



West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Wavelength

April 2010

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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Join us for our
Annual Meeting & Board Elections
Tuesday,
May 11, 2010
6 p.m.
The Bakken
Museum
3537 Zenith Ave. S.
More details on page 4

Earth Day Clean Up at Lake Calhoun Saturday, April 17 - 9:30 a.m.

Join your neighbors for some important spring cleaning at Lake Calhoun and in the neighborhood.



No need to pre-register. Pick up gloves and bags (and a cup of Peace coffee and other treats) at West Calhoun Parkway and West 32nd Street. The site coordinators will let you know where you can clean up. The Minneapolis Earth Day Watershed Clean Up is a collaborative effort between volunteers, the MPRB and City of Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling. For more information, visit www.minneapolisearthday.com or call Arik at 612-230-6484.

The Minneapolis Recycle Run (5K Walk/Run) will take place the following day, **Sunday, April 18 at Lake Harriet from 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.** This event helps support future Earth Day efforts. Visit www.minneapolisrecyclerun.com or call 612-230-6484.

SW LRT Station Area Planning is Coming

The Big Picture

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority recommended LRT 3A as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) in November. The Metropolitan Council is holding a public hearing and taking public comments on amending the region's long-range Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to include the Southwest LRT locally preferred alternative, referred to as

LRT 3A or the Kenilworth-Opus-Golden Triangle alignment. The public hearing will be held April 12, 2010, at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 Robert Street N. in St. Paul.

For more info, visit www.southwesttransitway.org. The Metropolitan Council is scheduled to formally amend the TPP on May 12, 2010, completing the LPA selection process for the Southwest Transitway.

The West Lake Station

In anticipation of construction of passenger stations along the Southwest Transitway, the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority will hold a series of station area planning activities this spring and summer. Station area planning builds upon the past planning work of each community to analyze how LRT riders will get to the transit stations

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and how development patterns could change around each station. Community members and city staff will help the consulting firm selected to develop strategies and recommendations for the station area land-use plans within a half-mile radius of each station.

It is anticipated that the consultant for Minneapolis station area planning will be selected in April. This means that station area planning for the West Lake and 21st Street Stations may begin in May 2010. Station area planning will be the focus of the next 3-6 months.

To stay informed about opportunities for public input on the West Lake Station, sign up now for the WCNC E-News at www.westcalhoun.org. We send out meeting and event reminders and periodic neighborhood e-newsletters. We promise not to clutter your inbox.

Representatives from WCNC have begun attending the SW Transitway Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) in order to stay abreast of SW LRT planning. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2010.



WCNC Comings and Goings

In December, WCNC President **Mari Taffe** stepped off the Board after over ten years of service to the neighborhood. Mari served as Chair for almost six years. Her leadership and commitment to the neighborhood have been the driving force to keep West Calhoun moving ahead all these years. We miss her dearly, but wish her every success in her future endeavors.

Michael Wagner graciously assumed the role of Acting Chair in December. Michael is also WCNC's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

Welcome to **David Rhees**, returning Board member, who rejoined the WCNC Board in December. Dr. Rhees has been the Executive Director of The Bakken Museum since 1992. He served on the Board previously in the mid-1990s and has served on numerous nonprofit boards.

The Bakken Museum Update



Ten Best Days of Summer program participants

To help educate visitors about renewable energy, The Bakken Museum is using a small grant from Metro CERTS to help it plan some new outdoor solar energy-based art exhibits which will highlight the creativity inherent in both art and science.

The Bakken is also planning and fundraising for an exhibit that will interpret the architecture and social history of its 1929 Tudor-style original building, named "West Winds" by its first owner, William Goodfellow. Goodfellow owned a downtown Minneapolis dry-

goods business that was sold to his landlord, George Dayton, forming the nucleus of Dayton's Department Stores. The Bakken Museum has been interviewing and obtaining photos from members of previous residents, which include the Girl Scouts, the Royce Beamish family, and the Richard T. Cornelius family. If you have information or stories about "West Winds" or visited it yourself before it became The Bakken Museum in 1976, please contact Tristan Poehlmann at 612-926-3878, ext. 219.

This summer The Bakken will hold its third annual *Ten Best Days of The Bakken* public program series during the Aquatennial, Friday, July 16 through Sunday, July 25th.

The festival will offer electrifying activities, science theater performances and family fun. For the first time, with the help of generous sponsors, *all ten days will be free!* Visit The Bakken Museum website in a month or two for further details: www.thebakken.org.



Thank You

HomeMade Pizza Company

Many thanks to Joel Marsh, manager of Calhoun Commons HomeMade Pizza Co. (www.homemadepizza.com) who donated delicious Home-Made pizza and cookies for our March WCNC meeting. If you'd like to donate food or drink for a WCNC meeting or event, contact us at 612-928-3511 or e-mail info@westcalhoun.org.

Lake Calhoun Connection

On November 5, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board held a community planning meeting to discuss the future of Lake Calhoun. As a follow-up to the meeting, WCNC sent a "Letter of Connection" stating four primary concerns:

Traffic Calming: Improve dangerous crossings at West 32nd St. and by the Lake Calhoun Executive Center where most drivers fail to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. WCNC also wants to ensure that pedestrians and bicyclists are able to travel safely to and from the West Lake LRT station to Lake Calhoun.

Shoreline Restoration: We feel this should be a priority. There are places along the West Calhoun shoreline where the erosion is approaching the walking path.

Buckthorn Removal: WCNC has put resources toward buckthorn removal on Park Board property along West Calhoun Parkway. We'd like to see a Park Board plan for continued buckthorn removal.

Restoration of the Fishing Pier: The fishing pier that used to be situated in West Calhoun was used by many people. We'd like to see it restored to its former location.

WCNC Meet & Greet

Would you like to get to know other West Calhoun residents in a casual, fun atmosphere? We are planning an informal get-together at Tryg's or Burger Jones in the near future.

Sign up for our e-news and we'll send you an invite!

Visit
www.westcalhoun.org

to subscribe.

Business Comings and Goings

West Calhoun says good-bye and best wishes to the **Boulevard Gardens** after over thirty years of great service.

We also note that **Inizio** has relocated to 50th and Penn. Stay tuned for a new tenant in the Inizio space (located between Wakame and Salon Intrigue.)

Welcome to **Indulge & Bloom**, 3054 Excelsior Blvd., www.indulgeandbloom.com. 612-343-0000 (opt. 2). They take pride in providing a unique shopping experience with original gift ideas, garden accessories and award-winning floral designs.

Council Member's Corner

by Ward 13 Council Member Betsy Hodges ♦ 612-673-2213
Greetings, West Calhoun neighbors! At the end of 2009 we passed our budget. We were able to reduce overall City spending by \$100 million and, thanks to our focus on reforming our closed pension funds, to reduce the proposed property tax levy by \$10 million. In addition, we were able to use a combination of federal grant and Regulatory Service funds to re-hire 15 police officers.

January saw many changes as we started a new Council term. In addition to three new Council Members, there have been changes to committee structure and assignments. I am now Chair of the Ways and

Means/Budget Committee. From cuts to our state funding to changes in the property tax system and our growing obligation to our closed pension funds, the underlying budget pressures the City has faced for most of the last decade still loom. But I believe we have made and will continue to make progress to address those challenges. I look forward to working with you as we move forward on these crucial financial issues that have such an impact on our quality of life.

With the new term also comes a change in my office's outreach efforts. My monthly Ward Breakfast will now be held quarterly, on the 3rd Wednesday of April, July, and October, still at 8

a.m. at Pearson's Restaurant. We will be holding a number of Neighborhood Summits throughout the year, including one focused on the development and business needs of the Ward in April, our annual Public Safety Day in August, and a Budget Summit in October. I encourage you all to attend these Summits to ask questions or give me your thoughts on these issues.



Ward 13 Breakfast

Wednesday,
April 21

Pearson's Restaurant
50th St. & Ewing Ave. S.
8:00 a.m.



**West Calhoun
Neighborhood Council**

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West Calhoun Neighborhood Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., at The Bakken Museum. All business and residential neighbors are welcome to attend. You can leave a message with comments, questions or concerns on the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council Voicemail Hotline at 612-928-3511 or at info@westcalhoun.org.

WCNC Annual Meeting May 11 - 6 p.m., The Bakken Museum



Join us for the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council Annual Meeting and Elections on **Tues., May, 11, 2010, at 6 p.m.** at **The Bakken Museum, 3537 Zenith Ave. S.** Enjoy a slice or two of delicious HomeMade Pizza Company pizza and get caught up on what's happening in the 'hood.

WCNC is the civic body that represents the interests of the West Calhoun neighborhood. 2010 is a pivotal year for neighborhood planning, as we move forward with station area planning for the SW LRT and Lake Calhoun planning. It's the perfect time to get involved with your neighborhood council.

To learn more about serving on the WCNC Board, call 612-928-3511 or send an e-mail to info@westcalhoun.org.