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HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING HITS UNFORTUNATE MILESTONE

We recently learned that a new milestone has been reached at the University of Minnesota. For the first time in history, this year tuition surpassed state aid as the highest revenue source at the University. If Governor Pawlenty’s current budget is enacted, the news gets worse – state support at the University willtrail projected tuition receipts by $100 million in the year 2012.

Although this benchmark received little public attention, it saddens me that our state has backed away from its commitment to higher education so significantly over recent years. In the early 1980’s, the state’s share of the cost of public higher education was 80 percent, with students picking up the other 20 percent. For the next two decades the state continued to pay roughly two-thirds of the cost, with students covering one-third. Since 2002, however, the state’s commitment to sharing college costs has shrunk to roughly 50 percent.

As a result, we saw years of double-digit tuition increases and mounting student debt. More and more students are finding themselves unable to afford the high cost of higher education, at a time when it is needed most.

Unemployment in Minnesota is currently at the highest level since 1983. In fact, by the time the recession ends, it is anticipated our state will have lost over 120,000 jobs – enough to fill the Metrodome twice with out-of-work Minnesotans. History has shown us that at a time of economic downturn such as this, record numbers of adults return to school to learn new job skills, or enhance the ones they have. As a state, this is an important time to make critical investments in higher education, investments that will prepare our young people for jobs, strengthen our economy and help Minnesota regain a competitive edge.

The DFL House budget we announced last month identified education as our top priority – from our youngest learners through our oldest. Despite facing a historic budget deficit, we do not propose funding cuts for higher education. The Governor restored his previously planned cuts to higher education when the federal recovery funding was announced, which will help sustain higher education funding at its current level for the next two years. By 2012, however, state funding will drop significantly under the Governor’s proposal.

Funding for higher education will be an important aspect of budget negotiations as we work to reach agreement with the Governor and the Senate. Our short-term goal will be to maintain a level of funding that will help make college attainable for more students. Over the long-term and once this recession is over, I am hopeful we can responsibly phase in more funding so the state can return to the tradition of paying up to 80 percent of the cost of public higher education. We cannot afford to lose another generation of Minnesota’s college students to sky-high tuition, crippling debt and even worse, limited opportunities.
Hausen Dance Spring Concerts 2009

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Hill and Lake Press April 18, 2009

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Lunch with Lisa Wednesday, April 22. The topic is Ward 7 residents on City Planning Boards and Commissions. Guests will be David Motzenbecker, Chair of the Planning Commission (North Loop); Chad Larsen, Chair of the Heritage Preservation Commission (Downtown); and Dick Sandberg, Board of Adjustment (Loring Park).

Meet at St. Thomas, Opus Hall Room 202.

Hausen Dance Spring Concerts 2009

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CONCERT

Sixteen-year-old Southwest High School and MacPhail Center for Music student Isabella Dawis was selected to perform in MacPhail’s upcoming Concerto and Aria Concert. Dawis will perform the piece “Concerto in A Minor,” by Edvard Grieg. MacPhail’s Concerto and Aria Concert is on Sunday, April 19, 3:30 p.m. at Hamline University. Admission is free.

FREE MOVIE

Monday, April 20th 6:30 PM, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 4537 Third Ave. South. OCCUPA-


ART SHOW

Earth, Outer Space and Trees is the title of the latest show at the Kenwood Deli with works by two Kenwood residents.

Mary Lou Child looks at outer space images from the Hubble telescope for inspiration. Her work is done in pastel. Janet Donaldson says, “I’m more down to earth, I keep coming back to trees. Donaldson works in oil.” The two women share studio #204 at the Grainbelt Brewery Bottling House in “Nordeast”, as Steve Cannon always said. “We worked there for several years before we found out that we’re in the former six-pack room,” Child said, “We love it, it’s a beautiful space,” they agreed. See their work at the May Art-a-Whirl at Northeast Minneapolis.

Kenwood School is Having a Reunion Party

Are you a former Kenwood Elementary School student or staff member? If so, the Kenwood School 100-Year Celebration Committee is looking for you to extend an invitation to a spring reunion and party. The gathering will be held on Friday evening, May 5 at the school and the Isles Market and Deli across the street. The Committee will host the event and you and your guest are welcome to come and enjoy a spring evening of Kenwood memories. The Committee expects the guests will include mostly twentieth century former students as well as staff. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity for adults to mingle and share the good times at Kenwood.

“We’re creating an opportunity for former students and staff to renew old friendships, see the school and have some fun!” according to Kenwood graduate Mark Peterson. Tours of the school building will be given from 5:30-7:30 PM, giving reunion guests a chance to roam the halls where grade school memories no doubt will be triggered and the story telling will begin. Guests are strongly encouraged to bring and share Kenwood memorabilia such as photos, yearbooks or other historic items of interest. “Please tell all former Kenwood students about this event as we do not have the mailing addresses for all former students and staff,” requests Mr. Peterson.

Refreshment including appetizers and libations will be served from 6:30-8:30 PM. At the Isles Market and Deli with owners Catherine and Jeff Veigel serving delicious food and drink. Guests are encouraged to continue the evening by making their own dinner plans together after the party.

A brief program will begin at 7:30 PM to recognize former students and community members who contributed to making the Kenwood neighborhood what it is in honor of its 100-year anniversary. Former students and staff are also encouraged to attend the Taiko Drumming performance in the school gym that morning as well as the dedication of the Mosaic Tree in the school atrium.

To learn more about these and other 100-Year Celebration events, go to kenwood.mpls.k12.mn.us. To join the Kenwood alumni mailing list, contact Kenwoodalum@aol.com or call Trish Conroy (612-377-8475) or Phil Hallaway (612-377-3530).

Art Show

Joyce Murphy has two drawings in the show titled, “Young wife” and “Calling home” a non-juried show for Hopkins Art Center members. They will be on display in the first floor gallery next to the theater area until the eleventh of May. The Hopkins Art Center is located at 111 Mainstreet, Hopkins.

Walker Library

May Programs at Walker Library

2880 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, 612-630-6650

Baby Storytime, Fridays, May 1 & 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m. For children from birth to 24 months. Preschool Storytime Wednesday, May 6, 10:30-11 a.m. At for children ages 4 to 6.

Conversation Circles in Minneapolis.

Children, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:30 a.m. Name: English speakers practice your English and make new friends in an informal, volunteer-led setting. No registration required. 612-630-6069 for more information.

Boys Book Club Thursday, May 7, 7-7:30 p.m. For boys in grades 2-4. Family Storytime Thursday, May 7, 7-7:30 p.m. For children ages 2 and up. Family Read: Nature’s Yucky: Gross Stuff That Helps Nature Work Saturday, May 9, 11 a.m.

Family Read: Helping Kids Find the Right Books Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.

Tools to help school-age kids find appropriate books.

• Tips for encouraging reluctant readers

• Ideas for creating literacy-rich homes and extending reading experiences.
Skyscrapers and Teamwork

By Jack El-Hai

Project SUCCESS leads a group of Jefferson Community School seventh graders to the realization of their dreams

Minds were at work in Karen Coppicus’s seventh-grade classroom at Jefferson Community School. Ricardo McCurdy and Laura Garcia, facilitators from the nonprofit organization Project SUCCESS, had just asked the students to line up in alphabetical order by first name, and the kids had to accomplish this task without saying a word to each other. A stopwatch was running. With some kids covering their mouths to stay silent, the group clustered, undulated, and soon spread out into a queue. A few students took charge by moving misplaced classmates from one spot to another. After some final refinements of the order, the group stood still.

Laura hit the stopwatch. “Two minutes — pretty good!” she announced. This was the day’s first lesson in reaching goals and achieving dreams. The students had used teamwork and non-verbal communication to form the line correctly.

During six earlier workshop sessions this year, and for the entire previous academic year, Project SUCCESS has been part of the lives of these Jefferson students, just as it’s been in the lives of 10,000 other students in middle- and high-school grades throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul. The organization began its work in schools in 1994, when founder Adrienne Diercks launched a motivational workshop for high school students. Since then, Project SUCCESS has evolved into a highly respected and influential program that combines the lessons of its workshops with the power of theater to help students articulate and reach for what they believe to be the most important goals of their lives.

But Ricardo and Laura, holding several large boxes of Lego pieces, still had more in store for the students. “Ladies and gentlemen, how do your dreams and goals connect with Legos?” Ricardo asked. “Sometimes your dreams can seem so far off, so high up in the sky, that it demands time, planning, energy and endurance to reach them.” He compared the process of designing and erecting a skyscraper. “First it’s a dream, then it’s a design, then your work starts at the foundation. Why does the foundation have to be strong?”

A boy raised his hand. “So the building won’t fall down.”

“Right. You need so much strength at the foundation to prevent collapse. And when you start building up, the rest of the structure has to be strong, too.”

The students divided into four teams, one for each box of Lego parts. Over the next ten minutes, their task was to build the tallest freestanding Lego skyscraper they could. They could use whichever design and teamwork techniques they thought best. The Lego structure would win. Again the stopwatch began running.

Ricardo and Laura observed as the teams set to work. Together these students had seen stage productions at Twin Cities theaters and discussed how they applied to their own lives, had tossed around ideas about their dreams and future, and had participated in workshops designed to sharpen their awareness of their interests, strengths, and desires. Now they approached Project Success to page 4

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Meet Your Neighbor, Doug Kress

Craig Wilson interviews Doug Kress about his daily routine staffing Ward 7 and his passion for rodeos and politics.

You are often credited with being a “second” Council Member for Ward 7 due to your exceptional competence as policy aide to Council Member Lisa Goodman. What is a typical day like for you in the Ward 7 office? I don’t have a typical day in Ward 7; each day is unique. When I arrive to work I look forward to seeing what each day will bring. My job is to represent the constituents of Ward 7. My day may include working with constituents on issues, policy research and drafting, managing paperwork, staff scheduling and reports, working with staff on city issues and policies, attending and participating in meetings, and of course assisting and working with the Council Member on constituent services.

Is it true that your office tries to return all calls and emails within 24 hours? Absolutely! We do our very best to respond to calls and emails within 24 hours when a response is required or asked. While we may not always have a clear answer, we try to let our constituent know we will find the answer and someone will respond. We truly like serving Ward 7 and its constituents and of course assisting and working with the Council Member on constituent services.

What issues are currently most important to Ward 7 constituents? Because the Ward is so diverse we have several important issues. With spring arriving, Because Ward 7 includes all of Downtown, we have another subset of constituents with other priorities, needs, and requests. This adds to some of the challenges but also adds excitement of our work.

Council Member Goodman is running for reelection. Assuming that she’s wins, will you stay on her staff? Will Ruth, her office assistant, stay too? While I don’t like to jinx the election, I am confident Council Member Goodman will be re-elected and I anticipate the staffing will stay the same. I think we will make a great team and work well together. Honestly, I believe we have the best office staff (and the best Ward) in the City. We pride ourselves with responsive and respectful constituent services. I can honestly say that I love my job. I don’t anticipate any changes but I’m open to new opportunities.

So I hear you’re a cowboy at heart? Yikes! Yes, I have been known to ride a horse and compete in rodeos. Believe me— I was even shocked when I first attended my first rodeo. For someone who grew up in the city, never had a pet, never even touched a live animal or listened to country western music, I never thought I would end up wearing cowboy boots, hat, and competing in rodeos. But when a friend challenged me to attend a rodeo, I couldn’t resist. Within the first year, I competed in national events, finals and actually accumulated a few prizes and buckles. Buckles are trophies at rodeos. But I’m not sure that qualifies me to be a cowboy at heart.

No, in my book that makes you a bonafide cowboy! What do you like about rodeos? The political thing to say would be the people. And they are great group of competitive, caring, and fun people. But I really like the adrenaline rush I get when I am competing. I get a certain charge when I get into the chute with a (sometimes) massive animal or face one coming out of the chute, there is exhilaration, or maybe fear, that draws me to the sport. As for competing; while I have been asked to join a team, I haven’t been able to compete this year. I’ve decided to work on my other passions—traveling. I am taking a vacation later this spring instead of competing in rodeos.

Where did you develop your passion for politics? I think it came from my listening to my family argue about politics. When I was younger I would listen to my parents and grand-parents have heated discussions about different issues. I remember one heated discussion about Nixon and my grand-parents differing opinions. It was a few years after Watergate and that is when I knew I wanted to be part of the discussion. This may sound odd, but it came naturally.

Do you have a future in politics? Only time will tell, but I ask for your support!

Project Success continued from page 3

the building of a Lego tower with varied team strategies. At one table, the students each concentrated on assembling different parts of their building — the foundation, body, and spire — with the idea of putting the sections together at the very end. The next table’s team assigned some students to building, others to searching for appropriate Lego blocks. Another team sat huddled around a rectangular foundation, with all hands engaged in linking together the blocks without much overall planning.

With less than a minute to go, two teams had erected the tallest towers, and they were close in height. But in the final seconds, one top-heavy Lego building collapsed. The winning skyscraper stood 29-1/2 inches high.

Ricardo, with three years of experience as a Project SUCCESS facilitator, walked from one table to another, pushing over each tower. “A tornado has just struck,” he said. “You have five minutes to rebuild, and the winning team will be the one that increases the height of its first tower by the greatest amount.” The stopwatch ran again.

This time, the teams adopted different strategies. Ricardo and Laura could see fewer students working on their own without planning and more of them dividing the labor. Ultimately the winning team increased the height of its building from 23-1/2 to 37-1/2 inches. Laura, in her first year as a Project SUCCESS facilitator, reflected on the lessons of the Lego-building workshop. A setback is disappointing, but it offers the chance to restart and improve if you analyze what went wrong. “When the towers fall, the base remains,” she told the students. “You always have something to start from. That’s your dream, your family connections, who you are. No one can take that away from you. When something crashes your dream, rebuild — don’t give up.

Adrienne Diercks, who grew up in the Hill & Lake Press area and had herself been a Jefferson student, developed the idea for Project SUCCESS soon after college, where vocational testing had pointed her toward nursing. She wanted something else. “I wanted to help kids dream about the future and take the steps they need to get there,” she says. “If you have time and support, look where you can go.”

Teaming with the Guthrie Theater, she piloted her first workshop for students at North Community High School in 1994. Students used the experience of attending the Guthrie theatrical productions to think hard about their own choices and goals for the future. That same year Project SUCCESS became nonprofit organization and began its growth into an organization that influences Twin Cities students and their families for years — in many instances, from sixth grade all the way through twelfth. Today the program now serves over half of all Minneapolis public middle school students and 85 percent of its high school students.

Some things always stay the same. “Kids still need attention, don’t need to be judged, and need love, relationships and support,” Diercks says. “They know what they need — the experiences and support that will take them to the next level.”

For more information on Project SUCCESS, visit www.projectsuccess.org.
The Sidewalks of Kenwood Sing and Dance!

By Cecilia Michel

The “Sidewalks of Kenwood” were alive with the sound of music as students danced through the decades in a riveting performance on March 23 at Kenwood Elementary School. Over sixty students participated in the original musical featuring a variety of tunes from the melodious Andrews Sisters to the Beatles with a dazzling purple portrayal of Kenwood’s own, former student Prince.

Kenwood students took the audience on a stroll down memory lane with songs beloved by Kenwood kids during the past 100 years. Musical arrangements by critically acclaimed Kenwood parent composer Robert Elhai delighted the packed house. The original musical play written by talented Kenwood parents Dorothy Richmond and Andy Vaaler portrayed significant historical figures as well as local events in the school’s 100-year history. Costumes were expertly styled by Brenda Moses, Mary Linn, and Roneet Rahamim.

The show opened with the year 1908, featuring a Model T car in its first year of production as the driver escorted a Boy Scout to deliver flowers on the first Mother’s Day. Charles Lindbergh serenaded 1920’s Principal Gladys McAlister followed by a Troubled Kid’s rendition of the Wizard of Oz Scarecrow’s “If I Only Had a Brain.” Radio show sponsor the Titanic Toothbrush Corporation of Topeka provided the energetic Andrews Sisters with the opportunity to warn Kenwood students “Don’t go swapping your PBJ with anyone else but me,” to the tune of “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree.”

The cool portrayal of a hippie child in the sixties and celebration of student diversity gave way to a lyrical rendition of Yellow Submarine by the Beatles with “our friends ... all aboard, many more of them live next door, and the band began to play.” The house band included parents Bob Elhai, Luca Gunther and Bob Walser as well as student musicians. The pivotal decision to remodel instead of demolish the old school building in 1966 was featured against the backdrop of national historic events of the Civil Rights movement and the war in Vietnam.

Perhaps one of the most rousing musical moments was the seventies “Saturday Night” remade to spotlight the Kenwood Saturday night spaghetti dinner tradition of that time. The entire cast belted out the familiar seventies song, displaying dazzling disco moves while chefs held high overflowing pans of spaghetti, barely avoiding spilling the pasta as they moved to the music. The keen direction by Kenwood teachers Scott Kohanek and Cindy Quehl accounted for the successful singing, dancing and acting required in the frenetic scene as well as the entire play.

The sentimental favorite of the evening was “Forever Blue and Gold” sung by the fifth grade actors bringing many in the audience to tears and parents wondering how do they grow up so fast? And then, with the student stage manager asking, “When will it finally reach the end?” the play concluded with the familiar Kenwood School Song as parents, students and even recent alumni joining in the long version!
Just this past week, I received an email from an educator in Florida with a presentation he’s developed about reforming public education. His premise is that schools have become obsolete because they are not teaching students how to become prepared for the real world ahead. His solution for reform is for our schools to focus on helping students to understand “systems.”

After all, the real world is made up of systems. We have ecological systems, transportation systems, economic and commerce systems, biological systems, social systems, etc. The more we understand systems, the more we can address problems and solutions to improving them.

His premise is that to learn about systems is to understand 1) their important parts, 2) how the parts fit together, 3) what is propelling the system to act, 4) how the system relates to the surrounding environment, and 5) what change is occurring within and around the system.

Conceptually, I loved this idea. In a real world practical sense, I immediately thought about the recent high school girls and boys state basketball tournaments. Did you know that three of the top four finals teams of largest schools in the state were Minneapolis Public Schools? Congratulations to Minneapolis South girls for taking runner-up in their respective tournament classes.

Athletic teams, after all, are systems that require understanding of each of the five elements listed above. These three Minneapolis high school teams were high functioning systems, who especially in basketball, the field, the mat, the track, the pool or the apparatus on which they perform.

But what I also see from traveling throughout the metro is disparity in resources. Some schools have exceptional facilities (As a photographer, I love good lighting!) while others have the basics. It concerns me that high school athletes in Minneapolis has become a relatively low priority, reflective of its funding support. For perspective, Minneapolis Public Schools dedicates 0.7 percent of its district budget on Student Activities and Athletics, as compared to multiples of that in districts statewide, and for Anoka-Hennepin and St. Paul districts at 2.5%, 1.9% and 1.8% respectively.

As witnessed this past tournament season, student athletes, especially those supported on teams with great coaches and traditions will occasionally beat the odds. But wouldn’t it be great if participation in athletics was a more recognized for its value in delivering education; about team and about the systems our students will face in the real world ahead.

Steve Kotvis, a Kenwood resident serves on a number of Minneapolis Public Schools boards and committees and offers a monthly perspective in the Hill & Lake Press “Minneapolis Minds” column. He can be reached at stevek@elemenop.us and his photos of Minneapolis student athletes are available at www.elemenop.us/f-go.html

Create, Play & Party with ARTrageous Adventures

Celebrate your next birthday right in the heart of Downtown Kenwood. Children ages 3 & up can explore the wonderful world of children’s literature and the enchantment of creating art with ARTrageous Adventures at the Birchbark House. Many themes to choose from or create your own based on your child’s interests. The Isles Market & Deli will be happy to cater your child’s party or bring in your own homemade treats. Each party includes invitations, art supplies for a themed project, party host and face painting.

For more detailed information, for a schedule of upcoming events, or to book a party please call Amanda Vallone at (612) 695-2831.
ASK DIANE

By Diane Woelm

Spring Cleaning & Painting

Spring always brings out the best in us, and just before we left for Arizona this winter where we enjoyed the cactus in bloom, and the mixed flavors of tangerines, oranges, lemons and grapefruit that gave off the most wonderful aromas, the Southwest Journal came to Savitt Paint and interviewed us about what they called “low-buck home improvements,” for their March 9th issue. First they talked with Mike Simons, the new sales manager who had this to say: “The easiest thing a person can do is to clean their home. Cleaning clutter not only makes the place look better, but also makes you feel better about where you live. And he said, there are a number of floor polishers and carpet cleaners to improve a floor’s appearance. Plus, there are grout pens that will paint over the grout between tiles.

From cleaning, a person can check to see if they have cracks anywhere in the house. Caulk can be used to fix the cracks, whether they are on woodwork, tile or a wall, ”said Simons. “A tube of caulk costs about $9.00 to fix the cracks, whether they are on woodwork, tile or have cracks anywhere in the house. Caulk can be used that will paint over the grout between tiles.

To smooth it out. Excess caulk can be wiped off onto a rag and then used on other cracks so there is no waste involved. An added benefit in caulking a window is that you will save money on heating bills by preventing drafts from entering a room.”

If you need to clean the surface of your building from graffiti, Zinsser Bin Shellac-Base Primer does a good job, and it is available in spray paint containers. Spray and leave for fifteen minutes to dry before painting the top coat to cover. Read the instructions carefully before applying. Stucco building surfaces are a favorite form of canvas for graffiti artists much to the dismay and anger of store owners. The B.L.N. product when sprayed on the graffiti penetrates the grooves and surfaces where the “artist” has left his mark.

House Painting

Jim Woelm, the store owner of Savitt Paint was also interviewed by the Southwest Journal and he said, “Just to paint your house, I find it’s amazing.” However Woelm warned, “when it comes to paint, quality trumps price and the difference between the two in square feet of the best and the worst is very noticeable. Don’t be cheap.”

Ask Diane to page 16
One thing that will punctuate my reign as the president of the Minneapolis Area Association of REALTORS® (MAAR) is that I’m a get-it-done kind of guy. Give me something to go on, and I will find the right person for the task or I will take care of it myself if asked to do so. Thankfully, I am surrounded by talented people that help me enjoy my career in real estate. Although there are many challenges, staying in the game in the last 7 years, I am consistently rejuvenated by the hard work of my colleagues.

The purpose of this series of articles is to inform the public about important matters in the local housing market. As an association of REALTORS®, my cohorts and I naturally believe that our profession has some value in this conversation. We spend our livelihoods learning the ins and outs of buying and selling real estate. We know average and median prices in your neighborhood, how many homes have sold in your city in the past month and how many pending sales are in the entire Twin Cities on a week-by-week basis.

We track foreclosures and short sales, price per square foot, active listings, days on market, housing affordability, percent of original list price received at closing and how much housing supply there is per type of housing unit. Throughout the year AR: Our annual Housing Market Activity Report, the 2008 edition was just released on February 9.

Could Supply Spur a Turnaround? Unemployment is up, housing prices are down, job searches and staycations have replaced rains and vacations. Thud, right?

Those of us weathering the real estate storm of the past two years have been struggling right along with the rest of the economy. Boz, right?

Let’s see if we can’t talk about something that shows early evidence that we might be turning a corner. As spring approaches, we’re seeing some interesting developments after a couple of winter months in the books. The Twin Cities housing market’s oversupply of homes for sale is being realigned at an accelerated pace. The number of new listings in February was 6,648, down 19.4 percent from February 2008. That’s the 14th month of the last 15 to feature fewer new listings than the same month one year prior. That’s good news, right?

Right. Alongside the jump in sales seen over the last nine months, this decline in new listings brought the total inventory of homes for sale in February down to 25,825—a drop of 13.5 percent and 4,017 units from this time last year. Given the current rate of sales, this amounts to 7.8 months of supply, down from 9.2 months a year ago.

All great news for what has been an oversupplied market.

There were 3,314 pending sales in February, up 7.4 percent from last year. That’s the ninth consecutive month of year-over-year increase. Closed sales finished at 2,070, up 3.0 percent.

With mortgage rates still down in the low 5 percent range, improved affordability and the recent announcement of an $8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers who purchase a home in 2009, the stage is set for continued absorption of Twin Cities housing inventory in 2009.

Days on Market Until Sale in February stood at 157 days, down 4.8 percent from last February. This is the third consecutive month of downward year-over-year movement. The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) continues its yearlong improvement with a March 2009 HAI of 209—31.2 percent ahead of its March 2008 mark of 157.

According to John Tuccillo, one of the foremost real estate economists in the U.S. and former Chief Economist for NAR, there are three necessary phases that must occur for the housing recovery to launch:

1) a decline in new listing activity
2) a decline in days on market
3) an increase in sale price to list price ratio

The first phase came about last summer and the second phase began in the fourth quarter of 2008. Hopefully the third phase will occur sometime this year. Strong affordability, improving chances for a housing recovery and a federal tax credit for first-time buyers equates to a welcome home-buying environment.

Housing Supply Outlook: Find the stories found in the Realtor® Economics section of www.mplsrealtor.com, updated by the second week of each month.


Housing Supply Outlook: Find the stories found in the details. The 100+ Neighborhood-level monthly housing market updates. The RREAR: Our annual Residential Real Estate Activity Report, the 2008 edition was just released on February 9.

Real Estate News

By Heid Erdrich

Reviewed by Susan Lenfestey

Let’s be clear. Most of the academic constructs of poetry are lost on me, and I cannot tell you what makes a great poem soar or a bad poem limp.

That said, when I started reading Heid Erdrich’s new collection of poems, National Monuments – a finalist for this year’s Minnesota Book Awards — I could barely hang on to it. This is a book of poems that soar, despite the heavy themes that run through it.

Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibway, and an HLNP neighbor, writes about the destruction of ancient cultures, and the desecration of homes, hair, and sacred objects. But she’s much too smart, and too good a writer, to do so with a didactic recounting of cultural genocide. Instead, she gives those ancient bones names and thoughts, turns them into mothers or someone’s lover, and in some cases, gives a nod to their current location. In “Kenneunku Man Swims Laps”, she responds to a 2008 news report that the bones of 12,000 Native Americans had been kept in drawers under the swimming pool of Hearst College at Berkeley University. She wryly imagines one of the ancient identities identified by archaeologists as the 9,000-year-old Kenneunku Man, swimming laps.

Lap, lap, lap, then turn in aqua agua. I’m used to water, dead along a river’s edge nine millennia.

But water here’s unnatural, vivid. Still, I am older than religion,—go to keep limber. Lap, lap.

Aqua’s such an off color, new to me like rubber, milk, electricity and jealousy.

And although Erdrich is clearly outraged by the colossal display and marketing of bodies and bones, including the remains of her ancestors, she illuminates the anger from behind, so instead of being blinded by a harsh light, we see things more clearly in front of a glowing scrim. In “Guidelines for the Treatment of Sacred Objects” the light that shines through is suffused with humor.

Guidelines for the treatment of sacred objects that appear or disappear at will or that appear larger in rear view mirrors, include calling in spiritual leaders such as librarians, wellness-context speakers and financial aide officers.

Steve Havig

Hill and Lake Press April 18, 2009

8

Hill and Lake Press

April 18, 2009
Sunrise
Strange and marvelous, and the source of myth, when a single event becomes the symbol of a lifetime. The crucifixion and presidential assassinations are examples.

One may choose a symbol to represent themselves, at least in their own mind. Blood red sunsets work for me, as paperboy, as fishing guide, and preferred when I ask: who am I?

There are other candidates surely. A lawn mower, a bloody hand injury and a life crippling result also occurred and would be understood by my family.

East Bearskin Lake, 5:00 a.m., square-stern canoe, three horse outboard motor, the wind of travel in my face, bound for the landing. And a scene of ominous portent.

Ahead in the east the rising sun illumines a cloud-burst grey sky from horizon to over my head and from north sky wall to south sky wall with red, red and yet wider red.

It is over whelming, clouds change hue, dark red to orange carmines, a sheer visual splendor driving into my mind the joy of a Menogyn camp visit, and canoeing.

So much depends upon
when a moon gleaming
opens the blue
right sky
and calls us to
dreaming

Six decades since paperboy, more than five since grandmother or fishing guide (best job I ever had), fifty-seven years of limited but usable fingers, as all can, I survived.

Along, in charge at 5:00 a.m. enjoying the glory of the globe, it’s spin, it’s atmosphere, the star that nurtures us all reading signs, anticipating the results, still saying “OK”.

Seven decades, arthritic hands now, bad back, bum leg, so it goes, it is all part of the experience. Sunsets or red, or not, still thrill me. When you see one think on me!

By Stephen Alderson

Sleep

Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1917 Logan Ave South, Minneapolis, at the corner of Logan and Franklin Avenues in Lowry Hill will host three important environmental forums in recognition of Earth Month. Each forum will focus on one major aspect of our living planet that has been greatly impacted by our industrial age and human intervention.

The first of the seminars, Environmental Pressures and the Honey Bee, will be held Thursday evening April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. and presented by Dan Malmgren, President of the Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association. General interest in bees and their main contribution to our society, how to become a beekeeper, and bee byproducts will be some of the topics covered.

Following the Sunday morning services on April 26th from 11:30am to 1:00pm an environmental food and fun fair will be open to the general public in the church’s Undercroft. You will have an opportunity to sample organic earth friendly products. Children are welcome to plant seeds. Learn ways to be part of the solution and to live in harmony with Mother Nature.

Then on Thursday, April 30th, at 7:00 p.m. Jennette Turner will present and moderate a film and discussion on genetically modified organisms entitled “The Health Dangers of Genetically Engineered Foods and their Cover Up”. Jennette Turner is a natural foods educator in the Twin Cities. Information about her workplace classes, private consultations and her online meal planning service can be found at www.jennette-turner.com. Environmental food and fun fair information will also be available.

Thursday May 7 will conclude with an impassioned presentation on “Global Warming and the Obama Strategy” offered by Robert Holt, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. The new administration has indicated some important steps it intends to take to address global climate warning. Mr. Holt, who has recently been published in the journal Environmental Practice will review and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Obama strategy. Global climate warming is one of the most important issues of our time. If we do not get certain things right and move quickly, we will make it very difficult and costly for the next generations to cope with the ramifications. All are invited to attend. Seminars are free and open to the public and begin at 7:00pm. There is handicapped parking available in the front of the church, limited parking on the premises, and general parking on the street in front of the church and around the neighborhood. For more information, check our website at http://stpaulsmpls.org/ or contact Saint Paul’s at 612-377-1273.

VOLUNTEER?

Students from Spain Need Host Families: June 25 - July 20! Have a new and exciting international experience this summer! Host a high school Spanish student for four weeks in your home. Learn about Spain and the Spanish culture while the student learns about living in an American family. Students participate in weekly cultural activities and excursions. A wonderful experience for families with children of all ages! Contact Amy Ellingson at 612-741-0210 or ellingson.amy@gmail.com

ST. PAUL’S TO HOST EARTH MONTH FORUMS
By Kathy Kallberg

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April 18, 2009
HILL AND LAKE PRESS
April 2009 KIAA Minutes
Meeting Held on April 6, 2009.
Chair Michael Bono called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Board Members present: Michael Bono, Chair, Terry Campbell, Jeanette Colby, Ellen Doll, Ron Lotz, Pat Scott, Roy Williams
Others present: Lisa Goodman, City Council 6th Ward, Michael Kutch, Kathy Williams, Treasurer’s Report – Roy Williams
Roy Williams reported that the association spent $942 to print the newsletter and $252 on stamps to mail it, $46 in interest income was generated during the month of March. KIAA’s cash balance stood at $33,171 as of 3-31-09 with $1,194 in checks outstanding.

City Council Update – Lisa Goodman (7th Ward)
- Lunch with Lisa’s April 22nd focus will be on 7th ward residents serving on city commissions and involved in city planning. Held at the University of St. Thomas, noon to 1:00 p.m.

Lake of the Isles paving project should start the week of April 20th, weather permitting. About 50 people attended the informational meeting held on March 30th; many questions related to assessments for the project.

The City Assessor’s office planned its annual “Understanding Your Minneapolis Property Taxes” meeting on April 8th and 9th. Street sweeping has started. The goal is to get winter dirt and debris off the street before it gets into the storm sewer. Watch for signs.

The Tree Trust program is offering $25 trees for city residents. Order before April 24th. Quantities are limited to “first-come, first-served.” www.treetrust.org/orderhere.

The Minneapolis Police Dept. has a new on-line comment form. Share positive or negative feedback at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/mpd-citizen-reports.

LHNA

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES APRIL 7, 2009
By Maggie Zawasky

Attendees: Brian Austin, Andrew Berton, Janet Hallway, Brian Holz, Jolene Jones, Beth Kehoe, Brian Miekle, Craig Wilson and Maggie Zawasky

Excused Absences: Marty Brown, Madeleine Lowery, Bill Kell, Chris Pulho, Rob Reul, Anita Tabb

Guests: Nick Colich; Patrick Fleetham, Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting; Honorable Council Member Lisa Goodman; Michael Kutch, Minneapolis Minnesnowta, Sarah Penniman – Southwest Journal, Dave Rudeador, Neighborhood & Community Relations; Taylor Stein, Hennepin Lake Lectors

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Craig Wilson, noting a quorum was present.

Movements:

Upon motion duly made (WilsonHols) and seconded (Austin), it was voted (9-0) to allow up to $3,000 for expenses associated with the annual Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association meeting on May 19th.

Lisa Goodman Street Cleaning has started – please pay attention to signage to avoid being towed. Lunch with Lisa will take place April 22nd at the University of St. Thomas. The next lunch will be in July. There is a two week window to appeal your property tax assessment. Trees are available to plan on your boulevard or yard, visit treetrust.org for more information. The Police department is unveiling on a new online feedback tool to record compliments or complaints.

Treasurer’s Report: LHNA reports a balance of $33,171 as of 3-31-09 with $1,194 in checks outstanding.

Neighborhood and Community Relations:

David Rudeador provided information on the new City department that will replace NRP, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. There will be no new staff positions created but reassignments from other departments. Each neighborhood will send a representative to meetings/meetings. LHNA needs to determine their rep. The department will not be located out of City Hall but a nearby location downtown.

Neighborhood safety will be the primary discussion topic. Our SAFE community liaison will present a video, discuss actions we can take, and answer questions. Other topics include: City council update by Lisa Goodman; KIAA budget presentation; a report from the project manager on Lake of the Isles resurfacing; an NRP update; a brief discussion of the question of our independent Park Board, a status update on the Kenwood School Environmental Improvement Project; and a brief update on the proposed Southwest IRT (a community meeting exclusively on this topic will be held June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Rec Center).

Board elections will be held.

NRP Updates – Pat Scott

As discussed last month, KIAA is eligible for $20,000 more that previously understood. An action will be needed at the annual meeting to formally request these funds.

A new community engagement process advisory board is being formed. The City Council has already appointed 6 or 7 members, and neighborhood representatives will also be selected. It’s not yet clear how these people will be selected, but Pat Scott believes it will be important to have the strongest representation from the more disadvantaged neighborhoods since their voice needs to be heard in the policy process.

On another note, plans are in place that Charter Commission meetings will be held on April 23, 28, 30, and May 7th to discuss whether the question of an independent Board of Estimation and Taxation and an independent Park Board should be on the ballot in the fall. For details on the proposed charter change and meeting times and locations, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/charter-commission/.

Lakes District Council Update-Pat Scott

The Lakes District Council was formed as a way for the Park Board and the residents of neighborhoods around the lakes to communicate better. The last meeting was difficult and conflictual as there was a lot of misunderstanding about the proposed Lake Calhoun parking lot renovation project. The council will continue in its purpose of improving communication.

Other topics:

The HGTW TV web site is doing a profile on Kenwood, and the producer is looking for someone who would like to be on camera discussing the attractions and livability of the neighborhood. The website is www.frontdoor.com. Contact Michael Uss, MiniAppleVideo, michaeluss@yahoo.com if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
mation available at this time. It is not confirmed whether this is related to the previous incidents around the lake but the possibility is being considered. No one has been apprehended at this time.

Colfax & Summit Mediation – The efforts to get both parties into mediation was unsuccessful. Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center was unable to schedule mediation between the parties.

Zoning and Planning

Trader Joe’s Proposal in Whittier neighborhood – The proposed location for a Trader Joe’s is at Lyndale and 22nd. The proposal requests a liquor license for selling beer and wine. This would require an exception to a current ordinance restricting an additional license if another liquor store exists with in 2,000 feet (Hum’s Liquor Store). The board will not take action but individuals are encouraged to write personal letters if they support or oppose this proposal.

Environment – Thomas Lowry Park Agreement – Friends of Thomas Lowry Park (FLTP) and the Park and Recreation Board and Tangletown Gardens have entered an Adopt-a-park agreement. LHNA will not enter into the agreement but will support FTLP partnership with communication needs as well as a $2500 donation to purchase a large urn and vegetation for proposed park enhancements.


The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 7:00p.m. at Kenwood Rec Center.

We welcome public attendance at all monthly Board Meetings and all Committee Meetings.

Communications: last Tuesday of month at Hallway Residence, 7:30pm

Crime & Safety: third Thursday of month at Caribou, 7pm

Planning and Zoning: third Thursday of month at Kenwood Deli, 8 am

Environment: third Thursday of month at Kenwood Deli, 8:30 am

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association

By Don Ostrom, CIDNA Secretary

CIDNA: City Life Gets Better

Lake of the Isles Parkway, the Cedar Lake bike trail, the playground of Kenwood Elementary School, bridges on the Midtown Greenway, even the roof of City Hall—all of them will get better this year. That was the report at the board meeting of the Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA), held on April 7 at the Jones-Harrison Residence.

Lake of the Isles Parkway. The long awaited repairing of Lake of the Isles Parkway begins this month and will be completed by the fall. It will occur in four phases, beginning with a six-week repairing on the west side of the lake and proceeding in turn to the south, east, and north sides of the lake. Those segments will be closed to vehicles while the work is being done. Information on the schedule and alternative routes should be available to the residents through, among other sources, emails from the CIDNA organization and maps in this newspaper (March 2009).

Cedar Lake bike trail. City Council member Lisa Goodman reported that the Cedar Lake bike trail will be completed—the last and most costly link, running through downtown, even going underneath the new Twins ballpark, has been funded.

Kenwood Elementary School playground. The playground will be made more attractive and environmentally friendly as a result of an improvement project funded by neighborhood organizations and private donations. The work will include taking down the chain link fence on the south side, and removing asphalt and replacing it with soil and grass. The CIDNA neighborhood includes many children who attend Kenwood, and the CIDNA board voted to contribute $10,000 to the project.

Midtown Greenway bridges. The Midtown Greenway bike and walking trail runs along an abandoned railroad route. Three of the old railway bridges in the area—crossing Dean Parkway, the channel between Lakes Calhoun and Lake of the Isles, and Knox Avenue—will be rehabilitated this fall, using funds from the federal Department of the Interior. The work will involve concrete, but it will be largely cosmetic improvements, not structural repair.

Green roof for City Hall. The Minneapolis City Hall needed a new roof. Lisa Goodman said that rather than replace it with a similar covering, the City Council decided to put in a green roof—soil and plantings over an impervious surface. The new roof will not only contribute to energy saving and reduce storm water runoff, it will also have twice the lifespan of the previous roof.

The rooftop is not handicapped accessible so it is not open to the general public, but tours can be arranged.

Annual meeting on May 5. The CIDNA annual meeting will be held Tuesday, May 5 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Jones-Harrison Residence, 3800 Cedar Lake Avenue. Local officials and candidates will make reports and answer questions. Refreshments will be served, and all local residents are welcome!

Emerson School lot, located one block west of the theater on 14th between LaSalle and Spruce. The theater’s auditorium is wheelchair accessible.

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CANDIDA TIGEROX
Minutes of Annual Meeting Grace Trinity Church Tuesday April 7th, 2009 7 – 9 pm
Our Website is: http://eastisles.org

Everyone is welcome at our neighborhood meetings; you do not have to be a registered “member” to participate. If you would like to become a member, please send an email to: schach.michael@yahoo.com

The meeting was opened by President Ross D’Emmanuele

Councilmember - Ralph Remington
Councilmember Remington reported that Trader Joe’s is interested in developing a parcel at 23rd and Lyndale. He indicated that the project would require a change in Minnesota state statutes related to proximity of stores selling wine and beer. He noted that neighborhood liquor stores are opposing the project.

Members asked a number of questions regarding parking, the past rejection of the Wedge’s effort to sell parking, the past rejection of the Wedge’s effort to sell

President D’Emmanuele indicated that Congressman’s top four priorities are: (1) peace, with a particular emphasis on programs, or other matters.

President D’Emmanuele provided minutes from the November, 2008 and January, February, and March 2009 meetings, and indicated that he would track down minutes for the December 2008 meeting. He suggested that Board members have an opportunity to review these meetings, and that they be approved at the May meeting.

Additional Southwest Corridor Motion
Board member Joe Sinnott raised a motion to support the southwest transit corridor proceeding on the Kenilworth Trail into downtown rather than the Midtown Corridor. President D’Emmanuele indicated that with unanimous consent the item could be added to the agenda. Board member Sinnott was very concerned that EIRA had not yet made a statement on the southwest corridor and wanted a position taken before he leaves the Board.

Board member Peter Levine suggested that it was premature for the organization to take a position on such a matter without prior notice or the issue being put on the agenda.

A tabling motion was made and seconded.

Discussion around the issue suggested that the Board have a neighborhood meeting soon to gather views of the EIRA membership so that the Board could take a position on the matter prior to decisions on the corridor being made.

The tabling motion passed by majority vote.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS:
Linda Schurz of the Nominating Committee asked each nominated Board member and alternate to briefly discuss their background and interest in serving on the EIRA Board. Following those presentations, Linda Schurz called for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

A motion was made to approve the slate of Nominating Committee candidates as a group, which passed unanimously. A motion was then made to elect the approved candidates, which also passed unanimously.

Congratulations to the new EIRA Board of Directors and Officers for April 2009 through April 2010:
Nancy Johnston – President
Mark Loftstrom – Vice President
Peter Levine – Treasurer
Michael T.Kieck – Secretary
Rosita Acosta
Ginna Portman Amis
Karen Carney
Sue Durfee
Harvey Ettinger
Rose Matthews
Jeremy Ryan
Helen Accorden – Alternate
Jane Schommer – Alternate

President D’Emmanuele thanked the departing Board members Joe Sinnott, Kate Lynch, and Julia Robinson for their board service. Peter Levine thanked President D’Emmanuele for his work as President. President D’Emmanuele asked all attendees to stay for refreshments and door prizes to congratulate the new Board members.

EIRA thanks FirstTech, Green Mill, Papaljohns, and Kowalski’s for generously donating door prizes for the EIRA annual meeting.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: May 3rd 2009.

If an object calls for its mother, boil water and immediately swaddle it.

If an object calls for other family members, or calls collect after midnight, refer to tribally specific guidelines. Reverse charges.

Using vivid imagery and historical references and facts — some pulled from the Internet — and by including victims of recent earthquakes as well as the falling bodies of 9/11, Erdrich makes the relics we’ve so casually viewed over our lifetimes into a part of real people’s lives, into somebody’s body, as familiar to us as our own.

Her poems leap from the so-called prehistoric to the modern, from dark to light, from the obscene to the tender. With the same sly wit and gasp-inducing truth that she uses to write about our ancestors, she writes about contemporary life — growing up Native, being a girl, a woman, a mother, and growing old. Her words tell us to love our bodies, our fleshy hungry sacred bodies, and remind us that no one should be sold — as flesh now or as bone later. No matter how much later.

Perhaps because these poems span such a range of time we are constantly reminded how precious our own lives are, and how fleeting. In “Black and White Monument, Photo Circa 1977,” she looks at a poorly lit snapshot (“Dark and light divide the shot.”) of herself and her cousins, pony-legged girls lugging unknown babies, and asks, “Why do we bear the cruelty of photos — the way they suggest anything/ can stop, any moment can be saved?”

But she’s more interested in the setting, in what was going on “outside the white border” of the photo.

Those beyond the border who would too soon die sick, or senselessly, or go unrecognized in a life both dark then slashed with too bright light.

And just because she can, and because these are poems after all, Erdrich plays with words, meter, and sound. In “Full Bodied Semi-Sensia” she flings the word “iron” into something different in nearly every verse. In “Girl of Lightning” she dances through a meteor shower of sound and rhythm.

Thunder loves you, mumbles charms to warm you — folded cold body.

Lightning’s pity picks you, licks a kiss, but what’s left to wick?

It’s the gift of the poet to be able turn something so slightly that we see it in a new way, to write a new emotion from the familiar, and sometimes, to draw us over the lip of the falls.

National Monuments from page 8

Our Website is: http://eastisles.org

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Our Website is:  http://eastisles.org

Support you neighborhood bookstore!

Go to HeidErdrich.com for a list of upcoming readings, and for an enlightening discussion of the historical, and literary, references, in National Monuments.

There are nearly 50 poems in National Monuments — angry poems, funny poems, love poems, literary poems, sexy poems, and even a dog poem. Read them all, because Heid Erdrich has that gift, in abundance. And because she is your neighbor.
2863-7 East Lake of the Isles

...the Waldron bungalows at 2863-7 E Lake of the Isles...still look nice and there is now a for sale sign". Preservationists prevailed in giving potential new owners the opportunity to buy this house..."needs new loving owner...abused...neglected but still a little gem."

CONDEMNED ON EUCLID!

So what’s wrong with 2520 Euclid? Is neglect an excuse to destroy rather than renovate? Owners plan to destroy this home and build a ‘green’ home.

GRANTED A REPRIEVE AND NOW...FOR SALE!!

Photo by Dorothy Childers

...the Waldron bungalows at 2863-7 E Lake of the Isles....still look nice and there is now a for sale sign”. Preservationists prevailed in giving potential new owners the opportunity to buy this house..."needs new loving owner...abused...neglected but still a little gem."

CONDEMNED ON EUCLID!

Photo by Dorothy Childers

So what’s wrong with 2520 Euclid? Is neglect an excuse to destroy rather than renovate? Owners plan to destroy this home and build a ‘green’ home.

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The following communication is from Mike Kennedy, City of Minneapolis, in response to an email sent in March to Jon Gurban, Parks Superintendent by Amos Deinard, a Lowry Hill resident. Dr. Deinard wrote HLP, “I thought your readership might enjoy this...”

From: Amos Deinard to Jon R. Gurban: (March 15)
The road that runs between the ice rink and Parade stadium from Kenwood Pkwy to Dunwoody Blvd. is in terrible shape. Is there a plan to resurface the road this summer? If not this summer, when? Thanks.

From Jon Gurban to Amos Deinard: (March 16)
Hello, Mr. Deinard. Thank you for your email. Please be aware that road maintenance is the responsibility of the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department. I have copied them on this email to let them know of your concern.

From Mike D. Kennedy to Amos Deinard (with copies to Steven A. Kote and Jon Gurban) (March 17, 2009)
Mr. Kotke asked that I respond to you. Thanks for your inquiry, and thanks Jon for your responses. The statement that Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of this road is incorrect, but it’s also incomplete. The complete answer is more complicated than that, and in order to answer your question, I’ll have to paint the whole picture.

This segment of road is commonly called either Emerson Avenue or Parade Stadium Drive. It is part of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s (MPRB) Parkway system and, as such, the MPRB has the ultimate responsibility for it. See the Parkway map at this link:
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow/docs/parkway-map.pdf

Back in the late 1990s there was a Public Works/MPRB Service Redesign initiative. Part of that effort gave Public Works the responsibility for what we call “routine and repair” of the Parkway system. That is, we’ll take care of the potholes and basic repairs as best we can, but that is the limit. As the overall condition of the road continues to deteriorate and our own resources for street repair dwindle due to budget cuts, that is the limit. All Public Works can do is do minimal patching in the meantime. That is where we are with Emerson Avenue/Parade Stadium Drive.

We were aware of a MPRB plan to perform some redevelopment of the Parade Stadium area which would have included closing and removing the existing road, and building a new connection along a new alignment through the site. That long range vision of the MPRB may have lead to the decision over the years to not put any effort or money into maintaining or renovating this road. That is, it wouldn’t be wise to spend a lot of money on something if it was to be removed in the near future: that plan would have solved this problem, but it seems that the project has stalled for some reason. Perhaps the MPRB can respond to that.

For now, this road has been placed on the list of roads that PW and MPRB use for planning Parkway Renovation in the category of “future reconstruction.” But at this point, it is unclear how that will happen. Until then, all Public Works can do is do minimal patching which will not improve the condition.

I know this may not be a very satisfying answer, but I hope at least it explains the situation.

SHOP AT MEHREA SHAW

Spring. A time of rejuvenation, reawakening. A chance to live in color again! New artisan fashion house, Mehera Shaw, announces their spring reawakening by relaunching their new Hennepin shop location (2004 Hennepin at the corner of Hennepin and Franklin on the edge of Uptown). Mehera Shaw is relaunching with new staff, a re-energized focus on creating their production, tightening their belts, and being able to turn a profit. They hope to keep the skyline at the edge of downtown Minneapolis colorful and creative.

Mehera Shaw designer, Shari Keller, uses exclusively natural fibers and is a “green” company. Ask about the 5% donation on all purchases to be donated to the St. Stephen’s rehabilitation program to homeless persons.

Hill & Lake Press is an all volunteer newspaper. We appreciate your patience when calling or emailing. A limited number of staff has been reduced during this economic downturn, and we will return your calls and messages. Please email if you do not receive your newspaper.

Support Hill & Lake Press

Our goal is to make our neighborhoods stronger and better by providing information about the residents and the issues that are important to the residents. Read our website www.hillandlakepress.com. Perhaps you can support our newspaper with a contribution of $10, $25, $50, or $100 or more. Make checks payable to Hill & Lake Press, c/o Jane Johnson, Business Manager, 2100 Fremont Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55405. Please include your name, address, and Email/Phone. Thank you.

Jean Deatrick, Editor, from page one

Reading the NYTimes earlier this week, I was stunned to read that a Columbia University journalism professor reported that many of today’s newspapers don’t read any newspapers. In the same issue, two articles reported on the declining state of newspapers generally. What a sad situation. How else can political, international, and economic issues be reported and understood in depth? Is the future of our local and small newspapers such as Hill & Lake Press doing fine for the most part, mostly because their focus is on a targeted small readership area. That is what we are trying to do in Hill & Lake Press. We try to address the issues that are important to our residents: the lakes, parks, traffic, and preservation of our historic homes and neighborhoods. And we provide a forum for readers who feel strongly about these issues.

Please continue to support us with your letters and contributions. As public advertisers, our advertisers can see, most of our advertisers have remained loyal for years and even now in this economic downturn, we rely on them. Thank you to our advertisers and thank you to our readers.

Jean Deatrick
BEING ADVENTURESOME

Part I - The Demise of Adventure Girl

Ah, remember the days when folks could load up the old covered wagon, harness up the horses and head out toward the horizon in search of new adventures? “How about that clearing over there, Ma?” “Looks mighty fine, Pa.”

And that was it. It was a done deal.

But, things are better now. If a family, who lives in a big old house somewhere, decides to pack up and move, they might need a semi truck to haul all of their stuff. They might even need two. Two huge trucks it might take because life is better now.

Why of course, it’s better because now we have more stuff.

We’ve got kitchen paraphernalia like coffee makers, coffee grinders, and tea pots. We’ve got specific doohickies like garlic presses and different slicers for vegetables, snap peas, carrots, tomatoes, squash, a bounty of stuff.

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Every Tuesday, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, there are ice cream flavors, grown using sustainable practices on Philadelphia Community Farm, in Osceola, less than an hour away. This season, the Isles Market and Deli…

There are gardening tools, real tools, and tools for making your hair do unnatural things. There are ice skates, skis and hockey gear; bikes, skateboards and scooters, basketballs, baseballs and tennis balls, and things that never get used like croquet sets and fishing poles.

Despite all of this stuff, there is a woman. That woman has a recurring dream. In this dream, the woman is alone and she has no stuff. Somehow she is not even carrying a purse or driving a car but, she is picking out her new home which is sure to be nothing like her existing home. It’s a modern urban loft.

During this glorious dream she realizes, even while she is peacefully sleeping, that her family is not there. This doesn’t bother her because she knows she is just dreaming and her family is back at home happily sleeping amidst all of their stuff. But, for a short time, in this dream, her stuff, and her family’s stuff, is nonexistent.

That dreamer was once a girl. The girl, when she was about eleven years old, would say she was going to the community swimming pool then instead, the girl and her best friend would use their allowance to hop on a bus which took them downtown.

Somehow, they were able to thoroughly entertain themselves carrying only a few dollars. On these days they visited China Town, Little Italy, Lincoln Park Zoo, State Street, Michigan Avenue, the Art Institute, and the museum of Natural History. They packed peanut butter sandwiches for lunch. They would always make it home before the streetlights went on, which was the summer rule of the girl’s household.

Adventure Girl and her friend, who we’ll call Stacy (because that’s her name) became teenagers. Stacy went to the Academy of Performing Arts in Chicago because during 8th grade play tryouts it was revealed that Stacy could belt out a mighty fine tune. After that she ventured off to South America to take a stab at photo-journalism. She cut off all of her gorgeous long natural curly blonde hair into a crew cut because the South American men were liking her a tad too much. When

BEING ADVENTURESOME

Philadelphia Community Farm CSA

Isles Market & Deli Pick-Up site

By Beth Dooley

Farm fresh vegetables are coming to the Isles Market and Deli. Every Tuesday, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, through the growing season, will Hill & Lake neighbors can pick up the very freshest lettuces, green beans, peppers, snap peas, carrots, tomatoes, squash, a bounty of fresh ingredients.

As a member of this CSA, I look forward to the farm festivals and (optional) “work days” where I can explore the gorgeous land, have a hand in planting and harvesting, and enjoy locally grown and great food.

For more information, pick up a brochure at the Isles Market and Deli, or visit the website: www.philadelphiacommunityfarm.org or e-mail pocomfarm@centurytel.net. Or contact Beth Dooley <brittish@earthlink.net>
sand upon the waters

By Tom H. Cook

1. Hyperparathyroidism is:
   a) the critical ingredient in both methamphetamines and Coke Zero.
   b) a particularly virulent strain of influenza known to attack both thyroid glands simultaneously, resulting in an elevated creatinine level and heartbreaking potted-ness.
   c) a very unsuccessful spin-off of the Milton Bradley board game Hippocrates.
   d) yet another “ism” on which, according to former Vice-Weasel Cheney, President Obama has failed to take a firm enough stand.
   e) a disorder of the parathyroids, four pea-sized glands, located behind the thyroid gland in the neck. In the United States about one in 500 women age 60 and over develop the disorder each year.

If you answered “e” it is alright to move to another part of the paper (perhaps the minutes of the last CIDNA meeting), as you are probably versed on the subtle havoc that primary hyperparathyroidism can wreak. The tiny parathyroid glands produce parathyroid hormone (PTH) which helps regulate the balance of calcium in the body. The PTH triggers the release of calcium from the bones when more is needed. If one or more of the parathyroid glands increase in size, more PTH than required is produced, raising calcium levels above the normal range. The calcium pulled from the bones by the “hyper gland” diminishes bone density and the excess calcium in the blood leads to many repercussions: inexplicable aching bones, headaches, heart palpitations, heartburn…the list is long.

There is a personal angle. Though still in her mid-fifties, my wife JoAnne had some symptoms—osteo-, tiredness, trouble concentrating, fatigue, forgetfulness, anxiety, and mysterious aches and pains. (She said to me, “I knew I would get old, but I just did’t think it would happen so fast.”)

Her osteoporosis diagnosis in 2005 could have been a tip-off, but the one does not necessarily indicate the other. The suddenness of onset ruled out aging, but it took five doctors about four years to finally piece together a diagnosis.

The operation, a removal of the offending parathyroid gland(s), is called a parathyroidectomy. It is accomplished through a small incision in the neck. Our bodies can get along just fine with three, two or even just one of these glands. While the procedure is fast (typically 20 minutes), it is important to find a surgeon who specializes in this operation.

The results are quite remarkable in most cases, with a rapid return to old energy levels. In fact, all the complaints caused by too much calcium in the blood quickly abate. Bones will begin to rebuild at a rate of about 10% per year.

My hesitancy in writing this was imagining readers struggling vainly with life threatening disease and painful illness. I know there are far worse tragedies to suffer than what JoAnne has been through. But because our search for an answer was so long and arduous, my hope is to spare someone else the delays we experienced. If you know someone with a similar cluster of symptoms, have them discuss primary hyperparathyroidism with their physician. It is a common affliction easily identified and rectified by a capable endocrinologist or internist.

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JoAnne’s osteoporosis will take years to turn around, but her stamina, faculties, and sense of humor have returned. For this we are delighted and very thankful.

Tom H. Cook is a not very local writer. JoAnne Cook is still unable to run a marathon, but then she never could.