students Today Leaders Forever*, it’s not a stretch to see where he’s going with this. “I’m interested in leadership, teacher evaluation, and student voice. He sees strong school sites, leadership of the District at large, and a culture of leadership surrounding our school district. He believes that students need to develop a voice and involvement in decision-making and policies. And finally, he wants to stay involved in the conversation around teacher evaluations.

First impressions? Josh is impressed with the amount of work staff and other board members put into this work. Regardless of whether he fully agrees with everyone, he can see that everyone does care and puts a lot into the job of serving on the School Board.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident who is an active volunteer in community and education issues, has written Minneapolis Minds about public education since January 2008 . Please feel free to share your comments, opinions or insights with him at stevek@f-go.us.

Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis Metro Transit to Hold Transitway Open Houses



Map of Midtown Corridor study area including Lake Street and Greenway alignments.



The proposed Midtown Corridor Transitway will connect the Hiawatha and the future Southwest Light Rail lines (see above map), running either along the Midtown Greenway (above photo) or Lake Street (see page 7).

Metro Transit information courtesy of Michael Wilson

Metro Transit will be holding two public open houses on January 28th and 29th to provide information about the Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis, an initiative to determine the benefits, costs and impacts of creating a new transitway on either the Midtown Greenway or Lake Street in south Minneapolis.

The Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis will look at transitway options between the future Southwest Light Rail line and the Hiawatha Light Rail line and aims to recommend the best method of delivering transit service in the Midtown Corridor, focusing on street car, light rail, bus rapid transit or dedicated busway.

**Colin Powell Center, 3rd Floor, 924 4th Avenue S. Monday, Jan. 28 – 6pm to 8pm,
Whittier Park Recreation Center 425 W. 26th Street Tuesday, January 29, 2013 6-8 p.m.**

At the open houses the project team will describe the study’s background and schedule, answer questions, and take public comments about the project’s purpose and need. For more information about the study visit www.midtowntransitway.org, email midtown@metrotransit.org, or call 612-349-7793.

Don't Miss The Annual Ice Skating Party

Sunday, January 27, 2013

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Lake of the Isles Ice Rink
& Warming Hut

Enjoy Skating with your Neighbors & Family.

❄️ Get Warm by a Blazing Fire. ❄️

Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat Cookies.

❄️ Have Winter Fun! ❄️

In case of poor
ice conditions -
the party will rescheduled
for Sunday, February 10th

Sponsored by East Isles, Lowry Hill & Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Associations 2013

John Gridley Eulogy, Dec. 29 service at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

By City Council Member Lisa Goodman

When John Gridley arrived in our classroom at the HHH Institute on Monday afternoons, always 15-20 minutes early, what Mike Christenson and I felt was relief.

Within the next few minutes 24 graduate students, all with detailed questions would be arriving looking for answers and John was the one enthusiastic about answering them each with a level of interest, patience, and detail that only John could keep up with. Students would call John outside of class too, just to hear his opinion about how to solve a complicated project financing challenge, always wanting that real world point of view that John could give. The mark of John's wisdom was a gentle hand, and not a war story which might serve to glorify his achievements, great as they were.

And he knew his stuff it was obvious, I mean with a CPA, an MBA from Harvard, and a PhD from Princeton, John loved academia and loved to be learning; initially when he heard we were teaching he wanted to just sit in and audit our class. We thought he would be bored given his background and better helping us as a teaching assistant and that's how he came to be part of class, although he often told us he was fascinated by the material and by the students themselves.

John Gridley was just that kind of man, one who loved helping others, in his quiet thoughtful way, with great detail. The more complex the problem, the more interesting the challenge, John was up for it. His family has said he should have been a college professor and I could tell because his interest in our students, the time he gave to help them understand the details of complicated project financing made him the most educated and committed teaching assistant the HHH Institute ever had. And did I mention he did this all as a volunteer. Grading papers, helping with the final exam, advising students basically because Mike and I asked him to and I secretly think because he loved the learning environment, the class content, and community and economic development as a way of making the city a better place.

John's community contributions run deep. Everyone knows the thankless job on many boards is to volunteer to be treasurer and that was John's position on the Lowry Hill Board. Jean reminds me that John could make a simple task harder or take longer than anyone as he wanted things he did to be perfect. He enjoyed this board assignment because it was social, kept him in the loop of friends and neighbors and the goings on in Lowry Hill. He didn't much care for the neighborhood intrigue or the drama, his motivation was about helping the neighborhood, making it a better place to live and

working with friends to do good things. That even extended to politics where John served as the treasurer for several local campaigns, doing the deposits, writing checks, filling out the campaign finance forms, all of that detailed work everyone else shied away from, John did for his friends as his way to support their running for office.

His commitment to the Hill and Lake Press was one of love for Jean. Helping her keep the presses running was his primary motivation and his business skills were put to good use. He was challenged in fact by keeping the finances, filing the taxes but he hated being the bill collector, always asking Jean to write those stern letters asking those who advertise to pay up. He liked being involved and he loved helping and supporting Jean in this community asset. It was so John that as a great businessman his best work was work he was not paid for.

John's great love for sailing kind of reminds me of his commitment to community. He used his great intellectual, tactical, and detail oriented skills to work on his sailboat, those same skills were needed to participate in great ocean racing and used in his business career and then his volunteer one too. But his love of sailing and his boats were second to his love of family and for Jean Deatrick.

Jean attempted to meet John through Barbara Carlson, who had been trying to fix them up for some time. Then one day when Jean saw John, knowing he was the one Barbara wanted her to go out with, she asked him to join her at the Guthrie. They saw many shows together from that day on and had a very strong and loving life together. John enjoyed retirement, sailing on Lake Superior, living up in Bayfield, attending many social events, and spending time with family. John loved life and wanted to live it to the fullest.

So to you John my dear friend, may this Irish Blessing find comfort to your family and many friends,

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
Until we meet again,

Ride with the wind dear John, ride with the wind.

win or lose but how you play the game. However, he was able to do both well.



The winning racing crew of 1975. John on the right.

How did you meet Jean?

We both lived in the HLP area. Barbara Carlson was going to fix us up, but never got around to it so Jean called me up and invited me to the Guthrie.

What's it like to be referred to as John "Deatrick"?

Jean is much better known in the community, so it's quite natural people think of me as John Deatrick. Maybe I'll go with the flow and change my name!

Fix-It Clinics offer help to the unhandy

Sewing machine won't sew? Toaster won't toast? Toy helicopter won't fly?

Don't throw it out! Come to one of Hennepin County Environmental Services' Fix-It Clinics and volunteers will help you repair those broken items so you can use them again.

Hennepin County, as part of its waste reduction efforts, is asking residents to sort through basements, closets and garages for clothing and household items that need repair. At the Fix-It Clinics, skilled volunteers will help you learn to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix your broken household items and electronics, clothing in need of mending, and more.

The Fix-It Clinics schedules:

Saturday, March 9: Noon to 3 p.m.

TC Maker Hack Factory, 3119 E. 26th St., Minneapolis

Saturday, April 13: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

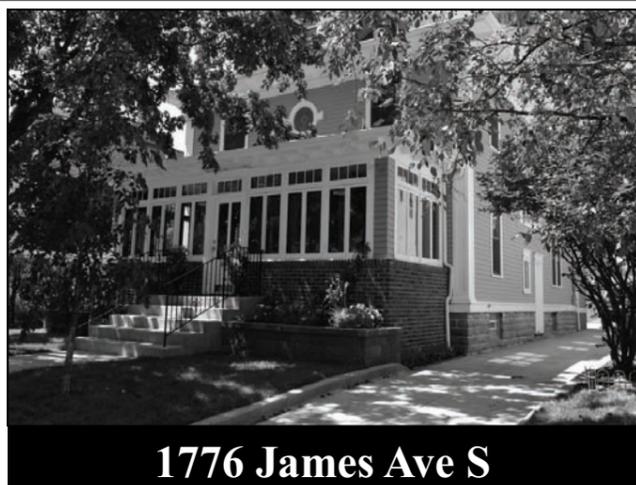
South Minneapolis Housing Fair, Minneapolis Sports Center at the YWCA

2121 E. Lake St., Minneapolis

Saturday, May 11: Noon – 3 p.m.

Hennepin County Library – Plymouth, 15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth

For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/fixit-clinic or call 612-348-3777.



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Elmer Hankes 1913-2012

By Jean Deatrick

It is with great sorrow that I report that Elmer Hankes died in December. Elmer, along with his wife Barbara, and daughter Camilla, lived next door to me on Colfax where I raised my children. He was our friend. We all loved him and have great memories. I guess some would say he was eccentric or a bit of a curmudgeon, but one could also say he was a Renaissance man, highly intelligent and always questing. He wrote and published books, notably *Ameria, a Participatory Democracy* in which he despaired over the state of our government and proposed sweeping changes; *Enterprises of Great Pith and Moment a Proposal for a Universal Second Language*; and *A Universal Second Language*. Lest you think his proposed changes in government would appeal to Tea Partiers, you would be wrong. Elmer was a left thinking person, a liberal. He always had big ideas of galaxies and the universe and was into the latest idea.

Anyone who walked down Douglas or Colfax was sure to see the many signs that he placed in his yard, signs that railed against politicians, the Star Tribune for supporting the new stadium, and other causes that made him angry. One of his signs said, "Go Twins Go and take the Vikings with you". Another sign said "Kerry Bury Bush"...a picture of that sign wound up in the New York Times that he so loved to read

And of course many neighbors recall unhappily that he carpeted his yard with bright green artificial grass. Elmer loved the neighborhood however, and often walked in nearby Thomas Lowry Park. He was proud that his daughter's wedding was held under the arbor at the park. After we moved to Dupont, often Elmer would walk to our house unexpectedly. He would ring both doorbells until he was invited in and we would enjoy a half hour chat about the latest political development and then off he would go towards home.

My children remember how when we lived on Colfax he hated our dog who often ran into his yard. Yet he let my children slide down his front yard in the winter. At the time I couldn't afford to subscribe to the New York Times so every day after he read it, he would walk the paper to my house. I fondly recall how he would read the Times in warm weather while walking back and forth on his second floor deck wearing a black beret.

Elmer grew up in Chicago and graduated from high school during the depression. A favorite teacher found him a job doing architectural drawing, and when he was told he had to improve his handwriting or lose the job, he did hand exercises to improve his writing skills. Elmer received a degree in engineering and relocated to Minneapolis to work for Honeywell. Later he started two companies: Numeric Machinery and Tescore, which developed standardized test scoring. Dr. Strong developed the Strong Interest Inventory Test, the test that high schoolers took to find out what careers would best match their interests. Elmer developed the machinery for the company.

Elmer's mother emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Later Elmer brought his sister and his mother to live in Minneapolis with him. In 1962 he married Barbara



Elmer Hankes

after a 9-year courtship and their daughter was born in 1963. Daughter Camilla, her husband Terry Hempleman, and Camilla's son Evan Little survive. Sadly, Barbara died in 2009. Elmer lived in his beautiful home at Colfax and Douglas for 65 years.

Barbara Hankes called Elmer the "old settler". When Elmer went on a trade mission to Europe and the Scandinavian countries in the early 60s, Barbara pleaded, "Bring me a strong woman to help with my work". And so he did. He brought a Norwegian nanny named Greta to help with baby Camilla and a fox stole for Barbara.

Elmer had many friends in the neighborhood. Every Christmas he and Barbara hosted the Mummies, costumed singers/actors who would sing for the gathered crowd of adults and children, and then all enjoyed the lavish dinner. He didn't much care for church services, but he attended our many wedding receptions and parties with our family. When I told Elmer back in 1984 that I was going to marry John, Elmer wasn't sure that was such a good idea although he and John later became good friends. Elmer was mostly a non drinker, yet at the wedding reception he drank straight out of a bottle of champagne while expressing his negative feelings about my marriage. When St. Mark's where we were married was later hit by lightning, he said God agreed with him. On my last visit to see Elmer before he moved out of his house, he gave me a jar of pickles, which reminded me of the 'store' that Barbara and Elmer used to have in the basement of their home where every imaginable product from paper towels to spaghetti sauce was stored in great quantity.

Elmer wrote many articles over the years for Hill and Lake Press under the title "From my Window". Some of his articles were somewhat obscure, others might be described as rants, but he told me he loved writing for HLP. Topics ranged from Hillary Rodham Clinton to Big Bang II to politics in general.

Last May Elmer's family honored him by hosting a large and elegant sitdown dinner to celebrate his 99th birthday. Guests took turns telling stories about Elmer.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable evening and Elmer enjoyed it most of all. Elmer would have turned 100 years old on May 30, 2013. Elmer brought joy and laughter and love to our lives and we will miss him.

From My Window
Hill and Lake Press September 2003
Essay referencing his book *Ameria*.

By Elmer Hankes

We are in a very critical situation. Our military forces are verging on rebellion. They

have been snookered into playing Hessians again. Remember the guys we rounded up

at Trenton? If they do rebel and demand repatriation, the political consequences will be

beyond control. Confidence in the two party system is already badly shaken by

Democrats' toadying. Environmental gains are eroded, there are massive financial

frauds with the connivance of bankers, courts and auditors, utility regulation is negated

and the public is cheated and imperiled. The tax system favors the upper class with

lower rates and failure to collect what is due. Much of the burden of the unjust war is put

upon the National Guard! Why, when our regular army exceeds a million?

This administration's actions are deliberately designed to create discord and eventual chaos, opening the way for a power seizure.

Fifteen years ago I formulated proposals to prevent this sort of mischief and

misgovernment by returning all effective power to the people by removing the legislators

from the corruptive influences and temptations of Washington, by requiring them to

maintain their offices and residence in their own legislative district, and to hold frequent

meetings with their constituents in both general and intimate groups. The Legislature

itself would meet in a new facility, most likely in Kansas, with sessions limited to one or

two weeks per month. The details and safeguards are spelled out on the web page

<<www.ameria.com>>. The changes proposed do not require any Constitutional

revision. Please look it over. Some of it you'll like and some of it you won't. But you

should start thinking about how Russia, Italy, Germany, Spain and other nations tumbled

into chaos and dictatorship.

Damn it all, it can and will happen here unless you, and you, and you too, get off your

butts and become active. Don't let our rights and freedom be eroded.

The other 13 chapters of *Ameria* cover important topics with probing good humor. Oh yes, since

men have done such a poor job, Ameria® provides that each district have both a man

and a non-related woman to represent it.

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More on the History of Thomas Lowry Park

By Bill Payne

I wrote about the history of what is now Thomas Lowry Park a year ago, including the move by interested citizens to save the site from real estate development.

Thanks to the interest of Renay Leone, the real estate coordinator of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Dave Smith, additional information about the acquisition of the site has come to light.

Smith is the author of *City of Parks: The Story of Minneapolis Parks* and the online publication *Parks, Lakes, Trails and So Much More: An Overview of the Histories of MPRB Properties* (http://www.minneapolisparke.org/documents/parks/Parks_Lakes_Trails_Much_More.pdf). In addition, he maintains a blog, Minneapolis Park History (<http://minneapolisparkhistory.com/>).

What was then a rocky corner of Thomas Lowry Hill, known as Hofflin's Mound, had remained undeveloped. But in September 1922, John Friedman (described as a "capitalist") proposed to construct a 13-story apartment-hotel. Neighborhood opposition was predictably swift, with the first approach to City Hall to get a building permit denied, followed quickly by a petition to the Park Board to acquire the site for a park.

The Park Board moved swiftly, giving preliminary approval in early October. Several completed drawings related to park design appear in the file. Planning was completed in a couple of months.

In late December 1922 the Park Board authorized the acquisition, to be financed through a method that

the Park Board found extremely expedient: assessing the costs against the "benefitted" properties, issuing bonds in the aggregate amount needed, and allowing owners of the benefitted properties to pay their assessments as the bonds matured. This technique is most familiar today as a way of financing street improvements.

A commission was appointed to appraise the proposed park property and assess the costs. It came up with a figure of \$100,000, which included the value of the site and \$23,000 for development. In late February it published all the details, which included proposed home-by-home assessments.

Who benefited from the development of this park and hence would pay its costs? Other Park Board proceedings suggested that properties within a half mile of a park would be assessed. But that was probably for a larger park, not one of less than 1-1/2 acres. While the details of the proposed assessments appear in the file, the thinking of the commissioners does not.

The benefits were not extended across Hennepin Avenue, even though the park is only one-tenth of a mile from Hennepin. Erased lines on the assessment map showed that originally the benefits were deemed to be as far south as Franklin (one-fourth of a mile), but a south border of Lincoln was used instead (one-eighth of a mile). The western extent was scaled back to Knox (one-half mile). (Knox is two blocks from Kenwood Park, whose costs were presumably assessed residents of Knox and streets farther west.)

The northerly extent of the benefitted properties was deemed those north of Mt. Curve to the west and Groveland Terrace to the east. While we think of these properties as commercial today (condos, formerly apartments, and the Walker), at that time they contained homes, including the home of Thomas Lowry, then owned by T.B. Walker (less than 300 feet from the park site, as the crow flies).

So this relatively small area was to bear the cost of the park. The objections were immediate: the cost of acquisition/development was exorbitant and the assessments were unfair. T.B. Walker in a letter explained that more than 3% of the project costs were to be assessed against him, while 1% would be fair. (Of course, Walker owned the largest and most valuable tract of land on Lowry Hill.) Others claimed that most of the benefit went to those immediately adjoining the park (after all, they had been saved from hotel development).

While there were letters in support, they were neither as numerous nor as passionate as those opposed.

The actual basis of spreading the assessments does not appear in the file. Was it linear feet, assessed value, or some other method? Those across the street from the site were to be assessed more.

After adjournments and delays at the Park Board, the acquisition was finally approved in May 1923.

It took the balance of 1923 to complete the sale of bonds and make the purchase. The park was graded and planted in 1924 (the pergola the following year).

CAC from page one

developed although in considerable need of updating to improve safety, signage, lake access, and trail separation for bikers and walkers. CIDNA and Bryn Mawr residents at the Jan. 8 CAC session expressed concern and frustration about the excessive speeds at which many of the 4100 drivers each day attempt to navigate the Parkway's sharp curves.

The Dean Parkway segment, on the other hand, doesn't have any bike trails to speak of, and the pavement surface for pedestrians is badly deteriorated. Signage is almost nonexistent. Neighborhood residents tell of frequently seeing bikers during the summer looking at their pocket maps while they scratch their heads and wonder, "Where are we?"

Safety on Dean Parkway was a major concern of CAC members, especially at the bottom of the Cedar Lake Parkway hill where many of the 5500-8000 vehicles that use Dean Parkway every day roll right through stop signs. CAC members and MPRB planners heard that many bikers use Benton Blvd. to travel from Cedar Lake Parkway to Lake of the Isles Parkway, bypassing the dangerous intersection altogether.

Don Willeke, CIDNA resident and longtime supporter of urban forests, pointed out that Dean Parkway contains over 40 different varieties of trees, including Japanese scholar trees which bloom in August, hemeptela from North Korea, and Asian cork trees from Manchuria. Nearby residents have offered to "adopt" the area just north of Lake Street, often called

Midtown Transitway from page 4



Midtown Transitway proposal along Lake Street

"Dean Green," creating gardens and a mini-arboretum.

Go to the MPRB Dean Parkway/W. Cedar Lake Trail Improvements project page at <http://www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=1418> for complete information on the project. Links can be found halfway down the page to the 45 powerpoint slides presented at the Jan. 8 session, as well as to the inventory boards and session minutes.

CAC Meeting 2: Tuesday, Jan. 29, 6:30pm
Kenwood Community Center

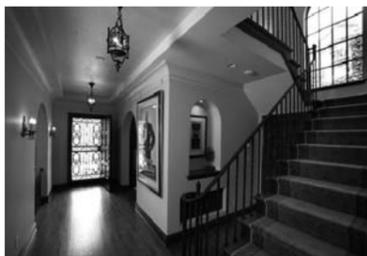
CAC Meeting 3: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30pm

Kenwood Community Center

Project Open House: Thursday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm
Bakken Museum Great Hall, 3537 Zenith Av. S.

What are YOUR concerns and recommendations for the W. Cedar Lake/Dean Parkway project?

Go to <http://www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=1418> and complete the survey. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 20.



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Cotty's Billboard is Back



Annual MCAD student art sale billboard featuring t

By Cott

Yes, the Billboard is coming back,” was always my over the last few months ... then under my breath I was sure when during Burch restoration and the Billboard my subconscious only to realize my grieving was carried don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.”

The Billboard has amazed me for almost 20 years name from those dreaded part time retired Realtors from It needed my photo, my signature, and a slogan - Vintage wanted it to be my partner, capable of paying its own tomers. Early on, each one had a beautiful 4 X 6, hard attract new clients it did, but it did more. A whole lot more.

This was before Al Gore invented the internet. No one knew about interactivity and web 2.0. We expected graffiti and the billboard company had naively agreed to maintain the head shot. They got more than they bargained for, but we also noticed people returning to see the latest iteration, again and again. The street level location was irresistible to local artists & patrons leaving Liquor Lyles at . Graffiti was a blessing in disguise.

Over the years it became part of the neighborhood as it took on a life of its own. The satisfaction for me is not only its success as a business tool, but that it evolved to so much more. I'd like to think it's part of what makes Uptown, well, Uptown. This was terribly clear while it was AWOL. I can't count the conversations I had with “complete strangers” who were genuinely missing it and encouraging me to get it back. And so now it's back, for a good long time.

At the MCAD art sale I ran into Ryan Burnet, one of the new Burch Restaurant's developers. I asked about construction progress. Ryan replied in his low key way, “Cotty, I'm only asked two questions about our restaurant, and not necessarily in this order. What are you going to do for parking and when does Cotty get his billboard back?” I was thrilled. Luckily they didn't pave paradise, but maybe they should have put up a parking lot.

You can see some of the best graffiti at www.cotty.com, click on the GRIN button. -



Photo by Dorothy Childers

the "Picasso Cotty"

by Lowry

response to the question shot at me at least once a day would say to myself "Well, I think it is anyway" I'm not d's hiatus, I started hearing folk music wafting through ring me back to "...don't it always seem to go, that you

. Originally conceived to differentiate my non-gender om Wayzata - you know like Binky, Muffy and...Cotty? age Lowry - remember the first dark green one? I also n way by selling a house to one of Sebastian Joe's cus- and painted image of my latest offering. Sell homes and

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CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 9, 2013

The January meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Vice Chair Michael Wilson, Treasurer Ed Bell, Secretary Ryan Fox, Ed Ferlauto, Stephen Goltry, Ray Greco, Art Higinbotham, David Lissauer, David Shirley, and Amanda Vallone. NRP Committee Chair Gail Lee was also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith

Chair Craig Westgate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The CIDNA Board unanimously approved the following:

Treasurer's Report.

Funding for one-third of the costs for Monica Smith to participate in the NUSA conference in Minneapolis (May 2013).

The proposed NRP Phase I Plan Modification to move \$1,750 to Strategy #16 – Intersection Studies. CIDNA will partner with West Calhoun Neighborhood Council to fund computer visual renderings and digital video summarizing the Capstone projects on transportation issues around the Lake St and Excelsior Blvd corridor.

Park Siding Update

NRP Committee Chair Gail Lee reported that the committee met with Adam Gordon, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) and Deb Bartels, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) regarding Park Siding Park playground equipment. It was agreed that MCES would proceed with requesting proposals from playground manufacturers to accommodate children ages 2-12 in one play container. The next public meeting will be held in mid-February for feedback on the proposed designs.

Gail Lee presented a request for a crosswalk indicator (from the Kenilworth Trail to Park Siding Park) to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The committee accepted the proposal and will recommend that Public Works allow MCES to install a crosswalk at this location once sewer construction is complete.

MPRB Commission Anita Tabb

Commissioner Tabb shared information about the Dean Parkway/Cedar Lake Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Cedar Lake South Beach has been included in the CAC study area. The next meeting is January 29, 6:30 pm at Jones-Harrison. Gail Lee is CIDNA's representative to the CAC. The board approved Craig Westgate as the alternate representative.

Southwest Transitway Update/ Transportation Committee

Commissioner Tabb and MPRB staff met with representatives from the Southwest Transitway and confirmed that MPRB will have a seat on LRT planning committees.

The Metropolitan Council has taken over managing the LRT project from Hennepin County.

Twin Cities & Western Railroad (TC&W) issued a press release stating that the proposed design for freight relocation to accommodate the Southwest Transitway fails to meet standards of engineering and safety.

Also reported was that the project office will simultaneously be designing both the Locally Preferred Alternative (freight rail re-location) and co-location of freight and LRT through the Kenilworth corridor.

Minneapolis has stated opposition to co-location and will not give municipal consent for an alignment with co-location. Residents and organizations need to keep pressure on elected officials to hold firm on the opposition to co-location.

A group of residents along the Kenilworth corridor hired an attorney to prepare their response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and represent them on Southwest Transitway issues.

The recent Southwest Journal had an article about neighborhood responses to the DEIS.

The joint neighborhood task force will continue working on LRT issues.

Community Works is planning open houses and workshops related to station area plans.

Art Higinbotham will attend the next meeting of the Southwest LRT CAC and reiterate that co-location is unacceptable.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Council Members Goodman and Tuthill will split their attendance at CIDNA Board meetings this year.

The next Lunch with Lisa is January 23, noon at University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. Guest speaker: Michele Kelm-Helgen of the public board overseeing new Vikings stadium. The February topic will be about water distribution and recycling.

Christmas trees will be picked up on regular garbage day and will be composted.

Recycle your old holiday light; for details: www.recycleminnesota.org.

Police Chief Janeé Harteau appointed Tony Diaz as the new Inspector for the 5th Precinct. Former Inspector Matt Clark was promoted to Assistant Chief.

Sunset Blvd Sidewalk Update

Gail Lee made a presentation to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee requesting a sidewalk on Sunset Blvd (between Chowen and Depot). The Committee agreed that a sidewalk is needed and will advise Public Works to direct MCES to install a sidewalk on the north side when the roadway is rebuilt after the sewer construction (beginning Spring 2013), in accordance with the Pedestrian Master Plan and Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks.

Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC) Report

MGC ended the year with a surplus. The goal for 2013 will be to increase membership.

Construction work has started on 28th St (east of 35W) to bury Xcel's power lines.

Greenway Glow is being planned for June 29th.

MGC is participating in the Dean Parkway/Cedar Lake CAC with particular interest in access from the Greenway.

New Business

CIDNA is serving as the fiscal agent for a grant awarded to Jeff Peltola to convene the parties involved with the process of deciding how to handle the Cedar Lake Pkwy crossing of the LRT. These parties include staff from relevant government entities, neighborhood association & condo/townhouse association board members, nearby renters, as well as elected officials and the general public. An event will be planned for late January.

The board approved a \$100 donation in honor of the late John Gridley (husband of Jean Deatrick, Editor of the Hill and Lake Press).

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, February 13 at Jones-Harrison, 6:00 p.m.

KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

By Robert J. Tennesen, Acting Secretary

KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors meeting

Kenwood Park Center

January 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by board Chair Larry Moran. Other directors present: Ed Pluimer, Kathy Low, Jack Levi, Angie Erdrich, and Robert Tennesen.

City Councilmember Lisa Goodman made the following comments:

A hearing will be held on January 22 at 6 PM at the Kenwood Park Center on the liquor license application for the restaurant in the former Burch pharmacy building. The purpose of the hearing is not to determine whether or not liquor should be sold but to determine whether or not the applicant is fit to hold a license.

The Minneapolis Police Department has assigned Officer Tony Diaz as Inspector for our precinct.

In response to a question regarding appraised value of property she explained the appeal process.

In response to another question about wood-burning she advised that there are rules in effect that govern when bonfires are permissible.

She restated the long-standing position of the city of Minneapolis opposing co-location of freight and the SWLRT traffic in the Kenwood Corridor. She also explained other aspects regarding the SWLRT.

Treasurer Ed Pluimer presented the treasurer's preliminary report. It was accepted.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the previously adapted CPP budget reducing the amount allocated for professional services from \$6820 to \$5175 and increasing the amount for communications from \$347 to \$2000. The purpose of the change is to provide additional funds to pay for the cost of the neighborhood newsletter regarding the SW LRT and other items. The total amount of the budget is unchanged.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)

Below are abbreviated minutes from the December 11, 2012 and January 8, 2013 EIRA Board meetings. The complete minutes can be found at www.eastisles.org.

December 11, 2012

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Linda Schutz (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Sue Durfee, Carla Pardue, Jane Schommer, and Michael Rossini. Alternate Donna Jansen and other East Isles residents were also present.

2721 E Lake of the Isles Parkway

Mark Nelson of David Heide Design, presented renovation plans for 2721 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy. Four variances are being requested. The EIRA Board took no action.

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

Metropolitan Airport Commission has postponed its decision on changing flight patterns.

The City of Minneapolis' new mattress recycling program has been very successful.

Janeé Harteau was sworn in as the new Chief of Police. Inspector Matt Clark has been reassigned from the 5th Precinct to be Assistant Police Chief. Tony Diaz will be the new Inspector of the 5th Precinct.

The new apartment building, 1800 Lake, has been pumping groundwater from the parking garage into the lagoon (the channel that connects Lake of the Isles with Lake Calhoun, just west of the parkway and west of The Mall). The developer had a temporary permit to pump water during construction but that permit has expired. The water has been tested and it isn't polluted but it is changing the water temperature in the lagoon. The City and Park Board are working to resolve the issue. The City hired a consulting firm and a report is expected in January.

REPORTS

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

The Park Board will be replanting 6-8 trees on The Mall in the spring. Partners are being pursued to help fund replacing park benches.

Construction has begun for a new home at 2841 East Lake of the Isles Pkwy.

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

The annual Ice Skating Party will be Sunday, January 27th. The EIRA Board unanimously approved a budget of \$200 for the event.

Monica Smith, Staff Report

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services has begun a sanitary sewer repair project along Lake St (from France Ave to Irving Ave) and Irving Ave (from Lake St to 27th St). Construction will continue through July 2013.

The Park Board is forming a new Community Advisory Committee for trail improvements to Dean Pkwy and the Cedar Lake.

Green Team

The next meeting of the Uptown Green Teams is December 12, 7 pm at Jefferson School. The agenda will include a presentation by Minneapolis Energy Options – a new campaign to ensure that Minneapolis has a strong voice in negotiating its utility franchise agreements.

Board Review

Dan McLaughlin's wife Sharon will help EIRA with its IRS status.

Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP): The ideas with the most support at the October Members Meeting were improvements to The Mall and Lake of the Isles.

The board approved the creation of two new committees: transportation and park land/green space. McLaughlin and Smith will work on a committee member solicitation process.

The EIRA BOD unanimously approved the following: Language for a new Mission Statement: "East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) is a neighborhood-based organization whose primary goal is to improve neighborhood livability, develop a greater sense of community, and promote the well-being of all of its residents. EIRA encourages resident involvement in order to understand and take action on issues that impact the neighborhood. EIRA develops initiatives that address a wide range of topics that residents believe to be important. Our focus is on increasing neighborhood involvement, preserving the vitality of the neighborhood, and making improvements that make East Isles one of the City of Minneapolis's most vibrant communities."

Authorization of a Nominations Committee to recruit

candidates for the EIRA BOD and to encourage high member attendance at the Spring EIRA Members' Annual Meeting. EIRA members are invited to serve on this committee by communicating their interest to EIRA Coordinator, Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org. The committee will meet at least three times, likely 1/2 hour before regularly scheduled monthly EIRA BOD meetings.

One year renewal of contract with Coordinator Monica Smith.

January 8, 2013

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (President), Linda Schutz (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Tina Frontera, Renee Gust, Carla Pardue, Michael Rossini and Jane Schommer. Alternate Donna Jansen, other East Isles residents and guests were also present.

Council Member Meg Tuthill, Ward 10

Amore Victoria is hosting a benefit and silent auction for victims of the Uptown condo fire. The event will be January 9, 6-10 pm at 1601 W Lake St

The Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis will study transit alternative between the Hiawatha LRT and the proposed West Lake Station of Southwest LRT (along the Midtown Greenway and/or Lake St). A Community Advisory Committee is being formed. Contact Jill Hentges if you are interested: 612-349-7318 or jill.hentges@metc.state.mn.us

The City is conducting a survey about bridging the digital divide. 12,400 households were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

The Fire Department is accepting applications for new firefighters.

The next Meet with Meg is January 14, noon- 1 pm at 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave S.

The Met Council sewer project work will continue through March 2013. Some of the construction work is expected to be loud as they test the new pipes.

Open Forum

Julie Mellum from Take Back the Air attended to request that an alternative be considered for the wood-burning fire at the Ice Skating Party. The event organizers (3 area neighborhoods) are planning a small recreational fire in accordance with Park Board permit and City regulations.

REPORTS

Amy Sanborn, Social Committee

The annual Ice Skating Party will be Sunday, January 27, 1-3 pm at the Lake of the Isles ice rink. (back up date: February 10). Volunteers are needed. Contact nrp@eastisles.org if you can help.

The Uptown Association invited EIRA to host a table at their Annual Meeting Expo on January 17. The Board approved funding for two BOD members to attend the event (\$35 per person).

Harvey Ettinger, Zoning Committee

The next Zoning Committee meeting will be January 15, 5 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street. Agenda will include a proposal for the redevelopment of the BP site at 2700 Hennepin Ave S.

Monica Smith, Staff Report

The EIRA Board approved hosting an Earth Day clean up event at Lake of the Isles on April 20th.

Green Team

The 2013 Green Film Series begins with a showing of Gasland, January 14, 6:30 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

The Green Team applied for an \$8,000 grant from Hennepin County for community engagement around green issues. Zero Waste Uptown applied for a \$15,000 grant to work on multi-family residential recycling. The grants will be awarded by the end of January.

Rain garden activities are being planned for March and May.

Board Review

Responses to EIRA's Fall Members' Meeting survey were distributed.

The EIRA BOD discussed ideas for the Spring Members meeting. Venue and date options will be explored. The meeting will begin with food and social time. The agenda will include BOD elections, committee reports, EIRA's strategic plan and photo highlights of the year. Elected officials will be invited to speak briefly with a focus on the future.

Al Rodriguez provided the Treasurer's Report, which included a recap of EIRA expenses and revenue for 2012. Monica Smith presented expenses for the Community Participation Program (CPP) and Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP).

Dan McLaughlin and Linda Schutz presented information on BOD and committee operating procedures. EIRA Committees were reviewed along with their descriptions which were Board approved, noting some edits to occur. Two new committees are being created: Transportation and Parks & Open Space. People interested in joining one of these committees may contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org. The Nominations Committee has been renamed Outreach & Nominations and is being expanded to include outreach efforts to recruit committee chairs and members and to provide resources for EIRA committees.

The BOD also discussed committee process questions. Committees have the authority to choose the focus of their work and the BOD may direct a committee to work on a particular issue.

A committee guidelines document was also presented. The document defines operating policies and expectations for EIRA committees and provides an orientation for new committee members and chairs.

A draft of a universal sign-in sheet was reviewed. Edits were suggested and a revised draft will be discussed at the February BOD meeting.

The BOD approved funding for one-third of the costs for Monica Smith to participate in the NUSA conference in Minneapolis (May 2013).

Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP)

Dan McLaughlin and Monica Smith met with Robert Thompson (Neighborhood and Community Relations) to discuss the next steps for developing our NPP. Robert will work with us to draft a document and serve as a liaison with the Park Board to work on improvements to parkland in the neighborhood.

Next EIRA BOD meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.

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LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Janis Clay

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2013, Kenwood Recreation Center

Present - Board Members: Maureen Sheehan, President; Janis Clay, Secretary; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Phil Hallaway; Ann Seltman; Thomas D. Huppert; Ruth Shields; Mark Brauer.

Present - Guests and staff: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative; Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Maureen Sheehan, noting a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Ann Seltman moved and Dan Aronson seconded approval of tonight's agenda and of the December 4, 2012, minutes, corrected to refer to the upcoming ice skating, rather than ice cream, social. All approved.

Community Announcements - Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman: Lunch with Lisa will be January 23, 2013. Michele Kelm-Helgen, Chair of the Minneapolis Sports Facilities Authority, will discuss the Vikings stadium. Minneapolis offers curbside recycling of Christmas trees through the month of January. Information on holiday light recycling can be found at recycleminnesota.org. The City budget process is complete, with the budget approximately 3% less than last year. There is a new Inspector of the Fifth Precinct, Anthony Diaz. Some parking changes have already been implemented in connection with the Burch building renovation and restaurant. Lisa discussed redistricting changes to the 7th Ward.

The Board noted with sadness the passing of John Gridley, former LHNA Treasurer and business manager of the Hill & Lake Press.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Aronson reported that we have approximately \$32,000 in our account. The Hill & Lake Press invoice is outstanding, but will be paid shortly.

NRP and Grant Funding Decisions: Maureen Sheehan and Chris Madden met with Robert Thompson, Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, regarding additional reporting required from LHNA regarding Community Participation Program funding. They have provided the requested detail for 2010, and will do the same for the years 2011 and 2012.

LHNA Insurance: Group insurance plans are available to neighborhood associations through Robert Thompson's office. LHNA will be added to the group Directors and Officers Liability policy and to the General and Event Liability policy. The City pays for D

& O coverage, so we will not need to reimburse for this coverage. The General Liability will have a small cost for the coverage.

Committee Reports:

Zoning and Planning Committee: A public hearing will be held January 22, 2013, at the Kenwood Rec Center regarding the Burch Steak & Pizza Bar liquor license.

Environment: Maureen Sheehan will work with Ginger Cannon, Minneapolis Park & Recreation, to get a bid for a trees-only landscaping plan for the Kenwood Park sidewalk.

Crime and Safety: Phil Hallaway reported that Rebecca Graham is doing great work compiling information for the LHNA Crime and Safety Report in the E-Blast. Chris Madden has put together a design for the crime prevention post card mailing. Tom Huppert will distribute post cards to several apartment buildings. The last E Blast included information from a police report which erroneously reported an assault with a dangerous weapon on James Ave. South, which actually occurred on James Ave. North. Chris will add a correction to the next E Blast.

Events: Mark Brauer will contact the Walker about scheduling our Annual Meeting for Tuesday, May 14th. We may include a slide in the presentation and place an ad in the Hill & Lake Press thanking our contributors. Possibilities for a program include hearing from the Mayoral candidates and a speaker to explain Instant Runoff Voting. The Annual Neighborhood Ice Skating Social is coming up on January 27th, with a bad weather/ice day of February 10th. The Board reviewed several communications expressing concern over the use of a fire pit at the skating party.

Proposed Projects and Goals for 2013: The Board discussed potential projects and goals for 2013. These could include 1) involvement in the Hennepin Avenue strategic planning and redesign; 2) a "Museum of the Street" historic walking tour of the neighborhood and 3) continuing work on the "Leave a Light on" Crime and Safety initiative. The Board also discussed the possibility of arranging for shoveling of the new Kenwood Park sidewalk, investigating whether there is an area in the neighborhood appropriate for a rain garden, the possibility of a pavilion in Kenwood Park, and finding a way to reach out to the area encompassing our street addresses on the north side. Additional ideas are welcome.

LHNA's next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2013, at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at www.lowryhillneighborhood.org, where they can sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Park Board selects officers, committees, representatives for 2013

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) held its annual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 2, and elected its officers for 2013. Commissioners elected John Erwin as President for the fourth consecutive year and Liz Wielinski as Vice President for the second consecutive year.

The Board also elected Michael P. Schmidt to continue serving as Secretary to the Board and Attorney Brian Rice and firm Rice Michels and Walther LLP as General Counsel.

President Erwin appointed the following Commissioners to serve on Standing Committees of the Board (one-year terms):

Administration and Finance Committee - Chair Scott Vreeland, Vice Chair Anita Tabb, Bob Fine, Jon Olson, Liz Wielinski

Recreation Committee - Chair Bob Fine, Vice Chair Brad Bourn, Carol Kummer, Anita Tabb, Liz Wielinski

Planning Committee - Chair Anita Tabb, Vice Chair Bob Fine, Jon Olson, Scott Vreeland, Annie Young

Operations and Environment Committee - Chair Jon Olson, Vice Chair Brad Bourn, Liz Wielinski, Scott Vreeland, Annie Young

Legislation and Intergovernmental Committee - Chair Carol Kummer, Vice Chair Jon Olson, Bob Fine, Anita Tabb, Liz Wielinski

Standards and Conduct Committee - Chair Liz Wielinski, Vice Chair Annie Yount, Scott Vreeland, Carol Kummer, Bob Fine

Innovation and Development Committee - Chair Annie Young, Vice Chair Jon Olson, Scott Vreeland, Liz Wielinski, Brad Bourn, Juli Wiseman

Park Board Commissioners, ten citizens and Superintendent Jayne Miller were appointed to serve on the following external boards, commissions and panels. All terms are one year unless otherwise noted.

Planning Commission - Liz Wielinski (second year of two-year term)

Board of Estimate and Taxation - Bob Fine
Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission - Citizen appointee Ali Warsame (two year term expires July 2013)

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board - Scott Vreeland, Liz Wielinski, John Erwin, citizen appointee Stephanie Gruver, Superintendent Jayne Miller

Youth Coordinating Board - Brad Bourn
Minneapolis Institute of Arts Board - Anita Tabb
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization - Scott Vreeland, alternate Annie Young

John H. Stevens House Organization - Carol Kummer

Minneapolis Parks Foundation - John Erwin, alternate Bob Fine

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee - Scott Vreeland, citizen appointees Peggy Booth, Gay Noble, Jeanne LaBore, Don Willeke

Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership - Liz Wielinski, Scott Vreeland, Anita Tabb

Minneapolis DID Gate Committee - John Erwin
Minneapolis DID Greening Design & Infrastructure Committee - John Erwin

Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee - Anita Tabb

Bottineau Transitway Policy Advisory Committee - John Erwin

Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee - Citizen appointees Janice Gepner, Matthew Hendricks, Joshua Houdek (two-year term expires May 2014)

Internal Audit Committee - Citizen appointee Mark Oyaas (three year term)

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board typically meets at 5 p.m. every first and third Wednesday of each month for regular meetings. Board meetings are broadcast live from 5 to 9 p.m. on the Minneapolis Government Meeting Channel 79 on Comcast cable and online on the Channel 79 webpage.

Meeting agendas and related information are typically posted on www.minneapolisparcs.org two business days prior to each meeting.

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Enriching Options for Kenwood Students and Families

Photo and text by Nicole Valentine

Parents at Kenwood Elementary School with children struggling with learning differences have a new group to lean on for support and resources. Kenwood parent, Tracy Nordstrom, created the "Learning Differences Parent Group" last fall to provide a sounding board and support group for families with non-traditional learners.

Nordstrom's oldest son, who is in middle school, was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) in fifth grade. She says her family would have benefited greatly from a network of information and support. "There was no one to shepherd us through the process of having our son's learning challenges identified and then to provide information and next steps once he was diagnosed."

Twelve parents showed up for the group's first meeting in November and Nordstrom says about ten have remained active. She reports that over 20% of the population may be affected by one or more of the diagnoses included under the "learning differences" umbrella. This could translate to several children in each classroom.

Principal Cheryl Martin welcomed the creation of the group. "Our entire school community benefits from the ideas and energy brought forth by our families. I believe this parent-led initiative will provide invaluable support to our families with students with learning differences, as well as to the teachers in the classrooms."

Nordstrom, who lives in the ECCO neighborhood, says the goals for the group are to support parents affected by these issues, build a list of local and national resources for parents, provide advocacy for learning differences students within the school and community, and create awareness. She believes the existence of this group will "make Kenwood a stronger learning community for all."

Once again this winter, Kenwood is participating in the "Art Adventure" program created and supported by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The program, which trains parent volunteers to present and discuss works of art with students, is very popular with parents and students alike. This year the school has 35 parent volunteers and every classroom is involved in the program.

MIA staff pulls together themed sets of artwork and provides large photographs of the chosen works to the school so they can be viewed by and discussed with students. Each set includes seven to eight works and they are often from different media, periods in history, and cultures; but threads that tie the works together can always be found. This year, Kenwood's theme is "Artist Inspirations." Students are encouraged to silently examine the photographs of the works and learn what they can about the work and the culture from which it came through observation. Volunteers are training to ask open-ended questions of the students to get conversation flowing and to encourage their own conclusions based on their observations.

The PTA pays for the parent "picture people" to attend the MIA's training program, as well as for field trip busses so the students can visit the museum and see the works they've discussed in person. "The kids love to see the works they are familiar with when the program culminates with the museum visit. They feel that they know them. They have a connection to them. This is a great way to spur an interest in art for young people," said Kenwood resident and Art Adventure volunteer Lori Johnson.

Kenwood's annual parent information night for prospective families will be Tuesday, February 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. During the event, parents can visit the kindergarten classrooms, talk with the kindergarten teachers, and hear from a panel of current Kenwood parents. Tours of the school continue most Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. Contact Community Liaison Chris Madden at kenwoodpta@yahoo.com or 612-668-2778 with questions or to reserve your spot on a tour or at info night.



Photo by Nicole Valentine

Kenwood parent Lori Johnson presents a picture of a work of art from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to Kenwood fifth graders as part of the Art Adventure program.

SUPER DUPER HANDYPERSON WANTED

Help an elderly Minneapolis resident stay in their home. Assist with MINOR REPAIRS to make certain that their home is safe. Snowbirds, retirees, and trainees welcome (over the age of 18). You must have some experience to ensure that the work is done correctly (license not required). Choose your own schedule. Adult individuals, two-person teams, and small groups welcome.

Exact location TBD in North or SW Minneapolis, depends upon where the senior citizen resides. One time opportunities are also available. Please contact Jeanne the NIP Seniors Program, Volunteer Coordinator at svolunteer@neighborhoodinvolve.org or call 612-746-8549 for more information. Our website is www.neighborhoodinvolve.org Thank you!

NOTE:

To be eligible for NIP senior services, elders age 60+ must live within the following boundaries: south of 44th Avenue in North Minneapolis, north of West 36th Street in Southwest Minneapolis, 35W on the east, and France Avenue on the west.

"HOT NOTES ON A COLD NIGHT CABARET" JANUARY 26 AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB

WHERE YOU COULD MEET THE YOUNG STARS OF TOMORROW

What do Helen Keller, Frank Lloyd Wright, Garrison Keillor, The Jayhawks, and even Tiny Tim have in common? They have all spoken or performed at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis. And now, the next generation of potential stars — comics, dancers, music combos and recording artists from Southwest High School — will join their ranks, Saturday, January 26 from 7-11 p.m. for HOT NOTES ON A COLD NIGHT CABARET.

The effort hopes to raise more than \$30,000 for arts and music education programs, ranging from basic things like choral sheet music to music lessons for students on the free lunch program to a new bass drum for the band. Tickets in advance online at http://southwest.mpls.k12.mn.us/ticket_information, or at the door are \$40, or you can buy a four-pack for \$150.

The Annual HOT NOTES ON A COLD NIGHT CABARET comes again during a time when public education budgets still leave too many things unfunded — including textbooks, classroom whiteboards, recording equipment, and other essentials! This highly successful fundraiser with its eclectic silent auction items and a raffle is where you could win a Mini Ipad 16GB w/wi-fi (made possible through firstTech and a parent donation), a year's worth General Mills' breakfast cereal and monthly bread for 2013, courtesy of Breadsmith. In short, it's a crowd pleaser that pulled in \$40,000 last January! You also can get great deals from familiar area merchants, restaurants, service providers and tickets to the T-wolves and Twins and other entertainment events, from theater and ballet to vocal performance.

"The event is open to the entire Twin Cities community looking for a rewarding way to beat the mid-winter blues and to benefit public education," says event Chair Jackie Mattingly. "This year, one of our main goals is to help provide music lessons during the school year for kids on the reduced/free lunch program. The percentage of students at the school who qualify for this has grown to the point that Southwest is now getting Title 1 funding. Similarly, the numbers are growing for music. As we'd like our music program to reflect the diversity of our student body, being able to help these kids succeed is critical. We would like to be able deliver 8-10 scholarships (\$4800-\$6000) for these kids who need it."

As an extra enticement, audience members will be treated to a sneak preview of this year's spring musical TOMMY! Join the fun.

HOT NOTES ON A COLD NIGHT CABARET
Saturday, January 26, 2013
The Women's Club of Minneapolis
410 Oak Grove St Minneapolis, MN 55403-3294
Tel: 612-813-5300

7:00 — 11:00 P.M.
Appetizers and Cash Bar
\$40/person*, \$150/4-pack (\$10 Tax Deductible Per Ticket)

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http://southwest.mpls.k12.mn.us/ticket_information

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Friends and Neighbors,

I was grateful to see so many friends and neighbors at John's memorial service at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral on December 29. As many of you know, John's sudden death was a huge shock in spite of his long months of suffering from Multiple Myeloma.

John would have been honored. He would have enjoyed a glass of wine while chatting with each one of you during the reception. Thank you for being there with us. Thank you for your support, love, and comforting words during this very sad time. And thank you Lisa, for your uplifting eulogy. You are the best!

Jean Deatrck



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Your Legal Rights: When In Doubt, Don't Give It Out

From the Office of Attorney General Lori Swanson

Scams and crooked deals are everywhere today, often where we least expect it. When you're home answering the phone, browsing the Internet, checking the mail, or opening your door, scam artists and fraudulent operators look for ways to get your Social Security number and other private information. At every turn, you can protect yourself by following one easy principle. If someone contacts you and claims to need your private information, think twice and remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

How it happens. Private information can be compromised in a number of ways. Most often, fraudulent operators pose as a legitimate source, such as your bank or a government agency. Some may even pose as a trusted local business, or as a friend or family member. All of these actors will try to get you to provide private information, such as your Social Security number, a bank account number, or a credit card number. Once you give it out, however, a scam artist may steal your identity and your money, opening lines of credit in your name or draining your accounts. Some crooked actors make deceptive claims and try to scare you into giving up your banking information. A legitimate source should not contact you to ask for private information up front. If you are unsure of who is contacting you, remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

Over the phone. Consumers report receiving calls from individuals who claim to be many things they are not. Some scam operators pose as Medicare, Social Security, or an insurance company, claiming to send new benefit cards and needing to "verify" private information. Other scam callers claim to be from "Card Services" or from a credit card company, asking to "verify" similar private account information. Even more troubling, many consumers report receiving calls from impostors who try to pose as a loved one, asking for banking information or an unsecure money transfer. All of these calls involve a scam artist who is trying to gain your trust and your private information in order to take your money.

Cell phone customers also experience scams. Consumers report receiving text messages from scam artists and fake organizations claiming a need to "verify" their bank account, credit card, or other private information.

Telephone scams can be some of the most difficult to detect, because callers can seem very real and their need very urgent. Consumers must use caution whenever someone calls with a sense of urgency, needing their private information. Take time to verify the call with the help of a friend and through a trusted line of communication. Before providing any private information, remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

On the Internet. Consumers increasingly face uncertainty when they shop or communicate online. Often the websites they visit collect personal information as they browse. Other sensitive information can be compromised in common email scams called "phishing." Similar to scam calls and text messages, a phishing

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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-5785

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Please patronize these fine businesses and while doing so, pick up a copy of Hill and Lake Press. If you cannot find a copy, you are welcome to get one or several copies from my porch at 1821 Dupont Avenue South.

email looks like it is from a legitimate source. The email presents an urgent need for your private information. Once you provide it, however, a scam artist on the other end will use it to commit fraud or identity theft.

Some consumers also report fraudulent activity with buyers and sellers on classified websites. Beware of any unsolicited request for private information on the Internet, especially if you do not know the source. If you arrive at an unfamiliar website or email, or if you are unsure of who is behind a request for information, remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

In the mail. Some of the oldest and most destructive scams continue to be conducted via U.S. mail. These scams can involve fraudulent sweepstakes offers, fake checks, and other deceptive claims that seek to obtain private information or direct payment from your bank. Consumers have been led to believe they have prize winnings to collect, and many send away thousands of dollars without seeing a dime. A scam offer can be difficult to detect and nearly impossible to stop once anything is sent to an unknown source. The scammer usually works from outside the country, making it very difficult and expensive for law enforcement to investigate the crime. Beware of any mail that says you must provide private information or money to receive any type of claim. When an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you are ever asked to send private information or money to an unknown source, remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

At your doorstep. Some deceptive actors may try to

get your private information by visiting you in person. These individuals may use deception and fear, hoping you will give up private information or agree to a quick sale on the spot. Regardless of the offer, don't be afraid to say "no," and shut the door when you feel unsafe. If a salesperson wishes to do business with you, he or she should be willing to leave the company's information or contract behind for you to review. Rather than release private information on the spot, remember: when in doubt, don't give it out.

Honest businesses are often aware of the danger customers face with giving out private information, and few should actually require it. Some businesses such as banks, utility companies, and creditors do require certain information to do business. When this is the case, these organizations generally will not contact you in order to get it. Don't be rushed into doing business with any company before you have a chance to check it out.

For more information, contact the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson, 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 296-3353
1-800-657-3787 TTY: (651) 297-7206
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HILL LAKE PRESS Real Estate Sales December 2012											
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT	
1425 W 28th St # 103	\$ 69,000		137	\$ 62,700	C	1/1	600	\$ 70,000	\$ 894	1986	
1425 W 28th St # 607	129,900		619	121,500	C	1/1	860	117,500	1,959	1986	
2950 Dean Pkwy #1104	189,000			171,500	C	1/2	1,000	197,500	3,112	1978	
3151 Dean Crt # 303	224,900			200,000	C	2/1	1,000	193,900	3,052	1983	
1425 W 28th St # 202	249,900		61	227,500	C	3/2	1,400	228,000	3,641	1986	
2565 Burnham Road	399,900			350,000	H	3/1	1,040	359,500	5,945	1953	
2950 Dean Pkwy # 601	465,000		98	451,000	C	3/2	1,920	362,500	6,020	1978	
48 Groveland Terr #B414	475,900			445,515	C	4/4	2,220	370,200	6,197	1967	
1816 Humboldt S	945,000		160	823,500	H	4/5	4,340	810,000	14,631	1900	
2110 Lake of Isles Pkwy W	995,000		9	940,000	H	5/5	4,042	1,396,000	26,902	1926	
2715 Lake of Isles Pkwy E	1,295,000			1,200,000	H	5/5	4,895	1,349,500	25,615	1911	
2364 Lake of Isles Pkwy W	1,495,000			1,340,000	H	6/6	5,806	1,692,000	33,262	1916	
1307 Mount Curve	2,180,000	(new)	667	1,891,614	TWN	3/4	3,980	700,000	12,397	2008	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig			cume	Condo	C						
				Home	H						
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County				Townhouse	TWN						(Go to mplsrealtor.com for additional info)

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

By Madeleine Lowry

Last Sunday, I stood in front of a group of first and second graders. My mission? To explain the concept of a spiritual practice and how it applied to them in my role as a volunteer religious education teacher at our Unitarian church.



I was sweaty and they were wiggly and the class had not even started.

My first thought on being given this assignment was that it might be rather a lot for younger kids to grasp. At what age does one need to know about spiritual practices I wondered? After college sounded good to me. Or maybe middle age.

I was to teach this class six times over six weeks to rotating groups of students in grades 1-6. Did I have training as a teacher? Absolutely not. Was I confident that I could manage a group of giggly wiggly kids for more than an hour? Nope. Thus the sweat.

A week earlier when I saw the lesson topic, I groaned, "Spiritual practice? I have to teach kids how to develop a spiritual practice? Heck, I don't have a spiritual practice. What am I going to tell them?"

One thing I did know about kids, having three of my own, is that they can sniff out a liar faster than a dachshund after a hotdog. If I was going to stand before them and teach this lesson, then I was going to have to figure out this spiritual practice thing, pronto.

I recalled a sermon given by our minister, Janne Eller-Isaacs, a couple of years ago. She had described her spiritual practice, presumably to inspire us. It went like this: she awoke each morning at 5:30 to meditate and then proceeded to take a long walk with her dog and think deep thoughts. It sounded nice, the way a trip to Egypt sounds nice. It sounded like something I might attempt when I retired, or when the children grew up, or both. A spiritual practice seemed like a grand luxury.

I started to lay out my lesson plan. First I'd explain

what a practice was—and then what the term 'spiritual' meant, which would be considerably more challenging. A spiritual practice, I'd conclude, was something that we did over and over again in order to express and strengthen our spiritual values.

That seemed like an okay start. Now I needed some examples of spiritual practices.

I tried to think about what might qualify as a spiritual practice in my own life. Well, perhaps going to church, yes, attending a church seemed like a spiritual practice. Donating to charitable organizations seemed like another likely candidate. I strained my brain to come up with one more. And then I remembered that in the minister's prayer each week she had us pray for "those whose primary spiritual practice was raising children, or caring for the elderly." Ah! I was raising children! And in our Unitarian universe that qualified as a spiritual practice!

I felt a little better about delivering this lesson. Maybe I wasn't such a sham after all.

The interesting thing about trying to teach religious education in the context of Unitarianism—a religion entirely lacking in dogma—is that there is nothing to stand behind. No scripture. No commandments. No rules about what to think or believe. Unitarianism is in many ways a do-it-yourself religion that draws examples from many other religions, but provides no answers. We have to find those for ourselves. It also means that the members of the congregation (and their children) hold a variety of beliefs, some of them opposing, on minor religious points such as whether God exists or not. All of which make life challenging as a religious education teacher.

So, there I was, sweaty but hopeful in front of my class. We did a round of introductions and I fed them my definition of a spiritual practice. Thirteen little faces gaped at me.

"Look at my loose tooth," said one girl as she cheer-

fully pushed it perpendicular to its natural position with her tongue.

"My cat is named Pablo," said another girl in a striped shirt.

I made some encouraging noises and attempted to proceed with the lesson. "Can any of you think of something that you and your family do every week that might be a spiritual practice?" I asked. I'm not given to prayer, but I did send up a tiny Please Lord, please in the silence that followed.

"Coming to church?" said one of the bigger boys who was showing a clear preference for horsing around with his friends over this dumb lesson. I could have kissed him.

"Excellent!" I praised, "Can anyone think of any others?"

The girls twirled their hair silently and the boys continued to poke each other and pick at their nametags. Finally one girl with pigtails said, "Breakfast?"

Breakfast?

I tried my best to be encouraging. "Well, maybe," I said a little uncertainly, "depending on what you're thinking about while you eat."

And suddenly I remembered that Buddhists believe that mindful eating is a legitimate spiritual practice. Indeed anything done with a strict mental focus on the present moment could be a spiritual practice. Like walking. Or eating.

I explained this to them. I think they understood. The girl who had volunteered 'breakfast' smiled.

And I realized that this opened a great many avenues to me as a person in search of a few more spiritual practices—cooking, driving, doing laundry, walking the dog. And yes, eating breakfast.

I smiled too. And looked at my watch. There were still 52 minutes left. We were just getting started.

I didn't know if they were going to glean anything

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T'WAS THE MORNING OF CHRISTMAS

by James P. Lenfestey

T'was the morning of Christmas, and all through the house on the corner of Girard and Lincoln, all chaos was momentarily stilled. A nuthatch and two cardinals, male and female, worked the feeder in the gray light of dawn, the hoggish clan of sparrows too tired from the week of revelry to get up early this day.

Coffee in hand, I reviewed the human affairs of this mid-winter week, and how over the top they are, arguably insane, certainly exhausting, how easy to dispense with, stay home, be quiet, read a book, paint a picture, write a poem. And yet how necessary. For these holidays, located when sunlight reaches its lowest ebb, celebrate hope springing from the pit of darkness.

To wit:

The madwoman of Winter Solstice, Mrs. Coyote, prepared the grounds for our own community celebration. Literally. She built a ring of trees in our tiny backyard – unsold white pine, red pines, spruce and balsam from her favorite tree farmer – inside of which a fire pit was placed, borrowed from a friend. Inside the house, she placed vines and flowers and candles in every opening. Delicious food appeared, also prepared by friends, and elegantly presented, delicious to behold. All of this activity was to raise funds for Portico, a non-profit collaborative committed to housing urban homeless, “bringing the warmth and dignity of a home to those who have none” (www.porticocollaborative.org).

The party crowd in Dec. 22 limited itself to displays of Solstice excess above the threshold of indecency. Still, two extraordinary happenings must be remarked.

The backyard solstice fire generated heat and light from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., during which most of the good poetry of the western world was presented. Memorable this year was Win Rockwell's annual recitation of Robert Service's “The Cremation of Sam McGee,” while others added numerous poems by Robert Bly, Mary Oliver and Emily Dickinson, the piece de resistance a witty song written by Ogden Nash sung by Binky Rockwell, stealing the show. And this. Poet Thomas R. Smith's

newest chapbook, “The Night We Saved The Beatles,” inspired the throng around the fire to attempt to sing the Beatle's Solstice anthem, “Here Comes the Sun.” Despite numerous gaps in the rhythm, the overall result was an effective choral invocation.

How do I know? The following morning the rosy-fingered dawn reached over Lowry Hill, pulling behind it the full, warm face of the sun, offering each of us one more chance to Get It Right, as is always longed for this time of year.

Meanwhile inside the house, a wild dancing had commenced. Among the extraordinary moves busted on the worn oak living room floor, by all accounts the most astonishing were by Hizzoner Mayor Rybak and Herhonor Megan O'Hara dancing Gangnam style. If you don't know what Gagnan style is you are one of a soon-to-be planetary minority, as the Korean dance craze surpassed one billion views on Utube over Solstice week, as reported by our 16-year-old grandson familiar with these matters. Had Mr. and Mrs. Mayor been videotaped, the remaining six billion people would be demanding a look, the city's First Couple presented such a joyful romp.

As the light of day follows the longest night, Christmas now proclaimed its story. Do you know it? No, not the one about the red-suited man dispensing greedy treasure; but the much quieter tale of a newborn babe, and how ancient wise men and wise women moved his actual birthday to coincide with the midwinter celebration of Saturnalia to combine midwinter revels with the birth of a transformative ethic: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Echoing a similar sentiment voiced by Confucius five centuries prior, The Golden Rule has ruled all of us ever since, if often honored only in the breach. But it is central at this time of year, which for adults is all about Others, not ourselves.

So after we cleaned up the Solstice house and yard, placing the recycling into the cavernous interior of the

mysterious new blue container, we deeded our house and hearts to the next generation, in our case three of four visiting children and four of six grandchildren including four year-old twins, plus one boyfriend and one girlfriend.

Mrs. Coyote warped into her Fanny and Alexander phase, the rest of us dazzled into action. A tree was suddenly trimmed with homemade gingerbread cookies decorated by all children under 69 years old (that's all of us), a delicious pasta and leftover salmon Christmas Eve dinner was consumed, made by a son and his girlfriend, stockings were hung by the chimney with care by a daughter and her husband, a plate of cookies and carrots left out for Santa and his reindeer got munched, and wine and egg nog and bright conversation and brighter memories carried through much the long night. Except in the case of the Urban Coyote, who planned ahead and went to bed.

So he could be up with the cardinals and nuthatches when all is calm, all is bright, and a sense of wild love rules the world. The story of the birth of a baby, plus the sight of the sun, all enveloped in a coating of white innocence on evergreens in brisk winter air - allowed him to dream – if only dream – that the gods of joyful fantasy and earthly proportion have returned once more.

Soon enough grandchildren will descend the stairs like nuthatches, twittering with delight, the parents following like woozy cardinals, and I'll put away my keyboard for the year 2012, anticipating both pain and pleasure in the future. I am certain that this day will include gifts that please, mostly, and chestnuts painfully peeled for turkey stuffing, a traditional task insisted on by grown children, for pain is tied to memory. Meanwhile, the abundant return of the sun brings only joy.

Right now, in early morning peace and quiet, I feel, as Yeats once did, that I am blessed and can bless. And so, to all a good day.

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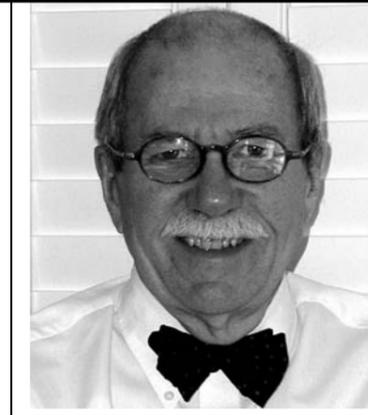
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