



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Published for the East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood & Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhoods

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April 21, 2022



A summer concert at Cedar Lake East Beach. Programming is an important component of building community.

SPECIAL COVERAGE

FEATURE

By Carissa Brown

Building Community at Cedar Lake East Beach

Until recently, safety and security at Cedar Lake East Beach (aka “Hidden Beach”) was a concerning topic among neighbors who live in the vicinity. Late night parties, litter, and neglected maintenance reinforced the beach’s poor image. Even with the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO), then called the Kenwood Isles Area Association, paying for additional support from the Park Police, repeated noise complaints and unruly behavior left many in the community avoiding the beach altogether or calling for more drastic measures, including closing the beach entirely.

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Cracks throughout building with exposed walls and floors for monitoring. (Photo Dorothy Childers.)

Met Council Says Weather Caused Condo Cracks

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The H. Alden Smith house as it looked in its first decades when it occupied its original address of 1403 Harmon Place.

FEATURE

The Smith House A Victory in Historic Preservation

By Thomas Regnier

Saving historic buildings is almost always a challenge — an often thankless (and endless) battle to save historic treasures from shortsighted destruction.

It requires intense collaboration between numerous community stakeholders and agencies. These partnerships must be pragmatic efforts aimed at

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Hill & Lake Press

The Hill & Lake Press has served the community since 1976. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By Craig Wilson, Editor



Thank you to all the readers who contacted me to share their thoughts about the new Hill & Lake Press layout in my first issue as editor in March 2022. Your comments were overwhelmingly positive and I appreciate your feedback. We are actively seeking contributors to write articles or draw illustrations. Please contact me at hillandlakepress@gmail.com if you have something you would like to share that relates directly to our community and readers. I cannot promise to print it, but I will consider it.

This month the Cedar-Isles Master Planning process and SWLRT continue to dominate our news. I contacted several officials about the status of the of Hennepin Avenue planning effort and was told that there would be news to share in May. I hope you enjoy the features highlighting impacts of redlining versus designing neighborhood as well as the good deeds of residents Will Stensrud and Tom Nordyke. Finally, follow the advice of Dorothy Richmond and get your shingles vaccine if you are over 50. I did!

Craig Wilson lives in Lowry Hill and is the Editor of the Hill & Lake Press.

Kudos to Craig Wilson for doing a remarkable job of editing and producing his first issue of the Hill and Lake Press, and to retired editor Jean Deatrck for passing the editorial torch to such capable hands.

It was great to see so many new (to me) people writing for the paper, but as a geezer of 75 I respectfully call rank on my junior, 69-year-old Janice Gepner, who wrote about the

need for designated bike lanes on Hennepin Avenue. (Senior Citizens Bike Too.)

I have already made several trips on my bike to shop on Hennepin Avenue this so-called spring. I used Irving and Humboldt to get there, as I have for nearly 50 years. (Back then we were all working to get cars off residential streets, not on to them!)

No one can dispute the need to drastically reduce carbon if our planet is to survive, nor the pleasure and virtue of using a bike for transportation when possible. What we can dispute is whether removing 90% of the parking on Hennepin between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street to create permanent bike lanes is a realistic or effective way to do that.

Bikes are a good choice for some people, in some seasons, but in a sprawling city with a climate like ours, e-cars and e-buses are the reality of the future.

It's also a reality that no man is an island, entire of itself, and neither is any neighborhood. Limiting cars and removing parking from Hennepin to make way for bike lanes ignores the fact that just a few blocks to the west lies car-friendly Edina, St Louis Park, Hopkins....

If we're serious about addressing climate change we need to face up to a metro-wide transit plan that includes all forms of carbon-free transportation, and not put our limited resources into a ten-block project that hurts local businesses and the neighbors who frequent them.

And trust me. Despite the potholes, biking on side streets is quite enjoyable.

— Susan Lenfestey

We are writing to express our concern about the potential closing of the swimming pool at Jones Harrison. When our father was evaluating assisted living facilities the ability to swim was a significant factor

in his decision to move to JH. Dad is a World War II veteran and a life-long swimmer. At age 98, his mobility is declining and his twice-weekly therapy sessions with Lavinia have greatly helped to slow this deterioration.

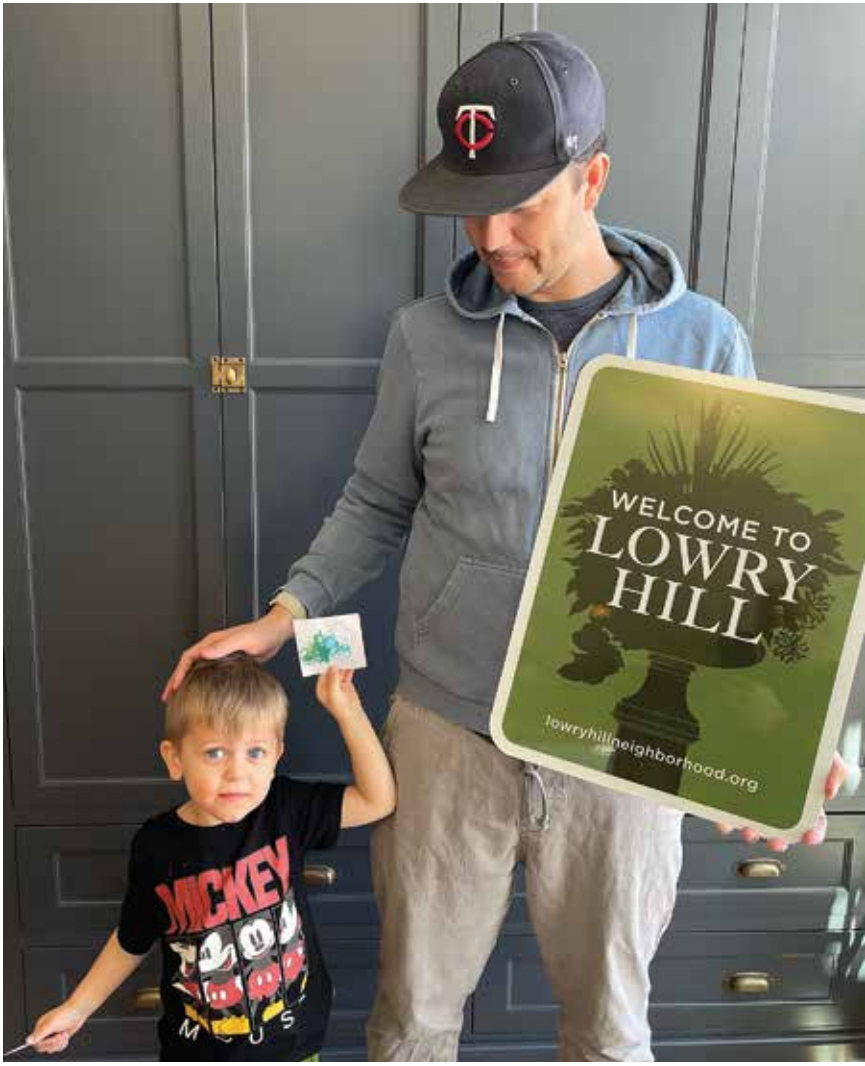
There are numerous research studies and organizations that tout the benefits of swimming for the elderly. The web site seniorsmatter.com in a May 18, 2021 article entitled, "Senior Exercise, Swimming for Several Reasons" stated:

"Swimming may not be the first activity that comes to mind when considering an exercise program for an elderly person, but it is one of the best exercises the elderly can do to stay young, able-bodied, and healthy. The benefits of this exercise are numerous, including a lower risk of falls, posture stability, a decrease in the amount of pain an elderly person feels, better mental health, and enhanced cardiac function. Because swimming is a simple, non-weight bearing exercise, almost anyone of any physical ability can participate in it.

The chair assist on the side of the pool ensures that residents of all abilities are able to safely enter and exit the pool. We are told that prior to Covid the pool was also available for people in the neighborhood to use. How wonderful for the residents to be able interact with the local community thereby brightening the days of your residents. In addition to the excellent therapeutic benefits the pool offers, it has been one of the few sources of joy for Dad at Jones-Harrison. We sincerely hope you will reconsider closing the pool, keeping in mind that in many organizations, each individual program doesn't necessarily "pay for itself." We believe that for future residents considering whether to move to Jones-Harrison, having the pool available would be considered quite an asset.

Thank you for your consideration,

— Kathryn Moe and Jim Kubiack



Tyler Ecklund-Kouba and son proudly displaying their new signs. Tyler led the effort to rebrand the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association logo and update signs throughout the neighborhood celebrating the decorative urns of Lowry Hill. The logo was designed by Christopher Bohnet.

North High Booster Club Rebounds from Theft

By Mark Tierney

On April 1, an investigation was opened by the Minneapolis Police Department related to accounting irregularities discovered at the North High School Booster Club earlier that week.

These irregularities did not involve the \$43,000 that was contributed by the generous donations of Hill & Lake area residents, neighborhood organizations and others for the North High school track equipment. All of the equipment is purchased, paid for and on-site at the school. This includes:

- 80 hurdles
- 10 hurdle carts
- 8 starting blocks
- 1 starting block cart
- 1 "Halo" starting system
- Pole vault and landing system

Unfortunately, the contributions to the track team that exceeded the \$43,000, approximately \$8,000, and other booster club funds related to concessions totaling up to \$40,000 remain the subject of the investigation. An officer of the booster club with access to the checking account has admitted to the misappropriation of funds.

On a positive note, since the theft occurred, nearly \$50,000 in additional

donations have come into the booster club and the Minneapolis Foundation is now acting as the fiscal agent for all current and future charitable contributions.

A special thanks to Craig Wilson, the editor of the Hill & Lake Press, Tyler Ecklund-Kouba, and Jackie Brown Baylor who inspired individuals and organizations to contribute to the needs of the track team. If you would like to donate to the booster club,

you can send checks to —

North High Booster Club
c/o Delisa Grigsby
1500 James Avenue N
Minneapolis MN 55411

Mark Tierney is a Lowry Hill resident, board member of Friends of Thomas Lowry Park and co-lead of the North High Track Team equipment fundraising effort.

Met Council Says Weather Caused Condo Cracks

Refuses to Produce Supporting Data

By Mary Pattock

In a presentation to the Cedar Isles Condominium Association board on April 11, Socotec, a Met Council engineering consultant, said that “thermal changes” are responsible for 75% of the potentially dangerous cracks that suddenly appeared in the concrete condos last January.

Socotec consultants said the nearby Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT) construction, only feet away from the building, played only “a very minor role.” They said the building is safe and the council can resume work on the tunnel.

The condo board disagreed strongly in a statement that said in part: “To claim that after 40 years of thermal expansion and contraction the building coincidentally suffered extensive damage due to that cause while severe shaking and drilling was occurring only feet away strains credulity.”

The board and several news outlets have asked the Met Council to release the data that support its findings. The Met Council has declined.

Such a report would reveal how Socotec arrived at its finding that thermal changes are 75% responsible for the damage.

It could also include information on how soil conditions — and thus the structure’s stability — are being affected by the



Cedar Isles Condo Tower (Photo Dorothy Childers).

drilling, bulldozing and use of massive quantities of water for cooling and other construction purposes. (The Met Council says unstable soil in the area is one of the main drivers of its recently announced three-year delay and request for an additional \$550 million, which drives the total SWLRT budget to \$2.75 billion.)

It is not known whether the Met Council has the report and will not release it, Socotec has the report and has not released it to the Met Council (thus shielding

it from public view), or, as condo resident Russ Palma suspects, no written report exists.

Palma says Met Council claims that the building has structural flaws are immaterial, since the building has stood, undamaged, for decades, and it was only when construction began that the damages occurred.

In fact, the cracks have occurred almost exactly as predicted, floor by floor, in a 2018 engineering study conducted by Itasca

Consulting in 2018. The condo association commissioned that study out of concern that SWLRT construction so close to their buildings would cause damage.

Mary Pattock, a long-time resident of CIDNA, serves on the Hill & Lake Press, Lakes and Parks Alliance and CIDNA boards of directors.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Majority of CICA building movement and, thus, slab damage is due to seasonal temperature changes, exacerbated by the defective angle support system**
- **Analyses revealed building foundation movement has played a very minor role in overall building behavior**
 - **75% of building movement due to thermal changes – 25% due to non-thermal sources, which can consist of the following:**
 1. Wind loading
 2. Freight train vibrations
 3. Deferred maintenance conditions of the west silo basement
 4. Neighboring construction activities
- **Redundancies in slab support system indicate the building remains safe for occupants**
- **Engage Engineer of Record (BKBM) should review the identified structural conditions relative to the defective angle and basement issues, which originated from the construction and conversion of the buildings circa 1982**
- **It is safe to resume construction at southwest end of site with additional monitoring and additional oversight on construction activities**

Slide from a presentation to the Cedar Isles Condominium Association board on April 11 from Socotec, a Met Council consultant.



Illustration Glenn Miller Glenn Miller is a retired video and event producer, involved in multiple nonprofit boards. He and his wife, Jocelyn Hale, are CIDNA residents.



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RUTH ANNE OLSON AND ANTHONY MORLEY

Building Community through Lifelong Learning AT THE KENWOOD

Ruth Anne Olson and Anthony Morley have been enjoying life at the Kenwood for 18 years. Anthony discovered the Kenwood when he took an OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) class on women poets. The couple had already been thinking of moving. They wanted to stay in the city and the location was walkable and on bus lines. Ruth Anne hadn't lived in a high-rise for a long time, and she felt young again when she moved in.

Anthony and Ruth Anne have a busy life outside the Kenwood, so they typically don't join a lot of the offered activities. But they do love the breakfasts, and the ability to sit down with any resident and be guaranteed to have an interesting and informal conversation.

Ruth Anne and Anthony have lived in Minneapolis for 50 years. Ruth Anne grew up on the West Coast, and work brought her to a variety of experiences in Chicago; The Philippines; Madison, Wisconsin and then finally to Minneapolis, all the while working in the field of education. Anthony grew up on the East Coast and was an Episcopal priest in St. Louis, Missouri, bringing together a diverse congregation of Black and White families. He also worked in education, and after experiences in New York City, was recruited as principal of the Southeast Free School in Minneapolis. Then, for 13 years, he served on the editorial staff of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, until his retirement in 1999. As Ruth Anne says, they started on opposite coasts and met in the middle. Married in 1978, their love of learning is one of the things that brought them together.

Ruth Anne and Anthony enjoy getting to know people with life experiences different from their own. Through their church, in 2007 they became involved with the town of Bigonet, Haiti. Knowing the Kenwood Retirement Community would be interested to learn more about Haiti, and would want to join in this friendship, the couple has nurtured this connection. Teachers and church leaders from Bigonet have several times visited the Kenwood, sharing their life stories and the rock sculptures for which their village is well-known. Kenwood residents donated sewing supplies (which often

has sat unused in their closets for years), to help Bigonet's K-9 school start a tailoring class — and later a keyboard and recorders that led to new music classes in Bigonet.

Even during the pandemic everyone thought it was important to connect, so the principal of the school came to Minneapolis. It wasn't possible to meet in person, but the Zoom gathering was full of enthusiastic Kenwood residents happy to see their long-time Bigonet friend.

But it isn't always necessary to travel to meet people with different life experiences. For at least a decade, Ruth Anne had been thinking of a way to explore the variety of life experiences of the staff and residents at the Kenwood. Anthony points out that the staff is an essential part of the Kenwood community. After the summer of 2020 when George Floyd was killed, the idea took on a special urgency for the couple. They approached Jennifer Volkenant, Executive Director of the Kenwood, and proposed "The World on Our Doorstep," a monthly program featuring planned conversations with residents and staff so that they could learn about each other. Anthony interviews the featured guest, and then opens the discussion to everyone present. And Ruth Anne provides an informational sheet suggesting further reading, films, and other related resources. So far, the conversations have highlighted experiences of a staff housekeeper from Brazil, a resident former chancellor of the University of Minnesota - Morris, and a member of the food-services staff who is Native American. Varying the presenters across gender, staff/resident, and different life experiences, Ruth Anne and Anthony intentionally put race in the forefront so that the discussion of racism does not get forgotten. Growing in popularity, nearly half of all Kenwood residents is now involved.

By bringing their Bigonet friends to the Kenwood, and by creating a forum for sharing life experiences with "The World on Our Doorstep," Ruth Anne and Anthony have created their own Lifelong Learning Institute at the Kenwood.



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Meet Your Neighbor

A monthly column by Craig Wilson, Editor

Dear Neighbor Columnist Dorothy Richmond



Dorothy Richmond.

Craig Wilson interviews Dear Neighbor columnist Dorothy Richards about her passion for the Spanish language, wit and whom she admires most.

Where did you grow up and attend school? I grew up in Northfield, went to St. Dominic's Elementary School and graduated from Northfield Senior High. These years were not unlike living in Mayberry. College followed in Minneapolis, then grad school in St. Louis.

How did you develop an interest in the Spanish language? I fell in love with the language when I began to study it in the ninth grade. The structure and grammar made sense to me, and conjugating verbs was immeasurably satisfying. I'd always been a language wonk and Spanish gave it focus. What I hated, however, was the book we used. It was poorly organized, hopelessly lacking in both explanations and exercises, and more than anything it was boring. What ninth grader in small-town America gives a rip about the topography of the Pyrenees Mountains? Nobody I can imagine. At age

14 I was reading a passage about a town hall (*el ayuntamiento*) somewhere in Spain and thought, without a trace of hubris, I could write a better textbook than this.

How many books have you written? Around 10 original texts followed by many subsequent editions. All in all, I have no idea.

What brought you to the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood? I was married in 1995 and moved here from St. Paul. The marriage didn't make the long haul but my love for the neighborhood never waned. It reminds me of Martha's Vineyard – sorta fancy and a whole lotta groovy.

You're a mother of two? Yes – Daisy (24) and Lily (21). Because of these name choices people often assume I'm a gardener. I am not. I've never met a botanical offering I didn't slaughter due to neglect. Love and appreciation, while they can't fertilize a plant, do wonders for a child. My greatest joy is that our mother-child relationship now includes friendship.

Where did you develop your sense of humor and how would you describe it? I don't think I developed anything beyond how I see life, which is often utterly absurd. People do the weirdest things, usually with a straight face and completely seriously. I learned long ago that you can get all sanctimonious about other people's thoughts and actions or you can just sit back and watch the show, learning from people with opposing views. If the show gets too awful you can walk away. And of course, you can then write it all down in a scathing report and email it to a good friend. I guess my humor is based in snotty optimism: No matter how rotten something is, laughter is the best reward.

What is the focus of your new column in the Hill and Lake Press? I want to write about things that I think about. And I think

about a lot of things.

Whom do you admire most? I venerate anyone who has taken great risk and jumped off a cliff into the unknown in an effort to be a better person. I admire people who are honest, people who think deeply about things, who cultivate their originality, who consistently choose good over evil, and loving parents and loyal friends.

Craig Wilson is a Lowry Hill resident and the Editor of the Hill Lake Press. Craig has been contributing to this column since 2008.

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FEATURE

By Josie Owens

From Redlining to George Floyd

“I think everybody in Minneapolis ought to own a little piece of property. To my mind, to own your own home is a duty which you owe to your children. Children that live in tenements have not the proprietary air of children who live in their own home, and it sticks to them.” So read a promotional advertisement in February 1915 for a new housing development in Columbia Heights. This “lovely” sentiment was penned by Edmund Walton (1865-1919), a real estate developer who often sang the praises of buying a home in Minneapolis. He himself had emigrated to the Midwest in the 1880s from London and settled permanently in Minneapolis in a home on Mount Curve Avenue after making his fortune in residential real estate. One would think that Walton truly stood for home ownership and the benefit of home investment for the working man. In reality, Walton’s legacy is a lasting stain on Minneapolis.

In May 2020, 105 years after this advertisement, more than 1500 businesses were damaged or destroyed in the civil unrest following George Floyd’s murder. These businesses served a predominantly Black and immigrant population. A question often heard was why people loot and destroy their own neighborhoods. Perhaps the segregated neighborhoods begun by Edmund Walton and the subsequent unfair housing practices have something to do with the destruction.

When Edmund Walton arrived in Minneapolis in 1890 to work for Thomas Lowry, the city was the 18th American city in size with 37% of the population foreign-born. The city was also one of the most integrated in the country. Edmund Walton would help change that. While he was promoting the importance of home ownership, he did not intend this privilege for all. He was actively creating a real estate policy that would prevent nonwhites from buying homes in certain areas of Minneapolis. He promoted an idea that property values would deteriorate if nonwhite people lived in these neighborhoods. In 1910, Walton introduced the racial covenant into his Minneapolis home deeds and changed the city into the segregated one it still is today.

Covenants are restrictive language attached to a property that dictates how a property can be used, such as restricting short-term rentals or chickens in a residential neighborhood. However, the racial covenant limited who could live in a neighborhood by placing a clause in



George Floyd mural at the Spyhouse Coffee House in East Isles during the summer of 2020 (Photo Dorothy Childers).

the home deed that said something like “the said premises shall not at any time be sold, conveyed, leased, or sublet, or occupied by any person or persons who are not full bloods of the so-called Caucasian or White race.” This was a common Minneapolis covenant employed by Edmund Walton and other real estate developers when many immigrants and people of color were seeking a better life in Minneapolis. The population of Minneapolis was 202,718 in 1900 and grew to 380,562 in 1920. This population growth would hold steady, but the demographics would shift. The percentage of foreign born would decrease from 20% in 1910 to 3% in 1970. In 1915 the Great Migration brought Black families who were trying to escape Jim Crow prejudice and limitations. However, they encountered Jim Crow in northern cities as well but in subtler ways, one being the real estate racial covenant. This geographical constraint pushed Black people into less desirable areas of the city with an inferior quality of life and not the one they had hoped for in their recent inclusion in “the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The racial covenants were not unique to Minneapolis. Many cities were placing them in the home deeds. In 1926, in *Corrigan v. Buckley* the United States Supreme Court upheld the racial covenant as a legally binding document between private parties. As a result of the ruling, there was an increase in racial covenants around the country. Finally, in 1948, the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelley v. Kraemer* that a racial covenant was not enforceable, as it violated the 14th Amendment. Although this decision was seen as a civil rights victory, it did little to change what was an established disparity in wealth and opportunity. Other racist housing practices had come into effect that exacerbated the problem of finding a place to live for people of color.

In the Great Depression, the increase in mortgage defaults and foreclosures led to government intervention in order to stabilize the housing market. At first glance, the federal

government’s actions seemed prudent. As Nancy Welsh explains in her paper [Racially Restrictive Covenants in the United States: A Call to Action](#), “the National Housing Act of 1934 that created the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) was able to stabilize the housing market by insuring low-interest, fully amortized, twenty-year loans. Before receiving an FHA-backed mortgage, a property was required to meet appraisal standards, including racial exclusivity. The FHA’s 1935 underwriting manual stated, ‘If a neighborhood is to retain stability it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes. A change in social or racial occupancy generally leads to instability and a reduction in value.’” The neighborhoods that were already less desirable or valuable but still the ones that people of color needed to live in were subjected to redlining, a banking practice that made it impossible to get loans for properties in racially mixed neighborhoods as they were seen to be higher risk. Other racist banking practices created more requirements for Black people seeking a mortgage because of the accepted but undocumented idea of being a greater risk.

Edmund Walton had an easier experience as a newcomer to Minneapolis. As a White man, he arrived and was able to build a successful real estate company in a short time. One of his first independent real estate enterprises was the purchase and development of Walton Hills, the neighborhood between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake. These home deeds would contain the racial covenants prohibiting “persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent” from buying. Walton would have a lucrative career and build a mansion on Mount Curve Avenue called Grey Court. Ironically, the home was decorated by John Bradstreet in the Moorish Revival style with art from Northern Africa and Spain. When he died at age 54, he was able to leave his wife and three daughters well off with an estate of \$195,000 (about \$3.2 million today).

The racial covenant did not have to be in the deed to have impact. If the racist language existed in an area, then other homeowners without the restrictive covenant were pressured not to sell to people of color. Even if a Black family did move into the neighborhood, the family could face mobs and violence, such as the Lee family did in 1931 when they moved into a white neighborhood in south Minneapolis. After two years, the Lees gave up their hope of living in the neighborhood and enjoying the schools and parks it offered and relocated to a historically Black neighborhood.

In 2018, a USA Today study ranked Minneapolis as one of the worst places to live for Black people. While 75% of White people own their home, less than 25% of Black people own theirs. Mapping Prejudice explains that “since most families amass wealth through property ownership, this homeownership gap continues to feed our contemporary racial wealth gap. Wealth is built through generations, with one generation passing resources to another. Thanks in part to the racial biases that have been baked into the real estate market over the last century, the average white household in the United States has ten times as much wealth as the average black household.”

Has your property’s value benefited from Edmund Walton’s racial covenants and subsequent redlining? You can probably answer this by answering a few follow-up questions. Do most of your neighbors own



George Floyd mural during the summer of 2020 (Photo Dorothy Childers).

their homes? Does your neighborhood have good schools? Does your neighborhood have parks and bike paths? Are there commercial and industrial complexes in your neighborhood? Is there any government housing in your neighborhood? Are there grocery stores in your neighborhood? Are there fast-food restaurants in your neighborhood? How close are you to a landfill or garbage transfer station?

In the aftermath of the George Floyd protests, the Brookings Institute offered an explanation of why people destroy their own neighborhoods. “Our research has documented that homes and businesses located in Black-majority neighborhoods are significantly undervalued relative to their quality. In other words, racism has depressed the market value of property

whenever it comes near Black people. Thus, there is a cost-benefit logic undergirding why demonstrators set fire to buildings and businesses: It’s not counterintuitive to destroy property that isn’t valued by society. The devaluation of Black lives fuels the flames in our cities. To convince protestors not to burn down buildings, we must restore the value that racism has extracted from them.”

For more information about racial covenants and how to remove the language from a deed, please visit Mapping Prejudice at <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/>.

Josie Owens, a former lawyer and educator, lives in the Lowry Hill neighborhood and volunteers at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and Weisman Art Museum.

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OPINION

By Linda Mack

What Makes a Neighborhood?

I had occasion to contemplate this question while renting a small adobe house in Tucson’s Jefferson Park Historic District for 10 days.

One of several National Register Districts in Tucson, Jefferson Park developed in the 1920s to 1950s on a monotonous grid of streets platted in 1905. Lots ranging from 60 to 120 feet hold mostly small one-story houses of many styles—Spanish Colonial, Pueblo Revival, Territorial, Bungalow and Ranch. There’s also a great variety of landscaping in the small front yards: gravel, gravel edged in rock, gravel punctuated with a few cactus, lots of cacti, lots of cacti and bougainvillea and blooming trees. It struck me that the people living there were tolerant of neighbors with differing aesthetics!

What they weren’t tolerant of was “dorm houses”—two-story “California-style” stucco houses with three garage doors and room for many students to rent. A developer had clearly swept through the neighborhood and torn down little houses and dotted several blocks with what the neighbors saw as monstrosities. We learned from our next-door neighbor Alon that women who knew how to protest in the 1960s, including his late wife, had banded together to pressure the city to ban any places renting to more than five unrelated people—first in Jefferson Park, and then citywide.

Though generally well kempt, the streets felt forlorn. For one thing, trees were rare. For another, many of the nicer houses were encased in high, usually stucco walls. We couldn’t even see the houses. And shades were drawn on the windows of most of the houses we could see. We saw few people walking, and only a few getting into their cars. It felt deserted, though it clearly wasn’t.

A bit of context is necessary.

Where we live in Minneapolis is a lovely Midwestern neighborhood with tree-shaded streets and generally decent-sized houses with landscaped—and yes, grassy—yards. Nearby is Lake of the Isles Park, a pastoral green space winding around a small, island-dotted lake that flows into a channel connecting another lake. We are fortunate to live in a city where the extensive park system is integrated with the residential areas. It was designed so every resident would be within 10 minutes of a park. ParkScore data now show that 98 percent of Minneapolis residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, up from 96 percent last year. That is the totally brilliant goal: People don’t have to drive to a park!

Due to our proximity to the park—and, perhaps, to Midwestern recreational habits—in the course of a day we will see scores of people walking, running, biking, dog-walking, fishing or, in the winter, cross-country skiing. In the summer, people in canoes, kayaks or paddleboards create an almost carnival scene on the lake and channel: there might be 30 or more at once!

So our days are filled with the vicarious pleasure of human activity. We spend most of our time in a greenhouse attached to our house, so we have a great view of people walking their dogs, getting out of their cars to go run or passing by with their families. Sometimes we even wave to people we don’t know but who are obviously looking at us in our glass house.

I expect someone has researched this but I’m pretty darn sure this experience contributes to mental health. Add in the view of geese and ducks and a muskrat sitting on the edge of the thawing ice, as I see now, and it is clearly therapeutic.

So, though the Tucson sun was shining, the sky was blue and the temperature that ideal 70s, I felt bereft.

Fortunately, the few people we did encounter were exceptionally friendly. I first met Alon, who lived next door and was the father of Hadley, who booked our house. (We later learned the family had renovated the house, which had seen hard times.) Then we walked by the most appealing yard on our block—one overflowing with blooming bushes, small canopy trees, and intriguing sculptures—a crow with a fish in its mouth, two abstract deer and a giant sunflower—and complimented the owners, who were just arriving home.

It turned out that Jerry was the sculptor and Sue, his second wife, was the gardener. Both in their 80s, they claimed to be slightly deaf, as was their ancient dachshund Gus. But they took us back to see their backyard and Jerry’s workshop in a very unhurried visit. (We fell in love with one sculpture and ended up buying it!) Sometime later we continued our walk!

Another day we stopped to compliment another lady on her yard, which she was working in before a predicted rain. She said she wrote the neighborhood newsletter and told us how the homeowners raised \$36,000 to fund the research needed to get Jefferson Park on the National Register. She also told us about the current challenge to the neighborhood: some kind of tall communication towers that would wreck the streetscape.

(Interesting to me as a preservationist, the National Register designation meant contributing homes receive a 40% tax break, but there is no local ordinance to prevent demolition. In fact, one of the famed bungalows built nearby by Annie Lester in the 1930s was threatened. We later found it and it looked like a goner.)

Another gentleman of a similar age watering his plants one morning was happy to answer my question about when his house was built. Across from the red brick school, the long, flat-roofed rectangular red brick house looked like a miniature version of the school. Oh, he said, this part, on the left with the front door, is the oldest house in the neighborhood, built a hundred years ago. The part on the right was added in the 1950s. Under the brick—obviously a local brick that covered a lot of houses in the neighborhood—was adobe. And, he said, the old adobe part stays really cool but not the new adobe part. That all made sense to me.

Another morning on my walk, I watched a young couple and a realtor stand in the yard and stare at one of the little white stucco houses for sale—there weren’t many for sale—only nine in the whole district of 788 properties! The couple nodded their heads and the bearded realtor said he’d talk to the selling agent.

For some reason, my heart swelled. And Jefferson Park felt more like home.

Linda Mack lives in Kenwood, writes about Minneapolis architecture and urban design, and is a member of the Cedar-Isles Community Advisory Committee.

The Origins of the Minneapolis Park System

1872 – Minneapolis and St. Anthony merged.

1872 – Horace W.S. Cleveland, protégé of Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York’s Central Park, speaks in Minneapolis and St. Paul on the importance of parks for “western” cities.

1883 – After a heated battle, the Minnesota Legislature establishes the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners. Headed by Charles Loring, the board hires Cleveland. He proposes a system of parks and parkways rather than detached open areas and public squares. (Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street were included in his plans for tree-lined boulevards.)

1905 – Swiss-born Theodore Wirth is recruited from Hartford, Connecticut to become Park Superintendent. He would serve until 1935, implementing and expanding Cleveland’s vision and enlarging the park system from 57 to 144 properties.

1911 – Weeklong celebration marked the linking of Lake of the Isles and Lake Calhoun.



Winding path to East Cedar Beach (Photo Dorothy Childers).

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OPINION

by Martin A. Carlson

Cedar-Isles Master Plan: Less is More

The prior article I wrote for *Hill and Lake Press* was a light adaptation of a letter written to the Park Board during the public comment period following the release of its two “initial park concepts” earlier in the year. I wrote it to express my personal views and concerns, and—having been written in some haste—it was submitted before I had an opportunity to speak in any depth with other members of the community. Regardless, the letter seems to have tapped a vein of concern for many in the neighborhood. Since then, I have had the chance to email and speak with a wide range of community members, as well as host an informal neighborhood gathering at the home of some generous church friends, which was attended by about fifty neighbors, as well as the Emma Pachuta, the Park Board’s project manager.

With that in mind, I can report with confidence there is a high degree of community consensus regarding many of the issues raised by the master planning process. There is overwhelming support for protecting/improving water quality, preserving unstructured green/natural areas, and respecting the history of the park and surrounding neighborhoods. Opposition to permanent structures is equally overwhelming. All of these preferences are reflected in actual data. Earlier this month, the Park Board released the public comment “raw data” related to this project, which consists primarily of emails and citizen letters. I’ve taken the time to review them all and—along with the fact that you’re all very thoughtful and articulate(!)—the community preferences are quite clear, especially after I made an effort to tally the numbers. I don’t claim absolute perfection here, but I did my level best to count fairly, and the overall trends are unmistakable:

Water Quality and Natural Habitat:

Overwhelmingly popular. 30 people specifically wrote in favor of improving water quality. No one was opposed (a shock, I know...). Wild/green space was also hugely popular. 20 people wrote in favor of preserving the lakes’ wild/natural character, while 15 wrote in favor of preserving existing green space. 7 wrote in favor of increased tree cover. Another 7 mentioned preserving the overall ecosystem.

Structures: Permanent structures are overwhelmingly unpopular. 41 people wrote in opposition to permanent structures, with 16 expressing concern about the unfunded maintenance they would require and the Park Board’s shaky track record on this point. Support was much more limited. Three people supported boardwalks in some form, while 11 wrote in opposition. Three people wrote in support of a permanent warming house on Lake of the Isles. Two wrote in support of permanent restrooms, with another 2 people specifically opposed. One person supported “lake decks,” with another 3 opposed.

I didn’t bother with tallying opposition to permanent road closures along Isles Parkway since this seems to be off the menu, but this was also overwhelmingly unpopular. Finally, the phrases “solutions in search of problems” and “it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” were invoked by a number of other writers besides me.

So where do opinions diverge? I’ll flag two: one- or two-way bike trails around Lake of the Isles and a proposed trail along the north side of the Kenilworth Channel.

The Lake of the Isles Bike Trail: My first reaction to the one-way/two-way debate was to immediately throw support to the two-way option. Seemed obvious. My wife and I live just off the west bay of Lake of the Isles, and if we want to reach the Midtown Greenway without riding on the parkway, we need to ride roughly two miles around the lake to reach a destination that is less than a mile from our home. I have since changed my tune, and am (at present) cautiously supporting keeping the trail one-way. Why? Making the trail two-way and off the parkway would require it to be widened. Sadly, this would require removal of many of the mature trees remaining in the park because they stand immediately next to the existing trail. There is at least one community-driven proposal to take space from the parkway drive lane to add a protected bike path going counter-clockwise around the lake. I do think this is worth exploring in more detail, but I worry that narrowing the parkway would diminish its historic character and eliminate much of the lakeside parking that is so important for our many non-resident park users. Again, we all understand that cars are bad on many levels, but despite the obvious passion of transit/bike/walking supporters, I have yet to see an option that’s realistically going to make most of us give up driving. The current configuration isn’t perfect, but it’s good enough.

Kenilworth Trail: For those of you who haven’t taken a walk down Burnham Road recently, I encourage you to do so. Looking from the channel bridge towards Cedar Lake, the landscape has been radically altered, apparently due to light rail construction and/or removal of the wooden retaining walls along the channel. Trees and undergrowth have been substantially removed, the earth is torn up (especially at the mouth of Cedar Lake), and there is now a clear path apparently created by the dewatering pipe along the north side of the channel. Previously there was nothing but woods and lawns and possibly a lightly-used game trail or path, so this begs the question should the new, larger path be permanent? Reasonable minds can and will differ on this point and it is public land, but I am leaning toward the “no trail” position. Part of what makes most wild areas special is their relative seclusion. The channel is a beautiful pocket of quiet in a busy city – a totally unique water trail – and I worry that by adding a pathway on the land it will become just another busy urban connection, destroying what made it special. Best keep it a water trail.

And the Duh! Award goes to... Bridges! Full credit to CAC chair Win Rockwell for this obvious but overlooked point. Few features of Lake of the Isles are more emblematic than the two historic channel bridges. They’ve served us with honor and distinction for over 110 years, but they need some TLC. The retaining walls are cracking and crumbling at some points, some of the rail spindles are eroding, and they’ve suffered other damage and defacement over the years. Time to love

them back. If permanent structures are still on the menu, these are the most obvious candidates, being mindful we’re talking restoration, not replacement (except for the possible addition of an actual plank to the Kenilworth bridge for our summertime pirates constantly jumping off into the channel...).

So, what comes next? We are moving into the so-called “preferred park concept” stage, where the Park Board staff will release a unified proposed plan that takes all these preferences and concerns into account. After it is released in early June, there is a 45-day public comment window. Given the great weight of public opinion, I hope the new concept will focus heavily on water quality and protecting and preserving green space and natural areas, but in a way that respects the historical use of the parks and the history of the surrounding neighborhoods. If the new concept fairly responds to these public concerns, then I hope as a group we can put our weight behind it and urge its adoption. If not, or more mixed, then we can raise our voices again during the comment period. Personally, I’d much prefer to work with the Park Board than against it, and I hope that’s possible, but either way it’s important we stay informed and connected.

In the meantime, I hope creative restraint is the order of the day at the Board. It often feels like everyone in the landscape/urban design world wants to make a bold statement and build the next Highline in NYC. The difference here is the Highline was a liability—true urban blight—that the designers brilliantly turned into an asset. Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake are already beloved assets, and I’m concerned that familiarity may be breeding contempt. The city has been exceptionally well-served by these two distinct parks for over 100 years, and their unique characters and open, unstructured, democratic natures have successfully accommodated new uses throughout that time. If you told Theodore Wirth that these parks would be popular for “hammocking” and “paddle boarding,” he’d look at you with bemused concern or outright alarm, yet popular they are. I have no idea what the next “-ing” craze is going to be (see “rollerblading”), but I do know two things: (1) whatever it is, our open unstructured parks will accommodate it, and (2) we will all laugh at it while quietly wishing we were young again. While we wait, I hope the Park Board will adopt as its overarching design principle an architectural phrase first made popular at the very end of Wirth’s life: Less is more.

Martin Carlson is a longtime Kenwood resident who lives with his wife, Mary, near the West Bay. He is the president of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church.

OPINION

by Aaron Shaffer

Cedar-Isles Master Plan: Points & Counterpoints

I'm seen as the progressive and urban member of the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles (Cedar-Isles) Master Plan's Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is an interesting label. Outside of this committee I have a history of being perceived moderate and pragmatic. So, it's under that guise I'm writing to give concerned residents, who perhaps are nervous or leery of any changes to these beloved lakes, a brief explanation as to why some moderate changes might be good for all of us in the long run.

Throughout this article I'll share a hot topic that neighbors are concerned about and how thinking outside of what's there now could lead to helpful improvements that benefit us all.

Provide two-way cycling on Lake of the Isles

Presently only one direction of travel is allowed on bike paths. While that might work well for recreational cyclists hoping to circumnavigate entire lakes, it doesn't work for everyone. In addition to the stereotype of bicyclists being anti-car young urbanites, we are older people, families with young children learning to bike, parents towing a child in a heavy Burley bike trailer, or just people who want to get from Bde Maka Ska to the warming house on northeast Lake of the Isles as quickly as possible to ice skate in the winter. Thankfully, there's an easy solution to this problem, thanks to an amply wide Lake of the Isles Parkway. There's roughly six extra feet of road in the drive lane that could be "eaten," or converted, to an off-street bikeway (think Washington Avenue in the North Loop), which would allow bicyclists to travel opposite the existing one-way direction of travel on completely separate paths. This can happen without removing vehicles from the parkway or existing parking—with the added benefit of calming traffic to a safer speed in a narrower drive lane.

Fix the narrow shared pedestrian and bike path on Cedar Lake

If you want to walk along the northwest corner of Cedar Lake, you're squeezed into a three-to-four-foot-wide two-way pedestrian path. This narrow path is constrained on one side by pavement literally falling off a ledge into Cedar Lake and on the other side by a too-narrow two-way bike lane. The setup, for anyone not in a personal vehicle, is extremely harrowing thanks to a narrow configuration that's uncomfortable for all users of the parkway, with head-on approaches common (although thankfully, actual incidents are near zero). The solution isn't easy with three choices that have their pros and cons:

First, remove a vehicle lane and convert that tiny section of Cedar Lake into a one-way road heading south, diverting one direction northward to France Avenue. That would give enough space to properly separate pedestrian and bicycle traffic and enlarge both paths to a safe width (8 feet minimum for pedestrian path and 10-12 feet minimum for two-way bicycle path). The benefit would be to give back a few extra feet to Cedar Lake's littoral edge. Second, my personal idea, remove a vehicle lane and consider using a stoplight at each section of the road to make a single lane into a two-way road. That'd have the added benefits of keeping traffic open for cars in both directions, calming traffic, and still allowing properly sized and separated pedestrian and bicycle paths. Finally, build a boardwalk that connects to that northwestern corner of Cedar Lake for

pedestrians to use, and convert existing paved path to a larger, two-way bicycle facility. One key caveat here is winter maintenance. If the Park Board doesn't plow the boardwalk in the winter, we will end up with the same potential for danger and discomfort in tight quarters every winter, just like what's happening now. The park board would need to consider changing its winter maintenance practices to include plowing pedestrian pathways.

Widen paths at the Cedar South Beach

Existing pedestrian and bicycle paths share a too-narrow section of path that also doubles as a gathering place for visitors to the South Beach of Cedar Lake. No solutions to this have been proposed to the CAC by its design consultants, but one idea could be to divert the parkway into the triangle-shaped land between Cedar Lake Parkway, Depot Street and Sunset Boulevard. By doing that you wouldn't impact vehicle usage at all, while simultaneously increasing the space available for park users to congregate and eliminating a pinch point in our park system. A win-win-win.

Widen paths along the southeastern shore of Cedar Lake

Right now, there are encroachments on public land that include docks, boats, fencing, and more along the southeastern shore of Cedar Lake, both north and south of the Kenilworth Channel. Submitted on behalf of then District 4 Commissioner President Cowgill, on Dec. 1 2020 Resolution 2021-368 passed: "Revoking All Permissions for Use of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Parkland Immediately Adjacent to Water Bodies Upon Sale, Transfer of Ownership, or Other Conveyance of a Property." Historically, if a homeowner had an encroachment on parkland adjacent to a water body, when they sold or donated their property, the encroachment would carry through to the next property owner. This resolution changed that procedure and revoked the encroachment at the time of the land transfer. The resolution does not impact current property owners who have encroachments along the eastern shore of Cedar Lake, but at the time of land transfer, it will require removal of these encroachments on parkland, so the encroachment will not carry over to the next property owner. While it may be an unfortunate situation for those residents, the reality is that the land on southeastern and eastern shores of Cedar Lake is public property. One of the things that makes Minneapolis so great is our public access to shoreline, a vision of 19th-century planners and civic leaders. A simple solution discussed by the CAC is creating an accessible paved or soft surface path that allows public access. The design consultant's suggestion for a boardwalk would eat up precious littoral edge habitat and wall off humans and animals from the lake—an idea that was flatly rejected by CAC members.

Better organize paths along the northeastern and eastern shoreline and woodlands of Cedar Lake

There's a network of neighborhood-managed, unofficial paths on the east side of Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake East Beach is also known as Hidden Beach. Until there were neighborhood efforts to remove buckthorn and increase sight lines, as well as online GPS based search engines, the beach was relatively hidden and hard to find for non-locals. Now, Southwest Light Rail is coming, and a stop will be immediately adjacent to this beach

on 21st Street. The beach, no longer hidden, needs infrastructure that keeps the land from being damaged by increased park users and visitors. One solution is to consider paved or ADA accessible soft-surface paths that replace the current network of bare-soil paths. While neighbors seem to love the paths and protect them and maintain them as they are now, they are narrow and feel like mountain bike trails, which leadsw inevitably to mountain bikers using them. They also damage tree roots, plant growth and promote erosion, leading to decreased water quality. Formalizing trails, even if just as soft-surface paths, would eliminate that mountain-bike-trail-feel, while allowing for park users who aren't as familiar with the local area to feel comfortable exploring the woods neighbors have known for decades. Finding a solution that keeps that natural, wild feel while also accommodating increased visitors will be key.

Improving the connection between Lake of the Isles, the Midtown Greenway and Bde Maka Ska

One major priority that hasn't been discussed in the CAC is how a proposed land bridge connection over Lake Street between Isles and Bde Maka Ska, mentioned in the Bde Maka Ska Master Plan, would be integrated into the Cedar-Isles Master Plan. Ideas were suggested by the design consultant that did not incorporate that land bridge, including a bike connection from the Midtown Greenway through a wooded wetland adjacent to fields on the southwestern isthmus near the dog parks. After CAC members raised concerns about viability and the effect on water quality, the consultant shared that they hadn't previously visited the location. CAC members suggested improving the existing access at East Lake of the Isles Parkway, which is presently a dangerous bottleneck, or possibly a better suited location to the east of the small dog park. It's clear that CAC members would like the design consultant to spend more time exploring options with this portion of the project.

Aaron Shaffer is a Kingfield resident, Cedar-Isles CAC member and City of Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee representative. Shaffer previously served on the West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council, Midtown Greenway Coalition board of directors, and on the Cedar-Isles-Dean CAC (in 2013).



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Will Stensrud on Cedar Lake East Beach

FEATURE

By Carissa Brown

Building Community at Cedar Lake East Beach

CONTINUED, front page

At that point, KNO began trying something new: Positive programming with the goal of making the space safe and welcoming for everyone. When Will Stensrud joined the KNO board in 2016, he stepped in to take the lead. He describes the KNO approach as “inclusive community engagement that strengthens a positive image of the beach, focused on daily volunteer stewardship, well-structured community programming and formalized arts and wellness opportunities.” This shift toward community stewardship and structured programming has transformed Cedar Lake East Beach into a desirable destination that attracts families, arts, wellness, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Community Stewardship

Each spring, a group of neighborhood volunteers gathers on a Saturday morning to rake the beach, clear trash and pull buckthorn. This annual effort sets the stage for the beach season.

Thanks to a partnership with the Good Chair Project and funding from the neighborhood, the beach is annually stocked with benches and Adirondack chairs to welcome visitors and encourage connection and engagement. From June through Aug., neighbors volunteer for daily

cleanup shifts, ensuring that each morning, trash is cleared, sand is groomed, and benches and chairs are arranged to welcome the coming day’s visitors.

Arts and Wellness Programming

Over the past five years, KNO has partnered with local organizations and businesses, including Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Cedar Lake Park Association, Kenwood Community School, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources School Forest Initiative, 612 Sauna, Classical Actor’s Ensemble, Gypset Yoga and ARTrageous Adventures, to develop a summer schedule of community-focused events at the beach.

Each year, participation has grown. Last summer, weekly yoga classes, which previously attended by few than ten neighbors, later drew crowds of 35-40 people each week. Weekend performances by Jeremy Messersmith and Mixed Precipitation’s Pickup Truck Opera each drew more than 200 attendees. The success of these events has prompted neighbors to suggest that the Cedar-Isles Master Plan include the installation of a natural, open performance space near the south

end of the beach. The vision includes clearing additional buckthorn and intentional landscaping that creates a defined community space for performances, education, and community wellness events. This maintained space would also serve as overflow gathering space on busy beach days.

How can you get involved?

Join your neighbors at East Cedar Lake Beach Saturday, May 7, from 8:30-11 a.m. Feel free to bring any tools you may have, but extras are on hand for those who come ready to work. Are you interested in a weekly morning cleanup shift? Contact Will Stensrud at willstensrud@gmail.com or (612) 219-5028.

Experience the fantastic programming scheduled for summer 2022:

WELLNESS EVENTS:

• **612 Sauna:** Every Friday through Sunday in May. Reservations available soon at <https://612saunasociety.com>.

• **Community Wellness Activities:**

May 21 and 28. Free bike adjustments available from 1-4 p.m. and hourlong wellness sessions available throughout the afternoon, including yoga, Tai Chi, meditation and workshops

on edible/medicinal plants found in Cedar Lake woods.

• **Weekly Yoga at the Beach:** Every Thursday, 7 p.m., June 2 - Sept. 8

FAMILY EVENTS:

- Saturday, May 22 - Monday, May 30: Art Rocks, the School Forest Art Installation on display in Burnham Woods
- Saturday, June 4, 3 p.m.: Family Beach Opener & barbecue
- Saturday, July 16, 3 p.m.: Pirates and Mermaids Family Beach Party by ARTrageous Adventures

Hidden Acoustics Series, Sundays at 3 p.m.:

- June 12: Chione Quintet (Classical)
- June 26: Classical Actors Ensemble (Shakespeare)
- July 31: Barley Jacks (Bluegrass)
- Aug. 14: Joe Melander (from The Okee Dokee Brothers)
- Aug. 28: The Pickup Truck Opera (Mixed Precipitation Opera Co.)

Carissa Brown resides in the Kenwood neighborhood. She has a sixth-grade daughter at Anwatin Middle School and a third-grade daughter at Kenwood Elementary.



Activities at Cedar Lake East Beach.

MINUTES



LHNA Board Meeting Minutes April 3 2022

Online Meeting

Time to Call Meeting to Order after Quorum: 7:03 PM
by President Charles Scheiderer

Board Members Present: Charles Scheiderer (President), Thomas Regnier (Vice-President), Toni D'Eramo (Treasurer), John Lillehei, MD (Secretary), Vickie Gilfillian-Bennett, Fran Davis, George Montague, Tyler Ecklund-Kouba, Sue Westerman, Craig Wilson, Robert Hinck, Chad Harkin, Jennifer Wirick Breitinger

Other Attendees: Council Member Lisa Goodman, Inspector Katie Blackwell, Lieutenant Michael Frye & 9 More Neighborhood Participants

Minneapolis City Council Update
7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman presented a neighborhood and city update.
The March 30, 2022 Lunch with Lisa was a success with 110 attendees. The next Lunch with Lisa is Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at the University of St. Thomas hosting our Minneapolis Park Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer. The City of Minneapolis will start collecting yard waste Monday, April 11, 2022. One caveat is that the city recommends leaving your yard waste 'untouched' until temperatures are regularly above 50 F. This protects the overwintering pollinators required to grow all of our food and are unfortunately in steep decline. Bees often nest in broken stems in plants and butterflies in leaf piles and require this regular 50 F weather to emerge.
The City plans to fully reconstruct the street in Franklin Avenue W between Hennepin and Lyndale Avenue S. This will result in prolonged closure. You may search the project details on Minneapolis.mn.gov. The Minneapolis Boards & Commissions has 31 openings that you may also search on the above website if one is interested in applying.
The City has mailed your 2023 Valuation Notices that are based upon 95% of your market value. If you believe your home value is incorrect, the best bet is to first talk to a local realtor to check home recent sales in your area. The appeal process is listed on the bottom of the 2023 Valuation Notice.

Minneapolis Police Department Update
5th Precinct Inspector Katie Blackwell and 5th Precinct Lieutenant Michael Frye, with 30 years of experience and in charge of overnight, gave March 2022 crime update. The investigation on the early morning March 18th homicide on the 1900 block of Colfax Avenue South is ongoing. There is a warrant out for the arrest of the 2 suspects and they knew the victim. Eyewitness accounts by Lowry Hill neighbors provided vital information to police. There were 3 Lowry Hill home burglaries. Two of the home homes were left unlocked and a garage door opener was used to enter the 3rd home. There was one motor vehicle theft and a number of thefts from vehicles. Once again, leave nothing in your parked cars including garage door openers. Lock your home and garages. The escalation of catalytic convertor thefts continues throughout the city. As in our LHNA March Meeting, Lieutenant Frye addressed efforts to target scrap

yards to prevent the buying and selling of catalytic convertors for precious metals, thereby ending the theft cycle.
Inspector Blackwell believed the Police presence in Lowry Hill from the MPD Buy Back Program has greatly diminished neighborhood violent crime, including no carjackings in March. In addition, she thought that with the recent prolonged Minneapolis Teacher Strike including all public school kids out of school might have led to an increase in carjackings, but this ultimately did not hold true.
Finally, spring has once again increased citywide hot rodding that unfortunately draws spectators. The MPD has dedicated a detail to address and abate this behavior. There is also increased MPD surveillance and ticketing for the escalation in citywide driver speeding and running through red lights and stop signs. These aberrant behaviors may be a consequence of Covid-19 induced emotional and psychological stress plus the perceived belief of less police enforcement.

Minutes of March 1, 2022 LHNA Board Meeting
Motion carried to approve the minutes

Crime and Safety Update
Chair Sue Westerman presented and update with Inspector Blackwell in attendance.
The discussion focused on Surveillance Cameras. Lowry Hill has 4 current cameras. These are monitored by the 5th Precinct. Katie Blackwell stated these cameras greatly aid in the investigation of crimes. Sue has been working with a MPD liaison Lieutenant Markstrom on the best location for an additional 4 cameras. Each camera costs \$7000 or \$28,000 for 4 cameras. There was a hearty discussion about the location of the cameras. As such, a two -part motion was made, seconded and carried.

Motion: 1. Sue will determine with the Crime and Safety Committee the best Lowry Hill Neighborhood locations for the 4 additional cameras and 2. President Scheiderer will request the \$28,000 in funds from the City

Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Toni D'Eramo gave the financial for March 2022.
As of March 31, 2022:
Assets
Total Bank Accounts: \$35, 328.06
1201 City Contracts Receivable: \$1,323.99
1205 Prepaid Expense: \$8, 863.50
Total Other Current Assets: \$10,187.49
Total Current Assets: \$45, 515.55
(1205 Prepaid expenses includes \$8,863.50 in prepaid 2022 expenses for accounting, web and ad production services January-December 2022)

Liabilities & Equity
2101 Advances on City Contracts: \$8,863.50
Total Liabilities: \$8, 863.50
Equity: \$36,652.05
Total Liabilities & Equity: \$45,515.55

President Scheiderer addressed that the City of Minneapolis requires a 2022 budget for the LHNA. In essence, how our organizations plans to spend our funds in 2022.

Jakie Brown Baylor, Sue Westerman and Toni D'Eramo will work together to prepare a preliminary LHNA Budget for 2022.

Zoning
Chair Fran Davis presented the Zoning Report. Carla Godwin of Peris Hill shared equal concern in the March 18, 2022 homicide on Colfax and for the safety of all neighborhood residents. Neighbors have complained about overflowing Peris Hill dumpsters. In response, Peris will increase trash pickup from once to twice weekly. Peris Hill is a finalist for affordable housing in the Minnesota Real Estate Awards.
Concerning the existing cluster development homes

at 1301-1307 Mount Curve Avenue, there is a public hearing on April 25, 2022 for a variance to correct a technical problem when the homes were built and will most likely be approved.
The Nor-Son Construction meeting for the approved development at 35 Groveland Terrace occurred on April 6, 2022. If one has questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact: Nor-son Construction, LLC. 700 East Lake Street, Suite 213, Wayzata, MN 55391. 612-216-1800.

Communications
Communications & Outreach team Toni D'Eramo and Tyler Ecklund-Kouba provided an update. The LHNA website will be updated to reflect the new branding and logo. The new Lowry Hill signs will be posted soon. Tyler will bring a new sign for all to see at the LHNA Annual Meeting at the Walker Art on May 25, 2022 at 6 PM.

Craig Wilson and Chad Harkin will tackle the bulk mailing to the Lowry Hill neighborhood residents announcing the May 25th LHNA Annual meeting. President Charles Scheiderer will write the cover letter.

Neighborhood Priorities
Craig Wilson, Chair of Neighborhood Priorities since September 2017, tendered his resignation from the LHNA Board. He is the new Editor of the Hill and Lake Press and believes his efforts are best focused on the monumental task of publishing the monthly paper and he will strive to represent all neighborhood organizations fairly. He is also exploring improved distribution of the Hill and Lake Press to neighborhood residents.
Chad Harkin has nicely volunteered to assume the LHNA Chair of Neighborhood Priorities under Craig's mentorship.
In addition, Craig Wilson presented a draft update of the Thomas Lowry Park/Seven Pools Plaques that are under final approval by the Minneapolis Park Board.

Events
Events Chair Jackie Brown Baylor shared a draft of 2022 LHNA Events for 2022.

It should be noted that the permit for each event starts at \$500 and this includes dumpster and trash pickup. This is the draft that Jackie Brown Baylor, Toni D'Eramo, and Sue Westerman will utilize to construct the 2022 LHNA Budget.

Compliance
1. The Amended and Restated By-Laws of The Lowry Hill Community Corporation, were last updated in December 2017. Article 4, Section 11 titled: Quorum, does not address video conferencing that has been a necessity during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
Motion carried to add the following to Article 4, Section 11 of the By-Laws: " Any director attending by video conferencing will be recognized as being in attendance at the meeting and will be able to participate in voting."
President Charles Scheiderer will contact our LHNA attorney at Birken Law Office to update the By-Laws with this addition.

2. Funding Sustainability Statement for City Budget Compliance:
"Lowry Hill Neighborhood will prepare a base budget and an extended reach budget supplement each year. The base budget will be funded by the routine funding which covers basic expenses and donations. The fund currently called the Neighborhood Network Fund will fund much of the basic operational expenses of the organization. In addition, we will continue to solicit our members for donations through direct mail, annual meeting and requests for donations at neighborhood events. Also, in an effort to extend our reach, we will attempt to take advantage of special funds as they become available. We recognize we have to apply for these funds and describe special projects along with how the funds will be spent and the benefits. Current

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funds in this category include Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund, Partnership Engagement Fund, Equitable Engagement Fund, and Community Preparation Fund.”

Governance & Nominations for Annual Meeting Nominations Chair Fran Davis and President Charles Scheiderer led the discussion. Toni D’ Eramo’s and Robert Hinck ‘s six -year terms are complete and will rotate off of the LHNA Board. Craig Wilson has resigned leaving 3 LHNA Board positions open for the Annual Meeting in May. Six LHNA Board members are up for re-election in 2022 as they have 2-year expiring terms. All have agreed to serve another 2- year term: Vicki Gillfillian-Bennett, Sue Westerman, and John Lillehei, MD, Fran Davis, Charles Schiederer, Jennnifer Wirick Bretinger and Sue Westerman.

Annual Meeting Discussion

The LHNA Annual Meeting is on May 25, 2022 at the Walker Art Center at 6PM.

Jennifer Wirick Bretinger will extend a speaking invitation to 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis Park Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer and Minneapolis Public Works Director Margaret Anderson Kelliher. Robert Hinck will sign a contract with D’Amico for the food and cash bar beverages. Thomas Regnier will design a PowerPoint presentation that includes photographs of Lowry Neighborhood events.

There will be a cash bar with catering provided by D’Amico at the Walker Art Center. In addition, Motion carried to approve \$3,500 in funds for hearty hors d’oeuvres.

May LHNA Zoom Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 7 PM

As there was no further business, Meeting adjourned by President Charles Scheiderer at 8:58 PM

Minutes by John Lillehei, MD Secretary, LHNA Board



KNO Board Meeting April 4, 2022

Online Meeting

*** DRAFT - TO BE APPROVED AT MAY MEETING ***

Board Members Present: Mark Brown (Chair), Jeremy Nichols (Treasurer), Jim Barnett (Vice Chair), Matt Spies (Secretary), Jack Levi, Lana Baggenstos, Kyle Leier, Courtney Kiernat, Will Stensrud
Board Members Absent: Melinda Pratt, Angie Erdrich

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes. Minutes from the March 2022 board meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Update from Lisa Goodman. Lisa noted Yard Waste and street sweeping will begin on April 11. Lisa also advised neighbors to call 311 for potholes that need to be filled in.

3. Update Leaf Blowers from Jack Levi. The City of Minneapolis is offering grants up to \$100,000 or 45% to yard management service providers if they switch to electric leaf blowers. Gas powered blowers must be decommissioned. Some, but not all, service providers in Kenwood have signed up for this program. Residents are asked to inform service providers and encourage them to utilize this program to reduce the noise and air pollution associated with gas powered blowers.

4. Southwest Light Rail. Planners will be reaching out to KNO and the neighborhood for input on landscaping around the 21st station this spring.

5. KNO Coordinators Report. Amanda Vallone continues to work on various ways to engage the neighborhood via social media. Facebook and email newsletter subscriber numbers continue to increase. Please reach out to Amanda for ideas and ways to volunteer. She is planning a May beach clean-up and May Day basket making as well.

6. 2022 Annual Meeting. KNO’s annual meeting will be held on May 2 outside the Kenwood Recreation Center. Matt Spies motioned to approve up to \$1500 for food, beverages, and supplies for the meeting to be coordinated by Amanda Vallone. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Hidden Beach update from Will Stensrud. 612 Sauana will be at the beach during weekends in May. Please reach out to Will if you’d like to be involved in volunteer and planning efforts for the beach this season.

Variations requested for 34 Park Lane were denied by the City Council’s Zoning and Planning Committee.

City street sweeping will begin April 18. Signs will be posted to move cars as streets are done. The city website (Minneapolismn.gov) will also list by address when each street will be swept. Road closures-- Franklin Ave. between Hennepin and Lyndale will be closed this summer for repairs.

Homeowners have received valuation notices as well as tax statements with two payments due. Lakes area residents will see 2023 average increases of 3-5%; other areas of the city with a large percentage of starter homes had increases of 5-25%. If a valuation seems too high, it can be appealed to the city Assessors Office. There is an opening on the city Advisory Committee on Aging. Go to the city website to apply. (You must be 50 years “young.”) This is a council appointment.

SWLRT. David Davies reported:

Cedar Isles Condo Association (CICA) –The engineering firm, Socotec, hired by the Met Council completed their evaluation of the building and damage. Findings were reported to residents and in a Power Point presentation were given to elected officials on April 12. The findings will be disseminated to the public at a later date.

There has been resumption of excavation of the Kenilworth tunnel. Amanda and Laura C. reported excess vibration. David said there would be better notification of work in the future.

The Cedar Lake Parkway closure has been pushed back to mid-May. The Met Council will publicize closures and detours as they occur. Laura C. requested that striping for pedestrian and bicycle safety be added in the temporary crossings. David said he would bring it to the city and Park Board but that it is dependent on facility owners.

MPRB Meg Forney reported:

Meg complimented CIDNA for our involvement in Park Board issues.

Some MPRB initiatives are expanding services and engaging youth at North Commons, and a continuous trail on the Mississippi.

Four thousand trees will be planted as part of restoring the tree canopy.

Claire said that better communication and engagement with the public is important. Could an interim report on the progress of the Cedar Isles Master Plan be disseminated?

Laura C. and Mary agreed that protecting water quality of Cedar and Isles Lakes should be a priority, rather than adding infrastructure.

Jones-Harrison Residence Annette Greely reported:

Annette is the new CEO/President of Jones-Harrison. She invited us to attend their June 4 fundraiser; funds raised will be used to create an inner courtyard garden for residents.

Annette expects voting to resume at the facility if COVID restrictions are eased in November. Beginning this summer, in-person CIDNA board meetings are also a possibility.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee. Laura C. reported: The governance committee would like to convert to hybrid (In person and Zoom) or in-person board meetings in June. An appropriate meeting location will need to be identified. Nomination forms for board members are available on the website. Nominations will also



Cedar · Isles · Dean
Neighborhood Association

CIDNA Board Meeting April 13 2022

Online Meeting

Board Members Present: Laura Cederberg (Chair), Tim Sheridan (Vice-Chair), Mike Siebenaler (Treasurer), Laura DeMarais, Stephen Goltry, Rosanne Halloran, Dean Kephart, Mary Pattock, Claire Ruebeck, Amanda Vallone. Others Present: Lisa Goodman (City Council-Ward 7), David Davies (SWLRT Project Office), Meg Forney (MPRB), Annette Greely (Jones-Harrison Residences) and Rachel Svihel (CIDNA Coordinator candidate).

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm. The meeting agenda was approved. The minutes of the March 9 board meeting were also approved.

REPORTS

WARD 7 Office. Councilmember Goodman reported: April 27 Lunch with Lisa, 12-1 pm MPRB Park Commissioner Elizabeth Schaffer will discuss the various Master Plan documents at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis campus.

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be taken from the floor at the annual meeting.

Communications Committee. Mary reported: Development of the new CIDNA website continues. Mike will work on a "button" to donate, we already pay for access to Square. The design for CIDNA mugs will emphasize the four seasons and is being finalized by Tim. Some should be available for purchase on Volunteer Night. The newsletter was sent out and postcards will be designed and sent prior to the annual meeting

Social Committee. Amanda reported the following 2022 events. Additional details at cidna.org
Volunteer Information Night – Wednesday, April 27

CIDNA committee chairs will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities. Meet neighbors and find out ways to get involved. Location: Kenwood Rec Center
May Day Basket Making – April 29 (6:30-8:30pm) & April 30 (2-5pm)
A family-fun activity. Help decorate and assemble May Day baskets for residents of Jones-Harrison Residence. Location: ARTrageous Adventures (2121 W. 21st St)
Summer Solstice Celebration – June 21 (6-8pm)
Celebrate the longest day of the year with

music, activities and refreshments. Location: Cedar Lake South Beach
Summer Music Series @ Cedar Lake South Beach (June, July, August)

Environment Committee. Claire reported: Public mural installation--The muralist is working with the committee to develop three design options. Information related to the anti-graffiti treatment has been requested by the MPRB.
The 2022 Park Stewardships have been approved for Cedar Lake South Beach and Park Siding Park. Volunteers are needed from May through October, all are welcome.
Cedar Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings are being held, and a water quality advisory committee has been formed. CIDNA board members agree that water quality should be the major priority. Among its environmental concerns are a trail and boardwalk on Cedar Lake frontage. CIDNA will collaborate with MPRB to host a public meeting in April to highlight resident input on the master planning priorities.

Joint Safety Committee. Stephen reported: Ongoing concerns about ADA curb/sidewalk accessibility and traffic speeds. Committee considering Watch for Pedestrians

yard signs at key intersections
Committee is looking at sponsoring a joint rail safety meeting with West Maka Ska
Laura D. has resigned as co-chair and a member of the committee.

ACTIONS

Moved: "To allocate \$250 for the purchase of CIDNA-designed mugs to be sold as a CIDNA fundraiser."
Seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Moved: "To donate \$500 to the Jones-Harrison Residence for their courtyard garden fundraiser."
Seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Moved: "To authorize the social committee to spend \$500 to secure the performance of Open Eye Theatre at the summer solstice event on June 21st."
Seconded. Passed unanimously.

The CIDNA annual meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom. All community members are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.
Submitted by Laura DeMarais



EINA Annual Meeting Update April 12 2022

East Isles Neighborhood Association Update by Mike Erlandson

East Isles held their Annual Meeting on April 12th with over 90 participants between the in-person and online options. Speakers at the event included Minneapolis Council Member Lisa Goodman, State Senator Scott Dibble, State Representative Frank Hornstein, Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene, and Park Board Commissioners Elizabeth Shaffer and Meg Forney.

The meeting included the election of new board members. East Isles will see significant leadership change with eight of the eleven members being new to the board. The board adopted two-year terms going forward to allow for staggered terms. A random process determined who would serve one and two-year terms during this transition year.
Three members are returning to the board and were elected to serve

two-year terms: Mike Erlandson, Brian Milavitz, and Larry Lamb. New members elected to a two-year term include Richard Stadtherr, Debra Altschuler, and Mark Green. Elected to a one-year term were Shanti Mittra, Sandra Nelson, Quinton Courts, Jason Spaeth, and Julia Edelman.

A huge thank you to outgoing board members Peter Mason, Erik Anderson, Rodrigue Lauture, Rebecca Accettura, Natasha Dockter, Andrew Degerstrom, and Emma Erdahl! Major accomplishments this past year included strategic planning, the adoption of new bylaws to conform with city rules, a new annual Halloween Party, a new logo, and successful annual events including the Farmers Market, the Ice Cream Social, skating party, community garage sale, Earth Day cleanup, and a name change. Formally known as the "East Isles Residents Association" the board voted to change the name to the East Isles Neighborhood Association to better reflect the fact business owners in the neighborhood are now eligible to be board members even if they do not live in the neighborhood.

East Isles has several active committees including Build Environment and Transportation, Green Team, Outreach and Engagement, NRP, and the East Isles Farmers Market. Visit eastisles.org for more information. To become a member or ask a question email info@eastisles.org.

Please join fellow neighbors for the East Isles Earth Day Cleanup on Sat. April 23 from 9:30 AM - 12 PM. Meet at W. 27th St and E. Lake of the Isles Pkwy. Bags and gloves will be provided and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Light refreshments will be provided. No registration is needed. Bring your neighbors, kids, and friends!

Mike Erlandson is a long-time East Isles resident and member of the neighborhood association. He can be reached at —
mikeerlandson@gmail.com



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- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)
- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)
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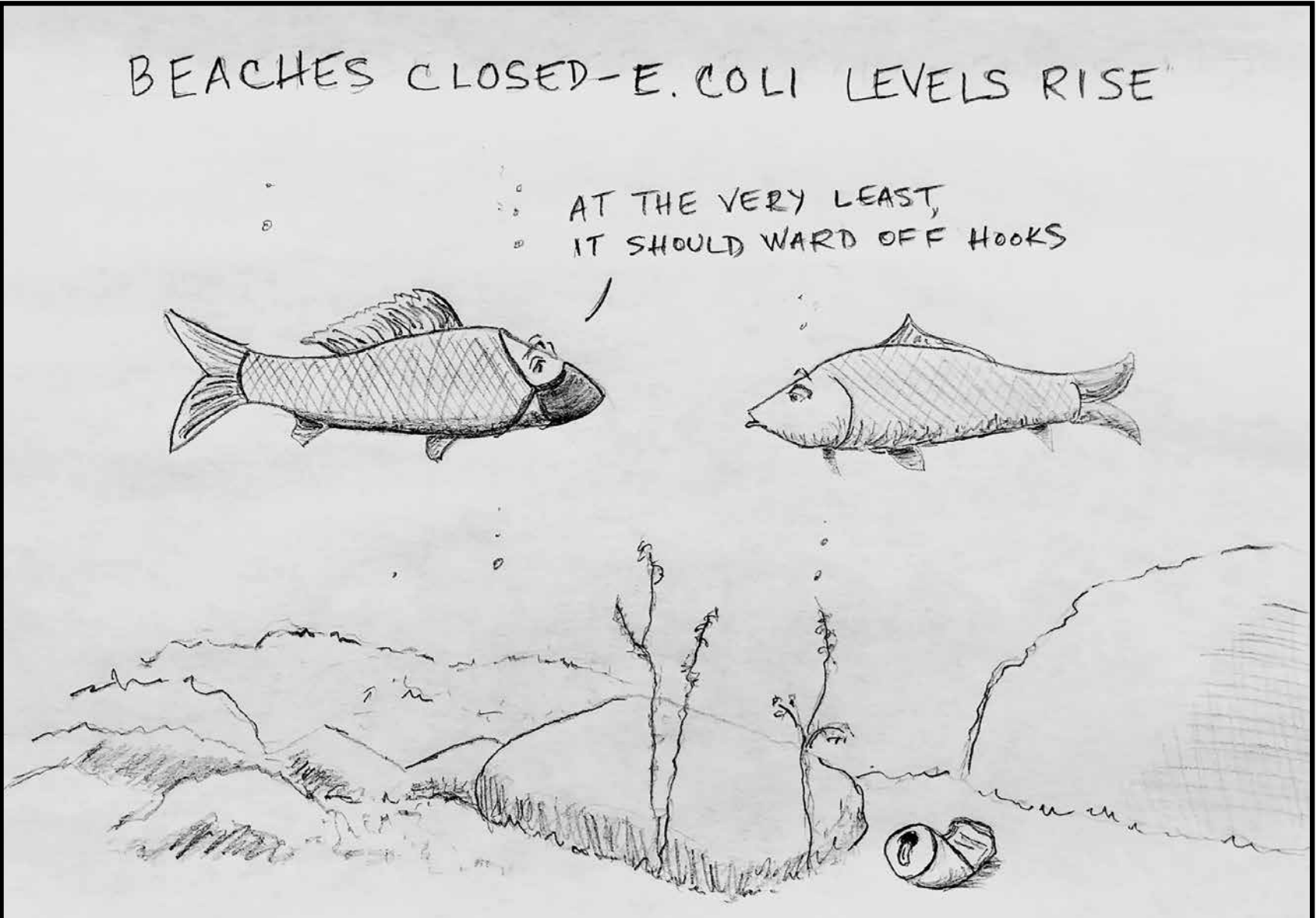
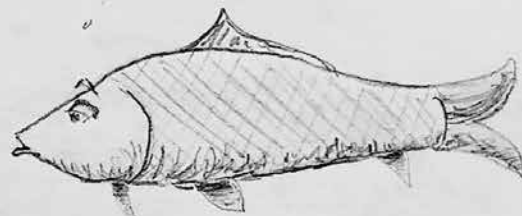
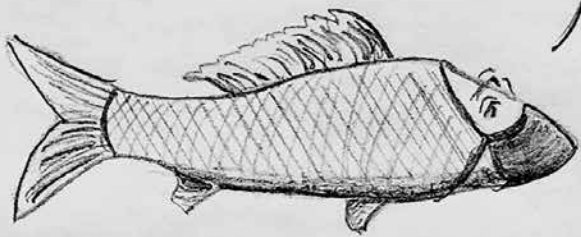


Illustration Glenn Miller.

FEATURE

By Thomas Regnier

The Smith House

A Victory in Historic Preservation



The Abby Apartments development at 47 Spruce Place in Loring Park (Photo Dorothy Childers).

CONTINUED, front page

balancing the real and the ideal, sometimes requiring difficult and sad decisions.

It is worth noting that a historic treasure’s inherent value may not necessarily lead to it being preserved; political and economic considerations also play a role. Ignoring those values would be like wailing at the wind.

But as in all things, being proactive is more effective than reacting. In fact, our community right now finds itself positioned at the “on-ramp” of preservation.

Case in point: The preservation and

rehabilitation of the Alden Smith house in Loring Park, a resounding victory. Credit is due to in large part to Tom Nordyke, a resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean. He recognized the value of the house and fought to save it with an innovative idea to leverage a new residential development next door to subsidize the renovation of the Smith Mansion, which is joined to the new building on its eastern wall.

Council Member Lisa Goodman, a noted lover of historic buildings, lent her hand at the City of Minneapolis to support the project early on. She partnered with the former president of Minneapolis Community

and Technical College, Phil Davis, who owned the mansion. Nordyke partnered with commercial real estate broker-turned-developer Brian Woolsey. They worked together to tie the mansion into a contemporary purpose. How did we get here?

Well, let’s roll back the tape. The house was built in 1887, designed by famed Minneapolis society architect William Channing Whitney. He had his hand in many fine homes, including the Governor’s Mansion, several homes in Lowry Hill, places of worship, commercial structures, and other projects.



Samuel C. Gale House, 1600 Harmon Avenue.



His client in this case was H. Alden Smith, one of the partners behind the Smith & Wyman Sash & Door Company, a mill-working concern. In 1889, a carriage house to complement the house was completed. The main significance of the Smith house is that it is truly one of a kind, the last mansion left on the millionaire's row, and one of a few free-standing houses of its era in Loring Park. Although it is a beautiful house, in scale and scope, it was in fact relatively modest at the time.

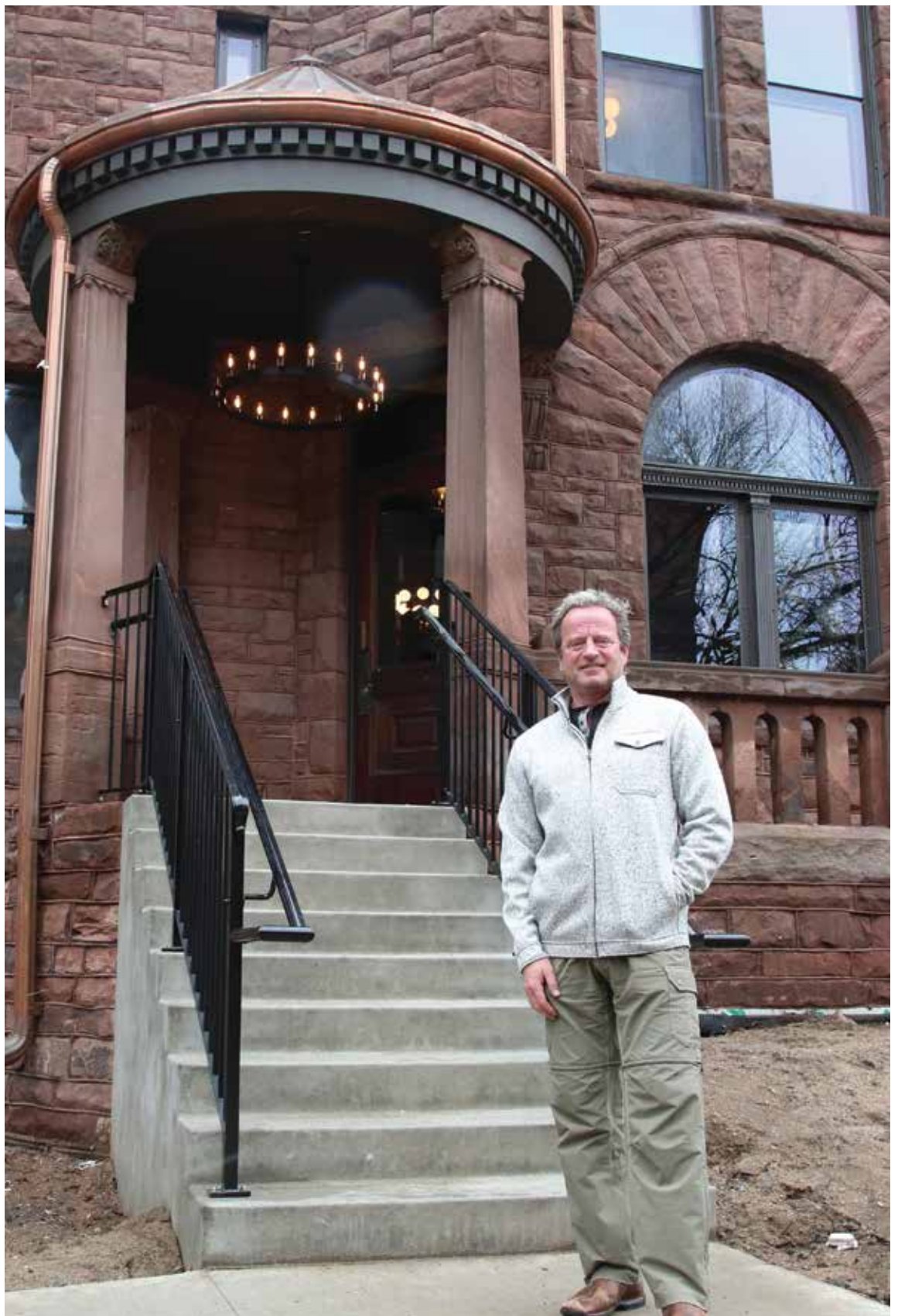
Consider the Samuel C. Gale house that formerly stood at 1600 Harmon. Torn down in the 1930s, it merited an obituary in the Tribune as reminder of those dearly departed Gay Nineties. The write-up enumerated the many imported and extinct woods used in its construction, the glittering cotillion balls it hosted, and generally boasted about the house's place in the community. Sadly, there was more or less no effort to save it, as the post-Victorian generations regarded such houses as architectural horrors, and Harmon had fallen from social favor. This sentiment was, sadly, very typical nationally.

After Smith's death in 1906, his widow lived in the house until 1919. During this period, most old houses of this generation faced a few paths: conversion to a funeral home or a rooming house, or demolition to be replaced with commercial or apartment buildings. A little later, demolition for parking lots would be the leading cause of mortality in old houses.

Fortunately for us, the house became the first option and operated as the Davies Funeral Home until 1976. Ironically in this case, in death, there was rebirth.

This stage of the house's history is more of a footnote collection: It had a number of stone and brick additions in the 1920s as part of its funerary career. From 1976 to 1977, the building housed a restaurant called The Little Prince, named after Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's 1943 novella, and the building underwent another addition that connected the carriage house directly to the main structure. In the 1980s it was used as office space. In 1990 the house appeared as a setting in the film, "Drop Dead Fred." I have neither seen nor can I comment on the film, but it evidently enjoys a cult following despite having been banned at the time of release.

The next chapter commences in 1993, when the house became part of the part of the neighboring community college campus as the Wells Family College Center. According to anecdotes, until 2018 it would be used in various ways, including as offices and classrooms for philosophy courses. In 2010, the college applied to the state for funds for restoration of the house. After it was rejected in its appeal, the college began working out how to transfer ownership to someone who could care for it. It ultimately resulted in the sale of the house for \$1 to developers on contingency of a \$6 million renovation — and the final product we see today, thanks to the vision of Nordyke and partners.



Developer Tom Nordyke, a resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean, whose vision saved the Smith House (Photo Dorothy Childers).

Yet, in some ways, I consider the whole thing a little bittersweet. As part of the project, the new apartment building occupies what used to be gardens tended by students of the science department like me, when I attended the college. A house that was previously in the ownership of a public institution has now been privatized. The 1889 carriage house was demolished, as were the later additions obscuring it and connecting it to the main house—the new contemporary residential building acting as the life-support system to the Smith house.

Sometimes, we must cut off a finger in order to save a hand. In writing about the Alden Smith house, I'm acutely aware of the value of this expression, yet feel that it perhaps does not convey the achievement that the new lease on life for the house represents. The fact that the house was saved was more or less a miracle.

What was achieved here with the Smith house is a stellar project. It is ultimately

the result of a 12-year process, beginning with MCTC's decision to part with the building in 2010. The last four years involved the tireless efforts of developers like Nordyke and Woolsey to make something not only work but thrive. This provides an excellent example of what can be done when smart people collaborate to make things happen.

Thomas Regnier is a Vice President of the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, a well-known manager at Kowalski's Market on Hennepin, and passionate about all things 'old timey.'





THE URBAN COYOTE

By James P. Lenfestey

SOUP, ART, WAR, AMAZEMENT

EVERY THURSDAY I MEET SEVERAL FELLOW ANCIENT SAVANTS for soup and conversation at Sebastian Joe’s. The soup is tasty, oyster crackers plentiful, coffee roasted right there. We talk books and art, art and books. And for the past month Ukraine, the attempted murder of a nation and its people before our eyes. We are all sleepless with worry and helplessness. I asked neighbor Mark Ritchie, executive director of Global Minnesota, to suggest effective organizations helping the Ukrainian people against this brain-chilling assault, and his suggestions are below. Give generously.

THEN, this morning, Palm Sunday in the Christian tradition, I rose into a dawn I can only describe as holy. A rose light illuminated the scraggly fingers of neighbors’ bur oaks, remnant elegant boulevard elms and soaring maple branches, the fingertips of each swollen with buds. Despite yet another eruption of unspeakable human brutality and short-sightedness, spring has again answered our prayers and opened its arms to all.

PRAYER TO SPRING

Open the door.
So many births!
A sun!

And the vernal equinox,
what is that but words
In an ancient tongue
changing everything
to tulips.

Open the door,
what is out there but the rain.
Let the floods come.
Let the warblers tread
home to their nests.

Let the worms glisten in love
under the covers of old leaves.
Let jack-in-the-pulpit open his
sermon with praise.

Let new words erupt:
crocus, daffodil, jonquil,
petals moving their
colorful lips.
And buds! Billions of buds!
May they burst with joy.

Let the bumblebee stumble
from her grassy cave.
And the bear with her cubs
the same.

And the spade and the plow,
let them come,
punch seed into soil,
how much good the dirt knows!

Let oak and elm unfurl
their thousand hands
to shelter with shade
the open door.

Who can stop this clapping!
This audience of everything!

Suggestions for Ukrainian relief from Global Minnesota (and others): The situation is dire and urgent. Delivering aid into the right hands is of utmost importance. There is a need for medical supplies, medications, food, and protective gear—including helmets and body armor. For a complete list of supplies, visit the Help Ukraine Center.

Vetted humanitarian organizations include World Central Kitchen, UnicefUSA, CARE, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, USA for UNHCR, and Minnesota-founded Aight.org (formerly American Refugee Committee), all very active in Ukraine and Poland. A smaller Minnesota-based Ukrainian support organization is Global Synergy Group, founded recently by a Ukrainian-American in White Bear Lake, globalsynergygroup.org.

James P. Lenfestey is a 48-year resident of Lowry Hill, former editorial writer for StarTribune, and a founder of the Hill & Lake Press.

“Prayer to Spring” reprinted from “Seasons of the Urban Coyote,” James P. Lenfestey, Nodin Press, ©2021.



Pasque flowers bloom next too Kenwood School (Photo Angie Erdrich).

Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

Let's talk about shingles. No, not those protecting your house, but the evil ones lurking within. You've probably seen the commercial on TV in which the deep-voiced man intones, "Shingles Doesn't Care," designed to spook you straight to your doctor.

Having recently endured and still not completely recovered from shingles, I am eminently qualified to be the ambassador for Shingrix, the two-dose shingles vaccine. I am the Dr. Fauci of shingles.

The commercial implies that your back or torso will be afflicted and covered in oozing lesions, and while those images may appear melodramatic to you, I find them insufficiently dire. Also, it's not restricted to your midsection.

Shingles is a form of herpes – not the one-night-stand type; rather, even less than the level of contagion Michael Scott's cold sore hosted in

"The Office." You can't catch shingles from another person, only yourself, ticking time bomb style. If you've never had chickenpox, you're off the hook. If you have, my goal is to scare you straight to your nearest Shingrix dispensary. My dermatologist friend, Kathy, summed it up in one sentence, "It's a deep pain because your nerve endings are on fire, and nothing can touch it."

Let's start with a little etymology. Herpes comes from the Greek *herpein* (to creep). The Spanish term is *la culebrilla* (little snake). My shingles slithered all the way up to my right eye, culminating in an icpick headache that lasted nearly a month, which is to say I did not sleep for a month – at least not in the restorative, pleasant way to which I was accustomed. From time to time I would simply shut down, the way your phone does when you don't charge it. On January 5 I made it to the ER where the triage nurse

noticed immediately the little scab on my forehead and said it looked like shingles. "Can't be," I said, with bravura as I'd had the shots. Alas, the round I had was the 2017 version and about as effective as dousing yourself with Off! in May and marveling at a mosquito bite in August.

As my shingles presented with an eyeball ready to explode, I was off to my new ophthalmologist, Dr. O'Neill. After four or five visits, I informed him that in many cultures we'd be formally engaged. I'm still seeing him and, lovely as he is, I really want to break up with him.

One of Dr. O'Neill's techs told me that I have what David Letterman had in 2003, leaving him off the air and in seclusion for over a month. Google his Top Ten Things About Shingles list. Spoiler alert: There's only one item, and most of it is bleeped out.

Not abundantly freaked out yet?

A month in, my hair began to fall out. Not enough for Will Smith to come to my rescue, but enough to clog my shower drain. But, hey, shingles doesn't care.

Get the shots, and may the force of Shingrix be with you.

- Dorothy



Dorothy Richmond is an experienced Spanish instructor and the author of several Spanish textbooks. She is a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Don't miss the Lowry Hill
ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY
MAY 25th
at the Walker Art Center

6:00 p.m. Social hour with appetizers and cash bar

7:00 p.m. Meeting and elections

Join us! All Lowry Hill residents are invited and encouraged to attend. Learn what LHNA has been up to this past year. Vote for LHNA Board Members, volunteer for a committee. Hear from your elected City Council, MPRB, county and state officials.

Consider Running for a Seat on the LHNA Board

If you would like to be more involved with the neighborhood, please consider running for a board seat. Visit lowryhillneighborhood.org and apply before 5/1/22. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting.

LHNA May Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

All residents are welcome to join us. Details on how to attend will be on the website. If you have a question or wish to be on the agenda, please email us at lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org

safety tips:

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

To help deter crime in our neighborhood!

Community collaboration is important in keeping everyone safe. The first thing you can do to improve neighborhood safety is simply getting to know your neighbors.

- Activate a neighborhood/block watch to keep an eye on what's happening on your street.
- Share personal contact information with each other for fast and easy communication.
- Establish one contact per group if needed for neighborhood alerts.
- Notify neighbors if you'll be out of town. Consider swapping with neighbors for lawn mowing, sidewalk shoveling, or even parking in each other's driveway.
- Stay connected with neighbors. If you notice a garage left open, packages, mail or newspapers left on the porch, let your neighbor know.
- If there is a crime incident, let neighbors know right away. They may have seen something or may have a surveillance camera that captured the crime on film.

Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at lowryhillneighborhood.org



A handmade Ukrainian Flag Flies on Humboldt Avenue (Photo Dorothy Childers).

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