



'Where the biggies leave off...'

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HCRRA, SWLRT, and Those Little Brown Signs

by Michael Wilson, CIDNA Board

Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT), which is projected to start running through Kenwood-Isles, CIDNA, and West Calhoun in 2018, has made all of us imagine our beautiful, peaceful, bucolic Kenilworth Corridor as a new and busy transit thoroughfare.

And the possibility of at-grade co-location – keeping the existing TC&W freight-rail track and building the double-track SWLRT next to it – has made many of us ask: why are trains running along our much-loved Kenilworth bike and pedestrian trail in the first place? Who's calling the shots?



One of the little brown signs along the Midtown Greenway denotes the boundaries of the HCRRA-owned corridor. The Greenway and Kenilworth Trails are part of the 55 miles of abandoned rail lines in Hennepin County that are reserved for future transit use.

Photo: Michael Wilson

The basic answer is pretty simple. The Kenilworth Corridor is owned by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA), which began in the early 1980s to acquire abandoned railroad corridors throughout Hennepin County in order to preserve them for future potential mass transit lines.

The HCRRA was established in 1980 under the Minnesota Regional Railroad Authorities Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 398A) as a separate political entity to plan, design, and implement light rail tran-

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MIDTOWN CORRIDOR



Midtown Corridor Study Focuses on Lake Street Rapid Buses and Greenway Streetcar; Residents Asked for Input at May 21 and 23 Open Houses

by Michael Wilson, CIDNA and Midtown Greenway Coalition Boards

Sixty years after the Lake Street trolley ceased operation on July 11, 1953, streetcars may soon get the nod to return to the Midtown Corridor as one of two transit alternatives being considered by Metro Transit to relieve congestion, decrease travel times, and satisfy the demands of city residents who increasingly want to leave their cars at home – or do without cars entirely.

The Midtown Corridor project area stretches from the planned West Lake Street Southwest LRT (Green line) station to the East Lake Street Hiawatha LRT (Blue line) station. Planners are looking to add a new transit option either on Lake Street or along the Midtown Greenway. Metro Transit will host a second round of community Open Houses next week from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday, May 21, at Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Av. S., and on Thursday, May 23rd, at Whittier Clinic, 2810 Nicollet Av. For full details about the project and the Open Houses, go to <<http://metrotransit.org/midtown-corridor>>.

Metro Transit officials have four goals for a Midtown Corridor transitway: increase transit use among corridor residents and visitors; improve regional mobility and local access to jobs and activities; catalyze and support economic development along the corridor; and support a healthier community and improve the overall environment.

The long-awaited Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA) got underway last November with the first meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of policymakers; elected and appointed officials from the Met Council, Hennepin County, and City of Minneapolis; and representatives of other key partner agencies and organizations. The PAC meets next on July 12th at 8:30 a.m. at Colin Powell Center.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) started meeting in February. Sitting on the CAC are representatives of all the neighborhoods and business associations along the corridor, along with representatives of other key stakeholder groups such as the Lake Street Council and the Midtown Greenway Coalition. The CAC meets next on August 20th from 7 to 9 pm, also at Colin Powell Center. CAC and PAC meetings are open to the public.

Back to the future?

History buffs and long-time residents “of a certain age” will remember that in its heyday in the early 1930s the Twin Cities trolley network stretched for 523 miles throughout the region, running from Lake



Turf-track streetcar illustration in the Greenway Corridor by John DeWitt.

Minnetonka all the way to Stillwater. According to Aaron Isaacs, retired Metro Transit planner and streetcar historian par excellence, tough economic times during the Depression put the long suburban lines out of business. Shorter lines soon followed, including the lines to St. Louis Park and “downtown Kenwood,” which ceased operation in August, 1938.

Two factors in the 1950s sounded the death knell for the remaining Minneapolis and St. Paul streetcar lines. First, our love affair with our private passenger vehicles blossomed into full flower. Second, the economics of the streetcar business became unsustainable.

Isaacs emphasizes that the streetcar companies were privately owned businesses which never received any public subsidies. They had to pay corporate income taxes, cover 100% of their capital and operating costs, pave and maintain the sections of streets on which the tracks lay, plow the snow – and turn a profit. The infrastructure which supported automobiles, on the other hand, then as now was heavily subsidized by public funds. “It simply was not a level playing field,” Isaacs states, “and the streetcar companies lost.”

Midtown Corridor to page 4

Joint Neighborhood Bike Ride to May 21st Open House

Dust off your bike and join your neighbors on an eco-friendly excursion to the Midtown Corridor Open House on Tuesday, May 21st. We'll leave from the Calhoun Village/Greenway exit in CIDNA at 5:30 pm.

Join us at James/Irving/Humboldt and the Greenway in East Isles about 5:40 pm. Optional stop for socializing at Bar Louie on the way back.

LUNCH WITH LISA

Come for lunch and conversation. We welcome Tom Hoch of Hennepin Theatre Trust speaking on the Hennepin Avenue Cultural Plan aka Plan it Hennepin. St. Thomas University Minneapolis
Terrance Murphy Hall #202
\$10 lunch is offered. Discussion starts promptly at noon.

Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

www.clubrunner.ca/mplsuptownrotary
Uptown Rotary meets at the Minikahda Country Club 7:30 to 8:30 am on Thursdays.

Midtown Greenway. Metro Transit will host a second round of community Open Houses next week from 6 to 8 pm on Tuesday, May 21, at Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Av. S., and on Thursday, May 23rd, at Whittier Clinic, 2810 Nicollet Av. For full details about the project and the Open Houses, go to <<http://metrotransit.org/midtown-corridor>>.

Birchbark Books in May

Congratulations to Louise on the success of The Round House!

So far The Round House has been named winner of the National Book Award, the Minnesota Book Award, and the Indies Choice Award. It is also a finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Medal (winner announced June 30). The awards and accolades are richly deserved and we couldn't be happier for our favorite bookstore owner!

If you'd like, you can have your very own signed copy of The Round House. All titles by Louise Erdrich purchased from our online shop are signed by the author.

Featured Books

Snapper
by Brian Kimberling

The poignant, all-too-human recollections of an affable bird researcher in the Indiana backwater as he goes through a disastrous yet heartening love affair with the place and its people. Susan's current favorite!

The Rockwell Heist
by Bruce Rubenstein

The Extraordinary Theft of Seven Norman Rockwell Paintings and a Phony Renoir- and the 20-year Chase for Their Recovery from the Midwest Through Europe and South America.

Spring? Spring! The dogs can't wait any longer. Time to go play outside, dig in the dirt, chase after some tennis balls. And then? A nice walk over to Birchbark Books for a visit with Dharma!

Celebrate the 25th Annual Dandelion Day at the historic Ard Godfrey House. May 19, 1-4pm. Corner of University & Central Ave SE.

Free admission, donations welcome. Ard Godfrey house built in 1849 was restored by the Woman's Club of Minneapolis. Call 612-813-5300 or visit www.ardgodfreyhouse.org for more information.

WILL STEGER: A Wilderness Vision Coming to Life. Photographs by John Ratzloff. Contact: John Ratzloff, moonpressink@gmail.com

110 pages / Hand Bound 250 limited edition signed copies / \$100 Moon Press, Minneapolis

Will Steger, the celebrated Polar explorer, is revealed to be a true Renaissance man in the just released book from Moon Press Ink, Minneapolis. In stunning photographs, this hand bound, limited edition shows Steger the artist, architect, designer, master craftsman, educator and friend. It offers a visual tour of Steger's homestead and his stunning environmental learning center now nearly completed after twenty-four years of construction. The story of Steger's vision made real is depicted through more than one hundred photos by John Ratzloff, Steger's Antarctica journal entries, and accompanying essays by Kevin Kling, Peter Wahlstrom and Caitlin Sullivan. ir day.

The public is invited to Moon Press Ink's book launch: May 20 / 5:30 – 7:30 pm / Remarks by Will Steger at 6:00pm

Bockley Gallery, 2123 W. 21st. St., Mpls., MN 55405.

LAKWOOD INFORMATION SESSIONS

Free information sessions to learn about Lakewood Cemetery's history, art & architecture, beautiful gardens and more. Refreshments will be served.

Community members interested in learning more about Lakewood. Space is limited; please register to attend.

May 25 or May 26. Register for one session; choose 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. either day. The sessions are 1 hour long.

Lakewood Cemetery, Hennepin Ave S & 36th St. Held in Lakewood's new, contemporary Garden Mausoleum & Reception Center.

Call 612-822-2171 or visit Lakewoodcemetery.com

New Season of Minneapolis Walking and Biking Tours Begins**Sponsored by Preserve Minneapolis**

Preserve Minneapolis announces the line-up of the latest season of its popular Walking and Biking Tours of the city's historic places.

During the summer of 2013, Preserve Minneapolis will offer 27 unique tours that highlight the natural, built, and cultural treasures found throughout the City. The 2013 schedule runs from May 19th through September 15th.

This year we go from seedy to saintly: New tour topics range from the flophouses and bars of the notorious Gateway District and former red-light areas of Minneapolis to "Church Week," highlighting the Basilica, Hennepin Avenue Methodist, and Wesley United Methodist (named one of 2010's "Most Endangered Places in Minnesota").

Tours typically cost \$8 per person. Participants must pre-register online. Tours fill up fast and will be held to their size limits; however, when space allows, we will accept last-minute additions and cash payments of \$10 at the tour starting points. Pre-payment/registration and more information is available at: <http://www.preserveminneapolis.org/wpfile/tours/>

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MAY 18, 11AM TO 3PM KENWOOD CARNIVAL

MAY 18, 10 AM PARK SIDING CLEANUP DAY

MAY 19, 1-4 PM ARD GODFREY HOUSE DANDELION DAYS

MAY 20, 5:30-7:30 PM STEGER BOOK LAUNCH, BOCKLEY

MAY 21, 6:00PM LHNA ANNUAL MEETING WALKER

MAY 21, MAY 23 MIDTOWN CORRIDOR OPEN HOUSES

MAY 22, 7PM ST PAUL'S SUBTEXT BOOKSTORE JIM LENFESTEY READING

MAY 23 FACES OF THE BRIDGE

MAY 22-25 THE NEIGHBORHOODS USA CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS. WWW.NUSA.ORG

JUNE 15 ROCK THE GARDEN SOLD OUT

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm at Jones-Harrison

EIRA: 2nd Tuesday 7pm. The Bridge for Youth

KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center,

LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm at Kenwood Rec Center

EIRA Board Meeting

The next meeting of the EIRA Board will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 7 pm. This meeting will be held at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St. due to lack of air conditioning at Grace Church.

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Gay Pride Activities at Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central

Film With Panel Discussion, Family Storytime and Poetry

"Hennepin County Library is committed to serving our diverse community," said Johannah Genett, program librarian. "We demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve through inclusive programming that makes everyone feel welcome at the library. The Library joins the Twin Cities in celebrating gay pride this June by offering a variety of programs."

Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis.

Gay Pride Month Display, June 1-July 1 in the atrium's display case.

"Gay Pride: Gen Silent Screening and Panel Discussion," Thursday, June 20, 7-9 p.m. in Pohl Hall. Registration required, begins May 23.

"Gay Pride: Celebrating Our Family Stories" especially for children of GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer) parents, Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m.-noon in Doty Board Room. Registration required, begins May 25.

"Gay Pride: Poetry Reading," Tuesday, June 25, 7-9 p.m. in Pohl Hall. Registration required, begins May 28.

Free Admission, Register Online or call 612-543-8000. Hennepin County Library is also hosting a booth at the Twin Cities Pride Festival, June 29-30, in Loring Park, Minneapolis, to register interested residents for library cards.

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Meet Your Neighbor, Kendal Killian

Craig Wilson interviews former Ward 10 candidate Kendal Killian about his vision and hope for the City of Minneapolis and his remarkable departure from the race and support of DFL endorsed Lisa Bender.

What was life like growing up on the shore of Lake Superior?

The city of Duluth was an influential part of my childhood. Like Minneapolis, it's a city where urban amenities and outdoor opportunities are intertwined. Duluth also has a very engaged citizenry and a vibrant political scene, so growing up there really shaped me in a lot of ways. But the weather is much better here.

What brought you to the big city?

After high school I tried to make a living as a door-to-door insurance salesman on the Iron Range. Turns out people don't like to buy life insurance from nineteen year olds with clip on ties. So after amassing a whopping \$1200 in debt, my life was kind of stuck in a rut. My dad stepped in and gave me two options. He said I could either join the military or move to Minneapolis. I chose Minneapolis. So I guess you could say I moved here as a failed insurance salesman who wanted to avoid boot camp.

How did you become interested in politics?

My dad came out as gay when I was in high school. At first I really struggled with it. I didn't even tell my closest friends. A few years later my siblings and I marched in the Millennium March on Washington for Gay Rights. That was my introduction to activism. Then three things happened: George W. Bush stole the 2000 election and then 9-11 and then Paul Wellstone died. Those things really lit a fire under me. I decided I wanted to get more involved and work to right some of the many injustices I saw all around me.

What prompted you to run for the Ward 10 City Council position?

In recent years the incumbent Council Member said and did things that, I thought, were out of step with the Ward. I was encouraged to step up and use my organizing skills as a way to create a change in leadership. I saw a need for a City Council Member who could engage and



Kendal Killian

connect the full diversity of the ward with City Hall. I really believe that we will make better decisions that are in the best interest of everyone, if people are more fully engaged in our decision making process. Despite the fact that my campaign has ended, I am very proud of the work we did. A huge percentage of the delegates at the convention were first time attendees, renters, young people, new Americans, etc. I think in the end we got a positive result because we turned out a lot of new people and engaged them in this decision.

What is your vision for Uptown?

I think it's important that we maintain and enrich all the reasons people love it here. But we must be careful not to have a preconceived idea of why people live here and who they are. Some people love the rooftop restaurants. For others, they chose to live here because of the lakes and the walkability of our neighborhood. For some people it's our music scene and the arts. We have to maintain that eclectic mix. That is what makes this area so unique. It only makes sense that more people want to live here. So I think we need to embrace growth and be welcoming toward newer people into our community. This is really one of the most urban, dense areas in the state. I think we

need to embrace our urban identity. We can't turn back the clock.

In a remarkable move, you exited the race at the DFL Ward 10 convention and swung your support to Lisa Bender. What exactly happened at the convention and what motivated you to support the now DFL endorsed candidate, Lisa Bender?

It may be corny, but I believe in the DFL and what the DFL endorsement means. The ultimate goal is consensus around a progressive candidate. To me the DFL endorsement is not just a hoop you jump through because you have to do it in our city; it should be a meaningful representation of who the consensus choice of our party is. I was leading after the first two ballots at the convention. Eventually the bottom two candidates (including Council Member Meg Tuthill) were dropped. But in the process, Lisa Bender started to build up a lead. After Tuthill was dropped from the balloting, she encouraged her delegates to vote for no endorsement. It's a valid strategy I suppose, but it seemed obstructionist; purposely standing in the way of consensus. So with Lisa and I being the only candidates left in the balloting, I had a tool in my toolkit and I used it. To me, that is what politics should be about, amassing power and using it for the common good. Honestly I really couldn't see a pathway to winning without the backing of my party, and without the backing of organized labor or LGBT groups. Having done so much work in the labor movement and the LGBT equality movement, I was disappointed to not get more traction with those organizations. So then when it seemed obvious that I wouldn't get the DFL endorsement, it didn't seem right to deny Lisa of that. Some people have said that all my work on campaigns allowed me to do that political calculus quickly and make a decision swiftly. That seems right. I am very much at peace with my choice. As I said at the convention, I got into the race because I wanted a different city council member. Now we're in position to achieve that. That is why I did it.

Are you now officially on the Lisa Bender for City

Neighbor to page 15



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HCRRA, SWLRT from page one

sit in Hennepin County. HCRRA, one of several regional railroad authorities in Minnesota, defines its mission as “the preservation and improvement of local rail service and to provide for the preservation of abandoned rail right-of-way for future transportation uses.” The HCRRA’s Board of Commissioners consists of the seven members of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. Hennepin County Board chair Peter McLaughlin currently chairs the HCRRA Board.

According to its website (<http://hennepin.us/hcrra>) the Railroad Authority currently owns 55 miles of corridors, 11 sites suitable for future park-and-ride lots or stations, and two railroad depots for a total of 83 acres. Our Hill and Lake neighborhood is fortunate to include parts of three of these corridors: North Cedar Lake, the Midtown Greenway, and the Kenilworth. (Note: the Kenilworth and Midtown Greenway trails are not part of the Minneapolis Park Board’s famed Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway.)

The authority collaborates with many government agencies and a variety of public and nonprofit partners to promote transit development in the rail corridors and to implement interim uses – note that word “interim.” Several HCRRA-owned corridors have found particularly popular interim uses as bicycle and pedestrian trails, perhaps the best-known of them being the Midtown Greenway. Since by statute the HCRRA cannot construct or operate recreational trails, it partners with the City of Minneapolis and Three Rivers Park District to maintain the trails.

Those little brown signs

HCRRA ownership on most of its 55 miles of corridor is indicated by those little brown signs that often are hidden behind vegetation. Look for ‘em, they’re there – except in the Kenilworth Corridor. Jessica Galatz, HCRRA senior planning analyst, says that HCRRA decided to forgo the expense of erecting signs in the Kenilworth since conversion to transit is imminent.

Galatz says that the question she’s most often asked is, “How wide is the corridor?” She replies that the standard width is around 100 feet, but there are exceptions. CIDNA residents are acutely aware that the Kenilworth right-of-way narrows to about 62 feet between the Calhoun-Isles Condominium towers and the Cedar Lake Shores townhouses, which is why at-grade co-location would almost certainly require the taking of the Cedar Lake Shores townhomes.

At many spots along the corridors, according to Galatz, the HCRRA has granted permits to property owners or community groups to create gardens or pocket parks on HCRRA land. Along the Greenway in East Isles in particular, some residents have done beautiful plantings on the north side of the trail – with the little brown signs lurking in the background, reminding viewers that these improvements must be considered temporary.

‘Interim use’ – here today, gone tomorrow?

The HCRRA is not a “rails to trails” operation,

Midtown Corridor from page one

How times change! Most Hill and Lake residents have probably at one time or another experienced the streetcar systems in European or Canadian cities, and increasingly in American cities as well. Survey results regularly report that people both young and old are moving back to the urban core and say they want more

which Galatz says she sometimes is called upon to clarify. The end or ultimate use of HCRRA corridors is transit, according to State statute. She points to the Luce Line Regional Trail, familiar to many Hill and Lake bikers, as an example of a “rails-to-trails” conversion. The Luce Line, which is managed by the state DNR and stretches from Plymouth out to western Minnesota along an abandoned rail corridor, has already achieved its end or ultimate use as a biking/walking trail.

So does the building of a light rail line or other form of transit necessarily mean that the “interim use” biking and walking trails are expendable? Good question.

As noted above, the HCRRA is prevented by statute from constructing or operating recreational trails. But in 1980, when the Regional Railroad Authorities Act was passed, Minneapolis’ now-famed bicycling culture was in its infancy. Spearheaded by the visionary citizens who formed the Midtown Greenway Coalition in 1995 and worked with city, county, park board, and state leaders to build our nationally renowned Midtown Greenway, biking and walking are now woven inextricably into the fabric of what it means to live in Minneapolis. Indeed, we have come to cherish our biking and walking trails as deeply as our Chain of Lakes.

It’s hard to imagine biking and walking trails vanishing from Kenilworth with the advent of Southwest light rail. Many of our elected and appointed decision-makers are avid users of the trails themselves. But what will the biking/walking experience be like with 250 LRT trains going by every day? Would the trails be squeezed out of existence if at-grade co-location became a fact?

Hill and Lake residents – indeed, all Minneapolis residents – need to get informed and get involved. Advocate for excellent, high-standard mitigation along the LRT tracks. And voice your unequivocal opposition to at-grade co-location.

LRT Co-location Alert!

Southwest LRT planners and officials moving ever closer to a recommendation for resolving the co-location/relocation conflict. Hill and Lake residents must make their voices heard – now!

Contact Met Council members: <www.metrocouncil.org>, click on “About Us” then on “Council Members & Districts”

Contact Hennepin County Commissioners: <<http://hennepin.us>>, click on “County Board”

Contact Minneapolis City Councilmembers: <www.minneapolis.gov/council>

Sign up for your neighborhood’s newsletters:

- <cidna.org>
- <eastisles.org>
- <kenwoodminneapolis.org>
- <lowryhillneighborhood.org>
- <westcalhoun.org>

Talk to your neighbors!

Go to meetings!

Read your Hill and Lake Press!

and better transit options than just our much-used but lumbering city buses.

Bus Rapid Transit or a streetcar?

The Alternatives Analysis process started with ten options on the table, five on Lake Street and five along the Greenway. Eight of those options were quickly ruled out, including light rail (LRT) trains on either Lake or the Greenway. At its May 8th meeting the PAC voted unanimously to advance two alternatives for further study: arterial (enhanced) bus rapid transit (BRT) on Lake Street and a double/single track streetcar along the Greenway. These are the two options that will be the focus of the May 21st and 23rd Open Houses.

Planners haven’t yet reached the stage where they examine both options in meticulous detail. They do speak, though, of features that would allow a new bus line to traverse the Lake Street portion of the Midtown Corridor more rapidly than Routes 12, 17, and 21 now do. Bus stops would be placed on the far side of intersections, on the other side of the stop-and-go lights, instead of before them. Sidewalk payment kiosks would speed up the boarding process. And buses would have “signal priority” to cut down on the waits at red lights which now bedevil travelers on Lake Street.

Challenges to the arterial BRT option include the congestion which already exists on Lake Street and the 38 stop-and-go lights which BRT buses would have to navigate between the West Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue LRT stations. Planners would face a challenge in significantly reducing the 38 minutes it currently takes to travel from Chowen and Excelsior (West Lake station) to Hiawatha via Route 12, transferring in Uptown to the 21.

A Greenway streetcar would zip quickly between LRT stations in a corridor already owned by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority and reserved for transit (see accompanying story). Streetcar advocates emphasize that today’s vehicles are a far cry from your granddaddy’s trolley cars. Modern streetcars are comfortable, attractive, climate-controlled – and quiet. The Midtown Greenway Coalition has long advocated for a turf-track streetcar, which has sod between and on either side of the tracks instead of gravel ballast. Turf tracks, according to streetcar expert Isaacs, create a more park-like landscape and serve to muffle sound.

Challenges to the Greenway streetcar option include greater construction cost and the need to design two-level stations linking stops in “the trench” with the streets above. There is some concern that without the visual connection that a Lake Street bus provides, streetcar riders will limit their shopping or make transit connections without interacting with the neighborhoods they pass through. Orienting riders toward the rich panoply of culturally diverse retail, dining, and entertainment opportunities which characterize an increasingly vibrant Lake Street would be a basic requirement of any streetcar planning.

Hill and Lake residents: take note!

CAC representatives from the four Hill and Lake area neighborhoods (East Calhoun, West Calhoun, CIDNA, and East Isles) sometimes sense that to many, the “Midtown Corridor” means from Hennepin Avenue eastward. But in fact the project area also includes our Hill and Lake neighborhoods west of Hennepin stretching to the junction of Excelsior Blvd. and West Lake Street, which is already the busiest of all Hennepin County roads, handling 39,500 vehicles per day (2011). Adding arterial BRT buses to the mix, which will need to turn off and re-enter Excelsior Blvd. along with Route 12 and 114 buses in order to reach the West Lake LRT station, probably will increase congestion, not decrease it.

Your CAC representatives and neighborhood leaders urge you to get informed and get involved. Spend some time at <<http://metrotransit.org/midtown-corridor>>. And attend one of the two Open Houses next week on May 21st or May 23rd.

(Note: Aaron Isaac’s marvelous book “Twin Cities by Trolley” (2007, University of Minnesota Press) is available at Birchbark Books, Magers & Quinn in Uptown, and Barnes & Noble in Calhoun Village, and also at Hennepin County libraries.)



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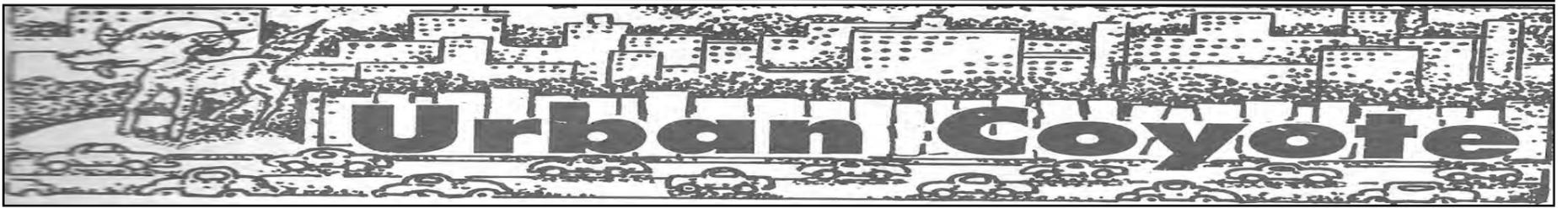
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UNSAFE STREETS

by Jim Lenfestey

Just when spring snows ceased and backyard bird feeders became safe for goldfinches, trouble came to the 'hood. You know who I mean: Strangers! No, not the rash of thieves prying open neighborhood windows in the dead of night. Beware those unwelcome intruders, use extra vigilance at bedtime, leave a light on, sleep with your laptop.

I refer instead to those coming to Saturday brunch at The Kenwood. People who don't dress like you and me, who drive shiny cars with out-of-city dealer's plates. OMG, Suburbanites! Encountering them on our home turf without adequate preparation can be a shock to the system. My wife gets hives just passing Hwy 100.

Case in point. I was hurrying to Birchbark Books to pick up Michael Pollan's newest food tome, *Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation*. I had heard on public radio that its sections were titled according to the classical Greek elements: Fire, Water, Air and Earth. A non-foodie but master of the fiery charcoal grill, I am a serious student of linguistics, particularly interested in the origin of language. My theory is that human speech developed around the cooking fire. Will Michael Pollan's chapter on fire prove me right?

Think about it. We know that cooking makes proteins more available and fiber more digestible, ergo expanding our brains while shrinking our jaws and bellies. The brain also exploded because cooking required a host of specialized skills: starting, tending, adding charcoal, managing marshmallows three to a stick, locating the wine glass. What other acts of mental dexterity might our hominid ancestors have worked out during those long hours of toasting and roasting?

Telling stories. Like the one I am telling you now,

about strangers encountered, the hunt to describe them, the dimwit who forgot his spear. Except our ancestors had no language, so they shouted out sounds: grunts, whines, snarls, laughs, groans, all of which became, over time, poems and novels and science and the Hill and Lake Press. Because as we cooked and our brains expanded, we evolved the *Foxp2* gene that gives human parents the confidence that their beautiful, crying babies will soon enough learn not only individual words, like a parrot or a dolphin, but the astoundingly complex propulsive system of understanding called grammar, like no other creature on earth.

Lost in thought, I glanced up too late. The street outside The Kenwood between Bockley Gallery and Birchbark Books teemed with suburbanites, instantly recognizable by their protective clothing. One woman wore a long red coat. No one from the 'hood wears a long red coat. Our coats are black, black, and black. She wore modest heels. Are you kidding me? Have you seen Louise Erdrich's Red Wing boots? Neighborhood women wear ass-kickers with flashing steel buckles. As for the visiting men, their casual sport coats and open sport shirts gave them the air of tourists on an African safari, somewhat interested in the natives but ready to bolt in a moment for the safety of the hotel bar.

Realizing I must encounter these visiting aliens, I decided I would try to walk normally while debating in a loud voice the virtues of immigration reform.

Just in time, I spied the open door of the Bockley Gallery. Ducking inside, the radiant face of Kristin Makhholm, Director St Paul's Minnesota Museum of Art, greeted me. What a relief. The gallery teemed with other familiar faces, a reception underway for Hazel Belvo's magical paintings of the North Shore's famous "Spirit Tree." Hazel told me she has painted that tree's

emotional iterations for fifty years, her current portraits saturated with spectacular color. Her son Briand played smooth electric guitar in the corner. Ginny Bucide, a terrific artist in her own right, was there, as were others from the 'hood. A smiling couple reminded me I had coached their children in WESAC soccer thirty years ago. "Did they turn out all right," I whispered, as I remembered only little devils running me ragged up and down the pitch and up and down nearby hills and trees. Their children prospered, they said. At the center of it all stood the sweet, patient, kind Todd Bockley radiating his artistic good taste from the corner of Penn and 21st St. all around the world to St. Paul.

Fortified, I braved the fifty feet to Birchbark's entrance, only to find the bookstore also teeming with suburban strangers. They glanced up briefly above their red and blue coats, then back at their book selections. I barely had the presence of mind to kiss the back of Prudence Johnson's hand while paying for my Pollan before the orderly pack of strangers descended upon her waving cards with unlimited credit.

On my way home to the distant precincts of Lowry Hill, I reflected on my bizarre encounter in downtown Kenwood. I came to the conclusion that, on balance, it was a good experience. Kenwoodians need not be fearful of suburbanites after all, at least not the ones that roam the corner of 21st and Penn during daylight hours. Though they dress strangely, and speak with accents about topics with which we may be unfamiliar, they appreciate good food, and they read good books. Returned to the safety of my home, I welcomed them. "Hello," I said, presumably in their language.

THE END

PS. On the relationship of language and cooking, Pollan was mute.

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Thomas Lowry Park

Notes From The Park by Barbara Fogel

Springtime at Thomas Lowry Park has arrived! The urn is dripping in color, the perennials are anxious to pop, and the annuals are waiting to be planted. As always, Friends of TLP need your gardening support and financial assistance to help the MPRB and Pete Engelen and his capable crew maintain the integrity and beauty of our special oasis. Poetry is always a delightful way to make a statement, so here we go!

- 1) Roses are Red, Violets are blue.....
- 2) TLP needs volunteers and we want YOU!.....
- 3) So give us a call, and hurry please.....
- 4) "cause tis the season of the birds and the bees.....
- 5) The shrubs, they need trimming; the perennials, they need digging...
- 6) So bring your tools and then, please stay;.....
- 7) .you, know it's just like child's play.....
- 8) We are not kidding. We could use some help! ...
- 9) you could even bring your dog and listen to him yelp.....
- 10) Yes, dogs are welcome and why not?, we say.....
- 11) Having the furry creatures just makes our day.....
- 12) Kindly bring your broom and we will sweep away:...
- 13) getting ready for the next Bride and Groom on their Wedding Day!
- 14) The Pergola, you know, is a big event attraction: and it needs to be kept tidy,
- 15) so let's get into action.....
- 16) the park is so special, Let's keep it that way....
- 17) But it won't just happen, unless you come on Volunteer Day.....
- 18) Thanks in advance for giving your time;
- 19) If you can't come in person, please give us a dime!.....The End

Last month's article asked for poems relating to our spring season and Thomas Lowry Park. Sarah Donaldson wins first prize in our contest.

Golden Breaks the Dawn by Tzu-chen Chao

Between April 2 and May 11, 2013, 17 occupied residential and apartment burglaries occurred in the Fifth Precinct. 13 of them fit a trend.

An occupied burglary is when the suspect enters the In these occupied burglaries, the majority of the residents were asleep and the suspects often did not go anywhere near them. In instances where the resident and suspect saw each other, the suspect fled.

The majority of the cases occurred between 2-5 am. Entry to the home varied. 70% contained no force, utilizing unlocked doors and windows and removing screens. In two cases entrance was via breaking a window, and in two others via forcing open a door. In some

Crime to page 13

Golden breaks the dawn, comes the eastern sun; like a man of brawn, set his course to run.

Birds above me fly, flowers bloom below; through the earth and sky God's great mercies flow.

Sara Donaldson
saradonald@aol.com

Suzanne Payne wins honorable mention with her submission of a stanza from W. Wordsworth's Ode to Intimations of Immortality: Call Barbara Fogel @ 612-377-5555 or e-mail @ b.fogel@comcast.net to volunteer your time or to make a donation.

Intimations of Immortality by William Wordsworth invokes a celebration of May that is so joyful after our long winter.

While Earth herself is adorning
This sweet May morning,
And the children are culling
On every side
In a thousand valleys far and wide,
Fresh flowers; while the sun shines warm
And the Babe leaps up on its mother's arm-

Then sing ye Birds, sing, sing a joyous song
And let the young lambs bound as to the tabor's sound

We in thought will join your throng
Ye that pipe and ye that play
Ye that through your hearts today
Feel the gladness of the May

Suzanne Payne

Shirley honored for 26 years on the CIDNA Board of Directors.



Photo by Roseanne Halloran, CIDNABoard

Cedar-Isles-Dean residents honored David Shirley at the CIDNA Annual Meeting on May 8th for his 26 years of service to the community on the CIDNA Board, including 13 years as Board Chair. Board Treasurer Ed Bell (left) presented Shirley with several gifts on behalf of appreciative residents: a bottle of sparkling apple cider in recognition of his leadership on the joint neighborhood Wine Tasting Fundraiser; a compostable garbage bag in recognition of his many years of hard work along with his wife Pat, at beautifying Park Siding Park and on Earth Day projects; keys to an imaginary Ducati motorcycle to wish him well on his travels; and an engraved lucite table clock saying "Special thanks - David Shirley - 26 years - CIDNA." Shirley will be profiled in the June Hill and Lake Press.

Feeling low? Take a bike ride. Bike tires low? Get some air.



Tori Westgate inflated her bike tires recently at the new bike tune-up station located on the Kenilworth Trail next to the Cedar Lake Parkway crossing while her dad Craig Westgate, CIDNA Board chair, looked on. Tori's brother Reggie and neighbor Carly Smithmier wait their turn. A joint effort of Health Partners and Pedal Minnesota, the three bike tune-up stations offer tools and an air-compressor tire pump. The stations will rotate monthly among several Twin Cities locations, so pedal on over to the Kenilworth station this month and get ready for biking season!

Photo: Michael Wilson

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What are your true colors?

Arbor Day Volunteers Transform Greenway/YWCA Hillside

by Michael Wilson, Midtown Greenway Coalition Board

Unseasonably chilly and damp weather on Saturday, May 4th – Arbor Day – didn't keep 60 volunteers from transforming the unsightly weed-choked, overgrown hillside abutting the YWCA parking ramp on the Greenway by planting 374 trees and shrubs, creating a beautiful addition to the East Isles section of the corridor.

This year's event marked 13 years of Arbor Day beautification efforts along the Midtown Greenway and the first time in many years that the Arbor Day volunteers have turned their attention to our Hill and Lake section of the trail. In addition to the 374 trees and shrubs the newly landscaped area will contain a large central space planted with native grasses and early-blooming plants which have grass-like texture.

Well-bundled against the early-morning chill and drizzle, the 60 community and Tree Trust volunteers enjoyed coffee and pastries donated by Peace Coffee and Birchwood Café before “getting down and dirty.” Aply directed by Hennepin County staff, volunteers dug energetically into the rocky hillside, carried water, and demolished a mountain of mulch, one wheelbarrow at a time. The volunteers, young and old alike, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to beautify the neighborhood while also giving their gardening muscles a good early-season workout.

Coordinated by the Midtown Community Works Partnership under the leadership of partnership manager Faith Cable-Kumon, the project is jointly sponsored by Hennepin County, the Midtown Greenway Coalition, and Tree Trust. Funding for the project is provided by Abbott-Northwestern/Allina, Wells Fargo, Target, and Hennepin County. According to Cable-Kumon, over the course of 13 years the Arbor Day events have brought over 4500 new trees and shrubs to the Greenway corridor.



Photo: Jackie Blair, Midtown Greenway Coalition

Minneapolis City Councilmember Robert Lilligren (6th Ward); Leslie Foreman, representing 10th Ward City Councilmember Meg Tuthill; Hennepin County Commissioners Gail Dorfman and Peter McLaughlin, and Midtown Greenway Coalition Executive Director Soren Jensen prepare to plant the first tree, a nannyberry viburnum, at this year's Arbor Day celebration on the Greenway in East Isles.

Planting Work on the Kenilworth Trail

By Dr. Keith Prussing

In the Kenilworth Corridor just east of the trails, the Cedar Lake Park Association has a native landscape restoration underway. Located south of W 21st St, we are working with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority(HCRRA) and Kenwood Elementary School to create a nature path that will loop through the northern half of the area. Several years ago, CLPA funded work by Prairie Restoration Inc to seed and plant native grasses in the southern section. You can see the native plantings signs along the edge as you travel the trail.

HCRRA staff directed Tree Trust, the folks who do the tree and brush work in their 57 miles of corridor, to work with CLPA to create a plan to clear buckthorn, siberian elm, honeysuckle and other undesirables from the project area, along with marking all desirable native trees with red ribbons. This allows us to establish a tree and shrub inventory. Tree Trust's forester did a great job in marking all the trees, as well as meeting on-site with CLPA to make sure he would be able to direct his crews to do most of what we wanted. They did a fine job in late March, even with the snow cover. Wood chips were left at the location for the nature path. We are very grateful to the commitment of resources by HCRRA to make this project possible.

In late February, due to the efforts of Kenwood Elementary parents, CLPA led a nature walk for thirty 4th graders by this area and into Cedar Lake Park, down to Hidden Beach, then out onto the lake, through the marsh and by the 160 acre street drainage outflow pipe, achieving a nice walking loop. Though it was cold, all had a good time, and the kids learned about animal tracks and habitat, park history, lake ecology, and more. And, we arrived back in the classroom with one minute to spare! We hope to build on this idea: why should Kenwood school kids have to be bussed to a far away



Photo by Dorothy Childers

The slope abutting the YWCA parking ramp on the Greenway in Uptown was a beehive of activity on Saturday, May 4th, as sixty volunteers planted 374 trees and shrubs to transform the weed-choked hillside into another oasis of beauty in our Hill and Lake neighborhood.



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Planting work on Trail to page 10

Spring Happenings at Kenwood

Text and Photos by Nicole Valentine



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Third graders Charlie S. and Isaac F. prepare for their taiko drumming performance May 2nd. The 2nd and 3rd graders participate in this popular Japanese drumming residency each spring.



Lyra K., Gwen W., and Avery S. perform a song from the musical "Annie" along with the Kenwood Choir. The performance was part of the school's annual Smarts+Arts celebration May 9th.



Members of the Student Council and Junior Girl Scouts from the school showed off what was collected as part of their drive to help the homeless. The donations will go to People Serving People and Simpson Housing Services.

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Waste Management's single-stream plant in Northeast Minneapolis



Stacks of recycled paper in the plant



Council Member Lisa Goodman speaking at the recycling plant.

Photos by Dorothy Childers

Single-sort Recycling By Jean Deatrick

Who would have guessed? When Lisa Goodman invited us to tour the Waste Management's recycling facility to learn what happens to Minneapolis' recycling, we dutifully signed up. We wore warm clothing and flat shoes and anticipated a chilly hour watching employees sort through stacks of recyclable materials. Instead, we were treated to an enjoyable time inside learning about the technology behind single-sort recycling. We weren't cold, we certainly weren't bored. Lisa Goodman with her usual flair for humor and directness introduced Waste Management's Manager John Saladis and other employees to the 50 people who attended the event. We learned that paper, plastic, glass, and metals are sorted by rubber wheels. The process includes several steps using smaller and smaller wheels until little is left on the surface. And yes, at the end workers finally do pick through to remove the 3 percent that cannot be recycled. 97% can be recycled however, and that is why Minneapolis is changing to single-sort recycling. Needles/sharps, garbage, electronics, and plastic bags are not recyclable, but with single-sort recycling, it is expected that there will be a 63% increase in recycling. And we did have to wear goggles and hard hats, but only briefly.



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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

"Due to publication deadlines, the minutes from the May 14th EIRA Board meeting will be published in the June edition of the Hill and Lake Press. The May meeting minutes will be available at www.eastisles.org on Monday, May 27.

Join us for the next meeting of the EIRA Board, Tuesday, June 11, 7 pm. Note: this meeting will be held at The Bridge for Youth, 1111 W 22nd St." (No AC at Grace Church.)

Planting Work on the Kenilworth Trail from page 7

natural area for field trips, when they could take an easy 10 minute walk to access greater Cedar Lake Park for fun and educational activities. Further, we hope to develop age-specific environmental education curricula including guided tours, written or naturalist led, that would allow opportunities for all ages at the school to experience the natural world right in the neighborhood.

This project is a great example of the private-public partnerships that CLPA has developed throughout its 23 year history to steward Cedar Lake Park and trails. We are grateful to Hennepin County, Minneapolis Park

and Recreation Board, and the surrounding neighborhoods such as Bryn Mawr, Kenwood, and Cedar-Isles-Dean (CIDNA) for their support and cooperation over these many years to preserve, restore, and enhance the area in and around Cedar Lake, as well as the connecting trail corridors. Work is ongoing throughout the park and the year, and we invite your participation. Contact us at: info@cedarlakepark.org. Keep watching the project area in the Kenilworth Corridor for new developments.

Poet James P. Lenfestey reading at Bockley Gallery



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Poet, journalist and neighbor Jim Lenfestey read from his newest book, *EARTH IN ANGER: TWENTY-FIVE POEMS OF LOVE AND DESPAIR FOR PLANET EARTH*, at Bockley Gallery, Monday April 22. The event was sponsored by Birchbark Books and The Loft Literary Center and introduced by Heid Erdrich.

Earth in Anger is Lenfestey's latest collection of poems: Twenty-five poems of Love and Despair for Planet Earth, available at Birchbark Books.

Jim Lenfestey reads "EARTH IN ANGER: 25 poems of Love and Despair for Planet Earth," at St Paul's SubText Bookstore, May 22, 7pm
[Blair Arcade, 165 Western Ave, St. Paul, (651) 493-3871]

"An important book," says poet Heid Erdrich, of "Earth in Anger," James Lenfestey's collection of "twenty-five poems of love and despair for planet Earth." McKnight Award-winning poet John Caddy says its "love of Earth as the crucial tension within his beautiful anger" will "enable resurgence."

Next reading: June 2, noon, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis.

Jim Lenfestey "carries the grief of the world" in this painful, "important" book, says Heid Erdrich. bringing to climate change and species destruction the poetic passion Robert Bly brought to the Vietnam War.

Additional readings of *Earth In Anger*:
May 22, SubText Bookstore, St. Paul, 7pm
June 2, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, 12 noon.
James P. Lenfestey
www.coyotepoet.com

Being Esther

By Miriam Karmel

Many readers of Hill and Lake Press know Miriam Karmel. As Miriam Feldman she lived in Lowry Hill and her children attended Kenwood School K-6. And Miriam was an early and longtime editor and contributor to Hill and Lake Press. Miriam was also the editor of the annual Kids' issue of Hill and Lake Press that we published each summer for many years. Although she now lives in Loring Park, she has continuing ties to our neighborhood through her many friends and former neighbors. We are pleased that she has written her first novel which was published in April. Reviews have been positive and welcoming.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune review by Kathryn Lang described *Being Esther*, "Karmel's accomplished debut illustrates the bittersweet truth that we live our quotidian lives and we worry about the manner of our leave-taking, but if we're lucky, we come to understand, as Esther does, that despite our bewilderment at finding ourselves old, "our lives are enriched by the minor interactions that present themselves every day."

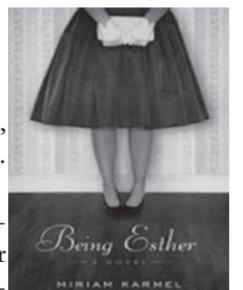
Being Esther is available at Magers & Quinn and at our neighborhood favorite Birchbark Books. It is definitely worth a read.

The following review was made available to Hill and Lake Press by Miriam's publisher Milkweed. Thank you Milkweed, Booklist, and Reviewer Donna Seaman.

Being Esther. Booklist
Karmel, Miriam (Author)
Apr 2013. 200 p. Milkweed,
hardcover, \$22.00.
(9781571310965).

"Widowed and in her mid-eighties, Esther checks in with her friend Lottie each morning to confirm that each has made it through the night. But there is no way that she's going to surrender to her bossy daughter, Ceely, and move into an assisted living facility, which she disdainfully calls Bingoville. In her first novel, Karmel takes an understated and disarming approach to the closing years in the life of a seemingly ordinary woman, imbuing Esther with a subtle but zingy wit and underappreciated intelligence. Esther reflects on her mother's frostiness and her mother-in-law's "acid tongue," her own passion for books, the grinding disappointments and late-blooming joys of her marriage, and Ceely's harrowing incommunicado years. Brimming with keen observations yet slow to articulate them due to her body's strange new hesitations, Esther is appalled by how strangers treat her as an "object of concerned looks and condescension." Karmel's novel of womanhood, the love and strife between mothers and daughters, marital dead zones, and the baffling metamorphosis of age is covertly complex, quietly incisive, and stunning in its emotional richness."

— Donna Seaman



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KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION (KIAA)

By Amy Lucas

KIAA Annual Meeting and Party 2013

Sunday, May 19 from 3-5 p.m.
Kenwood Rec Center lawn

ALL Kenwood residents are invited!!!

The Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA) is holding their Annual Meeting and "get together" in front of the Kenwood Recreation Center. We will serve free hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks and Kenwood's very own jazz quintet, Dizzy Hat, will be playing. A brief KIAA meeting will be held for board elections, and then it's chicken barbecue dinner and more Dizzy Hat! If you're interested in joining the fun KIAA board, please arrive at 3:00 p.m. and visit our website for more information. kenwoodminneapolis.org. If you're curious or interested in the KIAA board, contact Chair Larry Moran at debbielarry@comcast.net

Questions about event? Contact amylucas@gmail.com.



Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9am-5pm
Visit us at www.minneapolis.mn.gov/council/ward10

May 2013 Congrats to 2012 Top Garden Award Winners!

I would like to congratulate John Meegan of Top Shelf, the residents on the 3600 block of Garfield Ave S and Chris Turpen for their recent awards from Metro Blooms' 2012 Top Gardens. John Meegan won the Best Business Garden award for his gardens at 3040 Lyndale Ave S. The Best Neighborhood Collaboration went to the 3600 block of Garfield Ave S and the Nate Siegel Award went to Chris Turpen, a property owner on the 3600 block of Garfield Ave S.

To see pictures of the award winning gardens, visit www.metroblooms.org/bloomsday-photos.php?year=2012.

311 Extended Hours for Summer

Minneapolis 311 will be expanding its hours for the summer. Starting on Monday, April 15th, 311's hours will be 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. These extended hours are part of a pilot program and expected to continue through mid-October.

Spring Boards and Commissions Openings

The City is now accepting applications for several of its boards and commissions. The application review process began on Friday, April 26th; however the positions are open until filled.

For a full list of appointment opportunities, visit www.minneapolis.mn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm

Next One Minneapolis One Read Book Chosen

I am thrilled to announce that the next One Minneapolis One Read book has been chosen! The book is "A Choice of Weapons" by Gordon Parks. This will be the third year of the citywide "read," where the entire community is encouraged to read a single book and join in a community conversation.

This compelling autobiography, first published in 1966, tells how Parks managed to escape the poverty and bigotry around him and launch his distinguished career as a photographer, writer, composer, artist and filmmaker by choosing the weapons given him by "a mother who placed love, dignity, and hard work over hatred."

Now that the book selection has been announced, you can get involved by engaging your family, school, workplace and book club by reading the book. This fall, there will be events and opportunities to join in conversations about the book. Neighborhood groups, book clubs, libraries, literary centers and others can get involved by holding public events where folks can come together to discuss the book.

For more information and to get involved, visit <http://oneminneapolisone.read.com/> or email oneread@minneapolis.mn.gov.

Funds Available for Water Friendly Landscaping

Planning to create a rain garden? Apply for a grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Cost Share program. Grants are being offered to those who want to help protect clean water by installing raingardens, pervious concrete driveways, rainwater capture and reuse systems, or other stormwater best management practices.

Grants are available to any public or private property located within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District including residential homes, apartments, businesses,

schools, or cities. To find out if you are in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, enter your address on their website. The deadline for most residential projects is May 31st. Learn more at www.minnehahacreek.org/grants/raingardens-and-other-stormwater-bmps.

Join a Local Food Resource Hub!

The Local Food Resource Hub program through Gardening Matters is a network of community-based food hubs that bring seeds, seedlings, skills shares, and other resources for successful gardening to 7 core neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This network is designed by and for community gardeners to support a robust local food system at the neighborhood level. One of the benefits of becoming a member is receiving discounted seeds and plants. Members select a small, medium, or large sized garden package, and membership fees are on a sliding scale with scholarships available.

This year, there are Hubs in the following Minneapolis areas:

Minneapolis-NE/SE; Minneapolis-North; Minneapolis-Phillips/Ventura Village; Minneapolis-South
ANY Minneapolis resident can join by choosing the hub nearest to where they live and/or garden.

Plant distributions for hot weather plants are on May 18th, times and neighborhood locations to be announced. Members will receive a postcard in the mail and e-announcements with more specific information.

Ready to become a member or to renew your membership? You can sign up online at www.gardeningmatters.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=10 or in person at the plant distribution events. Check the website for specific times and locations. If you have any questions, contact the Gardening Matters office at 612-821-2358 or email mallory@gardeningmatters.org.

Mini-grants Available for Neighborhood Community Gardens

Gardening Matters will be offering 10 community garden mini-grants of up to \$500 for community food production gardens in East Isles, Lowry Hill East and Whittier neighborhoods as well as several other neighborhoods in South Minneapolis. Two organizations, along with Gardening Matters, came together to help fund these mini-grants:

The Green Patch Program at The Wedge Natural Foods Co-op. Thank you to the members and shoppers at the Wedge Co-op, who Choose to Reuse and pass the benefits on to their community!

Donors who participated in Powderhorn Empty Bowls' fall fundraising and community-building event to raise funds to end hunger in Powderhorn Park community.

In order to be eligible for funds, community gardens must have either submitted a community garden survey to Gardening Matters or be a Local Food Resource Hub member. Haven't done either of those options? You can find more information on how to join by visiting www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs. Eligible gardens are welcome to apply and must submit their application by May 15th to Gardening Matters. Grantees will be notified by June 1st and checks will be sent by mail within two weeks to the mailing address provided in the application. You can get mini-grant information and the application at www.gardeningmatters.org/wedge-peb-minigrants.

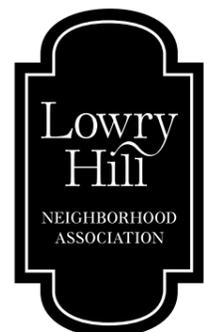
Meet with Meg

The next Meet with Meg will be held on Monday, June 10th, 2013 from Noon-1pm at the 5th Precinct Community Room (3101 Nicollet Ave S). It will be a chance for you to ask me questions, and voice any concerns you may have. Bring your sack lunch! Cookies and lemonade are provided! Meet with Meg is held the second Monday of every month.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association ANNUAL MEETING 2013

**Tuesday, May 21st, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
at The Walker Art Center**

Please join your LHNA Board for a fun and informative evening on the state of our neighborhood. The Minneapolis mayoral candidates will introduce themselves to our neighborhood residents and we will have an opportunity to ask them questions. We will hear from City Council Member Lisa Goodman and Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb about events within the neighborhood. We will also be electing new Board members. There will be a cash bar, snacks and time for you to meet your neighbors. Join in on the fun on the 21st and all year long with LHNA!



To learn more about LHNA visit us at lowryhillneighborhood.org

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, May 8, 2013

The annual 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, Rosanne Halloran, Art Higinbotham, David Lissauer, David Shirley, and Amanda Vallone. 60+ residents were also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith.

Chair Craig Westgate called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Panel Discussion of Elected Officials

Participating officials: Councilmembers Lisa Goodman and Meg Tuthill; Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman; and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb.

Several questions were raised about Southwest LRT. Comments from elected officials:

The City of Minneapolis will not support co-location of LRT and freight through the Kenilworth corridor. A potential win-win solution would be a LRT tunnel and keep freight at grade.

Goodman reported that Met Council representatives have publically stated that the law doesn't require municipal consent. Dorfman does not think the project will move forward without municipal consent from the five cities along the line.

The Park Board is strongly against co-location.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was clear in recommending that freight rail be re-routed through St Louis Park.

The LRT decisions are now being made by the Met Council, which does not have elected officials.

The Met Council will unveil LRT plans at the end of the summer.

City planners prefer light rail vs. buses because the rail route is fixed and encourages development and smart growth.

There could be other sources of funding (such as a transit tax or bonding money) if the state doesn't provide funding for Southwest LRT

Litigation could delay the project and SWLRT could be pushed behind other transit projects such as the Bottineau line.

Public comments should be sent to Met Council and the SWLRT Project Office.

City updates:

Single-sort recycling has been a big success. Recycling rates are up 67% and the program has only been rolled out to 40% of the city. The City is studying the feasibility of organics recycling.

The City Council put \$7 million in a property tax sustainability fund and is planning for a zero levy increase in 2014.

The City does not have authority over the

Metropolitan Airport Commissions plans to consolidate flight patterns at the airport.

Park Board updates:

Park Siding Park is being used as a staging area for the Met Council sewer project. The Met Council is providing funding to restore the park.

The Park Board is starting to think about long-term solutions for Lake of the Isles/Calhoun that were generated at the Design Charrette.

Tabb will have a water quality specialist address concerns about algae on Cedar Lake.

County updates:

The County and its partners have planted over 4500 trees and shrubs along the Greenway during Arbor Day events over the past 13 years.

Construction of the Walker Library continues and is expected to open in 2014.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from last year's annual meeting were unanimously approved.

Retiring Board Member recognition David Shirley was recognized for his incredible commitment to the neighborhood, including 26 years of service on the CIDNA Board. Congratulations David!

Election of Board Members

The following slate of returning and new board members was unanimously approved. Returning board members: Ed Bell, Ed Ferlauto, Ryan Fox, Stephen Goltry, Ray Greco, Rosanne Halloran, Art Higinbotham, David Lissauer, Craig Westgate, Mike Wilson, and Amanda Vallone. New board members: Lowell Berggren, Roger Klimek and James Reid.

Treasurer's Report

Gail Lee presented the Treasurer's Report. CIDNA has \$12,600 in unrestricted funds. The remaining funds are restricted to NRP or CPP programs.

NRP/ CPP Committee Report

Committee Chair Gail Lee presented the NRP/ CPP report:

CPP budget for Jul 2012 – Dec 2013: \$41,000 including \$10K designated for a new program called Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) for LRT and the response to the DEIS. CIDNA was the first neighborhood in the City to submit a NPP.

NRP funds were used for an \$87K affordable housing loan for a development at Franklin and Portland. When the principal and interest are repaid, the money is returned to CIDNA for other priorities.

The Park Board has been resistant to changes at South Beach because of LRT. The committee was successful in getting some improvements last year (new sand and new painted trail markings) and in continuing to work on getting canoe racks and a permanent pad for the portable toilet.

Improvements to Park Siding Park in 2012 included an irrigation system and new plantings for two flowerbeds, new trees, and the ping-pong table. 2013: the playground will be replaced and park restoration complete after the sewer work is complete.

Park Siding Park Clean Up day is May 18, 10 am – volunteers needed.

Save the date for the Fall Festival – September 15.

Park Siding Park

Gail Lee discussed the renovation at Park Siding Park. Metropolitan Environmental Services (MCES) has an easement to use Park Siding for the sewer project staging

area. The playground equipment had to be removed and since it is no longer ADA compliant, it needed to be replaced. MCES held four public hearings as they developed the new plan for the playground. The playground will feature two separated areas for age-appropriate play, a crosswalk from the Kenilworth Trail and a more welcoming entrance to the park. The Planning Committee of the Park Board approved the plans on May 1. The full board is expected to formally approve the plans on May 22nd.

Dean Parkway and Cedar Lake Trail Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

This CAC was an initiative by the Park Board to make improvements to bike and pedestrian trails using \$560K in federal Transportation Enhancement funds. Construction is expected from Fall 2013-Spring 2014.

Information about the project can be found at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

CIDNA requested that South Beach be considered during the CAC process. A special meeting was held to focus on South Beach and the LRT crossing at Cedar Lake Parkway. The meeting was for information sharing purposes, no decisions were made.

Sewer Project

Ryan Fox provided an update on the sewer project in the neighborhood:

The CIDNA Board has been working on better pedestrian access to Cedar Lake since 1996.

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommended that a sidewalk be added to Sunset Blvd during the sewer construction project.

The westbound lane of Sunset will be reconstructed (July-mid Oct 2013) and a sidewalk will be added Spring 2014.

Depot Street remains closed as worker install a sewer pipe under the Kenilworth.

To sign up for project email updates: send an email to bgrand@zanassoc.com stating that you would like Cedar Lake Area sewer updates.

Awareness Campaign

Mike Wilson gave a brief presentation about CIDNA and offered ideas on how to keep informed and involved in neighborhood issues.

Read the Hill and Lake Press. The free monthly newspaper is delivered to every door in Cedar-Isles-Dean and includes information about neighborhood issues. The April issue included nine articles about SWLRT.

Visit: www.cidna.org often and "Join the Email List" to receive our monthly e-newsletter.

Visit: www.kenilworthalliance.wordpress.com to follow the joint neighborhood task force working on LRT issues.

Visit: www.swlrt.org to stay informed about the LRT project.

Transportation Committee

Ed Ferlauto, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee discussed their work regarding LRT:

A joint neighborhood task (made up of six organizations) was formed to respond to the 1000+ page DEIS. Now called the Kenilworth Alliance, they continue to meet and work on LRT issues. Their website is: www.kenilworthalliance.wordpress.com.

LRT is in the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the project. The Met Council is studying feasibility issues (including a tunnel). Development information is expected June 6.

30% of PE is expected to be complete by Fall, 2013 followed by the municipal consent process.

The state needs to provide 50% of funding before the federal government contributes funds.

The committee organized a Walkabout to address accessibility issues for the proposed West Lake Station.

Planning is underway for an Informational event on the Kenilworth to raise awareness about LRT with bike and pedestrian trail users. Volunteers are needed.

Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC) Report

Mike Wilson is CIDNA's representative to the Coalition. CIDNA has adopted a section of the Greenway between Chowen and the Dean Parkway bridge and will organize a clean-up day in June. Bike Friendly Stations are being added to bike trails and include tools and free air.

Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis CAC

Mike Wilson is CIDNA's representative to this CAC. The project is studying transit option on Lake St and/or

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Hill & Lake References

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LHNA)

CIDNA from page 12

By Janis Clay

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes Tuesday, May 7, 2013, Kenwood Recreation Center

Present - Board Members: Maureen Sheehan, President; David Weinstein, Vice President; Janis Clay, Secretary; Sherie Tazelaar; Jimmy Fogel; Rebecca Graham; Ruth Shields; Phil Hallaway; Tom Huppert.

Present - Guests and staff: Eric Schned; Peter Frenz; Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Maureen Sheehan, noting a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Sherie Tazelaar moved and Phil Hallaway seconded approval of tonight's agenda and of the April 2, 2013, minutes. All approved.

Committee Reports:

Zoning and Planning Committee: Peter Frenz presented a proposal to rezone property he had recently purchased at 1915 Fremont Avenue South from R2-B (duplex) to R-3 to allow his adult daughter and her young child to occupy the third floor of the structure. Plans include adding an off-street parking space constructed with pervious concrete, intended to address both the tight parking situation on Fremont Avenue and the environmental concerns of additional paved surface area. The LHNA Zoning Committee will discuss this further, and it will be heard by the Minneapolis City Council's Zoning Committee. Rock the Garden is moving ahead, scheduled for June 15th. The First Avenue music event, originally scheduled for July 20th at Parade, will not take place this year due to booking problems with the bands. The parking situation at Hennepin Avenue and Franklin remains problematic, as it has since the opening of Burch Steak. Parking changes intended to improve the situation have not yet been fully implemented. These include adding additional street parking further west on Franklin Avenue. Losing any of the existing businesses due to the parking prob-

lems would be very negative for the neighborhood. The Board also discussed concerns over noise from early morning recycling and deliveries, and noted that the intersection has become more hazardous for bikes and pedestrians

Crime and Safety: Some troubling events have occurred recently, including several burglaries, an attempted kidnapping in the area of 36th and Zenith, and recent break-ins at Rye. Residents are encouraged to install alarm systems, keep a porch light on, and contact the police if they observe anything suspicious. The Board discussed concerns of an apartment resident over security lights in the Rye and Burch parking lots. The businesses are attempting to address these concerns. Phil Hallaway made a motion, seconded by Rebecca Graham, to allocate \$630.00 to purchase energy efficient light bulbs to give away at the annual meeting to promote our Leave a Light on initiative.

Events: The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at the Walker Art Center. The event will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin at 7:00 and end at 8:30. Maureen Sheehan handed out a proposed slide presentation. The evening will feature mayoral candidate introductions and questions.

New Business: The markings for bicycle and pedestrian traffic are not very clear on the west side of Lake of the Isles, where the two come together for a short distance. Janis Clay will communicate the Board's concern to Anita Tabb of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at Rye Delicatessen. 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 8:10 p.m.

the Greenway between the Hiawatha LRT line and the SWLRT. Options have been narrowed down to arterial (enhance) bus rapid transit on Lake St and/or a streetcar on the Greenway. Open houses are being held May 21, 6-8 pm at Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Ave S and May 23, 6-8 pm at Whittier Clinic, 2810 Nicollet Ave. More info at www.midtowntransitway.org.

CIDNA residents are encouraged to meet at the Calhoun Village/Greenway intersection at 5:30 pm on May 21st for a 20-minute neighborhood bike ride over to the Open House.

Land Use & Development Committee

Bob Corrick, Chair of the Land Use Committee invited people to join the committee that evaluates development projects in the neighborhood. Over the past seven years, the committee worked with two potential developers for the vacant lot just east of the Calhoun Beach Club (2622-26 W Lake St). Neither project was finalized. The site is currently being used for the sewer project. Corrick expects to see new proposals for the site in the coming year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting

Wednesday, June 12 at Jones-Harrison, 6:00 p.m.

Crime from page 6

of the cases, the suspect did not enter the home, but stole items by cutting or removing the window screen and reaching through an open or unlocked window. In one case, the suspect attempted to gain entry to the home but was unable to due to the window being pinned.

These incidents occurred in apartments as well as residential homes. Due to the time of these cases, suspect descriptions are minimal. No one was harmed in any of these incidents. There is no further information on them at this time. Media inquiries should go to the PIO. If you believe you have suspect information for any of these crimes, contact the Fifth Precinct desk at 612.673.5705.



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Hill & Lake Press

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Letters

Dear Hill and Lake Press:

I live on Lake of the Isles, I walk it daily. The Citizens Joint Review Committee for the Lake of the Isles Renovation assessment does not reflect my view of what I am looking for in a lake aesthetic nor what I wish to experience while walking the lake, and I would argue that there are many, who like me, feel the same way.

The idea that I am bothered by “tall shoreline plantings obscuring open views to the lake” is completely adverse to the natural shoreline aesthetic that I appreciate immensely—the very thing that attracts me to Lake of the Isles and why I walk it instead of Lake Calhoun or Lake Harriet. I think the shrubs are beautiful and I like seeing and hearing the bird life and insect activity they attract. Does anyone on the committee mind that the Song Sparrows and other small birds that nest along the shoreline have nowhere to build their nests and raise their young? Does the committee not care that the shy wood ducks and Great Egrets will miss the protective covering the shoreline plants provide? It’s called Habitat. I think Lake of the Isles looks ugly, barren, and naked now that the Civilian Conservation Crew has been busy removing the vegetation around the lake in these past couple weeks.

It is my understanding that the Chain of Lakes are considered regional parks; belonging to and serving a great many number of people, more than the small group of property owners represented by the Citizen’s Joint Review Committee who seem to feel that Lake of the Isles belongs to them as some sort of front extension of their manicured lawns. Also, it makes sense that there would be different characteristics, different aesthetics to be enjoyed by the lakes within the chain, AND that if one desired to walk around a lake and never have the water obscured from view, then Lake Calhoun or Lake Harriet would fit that description and fill the bill.

I am exceedingly disappointed in the Park Board: Commissioner Tabb, Ms. Beck, and Marcia Holmberg. Doesn’t anyone have a backbone to stand up to these people in the Citizens Joint Review Committee and not kowtow to their narrow, self-serving interests?

And as far as the “poor quality of parkland turf” goes? With the ensuing years of climate change to come, rising temperatures and Minnesota moving into a dryer climate where droughts are frequent, I can imagine in the not too distant future, the parkland turf will need to consist of drought resistant, deeply-rooted, low lying plants—native weeds, in other words, not grass, which has a short root system and needs much more rainfall than we can expect to be getting.

Sincerely, Mrs. Mary Taylor East Isles

Dear Hill and Lake Press:

I walk Lake of the Isles frequently, some weeks daily. I was shocked by the recent removal of many of the shore plantings. So many birds are now displaced, all that planning by the lake restoration project down the drain, hundreds of dollars worth of plants killed? All for a nice view? I so enjoyed the wildlife. As I understand it these lakes belong to the city not just the wealthy who are privileged to live across the street from it. I wish the Park Board had honored all the effort and preparation, not to mention money, that went into the plans for the restoration project. What of that?

Sincerely, Joanna Furth Linden Hills



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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-5785
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Lake of the Isles?

Illustration by Mary Taylor

The Fifth Precinct holds an open house.



At a well-attended event, residents of the Fifth Precinct were given an opportunity to learn about the Minneapolis Police Department. There were many informational displays and demonstrations, and refreshments were served. Shown here, Sergeant John Biederman of the Minneapolis Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team conducted a tour and answered questions about their one-year-old armored vehicle.

Photo by Dorothy Childers

HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales April 2013										
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 #417	\$ 124,900		85	\$ 115,000	C	1/1	780	\$ 95,000	\$ 1,223	1986
48 Groveland Terr B309	189,000		180	160,000	C	1/1	745	178,000	3,082	1966
3116 W Lake St #326	319,000	5,000	1	293,000	C	2/2	1,428	325,000	5,627	2007
3351 Saint Louis Ave	339,900		22	309,500	TWN	3/2	1,830	301,500	4,719	1985
2816 Chowen S	499,900	13,611	187	453,700	H	3/3	2,726	521,000	9,088	1986
2715 Ewing S	599,000	12,000	315	490,000	H	4/3	3,036	599,000	10,825	1939
1903 Girard S	689,900		126	650,000	H	6/7	9,500	571,300	10,856	1911
1900 Mount Curve	719,000		1	719,000	H	2/2	2,044	675,000	11,821	1962
2739 Dean Pkwy	825,000		295	630,000	H	4/4	3,973	824,000	15,679	1927
2015 James S	1,795,000		1	1,739,000	H	3/5	5,904	1,414,000	28,502	1905
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig			cume	Condo	C					
				Home	H					
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County				Townhouse	TWN	Go to mpisrealtor.com for additional info				

Neighbor from page 3

Weather Purgatory

By Madeleine Lowry

Council campaign?

I have told Lisa I will help her in any way I can. Lisa Bender will be a strong, progressive, DFL city councilor. She will say yes to good ideas and make sure we shape our own future. She will represent everyone in our ward, whether they've lived here for forty days or forty years. Lisa knows that renters and bikers and immigrants and hipsters are all a part of our city and they deserve representation too.

Is Meg Tuthill still running?

You'd have to ask Meg. On more than one occasion she pledged to abide by the DFL endorsement. She can split hairs about what that means if she'd like, but the fact is, she knew exactly what it meant when she said it. Do we really want a city councilor who is willing to lie just to win an election? Meg has a long history of not supporting DFL endorsed candidates. She made a sizable contribution to Congressman Keith Ellison's opponent in 2006. She has a real independent streak that I think is ideologically out of step with our neighborhood. People in our area want progressive leaders who make reasoned decisions based on what's best for the common good, for our city as a whole. There is an interesting side story here. All four candidates said they were abiding by the DFL endorsement, right? Perhaps if Meg had been more honest about not abiding, that would have influenced my decision. I mean, if one person isn't abiding and I had known that, perhaps I would have made a different choice. My point is that, to some extent, Meg's commitment to drop out if someone else was endorsed did influence my decision. So maybe if she had been more forthright she wouldn't have ended up in this predicament.

What's your hope for the City of Minneapolis?

My hope for Minneapolis is that we can become a city where everyone truly has an opportunity to attain their dreams, just as I did when I moved here as a teenager. The sad fact is we have 15,000 less jobs in our city today than we did in 2000. Today in Minneapolis too many people don't have the opportunity to succeed. We have a severe equity gap, where some of us are doing quite well and others are not. Nearly 80% of low-income families lack affordable housing. Only half our kids are graduating from high school in four years. The African American unemployment rate in Minneapolis is three times higher than the base rate. That's the worst ratio in the nation. We need to rethink how we measure success in our city. And to me the metrics we need to use should be based on how people on the bottom rungs are doing. We need to make sure the ladder to success is available and working for everyone. In Ward 10 we spent a lot of time in the last four years focused on late night restaurant patio noise.

Welcome to Weather Purgatory. Due to the proclivity of Minnesotans to harbor thoughts like, "If this is global warming, I'll take it" or, "Wow, we really got the long end of the stick on this global warming thing" in years where spring started in March and lasted for weeks, we will be having Weather Purgatory instead of Spring this year. You know who you are.



Here are the rules: you shall have winter, spring and fall on alternate days of the week. You shall keep a snow scraper in your car until Memorial Day or risk tempting fate. Ditto the snow tires. Your back hall shall be overrun with snow boots, snow pants, rain jackets, rain boots, hats, mittens, scarves, umbrellas, overcoats, parkas, flip-flops and spring jackets simultaneously. You will ask yourself: air-conditioning or radiators today? Open the windows or seal them? Pile the blankets on the bed, or pare down to a thin sheet?

You will wonder how the weatherman could want to keep his job after bringing us such bad news week after week. Garden centers and lawn care companies will lose sales. Snow plowing contracts will be extended indefinitely. Construction, landscaping and road paving projects will be put off until the frost date finally passes sometime in July.

Tin Fish will open to reward the intrepid, but sales of ice cream will be at an all-time low. You won't be able to decide whether to make gazpacho soup or beef stew for dinner until you hear the late afternoon weather report. Booking a warm weather getaway for late May will suddenly sound very appealing.

Your spring bulbs will sprout, freeze, falter, sputter to life and die due to sporadic dumps of snow. You will not have to mow your lawn until mid-June. Birds will construct sad little nests out of frozen blades of dead grass. On Mother's Day instead of armloads of freshly clipped lilacs you will receive sticks with tiny unopened buds instead.

You will have to wear a parka to the baseball game at Target Field. You will either freeze or melt at the outdoor (pick one) graduation ceremony, wedding, art fair or May Day Parade depending on the season that day. You will have to reassure visitors that the weather isn't always like this. Heaven help you if your company is trying to recruit out-of-state job candidates.

Out for a stroll on Lake of the Isles on any given afternoon you'll spot people wearing all manner of attire from flip-flops to earmuffs. You will get sick with each weather cycle, approximately every seven days. You will have hay fever, a touch of flu and spring fever all at the same time.

The ice will go out on the lake so late that half the sailing season will be lost. So many soccer, baseball, and golf practices will be cancelled that it will send athletic types into despair. Other outdoor sports will be similarly impacted. (Go swimmers!)

You will open your cabin on Memorial Day purely to keep up appearances, but the fish won't be biting due to weather confusion. The geese and other migrating birds will get locked in a circulatory route flying north and then south over and over again until the season can be positively identified.

Weather will be the dominant topic of conversation, even more so than usual. Any semblance between our weather and the season formerly known as Spring will be purely illusory. In fact, Spring will come at the appointed time to just one house at the corner of 25th Street and East Lake of the Isles Parkway thanks to a generous investment in silk flowers.

With any luck by the time you read this we'll have leapfrogged into Summer. But, remember, with Weather Purgatory there are no guarantees.

This has been a public service announcement.

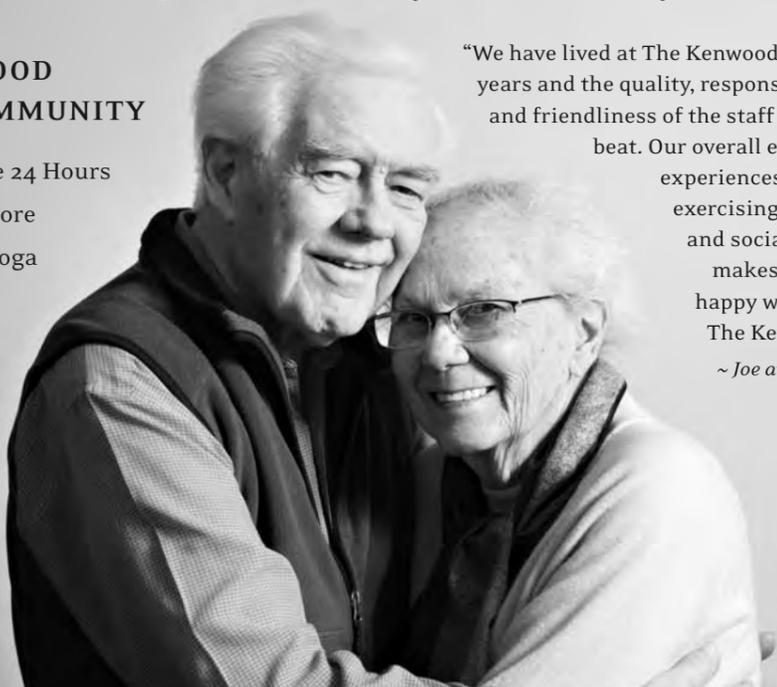
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~ Joe and Billye



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Annika C.
Kenwood resident

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sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

Noodge verb, noun (Yiddish) To nag or pester

I now believe we live by miracles, not improvements.
—Garrison Keillor

A classic Mary Tyler Moore episode features an exasperated Lou Grant pushed to his breaking point by news anchor Ted Baxter's latest gaffe. Barely able to restrain himself when confronting the blithe cluelessness of his on air "talent," Mr. Grant, with mayhem in his heart and a firm grip on Ted's lapels, glowers at his prey. Initially Lou is too angry to speak. Finally through clenched teeth he snarls, "Ted, you know the way you are?" Ted, still oblivious but fearful of being pounded into the ground like a tent stake, vigorously nods his head. Grant, only slightly appeased but realizing the futility of his rage, entreats, "Don't be that way!"

Writer Sydney J. Harris suggests that our personality is more than a set of independent traits that can be freely "shopped out" or exchanged. The way we organize and integrate our collection of traits into a complex structure makes up our personality. Changing one trait requires a reorganization of the whole personality. Viewed dynamically, certain defects are the cost we pay for our virtues. An ulcer or migraine may be the price of perfectionism. Our positive traits are often intertwined with the unflattering. A fearless gridiron pass rusher may not be good at waiting for a table in a crowded restaurant. A dedicated research chemist may lack a scintillating wit in social settings.

This is a somewhat fancy rationalization for a behavior I possess that can drive others crazy. I am a noodge. I show JoAnne the Harris article that suggests that being a pest is a core personality trait and that I would not be the "Self" I am without it, and that my identity was fragile. The no-nonsense person that she suggests that my remaining friends like me despite this trait rather than because of it, and that I better knock it off! I have been known to hector, goad, needle, infer, harass, badger, browbeat, suggest, cajole, bribe, con, plead, hound, annoy, bait, browbeat, pester, tease, torment, plague, flatter, induce, bother, inveigle, urge, coax, and

wheelde to get my way. In my defense, I am rarely out to benefit myself directly. I limit my practice to family and close friends. All of them are immune to my charms.

I will not claim to be particularly gifted at managing my own life, but I am savant-like in my understanding of the needs of those around me. Call it a gift, but if you seek to buy a house, select a pet, have a child, plan a vacation, tangle with a family member, choose a college, or make a retirement decision, I am a huge help. Sadly I am not one to accept, "You have given me a lot to think about...thank you!" For me that is not closure, it is merely blood in the water. Polite indecision is an opening. I flash to the salesman's edict in Glengarry Glen Ross: A.B.C. Always Be Closing.

Pop psychologists would suggest that I must have deep-seated issues of my own that I am avoiding. I have examined my inner life and found it neither troubled, complex, or even interesting. That my closest friends from our Minnesota days are planning a move to California and will soon be house hunting...now that's entertainment! In the spirit of helpfulness I may have dropped by a few open houses (27), collected some realtor business cards (55), chatted with a neighbor or twelve, and forwarded a couple of listings (114). Mixed in may have been a phone chat or two.

JoAnne is a disciple of the nonintrusive school of quiet support, ready to listen and offer her opinion if solicited. She is more directive with me! "Our friends are able to blah blah blah let them blah blah blah own decision blah blah know better than blah blah blah lived successfully all these years without you blah, blah blah if your advice blah blah blah it's not your business blah blah blah how would you like it blah blah blah let them blah blah blah!!!"

Talk about clueless!

Tom H. Cook is a now far away writer who misses everything Minnesota except the newly added May snowfall. It is probably no coincidence that his two dogs are noodgey border collies.

Greenway Glow to Light up the Greenway on June 22

Art, music, bikes, and a giant catapult - what more could you ask for?

By Jackie Blair, Midtown Greenway Coalition

Looking for a fun event where you can be outside on a warm summer night, ride a bike, watch and participate in art, and munch on some great food? Look no further!

Join us for the second annual Greenway Glow: Illuminated Art Festival and Night Bike Ride on June 22. The Greenway Glow is two events in one: a free art festival and a fundraising bike ride. All money raised will be used to protect and enhance the Midtown Greenway.

To register for the fundraising bike ride, simply go to www.greenwayglow.kintera.org. Riders will enjoy free food from Bar Louie, drinks from New Belgium Brewing, glow-in-the-dark t-shirts and much more!

If you're not interested in the bike ride, please join us for the free art festival on the Greenway, starting at 6 p.m. and lasting until midnight. There will be something for everyone - live music, 3-minute plays, mobile karaoke, and even a giant catapult that launches magnetic LED lights onto a metal target.

Registration for the bike ride is \$25 by June 3rd (\$30 after/at the event), and adult riders must also raise at least \$75 in pledges for the Greenway (youth under 18 are not required to raise funds).

The art festival is free, with no registration required. A full schedule and more information will be posted to midtowngreenway.org in June.



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