



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

Published for East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood Isles, & CIDNA

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JANUARY 21, 2011

Minneapolis Park System Shines In Photo Contest

Hundreds of spectacular photos were submitted in the first annual Picture a Park photo competition. Sponsored by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), People for Parks (PFP) and National Camera Exchange, the contest was designed to highlight life and times in Minneapolis parks year round.

"We were extremely happy with the quality of the photographs we received and excited to see so many great photos of our incredible park system," Sylvia Fine of People For Parks commented, "That's what this contest was about; we wanted to capture the beauty of Minneapolis parks through other peoples' lenses."

The contest was open to amateurs of all ages. Photographers were encouraged to focus on photos in the categories of events, people, places and nature.

Dorothy Childers of Minneapolis took home "Best of Show" in the Adult division with her photo, *Bike Path at Cedar Lake*.

Anthony Zuchura-Walske of Minneapolis took home the same honors in the Youth division with his photo entitled *Solomon Shadows*. Winning photos will be featured in a stunning poster which will be on display in recreation centers throughout Minneapolis in 2011 as well at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Dorothy Childers, Hill & Lake Press photographer's *Bike Path at Cedar Lake* won 'Best of Show' at the first Picture a Park photo competition.



Bike Path at Cedar Lake: Award winning photo by Dorothy Childers

Photo courtesy of MPRB





Lake of the Isles Skating Rink


Photo Dorothy Childers

Dorothy Childers has long favored Hill & Lake Press with photos that capture our neighborhoods. She enthusiastically attends meetings, sports events, Palio, and any event when called upon to do so. Hill & Lake Press is fortunate to have a dedicated artist who is willing to share her time and talent with us. Congratulations Dorothy! We are grateful for your art.


City of Lakes Loppet February 5 and 6, 2011
Cross Country Ski Festival, Saturday & Sunday
Luminary Loppet
Chuck & Don's Skijoring Loppet
Minne-Loppet
Penn Ice-Cycle Loppet
Finn Sisu Sprints
Rossignol Junior Loppet
Freestyle Loppet
Hoigaard's classic
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SUNDAY JANUARY 23, 2011 FROM 1-3 PM
Lake of the Isles Ice Rink and Warming Hut
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Get warm by a blazing fire
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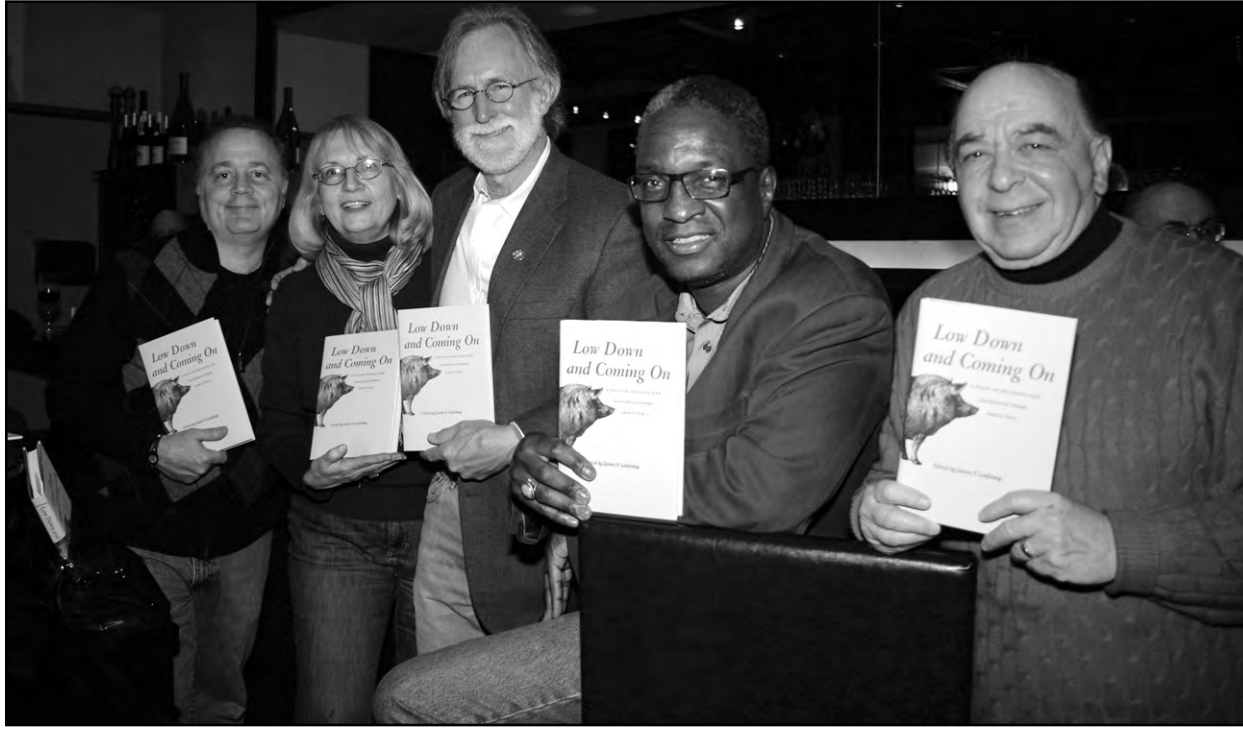


Sponsored by East Isles, Lowry Hill, and Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Associations

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CALENDAR & EVENTS

Lenfestey Book Event & Mixer at Loring Kitchen & Bar



Friends, fans and neighbors gathered at the Loring Kitchen, Spruce and Willow Streets, on Loring Park, to celebrate the recent launch of Hill & Lake Press founder Jim Lenfestey's new book, *Low Down and Coming On... A Feast Of Delicious And Dangerous Poems About Pigs*. On hand for the event were, left to right, David Bank, managing partner of the restaurant and bar along with Nancy Anderson, author Lenfestey, Herman Milligan Jr. and Barry ZeVan, former KSTP weatherman.

Photo by Dorothy Childers

Award-winning Poet and Teacher Michael Dennis Browne to perform Feb. 6 at Plymouth Congregational Church

By Jim Lenfestey

On Sunday, Feb. 6, Plymouth Congregational Church will ring with the voice of poet Michael Dennis Browne. During the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the acclaimed Plymouth choir directed by Philip Brunelle will sing the anthem "Pilgrim's Hymn" composed by Browne and Stephen Paulus. A recording of their collaboration by the Minnesota Orchestra was nominated for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in music. Following the service, at noon in the chapel, Browne will read from his lifetime of award-winning poems. His books will be for sale at the event by Birchbark Books.

The performances are free and open to the public, with plenty of free parking in the lot at the southwest corner of Franklin and Blaisdell Avenues.

Browne's appearance is sponsored by Literary Witnesses, a program of the Fine Arts Board at Plymouth. Over the past twelve years, Literary Witnesses had sponsored more than 40 poets, including three United States Poet Laureates. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder will appear at Plymouth on April 18. For more information, visit www.plymouth.org.



Michael Dennis Browne

Minneapolis Audubon Society
Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)
Friday, February 11, 2011 1 p.m.

Dr. Scott Sharkey will share outstanding photography from his Minnesota River Valley world. Please join us for the program and refreshments. All are welcome. For more information call 952-926-4205.

Free Home Energy Workshop

Community Energy Services, CES, is a one-stop residential energy program designed to help homeowners save energy and money in their homes. CES will soon be available for homeowners in Cedar-Isles-Dean and East Isles. Homeowners are invited to join the over 2,800 Minneapolis households that have already participated!

CES begins with FREE educational workshops where homeowners can schedule a customized home energy visit. The visit includes a blower door test which measures for air leaks in the home, as well as the installation of energy and money saving materials. These materials may include compact fluorescent light bulbs, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, pipe wrap, a programmable thermostat and more! Participants are also provided with energy tracking and feedback, information on innovative financing and access to specialized rebates available to only program participants. Up to \$400 in services and materials for a co-pay of \$30!

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HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

January 23, Ice Skating Social 1-3 p.m.

Jan. 26, noon, Lunch with Lisa

Feb. 5 & 6 City of Lakes Loppet

Feb. 6, 10:30 a.m. Michael Dennis Browne, Plymouth Church

Feb 20, 6 pm, Palio winners at Bryant Lake Bowl

March 10 & April 12 Energy Workshop

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday at Jones-Harrison

EIRA: 1st Tuesday at Grace-Trinity Church

KIAA: 1st Monday at Kenwood Rec Center

LHNA: 1st Tuesday at Kenwood Rec Center

Lunch with Lisa January 26, 2011

Join council Member Lisa Goodman for lunch and conversation.

This month meet Tom Oslund & the Peavey Plaza Design Team.

Come and give your feedback about Plaza programming and design.

St. Thomas University-Minneapolis Opus Hall 202
\$10 Lunch is offered.

Come early to get your lunch and a good seat.

Discussion starts promptly at noon.

Next Lunch with Lisa is February 23.

Workshops are being held:

Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m. Grace-Trinity Community Church (1430 W 28th St.)

Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. Jones-Harrison Residence (3700 Cedar Lake Ave.)

To RSVP contact Ashley Robertson at 612-335-5869 or arobertson@mncee.org


More information can also be found at www.mnecs.org. Community Energy Services is a partnership with the CIDNA, EIRA, Center for Energy and Environment, City of Minneapolis, CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy with funding provided by the MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the City of Minneapolis block grants.

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SNOWMEN INVADE LOWRY HILL by Janet Hallaway

Twenty-four snowmen arrived in Lowry Hill this month just after the heavy snowfall. Their arrival had something to do with chatter heard around town.

“There’s nothing interesting to look at anymore when I’m stuck at the light at Hennepin and Franklin.”

“I sure miss those displays with the stuffed animals and the games.”

“Yeah. Do you think Burch recycled that merchandise they put in those windows?”

Residents were pining away for those homegrown window displays, faithfully executed each month by some anonymous Burch Pharmacy employee.

As comments and retail vacancies mounted, Lowry Hill board members took stock. The organization, dedicated to “maintaining, protecting, and beautifying the neighborhood known as Lowry Hill”, could surely come up with something to help brighten the Franklin/Hennepin corner that serves as a gateway to the neighborhood.

Ideas proliferated. “Let’s do something historic! We could install black and white photos of old homes” (check — go to Hennepin History Museum for 2 hour meeting with curator). “No, no. We have galleries right here in the neighborhood. Use them and keep it local.” (check – call named galleries, make more phone calls, have meeting). “So-and-so is on the board at MCAD. She could put us in touch with some artists!” (check- funnel info back to board member). “What about The Walker, right here in Lowry Hill. So and so’s wife works there. Wouldn’t they like visibility right on that corner? (check – send emails, blah, blah, blah).

Translating ideas into action takes time. Months drifted by and board members reported in: “They were concerned about insurance.” “The artwork could get damaged by exposure to light.” “The cost was too high.” “The project is too big”.

The windows remained lifeless with the only change being the addition of graffiti on the exterior of the brick building.

Enter the marvelous team at Kenwood School. If you’ve ever toured the school, you can’t help but be amazed by the art.

Snowmen to page 5



Snowmen and Haiku poems decorate Burch’s former space.

Photo by Dorothy Childers

Beauty of nature
Falls on my head, quietly
It brings me a sign.
— Lydia Peterson

When I sit in leaves
I feel vibrations inside
Then I hear silence.
— Sam Pearson

A single leaf holds
tightly with green stem and
vines
Breathing hard, cold air.

— John Megas

Little amber leaf
on the branch holding tightly
All the rest fallen.
—Lillian Anderson

A tiny leaf, falls
into the wind’s powerful
currents. A brave flight.
—Lydia Peterson

The golden brown leaf
fell on the crisp white snow

It lay so still.

—Simon Robert Michaelson

Up, down, all around
A shadow there in the sky
A little leaf home.
—Thompson Sutton

I, a leaf, wish not
to fall off this one warm tree
for then I will die.
—Maddie Niziolek



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New School Board Represents MINNEAPOLIS MINDS

by Steve Kotvis

As I squeezed through the doorway of the School Board meeting on Monday, the official at the door said, "We're at capacity. You're the last one in." As a regular at school board meetings, I could feel this full house was going to be different. Most often when the Boardroom is filled like this, it's filled with angry, frustrated or distressed parents and children pleading to keep their school when it's slated for closing.

Rather, this meeting, the swearing in ceremony for five newly elected School Board Directors, was positive and energized with hopeful new voices. And though I attended the swearing in ceremony two years ago, I sensed this event was unique. It both looked and sounded different. More global.

As I listened to incoming director Alberto Monserrate speak in Spanish and English and director Hussein Samatar speak in Somali, Spanish and English to a diverse crowd, it became apparent I was witnessing a transformation. The Boardroom was beginning to

reflect our district's classrooms where almost 100 different languages are spoken at home by students' parents and families. The voices of the emerging populations were perhaps for the first time being heard as public representatives in the Boardroom.

As Samatar acknowledged in his acceptance speech, a population not represented per se on the Board was that of the traditional African American family. As such, he called out the need for each and every Board member to be conscious of and stand up for the absence on the Board of this significant school population.

While there is little time to waste, I expect it may take a bit of time before this Board fully performs. Forming. Storming. Norming. Performing — the stages of group process suggest as such. Namely, due to two-election cycle of phasing in the new board structure that includes representatives from geographic communities and citywide representatives, we won't complete the "forming" stage for some time. After all, today's three new Directors were elected by communities who hail from the eastern half of the city. It won't be another two years until representatives of North and Southwest Minneapolis will sit on the Board.

The board composition is new, but the challenges are not: Limited if not diminishing resources; the challenge of providing equity of quality schools throughout the district; the need to create strong school communities; and importantly, as the ink is not yet penned for a new teacher's contract, begin in earnest a new contract negotiation process. All of this in the context of the Strategic Plan.

The new board may begin its work together by revisiting that plan. This will be important starting point. Based on what I learned on the campaign trail, there are varying levels of understanding or interpretation of that plan by individual Directors. It will be helpful to ensure that our board functions in ways that are focused and committed to the plan that was developed, adopted and has served to make real progress towards the district's challenges. It also has been an effective instrument to focus our Superintendent and her team as well as, through its transparency and accountability, generate support from the broader community.

Best wishes to our new School. May they serve us well.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident serves on a number of boards and committees relative to public education and offers a monthly perspective in the Hill & Lake Press "Minneapolis Minds" column. He can be reached at stevek@elemenop.us.



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

2011 Budget Update

The Minneapolis City Council approved the 2011 proposed city budget on Monday, Dec. 13th after a public meeting which over 100 people attended. Earlier in the week the City Council's Ways and Means committee passed several amendments that reduced the 2011 levy increase from 7.5% to 4.7%. The reduction in the levy was possible through a combination of \$6.1 million in one time budget cuts and two long term changes. The long term changes are to reduce neighborhoods NRP phase II uncontracted funds by up to 50% and to have no increases in City salaries, including Council Members, for two years. Meg voted against the budget because she thought not enough had been done to reduce spending.

While property taxes are increasing the City has actually shrunk the size of City government. Adjusting for inflation, the City's proposed budget for 2011 is 7 percent smaller than the City's budget in 2001 and the City will have approximately 1,000 fewer employees in 2011 than 2001.

Uncover your fire hydrant

Property owners are responsible for making sure the snow is cleared around fire hydrants. Minneapolis has more than 8,000 hydrants. Please make sure they're easily assessable in case fire crews need them.

Electric Space Heater Safety

Portable electric heaters can cause serious problems if they're not used properly. These heaters are not designed to heat a home or operate for extended periods; they are meant to heat a small space for a short time. All electric heaters must be kept at least 36 inches from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Supervise children whenever space heaters are in use. Space heaters must not be left on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.

Clear Sidewalks of Snow and Ice

Keeping our sidewalks free of ice and snow is both the neighborly thing to do, and it's the law. Here are a few points to know about keeping Minneapolis sidewalks clear of snow and ice:

Know the rules for clearing sidewalks.

Shovel the sidewalks on all sides of your property, the full width of the sidewalk down to bare pavement.

Remove all ice from sidewalks. After the sidewalk is cleared, sprinkling a little sand can help prevent slipping on frosty sidewalks.

Pile snow into your yard and boulevard. It's against the law to shovel snow into streets and alleys.

10th Ward News to page 6

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What Happened to Good Sportsmanship?

Beth St. John Kehoe

January 8th I woke up and drove my son to a robotics meet at 7 a.m. Big day. His team had worked hard learning how to build and program little rolling robots to complete various tasks.

After dealing with my ballerina and gymnast, we checked in on the meet. It was exciting — teams from across the metro, a darkened gym set up with bleachers and competition zones, people standing around staring up at an electronic scoreboard and an announcer with a microphone. I kept waiting for him to yell out “Let’s get ready to ruuummbbble!”

#4 got cranky so I took Ballerina and him home leaving Gymnast with her brother because she is all about competition and begged me to stay. Not more than an hour later I got a call from a very depressed 8th grader who wanted to come home because he and his partner had just been “utterly squashed.” He was depressed and wanted to leave early.

Funny how normal everyday parental occurrences make you think of larger more global issues. And it’s interesting how thinking about these larger more global issues has an effect on my normal everyday parental occurrences.

Somehow, in my world, my son calling me from a robotics meet and the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords merge to make me contemplate one greater issue.

I am impressed with The View’s Elizabeth Hasslebeck and Senator John McCain who made some of the strongest comments by Republicans before and after the shootings.

Senator McCain: “I am horrified by the violent attack on Rep. Giffords and many other innocent people by a wicked person who has no sense of justice or compassion. Whoever did this, whatever their reason, they are a disgrace to Arizona, this country and the human race, and they deserve and will receive the contempt of all decent people and the strongest punishment of the law.”

And, Elizabeth Hasslebeck: “. . . the way that some republicans are handling this is nothing more than purely despicable, the names highlighted by those crosshairs (Palin’s website), . . . it’s an abuse of the second amendment. Every single person on here is a mother, a father, a friend, a brother, a sister and to take it to this level — it’s disappointing to see this come from the party. When you take rhetoric like this from someone who is powerful, I would hope that anyone wouldn’t take it to this



Beth St. John

extreme but, the chance is there. There is a civic responsibility, no matter how upset you are with health insurance, etc, this is not the way to get anything done. This is a shift. I’m unhappy with it. I would never put a target on a person’s name or where they live. It’s insane.”

Insane it is. Eleven wounded, six dead, including a 9 year old girl (like my gymnast).

However, I am glad that some well-known Republicans are finally making strong statements against the use of violent political rhetoric and barbaric metaphors that are being used so prevalently by talking heads such as Glen Beck and politicians like Sarah Palin and Sharron Angle with their “lock and reload” and “second amendment remedies” comments.

I already had a litany of reasons to not run for political office: too much work for too little pay, having to watch my tongue, not wanting critique of my hairdo, my addiction to workout clothes, my penchant for actually “inhaling” (in the past), and the fact that there may or may not be some incredibly compromising photos and/or video out there that might come to light which would prevent me from winning an election anyway. Now, to that list I will add — fear of being killed.

And that, my friends, is how terrorism works.

Yes, I have been known to fly off the handle when it comes to arguing politics but, I do not believe that I have ever insinuated that people should resort to violent measures to get what they want. To me, it’s about voting. It’s about trying your hardest, and if you lose, trying harder next time.

Back on the phone with my son . . . my answer to him was matter of fact: “You need to suck it up and not be a sore loser. You need to stay there and support the rest of your team until they are all finished, and you need to applaud all the winners at the awards ceremony. I’ll pick you up at five.”

I used “The Tone.”

I believe you miraculously acquire the power of The Tone with the birth of your third or fourth child. It’s The Tone that conveys “There will be no more discussion on this topic. There will be no more whining on your part and you will do as I say.” In other words, “I have spoken, now be gone.”

My son’s voice on the other end of the line simply

said “Okay.” Later I asked him if he was glad that he stayed until the end of the meet and he said, “Yeah, it was the right thing to do.”

These two totally unrelated events that happened on the same day, a shooting and a robotics meet in St. Paul, made me think about where I personally draw the line. I might want to think twice before I jokingly suggest defacing a political billboard or stealing a few yard signs — no matter how tame that seems compared to blatant gunsight crosshair target symbols or second amendment remedies.

And I am definitely not running for office. Terrorism works.

But, democracy might be the remedy. Hopefully, those that even hint that violence is a suitable means to an end will be judged unfavorably by the general public. Hopefully, come election time, people will come forth in massive numbers, and pick up their pens, to forcefully speak out against this type of behavior with the voices of their votes.

Beth, our former HLP columnist and neighborhood liaison, has returned to Minneapolis and is now writing and raising her four children in the Fulton Neighborhood.

Snowmen from page 3

Hand-painted murals are everywhere. A two story tall mosaic made of recycled school supplies graces the entryway, the brainchild of a Kenwood parent. Carefully crafted quilts and paintings, paintings, and more paintings adorn the hallways. The school is dedicated to infusing its curriculum with arts-based learning. The visual arts are everywhere in this school.


With one quick call to Art teacher, Margaret Swenson, things started to happen. (Swenson embodies the term “Best Practices”. Teachers across the city visit her classroom to learn from her about the extraordinary program she runs at Kenwood.) Swenson provided the artwork. She opened her treasure chest of student artwork for Kenwood parent Tracy Hudson. Ad agency Art Director and Kenwood parent Tracy Hudson sized up the space at Burch with a professional’s eye. She selected student art, creating an artistic vision that included snowmen, hand-made snowflakes, and poetry. Kenwood’s creative writing teacher, Scott Kohanek, contributed Haiku poems written by his students. Hudson created the visual display and recruited parents to help install it.

Today the Hennepin/Franklin corner is a bit brighter. Check out the smiling snowmen in the window. They give testimony that community spirit is alive and well in Lowry Hill.

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Palio Music Competition Winners to Perform at Bryant Lake Bowl

Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 6 pm

Two young musical groups, Diwata and THEM, won the Palio music prize to perform at a neighborhood club, the Bryant Lake Bowl. Diwata is a keyboard and violin duo formed by Isabella and Francesca Dawis, who have individually performed with many Twin Cities arts organizations, including the Minnesota Opera, Children's Theater Company, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Theater Latte Da and Bloomington Civic Theatre. THEM is a middle school folk/rock band

comprised of Lolo and Smack Young Walser (guitar and drums), Myranda Sloo (fiddle) and Christopher Eisland-Birch (cello). These kids trace long roots with Palio—the Dawis sisters had never played pop music together until they walked on a Palio stage years ago, and one of the Walser twins' earliest public performances was on a Palio stage with their very own mosh pit.

The show is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th at 6 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5

for kids, visit www.bryantlakebowl.com to purchase. The show promises to be a great evening for the whole family, with lots of good music and food, and is expected to sell out so buy your tickets early!

Be sure to read the February issue 18th of Hill & Lake Press for an entertaining story and interview with these talented musicians and plan to attend the exciting event.

Tenth Ward News from page 4

If you have corner property, clear curb cuts at corners and crosswalks to the street gutter. You are not required to clear snow ridges or piles left by the plows beyond the gutter – City crews sometimes return to do that, but if they can't your neighbors would appreciate it if you could clear an opening.

Report snow and ice on sidewalks when it hasn't been removed within 24 hours after snowfall has ceased.

Download and share this snow shoveling flyer (PDF) to tell others about the rules and importance of sidewalk snow clearance.

Lend a hand to neighbors who may have a hard time shoveling.

Winter Biking Tips

In Minneapolis, many bicyclists embrace the winter months by continuing to ride. If you are already biking, or considering winter biking, here are some tips for dealing with the snow, cold temperatures, and motorists:

Travel slowly when snow and ice are present. Be sure to plan ahead for extra travel time. Remember that cyclists have the right to ride in a general traffic lane, which (among other instances) may be necessary if bike lanes have not been cleared.

Ride defensively around motorists. Cyclists are less visible in the winter, and roads are narrower. Follow

traffic laws and be as considerate as possible. Educate yourself and your friends (motorists and bicyclists alike!) on traffic laws and safety.

Take the off-street trails. The Park Board and Public Works Department have policies of clearing snow from off-street trails soon after the end of a snowfall (read more about how the Midtown Greenway and Hiawatha Light Rail Trail are plowed). In most cases, this occurs in less than 24 hours.

Stay visible. Riding in the winter months means more darkness. Brighten your ride by using headlights, taillights, and reflective clothing and gear. Legally, cyclists are required to ride with a white, front headlight and rear, red reflector at night.

Use an old bike in good working condition. Salt and sand can wreak havoc on your treasured bicycle, resulting in rust and breakdowns. Use an older but functional bicycle in the winter months.

Dress in layers. Apply layers to your torso and legs, and be prepared to strip them away as your body warms. A good rule of thumb is that you should feel chilly when you step outdoors – if you're cozy before you start riding, you'll likely be boiling when you stop.

Cover your extremities. All of us have experienced the extremes of a sweating torso and numb ears or toes.

Don't ignore to cover your head, neck, hands, and feet when you bike.

Use 311. If you see a bicycle-related problem which involves plowing, shoveling, signing, or another traffic concern, call 311. The City relies on the public to flag problems. If you live outside of Minneapolis, call 612-673-3000. A Minneapolis bikeway maintenance responsibility list is available for more direct call routing.

Use transit. Remember, all Metro Transit buses and trains are equipped with bicycle racks. Bike commuters are also eligible to sign up for Metro Transit's Guaranteed Ride Home program, which provides free transit rides or cab fare reimbursement for emergencies (like a snow or ice storm).

Look for more information. This is hardly the final say on winter bicycling. Any winter cyclist on Minneapolis streets probably has some good ideas, so go ahead and ask around.

Meet with Meg!

Join us for Meet with Meg for lunch on Tuesday, February 8th from 12 pm to 1 pm at the 5th Precinct's Community Room (3101 Nicollet Ave S). Meet with Meg is a time for you to talk with her, ask questions, and voice concerns. Bring your sack lunch! Cookies and lemonade are provided! Meet with Meg is held the second Tuesday of every month.



Let's see, these five plus seventeen more equals an average classroom.

(That's the good kind of new math.)

At Carondelet Catholic School, we keep our class sizes small so every teacher has a chance to make a difference in the life of a child.

Call Becky Farber, Principal, at 612-927-8673 to schedule a tour.

Or visit our **Open House, Thursday, January 27th, at 7pm.**

And don't forget to do your homework before you show up:
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JANUARY 2011 KIAA MEETING MINUTES

By Amy Lucas

KIAA Board met January 3, 2011 at Kenwood Rec Center. Vice-Chair Pat Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Vice-Chair Pat Scott, Jeanette Colby, Amy Lucas, Kathy Low, Josine Peters, Ed Pluimer, Eric Sjoding, Kathy Williams and Roy Williams.

Others present: Lisa Goodman, City Council 7th Ward; Maggie Mercil, Kenwood Rec Center director; Dylan Thomas, Southwest Journal; John Outlaw, Minneapolis Park Board CSA leader; John Erickson, resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean and Cedar Shores Townhome Association.

City Council 7th Ward Update – Lisa Goodman

The next “Lunch with Lisa” of January 26 may feature Peavey Plaza.

Call 311 to have your street or alley plowed.

Kenwood Park Rec Center – Maggie Mercil

Maggie introduced the new Community Service Area (CSA) leader, John Outlaw. He has an office in Whittier Park and manages area 5 which includes Bryant Square, Loring, Kenwood and Whittier. He can be reached at Joutlaw@minneapolisparcs.org.

SW LRT Update – Jeanette Colby

Jeanette introduced John Erickson, resident of the Cedar Shores Townhome Association, and invited him to discuss a proposed LRT resolution that will eventually be sent to public officials and federal agencies associated with the SW LRT.

CIDNA and West Calhoun neighborhoods are currently reviewing the draft resolution and all surrounding neighborhood associations are urged to adopt the resolution. KIAA will discuss the resolution at the Feb 7 meeting.

Station Area Planning documents and the DEIS have not been released.

For more info on the Southwest LRT visit: southwesttransitway.org.

KIAA Annual Meeting – Kathy Williams

The KIAA annual meeting will be Monday, May 2. Pat Scott will invite a speaker from Center for Energy and the Environment. Kathy Low will speak with Catherine at the Kenwood Café to arrange an annual meeting/dinner at the Café.

KIAA Website Discussion – Kathy Williams

Kathy Williams will hold a Communications meeting on Jan 12 to discuss updating the KIAA website.

KIAA approved the annual payment for the KIAA domain/website.

Updates

Kathy Williams and Sam Murphy will prepare a letter to thank 2010 KIAA donors.

KIAA approved the annual donation of \$750 to the Hill and Lake Press.

Josine Peters presented info on the recent 2011 NRP policy board elections.

Lake of the Isles ice skating rink preparation is underway and should be open by Jan. 6.

The Park Board 2011 funding includes paving of the roadway next to Parade Stadium.

KIAA has approximately \$7K in uncontracted NRP Phase II funding, but the City of Mpls has frozen these NRP funds. Recognizing the greater needs of other city neighborhoods, KIAA will not request Citizen Participation funds from the City at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Reminder: The next KIAA Board meeting will be Monday, February 7 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Rec Center. The public is welcome to attend these monthly meetings.

HILL LAKE PRESS
 Real Estate Sales
 December 2010

STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
1913 Dupont S #7	\$ 54,900		209	\$ 34,900	C	1/1	575	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,457	1912
821 Douglas Ave #301	220,000	5,635	182	161,000	C	2/2	1,033	216,000	2,977	1963
2401 Humboldt S	749,900		174	548,000	H	5/4	3,400	695,000	10,775	1902
1245 Cedar Lake Road	1,395,000		471	1,000,000	H	4/5	4,775	994,900	16,230	2003
			cume		C					
					Condo					
					Home					
					Townhouse					
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Sources: Harvey Ettinger
 Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County
 (Go to mpisrealtor.com for additional info)

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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors January 4, 2011 Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Jane Schommer (President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Tina Frontera (Secretary), Rosita Acosta, Sue Durfee, Rose Matthys, Michael T'Kach and Shotsie Forsythe (alternate)

East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Jane Schommer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Announcements

Jane Schommer announced that she has a new email address for EIRA business (eastislesresidents@gmail.com). Jane is also receiving mail addressed to president@eastisles.org.

Treasurer's Report

EIRA Treasurer Al Rodriguez gave the following financial update.

Bank balances as of 1-4-11 are:

Checking	\$2,967.05
Savings	\$10,036.72
NRP Checking	\$11,992.39

The only EIRA expenses since the December report were the \$750 annual donation to Hill and Lake Press and \$200 to Monica Smith for recording the minutes at EIRA Board meetings (September-December, 2010). The only Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP) expense since December was \$120 for advertising in the Hill and Lake Press. EIRA received \$90 in membership dues and donations since the December report.

Zoning and Land Use Committee meeting report

Jane Schommer presented the following updates from the December 21st meeting of this committee:

The construction on the Lake and Knox development has begun. They expect to be open by October, 2011.

The plans for a new Crate and Barrel store at the NE corner of 31st and Hennepin was approved "as is" by the Minneapolis Planning Commission.

A residential property at 1521 W. 27th is seeking non-conforming use. The homeowner could not attend the meeting to present the details.

US Bank is moving forward with their plans to relocate to Hennepin and Fremont.

The Lake of the Isles Renovation Project report was presented by Harvey Ettinger.

The next meeting of the Zoning and Land Use Committee will be March 15th, 5:30 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

Bylaws Committee

Tina Frontera reported that the Bylaws Committee has met three times. They are in the process of updating the bylaws to comply with the new Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) guidelines for funding through the City of Minneapolis relating to membership and dues. The committee is also working on adding information about electronic voting, other operational efficiencies and making some formatting changes. They hope to be able to vote on the proposed

changes to the bylaws at the April members' meeting. The next meeting of this committee is on Thursday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

NRP report, Monica Smith East Isles NRP Coordinator

Monica provided the following information:

The date for the Community Energy Services workshop has been set: Thursday, March 10th at Grace-Trinity Community Church. We will be marketing the program at the Ice Skating Social as well as sending a mailing to all eligible households (1-4 unit owner occupied homes). We will also submit an article announcing the program to the Hill and Lake Press. Monica reported that we will spend \$126 (of the allocated \$1000 marketing dollars) to get a one-year subscription to Constant Contact which will provide an easy way to promote the program as well as other East Isles events and issues to residents. Monica will attend a meeting on Friday, January 21 to learn more about the grant money that is available for participating in Community Energy Services. Please let Monica know if you would like to join her at that meeting.

On Monday, December 13th, the City Council voted to freeze NRP Phase II funding at 50% of allocation for anything that is not under contract. East Isles does not have any funds under contract for Phase II. Our original allocation was \$387,000, which could be reduced to \$193,500 if the freeze remains in place. We have been advised by NRP to continue our planning process using the original allocation amount unless we hear otherwise. Phase I funding is not affected. We have about \$25,000 remaining in Phase I funds.

There is a new source of neighborhood funding from the City through the NCR department. This program is called Community Participation Program and the funding allocation for East Isles is \$20,138.71 for 2011. To be eligible to participate in the program, we need to submit an application (including a budget). Monica, Jane, Tina and Al will work on the application and present it to the Board at the February meeting. Eligible expenses for this funding include staff, communications, festivals/event (including food if less than 5% of total budget).

Monica provided an overview of the NRP Phase II survey results. The full report of the results will be posted on the website. The NRP Steering Committee will use the survey results as a tool in helping set the priorities for the Phase II Action Plan. The goal is to present the Action Plan to the East Isles community at the April members' meeting. There will be a public comment period before the plan is finalized. A number of people indicated on the survey that they would like to volunteer in the neighborhood. We will be reaching out to those people to get them involved with committees and events.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is Tuesday, January 11th, 7 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church.

Intersection at 24th and Fremont

Shane Morton from Minneapolis Public Works, Councilmember Meg Tuthill and Leslie Foreman, Aide to Meg attended the meeting to discuss concerns about safety at the intersection of 24th and Fremont. Shane gave some background on the intersection. In the mid 1990's, East Isles used NRP funds to study traffic in the neighborhood and created a traffic plan. At that time the neighborhood was concerned about the safety of the intersection and requested that the stop signs be changed. The City changed the stop signs to their current positioning in January 1998. Since that time, the accident rate has decreased at the intersection.

Shane stated that the criteria for 4-way stops is set by the Federal Highway Administration and requires traffic volumes of 500 cars per hour during an eight hour period. This intersection does not have enough traffic to qualify for a 4-way stop. Linda Schutz mentioned that there are many 4-way stops in Lowry Hill that do not meet the requirement of 500 cars per hour. Those stops were grandfathered in because they were in place prior to the current criteria. No one is suggested suggesting that those intersections be changed.

The last traffic count at this intersection was done about eight years ago. Residents reported that there is more traffic in the area today with the stores (Kawalski's/Kowalski's and Walgreens) and we expect more with US Bank moving to Hennepin and Fremont. The Board requested that a new traffic count be done prior to US Bank moving in and again after the bank opens to monitor the traffic and model "what if" scenarios for placement as well as 2 vs 4 way stops. The requests specifies that the count be done during a typical period (i.e. not during a holiday weekend) and while Temple Israel is in session with their pre-school and Hebrew school. The count will be done this summer. Meg will check with Temple Israel for their schedule prior to picking a time for the traffic count.

Leslie Foreman also offered that we can request that the police monitor the intersection and see if there is a pattern of traffic violations.

The question was raised about the large planters at this intersection. Shane stated that they were moved to the current location in 2000. He feels that the City would be willing to move the planters if the neighborhood would make that request. No decision was made in this regard, however, it was noted that tall plants created more obstruction to visibility than when there have been short plants.

The Board thanked Shane for taking time to meet with them to share information and concerns.

Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Councilmember City of Minneapolis

The City offers three locations for residents to pick up free sand for residential sidewalks.

6036 Harriet Ave. S (West 60th Street between Lyndale and Harriet)

1809 Washington St. NE (18th and Jefferson)

E. 27th Street, just east of Longfellow Avenue near the Public Works gate

Minneapolis will be conducting a \$1.2 million streetcar study to review the possible addition of streetcars to Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue. The City is funding \$300,000 of the study; the remainder of the money is coming from the federal government.

Hennepin County will be widening the Greenway trail from 10' to 15' on the bridge over the Isles Channel. The bridge will not be widened. This project is slated for summer 2011. The trail will remain open during construction.

The next Meet with Meg is Tuesday, January 11, 12-1 p.m. at the 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Avenue. Bring your own lunch. Meg provides beverages and dessert.

EIRA Board Votes

The Board had a number of items for review:

Helen Ackerman was elevated to Board Member (she was previously an alternate).

Shotsie Forsythe is currently the only alternate. The Board is looking for another alternate member. Please contact Jane if you know someone who may be inter-

EIRA to page 9

Join your neighbors for these East Isles events!

Ice Skating Social

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

(Back up date: Sunday, January 30, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

Lake of the Isles Ice Rink

East Lake of the Isles Parkway at 26th Street

You are invited to join your East Isles, Lowry Hill and Kenwood neighbors for an ice skating social. Bring your skates and enjoy a warm fire, coffee, hot chocolate and cookies.

Questions? Please contact Amy Sanborn at 612-354-2982.

EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7:00 P.M.

Grace-Trinity Community Church

1430 W. 28th Street

Hear about events and issues in our neighborhood. Please join us!

For more information, please contact EIRA President, Jane Schommer at president@eastisles.org.

East Isles NRP Steering Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:00 P.M.

Grace-Trinity Community Church

1430 W. 28th Street

All are welcome to attend and share ideas for funding.

Contact Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org for details.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 6:30 P.M.

Grace-Trinity Community Church

1430 W. 28th Street

Learn how to reduce your home energy use and save money at a free Community Energy Services (CES) workshop for East Isles residents. By attending the CES workshop, you are eligible to receive a customized home energy visit for a co-pay of \$30 (up to \$400 value)! Please read the article on page 2 for more information.

To RSVP, contact Ashley Robertson at 612-335-5869.



CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 12, 2011

The January Board meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence; Board members Art Higinbotham, Ed Bell, Judy Berge, Glenna Case, Ryan Fox, Ed Ferlauto, Stephen Goltry and Gail Lee were present.

Ward 7 Council Member Goodman's Report

Council Members Lisa Goodman and Meg Tuthill decided to split their attendance at the CIDNA Board meeting. Lisa passed out the schedule for 2011. Meg will be in attendance at the February meeting. The schedule will be posted on our website (www.cidna.org).

The next Lunch with Lisa is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th, 11:30 a.m. at University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis Campus, Opus Hall, Room 202. The buffet lunch is \$10. The landscape architect selected for Peavey Plaza will be present for a focus group to get public input on the revitalization of the plaza.

Council Member Lisa Goodman distributed a map of Minneapolis showing the changes in property tax per neighborhood. The average increase for CIDNA's homes falls within the second highest category in the city.

Valuation notices were recently mailed to residents. If you disagree with the information listed, the appeal process is explained on the statement. There is a limited time within which you can appeal, so please take action immediately.

The 2010 Census is complete. Minnesota will retain all of its seats in Congress. The redistricting process will start with the state level, then the local level. CIDNA is welcome to participate in the redistricting process.

Lisa was asked to address the City's policy on variances. There has been no change in the policy for vari-

ance notifications. Homeowners who are requesting variances are not required to get approval from neighborhood boards but they are required to notify neighbors within 350' of the property address where the variance is being requested. Pending a decision by the state legislature, the City is not approving variances unless there is no other reasonable use of the property.

Lisa was asked to comment about the recent City Council ruling to restrict un-contracted NRP Phase II funding to 50% of allocation. Lisa's stated that the neighborhood should submit the entire Phase II plan with the full allocation to the City Council, but the Council will not let neighborhoods spend more than 50%. CIDNA will be allowed to spend all the remaining Phase I funds. CIDNA will receive \$14,000 per year through the new Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR) program for administration and community engagement.

NRP Committee Report

Gail Lee and Ed Bell reported on the following activities of the NRP Committee:

The Committee asked the Board to approve a modification of the Phase I plan to move \$25,000 from the street lighting strategy. \$10K will transfer to Events to cover 2010 expenses and \$15K to Implementation to fund the Coordinator and other implementation expenses. The Board unanimously approved the modification.

The legality of The City's action restricting the Phase II funding is being questioned and the issue may be addressed by the state legislature. Because of the uncertainty, the committee is proceeding as if we have the full allocation. The NRP Policy Board is scheduled to approve CIDNA's plan on January 24, then it will go on to the City Council for approval in February. By the time we are have completed the approval process, we should know more about the status of the funding.

The Committee met with Non-Profits Assistance Fund regarding a portion of the Phase II housing dollars. Non-Profits Assistance Fund offers seed money to help Minneapolis non-profits with building projects. CIDNA would loan money to a specific affordable housing project(s). Loans would be a 3-5 year investment; at which point the principal plus 1% interest would be returned to the neighborhood. Nothing will move forward with this until the Phase II funding amounts are assured.

The CIDNA allocation for NCR funding is \$14,363.97. The NRP Committee will work on the application process with the goal of submitting it to the CIDNA Board for review next month.

Community Energy Workshop (CES). CIDNA is bringing CES to the neighborhood. CES is a program offered by a local non-profit with the goal of reducing home energy use. The program starts with a workshop to teach low-cost/no-cost ways for homeowners to reduce energy and save money. By attending the workshop, homeowners can schedule a customized home energy visit for a co-pay of \$30. Two energy experts will perform energy tests in your home (including a blower door test) and install energy saving material (such as CFLs, programmable thermostat) for no additional cost. The workshop date has been set for CIDNA:

Tuesday, April 12th, 6:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison. CIDNA residents may attend a workshop in another neighborhood if that date isn't convenient.

The NRP Committee has set a standard meeting time of the 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at Lake Calhoun Executive Center, 3033 Excelsior Boulevard, Suite 100. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 26. All are welcome to attend.

Paint-A-Thon

Art announced that Paint-A-Thon is accepting applications for painting homes in 2011. Eligible homeowners must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent physical disability, live in a single-family home and meet income limits. Application deadline is May 6th. Art asked the Board to spread the word to neighbors who may meet the eligibility requirements. A link to the information will be posted on our website.

Variance request

The owners of the property at 3403 Saint Paul Avenue met with the Board to present their plans for building a single-family home on the vacant lot. Because of the unusual shape of the property, the owners are seeking variances. The Board voted "no opposition" to the project (unanimous vote).

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 20, 4:30 p.m. in Room 317, City Hall. Interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. A notice of this hearing was mailed to property owners within 350' of this property.

CIDNA Board meeting minutes

The minutes from the December 2010 CIDNA Board meeting were unanimously approved. They will be posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Bell, Treasurer, reported that CIDNA had a bank balance of \$13,246.86 plus a \$150 deposit made today.

Jones-Harrison Donation

Gail Lee and Ed Bell proposed that CIDNA make a donation to Jones-Harrison. Discussion included making a donation of cash vs. equipment such as a defibrillator. The Board will make a decision next month.

Southwest LRT Update

Art presented some changes to the draft resolution prepared by neighborhoods surrounding the proposed West Lake Street and 21st Street stations of the Southwest LRT. The Board unanimously approved the proposed revisions. Art will sign the document on behalf of CIDNA. Representatives of West Calhoun, Kenwood, and Lowry Hill will also sign the document. The resolution will be sent to City Council, Hennepin County Commissioners and the Met Council.

Ed Ferlauto, Ryan Fox, and Art attended a meeting with West Calhoun businesses regarding LRT. The businesses are seeking a traffic study. There is a proposal to have a study conducted this winter through mid-April by Civil Engineering students at the University of Minnesota. There is no cost for this study. The study could give information for further studies that will need to be conducted by Hennepin County. The next meeting of the West Calhoun businesses is January 31st, 4 p.m. at the Lake Calhoun Executive Center.

The Minneapolis Station Area Strategic Planning Document is now available for review online at

EIRA from page 8

ested.

EIRA does not currently have a Vice President. If a current board member is interested, please contact Jane. Otherwise the position will remain vacant until the April EIRA Board elections.

The Board tabled the vote on the Lake of the Isles Renovation Project report until the next meeting.

The Board unanimously approved donation-based payment to Monica Smith for working on non-NRP related activities for the period of January-April, 2011.

Ratification of the minutes from the December 7th Board of Directors meeting was unanimous.

The Board unanimously approved the use of electronic voting to approve the minutes from tonight's meeting so they can be published in the Hill and Lake Press. A concern was raised about using electronic voting for substantive matters. The concern is that electronic voting does not allow for good debate on issues and may disenfranchise some people. The Board will consider this concern when addressing electronic voting in the bylaws.

A resident raised the issue of information on the website being out-of-date, particularly the EIRA Board minutes. The Board is in agreement that this needs to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder, and Tina Frontera, Secretary

CIDNA to page 10

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CIDNA from page 9

www.southwesttransitway.org. Pages 73-81 of the document relate to the 21st Street station. Pages 81-109 related to the West Lake Street station. If you have comments regarding the plan, please forward them to Art and he will pass them on.

Art shared a copy of a letter from Gail Dorfman stating that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has delayed reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) until April 2011. The letter also mentions that the Central Corridor project has not yet received its full funding from the FTA.

Art stated that Safety in the Park opposes moving the freight trains to the MN&S spur tracks.

The Board discussed that the Met Council will have a new chair, Susan Haigh. Her position on transit is not clear to date. Ed Ferlauto reported that there was an article today (1/12/11) on MinnPost.com outlining ten priorities for the new Met Council.

The next meeting of the CIDNA Board will be Wednesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison.



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Hill & Lake Press welcomes stories, poetry, articles, photos, and ideas. Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatruck at 612-377-5785

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

We appreciate your patience when calling or emailing. Although we do not keep traditional office hours, we will return your calls and messages as soon as possible.

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Janis Clay

Board Meeting Tuesday, January 4, 2011
 Kenwood Recreation Center

Attendees: Janet Hallaway, President; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Kathy Byrn; Jimmy Fogel; Maggie Thurer; Melissa Omafray Townley; David Weinstein; Brian Austin; Raj Dash

Guests: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward City Council Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Janet Hallaway, noting a quorum was present.

Distribution/Approval of Minutes/Agenda: David Weinstein moved and Maggie Thurer seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Raj Dash moved and Jimmy Fogel seconded approval of the minutes of the Tuesday, December 7, 2010, Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Introductions and Community Announcements: Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman invited everyone to attend her monthly Lunch with Lisa, beginning again on January 26th. She distributed a handout with information on the 2010 Census reapportionment totals. For further information, she referred people to the Census website: <http://2010.census.gov/news/press-kits/apportionment/apport.html>. She also distributed a handout on the percentage of property tax increase in each residential neighborhood throughout Minneapolis. Lisa discussed the issues presented by the heavy snow falls this year, and noted that for snow issues, it is usually most efficient to call 311 rather than going through her office.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Aronson gave the Treasurer's Report. LHNA is in good shape financially. Bills are paid and money is in the bank.

Neighborhood Organization Funding Update: Janet

Hallaway distributed a handout summarizing NRP funds that LHNA has spent on various projects and remaining available funds. The Board discussed possible events to schedule, and the possibility of a part time paid staff person, funded with Neighborhood Engagement funds.

Committee Reports:

Crime & Safety: Maggie Thurer is now a graduate of the Minneapolis Police Department Citizens Academy. The ten week course she attended included speakers, tours of police department facilities, and hands-on demonstrations. She found it interesting and valuable.

Communications/Events: Melissa Omafray Townley updated the Board on the website, including progress on the business directory. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website at www.lowryhillneighborhood.org, where they can sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood.

Lake of the Isles Ice Skating Social: The annual Ice Skating Social will be held at the Lake of the Isles skating rink, January 23, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Brian Meeker was volunteered in absentia to tend the fire.

Kenwood Park Landscape Review: There will be a meeting January 17th at the Kenwood Rec Center from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. to review Park Board landscaping plans for the new Kenwood Park sidewalk.

Zoning & Planning: David Weinstein is still waiting for the MN Dot report on planting possibilities for the Walker/Douglas concrete median.

LHNA's next board meeting will be held Tuesday February 1, 2011, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Kenwood in winter photographed by resident Bill Schoppert.

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Friends of Thomas Lowry Park

By Barbara Fogel

A prominent statue of Thomas Lowry stands tall and proud at the North end of an oblique triangle. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board own this land and they call it Smith Triangle Park.

Charles Axel Smith was a leader in the community from 1850-1900. He supported the building of schools and churches in the Northwest, he was a member of the Swedish Consulate, and an owner of a lumber company that bore his name. He was a good friend of Governor John Pillsbury and a delegate to the McKinley Convention. Perhaps a statue of Charles Smith should stand in Smith Triangle Park instead of our beloved Thomas Lowry. Doesn't that make more sense? After all, technically, Smith Triangle is in East Isles and our Thomas Lowry Park is in Lowry Hill, the area that bears his name. And Charles Axel Smith lived in a house where Temple Israel now stands, across from Smith Triangle.

Thomas Lowry Park does not have a statue and this particular life-size bronze by New York sculptor Karl Bitter would look great in the grassy knoll east of the seven pools. The stone monument on which Thomas Lowry stands and the beautiful historic street lamps would stay on site at Smith Triangle and only the statue itself would get moved. Thomas Lowry's name could be removed and another past and great city leader (presumably Smith) could take his place.

This would require neighborhood involvement of East Isles and LHNA, support of MPRB, and significant financial support from friends and neighbors like you. We on the board of FTLP would like to hear feedback, ideas, and any other comments or suggestions regarding moving the statue. Please e-mail Barbara Fogel:bfogel@comcast.net and I will forward these ideas to the other board members, Barry Lazarus, Suzanne Payne, and Sara Peterman. Tax deductible donations can be made to Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, 1801 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Mn 55403

Lesson of a Public-Spirited Life is as a Tree Ever Bearing New Fruit"
Thomas Lowry

Technophobe Does iPhone

By Madeleine Lowry

Well, the term technophobe, as applied to me, may not be completely accurate. It's not that I'm afraid of new technology. It's more that I don't want to pay for it. "Why would I need that?" is my customary reaction to newfangled electronics. I guess I just like to keep my money in my own pocket. So, that probably makes me more of a techno-grinch.

The first time I held an iPhone in my hands, I was riding shotgun with three of my friends from high school. It was our annual spa weekend getaway. We were headed to the airport and needed to find a gas station or risk surrendering an amount equal to all our kids' college funds to the rental car agency for topping off the tank.

It suddenly seemed as though all the gas stations in Phoenix had gone into hiding. (Don't tell me that this has never happened to you.) We took a couple of promising-looking exits with no luck. And now we were late for our flights.

Anita pulled her phone from her purse and threw it in my lap. Ack! I thought. What do I do with this thing? This was a phone? Where were all the buttons?

She looked at my panicked face and took it back. She steered with one hand as she dialed her husband. "Arun," she said, "we need a gas station in Phoenix. How do we find one?"

"Oh," Arun said, as if he had been waiting all his life to answer this one question, "Download an app called Aroundme."

Huh? Download an app? Was he speaking English? Or had he lapsed into Hindi?

A distant memory tickled at the back of my brain. It was a conversation I'd had with Kristi Pearson at a holiday party. She'd been explaining how her husband, Scott, was working with a startup that develops apps for local businesses.

"What's an app?" I asked brightly. "It's a small software program," she explained. "Oh. And what does it do?" I asked.

Kristi bit her lip in consternation. She knew a lost cause when she saw one. "You are not the target market," she said gently and her voice suddenly sounded as



M. Lowry

if it was coming from far, far off. And it was, since I was standing in the 20th century, while she was in the 21st.

In that moment I felt the chasm that was growing between me and the Future. But I did not care. I was doing just fine app-less, thank you.

But, here I was in a rental car speeding towards Phoenix airport and Arun was offering to talk me through the process of downloading an app. I looked at this foreign object in my hands and knew I was not the best person for the job. Unfortunately the best person for the job was driving. I looked at my friends in the back seat, "Do either of you know how to use this thing?!" They shook their heads. (Folks: That was the state of the nation in early 2010—four forty-year olds in a car and only one knew how to make an iPhone work.)

I took a deep breath. I had a graduate degree for goshsakes. I could do this!

"Okay, tell me."

He did. And miraculously I downloaded and installed the thing and all was going swimmingly until I somehow gave the app the mistaken impression that we were in Bulgaria. (True story!)

A few more highway exits flew by while I got us located in Arizona. And guess what! The app found us a gas station! At the very next exit! Our kids' college funds were saved.

Wow! I thought – this is like having a genie in your pocket.

Almost a year later, my kids were pestering me to get an iPhone. "Your phone only makes phone calls," they grumbled.

"And it stores all my numbers," I pointed out. "And it receives calls. Everything a phone is supposed to do."

They shook their heads. "But iPhones are sooooo cool!" they insisted. And then they showed me how inexpensive an older generation refurbished model was.

Hmmm. Genie in my pocket for under \$50. I had to admit, this was tempting.

But the real reason I got it was simple: my kids would think I was cool.

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Margaret Shulman, age 65

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sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in.

—Michael Corleone (The Godfather III)

The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Nathaniel West, Natty Bumppo, James Fenimore Cooper, Henry James, James Thurber, James Joyce, Joyce Kilmer. The Crucible, Arthur Miller, Henry Miller, The Mill and the Floss, Silas Marner, George Eliot, T.S. Eliot, J. Alfred Prufrock. Bret Harte, Hart Crane, Stephen Crane, Ichabod Crane, Washington Irving, John Irving. It is all mushing together.

In my fourth final retirement, someone with a sense of humor thought it would be amusing for me to teach English full-time for three months while the bonafide teacher is on maternity leave. I just finished my second month and am totally immersed in the curriculum of high school juniors and seniors. We are cramming for the SAT's, reading short stories, and beginning The Great Gatsby. Soon I will be worrying about acne, passing the road test for my driver's license, curfew, and getting a date for the Spring Fling.

I am not quite sure why I am here. Perhaps my function is to serve as a placeholder because I have no ambition or designs on a tenured position. A younger job seeker may not have wanted to commit and risk losing out on a steadier gig. It may also be the work of the mischievous gods and sprites that hide car keys, cell phones, and important papers. I also suspect that I have, as the psychologists say, "unfinished business" around this stage in my life.

When I was sixteen, only a few close friends knew that my mother had become bedridden with myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disorder that, combined with cancer, would soon take her. High school was the lowest point in my life. As a self-absorbed adolescent, I felt my mother's illness made me different, and I was the holder of an embarrassing secret. Many wince at recalling their high school years, but I squint, grimace, and change the subject.

It is odd but cathartic to walk the crowded, locker-filled hallways, albeit 3,000 miles and light years away. It feels wonderful to be surrounded by so much youth, hope, energy, and anxiety. I feel empathy for my students and the complexity of their lives. Searching for an example of irony in honors literature, I shared that my first foray into any kind of an advanced class was as their teacher. It is great to have age, experience, maturity, and the teacher's edition of the text. Like returning to a long-neglected crossword puzzle with fresh eyes, I am able to interpret poems, short stories, and novels that were a jumble to me when I was in school.

In high school terms, athletes talk about when they are "in a groove" and playing well: the game "slows down." They feel poised and confident even when the ball and other players are moving at breakneck speed. Teaching can be that way. Thirty young people in a small room for 55 minutes can feel chaotic. Mastering the curriculum and presenting it with appropriate respect and more than occasional irreverence is a challenge. Apologies to William Ernest Henley's "Invictus" but I feel that in football jargon, I am the wizened, grizzled quarterback. "My head is bloody but unbowed." I am now able to call a smart play, and deliver a floating spiral to the right spot downfield. My students are running mental patterns everywhere but toward Willa Cather. I do not control the outcome but often above the din and indifference...touchdown!!!

Sharing what I have learned the long hard way is very fulfilling. It also doesn't hurt to have the answer key.

Tom H. Cook is still befuddled by Booth Tarkington, Thomas B. Costain, and Eudora Welty. He is able to distinguish Sinclair Lewis from Upton Sinclair.

Where we are Now

By Jean Deatruck, Editor

We want to publish news from all of our neighborhoods, but we can't do it without you. If you think your area isn't covered by HLP, instead of complaining, send me your news, stories, and photos. Because we are a volunteer paper, I urge you to do so because I cannot cover every event. We want each of our four neighborhoods to be featured in each month's Hill & Lake Press. Please let me know what is happening.

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