



'Where the biggies leave off...'

# Hill & Lake Press

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## Minneapolis, We are the City of Lakes

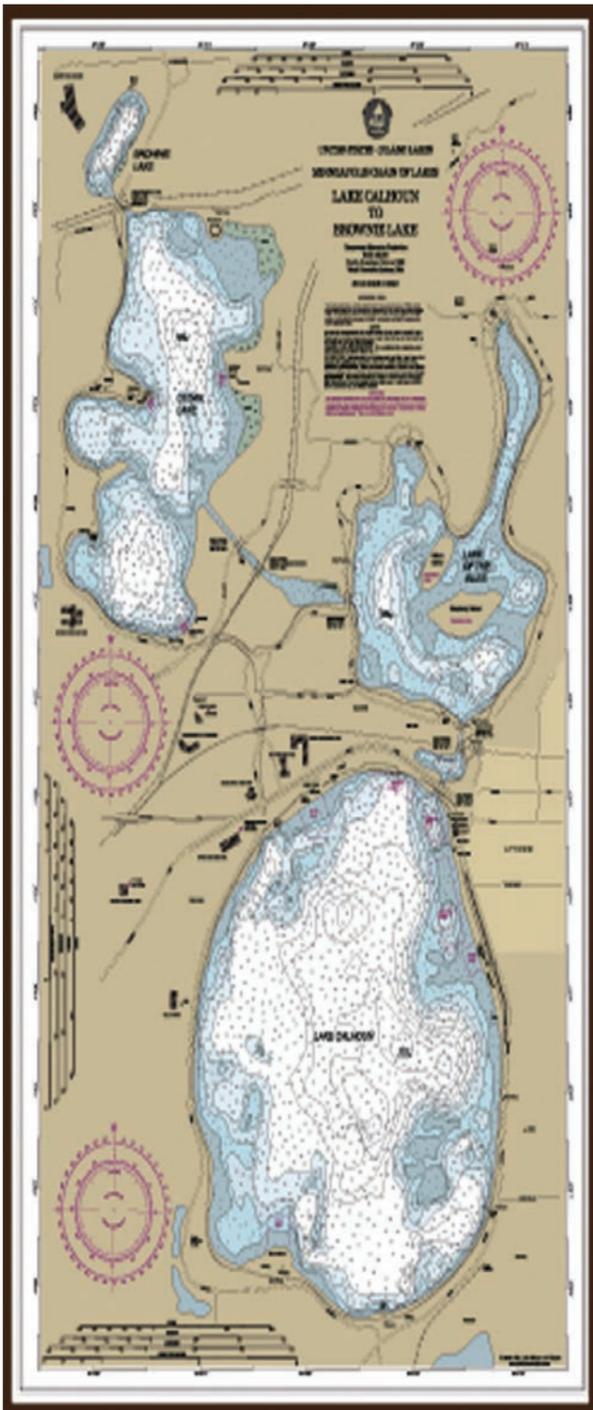
By David and Claire Ruebeck

We are Minneapolis transplants that proudly call the City of Lakes our home. When we moved here from San Francisco 17 years ago we had no prior connection to the city. Other than a weekend job interview in the midst of a crisp white January, we had never even visited. Our first glimpse of a greener Minneapolis came some months later, as we pulled into town with a truck full of gear ready to move right in. And boy, were we taken.

Soon after we arrived, we began to enjoy the Minneapolis park system first hand, marveling at the complete public access to the shores— no exclusive homes or buildings blocking the view, miles of walking and biking paths, beaches, picnic grounds, and amenities for everyone to enjoy. Then we began to get on the water itself – transported on the occasional afternoon in a kayak or sailboat, feeling miles away from the urban

City of Lakes to page 4

## Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Nautical Chart



## LAKES AND PARKS ALLIANCE FILES LAWSUIT



Photo by Dorothy Childers

George Puzak, a Lake and Parks Alliance board member, and former commissioner on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, spoke at a news conference at the Hennepin County Government Center attended by members of the local media and supporters of the lawsuit.

## Citizen Group Sues Met Council on SWLRT, citing violations of state and federal environmental law.

A grassroots citizen group filed suit in Federal District Court on September 8 against the Metropolitan Council, its chair Susan Haigh, and the Federal Transportation Authority. The suit was announced by George Puzak, board member of the Lakes and Parks Alliance and former Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commissioner, at a news conference in front of the Hennepin County Government Center. The Alliance, a nonprofit group, was organized to protect Minneapolis's signature asset, its Chain of Lakes.

### George Puzak's prepared remarks:

I am a board member of the Lakes and Parks Alliance and a former commissioner on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Standing with me are citizens who represent several groups, including LRT Done Right, the Kenilworth Preservation Group, and the Lakes and Parks Alliance.

**We are here because we expect our government, specifically the Met Council, to respond to repeated citizen requests to follow state and federal laws** — that is, to complete a thorough environmental study of Southwest LRT **before** taking actions that we are convinced will harm our treasured lakes and parks and threaten the safety of citizens.

Today, with the help of our legal team of Tom Johnson and Lewis Remele, the Lakes and Parks Alliance has filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the Met Council, Met Council Chair Susan Haigh, and the Federal Transit Administration. We are asking for two things:

**First**, a declaration by the Court that by failing to complete an Environmental Impact Statement, the Met Council has broken both state and federal laws; and

**Second**, a declaration that the approvals obtained from Minneapolis and the other municipalities be

declared null and void.

In the past few months, the Met Council — an **unelected body** — has bullied cities along the proposed line, forcing **elected** municipal officials to consent to the current proposal before they or the public have the information needed to make an informed decision.

**An environmental impact study, or EIS, would have provided this information, but one has not been done.**

**An EIS** would identify the dangers of co-locating light rail in the same dangerously narrow corridor as freight trains carrying highly flammable cargo.

It would evaluate the risk of running ethanol-loaded freight trains a mere 11 feet from passengers on the LRT and its electrical wires overhead.

It would assess the risk to thousands of citizens, LRT riders, and children at Kenilworth Elementary School who would be within the blast zone if an ethanol train exploded.

It would examine the disastrous impact of an ethanol spill into Kenilworth Channel and connecting lakes.

**An EIS** would identify the project's impact on ground water, a risk inherent in constructing the shallow tunnel. The extent and effect of "de-watering" the tunnel and the impact on water quality in our precious Chain of Lakes is, without an EIS, unknown.

SWLRT Lawsuit to page 5

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**Lunch with Lisa Monday, September 24, Noon**  
 University of St. Thomas Downtown, Opus Hall, Room #255. We will be talking about the proposed 70/30 Liquor Requirements Charter question on the Ballot from the City Licensing view and the Hospitality/Restaurateur view. We welcome our own Linda Roberts from Licensing along with Dan McElroy, President and CEO of Hospitality Minnesota. Lunch is offered at \$10. Come early to get a good seat. RSVP to 673-2207, not required but appreciated for food quantity. Next Lunch with Lisa is October 29th

**Happenings in the Neighborhood**

- Sept. 17, 7pm, Granny Flat mtg, Kenwood Rec
  - Sept. 19, 6pm Grand opening Dean, Cedar Pkwy
  - Sept. 22, 7pm Lenfestey reading Plymouth
  - Sept. 24, 7pm Birchbark Books Reading Series
  - Sept. 24, noon Lunch with Lisa
  - Sept. 27 9am, Park Siding Park Fall clean up
  - Sept. 28, 3pm organ recital St. Mark's Cathedral
  - Oct. 12, CIDNA Fall Festival
- Neighborhood monthly meetings**  
 CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm Jones-Harrison  
 EIRA: The October meeting will be the Semi-Annual Members' Meeting, October 14, 6:30 pm social time, meeting starts at 7 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church  
 KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center  
 LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center

**Birchbark Books Reading Series. We begin our 6th season of quarterly readings on September 24 at 7 pm.**

Reading will be Satish P. Jayaraj (curator of the Cracked Walnut reading series), Sherrie Fernandez-Williams, Sherry Quan Lee, and Eric Hove.  
 The reading will be at the Bockley Gallery at 2123 W 21st Street (a couple doors down from Birchbark Books).  
 Curated by Michael Kiesow Moore and Ardie Medina, the Birchbark Books Reading Series features new, emerging, and established writers quarterly September through May.

A grand opening for the Trail Improvements at Dean Pkwy and Cedar Lake Pkwy will be held on September 19, 6 p.m.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
 SEP 28, 3 PM**

Concert organist and Canon Musician Raymond Johnston performs his annual recital on the magnificent Foley-Baker organ. Program will include Louis Vierne's Second Symphony. No admission charge: a goodwill offering will be taken.  
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**The East Isles Ice Cream Social**



Photo Collage by Dorothy Childers

The annual East Isles Ice Cream Social on August 28th was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the event sponsors: Isles Bun & Coffee, Kowalski's Uptown Market, Lakes Area Realty, Peterssen/Keller Architecture and Uptown UPS Store.



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# Meet your Neighbor, Henry Ouellette

Craig Wilson interviews Henry Ouellette about his 'Model T' go-cart, the difference between growing up in 2014 versus 1914, and why more kids should read rather than play violent video games.

**Where do you go to school and what grade are you in?** I go to City of Lake Waldorf School in Minneapolis. I like my school because we do a lot of creative projects and learn through stories. We also make our own textbooks. I've been at the school since Kindergarten, and now I'm in 5th grade.

**What are your favorite subjects?** I love history best of all. I especially like learning about the late-1800s and early 1900s. There were a lot of inventions during that time period, including the airplane, the telephone, and the automobile. The styles were awesome, and society was changing really quickly with factories, immigration, the Titanic, and World War I. I also love drawing, poetry, and mythology. Last year we studied the Norse myths at school, and I played Thor in our class play. This year we'll be studying ancient India, Mesopotamia, Persia and Greece. I've actually been reading Greek myths since I was about four. I like the way that the author Rick Riordan bases his Percy Jackson series on the ancient Greek myths. I recognize all of the characters! My other favorite subjects are theater, Spanish, and the history of inventing, and electricity. I was part of the Kids Inventors Club at the Bakken Museum (of Electricity), where I learned how to make a light circuit. I also enjoy woodworking. We have a great teacher at school, and I made some really cool things including a sword and a one-legged stool. I like using tools and working with my hands.

**What do you like to do in your free time?** Lately I've been interested in learning about Steampunk, a kind of science fiction based on the machinery of the industrial age. I loved the movie Hugo because it told about inventions like automatons. Sometimes I like to dress up in clothes from the period too – I have a top hat, goggles, a monocle, and a pocket watch. When I'm not reading, I like to play tennis and chess, and make pizza. I also like swimming and traveling to new places. I've been to Paris, New York, London, Las Vegas, Duluth, Montana, and



Henry Ouellette

Singapore!

**Do you recommend any favorite books?** It is very hard to choose, because I love so many books. I guess some of my favorites would be Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, The Hobbit, the Harry Potter series, Sherlock Holmes, Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein, and Holes by Louis Sachar. I just read an interesting new book, The League of Seven, by Alan Gratz, which is set in 1875 and has a Steampunk theme. I recommend it very highly. In the story, electricity is forbidden; everything runs on steam.

**Do you play any musical instruments?** I play the cello. I take lessons with a fantastic teacher named Joe Kaiser at MacPhail Center for Music. We have a string ensemble at my school. Some of my classmates play the violin and the viola, but I like cello best because it makes a deep, rich sound.

**How did you come to design, and build a 'Model T' go-cart?** I took a go-cart making camp at Pied Piper Crafts over the summer. I like old-fashioned and industrial things, so I decided to design mine like the Model T - it's the perfect Steampunk car! A lot of the kids were



Henry and his Model T



Model T in action!

Neighbor to page 11



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Special to the HLP

**Poet and Essayist James Lenfestey Presents *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to Cold Mountain* on Monday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at Plymouth Congregational Church**

To celebrate the publication of his memoir *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to Cold Mountain*, James P. Lenfestey will give a reading on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7pm at Plymouth Congregational Church as part of the Literary Witnesses poetry series. The event is free and a lively reception will follow, including traditional Chinese flute played by Zhang Ying. The event is co-sponsored by Milkweed Editions, Birchbark Books, The Loft Literary Center and Raintaxi Review of Books, and Lenfestey's books will be available for sale by Birchbark Books.

*Seeking the Cave* details the culmination of Lenfestey's thirty-year love affair with the ancient Chinese poet Han-shan, or Cold Mountain—a journey across the world to find the location of the legendary Cold Mountain cave. Exploring the history of Chinese poetry and religion as he goes—from the enormous chanting hall of ten thousand Buddhas in Bailin Temple to the birthplace of Confucius—Lenfestey's road-trip across China is a pilgrimage through language and landscape, into the interior of China and of himself. In the end he discovers not only the cave he seeks, but also the transformative power of poetry, the best tool we have for expressing the "incomprehensible joy" of our brief and precious lives.

Neighborhood poet Robert Bly says *Seeking the Cave* is "A lively account of a visit to the cave where Han-shan actually lived. It unites our brief literary life with the ancient richness of Chinese culture." For Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder, it is "a profound, and profoundly personal book." Wang Ping, poet, author and professor at Macalester College, says "We should all read, or rather, experience 'Seeking the Cave,' a journey wild, magical, quantum-leaping—a pilgrimage we must take if we want to know who we are, why we are here, where our home is."

James P. Lenfestey is a teacher, journalist, poet, climate change activist, a founder of the Hill and Lake Press and occasional Urban Coyote columnist. Since leaving the StarTribune editorial board in 1998, where he won several Page One awards for excellence,



Photo by Mike Hazard.

he has published five collections of poems, a collection of personal essays, and co-edited a collection of essays on the career of Robert Bly. He teaches poetry in the summer on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

Literary Witnesses is a program of the Fine Arts Board at Plymouth Congregational Church presenting nationally renowned poets to Twin Cities audiences, including Mary Oliver, Ted Kooser, Donald Hall and Lucille Clifton. The series is now in its 15th year.

Milkweed Editions is a national nonprofit publisher, based in Minneapolis, committed to identifying, nurturing and publishing transformative literature, and building an engaged literary community.

**James Lenfestey in China, listening to ancient sounds. From his new book, *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to China*, Milkweed Editions. Publication reading Monday, Sept. 22, 7pm, Plymouth Congregational Church.**

Absentee voting for the 2014 general election begins on Friday, September 19 and runs through Monday, November 3. Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

**Minneapolis, We are the City of Lakes continued from page one.**

core but truly within it. We fell in love with the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes.

As enthusiasts of the aesthetic beauty of well-made maps and nautical charts, we wondered if such a document existed for this iconic Chain of Lakes. None did. After collecting the available public data (and finding it out of date, or for some parts of the chain, non-existent) we set out to make a nautical chart of our own.

With a borrowed canoe, we began crisscrossing the lakes performing soundings to determine accurate contour data for the lakebeds. We rented a high performance GPS depth sounding and logging system from a company out west who apparently knows there are crazy people like us in the world.

Starting at Brownie Lake we traversed the waters down to the south side of Lake Calhoun, mapping the depths of the entire chain of the navigationally connected city lakes - four lakes, two weeks, approximately 60 hours on the water. It was a fascinating odyssey, not only because we realized how large the Chain of Lake system is, but because we also witnessed the breadth of wildlife and humanity that make use of it.

After the fieldwork was done the raw data was converted into a readable form, plotted onto a newly drawn outline of the lakes, walking trails, landmarks, and amenities added in, and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Nautical Chart was born. It is drawn in the style of an official navigational chart used by sailors and ship captains the world over. It is beautiful and it is our love letter to Minneapolis, City of Lakes.

The work on the chart was completed in 2012, just over 100 years after Theodore Wirth's vision of a connected Minneapolis Chain of Lakes was realized. On July 5th, 1911 a grand festival was underway along the

channel that connects Lake of the Isles to Lake Calhoun. Large passenger boats moved through the channels and under the bridges to the delight of observing crowds.

The city leaders of that time may not have imagined (or maybe they did) that these waters would be more popular at the turn of the 21st century than they were back then. They created a unique urban waterway available to be enjoyed by all residents and visitors - on its banks and its surface - an irreplaceable amenity and public good that refuses no one and has no compare.

Now there is talk of co-locating commuter rail with freight, excavating tunnels and widened bridges, deforestation and de-watering through the channels that Minneapolis celebrated 100 years ago.

The legacy of Theodore Wirth and the Chain of Lakes must be protected for future generations. We must not destroy the successes of the past as we plan for a sustainable and livable future. We must remember the millions of residents and visitors who paddle, fish, and sail the waters and ski, bike and stroll the trails today.

We must also remember that the Chain of Lakes' waters flow to the south side of Lake Calhoun, and then continue, underground, to Lake Harriet, then to Minnehaha Creek and to the Mississippi after that. The Chain of Lakes is the heart of our city, which is connected to the heart of the country - and ultimately to the world.

Other cities have trains. Only Minneapolis has the Chain of Lakes.



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# THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

## Donna Jansen and The Full Puli

The genius of the early Hill and Lake Press was to create rotating editorships — one editor from each of the four neighborhoods the paper served - as the effort for a volunteer to put out an issue was overwhelming back in the days prior to computers, of typewritten text and hot wax paste-up and press-on headlines. Enter Donna Jansen.

Donna — who sadly died this summer at 68 — first became known to many of us when she served as volunteer art director for the political campaign of an unknown candidate for the Minnesota Legislature, Dee Long. Donna’s genius idea was to invite dozens of Dee supporters to Kenwood Park where a photographer, standing precariously on a tall ladder, took a photograph of all of us holding Dee Long signs. The photograph became iconic, such a great political image that Donna reshot it for Dee every two years, becoming a neighborhood ritual. Dee was elected and re-elected until she became the first female Speaker of the Minnesota House.

But that is not the Donna I am most remembering now. For a decade or more, Donna served as the East Isles volunteer editor of the Hill and Lake Press. Once every four months the cast and crew of the HLP — usually whatever upright souls could be cajoled into sparing a very long evening — would gather at Donna’s house not far from the Red Owl (now Kowalski’s) and spend the night talking, laughing, drinking and somehow pasting up the paper.

The paste-up sessions at Donna’s presented a particular challenge. Donna was legendarily knowledgeable, cheerful, generous and openhearted; the problem was her dog.

Do you know the Hungarian Puli? It looks like an animated mop, with long black ropes of fur cascading down its back and sweeping the floor, a dog with dreadlocks. If her dog had eyes, we never saw them. But we saw the teeth. Beware of getting in the wrong side of that dog — and I mean that literally.

As we volunteers trooped into Donna’s house with our boxes of supplies for a layout session, her mop joyfully greeted us at the door, offering a gentle sniff at an ankle. We’d scratch his furry dreadlocks and proceed to Donna’s dining room, where the full chaos of newspaper layout reigned. There we would assemble 16 or 24 pages of a newspaper amid a superabundance of beer, wine, coffee, terrible jokes, neighborhood gossip and tears of laughter—a newspaper bee. In the process, essential strips of type would occasionally drift to the floor. Normally they were easy to pick up, but not with a Puli patrolling at our feet, hovering up type in his Rasta fur. A crucial paragraph that flipped off your fingers might end up in Jamaica.

All good, as is the saying goes today. We’d just head to the kitchen refrigerator for another beer or pull the cork on another bottle of wine or pour another cup of coffee, and type up a replacement. The sessions at Donna’s went late, but were a delight.

Until we turned to go home.

The small black mop that had greeted us with a querulous sniff at the door suddenly erupted into a biting, savage, herding maniac. Turns out Puli is a herding breed. To him our ankles were sheep ankles, and he was doing his job. He allowed us to enter the fold. He allowed us to mill around in the enclosure. But when any one tried to leave the fold, all Puli hell broke loose. He would stand between the offending sheep and the front door, growling and snarling and yapping loud as

Hades at anyone who dared attempt escape.

Donna — bless her — would laugh and roll her eyes at this familiar ritual, and cajole her mop-haired herder into the kitchen for a treat (of human flesh?). As we volunteers packed up, Donna’s dining room table looked like a landfill, scraps of paper blown everywhere. Don’t worry about it, Donna would say as she cheerfully grasped the collar of the frustrated herder. And guess what? The paper appeared, on time, and it was beautiful— smart, well informed, lovely and loved.

As was Donna for all her many years living the neighborhood since moving here from Colorado after college for a copywriting job. Until July 29, she never left us. I saw her at Kowalski’s earlier that month. We talked neighborhood politics, of course. She generously gave us her time, her heart, her humor, and her considerable advertising gifts. And for those who ever visited her home, the Full Puli.

The End

PS. This Wiki paragraph tells all: “Traditionally, the Puli dog breed was used as a herding dog and sometimes even as a livestock guarding dog as well. They make very good guard dogs, as they are very protective of their master and territory. The Puli is sensitive, fun loving, courageous, but also at times tough and headstrong.” Amen.

### SWLRT Lawsuit from page one

An EIS would determine how, or even if, freight rail could operate with heavy construction equipment operating only 11 feet away while building the so-called “shallow tunnel.” It would assess the safety and costs of such a plan.

An EIS would determine if freight tracks would be moved onto park land as Hennepin County tax maps indicate, or onto BNSF land as the Met Council claims.

An EIS would evaluate the impact of the proposed plan on the hundreds of thousands of walkers, joggers, bikers, canoers, kayakers and skiers who use the corridor each year.

The Met Council also needs to address the fact that this route bypasses Minneapolis’ densest neighborhoods; it fails to serve those **most in need of affordable and reliable regional transit. To build it would “hard-wire” transportation inequity into the regional infrastructure for generations to come.** As Louise Erdrich wrote in the Star Tribune, “Real equity is about having fantastic transportation where the people are.” [Star Tribune letter 8/27/14].

**Ethically and legally, the Met Council is obliged to study these questions and then provide meaningful answers.** Without them, elected officials can’t give informed consent, nor can members of the public, such as those gathered here today, provide informed input to their officials.

It should be noted that a previous **Draft EIS** was released in 2012. It evaluated a **different** plan, one that did **not** include running LRT in a shallow tunnel or co-locating freight trains next to LRT.

Importantly, that study concluded that co-location would not adequately preserve the environment or protect the quality of life. It therefore recommended **against** locating freight and LRT side by side in the corridor.

Nothing has changed since the 2012 Draft EIS, yet the Met Council’s latest unstudied plan calls for co-location.

Both the region and local residents are entitled to the thorough, legally required review of the environmental impacts, economic costs, and human hazards of this new plan **before** the Met Council triggers the municipal consent process.

At \$1.7 billion dollars, SWLRT is the most expensive and complex public project in Minnesota history. Both state and federal law — not to mention common sense — dictate that public officials have the facts **before** acting on a project with so much potential for damage — and even disaster.

Minnesota’s elected governmental bodies have consistently complied with these environmental laws since they were enacted more than 40 years ago. Now an unelected body, the Met Council, intends to ignore them. The Met Council must be stopped in its tracks until it does the right thing — comply with the law.

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### Children Dig Potatoes, Prepare for Long Hungry Winter

Text & photos by Angie Erdrich

Previously clean children dug up 24 delicious potatoes on September 15, 2014 during the third annual potato digging day in the Kenwood Elementary School Veggie garden. Mrs. Scheutte's 2nd grade classroom took note of how potatoes grow, which is quite fascinating when the tubers are found dangling from the roots of a newly pulled plant. Over the summer, approximately 15 families watered and weeded the garden and shared a bountiful harvest of vegetables grown free of chemicals. The garden boasts (maybe) the world's biggest purple mum, a fantastic specimen that has overwintered for four years in the garden. This resplendent plant was rescued as part of the "Old Mums" project which was started by an older mom who works in the garden. Like many people in Kenwood, she is a sucker for mums because they are colorful when everything else is fading away. Dear reader, instead of throwing out your old spent mums come late October, please drop them off in the Kenwood School garden. The gardeners will put them in the ground and hope for resurrection in the spring. Stay tuned for news of carrot digging in February!

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06

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## KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION (KIAA)

by Shawn Smith

### KIAA Board met September 8, 2014 at Kenwood Rec Center.

Chair Larry Moran called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Board Members present: Larry Moran, Mike Bono, Jeanette Colby, Angie Erdrich, Jim Gilroy, Jack Levi, Ed Pluimer, Kathy Low, Shawn Smith (minute taker)

Others present: Jeanne Scheiderer, Neil Trembly of the Cedar Lake Park Association, Jean Deatrack, and three residents, including Dave Schaezner and Carol White.

#### City Council Update: Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman stated that the 70/30 food to alcohol liquor licensing charter change would be discussed at the Sept 24th Noon Lunch with Lisa, at St Thomas University downtown. There are 3 70/30 establishments in the ward. 60/40 change is already in process and does not require a charter change. Council Member Goodman noted that removal or reduction of the food was something she favors, as requiring a high food proportion encourages pricing habits that increases the sale of alcohol.

So called "Granny Flats," or allowing owners to rent out or improve accessory spaces, such as garages, is under discussion by the City Council, with Lisa Bender leading and with support of Mayor Hodges. Council Member Bender will lead a meeting Wed Sept 17th 7-9PM at the Kenwood Rec Center. She stated that it is important to attend the meeting to hear the proposal and provide feedback. She noted that homesteaded ownership requirement would reduce the likelihood of nuisance rentals.

She also noted that the Hennepin/Lyndale reconstruction project is proceeding. In the current proposal, there will be four lanes maintained going away from downtown but one of which will become a left turn only lane, and the approach to downtown would reduce from three to two car lanes to add a dedicated bike lane, separate from the pedestrian lane.

There was an informal question, answer, and discussion period about various neighborhood issues, including SWLRT, Hidden Beach, and Traffic Concerns.

#### Friends of the Walker Library: Jeanne Scheiderer

Jeanne, a volunteer for FWL, spoke to the board to invite a representative of KIAA to their meeting Monday Sept 15 6PM at the Walker to discuss how KIAA and Friends could collaborate on mutual goals going forward. It was noted that there has been participation in the past by KIAA board members with vari-

ous Walker Library committees. Kathy Low suggested that an email blast be used to solicit a volunteer to help make the connection between the two groups.

#### Hidden Beach Update: Jack Levi

Jack met with Anita Tabb from MPRB to discuss. Anita researched a temporary early closure of the beach and determined that an ordinance prohibits this action. Several long term ideas, such as a reroute of the bike paths closer to the beach, or a clearer line of sight to the beach which would require tree removal, will be considered by a neighborhood task force. Parking restrictions were discussed and it was noted that these would be difficult to implement and enforce; the neighborhood would not qualify for 24 hour restrictions/permit parking, and an hourly restriction would be difficult to implement due to the need for significant neighborhood consensus regarding times, which blocks, and could not be implemented solely for the summer months. Larry Moran asked that if the task force was not activated, that KIAA ask for a status update from Anita for the October KIAA meeting. Several KIAA members noted an opportunity to partner with the Cedar Lake Park Association to collaborate on a plan to preserve some natural aspects of the lake and address the significant resident concerns regarding crime and safety issues that the task force is working to resolve.

#### SWLRT Update: Kathy Low

Kathy Low provided an update and stated that Minneapolis voted for a resolution granting municipal consent for SWLRT as currently proposed. Council Members Gordon, B. Johnson, and Goodman voted against it. Lakes and Parks Alliance announced the filing of a lawsuit against the Met Council and the FTA on the basis that asking for municipal consent before an environmental impact statement is available violates State and Federal laws. The only completed draft environmental impact statement (in 2012) recommended against the current plan to locate both freight and light rail in the Kenilworth corridor, and therefore did not study all of the environmental effects of it, and did not cover the impact of the currently proposed shallow tunnel. Some Mpls residents have become increasingly aware of safety risks of light rail passengers in such close proximity (11' at some points) to the freight rail if there is an accident. The freight trains carry flammable ethanol and could in the future carry crude oil. Section 106 review of portions of the SWLRT project, including the Kenilworth corridor area, is required pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. The Board discussed the possibility of getting professional assistance with our responsibilities as a consulting party in this

## CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

by Monica Smith

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES, September 10, 2014

The September meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Roger Klimek, Ray Greco, Barbara Lunde, and James Reid. Committee Chairs Bob Corrick and Gail Lee were also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith

Chair Craig Westgate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### Announcement

Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall. Organizers are hoping to hold the event in the spring.

#### Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is September 24 at St. Thomas; the topic is proposed changes to the ordinance regulating the sale of alcohol at restaurants (60/40 ordinance) and the ballot measure to remove the 70/30 food to alcohol ratio at neighborhood restaurants.

Upcoming public meetings regarding Accessory Dwellings Units: September 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N and September 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center.

Hazardous Waste collection events: September 18-20, University of MN - Parking Lot C66, 2904 Fairmount Street SE and October 9-11, Minneapolis Public Works Dept, 3607 E 44th St. Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Election judges are needed. Go to [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges) for more information.

#### Southwest LRT

The Minneapolis City Council approved municipal consent for Southwest LRT (10-3 vote).

Fieldwork in the area surrounding the Kenilworth Corridor began on September 8. The work is expect to last through the month and will be mostly non-invasive.

#### NRP/PPP Report, Gail Lee

Park Siding Park: the fall clean up day is September 27, 9 a.m. and features a naturalist program. Volunteers are needed to help water the new trees. A decorative light will be installed near the crosswalk. A guy-wire needs to be installed to anchor the power lines on the north side of W 28th St; we are working with Excel to keep the guy-wire away from the park.

Raingarden program: Excavation is occurring this week and the plant pick up is September 12, 4-6 p.m. at Chowen Triangle. There may be one permeable paver

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process.

#### Crime and Safety Representative Discussion

Larry noted that Mark Johnson, current representative, requested to be replaced as the Crime and Safety Representative, ideally someone not on the board to increase neighborhood involvement. It was agreed to brainstorm individuals offline and solicit interest and report back to KIAA. Jeanette also noted that it was an opportune time to revisit the definition of the role going forward.

The meeting was adjourned by Larry Moran at 8:33 PM

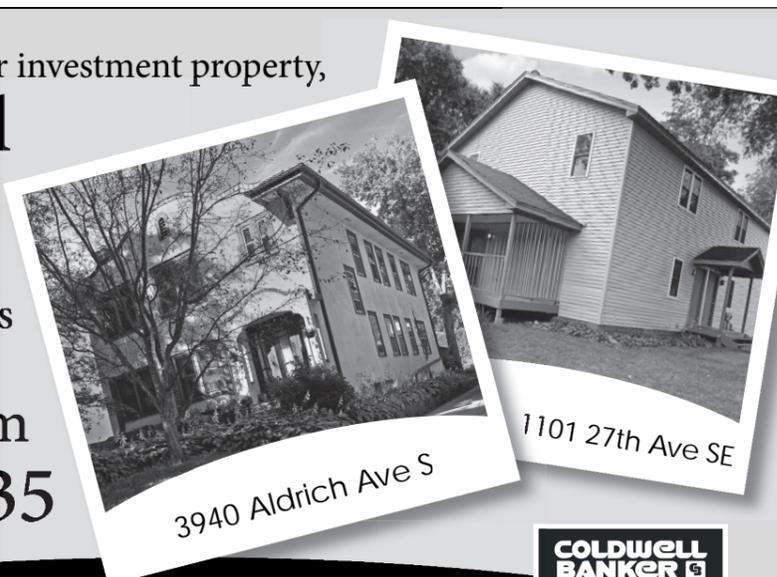
Updates: If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at [KIAA@gmail.com](mailto:KIAA@gmail.com). Also please visit our website at [kenwoodminneapolis.org](http://kenwoodminneapolis.org) to learn more. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact us.

The next Kenwood Isles Area Association Board meeting is Monday, October 6th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. Monthly meetings are held on the first calendar Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. KIAA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by KIAA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at [kenwoodminneapolis.org](http://kenwoodminneapolis.org)

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# EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

by Monica Smith

Below are the minutes from the August 19th EIRA Board meeting. Due to publication deadlines, the minutes from the September 16 EIRA Board meeting will be published in October issue of the Hill and Lake Press. You can read the complete minutes from the September meeting on our website: [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org)

## Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting August 19, 2014 Bridge for Youth

Board members present (6 of 8): Dan McLaughlin (President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Bill Elwood, Brian Milavitz, Carla Pardue, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Cynthia Daggett, Bridge for Youth

In 2013, The Bridge relocated all of their operations into their building at 1111 W 22nd St. The Bridge received an emergency services grant from the City of Minneapolis which will be used for interior renovation work to add two beds to the shelter, additional security cameras, and a new emergency generator. The Bridge has not made any decisions at this time about the other properties they own: 2200 Emerson Ave (currently vacant) and 1209 W 22nd St (under lease by StreetWorks). The Bridge's board is proceeding cautiously with the decision about what to do with these properties.

### Community Solar

Lissa Pawlisch, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

Pawlisch is the CERTs Director for the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships & Extension. The mission of CERTs is to connect individuals and their communities to the resources they need to identify and implement community-based clean energy projects.

Legislation passed in 2013 requiring Xcel Energy to administer a program for community solar gardens. Community solar gardens are remotely located solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that provide electricity to participating subscriber. Subscribers' utility bills will be credited with the electricity created by their share of the solar garden (established by the average retail rate). The gardens allow people to participate in solar energy without installing panels on their rooftops; they also offer a way for renters to participate in solar. Private developers will be creating host sites where the solar gardens will be installed. Individuals may subscribe to participate in the solar garden by purchasing shares. Developers may require an upfront payment for the shares, monthly payments or a mix of both to participate in the garden. The developers are not individually regulated, but Xcel Energy is a regulated utility and they will require the developer to meet certain standards (insurance, etc).

### Bill Elwood, EIRA Green Team

The Green Team is interested in assisting East Isles residents in making decisions about, and encouraging subscriptions in, Community Solar Gardens. There are currently 14 solar developers coming into the market and more are expected. The Green Team asked the EIRA Board to approved Phases 1-3 of a five phase plan for involvement with community solar.

Phase 1: Educate residents about Community Solar Gardens (CSG).

Phase 2: Develop a fact-finding questionnaire to gather CSG developer information.

Phase 3: Host meetings between GT Solar Team and potential CSG developers.

Phase 4: Identify options for resident's CSG participation.

Phase 5: Join with other neighborhoods, or non-EIRA residents in a larger-scale project to optimize CSG benefits to EIRA residents

The meetings identified in Phase 3 would include an open invitation to any developer. All of the meetings would be open to the public, publicized to residents, held in public locations, and will be scheduled at times that will encourage participation.

Board member Linda Schutz departed the meeting for a prior commitment.

The board unanimously approved a motion to allow the Green Team to proceed with Phases 1-3 with two conditions: that minutes are produced for meetings and that the Green Team update the EIRA Board on a monthly basis (if there are updates to share).

### Open Forum

The memorial service for Donna Jansen will be held on September 9, from 6-8 pm at the Cremation Society, 4343 Nicollet Ave S. This is the usual day of the EIRA Board meeting. The Board voted to change the meeting to September 16 so board members may attend the service.

## REPORTS

### Outreach & Nominations

Maria Bales and Drew Moratzka resigned from the EIRA Board and BOD member Donna Jansen passed away on July 29. The committee is working to recruit three new board members.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom reported that EIRA received a letter from the IRS dated 8/13/14 confirming 501(c)(4) status and a letter dated 8/18/14 revoking 501(c)(4) status. Degerstrom will contact the IRS to clarify the conflicting information.

The EIRA Board approved Degerstrom's request of up to \$200 to utilize a computer generated system to automate the check writing process.

### Transportation Committee

The July 24th meeting featured a Transit Planning 101 presentation by a Metro Transit planner. The committee will not meet in August due to a conflict with the Ice Cream Social.

The next meeting is September 25, 7 pm at Grace.

### Staff Report

The annual membership letter was mailed on August 5.

CenterPoint Energy is replacing a natural gas pipeline on Lake Street. Construction area is now Lake St near East Calhoun Pkwy and is expected to continue through September.

### NRP Committee

The committee met on August 11th and reviewed the Green Team's request for funds for the next 3-month cycle.

Volunteers will survey the neighborhood for potential location for new boulevard trees. Letters will be sent to specific residents outlining the process to receive a free, new tree from the Park Board.

The next meeting is October 6, 7 pm at Grace.

### Zoning Committee

The committee did not meeting in July or August.

The Conservation District Ordinance was approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission and will go the city's Zoning & Planning Committee for approval.

Four public meetings will be held regarding Accessory Dwellings Units ("granny flats"). The meeting in Southwest Minneapolis is September 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Kenwood Community Center. Other dates and locations are: August 23, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Hosmer Library; August 27, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Eastside Neighborhood Services; and September 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at North Regional Library.

The next committee meeting will be September 16, 5 pm at Grace and will include a presentation for a proposed apartment development on the SW corner of Lagoon and Irving (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving). The zoning is R6.

### Social Committee

The Ice Cream Social is August 28, 6-9 p.m. at Levin Triangle Park. Carla Pardue will create a sign to be posted at the event to honor Donna Jansen.

We received a notice that the Wine Tasting Fundraiser will not be held this fall because a restaurant sponsor has not been secured.

Revenue from the Uptown Art Fair pop booth was \$622.61. Thank you to all of the volunteers.

### Parks Committee

Committee chair Harvey Ettinger has taken a temporary leave of absence as the committee chair. The committee is currently on hold.

### Green Team

### Upcoming events:

Green Team Table at Ice Cream Social

EIRA to page 11

Meet your neighbors and find out what your neighborhood organization is up to.

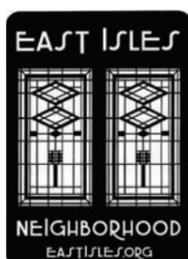
Join us!

at the Semi-Annual Meeting of East Isles Residents Association

Featuring Topics of Interest Past, Present and Future

- Panel discussion and Q & A with your **elected officials**: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7; Commissioner Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, District 4; Representative Frank Hornstein, District 61(A); and Senator Scott Dibble, District 61
- Get an overview of **EIRA projects and activities** from committee chairs

All East Isles residents welcome!



Tuesday, October 14

Enjoy refreshments & socializing at 6:30 pm  
Meeting 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St.

Questions? Contact Monica Smith at 612-821-0131, [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org) or go to [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org).

**WANTED:** Three East Isles resident volunteers to serve on EIRA Board until April 2015. Want to learn more? Contact Monica Smith at [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org) or 612-821-0131.

The East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) invites and encourages participation by every resident to each event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please contact us at [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org) or 612-821-0131 at least five days before an EIRA sponsored event.



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## CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

project in Spring 2015.

The committee met with the Park Board to discuss improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach. The Park Board will be studying Lakes Calhoun and Harriet in 2015 and the committee requested that South Beach be included in the scope of the study. The committee will recommend that CIDNA NRP funds be used to help fund the study. Details will be available at the next CIDNA Board meeting.

Lowell Berggren has joined the committee.

The next NRP Committee meeting is September 24 at 3:30 p.m., location to be announced.

### Land Use & Development, Bob Corrick

Ground breaking is expected in March of 2015 for the two new developments (Tryg's and Weisman sites).

As a result of the city's negotiations with the Met Council regarding Southwest LRT, a study will be conducted in the area around the Lake St Station to evaluate connectivity. The study area is France Ave to Knox Ave and from the south end of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles to the north end of Lake Calhoun. The parkland east of the Weisman property will be included in the study area. Lake Street is schedule to be repaved this fall. The Land Use Committee may ask Hennepin County to temporarily delay the repaving until the connectivity study is completed to allow the County to consider adjustments, if any, to the resurfacing plans that might address safety and connectivity issues in the neighborhood.

### Commissioner Anita Tabb, MPRB District 4

Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning has resigned and will be leaving the Park Board on October 4.

A grand opening for the Trail Improvements at Dean Pkwy and Cedar Lake Pkwy will be held on September 19, 6 p.m.; meet at the corner of Dean Pkwy and Cedar Lake Pkwy for a ribbon cutting ceremony then bike to the parking lot at Point Beach for refreshments.

The connectivity study (see Land Use & Development above) will look at the work done in 2012 by the Park Board charrette to help inform the study.

Southwest LRT: LRT is being planned on HCRRA land and the Park Board has no jurisdiction except at Cedar Lake Parkway and the channel, where they have Section 4(f) standing. The Park Board has asked the Met Council to tunnel LRT under the channel (no response from Met Council). When the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDIES) is released in the early 2015, the Community Advisory Committee will be recalled to review the document and the Park Board will respond to the SDEIS.

The CIDNA Board requested more substantial crosswalks on Cedar Lake Pkwy.

### Sewer Project update

Three venting pipes will permanently remain on Sunset Blvd.

### Property Damage from Sewer Construction

A draft of a resolution about the Met Council's policy for handling property damage disputes was reviewed. The draft will be amended and presented at the next CIDNA Board meeting.

### Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

City crews will be performing joint and crack sealing work on the Greenway between the Kenilworth Trail and 5th Ave. The trail will remain open during the work. The width and depth of some of the cracks west of the Dean Parkway bridge will require more work than just a fill-and-patch, according to the City work crew, which they will try to complete this fall. They caution though that this extra work may have to wait until next spring.

Membership in the Adopt-a-Greenway program is for a two-year period. CIDNA's renewal date is Spring 2015.

The Progress Dinner on September 7th raised \$3,500 for programs on the Greenway and featured a record number of donations from local businesses.

### Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 12. Volunteers are needed for the day of the event.



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Hill & Lake Press is a non profit newspaper and funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations: East Isles Residents Association (EIRA); Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA); Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA); and Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA).

Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-7353  
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HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales August 2014											
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	SELLER CONTRIBUTION	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT	
1425 W 28th St T12	\$ 128,900	\$ 0	33	\$ 127,000	C	1/1	780	\$ 102,500	\$ 1,293	1986	
1912 Dupont S #107	144,000	4,320	45	144,000	C	2/1	1,000	120,000	1,732	1960	
2400 Girard S #3	184,900	0	173	162,000	C	2/1	1,139	213,000	3,818	1900	
3116 W Lake St #322	220,000	12,253	116	211,000	C	1/1	1,022	189,000	3,587	2007	
48 Groveland Terr #B213	249,900	0	29	261,000	C	2/2	1,085	258,500	4,456	1966	
52 Groveland Terr #206	249,900	0	29	249,900	C	2/2	1,225	210,000	3,764	1966	
3141 Dean Crt #501	269,900	0	21	250,000	C	4/2	2,114	370,500	6,559	1983	
3014 W Lake #408	349,900	0	478	305,000	C	2/1	1,545	247,000	4,413	2007	
3116 W Lake St #520	349,900	0	63	335,000	C	2/2	1,460	310,000	5,539	2007	
3447 St Louis Ave	430,000	4,000	20	425,000	TWN	2/3	1,990	340,000	5,972	1986	
2720 Chowen S	474,900	0	33	462,000	H	2/3	1,550	437,000	7,807	1922	
1973 Queen S	699,900	0	133	655,000	H	4/3	3,546	685,500	12,972	1911	
3524 W 24th St	849,900	0	165	744,500	H	3/3	2,967	596,500	11,034	1986	
2001 Girard S	899,900	0	45	835,000	H	4/5	4,383	735,000	14,050	1900	
2506 Sheridan S	995,000	8,000	238	895,000	H	4/4	3,119	835,500	16,237	1927	
2600 Newton S	1,075,000	0	0	1,026,500	H	6/4	5,979	1,259,500	25,467	1913	
1918 Humboldt S	1,199,000	0	18	1,173,500	H	5/5	5,000	983,000	19,448	1910	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger		Steve Havig	cume	Condo	C						
				Home	H						
				Townhouse	TWN	(Go to <a href="http://mpisrealtor.com">mpisrealtor.com</a> for additional info)					
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County											

### Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee

A report was not available.

### Lake Street Construction Update

Construction for the CenterPoint Energy gas pipeline continues between W Calhoun Pkwy and E Calhoun Pkwy. Bike/ped trails are closed on the south side of Lake St from Thomas Ave to E Calhoun Pkwy. Detour signs are posted.

### CIDNA Informational Fliers

The CIDNA Board approved spending of up to \$400 for informational fliers to be available at CIDNA events.

### New Business

James Reid volunteered to attend a meeting of the Friends of the Walker Library to discuss programming ideas.

Rosanne Halloran will gather the committee to begin revising CIDNA's bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

### Next meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).

### Cedar-Isles-Dean Fall Festival

Sunday, October 12, 2014, 1:00-4:00 P.M., Park Siding Park

Join your neighbors and CIDNA board members for the 18th annual CIDNA Fall Festival at Park Siding Park (two blocks west of Dean Parkway on W. 28th Street). This free event features a moon walk, face painting, art projects, a scavenger hunt and a drawing for prizes for the children as well as a chance for the adults to discuss important neighborhood issues with CIDNA board members and local officials.

Enjoy free coffee, soda, snacks from local restaurants and hot dogs on the grill, in the beautiful setting Park Siding Park.

Rain or shine, we hope to see you there! For more information, see [www.cidna.org](http://www.cidna.org).

### Where we are Now

By Jean Deatrck

Our longtime delivery manager, Lloyd Smith, died on August 28. He had been diagnosed with renal cancer a few months ago. I was sorry to hear of his passing. When I was unable to reach him recently I worried that he was in the hospital until I received the sad news. Managing the delivery of Hill and Lake Press to 5,000 homes door-to-door is a sometimes thankless task. We are a popular newspaper, therefore when someone doesn't receive it, I receive phone calls or emails. I would call Lloyd and complain and he always tried to correct the problem and promised to do better. He was always apologetic and polite. We have a temporary service delivering the papers this weekend and hope to engage a permanent delivery manager soon.

### Louise Erdrich awarded the PEN/Saul Bellow Award.

This award is a lifetime achievement honor and carries with it a \$25,000 prize and is presented every two years.

Earlier this year, Erdrich was awarded with the Dayton Literary Peace Prize distinguished achievement award for her body of work. Her novel "The Round House" was the 2012 winner of the National Book Award; "Plague of Doves" was a Pulitzer finalist in 2009, and "Love Medicine," her debut novel, won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1984. She has also won five Minnesota Book Awards.

Louise Erdrich lives in Kenwood and is the owner of Birchbark Books. All of her books are for sale at Birchbark and all are signed by her.

Birchbark staff congratulated Louise on the website. Check out Birchbark Books at [info@birchbark.com](mailto:info@birchbark.com) and stop in the next time you are in beautiful downtown Kenwood.

Meet your Neighbor from page 3

making racecars and such, but I wanted to go old school. The Model T was the first car designed by Henry Ford, and it was a real marvel at the time. I wanted my go-cart to be a part of this history. I started by making a drawing of the car and a blueprint of the different parts. Then, we used tools to actually make the cars ourselves – we sawed, pounded, sanded, and painted. It took four days from beginning to end. On the last day, we drove our cars and they worked! I really like my Model T go-cart, and it blends in to the old-fashioned houses in the neighborhood!

**What do you think the future of cars will be?** Well, today we know that cars are not good for the environment. That's why we really need some new inventions in transportation. In the future I think there will be a lot of smart or electric cars – they are fuel efficient, and easier to park! We're probably going to develop different types of transportation in the future, so there will be less cars overall. Still, I can't help but admire the Model T!

**What is it like to be a kid in 2014?** Being a kid today is great – most of the time. We do have to worry about pollution and other problems, but in general there's more time to be, well, a kid.

**What do you think it was like to be a kid one hundred years ago, in 1914?** For a lot of people, life was hard. A lot of kids had to go to work in factories. That's one of the negative things about old-fashioned times. Not all kids were able to go to school or have access to books. On the plus side, there was less media and people had to make their own fun.

**What do you think kids should do more of and less of?** I think kids should spend less time playing video games and watching TV, and more time reading, playing, and being creative. Advertisers are always trying to sell us things, and there's way too much violence in the media today. Real life is so much more interesting!

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** I want to be a writer or director. I want to study creative writing and history and such in college, and I want to tell stories. Maybe some of them will even have Model T cars!

EIRA from page 9

East Isles Super Sale on September 6.  
September Tot Plot Harvest Tour—to be announced.

Healthy Homes, Healthy Families, October 2, 10-11:30 am —daytime program to raise awareness about everyday household toxins.

The EIRA Board approved the Green Team budget for August-November: \$500 for projects and \$115 for food.

**Board Review**  
The semi-annual meeting will be held on October 14. Local elected officials (CM Goodman, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Tabb, Representative Hornstein and Senator Dibble) will be invited to participate in a panel discussion on issues that impact the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.  
Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

The next meeting is September 16, 2014, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.

BOOK CLUB KILLER

By Madeleine Lowry

Someone asked me recently if I was a member of a book club. I had to admit that I was not. I am, I suspect, a book club killer though I am not sure how it is that I do it.

Honestly, I like book clubs. I enjoy the camaraderie. I love to read books, even books I would not have selected myself. Some book clubs are focused on the discussion of the book, while others are more about socializing with book discussion relegated to almost a side note. I like both kinds.

I like fiction, non-fiction, poetry. I am not snobby about book selection, not overly-intellectual, not too focused on pop-culture. I would do well in most book clubs, I think. Except that they tend to come to an end soon after I join.

The first book club I was invited into was called the East-West book club. It was comprised of members about equally split between Stillwater and Minneapolis, a stable group of moms who'd been meeting for years. I can remember a particularly wonderful evening where we met with local author, Alison McGhee, to discuss her luminescent novel, Rainlight.

I think the group held together for maybe half a year or so after I joined. And then someone went back to work and no longer had time for book club, and someone had a baby, and someone else moved. As the numbers dwindled, and the drive from Minneapolis to Stillwater (or vice-versa) started to seem longer, the group fell apart.

Then there was the neighborhood book club that I joined a few years later. I'd heard about it at an ice cream social at Thomas Lowry Park one summer. A group of neighbors on Humboldt Ave would get together to discuss books and enjoy a potluck dinner. They made the grave mistake of inviting me. I feel sure that I attended two or even three monthly meetings before that club fell apart.

At this point I hesitate to join a new book club since the timeline to break up is getting exponentially shorter. It could be dangerous, even cataclysmic. We might

not even make it through an entire meeting before a blackout, earthquake, lightning strike or some other act of God tore the group asunder just as we were setting down our plates and wrapping up the small talk, about to embark on the actual book discussion. "So, what did you think of the ending of that novel, Harriet?" Tick, tick, BOOM!

Another book club killed.

When I think about my life I realize that there have been other troubling incidents like this that I'd rather not dwell on. For example, I used to do this thing called management consulting at this company called Arthur Anderson Business Consulting. They had rather nice offices on Seventh Street downtown, which I was almost never in since most of the work occurred at the client site. What? You've never heard of Anderson Business Consulting? Well, they were a going concern for about a year after I left the firm in 1997. Then they went kaput, surely not related to my departure. I mean, Enron wasn't my idea. I wasn't even on the Enron team. I was just an employee, and rather low on the totem pole at that.

I went on to work at the Mayo Clinic and they started a venture capital fund to invest in medtech startups and I was the analyst on the fund and we made a bunch of investments. I left after three years to move back to the Twin Cities after my husband finished his medical training at Mayo. (I mean the restaurant scene in Rochester is so limited, you know?) And within a year, that fund was dissolved. Could it have been something I did?

And going back even further, when I was in third grade we moved to Tehran for my father's job, for what was supposed to be a two-year stint, but turned out to be only one because in that fateful year, 1978, there was a general state of turmoil and the Shah was ousted and the country fell to shambles and we had to return to the States before my father's contract was up.

That, also, had nothing to do with me. (Right?)

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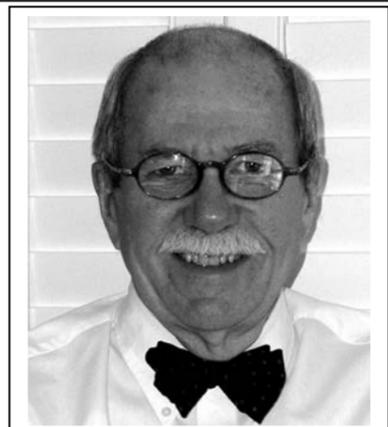
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