



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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March 24, 2022

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Cedar Isles Condo Tower, once grain silos, damaged due to SWLRT construction (Photo Dorothy Childers)

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Editor Jean Deatrck retires from the Hill & Lake Press after decades of service to the community (Photo Dorothy Childers)

EDITOR DEATRICK RETIRES!

From Jean to Craig,
from Quark to InDesign

By James P. Lenfestey

After an unknown and unknowable number of years during which Jean Deatrck was the heart, soul, hands, feet, body, eyes and ears of the Hill and Lake Press (probably since 2001), she is retiring. Two factors made her decision—software and hardware. The software is Quark, the standard layout software when she began twenty or so years ago, today obsolete. The new standard is InDesign, difficult for an old Quark hand to learn. Second, though still with trademark superabundant energy as a fit, sharp,

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SPECIAL COVERAGE

OPINION

By Carissa Brown

WE MISS OUR TEACHERS!

On Monday evening, just hours after the Minneapolis Public Schools announced that its teachers would strike, I logged on to ARTrageous Adventures' Web site, because I knew our amazing local art studio had scheduled strike-week programming for elementary school students, and my third grader loves being there. Every spot was taken for the entire week. It occurred to me that there are parents who need this more than I do.

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Protest in support of the Minneapolis teachers strike at Kenwood School (Photo Dorothy Childers)



Hill & Lake Press

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

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HAPPY 46TH BIRTHDAY HILL & LAKE PRESS

By Craig Wilson, Editor



In March 1976, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* won Best Picture, Patty Hearst was found guilty of robbing a bank, and ABBA's *Ferando* was released as a single. It was at this magical nexus of fondue parties and diaper washing that a collective of progressive twentysomethings with young families and cockeyed optimism launched the Hill & Lake Press.

These 1970s hipsters were none other than Jim and Susan Lenfestey of Lowry Hill, the "Hill", and Win and Binky Rockwell of East Isles, the "Lake", who later moved to Lowry Hill and now reside in Cedar-Isles-Dean. While the Rockwells of East Isles beat the Lenfestey's of Lowry Hill by publishing one issue before they did, they soon joined forces to create the Hill and Lake Press to bring hyperlocal news to the "Hill" and "Lake" 'hoods "where the biggies leave off...". Kenwood followed soon thereafter and later Cedar-Isles-Dean. Editors came and went. As the decades rolled on, kids grew up and moved away and priorities changed.

By the late 1990s the fate of the Hill & Lake Press was uncertain given the intense effort of laying out a paper in the pre-digital age of typewriters, rubber cement, and countless hours of editing by committee. When Jean Deatruck caught wind of the possible closing of the paper, she wouldn't have it—as Jim Lenfestey cleverly outlines in his piece this month about Jean's retirement as editor last February. For the past two decades Jean has worked thousands of hours quietly behind her screen performing the myriad tasks required of running a small community

paper. This manifested into hundreds of monthly issues over a 20-year span, the central news system of our community who we relied on for life-support but took for granted.

When Jean asked me to succeed her as editor of the Hill & Lake Press, I asked her why. She said that I was "reliable, a good writer and community minded". When I questioned whether I had the chops, she explained how she threw herself into it knowing nothing. She learned the software and managed to deliver on deadline, keeping the drama in neat columns that she didn't let affect her positive outlook on life. So here I am, a month later with nearly a couple hundred hours under my belt, I can report that I am a lot wiser on how to run a paper. As observed by reporter Linda Mack, with "trial by fire!"

I have made several changes to the paper that I hope you will embrace. First, local news is dying while social media is fueling spats and virtue signaling in echo chambers orchestrated by alien algorithms and Russian bots. It is important to me that we provide a thoughtful public platform for community discourse about important local issues from a range of perspectives. It is also important to me that we differentiate local news reporting from opinion pieces, especially in an era where nearly everyone is convinced that they are on the just side of an issue. As the paper's first GenX editor, a product of MTV videos and the rise of all things digital, I am hoping to modernize its layout to provide more visual interest. I also hope to bring back some of the levity that amused the early editors—if no one else. In a world with so much heavy news we simply need to have more fun.

We have a lot of news to report and community voices to share this month related to planning efforts for Hennepin Avenue as well as Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles that will affect livability for the next generations. We also have important developments in the

SWLRT saga, such as damage to the Cedar Isles Condominium Tower and calls for an audit of the Metropolitan Council's handling of the project. We learn from Thomas Regnier about the history of our cherished Hill & Lake Press mascot and how the teacher strike is affecting families like the Browns in Kenwood. Dorothy Richmond's wit and candor in *Dear Neighbor* reminds us of our "first world problems" in light of the catastrophe unfolding in Ukraine, which may be uniting polarized America for the better.

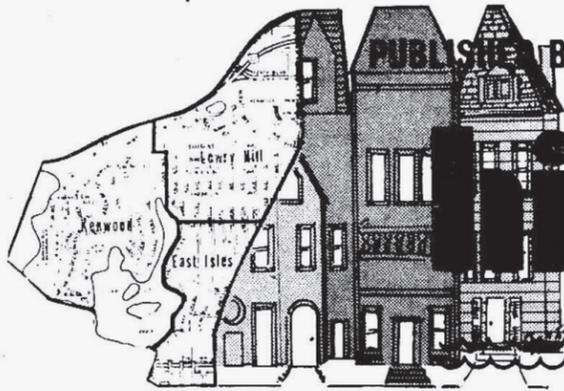
Please let me know if you have a story that you would like to share with our readers. I can't promise to publish it but I will consider it. In 2008, I contacted Jean to see if she would be interested in a column called "Meet Your Neighbor" to focus on colorful people in our community. Fourteen years later, I'm now its editor and the column is going strong. We welcome opinion pieces, illustrations and out of the box ideas but are actively recruiting reporters who can provide in depth and balanced coverage. Please contact me at hillandlakepress@gmail.com.

Craig Wilson lives in Lowry Hill and is the Editor of the Hill & Lake Press.



The 1776-1976 bicentennial immortalized in a kindergarten photo of Editor Craig Wilson

PUBLISHED BY EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOC. · LOWRY HILL RESIDENTS INC.



Hill AND Lake press

PARK BD. PLANS '77 BLVD. RENOVATION

By Carol Lowenthal

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has approved a program for repaving Lake of the Isles Blvd. next year. In its Feb. 18 meeting the Board adopted its parkway improvement program for 1977-78, which includes about \$600,000 for repaving the 3.2 miles around Lake of the Isles. The plan also includes repaving Lake Harriet Pkwy. and Wm. Berry Pkwy. The repaving project involves alignment of the repaved parkway, one- or two-way traffic pattern, parking provisions, a bike path, etc.

CITIZEN INPUT

The Park Board has established a procedure for encouraging participation in this planning by residents who live in close proximity to Lake of the Isles. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a 31 member local committee, which will be expected to act quickly and have a plan finalized by July. There are indications that if the Park Board cannot get a plan approved by mid-summer they will simply drop the boulevard renovation for 1977 and substitute other projects. Naturally, it is not in the interest of nearby neighborhoods for that to occur.

The role of the local committee is to represent local concerns related to the parkway improvements and to identify specific needs relating to local usage.

The majority of this local committee shall be members of the elected Community Development Committee which were elected at the March 2 Town Meetings. This committee is requested to send its chairperson, plus a representative from each of the nine neighborhoods in the community, plus an additional representative from each of the four neighborhood groups directly abutting the lake.

In addition, each of the four established neighborhood residents associations which abut the lake (EIRA, LHRI, Kenwood-

Isles, and Dean-Kenilworth) shall elect one delegate to represent that neighborhood on the committee.

In addition, the immediately abutting or assessed residents shall be represented by seven residents who shall be selected by dividing the lake area geographically into seven segments and providing an election procedure to select community representatives geographically around the lake.

Furthermore, the chairperson of the Calhoun-Isles Park Planning Committee shall be invited to serve or send a representative. Finally, the chairperson of the P

shc concurrence of the Board, to add five appointees to the local planning committee to ensure a balance of age, income, etc.

All of the local parkway committee meetings shall be open, public meetings, and a minimum of a half hour open time for comments, questions or suggestions shall be a required procedure to encourage additional input from non-committee members and special interest groups.

Continued on page 2

Arne Carlson Fights Lake Area High-Rise

Representative Arne Carlson has introduced a bill to block construction of high-rise buildings along lakes in Minneapolis.

Carlson explains that his bill aims to protect the esthetic and recreational pleasures that the lakes provide to all city residents.

In particular Carlson is fighting proposed constructions of a 22-story building near Lake Calhoun and a 15-story high-rise near Cedar Lake.

These projects are strongly opposed by lake area residents who have so far lost out to pressure groups.

Neighborhoods Join To Publish PRESS

The paper you are holding in your hands (or resting on your knees, or putting under a dripping pipe) is the result of the merging of the communication efforts of two neighborhood associations: the East Isles Residents Association and the Lowry Hill Residents, Inc.

Each group had planned its own newspaper to enhance communication within its own neighborhood. Late January saw the publication of the first issue of the EIRA NEWS while the Lowry Hill paper was still in a planning stages. The staffs of both papers immediately saw the potential advantages of combining efforts into one newspaper serving both neighborhoods. First, it was clear that the vast majority of news of interest to one neighborhood was also of interest to the other. In addition, a merging would provide some real economies: eliminate duplicate coverage, increase the pool of people available to produce the paper, increasing the distribution base for advertising revenue, reduce printing costs thru increased volume. Hence, Volume I, Number 1, of the Hill and Lake Press.

The Purpose

But why another newspaper at all, you might well ask. lighting a fire under your already overstuffed mailbox. A good question. We have four services in mind which we hope the Hill and Lake Press can provide:

- improve communications among the neighborhood residents regarding the numerous and complex issues which affect us all;
- a forum for the concerns and opinions of neighborhood residents;
- an expression of the special characters of the neighborhoods served;
- a vehicle for participation of the neighborhood on a neighborhood project.

We hope to be able to fulfill these objectives in a format that will be readable, attractive, accurate, enjoyable, and reliable. But the result is in large part up to you.

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From England, a reminiscence...

By Jane Johnson

As I write this piece I am envisioning the founding fathers and mothers of the HLP at their initial formative meetings... The creative juices oozing, the wine flowing, and all punctuated with much raucous laughter and mirth. I wasn't at any of those meetings but 25 years later on I was privy to the near death of the HLP. There is only one reason that the paper did not fall off the proverbial cliff and that reason is the phenomenal, amazing, and brilliant JEAN DEATRICK.

If I recall correctly it was in the fall of 2001 when I was both the managing editor and business manager, Jean was the advertising manager, Dorothy Childers was photographer, and Joyce Murphy did the artwork. We were a small posse but somehow managed to get the paper laid out and distributed. By this time all the founding fathers and mothers had disappeared off into other lives. We were able to scrounge up various editors to take on a month's edition and between us we pasted up the paper which was still not laid out electronically.

Joyce Murphy who was one of the crucial cogs in the HLP wheel was the first of our tiny band to admit that this monthly task was getting rather burdensome with so few hands on deck and very sadly she was going to take a break from the responsibilities to pursue more creative ventures.

I remember well relating this sad news to Jean and expressing my feeling that I felt the same way as Joyce and I didn't see how we could continue with so little help and support. In fact, HLP readers, shock horror, I even endorsed the suggestion from elsewhere that we close up shop and use our remaining funds to throw a big party in inimitable HLP style as used to take place annually for the first few years after the dawn of the paper.

Jean however is made of sterner stuff! She wasn't

listening or taking in any of this and no matter what, the paper was going to continue. Needless to say we had much advice from all quarters as to how to carry on, all of it telling us that we should just employ desktop publishing. Obviously the only solution, but not an easy one to execute when you don't have the expertise, the computer, or the software.

It's funny because I can still picture exactly where I was sitting when I was having conversations with Jean on the phone about the future of the H&LP..... A bit like a 'where was I when I heard President Kennedy died' moment. We both concurred that the way we had been going was no longer feasible and so we agreed that a new tactic was in order. I promised Jean that I would not abandon her so long as she took on the job of managing editor and we decided that we would purchase a new laptop and desktop publishing software. It is still amazing to me how she figured this whole thing out and has been basically editing all by herself ever since, plus doing the advertising....and cheerfully too!

I used to joke that the only way I could ever divest myself of my duties with the HLP was to move continents. So I did! In 2009 I abandoned ship and flew off to England to live, but I was able to leave the job of business editor in excellent hands as John Gridley took over for me.

As I sit writing this in our 16th century hall house in the heart of the Kentish countryside I am reminiscing over the 35 years that we lived in Lowry Hill, they were such happy times, raising our daughters and making so many friends, especially my wonderful friend Jean Deatrack...I miss all the great laughs we used to have over all the problems and quirks of the paper and the neighborhood.



Former Hill & Lake Press Business Manager Jane Johnson and Editor Jean Deatrack at the Women's Club of Minneapolis (Photo Dorothy Childers)



The 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Hill & Lake Press in 2016 in the Minneapolis City Council Chambers with Win & Binky Rockwell, Susan & Jim Lenfestey, Council Member Lisa Goodman, Editor Jean Deatrack, Michael Wilson, Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb and Photographer Dorothy Childers.

DEATRICK RETIRES, front page

lovely 82, Jean has experienced health problems over the last year that have become disruptive to her busy life. She consistently managed to get the paper out on monthly deadline but surprise visits to hospitals and doctors did not help. "I was always very healthy," Jean says, "so it is disappointing." She often worried about the paper's future if she resigned. So today she is "delighted that Craig Wilson stepped up, someone I know who is committed and responsible." It is time for the next chapter of the Hill and Lake Press in its 46th year of publication.

Jean began at the HLP more than twenty years ago like most volunteers, as an occasional contributor of articles, soon graduating to monthly pasteup sessions. Once a chaotic, madcap affair, those were necessary when layout was not on a computer screen but inside the screen door of a volunteer editor's house or the Kenwood Rec center where a cast of haggling volunteers actually "laid out" and pasted articles onto boards.

As participation of early community news enthusiasts dwindled, one of the neighborhood editors finally announced at pasteup, we cannot continue, we must close the paper, let's throw a big party and move on.

Jean wouldn't hear of it. "I said I'd take it on," said Jean in a recent interview. Editor Jane Johnson, soon to move back to her native England after thirty years in Lowry Hill, arranged for the paper to buy a laptop plus desktop publishing software, Quark. Joined by stalwarts Joyce Murphy as designer, Dorothy Childers as photographer and helpmate, and Jean's husband John Gridley (since passed away) as business manager, plus the usual motley crew of ad hoc volunteer columnists and reporters, the HLP never missed an issue, never mind Jean was working full time at St. Mark's Cathedral as Community Coordinator. "I was squeezing it in," she admits now. Her devoted "squeezing" succeeded, aided by the consistent financial support of the boards of the four neighborhoods the

paper serves, Cedar-Isles Dean, East Isles, Kenwood and Lowry Hill, plus a suite of loyal advertisers.

"Believe me, I knew nothing" about computerized layout, said Jean in an interview. Luckily the printers at Shakopee Publishing visited and sat on both sides of her and taught her how to use Quark. "I was slow and rusty to start. Now I'm getting slow and rusty again!" she quipped. When Shakopee Publishing moved to Wisconsin, that was another bit of good luck, said Jean, because the current printer, House of Print in Madelia, Minnesota, "has been wonderful. And I have never been to Madelia!" In the pre-computerized days, editors drove the layouts to Shakopee and would have had to Madelia.

Jean remains very active at St. Mark's as a volunteer. And the first weekend this March, in spite of occasional health problems, she and husband Eldon Feist went dancing at the Medina Ballroom. "I danced for an hour!" Jean joyfully reported.

Jean has four children. Steve, 59, teaches sound engineering at Pasadena College, has a "wonderful" wife and one son, valedictorian of his class, now a student at UC-Santa Barbara, "we are proud of him." Her older daughter Heidi lives in St. Louis Park, and once delivered the Hill and Lake Press to business sites. Daughter Heather, who lives in South Minneapolis, will continue as the HLP's business manager (Thank you Heather!), while her son Earl Van Norman now delivers the papers to businesses, a family tradition! Jean's youngest child, Katie, lives in England working in communications, where she recently contracted Covid while commuting, though vaccinated. "A mother always worries," says Jean. At least, as of March 2022, Jean Deatrack no longer need worry about monthly deadlines and the survival and success of our neighborhoods' voices, the Hill & Lake Press. A job well done.

James P. Lenfestey is a 48-year resident of Lowry Hill, former editorial writer for StarTribune, and a founder of the Hill and Lake Press.

THANK YOU JEAN DEATRICK!

“We appreciate all that you have done over the decades to support the Hill & Lake Press. Your leadership and dedication have strengthened our East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood and Cedar-Isles-Dean community and neighborhoods.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love you!”

The Hill & Lake Press



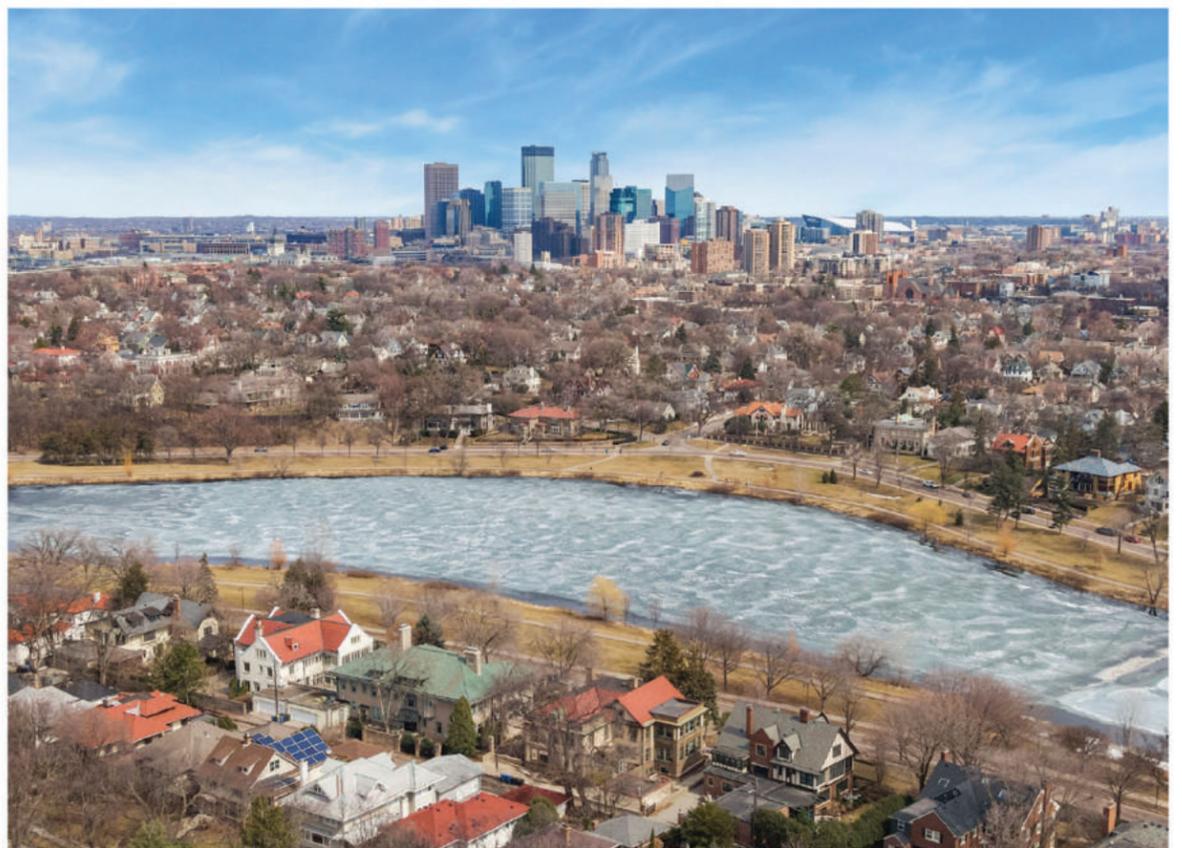
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ... THANK YOU, JEAN!

We want to congratulate Jean Deatrick as she wraps up her duties as managing editor of Hill & Lake Press.

Her longtime commitment to this publication exemplifies what makes our neighborhoods great. Plus, she's always been a capable and gracious guide to us as advertising partners...even as she was on deadline!

We are grateful for your many years of dedication to this local non-profit newspaper.

Thank you, Jean!



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Cedar Isles Condo Damage Investigation Continues

By Laura Cederberg

In late January, what many Cedar Isles Condominiums residents had feared could happen during Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT) construction became a reality as cracks were identified in the iconic grain silos turned condos' south tower adjacent to the SWLRT Kenilworth Corridor tunnel construction.

As many residents point to ongoing vibratory work as the source of the damage, the Met Council launched an investigation into the cause. The Met Council has retained Chicago-based Socotec to complete the investigation; the firm notably conducted the 35W bridge collapse investigation in 2007.

In addition to the structure damage, a water main break in the SWLRT construction zone flooded the condo building's parking garage at the end of February—resulting in one lost car. It took crews more than 14 hours to pump out the 22 inches of water that covered 24 parking stalls in the basement level. A Cedar Isles Condo Association (CICA) representative and Met Council investigators now jointly inspect the towers weekly looking for any enlarged cracks or new structural damage. The condo's footprint includes 109 units in the two silo towers, a connecting "bridge" structure, and 34 adjacent townhomes.

As of mid-March, the cracks in the south tower span from a half inch wide in the tenth-floor elevator lobby to hairline cracks in the grout and tile in the ground floor lobby. Some residents are concerned that some braces may break away from the silo tower and are seeking for the damage to be repaired sooner rather than later.

The Met Council temporarily paused construction in the area in February after the initial damage was found. Light work along the Kenilworth Corridor at the Cedar Lake Parkway intersection has resumed, with the Met Council expecting to re-start excavation work and close the Parkway for 10 months beginning in April. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board granted the Council a permit to close the Parkway for six months, but has not yet agreed to the 10-month closure.

Resident Jim Nikora said the mood of residents is that of concern. "We need to have a cause established for this [damage], we need to have a plan in place that avoids causing it to happen again. We need to have this damage repaired," Nikora reported. "By and large, [residents] want the people [responsible] to own up to what happened and fix it and get done with this and get out of here - that's the prevailing attitude."

On Feb. 9, the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) passed



Cracks throughout building with exposed walls and floors for monitoring (Photo Dorothy Childers)

a resolution calling on the Met Council and Hennepin County "to provide and pay for relocation expenses and comparable temporary shelter costs to any residents who want it, until the safety issues are resolved to their satisfaction." No residents have recently moved out. Michael Maher, who has lived in the building's "bridge" since 2018 summed up the feelings of many of CICA residents: "I love my neighborhood, love the tower, love the views. I'm here to stay."

At the March 9 CIDNA board meeting, David Davies, a Met Council representative, did not have a timeframe for when the investigation's findings would be released. The Met Council continues to attend weekly HOA meetings with CICA residents.

In a statement, the Met Council said: "Secant pile wall

construction remains paused until the Met Council has additional information from its structural engineers. We understand the community is looking for answers, but our structural engineers need time to conduct the engineering analysis."

CICA president Vanne Owens Hayes noted: "The hardest part in this process is to have patience. We get to practice that a lot. It highlights what controls we do not have. We hope people are hearing our voice and relating to our experience. Hopefully no other [infrastructure] project will be implemented without learning from this one."

Laura Cederberg is chair of the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association and has lived in the neighborhood with her husband for nearly seven years.

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Met Council Disregarded Condo Engineering Studies

By Mary Pattock

Despite their claims to the contrary, the Met Council knew long before they started building Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT) that digging a tunnel only inches from the Cedar-Isles Condominiums risked damaging those buildings.

But the council disregarded the findings of two expert analyses. They proceeded with construction as planned and, today the buildings are significantly damaged, leaving residents in distress and suffering yet-to-be-determined loss.

In 2015, residents of the condo (previously called Calhoun-Isles Condominiums) became alarmed when pile-driving for the Foundry Lake Street apartments, some 160 feet away, caused cracks to appear in CICA's east tower.

The Foundry's developer, Trammel Crow, in conjunction with their consultants, Braun Intertec and American Engineering Testing (two world-class vibration experts), determined that vibrations could resonate as they climbed the CICA tower. They called the tower a "vibratory accelerator."

Because of the damage done to CICA and other neighborhood buildings, Trammel Crow removed already installed piles and switched to a gentler method of installation.

Condo's unusual structure

Meanwhile, CICA residents wondered: If pile-driving at a distance of 160 feet could do \$30,000 of damage to their homes, what would happen when the Met Council drove piles only a hands-width away?

They invited the Met Council to consult with them as well as Trammel Crow's construction company, Braun Intertec, and American Engineering Testing, about the implications for their building. The council refused, claiming a "conflict."

Frustrated by the council, in 2016 CICA commissioned Itasca Consulting Group, a firm with expertise in micro-seismic evaluation, to study the buildings' susceptibility to vibration.

Itasca reaffirmed that the buildings — repurposed grain silos — were constructed in an unusual way. Since slits were cut to create windows, the buildings need to be held together at each level by cables, which in turn support



Cedar Isles Condo Tower behind the Greenway Lakes Commons shopping center (Photo Dorothy Childers)

concrete floors. This is why, they discovered, the towers amplify vibration as it rises higher up the buildings, whereas in conventional structures, vibration diminishes (attenuates) with height.

The Itasca engineers were specific in their findings and recommendations. They found the west tower amplifies vibrations by a factor of 3.5. Vibrations on CICA's tenth floor are 22 times greater than they would be for a conventional building (such as those addressed in the FTA guidelines). They said that to protect the west tower from damage, the maximum ground-level vibration threshold for CICA needs to be established at a low 0.1 inches per second (ips).

Significantly, Itasca found that "CICA structures are substantially more susceptible to vibration impacts than Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines."

Met Council rejected findings

The FTA is the project's federal funder. Its construction manual doesn't include — or offer standards for — buildings with CICA's unusual structure. The Met Council took advantage of that omission to "prove" Itasca wrong about CICA and

reject their recommendations.

Accepting the recommendations would have required modifying the FTA's Record of Decision, delaying the project for several months. It would likely also have required a major revision in the construction methods for the shallow tunnel.

The Met Council proceeded to dig the tunnel using the standard vibration threshold specification of 0.5 ips — significantly in excess of the 0.1 ips Itasca recommended for the CICA buildings.

Last January 27, in conjunction with a major construction vibration, the condos suddenly developed cracks on eight different floors, including movement of the floors away from the concrete walls. The Met Council emailed residents to assure them the building was safe. On February 20, the CICA garage building was flooded.

Construction in the area has been halted. CICA residents are concerned about the insurability and value of their homes. Some have said they do not feel safe.

To date, the Met Council has not accepted responsibility for the cracking or flooding. The Met Council hired another consultant, Socotec,

to assess the damage and determine its root cause.

As of this writing, Socotec has determined that the cracking in the west tower grows increasingly severe on higher floors. Their finding aligns virtually perfectly with Itasca's 2018 floor-by-floor vibration study. Socotec's final report is expected by the end of March.

Mary Pattock, a long-time resident of CIDNA, serves on the Hill & Lake Press, Lakes and Parks Alliance and CIDNA boards of directors.

SWLRT Audit Bill Passes with Overwhelming Support

By Mary Pattock

In a rare and overwhelming display of bipartisanship, the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives passed virtually identical bills requiring the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) to review the Met Council's management and construction of Southwest LRT.

The Senate bill, authored by Sen. Scott Dibble, passed unanimously, and the House bill, authored by Rep. Frank Hornstein, passed 129 to 1. The bills will likely be reconciled by concurrence, since they have no substantive differences, and sent to Gov. Tim Walz, who supports the audit.

The legislation reflects widespread dismay, and in some cases outrage, over a four-year delay in the project, and a price tag that has now reached \$2.75 billion. The project was originally sold to the public at \$975 million.

Among other things, the legislation calls for:

- Review of the reasons for delays and cost increases;
- Review of Met Council's management of schedule and cost; estimating, contracting, negotiating and hiring practices; safety practices; change-order processes and use of contingency funds;
- Examination of whether there was sufficient Met Council scrutiny of route decisions and design choices that required the costly changes;
- An inquiry into potential financial impacts on Hennepin County (which stands to absorb cost overruns);
- A cost-benefit study. One was never conducted, although SWLRT — even before the recent cost increases — is the costliest public-works project in Minnesota history;
- Protection from retaliation for vendors, contractors and Met Council employees who participate in the review;
- An appropriation of \$200,000 for the OLA to conduct the study.

Officials are fast-tracking the bill, which will go into effect the day it passes, because they want to see the OLA reports as soon as possible.

Says Hornstein: "The legislature is united in demanding a full accounting of the cost overruns and delays related to SWLRT. The legislative auditor is independent and non-partisan, and I am



Clouds loom over SWLRT. Looking west from the roof of the Cedar-Isles Condo Tower (Photo Dorothy Childers)

confident that they will produce a timely and valuable report. We should have preliminary results in just a few months."

Tunnel visions

According to a Star Tribune editorial, Met Council Chair Charlie Zelle attributes cost and schedule problems to "a decision driven by nearby neighborhoods to run the line below grade near the Kenilworth Trail, which necessitated a costly tunnel; [and] the protective wall required by BNSF Railway, which uses nearby heavy rail to transport flammables...."

HLP readers will recall that the tunnel became necessary because of the failure to move the freight rail to St. Louis Park, which had long been promised by Hennepin County. Thus, two SWLRT rails would have to run through a 56-foot-wide bottleneck near the Cedar-Isles Condominiums along with the existing freight rail, and bike and pedestrian paths. But that space is too narrow to accommodate all those transitways on the same grade, so the light rail would have to go underground.

Once tunneling became the only feasible option, many area residents urged that a "deep tunnel" be bored below the water table. They preferred it to the "cut-and-cover" tunnel ultimately chosen by the Met Council. A deep tunnel would have avoided damage to the condos and the possibility of a catastrophe caused by an LRT-freight ethanol accident. The latter concern is what prompted BNSF to require the \$93 million protective wall cited by Zelle.

Where will the buck stop?

Since all other funders have bowed out of the project, the additional \$1 billion appears to be the responsibility of Hennepin County taxpayers.

In an email to Hill and Lake Press, Marion Greene, who chairs the county board, wrote that transit projects are complex, and transparency is critically important adding: "I respect the Minnesota House's decision to ask the Office of the Legislative Auditor to review decisions by the Metropolitan Council,

the agency overseeing this project. Hennepin County has shown our commitment to the Green Line Extension, providing more than \$1 billion to the project, making up nearly 90 percent of the funding share. The county has tried with much due diligence to have oversight when possible."

Greene, however, is one of five voting members of the SWLRT Executive Change Control Board, which meets monthly to approve cost increases.

Will the audit change anything?

If the legislative auditor's review determines that alternative, less damaging, routes were not sufficiently considered, it could mean a reroute for the Minneapolis segment. It could prompt consideration of a switch to the vastly less expensive bus rapid transit (BRT).

A finding of Met Council incompetence could result in transferring the project to another agency, such as MnDOT, or even abolishing the agency and redistributing its functions among new and/or existing agencies. Dibble is introducing legislation to enable both outcomes.

Mary Pattock, a long-time area resident, serves on the Lakes and Parks Alliance and CIDNA boards of directors and the board of directors of the Hill and Lake Press.

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OPINION

By Josie Owens

Future Loss of Street Parking Casts Shadow Over Hennepin Business Viability

Karen, a former resident of the Kenwood Neighborhood and traveling piano teacher, still shops at her favorite stores along Hennepin Avenue and enjoys some Chocolate Cha Cha ice cream at Sebastian Joe's. Karen has limited mobility and relies on convenient parking, preferably disabled spots. She stopped shopping at Penzey's Spices and Magers & Quinn when the street parking was removed between Lake and 31st. "The closest parking spots are a 15-minute walk for me with my bad hip." When Karen heard about the proposed changes to Hennepin Avenue with the removal of 280 parking spots, she said that she will no longer be able to shop along the corridor. "I don't want to, but I will have to drive to the shopping areas that have close, designated disability parking. I feel so sorry for these local, one-of-a-kind businesses. Why is the city making it so difficult for people to shop on Hennepin?"

That is a question that many area business owners and employees are asking. Natalie, a fitness instructor and mother of four, worries whether she can continue to work on Hennepin Avenue. In the past she has parked on the street and left the twelve dedicated parking spots in the adjacent lot for one of her clients, with an average of 25 people in a class and as many as 45. However, with the increase in crime, Natalie says that she does not feel safe parking a block away and now has to park in the lot. Furthermore, before she has even gotten to work to teach the 8:45 AM class, she has driven from St. Louis Park and dropped her children at two different locations. "Public transportation is not an option for me." Another trainer said that he thinks that the new red bus lanes have been great. "So many of our clients park in the red zone in the off hours. I do not understand why the City is replacing these with a dedicated bus lane and removing this convenient parking option." Peggy works out at the gym four times a week. "I live on Cedar Lake Parkway and need to drive. I will have to find another gym if street parking is removed. I do not want to add the hassle of looking for parking to my exercise routine."

Across the street, another business is hearing that parking is a concern for their clients. Tiffany says that in the last month that three clients have phoned the Metro Pet Animal Hospital prior to



(Photo Josie Owens)

their appointment to find out where they could park. "They want close-by parking as they are concerned about crime and safety walking from their cars." Metro Pet, formerly Animal Medical Clinic and part of the neighborhood since the 1970s, does not have any spots for clients and relies on the street parking that has always been readily available. Tiffany also says that 30% of their clients are elderly and cannot walk very far and about 25% come from outside the metro area. It is probable that that parking limitations will force their clients to go elsewhere. Dr. Kristen Harris said that she is upset that the City of Minneapolis never contacted her as a business owner about her needs. "I have started looking for parking spots in the neighborhood but have not had any luck finding ones to rent." In the past, spots have rented for \$200/month; however, the demand may drive that price up and be another cost for struggling local businesses.

After "Phase One of Hennepin reconstruction from 36th Street to West Lake Street had largely negative consequences to businesses on the corridor," the Uptown Association has asked that the City revise its plan so that it "meaningfully incorporates the concerns and feedback of the Uptown business community. The vibrancy of this node depends on engaging this group of stakeholders, which the City failed to do in their plan for Phase One of Hennepin Reconstruction, and has failed to do thus far in Phase Two." The blighted, empty storefronts are the best indicator of the failure of Phase One. The Association mentions Phase Two's destructive impact on the 150 small businesses on the corridor: elimination of 92% of the on-street parking, two years of construction, and an assessment on the businesses to pay for the project. The Association has asked that the Phase Two plan be revisited to take into consideration: the state of the business area of Phase One; look at how the pandemic has impacted and changed commuting patterns and how people

shop, with delivery services and curbside pickup as the new normal; and include the Uptown businesses that have been completely ignored in the process. With Kitchen Window's recent closure, businesses between Lake and Douglas Streets are concerned about their futures. The Uptown Association sees that Phase II is 'history repeating', and the City is pursuing their agenda without learning from the mistakes of Phase One. For more information, visit – <http://www.uptownminneapolis.com/south-hennepin-reconstruction-campaign-for-businesses/>

Josie Owens, a former lawyer and educator, lives in the Lowry Hill neighborhood and volunteers at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and Weisman Art Museum.

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NORTH HIGH TRACK TEAM EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL

By Tyler Ecklund-Kouba



The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and Kenwood Neighborhood Organization, in partnership with administrators and the booster club from North Community High School, has raised over \$50,000 for track equipment for the North High Polars track team. The generous gifts from neighborhood organizations and individual contributors has surpassed the \$43,000 initially needed to purchase the equipment. The money will be used to pay for hurdles, pole vault equipment, starting blocks, and a

new starting system. "This is such a huge blessing," said North High Principal Mauri Fristleben, "What a gift." The fundraising began in October 2021 with hopes that the money would be raised and the equipment purchased by the 2022 Spring track season. Fundraising organizers and donors are looking forward to cheering on the Polars this upcoming season.

Donations to the booster club are still welcome. If you wish to contribute, please send a check payable to the **North High Booster Club** and mail it to:

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Aarif Osman, Osman Cleaners on Hennepin Avenue (Photo Josie Owens)

Meet Your Neighbor

A monthly column by Craig Wilson, Editor

Mumtaz Osman of Osman Cleaners on Hennepin Avenue

Craig Wilson interviews Mumtaz Osman, who owns Osman Cleaners on Hennepin Avenue with her husband Aarif, about their concerns for the proposed reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street.

Where did you grow up and what brought you to Minnesota? Aarif came as a child refugee from Uganda. I came to Minnesota from India after getting married.

What is your family-owned business? We own a dry-cleaning business in Uptown Minneapolis on Hennepin Avenue and 25th Street. This business was started by my father-in-law back in 1988. After he passed away, my husband and I took over.

What are your concerns about the Hennepin Ave Reconstruction Plan? We have many concerns. First, by putting a permanent bus lane and bike lane, street parking will nearly all be taken away. Our customers and customers of other businesses rely on these necessary parking spots that will be removed as a result of this

reconstruction project. Next, a bus platform is set to be built right in front of our business. This will take away our visibility. And being a small business, we do not have a budget for advertising, and we are noticed from our signage on the street which will be covered by the bus platform. Additionally, there are functioning and existing bus stops right across the street, so there is no need to have a whole new platform be built. Third, a green patch bump out is set to be built on the 25th Ave. side of our business. With this, all of our customer parking will be gone. Customers of other businesses also park here such as the barber shop next door, and those businesses will also be negatively affected. Moreover, this project will lead to more environmental pollution. With one lane for driving, cars will be idling more thus leading to more emissions. People will not stop driving cars and begin using bikes or buses, but they will stop coming to businesses they cannot access. Last, the grant for this project will only cover a partial cost, but we as business owners and residents will end up paying the cost of a project we do not support through our taxes and the increased taxes that this

project will bring. As it is right now, with the pandemic, times are tough and we struggle to pay the taxes, how are we going to with this project decreasing our business?

What will be the largest impact on local businesses? Small businesses will be affected through the loss of on street parking that their customers rely on when they visit the business. It will also be more difficult for customers coming in cars to park and access these small businesses. Therefore, ceasing to come to these small businesses and then these businesses may be left to close or leave. For us, about 2% of our customers are from this neighborhood. The rest come from the neighboring suburbs, and they drive to come here, and they will need parking.

What would you like to see happen on a new Hennepin Avenue? The most we ask for is for Hennepin Avenue to be resurfaced and potholes to be filled. As well as increasing left turn availability.

What do you enjoy about doing business in Minneapolis? As a small business, we enjoy our customers. We have many

customers from different walks of life, and we get to form meaningful relationships. This location is a cosmopolitan place, and we like the charm of this area.

What is your hope for the future? We hope to continue serving the community in Uptown as we have done since 1988.

Craig Wilson is a Lowry Hill resident and the Editor of the Hill Lake Press. Craig has been contributing to this column since 2008.

This interview is being rerun due to delivery issues in January 2021.



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Recollecting Her Past While Building a Positive Future NEIGHBOR DARLEEN HAUCK



DARLEEN

Darleen Hauck radiates positivity as she sits in her Kenwood Retirement Community apartment. She is surrounded by things she loves – gorgeous artifacts from her travels, lovingly arranged framed photos of family, and a wonderful view of her Lowry Hill neighborhood. She gestures to her book collection and talks about her love of poetry. She mentions all the family Christmas letters she’s written and saved over the years – a little time capsule of history. She’s trying to play her piano more and finds that she can easily remember the music she played in high school. She’s not in her apartment much these days, though. She’s busy participating in the Kenwood life around her.

Darleen moved into the Kenwood in June of 2020, when residents were not able to have activities or socialize, due to the pandemic. It was a hard time, but Darleen credits the strictness of the lockdown with the fact that the Kenwood has had no cases of COVID-19. She kept herself busy doing yoga, reading, and watching documentaries. Now that it is possible for residents to join in activities and dine together again, Darleen relishes her morning group exercise classes. She also uses the Kenwood’s stationary recumbent bicycle every afternoon. She is making friends with her fellow Kenwood residents. She makes it a point to sit with different people every breakfast and has quickly gotten to know everyone. Recently Darleen started writing profiles of fellow residents for the Kenwood’s inhouse resident newsletter. She marvels at all the interesting lives people are leading.

Back in March of 2021, on one of her daily walks around the neighborhood, Darleen fell on an uneven sidewalk, breaking her kneecap. The homeowner was home (one of the few benefits of COVID), called 911, covered her with a blanket, and waited with her until the paramedics came. Darleen recuperated, and soon after coming home to the Kenwood she dropped off a thank-you note at her rescuers’ door. A few days later she received a lovely

bouquet from the same couple. Good neighbors on Lowry Hill!

Darleen’s own history is very interesting. Because her father worked for the Forest Service, the family moved a lot. During the Dust Bowl, his job was to plant trees from North Dakota to Texas, in order to save the topsoil from further erosion. Later due to his work as a Forest Ranger, the family also moved frequently, and Darleen learned how to thrive in many different settings. What many might see as a detriment, Darleen embraces as a gift.

Darleen taught high school and college English for five years. Her first husband was a pilot for Northwest and was tragically killed while flying for the Air National Guard, leaving Darleen a widow with a young daughter. Fortunately, Darleen was a talented writer and designer, so she first worked at General Mills. Her second husband had a business in commercial design, working for companies such as General Mills and Land O’Lakes. She joined his company but continued to work for General Mills. After she retired, Darleen pursued other passions as a volunteer, working as an usher for the Minnesota Orchestra, researching for the Mill City Museum, and guiding elementary students on tours at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in the Art Adventure Program.

When Darleen’s second husband died in early 2020 she realized it was time to move. She chose the Kenwood Retirement Community because, although she is very healthy and active now, she realized the Kenwood would be a good home for her if she needed more services in the future. She didn’t want to move twice.

So, you can knock on Darleen’s door, and maybe she will be there. But more likely she is in the Kenwood van, taking a tour of the fall leaves. Or in the Kenwood Library, looking for a biography, or another Alexander McCall Smith novel to charm her. Or in another resident’s apartment, asking questions about their life for a newsletter article. And if you do meet her, you will be inspired by her positive attitude, musical laugh, deep interest in the lives of others.

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Senior citizens bike too

And we need protected bike lanes

by Janice Gepner

A showdown was inevitable. And that showdown is Hennepin Avenue. The City Council passed a Climate Action plan to address the climate change crisis—a no-brainer for a progressive city like Minneapolis. The Council passed Vision Zero, meant to make our streets safer for vulnerable users like pedestrians and bicyclists. They passed a comprehensive Transportation Action Plan which includes specific commitments to transition away from cars and towards public transportation and more walking and biking. And then they produced a plan for repaving Hennepin Avenue, a plan that is consistent with these policies. Oops! Clearly, we have a clash of priorities here. There's a limited amount of space on a street everyone feels is important. It's a key artery for public transportation. It's a busy commercial artery that everyone—pedestrians, cars, bicyclists, and transit—want to be able to use safely. How is it possible to address the climate crisis without reducing dependence on cars? Will improved public transit and bicycle facilities encourage people to use their cars less?

Some folks say that bike lanes are just for young people. Not true! In fact, protected bike lanes are critical for expanding bike use, so that more people feel safe bicycling. A bicycle is much cheaper than a car, so it's more accessible for poorer folks. I'm a senior citizen (I'll be turning 70 in a few weeks) and in good weather, I enjoy using my bike for short errands—a trip for groceries or to the pharmacy. It turns out many car trips within the neighborhood are short. On a lovely day, wouldn't it be great to feel safe being able to bike to stores on Hennepin? Bicycling instead of using a car not only reduces carbon emissions but it also improves your health! My husband much prefers to bike commute to work, rather than driving. Even though it takes a little longer, he feels so much better getting exercise rather than sitting in his car in rush hour traffic.

At the Hennepin Avenue Open House, City staff said that data shows there's ample parking within a few blocks of Hennepin, for those who still want to use their cars. I

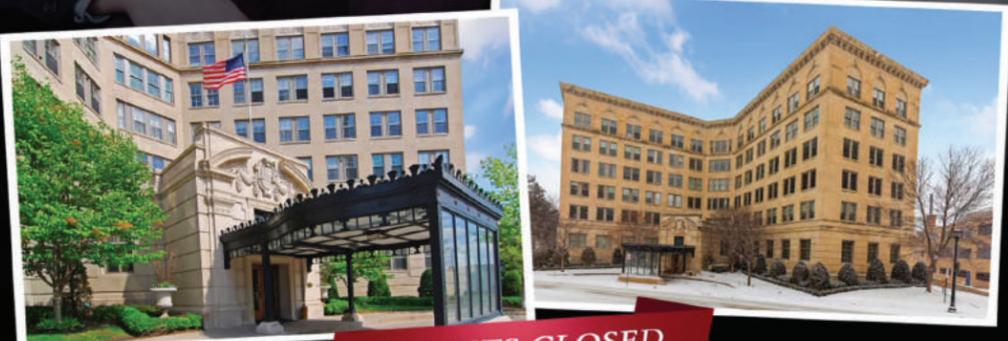
keep hearing folks say, look what happened to Uptown after they removed parking on Hennepin from Lake St to 31st St. That's such a bogus argument. I was never able to park on that block—it was always completely parked. There are so many reasons for the problems Uptown is facing, not the least of which is the universal crisis in retail.

Downtown is suffering too, as are cities everywhere. People on bikes, pedestrians and users of public transit spend money just like people in cars. Making Hennepin Avenue more accessible and safer for those folks just might help business. And do yourself a favor. Next time the sun is out, the temperature is in the 70s and you are only going on an errand

of a mile or two, take your bike instead of your car. The air will thank you and you'll feel better, too.

Janice Gepner lives in Lowry Hill. She is a Park Board Citizen Representative on the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee.


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Demystifying the Cedar-Isles Planning Process

By Linda Mack

As a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which was formed to develop a master plan for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake Parks, I've heard many questions from community members about the process. I asked Emma Pachuta, our staff person at the Park Board, to answer a few of them. The master planning involves a long process that aims to engage residents who live in other parts of Minneapolis as well as those of us living in the nearby neighborhoods. At this stage, many ideas have been thrown out, but none have been pinned down. Stay tuned!

What's the big picture?

The Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles Master Plan (Cedar-Isles) will create a 20–30-year vision for this portion of the park system. The process began in fall 2019 and is projected to complete work in 2023. Recently, the Park Board has received some questions about the process. We are doing our best to create numerous avenues for community members to share feedback. Park Board staff welcomes continued feedback as we progress through this process.

Why is the Park Board master planning this area now?

The Park Board aims to have a community-vetted master plan created every 20–30 years for each part of the park system. The Cedar-Isles area is the last part of the Park Board system that does not have an updated plan. We began its planning process in 2019. Generally, a master plan process takes 18–24 months. However, staff extended timelines to ensure the process adapted to community needs throughout COVID-19. This process is projected to take 36 months or more.

Where are we in the master planning process?

The Park Board Master Plan is in five phases. Phase 1 is Pre-Design from fall 2019 to summer 2021, where data is gathered and analyzed. Phase 2, our present phase, is developing Initial Park Concepts from fall 2021 to summer 2022. Phase 3 is determining a Preferred Park Concept from summer through fall 2022. Phase 4 is articulating a Draft Plan from fall 2022 to winter 2023. Phase 5 is drafting and approving a Final Plan by spring 2023.

We are still in the Phase 2, the Initial Park Concepts Phase, which means that no final decisions have been made and there is still time to inform decisions through Phase 4, when the Draft Plan is developed this fall. Alongside engagement, the CAC has begun giving guidance on the concepts.

Why are there so many big ideas in the initial park concepts when the parks are great as is? During the Pre-Design phase, some ambitious ideas were suggested by the community, so the Initial Park Concepts suggested different ways these ideas could fit together as part of a long-term plan. We recognize that these initial park concepts propose some substantial changes to the parks that people love and that some of these ideas may have felt like a solution in search of a problem. We have also heard frustrations for revisiting ideas that have already been discussed and decided upon in previous planning processes years ago. From the Park Board staff's vantage point, although we don't anticipate that many of the "big ideas" will make it into the next design phase, part of the Park Board's responsibility is to do our due diligence to explore, and sometimes revisit, ideas from community and then vet them within a public forum during this early phase in the process. We have heard a range of support, mixed feedback, and strong opposition about some of the big ideas that have been presented to date. The Preferred Park Concept that is released later this year will respond to what we are hearing from community members.

What's an example of the Park Board pivoting on a concept?

At the most recent CAC meeting on March 8th, CAC members discussed circulation "hot topics" identified through community feedback. These included the proposed Kenilworth Channel connection between Cedar and Isles, Cedar Lake circulation, a two-way bicycle circulation around Lake of the Isles, and Lake of the Isles and Cedar Parkway reconfigurations. Though the CAC did not make final recommendations yet, which will happen during Phase 3, there was support from the CAC to further assess the feasibility of a Kenilworth Channel connection and a pedestrian connection along the east side of Cedar Lake. There was guidance to no longer consider a Lake of the Isles parkway reconfiguration. There was not consensus from the CAC about whether to pursue a two-way bicycle connection around Isles nor the Cedar Lake Parkway reconfiguration. This guidance will inform the preferred park concept that will be released later this year, and the CAC will revisit topics that need further discussion because there was no consensus.

How can I share my feedback on the initial park concepts?

Even though the Initial Park Concepts phase is still underway, the online survey for the Initial Park Concepts closed on March 4th. This was to allow staff time to incorporate feedback from the 684 surveys, five open houses, numerous neighborhood and committee meetings, and community collaborators' work, letters, and emails that we have received since December. The compiled feedback will be shared with the public in April. There will continue to be Cedar-Isles CAC and subcommittee meetings held through April for CAC members to give further guidance on the proposed ideas. Please join the Cedar-Isles mailing list to receive

updates about these meetings! All CAC meetings are open to the public and include a public comment time.

When the preferred park concept is released in summer 2022, the Park Board will implement another round of engagement. Until then, emailing project manager Emma Pachuta directly is one of the best ways to share your feedback: epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org.

How are CAC Members chosen? Why aren't there spots reserved for nearby neighborhood associations?

There are 17 people on Cedar-Isles Master Plan CAC, nine of which were appointed by Park Board Commissioners. Eight positions were appointed by a selection committee comprised of community group representatives and Park Board staff whose goal was to achieve representation goals outlined in the Park Board Community Engagement Policy, updated in 2019. The Park Board strives to have a diversity of voices, perspectives, and geographic locations represented when creating plans for regional parks, which draw visitors from throughout the metro. People involved in neighborhood associations are welcome to apply to serve on CACs, but no spots are specifically saved for any organization. Currently, one Cedar-Isles CAC member also serves on a local neighborhood association board, as well as do two CAC alternates who were selected.

What has Park Board staff done to solicit public input so far? How is that feedback provided to the Community Advisory Committee?

Numerous methods have been used to garner a broad range of public feedback, including online surveys, in-person events, online meetings, community collaborator projects, social media stories, presentations to neighborhood groups, in-person and virtual tours, signs in the parks, and in-person onsite interviews. The Park Board consistently adapts and tries new engagement strategies to continue to get the word out to residents.

Highlights from the public feedback is shared regularly at CAC meetings and Community Engagement Summary Reports are created after each project phase. If you have an idea or would like staff to present to an interested organization, please email epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org.

Linda Mack lives in Kenwood, writes about Minneapolis architecture and urban design, and is a member of the Cedar-Isles Community Advisory Committee.

Water Quality is Central Concern in Cedar-Isles Planning

By Anna Eleria

Water quality concerns have surfaced as a top priority for the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles (Cedar-Isles) Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is responsible for guiding the master planning process of these beloved Hill and Lake parks. In response, the Park Board has recently formulated a water quality subcommittee to focus on public concerns.

Comprised of over half of the CAC members, the purpose of the subcommittee is to further evaluate current water quality conditions and trends in both lakes. The aim is to outline metric-based goals and recommendations to be incorporated into the master plan in the next design phase. The subcommittee will also identify watershed-level recommendations to better assess partner agency roles and commitment needed to improve water quality of the lakes that may fall outside of MPRB’s jurisdiction.

Several subcommittee meetings with the Park Board and its consultant team will occur in April and May and are open to the public. The subcommittee



West Lake of the Isles (Photo Dorothy Childers)

recommendations will then be shared with the full CAC for their consideration and approval and will be used to refine the draft Master Plan. It is anticipated that the Park Board Commissioners will consider and adopt the Cedar Lake – Lake of the Isles Master Plan in winter 2022/spring 2023.

The master planning process for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles began in fall 2019. During several CAC meetings and extensive community engagement, water quality was raised as an issue of most concern and one of the most important topics to focus on in the

master plan. This raised the need for further exploration into lake water quality issues, watershed impacts to the lakes and potential goals and strategies for each lake. For more information about the development of the master plan including future CAC and water quality subcommittee meetings, visit MPRB website—

www.minneapolisparcs.org/cedar-isles.

Anna Eleria is a CIDNA resident, Cedar-Isles CAC member and chair of the water quality committee. She is a division manager for the Capitol Region Watershed District in St. Paul.

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by Martin A. Carlson

Solutions in Search of Problems

My spouse and I were recently and unwillingly drawn into the growing debate over the Park Board's master planning process for Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake when the Board released a "concept" plan proposing to permanently close the northern portion of Lake of the Isles Parkway – a move which would have made our church, Lake of the Isles Lutheran, largely inaccessible to its majority-commuter membership, and which would have turned our adjoining parsonage into a landlocked island. To our great relief, the Board's Citizen Advisory Council (or "CAC") dropped that notion like a hot rock earlier this week, but as residents we cannot ignore the negative aspects of many of the Board's remaining proposals. Put simply, the vast majority of these changes seem like solutions in search of problems, and many would actually limit the opportunities for park users to enjoy the park's natural amenities.

Our primary concern is the diminishment of the park's existing character. The accessible parkland is one of our favorite features of the neighborhood, and what we like most about the park itself is its abundant unstructured green space, its open feel that blends with the overall character of the neighborhood, and the easy lake access from virtually any point in the park. Many of the proposed changes would diminish rather than enhance the features we love the most. Some specific concerns:

There is no consistency to the landscaping plan and it undercuts the features that have made the park successful for over a century. The whole point of the park, as originally envisioned and maintained until this point, is to have an open, green, unbuilt, and pastoral setting equally open to all. Green is equitable; it's green for everyone, and it's also flexible. You can have large gatherings, small gatherings, or no gatherings at all, leaving just a peaceful, open view. The relative homogeneity of the park is soothing, and it's also great for kids and pets. The new vision of the park has people jumping from lawn to prairie to marshland and back again with little rhythm or warning, and it has no relation to the rest of the neighborhood, which is one of the best-preserved late-19th/early 20th century neighborhoods in America. Yes, this is just one period in our history, but it's living history in three dimensions and the Park Board should embrace this rather than run from it. Acknowledging the history right in front of us doesn't mean we can't talk about it in all its aspects – the good, the bad and the ugly – nor does it mean we can't talk about other eras in the region's history – we can and should. But the surrounding neighborhood as a whole still reflects to a large extent the vision of the city held by the people who originally built it, and learning and understanding that history in all its dimensions helps us better understand the times we are living in now. The park itself is an excellent and rare example of a large City Beautiful park, and while this is hardly the only model for a successful park, it's a model that has proved durable and adaptable for over a hundred years and it has served this neighborhood and the City very well. Isles is pastoral, Cedar is wild, Bde Maka Ska is recreational and carries more important Native American history, while Harriet has a more formal civic structure. Each lake has its own character and we aren't well-served by fighting their long-

standing natures when in aggregate they exhibit great diversity.

Permanent structures are largely unnecessary. The proposed "activity hubs" and picnic pavilions will make the areas where they are located useless for other purposes, and will needlessly conflict with the historic character of the area. No one needs a permanent, modern structure directly in front of historic Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, particularly when the Rec Center is so nearby. Placing a picnic pavilion on the cedar point off the West Bay would destroy one of the most natural, tranquil, and beautiful spots on the lake. An "activity hub" by the West Bay, coupled with the canoe racks, the dock, trails, and a possible boardwalk (which would block the canoe access) would leave the area more infrastructure than parkland, wrecking the beautiful and historic vista residents and visitors first see when reaching the area from Kenwood Parkway. The original park planners favored uninterrupted green space for a reason, and this aesthetic has been embraced by residents for generations. After the Mall of America, the Chain of Lakes is already the most visited spot in the State of Minnesota, and people aren't coming to look at infrastructure. Explore Minnesota, the state tourism office, estimated that in 2017 the Chain of Lakes drew more than seven million visitors, exceeding the total annual combined attendance at the Twins and Vikings stadiums by over 100%. On a warm summer day, a simple walk around the lake shows the neighborhood is open to and heavily used by Minnesotans from all over, as has been the case for decades. Minneapolis is a city comprised of beloved neighborhoods, but people are voting with their feet, literally by the millions, to say that Lake of the Isles is unique. Please keep it that way.

In-filling the North Arm and West Bay will make the lake less accessible. Yes, water quality is important, but Lake of the Isles is one of the least natural lakes in the State of Minnesota (by design, per above) and the most impactful issue for most users is actually the riotous overabundance of invasive species, particularly milfoil, which makes navigating the lake difficult in the summer. If the Park Board is going to commit major resources to Lake of the Isles, we'd prefer that it buy another lake mower or two and mow the lake on a more regular basis. No amount of vegetation or alum will correct the lake's water problem until people stop using fertilizer on their lawns and the Park Board and City stop salting the roads, neither of which is likely to happen any time soon. While we are supportive of the CAC's newly created water quality committee and hope it can find solutions that balance lake health with preserving recreational access, the sad truth is that we'll likely have an impaired lake until we reach some sort of societal consensus that addresses the root causes. Filling in large portions of the lake will not only destroy the lake's historical character, but it will make lake access difficult to impossible in those areas, and is unlikely to correct the problem to such an extent that you'd ever want to drink the water or eat the fish.

The proposed boardwalks will seriously limit accessibility. Since the proposed boardwalks are over open water, they would need to have railings on both sides so no one falls in. In the winter, when the lake freezes, this means they will have

function as giant fences that people will need to climb over or around to access the lake surface. The boardwalk on the north arm would make the area look like a giant cattle corral in the winter, and the proposed skating loop in the center won't work either. If the north arm is "rewilded" and turned to a swamp or bog, it will have plant cover well above the water line, which will remain above the water when the lake freezes, as is the case at several points on Cedar Lake. You can't skate on plants. It would get worse in the summertime when the trails are more heavily used, particularly by the many slow-moving friend or family groups you see walking three or four abreast on the trails. Now, there is room for everyone to move at their own pace; you can just divert to the grass to jog around slower moving groups. You can't do that with a railed boardwalk, meaning there will be serious and unending pedestrian congestion on those portions of the trail.

The proposed prairie plantings would make the park less accessible and less safe. While we love the prairie on the north end of Cedar Lake (and prairies generally), we do not think this is appropriate for Lake of the Isles. As a park user, you can't do anything with prairie land other than walk past it and look at it. You can't picnic on it, play catch or frisbee, or even walk through it with your dog. While the lawns on the west side of the lake near our house may not be as heavily used as other points on the park, they are still heavily used, particularly by our neighborhood kids, and they are greatly appreciated by park users who simply want to get some space from other people; this alone is a valuable use in a densely packed city. Prairie also burns. It needs to burn to stay healthy, and it also burns when you don't expect it to, which we experienced with the Burnham Wood prairie that's now been destroyed by the light rail. Fire is in the nature of that ecosystem, and it's fine in a thinly populated area like north Cedar, but downright dangerous in a residential neighborhood filled with 100 year-plus wooden homes like ours. Last but not least, for the first time in decades we have serious violent crime in the area, and any landscape (i.e., tall grass) that gives potential cover to the criminal element in our society is going to make many users feel unsafe, particularly at night.

That's a lot of what we don't like. What do we like? We like green. Green open space with lawns and trees. We would love it if the Park added more trees, particularly spaded-in, larger ones that are part of a discernable plan. Maintain the trails, maintain the parkway. Bike trails are a thorny issue and worth a separate article, but any changes need to be thought through carefully, with attention paid to safety, preserving nearby tree cover, and acknowledging the reality and necessity of car travel on the parkway. On that same note, parking is essential and should be preserved. Yes, cars are bad on a number of levels, but they're a fact of life and we need places to put them, particularly for visitors and emergency vehicles. We'd love to see the lake mowed more regularly. Beyond that, it ain't broke, please don't fix it.

Martin Carlson is a long-time Kenwood resident who lives with his wife, Mary, near the West Bay. He is the Council President of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church.

OPINION

by Kate Christenson

Cedar-Isles planning is flawed, fix it.

I struggle to engage with either concept for the proposed Cedar-Isles master plan, because in many ways it seems that we are putting the cart before the horse—engaging a consultant and drawing up designs before reaching community consensus about the non-negotiable wear and tear thresholds for these lakes as development intensifies around them.

Given the projected number of nearby residents and visitors over the next 20 years—which must be available directly or indirectly through the City’s 2040 plan—we should be able to figure out the wear and tear that this will inevitably bring to the parks and, importantly, establish non-negotiable wear and tear thresholds that we are willing to let the land, flora and fauna, and water take. Defining and articulating those environmental thresholds first, through community consensus, is perhaps the greatest community engagement opportunity embedded in the master plan project. It will engage younger audiences who care especially about environmental health and climate change resilience; allow us to consciously live by our values; create a foundation for the decision-making to follow; and make the overall execution of the master plan clear, efficient and stewardship driven. By contrast, the current process feels consumerist, asking us to pick and choose amenities.

Moreover, there’s no need to rush. This City has borne tragic costs from willful and foolhardy urban planning, such as

SWLRT and 1990s plans for Lake of the Isles. We must go slowly and with great care, given the intricacy of the original park design, the increasing evidence of health and wellness benefits from being in unprogrammed and unstructured natural environments as referenced in Johann Hari’s book, *Stolen Focus*, and his recent interview with Ezra Klein, and the fact that nearby Kenwood Park is already slated to be zoned for particular uses and activities. As development intensifies around the lakes, we will increasingly need restful places for what Hari calls “meandering time,” and both lakes are, and always have been, designed for that.

To be responsible and stewardship-driven, we need to work with existing facilities and infrastructure, like the nearby Kenwood Park and Recreation Center and activity zones in Kenwood Park itself, for several years before assessing whether to also build permanent structures on the parkway. Temporary structures can always be brought in as needed.

My personal priority will always be for large trees, sweeping vistas and uninterrupted views. This is at the heart of the City Beautiful aesthetic, which is the foundation for both parks. Large trees anchor the original design and express the majesty of nature; they also sequester the most carbon. Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger in Canada is restoring woods and forests with rare and native tree specimens that are climate change resilient. I hold out the

possibility that large trees can be brought to Isles and Cedar to enhance this original vision, just as the addition of shoreline grasses in various colors, rhythms and textures around Isles has added continuous visual interest from the water, while also serving a functional purpose.

(Conversely, the dozens of wispy trees planted recently around Isles in an imposed and mechanistic pattern, remain embarrassingly small and out of place.)

To do that, we need to halt the momentum of the existing master plan effort and come together intergenerationally and communitywide to articulate non-negotiable “wear and tear” thresholds for Cedar and Isles. We must insist that all master plan decision-making follow accordingly and that the Park Board engage designers and engineers with proven understanding of the intrinsic nature of the City Beautiful aesthetic. Then, and only then, can we match the scale of the original design for these parks with an equally grand and civic view of environmental stewardship. Experiencing grandeur through nature can be environmentally sound and a community gift, available to all.

Kate Christianson has lived in Kenwood for 30-plus years and is a longtime advocate for Montessori education, with its nature-integrated curriculum.



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Teachers on strike with supporters picketing in front of Kenwood School (Dorothy Childers)

WE MISS OUR TEACHERS!, front page

My kids are old enough to be home on their own. My husband and I both have flexible jobs that allow us to be home more than usual to give our kids some structure. And my kids navigated the independence of nearly two years of COVID disruptions beautifully. This would be hard, but we could do it.

I was asked to write about how the strike is impacting local families, and I feel deeply uncomfortable with that task, as I know that the impacts are as diverse as our community. Here's what I can tell you.

First, families are exhausted after two years of pandemic juggling of work and school and meeting their children's basic academic, social, and emotional needs. Second, families are worried yet again about the social impacts of disconnection from peer groups—this time without Google Classroom to bridge the gap. Finally, families are struggling to balance increasing in-person workplace demands while their children are again at home and in need of academic stimulation and emotional support.

I know that the above is true because it is all true in my own family! Just under one week into the strike, I can tell you it has been hard. There have been more video games and television programs than usual. There have been long days and short tempers and not a little bit of stress baking. There have been valiant attempts at honoring the school day structure and

anger at an enthusiastic parent's independent learning dreams.

What has surprised me is that this has been harder than the early days of COVID, when no one knew how to distance learn (or teach). This has been harder than the nearly entire year of being out of the classroom. And this has been harder than the heart-breaking omicron surge in December and January.

This is because for the first time, my children's teachers have not been with us in the struggle. Teachers are heroes to me—over the past two years, I have had a new window in to the incredible work that they do as they have entered my home to teach my children. As a friend whose children were impacted by a strike in Chicago earlier this year said to me last week, "It's amazing to me how anyone who sends their kids to school doesn't think teachers deserve it all."

We now know how dependent we are on our teachers, and without them, we feel alone. For some, that may result in anger at the very people we have depended upon day in and day out, who are seen to be failing us now. But our teachers are standing up for themselves and their peers and the future teachers in this district. They are asking to be heard and they are asking for change that they see as necessary to do the very difficult work that got infinitely harder in the last two years – and will continue to be hard as we continue to understand

the impact of the last two years on our children.

I know that budgets are complicated, funding is finite, and interests are varied, but it is this tired and frustrated parent's fervent wish for an agreement to be reached that values teachers

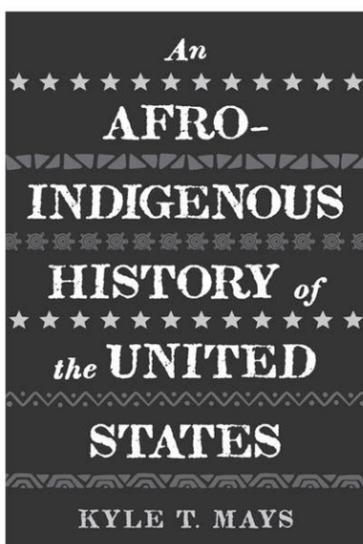
as much as we need them right now.

Carissa Brown resides in the Kenwood neighborhood. She has a sixth-grade daughter at Anwatin Middle School and a third-grade daughter at Kenwood Elementary.



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Teachers on strike with supporters picketing in front of Kenwood School (Dorothy Childers)

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KNO Board Meeting March 7, 2022

Online Meeting

*** DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED
AT APRIL MEETING ***

Present: Mark Brown (Chair), Jim Barnett (Vice Chair), Jeremy Nichols (Treasurer), Will Stensrud, Courtney Kiernat, Kyle Leier, Jack Levi, Lana Baggenstos, Jody Strakosch, MLKMAC, Kyle Leier, Mary Schwanke, Angie, Larry Morgan

Absent: Matt Spies (Secretary), Melinda Platt. Guest Speakers: Lisa Goodman (City of Minneapolis), David Davies (SWLRT Office)

1. Approval of January meeting minutes. Courtney Kiernat motioned to approve January meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

2. Comments from Councilmember Goodman. The next lunch with Lisa is on

March 30, 2020 11:30 – 12mp (no lunch), touring historic house on Minneapolis Community and Technical college campus in Loring Park. Elizabeth Shaffer will speak to group in April. Minneapolis property owners can buy \$30 trees this spring on March 16th (new applicants) or March 23rd (old applicants)

3. Southwest Light Rail Update by David Davies. Kenilworth LRT tunnel construction paused for investigation, which should be completed in 2-3 weeks. Long-term closure of Cedar Lake Parkway is anticipated to begin the end of March or early April. Burnham road will be two ways when closed.

4. KNO Coordinators Report by Amanda Vallone. Volunteer information night at Kenwood rec center in collaboration with Laurie Spark (Kenwood Community Center Director) Wed April 20th, 6:30 – 8pm. North High collaboration ideas shared. Fundraising ideas shared with group. Discussion re: board leading fundraisers or hiring an outside person. Amanda will send email out to group to develop sub committed of interested members for volunteering and/or fundraising.

5. ECLB Season. Will reviewed the 2022 events via word doc with group: 612sauna residency, wellness events, art rocks, hidden acoustics, new collaborations, free bike adjustments. Amanda to take lead on permit for full moon metal casting event in August. Reviewed Budget. Jim motioned to approve the funds for 10.6K if needed (original

budget for 9K). Motion seconded. Motion passed.

7. Kenwood School PTA Request. Mark/Angie. Board to replace bird feeders and food, a \$430 ask. Jeremy motioned to approve the funds. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

8. Cedar Isles Master Plan Concepts/ Mtg Info. New water quality CAC work group meets March 8, 2022, and next CAC meeting March 10, 2022. Both online public meetings – time allotted for public comments. Closure to north end of Lake of the isles has become an area of concern. Will is an alternate member of the CAC, working with Craig Wilson (member) specifically with east cedar lake concepts. Courtney asking about a board member roster list with which board members involved in other initiatives– Amanda to put information on the board website.

9. Neighborhood Collaborations. CIDNA would like to help cost share events, at ECLB in future. For now would like to would host events at south beach on weekends where ECLB has no programs.

10. Financial updates. Treasurer update. Jeremy reviewed expenses/gift to North High School. Otherwise, no other expenditures. Future expenditures for the year to be discussed further in the next 1-2 months. Discussion about North High not having a foundation, and some opportunity for development, Courtney offered to help Mark if needed.



LHNA Board Meeting Minutes March 1 2022

Online Meeting

Time to Call Meeting to Order after Quorum: 7:07 PM by President Charles Scheiderer

Board Members Present:

Charles Scheiderer (President), Thomas Regnier (Vice-President), Toni D'Eramo (Treasurer), John Lillehei, MD (Secretary), Jacquelynn Brown, Vickie Gilfillian-Bennett, Fran Davis, George Montague, Tyler Ecklund-Kouba, Sue Westerman, Craig Wilson, Robert Hinck, Chad Harkin, Anne Nelson

Other Attendees: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Inspector Katie Blackwell, Lieutenant Michael Frye, MPRB Senior Planner Emma Pachuta

Minneapolis City Council Update
7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman presented a neighborhood and city update. Congratulations to Craig Wilson as the new editor of the Hill & Lake Press. The next Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at The Abbey, located in Loring Park at 47 Spruce Street, Minneapolis, 55403. The Abbey is a new apartment building that is connected to a 19th Century Mansion. The following Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, April 23, 2022 at the University of St. Thomas with Minneapolis Park Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer in attendance. On February 24, 2022, Mayor Frey lifted the City's mask requirement as Covid-19 cases and deaths continue to fall. The Minneapolis Office of Performance and Innovation has partnered with Canopy, a Twin-Cities based mental health and consulting organization, to provide crisis intervention, counseling, and connection to support services as an alternative to police response. The police are only dispatched if response teams request their help. The crisis intervention teams are now operating

two mobile units in Minneapolis 24/7 and are dispatched by 911 that will determine their need. Canopy has been well received and appreciated by the Minneapolis Police Department.

Lisa stated that there is word that the change in the Minneapolis no-knock warrant policy will be the strictest in the country.

Minneapolis Police Department Update
5th Precinct Inspector Katie Blackwell introduced 5th Precinct Lieutenant Mike Frye, whom introduced himself as a committed police officer who has been in the MPD since 1991. Inspector Blackwell touched on the status on new Police recruits and that the City was working on a contract to increase pay to incentivize application and retention but not at the expense of professional quality. Katie then reiterated that Canopy has a great relationship with the MPD, has helped immensely in mental health crisis intervention and regularly attends 5th Precinct Roll Call. It allows the MPD to focus officers on more serious crimes.

Regarding recent Lowry Hill Crime, there only one attempted but unsuccessful carjacking on February 28th that provided

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the MPD with a good description of the assailant. There were a number of thefts from vehicles, 2 automobile thefts that were remotely started in the cold snap, and left unattended by the owners, and an upswing in thefts of catalytic converter and license plates. Once again, these are often crimes of opportunity. Never leave anything of value in your car or leave a running car unattended, park in your garage or in illumination such as under a street or exterior home light. Remain vigilant of yourself and neighbors for suspicious activity. Lieutenant Frye addressed the catalytic converter thefts for precious metals. In addition to mitigation efforts like vin etching and painting, garage or well lighted parking, he stated the MPD is partnering with salvage yards and the like to never accept catalytic converters so as to hopefully end this vicious market and cycle of theft.

Minutes of February 8, 2022 LHNA Board Meeting
Motion carried to approve the minutes

Crime and Safety Update
Chair Sue Westerman presented a brief update. The trend of dropping crime in Lowry Hill continued with only 14 incidents that included one thwarted carjacking as previously addressed. It is possible that the bitter cold weather played a role as well as the MPD police presence in our neighborhood Buy Back Program that started in early February. It is hopeful that this downward trend prevails.

Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Toni D'Eramo gave the report. The 2022 Budget is under formulation by the new Budget Committee with membership addressed in the February 8, 2022 LHNA Board Minutes.

As of February 28, 2022:

Assets
Total Bank Accounts:
\$35,227.30
1201 City Contracts Receivable
\$1, 225.99
1205 Prepaid Expense
\$8, 863.50
Total Other Current Assets
\$10,089.49
Total Current Assets
\$45, 316.79
(1205 Prepaid expenses includes \$8,863.59 in prepaid 2022 expenses for accounting, web and ad production services January-December 2022)

Liabilities & Equity
2101 Advances on City Contracts:
\$8,863.50
Total Liabilities
\$8, 863.50
Equity:
\$36,453.29
Total Liabilities & Equity:
\$45,316.79

Neighborhood Priorities

Chair Craig Wilson reported that the North High Booster Club has current donations of \$53,000, eclipsing the initial fundraising goal of \$43,000 for Track Equipment. Information on donation to the North High booster club is in the LHNA website: <https://lowryhillneighborhood.org>. There was hearty brainstorming on the best use of the returning \$94,000 in Propel Funds (NRP Funds) in 2022, the possibility of creating a North High Foundation, academic enrichment, and that Craig and Vickie will soon join a Zoom Call with North High Principal Mauri Frestleben to address such issues.

Homeowner Navigation Grant Fund
Motion carried to extend the Homeowner Navigation Grant Fund for another year

Communications Update

Communications Chair Toni D'Eramo and committee member Tyler Ecklund-Kouba discussed updates. The new gateway Lowry Hill Neighborhood signs with our new logo have finished production and will soon be posted. A LHNA branding update is in progress for website, print ads and email. There was a brief discussion on methods to increase the number of resident email subscribers.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Procedures & Policies Update

There are 6 policies and procedures that are salient for the Lowry Hill Board to adopt to usher our Volunteer Organization into City compliance and transparency. They are the following:

1. LHNA Board Training & Development Policy
2. LHNA Language Access Policy & Procedure
3. LHNA Equal Opportunity Policy & Affirmative Action Plan
4. LHNA Whistle Blower Policy
5. LHNA ADA Policy
6. LHNA Accounting Procedures & Practices

Motion carried to adopt all 6 policies.

Numbers 2-5 are signed by the Secretary of the LHNA Board on behalf of all the LHNA Board Members. Number one is signed by the LHNA Secretary and all of the fifteen LHNA Board Members. All documents are securely stored and accessible by all Board Members.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday May 25, 2022 at the Walker At Center pending availability of that venue. Tuesday, May 24, 2022 is the backup date. Thomas Regnier and Bob Hinck will plan the event including communication and mailings. Sue Westerman and Toni D'Eramo will provide them execution details and recommendations for the mailing.

Carried motion for a \$3000 budget for venue, food and beverage

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Cedar / Isles Design Plan Update
Senior Planner for the MPRB Emma Pachuta narrated a slide presentation of the initial draft of the Cedar Lake and Lake of Isles MPRB plan. The six guiding principles are Protect, Invite, Connect, Tell Stories, Celebrate and Respect. Initial feedback is due by Friday March 4, 2022. Our District 4 Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer is happy to entertain questions and feedback. Important information can be found at: www.minneapolisparcs.org/cedar-isles.

April LHNA Zoom Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

As there was no further business, Meeting adjourned by President Charles Scheiderer at 8:54 PM by motion carried

Minutes by John Lillehei, MD
Secretary, LHNA Board



Hill & Lake Press is a non-profit newspaper funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations:

- East Isles Residents Association (EIRA)
- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)
- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)
- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)

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Cedar-Isles-Dean
Neighborhood Association

CIDNA Board Meeting March 9 2022

Online Meeting

PARTICIPANTS:

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

Others Present: Michael Jon Olson (CIDNA Coordinator), Lisa Goodman (City Council-Ward 7), David Davis (SWLRT Project Office), Amy Rowland (Lake Residences)

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on financial policies. The minutes of the February 9 board meeting were approved.

REPORTS:

WARD 7 Office. Councilmember

Goodman reported:

- March 30 Lunch with Lisa, 11:30am: A tour of the renovated historic Alden Smith House, now known as the Abbey Apartments. Will include a briefing from project participants.
- April 27 Lunch with Lisa, 12-1: Guest Elizabeth Schaffer to discuss first couple of months as new parks commissioner. University of St. Thomas
- 34 Park Lane neighborhood variances for fencing and parking were denied unanimously by the City Council's Zoning and Planning Committee.
- Behavioral Crisis Response Team success by Canopy Roots. They are now operating 24/7. The 911 operators have been trained when to send this type of response to critical incidents – police report it is going well. Two units are operating with behavioral responders and responding to mental health calls.
- City redistricting is complete. Changes to the 7th Ward include: 2 blocks of Downtown removed from 7th Ward, including Grant Park. 2 blocks of Warehouse District added and West Bde Mka Ska neighborhood, including West Lake LRT station, added to Ward 7.
- City has launched national search for police chief search. Karen Berglund, a 7th Ward resident, is one of 10 members of Mayor Frey's citizen panel to assist with search.

- Tree Trust's spring tree purchase period begins in March. 1500 trees, 30 varieties, only \$30. Order at: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2022/february/minneapolis-property-owners-can-buy-30-trees-this-spring/>
- Lisa said in her view the Hillard Heintze report on the City's response to civil unrest following George Floyd's murder is accurate.
- The City is already operating on the basis of the organizational reforms mandated by passage of the Government Structure Amendment passed last fall.

SWLRT. David Davies reported:

- SWLRT Minneapolis Town Hall Meeting will be held March 16, 6-7pm. Meeting details available at Met Council's SWLRT public involvement page; meeting will be recorded.
- Excavation and tunnel construction to resume north of Depot Street. Additional sheet driving expected on March 11.
- Cedar Lake Parkway closure is now expected to occur in April.
- Cedar Isles Condo Association – Met Council has been on site investigating the cause of the water pipe break and resultant flooding of the CICA garage. No findings or known causes to date. Investigation is expected to take several more weeks. The contractor will need to make grade adjustments to keep stormwater at bay.
- Mary Pattock inquired if the 2018 Itasca Consulting Group report on CICA building vibration has been made available to Socotec and the Office of the Legislative Auditor. David did not know.

Governance Committee. Laura C.

reported: That with COVID-19 declining and city protocols lifting, the governance committee would like to explore resuming in-person board meetings for April and will look for a meeting location. Meetings will continue to be streamed via Zoom.

Communications Committee. Mary

reported:

- Committee has identified locations here new signs with the new CIDNA logo may be installed. Up to seven may be ordered. Next step is to send design and locations to Minneapolis Public Works. Mary will prepare a cost estimate for the board's consideration.
- There is a new page on the CIDNA website on the Cedar Lake Master Plan, offering a wealth of information on the water quality of Cedar Lake and the rest of the Chain of Lakes.
- Development of the new CIDNA website continues.
- An anonymous donor has contributed 300 to CIDNA, in appreciation for CIDNA's work to improve water quality of the Chain of Lakes, especially its participation in the Cedar-Isles Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).
- Tim is working to find a manufacturer of CIDNA-branded coffee mugs for sale and fundraising.

- Amanda is developing a Facebook editorial calendar.
- Hill and Lakes Press – Craig Wilson is the new editor. Mary is secretary of its new board. Win Rockwell is the other HLP board member representing CIDNA neighborhood.

Social Committee. Amanda reported: that CIDNA will host the following 2022 events. Additional event details will be posted at cidna.org –

- Volunteer Information Night – Wednesday, April 27

Meet neighbors and find out ways to get involved with CIDNA's upcoming events

- May Day Basket Making – April 29 (6:30-8:30pm) & April 30 (2-5pm)

Each year, CIDNA brings families together to decorate and assemble May Day baskets for residents of Jones Harrison. Location: ARTrageous Adventures (2121 West 21st Street)

- Summer Solstice Celebration – June 21 (6:00-8:00pm)

Celebrate the longest day of the year at Cedar Lake South Beach with refreshments, music and family fun activities

- Monthly Hidden Acoustic Music Series @ Cedar Lake South Beach (June, July, August)

- Monthly Storytelling Sessions @ Park Siding Park (June, July, August)

- Fall Festival, Saturday, Oct. 6

- Holiday Art Mart, Saturday, Nov. 26

Environment Committee. Claire

reported:

- Park Board Redistricting – CIDNA will move to District 6, effective after next park board election, even though Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles (CIDNA's namesakes) will stay in District 4. The City rationale for this incongruity is that its modeling software cannot account for the lakes. All park board commissioners are aware of issue. Claire has requested software update to resolve the issue.
- Committee recommends renewing Park Siding Park and Cedar Lake South Beach Stewardship agreements. Dates to be finalized, typically second Saturdays.
- Mark Schmidt is putting forth a stewardship agreement for Cedar South Point natural area; CIDNA will continue to provide communication support for effort.
- Cedar Isles Master Plan is moving forward. Claire is working on CIDNA comments. James Reid as an alternate to the CAC, which is working to make the water quality of the lakes its primary criterion. Cedar Lake, which feeds Isles and Harriet, is now eutrophic.
- Public Mural Installation: Preliminary discovery meeting to be scheduled for end of March.

Joint Safety Committee. Stephen

reported:

- Ongoing concerns about sidewalk snow removal at bus stops and curb areas.
- Committee considering Watch for Pedestrians yard signs at key intersections
- Committee looking at ways to strengthen

MINUTES

neighborhood/apartment building watch processes ahead of spring/summer

ACTIONS:

Moved: A resolution regarding the Cedar Isles Master Plan:

“Be it resolved that environmental preservation, especially water quality, be designated the highest priority of the MPRB’s Cedar-Isles Master Plan, and that the restoration of a high and healthy degree of water quality be the primary criterion by which all other aspects of the plan are evaluated and implemented. Be it further resolved that maintenance of park system infrastructure be prioritized over creating new facilities that the MPRB may not be able to maintain.”

Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Moved: “To contribute \$5,000 to assist in the establishment of a North High School Foundation.” Seconded.
Passed Unanimously.

The Board requested additional review of proposed modifications to the organization’s financial policies based on feedback from the City.

The next CIDNA meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 6-8pm via Zoom with an in-person option at a location to be announced. CIDNA’s Annual Member Meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 11, 6:00-8:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

CIDNA HIRING COORDINATOR, SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER EVENTS

CIDNA is seeking a new part-time coordinator. A full job description is available at cidna.org.

CIDNA is actively seeking volunteer community members to assist with many exciting summer activities. For more information and to get involved, please email info@cidna.org.

Submitted by Laura Cederberg



(Photo Dorothy Childers)

As Snow Melts at Reserve Block 40 Park

By Dorothy Childers

A favorite playground
Where children leave toys
Knowing they will still be there
Upon their return

DUCK, DUCK...GOOSE?

A brief history of our mascot

By Thomas Regnier



Duck Duck Goose is well-known enough, to be sure, but rarely in Minnesota, where Duck Duck Grey Duck predominates. We may have found an exception to that rule in the Hill & Lake Press' mascot! Is it a duck? Or is it a goose? "[It is] a unique creation of Hill & Lake public art," says former editor and current columnist Jim Lenfestey. Susan Lenfestey, Jim's wife and also a former editor, quoted Iris Dement who once said, "I choose to let the mystery be...."

When we first set out to learn more about the history of the mascot, most people involved (none of whom are ornithologists) were unclear as to what kind of bird we were seeing. Less of a mystery is the fact that the present mascot is the creation of Roger

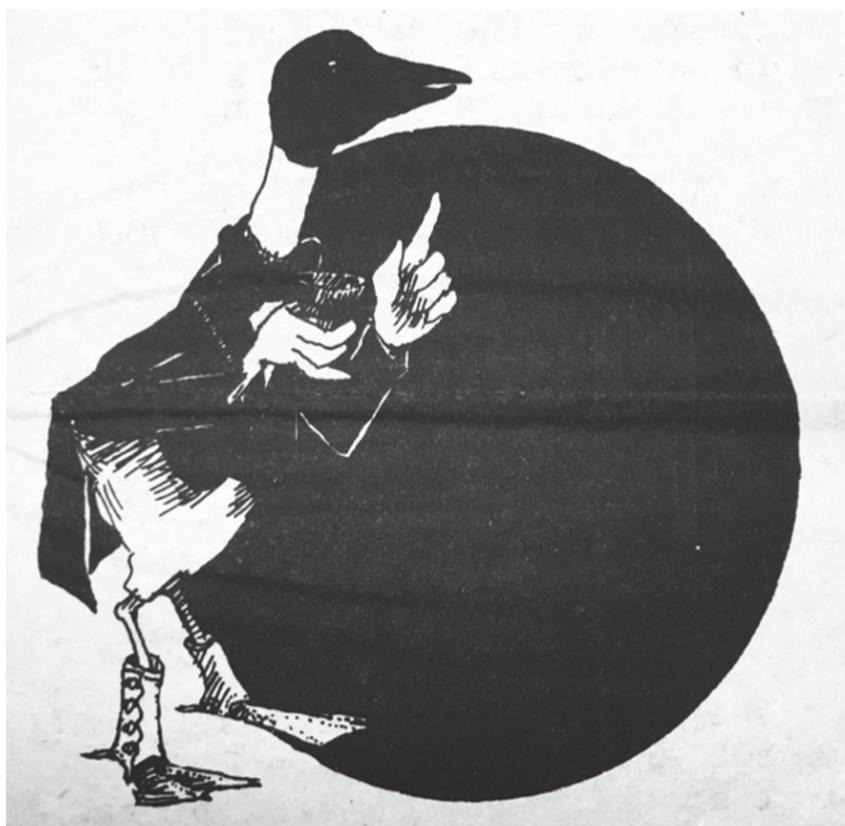
Boehm, an artist who contributed many illustrations and artworks to the Hill & Lake Press in the early years. These included small pieces to accent articles, a full-page Happy Holidays Spread for the December 1978 issue, and illustrations on the invitations to the Hill & Lake Press' birthday parties.

His drawings always featured a lively, caricatured style. Given the picturesque setting of Hill & Lake neighborhoods, it makes sense that local residents would serve as a model for many of his caricatures and so, waterfowl were favorite subjects for Roger from the beginning. One can see the evolution from his earlier work, which attempts greater realism, to the later images of the mascot, which are much more

simplified, stylized, and effective. Yet, the Roger Boehm mascot does not make it to the masthead until March of 1979.

Now, you may be surprised to learn that the mascot has its origins not only in the abundance of waterfowl in our water rich community, but in some fiercely fought local politics surrounding them. Throughout the 1970s and into the 1980s, the large population of Canadian Geese at Lake of the Isles had been a nexus for controversy.

Canadian Geese had been essentially absent from the Hill & Lake district from the 1930s until the 1950s, until they began to be reintroduced by various actors working with the Minnesota Department of Natural



Above: Early Boehm Drawings from the June 1976 issue that show early versions of what would evolve into the paper's mascot.



The Boehm design has now survived 40 years with minimal changes. In the early years, the mascot even evidenced seasonal variations!

Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services. As Susan Lenfestey wrote: "Geese were in the news as they were fairly new to Lake of Isles and people were lobbying the park board to put in 'bubblers' so they could have open water over the winter!" These geese clearly had friends.

And yet, they were also considered a disturbing element. At the time, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was applying to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the reduction of Lake of the Isles' "nuisance" Canadian goose population, which at the time numbered around 500. The solution, termed "translocation"—a fancy three-syllable word which here refers to

moving the surplus geese someplace else—was covered in a pair of articles in October of 1981, where this illustration appeared.

So is it a goose or a duck? We at the Hill & Lake Press feel similarly to the opinion expressed about our mascot in past years and "choose to let the mystery be." One thing for certain, it is a waterfowl here to stay.

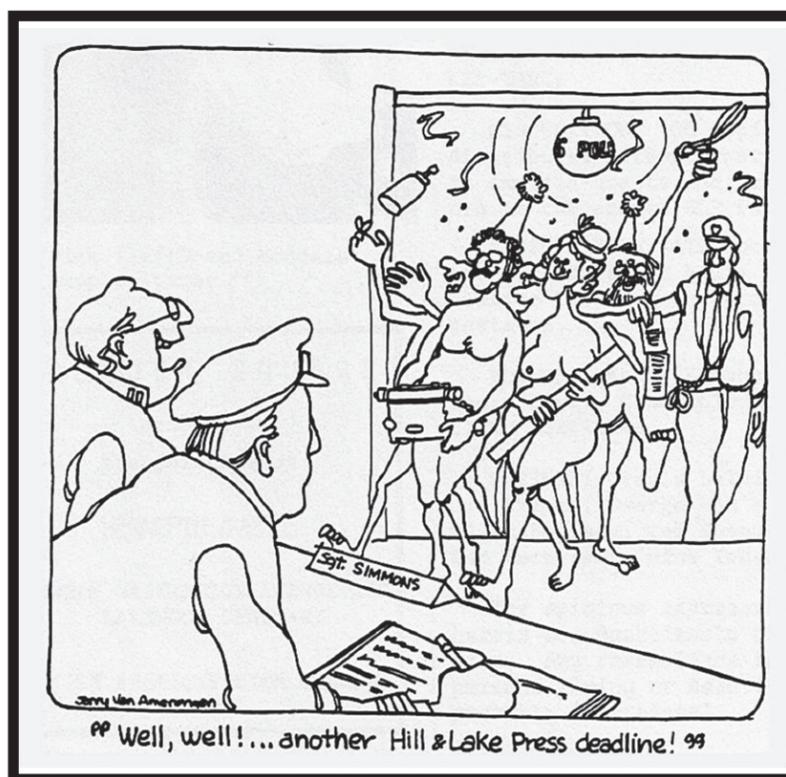
Thomas Regnier is a Vice President of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, a well-known manager at Kowalski's Market on Hennepin, and passionate about all things 'old timey.'



Geese faced eviction in the 1980s

**Calling all illustrators!
 Send us your cartoons and
 maybe you'll become the
 next generation of
 Hill & Lake Press funnies!**

hillandlakepress@gmail.com





Packages gather at a Cedar-Isles-Dean doorstep (Photo by Dorothy Childers)

March 27 Fundraiser for Ukraine offers opportunity to learn, reflect, take action

By Michael Wilson, Guest

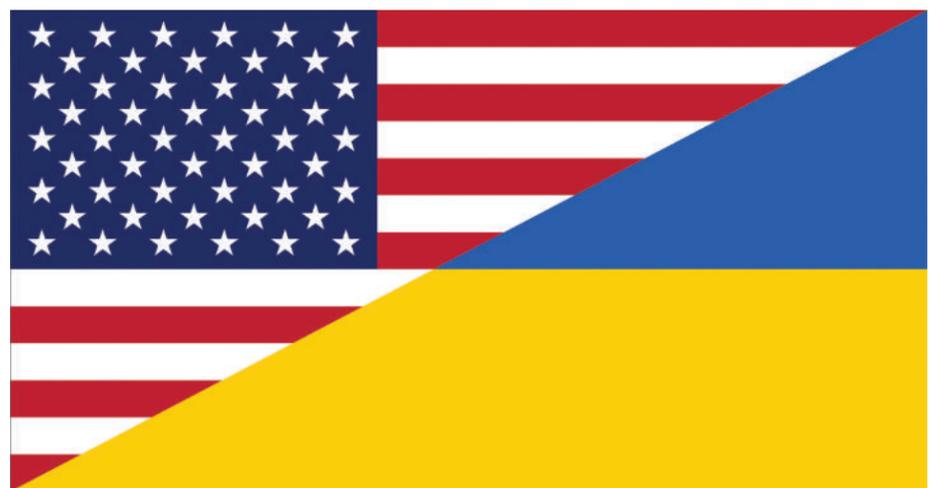
People the world over, including all of us in our four Hill and Lake neighborhoods, have been shocked and appalled at the carnage wreaked on the people and the land of the sovereign nation of Ukraine by the armies of Vladimir Putin and disheartened by the difficulty in getting trustworthy information and helping the people of Ukraine in their hour of need.

On Sunday, March 27, the Isles Ensemble in partnership with Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church and the Woman's Club of Minneapolis is presenting a fundraiser to provide us with trustworthy information, reflect through music on the human cost of this calamity, and offer us a means to help address the enormous need for humanitarian aid.

The fundraiser starts at 2:00pm in the Woman's Club auditorium. Enter the auditorium directly on 15th

Street, across from Loring Park, or via the Woman's Club main entrance at 410 Oak Grove St. The Woman's Club has a large parking lot on Oak Grove, and valet parking will be available at the main entrance. St. Mark's Cathedral welcomes fundraiser attendees to use their parking lot between noon and 4 pm.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations are encouraged, and 100% of contributions will be designated for Ukraine relief efforts through Eastern Europe Crisis Response or Lutheran Disaster Response. Checks, made out to either of these organizations, are preferred. For more information visit www.islesensemble.org.



Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

As with so many hours of most days, I'm sitting here in my bedroom office overlooking the northwest corner of my house. To the right (north) is a lovely view of Cedar Lake and many would suggest I situate my desk to allow a far more lyrical view. But that is not possible because a wall of cabinets and drawers and bookshelves and radiator covers precludes this. Thus, I am left to multitask – writing my books and overseeing the daily constitutionals of a most jumbled crew. By default, I have become the neighborhood sentry.

One set of neighbors, it appears, has not set foot in a brick-and-mortar store in over a decade. Covid did not alter their shopping habits – Amazon.com did. Long before the pandemic turned previously rational people into leave-it-at-the-door, food-bleaching lunatics, this particular household purchased, apparently, everything online. From toothpicks to dentures, these guys have it delivered.

I love my work and spend a lot of time here, so I get to witness the frequent drop-offs. Most are from Amazon, and I'm confident that Jeff Bezos thought of my neighbors en route to Pluto. (And screamed, Suckers!) Others are from Whole Foods (i.e., Amazon), the rest from disparate and unmarked vehicles. There is a TV to my back, making it more audio than visual. Most of the time it's tuned to CNN. The day the Russians invaded Ukraine I turned around to watch the beginning of the horror. Curious to hear how my Republican comrades would respond, I flipped over to FOX for a little Point/Counterpoint. For the first time ever, the two channels weren't merely similar – they were identical. Unanimous condemnation of Russia's offensive.

I stayed with FOX for longer than usual and found myself thinking that if I didn't know

which was which, I couldn't discern the side of the political coin being presented. One of the FOX commentators referenced Foghorn Leghorn, the irascible philosopher rooster of long ago cartoons, "You're doin' a lot of choppin' but no chips are flyin'." I'm not really sure what he meant, but was intrigued enough to Google "Foghorn Leghorn Quotes" and read them all. Apropos of nothing, my favorite is "For, I say, fortunately, I always carry a spare set of feathers."

Back to the war at hand, the relative ease of our lives became undisguised. While Ukrainians were fleeing their homes, parting from loved ones and a loved life, I was sitting here scrolling through the wit and wisdom of Foghorn Leghorn. As Pogo, another famous cartoon character, said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

To denounce the evil of Putin is easy. To rouse one's self from

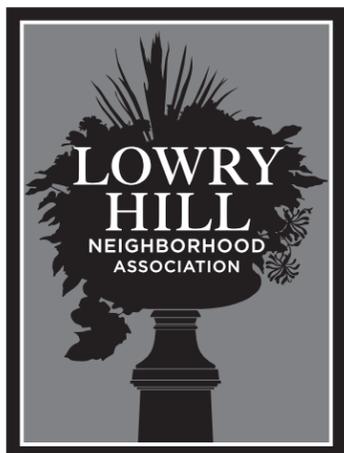
any comfortable stupor takes thought and effort, neither of which comes cheap, nor can it be obtained from a marketplace.

And just like that, across the street another Amazon van pulls up enriching Jeff Bezos's swag.

- Dorothy

Dorothy Richmond is an experienced Spanish instructor and the author of several Spanish textbooks. She is a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY
MAY 25th
at the Walker Art Center

6:00 p.m. Social hour with appetizers and cash bar

7:00 p.m. Meeting and elections

Save the date and join us!

Meet and mingle with neighbors, board members and local government representatives. Hear board updates and participate in board elections. All Lowry Hill residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Interested in running for the LHNA board?

Want to volunteer? Visit the LHNA website and apply before 5/1/22. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting.

LHNA April Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 7:00 pm

All residents are welcome to join via ZOOM. Details will be posted on the website. Have a question or wish to be on the agenda? Please email: lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org.

safety tips:

LEAVE A LIGHT ON

To help deter crime in our neighborhood

We encourage residents to leave the front light and back porch light ON ALL NIGHT, EVERY NIGHT.

Light is a BIG deterrent to criminals. It will not cost you more than a few dollars increase in your monthly electric bill.

Other tips we encourage you to follow:

- Lock all first floor and easy access windows.
- Make sure alarm systems are armed at all times.
- Close and lock garage doors and car doors.
- Lock bikes with a U-lock in the garage.
- Don't leave valuables on porches or in yards.

Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other!

CALL 911 if you see suspicious persons or activity – don't hesitate, make the call.

Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at lowryhillneighborhood.org

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