



# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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## New Mural Delights at South Cedar Beach

by Laura Cederberg



New Cedar Lake South Beach Mural by artist Lili Lennox. (Photos Tim Sheridan)

On your next stroll or ride past Cedar Lake South Beach, take time to relax and enjoy the new public artwork!

The Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association selected renowned muralist and scenic painter Lili Lennox to create a natural scene that would bring life to the dreary cinder block wall on the west side of the Cedar Lake South Beach comfort station. Minneapolis-based Lennox designed three concepts which were voted on by community members over

the summer.

The community overwhelmingly voted for “Gentle,” depicting water and lily pads, the installation occurred throughout August.

Lennox said, “It is my hope that the mural conveys an uplifting sense of gentleness: the quietness of a sunrise, the calm and peace of a still morning before the city wakes.”

“I hope that [the new mural] reinforces the love and the appreciation that Minneapolis park-goers have for our chain of lakes, and for

being able to visit such natural scenery so close to the urban center,” said Lennox.

Funding for the mural was provided by CIDNA as part of renovations to Cedar Lake South Beach.

*Laura Cederberg is chair of the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association and has lived in the neighborhood for more than eight years.*

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## Crime in Kenwood

by Marty Carlson

During the 20-plus years I’ve lived in this neighborhood, the words “crime” and “Kenwood” have not spent much time in one another’s company, let alone in the same sentence. Yes, there have always been bicycle thefts and occasional garage break-ins. Hidden Beach has always been a problem—although I remember fondly when the main complaint was “late night drumming”—but for the most part violent street crime has been a near-vanishing rarity. Sadly, that changed at the start of the pandemic, and sadder still, it has not improved as pandemic restrictions have eased.

Carjacking, in particular, has become a citywide scourge. Prior to the start of the pandemic, it was so rare that the police department didn’t separately track it as a statistic. That number exploded to 655 in 2021 and is worse this year. As of this writing, the Minneapolis Police Department is reporting 52 carjackings in the last 28 days, versus 42 for the same period last year. On Saturday, August 27, at approximately 7:00 p.m., there was an armed carjacking attempt directly in front of Kenwood School and the

Kenwood Restaurant, followed shortly by two more incidents on in East Isles. This was roughly a week after neighbors witnessed two individuals in ski masks attempting to break into cars on Kenwood Parkway in broad daylight, leaving the scene in a stolen car.

While all of these incidents are abjectly terrible, the brazen nature of this latest carjacking attempt—in front of a crowded restaurant during peak business hours, with a gun—appears to have crossed a line for many in the neighborhood and has sparked a robust community conversation about what steps can and should be taken to effectively address the situation.

For many of us, this is our first foray into crime prevention, and the task seems daunting. This is a complex, nationwide problem; nearly every major city is struggling with it, and lots of smart people are working hard to solve it, mostly without success. It’s much more challenging than simply speaking up about a park plan we don’t like. But, on the other hand, this is happening to us, right now, in our specific neighborhood, and in that sense it’s quite local. This area is unique, not just in its geography, but also in its composition; we’re a much more diverse group than many people realize, and that diversity of

experience may give rise to new ideas. While I seriously doubt we can just hit “control-alt-delete” and make the problem go away, there are undoubtedly things we can do as a local community to reduce the number of incidents. Put differently, if this problem can’t be effectively addressed here, where the numbers are still relatively low, where can it be?

Fortunately, we’re not starting completely from zero. Carjackings have, sadly, been a more frequent experience for our neighbors in Lowry Hill who have already proved generous in sharing information and safety tips. For the most part, these are simple things: Be more watchful when you’re out. Try not to linger in your car once you’ve reached your destination. Above all, don’t wear headphones when you’re in the car or on the street – they reduce your awareness and make you look particularly vulnerable to carjackers and other criminals. And—again sadly—women have been targeted more frequently than men.

One final note: Don’t be afraid to call 911—carjackings, vehicle thefts and break-ins are serious offenses. As the saying goes, if you see something, say something. While I understand some people are more reluctant to call law enforcement after the George Floyd killing,

no one’s advocating a return to the bad old days of racially tainted “loitering” complaints. The issues we’re seeing here are far more basic: cars with no plates, reckless driving, idiots driving around wearing ski masks in broad daylight in the summertime (as was the case with the attempted car break-ins on Kenwood Parkway). Law enforcement can’t respond to incidents they don’t know about, and underreporting just gives cover to perpetrators.

I hope to be able to write next month with more specific, useful information. This most recent incident has prompted people throughout the neighborhood to get more networked and organized, and the informal meetings happening now will hopefully turn into more organized neighborhood outreach in the relatively near future. Hill & Lake Press has committed to covering this issue on a regular basis while the problem persists. In the meantime, pay attention when you’re out—be watchful—and please don’t hesitate to call law enforcement if you see suspicious activity. Let’s continue to enjoy our beautiful neighborhood, but let’s also be careful out there!

*Marty Carlson lives in Kenwood.*



# 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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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Craig Wilson, Editor

### CONGRATULATIONS DOROTHY CHILDERS!



Our longtime Hill & Lake Press photographer Dorothy Childers received an honorable mention ribbon for her photo entitled "Uptown" at the Fine Arts Competition at the Minnesota State Fair in August. According to the Star Tribune, there were 2,207 works submitted and only 324 were selected. (Photo Roger Childers)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Finally Reliable Delivery! By Thomas Regnier

I am writing to express my appreciation for the paper's recent change to being delivered directly in the mailbox. For the longest time the paper arrived in a forlorn pile that made it into our apartment complex only if one of my fellow residents or myself brought it in from the front stoop. Oftentimes (for a year, at least, I recall) it didn't arrive at our building at all. This arrangement is much superior!

*Thomas Regnier lives in Lowry Hill.*

### Small Story to Share By Maria Klein



Alexandra picking up trash. (Photo Maria Klein)

As a returning resident to the neighborhood, after several decades, I'd like to say first how much I appreciate the discussions going on in the pages of the Hill & Lake Press. A lot has changed since I first hung around Lowry Hill and Lake

of the Isles, and the pages of the H&LP have helped me understand better the issues and dynamics.

In particular, I'd like to offer my support to the comments made by Sandy Nelson and Larry Lamb (August 2022). As a 75-year-old with MS, trying to walk by LOI and re-learn how to ride a bike, I've observed that most bike riders have shown themselves to be unconcerned about others.

However, in the spirit of contributing to a friendly community, I'd like to share a small story as an example of neighborliness.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 31, the day before her school started, my youngest granddaughter, Alexandra (8), and I had a little picnic by the lake. We lunched between two lovely willows not far from the channel to Cedar Lake.

Afterwards, I recommended a little stroll and Alexandra declared that she would like to walk and pick up trash. It would make her feel good inside herself, she said. I grabbed a spare grocery bag from the car and off we went.

At first, the walk was clean as a whistle—impressively tidy. As the footpath gradually rose up to pass over the canal, Alex noticed a steep little track back down to the lake shore. She said, "I think I should go down there to check." So she did and promptly disap-

peared from sight.

Moments later, I heard her calling and scabbled down the embankment to see what she had found.

At that corner of the lake, you might have noticed a retaining wall that curves alongside the canal. There's a semi-secluded bench and a fair amount of vegetation—a clump of scrub trees, thistles, buckthorn, probably poison ivy, and this shrubbery was full of trash.

It was not an easy site to clean, with the dense foliage, but Alex was undeterred. For twenty minutes we picked up bottles, cans, wrappers, cups, caps, lids, paper boxes, muddy socks and—to Alex's astonishment—a pair of jockey shorts.

As we were getting ready to go dispose of our haul, Alex set the overfilled bag on the retaining wall—and out popped a spider. Startled, Alex let go of the bag, it tipped, and several items rolled out into the water. Drama!

As it happened, a group of French-speaking young people were passing by in canoes—I'd heard French tones float across the water as Alex and I were working. When three plastic bottles landed in the lake, one pair of canoeists switched course, paddled over, fished the bottles out of the water, and the day was saved.

A gift from some young teachers (French and Belgian) about to start a year in the French immersion program at Normandale Elementary School in Edina, neighbor school to Concord, where Alex just began second grade.

We dumped everything out to photograph for posterity, collected it all back into the bag, and piece by grubby piece put everything we could into the recycling bin—there wasn't much left for the trash bin. And then went happily to reward ourselves at Sebastian Joe's.

I promised Alex I would tell you about her good deed, so this is me fulfilling my promise. I've included a photo.

Thank you for this nifty neighborhood publication, thank you and especially for sending it directly to my mailbox—I'm reading it regularly now!

*Maria Klein is a Kenwood Isles resident.*

### Inter-Neighbor- hood Connection, Extraordinary Collaboration By Emilie Flink

Kenwood neighbor and dancemaker Carl Flink met Bill Cameron, a Bryn Mawr



(Photo provided by Black Label Movement)

a neighborhood 4th of July party in 2002. Born and raised in Kenwood, Flink is the Artistic Director of the award winning, Minneapolis-based dance company Black Label Movement (BL) and the University of Minnesota Dance Program Director. Later that afternoon they had their first photo shoot. Cameron has shot every BL project since, is now the company photographer and has become a sought-after lensman by dance artists across the Twin Cities.

Cameron and Flink connect through their boundless curiosity and appetite for creating and capturing daring movement onstage and in unexpected locations like the Cedar/Isles lagoon, beneath its wooden railroad bridge, ancient ruins in India and Duluth's famous Graffiti Graveyard. The longtime collaborators also share careers in law and a passion for social justice work. Flink expressed, "I met Bill as a photographer, but he became a collaborator, advisor and critical member of Black Label, as well as a great friend." Both men have an intimate knowledge of the diverse landscapes in the CIDNA and Kenwood neighborhoods stemming from Flink's childhood here and Cameron's long daily walks with his wife Connie, his camera always close at hand.

Being neighbors makes it easy to switch gears and grab a photo opportunity in the Cameron's home studio or nearby location like the Kenilworth Corridor railroad tracks. Emilie Plauché Flink, Flink's wife and artistic partner, is currently working on a book about this unique collaboration featuring Cameron's exquisite photographs of Black Label Movement.

Black Label Movement performs Sept. 23-25 and Nov. 12 & 13 at the Cowles Center for Dance in downtown Minneapolis. For tickets and more information, visit [thecowlescenter.org](http://thecowlescenter.org). All tickets are pay-as-you-are and start as low as \$10.

*Emilie Flink lives in Kenwood.*



Rainbow over Cedar Lake. (Photo Tim Sheridan)

OPINION BY MARTY CARLSON

## Cedar-Isles Master Plan: Civility, Compromise, and the end of the CAC

Last month's article for Hill & Lake Press was a one-month tour of the ups and downs of a lengthy local planning process. It ended on an upbeat note, largely due to the hard work of the CAC's newly formed circulation subcommittee, which had its first meeting shortly before we went to press and was, to my mind, a model of effective civic process. That generally upbeat assessment was further reinforced this past month, with both the second meeting of the Circulation Subcommittee and the final meeting of the CAC, at the Park Board headquarters. While not all issues were conclusively resolved, in both instances the CAC members committed themselves to reasoned, respectful debate. Important viewpoints were considered and aired, minds changed, and consensus was reached more often than not.

**The highlights from the second Circulation Subcommittee meeting:**

**1. NE Cedar Trails and Woodland:** The CAC voted unanimously to reject the proposed removal of the NE Cedar shoreline trail, and to prioritize using the Natural Resources Management Plan to guide the restoration of this area and removal of invasives.

**2. Bikes on East Cedar:** The CAC split 6-6 on a proposal to formalize bike access through the trail section from the end of Upton to the North Cedar Lake bike trail. Half the CAC favored keeping bikes out of this relatively small area entirely, while the other half argued that this is a modest, workable request that will actually help keep bikes out of the remaining trail space. The vote probably says it all: it's a tough issue, and I had to laugh when Craig Wilson asked the board staff (tongue in cheek) if their vote gave sufficient guidance. This issue now goes to the Park Board and its staff, and we'll wait to see what they propose in their draft of the

final plan.

**3. NW Cedar Connector Trail:** The CAC voted unanimously for separate bike and pedestrian trails on the short connector from the "Y" at the main trail to the North Cedar Lake bike trail. Not a tough call in my view; there's plenty of existing space and no trees will be lost in the process.

**4. Multi-Modal Transit on NW Cedar:** This is the narrow stretch on west Cedar where we have two-way biking and an unseparated roughly three-foot striped path for pedestrians. It was certainly the main event for this meeting, and the CAC admirably reached a consensus. The resolution is as follows: "Prioritize safety for pedestrians by widening existing paved paths to a minimum of six feet for pedestrians and eight feet for two-way biking, keeping separate paths and using the least intrusive methods, considering a boardwalk only as a last resort."

**5. Remnant Land:** The group voted 12-1 that if this acreage below Lowry Hill is acquired by the Park Board, it should be a conservation area for wildlife and habitat.

**And now, the highlights from the final CAC meeting:**

**1. Permanent Restrooms:** Rather than a formal vote, the CAC conducted a round robin survey of its members to get their views on permanent restrooms in the parks, a topic that apparently resurfaced in the last round of public comment. As with previous discussions, a substantial majority of the CAC members supported having at least one per lake in the abstract, but roughly half the members expressed significant concerns about maintenance, operating hours, location, and cost. Among supporters, the principal argument was accessibility, including a desire for changing tables for infants. More cautious supporters expressed a desire that if such facilities are built, they should be year-round and unobtrusive. The preferred locations were the south side of Isles and Hidden Beach on the east side of Cedar. I'm not sure how the Park Board will reflect this input in the final plan, but if permanent restrooms are in-

cluded there will need to be credible, fact-based answers on maintenance and year-round use.

**2. Picnic Shelters:** The notion of adding a picnic shelter to each lake also resurfaced shortly before the final CAC meeting and was less warmly received by the group. A majority of the CAC was generally opposed, questioning the need for such structures, the fact that they are readily available nearby in the park system, and the fact that they had been considered and rejected previously after significant public criticism. As with restrooms, the Park Board's inability to maintain its current infrastructure was mentioned more than once. There was majority support for picnic tables, which are less intrusive and flexible.

**3. Water Quality and Cedar Lake Management:** The written reports of the Water Quality Subcommittee and the Cedar Lake Land Management Working Group were unanimously adopted with only minor, non-controversial modifications. The CAC clearly felt a justifiable sense of pride in the detailed and comprehensive work of these two groups, each of which addressed topics of broad community consensus.

**4. Circulation Subcommittee:** The report of the Circulation Subcommittee was also unanimously adopted with two amendments. The critical distinction from the prior two reports was that it was adopted only as accurately reflecting the work of the group, i.e., accepting the report unanimously did not erase or override divided votes on topics like biking through the East Cedar woods or a potential boardwalk on NW Cedar. On those two points, the division of the group remained evident, but the discussion was thoughtful and respectful.

**The end of the CAC... and another thank you!** The CAC meeting closed with a unanimous endorsement of the Preferred Park Concept as modified by the CAC in its past several meetings. Hardly a surprise, and very appropriate. The CAC has now finished its work, and its members get to move on with their lives. I hope

that we in the community can join together in thanking this group for its impressive hard work over the past several years. The final CAC meeting marked the 20th gathering of the group, meaning that it has spent over 40 hours in meetings alone—a major commitment and responsibility for a group comprised entirely of volunteers. While the master planning process is hardly over, this group has been remarkably responsive to public input, has not hesitated to wade into complicated, contentious topics, and—despite an evident diversity of viewpoints—has reached reasonable consensus decisions on nearly all the topics it covered. Nobody gets everything they want in this sort of process, but we're clearly in a much better position than we were at the beginning of the year, and we seem on track to emerge with a final plan that accurately reflects the community's most important priorities and preferences.

**So what's next?** The CAC process is now over, and we now head into another waiting period while the Park Board staff creates its draft final plan. That document will be released sometime during the winter (probably the early portion), and its release will trigger another 45-day public comment period. Unlike the prior comment periods, there will not be public meetings, just written submissions (at least until the final vote by the Commissioners). Personally, I'm cautiously optimistic we'll like what we see, but it's now up to the Park Board staff to deliver, while we in the general public get to practice patience. In the meantime, I hope you will all feel free to express your thanks to the individual CAC members who reliably participated in meetings if you get the chance: Aaron Shaffer, Adam Braun, Alice Lehman, Anna Eleria, Ben Surma, Constance Pepin, Craig Wilson, Drew McGovern, Eric Gangl, Jim Romlin, Joshua Christensen, Laura Kinkead, Lilia Theisen, Linda Mack, Michaela West, Nan Dreher, and Win Rockwell (CAC Chair).

*Marty Carlson lives in Kenwood.*

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## GUEST OPINION

By Constance Pepin

## The Cedar-Isles Master Plan: Ecology First?



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

A recent email bulletin from the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board announced the “planning process [for the Cedar-Isles master plan] has moved into a new phase. Community engagement will pause while the design team works on writing a full draft plan document based on CAC recommendations, public feedback and input from MPRB staff and stakeholder organizations.”

After a lengthy and intense period of engagement that included meetings (most via Zoom), open houses, on-site tours and focus area gatherings, subcommittees and working groups, surveys and votes, this pause seems a good time to distill public input and consider possible implications—not only for this master plan but for our park system as a whole. Since MPRB’s conversations with “stakeholder organizations” are not public, the following observations refer to input from the general public and notably the Cedar-Isles-Kenwood community.

**MPRB Mission:** “The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board permanently preserves, protects, maintains, improves, and enhances its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations of our region including people, plants, and wildlife. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board dismantles historic inequities in the provision of park and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, wellbeing, community, and the environment.”

**Value and Maintain Our Assets:** One consistent message sent by most people who participated in this master planning process is that the Park Board can and must take better care of what we have. This theme emerged early in the planning process and was echoed by many constituents who want the Park Board to become a better custodian of existing built amenities, including picnic tables, boardwalks, docks, historical houses, bandshells and trails, to name only a few. General and

chronic dissatisfaction among many people about the lack of maintenance translated into hesitation about—and even opposition to—building new amenities at the two lakes. Even if maintenance funding from the Met Council or state government is lacking or inadequate, people still expect the Park Board to find ways and funds to prioritize the care and repair of existing assets rather than continue to build more amenities that increase the maintenance burden.

The master planning process also revealed many people’s larger concerns about the Park Board’s stewardship of our natural resources, including parklands, water bodies, shorelands and natural areas (which comprise 41.5% of our park system). As the only governmental unit with a core mission to protect and enhance natural resources in the city, that responsibility falls squarely on the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. A relatively small number of acres of our natural areas are actively managed, and many are degraded by invasive species, which the Park Board relies primarily on volunteers to remove.

As facts surfaced about declining water quality at both Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, members of the CAC voted unanimously to make water quality the highest priority of the master plan. A subcommittee formed to focus on this issue subsequently produced a set of recommendations for improved water quality that the CAC unanimously approved at its final meeting. One recommendation urged the Park Board to take on a leadership role among the other organizations that address this vital and essential need to improve and protect water quality.

It was evident during the planning process that many people believe that the lakes, trees, views, wildlife and other natural resources in the Cedar-Isles “project area” are assets more valuable than built amenities, and are in immediate need of protection and preservation. Park Board projects and planning have historically over-

looked the value of these resources and favored construction of built amenities over conservation. For example, the Park Board does not factor the value of trees lost to development when calculating project costs. Forestry staff arborists are not routinely consulted on all matters involving trees and our canopy. And rather than mandated, tree preservation is usually encouraged “when possible” even if healthy mature native canopy trees will be sacrificed for recreational amenities.

**Focus on Ecology:** Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles are part of the Chain of Lakes Regional Park. Drawing visitors from across the metro area, regional parks are the regional equivalent of state parks and exist to preserve parkland and open space that protects valuable natural resources. The Park Board is charged with preserving these resources, which provide critical habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife and help mitigate the impacts of climate change, while providing nature-based opportunities for recreation and education.

The CAC’s vision for the Cedar-Isles master plan reflects a focus on ecology. This vision is especially relevant and appropriate as biodiversity declines and ecosystems are increasingly threatened and even collapsing worldwide due to climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species. In fact, the Park Board can only achieve its mission and build climate resilience by prioritizing environmental protection and preservation of our natural areas in response to these crises.

**Cedar-Isles Master Plan Vision:** Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, as part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, contribute to a vital, urban natural ecosystem with unique experiences that protect, connect, and sustain people, wildlife, and natural resources, while maintaining the health of the lakes

The numerous environmental challenges and opportunities identified during community engagement for the Cedar-Isles

master plan underscore the imperative to expand the Park Board’s capacity with ecologists, botanists, hydrologists, and conservation biologists who can inform policies and practices related to how humans interact with and affect the natural world that all animals (including humans) depend on for survival.

The objective to build staff capacity is one of many proposed by the Cedar Lake Park Working Group in their Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management Recommendations, compiled as input to the Cedar-Isles Master Plan. Most members of this working group are volunteer stewards at Cedar Lake, including long-term volunteers from the Cedar Lake Park Association. The working group’s primary goal is for the Park Board to “[m]anage natural resources in and adjacent to Cedar Lake Park as an ecologically healthy landscape for people, plants and wildlife, by developing and implementing a detailed Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) for Cedar Lake Park.”

The Park Board’s recently-completed Natural Areas Plan outlines an ecosystem approach to land management to achieve greater native biodiversity, more wildlife, and fewer invasive species. Community input during the Cedar-Isles planning process encourages the Park Board to prioritize strategies in the Natural Areas Plan in order to [as this plan states] “implement land management based in sound ecological principles as well as to perpetuate intentional stewardship—guided by science-based data and ensured by adequate funding.”

Without healthy natural resources supporting functioning ecosystems, there can be no sustainable recreation in our park system. Yet the Park Board often finds itself caught up in people’s demands for more recreational amenities at the expense of ecology. For example, the question of allowing bikes in the East Cedar woods remains the most divisive issue of this master planning process. The CAC’s Circulation subcom-

mittee, formed to reach consensus on circulation aspects of the master plan, ended its work without resolving this one issue among many that were negotiated to consensus, leaving it up to MPRB staff to decide the question in their draft master plan.

**Educate the Public:** Finally, the Cedar-Isles master planning process also revealed support for a stronger public education component of the Park Board’s work. For example, beyond circulation signage to direct park visitors to destinations within the system, the Park Board can educate residents about ways they can help protect water quality. People also need guidance on how to explore and enjoy regional parks, since many visitors don’t understand their impacts on the land, water, wildlife and other natural resources.

Educational opportunities also include helping humans reset our expectations and demands on our natural resources. Scientists have long agreed that addressing the current environmental crisis is possible only with wide-ranging changes in how society operates and how we view our relation to the natural world. Experts concur that humans have to recognize that we are all responsible for our profound impact on our planet and that we must become stewards—as a part of nature, rather than [as one scientist described] “behaving like children ram-paging through a sweetshop.”

In the context of the current ecological crises of climate change and declining biodiversity, most people agree that the Park Board must prioritize the health of our environment while providing parks and recreation. Even though some visitors may continue to demand more recreational amenities and activities, people still expect and need the Park Board to stay true to its mission to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

*Constance Pepin lives in Linden Hills and served on the Cedar-Isles CAC.*

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GUEST OPINION

By Aaron Shaffer

## Cedar-Isles Master Plan: Circulation Musings from an Avid Bicyclist



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

**Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan Circulation Musings:** It's been nearly three years since I was selected by the selection committee for the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan to be a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). In that time there have been highs and lows, and I wanted to share some final musings as the CAC's recommendations proceed to the final stages and eventually are voted on by Park Board commissioners this winter.

**Improvements to NW Cedar Lake:** Going into this master planning process, my highest priority was to take what feels like a temporary path section due to its tightness and discomfort for all use at the northwest corner of Cedar Lake, and widen things out in a more planful way. What I really wanted was a final outcome where people walking could actually enjoy the beauty of NW Cedar Lake, rather than get through it as quickly as possible because of how unsafe it feels.

The final compromise on this corner of Cedar Lake will do that, to an extent. The CAC's Circulation Subcommittee voted on a minimum of six feet for pedestrians and eight feet for a two-way bike path. Six feet for a pedestrian path is what you'll likely find on the Minneapolis sidewalk outside of your home or nearby. It's technically wide enough for two people using wheelchairs to pass each other, but barely. Since COVID many walkers in neighborhoods still choose to walk in the street or cross the street if people are coming, because six feet of width still isn't ideal for two-way pedestrian traffic. However, it's a major improvement from existing conditions, and key language is part of the resolution "keeping separate paths" is meant to have some sort of

physical separation between cyclists and pedestrians.

From the biking perspective, the path will stay roughly the same width it is now at a minimum, which is wide enough for one bike traveling each direction to safely pass each other. It's also not ideal (the ideal minimum is 10' and for comfort should be 12 feet) but again, with that physical separation it should be much improved from existing conditions.

**Other Improvements to Cedar Lake:** Other improvements voted on by the CAC include creating a new parallel sidewalk option, or at least allowing for that as a solution, when considering areas near Point Beach and SW Cedar that people cross with a kayak or stand-up paddle board and have no pedestrian path to walk on – which has long created conflicts between those park users and cyclists on the path.

One interesting development that showcases just how contentious an issue this is, was a tie vote with regard to creating a bicycle connector trail between East Cedar Beach and the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. The idea was put forth because many residents who walk the East Cedar woods complain about cyclists in the woods riding anywhere/ everywhere. This trail connector would create a solution to this problem, which otherwise will likely remain for the next 20-30 years. This issue will likely be an interesting one to track as Park Board commissioners consider it.

**Improvements to Lake of the Isles:** One big issue for Lake of the Isles over the next 20-30 years will be the addition of a light rail station at 21st Street near East Cedar Lake Beach. That will be the closest station to many residents of some of Minneapolis' most dense neighborhoods that line Hennepin, and many cyclists will likely bike to that sta-

tion to use it. Between that and changing park uses (most park users don't want to ride full circles around lakes anymore for leisure, but instead ride the parkway trails to get from park section to park section) it felt like creating the framework for two-way bicycle trails around Lake of the Isles was a priority – and some comments from the public supported that, despite some outcry from a vocal group of park users and park neighbors.

In the end the CAC created a two-part solution to the problem. In the short term, a temporary bike lane would be painted, keeping cyclists traveling in the same direction as existing vehicle traffic. A future committee would consider reconstructing Lake of the Isles Parkway to be narrower for vehicles and include a new two-way bike lane—all done with minimal new pavement. The parkway was last replaced in 2009 with a life span of 40 or so years.

In my mind, that resolution was reasonable enough and the existing parkway roads are wide enough that this resolution could form the framework for two-way bicycle facilities to be added at every lake on the Chain of Lakes.

**Overall thoughts:** Overall, I was fascinated by the process, and believe the final recommendations by the CAC—while not ground-breaking or revolutionary—respect the differences in all the lakes on Minneapolis' beloved Chain of Lakes and will help set up the park system for a growing and changing base of future users. I urge all Minneapolis Park Board commissioners as they consider their votes to plan for the future, and not punt to a future CAC 20-30 years from now.

*Aaron Shaffer lives in Kingfield and served on the Cedar-Isles CAC.*



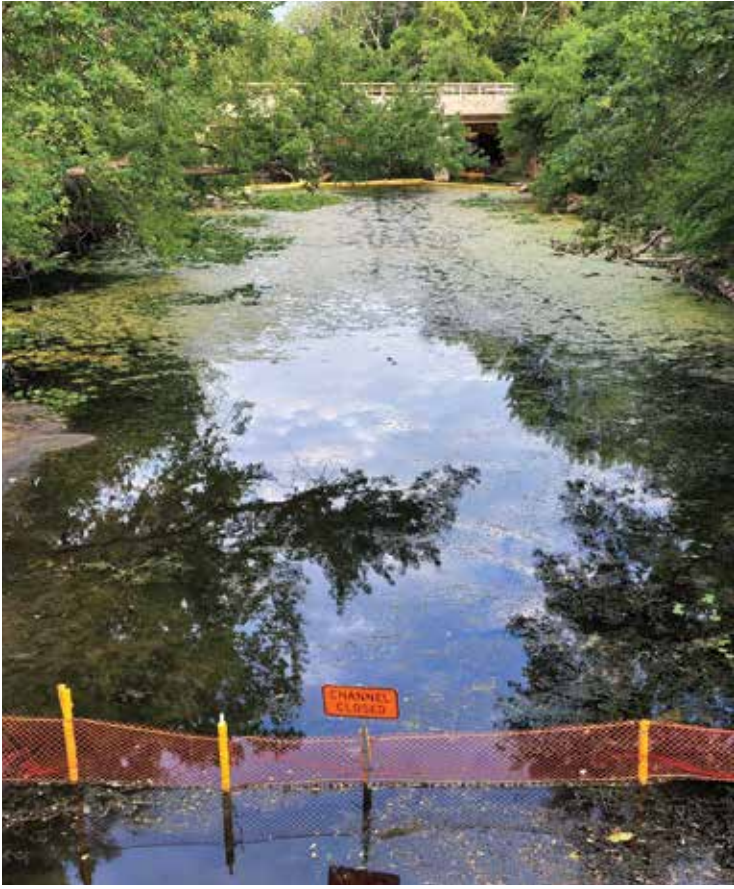
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By Josie Owens

## The Linking of the Lakes: A Municipal Challenge



The Kenilworth Channel connecting Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles is closed for the foreseeable future. The channel was built over a century ago, after area residents endured decades of construction. While the channel may appear to be “natural,” it is in fact man-made. (Photo Tim Sheridan)



Survey Map T29R24W of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles in 1854 prior to the creation of the channel linking the two bodies of water. (The Lowry Hill Neighborhood Historic Context Study, 2006)

As we wrap up the third summer of the Green Line Extension light rail extension project, let's take a moment to look back. I don't mean reflect on the three years of construction, the work that is completed, the work that still needs to be done, the roads that are closed, or the increase in costs. I am asking that we look back a bit farther in order to recognize that there was once another major project in the same area of Minneapolis that was as sizable in its scope, time, and cost, as well as its inconvenience to the residents. As Dick Cavett used to say, “Time was...”

The 1880s. The Hill & Lake neighborhoods looked quite different. For starters, Brownie Lake, Cedar Lake, Bde Maka Ska (then called Calhoun), and Lake of the Isles (LOTI) were almost four separate lakes with the only connection being a narrow inlet between LOTI and Bde Maka Ska. Lowry Hill was called the Devil's Backbone and had a north face described as a wooded bluff that was too steep to climb. Minneapolis was in its boom years. At the start of the 1880s, the city's population was 46,887. Ten years later, the population was 164,738. The industries and businesses were growing and required that the city expand to accommodate the new workforce.

Real estate hawks like Thomas Lowry recognized that the area close to the downtown businesses was prime residential land. He created the Groveland Addition in 1872. The Lakeview (now called Mount Curve) Addition followed in 1885. Lowry used his own money to have Lowry Hill razed in 1886 to help with the growth. However, not everyone could afford the mansions in these additions. The middle class needed more modest pieces of land.

It was time to convince the farmers to sell their land.

Many of the Lowry Hill and Lake of the Isles houses built between 1900 and 1920 can be traced to Denis Peters, Roswell P. Russell, and John Green who first owned the property in the 1850s. These men farmed the land and sold butter and produce in the nearby urban area. In 1880, John Green owned 56 unplatted acres between Franklin and Douglas Avenues. One interesting side note is that Nehemiah H. Emmans moved to Minneapolis in 1877 and entered the real estate business in 1898 when he married Luella Green, the daughter of John Green. (For you Monty Pythoners: “She's got huge tracts of land.”) Emmans began selling off the Green's Addition land plats. Emmans and Luella divorced in 1904, and he married Jennie Mabie. Hmhmhm.

But even for successful opportunists, the cash cow dried up. This is where our real story begins. The desirable farm land had run out as the real estate developers ran into the swampy mess of LOTI. Where to build houses now? What could be done?

When Minneapolis established the Board of Park Commissioners (BPC) in 1883, the landscaper-designer H.W.S. Cleveland recommended a citywide system of boulevards, parks, and parkways linking the Mississippi and Lakes Calhoun and Harriet as well as the small lake in Central (Loring) Park. Cleveland did not include LOTI because he realized what a challenge it would be. However, MBP decided to include LOTI and acquired it and its two islands.

In 1886, the first project to utilize the area began with the building of a road. The parkway

around LOTI was completed in 1888. Wait. Well, it was completed as long as one didn't need to use it when there was precipitation as it flooded and was impassable. So, in 1889, the first dredging project began on LOTI and lasted until 1893 which increased the shoreline. In 1892, the land between LOTI and Bde Maka Ska was purchased from the Joseph Dean estate to create the channel as well as Dean Parkway. In 1896, lights were added and then the walking paths in 1897.

In 1906, Theodore Wirth became the Superintendent of Parks and began a new series of projects: dredge the Chain of Lakes, build and rebuild shorelines, and construct channels to connect the lakes. In 1908, the second phase of dredging began on LOTI. The lake was dredged to an average depth of eight feet, and new shorelines were established. The work, completed in 1911, removed half a million cubic yards of fill from the lake and excavated the canal (now Kenilworth Lagoon) from LOTI west towards Cedar Lake. The project also raised the grade of the parkway from one foot above the water level to 11 feet above the level of the lake. According to the BPC report, “After the [dredging] project was completed, the original 100-acre lake, which had consisted of 67 acres of swamp and 33 acres of dry land, was transformed into a 120-acre lake with no marshes and 80 acres of dry land.” And, about those houses... The lots facing Lake of the Isles that were previously undesirable had increased in value between 100 and 500 percent.

More residential lots were added in the Kenwood and Cedar Lake neighborhoods. The area was a thriving residential area close to downtown and the Hennepin

Avenue shops. People loved the lakes and wanted them to be linked. The MPB supported this and continued the dredging projects and bridge building.

The linking of LOTI and Bde Maka Ska was commemorated with a large public celebration on July 5, 1911, called Linking of the Lakes Day. The celebration celebrated the waterways with aquatic sports and a pageant at night of illuminated boats. Theodore Wirth oversaw a “Wedding of the Lakes” ceremony, proclaiming, “What we have joined together let no man put asunder.”

But we're not done yet. Let's consider this an intermission as two more lakes still had to be linked.

Dredging of Cedar Lake and construction on the Kenilworth Lagoon and Channel had begun in 1911 on the south side of the lagoon and moved north with dredging soil used to raise the shoreline and some of the surrounding land to enable more development. In 1913, the canal between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake was opened with a water level drop of five feet in Cedar Lake to account for differences in water levels between the two lakes. Some dredging was delayed due to heavy storms. Two bridges over the canal and railroad were built.

Then, in July 1913, the park commissioners announced that it was a public necessity to have a canal between Cedar and Brownie Lakes. The MPB had acquired Brownie Lake and land for the Cedar Lake Parkway thanks to the donations of William McNair and his widow, Louise, (Brownie was the nickname of their daughter Agnes.) However, the BPC still needed to cross the railroad tracks. The condemnation proceedings began in

November for a 100-foot-wide right of way across railroad property owned by the Great Northern Railway. In 1914, the excavation of the canal under the Great Northern Railway Company's tracks began and Cedar Lake Boulevard was completed.

Finally in 1917, the dredging and filling work at Cedar Lake was completed, the Minneapolis Park Board voted to pave the Grand Rounds, and a channel between Ce-

dar Lake and Brownie Lake opened.

After 31 years, the four lakes were connected! The cost? Well, just to link LOTI and Bde Maka Ska, the cost was \$125,000 which is over \$3,000,000 today. The Linking of the Lakes project was lengthy, expensive, delayed by unforeseen issues, and required road closures and detours.

After reading all the steps involved in the Linking of the Lakes, do you feel any better about entering into

year four of the light rail extension project?

Here's an idea. Remember the Linking of the Lakes celebration in 1911? There were just two lakes linked, and to be a bit of a stickler, those two lakes were already linked. But it's all in the optics. According to the Metropolitan Council webpage on the light rail project, "[c]ivil construction (structures and stations) is nearly 60% complete" including 11 of 16 stations,

25 of 29 bridges completed or underway, all eight tunnels completed, and 114 of 131 retaining walls completed or under construction.

That calls for a midway celebration. Let's grab some railroad handcars, throw some streamers on them, and send them on parade!

*Josie Owens lives in Lowry Hill.*

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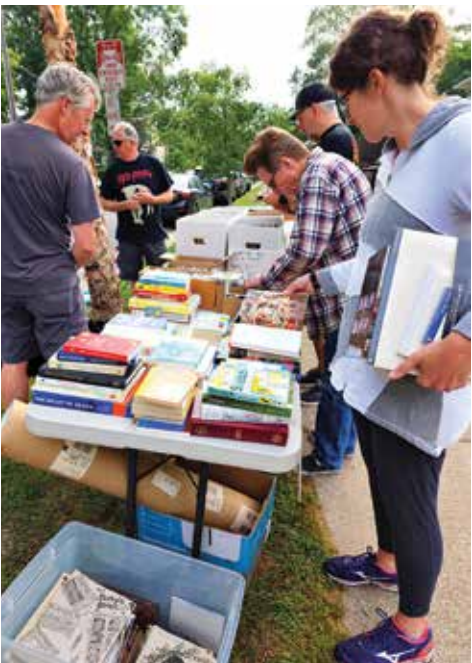


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PHOTO FEATURE

Photos by Tim Sheridan (sale) and Larry Lamb (social)

# Super Sale and East Isles Ice Cream Social





# MINUTES



Cedar-Isles-Dean  
Neighborhood Association

## CIDNA Board Meeting

### PARTICIPANTS

Board Members Present: Laura Cederberg (Chair), Tim Sheridan (Vice-Chair), Mike Siebenaler (Treasurer), Mark Miller, Stephen Goltry, Amanda Vallone, Mary Pattock, Claire Ruebeck, Rosanne Halloran, Dean Kephart

Board members absent:  
Laura DeMarais, Scott Herold

Others present: Councilmember  
Lisa Goodman

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Councilmember Lisa Goodman reported: The next "Lunch with Lisa" is on July 27, 2022 at the University of St. Thomas, downtown Minneapolis campus. This month will focus on Development with Purpose with Chris Sherman of Sherman Associates. The board thanked Lisa for supporting the Mayor's veto of the 24-7 bus lanes on Hennepin Avenue.

Governance Committee chair Laura Cederberg said the committee is evaluating opportunities to host voter education events ahead of the November general election.

Communications Chair Mary Pattock reported: Still working on signs to welcome people to the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighbor-

hood. Development of new CIDNA website continues.

Social Chair Amanda Vallone reported: Storytelling will be held at Park Siding Park August 12, 11:15am - 12:00 pm. CIDNA is sponsoring live music at Cedar Lake South Beach on Saturday, July 23 and August 20 at 4pm. CIDNA will host a back-to-school Ice Cream Social at Park Siding Park on Saturday, August 27 from 3-4:30pm. CIDNA's Fall Festival will be held on Oct. 8. The full list of CIDNA summer events is available at cidna.org.

Environmental Preservation chair Claire Ruebeck reported the MPRB will host public meetings on the preferred plan for the Cedar Isles Master plan on July 14 and July 16. The committee is preparing official comment on the plan to be submitted as part of the public comment period. Claire and Mary committed to authoring a letter in support of re-instating the Clean Water Coalition to advocate for clean water and protection of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Chain of Lakes.

Safety chair Stephen Goltry reported: Reviewing intersections and crosswalks for ideas to improve safety.

Coordinator Rachel Svihel reported the results of the vote for a new mural on the Cedar Lake South Beach comfort station. The neighborhood voted overwhelmingly for "Calm" a scene depicting water and lily pads, by artist Lili Lennox. Installation of the mural will begin in August.

Rachel will contact the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment to find out the best way for us to learn about new business and residential applications in CIDNA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

There will be no August meeting. CIDNA's next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, 6-7:30pm at Park Siding Park.

Submitted by Laura Cederberg

At the time of publishing the minutes for the following neighborhood associations were not available. Please visit the association's website to see their August 2022 meeting minutes.





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# Meet Your Neighbor

A monthly column by Craig Wilson, Editor

## What Happened to Tom Cook?



Tom and JoAnne Cook.  
(Photo provided by a friend)

**Craig Wilson: “Where did you grow up and how did you get to Minnesota?”** Tom H. Cook: I grew up in Pennsauken, New Jersey, a nondescript suburb of Camden, most noted for Walt Whitman and holding up the bridge to Philadelphia. After false starts I made it to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan, where I earned two degrees but more importantly met JoAnne, who became my wife and much later my editor. We next spent three years in Naples, Florida, but realized we were forty years too early. In 1977, after researching livable cities (pre-internet), we decided to visit Minneapolis. Immediately smitten, we marveled at the lakes and the intangible community feel of the neighborhoods. We felt at home like we never had before. Two children (Rachael and Ben), a career, lifetime friendships, Barton School, South High, snow shoveling, health scares, garage sales, an array of dogs, and The Hill & Lake Press ensued. Twenty-five years went by in a blur.

**Where do you get your ideas, particularly after you moved to Los Angeles?** I have spies. Topics come to me often out of my own misfortune, poor planning, or collision with an overly officious bureaucracy. I use myself — not to be egocentric, but in a search for common ground. I have become god at finding kindred spirits, people who get the joke and peer out at the world from the same twisted angle. “Sand Upon the Waters” has been a calling card.

Normal, well-adjusted folks who believe everything is fine are not my audience. My readership may appear successful, but we are secret rebels, treated unfairly by a math teacher, still smarting from being chosen last in school yard basketball, passed over for safety patrol officer, or ribbed unmercifully for having ears that reached full size before the rest of the head. Fast forward, there is still fodder. The world gets stranger and more inexplicable daily. I believe I have stayed relevant and irreverent across the miles. I hope my column space goes to a younger, hipper, snarky iconoclast who lives in the neighborhood.

**What does Sand Upon the Waters mean?** Throwing a handful of sand into a lake is momentarily satisfying, but the impact is fleeting. I have enjoyed making small splashes. My column has been an attempt to keep the conversation going.

**Mike Wilson has you at 320 columns, making you the most prolific contributor to the HLP.** I started in 1986 and have felt the need to comment on garage sale etiquette, cocktail parties, children, and the fiendishness of off-brand Tupperware makers until this year. I told my longtime editor Jean Deatruck that I would stay until she retired, not realizing she had more dramatic encores than a James Brown concert. Jean, thank you and congratulations. Craig Wilson, I appreciate this opportunity to say goodbye.

**You will be missed. What are you working on?** This is where I plug my book! To be serious, there are a number of HLP readers who are longtime fans of my column. Some clip and save relevant articles for friends and family. Whether seeking closure, or for some less profound purpose, I have long considered compiling my favorite pieces into a book, but the task seemed daunting. My close friend Tom Cassidy, the Minneapolis artist, spoken word poet and editor (aka Musicmaster), offered to guide JoAnne and me through the process. JoAnne and Cassidy both have high standards. When I say they are like a shortstop and second base tandem, they both look at me funny.

There were 300-plus columns to sift through. Many were deservedly lost to history or silverfish. JoAnne and I tussled over the rest. About one hundred columns made the cut. Cassidy masterfully sculpted our choices into categories, adding his drawings and our photos. He collaged a whimsical cover and wrote a foreword that is funnier than any of my essays. Without JoAnne and Tom Cassidy there would be no book. I am profoundly grateful to both of them.

This may sound strange, but many people’s first impression is the physical quality of the book. It is hefty, glossy, colorful, and fun to read. JoAnne suggests that readers

jump around and read articles in no particular order.

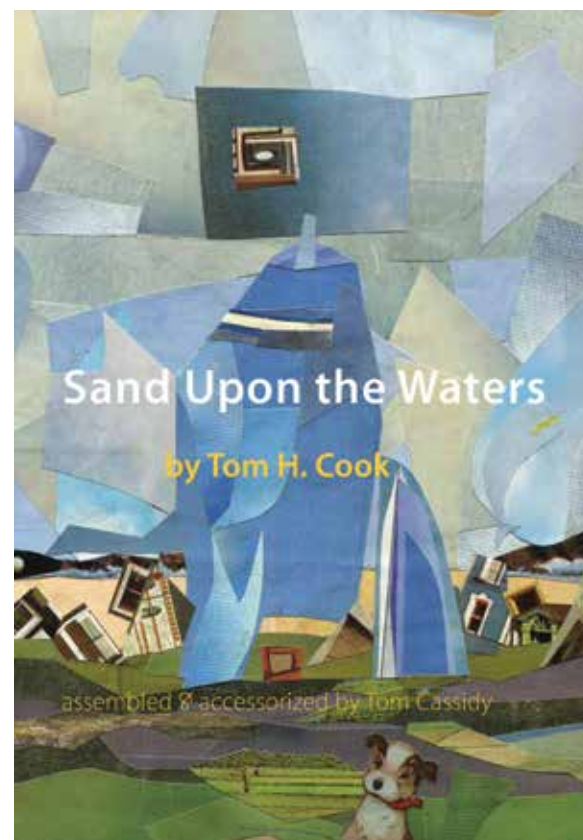
**How do we get a copy?** Magers and Quinn is carrying Sand Upon the Waters (SUTW) locally and online. I told Karen, the book buyer for M&Q, that a gaggle of fervent neighbors would storm the store shelves after reading this piece. (She was gracious but skeptical.) SUTW makes a great gift that explains us Minnesotans a bit. It reflects my observations and experiences in the neighborhood over 35 years. It is unique, heartfelt, and not exorbitant at \$14.95. If you have a neighbor who complains regularly about my left-wing ramblings, SUTW (the book) makes a nice passive-aggressive present. This is an assortment of columns that I still find funny and occasionally wise. After all, who doesn’t like an assortment?

**Final thoughts?** I very much appreciate this opportunity to say good-bye to my readership the way I came in. It has been a delightful adventure. Thank you for all of the notes and encouragement. If you chuckled over or shared one of my columns with someone else, I appreciate it.

My website is a way to stay connected and another option for purchasing my book: sanduponthewaters.com

I will be in town doing a reading with Tom Cassidy at Black Forest Inn (26th and Nicollet) on September 30 and at Eat My Words (214 13th Ave. NE) on October 1.

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



Tom Cook’s new book “Sand Upon the Waters” is available at Magers & Quinn Booksellers in Uptown. (Cover provided by Tom Cook)

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# Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

OK, I'll give this another try. Let's talk about high school reunions. As you may recall, my previous column was about my broken elbow and usurped my topic of reunions: You can write about only what's on your mind; I'm healing quite well, thank you.

Many of you are fresh off another five-year round of reconnecting with or actively avoiding the old gang, and I hope you had a good time whichever choice you made. The number one reason for not going can be summed up in one sentence: I hated high school, so why return to the scene of all that slime? I can respect that. But I liked high school and I go to all the reunions. Certainly I had my scrapes and bumps and disappointments—nobody gets out of adolescence unscathed—but all in all it was a pretty good time.

My graduating class had 220 students—enough for a diversity of styles and strengths for everybody to find a place, but not so many that anyone was invisible: Everybody knew everybody. There were cliques galore (popular kids, smart kids, jocks, musical and talented kids of every stripe) and while I can't say I belonged exclusively to any one, I was at least a fringe member of each of them. I was what you'd call a floater.

Just as you never know when you're walking into a tragedy—say, flying off a set of stairs, landing on concrete and smashing your elbow—you also can't predict when a blessing will be bestowed on you you'll never forget.

One of my fondest memories is the day I became an honorary member of the smokers' crowd. I was a senior and on my way to Physics, a class I was surprised to learn I loved. But first I had to pee. Real bad. As I passed the Industrial Arts wing (i.e., boys only in those days) I ducked into the one nod to female existence, the girls'

bathroom just off the main hall. As I began to push open the door I heard a loud "Incoming!" and walked into a haze akin to a combination of downtown Beijing and the Dust Bowl. I'd simultaneously entered and discovered the fabled smokers' bathroom.

Standing guard was the de facto matron whose name was—I'm not lying—Wendy Weed. She was smoking a cigarette and, with Physics on my brain, I stared at what appeared to be a full inch of ash dangling, fascinated how it just stayed there. Wendy rasped, "Hi, Dot, want a cig?" "No," I replied, "I want to pee."

With the bravado of Don Corleone, Wendy banged on one of the stall doors and shouted, "Get out. Dot needs to pee." Out scrambled half a dozen classmates skipping one class or another, allowing me to relieve myself. Wendy had power.

As I washed my hands, I thanked Wendy and told her she was a lifesaver, an odd compliment to a seventeen-year-old chain smoker, and she told me I was welcome anytime, adding, "I'm usually here."

Then I was off to Physics, where I entered reeking of smoke and feeling happy to have a new friend. And I did. Wendy and I never socialized formally, but we greeted each other in the hall (when she was off duty) with deep regard.

My next class reunion is in two years, and I'll be there. And I'll look for Wendy, outside, with the smokers. And I'll greet her with a big hug and thank her for making my life better. I hope she shows up.

**- Dorothy**

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

## Saint Paul's Church on Lake of the Isles Collection Saturday September 24 - 10am-2pm *future date: Oct 22*

We will be sorting all donations at the curb this year, so please check carefully before you donate to save time as you drop off (we don't have the staff or space to distribute/dispose of unrequested items). Thank you so much for thinking of your neighbors -locally and throughout the world- during their time of need!

### Groveland Food Shelf (grovelandfoodshelf.org) and Joyce Uptown Food Shelf (joyceuptownfoodshelf.org)

All non-expired, shelf-stable foods and unused household product donations are welcome.

The most popular items chosen by clients are

- o coffee
- o cooking oil
- o canned meats and fish
- o beans
- o peanut butter

Cash donations will also be collected on-site to support Joyce Uptown's bulk purchasing efforts.

### Books for Africa (booksforafrica.org) and Saint Paul's Little Library

Gently used/new, culturally sensitive books\* accepted - no mildewed, dirty, or torn books, please.

- o children's and young adult books
- o current fiction and nonfiction

Published in the last 10 years:

- o primary/secondary/college textbooks
- o medical/nursing/technical/science books
- o dictionaries/thesauri/reference books

\*Not accepted: encyclopedias, travel, or cookbooks.

### YouthLink (youthlinkmn.org)

Listed items only, please - their space is very limited.

- o Bug spray
- o Deodorant (big need!)
- o Adult XS & S underwear
- o Bras
- o Lip balm
- o Hair conditioner
- o Backpacks
- o Diaper bags
- o 2T clothing
- o Newborn - 3mo clothing
- o Car seats
- o Baby socks
- o Baby bottles

### Episcopal Relief & Development (episcopalrelief.org)

Cash donations will be taken to assist those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine.

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Come listen to an amazing bluegrass trio, decorate little pumpkins, visit with neighbors, and enjoy the changing of the seasons in the park. Take pictures and don't forget to tag us on Instagram! @lowryhill\_mpls

**LHNA Meetings:** The next board meeting is Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All Lowry Hill residents are invited to attend. More information and links available on our website.

**Twin Cities Marathon:** On the morning of Sunday, Oct. 2nd, athletes will make their way through Lowry Hill. Come out and show your support!

**Follow us and tag us on Social Media!:** LHNA is now on Instagram @lowryhill\_mpls. Or follow us on Facebook, search for Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association.

**Donate:** We rely on support from residents like you. Please consider making a charitable donation to LHNA on our website or send a check to: LHNA, PO Box 3978, Minneapolis, MN 55403

### safety tips:

## KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

*To help deter crime in  
our neighborhood!*

Safety at home is important in keeping everyone safe. Here are a few very simple things that you can do to help keep your home safe:

- **Keep exterior lights on!** On front porches, back porches, side doors, and near your garage. Motion detector lights are also very effective.
- **Keep exterior doors and windows locked.** Use quality locks, including the garage doors. Keep garage doors closed unless you are in or near the garage, even during the day.
- **Don't leave a garage door opener in a car** parked outside on the street, parking pad, or alleyway.
- **Don't leave wallets, purses, computers, or other valuables in a car,** even if the car is in the garage.
- **Don't leave valuables, like bicycles, unsecured on porches, patios, or in the yard.** And, if you have very valuable bicycles, even if stored in the garage, keep them locked.

Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at [lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://lowryhillneighborhood.org)

OPINION

By Harvey Ettinger

**Petition to Repaint the Lake Harriet Bandshell Blue (Again)!**



(Photo T.J. McGovern)

A generation ago, the Lake Harriet Bandshell was painted a pale blue that reflected lake and sky. Many area residents would like to see it blue again and are petitioning the park board to repaint it in Spring 2023 when it is renovated.

I encourage all Lake Harriet Bandshell lovers to overwhelmingly support the repainting to the original classic, festive blue hue which led to multiple national architectural awards when it was designed by the architectural firm Bentz-Thompson-Rietow and built in 1986.

This is a rare opportunity to correct an earlier decision by former MPRB Superintendent John Gurban, who made the unilateral decision to change the color to beige at its last major renovation in 2004. According to a Southwest Journal Article from July 22, 2004, when asked if the Park Board should have consulted the public, Gurban responded: "Why?".

Please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/paint-the-harriet-bandshell-blue> and contact your local Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioners.

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(Photo Cecilia Michael)

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