



'Where the biggies leave off...'

Hill & Lake Press

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DECEMBER 13, 2013

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Hill and Lake Press
The Beauty of the Neighborhood



Photo by Dorothy Childers



Photo by Dorothy Childers



Photo by Dorothy Childers



Photo by Dorothy Childers



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Barbara and Jimmy Fogel by Peavey Fountain

FRIENDS OF THOMAS LOWRY PARK

By The Board of Friends of Thomas Lowry Park

Normally this article announces good or bad news relating to Thomas Lowry Park. Regrettably, this space has only sad news. On Friday, November 29, 2013 Barbara Fogel died. Since January, 2013 she has been fighting a valiant fight against cancer. Many of us have shared that battle with her and Jimmy. We all marveled at Barb's good spirits, her lack of complaints, her fortitude, and determination to beat this awful disease. The loss of Barb is not just a personal loss to Suzanne Payne, Jeanne Scheiderer,

Thomas Lowry Park News to page 5

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Later with Lisa

Join Lisa, Patrick, and Ruth from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on Monday, December 16 at The Normandy Inn. Meet special guests Council Members Elect Abdi Warsame and Jacob Frey. Hors D'oeuvres and parking are complementary. Visit with your Ward 7 neighbors. Cash bar. The Normandy is located at 405 South Eighth Street in Downtown Minneapolis. Please RSVP to 612-673-2207. RSVPs appreciated, but not a must.

Lunch with Lisa will return again in 2014.

The Bakken Museum's Free Second Saturday

December 14th: Art & Science! This day will also serve as the exhibition opening for the "Working with the Collection" MCAD class, showing off brand new works inspired by Bakken Artifacts.

Public Open House on Kenwood Park Building Improvements

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) seeks community participation in planning for improvements to Kenwood Park Community Center building. Please join the conversation at an upcoming open house to discuss potential improvements and to share your ideas.

The plans are to make some basic structural improvements to the Kenwood Community Center building. These will primarily be ADA accessibility improvements to the bathrooms and some structural/site work for accessibility. These improvements would not occur until mid-to-late next year.

Public Open House #1 – discussion of needs and opportunities

December 17, 2013

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kenwood Community Center, Craft Room
2101 Franklin Ave. W, Minneapolis, MN

A second open house will be held in January, 2014 to present draft designs for public review and comment. A day and time for that meeting will be determined at a later date.

For more information, visit the project webpage: www.minneapolisparkevents.org, and click on "Current Projects" then "Kenwood Park Building Improvements". While there, you can also sign up for email announcements by clicking on the red envelope icon.

Construction of site improvements at Brownie is largely complete!

The pedestrian bridge over the channel will be set in place in February after the Twin Cities Loppet. Stay tuned for news of the ribbon cutting ceremony next spring.

The Brownie Lake webpage has been updated.

Winter Solstice Celebration

First Unitarian Society

900 Mount Curve Avenue, Minneapolis
December 20 & 21, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Midwinter Revels Program!

Join us for an intergenerational
humanist celebration of the season
including music and poetry,
a Mummies' Play, folk dancing
and a Yule Fire Ring.

For information, or to check availability
of dinner tickets at 6:00 p.m., email
seasonalcelebrations@firstunitarian.org
or call 612-377-6608

Don't Miss The Annual Ice Skating Party!

Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Lake of the Isles Ice Rink & Warming Hut
Enjoy Skating with your Neighbors and Family.
Sponsored by East Isles, Lowry Hill, & Kenwood
Isles Neighborhood Associations 2014
Get Warm by a Blazing Fire. Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat
Cookies. Have Winter Fun!

Barbara Franklin Audubon Society 763-657-1907 bbfrankli@gmail.com Jan. 10, 2014 1 p.m.

Greg Hoch, DNR Biologist, will speak on "Searching for Sky Dancers." See his recent article "Night Flight of the Woodcock" in the March/April 2013 Conservation Volunteer. The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join us for the program and refreshments! For more information call 952-926-4205.

Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

www.clubrunner.ca/mplsuptownrotary
Uptown Rotary meets at the Minikahda Country
Club 7:30 to 8:30 am on Thursdays
3205 Excelsior Blvd, Mpls MN 55416

Winter Adventure Camps at Theodore Wirth Park 2013-14'

Who: 6 -12 year olds
When: Dec 26-27th from 9am-12pm ID#36539
Jan 2nd-3rd from 9am-12pm ID#36540
Resident: \$24.00
Non-resident: \$36.00

Where: Theodore Wirth Pavilion

Spend your winter break in extreme action! Build snow forts, find hidden treasure by compass, go sledding and snowshoeing, track animals in the snow and more! No snow? Don't worry. Our naturalists will still provide fun alternative activities. Be prepared for outdoor winter adventures and dress appropriately.

Winter Solstice Family Celebration Artrageous Adventures Kenwood Saturday, December 21st 3:00-4:30pm

Bring the whole family and celebrate together with a solstice storytelling, snowflake craft, cocoa & cookies and a winter sing a long. \$5 per person

Edible Snowman Making Family Workshop Saturday, January 11th & Sunday, January 12th 1-2pm

Enjoy the winter season and have some family fun as we create an edible snowman family while sipping on hot cocoa and making up our own tale of a snowman. \$10 per child, adults free.

In memory of Dr. Melanie Freeman, the Kenwood Pet Clinic is once again a Toys for Tots drop-off location. This will be our 15th year participating in this valuable program. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped gift to our clinic to be given to a needy child. Again, this year we are asking you to consider toys for teenagers - make-up, arts and craft items, diaries, action figures and sporting items make great gifts for teens.

Toys may be dropped off NOW through December 20th at 5:30pm

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EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY,
7:30 PM.
RSVP 612-926-6826

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

DEC. 14 BAKKEN MUSEUM FREE 2ND SATURDAY
DEC. 16, 4:30-6:30 LATER WITH LISA, NORMANDY
DEC. 17 KENWOOD PARK MTG 6:30-8:00PM
DEC. 20, 7:30 LESSONS & CAROLS, ST. MARK'S
DEC. 21, 3-4PM WINTER SOLSTICE KENWOOD
DEC. 22, 5PM LESSONS & CAROLS, ST. MARK'S
JAN. 11 & 12, 1-2PM SNOWMAN WORKSHOP
JAN. 26, 1-3PM ICE SKATING PARTY

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

DECEMBER 2013

CARPENTRY. Windows, doors. Siding. Fences, decks, finish carpentry. Drywall, plaster repair, taping. Local refs, free ests. Tom 612-824-1554.

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.

Share your thoughts on the plan for Urban Agriculture activities in the parks! Draft plan available through December 31, 2013

As a reminder, the Park Board would appreciate hearing your feedback on a draft version of the Urban Agriculture activity plan. After reviewing the draft plan, you may respond to a survey or provide general comments online. Print copies of the draft plan are available in recreation centers.

Please refer to the MPRB project webpage for updated information and more opportunities to participate!

The draft plan was developed through a community engagement process and reflects resident preferences related to policy, facility, program, and service improvements to better support urban agriculture activities within the park system. After reviewing your feedback and making plan revisions, a final plan will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at a public hearing in early 2014.

Minneapolis Parks Moves Forward with Seven Solar Energy Projects

On Wednesday, December 4, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) of Commissioners passed a resolution that identified seven MPRB sustainable solar energy projects to be completed by 2015 through an Xcel Energy solar grant of more than \$969,000.

The grant from Xcel's Renewable Development Fund (RDF) will be joined with a \$100,000 MPRB match from the Sustainability Fund and \$50,000 of in-kind (staff time) match.

"We are thrilled that these solar projects will lower our carbon emissions and reduce our costs," said MPRB President John Erwin. "I want to thank Xcel Energy for its community leadership and generous grant program, which is enabling the Park Board to continue moving forward with our sustainability initiatives into the future."

Through a competitive selection process, the MPRB was one of only 20 projects out of 67 applications to receive funding. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will approve the slate of Xcel recommendations in December.

The MPRB proposal is for one 150 kW roof-mounted solar array on the Parade Ice Garden rooftop as the major installation. Smaller, unique demonstration projects will be occur at the Jim Lupient Water Park, Webber Park, East Phillips Park, Lake Calhoun refectory area, Lake Nokomis main beach, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park with Powderhorn Park and Columbia Golf Course as alternate sites.

Installations are expected to be completed by 2015.

Meet your Neighbor Ethan Fawley

Craig Wilson interviews urban planner Ethan Fawley, the Executive Director of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, about sound transportation planning and a future Minneapolis friendly to all bicyclists. If you are interested in learning more about or donating to the work of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, please visit <http://mplsbike.org/join-donate/> or send a check to 1428 Washington Avenue #204, Minneapolis, MN 55454.

What is an urban planner? A good urban planner helps support a great place to live, work, and play, now and in the future. That includes things like engaging neighbors on current and future transportation and development opportunities, reviewing development proposals to ensure they are well designed, helping support new transportation links, and protecting historic buildings.

What was your role at Fresh Energy? Fresh Energy is a non-profit that advances smart clean energy and transportation policy with a focus here in Minnesota. For five years, I worked at Fresh Energy to make our transportation system more clean, efficient, and fair. That meant mostly supporting more transit, walking, biking, and electric vehicles—things that reduce our dependence on costly oil while improving access, the economy, and quality of life. I worked with state legislators—Senator Scott Dibble and Representative Frank Hornstein do amazing work on transportation as you know—and many partners to support new funding for transit, biking, and walking and also new policies like Complete Streets to help make our streets safer for everyone regardless of how they get around. This past session we got close to passing an important new transportation-funding bill, which I hope will get done soon.

What is your new role at the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition? I really love Minneapolis and want to do what I can to help make it even better. So, I'm very honored to be the Executive Director of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition since August. I'm the first employee of the Bicycle Coalition (we now have a couple others as well), so



Ethan and Lesley with bikes

it's been a blast moving from an all-volunteer run organization to a group that has an office and can engage even more volunteers and partners.

How did the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition get started and what is its mission? The Bicycle Coalition works for a Minneapolis where bicycling is encouraged and everyone feels comfortable riding. The Coalition was formed in late 2009 by a group of Minneapolitans who felt that we could be doing more for biking if more residents and businesses were connected and engaged around streets. We work to support new and improved bike routes, host events like Open Streets Minneapolis, and do other things to support a more bicycle-friendly city.

What's needed to improve bicycling in Minneapolis? I think the biggest thing is better bike routes to destinations. We consistently hear from people

that they love our trail network, but do not feel comfortable riding their bike to the store, school, or work on most streets. We are part of an effort called Bikeways for Everyone (www.bikewaysforeveryone.org) that is working to connect our trail network to destinations through new protected bike lanes and greenways. Protected bike lanes are the next evolution of painted bike lanes and add some kind of physical barrier (like a curb or parked cars) between where people drive and where people bike. The bike path along Hennepin/Lyndale corridor across from the Walker is the closest example to a protected bike lane in the Hill-Lake area. This way everyone from kids to grandparents can ride on streets safely and comfortably. Bikeways for Everyone is working to see at least 30 new miles of protected bikeways built in Minneapolis by 2020. Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis are both updating their bike lanes, so look for opportunities to offer your ideas for where you'd like to see new bike routes in your neighborhood. But it isn't just new and improved bike routes, we know we need to do more to educate people driving and walking to pay attention, watch for each other, and ride predictably.

How is life now that your family is car-free? My wife, Lesley, and I did sell our car recently. It got to the point where we weren't driving much and had to think about and pay for repairs quite a bit. The decision to sell was purely a convenience and economic one. I honestly haven't noticed the change much at all. We've rented a car once and have used Hour Car twice in the few months since we sold our car. It's easy for both of us to bike to work and we shop locally. Probably the best part is having a new car when we do drive so we don't have to worry about repairs.

You and your wife travel the world looking for precedents of good urban and transportation design? We have been very fortunate to see many great places. Really we travel for fun and experiences, but being a little bit of a city nerd, I certainly do scope things out. Honestly,

Neighbor to page 9



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1223 Mount Curve includes an upper level condo with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and an updated kitchen. \$449,000.

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Josh Zuehlke

Michael Wille

Marcy Libby

Seven Days in Cuba, November 2013

By Holly Lewis

In early November, a small group of Kenwood and former Kenwood residents travelled to Cuba for a week. We were led by our son, Sage Lewis, born and bred in HLP-land and now an authorized visa-issuer and professional guide to this brilliant island. There were sixteen in our group, including Warren and Linda Mack, Janet Triplett, and Becky and Paul Hilstad – all former HLP staffers from the early days of the rag.

Reflecting on the trip, I keep going back to the idea that Cuba is closer to the U.S. than we in Minneapolis are to Duluth. Duluth is somewhat different from Minneapolis in that it is smaller, set on hills, and overlooks Lake Superior, but Cuba is as different from the U.S. as a sleek Lexus is from a 1952 Ford with the crankcase falling out. To think that this throbbing, hot, colorful, musical country, with such a rich Caribbean history and a complicated controlled economy, is just a 50-minute airplane ride away from our shores is breath-taking and almost surreal.

We went on a “People-to-People” license, now quite available following the relaxation of restrictions by the Obama administration. No longer do you need to pack a bag full of bandages and cough syrup to justify a “Humanitarian” visa. The point of People-to-People is to let the Cuban and American people get to know each other better by our connecting with some “real” Cubans – artists and potters, religious leaders, musicians, arborists, architects, restaurateurs and entrepreneurs – and others involved in the tourist industry – museum and tour bus guides. Under this all-purpose visa, there are only three things you can’t do: 1) talk to high level officials; 2) spend so much as a moment on the beach; and 3) salsa dance. In a long ride on a slow elevator in our hotel, I chatted with a British couple heading for the world-renowned Veradero Beaches for 10 days. They considered it odd that we could not go even for a half hour. These are American rules – not Cuban.

There is a little more fol-de-rol than the usual security at the airport in Miami, but we were met by a representative of the agency in Los Angeles which booked our trip, and he told us which line to stand in, where to sign, and whom to pay. Some people wrapped their luggage in clear polyethylene to prevent pilfering, making their bags look



A paradise for lovers of old American convertibles.

like jellyfish cocoons to be released into the ocean. After the 50-minute ride over an ocean brilliantly colored by scattered shoals and various sea depths, we arrived at Jose Marti International Airport and stepped into an incredible week.

Tour organizers and guides, to fulfill their responsibilities under the visa, set up an action-packed agenda. No sooner had we dropped our bags in attractive rooms at the Hotel Telegrafo in the center of Havana than we were out with our Cuban guide Viviana on the Paseo del Prado, a long pedestrian boulevard connecting us with the Malecon, or seafront drive along Havana’s shore. In the next block is the capitolio building, now an academy and museum, modeled on our own bi-cameral capitol building in Washington. Next to it stands the Beaux Arts equivalent to Carnegie Hall, currently being renovated, as are many – but not enough – old buildings in Cuba. Old American cars, repainted in flashy primary colors, clogged the streets among long camellos – the double-humped double-decker buses – Russian Ladas, and late model



Photos by Holly Lewis

Many forms of transportation are available.

Toyotas, all belching diesel fumes and blowing their horns. Before dinner we refreshed ourselves in the streetside colonnaded terrace outside our hotel with the first of legion rounds of mojitos, daiquiris, pina coladas, and ron Collinses.

Meals in Havana, and later in the week in Trinidad, a 500-year-old seaside colonial town, ranged from dismal to darn good. State-run hotels offer ho-hum selections of tough meats and limp vegetables, but you can find very tasty dishes in the paladares – privately-run restaurants, authorized in 1994 – where greater care is taken to satisfy the more sophisticated taste of international visitors and to make better use of local fresh vegetables and fish. Our first night, after a long walk through dark streets, we entered a paladar in a private house where we ate at a long table in the bedroom, stripped of its bedroom furniture but replaced by a floor to ceiling religious shrine of some sort. The menu was ambitious, even though some things turned out not to be available, and the food was quite good and beautifully served.

At every meal, including breakfast, and on every corner, musicians in pairs, trios, or quartets sing and play the indigenous son music, with occasional salsa and rhumba pieces thrown in. Those singers and guitarists might actually be doctors or engineers, because you can make more as a musician selling CDs and earning tips than you can as a state-paid professional. Whatever their provenance, the musicians are uniformly excellent. Cuba is a society which appears to recognize talent and nourish it by providing as much schooling/training as a person cares to take on. Then when you finish, if you can’t find a job that will support you, you can go back to school and become someone else.

Our evenings were busy with jazz clubs, open-air dance venues, cabarets – including the famous and still spectacular Tropicana – and the National Ballet, where we sat in \$10 seats as tourists, but were surrounded by Cubans who got in for 5 cents. The performance was of various scenes and interpretations of Giselle, using recorded music rather than a live orchestra. We were stunned by the skill and beauty of these top-flight Cuban dancers and the elaborate stage sets that brought the story to life. Our American impulse was to jump to our feet and whistle and scream at the conclusion, but the Cuban reaction was strangely tepid, so we behaved ourselves. The best dance, music, and theatre companies are allowed to leave the country and tour the world. Cuba understandably wants to show them off. However, the word we got was that many defect once they are on tour. This, however, allows dancers from the lower ranks to rise more frequently than, say, in the United States, so opportunities percolate more quickly for all artists.

We tired as the week went on, but we were intrepid, as one amazing scene after another was revealed to us. I asked one friend who often selects group travel whether she was used to going at this pace. She said she had never been on a tour where you didn’t get a break every two hours. At one point I said to our guide, who had just outlined the next three things we would be doing, “You’re going to kill us!” He quipped right back, “That’s my job!” But it was, at the end of the day, our curiosity which drove us, and it was always possible to pass up an activity or two.

Cuba to page 6



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Thomas Lowry Park from page one



Barbara Fogel

Kathy Gaskins, myself, former Board members Dr. Eric Schned and Sara Peterman and our respective spouses. The loss will also fall heavily on Thomas Lowry Park, Lowry Hill, Kenwood, LHNA, and Minneapolis itself. Barb was an activist. Ever since her move to Lowry Hill she took a special interest in the Park. Barb would help plant, prune, weed, and trim gardens, shrubs, hedges, and trees within the Park. She would pick up trash. She was one of the incorporators of Friends. She made substantial annual donations to Friends for Park upkeep and maintenance. She was a member of LHNA and would attend its monthly meetings. Barb was active in ensuring the LHNA Ice Cream Social had ice cream, root beer, chairs, tables, and dog treats. She would provide her thoughts and opinions to Council Member Goodman and Park Board Commissioner Tabb. Lisa noted that Barb's opinions and hard work were much appreciated. Anita said Barb's enthusiasm and sense of style were infectious. Both have related that Barb's contributions and involvement in the community have made a difference. Barb was also cheerful, had a great sense of humor, was energetic, and kind. She was an ever present volunteer. Minneapolis has lost a good citizen. We have lost a dear friend. Barb can again walk with Jake in the heavenly gardens.

Our condolences to Jimmy, Barb and Jimmy's children and grandchildren, Barb's mother, Tom and Jerry, and all other family of Barb.

THE URBAN COYOTE

HOLIDAY RAMBLINGS

by James P. Lenfestey

I begin this holiday rambling while holiday rambling around the state capitol grounds in Sacramento, California, home of competent Democratic Party leadership, a budget righted into surplus, the state recently compacted with Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia into the fifth largest economy on earth to tax carbon emissions into ancient history. The temperature is pleasant, about sixty (sorry to report), the "city of trees" well tended, the depressed downtown core on the eve of economic resurrection. Iridescent California poppies bloom along the border of the capitol building, their blossoms hounded by honeybees. Could there be a beehive on the capitol roof? That would be a sweet thing.

Outside of Sacramento the landscape tells a different story. Flying in, we looked down upon a swath of bare-armed almond orchards surrounded by a sere desert of stubble later identified as fallow rice paddies. As large as Southwestern Minnesota cornfields, irrigated by the abundant snowpack of the Sierras, these miles of paddies are a happy sight if you are a consumer of rice, including a huge export volume to Asia, but a food desert if you are a bee.

We came to Sacramento to spend Thanksgiving with our newest family, one brought to us by our second son's marriage into a Sacramento family.

Giving thanks is what Thanksgiving is about, and I'm happy to report that California families do so with familiar Midwestern abandon. We sacrificed two Minnesota turkeys, expertly carved by our son, plus a tribe of sweet potatoes, a clatter of stuffing, mushrooms from Washington forests over vegetarian ravioli, cranberries from Wisconsin bogs, sweet corn from Iowa, mashed Idaho potatoes, homemade gravy. We held hands, bowed heads, and gave thanks for our mingled families and for the abundance harvested around us.

Friends of TLP, and others who have contacted us, want to place a memorial in the Park to recognize and honor Barb. If any of you in the community would like to join in the memorial, send your contributions to Barry Lazarus, 1716 Colfax Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55403. Please make checks payable to "Friends of Thomas Lowry Park" and note the contribution is for the memorial. Thank you to all who participate.

Our new family reenacted a Thanksgiving tradition new to us, called "The Creation." A generation ago the grandmother, a working mother then, was hosting friends for Thanksgiving she knew to be wonderful cooks. What could she possibly contribute? She filled a large Jell-O mold in the shape of a Cornucopia with various fruits and Jell-O. When the guests arrived, she took it out of the freezer and turned it onto a platter. But it wasn't fully frozen and it oozed over the platter like a dragon. "What is it?" the guests wondered. "It's... 'A Creation!'" she answered.

That surprising volcanic emergence from a cornucopia a generation ago is now a revered story told over and over by the family with tears of laughter in their eyes. "Who brought 'The Creation' this year, they all ask with eager anticipation, and a new glory appears on the table from a Jell-O mold.

Our newest daughter-in-law - a radiant addition to our family - is gloriously pregnant, about double her normal size, sleek as a sea lion. She waddles solid ground with the familiar rolling gait specific to beached sea lions and females of our species with only a few weeks left before birth. However did creatures born in the buoyancy of the ocean trap ourselves by "evolution" into bearing our young in the unfriendly grip of land?

The rest of us can only kneel before her in astonishment. A new child hurls toward us from the depths of our deepest mystery, "trailing clouds of glory," as the poet said, to arrive on the third planet from the sun, a Garden of Eden fed by the symbiotic energies of sun, soil, water, and bees.

This is our most pregnant of seasons, as the midwinter sun, nearly cold as starlight now, will soon enough reliably peek over the horizon and climb higher in the sky toward the resurrection of spring, the birthing season, and we anticipate again a fall harvest of gratitude for family, community, birth, and rebirth.

These late fall/ mid-winter celebrations we call Thanksgiving/Hanukkah/Winter Solstice/ Christmas reenact old and new stories of the surprise at "The Creation" and our remarkable survival within it. The darkest nights glimmer with rambling hope. Then we ramble - or waddle - back home.

Don't Miss The Annual Ice Skating Party

Sunday, January 26, 2014

1:00-3:00 p.m.

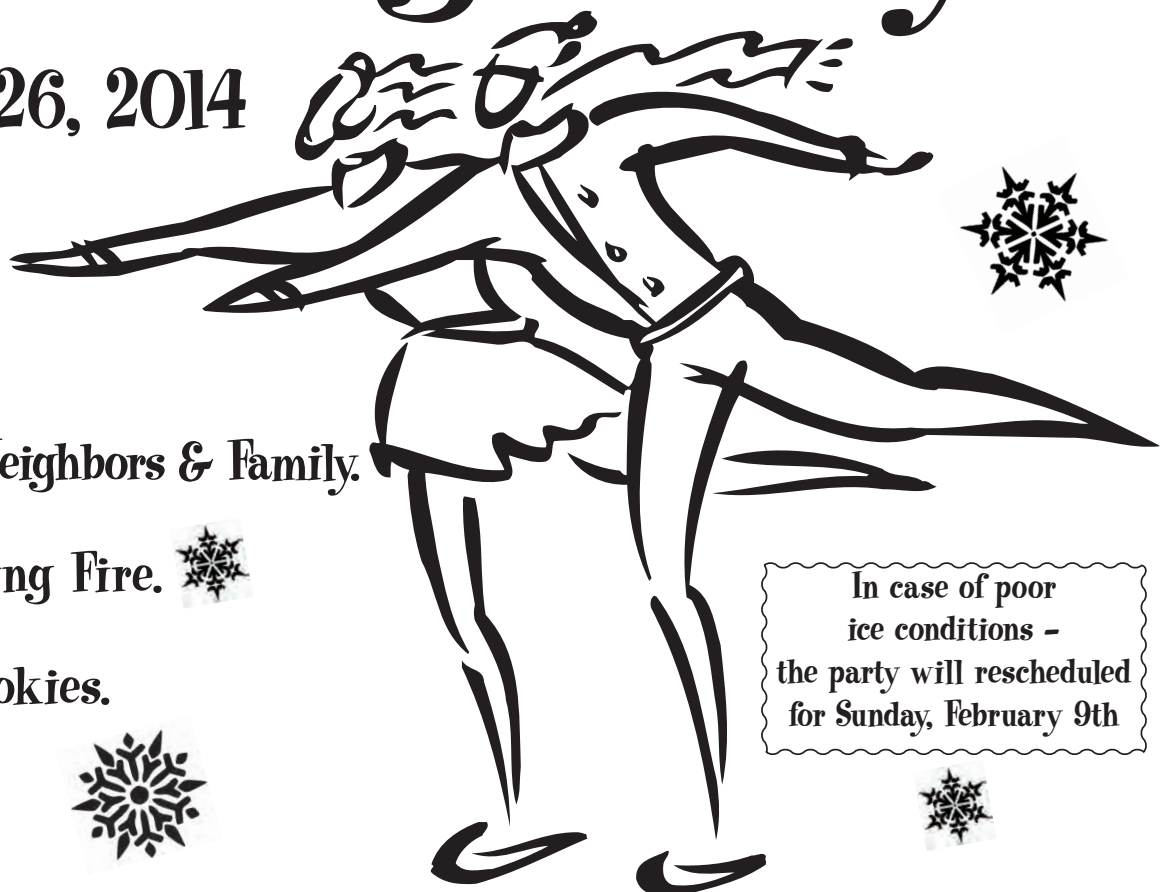
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Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat Cookies.

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In case of poor
ice conditions -
the party will rescheduled
for Sunday, February 9th

Sponsored by East Isles, Lowry Hill & Kenwood Isles Neighborhood Associations 2014

Seven Days in Cuba, November 2013 continued from page four



Warren and Linda Mack in Ernest Hemingway's old fishing town

But who wanted to miss anything?

We visited the first American bookstore in Havana, opened by an ex-patriot American woman who took advantage of the new freedoms granted by Raoul Castro to foster entrepreneurship. She said the hoops and hurdles in setting up her business had not been at all slow or difficult. Her bookstore had primitive wooden shelves, housing a collection of perhaps 100 miscellaneous titles. A public health nurse by training, she also keeps a basket of condoms by the door for anyone who comes in. She said the government provides them free, but they cost the government a penny and a half each and are of poor quality, so the Cubans prefer American condoms. When asked, she gave us an address where we can send her both books and Trojans.

Late in the week we were taken to meet an Afro-Cuban religious interpreter. Dressed in a brown and black pajama-like outfit, with his damp curly hair twisting around the bow of his glasses, he showed us a sacred tree in a park where believers leave offerings for the gods in the deep above-surface roots of the tree. We had believed the plastic bags to be an explosion of litter and were relieved. Following him through hot crowded streets, we entered a narrow passageway between two crumbling old buildings. At the end of this tunnel, we turned left into a dark, windowless, airless room with just two candles burning. There was a shaman there who, we were told, helped people with their personal problems by calling out the souls of ancestors who were living in a cascade of small jars piled up in the corner. We must have been in there ten minutes, sharing what little oxygen there was after the candles took their share, and there was a fetid smell of what seemed to be broccoli. I saw my cousin leave halfway through and wondered if she were feeling faint. When we finally emerged back onto the street, the shaman followed us, and we saw for the first time that he was a youngish man in blue jeans with some beads around his neck.

The next day we visited a Santeria Church dedicated to St. Regla, the black Madonna. While more oxygenated than our previous religious site, it too was heavy with the presence of Afro-American superstition crossed with Catholicism. We had reached the church on the other side



Kenwood/Lowry Hill folks on a Havana joy ride

of Havana harbor on a rusty tin can of a ferry. There was a very deliberate security search before we could step on the improbable vessel, thanks to the attempted hijacking in 2003 which demonstrated that any boat will do in crossing the Florida Straits.

On our last night, our guides said to be in the lobby by 6:30 sharp. When we had all assembled at 6:45 (we were very tired by now), we were ushered out to the street, where four 50's era American convertibles were lined up to take us to our last event. Squealing with delight, we packed in four to a car, and set off through the streets of Havana under starlight and a sliver moon. The drivers interwove as we went along, and we all took pictures of each other with the Malecon in the background, and the drivers continuously honked their klaxons, and Habaneros waved and called to us from the sidewalk. It was kind of like being in a boisterous Caribbean fantasy homecoming parade. Our destination was an artist's studio, where we were served sangria and wandered from room to room while he explained his politically-tinged art, for which he has a thriving international market. Later on we went out to the courtyard behind his studio/house, where we had our final sampling of Cuban food and traded toasts and shared observations on the week just past.

We recollected that there was one night in Trinidad when our group was divided over taking a taxi back to the hotel or walking. The other Kenwood women and I wanted to take the taxi. A man on the street said he could take us, but there was no taxi nearby because they weren't allowed in the central part of the town. The three of us followed him through twisted dark streets but got kind of spread out because we had different abilities in navigating the cobblestone street (rock ballast from 16th century ships). It was about 11:30 at night in a small town somewhere on the south coast of Cuba. For a fleeting moment, I thought to myself, "What was I thinking? I wouldn't do this in Minneapolis!" But we got to the taxi, and other than being afraid the clutch would go out on the hill up to the hotel, it was all as uneventful as sipping a mojito and watching the sunset.

The point is, throughout the whole week, we always felt safe. We never tried to hide our American-ness. We

saw other Americans everywhere, along with British, Canadians, other Spanish-speakers, and some Germans. Large, comfortable, air-conditioned tour buses made in China were everywhere. From Viviana, our extremely articulate and informed 28-year-old tour guide, we got frank answers to all our questions about the political situation, the economy, the people, and their attitudes. Despite being tri-lingual in Spanish, French, and English, she has never left her country, even once. She does very well financially as an official tour guide, and is putting her money away for a beautiful wedding.

Cubans are waiting for two things to happen: 1) the death of the Castros; and 2) the embargo to be lifted. One or both occurrences will thoroughly change life as they have lived it for 50+ years. They don't know if it will be better or worse or when it will happen, but it will be relatively soon and they know it. They are a remarkably patient people it seems – clever, smart, given to arguing passionately about baseball. But the other shoe is about to drop and no one can predict what will happen then, and they don't even seem to be sure what to wish for.

The Cubans were warm and friendly with us, generous with their smiles and their good wishes. They greeted each other warmly on the street. Evidence of a once-stunning city is there, but it is crumbling and laced with tangles of exterior wiring to light up their very simple, bare-floored apartments. This is their life for now – adequate. In an article from last summer's Time Magazine that we kept passing among ourselves during the week, this local joke was recorded: "We've found solutions for three big problems – free health care, free education, and, lately, free enterprise. Now we just have to find breakfast, lunch, and dinner."

I bought a thick pea-green pitcher at a potter's studio and got it home safely. I filled it with water and put some flowers in it. There's no crack in it, but it leaks and I must put a plate under it to save the tabletop. It struck me that the pitcher is like Cuba itself. It's of a single piece, but it is weeping.

Seven Days in Cuba concludes on page 11

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CIDNA Sponsors Annual Art Mart



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association sponsored their first Annual Art Mart, successfully organized by resident Claire Ruebeck. The venue was held at Jones-Harrison Residence, who generously donated space to accommodate the creative tables. Advertised as Support Local Artist and Vendors of All Ages, resident Lexi Dietz (shown here) created jewelry, pins and magnets to sell in her booth. In all, twenty-three vendors brought their wares which included art, bicycling accessories, Guatemalan art and clothing, photography, jewelry, soap, botanical drawings, chocolates, art prints, stained glass art, chain of lakes art prints including maps, and much more. Piano music was provided by resident Aidan Kimberly. Vendors from the event are listed on the CIDNA website: http://www.cidna.org/files/CIDNA_Art_Mart_2013.pdf.

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KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION (KIAA)

By Amy Lucas

December 2013 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met December 2, 2013 at Kenwood Rec Center.

Chair Larry Moran called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Others present: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Jean Deatrck, Kenwood residents: Mark Johnson, Crime and Safety Committee; Jim Gilroy.

7th Ward Update-Lisa Goodman

2014 Proposed Property Tax explanation distributed. Taxes are split between taxing authorities: City of Mpls (43%), Hennepin County (28%), School District (26%), other taxing districts (3%). The Minneapolis portion of the tax bill is broken into the following: Police (20.3%), Parks (17.7%), Capital and debt service (16.8%), general government services (16.5%), Long term liabilities (10.8%), Fire (8.6%), Public Works (5.9%), Libraries (3.3%). For more info visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/TruthinTaxation.

City recently commented on the SWLRT freight relocation and hydrology study, but refused to comment on loss of green space report.

The Met Council has almost completed an Alternatives Analysis of LRT along Midtown Greenway. Jeanette Colby noted that this study includes both an enhanced bus on Lake Street from West Calhoun to Snelling Ave in St. Paul (\$50 million) and rail on the Greenway to Hiawatha (approx. \$200 million). Combined, this 4.5-mile Midtown transit would cost about \$240 million and serve about the same number of riders as the SWLRT.

Separately, the City is delegating funds to a streetcar study for proposed transit along Nicollet Ave. This includes study of removal of Kmart and re-opening the street.

Minneapolis Police Department Update-Mark Johnson, Jean Deatrck

Mark Johnson, Chair of Crime and Safety Committee, and Jean Deatrck met with Chelsea Adams and Luther Krueger of the Mpls Police Dept. to discuss neighborhood crime alerts. The Police Dept has a goal of assigning block leaders to 90% of Kenwood blocks. The Police Dept will provide Mark Johnson with an updated list of block leaders with hopes of getting block leaders established throughout Kenwood.

Mark Johnson will forward the current list of block leaders and KIAA board members will assist Mark to garner more block leader volunteers.

Community Participation Program (CPP)

Application Review-Kathy Low, Mike Bono, Jean Deatrck

KIAA approved the 2014 CPP application for \$11,600 request in funds.

The KIAA 2012 accomplishments were also submitted to the City of Mpls as part of the CPP application.

Per City of Mpls CPP requirements, KIAA authorized the Treasurer to open a new checking account at the Credit Union for Consultant payments and reimbursements. The new account will be consolidated with other reports from the Credit Union and will be transmitted to the Board monthly. For audit purposes, the Chairperson or another board member(s) should have full access to the Board's credit union accounts in addition to the Treasurer.

SWLRT Update-Jeanette Colby

Jeanette attended the "station area planning" workshop this month. The SWLRT station sites have been chosen and the workshop presented infrastructure of stations within a "10-minute walk shed." Access to the proposed Penn Station from the east (Kenwood and Lowry Hill) would be difficult; the design included a path at the intersection of Douglas-Kenwood Parkway though did not propose design solutions for the drastic grade difference. The Met Council has estimated ridership by station, but declines to officially release these numbers and Hennepin County station area planners did not have access to them.

The recent Community Advisory Committee meeting discussed "joint development projects" associated with the SWLRT development. The overall SWLRT budget can include funding for development projects around stations. Stations are divided into three priority tiers of potential development projects. The four stations selected as "Tier One" are Royalston, West Lake, Beltline, and Blake Road. The Van White station was not a joint development priority.

Miscellaneous

Angie Erdrich distributed a fundraising flyer to raise \$4,500 to purchase the Zoran Mojsilov stone sculpture "Mont Blanc." Todd Bockley and Louise Erdrich have already donated \$500 to fund the purchase of the \$7,000 sculpture (artist lowered price to \$5,000). The stone chair sculpture currently sits by the stairs to Stephen Dean's workshop. A successful fundraiser will allow for the chair to be purchased and moved to the Kenwood School corner at Penn and W. 21st St. Contact Angie_sandeep@yahoo.com to make a donation to: Kenwood Elementary School (memo Zoran sculpture).

A new house is being constructed on the vacant lot at 2410 Oliver Ave. N. Per City of Mpls regulations, the property owner sent a notice to KIAA that construction would start in Dec.

The Annual Meeting will be on Monday, May 5 at 7-8 p.m. Angie will investigate venues.

Mayor-Elect Betsy Hodges is "asking for your vision for the future of our neighborhoods and our city" at <http://action.betsyhodges.org/page/s/ideas>.

Updates

If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at KIAA@gmail.com. Also

please visit our website at kenwoodminneapolis.org to learn more.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Reminder: The next Kenwood Isles Area Association Board meeting will be held on January 6 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. KIAA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by KIAA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at kenwoodminneapolis.org or by calling 612-673-6483.

EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

"Due to publication deadlines, the minutes from the December 10th EIRA Board meeting will be published in January issue of the Hill and Lake Press. You can read the complete meeting minutes on our website: www.eastisles.org (minutes will be posted on December 16th)."

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Monica Smith

"Due to publication deadlines, the minutes from the December 11th CIDNA Board meeting will be published in January issue of the Hill and Lake Press. You can read the complete meeting minutes on our website: www.cidna.org (minutes will be posted on December 16th)."

Ice Rinks

Minneapolis park crews are currently preparing to open more than 45 ice rinks for skating, broomball, hockey and pond hockey at 22 parks citywide. Since November, crews have been working hard to prepare rinks and create ice at our rinks, which are scheduled to open Dec. 21, in time for Minneapolis Public School's winter break and the start of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's broomball leagues.

Ice rink establishment is largely affected by conditions of the athletic fields underneath the rink sites and frozen surfaces of the lakes, in addition to daily temperatures and precipitation. Due to recent snowfalls, the progression of ice creation has been slowed slightly.

Weather permitting, all rinks and warming houses will be maintained and open through Feb. 17, with the exception of rinks at Lake of the Isles, Van Cleve Park, McRae Park and Bohanon Park, which are scheduled to remain open through March 2. Also new this year, the skating rinks at Lake of the Isles, Van Cleve Park, McRae Park and Bohanon Park will be lighted until 9 pm.

Once rinks begin to open, rink status information is available by calling the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) ice rink hotline at 612-313-7708, visiting <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/rinks> or signing up to receive email updates. The MPRB welcomes donations of ice skates and hockey sticks in good condition. Call or stop by a local recreation center for donation and drop-off information.

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LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

by Janis Clay

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes Tuesday, December 3, 2013

Present - Board Members: Maureen Sheehan, President; David Weinstein, Vice President; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Phil Hallaway; Tom Huppert; Raj Dash; Sherie Tazelaar.

Present - Guests and staff: Sarah Janacek; Clem Pryke; Nash Meeker; Ian Evans; Lee Rosenthal; Suzanne Shaff; Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator.

President Maureen Sheehan called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Community Announcements. Council Member Goodman will host her annual "Later with Lisa" event on Monday, December 16th at the Normandy Inn in downtown Minneapolis. This an opportunity for constituents to visit with Council Member Goodman during the holiday season. It is snow emergency season. Stay informed via the City's Hotline at (612) 348-SNOW, www.minneapolismn.gov/snow, or through a variety of media sources and apps. A handout was distributed on the proposed 2014 Property Tax. For information, call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/TruthinTaxation.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Raj Dash moved and Tom Huppert seconded approval of tonight's agenda and of the November 12, 2013 minutes. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Aronson reported that there is about \$27,000 in our bank account, the bills are paid, and we have general liability insurance, including director and officer coverage.

Committee Reports:

Environmental: Janis Clay has done some initial research to investigate what the Association could do to aid in the plight of pollinators such as bees, moths, and butterflies, which are increasingly jeopardized by a variety of human practices. The Bee committee, Janis Clay, Sherie Tazelaar and Ann Seltman, has not yet met. Maureen Sheehan reported that tree plantings planned for the Kenwood Park sidewalk will be on the Park Board's spring planting schedule, having been delayed by the storm cleanup. The Park Board is working on an Urban Agricultural Proposal, a draft plan to better support the community's diverse activities and interest in urban agriculture. Comments are due by December 31st. Tom Huppert will review the draft proposal.

Zoning and Planning: David Weinstein reported on a request to rezone 1936 Fremont Ave. S. from R2B Two-Family District to R3 Multiple-Family District, to allow for a third dwelling unit. The City Council Planning and Zoning Committee heard the matter on December 2nd, and recommended approval. The matter still must be heard by the City council. Clem Pryke spoke about a variance he may seek to permit a tree house he has built at 1812 Emerson Ave. S., which the City has determined is a noncompliant structure. Mr. Pryke updated the LHNA on input he has gotten from neighbors, which has been favorable to the tree house.

Crime and Safety: Rebecca Graham discussed the

recent high rate of criminal activity in the neighborhood. She is trying to arrange for our Minneapolis Police Department neighborhood crime prevention specialist Chelsea Adams to attend one of our meetings. Raj Dash has been working on a proposal for installing motion sensitive lighting in the neighborhood and a safety article for the Hill & Lake Press.

Events: Mark Brauer reported that the annual Ice Skating social will be Sunday, January 26, 2014, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Priorities Survey working Group/Community Participation Program: Maureen Sheehan discussed the neighborhood priority survey, which the City requires for LHNA to access Community Participation Program funds. Board members agreed to contact Lowry Hill businesses to seek donations of items for a raffle to encourage people to fill out the survey and send it in. The goal is to have this out during the first quarter of 2014. Another requirement for accessing these funds is adopting an ADA and Equal Employment Opportunity policies. David Weinstein is reviewing draft policies.

New Business: A public open house will take place at the Kenwood Rec Center on December 17, 2013, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., to address planned improvements to the Kenwood Park Building (Rec Center). These are primarily basic structural improvements to improve ADA accessibility. A second open house will be held in January.

The Board noted with great sadness the passing Barbara Fogel and took a moment to appreciate her many wonderful contributions to the neighborhood and to Thomas Lowry Park. She will be greatly missed.

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 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 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Neighbor from page three

it's cities I love like Amsterdam, Seville, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Vienna that have shaped a lot of my thinking around biking (and cities). They build bike routes for everyone not just the hardcore bike riders and it shows. For example, in Seville—which went from basically no biking in 2007 to more biking than Minneapolis today—all sorts of people bike in their everyday street clothes at a comfortable pace. Contrast that with not-very-bike-friendly Madrid where you see very few bicyclists and they are mostly going fast and wearing fancy bike clothes. The biggest difference between the two places is that Seville built a 72-mile network of protected bike lanes in four years. We can do that too! I also have developed a great affinity for walking-only streets, which are in many great

European cities (big and small) and in Boulder, Colorado and Charlottesville, Virginia among other U.S. cities. I would love to stroll with my neighbors on a great walking-only street in Minneapolis!

Has the Coalition formed an opinion on Southwest LRT? As you'd expect, the Bicycle Coalition wants to see as minimal impact to the Kenilworth Trail as possible. It carries more than 3,000 people a day—many for transportation—and certainly is a really beautiful, special place. We also want to see Southwest LRT done as it is an important project for the City and region. We applaud the work of the City to try to find an alternative to co-location. When the dust settles a little more, we'll be working hard to make sure the trail stays in Kenilworth while preserving as much green space as possible. We'll soon adopt a position on the idea of rail in the Midtown Greenway. Personally, I think it makes a lot of sense if it is done in a way that enhances rather than detracts from the trail.

What would an ideal transportation system in Minneapolis look like? Right now we spend way too much time, money, and space on transportation for what we get. For Minneapolis, there needs to be more frequent and faster bus and train service, a network of bikeways for everyone to connect to businesses and schools, and more incentives to not drive for short trips. Parking is a huge cost for our city in money, space, and the beauty of places. If we all drove just a little less, it would make an amazingly profound impact on our health, environment, and quality of life.

How can Hill-Lake residents be supportive of your efforts? The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition depends on volunteers and members. We'd love to have you as either or both. To join as a member, visit <http://mplsbike.org/join-donate/> or just send us a check to 1428 Washington Avenue #204, Minneapolis, MN 55454. To share your volunteer interests (we have all kinds of fun roles!), visit <http://mplsbike.org/volunteer/>. But most of all, next time you are going to a neighborhood business, think about biking or walking there instead of driving. Meet your neighbors, breathe the fresh (cold!) air, and connect with your community in a different way.



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Isles Bun and Coffee	Uptown Cafeteria
Kowalski's Uptown Market	Uptown Diner
Michael Gold Jazz Trio	



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LETTERS

To the Editor:

Re: SWLRT

Thank you for the excellent front page story on 10/18, about SWLRT.

I was not aware that the awful reasoning behind running the trains through the nature preserve where no passengers will ever be served, was motivated by planning to intersect with a regional transit hub behind Target Field that may or may not ever be built at some time in the future.

It is indeed "intuitive" to run the trains through Uptown where passengers can be served. It is far more than "intuitive," and it is simply a matter of common sense. Running the trains through the woods destroys the use of a nature trail for recreation purposes and wastes the LRT as a transportation resource to pick up and drop off passengers. Intuition and common sense help us to reach sound decisions. All we need to do is pay attention to our intuition and common sense and maybe a really good decision to save the nature preserve and use LRT to serve passengers can be implemented. The mayor and city councilperson were on the right path to a sound decision originally. Maybe "intuition" can be revived to save the day and avert disaster.

Paul F. Leutgeb CIDNA

(The above letter was inadvertently omitted from the November issue of Hill and Lake Press.)



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

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Congrats to Lyndale Community Center on Best Business Rain Garden

This past Thursday Lyndale Neighborhood Association was awarded the Best Businesses Rain Garden Award for 2013 from Metro Blooms for the rain garden at the Lyndale Community Center. The garden was the top winner in this category. Metro Blooms volunteers evaluated over 1,500 gardens for this year's awards. A big congratulation to LNA for all of their work and dedication to this beautiful garden!

MPD Launches Tip411

The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) has launched a new, free smart phone app and a new texting service called Tip411. It will allow citizens to provide anonymous tips about crimes in Minneapolis by using their cell phones. Both options provide anonymous two-way interaction between the tipster and the MPD. Citizens can also access MPD Tip411 on the MPD web site and MPD Facebook page.

The MPD Tip411 is not meant to replace our 311 system, it is not intended to be a system to report livability or chronic issues and it is NOT an alternative to calling 911 (in an emergency, call 911). Rather it is a system to anonymously report tips and text back and forth with an investigator on crimes in the city. These are truly anonymous and there is no method of tracking back the source of the tip. Tip411 has been very successful for other police departments across the U.S. I am excited that this tool is being offered to the citizens of Minneapolis as a way to communicate with the MPD and work together to solve and prevent crimes.

Meet with Meg has been CANCELLED for December.

Where we are Now

By Jean Deatrck

As I drive around Lowry Hill or near Thomas Lowry Park these days, I see Barb with Tom and Jerry at every corner, on every street. When I go to the Lowry or to the Kenwood I see her happily ensconced at a table with friends. This is how I remember Barb...always out and about and always with friends. Anita Tabb and I were fortunate to spend happy lunches with Barb over the past year. Her passing is heart-breaking to all who knew her. She was a magnet for people. She drew us in.

Barb and my husband John were friends long before I knew either of them. She was immediately welcoming and embraced me as her friend. When John became ill with cancer, Barb was the first person to help. She sent flowers, cards and loving notes. She brought food And all with Jimmy's help and approval also. And readers may remember that she organized neighborhood participation for our fall cleanup in 2011 when he was too sick to help. Her generosity knew no boundaries. She was exceptional.

I and many of our neighbors were shocked and perplexed when Barb had boundary issues from a non resident temporary neighbor. We knew she was frightened but she remained vigilant and our support for her grew in the face of her determination.

A large crowd gathered at her funeral at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Her friends and family packed the church and we laughed and wept when Rabbi Zimmerman and Father McConnell related anecdotes and history of Barb, Jimmy, and their family.

Barb was a talented decorator. Her home was beautifully done with everything placed perfectly. Barb always dressed fashionably. And it seems so unfair to lose her to cancer when she didn't drink, didn't smoke, and exercised and walked daily.

One of my favorite memories was of when the Fogels, the Tabbs, and many other friends from the neighborhood organized a couple of progressive dinners. The first was three or four years ago. John and I were to host the first course, the Fogels, the main course, and the Tabbs would host dessert. Of course we were all trying to outdo one another. I thought my food and diningroom looked perfect, that is until we got to the Fogels. There was perfection. Jimmy even

grilled baby lamp chops outside on the grill in the snow. There was also a huge snowfall and nowhere to park so we walked from house to house in deep snow. Someone reminded me recently when we were chatting about Barb, that I got stuck in the snow and had to be pulled out by a couple of men before we could continue. A night of great food, laughter, and fun that I will never forget and Barb was key in making it a lovely event.

We all have stories to tell of our wonderful friend, Barb Fogel. She will be missed every day.



Barb Fogel with Tom and Jerry

HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales November 2013											
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YEAR BLT	
1425 W 28th St #215	\$ 115,000	\$ 0	100	\$ 92,000	C	1/1	600	\$ 62,000	\$ 722	1986	
2706 Humboldt N #203	135,000	2,700	47	135,000	C	1/1	686	137,500	2,468	1963	
1770 Bryant S #105	159,000	0	94	147,000	C	1/1	782	95,500	1,281	1968	
3104 W Lake St #110	215,000	0	44	200,000	C	1/1	960	200,000	3,286	2007	
3104 W Lake St #210	229,900	0	91	200,000	C	1/1	957	200,000	3,688	2007	
2950 Dean Pkwy #1905	275,000	6,683	122	247,500	C	1/2	1,160	237,500	4,254	1978	
3116 W Lake St #516	299,900	0	1299	250,000	C	1/2	1,137	250,000	4,487	2007	
1771 James S #1	399,900	2,000	110	319,000	C	2/3	2,563	310,500	5,935	1921	
1904 Dupont S	492,030	10,000	49	470,000	H	6/4	3,113	580,500	10,661	1900	
2108 Humboldt S	599,000	0	28	584,000	H	4/3	3,947	693,500	7,332	1902	
2124 Girard S	749,000	0	1	727,675	H	5/4	3,319	674,000	12,782	1900	
1733 Irving S	1,125,000	0	66	1,030,000	H	4/5	3,765	846,000	17,253	1911	
1305 Moubnt Curve	1,780,000	0	1155	1,780,000	TWN	3/4	3,980	1,646,500	34,067	2008	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig					Home	H					
					Condo	C					
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County					Townhouse	TWN					(Go to mpisrealtor.com for additional info)

The wonder of snow



Photo by Dorothy Childers

For a young boy named Bennett, snow is welcome, joyous, and fun.

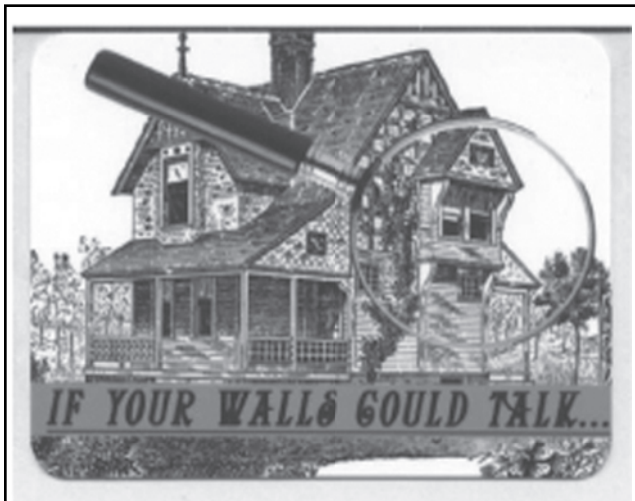
Seven Days in Cuba from page six



Sage Lewis leads tours to Cuba. Email Holly Lewis at holly.lewis@comcast.net for information.

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On page 7 you can learn how to buy a Chain of Lakes nautical map. Our focus for months has been on our lakes and trails so this would be a perfect accessory to those articles. Give gifts of books or jewelry from Birchbark or music from Maggie's on page 8, snow removal on page 12, accessories from Traditions on page 9, painting from TigerOx on page 6 or Chileen on page 8, and much more including our realtors. Check Hill and Lake Press before shopping and thank our advertisers for their support of our community newspaper.



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Is your house history a mystery? Bring the past alive with architect and building records, census records, photos, social events captured in keepsake folio.

Last Minute Gifts

By Madeleine Lowry

Black Friday is over. And also Cyber Monday. And Cyber All-Week-Long. Let's face it, you and I are still not done with our holiday shopping. This also happens to be Get Fit month at the YWCA, so I propose that we merge these two objectives and finish off our shopping by walking or biking around the neighborhood. I'm pretty sure we can find something for everyone on your list.

For the useful small gift: One of my favorite things to give teachers, babysitters and helpers of all sorts is a gift card to a coffee shop like Caribou or Uncommon Grounds. For even more possibilities try a gift card to Sebastian Joe's, Isles Bun and Coffee or Rustica. For tea lovers, a gift card to the Tea Garden might be the way to go. Or perhaps some delicious homemade jam or granola from Lucia's To Go. For a hostess gift, I like to bring a poinsettia from Lunds or notecards from Paper Source.

For the unique gift: Patina is one of the best places to buy unique gifts—their collection is always inspiring. It may be unusual to shop for gifts at a grocery store, but the Wedge Co-op has a nice selection of ceramics, glass, knit items and jewelry. My friend, Julie, has long recommended the Temple Israel gift shop to me as a good place for gifts. And, of course, there's always the Walker Art Center gift shop.

For the pet lover: Don't forget Chuck and Don's pet food outlet which stocks toys and treats for our furry and feathery friends.

For the teen in your life: The teenage girls I know like to shop at H&M and Heartbreaker so that's where I would head for a present. For the guys, I'd stop in at FirstTech or the Apple store. Another idea would be movie passes to the Uptown Theater or the Lagoon Cinema. A gift card to Chipotle or Noodles & Company might also be welcome. And remember that Walgreens offers a full selection of gift cards including iTunes, Google Play and Visa Gift cards—very popular among the teen set.

For the gift one can never have enough of: If you are thinking of wine, head over to Lowry Hill Liquors or the wine shop at Kowalski's. For books, I suggest calling Birchbark Books with the titles you're looking for and they'll have them for you in three days—no shipping fees and no boxes to break down. What a deal! Or shop Magers & Quinn for a local book bargain.

For the person who is hard to shop for: How about a SuperAmerica or Holiday gas card? Or an Ace Hardware gift card? Pre-paid haircuts at Great Clips? Pre-paid groceries at Kowalski's or Lunds? A gift card for treats at Wuollets or Yogurt Lab?

For a special gift: A membership to Massage Envy or the YWCA? A gift card to one of our distinguished neigh-

borhood eateries: Burch Steak, Lucia's Restaurant, Barbette, The Lowry, D'Amico and Sons, or The Kenwood Restaurant? A day of pampering at Juut SalonSpa? A cooking class at Kitchen Window?

How about a new piece of furniture from Nadeau? Tickets to the Jungle Theater? Unique eyewear from Specs Optical? Or perhaps a class at Artrageous Adventures? They also offer two-day kids camps over Christmas break—the perfect gift for a harried parent.

Phew! That's enough shopping. Now that we've tromped all over the neighborhood and finished our list, it's time to sit down with a cup of hot cocoa and a few rolls of wrapping paper.

Happy Holidays!

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~ Peggy



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From Mayor-Elect Betsy Hodges

One month from today, I will be sworn in as Mayor of Minneapolis. And after a year of talking with folks all over the city about our greatest opportunities and our greatest challenges, I can't wait to start putting our plans into action. And this is where you come in.

I want to hear your ideas for how to make our city better, stronger, greater and more equitable. Big or small, neighborhood-specific or citywide, I'm asking for your vision for the future of our neighborhoods and our city. I've set up a page on my transition website for idea submissions – and I really hope you'll click now and share your hopes and dreams for Minneapolis.

Minneapolis' best ideas for turning our dreams into reality come from its people. Please send me your ideas here and be a part of moving Minneapolis forward today.

You are the reason Minneapolis is positioned to become the greatest 21st-century city. Thank you for all you do for our community.

sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

Tom Cook is resting and able to take nourishment, but is unable to write his column this month. He is exhausted from the care of his new granddaughter Charlotte who was born September 28 to his daughter Rachael and her husband. We wish the new family well. His column will return in January.

Mayor Rybak, Council Cut Property Taxes, Invest in Future in Final Budget

The 2014 budget, passed unanimously, features first levy decrease in 30 years; invests in diverse workforce of the future, infrastructure, growing and greening Minneapolis.

1-percent property-tax cut is 3.8 percent below growth in cost of current services.

The Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a 2014 City budget this week, which Mayor R.T. Rybak first proposed in August, that features a one-percent cut to the property-tax levy, the first such decrease in 30 years.

That property-tax cut is 3.8 percent below the cost of maintaining City services at 2013 levels, even before making any new investments.

The 2014 budget will mark the third City budget in a row in which nearly 70 percent of residential taxpayers will see a decrease, or no increase, in their property taxes. In 2014, 67 percent of Minneapolis taxpayers will see a decrease in their property taxes.



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