



# West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

## Wavelength

August 2005

*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.*

## Development and Density in West Calhoun What are your thoughts?

West Calhoun's September board meeting will focus on a very important and timely issue in our neighborhood. We are starting to think about density and development, and we'd like to create development guidelines, so that when developers present their plans for re-development in the neighborhood, we are able to provide informed input.

We will be handing out

documents at the meeting. If you are unable to make it, but would like copies, please call 612-928-3511 and leave your name and phone number.

If you have anything to say about this issue, come to the meeting or leave your comments on the WCNC Voicemail Hotline along with your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

The monthly WCNC meeting is held at Whole Foods Market on Tuesday, September 13, at 7pm.

*Take a look at the Open Spaces Questionnaire on the back page. Midtown Greenway Coalition would like to hear your opinions!*

## Help Slow Down Traffic on the Parkway!

We've spoken to our Park Board representative, we've had numerous conversations with Park Board staff and police, we've started to gather signatures for a petition.

Many residents feel the speed and volume of traffic make it very dangerous

to cross West Calhoun Parkway. We are working to change this situation!

If you feel strongly about the need for stop signs, please join us when we present our resolution (see page 2) in front of the Park Board at their September meeting to

have stop signs installed in three locations along West Calhoun Parkway.

We need your support! Come to the September WCNC meeting or call the Voicemail Hotline, 612-928-3511, for further details.

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## Help Slow Down Traffic on the Parkway, con't. Park Board Resolution

The following is a sample of the resolution that WCNC will be presenting to the Park Board in September. We would like a strong showing of support. Consider helping us with this effort!

**WHEREAS** Lake Calhoun is a regionally important recreational and cultural amenity, and

**WHEREAS** West Calhoun Parkway is one of the main access routes for Lake Calhoun, is also used heavily for through-traffic, and is therefore one of the busiest streets in all of Minneapolis during peak season, and

**WHEREAS** the pedestrian crossings at West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Lake Calhoun Executive Center are the primary crossings for pedestrians to access the west side of Lake Calhoun, and

**WHEREAS** these crossings are very difficult, and often dangerous, to enter into and go across,

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that red, octagonal Stop Signs be placed in both the north and south bound directions at these crossings.

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## West Calhoun Neighborhood News

### *Greenway Development*

The City of Minneapolis is hosting several community meetings to gather input from residents about land use and development along the Midtown Greenway, the former railway corridor running along 29th Street from Lake Calhoun in the west to the Mississippi River. Please check the website for future meeting dates and times.

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/  
cped/  
midtown\\_meetings.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/midtown_meetings.asp)

### *Community Garden*

In the last newsletter, we asked people who were interested in helping to work on a community garden to contact us at 612-928-3511. We had a great response! Thank you to everyone who called and if anyone else is interested, it's not too late! We still need two inches of dirt to prepare the site, and then we need to build raised-bed gardens on top of that. We may do some prep work this fall, planning this winter, and hopefully, planting next spring!

*One spot is open on the West Calhoun Neighborhood Board of Directors. Please call the West Calhoun Voicemail Hotline at 612-928-3511 and leave your name and number or speak to Chair Mari Taffe!*

# We are the Stewards of the Lake

For most of its 14,000 year history, the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes were left to nature's forces. Then in 1883, Governor Lucius F. Hubbard passed the Park Act – a catalyst for change. Within 25 years, the young city of Minneapolis acquired a cluster of area lakes and adjoining land for public use.

By 1910, these lakes – Brownie, Cedar, Isles, Calhoun and Harriet – had become so popular that the Park Board began linking them via lagoons and canals. Decades of alterations followed. Lakes were dredged, shorelines filled, islands lost and rebuilt, springs buried, creeks rerouted, ponds built and wetlands drained. As Minneapolis developed, natural drainage patterns were altered. These changes, plus decades of urbanization, degraded the fragile ecosystem.

The Minneapolis Chain of Lakes watershed (the area that drains into the lakes) extends for blocks, even miles, from the actual lakes. In urban watersheds, almost everything in the street travels directly, untreated, into the lakes.

Today, each one of us needs to do our part to help clean up the water in our lakes and keep them beautiful for future generations to enjoy.

Here are some things you can do to help protect the lakes and keep them healthy:

## Grass and Falling Leaves

When leaves or grass clippings are blown into the street, they end up in the catch basins which carry them into the storm sewers and directly to the nearest lake or stream. Once in the water, they decay and produce phosphorus, which increases algae growth and decreases water quality. Compost your leaves or shred them and use them for mulch. Use them to insulate your outdoor plants. Never rake them into the street. Pick up the leaves you see in the streets and the catch basins. Mulch or compost grass clippings or leave them on your lawn. Don't blow or sweep them into the street. Only apply fertilizers and pesticides as necessary and under the proper conditions. Sweep up litter and trash and dispose of them properly.

## Walking your Dog

Rainwater washes pollutants, including pet waste, from curbs, sidewalks and streams into storm sewers. The sewers then carry those materials directly, and untreated, into our lakes and streams. Once in a water body, pet feces decay and threaten human and aquatic health. To protect our lakes and to help keep our city clean, pick up pet feces. Do not dump the waste in the storm drain, or leave it to decay on the sidewalk street or nearby grass. Bring a plastic bag or "pooper scooper" along on your walks. This applies even if you are letting your dog loose for a run on the frozen lakes this winter! Properly dispose of pet waste. Double bag pet waste and put it in your garbage. Cat feces can be flushed, but used litter should be wrapped tightly and placed in the trash. Keep waste piles on your lawn to a minimum. Never add pet waste to your compost pile. The temperatures in the pile will not get high enough to kill the disease organisms in pet waste.

(Reprinted from a previous Wavelength article).

*It is illegal to wash any kind of chemical into the storm sewer. This includes washing your car.*



**West Calhoun  
Neighborhood Council**

3208 West Lake St. Box 1  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
Voicemail: 612-928-3511

*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.*

*There is a triangle of  
land on Chown  
Ave. directly behind  
Whole Foods  
Market and adjacent  
to the Midtown  
Greenway that  
belongs to Hennepin  
County. Please  
email your responses  
to the following  
questions about this  
parcel of land to Jeff  
Liljegren  
(lilje007@umn.edu)  
or call 623-879-  
5918.*

## **Midtown Greenway Coalition Open Space Questionnaire**

1. In regards to public open space, have there been any other past discussions about the future use of this land as a potential site for public open space aside from the given transportation and recreational uses pertaining to the greenway corridor itself? If yes, what?
2. Considering the specific site, what might you envision? What might you want happening along this site? Perhaps you prefer a natural space or something that pertains to a more programmed space?
3. Who do you think would use this open space and what do you think their needs would be? Is there a unique culture specific to your neighborhood? Would this space have culturally-based needs that would help define its unique purpose?
4. Do you have names of people or organizations we should talk to as we begin promoting the future of these open spaces?
5. What other questions or comments do you have that could help to further explain or help communicate our goals to promote the need for adjacent public open spaces?