



‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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Southwest LRT Update

By Jeanette Colby

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Action

Connecting Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, the Kenilworth Channel is part of Minneapolis’ Chain of Lakes. Under the current Southwest LRT plan, both freight and light rail will cross this historic waterway. Federal law (“section 4(f)”) mandates that federally funded projects – like SWLRT, which the Met Council hopes will receive as much as \$825 million from Washington – may be approved only if there is no “feasible and prudent” alternative to using historic parkland. Projects must include “all possible planning to minimize harm.”

The Met Council’s 2012 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) recommend moving freight rail out of the Kenilworth Corridor to make way for light rail. MPRB’s official comments on the DEIS also opposed “co-location” and, even though it was assumed then that freight would move, asked that their concerns with the Kenilworth crossing area “receive the most serious attention very early in the process.” After a lengthy delay the Met Council acceded to pressure not to move freight as originally promised. During this time MPRB passed multiple resolutions attempting to get the Met Council to study alternatives for the Kenilworth Channel so that “project alterations that entail the most feasible and prudent alternatives in regard to Section 4(f) can be made without delaying the project timeline.”

The responsible state agency found that that the bridges to accommodate co-location would cause an “adverse effect” on the historic channel. MPRB pointed out that this plan would double the expanse of the existing freight bridge and generate noise and vibration that will “permanently impact the public park, scenic, recreational and historic character of the park.” Given the lack of adequate study of the tunnel option, MPRB asserted that the Metropolitan Council had “ignored the MPRB’s requests for additional review and consultation necessary to evaluate design alternatives”. MPRB, which is responsible for protecting parkland in Minneapolis, authorized use of its own funds to study the possibility of a tunnel under the channel for light rail trains. This study showed a tunnel would be the least impactful design option and the additional cost for tunnel designs ranged from \$60 to \$75 million (including inflation). A tunnel under the channel was clearly feasible, and the next step was to debate its prudence.

The MPRB faced enormous pressure, however, from County Commissioners, Met Council members, and even the Governor, who threatened to withhold \$3.77 million for Regional Park funding in Minneapolis (because, in his view, “if you’re going to run this light rail line through residential areas of Minneapolis with all these wonderful lakes and parks [...] you’re going to cause some kind of temporary degradation to those resources.”). So MPRB President Liz Wielinski and

Superintendent Jayne Miller negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Met Council, agreeing to drop further investigation of the tunnel option. In exchange, the Met Council agreed to consult the Park Board about the bridge design and the future Bottineau light rail project and to reimburse the Park Board for certain expenses. On March 4th, the Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners voted to approve the MOU. Commissioners Annie Young, Anita Tabb, and Meg Forney voted against the resolution.

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Because co-location of freight rail and light rail in the Kenilworth Corridor and a shallow tunnel under Cedar Lake Parkway have been added to SWLRT plans since the 2012 Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published, the Met Council is completing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) which it now says will be released this Spring. MPRB, the City of Minneapolis, other groups, and the public will have 45 days to submit comments. State Representative Frank Hornstein, who is proposing legislation regarding freight rail safety, has stated that he will pay close attention to what the SDEIS says about safety issues, since the DEIS recommended against co-location. Considering that the Met Council is proposing to build electrically powered SWLRT within 12 feet of

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Birchbark Books



Author Louise Erdrich reading poetry to the crowd.



Some attendees drove from as far away as South Dakota to attend the event. L to R: Louise Erdrich, Events Co-ordinator Prudence Johnson, Jolene Abraham, Syrus Bybee, Leri Williams, and Lesly Chappell.

By Prudence Johnson

Hundreds of book lovers and fans of author Louise Erdrich packed into her Kenwood neighborhood bookstore, Birchbark Books, on February 22nd for a Late-Winter Open House. Ms. Erdrich read excerpts from her novel-in-progress, *LaRose*, in between book signing and drawings for a raffle which included first editions of Erdrich titles and a handmade star quilt and birdhouse. Undeterred by the subzero temps, visitors came from near and far; one family drove from South Dakota to meet the author and “stock up on good books.” Winner of the National Book Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Louise Erdrich created Birchbark Books 15 years ago as an antidote to the “malling of America.” A full-range bookstore, Birchbark specializes in Native American studies, literature, jewelry, and arts. Located at 2115 West 21st Street, the store is open 10-6 every day.

Photos by Dorothy Childers

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**Minneapolis Audubon Society
Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)
Friday, April 10, 2014 1 p.m.**

The Magic of Minnesota Aquatic Birds

Nature photographer Sher Curry will present "The Magic of Minnesota Aquatic Birds" at the Minneapolis Audubon Society's monthly meeting. This photographic presentation will include Loons, Swans, Ducks, Geese, Cormorants and Pelicans. It is a combination of waterfowl and some of the aquatic birds. You will see them in all four seasons and hear some of the stories that go along with the photos that were captured of these wonderful birds.

Sher Curry has been a nature photographer for many years. Over the past four years she has focused on water birds of all kinds found in Minnesota. Many hours are spent in the field searching for and photographing her subjects. Her primary focus is to tell a story with incorporating the landscape and areas these birds are found in. She is also a water color artist and uses some of her photographs for her paintings.

Please join the Minneapolis Audubon Society at 31st & Bryant Avenue S for the program and refreshments! For more information call 763-533-8381.

Legislative Town Hall Meeting on March 21st

With the 2015 session in full swing, there is much to report on the proceedings at the Capitol. We are hosting a town hall meeting to fill you in on legislative happenings, answer questions, and hear your ideas. These next few weeks are vital as we look at the important tasks of crafting a fair and balanced budget, passing a comprehensive transportation funding bill, and ensuring that Minnesota continues its progress forward.

What: Senate District 61 Town Hall Meeting hosted by State Senator Scott Dibble, State Representative Frank Hornstein and State Representative/Minority Leader Paul Thissen

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Saturday, March 21, 2015, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All are welcome to attend!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Senator Dibble's office at 651-296-4191 or contact Kyle Olson by e-mail at kyle.olson@senate.mn. We look forward to seeing you!

Scott Dibble, Frank Hornstein, Paul Thissen

Third Annual Y Run Benefits YMCA Healthy Living Programs That Strengthen Communities

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities will host the third annual Y Run on Saturday, April 18, at Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis. The run will benefit the Y's healthy living programs and services such as Y Run club curriculum for youth, chronic disease and obesity epidemic prevention, healthy snacks in youth programming, and healthy living programs for all ages.

"The Y Run is a fun fitness event for people of all ages to come together and raise funds to strengthen our community programs that nurture the potential of youth, improve the nation's health and well-being, and support our neighbors," said Tracy Botten, YMCA executive director of donor relations.

To register for the Y Run and get more information, visit ymcarun.org.

Tuesday, April 14 EIRA Annual Meeting. Social time with heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 pm. The meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm. Grace-Trinity Church

Louise Erdrich: Asynchronous Reading, A collaborative installation with Aza Erdrich, Pallas Erdrich, and Heid E. Erdrich

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 1, 6 - 9 PM

Exhibition: April 1 through April 18, 2015

Artist Talk: April 17, 7 PM

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 5 PM. 2123 W 21st Street | Minneapolis MN 55405 | 612 377 4669 | www.bockleygallery.com

Bockley Gallery is pleased to announce the first ever show of visual art and text by distinguished author Louise Erdrich. Asynchronous Reading presents Erdrich's paintings, collage boxes, and found-object constructions along with poetic text and audio works to create an experience to be viewed, read, and heard. Aza Erdrich and Pallas Erdrich contribute key images and media works to an installation curated by Heid E. Erdrich, who also collaborated on parts of the exhibit.

Although Louise Erdrich illustrated several of her own books, she has rarely shared her artwork in public. Asynchronous Reading includes large found-object sculptural figures, collage boxes incorporating poetry and prose by Erdrich, paintings paired with boxes of scripts written on birch bark, and other complex works both abstract and representational. A desk at the "Agency Apo-phany," whose agents investigate the mysteries of life, focuses the installation. Poem-phones—voiced by the author in an intimate tone—provide a number of unresolved "cases" to ponder. A "back story" taped to the back of some artworks lends depth to this collaborative statement on the relentless human need to find meaning even, and especially, where none may exist.

Louise Erdrich is owner of Birchbark Books, neighboring Bockley Gallery. Her family of collaborators includes Aza Erdrich, a trained visual artist, who has contributed cover art for several books including the iconic image of the red-draped woman on *The Round House*, Louise Erdrich's 2013 novel, which won a National Book Award. Pallas Erdrich is a creative director for a tech company and an art director in the film industry. Poet Heid E. Erdrich has curated dozens of visual art exhibits and has directed interdisciplinary performances and short films.

Call for Artists!

Join us at the Greenway Glow on June 20th

The Midtown Greenway Coalition announces a call for artist proposals for the Greenway Glow to be held on June 20th from 8 p.m. to Midnight in locations in and along the Midtown Greenway.

Proposals must be submitted by noon on April 14th. Submissions will be juried and stipends of up to \$500 will be awarded.

For submission forms and details, please go to our website.

The Greenway Glow is our annual arts festival and bike ride on the Greenway! The event will be from 8 p.m. - Midnight on June 20th in the Greenway. The arts festival is free, while the bike ride has a registration fee and donations that raise funds to support the Greenway.

For more information email Janey@midtowngreenway.org.

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH 21, 10AM TOWN HALL MTG ST. MARY'S

MARCH 25, NOON, LUNCH WITH LISA

APRIL 2, 5:30PM SWLRT STATION DESIGN MTG

APRIL 8, 7:30AM SWLRT STATION DESIGN MTG

APRIL 10, 1PM, AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 13, 7PM ROBERT BLY AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH

APRIL 14, EIRA ANNUAL MEETING 6:15 GRACE CHURCH

APRIL 18, Y RUN AT LAKE CALHOUN

APRIL 25, 9:30 TO NOON EARTH DAY CLEANUP

APRIL 30, 5:30PM BRIDGE FOR YOUTH FUNDRAISER

MAY 4, 6PM, KIAA ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 12, LHNA ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 13, CIDNA ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 20, GREENWAY GLOW FUNDRAISER

Neighborhood monthly meetings:

CIDNA: 2nd Wednesday, 6pm Jones-Harrison.

KIAA: First Monday, 7pm. Kenwood Rec Center

LHNA: First Tuesday, 7pm, Kenwood Rec Center

Eating Consciously ... Make 2015 the Year to Eat Healthy and Save the Planet!

By Betsy Allis

Learn how food and climate change are connected and practical tips for making better food choices in a 4-program series sponsored by the East Isles Green Team. Our speaker is Jesse Haas, an experienced Twin Cities nutrition educator and certified health coach.

Remaining programs:

Monday, March 23: Is this food bothering you?

Thursday, April 9: Foods with Super Powers!

All programs are from 7 to 8 pm at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St

Sign up now with Monica Smith at nrp@eastisles.org. Free entry and low carbon snacks. Win a chance for a gift certificate at Amore Victoria by making and fulfilling a pledge for change! Learn more at www.Facebook.com/EastIslesGreenTeam

Lunch with Lisa March 25, 2015

Join Council Member Lisa Goodman for lunch and conversation. This Month we will be talking about downtown public realm.

St Thomas University—Minneapolis Opus 202

\$10 Lunch is offered. Come early to get your lunch and a good seat. Discussion starts promptly at noon

RSVP to 673-2207 not required but appreciated for food quantity

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board along with the City of Minneapolis announce the 21st annual Minneapolis Earth Day Clean-Up event on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 9:30 am-12 pm.

The Earth Day Clean-Up has become the largest community service project in Minneapolis and takes place at nearly 40 clean-up sites throughout the city. Since 2008, more than 17,000 residents have removed more than 140,000 pounds of garbage.

A special thank you to our 2015 Earth Day Sponsors for supporting this important community event: Cargill, the Minnesota Twins, Birchwood Café, and The Wedge.

There is no charge to participate and residents are encouraged to participate by volunteering to help pick up trash in parks, neighborhoods, and watersheds. No registration needed, just choose a site and show up. To find a detailed list of clean-up sites and more information please visit www.minneapolisearthday.com or call 612-230-6479.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR, AMBER SENN

Craig Wilson interviews Amber Senn about her partnership at the revered New French in her 20s, her years on Wall Street and move back to Minneapolis.

Where did you grow up? I was born in Hanford, California near Sacramento; but we moved to Minnetonka, Minnesota when I was 4. My dad is Minnesotan; it was inevitable.

What was the New French for those who didn't live in Minneapolis in the 1980s and 1990s? The New French was a jewel box of a restaurant located in a fairly undeveloped part of Minneapolis at that time - we were among the artist lofts and studios in the Warehouse District. This meant that our clientele were adventurers from the suburbs who mingled with the city dwellers and artists. Our regulars included Garland Wright, the Creative Director for the Guthrie, Siah Armajani, the architect who built the Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge. Our chefs were pioneers of nouvelle cuisine—twists on classic French fare, which was unique to the dining scene in Minneapolis. The bar, which was totally separate from the quiet dining room, had it's own raucous environment and was the watering hole for Minneapolis' most creative sorts. You could always expect to see Scott Seekins or Jon Oulman among the crowd.

How did you come to be the operating partner of the New French at 25? The Kaplan's partner in the early 90s was Peter Kelsey, who left to focus on expanding the New French Bakery. I was managing already and so I was prepared to fill the void. We also built the New French Kitchen in Uptown and ran the catering program at the Guthrie. It was a crazy time, always culminating in the best block party this town has ever seen, The New French Bastille Day!

What was the downtown scene like in the early '90s? I loved Downtown Minneapolis in the early 90s -

it was young and growing, but it was still a place where everybody knew everyone else. D'Amico's and The New French and Manny's dominated the dining scene, which led to the explosion we see today, with many of our current superstar chefs developing from those pipelines. I feel like Minneapolis at that time was coming out, and I loved being at place that was central to nurturing that vibe.

How did you come to trade on Wall Street? I was recruited by a couple of our regulars at The New French who ran the desk at Piper Jaffray and thought that I had what it took to be a successful trader. I never had any desire to work on Wall Street, but one day I think I had just had enough of the 100-hour weeks in the restaurant and wanted to look at something new. It was incredibly intimidating to walk onto the trading floor at Piper. And my soon to be bosses looked with skepticism at my resume, which was filled to the brim with my bleeding heart liberalism: Internship at Americans for Democratic Action, internship with Barbara Boxer, Wellstone campaign, etc. But turns out I tested at the very top for the skill set required to be a good trader, who knew?

What brought you to New York? I left Piper in 1999 to start a trading desk for a boutique research firm in Florida. We were quite successful at the time, selling research on biotech companies, and taking a pretty aggressive bearish stance. Most of my clients were hedge funds in New York and Connecticut, so I moved that operation up to NYC in 2001.

What was it like working on Wall Street as a woman? Sexism is rampant on Wall Street; I was always only one of a handful of women on any trading floor. When bonuses were discretionary, I was always paid less than the guy next to me who had a wife and family to support. I looked for the opportunities that paid straight commission, I was happy to eat what I killed.



That leveled the playing field. I always wanted to move up the corporate ladder, but was never offered the opportunity—even though I was always a top producer. It's a boy's club, no doubt, and most guys I worked with were obnoxious and disparaging to women. I spoke up when I could, but mostly I just learned to live with it while I was there.

Is the film, "The Wolf of Wall Street" at all an accurate depiction of life working on Wall Street? For the rarefied few, to a certain extent, yes. The degree of excess that I experienced from 1997-2007 was extraordinary. There were times when I couldn't spend enough on my clients: we'd charter a plane to fly to Vegas for the night, we'd order ridiculous bottles of wine and champagne, we owned the nightlife. But I lost a few friends to drugs and alcohol. It was all too much, there was bound to be a crash. I got out in the nick of time.

Meet your Neighbor to page 6



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Park Board agrees to at-grade co-location of freight and light rail trains over Kenilworth Channel

By Michael Wilson

(Please also see Jeanette Colby's article on page one providing SWLRT background and updates.)

Almost as rapidly as it erupted five months ago, the staredown between the Minneapolis Park Board and the Metropolitan Council over the least harmful way for Southwest Light Rail trains to cross the Kenilworth Channel ended on March 4 when Park Board commissioners voted 6-3 to cease any further consideration of tunneling under the channel.

The staredown began with anger and acrimony on October 1 when the Park Board voted to allocate up to \$500,000 to pay for an engineering study of the feasibility and prudence of running Southwest light rail trains under the Kenilworth Channel. Commissioners expressed exasperation at the Met Council for not taking seriously their oft-repeated concerns about the potential environmental harm that could be caused by running the light rail trains over the channel on what Park Board President Liz Wielinski at the time described as a freeway-style bridge.

At a previous meeting on Sept. 17 the board had approved a \$22,000 contract for legal advice from attorneys with transportation expertise at Stinson Leonard Street, who advised the board to conduct their own independent analysis of tunneling options since, it was felt, the Southwest Project Office's engineering study had been cursory and incomplete.

The Park Board expressed determination to take an active role, not the subsidiary role that the Met Council

appeared to feel was sufficient, in making a Section 4(f) determination. 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 projects. It allows approval of projects that use publicly owned parkland or land from historic sites 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."

Feasible: yes. Prudent: depends.

As it became clear that the Park Board was prepared to approve a contract on Nov. 17 with Brierley Associates, the Met Council indicated that it might be interested in talking to the Park Board, but only on the Met Council's terms. A meeting could be held, the Met Council said at one point, only if the Park Board contingent arrived without any engineers in tow. "We have zero engineers on our staff," Wielinski replied. "The Met Council has many. A meeting at which we cannot bring our own consulting engineers is hardly a level playing field."

Brierley Associates engineers had little difficulty in determining that both of two tunneling options – a "cut-and-cover" or a "jacked-box" tunnel – were feasible. Prudence, or how much a tunnel would cost as opposed to the bridges that the Met Council had decided to build, was another matter. Although the figures presented at the Feb. 4 meeting were only informed estimates, it appeared that construction costs would run

about \$60-\$75 million for a cut-and-cover tunnel and about \$80-\$95 million for the jacked-box tunnel.

What particularly alarmed Southwest Project Office staff, however, was the additional \$40 to \$50 million that would accrue due to federal contingency planning requirements and the likely addition of an extra year before construction on the project could actually begin. Several commissioners, including our 4th District Commissioner Anita Tabb, expressed indignation that the Park Board was being held culpable for cost overruns and construction delays that could have been avoided had the Met Council not ignored the Park Board's repeated resolutions about potential harm to the "park experience" in the first place. "To hold us responsible is completely unfair," Tabb said.

Agreement reached, showdown averted.

Then on Feb. 27 a deal was announced to end what the StarTribune called the "bitter and high-stakes feud." The Park Board would agree to cease pursuing a tunnel option in return for a bigger role in the design of the bridge and other landscaping and park-like features

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highly flammable ethanol tankers (contrary to the industry standard of at least 25 feet), many residents and trail users hope he will indeed pay very close attention.

Though most of the SDEIS remains closely guarded until the FTA reviews it, the Met Council has released the section of the SDEIS regarding noise and vibration impact of the project. A summary of it can be found at swlrt.org, under the "committees" tab, in the Corridor Management Committee presentation of February 4th starting on page 45.

Despite the presence of a station in a quiet residential area (21st Street), the study finds noise impacts to only a few homes located at Burnham Road North, Thomas Ave. So., and Upton Avenue S. in the KIAA and CIDNA neighborhoods. It shows 51 total ground-borne noise impacts in this area (36 of which are at the Calhoun Isles Condos area), and no vibration impacts at all. The Met Council presentation states that after release of the SDEIS they will identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate these impacts and consult with impacted parties. It is not known whether the SDEIS will include anything about the impact of increased car traffic to stations.

Lakes and Parks Alliance Lawsuit

A lawsuit challenging whether the Met Council has complied with environmental and municipal consent laws brought by the Lakes and Parks Alliance was heard

in Federal Court on March 9, after the Judge previously ruled that the case could go forward. A ruling from the court is pending.

SWLRT Community Advisory Committee

The SWLRT Community Advisory Committee, with new members, has begun meeting again. The Met Council describes its role as follows: "The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) serves as a voice for the community and advises the Corridor Management Committee during the planning and implementation phases of the light rail line." Jody Strakosch from Kenwood and Doug Peterson of CIDNA are new CAC members. CAC meeting schedules and minutes can be viewed on swlrt.org, under the "committees" tab.

Station Area Design Open Houses

The Met Council is giving open houses for SWLRT preliminary station designs. They say they will "receive public input and answer questions." For the Minneapolis stations the meetings are Thursday, April 2, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. at Dunwoody. There will be a Kenilworth Landscape Design and Station Art Committee formed by the Met Council for the 21st St. Station, but membership of this committee has not yet been announced.

SWLRT Station Design Meetings

April 2, 2015, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

April 8, 2015, 7:30 - 9:30 am

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"Robert Bly and Friends" at Literary Witnesses on Monday, April 13, 7pm, Plymouth Congregational Church

On Monday, April 13, Literary Witnesses celebrates the publication of Robert Bly's latest collection of poems, *Like the New Moon I will Live My Life*, with a reading by Robert Bly and many friends. The event begins at 7pm at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. Co-sponsored by the Loft Literary Center and Raintaxi Review of Books, the event is free, and there is plenty of free parking. A reception will follow the reading.

Friends of Robert Bly who will participate in the evening include Dennis Maloney, publisher of White Pine Press, and poets, writers, scholars, and book artists Thor Bacon, Michael Dennis Browne, Allison Granucci, Mark Gustafson, Mike Hazard, Robert Hedin, Tom Hennen, Jim Heynen, Tony Hoagland, Louis Jenkins, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Robert Johnson, Ed Bok Lee, James Lenfestey, Freya Manfred, Jim Moore, Thomas R. Smith, Joyce Sutphen, Eric Utne, Tim Young, Connie Wanek, and Cary Waterman.

Like the New Moon I Will Live My Life celebrates the early, Chinese-influenced strain of Robert Bly's work in over 170 poems. Collected from out-of-print books, chapbooks and uncollected work spanning 50 years, the poems form a companion to his most recent collection of new and selected poems, *Stealing Sugar From The Castle*. The poems were all written before 1980, after which Bly's aesthetic made a clear shift under the influence of Mideastern forms, especially the ghazal.

Poet and critic Edward Hirsch wrote of this collection, "Here is the essential Robert Bly, 'a man in love with the setting stars,' a dark transcendentalist, a troublemaker, a mourner who keeps seeing the walls splashed with blood, a singer of boundless mysteries, imagination's keeper, a witness to joy. He has been lighting up American poetry for more than sixty years."

Robert Bly, 88, is the author of more than thirty books of poetry, including *Stealing Sugar from the Castle: Selected Poems*, *The Winged Energy of Delight: Selected Translations*, and the mythopoetic New York Times best-seller *Iron John*. IN 2008, he was named the first Poet Laureate of Minnesota, and in 2013 was awarded the Robert Frost Medal for lifetime achievement by the Poetry Society of America.

Literary Witnesses, a program of the Fine Arts Board at Plymouth Congregational Church, hosts readings by local and nationally known poets, such as Robert Bly, whose work draws on and illuminates the life of the spirit.

THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

ONE OF THE FIVE BEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE WORLD

At a dinner party the other night, I met some recent immigrants and tourists visiting the neighborhood. One young couple had freshly moved to Fremont Ave. after corporate peregrinations. The tourists had ventured all the way from St. Paul.

All of us agreed this one of the five best neighborhoods in the world. We laughed together, eyes shining, almost giddy with our good luck to live (or visit) here.

The dinner party was hosted by new neighbors at Girard and Lincoln. They had previously lived on Girard, needed bigger digs and, unable to find anything nearby, decamped to Edina in frustration. Nothings against Edina, but "we flunked the suburbs," they allowed, and when a house came up on Girard, the pounced. More giddy laughter.

Ok, wine may have been involved.

But later another new neighbor arrived for dessert. He lived and worked for years in the East, but found he can do his job from here just as well, with infinitely better housing options. Initially skeptical, he now wishes he had moved here years before.

OK, wine was involved.

But even in the cold shower of dawn, do we not remain dazzled by the corner of the universe where we are allowed to live. We caress Lake of the Isles, yet are spitting distance from downtown, and two stoplights away from I94 and 35W's unimpeded access to the Americas. MSP is 20 minutes away in the event one were to feel the need to travel farther.

But why? Everything one needs is here, with one annoying exception noted below. But first an inventory of the glories, some of which I have touched on before.

Once can walk or bike to Kowalski's or The Wedge, burning calories to and from the feast. And though Walgreen's is no design triumph, it is home not only to vitamins, but flu shots when needed, and a persistent, bearded beggar at the exit to remind us that good fortune is not universal.

We have restaurants from cozy Kenwood in the west to The Lowry and Burch and Renata in the east. And in the center, Tao Foods, where vegans dine in down-home style, and behind it D'Amico Cucina.

Holiday Superstation provides the auto fuel we need, plus lightning fast card readers and pumps to minimize down time, free air from a long, supple hose, and baths of cleaning fluid to wash the layers of salt from windshields and headlights.

But why drive, as bus service couldn't be better, if you don't walk or bike to work.

Plus the hood is split down the middle between

apartments and condo complexes and single family town houses and houses, all on mercifully small lots, so we have varieties of human experience around every corner, not suburban sameness.

Did I fail to mention Sebastian Joe's, now roasting its own coffee to compliment the best ice cream in the universe, where all four of our children worked their way into the world? And Anderson Cleaners on the corner, now with one-day service. And Birchbark Books, literary heart of the hood. And the Walker Art Center and Sculpture garden a short downhill stroll away. And Lake of the Isles with two paved paths and an ice rink, and Kenwood park with baseball and soccer fields and six tennis courts (where I played outdoors on March 12, a record!). And Kenwood School providing a k-8 education with which kids could skip right to Harvard, but none want to leave.

Ok, time to address the deficiency. Recent immigrants will not remember that before there was Burch Steak, there was Burch Pharmacy, a full service neighborhood pharmacy with a lunch counter, malted milks, grilled cheese sandwiches, Hallmark cards, prescriptions, toys, books, and a post office in the back. I miss all of that, but especially the post office.

In post-911 panic, the Post Office established a limit of 13 ounces that can be picked up at the door. My new book apparently weighs 13.1 ounces in a padded envelope. So when I put it in the mailbox, even overpaying for priority postage, it comes back to me. I am required to travel all the way to the edge of terra incognita (between 11th and 12th at First Ave) to mail it.

OK, that's a flaw. I suppose if I were enterprising, I could strike a deal with UPS or FedEx. But like the fabled Navajo rug weavers, I choose to accept one imperfection for the sake of collective humility.

What are four other great neighborhoods? I have no idea, but mathematically there must be a handful with somewhat comparable quality and amenities, just like, mathematically, there must be a handful of planets in the universe as generously habitable as our beloved Earth. If you know where one is, let me know. Otherwise, I'm staying put.

Job Opportunity

East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) seeks a Coordinator to perform various services and administrative duties and provide support for its projects and community engagement initiatives.

Candidates should have strong communication skills (both verbal and written); a working understanding of the City of Minneapolis (including programs: Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Community Participation Program) and Park Board; experience with community engagement and working with volunteers; strong organizational skills; event coordination; website support and administration; and the ability to build partnerships with various groups including city departments and other neighborhood associations.

This is a part-time contract position, 10-15 hours per week at \$22 to \$28 per hour, depending on skills, experience, and qualifications. There are no benefits attached to the position. Coordinator will be expected to have their own workspace and computer.

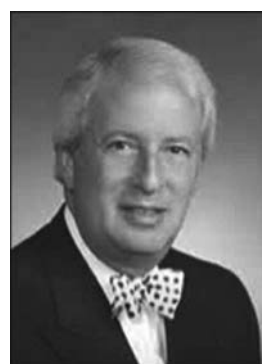
See the EIRA website, www.eastisles.org, for job description, information on how to apply and other information on EIRA.

Deadline for application: must be received by March 27, 2015.



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Kenwood Neighborhood Comes Through with LEGO Donations

The Indian Health Board (IHB) of Minneapolis Counseling and Support Department wishes to thank the Kenwood neighborhood for donating massive quantities of LEGOs last month. Angela Erdrich, MD, IHB Pediatrician put the word out that LEGOs were needed for an innovative boys counseling group and before she knew it, she says "Tubbies of Legos just magically started arriving on my porch." Dr. Erdrich wants to express thanks to the neighborhood for caring and immediately offering to help. "I asked a neighbor whether she was positive she wanted to donate so many valuable LEGOs and she said, "They aren't worth anything if nobody is using them." One of the donors was a 12 year old boy who decided to share his collection. Established in the Phillips neighborhood in 1971, the IHB of Minneapolis serves a predominantly Native American population. The LEGO Group for Boys is a small counseling group led by IHB doctors of psychology. The intent is to provide a safe, peaceful, supervised environment to increase self-esteem, social skills and frustration tolerance for boys age 8-12.



Kenwood Kids Enjoy Vitamin Rich Harvest Surprise.

Photos and text by Angie Erdrich

Neighbor from page three

What brought you back to Minneapolis? I struggled with leaving NYC, I moved back to Minnesota in 2010 only to be recruited to go back to NYC 6 months later. But after 2 years back on Wall Street, I knew I was done with that business. For me, the money was not worth the trade off of my soul. My parents live in the house I grew up in, and my brothers are here. My youngest brother was just starting his family, and being single (no time for marriage in NYC!), I wanted to be close to his new family. "Auntie Mame" has always been one of my favorite movies; I was ready to play the part!

What are you doing now? After all this time, I've discovered that I'm truly an entrepreneur at heart. I left Wall Street the first time to build a hotel in Buenos Aires. I left the second time to help start an organic farm in the Bahamas. I ended up back in Minnesota this time to build an art printing and design business with one of Minnesota's most talented Graphic Artists, Mark Herman. We just finished a commissioned piece for The Children's Theater 50th Anniversary. My goal is to add artists to the Numeric Press roster, to develop unique, locally crafted products on which to feature the art, and to create fans across the globe.

What do you miss about New York and like about Minneapolis? I miss the energy in NYC—even in the middle of winter, the streets are crowded. I miss walking everywhere and being visually stimulated and surprised at every turn. I miss feeling free to be the loud, opinionated person that I am. And, of course, I miss my friends in NYC, who are equally loud and opinionated! Minneapolis is becoming more and more of a big city, and I am trying to take advantage of all that it has to offer. I live in Lowry Hill (a.k.a., "Kenwood"), which gives me the freedom to hit the lakes with ease, head out downtown, or just swing by the Walker for an hour or two. I just broke out my bike, so you will find me most days cruising around town with my dog, Stinky Bunz, in the basket. I also love Lake Minnetonka in the summer; I can't wait to get out and enjoy some boating with the family.

Kenwood Elementary School 5th graders enjoyed a warm day in the sun picking carrots...in March! This was all part of a plan to overwinter the garden carrots in the tradition of farm folk of yesteryear who learned that one way to preserve carrots was to leave some in the ground to dig up before Spring thaw. One student stated that she was surprised how good the carrots smelled coming straight from the earth. The carrots were cleaned and sliced and then brought to the classroom for munching. Students decided that the carrots were especially delicious when eaten in the imaginary context of starving all winter long to the point of scurvy (vit C) and night blindness (vit A) deficiency! After picking the carrots, the students planted garlic, the greens of which will be harvested next month to make pesto



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Park Board agrees to at-grade co-location of freight and light rail trains over Kenilworth Channel

Continued from page four

along the LRT line in Minneapolis. The Park Board was also promised greater, and earlier, involvement in the Bottineau LRT line to Brooklyn Park, scheduled for a 2018 construction start. The Bottineau line will pass in close proximity to Theodore Wirth Park.

The Met Council agreed to reimburse the Park Board for half of the \$500,000 it has spent on engineering studies and another \$21,500 for staff costs. The Council will also reimburse the Park Board for future staff work performed as the bridge designs are shaped. The agreement provides up to \$250,000 for future work in shaping the Bottineau line. It also spells out design principles for the new bridges, aiming to allow more light onto the channel and reduce the graceless “free-way” character of the Met Council’s original designs.

The discussion at the March 4 Park Board leading up to a vote on the deal called forth deep emotions on the part of many residents who spoke during Open Time as well as from several commissioners. Many Hill and Lake residents have hailed the Park Board’s fortitude in the face of what many see as an overbearing Met Council and Southwest Project Office. The Council and SPO “listen with their ears shut,” as one resident put it. Speakers including Patty Schmitz, Kathy Low, Art Higinbotham, Bob Carney, George Puzak, Jeanette Colby, and Shelley Fitzmaurice urged the commissioners to reject the deal.

Several commissioners questioned the trustworthiness of any agreement reached with the Met Council, pointing to statements by the Council’s own lawyer in federal court as part of the Lakes and Parks Alliance lawsuit that Memorandums of Understanding reached by the Met Council with several cities along the route are not legally binding. “Does that mean that this agreement is worthless?” Commissioner Jon Olson asked Met Council Chair Adam Duinick.

Several commissioners expressed anger that the agreement appeared to have been reached by intimidation, in particular the earlier threat by a churlish Gov. Dayton to withhold \$3.77 million in regional park funding for improvements to Lakes Calhoun and Harriet. “I support transit,” said longtime Commissioner M. Annie

Young. “What I don’t support is bullying.” “Are we acting under duress? You bet,” said Tabb. “This feels slimy.”

At-large Commissioner and West Calhoun resident Meg Forney spoke to the “fundamental issue” that “governance has been lacking. This project has been flawed all the way. Trust has been eroded.” Speaking to governmental entities being told to make decisions based on an obsolete Draft Environmental Impact Statement with a Supplemental DEIS still nowhere in sight, Forney said, “This cart is being put before the horse.”

In the end, six commissioners voted to approve the agreement. Tabb, Forney, and Young voted to oppose.

‘Multiple levels of exposure.’

So what happened, wondered many Hill and Lake residents who have been pinning their hopes on the Park Board to force a change in the Met Council’s plans for at-grade co-location of freight and light rail through the environmentally sensitive Kenilworth Corridor? What led a resolute Park Board to seemingly cave in at crunch time?

Long-time Park Board observers note that while the Park Board is independent by statute, it is interdependent in practice. It has to work with many governmental entities and its success in carrying out its mission is often heavily dependent on those relationships.

A major factor in relationship-building was the resignation in January of imperious Met Council Chair Susan Haigh and her replacement with Adam Duinick. On Jan. 7, just before leaving office, Haigh fired off a letter excoriating the Park Board for, among other things, its “attempts to delay” the SWLRT project. Duinick, in contrast, has proven to be a listener and collaborator – a “breath of fresh air,” in the words of Board President Wielinski.

“The Park Board has multiple levels of exposure,” explains one board insider. Reliance on a wide variety of funding streams obliges the Park Board to work productively with players from multiple jurisdictions.

Just over half of the Park Board’s yearly budget of \$93 million comes from property taxes, with City Hall

having a voice in determining the levy amount. The city’s Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) provides money for capital projects. The Met Council puts up a significant share for Minneapolis’ regional parks and other funds come from watershed districts. Federal and Hennepin County funds and other grants help pay for special projects like bike paths and the Webber Park Natural Swimming Pool.

The Park Board is currently engaged in two major projects worthy of Theodore Wirth himself. The St. Anthony Falls Regional Park is expected to cost upwards of \$66 million. The ambitious, 20-year RiverFirst project aims to buy and consolidate land holdings on both sides of the Mississippi north of downtown to build on Minneapolis’ rich river heritage and passion for parks, nature, and wildlife. Total costs will be very substantial. Bringing both projects to fruition will require the enthusiastic participation of the city, county, state – and Met Council.

Heavy pressure was brought to bear on the Park Board and on individual commissioners from all the usual sources, reported a board insider, including threats both veiled and otherwise. The Park Board would have been left in an untenable position, for example, if it had decided to press forward for a tunnel alternative and the Met Council had responded with a vigorous challenge, potentially costing the Park Board heavily in legal fees.

As disappointed as Hill and Lake residents may be with the Kenilworth Channel outcome, a longtime parks observer notes, the Park Board’s principled, forceful effort to protect the channel and the park experience has resulted in what will hopefully be a better planned and executed route through the corridor than would otherwise have been the case.

beArtrageous Classes & Events (Kenwood)

April

- Family Egg Painting Party
Saturday, April 4, 2015
- POP Poetry Pizza Party, Ages 3 & up
Friday, April 10, 2015
- Adult April Canvas
Tuesday, April 14, 2015
- reARTcycled Wildlife Sculpture
Saturday, April 18, 2015
- Teen Mixed Media Canvas Night
Thursday, April 23, 2015

May

- May Day Family Event
Saturday, May 2, 2015
- Fairy Wings & Things
Sunday, May 3, 2015
- Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Tuesday, May 5, 2015
- Mother’s Day Gift Making
Thursday, May 7, 2015
- Adult May Canvas
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
- Mosaic Spring Mirror
Thursday, May 14, 2015
- Pirates & Princesses Pizza Party
Friday, May 15, 2015
- Sharpie Tennis Shoes (12 & up)
Saturday, May 30, 2015
- Preschool & School Age Spring Break Camps
School Age, 3/27 & 3/30-4/3
- We introduce cartoon classics to today’s characters.
Flinestones meet the Angry Birds. Jetsons eat pizza with Mutant Turtles. Smurfs build a town in Minecraft.

Choose from:

- Half Day Sessions: (9am-12) (1pm-4pm), \$40
- Full Day (9am-4pm), \$70
- Extended Care until 6pm, \$15
- Preschool, 3/31-4/2 - only 6 openings left!
- 9:30am-12:30pm

Discover beautiful colors & places somewhere over the rainbow. Paint, sculpt, collage, & collaborate with friends. Many stories & songs will delight your munchkin as we celebrate the change of the season. Pack a lunch for a story time picnic each day. Camp will be hosted by the Kenwood Rec Center.

\$120 Residents, \$170 Non Residents

Water Safety During Spring Break

Spring Break from area schools means additional free time for many children and families.

Ice on all bodies of water throughout Hennepin County is either thin or variable. There are areas of open water. We strongly encourage people to stay off rapidly melting ice this time of the year. Remember, no ice is ever completely safe.

When children have time to explore the outdoors, they may wander onto the ice and near bodies of water. People should use caution and children should be supervised at all times when they are on or near lakes, rivers, ponds, and creeks.

During Spring Break, if you will be enjoying a water park, swimming pool, or hot tub -- please review safety precautions and remember to Watch, Wear, and Learn.

Watch your children on or near the water

* For swimming pools, hot tubs, water parks, and other water-related activities, a responsible adult should provide careful and constant supervision of children. Even when a life guard is on duty, a parent must supervise their children.



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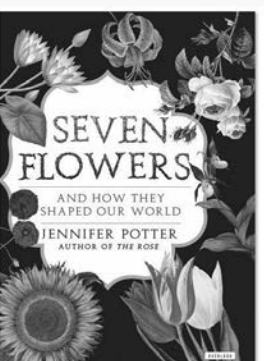


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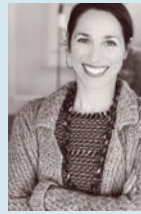
resumes April 12

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Barbara Fogel Celebration of Service June 13

Barb Fogel died over a year ago, but her gifts of loving service to her community and especially to Thomas Lowry Park live on. She did so much: served on the Thomas Lowry Park board and spent countless volunteer hours working in the park and helping to beautify it. She motivated others with her unwavering devotion. When we drive up Douglas from Hennepin and see the beauty of the park, we see Barb pulling weeds, we see her talking to the many people who walk through the park, we see her trimming a bush. She was an inspiration and on June 13 at 10:30 am, Barb will be recognized for her years of service with a plaque commemorating her contributions. Friends, neighbors, children, and dogs are welcome. Mark your calendar.



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Registration for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's summer Rec Plus program begins Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Registration must be completed in person at your local recreation center. No online registration is available.

Rec Plus provides school-age childcare for children ages 5-12 at neighborhood recreation centers. Children must have completed Kindergarten to participate. Activities include games and sports, arts and crafts, field trips and nutritious snacks.

Rec Plus is offered at 15 recreation centers across Minneapolis. For locations, cost and other details, visit the Rec Plus Childcare Summer Program's webpage and check out the 2015 Rec Plus Summer Brochure [PDF]

Plymouth Welcomes You to Holy Week Services
Palm Sunday—March 29, 9:50 & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday—April 2, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday—April 3, noon, Westminster Presbyterian—Minneapolis Council of Churches interfaith service
Easter Sunday—April 5, 6:30 a.m., Chapel; 9 & 11 a.m., Sanctuary



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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA)

Abbreviated Minutes from the EIRA Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting on March 10, 2015 at Grace-Trinity Community Church. The complete minutes can be found at www.eastisles.org.

Open Forum

Molly Sands from Zipcar presented information about the car sharing service. For details and pricing, go to www.zipcar.com.

Lunch with Lisa is March 25, noon-1:00 p.m. noon at the University of St. Thomas, Opus Hall #202. The topic is Downtown Public Realm.

A public hearing will be held for the On-Sale Liquor Class E license for Giordano's Pizza, 2700 Hennepin on March 30, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Walker Library.

REPORTS

Zoning Committee, Allan Amis

The February 17th meeting included a third presentation from CPM and Peterssen/Keller Architecture for a new building at 1708 and 1714 W Lake St. The building will be slightly shorter due to a change in the construction materials (48'8" to the top of the 4th floor parapet). The Zoning Committee recommended a resolution in support of the project. The EIRA Board voted to approve the resolution ending in "Now, therefore, be it resolved that the East Isles Residents Association supports the proposed development located at 1708 and 1710 W Lake Street, formally known as Seventeen10." (The complete resolution is in the minutes posted on our website: www.eastisles.org)

A member of the Zoning Committee was in communication with Mono, tenant of the top floor of the MoZaic building about the light pollution. There is a problem with the shut-off timer for the lights and they will follow up in later in March.

The Zoning Committee wants more information before making a recommendation regarding the Shoreland Overlay District statement discussed at the February EIRA Board meeting.

The historic designation for the Thomas Lowry Memorial was approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission. The Zoning & Planning Committee and City Council will need to give final approval.

Carla Pardue will be joining the committee.

The next meeting is March 17, 5 pm at Grace. The agenda includes a presentation by Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave S, for their plans to renovate their education building and a discussion with Alliance Housing, a nonprofit agency that is considering purchasing 2200 Emerson Ave S (vacant property owned by The Bridge for Youth) to be operated as a rooming house for low income single adults. The property is not currently on the market.

Treasurer's Report, Andrew Degerstrom

The treasurer's report was presented. The 990 e-postcard 2014 tax filing was submitted and accepted by the IRS. A 1099 was prepared for Monica Smith.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Degerstrom

The committee did not meet in February and will no longer meet on a monthly basis. Meetings will be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

A multi-modal transit study will be conducted for the area around the proposed West Lake Station for Southwest LRT (the eastern boundary of the study area is E. Calhoun Parkway).

The committee may partner with other neighborhoods on concerns about Lake Street traffic.

Outreach & Nominations, Nancy Johnston

The committee is asking for help in recruiting two board members and two alternates to stand for election at the April 14th annual meeting.

Applications for the EIRA Coordinator position are due on March 27. The search committee will review applications and select candidates to be interviewed.

NRP Committee, Monica Smith

The committee has not met since January. The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the NRP and Parks Committees on March 18, 5:30 p.m. at Grace. People for Parks will attend the meeting to discuss options to fund park projects in East Isles.

Staff Report, Monica Smith

Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan. East Isles will not be given a seat on Community Advisory Committee because the neighborhood boundary does not touch Lake Calhoun.

The Community Connections Conference will be March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Park Board updates: a map of the proposed milfoil harvest areas for Lake of the Isles was presented; the Park Board's 2014 annual report was shared; a redesigned website was recently launched: www.minneapolisparcs.org. The Park Board is hosting a Spring Open House for volunteers on April 14, 5:00 p.m. (location to be announced).

EIRA joined the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (\$50 for a one year membership). The EIRA Coordinator position is included on their job posting website at no additional cost (job posting are \$159 for non members).

Social Committee, Amy Sanborn

There is a conflict for the Ice Cream Social on August 13. The new date will be Thursday, July 30.

The Annual Meeting is April 14 at Grace and will include a social time at 6:15 p.m. featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with guest speakers City Council Member Goodman, Park Board Commissioner Tabb and Hennepin County Commissioner Greene. Lund's is donating \$50 worth of food. The EIRA Board approved a budget of up to \$350 for food at the event.

Green Team, Betsy Allis and Bill Elwood

Upcoming presentation in the food and climate change series (all at 7 pm at Grace): food allergens on March 23 and super foods on April 9. Email nrp@eastisles.org to sign up. Earth Day Clean Up is April 25.

Community Solar: The Green Team is participating in two efforts: Lake Street Challenge (neighborhoods along Lake Street teaming up with Xcel Energy to reduce energy) and the City of Minneapolis initiative for community solar. The Green Team will send two people to represent EIRA at a community solar informational meeting that the City is holding on April 30. The Green Team will present a planning document for energy reduction at the May 12th EIRA meeting.

The EIRA Board approved the Green Team's budget for upcoming events: \$167 for event materials/promotion and \$140 for food expenses.

Board Review

The board reviewed and approved the 2014 Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report.

The EIRA Board approved a motion to make a donation of \$250 to Kenwood School for their annual carnival (May 16) and to have the new board look at a policy for guidelines and donations next year.

A centennial celebration for the Thomas Lowry Memorial (Smith Triangle) is tentatively being planned for August 18th. We are waiting for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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.

The next meeting is the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 6:15 p.m. social time with hors d'oeuvres, meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St.

Sen. Franken Seeks Entrants to Poetry Contest for Minnesota Students

Theme of Contest will be "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life"

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child and National Poetry Month in April, U.S. Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) announced that he is hosting his fourth annual poetry contest for Minnesota students. The theme of this year's contest is "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life."

"There are thousands of students all across Minnesota who have seen or experienced the sacrifices veterans and their families have made for our country," Sen. Franken said. "Some of them are children of current service members, while others know men and women who have served. This poetry contest will allow students to honor those veterans and to put into their own words what those sacrifices have meant to them."

The contest is open to all students in Minnesota grades K-12, with three age categories: Kindergarten to 5th grade; 6th to 8th grades; and 9th to 12th grades. Students can celebrate any veteran or active military member, including a relative, family friend, neighbor who has had a positive impact on their lives.

Winners will be chosen in each age category. Those selected will receive an invitation to attend a reception at Sen. Franken's St. Paul office. Guests include Sen. Franken; Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito; Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen; Minnesota National Guard Major General Rick Nash; Chief Master Sergeant of th 934th Airlift Wing Bryan Payne, and Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius.

Top winning poems in each category will be framed and displayed in Sen. Franken's offices in St. Paul or Washington, D.C. The overall winner in each age group will receive an autographed book by famed Minnesota author Garrison Keillor.

If you or someone you know wishes to participate in Sen. Franken's poetry contest, please submit a poem by April 17, 2015 to poetry@franken.senate.gov or by mail to:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is seeking volunteer baseball, softball, t-ball, track and field and tennis coaches at recreation centers in Minneapolis. Athletes range in age from 6 to 18 years old. The MPRB's spring sports programs begin in March/April and end June/July.

The teams practice 1-2 times per week. Games are scheduled 1-2 nights a week and/or Saturdays. All new coaches will be provided with orientation by the MPRB.

Contact Nicole at 612-499-9258 or email recvolunteers@minneapolisparcs.org for more information about coaching and other volunteer opportunities.



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CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CIDNA)

By Monica Smith, Recorder

CEDAR ISLES DEAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES, March 11, 2015

The meeting was held at the Jones-Harrison Residence. Board members in attendance: Chair Craig Westgate, Vice-Chair John Wessinger, Secretary Rosanne Halloran, Treasurer Roger Klimek, Ryan Fox, Steve Goltry, Barbara Lunde, James Reid, and Amanda Vallone. NRP Committee Chair Gail Lee was also in attendance. Staff: Monica Smith

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

Announcements

Park Board updates: a map of the proposed milfoil harvest areas for Cedar Lake was presented; the Park Board's 2014 annual report was shared; the redesigned website was recently launched: www.minneapolisparcs.org. The Park Board is hosting a Spring Open House for volunteers on April 14, 5:00 p.m. (location to be announced). Earth Day Clean Up will be April 25.

NRP/CPP Report, Gail Lee

Gail Lee is moving out of the neighborhood and will be stepping down as Chair of the NRP Committee.

The board reviewed and unanimously approved the 2014 Community Participation Program (CPP) annual report.

CIDNA has \$20,251 reserved (but unallocated) for a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP). The committee is recommending that we move all of the money into the NPP for Southwest LRT. This serves as the 30-day notice; the vote will be taken at the April 8th meeting.

The design study for Cedar Lake South Beach is moving forward. Meetings for community input will be held on: May 19, June 16, and July 14. All of the meetings are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jones-Harrison Residence.

The Lakes Calhoun/Harriet Master Plan is waiting for approval by the Park Board, which has been delayed until April 15. CIDNA will appoint our representative to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at the April 8th meeting.

Midtown Greenway Coalition, Mike Wilson

Five new lights were added on the eastern part of the Greenway. The Safety Committee is working to ensure that all of the emergency phones are operating properly and is advocating for more signage. More lighting on the western section is a lower priority.

The Greenway Glow fundraiser is June 20.

Land Use & Development Committee

The committee continues to work with the Park Board and Hennepin County Region Rail Authority on the Calhoun-Isles connector trail idea. Two concepts have been proposed (see details at www.cidnalanduse.wordpress.com). The hope is to include the concept in the pending Calhoun/Harriet Master Plan.

The Greystar project is expected to break ground on March 16; pile driving will begin about March 23 for about two months. For more information go to: www.cidnalanduse.wordpress.com.

The Trammell Crow project is expected to break

ground soon.

West Lake Multimodal Transportation Study

The project team, lead by Nathan Koster, Transportation Planner, City of Minneapolis, introduced the study.

As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Metropolitan Council and the City of Minneapolis for Southwest LRT, an area-wide multimodal transportation study is being conducted for the West Lake Station area. The study is intended to identify opportunities to improve safety, access and connections for all modes of travel, with an emphasis on bicyclists and pedestrians.

The goal of the study is to identify opportunities that can be implemented as part of the Southwest LRT construction or as part of other capital initiatives.

The City of Minneapolis is leading the study in partnership with Met Council, Hennepin County and the Park Board. The study is expected to be completed in 2015.

There will be a series of three community workshops (to begin in April/May) and three meetings with CIDNA and other neighborhood groups and advisory committees. The team will have 30 minutes on the April 8th agenda.

Transportation, Craig Westgate

Doug Peterson is CIDNA representative on the Southwest LRT CAC.

CIDNA is a consulting party for Section 106 (historical preservation) for SWLRT. The CIDNA Board approved up to \$5,000 (of NPP funds) to engage with a consultant to guide CIDNA through the Section 106 process.

CIDNA Vice-Chair

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to appoint John Wessinger as Vice Chair.

Rail Safety

Claire Ruebeck shared information drafted by LRT Done Right that was presented to the Chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department regarding safety con-

cerns about train derailments involving hazardous materials and the implications in our area (ethanol trains regularly move through the Kenilworth corridor). A potential derailment in the corridor with co-location of freight and light rail is a concern. LRT Done Right is advocating to ensure that the community is adequately informed to react responsibly if such an incident would occur. The Chief agreed to meet with LRT Done Right to discuss the concerns.

The CIDNA Board approved a motion to write a letter of support to endorse the information drafted by LRT Done Right and to encourage future safety workshops and to develop evacuation plans.

Rep. Frank Hornstein will be holding a Town Meeting on oil train safety on March 24, 6:00 p.m. at Theodore Wirth Chalet.

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee, Steve Goltry

Volunteers started surveying traffic along Lake St and recording traffic violations. The data will help inform the Multimodal Transportation Study.

The committee will organize a neighborhood walk in April with Matthew Dyrdaahl, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator for Minneapolis.

Community Connections Conference

James Reid created an interactive ping-pong table display for the Community Connections Conference on March 21. Volunteers will take turns staffing the display.

CIDNA Bylaws, Rosanne Halloran

The CIDNA Board will review the proposed changes to the bylaws at the April meeting and will be presented for approval at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting

CIDNA Board elections will be held at the May 13th annual meeting. Current board members must communicate their intention to run again. Ryan Fox will not be seeking re-election. New board members are also being sought (contact info@cidna.org for more information).

CIDNA to page 12

Meet your neighbors and find out what your neighborhood organization is up to.

Join us for the **East Isles Residents' Association Annual Meeting**

Special Guest Appearances by

- City Council Member Lisa Goodman
- Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene
- Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb

The agenda includes topics of interest past, present & future and election of EIRA Board of Directors! All EIRA members are eligible to vote for Board positions.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Grace-Trinity Community Church, 1430 W 28th St
Social hour and heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6:15 pm
Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm

Let us know you're coming!
Contact Monica Smith at 612-821-0131
or nrp@eastisles.org.



For more information, go to www.eastisles.org

*East Isles boundaries:

south side of W 22nd St to the north side of W Lake St, and E Lake of the Isles Pkwy to the west side of Hennepin Ave S

The East Isles Residents' Association (EIRA) invites and encourages participation by every resident to each event organized by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please contact us at nrp@eastisles.org or 612-821-0131 at least five days before an EIRA sponsored event.

WANTED

East Isles residents* interested in serving on the EIRA Board of Directors

Get involved and help make your neighborhood even better!

- Candidates needed to fill one director and two alternate positions on the EIRA Board. Any EIRA member may run for a position.
- Elections will be held at the East Isles Residents Association Annual Meeting on April 14th.

Want to learn more?

Contact Monica Smith, at 612-821-0131 or nrp@eastisles.org or go to www.eastisles.org.

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LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

By Chris Madden, LHNA Administrator

LHNA board meeting. March 3, 2015

Present: David Weinstein, Michael Cockson, Jimmy Fogel, Mark Brauer, Tom Huppert, Craig Wilson, John Van Heel, Suzanne Shaff, Dan Aronson, Grace Lenhart, Rebecca Graham, Chris Madden

Absent: Phil Hallaway, Raj Dash, Ruth Shields, Sarah Janacek, Ann Seltman, Janis Clay

Minutes were not approved because we did not have a quorum when the meeting started.

Lunch w/ Lisa will be on 3/25 Noon to 1:00 at St. Thomas. The topic is the Downtown Public Realm. Temple Israel will present construction project plans at the next meeting.

Hennepin/Lyndale Construction Project Update:

Co-chairs of the Hennepin/Lyndale Task Force Craig Wilson, a Lowry Hill resident trained in landscape architecture and urban and regional planning, & John Van Heel, a Loring Park resident trained in architecture, gave an update on the Hennepin-Lyndale Reconstruction Project and the Task Force.

Craig Wilson, & John Van Heel: Despite major gains for drivers, people on bicycles and pedestrians, three pending issues were brought to the attention of the LHNA considering the Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction Project. The Hennepin/Lyndale Task Force is looking for the LHNA boards support to advocate for solutions to these issues:

Safety of pedestrians crossing to the Douglas median at Douglas Avenue & Hennepin Avenue (by Lowry Hill Antiques). Crossing at Douglas and Hennepin is extremely hazardous for pedestrians as drivers making right-hand turns from Hennepin on to Douglas do so without a signal or stop sign, and usually at high speeds. When buses are picking up and dropping off at the median there is a blind spot for both pedestrians and drivers. Drivers heading east on Douglas, either to Hennepin or the frontage road, do not have a stop sign. Additionally, Douglas slopes downhill toward Hennepin and the frontage road is unnecessarily wide. For these reasons, drivers pick up considerable speed as

they whip into the frontage road to make the light. This makes it dangerous for pedestrians to cross from the median to the west. This issue needs to be studied further to come up with a viable solution to this problem.

The sidewalk on the eastern side of Hennepin between Dunwoody & Oak Grove drops off. There needs to be a safe connection for walkers, especially at night. Current sidewalk though the park provides unsafe nighttime conditions for pedestrians. Visibility is blocked by the bridge access ramp and by a depressed topography within the park. The project does not have the budget to address the issue fully but the Task Force is hoping the City can set the stage for a future sidewalk, once funding is available.

Southbound bike lane - A bike lane heading southbound on the Western side of Lyndale between Vineland and Dunwoody along the Sculpture Garden has been ruled out in the current project due to constraints at the Whitney Art Bridge. The Task Force is hoping the City can further explore a bike lane or shared line on the west side of the project to connect to future light rail access and better connect North and South Minneapolis for people on bicycles and pedestrians.

Craig Wilson also recommended a few ideas for LHNA to consider funding.

1) improve the landscaping on the Douglas median as an opportunity for a neighborhood "gateway"—improving on the City's current plan to do the City's "standard" boulevard installation.

2) investing in a sidewalk connection for the eastern side of the project (which is currently not in the city's plan)

3) monumental form in the center medians between the Walker and St. Marks installed to signify the entrance to Uptown and the departure from Downtown.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Aronson

We have \$31,000 in the bank. Dan is working on a draft of the annual report to send to the city next week.

Crime Report – Rebecca Graham

Garage Break-ins, apartment break-in.

Events – Mark Brauer

The LHNA annual meeting will be held on May 12th at the Walker Art Center. Mark Brauer looked into different food options, but catering costs were too expensive. The board decided not to change the meeting format for this year.

The board discussed the agenda for annual meeting. Mark will try to secure speakers to talk about the Hennepin/Lyndale Construction Project and the Sculpture Garden Reconstruction.

New Business:

LHNA's next Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at the Kenwood Rec Center. All residents are welcome. Everyone is encouraged to visit the LHNA website at www.lowryhillneighborhood.org, and sign up to receive LHNA's monthly E-Blast about events in the neighborhood. The meeting was adjourned.

FRIENDS OF THOMAS LOWRY PARK

By Barry Lazarus

Hi everyone. The good news is we were not Boston; the bad news is the polar express seems to have adopted Minnesota. Now Spring is almost here and we can become neighbors again and see each other in the Park.

First, Friends asks all of you to save the date JUNE 13, 2015 AT 10:30AM. At that time Friends will dedicate a plaque to recognize Barbara Fogel for the many years she worked in and for the Park. One of the reasons the Park is as lovely as it is is the perseverance by Barbara to ensure the grass was watered, flowers planted, shrubs were trimmed, trees were pruned, and trash was removed. The plan is to serve coffee, lemonade, and treats from local sources. The gathering will formally end at noon but you, your children, and pets are welcome to stay and enjoy the Park.

Friends also recognizes the very hard work of Bill Payne, the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Pete Engelen, and many other individuals who volunteer in the Park to plant, trim, water, and clean the Park. Also a shout of gratitude goes to Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb and the Park Board staff who oversee the Park, do the general maintenance and provide the trees and plants which provide the pastoral pleasure we in the hood all enjoy. To the many of you who contributed funds (including the LHNA) to create the plaque, Friends is honored to have your trust to design and create Barbara's recognition plaque.

The directors of Friends for 2015 are Suzanne Payne, Jeanne Scheiderer, Kathy Gaskins, Barry Lazarus, and the newest member Jeff Brown.

The officers for 2015 are as follows:

Barry Lazarus-President. Suzanne Payne-Vice President of Operations. Jeanne Scheiderer-Treasurer. Kathy Gaskins-Secretary

As in the past, Friends asks all of you to volunteer to work in the Park this Spring, Summer, and Fall. You can contact any of the directors if you wish to lend the Park the sweat of your brow. Generally, Saturday mornings from 10am to noon is a good time. However, there is always something to do so do not be shy.

Friends also asks all of you contribute to Friends of Thomas Lowry Park, an IRC Section 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. This is a deduction you can see and enjoy. Your contributions will enable Friends to continue to supplement the MPRB in the care of Thomas Lowry Park.

See you soon...in the Park.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association

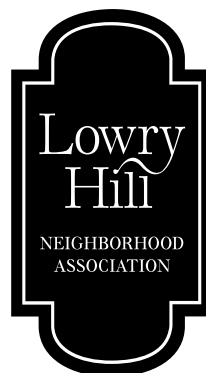
— SAVE THE DATE —

LHNA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 12th, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

at The Walker Art Center

Please join your LHNA Board for a fun and informative evening on the state of our neighborhood. This meeting is an opportunity for you to learn more about what is taking place in Lowry Hill and, in particular, the planned improvements to the Hennepin-Lyndale corridor. We will also be electing new Board members. There will be a cash bar, snacks and time for you to meet your neighbors. Join in on the fun on the 12th and all year long with LHNA! If you are a Lowry Hill resident and are interested in becoming a member of the LHNA board, please send an e-mail to lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org.



To learn more about LHNA visit us at lowryhillneighborhood.org

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KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION

by Shawn Smith

March 2015 KIAA Meeting Minutes

KIAA Board met March 2, 2015 at Kenwood Rec Center. Chair Larry Moran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Larry Moran, Jack Levi, Mike Bono, Angie Erdrich, Josine Peters, Jeanette Colby, Kathy Low, Ed Pluimer, Shawn Smith (minute taker).

Others present: Park Police Chief Jason Ohotto, Matt Spies (ECLB Subcommittee), Dr. Eric Larson, and 6 other attendees and neighbors

City Council Update

No Update this month

East Cedar Lake Beach Update – Park Police Chief Ohotto

Chief Ohotto provided an update on how KIAA funding was utilized in the summer of 2014 beach season. A total of 93 hours were utilized by park police for a budget cost of \$6084, over the authorization of \$5000 by KIAA.

Most offenses at ECLB are due to narcotics and alcohol. Submitted for the minutes was a 10 year recap of police reports. 2014 had 101 reports written (not necessarily arrests)

Chief would like to continue to have “buy back” patrols in 2015 and to have funding in place before June for proactive presence at the beach. The Chief’s recommendation was to have an officer present from 11AM till 4PM on scheduled days (from buy back funding), so as not to double up coverage that is regularly scheduled after 2PM till 10PM, based on availability. He also recommended the board reach out to the 5th Precinct City Attorney for partnership in increasing awareness of repeat offenders. Further, to reach out to Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams for support.

Preceding the recommendation of the Hidden

Beach task force, which will be provided to KIAA later in March, Jeanette Colby made a motion to authorize \$5000 initially pending the recommendation of the committee (to be finalized March 17th at the rec center at 6:30, public welcome) and to be revisited at a later date in case extra funding is needed due to ideas that come from the task force. Josine Peters seconded. Unanimously approved.

SWLRT Discussion

Larry Moran provided an update from the Community Advisory Committee meeting (Jody Strakosch is the neighborhood CAC representative), which occurs the last Tuesday of each month. Topics included Development Reviews, Community Works, and Design and Engineering. The primary issue was the SDEIS which will be delayed until late Spring or early summer, or later. This is important as SDEIS would speak to the environmental impact of co-location of freight and LRT in the Kenilworth Corridor with a single tunnel. Once complete, the public will have a 45 day period to comment.

Kathy Low provided an update on the 106 review (adverse impact of construction and operation of SWLRT on historically significant properties). In December, KIAA sent a letter outlining concerns on this topic. MnDot agreed to expedite traffic studies to assess impact of project. It remains unclear what, if any, mitigation will be done to mitigate potential adverse impacts on historic properties. Motion carried unanimously for Kathy Low to send the letter regarding KIAA position on the channel. Motion also carried unanimously to authorize an additional \$500 to pay the consultants PVN to help KIAA prepare a response letter to the most recent 106 consultation meeting.

Dr. Eric Larson, neighbor, addressed the board regarding the transportation of flammable liquids through the Kenilworth Corridor alongside SWLRT.

He sent a letter to Fire Chief Fruetel asking him to explore the inherent danger of, and a plan to manage and mitigate the damage in the event of a spill or fire resulting from an ethanol train accident. Construction of the shallow tunnel will occur 12 feet from the freight rail track. Motion carried unanimously to endorse the letter.

Shawn Smith made a motion to update, sign on behalf of KIAA, and send a letter to Senator Dibble recapping the discussion on outstanding questions on SWLRT from the last two meetings, to outline where information is needed and outstanding concerns that are not addressed. Seconded by Josine, carried unanimously.

Sculpture Garden Renovation – Josine Peters (minutes addendum)

Statement:

As part of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden renovation, the Walker Art Center will temporarily remove most sculptures. Many will be in storage, but others will be on short- or long-term loan to a number of Twin Cities institutions so that the public can still enjoy them during the construction project. The Walker is still in conversation with these potential partners and is identifying particular works for relocation. No official decisions have been made.

One thing we know for certain is that the Frank Gehry Standing Fish will be relocated from the Cowles Conservatory in order to reimagine that particular space. A formal announcement will be made in early 2015 announcing the relocation of specific artworks and their locations.

More information can be found on Minneapolisparks.org. Search under “current projects”

KIAA continued on page 15

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Hill & Lake Press

www.hillandlakepress.com

LETTERS

To the Editor:

It has been a theme of some Park Board members and their supporters that federal law obligates the Park Board to spend \$500,000 studying a light rail tunnel under the channel between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, as an alternative to the proposed light rail bridge over the channel. This theme was repeated in an article in the Feb. 20 Hill and Lake Press, saying that "Section 4(f)" of a federal law "requires" the Park Board to "certify" that no "feasible and prudent" alternative to the light rail bridge exists.

Unfortunately, the text of the law and the administrative rule implementing the law contain no such provision. The only requirement in "Section 4(f)" is upon the federal department head, to determine either that no feasible and prudent alternative exists or that the impact of the bridge is "deminimis." There is no requirement for local agencies to do anything, much less "certify" something. The choice of what to do — or whether to do anything — was entirely up to the Park Board.

Whether the ultimate compromise was a lucky break, or the result of a clever ploy, or a sell-out, is a matter of opinion. What is a fact is that it is bad policy to use incorrect information to justify actions to the public.

Rodgers Adams, CIDNA

Thank you to our friends who contribute to Hill and Lake Press. We very much appreciate your generous support.

**Barry and Mary Lazarus
Lawrence and Marie Olson**

Barry writes, "I enclose my annual contribution to Hill and Lake Press. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the paper. I enjoy reading each copy. Thank your staff as well..."



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Please direct contributions and advertising queries to Jean Deatrack 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.

HILL LAKE PRESS Selected Real Estate Sales February 2015											
STREET ADDRESS	ORIGINAL PRICE	Seller Contrib	DAYS MKT	SALE PRICE	TYPE	BED BATH	SQ FT	TAX VALUE	PROP TAX	YR BLT	
2928 Dean Pkwy #2K	\$ 115,000	\$ 3,000	237	\$ 108,400	C	1/1	693	\$ 105,500	\$ 1,885	1960	
236 Drew Ave S #1	149,900	4,425	97	147,500	C	2/1	808	147,000	2,626	1948	
52 Groveland Ter #A412	167,000	0	65	167,000	C	1/1	758	143,500	1,923	1966	
3116 W Lake St #222	209,900	0	21	208,000	C	1/1	957	202,000	3,311	2007	
3104 W Lake St #111	279,500	0	200	285,000	C	2/2	1,290	194,000	3,466	2007	
3353 Saint Louis Ave	359,000	1,000	83	335,000	TWN	2/3	1,669	357,500	6,308	1985	
3313 Saint Paul Ave	499,000	0	119	487,000	TWN	3/4	2,304	375,000	6,700	1984	
705 Kenwood Pkwy	645,000	2,500	165	575,000	H	4/3	2,982	473,500	8,487	1921	
2950 Dean Pkwy #2502	750,000	0	189	611,500	C	2/2	1,625	432,000	8,167	1978	
1611 W 22nd St	699,000	0	8	699,000	H	3/4	2,962	834,000	16,203	1980	
1222 Mount Curve Vae	779,900	0	27	825,000	TWN	4/3	2,850	591,000	10,238	1982	
1805 Knox Ave S	1,245,000	0	173	1,100,000	H	5/5	4,800	966,500	19,206	1903	
57 Groveland Terrace	1,875,000	0	91	1,790,000	H	4/5	4,954	971,500	19,260	1914	
2424 W Lake of Isles	4,700,000	0	195	3,250,000	H	4/7	8,460	3,909,300	83,149	1930	
Sources: Harvey Ettinger - Steve Havig					Home	H					
					Condo	C					
Broker Reciprocity Websites / Hennepin County					Townhouse	TWN				(Go to mpl Realtor.com for additional info)	

Minneapolis Institute of Art Ice Sculpture Near Lake Calhoun before the Warm Weather



Photo by Dorothy Childers

Inspired by dragons from their Asian art collection, Minneapolis Institute of Arts created a giant ice sculpture near the Tin Fish Restaurant at Lake Calhoun. Created from 280 blocks of ice (60 tons). Chris Swarback, owner of Ice Occasions, led the project to carve a dragon of mammoth proportions. Be prepared to be delighted with something new every week, as part of the 52 surprises the MIA has planned throughout the year to celebrate its 100th birthday. For more information go to <http://new.artsmia.org/100/52-surprises/>.

Where we are Now.

By Jean Deatrack

We do live in a wonderful neighborhood as I have said before. Read Jim Lenfestey's article on page five for a little humor and much truth about our neighborhood.

My daughter Katie and her husband Martin who is from England have opened an antique shop (No.6) at 25th and Hennepin Avenue. She is a music publicist and he is a successful musician so this is a new adventure for them. I hope my friends will stop by and welcome them and maybe buy something.

Our four neighborhoods have their annual meetings scheduled for April and May. Plan to attend, You will hear interesting speakers and have fun socializing, a good way to get acquainted and involved in your neighborhood.

We continue to be impressed with Louise Erdrich for her many interesting and successful books. She has won the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction and will be given her award at the National Book Festival on September. And we are grateful that she chose to open a bookstore in our neighborhood. Ignore the chains. At Birchbark Books you will find every book you might want plus jewelry and Native American art. My book club will visit Birchbark Books soon, choose books, and have lunch at the Kenwood. What a great way to spend a day.

My husband died of Multiple Myeloma for which there is no cure. I have chosen to include information about that horrible disease about which we knew nothing when he was diagnosed.

KIAA from page thirteen

Kenwood Carnival

Motion carried unanimously to authorize \$750 Kenwood Carnival.

Reminder: KIAA Annual Gathering

While not discussed in the meeting, the date of the Kenwood Annual Gathering will be May 4th in front of the Kenwood Restaurant, 6-7:30. BeArtrageous will host activities for children. The Bockley Gallery will serve as a rain location. Food will be Red Wagon Pizza. New prospective board members are welcome. All residents are welcome to attend and more details to come soon. Last year was a huge success and we will be electing the 2015-2016 KIAA board.

Volunteers are Needed for Earth Day Cleanup.

Meet on Saturday, April 25th at the Kenwood Rec Center. 9:30-noon. More info to come in April.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Larry Moran at 8:32 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, April 6th 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

Minnesota House resolution recognizing March 2015 as Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month

Whereas, multiple myeloma or myeloma, the second most common blood cancer worldwide, is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow and it is called "multiple" because the cancer can occur at multiple sites; and affects more than 100,000 people in the U.S. and 10,000 losing their battle each year; and because myeloma is a rare disease, there can be a delayed diagnosis, leading to delayed treatment, so for this reason an increased awareness of myeloma for clinicians and the public will lead to earlier diagnosis, allowing people to live longer; and continued investment and innovation is critical to achieve early diagnosis and implement the most effective and safest treatments for myeloma patients; and although we have seen important advances in the last decade, there is still no cure for

The No. 1 Lowry Hill Detective Agency

By Madeleine Lowry

The No. 1 Lowry Hill Detective Agency

"Can you check on Bill? He hasn't answered my calls in three days." It was Jackie, our neighbor. She was traveling and her husband, Bill, was supposed to be home minding the hearth. Only, it seemed, he wasn't. What had happened to Bill? It was a case for The No. 1 Lowry Hill Detective Agency.

I was on a business trip so it was my husband, Phil, who took the call.

"Oh yes, we'll check on him," Phil agreed readily. "We even have a key, I think."

Indeed we did, since our son, Weston, sometimes takes care of their cats when they are out of town.

"We'll go over there right now," he assured her. It was already approaching bedtime.

"Well, you might see Janet prowling around since I just spoke to her, too." Jackie added, naming the person-most-likely-to-be-called in case of any situation on our block.

No need to call for backup.

"We'll call you back afterward," he said, a touch ominously.

Phil stepped out into the not-so-dark James Avenue night. Both Bill's yard and ours are fairly well-lit thanks to a variety of porch lights, garage lights and motion-detecting lights. You can never be too careful living in the city.

He bumped into Janet and they made a cursory pass around the house. It was dark inside except for a small glow in the basement and another bright spot in the attic. It didn't look convincingly like anyone was home. Actually, although we live right next door, we hadn't realized that anyone had been home the past few days.

They rang the bell several times. No answer. If Phil and Janet were hoping to wrap this case early, they had to be disappointed.

Phil came home to get Westie, and more importantly, Westie's key for the next phase of the investigation. On impulse Westie decided to grab a baseball bat as a precautionary measure. Was it not Clovis Anderson who advised, "Better safe than sorry," in his legendary detection procedural manual?

They let themselves in through the back door of Bill's house and decided to check the garage for cars. Perhaps Bill had taken a little trip? The metal garage

door creaked open revealing not one but two fine vehicles. Darn. This ruled out a jaunt on the town, a traffic accident or an impromptu visit to his sister in Wisconsin. Unless he'd hopped a plane, or sped off on a bicycle, Bill was probably at home.

I suppose my physician husband was already ticking through a list of possible medical misadventures that could have befallen our missing neighbor.

Our little band of detectives closed the garage and began tromping around the first floor with the aim of making as much noise as possible. This house, the site of so many festive Kentucky Derby parties, was absolutely silent on this night. No sounds met their ears, no startled shouts, no rapid footfalls, no reassuring lights blinked on.

With a growing feeling of dread, they checked out the basement. No one.

Back on the main floor they approached the stairs to the second floor. On our block most of the houses share similar floor plans, with all the bedrooms upstairs. What were they going to find? Westie gripped his bat a little tighter.

As if reading their minds, Janet quipped, "We're going to see two legs sticking out." No one wanted to finish that thought. They stomped up the stairs like a small herd of elephants willing Bill to find them before they had to find him.

Please, Bill, please, please!

And then suddenly, like an apparition, he appeared. "Hi guys," he said, a bit too cheerfully for a man that could have been late, in the words of Mma Ramotswe. "What are you doing here?" If he was surprised, he hid it well. Westie dropped his baseball bat.

Well, Bill, what do you think? That three of your neighbors had the sudden urge to find out what fascinating book you were curled up in bed with? No. They were sent by your wife to see if you were still alive. And by the way, could you please call her back so we can all get some sleep!

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what happens here in Lowry Hill when you forget to return your wife's calls.

The No. 1 Lowry Hill Detective Agency at your service.

myeloma; and the state of Minnesota is committed to finding a cure for myeloma and supports the treatment of its citizens that suffer from myeloma and encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs: **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the month of March 2015 is Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month in the State of Minnesota and encourages all residents to join in activities to support myeloma education and funding of research programs to find a cure.



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sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

Inquisitor: So, if you don't mind my askin', ya got kids? Victim: No, just haven't...

Inquisitor: We've got four. They are gifts from God. You and your better half church-goers?

Victim: We're kind of lapsed Druids I guess...

Inquisitor: (crinkling her nose in skepticism and simultaneously pleased to have solved the mystery) Well there ya go. They're a lot of work but they bring so much joy. Can't imagine life without them. JIMMY, GET DOWN FROM THERE AND GET OVER HERE NOW! QUIT YOUR SNIVELLING OR I'LL GIVE YA SOMETHING TO CRY ABOUT!

Stranger Inquisition, or S.I., is a little understood malady which strikes relentlessly and without warning. One in five Americans over the age of 21 are subjected to stranger scrutiny if they are unmarried, childless, or without grandchildren. Possible side effects include mood swings, anger, rage, homicidal thoughts, and jaw discomfort due to excessive teeth clenching. The Diagnostic Statistics Manual (DSM-5) has chosen not to address S.I. There is no government or private sector funding, nor are there any current studies underway in the United States.

Stranger Inquisition literature worldwide is also sparse. There was Bachelors level research being done in Antwerp, Belgium and summarized in The Daily Twerp, a weekly shopper (June, 2006), almost a decade ago. What we do know is Stranger Inquisition is a result of close proximity of an inquisitor and a victim. Actual physical contact need not occur, but quite often (59%) the inquisitor will squeeze the arm of the victim and on occasion (22%) pinch the cheek.

Inquisitors are generally women over fifty (84%) and gum chewers (97%). They need only a few minutes of questioning to irritate a victim. Being an inquisitor may have a genetic link, and seems to grant one immuni-

ty. Two inquisitors alone in a confined space, an elevator for example, will quickly attempt to top each other with their quantity of grandchildren and the breeding prowess of their offspring.

Inquisitors would much rather attack what they see as an unbalanced molecule, namely a well coiffed person not bedraggled and frazzled to the point of exhaustion. Telltale signs like gum in the hair, Silly String embedded on suede shoes, or Happy Meal toys dangling from pockets signal a fellow parent. Inquisitors are relentless proselytizers. They attack early arrivals at business meetings, anyone not in a pack at social gatherings (pot lucks, community fund raisers, religious retreats), and in banks and grocery checkout lines.

JoAnne and I were married for almost ten years before having our first of two children. We endured the questions and unsolicited advice. Our daughter Rachael and then her brother Ben brought us not only great joy, but temporary relief from S.I. As I aged, the drumbeat for grandchildren began. Curiously, it was never sounded by anyone in the family. Only a woman with the tattoo Born To Raise Children, driving an SUV with decals of stick figure children in the rear window, and sporting a bumper sticker "Ask me about my grandchildren," had browbeaten me. The arrival of granddaughter Charlotte a year and a half ago has not only been a wonderful addition, but has also silenced the inquisitors.

Now I am waiting for someone to say, "Only the one?" because by the time you read this we will hopefully be reveling in the arrival of Charlotte's little brother, tentatively named The New Guy.

Tom H. Cook has never felt the need to wear a giant button with a picture of his children. He has never knowingly advised random strangers about their private business.

Sen. Franken Calls for Action to Address Safety of Trains Carrying Bakken Crude Oil

Recently, the head of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) made comments calling for an "all-of-the-above" approach to address the overall safety of trains shipping Bakken crude oil, including the need to make the oil itself safer.

In response, Sen. Franken pressed the FRA for new measures to make the oil less volatile before it is shipped. He also called for action to route trains around communities, to address rail integrity issues, and to give communities more resources to respond to an accident.

"I have heard strong concerns from many constituents about the safety of Bakken crude oil being shipped through Minnesota, as the trains carrying this crude oil have shown a propensity to explode in the case of a derailment," wrote Sen. Franken. "I urge you to take whatever actions necessary to address the safety of the product itself, as your comments called for, and require that this crude oil be made less volatile before it is shipped through my state and across the country."

Sen. Franken has been working hard to ensure the safety of trains carrying Bakken crude oil and intends to shine a light on this issue. Last fall, he backed new federal safety standards for trains carrying the oil.


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