By Linda Mack

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guidelines for Lowry Hill East address the design of new housing in the district as well as improvements to existing housing. The designation study and design guidelines can be found at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/landmarks/WCMS1P-148327.

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

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

Hill and Lake History to page four
From Eye, to Hand, to Heart,  
By Joyce Aprea Murphy

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

The first drawing, number one is my first impression when I started to draw this subject. The second drawing is the refined version of the first with the right colors, the right rendition of the subject matter. And yet each drawing is correct at getting the job done in its own way. The first drawing is a direct non refined attempt at getting the drawing down on paper, bold strokes, and bold colors reproducing the image. It is not a perfect rendering and yet the finished drawing has a power, an emotional reaction to the subject. It gets the job done like the worker in the drawing. The second drawing is a refined calmer piece. Why is this? The only answer I can give involves how I go about making a drawing. Art is a sensual experience and not an intellectual experience sometimes with any reason or causes or explanations.

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

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

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

Trunk Show at Textile Center

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

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

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

How did you become interested in public space? It started as a curiosity while a member of a traveling high school soccer team. We would play games in Blaine, Coon Rapids, Apple Valley, etc. I was just struck at the vast expanses of grassy fields, monotonous houses, and strip malls that were in stark contrast to my family’s sense of civic purpose and service, sparked a life-long interest in what makes a great community, safety, joy, family, etc. In my experience, interacting with those who we perceive to be different is the best way to realize all that we share. Cities, in my mind, are the best vehicles to facilitate these sorts of interactions. Within cities, it is our public spaces and public realm – our parks, streets, sidewalks, even private spaces like skyways and cafés - that create the conditions for us to connect. I share Frederick Law Olmstead’s credo that the creation and enhancement of the public realm is nothing less than strengthening the backbone of our democracy.

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

How did you come to learn about this approach to placemaking? I first came across this approach while working for a neighborhood economic development group in Jamaica, Queens New York City. My boss had been a leader at the Bryant Park Corporation, which had been revitalized in the 90s and through this very holistic approach. We began to apply it to the lower income, but still bustling, neighborhood where our organization was based. We achieved tremendous results and it was a perfect marriage of my love of the built environment and people. After working at that organization I went to Yale for my MBA with the intent of moving back to the Twin Cities and putting this approach to work. Upon moving back in 2011, few people really understood this sort of approach and those that did were not in a position to hire me at their organization. After a year of discernment, I realized that this was my calling and I forged out on my own and started The Musicant Group.

Meet your Neighbor to page 10

Happy Holidays from The Wille Group

If you’re planning to sell your home in 2016, please invite The Wille Group over for a no-obligation consultation. We will help you prepare your home so that it sells for the highest price possible. Rely on our experience and expertise for all your real estate needs.
Wedge. In 2008, Mead & Hunt conducted a more detailed historic resource inventory. Both efforts came to fruition in 2015 as the Heritage Preservation Commission staff focused on designating properties connected with the city's streetcar history.

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

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

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

A typical streetscape in the Lowry Hill East Historic District, the west side of Colfax looking south from 24th Street West, shows the rhythm of the houses.
Neighborhood parks and neighborhood schools:
Prized assets for strong communities

By Michael Wilson

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

Our four Hill and Lake neighborhoods are blessed, of course, with two of the four major lakes that comprise the Chain of Lakes Regional Park, one of the most heavily visited recreation destinations in the entire state, as well as with a fine segment of the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway. But we also are blessed with a bounty of neighborhood parks as well, including two of the largest in the Minneapolis Parks system: 32.9-acre Kenwood Park, the jewel of our many Hill neighborhood parks, and 54.5-acre Parade Park, which includes Spring Lake; and 32.9-acre Kenwood Park, the jewel of our many Hill and Lake neighborhood parks.

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

Small parks: much appreciated, lovingly tended

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

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

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

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

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

In 1929 the School Board asked the Council to vacate the strip of land between the Triangle and the Alcott School grounds which had been earmarked for a street. The Council did so on May 31, 1929.

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

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

Neighborhood parks, schools to page 6
CIDNA’S ALCOTT SCHOOL: INFORMATION NEEDED!

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

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

Editor’s note: The story of our Hill and Lake neighborhood parks and schools will continue in our January issue, but to do so we need your help. If you or someone you know attended Alcott School, or if you have recollections or information about the school, please contact us at <hillandlakepress@gmail.com> or (612) 743-6546.

The Bridge for Youth

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

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

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

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

Book Release for Celebrated Cook and Author Beth Dooley

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

As I write this, the neighborhood continues its love-ly fall run of 10-20 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Although some snow may arrive by winter solstice and Christmas, overall the extremely warm temperatures should continue through much of meteorological win-ter.
The reason, as we all now know, is El Niño. But do you know who El Niño is?
Of course, it’s “the warm phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (commonly called ENSO).” But that is only the newest, scientific explanation. Older views may well have more currency today.

In 1978 I traveled to Peru in search of stories, including that of the newly excavated palace at Chan Chan, capital of the Chimu empire. Chan Chan (“sun”) is a massive urban complex that thrived from three generations living there. After the city was abandoned, it looked like endless ribbons of melted ice cream. What did Chan, capital of the Chimu empire, look like? To Chan Chan (“sun”) is a massive urban complex that thrived from three generations living there. After the city was abandoned, it looked like endless ribbons of melted ice cream.

What is now modern Trujillo, after the city was abandoned, looked like endless ribbons of melted ice cream. What did Chan, capital of the Chimu empire, look like? To Chan Chan (“sun”) is a massive urban complex that thrived from three generations living there. After the city was abandoned, it looked like endless ribbons of melted ice cream.

Today the massive abandoned city covers nearly 20 square miles on the Pacific coast, the palace alone more than two square miles, all built from adobe walls that in 1998 began to melt under the rainfall. When I asked the locals that question in 1978, their ready answer was: “El Niño,” a weather term I had never heard before. Every fifty years or so, they said, the skies mysteriously opened into a massive, unac-countable cloudburst of rain, never before seen by the Andes, one of the driest places on earth? When I asked the locals that question in 1978, their ready answer was: “El Niño,” a weather term I had never heard before.

The origin of the term El Niño, then, has to do with those freakish storms occurred, generally around Christmas; hence, “El Niño,” the Christ Child. When I asked the locals that question in 1978, their ready answer was: “El Niño,” a weather term I had never heard before.

The caption should have mentioned that the event was presented by FrameStyles. The art shows are juried by Trudy Frederick of FrameStyles. But there is another explanation that perhaps should color our current understanding of what this year’s massive El Niño portends, one bigger and hotter than the destructive one in 1998. Could it be the “rough beast, its hour come round at last” that William Butler Yeats prophesied would affect us, in his poem “The Second Coming”?

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

Listen to the prophecy:

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

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are these words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in the sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle.
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?

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

Amen.

Correction

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

The caption should have mentioned that the event was presented by FrameStyles. The art shows are juried by Trudy Frederick of FrameStyles.

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Later with Lisa
By Jean Deatrick

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

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

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

We love Lisa. And Sadie must be the happiest dog in the world.
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a festival of nine
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11 pm
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Minutes from the EIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) Meeting
December 8, 2015
Grace Trinity Community Church

By the Chair present: Andrew Degestrom (President), Carla Pardue (Vice-President), Brian Milavitz (Treasurer), Nicole Engel-Nitz (Secretary), Bruce Larson, Nancy Johnston, Amy Sanborn, Bill Elwood, Mike Erlandson

Greetings. Lisa Goodman, Council member
e IRA President Andrew Degestrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Welcome & Announcements:
• EIRA is interviewing candidates for the position of EIRA President with a goal of selecting and approving a new coordinator in the January 12 Board meeting.

Lisa Goodman, Minneapolis City Council Ward
• This month, instead of Lunch with Lisa, the Later with Lisa Event will be held at the Normandy downtown from 4:30-6:30 pm on Monday December 14.
• The Minneapolis final budget hearing will be held and residents are welcome to attend.
• Historic designation of the Thomas Lowry Park was approved.
• A resident has made an inquiry to the Council Member’s office regarding the installation of speed bumps along Humboldt Avenue between 28th Street and the Greenway. The street in eligible for speed bumps, but approval requires signatures of 75% of block resi-
dents/owners, and no parking is allowed within 25 feet of the bump. The block owners would need to pay $7500 per speed bump. (pair). There was a further discussion that speed bumps may be installed in alleys, although these must be taken up in the winter for plowing.
• The zoning variances for 2505 E Lake of the Isles Parkway were approved.
• The owners of 2701 Lake of the Isles have indicated that they are interested in tearing down the exist-
ing house to build a new house; the property is current-
lly in the historic review process.

Hennepin & Lyndale redesign work will make the traffic on Hennepin tricky, so drivers should look for alternate routes. The current work on sewer-unity redesign has uncovered a number of collapsed pipes that have to be dug up, upon completion of that work, the intersection at Oak Grove will be closed for 6 weeks. The sewer-unity redesign project was paid for by EIRA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting us at coordinator@eira.org at least five (5) days before an EIRA sponsored event.

Hill and Lake Press December 18, 2015

EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EIRA)
Submitted by: Nicole Engel-Nitz, Secretary of the EIRA Board

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

Green Team
• The Green Team held a successful Food Waste house party in November attended by a dozen people. Eureka Recycling came and talked about food storage (e.g. CSA deliveries) and methods of preventing food waste, and the Hill and Lake Press published a related article.
• The Energy Reduction meeting will be scheduled in January or February as part of Lake Street Energy Challenge.

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

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

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

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

President’s Report
• The Board approved contributing $500 to Grace Church for meeting space.
• John Louis has stopped working as the EIRA coordi-
nator. In the interim, the President is doing the newsletter, website, etc. while the Board works on hiring a new coordinator.

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

Board Review
• The Board approved formation of a Bylaws Committee to review and amend the EIRA Bylaws in early 2016 to correspond with changes in the charter. A report will be due back at the March Board meeting.
• Bruce Larson was approved as committee chair. Potential committee members can notify the chair if interested in participating; participants must be an EIRA member and sign a conflict of interest statement.

EIRA Goals and Projects for 2016
• The Board initiated discussion of potential EIRA goals and projects for next year.
• The President will inform committee chairs that they should plan to report at every Board meeting for 5 minutes.
• A board member suggested that a Crime and Safety Committee be formed, the committee would help determine strategy regarding these topics for EIRA.
• The Green Team has goals related to the Lake Street Energy Challenge through 2017.
• A survey of the neighborhood could be per-
formed with NRP funds to help identify what the neighborhood thinks should be priorities.
• The Board will plan a retreat for February to work on developing a priority list. The retreat may start with the list developed from the last retreat 4 years ago, and identify accomplishments.
• Committees may wish to review committee mission statements and compare to current tasks.
• During the summer, interns who could per-
form paid or unpaid projects may help implement some projects.

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

Meet your Neighbor from page three

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

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

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

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 27, 3:30 p.m. at Rustica.

Treasure's Report, Roger Klimmek

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

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

NRP/CPP Report, Claire Ruebeck

A form has been developed for requesting NRP funds.

The CIDNA Board approved these committee recommendations:

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

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

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

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

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold a community forum to discuss the policy.

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
December 2015 KIAA Meeting Minutes
KIAA Board met December 7th, 2015 at Kenwood Rec Center.
Chair Jeanette Colby called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors present: Jeanette Colby, Matt Spies, Angie Thompson from the City regarding our reimbursable transactions (expenditures), and these were discussed in the November meeting.

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

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

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

Update: If you are interested in receiving monthly email updates, please email us at kiaa54405@gmail.com. Also please visit our website at kenwoodminneapolis.org to learn more. If you are interested in participating on the Board, please contact us.

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

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (LHNA)
By Janis Clay

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association Board Minutes Tuesday, December 1, 2015
Present - Board Members: Phil Hallaway, President; Michael Cockson, Vice President; Dan Arozon, Treasurer; Janis Clay, Secretary; Raj Dash; Tom Huppert; Emilia Beugen; Sarah Janecek; Rebecca Graham; Clint Conner; Baygan Hartzheim; Jennifer Becket
Present – Non-Board Members: Lisa Goodman, Seventh Ward Minneapolis City Council Representative; Anita Thab, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board; Ralph Sievert, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Director of Forestry; Nick Sethri
President Phil Hallaway called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.
Community Announcements: Seventh Ward City Council Representative Lisa Goodman presented community announcements. There will be no Lunch with Lisa in December. Later with Lisa will take place on Monday, December 14th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Normandy Inn. The City is working on the 2016 budget, which will be adopted at the December 9th meeting. There has been an uptick in inquiries about potential tearowns. The Hennepin Lyndale sewer repair work is proceeding slowly, and experienced a setback when a pipe caved in. The Walker and Park Board are moving ahead with redesign plans for Vineland Avenue in connection with the Walker and Sculpture Garden project. It is uncertain whether the City would pay anything for Vineland redesign and reconstruction.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (Commissioner Thab and Director of Forestry, Ralph Sievert): Commissioner Thab and Director Sievert presented information about the City’s trees, including the plan for dealing with the emerald ash borer. Trees will be removed so not to take all the trees on a block at one time, and a diversity of trees will be replanted. Experience has shown that planting bigger trees is not better in new tree planting. The best size for ease of planting and optimum root regeneration is a bare root tree with a 1½ to 2-inch diameter. Residents can seek a permit to plant a bigger boulevard tree. Watering is a key to success. Anita Tabb discussed questions about possibly adding a children’s playground in Lowry Hill. Due to the very high cost to build and maintain, this would not be a priority at this time. A cit- izens group has been investigating the possibility of upgrading the warming house at the Lake of the Isles skating rink. Progress will be reported to the Park Board at its next meeting.
Treasure’s Report: Dan Arozon presented the Treasurer’s Report. There is no change from last month. Dan has been in contact with Robert Thompson from the City regarding our reimbursable communication-related expenses.
Committee Reports:
Environment: There was nothing new reported this month.
Zoning and Planning: There was nothing new reported this month.
Crime and Safety: Rebecca Graham presented the Crime and Safety Report. Serious incidents reported included a violent assault in the Calhoun Square parking ramp and several pharmacy robberies.

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

Neighborhood Priorities Survey Working Group/Community Participative Process: Sarah Janecek reported on neighborhood priorities. Crosswalks remain a priority. Sarah suggested that Board members come up with potentially good locations. Phll Hallaway and Michael Cockson presented information on options, cost, and procedures for reporting and repair- ing deteriorating neighborhood sidewalks. Baygan Hartzheim will research options for replacing the Historic Lowry Hill signs. Phil Hallaway brought up the possibility of adding picnic tables to Thomas Lowry Park.
Communications: Phil Hallaway and Chris Madden will meet to discuss ways to improve the web- site.

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

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

CPS Chelsea Adams, Crime Prevention Specialist Fifth Precinct | Minneapolis Police, 3001 Nicollet Av S | Mpls, MN 55408, (612) 673-2819, Chelsea.Adams@minneapolismn.gov (preferred). Call 911 on suspicious activity at the time you see it!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Where we are Now

By Jean Deatrick, Editor

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

Please send me letters and articles and encourage business owners to advertise so that we can continue to serve our four Lake of the Isles neighborhoods. This is such a wonderful and safe place to live. We are fortunate. I changed telephone and internet provider. If you wish to call, please use 612-377-7353. The former HLP number (612-377-5785) has been discontinued.

Community Solar Gardens – Ready for Action!

By Bill Elwood

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

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

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

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

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Since March 1976, The Hill & Lake Press has served the community as a non-profit newspaper staffed by volunteers. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.
stewardship of a place that makes it special (or a disas-ter).

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

What would your ideal Minneapolis be? An ideal
Minneapolis would put people, and their feelings, first
among all other concerns. At the end of the day, that’s
the whole point – we want to feel good. We feel good
when we have frequent serendipitous interactions with
those in our community. When we can experience the
joy of seeing faces of our friends and families.

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

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

Also, what triggers the need to send holiday cards in
the first place? I’m trying to remember when we first
started to do the annual mailing to the whole address
book. It must have been around the time we had our
first child. Perhaps it’s the addition of a family member
who triggers the need. But, we also have single friends
who are serial mailers with photos that tend to feature
our youngest is drafted to stuff, stamp and lick a couple
of hundred envelopes that I have hand-addressed with
care. I’d like to say that I invest the time to write out all
the addresses because I value a personal touch, but in
reality our address book is not digital and it would take
longer for me to type up the list.

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

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

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

Groundhog Day greeting cards, anyone?

Don’t Miss The Annual
Ice Skating Party

Sunday, January 24, 2016
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Lake of the Isles Ice Rink & Warming Hut

Enjoy Skating with your Neighbors & Family.

Get Warm by the Fire.

Drink Hot Cocoa. Eat Cookies.

Have Winter Fun!

Sponsored by Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Isles, Kenwood Isles & Lowry Hill Neighborhood Associations 2016
sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

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

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

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

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

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

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

The massive denial of humanity’s role in climate change. Tobacco smoking and the link to cancer. Football on all levels and the increased risk of traumatic brain injury and resulting memory loss, depression, dementia, and death. In all three cases there has been an orchestrated cover-up to preserve company profits and our own naivete. We have made science the villain, proving what we already deeply suspected. The arguments of the “deniers” on all three causes are uncannily similar. Rooted in denial and nostalgia, we do not want to know the consequences of our actions. We cry out for our loss, curse the messenger and whoever changed the rules mid-game. “Can’t I just watch the game?” I no longer can.

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