



West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Wavelength

January 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.

City of Lakes Loppet Feb. 4-5, 2006

The City of Lakes Loppet is a 35km cross-country ski race featuring the beautiful trails and lakes of the Twin Cities.

The Loppet includes a number of different events the weekend of February 4-5. New events include skijoring (skiing with your dog!) as well as a 5k Luminary

Loppet around Lake of the Isles on Saturday night. The Loppet course will be partially held on Lake Calhoun. Check the website map for details. Be aware that Uptown traffic will be affected on these dates.

Join the fun the first weekend in February for this celebration of winter in Minnesota!

www.cityoflakesloppet.com



US Pond Hockey Championships on Lake Calhoun Jan. 20-22, 2006

It's hockey as nature intended: on the pond, outside in the elements, and during the absolute coldest time of year. The tournament will feature 25 rinks on Lake Calhoun and a field of 128 teams competing in open, women's, and senior men's divisions. Games will be two 17.5-minute halves with a two-minute intermission.

Rinks will be cleared in true pond fashion — shoveled off prior to games by the two teams on deck.

The United States Pond Hockey Championships will be held January 20-22 on the west side of Lake Calhoun. The ice site will feature 24 hockey rinks and a central rink, which will be

surrounded by bleachers and lighted for night-time exhibition and notable games.

Check the website, www.uspondhockey.com, for more information.

*Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival
Saturday, Jan 21
Noon - 4pm
612-370-4948*

West Calhoun Neighborhood News

New City Council Member

Betsy Hodges was elected to the Minneapolis City Council in November as the 13th ward representative. She succeeds Barrett Lane, who chose not to run for re-election.

She can be contacted at 612-673-2213 or go to the city's website to send her an email <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us>

Vacant Board Positions

Two spots are 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!

Development and density in West Calhoun

The WCNC Board is in the process of formulating a policy on development in the neighborhood. While new development in West Calhoun has been limited, nearby developments will affect traffic and congestion in the area.

If you have questions about any developments in the neighborhood, please contact our new City Councilmember, Betsy Hodges, or leave your name and number and a brief message on the West Calhoun Voicemail Hotline, 612-928-3511.

Traffic on Lake Calhoun

In October, West Calhoun board members attended a Park Board meeting to discuss their concerns about the amount of traffic and lack of traffic controls on the west side of Lake Calhoun. The map below shows where stop signs and traffic lights are located around the lake. The Park Board agreed to investigate the issue as part of a general planning review of the entire lake, including the feasibility of adding a sailing school and event center at the south end of the Lake.

Traffic lights or stop sign locations represented by



This map indicates where stop signs or stop lights are currently installed. West Calhoun board members have requested that the Park Board consider installing stop signs at three pedestrian crossing locations along the west side of Lake Calhoun: 36th St., 32nd St. and the entrance to the Lake Calhoun Executive Center parking lot.



West Calhoun Business Profile

Three Fish

In December, Three Fish owner Jennifer Jackson-King sat down with WCNC Chair Mari Taffe to talk about her restaurant, development in the neighborhood and biking in from the Midtown Greenway for Happy Hour!

Fish Near the Lake

Three Fish is first and foremost a fish house that also offers plenty of vegetarian and meat selections. It is a warm and comfortable atmosphere in the best location – right in our neighborhood! It has been located on the western edge of Calhoun Commons on Excelsior Boulevard for nearly five years.

Jackson-King is enthusiastic about being a locally-owned,

family business. She believes that neighbors appreciate and support the business through good times and bad. She states that most of her customers during the week and in the summertime come from West Calhoun and surrounding neighborhoods. She said bikers like to stop by the patio in the summer for happy hour and weekend lunches. She adds that the small, entrepreneurial businesses in the neighborhood are also very supportive of each other.

Constant Change

As far as her thoughts on operating a business in the West Calhoun neighborhood, Jackson-King sees parking as a big problem, especially in summer. The

congestion appears to be escalating a little with increased development and cars in the area. She thinks development has been done relatively tastefully and that developers have tried to meet the needs of the community and should continue to do so. She feels consumers want something that feels more like a Main Street with flowers and landscaping.

No Corkage Fee

According to Jackson-King, the thing that sets Three Fish apart from other restaurants is its belief in sticking to a particular price point – from \$14 to \$16 for dinner. They want to be an everyday restaurant, not just for special occasions. To that end, they have a Prix Fixe dinner menu Sunday through Thursday. And, most recently, they

introduced “No Corkage Fee” nights on Mondays and Tuesdays. For those of you not up on your wine rules and regulations, you can bring in your own bottle of wine and you will save the normal corkage fee of \$15.00. Jackson-King sees it as a little extra sense of value and a good opportunity to gather your friends or take a date to dinner and save some money!

Rick Phillips—Portrait Artist

Walk into Boulevard Gardens and feast your eyes on the beautiful framed art hanging in a sunlight-drenched corner of the showroom. The artist is Rick Phillips, and we caught up with him recently to learn more about him and his art.

Rick said he has been drawing since he was three or four years old. He won a coloring contest at age five and that put him on the road to artistic expression.

He doesn't limit himself to one type of medium – he loves pastels and enjoys the spontaneity of watercolor. The subject and the feeling

he's trying to put across, or the client's preference, determine the medium he uses.

He has relied on word of mouth and people recommending him. He hopes that more people will see his work. He plans to bring in an easel and work at Boulevard Gardens, so people can see the process and what to expect, whether they want to purchase a piece of his work or commission him to do something.

He feels that meeting with the subject is very important to get a sense of their personality. He uses photographs as an aid, combining

elements of different photographs he takes, and lets the photo bring a sense of the person to the final work

He likes to get the subject's personality and hopes to capture their spirit through their eyes, so people will be mesmerized by the final work. For example, a closer look reveals the spunky spirit in a little boy's eyes, part of the key of his character. Rick believes that what makes his portraits unique is that you can actually get a sense of the person through the portrait.

Stop by Boulevard Gardens and admire this local artist's work for yourself!

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



**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.*

MINNEAPOLIS 311



Minneapolis 311 is now up and running. By using your phone to call 3-1-1, people who work, live and visit Minneapolis can get customer-friendly access to city information and services.

Minneapolis 311 replaces hundreds of City phone numbers people had to go through for help. However, it's more than just a switchboard. Call center agents are specially trained to get the information callers want. If the agents don't have the answer, they'll find the people who do.

The 311 agents are also ready to take requests for service. People who want to get a broken water main fixed, have graffiti removed, report a stray dog, or ask for any other City service need only call 311. Agents will get requests to the right people, and will provide reference numbers so people can follow up on their cases.

People who do not speak English can also use 311. They will either be helped by a call center agent who speaks their language, or a translation service will be contacted to help with the caller.

Calls to Minneapolis 311 will be answered from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311>