



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Hill & Lake Press

Published for East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood Isles, & Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhoods

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A POET IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Special to the Hill and Lake Press

By James P. Lenfestey

Silence reigned in the snowless lawns of the neighborhood on November 21 when the music sounded. Did you hear it? First a Mozart waltz played by a grandson, family gathered round. Then Yo Yo Ma’s cello hymning unaccompanied Bach. Then stillness. Then silence, as the soul of the nation’s noisiest poet of the past sixty years slipped quietly into the Other World, a month short of the 95th anniversary of his birth in a farmhouse on the row crop plains of western Minnesota. Robert Bly’s biochemical tale ended on Girard Avenue South in the house he and wife Ruth purchased 25 years ago after the publication of “Iron John,” his prophetic retelling of an ancient story that opened interior doors for millions around the world, more than two years on the New York Times bestseller list. Their Girard house is the original farmhouse of Lowry Hill, a knoll of bur oak above ancient Mississippi River flats, the farm sold and platted in the 1880’s to become a vibrant neighborhood in our city of neighborhoods. That pioneering Girard Avenue farmhouse is not unlike Bly’s birth house on the prairie near Madison, Minnesota, surrounded by a generation of immigrant farmers, here surrounded by fans, friends, neighbors, children, grandchildren and a bumper crop of words, ideas and performances.

No one disappears; everyone leaves behind the vibrations of their words and actions, the colored patches of the quilt a life becomes. Robert’s quilt spreads around the entire Earth from a thread of poetry. His love of poems began his freshman year of high school. His teacher, Ms. Timmerman, probably 20 years old, would lean back against the classroom windowsill to recite poems she loved. A romantic love of poems was born in the adolescent boy that lasted his lifetime.

I cannot accurately count the many books he leaves behind as a result of that love. But I will highlight a few that mattered most then and now. His first volume of poems, “Silence in the Snowy Fields” published in 1962, still in print, hallmarked his return to his prairie home from New York. His book of fierce critique of the Vietnam War, “The Light Around the Body,” won the National Book Award. The greatest poetry of his later years lies in his reworking of the ancient Persian ghazal form, adapted into verses of three lines, each verse with a different subject but often ending with the same word, a form perfectly suited to his unparalleled metaphoric gifts.

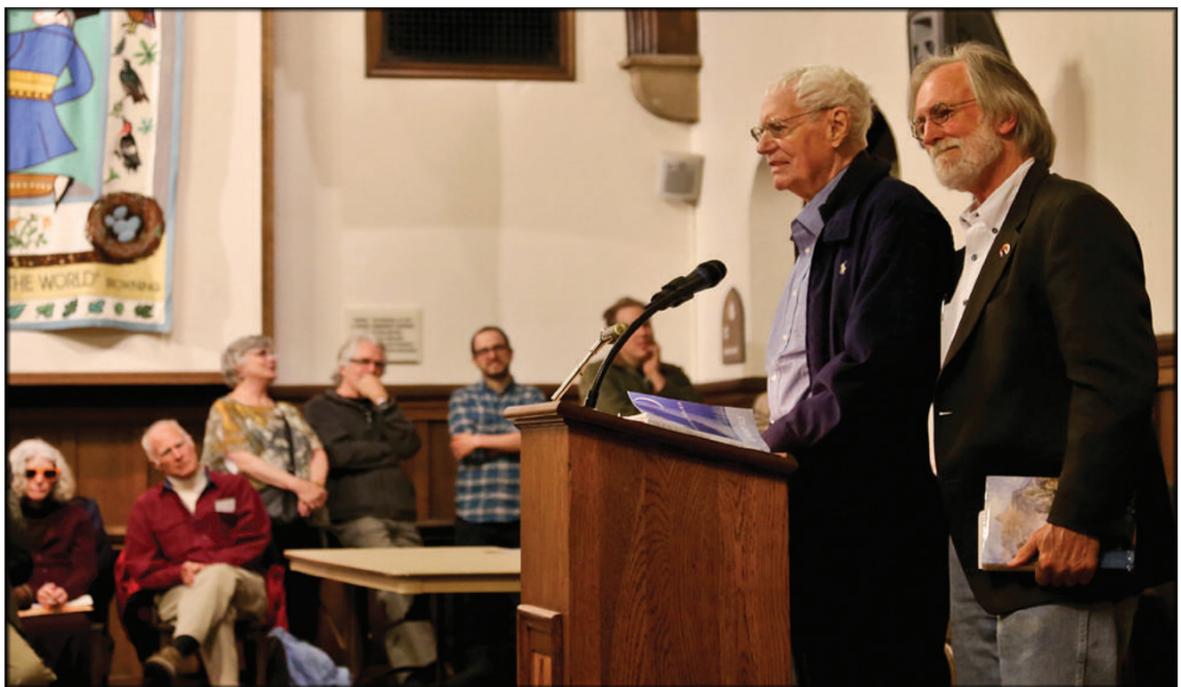
Then there are the three great anthologies, which I recommend to all. He edited “News of the Universe” at the request of the Sierra Club for a collection of poems related to the natural environment. They got a far greater ecology of poetry and ideas than anyone expected. Followed by the bestseller “Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart,” poems of the interior life, “down where all ladders start, / in the foul rag and bone shop of the heart,” title from his beloved Yeats. Finally, “The Soul is Here for its own Joy: Sacred Poems from Many Cultures,” featuring many robust and readable translations of over 70 poets from 15-20 languages, a sacred book itself.

Three small astonishments of neighborhood life with Robert Bly. I had admired his poetry and cultural activism from the mid-1960s, in 1969 driving a



Fresh Snowfall

Photo by Dorothy Childers



Robert Bly and Jim Lenfestey at Plymouth Congregational Church in 2015

Photo by Dorothy Childers

vanload of River Falls, Wisconsin students to the University of Minnesota for Bly’s wildly energetic protest, “American Writers Against the Vietnam War.” Then one spring day three decades later he moved in across the street! And I learned that his personal amanuensis those missing years was my former student, friend and poetry confidant Thomas R. Smith. Whenever I had a Bly question, Thomas had a Bly answer.

And you and I, his neighbors, might meet him at his countless readings, his backyard studio, or on a daily walk as he grew quiet and frail in his late eighties and nineties. He appreciated neighbors, hymning in his iconic poem published in 2010 in The New Yorker, “I

Have Daughters And I Have Sons:” Perhaps our life is made of struts/ And paper, like those early/ Wright

Robert Bly continued on page 5

AARGH! Some of you may have mailed me responses to the contest The Urban Coyote announced last month for renaming Cedar Lake. I put them aside and promptly lost them, can’t find them, disappeared, gone, impossible but apparently true, shameful, probably poltergeist. So... IF any of you entered the contest, and/or want to enter now, this time EMAIL me at jimfest@aol.com, adding CEDAR LAKE in the subject line. Let’s see if that works better. Deadline extended to end of January. Jim Lenfestey

Update from City Council Member Lisa Goodman:

This is the last week of the current term, and the City's budget will be adopted soon; Hollidazzle is returning in person this year. There was a brief discussion regarding an increase in crime in the area.

Twenty City boards and commissions have openings for appointments this fall. Applications are open now. The positions are open until filled. Ward 7 has an opening on the Advisory Committee focused on aging. Reach out to Lisa for more information.

Christmas at St. Paul's, 1917 Logan Ave, www.stpaulsmpls.org

December 24 Childrens Church for 12 and under. masking and social distancing required.

December 24 8pm Holy Eucharist in person and on zoom.

December 25 Christmas Day at 10am. Holy Eucharist in person and on Zoom.

December 26 Lesson Carols & Eucharist 10am on zoom. in person and on zoom.

Neighborhood Meetings

Because of the coronavirus, we are staying home, staying safe, and often meeting by the internet, telephone, Zoom, and other virtual meetings. Please check for changed meeting times for KNO, LHNA, EIRA, and CIDNA on their websites or in monthly minutes. We can again socialize, but please be careful and wear masks when indoors. And be sure to get vaccinated to protect others and protect yourselves. And don't forget your booster.

The Basilica of Saint Mary welcomes all for Christmas Eve, December 24 and Christmas Day, December 25. The historic Church will be beautifully decorated with 30-foot evergreen trees and poinsettias.

Parishioners and visitors are invited to experience The Basilica anew this Christmas. Join us for a glorious celebration with music, liturgy, and community. "As we celebrate Christmas, the Basilica is honored to welcome you no matter where you are at on your faith journey," said Fr. John M. Bauer, Pastor of The Basilica of Saint Mary. Selected Masses will be livestreamed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, December 24-Christmas Eve

- 2:00pm Christmas Vigil Eucharist*
Featuring children's choirs, cantor, organ
- 5:00pm Christmas Vigil Eucharist*
Featuring the Mundus and Juventus ensembles, music from around the world
- 7:30pm Christmas Vigil Eucharist
Featuring piano, cantor, flute, cello
- 10:30pm Prelude for Christmas
Featuring organ, harp
- 11:00pm Choral Music
Featuring Cathedral Choir, organ, harp & flute
- 11:30pm Vigil of Lights
Featuring Cathedral Choir, organ
- Midnight Solemn Eucharist*
Featuring Cathedral Choir, brass, harp, organ
*ASL Interpreted

Saturday, December 25-Christmas Day

- 7:30am Eucharist at Dawn
Featuring cantor, organ, violin
- 9:30am Solemn Eucharist*
Featuring The Basilica Cathedral Choir, brass, strings, organ
Archbishop Bernard Hebda
- 11:30am Solemn Eucharist
Featuring The Basilica Cathedral Choir, brass, strings, organ
- 5:00pm Eucharist
Featuring music from around the world

*ASL Interpreted/Livestream

**Please note there will be reserved standing space for media cameras on the East side of the Church.

About Basilica of Saint Mary

The Basilica of Saint Mary, located in downtown Minneapolis, is a welcoming Catholic community committed to the well-being of the city. It is a center for the arts and a place of refuge for the poor. The Basilica provides quality liturgy, religious education, pastoral care, and hospitality to all. The parish is the spiritual home to over 6,500 families of all ages, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds.

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Where we are Now, By Jean Deatrck, editor

Hill and Lake Press is doing well thanks to our many supporters, advertisers, and friends. Last year wasn't so good, but we are healthy now and hope to continue for a long time.

Thank you to our many contributors: a special thank you to Fran and Barb Davis, and Jonna Kosalko for their very generous contribution and also to Damon Farber for his generous contribution. We are grateful.

Have a happy Christmas and New Years to all of you and again, thank you.



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Architects.
Neighbors.



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Lowry Hill Leads Fundraising Effort for North High School Polars

By Tyler Ecklund-Kouba

The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA) is partnering with Minneapolis' North Community High School to bring awareness to investment opportunities with the North High Polars, particularly their award-winning track and field team.

At the September LHNA board meeting, North High Principal Ms. Mauri Friestleben spoke to members about the current issues facing the school. Unlike other schools in the Minneapolis Public School District and around the state who have been able to amass and replace equipment over time, the Polars' track team has virtually no equipment and is in a startup mode. Once they acquire the equipment, they will plan for a 10-year replacement schedule, which the school district funding can manage. They are seeking an initial investment of almost \$43,000.

As of December 8, 2021, the North High Booster Club has received \$7,385 in individual contributions dedicated to the track equipment. The LHNA board has also voted to contribute \$10,000. Encouraged by LHNA's efforts, the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization pledged to contribute \$5,000 at their meeting on December 6. With those contributions, received and pledged, the fundraising effort is more than halfway to its goal.

North High's Assistant Principal, Mr. Steve White, who was previously a volunteer assistant coach with the University of Minnesota men's track and field team, sent the board a detailed list of desired equipment costs associated with the Polars' track and field program. White wrote, "Although we have a brand new 8-lane track with runways and surfaces for all field events, we do not have the equipment necessary to host a meet. We do not have starting blocks, hurdles, starting equipment, or a pole vault landing system. Although the MPS district invested millions in the facilities, there is no district or school-level budget for the \$43,000 of initial equipment needs of track and field."

Every school is on its own. Citing multiple threats of closure in the last 20 years and lack of a large graduate population, North High has not had the self-sustaining capabilities of larger schools.

In May of 2020, the Minneapolis Board of Education approved the "Comprehensive District Design" program. Under the plan, which went into effect this fall, new public high school students in the Hill Lake neighborhoods of Lowry Hill, Kenwood, Cedar-Isles-Dean, and East Isles will now attend Minneapolis' North Community High School. The expanded area also includes neighborhoods around Bde Maka Ska to 36th Street, Bryn Mawr, and Loring Park.

The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association is highlighting the track and field teams' greater opportunity for whole roster participation. The staff at North High emphasized the celebration of individual accomplishment and improvement associated with an extra-curricular activity that has space for everybody and all body types. Although this is not unique to track and field, it is a feature missed for many students involved in other sports. "Much of the benefit of sports only comes with participation and visible improvement; track offers both to all," said White.

Polars track coach, Chris Skoglund, was interviewed for the October issue of "Hill & Lake Press." "Being a part of something brings out the best in my students," he said, "North High Students go above and beyond every day to show the world what they can do."

As a graduate of Minneapolis Public Schools herself, North High's principal, Ms. Mauri Friestleben, has now served at 15 different MPS sites. Before her work at North High, she was the principal of Lucy Craft Laney at Cleveland Park Community School, an elementary school in North Minneapolis. The school and Friestleben were the subject of a full-length, 2019 documentary, "Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary," produced by KARE 11 News and their parent company TEGNA Inc. The film screened at several festivals and was heralded as a story of inspiration, determination, and courage, as the school faced heart-breaking setbacks. The full film is available to watch for

free at lovethemfirst.com.

Principal Friestleben and North High were also profiled in a New York Times article on November 27 of this year. The story, "In Minneapolis Schools, White Families Are Asked to Help Do the Integrating," focuses on the rezoning and provides stories from school-age parents in the North Minneapolis community.

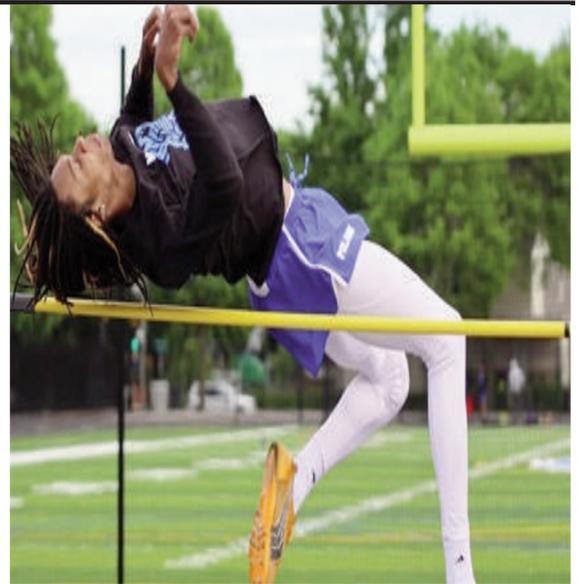
On November 22, LHNA hosted a virtual event called "Meet Your Principal." Speakers included Friestleben, White, and Skoglund. The event was well-attended and the recorded conversation is available to watch on the LHNA website and YouTube channel.

To make a charitable donation to the North Community High School Athletics Booster club:

Make checks payable to:
North High Booster Club

Send checks to:
North High School
1500 James Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411
Attention: Track Equipment

Donations are also accepted via Venmo @NorthHigh-BoosterClub and Cash App - \$NorthHighBoosterClub. Please include "Track Team" in the memo.



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“Friends, there is only one joy and hundreds of sorrows.”

— Robert Bly, “Walking Backward”

Friends, there are only a hundred sorrows, a million joys.

Have you not seen the Milky Way?

So what, you awoke at dawn, the woman you sought vanished, calling her night after night.

And the child who slept all day as if in a spell, for a decade a poisoned apple stuck in her throat.

Fine then, the spats of unequals in the kitchen.

And the humiliations of the bully.

And the secrets of the locker room.

And the daggers flung wildly at parents, and their screams at your hair, your life.

And the shadows under the bed.

And the roots choking the sewer, backing up everything!

And the boss’s anger, glancing off your shame.

And the moment you realize you can’t afford your dreams.

And a tornado strikes your town, the borders of your future fenced.

And a virus sweeps the planet, humbling the entire human population.

But what can you do when Aurora Borealis sings but lie down in the grass and listen?

And when your father appears in a cloud, raining tears of happiness upon you. Ha!

And when you quit that job for a better one. Ha! Ha!

Holding a child, doesn’t that cause the glacier inside you to melt, filling great lakes teeming with fish and birds?

And holding a good book or poem, don’t you fly out in amazement over the water?

And the child wakes up, goes to college, tries out for the play, studies psychology!

And the war ends, women and children dancing in the streets!

And the pandemic subsides, not one bird reported sickened!

The hippos grunting happily in the river are so much bigger than the spiders scurrying quickly under the table at night.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

December is here,
The year end is near,
The Xmas tree is all set
Because we aren’t boarding a jet!

The heavy snow was a blast,
Icy streets will soon be past,
Our plans have been cast,
Hope the cold winter won’t last!

We all pray for some luck,
The omicron COVID to duck,
But to those who get stuck
The variant sickness will suck!

But if you haven’t heard
I will give you the word;
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What are your true colors?

KEEPING OUR SMALL BOAT AFLOAT

by Robert Bly

So many blessing have been given to us
During the first distribution of light, that we are
Admired in a thousand galaxies for our grief.

Don’t expect us to appreciate creation or to
Avoid mistakes. Each of us is a latecomer
To the earth, picking up wood for the fire.

Every night another beam of light slips out
From the oyster’s closed eye. So don’t give up hope
That the door of mercy may still be open.

Seth and Shem, tell me, are you still grieving
Over the spark of light that descended with no
Defender near into the Egypt of Mary’s womb?

It’s hard to grasp how much generosity
Is involved in letting us go on breathing,
When we contribute nothing valuable but our grief.

Each of us deserves to be forgiven, if only for
Our persistence in keeping our small boat afloat
When so many have gone down in the storm.

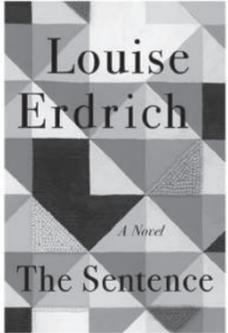
From TALKING INTO THE EAR OF THE
DONKEY,
W. W. Norton, © 2011, by Robert Bly.

Recited by Robert Bly around the fire at Lenfestey’s
On Winter Solstice, 2011, 44 degrees north latitude.



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A Poet in the Neighborhood continued from page one

Robert Bly continued from page 1

Brothers planes. Neighbors/ Run along holding the wingtips.

Because of these amazements I was able to host many Bly readings for Literary Witnesses at Plymouth Congregational Church, luring some of the nation's best poets to Plymouth by dangling the presence of Robert Bly in our kitchen after the event – Mary Oliver, Ted Kooser, Gary Snyder, Jane Hirshfield among others. I helped the U of M acquire his archive and edit a book about his career. And be a neighbor. So that when my wife conjured up winter solstice celebrations including a fire in our backyard for songs and stories and poems, Robert was there, ecstatically reciting Yeats, Blake and Bly. And, it can now be revealed, while he was translating "Peer Gynt" for the Guthrie, Susan let him sneak over to our house for an occasional mini-gin and tonic. He especially liked her because she called him "Bob" and fearlessly challenged his occasional outrageous assertions!

Bly's outrageous and gentle voice is not gone, of course, but endures like the ancient tales and poems he revered and revived and wrote. He leaves behind a great storage barn filled with the hay and grain of his fearless writings and pronouncements and intelligence. How many generations will feast upon it.

OLD POET AT A COFFEE SHOP
—for Robert Bly
December 23, 1926–November 21, 2021

The age of poets is over with this man,
sipping coffee with strangers,
dog soft and panting at his feet.
His cane, which held up so much sound
on its silver point, silent now,
lying down like the dog, content.

There will be no more poets tall as he,
able to see so far, dangerous
as a wild horse loose on city streets.
His long vowels sing star music.
The solid ice of his stillness
"goes on before, holding up our feet."

The vast distance he traveled
in the curl of an oak leaf on Kabekona shore
obscured now by amped ballads
of heartbreak and despair,
leaving us deaf to the despair of the frogs,
the broken grasses, the slow dying

of the biggest things.



Robert Bly and wife voting.



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Robert Bly at Solstice Event 2008 at Kenwood Deli



Robert Bly presents book to Mary Oliver



Robert Bly and musicians at Plymouth Church. The event was a reading from his latest book at the time "Talking into the Ear of a Donkey." The musicians were David Whitstone on sitar, and Marcus Wise on Tabla.

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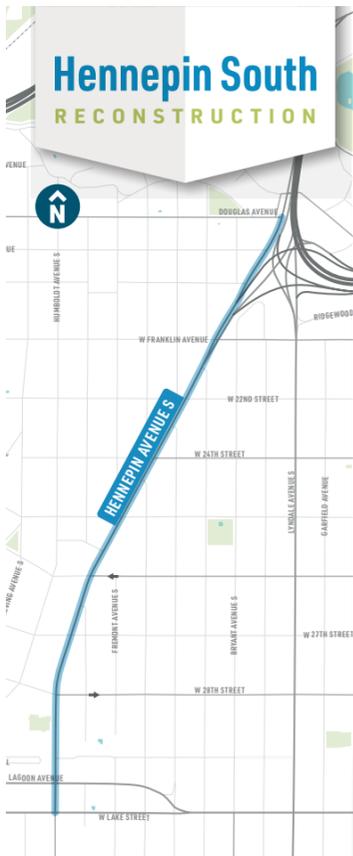
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Please Join Us for a Virtual Open House!

Learn more about the recommended design for Hennepin Avenue South and ask staff questions.

Thursday,
January 13, 2022
4:30 p.m.



Find all project materials and instructions on how to attend the virtual open house on our website: minneapolismn.gov/projects/HennepinSouth

Design Recommendation Highlights

Public Works is recommending a design that best meets the city's Transportation Action Plan and aligns with the Vision Zero Action Plan, the Complete Streets policy, and the Climate Action Plan. The recommended design includes:

- » Pedestrian facilities that improve safety and comfort for people walking
- » A two-way protected bikeway between Lake Street and Franklin Avenue to improve safety and access for people biking
- » Dedicated transit lanes for more efficient and reliable transit service
- » Two vehicle lanes, with left turn lanes at key intersections, to maintain mobility for people in cars

What are the next steps?

Public Works is planning to present the recommended design to the City Council in March/April 2022. Street construction is planned to begin in 2024.



Recommended Design for Hennepin Avenue South

Public Works is recommending a design that best meets the City's Transportation Action Plan and aligns with the Vision Zero Action Plan, the Complete Streets policy, and the Climate Action Plan. The recommended design for Hennepin Avenue South includes:

- Pedestrian facilities that improve safety and comfort for people walking
- A two-way protected bikeway between Lake Street and Franklin Avenue to improve safety and access for people biking
- Dedicated transit lanes for more efficient and reliable transit service
- Two vehicle lanes, with left turn lanes at key intersections, to maintain mobility for people in cars

Please visit the project webpage to view the most up to date project information and materials including the recommended layout, cross sections, design summary, and FAQs.

Public Works staff will be taking feedback on the recommended design through an online feedback form through January 28, 2022.

Upcoming Virtual Open House

Public Works staff will host a virtual open house to share the recommended design for Hennepin Avenue and answer questions.

The meeting will take place:

- Thursday, January 13th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Click here to join the live event or by dialing +1 612-276-6670;

conference ID: 984 231 313#

Harvey Ettinger: Am somewhat disappointed the a number of the proposed recommendations - eliminate large areas of turf to be replaced by "Savannah plantings) - move skating rink to west bay or leave where is but build permanent "activity" building

Hopefully the public will respond to survey and push back on such "transformative" changes.

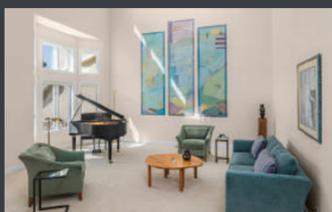
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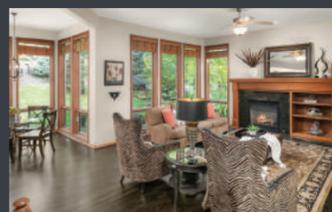


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Meet Your Neighbor North High School Principal Mauri Friestleben

Craig Wilson interviews Mauri Friestleben, Principal of North High School, about what motivated her to become a principal, the secret to encouraging educational growth and how redistricting to include South Minneapolis to 36th Street is changing North High School. Please note that this interview is being rerun due to formatting issues in the November 2021 issue.

Full disclosure, my mother who is a retired elementary school principal is your biggest fan. She saw the documentary that you are featured in called "Love Them First" at the Flyway Film Festival and raved about you and your team's efforts at Lucy Craft Laney at Cleveland Park Community School (Lucy Laney). **How did you come to "Love Them First", both the concept and the documentary?** Two KARE11 Journalists pitched the story to me one August day. They'd both covered various stories in North Minneapolis. They'd both been inside and around Laney and they both acknowledged that even though their whiter children in whiter schools in whiter parts if Minneapolis enjoyed their school experiences—these Blacker children in this Blacker school in this Blacker part of the city seemed to be loving school, loving their teachers, and loving their peers in a way that seemed worthy of storytelling. They started out doing bi-weekly stories on the news and by mid-year felt like they had a documentary on their hands.

I cried throughout "Love Them First"—it was so moving. Where can people see screen it? Amazon carries it and so does YouTube. You can also stream it for free by visiting www.lovethefirst.com.

What motivated you to become a principal? I originally went back to grad school to get my next degree in curriculum and instruction. Leadership kind of fell in my lap. I had advisors who felt like they saw something in me that others would follow.

Why did you move from elementary administration to high school administration when you left Lucy Laney to become the principal at North High School? The short answer is God told me to. I was enjoying the fruit of hard labor at Laney; but I knew I was needed elsewhere. And I knew Laney was in good hands.

What are the most critical things for kids to flourish in school and out? There is a confidence level that serves as a great foundation for children to succeed. It's an intangible. It resides within and propels a child to look around them and say, "this is mine," "I was made for this," "I can do this," "I will succeed." This confidence and security are directly correlated with belonging and entitlement. Making sure a child feels deeply that they belong and that they are entitled to the world in front of them—are critical features to thriving.

How do you reach parents not comfortable coming to school for conferences, meetings for academic achievement for their children? We go to them. No ifs, ands, or buts about it.

What supports are there for students who are not at grade level to successfully graduate? This requires an intense amount of thinking outside of the box; but it can be done. The team of teachers has to be ready to rally around that student and approach their current state with humility. Many times, earning credit needs to become the conversation over earning an "A." And then what we must do at that time is identify the critical academic standards needed to earn that credit and provide opportunities for that student to show mastery of those standards. Our job is to create, each quarter, more and more opportunities for those students (and their teachers) to structure that transition from grades to credit and from earning high GPAs for college applications to mastering standards to earn a diploma.

How are gifted and talented students supported? My opinion isn't a popular one with parents who insist their children are gifted, but it is what it is: traditional gifted and talented diagnostics have been proven time and time again to be racially biased. I do not put much stock in them. As they serve to reinforce white superiority in America. But there are plenty of reliable assessments out there that will show how children



excel in different ways. All children will have areas that they excel in. Some children will swim better, some will do math better, some will sing better. The importance for us as the adults in their lives is to find where they excel and grow them in those areas. At North, we have advanced opportunities for students who excel in Math, Dance, Science, Band, English/Language Arts, Visual Arts, Social Studies, Photography and Leadership.

Other than varsity sports—are there opportunities at North for students to play organized sports activities in the school like chess, debate, mock trial, theater, choir, band—having a sense of fun and belonging with friends? Yes. Chess, Band, Robotics, Choir, Debate, Boxing, Dance, and Sewing are just a few.

How has the redistricting plan impacted North High School and North Minneapolis? This school year was its first year of implementation and we have a number of students with Southside addresses. That hasn't happened in many years. There has been a history of North students who lived outside of North Minneapolis who chose to attend North - but this is the first year where North has students who lived outside North Minneapolis who did not choose, but rather were assigned, to North.

How is North High School working to increase enrollment among the newly zoned students? When I arrived in August of 2019 there had been a significant decrease in 9th grade enrollment. So, we hit the streets then. We focused on families in our 55411 zip

code and solicited feedback around their desires. We heard a lot about high academic and social standards and worked hard to both address, and show we were addressing, their desires. We saw a huge increase in enrollment in August of 2020. That was prior to the CDD implementation. Our goal is to continue those efforts. Regardless of the new zones. High academic and high social standards. We believe that by doing so, we will continue to trend upward.

How does North High School support broad diversity in the 2020s and protect kids from bullying? It is my full belief that we treat each child like royalty. They are perfectly and wonderfully made. They are the center of who we are. Their success is our success. No less and no more. Creating an atmosphere where each student can A) wear their identity boldly and proudly and B) be loved unconditionally - are the tenets of who I am as the leader and who I shape my colleagues under and around me to be. Additionally, creating the student leadership structure has been critical to our students' identities (elected representatives from each grade) along with our club structures where we've allowed and encouraged our students to start and sustain clubs (like Black Girls United and Genders & Sexualities Alliance).

What are opportunities for people in the Hill Lake community to get involved in North High School? The Booster Club is a great one. If you have any North Alumni, getting involved in the Alumni Association. Donating to the new PTA. Also, I have a vision of a Mentoring Program. Where North High students can have a mentor; either throughout their four years - or especially during their 11th and 12th grade years. This would be someone who might visit and eat lunch with them occasionally, keep up with their grades, help with college/post-HS decisions, etc. I have a staff member who's starting to figure out how to get this off the ground, but when he does - I'd love to have people ready to sign up.

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Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association

Submitted by Claire Ruebeck and Michael Jon Olson

CIDNA Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

DRAFT/PROVISIONALLY APPROVED

Attendance

Board Members Present: Laura Cederberg (Chair), Laura DeMarais, Rosanne Halloran, Mary Pattock, Claire Ruebeck, Mike Siebenaler (Treasurer), Tim Sheridan (Vice Chair), Amanda Vallone

Board Members Absent: Stephen Goltry, Dean Kephart

Others Present: Michael Jon Olson (CIDNA Coordinator), James Reid (Co-chair Environmental Preservation Committee), Inspector Blackwell (MPD 5th Precinct), David Davies (Metropolitan Council - SWLRT Project Office)

Preliminaries Meeting was called to order at 6:01. The agenda was approved without amendment. The minutes of the November board meeting were approved.

Reports 5th Precinct Public Safety Report

Inspector Blackwell: Provided an overview of community crime trends in recent weeks which include home invasions, muggings, and car-jackings by teenagers, sometimes with guns, who are targeting higher end stores/grocery stores — in our area, Lunds & Byerlys, Whole Foods, Kowalskis. Recommended that folks be alert, install floodlights and cameras, close (attached) garage overhead door immediately and before exiting the car, don't fight back, call 911 with best description possible, have bank contact and credit card info recorded separately to cancel, and don't have automatic log-ins set up on phone for bank and pay apps. Noted the work of a special workgroup focused on coordination between inspectors, prosecuting attorneys, and judges to identify repeat offenders. Crime analysts are also looking for patterns to aid with solutions. Encouraged residents to contact city and county officials in support of youth diversion programs such as We Push for Peace <https://www.wepushforpeace.org>. Noted that the new City budget provides for hiring more police

officers. Will convey our congratulations to CIDNA resident Amelia Huffman, who will be the interim chief of MPD. SWLRT Communications David Davies reported that: Responses to outstanding questions from the 12/2/21 Safety meeting are in development. Tremi-seal pours continue. A late-winter closing of Cedar Lake Parkway is expected for tunnel construction (30-day advance notice to the City will be required). Cedar Lake Channel (and WPA wall) work will continue through winter, and it is anticipated that the channel will be open for recreational users.

Mary raised questions about safety issues: emergency access to the neighborhood during the extended closure of Cedar Lake Parkway, and the inaccurate information about ethanol fire provided to the community at the recent legislatively mandated SWLRT construction safety meeting. Also, is the MFD still committed to conducting a live (not table-top) SWLRT emergency safety drill? Governance Committee Laura Cederberg said she has been in communication with West Maka Ska about planning a community emergency preparedness event for January, including CERT training from the city. Communications Committee Mary reported on: How to get new neighborhood signs with the new CIDNA logo installed on the arterial roads bordering the neighborhood. Minneapolis Public Works would need to approve the new design. New aluminum reflective signs would cost \$30 each to manufacture. The City would charge \$50 to replace each existing sign and \$150 to install a sign at a new location. She asked board members to help identify where existing signs are located and where new ones should be. The proposed structure of the new website. She requested assistance with creating content for website pages. She suggested that since 60 percent of survey respondents said they would be willing to donate to CIDNA, a donation button would be added to the new website. The launch is expected in the spring of 2022. Social Committee Amanda reported that: The number of followers of the CIDNA Facebook pages has grown to 140. She is hoping to establish weekly postings for

upcoming events, photos, local business info, etc. to further increase the number of followers. Artists and hosting businesses said they were happy with the Stroll and Scroll event and will likely participate again next year. There are other holiday events happening in and around the neighborhood including a holiday pop-up at Seed Café and a Kenwood Solstice event, 6:00 - 8:00pm, on December 21. Environment Committee Claire reported that muralist Lili Lennox has been selected for the public art project at Cedar Lake South Beach and that coordination with MPRB and the City is underway. She also reported that design concepts for the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan are in development even though the Vision Statement(s) and Design Guiding Principles are not yet agreed upon. There are several virtual and in-person meetings planned in December and January to discuss ideas, give feedback and ask questions about the draft park concepts. In-Person: Saturday, Dec. 18, 10-11:30 am at Cedar Lake South Beach. Virtual: Thursday, Jan. 6, 6-7:30 pm. Zoom Link Phone: 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 885 6641 6893. In-Person: Saturday, Jan. 22, 1-2:30 pm at Lake of the Isles ice skating rink. Virtual: Monday, Jan. 24, 6-7:30 pm. Zoom Link Phone: 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 892 5453 1887. Joint Safety Committee Laura D. reported that The committee is working to identify streetlights that are out. Sidewalk Repair Hunters is a group working to identify and report the defective sidewalks and curb cuts (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sidewalkhunters>). The Hennepin Avenue redesign project is moving forward. In a survey of Uptown businesses, 25 of them said they will not be renewing leases because almost all Hennepin Avenue parking is being eliminated by the redesign. Mary noted that the elimination of parking will disadvantage elderly and mobility-impaired people. Coordinator Michael Jon noted that he has provided notice that he will not be renewing his contract with CIDNA, which expires at the end of March, 2022. The

CIDNA concluded on page

Kenwood Neighborhood Organization

KNO Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2021

Online Meeting

*** Draft for approval at January Meeting ***

Present: Mark Brown (Chair), Jim Barnett (Vice Chair), Jeremy Nichols (Treasurer), Will Stensrud, Evelyn Turner, Melinda Platt, Courtney Kiernat, Kyle Leier, Jack Levi

Absent: Matt Spies (Secretary); Lana Baggentos

Guest Speakers: Lisa Goodman (City Council), David Davies (SWLRT Office), Amanda Valone (KNO Coordinator),

Visitors: David Schaenzer, Jody Strakosch, Dennis Fazio, Carissa Brown

Approval of August Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Courtney Kiernat, seconded by Kyle Leier, to approve November meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Update from City Council Member Lisa

Goodman: This is the last week of the current term, and the City's budget will be adopted on Wednesday; Hollidazzle is returning in person this year. There was a brief discussion regarding an increase in crime in the area.

Update on Southwest Light Rail from David

Davies. Mr. Davies noted that bridge and tunnel work continues throughout the corridor, and that progress continues. Concrete truck hauling will continue, and Mr. Davies will alert the public regarding action outside of normal hours. Closing of Cedar Lake Parkway is scheduled for spring, but may occur earlier – 30-day notice will issued.

KNO Coordinator Update from Amanda Valone.

The KNO Web site has had 86 new visitors in the last month, along with 14 return visitors. Local businesses are working on a Winter Solstice event for December 21, and Amanda requested a Board presence. Melinda agreed to spearhead that effort.

Financial Update from Jeremy Nichols. At last month's meeting, the board approved a change to calendar year reporting, so short-year financials will be prepared for July – December 2021. Mark confirmed that the former CPP funds will be rolled up with new NRP funds, and along with our current assets will support the 2022 budget that the board previously approved.

Leaf Blower Pollution Mitigation working group proposal from Jack Levi. Jack requested that a

working group be established to research the problem and propose solutions. He will solicit participation from both board and community members.

Cedar-Isles CAC Process update from Will

Stensrud. Initial draft designs should be out in the next couple of weeks, and will be shared with the board at its January meeting.

Updates to KNO Bylaws. Cortney moved to approve the amended KNO Bylaws, and Kyle Leier seconded. The motion passed with six approving, one dissenting, and one abstaining.

Funding requests.

Mark presented a request from Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, which has committed \$10,000 to North High's track equipment fund. Courtney Kiernat made a motion to donate \$5,000 to this effort, and Kyle Leier seconded. The board approved this request.

East-Isles is looking to raise funds for the Loppet. They are gauging ability to contribute \$1,600 toward this effort. The board agreed that it would consider this request.

Next meeting: Monday, January 10, 6:30pm

East Isles Residents Association

Minutes submitted by Jenna Egan

EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 12, 7 pm

Online via Zoom

MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Erik Anderson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Laney Barhaugh (Secretary), Becky Accettura, Natasha Dockter, Larry Lamb, Rod Lauture, Brian Milavitz

Staff present:

Jenna Egan, Coordinator

Guests present:

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council - Ward 7

Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

Lunch with Lisa on Oct. 27th from 12 - 1 PM at the University of St. Thomas downtown Minneapolis campus. Chief Medaria Arradono will be the guest speaker, and share his view on police reform. Only 100 people are able to attend due to COVID.

Minneapolis Public Works have begun curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the city. To make sure crews can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they're swept. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow posted parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed.

Twenty City boards and commissions have openings for appointments this fall. Applications are open now. The positions are open until filled.

Early voting has begun for the Nov. 2 municipal election. Ballots may be cast early by mail or in person at the Early Vote Center, 980 E. Hennepin Ave.

Listening sessions on redistricting: The Minneapolis Redistricting Group invites residents to a listening session sponsored by the Office of the City Clerk. This event will occur on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

The Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership is seeking applicants for the 2022-2023 Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC). To apply to serve on the 2022-2023 EVAC, you can request an application from the sustainability office by emailing sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. Applications are due by November 5, at 4PM.

Free Energy Squad visit. 0% APR financing for energy upgrades such as air sealing, insulation, and solar. Whether you qualify for the free visit or not, a visit can help you improve your home's energy use.

Starting Oct. 1, a City ordinance requiring a 5 cent fee for each carryout bag provided by a store goes into effect. Enforcement had paused temporarily when the pandemic began.

Approval of Minutes

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 3:

Motion to approve the minutes for the September 2021 EIRA Board Meeting. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Dockter. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Amended and Restated Bylaws

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the proposed Amended & Restated Bylaws. All changes that the Board reached consensus on at the September meeting were incorporated except one. The Board again discussed the provision regarding whether or not two people from the same household would be allowed to serve on the Board together, and the Board decided to change that provision back to what was included in the original draft from November.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 4:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024R-25: Resolved that the EIRA Board of Directors forward Amended &

Restated Bylaws to the voting membership for approval at the Fall Membership Meeting on November 9, 2021. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Accettura. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Treasurer's Report

October 2021 Finance Report

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented the October 31 Finance Report.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5a:

Motion to approve the October 2021 Finance Report. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Anderson. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Neighborhood Network Fund Application

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented EIRA's draft application for the Neighborhood Network Fund. The Board discussed whether or not to participate in the citywide Neighborhoods Day, and decided not to participate for now.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5b:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024R-26: Resolved that EIRA approves its application for the Neighborhood Network Fund and authorizes its submission. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Accettura. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

EIRA's Phase III NRP Plan

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom reported that EIRA has \$16,380.80 of funds available to contract in strategy 1.1.4. - 2017-21 Engagement Efforts strategy of its Phase III NRP Plan and recommended the procedural step that EIRA contract those funds. Regardless of action, any unspent funds at the end of the year would be added to EIRA's Equitable Engagement Fund contract for 2022.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 5c:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024R-27: Resolved that EIRA contract \$16,380.80 of funds available in strategy 1.1.4. - 2017-21 Engagement Efforts of its Phase III NRP Plan and that the funds be added to its existing NRP Funding Agreement no. C-42485. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Dockter. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Outreach and Engagement Committee

Outreach and Engagement Committee Chair Becky Accettura presented EIRA's draft application for the Equitable Engagement Fund, along with the final draft of its Equitable Engagement Plan.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 6:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024R-28: Resolved that EIRA approves its both application for the Equitable Engagement Fund and Equitable Engagement Plan and authorizes their submission. Motion by Degerstrom, seconded by Milavitz. Motion carried with 8 ayes and 0 nays.

Rebranding Project

Rebranding project lead Becky Accettura presented an amendment to its existing contract with Brandography for rebranding services. When EIRA first started the project, it wanted Brandography to develop an updated version of the existing Purcell-Cutts logo. However, after Brandography presented three logo concepts and EIRA proceeded through the first round of revisions, EIRA decided that it instead wanted to go with an original logo. Due to this change, Brandography needed to amend its original scope of work to include the added hours.

The following action was taken regarding agenda item 7:

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021R-29: Resolved that EIRA approves an amendment to its existing contract with Brandography authorizing an additional \$1,160. Motion by Accettura, seconded by Degerstrom. Motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

EIRA

EIRA Fall Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7 pm

Online via Zoom

MINUTES

Board members present:

Emma Erdahl (President), Erik Anderson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Laney Barhaugh (Secretary), Becky Accettura, Natasha Dockter, Mike Erlandson, Larry Lamb, Rod Lauture, Peter Mason, Brian Milavitz

Staff present:

Jenna Egan, Coordinator

Guests present:

East Isles Neighbors

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council - Ward 7
Marion Greene, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners - District 3

Jono Cowgill, Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner - District 4

Meg Forney, Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner - At-large

Welcome

President Emma Erdahl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Bylaws Update

Treasurer Andrew Degerstrom presented draft Amended and Restated Bylaws to the voting membership for approval. A full report explaining the reason behind amending the Bylaws and the major changes has been available on the EIRA website. Degerstrom also explained the voting procedures. Upon conclusion of this explanation, the online ballot was made available, to stay open for 24 hours.

Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman gave the following announcements:

Had to cancel Lunch with Lisa on Oct. 27th from 12 - 1 PM at the University of St. Thomas downtown Minneapolis campus. Chief Medaria Arradono will be the guest speaker, and share his view on police reform. Only 100 people are able to attend due to COVID. Looking to reschedule some time this year.

Minneapolis Public Works have begun curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the city. To make sure crews can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they're swept. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow posted parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. Not all leaves have fallen, but street sweeping continues. Bundled leaves and brush collection ends on Nov. 15. Looking to extend the collection.

Public Works is working on a Greenway surface evaluation finish now, and will reevaluate in the spring. There has been a citizen petition to fix the surface of the Greenway.

Twenty City boards and commissions have openings for appointments this fall. Applications are open now. The positions are open until filled. Ward 7 has an opening on the Advisory Committee focused on aging. Reach out to Lisa for more information.

Redistricting process is happening right now. There are also 4 public hearings throughout Nov., Dec., Jan., and Feb. More information on the City's website. Ward 7 will not lose any population.

The City Budget process is happening. Public hearings on Tues. Nov. 16 at 1:30 PM, Wed. Dec. 1 at 6:05 PM, and Wed. Dec. 8 at 6:05 PM. Won't end the process of the American Rescue Plan.

Council approved right to counsel ordinance renters facing evictions.

Park Board Commissioners Jono Cowgill and Meg Forney

Commissioners Cowgill and Forney gave the following announcements:

The Park Board is going through a budget process.

Hill & Lake Press

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CIDNA from page 8

position description and contract will be reviewed and updated. A search committee will be formed to fill the coordinator position. Actions Moved and seconded: To approve the CIDNA 2022 Budget with minor changes. Passed unanimously. Discussions Operations Manual policies and procedures will be reviewed by a workgroup, who will cross-reference them against the existing bylaws, and make recommendations to the board. Financial policies and procedures are in development and will be submitted to the board for consideration. Meetings in 2022 will be via Zoom for the first quarter of 2022, and the board will re-evaluate in March 2022 to determine whether to continue meeting online or switch to in-person. Mike volunteered to be Secretary of the Month for January and February. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 Minutes submitted by Claire Ruebeck and Michael Jon Olson



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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatruck at 612-723-6004 or hillandlakepress@gmail.com

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.

EIRA from page 9

Budget will be passed on Dec. 8. Adding funds for hiring 22 full-time staff for youth programs as part of the new budget. Adding also an outreach coordinator and a position for tree work across the park system.

Golf courses have closed. MPRB ramping up hours for recreation centers through Dec. 19. Hours are M - F from 3 - 7PM. Late Dec. rec centers will be open for schools' early release M - F from 12 - 7PM. In 2022, hours will expand to M-F from 3 - 9 PM, and on the weekends from 12 - 6PM.

Shade structure is in the planning process and early design, and expect to be ready for early next year. Third quarter expect completion of the shade structure.

Strategic Plan Update

President Emma Erdahl gave the following announcements regarding the Strategic Plan:

Board of Directors have been working for about a year on a strategic plan for East Isles.

East Isles faced two main challenges. Changes to the funding structure of city programs and lack of clear purpose and direction.

Initial Steps - Fall/Winter 2020: Expiring city funds set aside for strategic planning in 2021 budget planning. Fall/Winter 2020: Interested members of 2020-2021 board crafted strategic planning for RFPs. Winter 2021: RFP issued, interested 2020-2021 board members reviewed proposals, conducted interviews. March 2021: Board selected INspiring Sight to lead the strategic process.

Plan Development Steps - March 2021: Strategy design meeting with INspiring Sight. May 2021: Two virtual focus groups with East Isles neighbors. May 2021: Board member focus group. June 2021: Board retreat to synthesize focus group feedback into strategic plan. Today: Introduction of strategic plan to East Isles membership.

Vision Statement: East Isles is a beautiful and natural environment where engaged, diverse, and dependable neighbors gather.

Mission Statement: East Isles Residents Association is a neighbor-led association fostering connections, working to inform and activate neighbors, and improve shared spaces.

Organizational Values: Equity, Transparency, Civility, Open Minds, Inclusiveness.

Mission Strategic Directions: Foster Connections, Inform, Improve Shared Spaces, Operations.

What does this mean? East Isles Association is run by you, the neighbors.

What will the board do? EIRA Board will serve three main functions: Approve funds for use of projects that align with the strategic plan. Create policies and procedures for a healthy organization. Continually

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

Date: December 7, 2021 Location: Zoom

Time to Call Meeting to Order after Quorum: 7:06 PM by President Scheiderer

Board Members Present: Charles Scheiderer (President), Toni D'Eramo, (Treasurer), John Lillehei, MD (Secretary), Jacquelynn Brown, Fran Davis, Tyler Ecklund-Kouba, Sue Westerman, Craig Wilson, Jennifer Wirick Breiting, Anne Nelson, Robert Hinck

Other Attendees: Lisa Goodman, Inspector Katie Blackwell, Jennifer Waisanen, plus 21 others for a total of 35 on the Zoom Meeting

Minutes of November 5, 2021 LHNA Board Meeting

Motion carried to approve the minutes

Minneapolis City Council Update

7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman gave a neighborhood update. Zach Schultz, Lisa's campaign manager, is now her Minneapolis City Council Office Associate. His area of expertise is climate change and economic inclusion. Lunch with Lisa is January 26, 2022. The Minneapolis City budget of 1.6 billion dollars included Mayor Frey's proposal of \$192 million in spending for the MPD for 2022. On December 3, 2021, Mayor Frey gained sole oversight of 10 city departments for the first time in Minneapolis history. He has put forth a series of work teams to address topics including public safety, police reform and economic revitalization. Lisa will be involved, as Mayor directives and appointments require City Council approval as the legislative branch.

The Minneapolis Holiday will return for winter 2021. On Friday December 10th, there will be an opening to showcase the Art in the new Public Service Building.

Lastly, the new Minneapolis Impound Lot has opened at 50 Van White Memorial Boulevard.

How will this work? It's already in progress. You dream up, plan, and lead using your ideas. Board will support you, how we can.

How can I be a part of this? Need everyone to pitch in. Everyone has something to offer no matter how big or small. Talk to neighbors about concerns and needs. Kickstart new events and programs in your neighborhood. Assess our progress toward our mission and vision.

Minneapolis Police Crime Update

Fifth Precinct Inspector Katie Blackwell gave an update on the frightening escalation of carjackings and home invasions throughout Minneapolis and most recently several incidents in Lowry Hill. The carjackings occur most often between 6-7PM during the week and anytime on weekends. The peak age of the perpetrators is 18-21 and they tend to work in groups of two to four. There was a robust conversation between Inspector Blackwell and Zoom participants. Everyone in Lowry Hill is frightened for personal and family safety, especially after dark. Unfortunately, we all are aware that even when follow all of the safety recommendations, we can still become a victim. This is a summary of the report.

Trolling

The carjackers often park and wait for their appropriate victim. They may watch you leave a local grocery store, follow your car home, and as you start to unload groceries, approach you with a gun and demand your keys, car, wallet or purse, and you unlocked cellphone. This can occur wherever you park your car: street, driveway or even in your garage with garage door open or after closing.

They may be parked on the street, waiting for anyone in a car to park anywhere and then accost you. During the meeting, a Lowry Hill resident gave a chilling carjacking account of being confronted after driving into the garage, garage door closing, then suddenly and unknowingly surprised by two individuals, one holding a long gun, then calmly demanding purse, car keys, to unlock cellphone, before driving off with the car. THESE ASSAULTS CAN BE OVER WITHIN A MINUTE OR LESS.

Carjackers most often quickly ditch the stolen vehicle, use stolen cellphones to access banking information, and use stolen credit cards to quickly purchase food and goods before they are cancelled.

Recommendation if carjacked robbed while walking or for home invasion

Inspector Blackwell emphasized to never resist or fight the assailant(s) as your life is more precious than your valuables. Some who have fought back have been seriously injured. Give them your money, credit card, keys, car or any belongings they ask.

CALL 911. ATTEMPT TO REMEMBER FACE,

LHNA continued on page 12

COVID Free Community

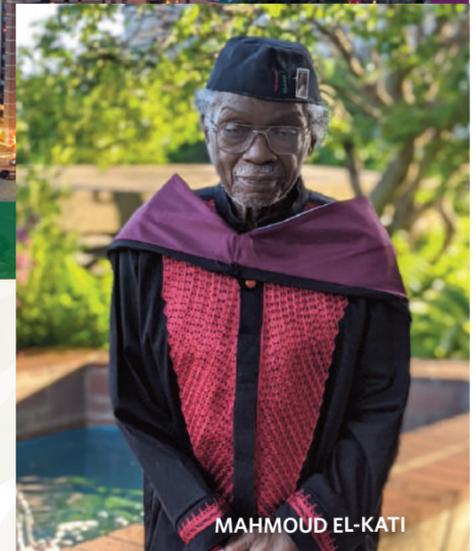
NOW TAKING TOURS



THE KENWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Active Activist

NEIGHBOR MAHMOUD EL-KATI



MAHMOUD EL-KATI

If you can't find Mahmoud El-Kati in his apartment at The Kenwood Retirement Community, look in the library or the workout room. At age 86, Mahmoud continues to seek, and create knowledge and keep himself physically healthy. He is a long-time activist, teacher, lecturer, writer and commentator on the African American experience. Despite the continuing struggle of our country to face our history of slavery and racism, Mahmoud remains optimistic. He feels that "human beings can change their attitudes."

Mahmoud credits his family, particularly his grandmother, with his abiding interest in words and learning. He recalls that she was a first-generation freeborn Black woman who was an avid reader of multiple Black newspapers. Her circle of elder friends in the Black community were also an enduring influence. After saying hello, elders would always ask Mahmoud how he was doing in school and rewarded him with a quarter on answering truthfully that he was doing very well. The elders recognized the importance and magic of reading and writing which had been prohibited for Blacks during slave times. Mahmoud points out that the Black community was transformed from illiteracy to literacy in 30 short years. Growing up in this tight-knit community Mahmoud never had any doubt that he was going to college.

Mahmoud is a Professor Emeritus of History at Macalester College. In 2008, Macalester established the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies in recognition of his scholarly and community work. This endowment is used to bring distinguished scholars to Macalester for an extended engagement that includes public presentations, classroom appearances and conversations with students, faculty and the local community. Mahmoud was also a founder of The Way, a Northside Minneapolis community center established in the aftermath of urban unrest in 1966. The Way was devoted to cultivating racial pride in African-American youth.

Mahmoud is the author of, among other books, *Politically Considered: 50th Commemoration of the Supreme Court Decision of 1954*, *The Myth of Race/The Reality of Racism*, and *Haiti: The Hidden Truth*. These books are on a special shelf at The Kenwood which also

features other Kenwood residents' published works. He's also written numerous articles on the myth of race, Ebonics, gangs and Black youth, education, and sports, among other issues. His writing has appeared in *Insight News*, *The MN Spokesman-Recorder*, *New York Times*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and *The Nigerian Times*.

During the pandemic, Mahmoud kept himself very busy. He is a founder of the Nu Skool of Afrikan American Thought, a group which continued to meet virtually every fourth Friday of the month as they have in person for years. The group is, as Mahmoud says, "very democratic, everyone who is interested in learning about the African American experience is welcome." They currently meet at the High School for Recording Arts in St. Paul. He also was featured in a short film Listen, Please by J.D. Steele with three other elders in the Black community, Josie Johnson, Bill English, and Sally Steele Birdsong. You can view it on Facebook or YouTube. In addition, Mahmoud and Josie Johnson conducted a discussion of the protest movement which can also be found on YouTube, *Minnesota Spokesman Recorder: Elders of the Protest Movement*. Mahmoud was featured in the *Star Tribune Magazine* in Autumn 2020, *Seeking Justice, Leaving a Legacy* along with Black leaders Josie Johnson, Spike Moss, Sharon Sayles Belton, and Nekima Levy Armstrong.

And if that wasn't enough activity during the pandemic, Mahmoud also received an honorary degree from Augsburg University in Minneapolis.

In addition to keeping his mind in shape, Mahmoud works out regularly. Twice a week, his personal trainer comes to instruct him in his workouts. Mahmoud returns the favor and instructs his personal trainer on the U.S. Constitution.

In September, Mahmoud will be making a presentation about Haiti for a gathering of Kenwood residents. The Kenwood has a long history of residents presenting on various topics such as the Harry Potter books, economic theory, The Civil War, architecture, and more. We look forward to opening our doors to our neighbors again so that you can join in and continue to learn from our amazing residents.

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LHNA continued from page 10

CLOTHING OR ANY IDENTIFYING DESCRIPTION YOU GIVE POLICE. The police or police detective may ask for a piece of clothing for forensic analysis (including DNA) and security camera imagery.

Individual Prevention

She emphasized vigilance, presence and undistracted awareness of your surrounding. If a car seems to be following from the grocery store, call 911 and don't drive home, so that the potential assailant cannot follow you home. When you drive home to park, wherever that may be, look around, if a car is parked on the street with occupants in, especially at night, then again don't get out of your car, drive past, and then call 911. Some individuals will drive into their garage with car still locked, close the garage door and then exit their vehicle.

Never park your car and remain on your cellphone, as this has been an all to frequent robbery or carjacking scenario. Never leave valuables or anything in your parked vehicle.

Keep home doors locked at night as well as exterior, porch and motion lights activated, and keep valuables such as purse wallet, backpack or laptop out of window viewing. Potential home invaders do not like bright outdoor lights or security cameras.

Police Prevention/ Social Prevention

Inspector Blackwell stated they are providing more Police squad cars to the Lowry Hill Neighborhood. Resources are limited. 21 more Minneapolis Police Cadets will soon be graduating. The police have started a robbery suppression detail. There is a new Joint Task Force to charge and hold repeat carjackers in the juvenile system or adults charged with felonies, and incarcerated if convicted. She emphasized the importance of Victim Impact Statements in charging these individuals.

Longterm solutions involve investment in youths at risk by investing in afterschool programs that include sports. The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association investment in the North High School Polar Booster Club for the Track Program is a good example.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chair Toni D'Eramo presented the report. As of 11/30/2021, there are \$36,690.58 in Community Participation Program (CPP) Funds. Of these Funds, \$10,000 is committed to the North High Polar Booster Club for the Track Program, \$10,000 for bronze history plaques in Thomas Lowry Park/ Seven Pools, and \$5000 for LHN signage.

This leaves approximately \$10,000. Of this, we owe the City of Minneapolis \$4,200 for repayment of a previous advance to LHNA, \$3,400 for 12 months of 2022 advertisements in the Hill & Lake Press, and \$2,400 to cover December 2021 bills.

For 2022, the LHNA preliminary budget is \$23,000 that may change depending upon the City Budget.

Crime and Safety Report

Crime & safety Chair Sue Westerman introduced our Zoom Call participant, Jennifer Waisanen. Jennifer is the temporary Crime Prevention Specialist for the 5th Precinct MPD. She is the liaison for neighborhood crime and provides statistics to the Crime & Safety Committee. Currently, Sue sends crime data to LHNA Block Captains, who in turn notify their neighbors. There was discourse on methods to provide better crime and safety information to all in Lowry Hill. Toni has been posting the recent egregious carjackings and robberies on our LHNA website. Any Lowry Hill neighbor can go to the website, fill in their first name and email to receive timely and pertinent information.

Communications

Tyler Ecklund-Kouba addressed the 6 Policy Forms mandated by the City for the LHNA Board that he has customized for our Board needs.

Motion carried to approve these forms.

All LHNA Board Members must complete the Conflict of Interest Annual Certification & Disclosure Form. The completed forms can be emailed to Tyler who will securely store them on Dropbox.

Discussion ensued on the Equitable Engagement

Plan, The City will begin to score the LHNA on how we reach and engage renters, including renter participation in our sponsored events.

Regarding the advertisement in the December Issue of Hill & Lake Press,

Toni stated it will include information on supporting the North High Polar Booster Club Track Team fund raising effort, safety tips, and an announcement of the January 4th, 7PM LHNA Zoom Board Meeting, as well as a reminder for Lowry Hill residents to sign up for e-news.

The Board also discussed future management, improvement and efficiencies of the main LHNA email subscriber list, and 'Know Your Neighbor' email list. Both Toni and Sue will address this.

Zoning

Chair Fran Davis stated there were no current zoning related issues.

Events

Events Chair Jackie Brown related the success of the November 22nd Zoom Meeting, "Meet Your Principal" that she moderated with Craig Wilson. The meeting showcased North High School Polar Track Program, with guest speakers Principal Mauri Friebleben, Assistant Principal Steve White and Track Coach Skoglund. The event is available for viewing on YouTube.

Neighborhood Priorities

Communication & Outreach Committee member Tyler Ecklund-Kouba presented an update on Lowry Hill signage. There are 23 potential spots for the new gateway signs. The total bill for everything is \$2,600.

Craig Wilson, Neighborhood Priority Chair, spoke about the to date funds raised for the North High Booster Club for Track equipment. The current goal is \$42,000. LHNA has will provide \$10,000, Kenwood Isles Association \$5,000 and \$7000 has been raised thus far in private donations.

The Park Board will utilize the \$10,000 for the development and placement of the 3 bronze historic plaques in Thomas Lowry Park/ Seven Pools with Craig's help.

Old and New Business

On December 1, 2021, all 15 LHNA Board Members voted yes to approve the November 9, 2021 Motion: Support projects that improve the public realm in and around Lowry Hill through targeted investments in landscaping, street furnishing, and related infrastructure. Projects may include, but are not limited to the Douglas Median Landscape Project and the Fremont Mount-Mount Curve Triangle Landscape Project. Funds may also be used for other improvements to other public spaces within the neighborhood. This may include increased signage and neighborhood improvements to our public spaces. Further, projects also may include support for public institutions, such as schools, that are part of the Lowry Hill Community. In addition, reallocate a total of \$24,798.70 of CPP Funds to that Priority. The revised language and motion was 1st published in the November 9, 2021 LHNA Board Meeting Minutes, 21 days prior to this December 1, 2021 vote.

January LHNA Zoom Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 7:00 PM

As there was no further business, Meeting adjourned by Charles Scheiderer at 8:56 PM by a motion carried.

Minutes submitted by John Lillehei, MD
Secretary, LHNA B

Check out initial draft concepts for the Cedar-Isles Master Plan!

Cedar-Isles Master Plan Concept A: Living Lakes. Click or tap to open a larger graphic in an internet browser.

Check out the draft guiding language and initial park concepts and give feedback via online survey, virtual open houses, or in-person events planned through January 2022

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is excited to share a draft of the vision, guiding principles and initial park concepts for the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan!

Everyone is welcome to provide feedback on the guiding language and initial park concepts, whether you've been involved from the beginning or are just hearing about it for the first time. Public feedback on these drafts will be taken through at least January 2022.

Use the links below to view the concepts and share your thoughts via an online survey. Please keep in mind these are preliminary concepts and elements of each concept will likely be included in the final design.

Video Overview

Initial Park Concepts (PDF)

Online Survey

Share this survey using the link surveymonkey.com/r/cedar-isles-initial-concepts

Deep Dive Topics

These videos take an in-depth look at high-priority topics identified through work on the project over the past two years.

Circulation and Access (Video)

Natural Areas and Water Quality (Video)

Visit the Cedar-Isles Master Plan project page to get up to speed on the project, which will create a 20+ year vision for Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, Dean Park and the surrounding parkland. The project page includes a Community Engagement Summary Report, newly added Community Engagement Summary Report Part 2, and summaries of every public meeting held so far, which are all linked at the bottom of this message.

Open Houses

There are several virtual and in-person meetings planned in December and January to discuss ideas, give feedback and ask questions about the draft park concepts.

- In-Person: Saturday, Dec. 18, 10-11:30 am at Cedar Lake South Beach
- Virtual: Thursday, Jan. 6, 6-7:30 pm
 - o Zoom Link
 - o Phone: 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 885 6641 6893
- In-Person: Saturday, Jan. 22, 1-2:30 pm at Lake of the Isles ice skating rink
- Virtual: Monday, Jan. 24, 6-7:30 pm
 - o Zoom Link
 - o Phone: 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 892 5453 1887

CAC Meeting #7

A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is used for every MPRB master planning project. They are made up of people appointed by MPRB commissioners and a selection committee comprised of MPRB staff and community partners. CAC members participate in regularly scheduled meetings and collectively make recommendations about the plan's content. All CAC meetings are open to the public; notes from past Cedar-Isles Master Plan public meetings are linked below.

The next Cedar-Isles Master Plan CAC meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022, 6-8 pm. At that meeting, CAC members will discuss prominent topics and issues identified through community feedback.

PERIS Hill celebrated its opening with neighbors and supporters at its November 16th opening events. Attendees were able to tour the first-floor amenities and model units in the new building at 1930 Hennepin. With 45 one-bedroom and studio units, PERIS Hill is an intentional community with 15 units designated for young people aging out of foster care. The Link, a local, well-established and respected youth serving organization, is located on-site to support youth residents (18-21 years) as they transition into adulthood.

The 30 non-youth units are income restricted (max annual salary \$44,100 for 1 person & \$50,400 for 2) and rent restricted (\$1063 a month). Volunteers of America (VOA) is the property manager and is taking rental applications at <https://www.voamnwi.org/peris-hill>. Contact VOA with questions 612-286-2707 or perishill-housing@voamn.org.

In addition to its central location, PERIS Hill offers many amenities to residents including, 24/7 front desk staff, laundry machines in unit, fitness center, community spaces and a secure bike lounge with loaner bikes available.

PERIS Foundation, led by Board Chair and Lowry Hill resident, Kristi Pearson and Courtney Cushing Kiernat, executive director and Kenwood resident, is the non-profit entity that will oversee and champion PERIS Hill moving forward. Learn more about PERIS and how you can support the young people who live there at <https://www.perisfoundation.org/>.



PERIS Hill youth supportive housing service leadership team from The Link



PERIS supporters Bill, John & Denise Graves and Courtney Cushing Kiernat, PERIS Foundation executive director.

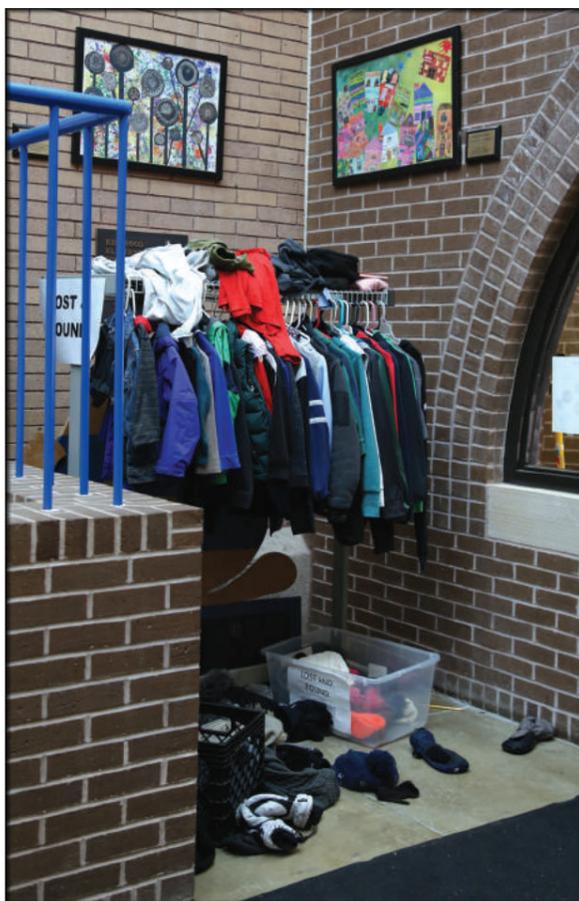


Photo by Dorothy Childers

Lost and Found at Kenwood School



Photo by Carly Ettinger

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Photo by Dorothy Childers

Books Donated to Kenwood Elementary School Library
Zehra Keye (left) presenting books to Ms. Jane Parker, Librarian, and Ms. Lori Smith, Family Liaison at the Kenwood Elementary School. The books were purchased from the Birchbark Bookstore

WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) is an organization of the United Nations and is headquartered internationally in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of the activities of the organization is the Children's Peace and Justice Book Award, which began in 1953 as a project of the United States branch of WILPF. That year an invitation was sent to U. S. book publishers and authors of children's books to submit titles for consideration for the newly envisioned Jane Addams Children's Book Award.

Each year many chapters of WILPF members purchased books that are awarded and donate them to several schools in their communities. This year's donation Kenwood Elementary School was made possible through gifts to our branch, WILPF Minnesota Metro, in honor of the late Elizabeth Shippee (1920 - 2021) who was a long-time member of our organization.

We were pleased to make this donation of a complete set of five books that are the recipients of the 2021 Jane Addams Peace Association (JAPA).

Zehra Keye,
Member, WILPF MN

Carjackings so common that police warn drivers against getting out of vehicle after fender bender Carjackings are so common in Minneapolis that police warn against pulling over and getting out of your vehicle even if you're involved in a fender bender.

By
Kyle Hooten

December 13, 2021

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) recently warned residents about new ways criminals are gaining access to peoples' homes and luring them into carjackings. The "department has seen an increase in robberies and specifically home invasions," according to a recent email alert from the police. "Two or more suspects are following victims by car, to their home and robbing them. These suspects are reported to be armed and some victims have been physically assaulted."

According to MPD, carjackings are so common that it's no longer safe to exit a vehicle if it's involved in a fender bender. MPD described "bumping into your car" as a means of "how carjackers lure victims." After your vehicle is bumped, "you might be tempted to pull over — only to have your car taken," the police warned. "Stay inside with the windows shut and the door locked and, if you feel a threat, drive to the nearest police or fire station."

MPD's message also offered some safety tips to help Minneapolis residents avoid becoming victims of crime. For example, they advised people who carry weapons to keep them on their person. "The tool or weapon must be at hand at the moment needed (not in a bag, under the car seat or in the glove compartment) and you have to know how to use it properly," the email said. Experts agree that if somebody chooses to carry a gun, the most responsible and effective way to do so is on one's person, not in a bag or other receptacle — called "off body" carry.

Police are not exaggerating the danger drivers face. "Between car thefts and carjackings (robbery with car theft), there have been a total of 3879 cars taken" in Minneapolis in 2021, according to an analysis performed by resident Steve Taylor, who mapped out every reported carjacking in the city this year and last. As of November, there had been about 300% more carjackings this year than in 2019.

Meanwhile, reports from victims and would-be victims abound on social media. One person told of a suspicious vehicle which trailed him "aggressively."

"They followed me today around 4:40pm near 34th & Dupont Ave S," the person wrote in a message to Crime Watch Minneapolis. "I began running stop signs and stop lights but they stayed right behind me. I eventually had to drive very recklessly into oncoming traffic multiple times through red lights to evade them."

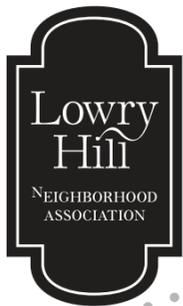
Others haven't been so lucky, like a 70-year-old woman who lost her vehicle and dog to a robber last month.



Lowry Hill Board members meeting at the Woman's Club



Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board members at the Woman's Club.



The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Wants You to

Keep Your Car Safe And Avoid a Carjacking

Here are tips we encourage you to follow:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times
- Travel in two or more if possible
- Have family members or roommates join you when unloading your car at home
- When leaving the grocery store, be aware if someone follows you
- If someone follows, go around the block, if they continue to follow, call 911
- Keep front and back porch lights on
- Avoid strangers, even if involved in an accident, wait for police before leaving your vehicle
- Do not display your mobile phone and valuables when outside
- Lock your car doors when you are inside
- If you have a garage, do not exit the vehicle until the garage door is shut
- Most carjackings happen in broad daylight near people's home

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



Happy Holidays from the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association!
We thank you for your support. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sign Up for Lowry Hill Neighborhood E-News
Get emails about neighborhood events, crime and safety, and city governance. Subscribe at lowryhillneighborhood.org.



Please Consider a Year End Gift to Our High School Booster Club
Join our effort to fund much-needed sports equipment for North High track teams. See the full story on the LHNA website.

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Or visit <https://bit.ly/308UaFD>
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Please include "Track Team" in the memo



Or Send a Check Payable to:
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The next LHNA Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 4th at 7pm
All residents are welcome, the meeting will be held via Zoom. Agenda and Zoom info will be posted on the LHNA website prior to the meeting.

Elizabeth Shaffer Resigns from Friends of Thomas Lowry Park to focus on role as District 4 Park Board Commissioner

by Jean Deatrick

At the final Friends of Thomas Lowry Park (FTLP) board meeting of 2021 held on December 14th, Elizabeth Shaffer resigned to focus on her role as new District 4 Park Board Commissioner. The news arrived at the end of a meeting celebrating FTLP's successful campaign to Save the Seven Pools under Shaffer's leadership. With forty-two parks in District 4, Shaffer decided it was best to focus her fulltime energy on represent District 4 and not just Thomas Lowry Park. Her resignation was bittersweet with board members praising her leadership, mourning the loss of her on the board but celebrating her new role in 2022 as our Commissioner. Suzanne Payne, arguably Thomas Lowry Park's biggest advocate over the past several decades, became FLTP's Interim President. Suzanne has coordinated volunteers, planting efforts and irrigation needs for nearly 25 years



Suzanne Payne and Elizabeth Shaffer

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