



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Hill & Lake Press

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HILL AND LAKE HISTORY RECOGNIZED

By Linda Mack

It was a historic year for Hill and Lake Press neighborhoods.

On March 20, 2015 the Minneapolis City Council designated the bronze and granite Thomas Lowry Memorial at 2330 Hennepin Av. S. as a local historic landmark. And on August 21 the council designated the Lowry Hill East Residential District, which includes 55 residential properties in the Wedge.

The Thomas Lowry Memorial was found significant for its association with the life of streetcar magnate Thomas Lowry, with the city’s streetcar heritage and because it exemplifies the work of a master artist, New York sculptor Karl Bitter. Its period of significance begins with the memorial’s completion in 1915 and ends when it was moved from Virginia Triangle in the now defunct Hennepin-Lyndale spaghetti junction to its current location in Smith Triangle Park.

The Lowry Hill East District is a classic “streetcar suburb” which built up as the streetcar lines expanded. It includes portions of the 2400 block of Colfax Avenue South, the 2300 and 2400 blocks of Bryant Avenue South, Aldrich Avenue South, and 811 and 911 24th Street West.

The boundaries were drawn to include the most architecturally cohesive section of the neighborhood, in which notable architects such as William Kenyon, William Channing Whitney and builder Theron P. Healey designed “high-fashion” Colonial Revival and Queen Anne houses between 1882 and 1920. Some Arts and Crafts and Prairie style houses are also included.

The designations mean that the character of these important historic places will be preserved over time. The Minneapolis City Council adopted design guidelines for both the monument and the historic district that ensure that their important features will be maintained.

Note: The guidelines do not mean that property owners can’t make any changes. Rather, they spell out how changes can be made while maintaining the character of the individual buildings and the district. Straightforward changes can be approved by city staff; the 10-member Heritage Preservation commission reviews more complex changes.

The guidelines for the Thomas Lowry Memorial allow for accessibility improvements. For the designation study and guidelines see: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/landmarks/WCMS1P-139550>.

Guidelines for Lowry Hill East address the design of new housing in the district as well as improvements to existing housing. The designation study and design guidelines can be found at

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/landmarks/WCMS1P-148327>.

Neighborhood efforts were key to the designations. The Friends of the Thomas Lowry Monument advocated for its preservation. Efforts to recognize and protect Lowry Hill East’s historic houses began 10 years ago when the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association commissioned a historic study of the

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO OUR ADVERTISERS AND OUR READERS



Archive Photo/Dorothy Childers

A winter scene from Cedar Lake for all readers who are missing snow.



Photo courtesy of City of Minneapolis

Sculpted by famed New York sculptor Karl Bitter, the Thomas Lowry Memorial was erected in 1915 on a triangle of land where Hennepin and Lyndale Avenues converged. It was moved to 2330 Hennepin in 1967.

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Artist Joyce Aprea Murphy at Theatre in the Round Gallery



Photo by Dorothy Childers

From Eye, to Hand, to Heart,

By Joyce Aprea Murphy

For me many times art and the process involved is a mystery. The process goes from eye, to hand, to creation. I have placed two drawings in this show, "Amazon Warehouse Worker" number one and number two that are examples of this process and the thought that is involved.

The first drawing, number one is my first impression when I started to draw this subject. The second drawing is

the refined version of the first with the right colors, the right rendition of the subject matter. And yet each drawing is correct at getting the job done in its own way. The first drawing is a direct non refined attempt at getting the drawing down on paper, bold strokes, and bold colors reproducing the image. It is not a perfect rendering and yet the finished drawing has a power, an emotional reaction to the subject. It gets the job done like the worker in the drawing. The second drawing is a refined calmer piece. Why is this? The only answer I can give involves how I go

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Jan. 13, 7-8:30 Grace Trinity, Lake Street Energy Challenge solar program
- Jan. 24, 2016 Lake of the Isles Skating Party
- Feb. 5 - 7 Loppet
- Neighborhood monthly meetings
- CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday 6pm Jones-Harrison
- EIRA: 2nd Tuesday Grace Community Church
- KIAA: 1st Monday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center
- LHNA: 1st Tuesday 7pm Kenwood Rec Center

about making a drawing. Art is a sensual experience and not an intellectual experience sometimes with any reason or causes or explanations.

The medium that I use is colored pencil. The colored pencil is a medium that allows reproduction of the finest detail, the subtleties of light and shadow, and the large surfaces to needed in background areas for the art piece and artwork. And Last, but not least, colored pencils are one art medium that is the least invasive and harmful to the environment. My work is on display until December 28th 2015.

Now it is your turn to look, and speak, and react and to enjoy.

And while you are enjoying my art work stop and see the Theater in the Round production of an Agatha Christie Hercule Poirot mystery, "Black Coffee". Performances are on Sunday afternoon's matinees and on Thursday evening through Saturday evenings the play runs through December 20th The Theater in the Round does its usual presentation of good acting, and good plot. A most enjoyable presentation.

Trunk Show at Textile Center



Photo by Dorothy Childers

On Nov. 28th Rose Corrick/Art of Cloth, hand-dyed fashions, was featured in a trunk show at the Textile Center Holiday Gallery Shop, 3000 University Avenue SE. Textile Artist Gini Corrick, a resident of the East Isles neighborhood, was a special guest. Art of Cloth garments are designed and crafted by hand in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Their hand-dyed clothes are 100% created in the United States: artofcloth.com. Shown here, left to right are Gini Corrick and daughter, Rose Corrick. The holiday show continues until December 26th.

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Meet your Neighbor, Max Musicant

Craig Wilson interviews Max Musicant, founder of the Musicant Group, about his passion for creating people-centric places, how he came to volunteer maintaining Kenilworth and Cedar Lake Trail, and what inspires him.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in the Linden Hills neighborhood and my mother still lives in the house I was raised in. It was a wonderful place to grow up and really shaped who I am today. Linden Hills was, and still is, a very civically involved neighborhood. And we were a very active family within this context. Our family believed in the importance of engaging in the civic and political process as a way of making positive change in our community and beyond. This manifested as accompanying my mother on door-knock and literature drops as early as I can remember. It meant volunteering at our local parks. It meant standing up, showing up, and acting upon your values. These practices have stayed with me to this day.

How did you become interested in public space? It started as a curiosity while a member of a traveling high school soccer team. We would play games in Blaine, Coon Rapids, Apple Valley, etc. I was just struck at the vast expanses of grassy fields, monotonous houses, and strip malls that were in stark contrast to my walkable and unique neighborhood. I could sense that there was a real difference in quality. This feeling, combined with our family's sense of civic purpose and service, sparked a life-long interest in what makes a great place. Since that initial spark, my thinking has since deepened over the importance of public spaces and the public realm. For me, it's deeply rooted in my spiritual values and a belief that at the end of the day, we share so much. We all want the same things: health, community, safety, joy, family, etc. In my experience, interacting

with those who we perceive to be different is the best way to realize all that we share. Cities, in my mind, are the best vehicles to facilitate these sorts of interactions. Within cities, it is our public spaces and public realm – our parks, streets, sidewalks, even private spaces like skyways and cafés - that create the conditions for us to connect. I share Fredrick Law Olmstead's credo that the creation and enhancement of the public realm is nothing less than strengthening the backbone of our democracy.

What is the Musicant Group and how did you come to found it? The Musicant Group is an interdisciplinary placemaking and public space management firm that creates places where people want to be. We partner with community and commercial organizations to create from scratch or transform existing underutilized public and common area spaces into active places that people seek-out and use every day. The firm works under the assumption that wherever people want to be, they want to do things nearby: live, work, eat, play, shop, socialize, etc. These places are good for the public and also private interests. What makes us really different from other firms is that we take a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to improving these places. Everything we do is done through the lens of the user experience. We create exceptional, beautiful, and social places by breaking down the silos that often dominate our built environment, combining physical design, events, and management systems into every project.

How did you come to learn about this approach to placemaking? I first came across this approach while working for a neighborhood economic development group in Jamaica, Queens New York City. My boss had been a leader at the Bryant Park Corporation, which had been revitalized in the 90s and through this



very holistic approach. We began to apply it to the lower income, but still bustling, neighborhood where our organization was based. We achieved tremendous results and it was a perfect marriage of my love of the built environment and people. After working at that organization I went to Yale for my MBA with the intent of moving back to the Twin Cities and putting this approach to work. Upon moving back in 2011, few people really understood this sort of approach and those that did were not in a position to hire me at their organization. After a year of discernment, I realized that this was my calling and I forged out on my own and started The Musicant Group.

Meet your Neighbor to page 10



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HILL AND LAKE HISTORY FROM PAGE ONE

Wedge. In 2008, Mead & Hunt conducted a more detailed historic resource inventory. Both efforts came to fruition in 2015 as the Heritage Preservation Commission staff focused on designating properties connected with the city's streetcar history.

In addition to these designations representing streetcar development, the commission and the city council also designated the Twin City Rapid Transit Station at 2418 Washington Avenue North, the last surviving streetcar storage and maintenance building, Camden Park State Bank at 705 42nd Avenue North, and the Golden Valley Apartments on Golden Valley Road and Thomas and Upton Avenues North. Dinkytown's origins as an early streetcar commercial node also played a role in the designation of the Dinkytown Historic District.

As a Heritage Preservation Commissioner and Kenwood resident, I was proud to vote for these designations and be a part of preserving our neighborhood's history. Kudos to all those who participated in the process and added their insights!

A Kenwood resident, Linda Mack serves on the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. The views expressed herein are her own.



Photo courtesy of City of Minneapolis

A typical streetscape in the Lowry Hill East Historic District, the west side of Colfax looking south from 24th Street West, shows the rhythm of the houses.

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Courtesy of City of Minneapolis

This map shows the boundaries of the Lowry Hill East Residential District.

Neighborhood parks, neighborhood schools: Prized assets for strong communities

By Michael Wilson

Neighborhood parks and neighborhood schools are important components in the glue that binds our communities together. They become familiar landmarks in our communities both for those who use them every day and for those who simply enjoy looking at them as they drive, walk, or bike past. Without parks and schools our neighborhoods are simply tracts of houses. With them our neighborhoods become communities.

Our four Hill and Lake neighborhoods are blessed, of course, with two of the four major lakes that comprise the Chain of Lakes Regional Park, one of the most heavily visited recreation destinations in the entire state, as well as with a fine segment of the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. But we also are blessed with a bounty of neighborhood parks as well, including two of the largest in the Minneapolis Parks system: 45.8-acre Parade Park, which includes Spring Lake; and 32.9-acre Kenwood Park, the jewel of our many Hill and Lake neighborhood parks.

(Ranking Minneapolis neighborhood parks by size gets a bit dicey since two of them include golf courses while others consist mostly of a lake. Go to the “Parks & Destinations” tab on the <minneapolisparcs.org> website for detailed information on all 170+ park properties, including David C. Smith’s fascinating histories of each park property. Be sure to explore the section on “Triangles & Other Tiny Parks.”)

Small parks: much appreciated, lovingly tended

The Lowry Hill neighborhood contains two small parks: Fremont Triangle, on Mt. Curve Avenue; and beautiful Thomas Lowry Park, lovingly maintained by dedicated neighborhood volunteers. East Isles contains three small parks: Smith Triangle, across from Temple Israel, site of the Thomas Lowry Memorial (see related story on page one) Levin Park, also known as Levin Triangle, formerly Euclid Triangle, renamed in 1988 in grateful memory of Joanne R. Levin, who spearheaded community efforts to transform the triangle into a true neighborhood gathering place; and (interestingly enough) The Mall Park.

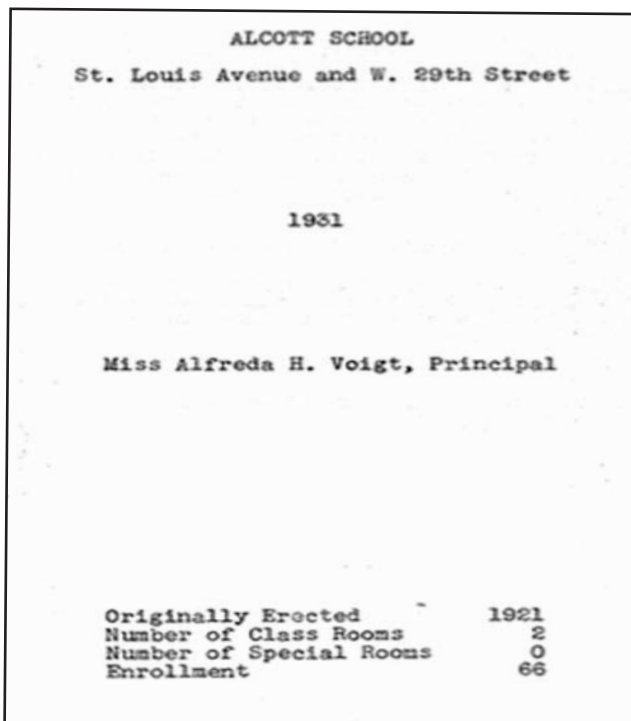
Cedar-Isles-Dean wins the prize with no fewer than five small parks: Chowen Triangle, at Chowen and West 28th Street; St. Louis Triangle, at Chowen and West Lake Street; West End Triangle, at Cedar Lake Avenue and West 28th Street; and Park Siding Park alongside the Kenilworth Trail, Cedar-Isles-Dean’s lovely and somewhat hidden gem, generously supported by the neighborhood through volunteer efforts and CIDNA board appropriations.

And small park number five? That would be Alcott Triangle at the intersection of St. Louis Avenue and West 29th Street, unusual if not unique among all Minneapolis properties as the orphan park that for decades no one really wanted.

This triangular piece of land was labeled

“Playground” on the 1887 plat map of the West End Addition, 2nd Division, long before houses were built in the area. The plat map made provision for a north-south street on the west side of the triangle – Abbott Avenue? Beard? – which was never built.

In 1921 three portable classrooms were moved to the site, two from Calhoun School in Uptown and one from Hale School in south Minneapolis, to form Alcott School – unusual if not unique among all Minneapolis schools in that virtually nothing is known about this small district outpost which educated Cedar-Isles-Dean children until it was closed in 1940.



Alcott Triangle: the orphan no one wanted
City records show that on June 10, 1927, the City Council voted to turn Alcott Triangle over to the Park

Board. On August 9, 1927, however, the Park Board’s Standing Committee on Designation and Acquisition of Grounds concluded that the property “is apparently of no use as a park but ... may be of some use in conjunction with the [neighboring Alcott] school property” and recommended that the City Council vest title to the property with the School Board.

Council proceedings indicate that the city intended to turn Alcott Triangle over to either the Park Board or the School Board, but apparently this was never done. According to Parks historian David C. Smith, in 1928 the School Board asked the Park Board for title to the land, but the Park Board still didn’t officially own the land. In 1929 the School Board asked the Council to vacate the strip of land between the Triangle and the Alcott School grounds which had been earmarked for a street. The Council did so on May 31, 1929.

Smith writes that Park Board records do not indicate when the Board officially accepted title to the land from the city. Renay Leone, MPRB real estate planner, states that “coming at this from a real estate legal perspective, it seems that no one ‘sold’ the land to MPRB, but the owner of the larger parcel [between St. Louis Avenue and West 29th Street] actually dedicated it in the 1887 West End Addition 2nd Division plat as a park.”

Leone continues, “Usually, that would have been enough to consider it owned by the Board of Park Commissioners, but often in those days the City of Minneapolis would take specific action to ‘transfer’ or ‘turn over’ land to the Park Board. This is apparently what happened in 1927. But apparently we didn’t want it and thought it would be better off conveyed to the School Board, which we suggested the City do. Which they never did. And that pretty much brings us to today, where our practice is to consider it ours and maintain it as such.”

Neighborhood parks, schools to page 6

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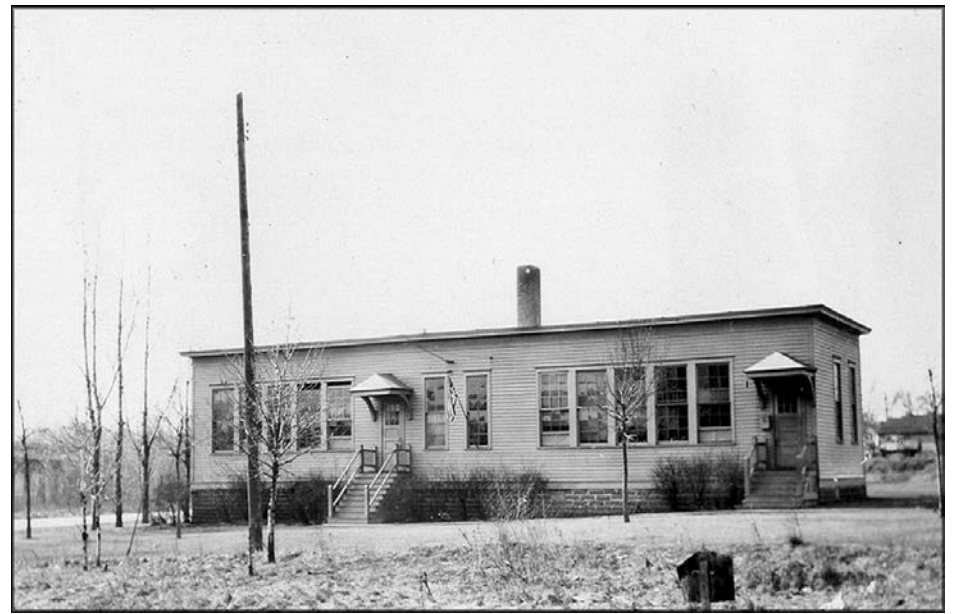


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CIDNA'S ALCOTT SCHOOL: INFORMATION NEEDED!



Two views (undated) of Alcott School, which stood next to Alcott Triangle on West 29th Street in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood from 1921 to 1940. Above: title page for a two-page 1931 facility report on Alcott School. If you or anyone you know attended Alcott School, or if you have recollections or information about the school, please contact us at <hillandlakepress@gmail.com> or (612) 743-6546. (Photos: Minneapolis Public Schools)

Continued from page 5

A handwritten memo from December 1969 summarizes the prior history of the property, including a notation that "Marve Giving has cleared it [the Alcott Triangle property] for as long as he can remember." Leone surmises that 1969 "may have been when we actually did something with the land (started mowing it, or put some trees or benches on it). I haven't found anything in our files relative to the acceptance, transfer, or legal conveyance [of the property] from that era."

If parks could speak, the little orphan Alcott Triangle might say that all it wanted for decades was a

little love. But the little triangle that nobody wanted might have the last laugh after all. According to Realtor and longtime Cedar-Isles-Dean resident Ed Bell, if the quarter-acre Alcott Triangle were put on the market today as a single-family home site – which the Park Board has no plans to do – its value would conservatively exceed \$300,000.

Editor's note: the story of our Hill and Lake neighborhood parks and schools will continue in our January issue, but to do so we need your help. If you or some-

one you know attended Alcott School, or if you're a longtime neighborhood resident with memories of Alcott School, please contact us at <hillandlakepress@gmail.com> or (612) 743-6546.

The Bridge for Youth

The Bridge for Youth announces licensing has been approved to open its new 6-bed youth shelter in Excelsior in early December. The 24-hour emergency shelter will provide a safe space for children ages 10-17.

The shelter is the first of its kind in the southwest suburbs and will serve youth from Victoria, Waconia, Chaska, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and surrounding communities.

Youth in crisis and anyone who works with youth in crisis — parents, teachers, social workers, law enforcement — are encouraged to reach out to The Bridge by calling (612)377-8800, texting (612)400-SAFE, or dropping in at the new facility at 3010 West 78th Street, Excelsior, MN.

Youth services include overnight shelter, meals, school transport, counseling, case management, and weekly support groups. Counseling is also available for the parents and caregivers and for the family

Book Release for Celebrated Cook and Author Beth Dooley



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Birchbark Books hosted an open house at Bockley Gallery, to launch Beth Dooley's book "In Winter's Kitchen: Growing Roots and Breaking Bread in the Northern Heartland." Her latest book is a collection of essays that reflect her deep commitment to the issues behind those good-tasting foods that appear in the many cookbooks she has written. Shown here, Beth Dooley greeted a large group after reading the introduction from her book. Signed copies of her book are available at Birchbark Books. For more information, visit her web site at www.beth-dooleyskitchen.com.

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Have a pleasant El Niño

by James P. Lenfestey
www.coyotepoet.com

As I write this, the neighborhood continues its lovely fall run of 10-20 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Although some snow may arrive by winter solstice and Christmas, overall the extremely warm temperatures should continue through much of meteorological winter.

The reason, as we all now know, is El Niño. But do you know who El Niño is?

Of course, it's "the warm phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (commonly called ENSO)." But that is only the newest, scientific explanation. Older views may well have more currency today.

In 1978 I traveled to Peru in search of stories, including that of the newly excavated palace at Chan Chan, capital of the Chimú empire. Chan Chan ("sun sun") is a massive urban complex that thrived from about 900CE to 1470CE (more than twice as long as the United States) until defeated by the Inca empire, then again by the Spanish who moved the city inland to what is now modern Trujillo.

Today the massive abandoned city covers nearly 20 square miles on the Pacific coast, the palace alone more than two square miles, all built from adobe walls that look like endless ribbons of melted ice cream. What caused the adobe to erode in a city situated in the rain shadow of the Andes, one of the driest places on earth?

When I asked the locals that question in 1978, their ready answer was: "El Niño," a weather term I had never heard before. Every fifty years or so, they said, the skies mysteriously opened into a massive, unaccountable cloudburst of rain, never before seen by the generations living there. After the city was abandoned, the walls began to melt under the rainfall.

The origin of the term El Niño, then, has to do with when those freakish storms occurred, generally around Christmas; hence, "El Niño," the Christ Child.

Today when we hear meteorologists chatter on about El Niño, we think about increasingly frequent superheated Pacific waters, the worst events now accompanied by bleached coral and befuddled sea life (The intense El Niño event of 1998 caused an estimat-

ed 16% of the world's reef systems to die).

But there is another explanation that perhaps should color our current understanding of what this year's massive El Niño portends, one bigger and hotter than the destructive one in 1998. Could it be the "rough beast, its hour come round at last" that William Butler Yeats prophesied would afflict us, in his poem "The Second Coming?"

Do you remember it from school? Published in 1921, the poem emerged from the epic slaughter of the First World War to somehow anticipate the genocide of the second, the post War environmental and climate crises, the slaughter of innocents by fanatics, the xenophobia of the Republican Presidential debates.

Listen to the prophesy:

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;

Surely the Second Coming is at hand.

The Second Coming! Hardly are these words out

When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi

Troubles my sight: somewhere in the sands of the desert

A shape with lion body and the head of a man,

A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,

Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it

Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.

The darkness drops again; but now I know

That twenty centuries of stony sleep

Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,

And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,

Slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?"

As this most hopeful of holiday seasons swirls around us like the snow we long for, let us embrace the vision that sleeps in that rocking cradle. The one that birthed love for one's neighbor, justice for all, life in peace, intolerance only for the intolerant, and relentless belief in the resilience of the human spirit and action to protect the glories of God's Green Earth.

Amen.

Correction

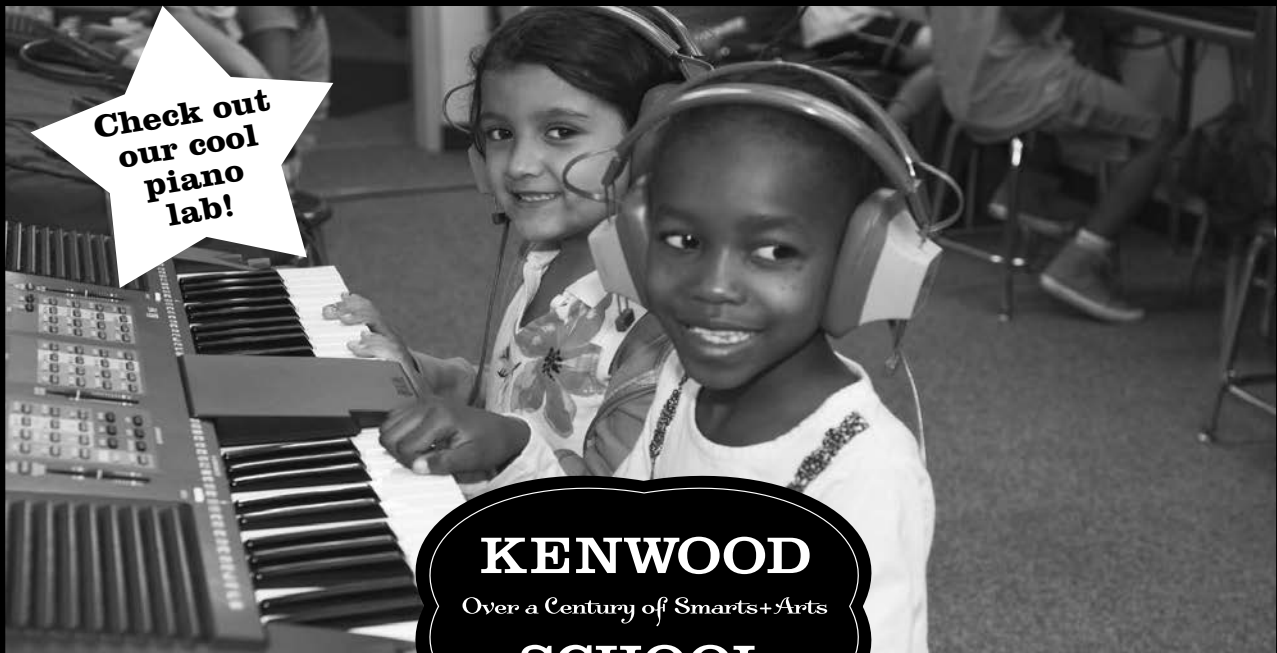
The November issue showed a photo of artist Chris Childers at the new art gallery at the Kenwood Pet Clinic, 2107 Penn Ave South in Kenwood.

The caption should have mentioned that the event was presented by FrameStyles.

The art shows are juried by Trudy Frederick of FrameStyles.

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Photo by Dorothy Childers

Left to right: Arlene Fried, Jean Deatrck, Anita Tabb, Dot Lilja, Meg Tuthill, and Karen Ringsrud.
Front row: Lisa Goodman with Sadie

Later with Lisa

By Jean Deatrck

Lisa Goodman's annual holiday party at the Normandy Inn downtown gets better every year. Friends who joined Lisa and her dog Sadie included Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb, Commissioner Marion Greene, friends and celebrities, downtown residents, and residents from the Hill & Lake Press neighborhoods.

Lisa knows how to throw a party. The food was superb, the conversation terrific. Her fans and constituents appreciate her leadership on the many important issues in the Seventh Ward.

The party was from 4:30 to 6:30, but when I left at 6:15 to go on to another party, the rooms were still full of Lisa's fans.

We love Lisa. And Sadie must be the happiest dog in the world.

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Archive photo/Dorothy Childers



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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

Submitted by: Nicole Engel-Nitz, Secretary of the EIRA Board

Minutes from the EIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) Meeting December 8, 2015

Grace Trinity Community Church

Board members present: Andrew Degerstrom (President), Carla Purdue (Vice-President), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bruce Larson, Nancy Johnston, Amy Sanborn, Bill Elwood, Mike Erlandson

Guest: Lisa Goodman, Council member

EIRA President Andrew Degerstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Welcome & Announcements:

- EIRA is interviewing candidates for the position of EIRA Coordinator, with a goal of selecting and approving a new coordinator in the January 12 Board meeting.

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council Ward Seven

- This month, instead of Lunch with Lisa, the Later with Lisa Event will be held at the Normandy downtown from 4:30-6:30 pm on Monday December 14.

- The Minneapolis final budget hearing will be held and residents are welcome to attend.

- Historic designation of the Thomas Lowry Park statue was approved.

- A resident has made an inquiry to the Council Member's office regarding the installation of speed bumps on Humboldt Avenue between 28th Street and the Greenway. The street is eligible for speed bumps, but approval requires signatures of 75% of block residents/owners, and no parking is allowed within 25 feet of bump. The block owners would need to pay \$7500 per speed bump (pair). There was a further discussion that speed bumps may be installed in alleys, although these must be taken up in the winter for plowing.

- The zoning variances for 2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway were approved.

- The owners of 2701 Lake of the Isle have indicated that they are interested in tearing down the existing house to build a new house; the property is currently in the historic review process.

- Hennepin & Lyndale redesign work will make the traffic on Hennepin tricky, so drivers should look for alternate routes. The current work on sewer-utility redesign has uncovered a number of collapsed pipes that have to be dug out; upon completion of that work, the intersection at Oak Grove will be closed for 6 weeks. The sewer at Vineland will also be redone.

- Council Member Goodman has received a number of calls from East Isles residents regarding leaf collection; the deadline for pick-up was November 19. The same equipment that does leaves (e.g. street cleaning) also does snowplowing for the next season, so a fixed deadline is required. The leaf collection was performed through a contract that expired on November 25 with no option for extension; however, residents can pay for private removal and the Council Member's office will provide that information.

- The Nicollet Mall project concrete removal is being implemented 4 blocks at a time in order to keep 1 side always open, moving down the street. Without buses and bike traffic on the mall, crime has become a concern.

Open Forum

- Loppet organizers are expected to attend the January EIRA Board meeting.

REPORTS

Social Committee

The Ice skating party is scheduled for Sunday January 25th (assuming ice!), at the Lake of the Isles ice skating rink.

The Wine-tasting event is expected to resume as a yearly event. Next year, the goal is to increase online sales (with will-call tickets). EIRA will try to find a volunteer to focus on increasing East Isle ticket sales with sales. The total raised for EIRA included \$600 of tickets, (\$100 online), plus one-quarter of door sales. In addition, pop booth sales from the Art Fair raised \$367.

Zoning Committee.

The chair of the EIRA Zoning Committee is stepping down, so a new chair is required. Additional committee members are also needed.

Green Team

The Green Team held a successful Food Waste house-party in November attended by a dozen people. Eureka Recycling came and talked about food storage (e.g. CSA deliveries) and methods of preventing food waste, and the Hill and Lake Press published a related article.

An Energy Reduction meeting will be scheduled in January or February as part of Lake Street Energy Challenge.

The Green team held a Community Solar Gardens meeting on November 17 along with the ECCO neighborhood; the meeting was a kickoff for a subscription drive, with about 9 attendees interested in signing up. Anyone with an Xcel meter (bill) can participate in Solar Gardens, and the Lake Street Energy Challenge preferred developer program, run by Minnesota Community Solar, does not have an up-front cost, unlike some other developer programs. The Green Team encourages people to join before capacity is used up, and to check out our program before considering an alternative.

The next Solar Gardens informational meeting is scheduled for January 13th at 7pm at Grace Community Church; request for information can also be sent to Bill Elwood at or Sean Gosiewski at . A subscriber interest form can be completed at . EIRA will receive fundraising credit if prospective subscribers sign themselves up as EIRA residents.

NRP Committee

The board approved the EIRA President nomination of Mike Erlandson for Chair of the NRP Committee

At the last NRP meeting, members discussed the need for education on how NRP works and assess whether to re-evaluate the Phase 2 plan, which may include developing a list of potential projects. The next NRP meeting scheduled for Monday Feb. 1 at Grace Community Church.

Greater Uptown Community Partnership.

A board member reported on the partnership meeting; comprised of Uptown neighborhoods resident and business associations, the partnership aims to discuss projects that can be implemented together. A speaker from the Public Works Department solicited feedback on what transportation issues are the most significant. Board members expressed concerns with pedestrian safety, with increase in pedestrians getting hit. Participating neighborhoods were asked to contribute \$300-500 for a coordinator; the Uptown Business association offered to be the fiscal agent (be the recipients of the check). The Board approved participation in the Partnership with a \$300 contribution to fund a coordinator, to come from the unrestricted funds. The next meeting is January 13th.

President's Report

The Board approved contributing \$500 to Grace Church for meeting space.

John Louis has stopped working as the EIRA coordinator. In the interim, the President is doing the newsletter, website, etc. while the Board works on hiring a new coordinator.

EIRA will plan to put an ad in the Hill and Lake Press thanking EIRA sponsors.

Board Review

The Board approved formation of a Bylaws Committee to review and amend the EIRA Bylaws in order to correct conflicting language; a report will be due back at the March Board meeting. Bruce Larson was approved as committee chair. Potential committee members can notify the chair if interested in participating; participants must be an EIRA member and sign a conflict of interest statement.

EIRA Goals and Projects for 2016

- The Board initiated discussion of potential

EIRA goals and projects for next year.

- The President will inform committee chairs that they should plan to report at every Board meeting for 3 minutes.

- A board member suggested that a Crime and Safety Committee be formed; the committee would help determine strategy regarding these topics for EIRA.

- The Green Team has goals related to the Lake Street Energy Challenge through 2017.

- A survey of the neighborhood could be performed with NRP funds to help identify what the neighborhood thinks should be priorities.

- The Board will plan a retreat for February to work on developing a priority list. The retreat may start with the list developed from the last retreat 4 years ago, and identify accomplishments.

- Committees may wish to review committee mission statements and compare to current tasks.

- During the summer, interns who could perform paid or unpaid projects may help implement some projects.

Reminder: The next East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) Board meeting will be held at 7 pm on January 12, 2016 at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th Street.

EIRA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at coordinator@eastisles.org at least five (5) days before an EIRA sponsored event.

Meet your Neighbor from page three

What are local examples of places you have created where people want to be? We've worked in spaces all around the Twin Cities from the exurbs to the downtown core. A few of the spaces that readers may have visited include: the Loring Greenway, the Piazza on the Mall (next to Westminster Presbyterian, which has been hosting a free and public sauna the month of December), Capella Tower's atrium, 333 S. 7th Street office building, Marquette Plaza office building, the Living Room Station bus stop on 6th and Nicollet Mall, the parklet on 29th Street and Lyndale, and the activation pilot project next to the Lake Street Hiawatha LRT station.

What are examples of successful places for people that you have experienced from other parts of the United States and abroad? I am always looking to Bryant Park in New York for inspiration. It's where my mentor worked and I think it's the best managed public space in the country. There are so many things to do, see, and experience. I studied abroad in Amsterdam and was blown away by their curving canal streets. They have a wonderful scale and geometry that prioritizes humans first.

What makes a successful place? I could write an entire book about this, and maybe I will! A few basics, which may sound simple but it's remarkable how rare they manifest in our public realm. Things for people to do. Places to sit (ideally movable chairs). Giving the user choice over their environment; can they move a chair to the sun/shade. Can they interact and alter their environment to fit their needs? Semi-enclosure: does the space allow users to be private or public depending on their mood – not too closed off, not too exposed. The porch is a perfect example of this balance. And finally, the space has to be taken care of. Everybody gets excited about the design and capital investment, but it's the

Neighbor concluded on page 15

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, December 9, 2015

The meeting was held at Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Roger Klimek, Leila Brammer, Steve Goltry, Barbara Lunde, Elaine May, James Reid, Amanda Vallone, and Mike Wilson. Staff: Monica Smith

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

Announcements

Thanks to James Reid for a donation of \$50 from his CIDNA Art Mart sales.

Volunteers and Park Board staff continue to work on a proposal to upgrade the warming house at the Lake of the Isles skating rink.

Treasurer's Report, Roger Klimek

The Treasurer's Report for the six-month period ending November 30, 2015 was presented.

The CIDNA Board reviewed and approved the annual report to be submitted to the Attorney General.

NRP/ CPP Report, Claire Ruebeck

A form has been developed for requesting NRP funds.

The CIDNA Board approved these committee recommendations:

To fund two new park benches at Cedar Lake South Beach (up to \$5,000). Placement and style of benches need to be determined.

To extend the affordable housing loan to Nonprofits Assistance Fund for an additional two years (with an option to add a third year).

To allocate all of the 2016 CPP/NPP funds (\$22,366) to administrative categories.

Minneapolis recently published the policy for expenditures of NRP Funds. The CIDNA NRP Committee is working on plans to ensure that we are complying with the policy.

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold a community forum to allow Minneapolis residents to offer ideas for improving the relationship between the City and its residents on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Avenue North.

The NRP Committee is not meeting in December. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 27, 3:30 p.m. at Rustica.

Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

CIDNA's comments for the revised draft of the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement were electronically approved by the board and were sent to the city.

Lake Street Energy Challenge

Rosanne Halloran volunteered to learn more about this program and share with the board at the January meeting.

Transportation Report, Craig Westgate

Section 106 (historic preservation) meetings contin-

ue. The Southwest LRT Project Office wants to complete the Section 106 process by April 2016 for submission to the FTA.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Business Advisory Committee (BAC) are working on communication plans for the SWLRT construction process.

The Corridor Management Committee reported that SWLRT design work is 60% complete; construction is expected to begin in late 2016.

City of Lakes Loppet, Mike Erickson

The Loppet is scheduled for February 5-7, 2016 with events happening from Wirth Park to Lake Calhoun. Volunteers are needed throughout the weekend. The music festival that was tentatively planned for Loppet weekend has been cancelled.

Recipes for Clean Water, David Shirley

David Shirley reported on his work on the Water Quality Management Citizens Advisory Committee in the early 1990s. Most of the objectives of the committee were met over the years, including: storm basin stenciling, watershed clean ups and the publication of Recipes for Clean Water: A Homeowner's Stormwater Survival Guide.

Lake Calhoun Lake Harriet Master Plan, Mike Wilson

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the master planning process has two final meetings scheduled (January 12 and February 16, both are 6:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence). The connector trail proposed by CIDNA's Land Use Committee is included in the improvements being considered. The CAC will vote on prioritizing improvements to the lakes and will probably take the opportunity to weigh in on changing the name of Lake Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

The Tour de Fat fundraiser will not be held in Minneapolis in 2016.

East Isles passed a resolution to remove the stop signs for Greenway users at the intersections with Irving Ave and Humboldt Ave.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is lobbying for mill and overlay work on the Greenway from the west side to 5th Ave.

Donations to the Midtown Greenway Coalition are being matched through the end of the year.

Art Mart, Amanda Vallone

Amanda Vallone gave a recap of the Art Mart that was held on November 22.

Pedestrian Safety Committee, Steve Goltry

The committee designed a flier that has tips for reducing traffic congestion at Market Plaza. Several ideas were discussed for distributing the fliers. The CIDNA Board approved \$200 to fund a portion of the printing of the brochures (CPP funds). West Calhoun Neighborhood Council will pay the remainder of the printing expenses.

Bylaws Insights, Rosanne Halloran

Rosanne Halloran reviewed the duties of CIDNA Board members from Article V, Section 6 of the bylaws.

CIDNA Coordinator Contract Renewal

Monica Smith's contract with CIDNA was renewed for 2016 and included a pay increase.

New Business

The December issue of the Hill and Lake Press will feature an article about Alcott School that was in the CIDNA neighborhood.

Variances are being sought for a garage addition at 2770 Thomas Ave S.

Later with Lisa is December 14, 4:30-6:30 at the Normandy Inn, 405 S 8th St. RSVP to ruth.weakly@minneapolismn.gov.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2015, 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.

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ADT Dental	Kustom Kars	Spyhouse Coffee
Amore Victoria	Michael Gold Jazz Trio	Steeple People
Caribou Coffee	Lakes Area Realty	Uptown Association
Carol Bruns Couture	The Lowry	US Internet
Dunn Brothers Coffee	Lunds Lake Street	US Bank
Fratelloni's Ace Hardware	Mattress Firm	The Wedge Co-op
Great Clips	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	
Hennepin Lake Liquor	MN Renewable Energy Society	
Hoigaard's	Moss Envy	
Isles Auto Repair	My Sister's Closet	
Isles Bun and Coffee	Parella	
Joe Smith and Dick Studer Jazz Duo	Peterssen/Keller Architecture	

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KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION (KIAA)

By Shawn Smith

December 2015 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met December 7th, 2015 at Kenwood Rec Center

Chair Jeanette Colby called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors present: Jeanette Colby, Matt Spies, Angie Erdrich, Larry Moran, Ed Pluimer, Mike Bono, Shawn Smith (minute taker). Absent: Jim Gilroy, Jack Levi, Josine Peters Also Present CM Lisa Goodman, Jean Deatrck

Agenda was Approved Unanimously

Action Taken Since November Meeting

Jeanette Colby composed a letter to the SWLRT Corridor Management Committee articulating KIAA concerns that the SDEIS had shortcomings. These arise from Met Council's decision to treat freight rail as an "existing condition." However, the SWLRT proposes creating permanent freight rail infrastructure where only temporary rail exists, and SDEIS failed to properly consider the safety, environmental, vibration, noise, and economic impact of that decision with freight rail as an existing condition. In the December meeting, KIAA members voted in favor of sending the letter prior to the CMC.

City Council Update – Lisa Goodman

December 9th is the final opportunity for residents to testify at the City Council meeting regarding the 2016 budget and taxes. Lisa encourages residents to appear in person or email their city representatives to provide testimony and input on how residential tax revenue is generated and spent. This meeting will be in the past by the time these minutes are published, however residents are notified well in advance of the annual hearing in their Truth in Taxation statements for future tax years.

Lunch with Lisa will resume in January. December 14th marks the annual December Later with Lisa event at the Normandy Inn.

Utility work is continuing on the Hennepin/Lyndale reconstruction. Infrastructure has deteriorated further

than expected and the project is approximately 6 weeks behind.

Lisa confirmed that a variance at 2432 Sheridan Ave S was approved by the city. This was endorsed by KIAA at the November meeting. KIAA will seek input as broadly as possible for future requests

Financial Report – Ed Pluimer

Ed provided prior the meeting a recap of monies received from KIAA members as well as November transactions (expenditures), and these were discussed in the meeting.

The source of the remainder of Rain Garden funding was discussed. Jeanette moved to use money from the NRP neighborhood livability Phase II fund. Passed unanimously. Mike Bono agreed to ensure that all city requirements were met to utilize that fund.

Resolution regarding Jean Deatrck's contract – Ed Pluimer, Mike Bono

Jean's contract is set to expire at the end of the year. Jean supports KIAA with communication, publication of the minutes, announcements, reimbursements, and other administrative activities. Mike moved to extend her contract under the same terms until December 31st 2016. Ed seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

East Cedar Lake Beach (ECLB)– Matt Spies

Matt is reaching out to the Park Board to align on proposed activities for summer 2016. KIAA continues to work on ensuring ECLB will be able to be used safely by all residents. There will be a public meeting in January to discuss 2016 strategies, date/time/place to be posted on Nextdoor Kenwood.

KIAA increased funding in 2015 to support existing funding from the Park Board et al, and research will be done to understand how much funding will be in place from other sources prior to a KIAA funding commitment for 2016.

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project – Jeanette Colby, Shawn Smith

Discussion continued from the November meeting

regarding engaging state and federal officials over ongoing concerns for rail safety as well as other unaddressed concerns. KIAA will contact state level transportation bill conferees to raise the concerns before end of year, and then again as State Legislators go back into session in February. KIAA will also contact Federal Transit officials in advance of final funding of the line to ensure that federal officials are aware of local concerns with regard to safety, environmental, noise, vibration, and economic adverse effects not sufficiently addressed in the SDEIS.

New Business - All

Metro Blooms is asking if KIAA would be interested in partnering on Rain Gardens again in 2016. Angie will inform them of KIAA interest, pending gauging neighborhood interest.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Jeanette Colby at 8:33 p.m.

Updates: If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at kiaa55405@gmail.com. Also please visit our website at kenwoodminneapolis.org to learn more. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact us.

The next Kenwood Isles Area Association Board meeting is Monday, January 4th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Kenwood Recreation Center. Monthly meetings are held on the first calendar Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. KIAA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service, and event organized by KIAA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at kenwoodminneapolis.org

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LHNA)

By Janis Clay

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Present - Board Members: Phil Hallaway, President; Michael Cockson, Vice President; Dan Aronson, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Raj Dash; Tom Huppert; Emily Beugen; Sarah Janecek; Rebecca Graham; Clint Conner; Baygan Hartzheim; Jennifer Bickett.

Present – Non-Board Members: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative; Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; Ralph Sievert, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Director of Forestry; Nick Settich.

President Phil Hallway called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Community Announcements: Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman presented community announcements. There will be no Lunch with Lisa in December. Later with Lisa will take place on Monday, December 14th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Normandy. The City is working on the 2016 budget, which will be adopted at the December 9th meeting. There has been an uptick in inquiries about potential teardowns. The Hennepin Lyndale sewer repair work is proceeding slowly, and experienced a setback when a pipe caved in. The Walker and Park Board are moving ahead with redesign plans for Vineland Avenue in connection with the Walker and Sculpture Garden project. It is uncertain whether the City would pay anything for Vineland redesign and reconstruction.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (Commissioner Tabb and Director of Forestry, Ralph Sievert): Commissioner Tabb and Director

Sievert presented information about the City's trees, including the plan for dealing with the emerald ash borer. Trees will be removed so not to take all the trees on a block at one time, and a diversity of trees will be replanted. Experience has shown that planting bigger trees is not better in new tree planting. The best size for ease of planting and optimum root regeneration is a bare root tree with a 1 3/4 to 2-inch diameter. Residents can seek a permit to plant a bigger boulevard tree. Watering is a key to success. Anita Tabb discussed questions about possibly adding a children's playground in Lowry Hill. Due to the very high cost to build and maintain, this would not be a priority at this time. A citizens group has been investigating the possibility of upgrading the warming house at the Lake of the Isles skating rink. Progress will be reported to the Park Board at its next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Dan Aronson moved and Tom Huppert seconded approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2015, Board meeting. All approved

Treasurer's Report: Dan Aronson presented the Treasurer's Report. There is no change from last month. Dan has been in contact with Robert Thompson from the City regarding our reimbursable communication-related expenses.

Committee Reports:

Environment: There was nothing new reported this month.

Zoning and Planning: There was nothing new reported this month.

Crime and Safety: Rebecca Graham presented the Crime and Safety Report. Serious incidents reported included a violent assault in the Calhoun Square parking ramp and several pharmacy robberies.

Events: The Thanksgiving pie, coffee and ice cream LHNA delivered to the 5th precinct was much appreciated. The Lake of the Isles Ice Skating Social will be January 24, 2016. An ad will be placed in the Hill and Lake Press. Tom Huppert and Raj Dash will see that a fire is in place and tended.

Neighborhood Priorities Survey Working Group/Community Participation Program: Sarah Janecek reported on neighborhood priorities. Crosswalks remain a priority. Sarah suggested that Board members come up with potentially good locations. Phil Hallaway and Michael Cockson presented information on options, cost, and procedures for reporting and repairing deteriorating neighborhood sidewalks. Baygan Hartzheim will research options for replacing the Historic Lowry Hill signs. Phil Hallaway brought up the possibility of adding picnic tables to Thomas Lowry Park.

Communications: Phil Hallaway and Chris Madden will meet to discuss ways to improve the website.

New Business: Nick Settich, with the Scottish Rite Temple, talked about the building, and informed the Board that due to construction at the Unitarian Church, voting in the upcoming primary will be at the Scottish Rite Temple.

LHNA's next Board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at www.lowry-hillneighborhood.org, and sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Neighborhood Crime Statistics

CPS Chelsea Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist Fifth Precinct | Minneapolis Police, 3101 Nicollet Av S | Mpls, MN 55408, (612) 673-2819, Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov (preferred). Call 911 on suspicious activity at the time you see it!

YEAR	NEIGHBORHOOD	Total	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	AggAssaul	Burglary	Larceny	AutoTheft	Arson
2015	East Isles	151	0	1	3	3	20	120	4	0
2014	East Isles	234	0	2	5	5	41	168	12	1
2013	East Isles	199	0	1	8	4	35	140	11	0
2012	East Isles	226	0	4	7	2	38	159	16	0
2011	East Isles	193	0	2	4	2	42	134	8	1
2010	East Isles	161	0	2	8	5	15	118	13	0

YEAR	NEIGHBORHOOD	Total	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	AggAssaul	Burglary	Larceny	AutoTheft	Arson
2015	Cedar - Isles - Dean	84	0	1	2	1	24	55	1	0
2014	Cedar - Isles - Dean	149	0	0	3	3	32	109	2	0
2013	Cedar - Isles - Dean	137	0	3	1	1	21	107	3	1
2012	Cedar - Isles - Dean	140	0	0	0	2	23	109	5	1
2011	Cedar - Isles - Dean	126	0	0	3	1	20	95	7	0
2010	Cedar - Isles - Dean	88	0	2	3	1	9	68	5	0

YEAR	NEIGHBORHOOD	Total	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	AggAssaul	Burglary	Larceny	AutoTheft	Arson
2015	Kenwood	16	0	1	2	0	5	7	0	1
2014	Kenwood	72	0	0	1	0	28	42	1	0
2013	Kenwood	64	0	0	1	1	32	26	3	1
2012	Kenwood	48	0	1	0	0	28	16	3	0
2011	Kenwood	38	0	0	0	1	8	26	3	0
2010	Kenwood	36	0	0	0	0	10	24	2	0

YEAR	NEIGHBORHOOD	Total	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	AggAssaul	Burglary	Larceny	AutoTheft	Arson
2015	Lowry Hill	106	0	1	1	2	20	73	9	0
2014	Lowry Hill	125	0	1	6	4	26	78	9	1
2013	Lowry Hill	140	0	0	7	4	40	81	8	0
2012	Lowry Hill	166	0	1	4	3	58	81	18	1
2011	Lowry Hill	152	0	0	5	1	39	94	12	1
2010	Lowry Hill	142	0	1	3	2	28	99	9	0

(Editor's note): Some residents, particularly in East Isles have complained of a rise in crime in their neighborhood. I contacted Chelsea Adams who sent the above chart and comments that follow. Thank you, Chelsea, for your information.

“All the crime stats for the entire city are available at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/statistics/crime-statistics_codefor_statistics for anyone who's curious to see more in detail, and there's also an interactive crime map (and other maps) linked at the top of <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/statistics/index.htm> -- although note that there have been a few issues lately with everything always being updated on that interactive map, so if you ever check it and it seems like there is an unusual lack of crimes it's good to let me or someone in MPD know so we can make sure there isn't a glitch in the information being loaded. They were moving some databases around and apparently that affected some of the automatic data being sent.

As for East Isles, actually the reported year to date crime (through November) is the lowest it's been in recent years. I went back to 2010 but a person could go back further if they wanted—I stopped at that point because it was 5 previous years and showed a pretty clear trend:

If there is a feeling that there is an upsurge in crimes, it could be that with more and more block leaders, social media like Nextdoor, and more, that people are getting better about talking about the crimes that have occurred on a wider scale than the block, so even though the numbers are down, the residents are simply hearing about it more so it seems like it is up compared to the past. Or it's possible people are not reporting crimes that are occurring, at which point we can't track it. This is why we always highly recommend that crimes are officially reported.

Similarly, all the other neighborhoods around Lake of the Isles have seen a drop in reported crime year to date (through November; we won't have the official December stats until January, at which point we'll also get year stats).

Kenwood's has been the most dramatic; they've had a 78% decrease in the number of reported crime from 2014 to 2015. Cedar-Isles-Dean has a 44% decrease in reported crime, East Isles has a 35% decrease, and Lowry Hill has a 15% decrease.”

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Thank you

Thank you, Sally Anson, for your very generous contribution to Hill and Lake Press. Sally was a longtime Lowry Hill resident and we are happy that she is once again living in the Hill and Lake Press neighborhood.



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

Where we are Now

By Jean Deatrck, Editor

Another year as come and gone. Well almost. I hope readers and advertisers enjoy a wonderful Christmas and holiday season. I appreciate the support I receive from so many of you through emails, phone calls, and reassuring words. Hill and Lake Press is still doing well. We aren't making any money of course, but as a break-even entity, we aren't supposed to. We very much appreciate contributions however. They make a big difference each month that we receive them.

Please send me letters and articles and encourage business owners to advertise so that we can continue to serve our four Lake of the Isles neighborhoods. This is such a wonderful and safe place to live. We are fortunate.

I changed telephone and internet provider. If you wish to call, please use 612-377-7353. The former HLP number (612-377-5785) has been discontinued.

Community Solar Gardens – Ready for Action!

By Bill Elwood

With the passage of the recent Paris Climate Accord we are reminded of our human role and responsibility to reduce carbon emissions. Two important actions we can take are to increase the energy efficiency of our homes and support the new Minnesota's Community Solar Garden program. Originating with the Clean Energy and Jobs Act of 2013, this solar initiative offers Xcel customers a way to reduce their carbon footprint, while lowering their electricity costs. Program subscribers receive Xcel bill credits from a solar array located in a remote location versus a home rooftop.

After a long wait, Xcel customers (condo owners and renters included) can now SIGN UP for community solar gardens! It's a unique program and, no surprise, there are a growing number of solar developers poised to recruit customers with complex and sometimes risky terms. The good news is that the East Isles Green Team Solar Project, led by Bill Elwood, has spent two years understanding the solar landscape. And last fall we officially joined with 16 other area neighborhoods to be part of the Lake Street Energy Challenge solar program, which has taken months to vet and choose a developer (Minnesota Community Solar) and negotiate favorable contract terms. This has resulted in greater benefits and a simple sign-up process for residents.

Come learn more about our Lake Street Energy Challenge solar program and Minnesota Community Solar with guest speaker Dana Hallstrom on Wednesday, January 13 from 7-8:30 pm at Grace Trinity Community Church, 1430 West 28th Street. The meeting includes sign-up instructions and tasty refreshments plus a short segment on the benefits of getting an energy audit. If you attended our information meeting on November 17 (see photo), you do not need to attend this event. Register by January 11 with an email to president@eastisles.org. Include your name and neighborhood.

Questions? Contact Bill Elwood at elwood39@gmail.com.

HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales November 2015										
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT
2716 Humboldt S #101	\$ 164,500	\$ 5,010	71	\$ 167,000	C	2/1	840	\$ 152,500	\$ 2,430	1926
2517 Humboldt S #201	349,900	0	69	320,000	C	2/1	1,229	235,500	3,703	1922
2510 W 22nd St	499,000	6,000	170	495,000	H	4/4	3,405	550,500	9,350	1909
3308 St Paul Ave	619,900	0	105	570,000	H	2/3	2,662	465,500	7,754	1988
2421 Russell S	759,000	0	148	550,000	H	3/4	3,041	543,500	9,209	NA
2421 W 22nd St	600,000	0	21	575,000	H	4/4	2,982	632,000	11,000	1926
2828 Irving S	740,000	0	24	719,000	H	3/2	3,276	729,000	12,964	1919
2028 Sheridan S	749,900	0	48	754,000	H	4/4	3,454	618,000	10,717	1923
2778 Thomas S	939,000	0	141	863,000	H	4/4	3,613	1,025,500	18,965	1915
1860 Sheridan S	899,900	8,000	122	883,000	H	3/4	2,732	838,000	15,068	1900
2000 Sheridan S	1,100,000	0	6	1,086,000	H	4/4	3,219	583,000	9,942	1927
1900 James S	1,149,000	0	143	1,050,000	H	5/6	5,005	895,000	16,234	1903
2413 Humboldt S	1,495,000	0	138	1,150,000	H	5/4	4,006	886,000	16,181	2008
1819 Girard S	1,495,000	0	339	1,404,000	H	5/6	6,008	947,000	17,376	1909
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig					Home	H				
					Condo	C				
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County					Townhouse	TWN				(Go to mpl Realtor.com for additional info)



Photo courtesy of Betsy Allis

EIRA residents at the November Green Team community Solar Grden meeting sponsored by the Lake Street Energy Challenge.

Holiday Cards

By Madeleine Lowry

Neighbor from page ten

stewardship of a place that makes it special (or a disaster!).

How did you come to volunteer maintaining the Kenilworth/Cedar Lake Trail? Since moving back to Minneapolis it's been a joy and privilege to lead the Yale Day of Service at Cedar Lake. Every year we marshal volunteers to be tutored, guided and inspired by Ruth Jones. She is a master gardener in the truest sense. For me, it's a pleasure to rip out invasive species, clearing the way for the restoration of one our last remaining semi-wilderness habitats in Minneapolis. Since I started volunteering in the space, I've begun to walk the meandering wooded paths often, appreciating the quiet woods, still water and occasional deer.

What would your ideal Minneapolis be? An ideal Minneapolis would put people, and their feelings, first among all other concerns. At the end of the day, that's the whole point – we want to feel good. We feel good when we have frequent serendipitous interactions with those in our community. When we can experience the vitality of nature and a commercial district. When we can use our own bodies – rather than machines – to get to where we need to be. I am continually inspired by the work and writing of Christopher Alexander, author of *The Pattern Language*. I think we can and must, work to create a city and world where people are able to more easily put their talents and love to use in creating great places for everyone everywhere.

“Ho Ho Ho,” “Tis the Season,” “Laughter and Cheer,” “Meilleurs Voeux,” “Merry Christmas” and of course, “Happy Holidays.” These are the words that grace our refrigerator throughout the year with the smiling faces of our friends and families.

Holiday cards are a delicate endeavor. How does one spread good cheer and a puckish family update without engendering a year of resentment from the recipients? I'm not saying that we have the answer, but we try to make ours useful by offering book recommendations. However, when we receive four-page single-spaced letters with lots of exclamation points, I'm inclined to think that is not the answer. (Unless the letter is laugh-out-loud funny.)

I have other questions about holiday cards. Don't you? Like, how long do you keep someone on your mailing list if you never hear from them? My answer: 2 years. My husband thinks more like 10 years.

Also, what triggers the need to send holiday cards in the first place? I'm trying to remember when we first started to do the annual mailing to the whole address book. It must have been around the time we had our first child. Perhaps it's the addition of a family member that triggers the need. But, we also have single friends who are serial mailers with photos that tend to feature travels. Perhaps the holiday card fills a social need to connect with far-flung friends and family once a year.

What formats do you think are acceptable for the annual greeting? I have considered downgrading to an email communication in order to save time, energy and the environment. But that has not gone over well in our family. (And I notice not in many of yours either.) I think the real issue is that it's not as satisfying. Besides, if everyone did that our fridge would be bare. And that would be the antithesis of holiday cheer.

What about folks who outsource the whole effort to Shutterfly to print, mail, address, stamp and post? Don't get me wrong, I like full service as much as the next person but then there is no personal touch at all. Next thing you know, even the family picture will be sourced from stock photos.

We have child labor at our house, so I really can't complain about the effort involved. For a few bucks our youngest is drafted to stuff, stamp and lick a couple of hundred envelopes that I have hand-addressed with care. I'd like to say that I invest the time to write out all the addresses because I value a personal touch, but in reality our address book is not digital and it would take longer for me to type up the list.

Finally, how early can one start sending holiday cards? My vote is after Thanksgiving. We have family members that promptly mail their cards every Thanksgiving weekend like clockwork. It's like having Martha Stewart (and her staff) in your family. That's bad enough, but sending cards out before Turkey Day is just flaunting your scheduling and organizational skills way too much.

On the other end of the spectrum, how late are holiday cards welcomed by friends and family? I would argue that Valentine's Day marks the distant end of the holiday season. After the Valentine's Day chocolates go on sale, the shine is really off the winter holidays.

We've always hustled to get the cards out before Christmas as if they will expire like bad milk. Now I see how foolish that is. I'm going to embrace the late sending of holiday cards as a stress reduction technique that enables one to survive and maybe even somewhat enjoy the holiday season. I think we'll try it this year, but maybe not as late as February 14th.

Groundhog Day greeting cards, anyone?

Don't Miss The Annual Ice Skating Party

Sunday, January 24, 2016

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Lake of the Isles Ice Rink
& Warming Hut

Enjoy Skating with your Neighbors & Family.

❄️ Get Warm by the Fire.

Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat Cookies.

❄️ Have Winter Fun!



Sponsored by Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Isles, Kenwood Isles & Lowry Hill Neighborhood Associations 2016

sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

I am often asked (all right, twice) where my ideas come from. Much more frequently the question is why I still write for the HLP despite living two thousand miles west of Hennepin Avenue. It is a valid point, given the preponderance of young hipsters who could do a much more ironic job. Let me somewhat answer the former question and totally ignore the latter.

An event will trigger an idea, or a random thought will occur to me, and rather than trumble, flashstrip, or instanap it to everyone I know ("Just had pancakes, yum!"), I will write it down on a scrap of paper and put it in my shirt pocket. When my column is due I need only go through my clothes and see if I am able to decipher what "people not a cucumber" means. Laundry day often wipes out much of my best stuff, but here are a few unrelated snippets that escaped the washing machine.

Many political progressives of both genders use the term grandfathered (an action exempting a person or law from a new regulation). When I asked a PC friend why the gender specific word was still accepted, they stammered and finally said it must have been grandfathered in.

The phrase "I am/am not a(n) _____ person." The fill-in could be animal, goat cheese, cucumber, or ragtime. It is very British, tweedy, snippy, and fussy. I do not miss it. "No worries," which has a Jamaican, Rastafarian, island, Bobby McFerrin feel, is probably on the way out. My accountant used it when I forgot to provide a 1099 form.

The last remaining group we are permitted to make fun of is the people of Appalachia. Within ten years the term "hillbilly" will not be acceptable. I won't say the Beverly Hillbillies were Amos and Andy, but the still syndicated show from my childhood is embarrassing. Comedians and film makers still feast on the fodder of lower intelligence, inbreeding and promiscuity with resultant large families for cheap laughs. It must be tough for young people in that region to live down the media image. Isn't it nice that we are running out of groups to stereotype and scapegoat.


Every time there is a mass shooting we wring our hands and ask why it continues to happen. Even the hint of gun control legislation sends weapon sales sky rocketing. After each tragedy we shuffle into religious services, hat in hand, for the eulogies, sitting passively, mumbling platitudes, alone in our private thoughts. Along with the moment of silence to remember the fallen, why not an expression of rage at everything the victims lost and was senselessly taken from us all? This is not a call for vigilante justice or an Orwellian hate week, but a way to share our hurt. Rather than feeling like victims in our Sunday best, let us have a cathartic scream at the injustice and rail at the insanity the second amendment has wrought. I picture Howard Beale in Network: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not gonna take it any more!" The uproar will go viral.

The massive denial of humanity's role in climate change. Cigarette smoking and the link to cancer. Football on all levels and the increased risk of traumat-


ic brain injury and resulting memory loss, depression, dementia, and death. In all three cases there has been an orchestrated cover-up to preserve company profits and our own naivete. We have made science the villain, proving what we already deeply suspected. The arguments of the "deniers" on all three causes are uncannily similar. Rooted in denial and nostalgia, we do not want to know the consequences of our actions. We cry out for our loss, curse the messenger and whoever changed the rules mid-game. Enjoying a Sunday drive with the whole family in the gas hog, relaxing with a cigarette (and a drink) while watching the Packers and Vikings knock each other silly seems like solace, and a well earned reward for raising a family, sacrificing, and working way more than 9 to 5. "Can't I just watch the game?" I no longer can.

Tom H. Cook does not understand why his phone is more interested in his exact location than his wife is. He wishes all a happy and safe holiday season.






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