



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

# Hill & Lake Press

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## Burnham Road bridge to be rebuilt, leaving CIDNA and Kenwood residents on the lookout for new travel routes

By Michael Wilson

It takes Carolyn and Ed Bell four minutes – five, tops – to hop over from CIDNA to see their grandchildren in Kenwood. But starting next April and continuing for seven months, that little jaunt will require a 20-minute trip around the east side of Lake of the Isles.

During those same seven months, when Gloria and Fred Sewell want to take a quiet drive from their home on Cedar Lake southwest of the Kenilworth channel over to Birchbark Books to buy a few good titles and then up to Sebastian Joe’s for an ice cream, they’ll have to take a much longer trip through the Uptown area.

And when Vivian Mason wants to meet friends for coffee at Rustica or Elaine May wants to meet with business owners to plan for the CIDNA Fall Festival, they’ll have to forego a pleasant stroll from their homes northeast of the channel and take a circuitous route by car instead.

They and hundreds of other CIDNA and Kenwood residents will see their travel routines interrupted by the recently announced replacement of the Burnham Road bridge. Dismantling the bridge will begin in April, with completion of the new bridge expected in late October or early November 2015.

**Burnham Road Bridge to page four**

### News from our National Circulation Department.



Betsy Wilson of Astoria, Queens, NYC writes: “My morning meal and reading – spinach smoothie, leftover pizza, and Hill & Lake Press!” Betsy’s dad, Michael Wilson, is a frequent Hill & Lake Press contributor.

During a recent seven-week tour, Jonathon Childers, on the right, with the Nashville band Blank Range, came to Minnesota for a gig at the Turf Club in St. Paul. Roger and Dorothy Childers, Jonathon’s grandparents, hosted the group with meals and a place to stay. Before leaving town the group posed with their favorite newspaper -- Hill and Lake Press! Dorothy is our indefatigable Hill & Lake Press photographer.



Pumpkin Art Carvings by Greg Froehle

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 Monday, December 15, 2014  
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Council Member Goodman is excited to invite you to a non-traditional “Lunch with Lisa”. We are hosting “Later with Lisa” at the Historic Normandy Inn. Complementary Hors D’oeuvres, parking and cash bar. Please let us know if you are able to attend.  
 We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year

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xxoo  
 Lisa G.



## Art Exhibit at St. Mark's Cathedral

Women Photographers/Visual Artists (WPVA) will present Portals II, an art exhibit, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 518 Oak Street South (across from Loring Park) in the Second floor Gallery Hall, from December 2 through December 30. Hours for the exhibit are 8 to 5 pm Monday through Friday, 8 am to Noon and 4:30 to 6:30 pm on Sunday. Please enter through the doorway marked "Office." The opening reception will be held on December 14th from 12 to 3 PM. There is an elevator available to the second floor Gallery.

Staff Photographer Dorothy Childers will be among the exhibitors. Other artists exhibiting are Nancy Chakrin, Janet Coleman, Kim Herzog, Lydia Kulesov, Lester Hughes-Seamans, Suzi McArdle, and Linda Passon McNally.

Prints and cards will be available in the gift shop. All purchases help to fund the Art Program at St. Marks.

**The Minneapolis Audubon Society will meet Friday, December 12, 2014 at 1 p.m.** Dorothy & Fred Waltz will share their "Adventures in Iceland" 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 this program and refreshments! For more information call 763-533-8381.

**Birchbark Books  
The Christmas Wish  
Sunday, November 30th @ 3pm  
Birchbark Books & beARTrageous**

Minnesota author Lori Evert, photographer Per Breichagen, and the rosy-cheeked adventurer Anja will be at Birchbark Books signing copies of The Christmas Wish. This charming picture and story book features the kind and brave Anja as she befriends reindeer and travels by ski and polar bear to meet a very special someone near the North Pole. The book was hard to find last Christmas, as it sold out quickly. This year, you can meet the whole team behind this instant holiday classic. The kids will love Anja! Be sure to stop by our neighbors, beARTrageous studio, during this event and create a reARTcycled holiday gnome or decorate a card inspired by this delightful holiday book to give to family or friends. Be brave. Be kind. Believe!

Friends of the Walker Library and Friends of the Hosmer Library are having a joint book sale at the Hosmer Library ( 347 E. 36th St., Minneapolis) on December 19, 20, and 21. Hours for the sale are 9am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday; 12 noon to 3pm on Sunday.

Book donations will be accepted at the Hosmer Library on Thursday, December 18th between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

**The Friends of the Walker Library will meet on the third Monday evening of the month at 6pm** at the Walker Library on Hennepin. Our upcoming meeting is December 15.

The Walker Friends group's goal is to support the Walker Library and its programs. We welcome new members.

## 9th Annual GREEN GIFTS FAIR!

Saturday Nov. 22 10am to 5pm Donation of \$1.00.

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Join us for a reception downstairs

Suggested donation:

\$15 General Admission

\$10 Students & Seniors

## HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Nov. 22, 10-5pm Midtown Global Market,  
Green Gifts Fair

Nov. 22, 7:30pm St. Mark's Music of Franz  
Liszt, Cathedral Choral Society

Nov. 23, 3:30-6:00 pm CIDNA Art Mart, Jones-  
Harrison Residence

Nov. 30, 3pm The Christmas Wish Birchbark  
Books and beARTrageous

Dec. 2 - Dec. 30, Art exhibit at St Mark's

Dec. 7, 2pm Isles Ensemble at Lake of Isles

Dec. 12, 1pm, Audubon Society

Dec. 15, 4:30-6:30 Later wish Lisa

Dec. 19, 20, 21, Friends of Library Book Sale

Dec. 21, 23, 7:30pm Lumina at St. Paul's Episcopal

Jan. 25 Ice Skating Social

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at  
Jones-Harrison.

EIRA: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm at Grace-Trinity  
Community Church.

KIAA: Monday, November 3rd from 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Kenwood Rec Center,

LHNA: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at Kenwood  
Rec Center

**The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is searching for volunteer Basketball and Hockey Coaches at Recreation Centers in Minneapolis!**

Athletes range in age from 6-18 years of age.

The youth basketball program begins in December and ends in March.

The youth hockey program begins in December and ends mid-February.

Teams practice 1-2 times per week and games are scheduled for 1-2 nights a week and/or Saturdays.

All new coaches will be provided orientation by the MPRB.

Please contact Nicole at 612-230-6493 or email [recvolunteers@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:recvolunteers@minneapolisparcs.org) for more information about becoming a coach.

## Update on Minneapolis Sculpture Garden/Cowles Conservatory and Advisory Committee Application

Planning is underway for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Reconstruction and Cowles Conservatory Renovation. To learn more and get involved, visit the project webpage or go to [www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects), then select Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Reconstruction and Cowles Conservatory Renovation.

On the project webpage, you can:

- Sign up for email updates,
- Share your ideas on an online survey,
- Apply to serve on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Applications are now being accepted for the Community Advisory Committee for the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Reconstruction and Cowles Conservatory Renovation. Applications will be accepted until noon on Wednesday, November 26, 2014. Download an application and learn more by visiting the project webpage,

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## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, ANDREW DEGERSTROM

Craig Wilson interviews Andrew Degerstrom about what Millennials are looking for in a city, his take on 'Pointergate' and his hopes for the future of neighborhood organizations.

**Where did you grow up and what brought you to East Isles?** I grew up in Rochester and moved to Minneapolis in 2009 to attend the U. Before I moved to East Isles, I was living in Linden Hills. Always taking the bus, commuting to and from campus took up a lot of time. So, at the end of my junior year in 2012, I decided to move to Uptown so that I would be within walking distance of the bus route 114. I found my apartment on the 2800 block of Irving, and the rest is history.

**As a Millennial, what would you say your peers are looking for in a city?** I would say Millennials are looking for a variety of housing types, a diverse job market, walkable neighborhoods, unique neighborhoods, a robust transportation network allowing for alternatives to driving, and a variety of things to do from recreational activities to a booming food scene. Living in East Isles, I love that I can walk to the grocery store and any number of restaurants, and I love that it's so easy for me to take the bus wherever I want to go in the city.

**You are very involved in local politics and there was a lot of change at the City over the past year with the election of Mayor Betsy Hodges and many new council members, including Hill Lake's Lisa Bender. How would you rate their first year?** I believe that their first year was pretty good. Some of the new council members really came in and hit the ground running. Linea Palmisano led the effort to overhaul the City's Audit Committee, and made the gutsy move of introducing the Ward 13 teardown moratorium, which ultimately paid off. Lisa Bender and Blong Yang took over as chairs of the Zoning & Planning and the Public Safety, Civil Rights, & Emergency Management Committees, respectively. Lisa Bender has also done a terrific job working on the Auxiliary Dwelling Unit



(ADU) ordinance, a process that has been months long and has included numerous open houses.

**What are things you're hoping to see from the City in 2015?** I would really like to see parking reform, either eliminating or greatly reducing parking minimums for new developments. Developers know their markets and how much parking to provide, but too many times are required to build more parking than they want to and more than what is needed. I would also like the City to keep moving the needle on things such as protected bike lanes, complete streets, and affordable housing.

**What's your take on 'Pointergate'—the KSTP news story on Mayor Hodges alleged photograph with a Minneapolis gang member where she was accused of flashing a gang symbol?** Yes, "#pointergate" really blew up and has started many important conversations such as journalism ethics, racism in the media, and police-community relations. After my initial anger upon seeing the story, my first question was 'why did this happen?' When the report cited law enforcement sources, it became obvious to me that it was a hit

piece on the Mayor by the police union in an attempt to discredit her work on police accountability. They saw an opportunity, as sleazy as it was, and shopped the story amongst the various media outlets. Sadly, I was not surprised in the least that KSTP ran with the story.

**It seems as if the police union and Mayor Hodges are at odds, why is this?** Anyone who knows Mayor Hodges and has followed City Hall politics knows that this didn't come out of nowhere. It goes back to the Mayor's time on the City Council, when she led the effort to reform the fiscally mismanaged police and firefighter pension funds, merging them with state pension funds. There has also been fights over increases in staffing. It is because of this history that there is also similar tensions between the Mayor and the firefighter's union, although there hasn't been anything recently to bring that tension to the surface. And now we have the Mayor publicly speaking out about her desire to reform police culture and accountability within the department, as well as her pushing to implement body cams, which has just entered its pilot phase. John Delmonico, head of the police union, has chosen to take a very combative stance in response. It is unfortunate, because in the end I think it reflects poorly on them.

**You serve as the chair of the East Isles transportation committee and treasurer of the board. What's happening in East Isles these days?** Well, we currently have one seat on the Board that we are trying to fill, and at the annual elections in April there will be an additional three seats that will need to be filled. For those who are interested, the opportunities are there. Other than that, it has been relatively quiet in East Isles. Our Green Team has started a community solar garden work group, and we're looking forward to the results they come up with. There is also a proposal for a new 6-story apartment building at the southwest corner of Lagoon and Irving that has just been approved by the

Neighbor to page 16



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## BURNHAM ROAD BRIDGE FROM PAGE ONE

### Bridge still safe but showing its age

There was no “smoking gun” requiring immediate replacement of the bridge, according to Jack Yuzna, head of bridge inspections for the city’s Department of Public Works (DPW). The bridge remains safe, he told CIDNA residents at an October 14 community presentation at Jones-Harrison. It was the accumulating cost of necessary ongoing repairs that made it more economical to replace the 53-year-old bridge rather than continue to patch it up.

DPW employees conduct rigorous annual inspections of all city bridges, Yuzna says. A May 2014 evaluation of the Burnham bridge determined that the concrete deck is nearing the end of its useful life. The steel beams are severely corroded at both ends, as are the steel rocker bearings. The concrete abutments have suffered severe deterioration and delamination – 50% on the north side, 70% on the south side – compounded by joint leakage and high chloride concentrations.

The new bridge, Yuzna reports, will look much like the current one, with a few differences. Instead of hauling the steel girders off-site for reconditioning and stripping their lead-based paint, new prestressed concrete girders will be used. The steel rocker bearings will be replaced by elastomeric bearing pads. The sidewalks will be widened from five feet to six feet.

A notable change will be the railings. The present railings, designed to 1957 highway standards, don’t meet current crash-worthiness standards. AASHTO standards now require a crash-tested 2’-8” concrete vehicular barrier topped with a metal pedestrian railing reaching a total height of either 3’-6” or 4’-6”. Since the Burnham bridge is lightly used with most cyclists in the roadway instead of on the sidewalk, the lower 3’-6” railings can be used instead of the more obtrusive 4’-6” design.

Residents at the October 14 Jones-Harrison presentation said they wanted the metal railing to be context-sensitive and also to block the view of the channel as little as possible as people walk, bike, or drive over the bridge. Accordingly, the bridge will use a picket fence style metal railing. The concrete vehicular crash barrier will extend only as far as the ends of the bridges instead of continuing out into the approaches, thus improving sight lines.

Craig Westgate, CIDNA board chair, stressed that construction needs to take into account heavy use of the channel particularly on holidays. Yuzna pledged to work with the CIDNA board to minimize impacts on channel users as much as safety considerations and the construction timetable allow.



The first Burnham Road bridge over the Kenilworth Channel, shown here in April, 1961, just before its dismantling, was built in the 1920s through what was then a sparsely populated, bucolic corner of the city. (Photo courtesy Kent Madsen, Department of Public Works bridge inspector)



Underside of the first Burnham Road bridge.



Comprehensive inspection and material testing of the Burnham Road bridge in May, 2014, indicated that bridge replacement would be more economical than continued repairs. (PowerPoint photos courtesy Jack Yazna, Department of Public Works head bridge inspector)

During construction the one-way bridge over the Kenilworth Trail will be converted to allow two-way traffic.

### A sleepy corner of Minneapolis

The Burnham Wood subdivision plat received city approval in March, 1908, but home construction was slow to start. 2511 Washburn was built in 1911, followed by 2527 Washburn in 1913, the same year the channel connecting Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake was opened. On the southwest side of the channel 2601 Burnham Road was built in 1919. Additional home construction didn’t pick up steam until the late 1930s.

Early maps show a “wagon trail” meandering through the area. The Burnham Wood plat map indicates access from Kenwood via “Cedar Lake Avenue” – today’s Burnham Road – which ended, however, short of the marshy area around the future Kenilworth channel. People wanting to reach Burnham Wood from the southwest had to take Dean Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway – just as folks will have to do next summer during bridge replacement.

It’s not clear when the first “Cedar Lake Avenue” bridge over the Kenilworth channel was built, although Kent Madsen, DPW bridge safety inspector, has located notes dated October 18, 1926 for “plans for piling, section, and elevation (wooden Br.)” This bridge, which lasted until 1961, was quite rustic in appearance with a raised sidewalk on only one side – quite in keeping with the bucolic nature of this sleepy corner of Minneapolis.

Sybil McMillan, council information specialist at City Hall, recently unearthed an ordinance passed by the Council on May 11, 1934, changing the names of 25th Street west from Sheridan to Burnham Blvd. and Cedar Lake Avenue west from Burnham Blvd. to the “Cedar Lake Canal” to Burnham Road. A small part of Xerxes west of the canal was included in the name change.

### Burnham who? Burnham what?

The Burnham Wood subdivision application was made in 1908 by local residents Anna B. and Theodore J. Lewis along with two officers of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Philadelphia. Lewis is mentioned briefly in City directories of the time as a bookkeeper at S.N. Braden Fuel Transfer & Storage Co. The same names appear on the Kenilworth Addition and Second Kenilworth Addition subdivision applications approved in 1907. No Burnhams.

Some folks have suggested the subdivision applicants were inspired by Shakespeare – Macbeth will be safe “until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come.” Possible . . . except for the spelling.

**Burnham Bridge to page 5**

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## Burnham Bridge from page 4



City workers take concrete soundings under the Burnham bridge in May, 2014, to determine extent of deterioration.



Artist's rendering of new bridge shows picket fence-style railings and six-foot-wide sidewalks (an improvement over the current five-foot-wide sidewalks).



Close-up view of new 3' 6"-high railings, designed to meet current crash-worthiness standards.

The most plausible connection – in fact, the only one – is that the Lewises and the Philadelphia bankers were paying homage to the legendary architect Daniel Burnham (1846-1912) and perhaps intimating that homes worthy of a Daniel Burnham commission could be built in their subdivision on Cedar Lake. That never happened, though, and it wasn't until 1951 that a world-class architect – Frank Lloyd Wright – designed a home on Cedar Lake at 2801 Burnham Blvd. But that's another story.

## THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

### Giving Thanks for our “Open, Affirming” Neighborhood

In the aftermath of the nationally stupid midterm elections, where numerous science-denying, gay-bashing Republicans ascended their ignorant thrones, isn't it just plain wonderful to live in a neighborhood where all that nonsense isn't tolerated, one that has left that hostility behind for the joys and benefits of living snugly together in community?

It was not always thus. When we moved to Lowry Hill in 1974, “gay-bashing” was not unknown, including the awful murder of a young man in Loring Park, the state's first openly gay hometown.

As a candidate for City Council in 1979 for the seventh ward, which includes Loring Park, I think I was the first public official, elected or wannabe, to attend the Gay Pride parade, a tradition that had just begun. My visit there was encouraged by gay activist Robert Halfhill and Tim Campbell, the founding editor of the first gay newspaper, the GLC Voice. Most attendees didn't notice I was there, or celebrated the fact, but one – a brilliant pianist already afflicted with, and who later died of, HIV/AIDS – accosted me with tough questions about my attitude toward gay people.

The election that year was a rare three party race, the first and only time the gay community created a party, the Gay Survival Fund, to run a candidate in the Seventh Ward. Campbell impishly endorsed me for mayor over Don Fraser! Except I wasn't running for mayor! I lost the election by a couple hundred votes, the gay party candidate garnering around four hundred. The Republican won. A good person, she represented us well during her next term, and after.

But the revolution for gay openness had begun and would not be denied.

My wife grew up in a suburb of Chicago that once spent a lot of hidden energy walling out Jews and people of color, until her parents helped break those red lines by inviting in both groups. When those walls fell they fell fast in historical terms, although crosses were burned on lawns even there. Crosses! Christian Crosses!

My church, Plymouth Congregational, bills itself, like most in the city now, as an “open and affirming” congregation, one that has supported the gay community for decades. Our neighborhood is “open and affirming” as well. How good that feels.

Living is so much better now – easier, smoother, warmer -- not to have to deal with all that senseless hostility. Our neighborhood and city should be models for ending other intolerance that still plagues the human family elsewhere.

If only the Republican Party would relax on the so-called culture wars, and let everyone make their own decisions about their own lives, they might become a serious party in our town again. Wait, that was a hallucination! The three recently elected Minnesota Republican Congressmen -- Eric Paulson, John Kline and Tom Emmer (a truly mean and ignorant bully, as remembered by those who served with him in the House)-- still want to deny gay human rights and climate science and God knows what other facts of God's creation.

Never mind that for now. I am in such a happy mood celebrating the gay efflorescence in on our neighborhood, the couples rehabbing our houses, strolling the streets, not to mention running our businesses, our architecture and law firms, our medical practices, sending their children to our schools, saving our lives, saving our souls.

Do we need to do more to open our community? Probably. But right now, as winter drops her white cloak over us and the sun slides toward the horizon for three or four months of well-deserved rest, let us slip toward the darkness warm in the knowledge of the open spirit of our neighborhood, our churches and synagogues, our city government, our homes, our eyes, our hearts.

Happy Thanksgiving.

James P. Lenfestey  
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*Happy Thanksgiving!*

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## Park Board awards contract to study feasibility of Kenilworth Channel LRT tunnel

By Michael Wilson

Continuing its determination to “do what it takes” to carry out its fundamental role and responsibility to protect and preserve parkland for current and future generations, the Minneapolis Park Board on Wednesday voted to award a \$245,000 contract to Brierley Associates for the first phase of a two-part engineering study to evaluate the feasibility of a tunnel under the Kenilworth Channel for the Southwest Light Rail Transit project.

Seven commissioners, including our District 4 commissioner Anita Tabb and at-large commissioner Meg Forney, voted in favor of the contract. Two commissioners, Brad Bourn and Steffanie Musich, abstained.

The board took the unusual step on October 1 to allocate \$500,000 from reserve funds for the engineering study after concluding the Met Council was disinclined and unlikely to conduct a thorough, rigorous study of whether a tunnel under the channel was a prudent and feasible alternative to the massive highway-style bridges on which the Southwest Project Office wants to run hundreds of light-rail trains every day over the channel.

The study was recommended by both the Park Board's general counsel and special counsel to assist the Park Board's response to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, now scheduled for release in March 2015, and to guide the board in taking future steps including filings with the Federal Transportation Agency (FTA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as the possibility of a lawsuit.

Commissioners have chafed at feeling marginalized by Met Council, Hennepin County, and SW Project Office officials as the SWLRT planning process has moved along. These officials have taken scant notice of several Park Board resolutions, commissioners say, in which they have set forth their concerns for preserving the integrity of the park experience. They have felt a seemingly dismissive attitude towards the Park Board's Section 4(f) responsibilities.

### Met Council may be taking notice.

Park superintendent Jayne Miller and Board president Liz Wielinski reported at Wednesday's board meeting that during the past few days feelers have come from the Met Council about meeting with the Park Board or setting up a workshop. Miller and Wielinski said they've gotten mixed and conflicting signals, however, over whether the Park Board would be allowed to bring its own engineering consultants to such a meeting or workshop and whether Met Council has any interest in helping defray the Park Board's expenses with the engineering study.

“We have zero engineers on our staff,” Wielinski said. “The Met Council has many. A meeting at which we cannot bring our own consulting engineers is hardly a level playing field.”

Park Board staff reported that lately “the Met Council has been forthcoming in providing their data.” Several Hill and Lake residents attending the meeting



Photo by Michael Wilson

Park Board president Liz Wielinski (center) and commissioners Anita Tabb (left) and Meg Forney (right) discuss the Kenilworth engineering study resolution with Aaron Shaffer before Wednesday's Park Board meeting. Shaffer, the West Calhoun rep to the Midtown Greenway Coalition, spoke during Open Time to thank commissioners for acting decisively now to protect parks and lakes for generations to come.

concluded, though, that it seemed to have taken the Park Board's readiness to execute a contract with Brierley Associates and, if necessary, to file a lawsuit for the Met Council to take the Park Board seriously and decide to become forthcoming with some of their data.

“The Met Council can do more. Or they can do less,” Wielinski said. “It's up to them.”

### Hill and Lake residents speak.

During Open Time Aaron Shaffer, the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council's rep to the Midtown Greenway Coalition, urged the commissioners to stay the course in protecting the park experience for all users but particularly for young people of his generation who are looking to use the parks and lakes for decades to come.

Mary Pattock, a Dean Parkway resident for 46 years, said she has seen the city's lakes and parks come under attack from time to time. Without vigilance and an eye on the future, she said, “the quality of our lakes and parks can disappear incrementally.” She urged commissioners to look at a variety of tunneling options.

CIDNA resident Doug Peterson told commissioners he seconded Shaffer's and Pattock's comments, while fellow CIDNA residents Dan Schmiechen and Vern VanderWeide nodded concurrence.

According to their website, Brierley Associates is a privately-held national tunnel, trenchless, geotechnical, and geosstructural design firm with offices in eight states, including a local office in Burnsville. Brierley Associates describe themselves as having experience “in all aspects of tunnel and trenchless design and construction including feasibility and risk assessment, geologic and geotechnical site characterization, contractor

procurement, and construction management.”

During Phase One the Brierley engineers will determine the feasibility of a tunnel alternative and perform an initial comparison of the effects of the tunnel alternative on the park, recreation areas, and historic sites vis-a-vis the bridges which Met Council and SWLRT officials want. Brierley will also identify additional work, investigations, or study that would be required to more fully frame the feasibility of the tunnel alternative and to more fully understand Section 4(f) impacts.

### The Park Board's unique independence.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (1966) mandates that preservation of parkland and historic sites be given major consideration in all federally funded highway construction programs. It applies to the FTA, which controls the approval process as well as the federal dollars – currently \$800 million – for the Southwest light rail project.

The statute further provides that the Secretary of Transportation may approve a highway project that uses publicly owned parkland or land from a historic site only if (1) there is no “feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land,” and (2) the project includes “all possible planning to minimize harm.”

An important consideration in a Section 4(f) challenge is whether a transportation project imposes adverse visual, economic, safety, noise, or aesthetic impacts on property. The Park Board and park users contend that massive new bridges and hundreds of trains speeding over the tranquil Kenilworth Channel every day will impose such impacts on the “park experience,” which commissioners feel duty-bound to

**Park Board Awards Contract to page 9**

## PIANO LESSONS

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## It's Complicated with the West Lake Station

By Richard Logan and Ryan Fox

A group of about two dozen residents of CIDNA and West Calhoun gathered with City and Light Rail (SWLRT) planners on Saturday morning Nov. 15 to hear from the SWLRT office about plans for the proposed West Lake Station. Also attending was new Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. Sophia Ginis, Community Outreach Coordinator, spoke for SWLRT. The “walkabout” was planned for residents (a) to visualize the station in its setting, (b) to hear about the status of planning, (c) to ask questions, and (c) to express concerns. All of this happened, and with some energy. Given the complex and compact geometry of setting and the neighborhood, engineering this station and access to it presents challenges.

The planned realignment of the Chowen-Abbott loop into a straight W. 31st St. that would pass just along the north side of Calhoun Towers got a lot of attention. This was partly because realignment would mean loss of the green space between W. 31st St. and the current Whole Foods. This space would presumably become a commercial-residential plaza with room for both bus and Kiss & Ride drop-offs for the station. Further, along with restricting Chowen and W. 32nd to one-side parking to allow bus traffic, it would mean loss of already glutted street parking.

A CIDNA member expressed major concern about access to the station from the north side of the Light Rail/Freight line, asserting that the community had wanted at-grade platform access, not just vertical circulation from the Lake St. bridge. The SWLRT reply was that crossing both freight and light rail lines would be unsafe and Federal law would define crossing the freight line as trespassing. Some residents urged that our Congressman be contacted to see about a variance.

Those attending learned that the \$30M won in the



Photos by Dorothy Childers

Neighbors gathered for the West Lake Station Walkabout on November 15.

City – Metropolitan Council settlement has already been allocated to various betterments and mitigations already planned, such as the W. 31st realignment. ???

Other topics covered included clarifying that the platform would be between the two LRT lines and extend 300 feet west from the center bridge pier. Stairs

and elevators would connect from the Lake St. bridge to the east end of the platform. To accommodate these placements, the Greenway would be moved several feet to the south.

### Lakes and Parks Alliance asks for summary judgment in SWLRT case

On November 3, the Lakes and Parks Alliance of Minneapolis asked the Federal District Court of Minnesota for a summary judgment in the Southwest light rail transit (SWLRT) case the Alliance brought last month against the Metropolitan Council and the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA).

If the court grants the request, the SWLRT approvals obtained by Met Council through the municipal consent process would become null and void. The Met Council would have to pause the project while the environmental impact study required by state and federal laws was completed and provided to the municipalities when a new consent process is commenced.

“If the municipal consent process has any validity,” says Alliance board member George Puzak, “it has to mean that municipal officials — and the public — are entitled to know the environmental impact of the proposed SWLRT before the officials are forced to vote on it.”

A summary judgment is a decision made by a court in support of one party and against another, without a trial. It is usually requested after the discovery phase of a case.

But this case is unusual, according to Puzak, in that “...the facts we are relying on in the lawsuit are all of

public record — in fact, they were mostly created by the Met Council. Therefore, there’s nothing further to be discovered and nothing to disagree about, leaving the court only a legal question to consider.”

That question, says Puzak, is whether the Met Council, by asking the municipalities to consent to a specific SWLRT plan before it completed the legally required environmental impact study, violated federal and state environmental laws.

Those laws (the Federal Environmental Policy Act and Minnesota Environmental Policy Act) prohibit government bodies from limiting the consideration of reasonable alternatives to major public projects before an environmental study is completed. However, through the municipal consent process, the Met Council has selected just one project design to move forward and eliminated all other reasonable alternatives, such as re-location of the freight rail to St. Louis Park.

“We invite people who think the Met Council

should obey state and federal environmental laws to contribute to our legal fund,” said Puzak. Donations (which are not tax-deductible) can be made at [www.lakesandparks.com](http://www.lakesandparks.com).

The legal complaint and related information is also available on the LPA website.

LPA is a grassroots organization formed to protect the Minneapolis lakes and parks from environmental damage threatened by the SWLRT route proposed by the Met Council.

**Contact:**  
**Mary Pattock**  
612-922-7609  
612-889-4235 (c)  
[mpattock@centurylink.net](mailto:mpattock@centurylink.net)



### Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

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

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12.4.14 Cathy Maes “Loaves & Fishes – serving for over 30 years”

12.18.14 Shegitu Kebede “Women at the Well”

1.8.15 Mark Wilkening “Help When Cancer Strikes”

2.12.14 Lori Sturdevant “Minnesota Politics – what to expect in 2015”

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**Park Board Awards contract from page six**

defend.

The Minneapolis Park Board was created in 1883 by the state legislature and approved by the citizens of Minneapolis as an entity independent from direct control of city government. Historians David Smith and Neil Trembley note that our Park Board is perhaps unique nationally in having this independence to pursue the goals set forth in its charter.

Noting that the Minneapolis Park Board has had to battle the city, county, state, and Met Council at various times in the past to carry out its fundamental role and responsibility to protect and preserve parkland for current and future generations, commissioner Jon Olson said to his colleagues just before Wednesday's vote, "Sometimes you have to stand up and fight, even if [the contested area] is not in your back yard. It's about doing what's right."

**NEIGHBORHOOD NOTICE:** We would like to let your neighborhood know about planned work in the area. Environmental crews are conducting soil and ground water sampling in Minneapolis. Starting November 20, they will be working on Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority property from the 21st Street station area to West Lake Street station area. Work could last until early December, depending on weather. They will be working weekdays and will not be working during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Crews will use one of two methods to complete this work. They will either be making 2 to 4 inch wide borings using a truck-mounted drill rig or will be digging test trenches. Test trenches are typically 3 to 4 feet wide, up to 15 feet deep and can be 20 to 50 feet long. If a trench is required, the trench will be backfilled the same day.

Trucks or backhoes may be temporarily parked on part of the trail. If equipment is obstructing a portion of the trail, space will be maintained to allow trail users to get through and work zones will be marked for everyone's safety.

If you have questions, contact me at 612-373-3895 or [sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org](mailto:sophia.ginis@metrotransit.org).

## Winter Solstice Celebration

December 20 & 21

Festive Dinner @ 6pm  
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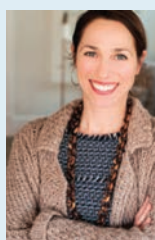
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## CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

#### BOARD MEETING MINUTES, November 12, 2014

The November meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Roger Klimek, Ed Bell, Ryan Fox, Barbara Lunde, Ray Greco, James Reid, and John Wessinger. Committee Chairs Gail Lee, Bob Corrick and Elaine May were also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith

Chair Craig Westgate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

##### Announcement

The 2nd Annual CIDNA Art Mart will be held on November 23, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence.

##### Fall Festival, Elaine May

The Fall Festival was a big success. Thanks to Elaine May for organizing another great event.

##### Land Use & Development Committee, Bob Corrick

The two apartment projects are scheduled to break ground in March 2015. The committee will continue to meet with the developers as the projects proceed. The committee continues to advocate for a north/south bike/ped trail near the Greystar project.

##### Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

Minneapolis continues to work on reopening Nicollet Ave at Lake St (Kmart site). The Greenway Coalition is giving input as the project progresses. The Coalition is also reviewing plans for the new 35W exit ramp onto Lake St.

The MoZaic East project is moving forward. Code 42, a company with 150 employees has signed a lease for office space.

##### Sewer Project update, Ryan Fox

The project is nearly complete. The venting pipe at Chowen and Sunset has been painted, the landscaping is complete, no parking signs have been installed, and the stop sign at Depot and Sunset has been reinstalled. We are waiting for the city to install the permanent stop sign near Park Siding Park.

##### Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee, Ryan Fox

The committee continues to meet most Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at Caribou Coffee, Calhoun Commons. They are looking for volunteers to help track traffic violations of autos, bikes and pedestrians. They are also working on public service announcements promoting safety.

A walking tour has been scheduled for the Southwest LRT West Lake Station on Saturday, November 15, 11:00 a.m. near the Greenway access behind Whole Foods. Project planners will be available to answer questions. Concerns remain about accessing the station from all directions.

Minneapolis has plans to do a better job of clearing snow from busy corners and bus stops. Call 311 to report problem areas.

##### Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Later with Lisa will be December 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Normandy (free food and cash bar).

Yard waste is being collected through November 17.

The Planning Commission passed the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendment.

Truth in Taxation public hearings: November 18 and December 10, both at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance. The judge has yet to rule on damages and a solution.

##### Lot Split of 2728 Chowen Ave, Donald Jansen

Jansen is a consultant working with a developer who purchased the property at 2728 Chowen and intends to divide the property into 2 lots, each with a single-family home. The existing home will remain (a portion of the home would be removed) and a new garage added. A new home will be built on the new lot. They are seeking the following variances for each lot: lot width from required 50' to 40.7' and lot area from required 5,000 sq ft to 4,819 sq ft. Nearby neighbors attended the meeting to express their concerns and opposition to the plans. Jansen was invited to attend the December 10th CIDNA Board meeting to provide more specifics and

share their intentions for the property if the variances are not granted.

##### Southwest LRT:

The release of the Supplemental Environment Impact Statement has been delayed.

Additional peizometers (measures water levels) will be installed on public property in the Kenilworth Corridor area over the next few months. The work is in response to recommendations made by the consultant in the Water Resource Evaluation.

##### NRP/CPP Report, Gail Lee

The committee is not pursuing a raingarden project in 2015.

The committee presented a draft of a resolution regarding funding for neighborhood organizations. The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts that fund neighborhood revitalization and Target Center debt is expected to generate more revenue than projected. The Mayor's 2015 budget directs the surplus to other uses, which include Upper Harbor Planning, One Minneapolis Fund and Translation Services.

The CIDNA Board approved the resolution that requests the Minneapolis reserve the use of relevant TIF generates revenues to be for the purpose of neighborhood revitalization and for Target Center debt service; that the One Minneapolis Fund and the Upper Harbor project be funded from the general fund (not TIF); and that the incremental TIF proceeds be allocated to restore NRP funding to neighborhood organizations that were sequestered in 2010. The resolution will be submitted for the public hearing at the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee meeting on November 17th.

The CIDNA Board approved the following Plan Modification for NRP Phase II as presented at last month's meeting: shift \$6,127 from Energy Workshops strategy and \$15,000 from Sidewalk strategy to the Cedar Lake South Beach strategy.

CIDNA has long been trying to engage with the Park Board for improvements to Cedar Lake South Beach. The Park Board's Capital Improvement Program budget includes \$200k for Calhoun and Harriet Improvements Planning. CIDNA has asked that the scope of the planning be expanded to include Cedar Lake South Beach. The Park Board agreed if CIDNA provides funding toward the planning process (\$30,930 for design, \$3,700 for survey, plus a contingency fund for a total of \$40k).

A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed with representatives from all of the neighborhoods to advise during the planning.

The planning process will culminate in creating schematic designs that can be used for the construction bidding process. The CIP includes \$3.5 million for the actual improvements.

The Park Board will hold community engagement meetings with each affected community to establish expectations for the project prior to hiring a landscape architect to lead the planning process.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to provide \$40,000 of NRP Phase II funds to include Cedar Lake South Beach in the improvement planning process.

##### New Business

CIDNA was notified of plans to demolish the existing home at 2840 Chowen Ave S and construct a new contemporary home in its place.

CIDNA has been invited to help sponsor the annual Lake of the Isles Ice Skating Party (Sunday, January 25, 2015) with East Isles, Kenwood and Lowry Hill. The CIDNA Board approved funding to help pay for the event advertising.

City of Lakes Loppet organizers are inviting neighborhood associations to participate in the snow sculpture contest on Saturday, January 31, 2015. Ryan Fox volunteered to assemble a CIDNA team.

Metro Transit is seeking public comments on the Draft Service Improvement Plan for expanding the local and express route bus network. For more information and to provide feedback by the November 30th deadline, go to [www.metrotransit.org/sip](http://www.metrotransit.org/sip).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

#### Minneapolis Uptown Rotary

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

Uptown Rotary meets at the Minikahda Country Club 7:30 to 8:30 am on Thursdays

11.27.14 Thanksgiving (no meeting)

12.4.14 Cathy Maes "Loaves & Fishes - Serving Healthy Meals for over 30 years"

12.11.14 Club Assembly - Mpls Uptown Rotary Update

12.18.14 Shegitu Kebede "Women at the Wall"

12.25.14 Christmas Holiday (no meeting)

1.1.15 New Years Holiday (no meeting)

1.8.15 Mark Wilkening "Help When Cancer Strikes"

2.12.15 Lori Sturdevant - Star Tribune "Minnesota politics - What You Can Expect from the 2015 Session"

The annual Joyce Uptown Food Shelf fundraiser is in full swing. We have been a major supporter of the Food Shelf with time and funding, and now is the time to set the wheels in motion. Donation jars will be available this week.

Literacy is a big part of Rotary, as shown by our recent efforts, along with City of Lakes, to donate 1000 dictionaries to the Hennepin Correctional Facility. The books were very well received.

Thanks to Jean Johnson, Terry Streich and Jim Myott for recently attending the Common Hope project where they sorted school supplies destined for Guatemala. This was a joint Rotary project, and involved sorting donations from Target that would not have made it through their Customs.

After an inspiring invocation from Granville explaining the meaning of Holiday Shopping, he introduced Ted Landwehr who spoke on the Top Ten Wealth Transfer Tips.

Tip #1 Put estate planning instruments in place and ensure they are accessible to loved ones.

#2 Keep in mind the 60 month look-back period for people considering reducing their Medical Assistance liability.

#3 Make sure your assets are appropriately titled. A Transfer on Death Deed can be very helpful.

#4 Make sure your beneficiaries are updated on all your retirement and other financial accounts. Consider a Pay on Death provision.

#5 Make appropriate gifts to loved ones.

#6 Consider purchasing long term care insurance.

#7 Consider a Personal Service Agreement for elderly living with adult children. It must be in writing.

#8 Consult with your tax advisor to avoid paying unnecessary taxes.

#9 Make sure your records are understandable, complete and accessible to trustees or executors.

#10 Prepay allowed expenses prior to applying for medical assistance by purchasing exempt assets.

Our speaker recently was School Board Candidate Don Samuels. Don gave a passionate plea to give him a chance to turn Minneapolis education around. Glenna Case asked some pointed questions about how he planned to do that. Don Hawkinson noted that managing public education was an extremely difficult task, which was probably the understatement of the day. The people have spoken, so that now we can see if we can walk the walk.

#### Next meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Jones-Harrison.

Note to CIDNA residents: sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by sending a request to [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).

## EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

### Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting November 11, 2014 Grace-Trinity Community Church

Board members present (7 of 10): Dan McLaughlin (President), Vaughn Emerson (Vice President), Andrew Degerstrom (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Jasna Hadzic, Nancy Johnston, and Linda Schutz. Other East Isles residents and invited guests were also in attendance.

EIRA President Dan McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Council Member Lisa Goodman, Ward 7

Yard waste is being collected through November 17. Later with Lisa, Monday, December 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Normandy (free food and cash bar).

2015 city budget public hearings: November 18 and December 10, both at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The Planning Commission passed the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendment. Goodman will support the amendment when it comes before the City Council.

The home at 2505 E Lake of the Isles Pkwy will be demolished. Peterssen/Keller Architecture is designing a new home for the property.

A judge ruled that the dewatering at 1800 Lake violates city ordinance. The judge has yet to rule on damages and a solution.

Re: consolidated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district funding for neighborhood revitalization, Goodman believes the term is broad and that the city can spend money on neighborhood revitalization without giving money directly to neighborhood organizations.

#### Janet Hallaway, Development Director, Bridge for Youth

The city approved the conditional use permit to consolidate their operations into their main building at 1111 W 22nd St. The Bridge did not expand the number of youth that they serve (24 youth) ages 10-17. The youth to staff ration is 10:1. If East Isles residents have questions or concerns, they are encouraged to speak with Dan Pfarr, Executive Director.

The Bridge owns two other properties: 2200 Emerson Ave S and 1209 W 22nd St. The property at 2200 Emerson is currently vacant; the property at 1209 W 22nd was being lease to a nonprofit (StreetWorks) but they are in the process of closing and vacating the building. The Bridge has not made any decisions on the fate of the two properties.

The Bridge has a "Good Neighbors Group" and welcomes additional participation from East Isles residents.

#### New Board of Directors

The EIRA Board appointed Jasna Hadzic and Nancy Johnston to fill vacancies on the EIRA Board of Directors.

#### Open Forum

Andrew Degerstrom reported that he attended the Planning Commission hearing for Accessory Dwelling

Units; 15 people spoke at the hearing and all were supportive.

#### REPORTS

##### Zoning Committee, Monica Smith

Scott Nelson, DJR Architecture and Daniel Oberpriller, CPM attended the September and October meetings of EIRA's Zoning Committee to present plans for a 6-story, 70 ft tall, 45-unit apartment building at the SW corner of Lagoon Ave and Irving Ave S (1609 and 1611 Lagoon and 2910 Irving). The property is zoned R6 within Shoreland Overlay (which restricts height to 2.5 stories/35 ft). The Planning Commission unanimously approved the project on November 10 with a conditional use permit for the height of the building, variances for setbacks on all four sides, and a variance for impervious surface area.

Nelson and Oberpriller attended the EIRA Board meeting to offer two options for the façade that were in response the EIRA's Zoning Committee's concerns about height and massing.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to endorse the original design as submitted to the Planning Commission (vote: 4 yes, 1 oppose, 3 abstain).

##### Outreach & Nominations, Linda Schutz

The committee is continuing to recruit one new board member to serve the remainder of this term.

Current board members should consider leadership opportunities as the terms for our current president and vice president are up in April. Linda Schutz will resign as the committee chair effective 12/31/14.

##### Treasurer's Report, Andrew Degerstrom

The financial records since July 1 were reviewed.

##### Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The EIRA Board approved a draft of a letter to the Park Board regarding snow removal on The Mall sidewalks, Midtown Greenway, and Lake of the Isles bike/ped paths.

The committee will also draft a letter to residents with tips for safely clearing snow. The letter will be included in the next e-newsletter and on our website ([www.eastisles.org](http://www.eastisles.org)), Facebook page, and NextDoor site.

The committee will review Metro Transit's Service Improvement Plan and make comments by the November 30th deadline (with a caveat that the feedback has not yet been endorsed by the EIRA Board).

##### NRP Committee, Monica Smith and Nancy Johnston

The EIRA Board approved the following recommendations:

Extend the following NRP contracts for two years (until 12/31/16): home security grants, sustainable practices (Green Team), Phase II implementation, and the Phase I miscellaneous contract.

Extend the affordable housing contract with Nonprofits Assistance Fund for six-month (until 6-30-

15).

The TIF district that funds neighborhood revitalization and Target Center debt is expected to generate more revenue than projected. The mayor's 2015 budget directs the surplus to purposes outside of the traditional uses of the money. Nancy Johnston prepared a letter to be sent to the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee in advance of the public hearing for neighborhood funding on November 17th. The letter outlines the purpose and goals of Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) as well as the successes and lessons learned. The letter closes with a request to continue the current level of funding for neighborhood revitalization purposes and support of neighborhood associations through the NRP and Community Participation Program (CPP) or to restore the NRP funds that were withdrawn from neighborhoods in 2010. The EIRA Board approved a motion to support the letter and to appoint Nancy Johnston to represent the board at the hearing (1 vote to oppose).

##### Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

The Wine Tasting Fundraiser will be held in 2015.

The Social Committee is organizing volunteers to help with the City of Lakes Loppet.

##### Green Team, Monica Smith

The Green Team is sponsoring a program on food in January with a goal to engage residents in eating for personal health and health of the planet. The Solar Working group is creating a questionnaire to assess individual solar developers and a marketing/communications plan. Progress has been slow as developers take time to create their programs.

Bill Elwood was invited to join a neighborhood solar advisory team sponsored by the City of Minneapolis Office of Sustainability and CERTS. The team will help the city in its goal to support neighborhoods in community solar. The city will be creating its own community solar garden.

The Green Team will organize green parties in 2015 to stimulate interest in working on green projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Submitted by: Monica Smith, Recorder

If consistent with EIRA Bylaws, and where the availability of a public document or report in electronic forms exists, copies of EIRA Board agenda items may be obtained by an EIRA member by contacting [nrp@eastisles.org](mailto:nrp@eastisles.org).

**The next meeting is Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.**

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## LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Janis Clay

### LHNA Neighborhood Association Board Minutes

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Present - Board Members: Phil Hallaway, President; David Weinstein, Vice President; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Thomas D. Huppert; Jimmy Fogel; Rebecca Graham; Mark Brauer; Sarah Janacek; Michael Cockson; Ann Seltman.

Present - Guests and staff: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative; Jenna Victoria; Alex Victoria; Craig Wilson; John van Heel; Sam Rockwell; Joel Fischer; Alyssa Fischer; Noa Havilio; Leslie Walker; Bruce Walker; Ben Graves; Andrew Campbell; Chris Staley; Tim Baer; Ryan Fish; Gabe Keller.

President Phil Hallway called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 7, 2014, meeting and tonight's agenda were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Aronson gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$36,900 in the bank, and are in good shape financially.

#### Committee Reports:

**Environment:** Michael Cockson presented the Environment report. Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, was going to update the Board on Spring Lake and on the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden Reconstruction CAC application, but was delayed out of town. A Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) will be formed with 19 members. It will include the Park Board president and some of the Commissioners, and will have a representative from the Lowry Hill neighborhood.

**Community Announcements:** Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman: There will be no Lunch with Lisa in November. "Later with Lisa" will take place Monday, December 15th at the Normandy. Last week's snow interrupted fall leaf sweeping, which may not be finished citywide because the City had to switch to different equipment for snow removal. Leaf sweeping was finished in Lowry Hill. Lawn waste will be collected until November 17th. Lisa has had favorable feedback on a proposed zoning amendment allowing accessory dwelling units (ADU). The City Council is working on the 2015 City Budget.

#### Zoning and Planning:

Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction: Craig Wilson and Sam Rockwell gave a presentation on the Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction project. The City of Minneapolis has a \$9 million grant for resurfacing and reconstruction of the Hennepin/Lyndale interchange. The original plan was to resurface the area in its existing configuration. Craig Wilson and John Van Heel organized a task force to analyze the area and seek reconfiguration of lanes to allow more room for bike and pedestrian traffic, as well as to make navigation easier for vehicles, and add green space. In September, the City Council approved "Option 2" of two plans presented at an open house this summer. This is Phase I

of the reconstruction project. A theoretical future Phase II would address the freeway infrastructure, seeking to improve the "spaghetti bowl" of freeway overpasses and underpasses, which interrupt the street grid, create a sense of placelessness, and underuse what could be an important focal point of the city. They presented drawings of concepts for future consideration.

**Bradstreet Crafthouse.** Ben Graves and Andrew Campbell gave an update on the Bradstreet Neighborhood Crafthouse, which they hope to open in the former Rye Deli space in January.

**1118 Kenwood Parkway Variance Request** (Ryan Fish-Peterssen/Keller) The Board discussed this variance request, which was tabled at the October meeting. The request is to allow conversion of an existing leaky roof deck and patios to a third floor, leaving the footprint of the structure unchanged. Dan Aronson made the following motion, seconded by Jimmy Fogel: LHNA does not oppose the request for a variance to allow for a third floor designation on a single family home as the expansion of the existing non-conforming ½ story would now be considered a 3rd story. The expansion would still meet new height requirements of 28' height and 33' max height. The existing building footprint is unchanged. All approved.

**2000 Fremont Ave. South** (Joel Fischer) Joel Fischer presented plans to construct a home including an attached garage on the lot at 2000 Fremont Ave, which has been vacant for several years after the previous house burned down. After discussion, Sarah Janacek made the following motion, seconded by Jimmy Fogel: LHNA supports the variance request to allow construction of a planned home on the lot at 2000 Fremont Ave. S., including an attached garage, which would require an increase in the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) from .5 to .54, allowing for 3201 square feet. All approved.

**Crime and Safety:** Rebecca Graham reported that criminal activity in the neighborhood has been quieter. Michael has contacted Chelsea Adams, Fifth Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, to give us an update next month.

**Events:** The Ice Skating Social is scheduled for January 25, 2015. Chris Madden will place an ad in the Hill & Lake Press. Mark Brauer will deliver pie, coffee and ice cream to the 5th Precinct on Thanksgiving.

**Neighborhood Priorities Survey Working Group/Community Participation Program:** Sarah Janacek updated the Board. A meeting will be scheduled to analyze the online neighborhood priority survey, and figure out priorities.

#### New Business:

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at [www.lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://www.lowryhillneighborhood.org), and sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned.

### Walker Art Gallery

NOVEMBER 19-DECEMBER 2

DANCE

Composing Forward: The Art of Steve Paxton

Fri-Sat, Nov 21-22, 8 pm

FILM

Frederick Wiseman,

National Gallery

Fri-Sun, Nov 28-30

DANCE

Choreographers'

Evening

Sat, Nov 29, 7 & 9:30 pm

FREE VERSE

Gillian Conoley and

Brian Laidlaw

Thu, Nov 20, 7 pm

DISCUSSION

Holding Court: Andrea Jenkins

Thu, Nov 20, 6 pm

## KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

By Shawn Smith

### Kenwood Isles Area Association Minutes Monday, November 3, 2014

Present: Jim Gilroy, Kathy Low, Larry Moran, Josine Peters, Jeanette Colby, Jack Levi, Angie Erdrich, Jean Deatrack, City Councilmember Lisa Goodman, Mary Riley, Dylan Thomas (Southwest Journal), Meghan Elliot (Preservation Design Works), Andy Novak (Metro Blooms)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Councilmember Lisa Goodman:

The last day of yard waste pick-up will be November 17th. "Later with Lisa" will be held on December 15th at the Normandy Hotel from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The City Council is considering an "Accessory Dwelling Unit" ordinance and has conducted community outreach, including two meetings at the Kenwood Rec Center. So far, 192 people have given feedback, 89% of which has been supportive. CM Goodman will likely vote in favor as long as the property is home-steaded. This regulation would not require off-street parking for the accessory dwelling.

**Composting:** The Mayor's budget proposal includes a \$5 million outlay to start up a citywide composting program. Under this proposal, every resident in the city would be charged \$48 per year regardless of property value or participation in composting. Considering only about 50% of city residents now recycle, CM Goodman is skeptical about citywide composting. Hennepin County is requiring every city to have a plan in place by January, 2015. Questions should be directed to the Mayor's office.

**Kenwood Restaurant:** Larry Moran shared with CM Goodman that two problems have surfaced. The noisy garbage collection happens in the early morning hours; and patrons are parking very close to the alley, creating a dangerous situation for people trying to enter and exit the alley. The law says that parked vehicles must be five feet from driveways and alleys. Illegal parking is not exclusive to restaurant patrons. Neighbors have approached the restaurant but have gotten no response. KIAA will consider contacting the restaurant as a board, and will also consider paying for signage.

#### Meghan Elliot, Preservation Design Works (PDW)

Section 106 Review is the process by which "consulting parties" can comment on the SWLRT as it pertains to historic resources. KIAA requested and was granted status as a consulting party in 2010, and PDW is acting as KIAA's representative. When 30% engineering plans were released in September, they included the 21st Street station and removing the tunnel north of the Kenilworth Channel. These changes initiated a reevaluation the "Area of Potential Effects." Ms. Elliot recommends that KIAA write a letter expressing our concerns about impacts in the newly defined area. This letter needs to be submitted by November 17th and the next 106 Review meeting will be held the week of November 24th. Josine Peters moved and Angie Erdrich seconded the motion to have PDW draft a letter on KIAA's behalf to be approved by the board.

#### Andy Novak, Metro Blooms (MB)

Since 2009, MB has worked in 18 neighborhoods to install over 400 rain gardens to mitigate storm water runoff. MB partners with neighborhood associations to apply for funding. Total cost per neighborhood association comes out to \$450 for 10 rain gardens. Homeowners pay \$350-\$500 for rain garden design and help with installation, a value of over \$2,000. Homeowners will be able to participate on a "first come, first served" basis. KIAA's application needs to be in by end of November. Jeanette Colby moved and Angie Erdrich seconded a motion that KIAA participate in the MB "Neighborhood of Gardens" program and authorize MB to begin the application process for

KIAA continued on the following page

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## KIAA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

grants for 10 rain gardens from the Conservation Corps and Minnehaha Watershed District on our behalf.

### Reauthorization of Consultant Contract

Ed Pluimer offered the following motion: "The KIAA Board approves extending the Consultant Agreement with Jean Deatrick with the same payment and terms as the November 2013 Consultant Agreement. The officers are authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary to extend the contract another year." Kathy Low seconded, and the motion was approved.

### Southwest LRT

Larry Moran noted that the Lakes and Parks Alliance announced that they had filed a motion for summary judgment in their case against the Met Council and the FTA. Information at <http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/sw-lrt-update/motion-for-summary-judgment-in-light-rail-lawsuit>

Jeanette Colby told the board that Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene had offered to organize a meeting for the Met Council to present the status of the proposed SWLRT 21st Street station. Based on the information we received about the meeting that was held by the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council, KIAA is declining to facilitate a meeting at this point. If we get written information requested, we will revisit the idea.

### Hidden Beach

The Park Board convened a meeting to explore solutions on October 24th, attended by about 30 people. The next meeting is November 13, 6-9pm, at the Kenwood Rec Center.

### Fall Newsletter

Jean Deatrick will draft a final version this week and send it to Angie Erdrich for review. Angie will then forward it to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

## Safety Advisory: Thin Ice

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is reminding residents about the dangers of thin ice on partially-frozen ponds, lakes, and bodies of water. During previous years in Hennepin County, the majority of victims in fatal ice-related accidents have been children, which is why it's extremely important for parents and caregivers to be vigilant this time of year. "Safety must be a top priority right now," said Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek. "Please talk to your children about the thin ice and the dangers associated with it."



## LUMINA

### Light in the Darkness: Music for Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 21, 7:00pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Minneapolis, 1917 Logan Avenue S., Minneapolis  
 Tuesday, December 23, 7:00pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church on-the-Hill  
 1524 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul (one block east of Snelling Avenue)  
 Tickets: General admission, \$10; students and seniors \$5 Available at the door only

### December 2014-January 2015 Groveland Annex Exhibition Fred Anderson – Painting from Life

Dates: December 6, 2014-January 17, 2015

Saturday Opening Reception: Saturday, December 6, 2-5 pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 to 5 pm

\_Groveland Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Minnesota artist Fred Anderson. Best known for his paintings of quiet, domestic interiors and street scenes from the neighborhoods surrounding his home in Cambridge, Minnesota, The artist will be present at the opening reception on

Saturday, December 6 from 2 to 5 pm. This exhibition and opening run concurrently with Local Terrain, a show of new woodcut prints by Colorado artist Jean Gumper. These exhibitions continue through January 17, 2015.

## Antiques Bel Air

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No ice should ever be considered safe. Small bodies of water such as ponds are the most likely to have a thin layer of ice. A dusting of snow or frost may give thin ice the appearance that it is safe when it is not. The recommended minimum thickness for ice is four inches for walking and small group activities. Current weather conditions have not allowed for adequate freezing to meet this minimum requirement. Also, remember to keep your dog on a leash this time of year. The Sheriff's Office has responded to incidents in the past involving pet owners who put themselves in jeopardy after chasing a dog that wandered onto thin ice.



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## Registration Now Open: Winter Adult Sports Leagues

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is now taking registration for winter adult sports leagues.

Offered sports include:

- Basketball
- Broomball
- Pond hockey
- Volleyball
- Dodgeball

The leagues will begin December 2014 and January 2015. Online registration for all winter leagues on a first-pay, first-play service.

Be sure to read your sport's winter bulletin before registration. All times listed on the registration page are starting times.

Register for your sport today!

Payment options:

- **Credit card:** Follow the registration link on the adult sports webpage for online payment
- **Check:** Bring your check to our Customer Service Desk at the MPRB Headquarters (2117 West River Road North); hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm
- **Sponsorship payment:** bring the check in-person or register online with your credit card to hold your spot (once you bring in your sponsorship check the money will be re-added to your card)



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Hill & Lake Press is a non profit newspaper and funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations: East Isles Residents Association (EIRA); Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA); Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA); and Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA).

Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrck at 612-377-5785  
hillandlakepress@bitstream.net

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

## MPRB and Community Celebrates Park Improvements at Brownie Lake

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and community members celebrated the completion of significant improvements at Brownie Lake on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

The gorgeous weather allowed for a picturesque afternoon at the most secluded and least developed lake within the Chain of Lakes. The grand opening featured a ceremonial ribbon cutting and comments by MPRB Commissioner Anita Tabb and Chair of the appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Marty Broan, naturalist-led activities, live music by Rachael Kroog, and canoe rides from Wilderness Inquiry.

"I am so pleased that we are able to celebrate these wonderful improvements at Brownie Lake," said Commissioner Tabb. "I want to extend a big thank you to Marty Broan, the CAC and all of the community members for their input, patience and continued support with this project. We would not be standing here today without all of your efforts!"

Park improvements include:

- The re-aligned bicycle trail along Cedar Lake Parkway features new surfacing, lights, railings and signs
- New trails and canoe launch at the north end of the park have improved access into the park and to the lake
- New pedestrian bridge installed over the channel to Cedar Lake allows walkers to make a complete circle around the lake
- The planting of 75 trees following buckthorn removal along the steep wooded slopes surrounding the lake

"It is very exciting to see that we have accomplished our goals of keeping this lake as natural as possible," said Commissioner Tabb. "With the increased safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists, it is my hope that this peaceful park and lake can once again become a popular year-round destination for families in the surrounding neighborhoods."

This project was funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment – Parks and Trails Fund (\$600,000), Federal Highway and Administration TEA21 Program (\$510,000) and the Metropolitan Council Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Lottery in Lieu Proceeds (\$125,000).

The appointed CAC met five times between 2011 and 2012 to determine the issues, priorities and the pre-

STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
1901 Emerson S # 104	\$ 149,900	\$ 3,600	217	\$ 120,000	C	1/1	781	\$ 103,000	\$ 2,234	1964
3145 Dean Court # 502	159,900	4,290	92	143,000	C	1/1	875	154,500	2,478	1983
52 Groveland Terr #A210	157,900	4,737	18	157,900	C	1/1	745	125,000	2,240	1968
2928 Dean Pkwy #4A	189,000	0	172	165,000	C	2/2	1,079	180,500	3,539	1960
3116 W Lake St #318	209,900	0	84	190,000	C	1/1	967	179,000	3,198	2007
1425 W 28th St #521	249,900	0	60	232,000	C	2/2	1,200	198,500	3,258	1986
3104 W Lake St #211	279,900	0	206	279,900	C	2/2	1,273	235,000	3,947	2007
2867 Kenwood Isles Dr	315,000	0	20	316,000	TWN	2/2	1,350	278,000	4,776	1986
3116 W Lake St #516	325,000	0	172	315,000	C	2/2	1,137	250,000	4,467	2007
2728 Chowen Ave S	539,900	0	180	413,500	H	4/2	1,944	506,000	9,104	1914
1729 Humboldt S	499,500	0	368	467,500	C	3/2	2,500	271,000	6,570	1925
2909 Drew S	500,000	4,000	320	455,000	H	3/2	2,003	351,000	6,422	1926
2950 Dean Pkwy #2301	650,000	0	42	625,000	C	2/2	1,980	502,000	9,520	1977
2920 Chowen S	729,000	0	22	725,000	H	5/4	2,975	187,000	3,023	2014
1717 Morgan S	850,000	0	14	850,000	H	4/4	3,314	621,500	11,884	1900
2629 E Lake of the Isles	2,175,000	1,800	532	1,635,000	H	4/6	5,866	1,867,500	39,052	1908
2820 W Lake of the Isles	1,895,000	0	32	1,630,000	H	4/4	3,307	400,000	7,146	2014
8 Park Lane	2,995,000	0	795	2,700,000	H	4/4	5,819	2,143,000	43,572	2002

Sources: Harvey Ettinger Steve Havig  
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County

Legend: cume Condo C, Home H, Townhouse TWN. (Go to mplsrealtor.com for additional info)

## Where we are Now.

By Jean Deatrck

This snowy and cold weather makes us think we are coming up to the Christmas holidays rather than Thanksgiving. We wish all of you neighbors, friends, and advertisers a happy Thanksgiving.

I feel fortunate to have such splendid writers for Hill and Lake Press. Our longtime journalist and friend Jim Lenfestey is truly a gift to our neighborhood, not only for his writing ability, but for his love of community and activism along with his wife Susan.

Madeleine Lowry always has a fresh take on family life. Her columns bring back many happy memories of when my children were young.

Tom Cook writes from afar, from warm and sunny California, but I think his heart is still here in

Minneapolis, specifically East Isles where he and JoAnne spent many years and raised their family.

And Michael Wilson is providing us with excellent well-written updates on the local scene...whatever is timely for the neighborhoods...SWLRT, Burnham Bridge, Hidden Beach, and much more. We live in an activist community where residents get involved. And thank you to our longtime photographer, Dorothy Childers who is an expert at managing our photos as well as covering all important events.

And don't forget to patronize our advertisers. We depend on them so that we can continue to publish. If you don't receive your HLP, please let me know. If you don't want it, please recycle.

ferred concept plan and recommendations for the improvements at the park. The committee was appointed by several MPRB Commissioners, the mayors of Minneapolis and St Louis Park, Minneapolis Councilmember Lisa Goodman, Met Council, the Cedar Lake Park Association, and several neighborhood associations.

Top priorities for the funding were the bicycle trail replacement, a pedestrian bridge over the channel to Cedar Lake, and elimination of erosion. The CAC did not want to change Brownie Lake's natural character with packed earth trails. The Area Plan for Brownie Lake was approved by the MPRB Board of

Commissioners in March 2012 and development of construction plans began.

Construction of park and trail improvements occurred primarily in the fall of 2013 at the same time the Minneapolis Public Works Department was constructing a new lift station for the sanitary sewer force main located on the east side of the lake. The MPRB's contractor installed the pedestrian bridge over the channel to Cedar in February 2014 after the Loppet.

## Ice Dams

By Hannah Strong

Roof ice dams create an annual winter headache for many Minnesotans. When serious enough, ice dams cause water to leak through shingles, resulting in costly interior damage. However, with the proper know-how ice dams can often be prevented before they start.

According to Patrick Huelman, Coordinator of the Cold Climate Housing Program at the University of Minnesota, three factors must be present to create ice dams. First, there must be adequate snow cover on your roof, second, outside temperatures must be below freezing, and third, conditions must allow snow to melt on your roof and refreeze as ice on your soffits.

Ice dams usually occur when your home's heated and unheated spaces are not sealed effectively from one another. Warm air leaking from living spaces into unheated spaces under your roof can cause snow to melt. Eventually the melted snow reaches the roof eaves, which typically remain below freezing. This causes the snow melt to re-freeze at the eave, creating an ice buildup. This ice buildup acts as a dam to subsequent snow melt, which can cause water to back up under shingles and leak through the roof.

If you have ever found yourself in this situation you've probably called someone like Joe Palumbo, president of IceDamGuys. Palumbo has been in the ice dam removal business for 18 years, and expects to visit 500 homes this season.

Huelman and Palumbo both agree that prevention is key when dealing with ice dams. They recommend getting a home energy evaluation to ensure that your home is properly insulated and air sealed. If it's not, your home is losing heat and you are paying much more to heat your home than you need to, while also running the risk of getting ice dams.

Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits are a home energy evaluation offered in Minneapolis. The program is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy in partnership with the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). At the home energy visit, two energy consultants visit your home to help you identify ways to save energy. During the two hour consultation diagnostic tests are completed which include an insulation inspection and a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks. These tests are essential to learning how to help prevent ice dams. The cost for the visit to Minneapolis residents varies from \$30-\$70 depending on your neighborhood, as several neighborhood associations are supporting the program and helping buy down the cost for residents. Contact Hannah Strong, at [hstrong@mncee.org](mailto:hstrong@mncee.org) or 612-335-5828, to find out pricing in your neighborhood.

At the end of your visit the energy consultants go over their recommendations for increased energy efficiency in your home, and provide you with an Energy Fitness Plan. To help accomplish recommended home improvement projects, the visit qualifies participants to receive low interest energy financing from the Center for Energy and Environment's Lending Center.

For more information or to schedule a Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit call Beth at 612-335-5874 or visit [mncee.org/hes-mpls](http://mncee.org/hes-mpls).

## Turkey Dilemma

By Madeleine Lowry

The turkey is the centerpiece of the Thanksgiving table so there is a lot weighing on the selection of the bird. In my mother's day the choice was simple—you would go to the neighborhood grocery store and buy a butterball. Done.

Nowadays nothing is simple. Just as the number of choices in the toothpaste aisle has proliferated to dizzying proportions, so have the factors that must be considered in choosing your turkey. How does the savvy Thanksgiving host decide?

This month Cook's Illustrated did a long piece on Heritage turkeys contributing to indecision and general anxiety about turkey posturing at the Thanksgiving table. Is a heritage turkey really worth paying ten times more for? For Martha Stewart or Lynne Rossetto Kasper the answer would be a resounding "Yes!" Taster testimonials describe the extraordinary richly nutty flavor, the succulent breast meat and perfectly tender texture. A turkey dream come true, and one that I might be more tempted by if I had more gold bullion stuffed in my mattress.

If the heritage bird has become the gold standard, then the strangely conceived turducken must hold the silver. I was blissfully unaware that turducken existed until several years ago when Rob, then a fellow Lowry Hill Neighborhood Board member, made one for the on-duty staff at the police station on Thanksgiving. After telling me what it was called three times, he took a deep breath and explained that it was a chicken stuffed in a duck stuffed in a turkey. I did not believe him. It sounded like a natural disaster, not a gastronomic Thanksgiving offering. But Wikipedia set me straight.

Let me help you get your mind around this: imagine deboning three birds and stuffing one inside the other like some crazy Thanksgiving version of Russian dolls, no genetic engineering required. This is called engastration, a culinary practice where one animal is stuffed into

the gastric passage of another. Yum.

I can pass on the turducken for a few reasons. Firstly, that solid chunk of meat must take F-O-R-E-V-E-R to roast. Second, I imagine that the surgical talents of the butcher who could debone three birds and wedge them together in such an arrangement must be highly-rewarded and as such a turducken remains outside of my affordability criteria. I'm just guessing. Third, I think that explaining what I have served at Thanksgiving to my disbelieving guests will risk some losing their appetite and that it will take so long to get through the FAQs that we will all be sitting down to dine on cold poultry.

For those of us feeding twenty or more, economics play a stronger role, which brings us to the more pedestrian bronze-level choices: fresh, frozen, organic, free-range, natural, kosher, or brined. Frozen is usually cheapest but a 16-pounder will take about 4 days to thaw in the refrigerator, which is why I prefer fresh. Who has the space?

When brining was the hot tip du jour for producing a moist turkey my husband relished the process as his contribution to the meal. He perfected the salt-water-in-black-plastic-leaf-bag-add-turkey-store-in-cooler-in-the-garage method. Now that we can purchase pre-brined birds he is less enthusiastic about these science experiments.

While I am drawn to organic and free-range options, I have to say that kosher turkeys have a lot to recommend them. They undergo the equivalent of a dry-brining process and arrive with a rabbi's blessing. I'm not Jewish, but this sounds like value to me. When you're in charge of feeding dozens, every blessing is a boon.

Happy Thanksgiving!

## Ecological System Plan CAC Meeting Set

The third meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Ecological System Plan will be held Thursday, December 4, 5:30-7:30, at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis. The public is welcome to attend and will have the opportunity to comment.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- to review initial models for improving environmental performance of parks
- to review city- and watershed-wide maps of parks' ability to help solve regional environmental concerns

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) are preparing the first-ever Ecological System Plan. The Ecological System Plan will seek to first understand the ecology of the city and watershed, then plan for parks and public lands management and improvements that benefit both humans and nature. It will address specific threats such as climate change, decreasing water quality, explosion of invasive species, increasing runoff, and fragmentation of

habitat. It will envision a more environmentally sound way of managing the impacts of the city, so that the city can be cleaner, greener, cooler, and more efficient.

In addition to attending this and other upcoming CAC meetings, the public may provide input and stay informed about the project in the following ways:

- Visit the project website to stay up to date on the project and see some of the amazing maps and drawings we plan to create. Go to [www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/currentprojects) and select "Ecological System Plan."
- Attend any of the planned community events that will take place in the parks over the next year and a half. More details will be made available on the project website and by govdelivery as these events are scheduled and planned.
- Sign up to receive e-mail updates by subscribing on the project website or at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/subscribe](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/subscribe) or, if you are already a subscriber, by adding "Ecological System Plan" to your subscription preferences.

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## sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

*"Please listen carefully because our menu options have changed ... (garble garble)*

*or, if you (are brain dead, lonely and bored and) would like to speak to a representative press 9 now or simply remain on the line."*

I am one of the seven drivers in North America that does not run red lights. I vote (even for county deputy assistant waste management controller), yield right of way, hold doors for others, pay taxes, recycle, floss, stand up straight, say please and thank you, and nod agreeably during weather-related conversations. I do not mumble, litter, chew gum, describe everything as awesome, or forget the Alamo. There are other things I do not do but modesty prohibits me from an extensive list. These may be my greatest virtues. Suffice it to say I am not a great humanitarian.

I hope to live quite a while longer, but what if admission to a good afterlife is like applying to college? My life GPA (money) is not the best. I will need good references and solid extracurricular to have any shot at even a state school Heaven. I have trouble imagining a

Judgment Day with St. Peter and the Pearly Gates, but if there is one, the topic of good works will certainly come up.

When the economy tightened many jobs were eliminated, and those who remained were asked to do more with less. I sympathize with the front-line service providers. Supervisors, under the guise of efficiency and profitability, became bullies and petty tyrants. Now surveys and questionnaires abound whenever there is a transaction. I know if I indicate anything less than blissful, near orgasmic satisfaction someone will get called on the carpet. (I once had a helpful phone worker counsel me where to safely put 8s and 9s to make the survey more credible.) I am familiar enough with professional jargon to provide a specific critique of a staff member's performance to management-types.

Recently a Best Buy sales associate was explaining 4K TV, LED versus plasma, HDMI pixels, Smart TV and HI DEF. He knew mountains more than me, but he had a grammar glitch. I felt he would have difficul-

ty getting promoted or taken seriously if he continued to refer to different models as "these ones." I mentioned it to him lightly and with humor. I do not know if it stuck. I also made sure to find his supervisor and let her know how helpful he had been.

My best work is on the phone. If a representative seems willing to go off script and actually help me, I tell them (and the ubiquitous Big Brother) how much I appreciate them explaining how my cable bill is bundled or why it costs more to fly 300 miles than 3,000. I agree to remain on the line to complete a short survey. Whether talking to an airline or an insurance company, behind the behemoth are people pressured to perform. What I do is not sufficient to spare me from spending my afterlife in a roaring fire pit and an eternity of Kenny G. music, but I try to help.

**Tom H. Cook is a local writer and professional jacks player. He accidentally invited everyone he has ever e-mailed to endorse him on LinkedIn.**

### Meet your Neighbor from page three

planning commission.

**The Mayor's proposal in her 2015 budget for the use of additional tax increment from the Consolidated TIF District, which is earmarked for 'neighborhood revitalization purposes,' has sparked a discussion on the future of neighborhood funding. What are your thoughts on neighborhood funding and why it's important?** The reality is that the Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP) is over. Once the neighborhoods spend down the last of their allocations, which is projected to happen by 2021, that's it. When the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District ends in 2020, the City Council will need to have a conversation about how

to continue funding for its existing program, the Community Participation Program. In regards to the Mayor's proposal, I never saw what all of the alarm was about. The City Council has the authority to define what 'neighborhood revitalization purposes' are, and the proposal isn't cutting any current funding levels for neighborhoods. For the future, I don't believe the proper role of neighborhood groups is to spend huge pots of money on projects, and therefore am not supportive of trying to continue NRP or create another program like it. Despite that, I am committed to spending the last of East Isles' NRP dollars in the best way possible to benefit the entire neighborhood and further citywide goals. What I do believe is that the proper role of neighbor-

hood groups is community engagement, and therefore am very supportive of Community Participation Program (CPP) and hope that the Council identifies a new source of funding for the program after the Consolidated TIF District ends.

**What do you hope Minneapolis will be like in 30 years?** I hope in 30 years Minneapolis will have grown by another 100,000 people. I hope the Minneapolis will have an extensive transportation network including transit and protected bikeways. And I hope that Minneapolis will have enough housing that is affordable for all income groups.

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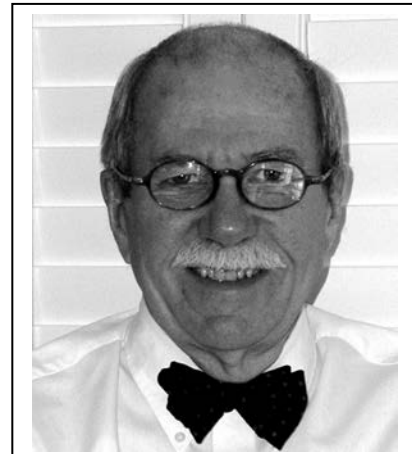
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