



'Where the biggies leave off...'

# Hill & Lake Press

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MAY 18, 2012

## 100 YEARS! BURCH IS CELEBRATING 100 YEARS.

By Jean Deatruck

We all know that Burch closed two years ago. However, we can now report that Burch is continuing...a phoenix from the ashes so to speak, just in time to celebrate its 100-year anniversary. Neighborhood residents were saddened to learn that Burch, or Burch's as it was popularly called, planned to close two years ago. We had heard rumors, but when it happened, it was still a shock. Residents stalked the closing out sales until the shelves were depleted, until nothing was left except for a couple bottles of stomach medicine, some clothing dye, and wrapping paper which was eagerly swept up by one our prominent residents. And still we came and looked, hoping to buy, hoping to keep Burch open, hoping to delay its closing.

Hill and Lake area residents have fretted and worried that an inappropriate business would soon occupy the space. Perhaps another adults only store, or worse, that the building would be demolished. As the years passed, only the Cotty Lowry signs remained along with pictures drawn by students from Kenwood School. Rumors abounded, yet the space remained empty.

And now, 100 years after Burch opened in 1912, it will open again in 2012. Serendipity? Perhaps?

Burch has a new owner. Nolan Company is buying and restoring the building and keeping the name Burch. Charles Nolan, Principal, has promised not to destroy or desecrate, but rather preserve Burch, in what he calls, "a sensitive rehab". No square footage will be added. Renovation work will include tuckpointing of the bricks, replacement of the many windows in the three-story building with up-to-code energy-efficient windows. In the first floor, even the original hexagonal tile vintage floors will be restored. In all, an incredibly detailed rehab that respects the heritage and architecture of the building.

Remember the soda fountain that disappeared a couple of generations or more ago? A place where my teenage daughter and her friends hung out. Ryan Burnet, Isaac Becker, and Nancy St. Pierre of La Grassa and 112 Eatery fame will take over the first floor space. Julie Snow Architects is doing the design. A large woodburning grill and open kitchen will be installed in the former soda fountain space. Both of the two first floor rooms as one enters

Burch to page 5



Burch, May 2012

Photo by Dorothy Childers



Early photo of Burch.

Courtesy of Historical Society

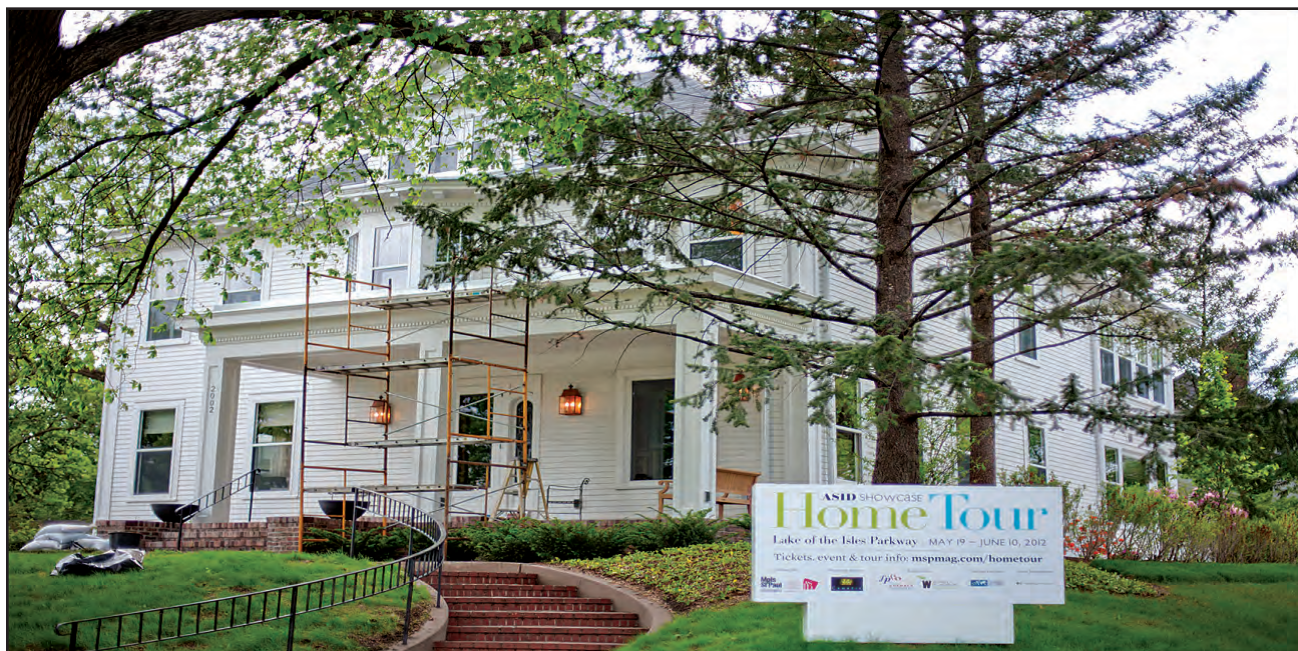


Photo by Dorothy Childers

### ASID Showcase Home Tour House May 19-June 10

Lake of the Isles Parkway, at the corner of Franklin and West Lake of the Isles, the longtime home of the Platt family, beloved community activists. House tour 10am-4pm. Wednesday-Sunday. Information 612-336-9247.

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Hello all Gardeners! I have recently received two separate letters addressed to the Kenwood Garden Club at my address. The Garden club hasn't been functioning recently, but given interest from elsewhere, I would alert gardeners to the possibility of reforming the club. There are many really good gardeners in our community - judging by the colorful spring yards. If you are new to the neighborhood and appreciate gardens, or have lived here a long time, and know about gardening, please email me about your thoughts.

Carol White: whit0872@umn.edu

**Lunch with Lisa** May 23 noon

Join Council Member Lisa Goodman for lunch and conversation.

St. Thomas University-Minneapolis 202 Opus Hall

\$10 Lunch is offered

Come early to get your lunch and a good seat

***The Days of Song and Lilacs***  
by Mary Beth Sartor Obermeyer

Presentation: Music Man Square, Mrs. Paroo's Porch, Mason City, Iowa, May 26

Publication Party and Launch: Magers and Quinn, Minneapolis, June 7

Beth Obermeyer, a Kenwood resident since 1968, will bring her third nonfiction book of the year, *The Days of Song and Lilacs*, North Star Press of St. Cloud, to a celebration and publication party, a launch, June 7 at 7:30 p.m., at Magers and Quinn, the Twin Cities largest independent book store, 3038 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.

Beth's first two books, *The Biggest Dance*; *A Miracle on Concrete*, May 2011 and *Big! World Records in the Streets*, September 2011, also non-fiction, take place in the Twin Cities.

She did the launch for *The Biggest Dance* at Birchbark Books one year ago, May, 2011.

Community Energy Services (CES) develops Online Option!

CES has created an online presentation especially for homeowners who would like to participate but need the convenience of an online option! Participating online is easy and can be completed in 15 minutes! Log on to [www.mnces.org/mps](http://www.mnces.org/mps) to view the presentation on your own time!

After you view the presentation, you are qualified to schedule your discounted home energy visit for only \$40. When you have a CES Home Energy Visit, you will receive up to \$400 in energy-saving services and materials like a programmable thermostat, high-efficiency water fixtures, and specialty compact fluorescent light bulbs. Our energy technicians will also run diagnostic tests and set up a personalized Home Energy Snapshot.

Presentation Website Address:  
[www.mnces.org/mps](http://www.mnces.org/mps) Contact: Ashley Robertson 612-335-5869 [arobertson@mncee.org](mailto:arobertson@mncee.org)



## Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

- Learn from our weekly speakers
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- Make new friends
- Volunteer in the community
- Make a difference

Check us out Thursdays 7:15 a.m.  
at the Minikahda Club

[www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary](http://www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary)

**Meet with Meg** June 12 noon

Join Council Member Meg Tuthill for lunch and conversation. Bring a bag lunch. Fifth Precinct.

**Birchbark Books Reading Series**

Readings will resume in September. Birchbark Books is located at 2115 West 21st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405. (612) 374-4023.

Carol Allis lived in the Wedge years ago and has many friends in the area. She has a new book coming out June 1 called *Poems for Ordinary People*, published by North Star Press. Carol will be reading at Magers and Quinn on Wednesday, June 6. at 7:30 p.m.

[www.poemsforordinarypeople.com](http://www.poemsforordinarypeople.com)

Carol Allis

[carol.allis@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:carol.allis@co.hennepin.mn.us)

Minneapolis Uptown Rotary  
[www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary](http://www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary)  
Uptown Rotary meets at the Minikahda Country Club 7:30 to 8:30 am on Thursdays  
3205 Excelsior Blvd, Mpls MN 55416  
Visit [www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary](http://www.clubrunner.ca/mpsuptownrotary) for a good time.

The metro area now has 167 miles of pathway, half being trails and half being bike pathways. With commuter ridership of 4%, we are second only to Portland which is at 6%. Of course much of Europe is at 38% (and gas is \$6.00 a gallon). Ask Chris Dokken about the Greenways creator Tim Springer. Visit [www.midtowngreenway.org](http://www.midtowngreenway.org) for more information, especially about the GREENWAY GLOW scheduled for Saturday June 9 9:00 pm to midnight. There will be prizes, food and a post-ride party.

The Ackerberg Group announced that they are offering free parking after 7:00 p.m. every Monday during the month of May in the MoZaic public parking ramp at the intersection of Lagoon Avenue and Girard Avenue South.



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**HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

- May 19, 11-3pm Kenwood School Carnival
- May 21, 7:30pm Marilyn Nelson reading, Plymouth Congregational Church
- May 23 noon Lunch with Lisa
- May 24 7:30am Uptown Rotary, Minikahda Club
- May 28, 10:30am Lakewood Cemetery service
- May 26-28 Lakewood Cemetery tours & concerts
- June 2, 10:30 Park Siding Planting Day
- June 6. at 7:30 p.m. Carol Allis reading @ Magers & Quinn
- June 6, from 5:30-7:30 AchieveMpls party @ Mill City Museum
- June 7, 7:30pm Beth Obermeyer book launch @ Magers & Quinn
- June 9 Greenway Glow festival biking extravaganza
- June 10 Open Street [www.openstreetsmpls.com](http://www.openstreetsmpls.com)
- June 12 noon Meet with Meg 5th Precinct
- June 16 Rock the Garden

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

- CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm at Jones-Harrison
- EIRA: 2nd Tuesday 7pm at Grace-Trinity Church
- KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center,
- LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm at Kenwood Rec Center

**CLASSIFIED**

**MAY 2012**

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**Rates:** \$7.00 for two lines, \$4.00 for each additional line. Send ad and check to Hill & Lake Press, c/o Jean Deatrick, 1821 Dupont Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403, payable to Hill & Lake Press. There are approximately 48 characters (letter, punctuation, space, number) per line.

Traditions Classic Home Furnishings is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this weekend. The celebration will take place in both the Minneapolis Excelsior Boulevard store and the St. Paul store on Saturday, May 19 with cake and champagne!

Meet the Artist: Michael R. Pangerl  
"Light and Color"  
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis  
Thursday, May 31, 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres

Michael R. Pangerl paints exclusively in oils, a medium he has devoted the past two decades towards mastering. A native of Minnesota, Michael attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. After spending five years developing his personal style in Los Angeles, he returned to Minneapolis in the winter of 1992. His work came to the attention of a new audience, followed by a series of commissions including portraits, still lifes and landscapes.

Groveland Annex June 2012 3-person exhibition of paintings, prints and drawings by Minnesota artists Abigail Woods Anderson, Clara Ueland and Cyntia Levine.

25 Groveland Terrace,  
612-377-7800, [www.grovelandgallery.com](http://www.grovelandgallery.com)



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AchieveMpls, the nonprofit partner of the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), is hosting a 10th anniversary party on Wednesday, June 6, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis. Join Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson to celebrate our community's strong commitment to Minneapolis youth and pledge to create a prosperous future for our young people and our City. Admission is free for the event, which features live music, appetizers and a cash bar. Register by May 30 at [achievempls.org](http://achievempls.org) or call 612.455.1530

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, MELISSA (LISSIE) RAPPAPORT SCHIFMAN

Craig Wilson interviews his coworker and neighbor, Lissie Rappaport Schiffman, about her passion for sustainability, greening sacred spaces and why she won't be cross country skiing anytime soon.

**How did you develop your passion for the environment?**

The love of the outdoors was probably instilled in me as a little girl, camping outside and taking canoe trips in the boundary waters. After graduating from college, I worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Jim Ramstad and I managed the issues on energy and the environment—which gave me a good understanding of some of things that were happening to the quality of the air we breathe and water we drink. I pursued a Master's in Public Policy and concentrated in environmental policy. From a non-academic perspective though, it's really about our own health. When I became a mother in 2004, I became quite aware of (and worried about) all the potential toxins that might harm my baby. And on the spiritual side, it's about being able to live in harmony with all of the earth's species and not ruining it for our children.

**Your LEED Gold home is a beacon of intelligently combining sustainability with 21st century comfort. What is LEED and what motivated you to LEED certify your home?**

LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to define and measure green buildings. LEED for Homes is a national, voluntary certification that promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes and encourages the adoption of sustainable practices by the home building industry. We pursued LEED Certification for three reasons. First, the LEED rating system helps tremendously to guide us along the path toward building a sustainable home. Its reference manual provides green building strategies in five key categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. Second, LEED certification requires 3rd-party verification. This means that we needed a "Green Rater," who came to the house twice: first, to inspect the insulation (pre-dry wall, post-insulation); second,



to test the leakage of the entire building envelope, duct system and air flow. Third, we get to continue to benefit from living in a more durable sustainable home. Those benefits can be distilled down into three areas: saving money, improving our health, and feeling good about doing the right thing.

**How is your home 'sustainable'?**

First, designing and building it for LEED certification means the home is durable; in close proximity to community resources; saves about 65% on energy bills (by having a ground-source heat pump, solar panels, LED lights, spray foam insulation, triple panes windows, etc.); has reduced water bills (due to dual flush toilets and low flow faucets); has healthy indoor air quality, and is made of reclaimed, built, and furnished with many recycled, reclaimed, or rapidly renewable materials. But what really makes a home sustainable is how you live in it. In today's world, trying to be sustainable can be hard and inconvenient, and we do not claim to have reached any sort of sustainable pinnacle. But we do pay attention to our purchasing behavior (buying bulk goods to reduce packaging, for example), actually using programmable thermostats, and eating healthy, organic and/or local food. We grow our own vegetables in the summer, visit farmers markets, and cook at home for almost every meal. I really think our food choices have the biggest effect on our health and sustainability, so that's what we focus on the most.

**You are also working with others toward greening Temple Israel?**

I founded and am chairing their Ner Tamid Task Force for Sustainability. We work with the Properties Committee to reduce energy and water consumption and make the facility a healthier, productive environment — as well as save on operational costs. "Tikkun Olam" loosely translated means "repairing the world". There are numerous

Biblical texts that talk about being good stewards of the earth and caring for creation.

**What's an example of utilizing a green strategy to represent something sacred?**

The first thing our task force did in 2005 was to install a small array of solar panels on the roof of Temple Israel's sanctuary. Symbolically, we say that the sun powers the Ner Tamid — the Eternal Light that hangs above the Ark in the sanctuary — making it a truly holy light. Of course the ten panels power more than the just the Ner Tamid light, which helps lower Temple Israel's electricity bill, but the symbolism is sacred and powerful, and what led us to our task force's name.

**What is Sustology?**

Sustology is a multidisciplinary firm that specializes in developing sustainable solutions for its clients.

**You're a University of Chicago educated MBA and MPP—how do you fuse sustainability with fiscal responsibility?**

That's really the beauty of investing in sustainability: in many areas, you get a financial return. I used to work in finance for two major airlines, and we were always looking for positive NPV projects -- which means we invest upfront, and the savings that are realized over time end up more than covering the initial cost. Many investments in sustainability -- whether its energy or water conservation or durability -- do reduce operating expenses and do pay for themselves. I've seen it with our own house and with many buildings that Sustology has gotten LEED Certified. Also, we live in a free-market economy, which means that environmental sustainability has to be financially sustainable, or the outlook is pretty grim!

**What is your favorite leisurely activity in the Hill Lake community?**

I love to cross country ski, run, walk, bicycle, and paddle around the chain of lakes. But since I broke my leg in March cross country skiing, I will only be bicycling and swimming this summer!

**What is the single best investment the Hill Lake area could make toward creating a sustainable com-**

Neighbor to page 6

## WHAT ABOUT A HOME ON MINNETONKA?

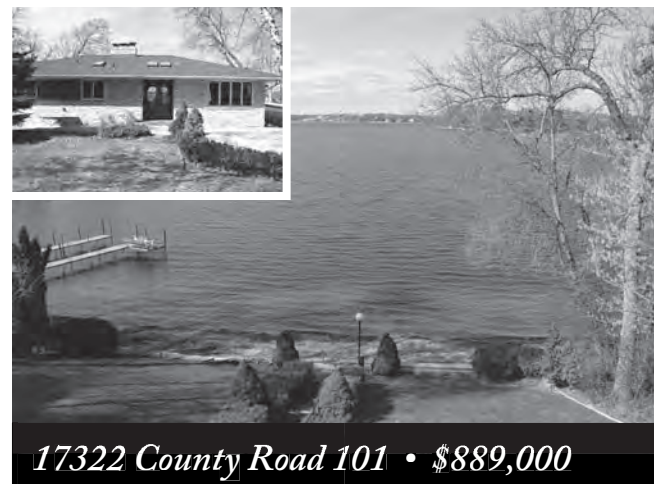
Come and see these homes during the waterfront tour on Sunday, May 20 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



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## One person one vote: Trying to spend it wisely MINNEAPOLIS MINDS

By Steve Kotvis

One vote. That's all we've each got each election year. As a delegate of the seventh ward, I'll be using that one vote at Saturday's DFL Party City Convention. While there will be a host of resolutions and topics to cast votes, the two school board candidate races will gain most of my attention. While the City Convention will determine who may receive DFL Party endorsement, for me as a voter, endorsements are helpful to candidates seeking general election just as long as they don't produce candidates who become strictly beholden to their endorsers.

### Citywide: Carla Bates runs unopposed and stands as a critically valuable voice.

Carla Bates is seeking DFL Party endorsement on Saturday as she runs for re-election to the single open city-wide seat on the Board this year. I strongly supported Carla and worked on her campaign in 2008, and am proudly doing so again in 2012. Carla is endorsed by major local labor unions, but not by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT). She withdrew her application for endorsement by the MFT when she got wind there was some horse-trading going on affecting our neighboring District 6 race. I'm proud of Carla for retaining her independence. She was elected in 2008 without MFT support, and for the past four years has been a voice behind the district's contract reforms. She courageously voted against the most recent teachers contract because it continues to place the needs of the institution and the adults employed to manage and teach above needs of students. While Carla has sought to work collaboratively, her voice is often out of tune with the chorus of Board members (Arneson, Gagnon, Mammen and Monserrate) whose signatures appeared on MFT letterhead scolding the past Board, on which sat Carla and our neighbor Tom Madden, for the audacity to challenge the status quo.

Carla may be running in what may seem like an unopposed campaign, but in politics nothing can be taken for granted. I will vote for Carla at the DFL City Convention knowing that she is and will continue to be an insightful thinker and visionary leader who needs to continue with what she started four years ago, to create a school district that serves all students throughout our city.

### District 4: Not about going to battle against Katniss

This election year three more "districts" or more literally "sub-districts" are being added to the whole Minneapolis Public Schools district. District 4 includes the Hill & Lake Press circulation area plus downtown and Elliot Park. The impetus of district representation was due to some parts of the city believing their voice was not being heard, especially as compared to our extremely high voter turnout southwest quadrant. As such, we are looking for district-based Board members who can stand for their districts, but not stand against other districts. We don't wish to see a new episode of The Hunger Games where districts fight each other to their deaths.

Three candidates are running to represent District 4 on the School Board. I spent time to sit down and talk with each of them to get a sense of what makes them tick. They are all good people and I sincerely appreciate every one of them for placing their name, time, and talents out there for

us voters to consider for this important election. I will describe each in reverse order of my meeting them.

Sara Miele is a retiring teacher who has spent the past number of years at Bryn Mawr School. Sara, who lives downtown and admittedly got caught up in the "condo craze" years back, has an apparent passion for children, education, and doing good as she exits her years in the classroom and enters a new stage in life. She's worldly and grounded, having served in the Peace Corps, worked for a couple decades as a social worker in jobs and employment, where she appreciated and brought out the best in her students. She believes in building community around schools and wishes to improve the collaboration between the parks and schools. I like Sara for her willingness to serve, but have reservations about the breadth and depth of her grasp of some issues. Asked who on the present School Board she most associated her thinking with, she listed four members of the Board, the same four who signed letter on MFT letterhead. And when talking about the district, seemed most focused on making Anwatin a stronger middle school that is appealing to District 4 families. She was not fully versed on the reason so many families in District 4 send their children to Anthony Middle School is because the District tells them that is where they are to go, an element of the Changing Schools Option plan that I find "off."

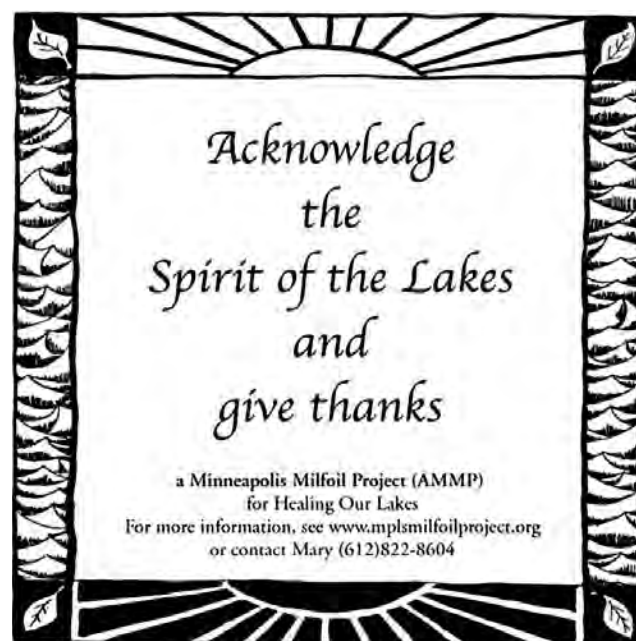
Darryl Washington announced his candidacy first among the three candidates, in time to be solely considered and endorsed by the MFT and major local labor unions. Back a number of months ago, a friend who is a city council member not representing our ward ID'ed Darryl to me, saying he told Darryl to give me a call. I didn't get a call until last week when I received a rather "scripted" voice message he was obviously making to all convention delegates. I also received a "robo" call from the MFT naming him as their pick. I called Darryl back and we met for coffee where we shared a lot of experiences. Our pasts seem to be loosely interlaced, but maybe that's what happens to many of us who live long enough in one community. Darryl and his family of three girls and wife live in the Whittier neighborhood. He works for the City of Minneapolis' department of planning and community development. Darryl explained to me his priorities are to improve parent engagement and free teachers of the unnecessary burden of administration. To me, these are fine objectives, but I question if they connect aptly enough to the broader needs of District 4 and the entire school system that are about providing opportunity and challenge to all students at all levels of achievement. Darryl also stated that he plans to honor the DFL endorsement process and not continue to run if the Party endorses another candidate for District 4. This offers me a question as to whether Darryl may be too beholden to the DFL and the organizations that endorsed him.

Josh Reimnitz is a new kid on the block. At 27 years old, he's not a kid, but he is admittedly young (aren't more and more people young these days?), and he's got some interesting experience. And while he's not on our block per se, he is new to Minneapolis in that he recently moved

from teaching in Atlanta's urban center for Teach for America to live in Elliot Park neighborhood where he works as the co-director of a University of Minnesota founded organization called Students Today Leaders Forever. Josh was the first candidate I met with, and he made a first and lasting impression that makes me believe he has the intelligence, perspectives, enthusiasm, and gusto to do a fine job of representing District 4 on the School Board. Born in Bismarck and educated at North Dakota State University, he gained firsthand experience with the challenges of urban education. His job today is about developing leaders for life. Josh's focus for work on the Board is on building strong leadership in our schools through the collaboration of teachers, principals, and parents working together to create a culture of expectations and learning. He sees opportunities to improve communications between the District administrators and schools for better outcomes. He supports contract reforms that focus on improved student achievement, and believes all students at all levels need to be challenged to bring out their best. Josh admitted that he took some time to make the final decision to run because he thought long and hard about it before stepping into the race. As a result he and Sara did not announce their candidacy in time to be considered for endorsement by local labor and the teachers union.

Josh is in it to win and says that regardless of Saturday's outcome for DFL Party endorsement, the real goal is to become elected to the School Board. His willingness to continue to run regardless of DFL Party endorsement tells me he's quite serious to the cause and not beholden to the Party or those who endorse candidates. Josh Reimnitz would be a welcome voice, one who may join those who sing for reforms focused on improving outcomes for all students throughout Minneapolis.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident for 27 years, has written Minneapolis Minds about public education since January 2008. He is an active volunteer in community and public education issues. He is once again a delegate at the DFL City Convention. Please feel free to share your comments, opinions or insights with him at [stevek@f-go.us](mailto:stevek@f-go.us).



## What do you see? A glass half full or a leaky roof?

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## Thomas Lowry Park News

### Ask the Vet Question

#### Q: I found a tick on my dog, what should I do?

The sooner the tick is removed the better because a tick must feed for several hours to transmit bacteria that cause Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses. It is best to use a tweezers and grasp the tick at the closest possible point next to your dog's skin and pull the tick directly out. There may be a red area on the skin after tick removal, which you can wash with a mild soap and water. Do not squeeze the tick as you are removing it because if the tick bursts, harmful bacteria could be released. Dispose of the tick by washing it down the sink drain. Wear gloves and wash your hands well after tick removal. It is important to call your veterinarian and discuss the situation. Check your dog for ticks often and especially after a walk in the woods. Signs of tick-borne disease such as Lyme disease are fever, lethargy, not eating, walking stiff or slow and lameness, and may not show up until several weeks or months after the exposure. It is recommended to use a monthly tick preventative in any months where the temperature is above freezing. Check with your dog's veterinarian about which tick preventative is right for your dog and if your dog should be screened for tick borne illness at the annual check up.

#### Q. My dog drinks out of puddles and lakes, is this ok?

A. Do whatever you can to avoid having your dog drink out of puddles, lakes, ponds, and pools. There is a risk of exposure to toxic chemicals and bacteria and certain parasites that could make a dog sick. There are many nifty portable water bowls and water bottles that you can train your dog to drink out of while out enjoying the summer. It is important to offer a dog that is out in the hot and humid weather fresh drinking water (just as you carry a water bottle for yourself while on a run!). If your dog develops vomiting or diarrhea (or acts ill) after drinking from a puddle or pond (or other questionable water source); call your veterinarian for advice. Finally, if your dog has developed a sudden thirst and seems to be drinking a lot of water from every source and seeks water out, (ie toilet bowl), call your veterinarian because certain diseases like Diabetes can cause excessive thirst and water seeking behavior.

#### Q. My one-year-old cat really wants to go outside. What should I do?

A. As long as the cat is spayed or neutered (and has identification, either a collar or a microchip) and you want to enjoy the outdoors with your cat, you can use a harness leash for supervised outdoor playtime. Cats that are let outdoors unsupervised generally have a shorter life span than indoor-only cats. You can enrich your cat's indoor environment by using safe toys, games, and climbing structures. Visit some cat websites for lots of great ideas on how to enrich indoor environments.

By Dr. Jen Holm, DVM, DACVECC.

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### Thomas Lowry Park Financial Information 2011

By Sara Peterman

In calendar year 2011, Friends of Thomas Lowry Park partnered with Carefree Lawn, the MPRB, and Tangletown Gardens to continue its work in Thomas Lowry Park.

Commencing January, 2011, through December, 2011, Friends of Thomas Lowry Park started with a balance of \$3400.88, and received donations in the amount of \$9,754.31. Of that amount approximately \$4,000.00 was raised by the thirty-five guests at the September fundraiser. During that same time, payments were made for work and supplies needed in TLP for a combined total of \$4,471. An expense of \$700.00 was incurred for hosting

the Friends fundraising event last September. The year ending balance in the bank account for 2011 was \$7,984.82. Please note that the current balance in the account is \$11,200.

Friends recognizes and expresses it's thanks for the many significant in-kind and partnership donations which were received and implemented in a cooperative effort last year.

Tangletown Gardens donated plantings and labor with the value of \$3,000.00. Carefree Lawn contributed labor and materials to work out issues with the recently expanded irrigation system.

Resources from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board continue to work with Friends of Thomas Lowry Park in a responsive manner regarding park maintenance and the irrigation improvements.

Pete Englen and his staff generously donated extra time and materials in 2011 as Pete and his staff have done in prior years. A more than hoped for amount of time was donated by Suzanne Payne, Bill Payne, and Barb Fogel for TLP maintenance and weeding.

Countless hours of weeding and clean-up were also performed by members of the First Unitarian Society and neighborhood volunteers.

Friends appreciates each of the contributions received from individuals and organizations. Thank you for your continued support.

Friends of Thomas Lowry Park has three priorities for 2012: (i) increased volunteerism in TLP for the spring and fall clean up and weeding; (ii) continued fundraising (please email friends@thomaslowrypark.org for information on making a tax-deductible donation); and (iii) maintenance of the existing and improved garden beds in cooperation with MPRB and Tangletown Gardens (Tangletown Gardens has agreed to donate half the cost of labor and material.)

Friends' first priority, volunteerism, is primarily coordinated through Friends' Second Saturday Program. You are invited to garden with our volunteers on the second Saturday of the month from April through September from 10-noon. The remaining dates specified for the 2012 season are: May 12th, June 9th, July 14th, August 11th, and September 8th. Please contact Barb Fogel at bfogel@comcast.net for further information.

See you in the park!

## BURCH FROM PAGE ONE

by the main door will be dining rooms.

Recently Judy Dayton and I toured Burch with hosts Charles D. Nolan, principal of Nolan Company, Merrie Sjogren, Project Manager, and Ben Hertz, Assistant Project Manager of Nolan. Nolan is a local family company that goes back four generations. Through their website www.nolan-company.com you can learn of their extensive work in our city. Also included on our tour of Burch were the Burch Restaurant representatives Ryan Burnet, Nancy St. Pierre, and Isaac Becker.

Seeing the interior of Burch minus the cosmetic counter, the pharmacy, and the gift and card departments was shocking. Lots of exposed beams and brick walls, which will all be restored. The cavernous space was intimidating to me. And remember the ill-fated postoffice? Our lives became more complicated after the Burch postoffice closed and we had to drive down Hennepin to the Loring Station to mail our letters instead of doing so while we waited for our prescriptions.

Navigating the narrow stairs to the basement was quite a feat for some of us. The many rooms in the basement with their limestone and brick walls will be restored. Another fireplace with bar and dining will be in the basement. The ancient boiler's magnificent doors will be moved to the first floor and displayed as a work of art.

More will be learned about the Burch restaurant as plans develop. Meanwhile, Nolan Company will undertake the extensive renovation of the historic Burch building including the second and third floors. Third floor space includes a large ballroom. Burch's earliest history was as a Masonic building. There was even a grocery store in the building. Charles Nolan emphasized that he intends to rent the second and third floors to local businesses. Nolan Company plans to retain the integrity of the building appropriate to its time and history.

Where will the new business tenants and the restaurant patrons park? A valet parking lease has been signed and plans are underway for additional parking. Charles Nolan and Ryan Burnet and the others involved in this enterprise believe that parking will be sufficient and will not burden the neighborhood.

Please send your Burch stories to hillandlakepress@bitstream.net. We hope to learn more of the history of Burch for a future story.

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Schifman's LEED Gold home

Kenwood Preparing for 2012-2013 School Year

By Nicole Valentine

On a recent rainy May morning, administrators from Kenwood Elementary opened the school to next year's kindergarten families for the annual Kindergarten Registration event, an opportunity for incoming families to receive and fill out the necessary paperwork to enroll their kindergartners for next year. This year 68 families came to the school to enroll May 3rd.

Principal Cheryl Martin said, "It is wonderful to see so many families beginning their journey here at Kenwood."

Next year's kindergarten class is already full, with all 78 spots taken, and the building has a waiting list. Kenwood resident and PTA Co-President Lori Johnson, who greeted the new families at Registration, said, "While we don't like turning families away, it is wonderful that the incoming classrooms will be full again next

Neighborhood Earth Day Volunteers Say "Isles Do It."



Tina Frontera, who serves on the East Isles Residents Association's Earth Day. There were 30 to 40 Volunteers at Lake of the Isles from South St. Paul also came to help because "we often come 2,000 volunteers at 40 sites who collected 9000 pounds of trash

Event for Neighbors at the Bridge for Youth



In the spirit of neighborliness, The Bridge for Youth invited neighborhood services and homeless youth. Thanks to all who attended and providing delicious food. Shown here, Dan Pfarr, Executive Director of East Isles Residents Association (EIRA). EIRA provided \$19,500 to the Emergency Shelter House on 22nd and Emerson

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year. This speaks volumes about the community's confidence in and support for the school." Earlier this spring, the school community raised the funds needed to guarantee that all three kindergarten classrooms will offer full-day instruction once again next year.

Kindergarten Registration isn't just parents pouring over their enrollment packets; the incoming Kenwood students attend as well. The preschoolers visited the kindergarten classrooms, heard a story or did a craft project while their parents completed the enrollment process. Students will know which classroom they are assigned to by the Back-to-School BBQ scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd.

Kenwood's popularity is creating a "trickle up" effect for the Kenwood School to page 11

Photo by Dorothy Childers



on (EIRA) Board cheerfully helped clean up Lake of the Isles on despite a cold day (with even a little rain at the end). A couple often to walk around Lake of the Isles." City-wide there were /recycling

Photo by Dorothy Childers



ighbors in for refreshments and a brief presentation about Bridge thanks to our good neighbors Rye Deli and The Lowry for pro- tor of The Bridge for Youth, and Jerome Ryan, NRP Chair for 00 in NRP housing funds to The Bridge upgrading windows in



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## EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

Below are abbreviated minutes. The complete minutes can be found at [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org).

### EIRA Annual Members' Meeting April 17, 2012

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Al Rodriguez (Treasurer), Ginna Portman Amis, Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Harvey Ettinger, Tina Frontera, Jane Schommer, and Linda Schutz.

### Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner

Triangle Park: The old equipment has been removed, new equipment installed in June.

Parade Road: Construction July - October.

Lake of the Isles: Uniform lighting will be completed this year.

### Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Commissioner

Walker Library will close in late August; construction begins this fall and open in 2014. The polling place at the Walker will be reassigned.

Met Council is beginning preliminary engineering for Southwest LRT.

Hennepin Co is providing matching funds for additional lighting on the Greenway (in East Isles).

### Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member

Urban Ag ordinance was approved. Tuthill suggests testing soil to make sure it is safe to grow food.

"Spirit Car" by Diane Wilson chosen for One Minneapolis One Read.

Biking safety video on the City's website: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

### Senator Scott Dibble, Rep Marion Greene, and Rep Frank Hornstein

Voter ID and marriage amendments will be on the ballot in November.

Redistricting put Reps Green and Hornstein in the same district. Rep Hornstein won the DFL endorsement.

### Chelsea Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist, Minneapolis Police

Block leaders are needed. Contact: [Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov)

Since 2006, 93% of crime in East Isles is property crime, mostly garage burglary (40% from unlocked garages). Reminders: lock garage doors, don't leave valuables in your car, treat your garage door opener like a key, and record your bike's serial number. Report crime and suspicious behavior to 911.

### REPORTS

#### Dan McLaughlin provided the President's Report:

Two capital improvements for East Isles: Triangle Park and Walker Library.

The Green Team has been doing great work.

With the economy improving, McLaughlin thinks developers will be interested in East Isles. Themes are: taller buildings and later hours for businesses. We need to be proactive about what type of development we would like.

The success of the neighborhood depends on the involvement of residents. We need to engage more people.

EIRA Board now meets the second Tuesday of the month.

Treasurer Al Rodriguez provided an overview of EIRA's funding.

### Social Committee Chair Amy Sanborn:

August 2011: Ice Cream Social and Art Fair pop booth; October 2011: Wine Tasting; January 2012: Ice Skating Party. All were well-attended, successful events.

### Zoning Committee Co-chair Harvey Ettinger:

Lake of the Isles Renovation Project report can be found at: [www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org).

Working with the NRP Committee:

Secure matching funding from the City and County for Greenway lighting.

The Mall: replace old park benches, replace trees and clean up landscaping.

Drafting guidelines for new development (BP gas station at 2700 Hennepin); possible relocation of the Lowry statue; and working with other Uptown neighborhoods to be proactive with development.

### NRP Committee

Home improvement loans available (low interest, up to \$7K). Contact: [loaninfo@mncee.org](mailto:loaninfo@mncee.org) or 612-335-5884.

Home security grants of up to \$250 available. Contact [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org) or 612-821-0131.

Low cost chore service for seniors offered through Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP), contact [seniors@neighborhoodinvolve.org](mailto:seniors@neighborhoodinvolve.org) or 612-374-3322.

Working on planting new boulevard trees in East Isles.

Community Participation Program (CPP) provides funding to neighborhoods for community engagement and administration. Current funding is \$30K. Next phase begins on July 1, 2012; our allocation is \$37K + \$15K to bring our NRP Phase II allocation to 70%.

Chair Betsy Allis reported that the Green Team was founded in Fall 2011 and focuses on three areas: rain gardens, energy efficiency and waste reduction. They are working on Zero Waste Uptown to promote organics recycling in multi-family buildings in Uptown. Upcoming events: a green movie on June 10 and neighborhood garage sale in the fall.

### Election of EIRA Board of Directors

Special thanks to outgoing board members: Ginna Portman Amis, Harvey Ettinger, Ramon Ramirez Quintero, Joe Sinnott and Alternate Rosita Acosta.

The 2012-13 EIRA Board of Directors was unanimously elected: Sue Durfee, Vaughn Emerson, Tina Frontera, Renee Gust, Dan McLaughlin, Carla Pardue, Al Rodriguez, Michael Rossini, Jane Schommer, Linda Schutz and Richard White. Alternates: Donna Jansen and Laura Rosenthal.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting May 8, 2012

Board members present: Dan McLaughlin (Vice President), Vaughn Emerson, Renee Gust, Carla Pardue, Michael Rossini, Jane Schommer, and Linda Schutz. Alternate Donna Jansen was also present.

### Meg Tuthill, Ward 10 Council Member

Open Street will be June 10, on Lyndale Ave. [www.openstreetsmpls.com](http://www.openstreetsmpls.com).

Janeé Harteau was nominated as the city's next police chief.

Construction on Nicollet Ave from Lake St to 36th.

Meet with Meg is June 12 at the 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet.

Contact 911 to report late night noise in Uptown. Also let CM Tuthill know about these livability issues.

Uptown Theater signed a 20-year lease and will be adding a dining room serving liquor (need to purchase a ticket to access).

### Jay Halvorson, People for Parks

People for Parks is an independent non-profit organization for the purpose of supporting Minneapolis parks. [www.peopleforparks.net](http://www.peopleforparks.net)

## KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION (KIAA)

By Amy Lucas

### KIAA Annual Meeting was held May 6, 2012 at Kenwood Park.

Chair Larry Moran called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., following a socializing period with BBQ provided by Rudolph's.

Board Members present: Chair Larry Moran, Mike Bono, Jeanette Colby, Angie Erdrich, Amy Lucas, Ed Pluimer, and Roy Williams.

Others present: State Representative Marion Greene, MN State Legislature District 60A and approximately 75 neighborhood residents.

### Board Election – Larry Moran

Larry Moran, chair, explained KIAA board and thanked past board members.

The current slate of KIAA board members- Larry Moran, Mike Bono, Jeanette Colby, Angie Erdrich, Kathy Low, Amy Lucas and Ed Pluimer, were re-elected to the board with new member Jack Levi. Treasurer Roy Williams did not seek re-election to board.

### Introductions – Larry Moran

Larry introduced State Rep Marion Greene; she remained available for further conversation.

The local band, Twang Cities, played from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

### Updates

Mark Johnson will continue to chair the Crime and Safety Committee.

James Sorenson will join the LRT committee, chaired by Jeanette Colby.

Stephan Clark will join the Communications committee.

**Reminder: The next KIAA Board meeting will be Monday, June 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Rec Center. The public is welcome to attend these monthly meetings.**

### Julie Mellum, Barbara Johnson and Sue Romain, Take Back the Air

Volunteer grassroots organization dedicated to education about harmful emissions and the health hazards of wood burning fires. [www.takebacktheair.com](http://www.takebacktheair.com)

### Election of EIRA officers

EIRA officers were unanimously elected. Dan McLaughlin, President; Linda Schutz, Vice President; Al Rodriguez, Treasurer; and Richard White, Secretary.

### REPORTS

#### Social Committee

The EIRA Board unanimously approved a request by Chair Amy Sanborn to secure the date for the Ice Cream Social (August 16) at Triangle Park with a budget of \$2,200.

#### Zoning Committee

Co-chair Harvey Ettinger reported on the April 25th meeting of the Zoning Committee.

Met with JJ's Coffee + Wine Bistro regarding their new business at 1806 W Lake St. The EIRA Board unanimously adopted the committee's recommendation to support the application.

Met with Holiday (2448 Hennepin Ave) to consider their request to expand their hours to 4 am – 2am daily. The EIRA Board unanimously adopted the committee's recommendation to not oppose the request.

A sub-committee was formed regarding Smith Triangle. They will do outreach to other neighborhoods and to East Isles residents. A survey is being considered to accompany the annual membership mailing.

A sub-committee was formed to consider appropriate development for vacant BP site at 2700 Hennepin.

#### NRP/Staff Report

The NRP Steering Committee meets the first Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at Grace. Michael Rossini will serve as the EIRA Board liaison.

CPP expenses were reviewed. EIRA Board unanimously approved reallocating funds as needed.

#### Board Review

EIRA Board unanimously approved expenditures for the 2012 membership campaign.

McLaughlin and Smith will draft the CPP application for review at the June meeting.

Carla Pardue and Donna Jansen will represent East Isles at the NCEC elections in June.

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# CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

## CIDNA ANNUAL MEETING, May 9, 2012

The annual meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board Members in attendance: Chair Gail Lee, Vice Chair Art Higinbotham, Treasurer Ed Bell, Secretary Ryan Fox, Judy Berge, Ed Ferlauto, Stephen Goltry, David Shirley, Craig Westgate and Mike Wilson. Staff: Monica Smith

Chair Gail Lee called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

### Panel Discussion of Elected Officials

Participating officials: Council members Lisa Goodman and Meg Tuthill; Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman; Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Commissioner Anita Tabb; Representative Marion Greene; and Senator Scott Dibble.

### The elected officials provided these updates:

**Goodman:** Redistricting in Minneapolis shifts all of CIDNA to Ward 7 (effective: Nov 2013 election). Does not support stadium financing.

**Tuthill:** Recent garage burglaries in CIDNA. Criminals are breaking into cars and using garage door openers to access garages and steal bicycles. Open Streets on Lyndale Ave, June 10, 10 am – 5 pm. Support stadium financing.

Goodman and Tuthill formed an Uptown task force to focus on noise reduction from bars and outdoor patios.

**Tabb:** The Park Board is moving forward with improvements to Park Siding Park. Public meeting was April 24th. A Community Advisory Committee provided recommendations for Brownie Lake.

**Dorfman:** Hennepin County recently completed redistricting. There will not be an election in the 3rd District this year. Walker Library will close in August and construction will begin on the new library. The state legislature did not fund SW Light Rail Transit (LRT) but the County continues to move forward. There is funding in place for preliminary engineering. The DEIS is expected to be released in August/September with a 45-day comment period.

**Greene:** Due to redistricting, she will no longer be serving in the House. Greene did not support voter ID, marriage amendment or the stadium bill.

**Dibble:** One positive accomplishment at the legislature was merging the Minneapolis pension fund into the larger state pool.

### Approval of minutes

Chair Lee routed copies of the meeting minutes from last year's annual meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Ed Bell presented the Treasurer's Report. CIDNA has \$12K in unrestricted funds. The remaining funds are restricted to NRP or CPP programs.

### Election of Board Members

Gail Lee and Judy Berge are not seeking re-election. The Board thanked them for their years of service.

The following slate of returning and new board members was unanimously approved. Returning board members: Ed Bell, Ed Ferlauto, Art Higinbotham, Ryan Fox, Stephen Goltry, Ray Greco, David Shirley and Craig Westgate. New board members: Rosanne Halloran, David Lissauer, and Amanda Vallone.

### Soren Jensen, Midtown Greenway Coalition

Successfully fought to have Excel power lines buried under 28th St, instead of overhead on the Greenway.

Started a Crime Prevention Task Force to work on keeping the Greenway safe by adding lighting, cameras, signage, and possibly bicycle police.

### Committees include: Greening and Art Space.

June 9: Northern Spark, an all night art festival including Greenway Glow an illuminated nighttime bike ride and fundraiser.

[www.midtowngreenway.org](http://www.midtowngreenway.org)

### NRP/ CPP Report

Gail Lee presented the NRP/ CPP report:

Community Participation Program (CPP), funding to support communication, outreach, and administration. Jan 2011 – Jun 2012 budget: \$24,583

CPP budget for Jul 2012 – Dec 2013: \$41,222 (including \$10K from previously restricted NRP Phase II funds). Application for this program is due June 15 and can include funding for Neighborhood Priority Plans (for specific projects).

NRP Phase I remaining funds: \$95,322

NRP Phase II remaining funds: \$83,240

Current Phase I project: \$33K toward improvements

at Park Siding including table tennis platforms, refurbish or replace drinking fountain, tree plantings, redesign of garden beds, and installation of an irrigation system.

Phase II expenditures included: \$87K for affordable housing loans in Minneapolis and funding 41 home energy audits for CIDNA residents.

**Park Siding Spring planting day:** Saturday, June 2 at 10:30, email [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org) to sign up

Save the date for the Fall Festival: Sunday, September 16. Co-chairs are Steve Goltry and Elaine May. Thanks to Judy Berge for chairing this event for many years.

Special thanks to Claire Ruebeck for spear-heading the Park Siding improvements and to the volunteer gardeners: Nancy Albrecht, Nancy Green, Sandi Larson, Pat Shirley, Cher Simer, Lynelle Top and Kate Ziemann.

### Force Main Improvements Project

Ryan Fox provided an overview of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) sewer project (Hopkins to Uptown).

Tree removal has begun along the Greenway.

Fall 2012: Work will begin near Park Siding Park to prepare for tunneling under the railroad tracks and Kenilworth Trail. MCES has secured an easement from the Park Board for a temporary road through Park Siding Park (Dean Court and 28th will be torn up).

April-May 2013: Park Siding Park will be fully restored.

The Greenway will not be closed due to sewer construction. The Dean Parkway entrance ramp will be closed for about a month (detours will be posted).

Sunset Blvd reconstruction: a survey conducted last year favored better pedestrian access and traffic calming on Sunset Blvd. In April, a petition was sent to all Sunset property owners between Chowen and Depot to seek approval by 70% of residents to approve a sidewalk on one side of Sunset. (Survey results: north side of Sunset, 11 approved/9 against; south side of Sunset, 5 approved/7 against). Ryan Fox will discuss options with the City.

### Transportation Committee

Ed Ferlauto discussed the CIDNA section of the proposed Southwest LRT:

Current traffic problems at Lake and Excelsior will get worse with the addition of the W. Lake St station.

Noise concerns for nearby residents

FTA required that the DEIS must include a co-location of freight rail and light rail.

Dec 2010: consultants concluded that there is insufficient space for co-location in the Kenilworth corridor.

Sep 2011: FTA gave approval for preliminary engi-

neering to begin. It will take about two years to complete 30% of the design work.

Feb 2012: CIDNA Board passes a resolution requesting that co-location be denied.

45 day review period once the DEIS is released. Volunteers are needed to help review the document.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board video of Kenilworth and Cedar Trail: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1247#tour>

Southwest LRT alignment video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWqewQB-fr8&feature=youtu.be>

### New Apartment Project Update

Bob Corrick, Chair of CIDNA's Land Use and Development Committee discussed a proposal by Ted Bigos for a 13-story apartment building at 2622 W. Lake St (at Thomas). CIDNA opposed the project based on the height, zoning change (from OR-2 to R-6) and concerns about parking and traffic. Residents are encouraged to get involved or provide feedback.

### Announcements

The annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held in October. Tickets will be on sale at the Fall Festival (100% of revenue goes directly to CIDNA).

The CIDNA Board meets the second Wednesday of the month. All are welcome.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

### Next meeting

Wednesday, June 13 at Jones-Harrison, 6 p.m.


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## Join your neighbors for these East Isles events!

### Backyard Barbecue and Movie

**MONDAY, JUNE 11, 6:30 - 9:00 P.M. FREE!**

Barbecue at 2871 Humboldt Ave S, movie at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W. 28th St

**Enjoy an outdoor potluck picnic** in the beautiful side yard of 2871 Humboldt. Bring a food item to share, something to grill, and your favorite beverage and cup. We'll provide the plates and utensils. We'll mingle and eat, then take a short walk to Grace-Trinity Community Church for an 8 p.m. showing of green "shorts" — both light and serious. Sponsored by the East Isles Green Team.

RSVPs appreciated as well as volunteer help!

Contact Betsy Allis at [greenteam@eastisles.org](mailto:greenteam@eastisles.org).

### Rain Garden Workshop

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 10:00 A.M. - NOON FREE!**  
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S

**Attend this popular** workshop and learn how to design, install and maintain your own rain garden. Sponsored by our neighbors in East Calhoun.

RSVP to [nrp@eastcalhoun.org](mailto:nrp@eastcalhoun.org).

### EIRA Board of Directors Meeting

**TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 7-9 P.M.**  
Grace-Trinity Community Church  
1430 W. 28th St

Contact [president@eastisles.org](mailto:president@eastisles.org) for details.





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## LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LHNA)

By Chris Madden, LHNA Coordinator

LHNA Board Minutes Tuesday, May 1, 2012, Kenwood Recreation Center

Present - Board Members: Maureen Sheehan, Vice President; Dan Aronson; Treasurer; Jimmy Fogel; Mark Brauer; Ruth Shields; Rebecca Graham; Sherie Tazelaar; Marty Broan; David Weinstein, President

Present - Guests and staff: Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator; Nancy St. Pierre, Merrie Sjogren, Ben Hertz, Ryan Burnet

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Vice President Maureen Sheehan, noting a quorum was not yet present.

**Approval of the Minutes and Agenda at 7:50 with quorum. All approved.**

**Treasurer's Report** - Dan Aronson announced that the treasurer's report will be at the annual meeting.

**Zoning and Planning:** The Nolan Company wishes to buy the Burch Pharmacy building and bring the building back to life by giving it a "sensitive rehab". They would have retail on the first floor and the basement and office space on the second floor. They would like to close next month and are in the preliminary stages of development. Parking is an issue and they are exploring all their options in the neighborhood. Daytime parking could be available to their tenants in the Belmont Parking lot. They have a valet option with a parking lot on Franklin and Lyndale.

Nancy St. Pierre, owner of La Brassa, & Ryan Burnet would like to put a restaurant in the retail space. The concept is a food driven restaurant for 100-200 like La Brassa or 112 Eatery with a tentative opening date of November 2012. Jimmy Fogel said that our community is in support of the project but parking is a huge concern for neighbors living close by.

**Communications/Events:** Annual Meeting Planning - Mark Brauer reported that the Walker is expecting us and he is hoping to get the Audio Visuals worked out in advance. Joe Ring, from Prospect Park will be giving a 15 minute talk on Historic Preservation. He was involved with Historic Preservation in his own neighborhood and will share his information with our group.

Other projects to show at the meeting: The floating island and the median project.

We need to confirm Candidates for the open LHNA seats before the meeting. It would be great to get a 2 sentence bio on each one for our powerpoint presentation.

Other discussion ideas for the meeting - talking about the Lowry Hill Business District Signs.

**Median Project Update from Maureen:** The park board has agreed to be the responsible government unit on the project.

**Kenwood Landscaping Plan Update:** The board will vote on a "trees only" plan. Kathy Low should be



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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrack at 612-377-5785

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Thank you to Barry Lazarus and to Amanda Vallone of Artrageous Adventures in Kenwood and to Beth and Kevin Dooley for their very generous contributions to Hill and Lake Press. We are grateful for their support of our community newspaper.

contacted about installation.

The board needs a new Police Department Liaison; Rebecca Graham will follow up and contact the department.

**LHNA's next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome.** Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at www.lowryhillneighborhood.org, where they can sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood.

The meeting was adjourned.

## LETTERS

### To Gail Dorman

Re: "The Southwest Transitway has issued a video entitled, "A Virtual Ride on the Southwest LRT from Eden Prairie to Target Field".  
http://youtu.be/tWqewQB-fR8

It shows a flyover of I494, a flyover of Highway 212, a flyover of the Crosstown, a 3000 foot long bridge over a wetland in Minnetonka, a huge park and ride facility at Eden Prairie Center station, and a flyover of Cedar Lake Parkway (a structure that will be visible to most residents of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles areas), and a tunnel under 7th St. north of the incinerator. I am sure that you have had a chance to view this video. With all of the infrastructure it envisions, it seems impossible that this project, including freight rail relocation, can be accomplished for \$1.25 billion when the new St. Croix River project will cost \$650 million for a single bridge.

http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1247#tour

The SWLRT CAC was never shown the details of

the capital costs that were submitted to the FTA, but it could not have included the following features included in the video:

1. A tunnel under Prairie Center Drive
2. Several large park and ride facilities in Eden Prairie
3. A long bridge over I494 and adjacent roads
4. An underpass under Flying Cloud Drive
5. Eminent domain and demolition of several industrial buildings in Eden Prairie and Minnetonka
6. A bridge over Highway 212
7. A bridge over the Crosstown Highway 62
8. A 3000 ft. bridge over a wetland and the CP tracks in Minnetonka
9. An underpass under Highway 169
10. An overpass over Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins
11. An overpass at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis
12. An overpass over the BNSF tracks east of I94
13. A tunnel under 7th St. N to loop around the incinerator

It is inconceivable how this project will retain any viability when Preliminary Engineering defines these capital costs and when the DEIS and responses to it indicate required mitigation along the corridor.

The contractor for Preliminary Engineering needs to be chosen quickly; if the project cost escalates as a result of defining the above infrastructure costs, there is no need to spend further money on conforming to the DEIS recommendations.

Art Higinbotham CIDNA

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821 Douglas #302	\$ 219,900		341	\$ 156,000	C	2/2	1047	\$ 222,500	\$ 3,724	1963	
2536 Humboldt S #7	249,900	5,000	154	225,000	C	2/2	1,585	268,500	4,652	1908	
3141 Dean Court #703	389,900		168	355,000	C	2/3	1,716	290,700	5,100	1983	
2842 Benton Blvd	376,200	Foreclosed	11	430,100	H	3/5	3,497	897,000	15,848	1987	
2407 Lake Place	677,900		256	550,000	H	4/3	2,281	627,000	10,959	1907	
1768 Colfax S	699,000		71	550,000	H	7/6	4,394	727,500	12,495	1900	
1204 Mount Curve Ave	725,000		127	646,000	TWN	3/3	2,802	580,500	11,754	1982	
2813 Irving S	749,900		37	698,000	H	4/4	3,245	752,000	13,452	1905	
1900 Emerson S	1,150,000		558	597,500	H	5/5	5,954	922,000	16,904	1896	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig			cume	Condo	C						
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County				Home	H						
				Townhouse	TWN	Go to mpl Realtor.com for additional info					

## Mama Bird

By Madeleine Lowry

While we were on our spring break trip, we acquired a new neighbor. No, not that kind of neighbor—the chirpy kind that mistakes the wreath you've left hanging on your front door for a nesting site.

A little-brown-sparrow kind of neighbor. A mother bird.

When we returned she was fully installed. A small round nest, lovingly fashioned, with two speckled dusky blue eggs each one no bigger than my thumbnail.

I'm sure that in our absence it seemed like the ideal spot to build a home. The coveted cul-de-sac location, well-lit, sheltered from the rain, quiet and serene.

I imagine that she'd had a few words with her realtor when she realized what had been overlooked. No one had pointed out to her, for example, that her nesting site was in fact a door—a glass door that is thrown open with abandon several times a day. A door which overlooks a black metal box that clangs loudly when the mailman makes his appointed rounds. A door that, on occasion, emits a furry small animal with a big bark and a frenetic tail. A door that attracts newspaper missiles in the quiet of the early morning. A door where three children and all of their friends like to visit to peek and point...at her.

I can only imagine what this is doing to her blood pressure.

I could have warned her about all this, one mother to another, if she had consulted me. It's a pity that we didn't have this conversation because, being a bird, there is no recourse for her. No moving truck to come and spirit her delicate nest to new digs.

No, the only exit strategy available to her is to hatch her brood, raise them and then build a new nest in a better spot. I would recommend the crabapple tree on our front lawn.

But our brave bird is tough. She is coping valiantly with her situation and we are looking forward to witnessing the miracle of life that will play out on our door. It's the bird equivalent of those ant farms that are sand-



wiched between two panes of glass ensuring that the ants have absolutely no privacy at all.

After observing her for a couple of weeks, I informed our children that they should be glad that they are mammals because if I'd had to sit on them as eggs for twenty-three and a half hours a day, they would never have been born.

I think what would get to me after the hunger and the thirst would be the boredom. Just think—sitting in one spot for days, for weeks without a book, a radio, a telephone. Wouldn't you go nuts?

And yet we hold those who can sit for hours at a time without entertainment in high esteem. Maybe our little bird should be hailed as the equal of a Buddhist monk.

"Ha!" our little bird would scoff, "a seven day meditation retreat? Mere child's play. Try this: two weeks sitting on rocks outdoors in frigid weather."

I don't know where her husband is, but I can't help thinking that he could be doing more for her. He could stay close by and sing to her. He could bring her something nice to eat, a glass of water, maybe a pillow and a blanket. How about a movie? The full Hobbit trilogy, the extended version of Wagner's Ring Cycle?

I wonder if he takes his turn sitting on the eggs.

Nah.

I imagine her at sixty-second birthing classes with all the other mother-birds-to-be. They'd gather in a tree and commiserate about the boredom, the swelling in their legs, the chill of the nights. They'd swear off ever having another brood and immediately flit back to their nests to sit on the darn eggs before they get too cold.

I wonder how many of the other bird mothers in her group are nesting on doors.

That she selected a wreath on a door suggests that there is an acute bird-housing shortage in the Twin Cities.

Tennis courts at Kenwood Park will be temporarily closed for resurfacing beginning May 15. The work is expected to take about three weeks, given favorable weather conditions. Every effort will be made to complete the work in a timely manner without compromising the quality of the work. Signs informing the public of the court closure will be posted. Park visitors are asked to heed the signage and stay clear of the court areas during the resurfacing.

## Letter to the Editor

I live in an apartment on Colfax Ave South, behind and up the street from Rye. I read the article in the Star Tribune about a new restaurant, Burch, taking the place of Burch Pharmacy. I welcome this new business in that large vacant space, however as a resident I am concerned about where visiting customers will park. That building has no parking lot. Rye has its own side lot and The Lowry down Hennepin has a big lot too. This seems like a rather large restaurant and I can't even think of an open lot nearby that could be used for parking even valet parking other than The Belmont Apartment's lot or more at the Scottish Rite. I enjoy walking and riding my bike as much as I can around Minneapolis however I pay for my own assigned off street parking spot to avoid the hassle of finding a spot and my own visitors often have a hard time finding places to park, but I'm worried this restaurant is going to make the parking situation in our neighborhood even more of a situation.

Kate Beesch, Lowry Hill

Kenwood School from page 7

upper grades, meaning that the full kindergarten classes are translating into very full fourth and fifth grade classrooms. As a result, Principal Martin announced this winter that the Minneapolis School District has already approved the addition of a fourth grade teacher for next year. Historically, the building has had three "K" through third grade classrooms, then dropped down to two fourth and two fifth grade classrooms. This was due largely to allowable ratios being higher in the fourth and fifth grades and attrition due to student mobility.

Kenwood Site Council Parent Chair and East Isles resident Alyssa Polack said, "High enrollment in the upper grades reflects the positive experience our families are having at Kenwood Elementary School. We are pleased that the District has recognized our need for lower classroom ratios in the fourth grade."

Principal Martin said, "We have talked to the District each year for several years about adding a teacher for the transition from third grade to fourth and I am very pleased that they have committed so early in the planning timeline for next year. A committee is already interviewing candidates and I am confident that we will find a great fit for our wonderful neighborhood school."

This Saturday, May 19, is Kenwood's annual Carnival. The fun is scheduled from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Come on by for some games, food, prizes, and fun. Food and game tickets can be purchased at the event for 50 cents each. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the event for \$1 each. Cash, check, and credit cards will be accepted. There will be almost 30 raffle prize packages awarded this year. Also, there will be a variety of plants for sale at the Carnival. Plant sales support the scholarship fund for the annual fifth grade trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.

## UPTOWN ART FAIR LOOKS FOR YOUTH ART STARS

The Uptown Art Fair is looking for the great artists of the next generation to feature in the 2012 "Tomorrow's Stars Youth Art Fair" presented by U.S. Bank FlexPerks. Tomorrow's Stars is part of the Uptown Art Fair that showcases a diverse group of promising young artists between the ages of 8 and 18. Works include everything from sculptures and paintings to photography and jewelry. Entries are due June 22. Entry details and forms can be found at <http://uptownartfair.com>. There is a \$20 fee for each application.

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## sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

You did what? You'll probably get someone fired or gum up a machine!!!

JoAnne Cook

Ethics make my head hurt. I read the horror stories about Foxconn, the Chinese conglomerate that manufactures and assembles Apple products. Their management style would need to improve greatly to become merely draconian. Corporate response to disenchanted workers subjected to mind-numbing routinized labor and claustrophobic dormitory living has been to thwart further suicides by installing more suicide nets! (The flogging will continue until morale improves.) Still I am writing this on my Apple computer, which I prize nearly as much as my iPad (see HLP 10/11) and my iPod, rationalizing that China is another culture, and very far away.

Ohio and Pennsylvania are not that far away. Mac McClellan, writing in the March-April issue of *Mother Jones*, and Spencer Soper in *The Morning Call*, an Allentown (PA) newspaper, chronicle the working conditions at online retail facilities. Before you stop reading, shake your head at the nonsense that passes itself off as community news, harrumph loudly, and turn to the real estate ads, give me just a few paragraphs.

Amazon began shipping books in 1994. Expanding to a limitless array of products and riding the wave of the Internet, the company has become the 21st century rebuttal to the quaint notion of shopping by driving, finding parking, dealing with surly, barely conscious, retail clerks in a too air-conditioned, insipid music-blasting, brick and mortar retail store that is out of what you need despite calling ahead to make sure they have it. Amazon stock (which I neglected to buy) has grown eight fold, and the company made \$34,000,000,000 in 2010. With 33,700 employees and free shipping, what's not to like?

As it turns out, quite a lot. I never really questioned how a point and click brought anything I wanted to my front door so quickly and tax free. Amazon is the biggest, but almost all online retailers ship from vast warehouses, with several companies often sharing space. Located in rural areas on vast tracts of land with tax incentives, near rail lines and major highways, they are often the only game in town for employment. Ma and Pa stores, Woolworth's, and a recognizable downtown are long gone, driven out in part by low Internet prices. This is the future going for-

ward, fast, cheap, and barely in control. I do not believe many of us connected the dots between a displaced, desperate workforce and an Internet industry that is not yet twenty years old.

Mac McClellan is a 31 year old journalist, who went "underground" like Barbara Ehrenreich in *Nickle and Dimed in America*. The *Secret Hell of Online Shopping* chronicles her employment at a vast online warehouse, probably in Ohio. She describes the workplace as cavernous and silent despite the thousands of people filling orders or standing at conveyor belts. Temperatures range seasonally from 60 to over 95 degrees. Ten hour days are standard, longer near the holidays. Most employees are pickers or packers. As a picker she walked 12-15 miles per day on concrete. Armed with a scanner and an impossibly high quota of orders to fill, she and thousands more were continually "counseled," prodded, and demeaned by supervisors to work harder, faster, and error-free to please the customer. Failure is met with demerits which are also accrued by being even seconds late returning from one of the two 15 minute daily breaks, perhaps because the bathroom line was too long.

The pace is intense and workers are disposable, fired at will because there are 15 people in line for every job. Conversation is not forbidden, but there is simply no time. It is a joyless Orwellian world with everyone being watched and every second needing to be accounted for. McClellan writes poignantly about the "workcampers," people who drive RV's around the country from temporary job to temporary job, docking in trailer camps. Many are retired couples not able to make it on their savings.

What I did not realize is that Amazon, Netflix, Staples, Office Depot, and the other giant companies do not commonly employ entry level warehouse workers directly. They contract with a 3PL or third party logistics staffing agency. One of the biggest is Integrity Staffing Solutions (ISS). A 3PL sounds benign, but the competition between "temp agencies" for multimillion dollar contracts is brutal. This filters down to the employees. Just enough workers are hired at the lowest wage allowable (between 8 and 11 dollars an hour). Asked to perform at maximum efficiency like robots, human problems like sick kids and car trouble are not factored into the equation. Workers are barely able keep up with the ever-increasing demand. This is how

companies are able to slash prices and deliver products super fast and offer free shipping and still post profits in the billions. It comes at the expense of employees pushed to their breaking point. McClellan asks if the workplace has to be this bleak and stressful to make a profit.

The 3PLs play the bad cop, the heavy, the wicked step-mother, shielding Amazon and other household names from lawsuits and negative publicity about their labor practices. The retailer retains plausible deniability, avoids paying benefits, and discourages unions, as the workers are only temps, no matter how many years they are employed. A carrot held out to new hires is the promise of a full-time job with the parent company. Most are either fired or quit before that happens. There is no regulation or licensure of these contracted companies. If the first step toward change is public awareness, then the second is accountability from the online retailer and their responsibility for the policies of their 3PL.

Would you pay more for a free range chicken, or grapes picked by a union-protected field worker? Scrolling the various Internet sites for the lowest price is just modern shopping. How about paying a little more to ensure the picker and shipper in charge of your order are treated in a humane manner, given occasional time off and healthcare benefits? Perhaps you would say it is the responsibility of Jeffrey Bezos, founder of Amazon and #30 on the world's wealthiest list at 18.1 billion.

A desperately unhappy person in China may have assembled my computer. A seven year old in Malaysia likely stitched my sneakers, and a pregnant woman in Allentown, Pennsylvania who cannot afford to be on bed rest shipped them to me. How am I supposed to feel? Someday, the robots will take over. For now many workers eek out a living in warehouses that bear little resemblance to the places you and I may have worked to get money for college decades ago.

I am hoping that someone younger and smarter will blog, tweet, or twitter about the conditions and hardships of warehouse workers today. I'll provide the slogan, There is no such thing as free shipping!

**Tom H. Cook lacks the energy to lead a boycott. He is such a bleeding heart, he enclosed a dollar bill in his red Netflix envelope. That is why JoAnne was so alarmed.**

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