



West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Wavelength

April 2006

Newsletter for the West Calhoun Neighborhood by the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

- West Calhoun boundaries are West Calhoun Parkway on the East, West Lake Street on the North, West 36th Street on the South and France Avenue on the West
- The neighborhood includes Lake Calhoun's northern shoreline, Calhoun Commons and surrounding businesses, many residential buildings and 32 homes.

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Attention Condominium or Renters Associations:

West Calhoun board members would like to attend one of your meetings. Please call the West Calhoun hotline, 612-928-3511.

Earth Day Cleanup Saturday, April 22, 9:30am

Join us Saturday, April 22 at 9:30am for our annual Earth Day cleanup. Meet at the Midtown Greenway West Access Point behind Whole Foods Market to clean up the Greenway. There will also be people cleaning up along Lake Calhoun shoreline. We will provide gloves and garbage bags. You provide the power! Suggested dress for

the Greenway cleanup is pants and long-sleeved shirts and comfortable, closed toe shoes.

Wireless Minneapolis

Two public meetings will be occurring on the planned Wireless Minneapolis initiative. You may have heard about this initiative already but these sessions are being conducted by the City to help answer any questions that you may have. The City Council included a "community benefits" requirement as part of the final contract for implementing Wireless Minneapolis when it voted to approve the "business

model" for Wireless Minneapolis that includes a public-private partnership for building and managing the proposed broadband network. The two scheduled sessions are 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday April 4 at Plymouth Congregational Church at 1900 Nicollet Avenue S. and 6-8 p.m. on Thursday April 20 at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 Second St. N.E.

Comment on police reports: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/news/20060330CommunityPolicingInitiative.asp>

Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour May 6 and 7
<http://www.msphometour.com>

West Calhoun Neighborhood News

Local business Liberty Tax Service is collecting cell phones for soldiers (address and website) www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com

Bus shelters

We've been talking about it for a long time, but finally, you will be able to see progress! Construction of two new bus shelters will begin this spring. Both shelters will be located on Excelsior Blvd.; the westbound one will be in front of the fire station and the eastbound one will be across the street on Park Board property at Calhoun Boulevard. West Calhoun has worked in partnership with Metro Transit and local businesses to fund these shelters.

Lake Calhoun Area Site Plan

Bob Fine is West Calhoun's new representative to the Park Board. Fine has held the seat for a number of years, but due to redistricting, West Calhoun is now a part of the area he represents. WCNC members strongly urged him to re-install the fishing pier back on the West side of Lake Calhoun. Board members also asked for his support of traffic signs along West Calhoun Parkway. Fine said that no changes or improvements will be made until a site plan is developed for the entire Lake and surrounding areas. Issues that are being considered: new sailing village (see article on p.?), expanding trolley service from Lake Harriet possibly to Midtown Greenway, reducing congestion near the Refectory, improving access for windsurfers, one-way roads, relocate Archery range. There is no proposed date for completion of the site plan.

Development in West Calhoun

(approved at annual meeting?
Call for a copy?)
Since January, the WCNC Board has been discussing

guidelines for development in the neighborhood. The issue has come up repeatedly in the last year as nearby properties have been bought and redeveloped. Our area is unique because it lies within the boundaries of the Shoreland Overlay District, a set of guidelines that the Minneapolis City Council adopted in 1988. In addition to city zoning codes, these guidelines recommend specific height and density limits.

Midtown Greenway

land use and development plan – info from Beth/Mari???

Southwest Light Rail Line

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) is currently in the process of evaluating a number of alternatives for the Southwest Corridor, a transportation route extending from Eden Prairie to downtown Minneapolis. The Corridor could possibly run via the Kenilworth Trail or it may connect with the Midtown Greenway. Transportation options that are being studied are eight light rail alternatives and two bus alternatives, although there is separate interest in a streetcar line along the Midtown Greenway. The HCRRA is very interested in your feedback. You can give it and also get more details at www.southwesttransitway.org or call 612-348-9260. We will continue to update you as to opportunities to provide public feedback on the alternatives in the upcoming months. A decision is expected to be made next winter.

Community Garden

Community garden planning is

underway. We have applied for a permit from the HCRRA and we are currently looking for soil to cover the 40x40 foot area planned for the garden. The soil is required due to the debris that currently sits on the area which was once a dump site. On top of the two-foot soil layer, we will build raised beds and add growing soil. The garden is required to be non-productive, meaning that nothing edible is to be grown in it. We are in the planning stage right now and will be contacting people who have expressed interest in helping. Please call our Voicemail Hotline, 612-928-3511, if you would like to get involved in helping to create this beautiful space.

Pond Hockey Tournament

Neighborhood feedback on the pond hockey tournament was presented to Park Board representative Bob Fine. Fine assured the Board that changes will be made in the future if the Pond Hockey tournament is held in that location again.

West Calhoun Development Updates

Lake Calhoun City Apartments/Ackerberg project behind the old Ministers Life building on Lake St. – delay in construction to rectify entrance and exit issues.

Calhoun Condos/Mathwig/LOOP project on the site of the Warco/Variant buildings on Lake St. – construction has begun

The Lander Group/Weisman Enterprises site project, 2626 W. Lake St. – In November, the City Planning Commission denied a conditional use permit and a variance relating to height and lot

coverage at 2622 W. Lake St. In January, the Lander Group presented an updated proposal for the Weisman site, lowering the height to 83.5 feet and the size to 148,000 square feet, to the CIDNA neighborhood and the Board approved it. The proposal will now move through the City's approval process, heading first to the Planning Commission.

Lake Calhoun Sailing Village – a special meeting was held in early March to update neighbors on a proposal to build three buildings at the southeast end of Lake Calhoun.

These would contain a “home” for the sailing club, an event center, and retail kiosks. The Lake Calhoun Yacht Club and Sailing School has been trying to get the Park Board to agree to a new location and more permanent home for them for a number of years. They are asking the neighborhood to encourage the Park Board to act on this proposal.

***West
Calhoun
Where
Businesses
are
Neighbors***

Minneapolis' 10-year Transportation Action Plan

The City of Minneapolis is hosting a series of workshops to give the public an opportunity to share their ideas on how the City can improve its transportation system. The workshops will provide an overview of the City's 10-Year Transportation Action Plan, which is under development, and will provide information on the transportation challenges facing the City.

Upon request, the City

will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or who are in need of a translator. Please submit such requests or requests for additional information to Charleen Zimmer, Project Manager, at 612-673-3166 or Charleen.Zimmer@ci.minneapolis.mn.us no later than seven days prior to the meeting.

Workshops will be held:

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2006, St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S. 8th St., Minneapolis
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2006, Communications Workers of America Hall, 3521 E. Lake St., Minneapolis
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2006, Harrison Recreation Center, 503 Irving Avenue N., Minneapolis
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 27, 2006, Martin Luther King Park Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, 2006, East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street N.E., Minneapolis



**West Calhoun
Neighborhood Council**

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*West Calhoun Neighborhood
Council meets the second
Tuesday of each month at 7:00
PM in the cooking classroom of
Whole Foods Market. All
business and residential
neighbors are welcome to attend.
You can leave a message with
comments, questions or concerns
on the West Calhoun
Voicemail Hotline at 612-
928-3511.*

Annual Meeting

West Calhoun's Annual Meeting is right around the corner. If you are interested in any of the issues that our neighborhood organization is working on, please come and ask questions. You can take a look at our bus shelter plans and our development guidelines. Even better – run for a seat on our Board of Directors! We are always looking for committed volunteers with energy and ideas. Annual meeting is Tuesday, May 9 at 7pm in the cooking classroom of Whole Food Market in the Calhoun Commons at 3060 Excelsior Blvd.