



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Hill & Lake Press

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The Fastest Growing Cities in the US

By Shawn Smith

Our Star Tribune recently reported that population growth in the Twin Cities is outpaced by other US Cities. In reviewing metro area population trends, almost as many people moved to the Twin Cities as moved away between 2010-2016. In response, readers had various reactions: It’s not a contest! People get tired of the cold! It’s slow growth but it’s steady! Why is this with so many Fortune 500 companies! This is why we need SWLRT! Legalize marijuana so people stay and don’t move to Denver! Who cares, I can’t find parking as it is!

While the article says we are lagging, a 6% growth rate is not too shabby. The US total population only grew 4.5% during the same time period (Source: US Census). One could argue that growing too fast straps our educational, transit, social, and employment capacities faster than we can adapt. Getting our “fair share” of population growth isn’t a priority for residents that enjoy living in an approachable, mid-size metropolitan area.

That said, growth rate in the Twin Cities lags the five fastest growing metro areas, each ranging from 12.6%-19.8% growth. What is striking is WHERE the people are moving: Austin, Houston, Orlando, and Dallas. Hot, landlocked metros.

Elected leaders often say that there is no evidence that our statewide Top-6 tax status (Source: Kiplinger) is a reason that people leave. But look at the state tax rates of 11 of 17 of the fastest growing metro areas (Source: Taxrates.com):

- Texas: 0% state income tax, 6.25% state sales tax
- Florida: 0% state income tax, 6% base sales tax
- North Carolina: 5.75% flat state income tax, 4.75 base sales tax
- Colorado: 4.63 flat state income tax, 2.9% base sales tax
- Washington: 0% state income tax, 6.5% base sales tax
- Oregon: 5-9.9% state income tax with a federal income tax paid credit, 0% sales tax
- Minnesota: 5.35%-9.85% four-tiered state income tax, 6.875% sales tax (excludes clothing)

People tend to live where they can live their best lives. How much money people earn and keep is a factor. At tax time, we are all acutely aware of how much we pay the state. When we pay it lessens our ability to save for retirement, have a nicer home, splurge on a vacation, or give back.

Are Minnesotans becoming fearful of the impact of high current and increasing future tax burdens? For example, to fund SW Light Rail, Hennepin County commissioners are floating the idea of an additional

Fastest Growing Cities to page seven

SWLRT Increases GHG Emissions, Destroys Wetlands, Habitat, and Urban Forest

By Cathy Deikman

GHG and Climate Change a Time-Critical Issue

Strong warnings and new information about the negative impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, climate change, and looming environmental catastrophe appear frequently. Minnesota seems to take climate change very seriously. After the Paris Climate Agreement was concluded in December 2015, an editorial by the Lt. Governor, speaking also for the Governor, celebrated the Agreement and reviewed the negative impacts of climate change in Minnesota (Star & Tribune, 12/23/15). The editorial was posted on the Met Council website and can still be found there.

In July 2016, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) issued an urgent report, Climate Solutions and Economic Opportunities: A foundation for Minnesota state climate action planning. The report found the state is not on track to meet its GHG and carbon emissions goals set by the bi-partisan 2007 Next Generation Energy Act. The Lt. Governor introduced the report with a strong endorsement and affirmed, “Minnesota needs bold action to meet these goals.” The report warned against “business as usual” and declared “meeting state greenhouse gas reduction goals will require both near- and long-term planning and additional actions that must begin now.”

At a 2017 legislative preview hosted by the Environmental Initiative, local legislators echoed this urgency, “Climate change is something on which society needs to take action and could have disastrous effects on future generations.” (Golieb, “Legislators Talk

Energy Policy at Pre-Session Forum,” Green Digest, Southwest Journal,” 12/29/16). One legislator on the panel warned, “As long as we’re in denial, we can’t make the policies that are necessary to move us forward.”

SWLRT Increases GHG over No Build Option

These urgent warnings and the report from the MEQB are important when understanding the role SWLRT would play in climate change. SWLRT’s impact on GHG emissions is given in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for SWLRT, which was prepared by the Met Council and the FTA. The impact on GHG emissions with, and without, SWLRT is in the Air Quality section of the FEIS. This section contains a table (FEIS Table 3.11-3) detailing regional GHG in 2013, regional GHG in 2040 without building SWLRT (No Build), and regional GHG in 2040 if SWLRT is built (Build).

In the No Build condition, regional GHG declines from 2013 to 2040. The natural assumption is that regional GHG would decline even more in 2040 if Southwest LRT is built. However, total annual GHG is higher in 2040 in the SWLRT 2040 Build condition than in the 2040 No Build condition:

“The Project operation will increase the GHG emission in the Twin Cities area by approximately 2,000 metric tons per year in 2040, compared to No Build alternative” (SWLRT FEIS, p 3-2004).

That is, SWLRT adds to the annual projected regional total of GHG. In terms of meeting the state’s GHG reduction goals, it will be a net benefit to Minnesota not to build SWLRT.

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Sculpture Garden Reopening in June



Photo by Dorothy Childers

The Minneapolis Sculpture Garden has been closed for renovation since Spring of 2016, and is scheduled for reopening on June 3, 2017. Look for an updated photo and information in the May issue of Hill and Lake Press. Until the gardens open, the best viewing is from the Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge, as this ambitious project continues. Many new sculptures have been added and there are more to come.

For more information: walkerartcenter.org

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Lunch with Lisa
April 26.

St. Thomas Minneapolis, Opus Hall 202.
Walker Art Center's Executive Director Olga
Viso will talk about the changes to the
Sculpture Garden. \$10.00 lunch is offered.
Come early to get your lunch and a good seat.
Discussion starts promptly at noon. Please
RSVP to Ruth by the 21st@612-673-2207

Earth Day April 22, 9:30 to noon Kenwood Park
on Franklin Avenue and Lake of the Isles East - W
27th St and E Lake of the Isles Pkwy

Earth Day Cleanup is also held at several sites
throughout the City of Minneapolis. It is a collaborative
effort between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation
Board (MPRB) and City of Minneapolis Solid Waste
and Recycling.

Individuals and Small Groups

It's easy to get involved in Earth Day Cleanup 2017.
No pre-registration is required! Arrive at any site
between 9:30 am and noon, bring a pair of gloves to
pick up trash, and check in at the registration table. A
site coordinator will provide you with gloves (if you did
not bring any) and bags, and instruct you where to go
and where to leave trash. Every site has a coordinator
available to assist volunteers and to answer any ques-
tions you may have.

Large Groups

If you have a group of 20 or more volunteers look-
ing for a site, please contact Erica Chua at echnua@min-
neapolisarks.org or 612-230-6479 for a list of sites that
can accommodate your group.

For more information go to minneapolisarks.org

Birchbark Books Reading Series begins
Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 7:00 pm, curated by Michael
Kiesow Moore and Ardie Medina

The reading will be at The Bockley Gallery
2123 W 21st Street, Minneapolis a (couple doors
down from Birchbark Books) www.bockleygallery.com

Thank you Miriam Segall for your
generous contribution to Hill and Lake
Press.

Music for Spring Saturday, April 29, 7:30 pm
Bushes & Briars at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Maria Jette, soprano
Raymond Johnston, piano
Soprano Maria Jette presents a delightful program of
song based on folk music from the British Isles. Tickets:
\$10 available at the Cathedral Book Shop or at the door.

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students and staff at Southwest High School.

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April 27th 7 pm Wind Ensemble, Chamber
Orchestra, Jazz Concert – SWHS Auditorium

May 4th 7 pm Film Fest – SWHS Auditorium

May 6th 9m – 9pm, 7 pm Battle of the Bands –
STRUT Guitar Festival - SWHS

May 19-21, 7 pm The Children's Hour, Unhinged
Student Theatre – SWHS Black Box

"A private school for young girls is scandalized when
one spiteful student, Mary Tilford, accuses the two
young women who run the school of having a lesbian
relationship. This explosive drama written by the virtu-
osic Lillian Hellman made waves when it premiered in
1934. Herself a target of the McCarthy era blacklisting
of Hollywood and Broadway artists, to Hellman this
was a play about the evil power of slander.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

April 26, Lunch with Lisa
April 25, 6:30 PM. Kenwood Rec Center, Penn-
Oliver Project community meeting.

Information:
<www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/2017/WCMSP-
196772>.

Music for Spring at St. Mark's 7:30pm

April 29, noon to 6. Uptown Clay Pottery sale.

May 1, 6pm Kenwood Isles annual gathering

May 10, 5:45 social and CIDNA annual meet-
ing Jones Harrison

May 16, 6-9 Lowry Hill annual meeting Temple
Israel

NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY MEETINGS

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm Jones-Harrison

EIRA: 2nd Tuesday 7pm Grace Community
Church

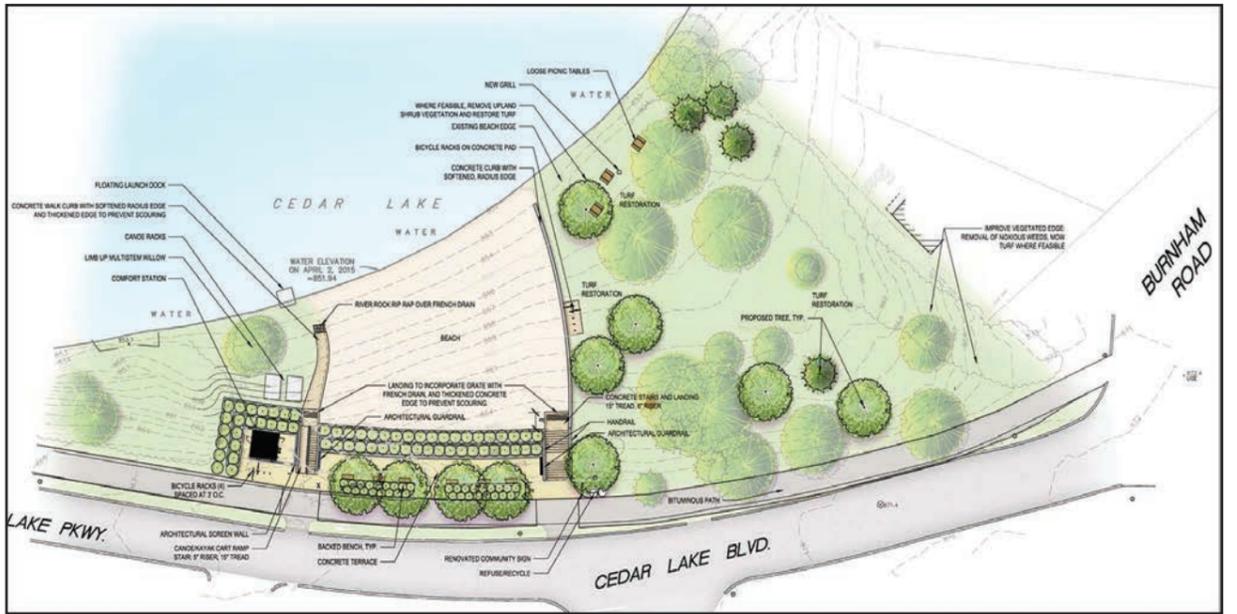
KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center

LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center

May Day Basket Making Sunday, April 30 1:00-
3:00 p.m. Jones-Harrison Residence

Celebrate the spring season and join us in making
May Day baskets to be delivered to all the amazing peo-
ple at Jones Harrison. Free. All supplies provided.

Beach Clean Up Saturday, May 6 9:30 - 11:00
a.m. Cedar Lake South Beach, 3400 Cedar Lake
Pkwy Help us keep the beach clean by joining the
Beach Clean Up Crew. Volunteers needed. Contact
info@cidna.org.



Graphic: MPRB

The Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood's Cedar Lake South Beach is poised for significant renovation, thanks to 25 years of advocacy by residents, Park Dedication Fee and CIDNA NRP/CPP dollars, and a generous anonymous donation. The next-to-last step is a public hearing on May 3 at 6:30 pm at Park Board headquarters.

Cedar Lake South Beach renovation plans reach final approval stage

By Michael Wilson

Cedar-Isles-Dean residents have been talking for the last 25 years about improving Cedar Lake South Beach. Concerted efforts over the past two years to make that happen have at last reached the final Park Board

approval stage, and plans for the new South Beach are set to go public with a big splash.

South Beach, like Kenwood's Cedar Lake East

South Beach to page three

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Neighborhood Planning Possibilities

By Rodgers Adams

If any area qualifies as a Special Planning District, it is the area within a half mile of the Lake St./Excelsior Blvd. split.

Of course, there is no such thing as a Special Planning District — an area guided by a comprehensive plan supported cooperatively by the City Council, Park Board, neighborhood groups, County Board, Metro Council, and state agencies. The holistic approach has gained favor in many aspects of life, but not so much in governance.

There are characteristics of the Lake/Excelsior area that, combined, make it unique in the metropolitan area.

- 1) It is fully developed. There are no open fields or even rights-of-way that are not fully exploited.
- 2) It is a tight funnel for major commuter through-traffic between the city and western suburbs
- 3) There is no space to separate commuters on main thoroughfares from local traffic on adjoining service roads.

4) The general absence of alleys and a regular street grid forces commuters, business customers, and delivery vehicles to share the same roadways.

5) It includes a major “tourist” attraction that draws thousands to the area in good weather to enjoy the Chain of Lakes.

6) Sidewalks are generally narrow and immediately adjacent to busy streets, and bike paths are not directly accessible to most residents.

7) A proposed light rail station has no at-grade connection to a major street.

8) There is a long-term (and recently increasing) trend toward redeveloping property with greater density.

It is possible that market forces and the current practice of considering each project in isolation will sort things out.

But it seems more likely that the result will be increasing congestion (not just increasing density) that

will prevent the urban good life envisioned by policy-makers. Walking and biking will become increasingly unpleasant and dangerous. Frustrated vehicle drivers will take increasing risks. The possibility of a rich urban environment will be replaced with a reputation of urban chaos.

There may be no solution to this problem; certainly, there is no easy solution. But government agencies have shaping tools — through zoning; through requiring wider sidewalks and dedicated bike paths; through speed limits and signal timing and signage; through transit scheduling; through building roads and structures, and through eminent domain. These can be used effectively only if there is some kind of shared vision for what the area requires, and that vision starts with the neighborhood prodding elected officials to tackle this difficult task.

The challenges in the area around the Lake/Excelsior split are so daunting that it may be hard to imagine what a successful master plan for the area might look like. Such a plan would have to have the buy-in from multiple governmental agencies and would require out-of-the-box thinking. But there is no shortage of ideas that have already been floated, and these could provide a starting point for devising a Master Plan.

- Could some of the money invested in redevelopments be captured to help fund more expensive solutions for the area as a whole?
- Could developers be required to incorporate boulevards and wider sidewalks where their projects front on major streets?
- Are there places where taller, thinner structures would be preferred over bulky low buildings?
- * Should zoning be changed to tailor density and other features to match the Master Plan?

• Could lower speed limits on Excelsior Blvd. through the golf club and Lake St. north of Lake Calhoun prepare drivers for the more dense urban experience of the Lake/Excelsior area?

• Could Market Plaza be reconfigured to permit Calhoun Commons traffic only to and from Lake St., forcing other traffic to use the entrance off Excelsior Blvd.?

• Could traffic be reduced by linking France Ave. with a bridge over the railroad/bike/light rail paths, providing a new north-south link that allows some traffic to avoid the Lake/Excelsior area?

• Could traffic jams be eased by lowering east-bound Lake St. lanes and raising west-bound Excelsior lanes, to create an overpass at their junction?

• Could traffic jams be eased by taking park land to create a round-about at Lake St. and Dean Pkwy.?

• Should biking and pedestrian paths be creat-

ed along the south side of the Midtown Greenway? (None of the residential buildings in the area can have direct access to the existing Greenway paths, because land is being reserved for a path-blocking trolley line.)

• Should there be new ground-level trails adjacent to the Lake St. bridge to provide at-grade access to the proposed light rail station from the east and west?

• How should the amount of parking be determined, and how much, if any, should be in surface parking lots or stand-alone parking ramps?

This list is not exhaustive, and individual ideas might not fit together in a helpful way, but the list suggests that there are plenty of possibilities to be considered in developing a Master Plan.

South Beach from page two

Beach (aka “Hidden Beach”), has two roles. First, and most important for Cedar-Isles-Dean residents, it’s our neighborhood beach. Second, though, it’s also part of the Chain of Lakes regional park, visited by people from all over the metro area and beyond.

Since regional parks are funded by the state via the Met Council, the Minneapolis Park Board’s latitude to undertake improvements on its own are severely constrained. Local property tax revenue is directed to neighborhood parks, which Cedar Lake South Beach is not.

Enter the Park Dedication Fee program, under which new or significantly remodeled housing units are assessed \$1500 per unit. The rationale is that new housing brings in new residents, which increases the use of nearby parks. Builders of those units should thus help fund improvements to those nearby parks, so the reasoning goes.

Because of two large apartment buildings recently completed (or almost completed) in Cedar-Isles-Dean,

the CIDNA board was able to direct \$350,000 in Park Dedication Fee dollars to the South Beach renovation. The board’s NRP/CPP Committee was able to add \$75,000 to the budget. This wasn’t enough to pay for the plans developed during several neighborhood meetings, however, and despite approval by the Park Board in 2016 the plans seemed destined to sit on the shelf until regional funds became available.

Then, last fall, an anonymous donor contacted CIDNA board chair Craig Westgate with an offer to contribute \$250,000 to make the project happen, and finally we were off and running. The donor’s one request was that the new South Beach include a year-round comfort station with running water and a flush toilet. This change plus others made possible by the donation necessitated a new plan review and community input process, which was completed on April 17 when residents and CIDNA board and NRP/CPP Committee members present at a community meeting decided to advance to the next-to-last step, a public

hearing before the Park Board’s Planning Committee on Wednesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm (time certain).

Barring any unforeseen difficulties arising from the May 3 public hearing, the South Beach renovation plan will go to the full board for approval at its May 17 meeting. Construction is slated to start in September, towards the end of the season.

View the project page at minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects/CedarLakeSouthBeach for more information.

If Bees Are Few

Join us Thursday, April 27th from 5-7 pm for a conversation with Jim Lenfestey. Jim, a Lowry Hill resident, is editor of the recently published book *If Bees Are Few*. Jim will read from the book and a local beekeeper will answer questions about the plight and future of bees.

A poet, columnist for Hill and Lakes Press, formerly an editorial writer for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, where he received three Page One Awards for excellence in journalism, Lenfestey has published six collections of his own poems, edited two poetry anthologies, and co-edited Robert Bly in *This World*. His haibun memoir, *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to Cold Mountain*, was a finalist for the 2014 Minnesota Book Award.

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SWLRT Increases GHG Emissions, Destroys Wetlands, Habitat, and Urban Forest from page one

At the Environmental Initiative event mentioned above, transportation was cited as the fastest growing source of GHG and a sector where the most “bang for the buck” is to be had in reducing emissions. Contrary to assumptions that are encouraged by Project proponents, SWLRT produces no GHG bang for over \$900 million in local transit spending, and in fact worsens the climate change problem. (The \$900 million initial outlay does not include the over \$30 million annual operating expense and major future replacement costs.)

The deeply concerning fact is that SWLRT climate change performance is so deficient that in terms of state GHG reduction goals it is better to leave the 6500 cars on the road that SWLRT is projected to remove by 2040.

In addition to the net gain of 2000 metric tons GHG CO₂ produced annually by SWLRT operations, SWLRT construction would add 70,838 metric tons of GHG CO₂ annually for the 3 years projected for construction. This yields a total of over 220,500 metric tons of GHG CO₂ added to the atmosphere from SWLRT construction (FEIS Table 3.11-5). These metric tons of CO₂ emissions would be front loaded into the atmosphere during the immediate tipping point phase in the climate change process.

Met Council Awareness, Minimization, and Obfuscation

The language in the FEIS demonstrates there has been an awareness and minimization by the Met Council for some time of the GHG additive nature of this LRT project. The GHG from SWLRT, yet to be built, is already included in the regional transportation plan (RTP) of the Met Council.

If amortized over the life of the Project, the GHG emission from this project is minimal. In addition, the Project is included in the regional RTP and TIP, which consider climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience for sustainable development of the region. Therefore, GHG emissions from the proposed Project will not hinder the region’s emission reduction efforts (FEIS P. 3-205).

At the same time that the Met Council is aware of the increase in metro GHG emissions that would result from SWLRT, presentations to the public continue to give the opposite impression. For example, at the March 2017 SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting, the “Chair’s Legislative Update” prominently featured the false information that the significant reduction in GHG emissions projected in the Metro area by 2040 would be due to Southwest LRT. Detailed in table 3.11-4 of the Met Council’s SWLRT FEIS, the projected reduction is due to federal regulations improving emissions of combustion engines – cars – not SWLRT. When the incorrect GHG information in the presentation was noticed and pointed out by a citizen in the audience, the CMC presentation was later slightly changed, but in such a way as to maintain the impression that the projected GHG emission decrease was due to Southwest LRT. (See attached “Met Council Public Information on SWLRT GHG Performance” before and after public comment leads to revision.)

Citizens concerned about climate change are in a strange world encountering the Met Council’s seeming endorsement of the Lt. Governor’s exhortation to take decisive, impatient action to stop climate change while learning that the Met Council has known about and is obfuscating and insisting on a massive transit project that increases, not reduces, GHG emissions.

SWLRT Destroys Urban Forest, Habitat, and Wetlands Contrary to MEQB Climate Action Plan

The MEQB report mentioned above listed Key Findings and Climate Actions to reduce GHG, including to “[I]nvest in urban and rural forests, wetlands, peat lands, and prairies to maintain and expand sequestered carbon (p.7).”

Contrary to recommended MEQB Climate Actions: SWLRT would result in the loss of approximately 60 acres of habitat (FEIS 3-14).

According to the 2014 Kenilworth Corridor

Met Council Public Information on SWLRT GHG Performance

Original presentation column 1- “SWLRT response”

SOUTHWEST Corridor management committee

Today’s Topics: Chair’s Legislative Update; Construction Update; DBE/Workforce Outreach; Activities

Legislative Update

HF 1479 bill introduced February 20

Requests US Secretary of Transportation redirect federal funds from Southwest Light Rail to a block grant to fund other transit projects in the state.

Referred to House Transportation & Regional Governance Policy.

Chair’s Legislative Update

HF 1479 Theme

Transfer SWLRT federal funds to a block grant for other MN transit projects.

SWLRT Response

FTA cannot simply transfer federal funds from competitive Capital Investment Grant to a transit block grant.

Unused SWLRT New Starts federal funds would deposit back to Capital investment Grand competitive pot to be awarded elsewhere in America.

HF 1479 Theme

SWLRT not cost-effective or sustainable.

SWLRT Response

LRT is most cost-effective transit mode in system at \$1.66 operating subsidy per passenger. (Latest financial 2015.)

Vehicle Miles Traveled in region decrease by 29 million miles per year.

Greenhouse Gases decrease by 955,000 metric tons per year over No Build Alternative.

Revised Presentation column 2 - “SWLRT response

Chair’s Legislative Update (Revised 3/10/2017)
HF 1479 Theme

SWLRT not cost-effective or sustainable

SWLRT Response

LRT is most cost-effective transit mode in system at \$1.66 operating subsidy per passenger (Latest financial 2015).

Vehicle Miles Traveled in REgion decrease 29 million miles/year over No Build

Greenhouse Gases decrease by 955,000 metric tons per year over existing conditions (2013).

The Facts:

Operating subsidy: Project cost has increased since 2015. **Cost does not include capital cost of building the LRT, or cost overruns.** Typically, cost savings come from eliminating bus drivers, as bus routes are eliminated, resulting labor savings.

VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled): Per the FEIS, “The Project will reduce regional VMT of automobiles, trucks, and buses on roadways in 2040 by approximately 113,000 miles (see Table 3.11-3) compared to No Build Alternative. **That is 113,000 miles, not 29 million miles. The VMT error is similar in magnitude to the attribution to SWLRT of projected 2040 GHG reduction.**

GHG: Detailed in table 3.11-4 of the Metropolitan Council’s SWLRT FEIS, the projected GHG reduction over “existing conditions (2013) is due to federal regulations improving emissions of combustion engines - cars - not SWLRT. The Project operation will increase the GHG emission in the Twin Cities area by approximately 2,000 metric tons per year in 2040, compared to the No Build Alternative.”

Vegetation Survey sponsored by the Southwest Project Office, SWLRT would result in the loss of 34 acres of Minneapolis urban forest including 480 significant trees and 80% native tree species of 12 – 37” diameter. Another 1960 trees of 6” diameter or greater would also be removed, as well as understory vegetation. Less than 20% of trees were identified as buckthorn. Local residents strongly dispute the official tree count, reporting closer to 5000 trees in the area to be cleared.

In addition providing GHG reduction as recom-

mended by the MEQB, forests and natural vegetation near urban lakes are now known to be vital in maintaining the health of urban water ecosystems. A new study of freshwater chloride contamination across the northern region of the country found that 39 lakes in and around the Twin Cities are becoming so salty due to winter road maintenance and homeowner salt usage that by 2050 they will no longer support native fish and

SWLRT to page 5

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SWLRT from page 4

plants.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's list of chloride impaired waters classifies Lake of the Isles, and Lake Bde Maka Ska/Calhoun at "High Risk" for impaired status, with Brownie Lake already classified as "Impaired." The study found that 500 feet of trees and natural vegetation by waterways provide a protective barrier for lakes from salt and is the most likely temporary solution. The removal of trees and natural vegetation in the vicinity of urban lakes has a direct impact on their viability for fish and plants ("Rising salt levels threaten Twin Cities lakes by 2050," Star & Tribune, 4/11/17).

. SWLRT would result in the permanent impact on 20 wetlands comprising 6.53 acres. The wetlands would not be restored. The impact would be offset only by purchase of wetland mitigation banks credits rather than environmental mitigation (FEIS 3-13).

For short term impacts on an additional 11.36 acres comprising a total of 18 wetlands, wetland credits will be purchased for only 5 of the wetlands impacted by construction for more than 180 days (FEIS - 3-14).

Minneapolis Park Board concerns about the route through the Chain of Lakes and its impact on groundwater and the water table were squashed by Gov. Dayton.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Obfuscation: Climate Change Denial by Any Other Name

Denial is usually associated with those who reject scientific evidence for climate change and so block needed actions by defining them as unnecessary. It is difficult to understand how the avoidance and minimization of the negative GHG outcome for SWLRT is not yet another form of climate change denial. Project leaders and backers have kept away and covered up SWLRT GHG outcomes from public attention, even as climate change is simultaneously decried by elected officials and others in dire terms requiring immediate, bold action.

The extraordinary expenditure of public transit dollars for SWLRT sacrifices the time-critical opportunity to actually impact climate change through major transit spending and investment. This expenditure monopolizes scarce resources that could be used for better transit or a list of critical public needs that should not be forever on hold.



EARTH DAY, ME, YOU, AND MAMA EARTH

By James P. Lenfestey

With 2000 others I am off to Northrup Auditorium tonight, April 13, to listen to a presentation by Elizabeth Kolbert, the New Yorker journalist and author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning "The Sixth Extinction." It is not a happy story, but a brilliant book. The fossil and geologic record detail five great species extinctions on our home planet, the last one allowing a small, wily mammal to become... us. And how we, with our big brains and opposable thumbs, are propelling the Sixth Extinction with astonishing speed, due to fossil fuel addiction, plastic waste and short-term agricultural and forestry practices that cook the creatures of the sea and poison or torch the creatures of the land. I hate to think what she will say about the Great Barrier Reef, recently declared "terminal" due to hot an acidic oceans,

All of this is preface to: Whaddrwegonnoaboutit? Not quite.

My wife and I participated in the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, conceived by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson on a plane back from witnessing an oil spill in Monterrey Bay, California. His idea, taken from the anti-war movement, was to have teach-ins around the country about the effects of runaway pollution.

The success in America since then has been startling. The Wisconsin town I grew up in had black flakes of coal ash floating from the sky every day, soiling our laundry, our eyes, our lungs. All gone. Back then environmental protection was nonpartisan, and we

created public policies that saved money, species and lives.

Global Warming is the ultimate test. The science has been clear to scientists for more than a hundred years and to the public since 1988, when Senator Al Gore Jr. and Senator Tim Wirth held public hearings, and 1990 when the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assembled all the facts, leading in 2015 to the historic agreement signed by 195 countries. That consensus for urgent action lacks only the support of the American Republican party, supported by the fossil fuel industry and the politicized denial of climate science distributed by Fox News and the Wall Street Journal editorial page.

Meanwhile the Russians, whose biggest business is fossil fuels, helped elect Donald Trump, and he paid them back by placing the worst climate science deniers in key government posts.

So we citizens have much to do.

Start by spending political time and money in districts that elected climate science deniers; specifically, Jason Lewis in CD2, Eric Paulson in CD3, Tom Emmer in CD6. They must be voted out! (FYI, our reps, Keith Ellison, Scott Dibble, Frank Hornstein and Lisa Goodman are all leaders on climate responsiveness, we should be proud).

On Earth Day, April 22, 2017, join the much-needed March for Science. Facts matter. Meet in St Paul at 11am, Cathedral Hill, then march to a rally at State Capitol at noon. <http://www.marchforsciencemn.com>.

On Saturday, April 29, join the historic Peoples Climate March on the Mall in Washington, DC. <https://peoplesclimate.org>. For local connections, consult mn350.org and mnipl.org. Or attend the support march here in Minneapolis. Gather at the Federal Courthouse at 2:30pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/396535040711488> /. Bring your banners, children, bikes, Teslas, Volts and Bolts, feet and hands and hearts and hopes.

As Dave, my genius inventor friend, says, "No one gets to retire until we fix this thing." This "thing" is Mother Earth, the only life-giving planet in the neighborhood.

Isles Ensemble concludes 13th season on May 7 with works by Janáček and Brahms

By Michael Wilson

The Isles Ensemble — a Hill and Lake neighborhood treasure that we're eager to share — concludes its 13th season on Sunday, May 7, with a 2 pm concert at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church featuring works of Brahms and Janáček.

The Isles Ensemble members, some of the Twin Cities' best string players, have been coming together at Lake of the Isles Lutheran since 2004 to do what artists like to do best: perform great works of their own choosing from the chamber music repertoire in an intimate, acoustically bright space with a relaxed, responsive audience.

Ensemble co-founder Leslie Shank, an SPCO violinist/violist and assistant concertmaster for 30 years, notes that the number of concert-goers has increased significantly this year. "We invite music lovers from throughout the Twin Cities to our concerts, of course," Shank says, "but the players especially appreciate seeing people walking in from Kenwood, Lowry Hill, East Isles, and Cedar-Isles-Dean. It makes us feel at home."

Janáček: 'full of beauty, mystery, anguish, frustration'

Cellist Tom Rosenberg selected the first piece on the May 7 program, Leoš Janáček's String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters." Rosenberg says that one reason he loves to play chamber music is because it often offers the chance to connect with a composer and wonder what he or she was thinking or trying to express in the piece. "That connection is very personal," he states, "as are your connections to your colleagues on stage."

In the case of the 2nd String Quartet, Rosenberg feels there is no doubt about what Janáček was trying to express since he was hopelessly obsessed with a young and married woman named Kamila Stosslova, to whom he wrote scores of letters expressing his love and hopelessness about the relationship he imagined with her.

"The title he gave the piece is 'Intimate Letters' and there is a sort of endless musical exploration one can take with this piece," Rosenberg says. "Although the piece becomes more interesting and exciting for knowing about Janáček and Stosslova, it also stands on its own as a unique and highly emotional work of art that does not need specific explanation to be compelling. It is a strange and wonderful piece, written in a unique musical language and full of beauty, mystery, anguish, frustration and many other emotions. It's an exciting project to take on and to share with the Isle Ensemble audience!"

Isles Ensemble co-founder Joanne Opgenorth, a member of the Minnesota Orchestra's first violin section since 2002, says that she's been wanting to play Brahms' A major piano quartet, Op. 26, all her life and is thrilled to be playing it for the May 7 concert.

Brahms: 'lush, passionate, full of gorgeous melodies'

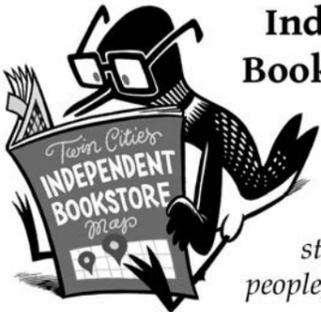
Opgenorth says that she especially loves the second movement, which she describes as "achingly beautiful and evoking profound and universal emotions." The whole work, in fact, is lush, passionate, and full of gor-

Isles Ensemble to page 6



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Ongoing sleuthing for Tale of two homes and two families' unearths nuggets of gold

By Michael Wilson

It began with an old newspaper photograph of a stately, three-dormered house that clearly had seen better days, standing on a snowy hill above the intersection of two slush-covered streets that look for all the world like W. Lake Street and Excelsior Blvd., at the south edge of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

The image, which pops up periodically on old-photo websites like the OldMPLS Facebook page, always elicits puzzlement and invariably inaccurate explanations as to its actual location, its origin, and its fate. Commenters sometimes mention the "St. Vincent Day Orphanage" as well.

Determined sleuthing has unearthed the facts of the story, the first part of which was published last month in Hill & Lake Press. What has emerged is a fascinating story about not just one three-dormered home but also a completely forgotten mansion across the street, and also about the two families who built and lived in them.

The three-dormered home actually stood right where it appears to be in the photo, at 3100 West Lake Street, the site of today's Ministers Life building and tomorrow's Brickstone apartments. (See HLP's ongoing coverage of this proposed development.) The house was given to Hennepin County by Ministers Life in 1951 contingent on it being moved off the site. This the County did in April 1952, relocating the house to the northwest shore of Lake Calhoun with the intention of converting it to a juvenile holding facility alongside the Vince A. Day Center, a County home for "dependent or neglected children."

Wait a minute the Vince A. Day Center? What was that? District Court Judge Vince Day would no doubt be pleased to know that in some people's telling he has been elevated to sainthood, but he was honored enough to have the former Warner mansion renamed in his honor in

1945.

Warner fires Purcell and Elmslie

The Warner mansion? Yes. In 1912 Ellsworth C. Warner, his wife Melvina, and their four children moved into their imposing mansion at 3030 West Calhoun Blvd, on the site of today's Calhoun Executive Center. Warner had first commissioned the now-legendary firm of Purcell and Elmslie to design a \$40,000 home for the site, and William Gray Purcell delivered a jewel. Warner rejected it, however, and turned instead to the firm of Bell, Tyrie and Chapman, upping the budget to \$175,000.

The Warner mansion is today so totally forgotten that even the eminent "Lost Twin Cities" architectural historian Larry Millett tells Hill & Lake Press that he's never heard of it. A determined search turned up only one photo of it, part of a newspaper story on the Vince Day Center in the Hennepin County Library Special Collections archives.

Ironically, if Warner had gone with Purcell and Elmslie, his home might still be standing and his name would live on. The "E.C. Warner home" would certainly be included in the gorgeous books chronicling the work of that storied firm.

Millett does include the C.E. Purdy home at 3100 W. Lake in his "Lost Twin Cities Mansions" database. Charles Purdy, an 1890 graduate in what Prof. Fred Morrison says was the University of Minnesota's first Law School graduating class, built his home overlooking Lake Calhoun in 1907 and lived there until 1929 when, with the children grown, he and his wife built a smaller home at 4820 Dupont Ave. S., which still stands.

Go to <hillandlakepress.com> to read (or reread) Part One of this "Tale of two homes and two families at the intersection of West Lake and Excelsior" in the March 2017 issue. Part One left off with Ellsworth and Melvina

Warner living on the south side of the intersection with their four children, Ellsworth Bisbee, Maurice, Harold, and Wendell, and Charles and Rosamund Purdy living on the north side with their four children, Stewart, Harold, Beatrice, and Charles Edward Jr. Part Two was planned for the April Hill & Lake Press.

No longer the 'only photo known to exist'

But historians are like Forty-Niners, always searching for yet another elusive nugget of gold. And ongoing research for this story has uncovered a veritable gold mine.

Into the conversation has stepped Peter Purdy, Charles' and Rosamund's grandson. Peter happened to mention that his grandparents compiled identical scrapbooks for each of their four children, filled with photographs of the interior, exterior, and grounds of the family home at 3100 West Lake. Peter Purdy has his father Charles Jr.'s scrapbook and has offered to share its photos with Hill & Lake Press readers.

Further sleuthing has led to Maurice Warner Jr., grandson of Ellsworth and Melvina Warner. Born in 1920, Maurice Jr. graduated from Dartmouth in 1941 and lived in Bloomington until his death in 2013. His wife Marlene tells Hill & Lake Press that she has many photos to share and stories to tell about the Warner mansion on West Calhoun Blvd.

The lost and unknown history of a corner of our Cedar-Lake-Dean is coming back into broad daylight. The "only photos known to exist" of the Purdy house and Warner mansion are about to be joined by many others. Watch for Part Two of this tale in your May HLP.

As Dr. Seuss might say, "And to think that you read it in Hill & Lake Press!"

See family portrait on page 7



Photo by Dorothy Childers

A powerful, passionate performance of Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor brought listeners to their feet at the February 27 Isles Ensemble concert. (L to R) Helen Chang (violin), Ivan Konev (piano), and Tom Rosenberg (cello) take in the audience's enthusiastic applause.

Isles Ensemble from page five

geous melodies, she continues. "I love how Brahms sets off the sonorous and expressive qualities of the strings against the piano, passing off melodies and counter-melodies so naturally and imaginatively between the instruments. He achieves wonderful undercurrents of musical tension with techniques such as writing triplets against duples, and using ambiguous rhythmic and harmonic stresses in beautiful long melodic lines."

"There is so much to discover in this piece," Opgenorth notes, "and so many different ways to play it. Everyone in the group is playing it for the first time, so we are having a great time discovering it together, trying out different phrasing, articulation, dynamics, voicing, colors, tempos, and so on."

Brahms wrote this piece in 1861 when he was 28 years old, Opgenorth explains, and played it in his Vienna concert debut a year later. She describes it as a large-scale work, even symphonic in scope. "The first movement, in sonata form, is the longest, most complex of the movements: a whole, beautiful world in itself," she says.

"The second movement," Opgenorth continues, "begins with a gentle theme with undercurrents of bitersweetness, contrasted with a passionate, anguished second theme and moments of dark mystery — everything you could want in a romantic slow movement! The third movement is a lilting scherzo with a vigorous trio section. The last movement is a gypsy dance full of vigor and swagger, but written in sonata form with all its developmental possibilities."

Rosenberg and Opgenorth are passionate about the Janáček and Brahms and eager to present them to us. So join your friends and neighbors and stroll, bike, or roller-blade over to Lake of the Isles Lutheran on Sunday afternoon, May 7, for some of the best chamber music the Twin Cities has to offer.

Go to <islesensemble.org> to read about the impressive Ensemble musicians. A reception follows every concert. Suggested donation is \$15, \$10 for students and seniors.

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Our national reputation as a tax and spend city and state is much deserved. The Minneapolis 2017 Adopted Budget is an all-time high \$1.5B, an 8.4% \$112.8M increase over 2016 (Source: MinneapolisMN.gov). Under Governor Dayton, the state budget has increased from \$35.4B in 2012 to a likely \$44-45B per year in the next biennium (Source: MN.gov). And any attempted cuts to spending are considered “Draconian” and “Reckless” by our Senate District Representative and Senator.

We file income taxes this month. As you are reading this, another wave of taxpayers might just be thinking of trading in their Ladyslippers and Loons for Yellow Roses and Longhorns. When we continue to increase spending at our current pace, taxes inevitably will increase, and many will choose where to live accordingly to avoid paying those taxes. Moderation is needed. If you agree, let your electeds know!



Photo by Bisbee Family Connection at bisbeefamily.combisbeefamily.com>

This 1895 family portrait shows Melvina Warner with her son Maurice, age 2.

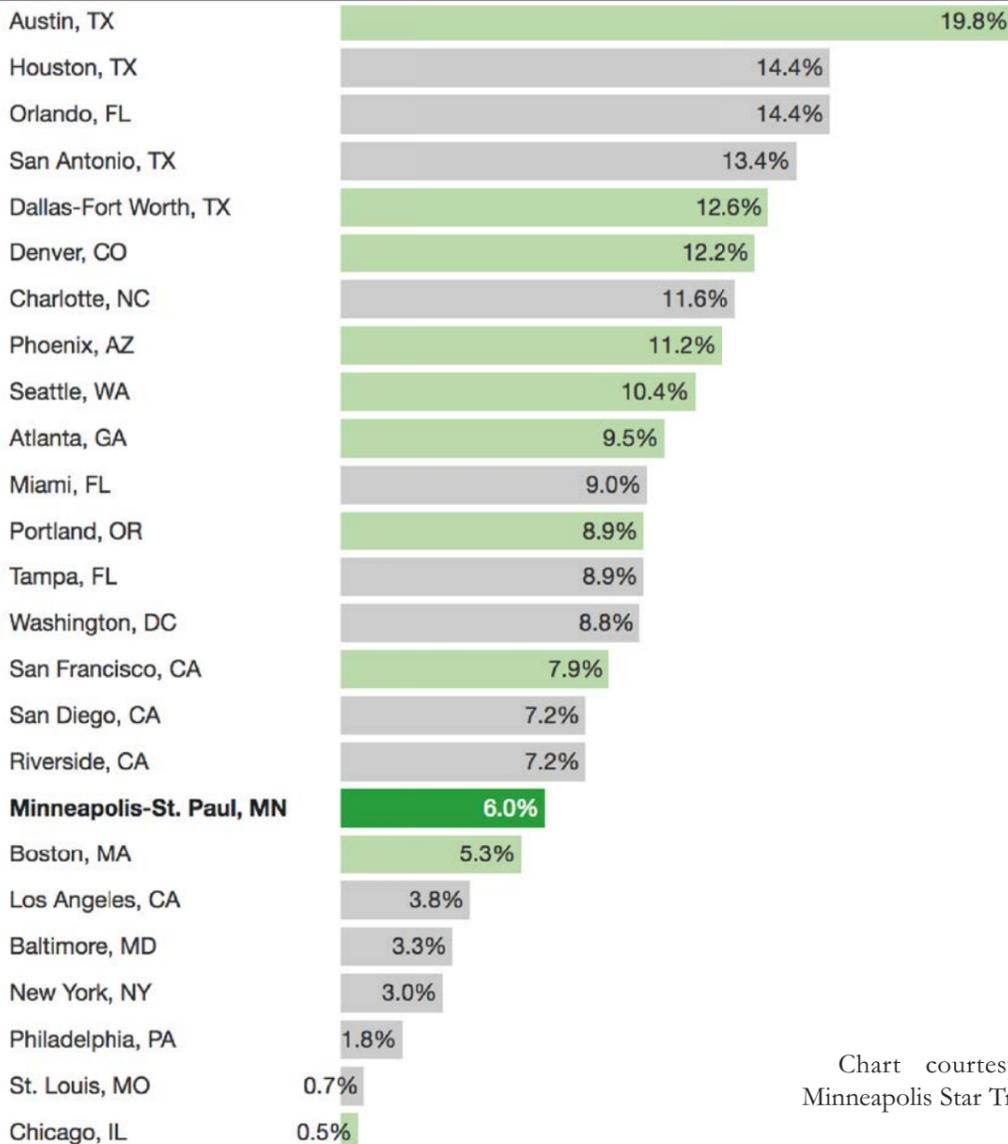
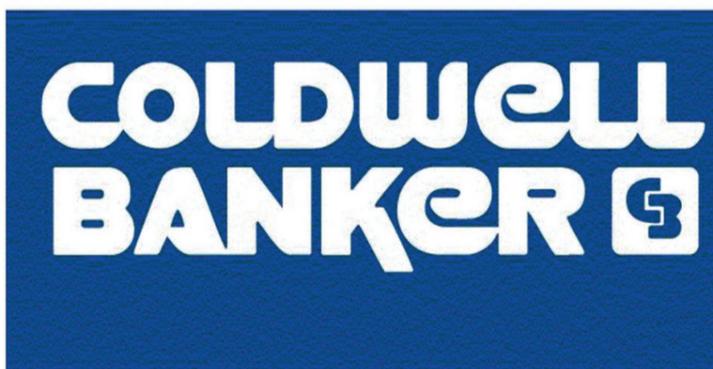


Chart courtesy of the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

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Penn-Oliver concrete rehab program explained at Tuesday, April 25 Kenwood community meeting

By Michael Wilson

With the urging and strong support of 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman, the city's Public Works Department has developed a method for rehabbing concrete streets which this year will be used for the first time on the eight-block stretch of Penn and Oliver avenues between Douglas and West Lake of the Isles Parkway.

Paving construction engineer Larry Matsumoto, PE, and Public Works engineer Elisha Langat will lead a community meeting on Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 pm at the Kenwood Rec Center to describe the process, discuss timelines, and answer any and all questions people may have about the project and plans for addressing deteriorated streets in other parts of our four Hill and Lake neighborhoods.

Reread your paper copy of the March 2017 Hill & Lake Press or view it online at <hillandlakepress.com> for a description of the project, including a photo (courtesy of Matsumoto) of the big-slab crew that laid the Penn-Oliver concrete back in 1975. The March article also contains information about the assessment process for property owners along Penn and Oliver. Matsumoto points out that the concrete rehab option gives streets like Penn-Oliver an expected lifespan of ten years, less than the expected 40-year lifespan for a total reconstruction. A reconstruction, however, costs at least three times more than the rehab

option, so the concrete rehab program allows the city to make more rapid progress in addressing the serious backlog of deteriorated concrete streets.

In recognition of the shorter expected lifespan for streets in the concrete rehab program, property owners are being assessed at the "Resurfacing" rate of \$0.22 per square foot, the lowest of the three categories the city uses. (By contrast, the "Renovation" rate is \$0.44 per square foot and the "Reconstruction" rate is \$0.87 per square foot, using the city's Influence Area Assessment Method.) City staff will convene a meeting in May solely for the Penn-Oliver property owners to discuss assessments.

If you've noticed that most streets in Kenwood and Cedar-Isles-Dean are concrete, you're right. Public Works last developed a city-wide streets program in 1970, grouping all streets into zones for similar treatment based on soil conditions, use patterns, and numerous other factors. Streets in Kenwood and Cedar-Isles-Dean south of Cedar Lake Avenue were all given concrete streets, most of which — as we can all too plainly see — are nearing or past their useful lifespan.

"If I had dentures," jokes longtime Cedar-Isles-Dean resident and CIDNA board member Vern Vander Weide, "the ride home along that stretch on the #25 would shake them loose." Thanks to Goodman's advocacy and the innovative concrete rehab program developed and tested by Public Works over the past three years, the bone-rattling rides on Penn and Oliver will soon be a thing of the past.



Photo and caption: Michael Wilson.

KIAA board chair Jeanette Colby and City Council Member Lisa Goodman call attention — as if everybody doesn't already know — to the badly deteriorated pavement along Penn and Oliver avenues. Kenwood residents and others can learn about city's plan to rehabilitate the eight-block stretch at a community meeting at the Kenwood Rec Center on Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 pm.



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Cedar-Isles-Dean, Kenwood gardeners honored by Park Board as 'Volunteers of the Year'

By Michael Wilson

Sherry Brooks, the Park Board's esteemed coordinator of volunteers and environmental stewardship, claims to have the easiest job around. "We have scores of volunteer gardeners in our parks across the city," Brooks says. "All I ever have to do is show up with shovels, hand tools, and gardening gloves, and they do the rest."

It's not that simple, of course, and Brooks' job becomes particularly difficult every spring when she has to select a slate of gardeners from among her scores of volunteers to be honored by the Board of Commissioners as Volunteers of the Year. This year on April 19 two awards went to some of the unsung heroes who help to keep our Hill and Lake public spaces beautiful: the Park Siding Park Gardening Group and Kenwood's "secret gardener," Dave Schaezner.

This spring — on Saturday, May 20, starting at 9 am, to be precise — the Park Siding Park Gardening Group starts its 21st year of stewardship of CIDNA's small jewel of a neighborhood park on the Kenilworth Trail. "Back in the 'good old days' the group filled the garden with purchases from what their neighborhood budget allowed and with divisions from their home gardens," Brooks wrote in her citation.

Redesign in 2012 was a game-changer.

"In 2012 necessary sewer maintenance work created an opportunity to redesign the garden and install a new irrigation system," she continued. "The garden redesign included the addition of earth-friendly and drought-tolerant native species with an eye to attracting pollinating insects, bees, and butterflies and providing wildlife habitat. The drip irrigation system purchased by the CIDNA board allowed the group to focus less on watering, thereby saving a precious natural resource, and to concentrate more on planting, weeding, deadheading, sharing the communal gardening experience, and building community."

Spring through fall a core group of fourteen volunteers meets monthly to maintain the six large garden beds at Park Siding. In addition, the group waters newly-

Volunteers to page 15



Photos by Dorothy Childers

Representing all past and present CIDNA Park Siding Park Gardening Group members at the annual Park Board Volunteers of the Year recognition on April 19 were (from left) Tara Hanlon-Nevins, Sandi Larson, Craig Westgate, Monica Smith, James Reid, Claire Ruebeck, and Steve Goltry.



Backstaged by eight of the nine Park Board commissioners and Superintendent Jayne Miller, both of our Hill and Lake Volunteers of the Year honorees proudly display their plaques. From left are Park Siding Park Gardening Group members Craig Westgate, Monica Smith, Tara Hanlon-Nevins, Sandi Larson, James Reid, Steve Goltry, and Claire Ruebeck. On the right is Kenwood's Dave Schaezner, honored for his extraordinary care of the garden beds on the west side of Lake of the Isles.



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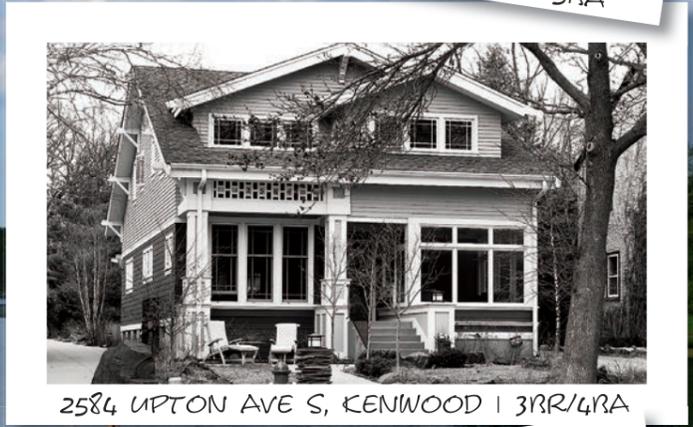
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KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

By Shawn Smith

April 2017 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met April 3rd, 2017 at Kenwood Rec Center.

Chair Jeanette Colby called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors present: Chair Jeanette Colby, Vice Chair Larry Moran, Jack Levi, Mike Bono, Josine Peters, Will Stensrud, Secretary Shawn Smith. Absent: Mark Brown, Angie Erdrich, and Matt Spies. Also present CM Lisa Goodman, Jean Deatruck.

The Agenda was Approved Unanimously

City Council Update – Lisa Goodman

Penn/Oliver Avenue reconstruction is scheduled to begin within a couple of months. The area to be reconstructed is from Douglas Ave to Lake of the Isles Parkway. There will be an assessment of .22 cents per sq/ft per property owner, representing 7% of the total cost of \$1M. There will be a public information meeting reviewing the project on April 25th at 6:30 at the Kenwood Rec Center. There will be a separate public meeting on the assessment, tentatively scheduled for May 9th.

The April 26th Lunch with Lisa will host representatives from the Park Board and Walker Sculpture Garden. They will discuss public art and sculpture, including updates on the Walker. Please call Lisa's office to order a lunch in advance (\$10).

Street sweeping begins April 11. www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping. Please be sure to follow parking restrictions to avoid a ticket.

Yard waste bundles will also be picked up at the same time – place it with recycling for pickup. Do not sweep into the street as it is damaging to the environment.

As Backyard Fire season begins, please observe City Rules: Permitted only 9AM to 10PM, burn only untreated fire wood (no trash), fire must be 25 feet from a structure and in a fire ring.

I-94 will be under construction from the Lowry Hill Tunnel to Brooklyn Center, starting in May. An example of an impact to Minneapolis is that I-94 will be reduced to two lanes from May to November. One side of the Lowry Hill Tunnel will be closed. The project website is www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i94brooklyncntr.

I-35W will be under rehabilitation starting Summer 2017-Fall 2021, between 43rd St S and 15th St. Please see www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wminneapolis.

Financial Report – Matt Spies (Pre-Report)

Matt pre-reported less than \$2500 in expenditures for the month, which included payments for the Hill and Lake Press Annual Sponsorship, down payments for the annual gathering, and board liability insurance.

2552 W Lake of the Isles Variance – Ryan Smith, Tyler Hillger

Construction on the vacant lot at 2552 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway will require two variances to build as designed: 1) Front Yard Setback. Due to the curve of the street, the setback rule would place the house in violation. The variance would allow the setback variance

to be consistent with the adjacent homes. As designed, the front of the home will be behind the front of the original home down in 2004. 2) Terrace Square Footage Maximum. The planned terrace would be allowable if variance 1 is approved.

KIAA did not make a motion on the variance and requested that the board be kept informed and adjacent neighbors directly engaged by the homeowner.

If approved by the city, construction would begin late summer 2017.

CPP and Priority Plan

The board voted unanimously to approve the 2016 KIAA CPP Annual Report, which will be submitted to the city.

Mike presented a Financial Interest and Fiduciary Responsibility conflict of interest policy, now required by Minneapolis, to preserve public trust in the integrity of KIAA decision-making process. The policy, once signed, will also be posted to the KIAA website. The policy will be voted on between meetings to allow board members time to review.

East Cedar Lake Beach (ECLB)– Will Stensrud

Will reviewed the proposed budget for the summer of 2017 at \$5450, to support programming: Yoga, Log Rolling, June 10 Summer Kickoff Party, BeArtrageous, and a Music Series. Motions were made to fund June 10th Summer Kickoff (\$1300), Yoga (\$600 for 10 sessions), the June 21st Solstice Party (\$150), July 15th Pirates and Mermaids (\$500). Approved unanimously.

An additional expenditure of \$2000 was proposed to buy a generator to fill a bounce house for weekly events. Due to liability concerns, the subcommittee was asked to go back and research further prior to a vote on the funding.

Annual Gathering May 1st – Jeanette Colby for Angie Erdrich

The Gathering is 6-7:30 at Kenwood Corner

KIAA board members are requested to sign up for tasks. As the board elections are held during the gathering, any residents of Kenwood that are interested in joining the KIAA board are encouraged to contact ssmith288@me.com and indicate interest. Current board members were requested to announce their intent to run prior to the next meeting.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Updates – Shawn Smith

Shawn provides updates on this standing topic, the #1 priority for the board per the Neighborhood Priority Plan survey.

County Transit Improvement Board did not vote unanimously from disbanding, with Dakota County voting against without a larger payout, and Hennepin County against because commissioners knew that CTIB would not disband. It remains to be seen whether a county sales tax can be implemented to fund the missing state share of \$135M

SWLRT and Bottineau line are not approved for funding in the new proposed federal budget. 84 State legislators signed a letter to Transportation Secretary Chao further requesting that funding be withheld because it did not have legislative support.

Files are advancing at the state level to remove/increase railroad liability for co-location, block any future light rail transit without state approval, and implement terms and elections to Met Council officials.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeanette Colby at 8:45 p.m.

Updates: Please visit our website at 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 the Annual Gathering on Monday, May 1st, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Corner. 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

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

CIDNA BOARD MEETING MINUTES, April 12, 2017

The meeting was held at Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Stephen Goltry, Barbara Lunde, Jan Nielsen, James Reid, Karen Stublaski, Amanda Vallone, Vern Vander Weide, and Mike Wilson.

Staff: Monica Smith

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

City Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, April 26, Noon at the University of St. Thomas. The topic is the Sculpture Garden renovation.

Street sweeping has begun. The Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood is scheduled for the week of April 17. For more information, go to minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping.

Yard waste collection has begun for the season. For details, go to minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yard-waste.

Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Trail Improvements, Dan Elias, Park Board

The public hearing for the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan will be Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Park Board, 2117 W River Road.

Due to funding deadlines, some projects identified

as priorities in the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan are moving forward this year. The projects include bike/pedestrian trail rehabilitation, a new at-grade bike/ped trail between Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles, and widening the existing bike/ped trail over the Lake Street bridge by reducing the traffic lane widths (traffic lanes will not be eliminated as previously recommended). Construction will begin in May; watch for detours. The majority of work on the NE corner of Lake Calhoun will not begin until after Labor Day.

NRP/ CPP Report, Monica Smith

The Park Board approved the Park Stewards Agreement for the Park Siding Park gardens. The first gardening day of the season is Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

The CIDNA Gardeners won the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's (MPRB) "Volunteer of the Year" award in the Group category. An award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 5:00 p.m. at the Park Board Headquarters, 2117 W River Road. RSVP by April 14 to sbrooks@minneapolisparcs.org.

Cedar Lake South Beach Clean Up will be Saturday, May 6, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Volunteers needed.

The Lake of the Isles warming house project is currently on hold.

On May 2, the City Council will be formally voting

CIDNA to page 12

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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

Diana Schleisman, Administrator

Minutes from the EIRA Annual Membership Meeting April 18, 2017 Grace Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Andrew Degerstrom (President), Julia Curran (Vice-President), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Amy Sanborn, Peter Mason, Nancy Johnston, John Grochala, Steve Havig, Mike Erlandson

Board members absent: Bruce Larson

Staff: Diana Schleisman

Guests: Council member Lisa Goodman, Brad Ash (EIRA Board Candidate), Debbie Gold (EIRA Board Candidate), Carla Pardue (Alternate Candidate), Bill Elwood (Green Team)

Residents: Peg Birk, Ellen van Iwaarden, Evan Carlson, Lona Healam, John Healam,

Social hour 6:30-7:00pm

EIRA President Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced Lisa Goodman, City Council Member, as the first speaker.

Community Speaker

Lisa thanked Andrew for his service as President of EIRA for the past year. She commented on an added goal to the City of Minneapolis comprehensive plan, which states that Neighborhood Associations are valued and that the work they do in collaboration with the city is important.

The next Lunch with Lisa is April 26th, and the subject is the Walker Art Museum's new Sculpture Garden. May will focus on East Downtown and pedestrian traffic. June will likely be a field trip, possibly at the Target Center.

Weekly reports are being sent from her office regarding construction projects, traffic issues, ramp closures, events scheduled, and more.

She has been working on getting the new Walgreens to be in compliance with several requests which include lighting, entrances, litter, traffic, and hours of operation.

A concern was raised about sidewalk construction and pedestrian safety on Hennepin & Lyndale. Lisa was unaware of any issues at the moment and will look into it.

Lisa mentioned that she will be unable to attend the next EIRA BOD meeting in May.

Reports

Social Committee

Amy Sanborn, Chair, coordinates Social Committee events with other committee members Nancy Johnston and Carla Pardue and other volunteers. Events include:

Ice Skating Party in the winter which was cancelled last year due to warmth

Uptown Art Fair pop booth of which EIRA receives 10% of sales as donations

Ice Cream Social in the summer, with a petting zoo and more

Wine tasting fundraiser which brings in about \$2,000 to EIRA

Goals for 2017 include more volume in events and outreach. Amy has chaired the committee for 10 years and would like to transition to a successor.

Transportation Committee

Peter Mason, Chair talked about the committee's goal to make EIRA a better place to move around in no matter the mode. Projects include:

311 walking tours

Greenway adoption with cleanup 2x/year

Traffic concerns, especially including rush hour and speeding

Dedicated bus lanes on Hennepin Avenue during rush hours

Creating bus stops in EIRA for greater accessibility to neighbors

Green Team Committee

Bill Elwood spoke on behalf of the Committee. The Green Team was formed in 2011, and focuses on learning and greening the neighborhood while having fun. Four goals are considered:

Sustainable Energy; Reduced Consumption; Sustainable Food; Protecting Waters.

Several events have supported these aspects:

Earth Day Cleanup: Sat Apr 22nd at 27th St & Lake of the Isles Pkwy, volunteers needed!

Community Solar: ground breaking is expected to begin in May

Gardening initiatives: such as rain garden projects, garden parties, and plant swaps

Enrichment seminars: on topics such as household toxins, food waste, and more

Super Sale: the Second Saturday of September, of which approximately 48 homes participated in 2016

Zoning Committee

Andrew Degerstrom reported 2017 as a fairly slow year thus far. Most of the discussions have revolved around the problems with Walgreens.

Typically, the Zoning committee encourages buildings along Hennepin Avenue to be consistent with the goals of multi-story and mixed use. When asked if the City supports the Zoning Committee suggestions, Andrew stated that the committee tries to align its recommendations with the City's goals, and attempts to filter some of the requests for compliance before submitting opinions if needed.

Zoning meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm - unless there are no issues to consider then the meetings may be cancelled.

Outreach & Nominations Committee

Nancy Johnston, Chair, encouraged residents to be a part of this committee which meets between January and April. The main purpose is to recruit residents to consider serving on the Board as members or alternates. Elections are held at each annual meeting. Usually two members leave the BOD due to the four year maximum term. Meetings take place at 6:30pm before the BOD

meetings on the 2nd Tuesday during active months. Nancy expressed that any East Isles Resident may be a member of any committee without having to commit to the BOD.

President's Report

Andrew Degerstrom announced that he will not seek reelection as President, yet expects to remain on the EIRA BOD. He expressed appreciation for support received when he was heavily involved in his full-time grad school duties. He will stay active in the role until the BOD Officer elections in May, and will help with the transition.

Treasurer's Report

The largest source of revenue for EIRA is through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Community Participation Program (CPP). Donations are the second largest source of income for EIRA. Residents are encouraged to support the organization to continue benefits EIRA provides.

The part-time Administrator position uses approximately 40% of EIRA income. The Administrator role provides support to EIRA for committees, meetings, reporting, finances, website, e-newsletter, emails, and communications with residents, the city, and other organizations. About 20% of income is used for events, meetings, and other program expenses. Another 20% is spent on publications, printing, and communications such as the website, hosting, and e-newsletter. The final 20% is miscellaneous categories that include other expenses related to operations of the organization.

Currently, the bank account has about \$40,000 which is comprised of previous surpluses. In 2016 there was a small deficit of approximately \$100.

Staff Report

Diana Schleisman was invited to introduce herself to residents. She talked about her lifelong South Minneapolis residency and passion for involvement. She also mentioned her education and experience in non-profit management as well as neighborhood organization participation. With a part-time position it may take a longer time to progress, but she feels comfortable and confident in her role supporting EIRA and its goals to improve the neighborhood.

NRP Committee

Mike Erlandson, Chair, spoke about how the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Committee allocates funding from the City of

EIRA to page 12

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CIDNA ANNUAL MEETING!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017
5:45 P.M. REFRESHMENTS & SOCIALIZING
6:15 P.M. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
JONES-HARRISON RESIDENCE
3700 CEDAR LAKE AVENUE



MEETING AGENDA:

- Updates from elected officials and Minneapolis Police Department
- Hear about plans for improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach
- Elect CIDNA Board members
- Learn about CIDNA Board activities, issues, events, programs and more

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EVEN BETTER!
CIDNA Board elections will be held at the Annual Meeting; run for an open board seat! Email info@cidna.org and/or visit cidna.org for more information.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Day Basket Making
Sunday, April 30 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Jones-Harrison Residence
3700 Cedar Lake Ave
Celebrate the spring season and join us in making May Day baskets to be delivered to all the amazing people at Jones-Harrison. Free; all supplies provided.

Beach Clean Up
Saturday, May 6 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Cedar Lake South Beach
3400 Cedar Lake Pkwy
Help us keep the beach clean by joining the Beach Clean Up Crew. Volunteers needed. Contact info@cidna.org.

Park Siding Park Gardening
Saturday, May 20 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Park Siding Park, 3113 W 28th St
Join our volunteer gardening team. No gardening experience necessary. Help is needed all season, so mark your calendar for the following Saturday mornings: June 24, July 22, August 26 and September 23.

cidna.org

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

to transfer TIF revenue to restore previously frozen NRP funds. Comment period is open until May 1.

The Future of Neighborhood Organizations meeting is Monday, May 8, 6:00 p.m. (dinner), 6:30-8:30 p.m. (program) at Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. Free dinner and childcare provided.

The CIDNA Board approved the NRP Committee's recommendation to remove the use of chemicals for treating diseased trees from the tree grant program. The program will continue to offer grants for tree and buck-thorn removal.

The next committee meeting is Wednesday, April 26, 3:30 p.m. at Rustica.

Cedar Lake South Beach, Monica Smith

A community meeting to review the revised design for South Beach will be held on Monday, April 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence.

There are various issues to be worked out with the location of the restroom.

The Park Board will hold a public hearing for the project on Wednesday, May 3.

Annual Meeting Planning

The CIDNA Annual Members' Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10. The evening will begin with a social time from 5:45 p.m.; the meeting begins at 6:15. Guest speakers include: elected officials, Park Board representative to report on Cedar Lake South Beach, and the MPD 5th Precinct Inspector.

May Day, Amanda Vallone

A May Day Basket Making event will be held on Sunday, April 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence. We will be making baskets to be delivered to Jones-Harrison residents and staff. The CIDNA Board approved a budget of up to \$300.

Land Use Committee, Craig Westgate

The Land Use Committee will meet with the Brickstone project team on April 13 to see revised plans for an 8-story concrete/steel building.

Transportation Committee, Craig Westgate

Barbara Lunde shared an article from the Center of the American Experiment entitled "Off the Rails: How the Met Council Misplans the Twin Cities."

The Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) was not dissolved.

The Met Council is proposing raising fares for bus/light rail service and cutting service.

Funding for Southwest LRT continues to be an issue.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

A CIDNA resident may be interested in serving as CIDNA representative on the Greenway Coalition board.

Comprehensive Plan Activity

The meeting was running long so the board did not have time to work on this activity.

New business

The homeowners of 3311 Cedar Lake Ave are planning a renovation that will require a variance for work on the slope in the shoreland overlay district. Also, there is a 25' front yard setback requirement. The existing building is 24' from the front property line and the property owners would like to build an upper level on the existing main level.

Plans are progressing for a Wine Tasting Fundraiser in late October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 5:45 p.m. social and 6:15 p.m. meeting at Jones-Harrison Residence.

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

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BY SUSIE GALIANO, TREASURER

Minutes of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Meeting April 11, 2017, 7:00 – 9:00 PM Kenwood Recreation Center

Present Board Members: Phil Hallaway (President), Toni D'Eramo, Michael Cockson (Vice President), Tom Huppert, Baygen Hartzheim, Scott Shaffer, Emily Beugen, Suzanne Shaff, Sarah Janecek

Guest Members and Staff: Michael McLaughlin, Sam Ellingson, Craig Wilson, John Van Heel.

Call to Order: President Phil Hallaway called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Jimmy Fogel moved to approve the minutes. Tom Huppert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Announcements: There were no community announcements as Council-member Goodman was unavailable to meet. Mr. Hallaway briefly presented notes provided by Ms. Goodman's office:

- Lunch with Lisa-April 26, Opus Hall #202, Walker Sculpture Garden update
- Street sweeping begins April 11
- Yard waste collection begins April 10

Douglas Median Project (Craig Wilson, Michael McLaughlin and John Van Heel). Mr. Wilson provided update on landscaping and maintenance of the rebuilt Hennepin/Lyndale Corridor. He explained the history of the Douglas Median Project and presented a full footprint of the median landscaping plan.

He explained that funding for the median has been inconsistent. He asked for \$2,500 for annual maintenance of the Douglas Median and the other landscaping areas. Other stakeholders in the area, such as the Walker Art Center and the Basilica of St. Mary's have also agreed to provide contributions of \$2,500 per year.

There was a motion by Ms. Janecek that stated the following:

"The LHNA allocates up to \$20K of its designated city funds for neighborhood use to the capital costs of the Douglas median landscape project.

Further, the LHNA agrees to contribute funding towards the annual costs of providing maintenance to the medians within the Hennepin-Lyndale area. For 2017, 2018, and 2019 the commitment shall be \$2,500 per annum. Further, the LHNA will be described as a partner of the Hennepin-Lyndale Partnership in documentation filed with the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Transportation with regard to the project area grant applications and the partnership's commitment to providing ongoing maintenance to the medians within the Hennepin-Lyndale area."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Cockson.

The Board unanimously approved this motion.

Treasurer's Report

Current checking account balance is \$23,250. All outstanding liabilities have been paid. Two donations aggregating \$250 were received last month. Filing of the tax return is due in May.

Approval of 2016 CPP Annual Report- Mr. Cockson Moved and Ms. Schaff seconded to approve the 2016 CPP Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Events (Huppert, Stern, Beugen)

- a. Annual Meeting - Program, New Board

Members, Social Hour, Tour, Budget.

Mr. Hallaway advised the board that he would send out his invitation letter regarding the Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday May 16, at Temple Israel. The Annual Meeting will be from 6-9 p.m. with a social hour from 6-7 pm. Appetizers and cash bar will be available. The event will be catered by a local vendor.

The Board authorized Mr. Fogel to negotiate catering with a budget up to \$2,500 for food and drinks.

The meeting will include an opening welcome from Temple Israel, tours of Temple Israel, a presentation by Olga Viso about the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden improvements, presentations by the LHNA Board and election of Directors to the LHNA Board.

The LHNA discussed the need to elect new board members as 3 members are leaving. Rebecca Graham has served the maximum term of 6 years, Susie Galiano is resigning, and Suzanne Schaff is no longer eligible to serve as she is moving out of Lowry Hill.

Sam Ellingson, a fairly new resident to Lowry Hill, stated her interest in serving as a Director.

The following individuals are up for re-election:

Michael Cockson

Jennifer Bickett

Emily Beugen

Baygen Hartzheim

Clint Connor

Zoning and Planning (Cockson, Conner, Shaffer) The committee had nothing to report.

Crime and Safety (Bickett, Shaff, Fogel)

In spite of the fairly low rate of crime in March in Lowry Hill, residents are still concerned about crime and safety in areas close to Lowry Hill. The Hennepin/Lyndale area, especially near the I94 overpasses is an area of concern. Much of this area is not under the jurisdiction of the City, but rather MNDot which creates a policing problem. Local residents, Roy and Kathy Williams provided the Board with a summary of March crimes occurring in areas adjacent to Lowry Hill that showed a high incidence of crime in these areas.

Environment (Beugen, D'Eramo) Ms. D'Eramo indicated that she will set up a table at the annual meeting to provide information about composting, recycling, etc.

Neighborhood Priorities (Janecek, Hartzheim)

"Paint the Pavement"- Mr. Schaffer shared plans to collect ideas for paint the pavement at the annual meeting. Mr. Schaffer will speak to the artist (Greta McClean) and attempt to secure her availability for the annual meeting.

Communications/Outreach (D'Eramo, Madden)

a. Hill & Lake Press - Ms. D'Eramo will work with Chris Madden to create an ad for annual meeting in Hill and Lake Press. Ms. D'Eramo indicated that she wanted to create a new website for the LHNA.

New Business- Mr. Schaffer stated that he would ask the "Paint the Pavement" artist come to next meeting in May. The Paint the Pavement project still needs work including financial information, confirmation of intersections to be painted, approval from city, etc.

Upon motion by Michael Cockson and second by Jimmy Fogel the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

EIRA from page 11

Minneapolis to EIRA neighborhood projects. Almost \$200,000 in funding is available.

Upcoming projects include:

Mall area improvements (between Walker Library and Lake of the Isles Pkwy): Benches, Chess tables, Lighting, Trees.

Financial support of \$25,000 to a local neighborhood nonprofit, The Bridge for Homeless Youth. This funding was used to leverage additional donations from other neighborhood organizations.

Funding for improvements to the warming house on Lake of the Isles to extend its useful life

Mobile wooden benches created, maintained, and stored by EIRA resident Mark Addicks

Gardens in the EIRA area, for which green thumb volunteers are needed

The Master Plan from the Park Board addresses some aspects in EIRA, so it's important for the NRP Committee to consider projects that do not interfere with the long term goals. A community meeting is being held April 19th at Park Board Headquarters, potential discussions may include a move for the sailing school, plans to remedy crowding bike and walking paths, and more.

In addition, park areas in EIRA may have different designations- such as local or regional - and therefore different funding sources.

Sand Upon the Waters

By Tom H. Cook

Writing this has been so difficult, I almost feel nostalgic for the paper era with typed crumpled drafts littering the floor and discarded ideas scrawled and flung in or near my office wastebasket. Tangible evidence of futile yet honest effort. (My mother's voice ringing in my ears, "You have to at least try.") Proof, like a runner's sweat, that I labored, albeit in vain, to reach even my modest standard of journalism. I cannot tell you how many times I have begun this (all right, 15). Now a click exorcises hours of folly.

Why is this piece so hard? In every draft I come off as preaching to my betters. Shrill, sanctimonious, self-righteous, and self-serving. Why bother? Why not write about the mentally ill gaining easier access to

EIRA from page 12

EIRA residents are encouraged to provide input on possible projects to improve the area. Any suggestions should be sent to: info@eastisles.org

Board Election

Each incumbent present (Andrew Degerstrom, Julia Curran, Brian Milavitz, Amy Sanborn, Peter Mason, John Grochala, Steve Havig, Mike Erlandson) and potential new candidates (Brad Ash and Debbie Gold) expressed interest in serving on the EIRA BOD. Although one incumbent was absent (Bruce Larson), he sent an email that was read aloud which stated his intent to continue to serve. Other residents in attendance were invited to nominate themselves or another for consideration. Hearing no other nominations, a verbal vote was taken to approve the ballot with no changes. The ballot was unanimously approved.

Guest Speakers

Vikas Narula, Founder of Neighborhood Forest, spoke about his experience starting the organization. They focus on giving trees to kids in urban areas. In 2010 they gave 400 trees to kids in schools. In 2016 an estimated 8,000 trees were distributed. The goal for 2017 is to provide 10,000 trees. On average, trees cost about \$2 per child. Neighborhood Forest depends on sponsors to support the program.

Trees given include evergreen and deciduous. Native trees are chosen for the program, and the species vary from year to year for diversification. A nursery in Minnesota is used for the supply.

A unique aspect of the program is that a tracking system has been set up. It monitors the growth of the trees as well as the inspiring stories of those who plant them.

Neighborhood Forest would appreciate a relationship with EIRA in the form of sponsorship, community connections, and/or outreach. www.neighborhoodforest.org

Reminder: The next East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) Board meeting will be held at 7 pm on May 9, 2017 at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.

EIRA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by EIRA. 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 info@eastisles.org at least five (5) days

weapons, or the "relaxation" of data privacy laws, or why reading the posts on Next Door in any neighborhood makes me want to move far away? This is about a series of small gestures I have undertaken. As a final disclaimer, I am not setting myself up as a paragon of generosity and I likely do less for my fellow man than you do, yet here is my very short tale.

I have always been "let's call it frugal" although those that know me have other names for it. In the last few years I have begun to loosen up a bit. This is not about writing checks to worthy organizations (see HLP/March 2004). In non-tipping situations I have taken to rewarding people that have gone out of their way for me. It seems like every minimum wage and a bit higher worker is being rated and evaluated by their supervisor who in turn must report up the ladder and ultimately to the head weasel. This has produced a class of people subtly bullied into feeling grateful for the opportunity to do a difficult, monotonous, unpleasant, and/or dangerous job. Then they must worry that I will turn them in for below average groveling and insufficient servility.

My eyes have become further opened to the squeeze on the working poor. They are "independent contractors," which translates to no healthcare, seniority, retirement or sick leave. When I have had positive dealing with workers and service people who I feel deserve a bit extra, I help. They do not have to give me a story, but often it flows freely. I assure them that we are off the record and they will get all "5s" from me. Like Studs Terkel, I ask, "What do you do all day, and how do you feel about it? How are you treated by the company?" I am just an old man asking gentle questions. If they have quotas to meet and need to rush off, I let them go.

Countless times I have received an extra coat of

touch-up paint on a gate, a few extra feet of cable, or a tow to a slightly out of network repair shop. We are enjoined in a conspiracy, if only for a few minutes. We know I am being overcharged for the product or service and they are receiving a pitifully small percentage. Their lives are far harder than mine (affordable housing may be 50 miles away from where their route begins) yet they see me as a fellow victim of the bureaucratic rules that bind us. Since I don't come off as an entitled homeowner, the service people I have met are astonishing. This is not a tit for tat nor a figurative back scratching. These are good souls trapped in a piecemeal system with no safety net or union protection. I could not even in my prime (May-August 1977) last a week in their lives.

Often the repair person has fixed problems like mine many times. Just by my offering a cold drink on a hot day they will show me tricks to head off future repairs. I am not polite because of what I may gain, but I am genuinely interested and sympathetic. I never lead with the promise of a gift. Generally it is a Columbo moment ("Just one more thing..."). Often the tip is refused until I mention the extra service they provided me. I don't give a huge amount; maybe enough to take their family to dinner, pay a bill, or put gas in their vehicle (sadly not all three). Invariably they are flabbergasted. The gratitude I receive is more valuable and feels better than what I would have done with the money.

Tom H. Cook is now an occasional columnist. He recommends *The Despair of Learning That Experience No Longer Matters* by Benjamin Wallace-Wells in the April 10, 2017 New Yorker.

SAVE THE DATE!



Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 16th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

All Lowry Hill Residents are invited and encouraged to attend! Join your LHNA Board and neighbors for a fun and informative evening.

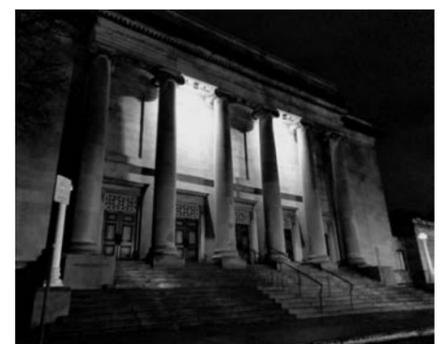
6:00 p.m. Lowry Hill Residents Social Hour

- Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar
- Meet and chat with Lowry Hill neighbors and Board members
- Opportunity to tour the newly renovated Temple Israel

7:00 p.m. LHNA Meeting & Board Update

- Guest speaker Olga Viso, Walker Art Center Executive Director will give an update on the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden
- The Board's annual update on LHNA
- Elect several new members to the LHNA Board

After the meeting, stay to socialize if you like! We'll have appetizers and a cash bar for the Social Hour and again, after the LHNA meeting, until 9:00 p.m.



Suzanne Shaff / Shaff Photography Worldwide

To learn more about LHNA visit us at lowryhillneighborhood.org

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Hill & Lake Press

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Where we are Now!

By Jean Deatruck

Spring is an exciting time of year for me and I hope for others. We see the plants and flowers emerging from under the detritus of winter cover and it brings us hope. Hope that life will be beautiful and exciting.

Caucus time is over and now it is on to conventions. We live in an activist neighborhood where residents are serious about nominating their Minneapolis City Council candidate, their mayoral candidate, and of course the Park board candidates. Because we live near Kenwood Park and our beautiful Lake of the Isles, our parks are important to us.

We are also fortunate to have Hill and Lake Press which focuses on our four neighborhoods around Lake of the Isles. As most readers know, we are on our 41st year and remain popular in the neighborhoods. I do hear by telephone or email if residents are unhappy, but mostly I receive emails of gratitude. Our most difficult issue is delivery however. Delivery has been handled expertly for a long time now and I am especially grateful. I don't appreciate having to drive off and deliver papers that should have been delivered earlier.

I enjoy joining my friend Eldon for happy hour with his friends in Plymouth. Yesterday I sat by an interesting man who grew up in the Powderhorn neighborhood. As a young person he said he delivered his neighborhood newspaper. (That was when every neighborhood had a newspaper.) He said that he (and others) would often throw their papers over a bridge and not deliver them so that they could finish their route earlier. He said he was never admonished even though he also had to ring doorbells and gather payments for the newspapers.

I don't think we have had such wildly bad delivery service in our area fortunately. Delivery is working really well now. And, to my astonishment, I received a phone call recently from a resident who didn't leave his name or number. He found a couple of stacks of Hill and Lake Press and he wanted to deliver them to me because he said he knew how important they were. That's the kind of neighborhood we live in. A great place where people care and look out for one another.

LETTERS

RE: Help on the way for Penn/Oliver in Kenwood

Always enjoy Michael Wilson's work - two great stories in the March, 2017 issue.

Penn/Oliver in Kenwood are not the only concrete streets in HLP land in need of repair. Check out Cedar Lake Avenue in CIDNA, as an example of other ones that need some help.

As I recall, these streets were paved in the summer/fall of 1970. I graduated from West in June, 1970, and all our neighborhood streets had been torn up at once for the work. It was a very dusty summer, as the city's approach was to tear up everything at once, and then slowly work on grading, pouring curbs, and finally pouring the streets. I vividly remember damaging the oil pan in our Chevrolet on those dirt streets (it wasn't my fault!).

The concrete was poured around September, 1970 at our house. I was starting the U of M that fall and classes didn't start until late September. I got to "watch" all the work from my parent's home at Drew and Cedar Lake Avenue. It was a big deal that we were getting concrete streets.

Keep up the great work, HLP!

Gary Cohen, Golden Valley, MN, former CIDNA editor and former HLP foreign correspondent

Mike - thank you for both articles in the HLP. Can't wait to read part II about the mansions.

I thought you both might enjoy this segment from Samantha Bee about the importance of local newspapers. <http://www.avclub.com/article/samantha-bee-tries-save-local-journalism-one-news-252584>

She should interview you two!

Kathy Low Kenwood



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Since March 1976, The Hill & Lake Press has served the community as a non-profit newspaper staffed by volunteers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

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|---|----------------|----------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|----------|--|
| 1770 Bryant S | \$ 144,900 | \$ 0 | 19 | \$ 140,000 | C | 1/1 | 754 | \$ 92,470 | \$ 1,640 | 1968 |
| 2521 Humboldt S | 199,900 | 3,998 | 139 | 199,500 | C | 1/1 | 680 | 156,780 | 2,282 | 1922 |
| 3116 W Lake St #523 | 339,900 | 1,250 | 49 | 315,000 | C | 1/1 | 1,060 | 217,820 | 3,323 | 2007 |
| 3116 W Lake St #514 | 339,900 | 1,153 | 86 | 316,225 | C | 1/2 | 1,153 | 266,000 | 4,503 | 2007 |
| 2863 Kenwood Isles Dr | 399,900 | 0 | 12 | 435,000 | TWN | 2/2 | 1,984 | 323,500 | 4,911 | 1986 |
| 2400 Thomas Lane | 849,900 | 0 | 210 | 765,000 | TWN | 3/3 | 2,876 | 725,500 | 12,296 | 1988 |
| 2115 Newton S | 915,000 | 0 | 38 | 895,000 | H | 3/3 | 2,534 | 916,500 | 15,984 | 1921 |
| 2120 Kenwood Pkwy | 1,050,000 | 0 | 61 | 945,000 | H | 3/3 | 2,339 | 695,500 | 10,935 | 1925 |
| 118 Groveland Terrace | 1,275,000 | 22,000 | 449 | 1,020,000 | TWN | 4/4 | 5,356 | 1,304,500 | 21,984 | 1990 |
| 1774 Girard S (new const) | 1,695,000 | 0 | 42 | 1,810,613 | H | 5/6 | 4,573 | 495,500 | 7,869 | 2016 |
| 2227 W 21st St | 2,195,000 | 39,000 | 527 | 1,990,000 | H | 5/7 | 8,339 | 1,900,000 | 31,288 | 1900 |
| Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig | | | | | Home | H | | | | |
| | | | | | Condo | C | | | | |
| Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County | | | | | Townhouse | TWN | | | | (Go to mplsrealtor.com for additional info) |

SWLRT Route Is a Sweetheart Deal for Developers

By Stuart A. Chazin

Contrary to his stated intention, Mr. Kelly Doran, in his March 28th StarTribune op-ed, wound up providing one of the best reasons why SWLRT is wrong for the Metro area: It is being built to benefit wealthy developers like him, instead of the people who need transit.

Otherwise, why wouldn't SWLRT be routed through Uptown or the North Side in Minneapolis, or the West Side in St. Louis Park — areas rich in transit-dependent riders? Plans are to run instead through areas rich in vacant land where developers can build and benefit enormously from a taxpayer-funded project. (One wonders if Mr. Doran would be as excited about SWLRT if he had to pay a surtax on the financial benefits he would reap from its construction.)

Mr. Doran charges 84 legislators have shown "an incredible act of selfishness and foolhardiness" by opposing SWLRT funding in a letter to the Department of Transportation. I say those 84 legislators acted responsibly by representing their constituents and showed an incredible act of courage by fighting to stop this by any means possible.

In addition, the State of Minnesota has never held a single vote as to whether SWLRT is a good project to proceed with. Considering over \$900 million of Minnesota tax dollars are going to be spent building this, most citizens believe that the Legislature should have some say in the building of one of the most expensive public works projects in Minnesota's history.

He criticizes homeowners who oppose the route. He calls them NIMBYs who think SWLRT would damage them (they do believe it would endanger the lakes, destroy an urban forest, and introduce the catastrophic risk of igniting a catastrophic explosion of ethanol in adjacent freight trains). I say that if such "NIMBYism" is wrong,

how much more wrong is Mr. Doran's "IMBYism" — supporting the project to line his own pockets — at taxpayer expense.

Mr. Doran states he is investing more than \$50 million in apartment developments in Hopkins directly on the Southwest-metro light-rail line because of SWLRT. He forgets he went twice on record in this newspaper saying he would have done the project even if the SWLRT weren't built: "I like Hopkins ... and I probably would have done this project anyway" (Star Tribune May 14, 2016 and August 31, 2016).

Mr. Doran claims that city councils all along the line support SWLRT, even though Mayor Hodges said, "Had the City of Minneapolis known from day one that freight would remain in the corridor, the city would never have agreed to Kenilworth Corridor as the preferred LRT route."

He also forgets that the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board was preparing to sue the Met Council over the damage SWLRT would do to the lakes and parks — until Governor Dayton threatened to withhold \$3.14 million in park board funding. However, concerned citizens continue to fight for the environment: The Lakes and Parks Alliance of Minneapolis is suing the Met Council over SWLRT for having violated federal environmental law. Three times the council has tried to get the lawsuit thrown out of court and three times the court has denied their request. The case goes to trial September 17, 2017.

All Minnesotans benefit from great transportation in the Metro area — it's the economic engine of the state. But at a jaw-dropping cost of \$2 billion, SWLRT must have as its goal to serve the people, not to line the pockets of Mr. Doran and other developers.

Cedar-Isles-Dean resident Stuart Chazin is a co-founder of the Lakes & Parks Alliance of Minneapolis. He submitted the commentary above to the StarTribune in response to an OpEd written by developer and Calhoun Village owner Kelly Doran and published on March 28 ("Pitch to halt federal funding for Southwest LRT is preposterous"). View Doran's OpEd at startribune.com/417384793. The StarTribune declined to publish Chazin's rebuttal.]



Light rail transit through neighborhood is temporarily derailed

by Will Craig

Things are happening in the CNW rail corridor, that's obvious to everyone. Except for the through-lines, all the rails and ties have been torn out. Soon all buildings will be gone too. What isn't clear is what is going to be there in the future.

The land is now owned by the Hennepin County Railroad Authority. It was purchased from the Chicago Northwestern Railroad last year for \$6 million. The justification for the purchase was that the land might be useful as a transit corridor. Transit could include LRT (light rail transit) or, possibly, a busway. Whether or not land is eventually dedicated to this use, much other land is freed up now. The county currently has no plan for developing this excess land.

What about the future of railroading on existing tracks? CNW has an easement to continue using their tracks for as long as they wish. They have incentive to pull out earlier however. When the sale was made, Hennepin County withheld \$1.5 million. If the railroad pulls out before April 1987, they get this money in full. If they miss that deadline, but are out by April 1991, they still get \$.5 million. CNW is now negotiating to acquire the Milwaukee Road; if successful they have stated that they will be out of the corridor within 6 months. The CNW may decide to stay. If they do and LRT is built, their easement restricts them to two train movements per day, these must be between midnight and 6 a.m.

It is not clear that any transit will ever occur in the corridor. Much of the current activity has resulted from a federal UMTA (Urban Mass Transit Authority) grant of \$500,000 to study alternatives in the Twin Cities. UMTA believes we might be able to build a University Avenue transitway or a southwest transitway, but not both. Even if the southwest corridor is chosen, an alternative route in from Hopkins is across the 29th Street rail corridor and up Nicollet Avenue into downtown.

The UMTA grant funds a study by a consultant on the feasibility of each alternative. It also calls for a rather elaborate review process by citizens and public officials. At the center is a Steering Committee comprised of elected officials, including 7th ward alderman, Barbara Carlson. This committee collects reports and opinions from both the consultant and from citizens groups; these should be complete by the end of the year. Then the review process starts. The steering committee reports to the Regional Transit Board. From there the decision goes to the Metropolitan Council. These reviews should be complete by April 1985. Requests for funding preliminary engineering studies and eventually construction might then go forward to UMTA and/or state legislators.

Citizen input to this process has come from the South-



Present view of CNW rail corridor from Burnham Bridge. Photo by Gretchen Vander Weide

west Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee made up of representatives of the various neighborhoods and communities along the route, running all the way out to Excelsior. Representing Kenwood-Isles have been John Rebane and Will Craig. Representing CICO (the Calhoun-Isles Community Organization) has been Pat Scott. Other affected neighborhoods have also been authorized to send representatives to the monthly meetings.

If LRT were to come, the greater HLP (Hill & Lake Press) neighborhood could benefit from increased access to downtown. If the route comes through the CNW corridor, there will be a stop at 21st Street. From there, travellers would be whisked downtown at 50mph. Two possible approaches to downtown exist. On the first, the trains would follow the CNW tracks along 3rd Avenue North to 6th Street, then swing into downtown with a first stop on Hennepin. On the second, the train would leave the CNW right-of-way at Highway 12, come in Wayzata Boulevard, make its first stop on Hennepin and Lyndale, then proceed down Hennepin with stops every other block.

Two other stops might serve CIDNA. Between Cedar Lake Road (Dean Parkway), Lake Street, and France, two more stops must be designated. The location is yet to be determined.

Your neighborhood representatives have viewed LRT as a reasonable land use, but argued strongly against the busway. LRT is certainly superior to a southwest diagonal freeway and its installation would preempt the freeway as a possibility. With the great quantity of parks in the area, the chance of this land being given over to recreation use is remote. LRT looks like a good choice. Busways are an anathema. Once the pavement is down, it's too easy to allow van-pools, then car-pools and high occupancy

vehicles. Physical barriers will be removed to allow these smaller vehicles, and soon individual cars will be running at all hours. Enforcement will be sporadic, and nuisance will be high. Busways are held to be an undesirable alternative by your representatives.

Until recently we have been able to keep busways off the agenda. Now UMTA is saying that they are a viable alternative and are requiring the consultant and steering committee to give them a hearing. Representatives from the MTC, the Metropolitan Council, and the Hennepin County Railroad Authority say that analysis will be performed on busways, but only to satisfy Washington. No one is seriously considering busways in the CNW corridor. Be prepared.

Use of non-transit land in the corridor is another important issue for the neighborhood. No plan exists for that land at this time. The consultant is required to propose some strategy for using profits from this excess land to cover transit construction costs in part. The strategy might call for sale or lease of the land. Whatever, the Hennepin County Rail Authority will not be the developer. They will sell that right to a developer who will then have to work a proposal through normal city of Minneapolis procedures. These procedures certainly include much citizen input, especially since all of the land is now zoned R-1. The densest development that can take place on such land is townhouse. Any change to this zoning classification requires much public involvement. But all of this is much down the road.

The major issue for now is transit. LRT or busway or nothing. If you feel strongly about this issue, contact your neighborhood representative—or your council member. This article has presented the track we are taking. If we think things are going wrong, we will sound the alarm. Until then, watch this space and hold your breath.



LOWRY HILL GATHERED NO MOSS on Sunday, Sept. 23, as the mighty green machine steamrolled on to victory at Palio III. But as the story and pictures on pages 8 and 9 show, foxes, egrets, and raccoons shared in the fun too.

Photo by Holly Lewis

Come to the Kenwood Park Neighborhood Recreation Center (KEPNARC) Dedication
 Sunday, October 14
 1:30 Dedication
 2:00-4:00 Square dance and party
See You There!

Hill & Lake Press: on top of SWLRT for over 30 years

By Michael Wilson

Most people are aware that the controversy over light-rail transit in the Kenilworth Corridor — parkland in all but name — has been grinding on for a long time. But a review last April of all 427 issues of Hill & Lake Press, done in conjunction with the paper's 40th anniversary, showed how long the issue has been in play and how consistently and extensively Hill & Lake Press has covered it.

An attempt at listing all the people who have written about SWLRT over the years quickly produced more than twenty names, with many others inadvertently missed. The front page of the October 1984 Hill & Lake Press warrants recognition, however, both for its remarkably prophetic headline and for the succinct article written by Kenwood resident and U of MN geography professor Will Craig, with an excellent photo by Cedar-Isles-Dean resident and former HLP editor Gretchen Vander Weide.

Go to <hillandlakepress.com> next week to view the April 2017 HLP online. You will be able to enlarge the page to read this 33-year-old article more easily.

Volunteers from page 9

planted park trees, picks up trash, rakes and sweeps, and readies the park and gardens for the annual CIDNA Fall Festival.

"The Park Siding Park Gardeners group has taken many forms since the park area was initially sponsored by CIDNA over 20 years ago," said longtime group member Claire Ruebeck after the recognition ceremony. "The honor bestowed today on the current volunteers truly also belongs to all of those who have served before and inspired us. Hopefully, we too can inspire a new wave of volunteer Park Siding Park Gardeners."

Go to <cidna.org> for a list of Gardening Group meeting dates, or just show up on May 20th. Additional volunteers are always warmly welcomed.

Park Siding Park Gardening Saturday, May 20
 9:00 a.m. - Noon Park Siding Park, 3113 W. 28th St.
 No gardening experience necessary. Tools will be provided. Help is needed all season, so mark your calendar for the following Saturday mornings: June 24, July 22, August 26 and September 23. Details at www.cidna.org

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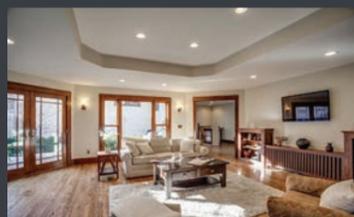
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Photo by Dorothy Childers

Joyce Aprea Murphy

Art Times in Hopkins Tonight and Every Night

Aah! the Hopkins Center for the Arts or HCA as it is now known. What a wonderful place at 1100 Main Street in Hopkins Minnesota. Here in Minneapolis sometimes the art world members and artists are given short shrift when it comes to displaying their work but not at the

HCA. They have a members' art show once a year in the spring that displays the work of talented local artists. Just bring it and we will hang it is their motto. And so it was with me, Joyce Aprea Murphy former artist and cartoonist for the Hill and Lake Press.

I have pursued a somewhat more fine arts career since leaving the Hill and Lake Press. This month a call went out for local member artists to come and display their work. I answered their call and now there it is, hanging on the wall in the Charles Redpenning gallery.

Our HLP photographer, Dorothy Childers and I went there and photographed my work for our HLP Newspaper. When we arrived we were assisted by a gentleman named Mike Martineau, who helped us with posi-

tioning my work to its best advantage. My piece was one of many pieces of work all on display until May 5th of fine quality.

If one wants to see artwork that is original, talented, and skilled then Hopkins is the place to go. Some artists are just starting out and some like me have been drawing for number of years. One may also run into an artist whom they know and enjoy their work. So go and give a boost to artists. Most of the work is for sale and maybe there will be a piece that will strike your fancy to enjoy in your home. Meanwhile my work is on display and having a chance to be displayed. Jim Clark, who is also an artist, is the fellow who is in charge of all of this. Many thanks go out to him from one artist to another.

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