



West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Wavelength

July 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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Check out summer safety tips from Minneapolis Police on page 3!

Wine Tasting Benefit for the West Calhoun Community Garden

You are invited to the West Calhoun Wine Tasting Benefit on Thursday, July 20 from 6:30-8:30pm for a spectacular night of wine tasting, tapas, and Spanish music!

The event will be located on the patio at Whole Foods Market, 3060 Excelsior Blvd. Tickets are \$35 in ad-

vance, \$40 at the door. They can be purchased at Whole Foods Market or by calling the West Calhoun Voicemail Hotline at 612-928-3511 to leave your name and number.

All proceeds go to maintain and expand the community garden at the West Calhoun Access Point along the Mid-

town Greenway Trail behind Calhoun Commons.

The event is sponsored by West Calhoun Neighborhood Council and Whole Foods Market.

Dodging Traffic on West Calhoun Parkway

Summer is a magnificent time to enjoy the lakes. And, you're not the only one who thinks so, as is evident by the increased traffic around Lake Calhoun. WCNC Board members have been working for a long time to try to make pedestrian and bike crossing of West Calhoun Parkway easier and safer!!! If you find it difficult to cross the Parkway to get to the walking and biking paths, or think there could be a better and safer way, we remind you to call your Park Board representatives to let them know. Park Board staff will soon embark on a comprehensive review of Lake Calhoun, and this is

an issue we hope to keep on the top of their list.

All commissioners can be reached by dialing 612-230-6443, along with their extension.

Bob Fine – West Calhoun's commissioner – ext. 6

Mary Merrill Anderson – At-large – ext. 7

Annie Young – At-large – ext. 9

Tom Nordyke – At-large – ext. 8

Tracy Nordstrom – East Calhoun's commissioner – ext. 4

Jon Olson – Park Board President – ext. 2

Community Notification

West Calhoun Neighborhood Council would like to make a plan modification to our NRP Action Plan. The Board has voted to move \$15,000 to a newly-created safety strategy. With this money, WCNC will address neighborhood crime and safety issues such as theft from automobiles around the lakes, graffiti, and community-building strategies. Please attend the WCNC Board meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 7pm in the cooking classroom of Whole Foods Market to vote on this plan modification.

West Calhoun Neighborhood News

WCNC Board

West Calhoun Neighborhood Council wants to thank outgoing Board member, Kristi Olmanson, for her service. We also want to welcome new Board member Greg Benz! Greg has jumped in right away, representing West Calhoun as part of the Ward 13 roundtable, a group that discusses issues of importance and shared interest among the southwest neighborhoods. Greg has also organized a new tool for communication, a discussion group specifically for our neighborhood. Sign up at the web address below if you would be interested in being part of this discussion group as well as keeping up on neighborhood activities, such as crime and safety issues, bus shelter progress, community garden, and other relevant topics! To subscribe, go to <http://groups.google.com/group/WestCalhoun>

Returning Board Members include: Chair Mari Taffe, Vice Chair Todd Wildermuth, Treasurer Barb Stevens, George Effrem, Dan Blackburn, Rosemary Lundell and Midtown Greenway representative, Cher Underwood.

WCNC still has two open positions on the Board. Consider joining!

National Night Out

National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2006, and planning is already well underway! This year, Minneapolis residents who want to close a street to hold a National

Night Out event can do so free of charge by applying before July 18, 2006. Also this year, folks don't have to pick up street closure supplies. Closure tape and signs will be sent to them by mail.

To register your community's National Night Out event, or to apply for a street closure, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/. You can also register or get more information by calling Minneapolis 311. Applications submitted after July 18 will be charged a \$100 late fee, and no applications for street closure will be taken after July 27.

National Night Out activities help build and maintain Minneapolis' extensive network of neighborhood watch block clubs by giving people an opportunity to get together with neighbors, build relationships, meet new people, discuss issues and plan for the future. This year, hundreds of gatherings will take place across Minneapolis. Closing a street is not necessary to have a National Night Out celebration. Many neighborhood groups hold successful events in yards, parking lots, garages, and parks. If you would like WCNC's help organizing your event, leave a message for neighborhood coordinator, Ahndi Fridell, at 612-928-3511

Midtown Greenway

In April, WCNC sponsored a very successful Greenway cleanup. Later the same evening, vandals started a fire at the Greenway Access Point. WCNC Chair Mari Taffe is a mortgage consultant and wrote the following column in her monthly newsletter.

My husband and I live near the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, an old railroad bed running along 29th Street that has been converted into a bike and walking path, and the future home of a mass transit corridor that will coexist alongside the cycling and walking paths.

For the past few years, our neighborhood has coordinated a spring and fall cleanup of our portion of the Greenway. Turnout at these cleanups has been sparse at best. This spring, however, was different. When I showed up at the meeting spot on Earth Day with bags and gloves in hand, there were people already waiting and more walking up. In all, we had over two dozen people who pitched in to help. It was very gratifying to see so many people wanting to make a difference. We hauled out dozens of bags of garbage and piled them along the Greenway for pickup.

I returned the next morning to do some gardening along the Greenway, and was stunned to find that someone had set some of the garage on fire during the night, destroying several permanent fixtures in the process. There was burned garbage strewn everywhere and the smell was awful. At first, I was so upset that someone would destroy for fun. A wise friend, however, reminded me of how

many people had just turned out to help with the cleanup. I realized that while there were probably just a couple of people who had committed the vandalism, in contrast, there were close to thirty who had committed to doing good.

I think the larger lesson for me, with all the bad news in the world today, is that there are many, many more people who want to do good than who want to destroy. It's just that the bad news and destruction seem to be what dominates the news. So what can we do, in addition to being optimistic that there is more good in the world than bad? The most empowering thing is to do what you can in your own life to make a difference. Maybe that's organizing a neighborhood cleanup, or planting a community garden, or volunteering for a cause you're passionate about, or forgiving someone, or forgiving yourself. The good that we do in our own lives, we see reflected out into the world.

Stay Safe this Summer!

Theft from Motor Vehicles Facts:

There have been a number of reported thefts from motor vehicles in the Lowry Hill, Kenwood, Cedar Isles Dean, and West Calhoun neighborhoods. The thefts have occurred all hours of the day in concentration around Lake of the Isles and Lake Calhoun. Items stolen have included purses, computers, iPods, cell phones, CDs and car stereos.

In most incidences, the suspect(s) broke out the passenger side window and took items that were in plain view. Please read the following tips and be aware of suspicious activity.

· Auto crimes tend to increase during warm weather.

Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Put these items in the trunk and lock it before you get to your destination. Remember not to leave **anything** in plain view in your vehicle. Even small change or one CD can be tempting enough for criminals to break your vehicle's window.

· **If you have a garage, use it.** Be aware of your garage door—make sure it closes before you leave. Along with making sure your garage door is locked, it is a good idea to also lock your vehicle doors and not leave valuables inside.

· **Park in areas that are well lit and easily visible.** If you must park on the street,

park in a well-lit area, and lock the doors.

· Look out your window, and keep an eye on your street, parking lot or alley. **Report any suspicious behavior to 911.** People looking into vehicle windows, walking close to vehicles in the street or in a parking lot, and running through yards are all examples of suspicious behavior related to vehicle crimes. **If something doesn't feel right to you, call 911** and let the officer check it out. If you hear the sound of breaking glass, you should also call 911 immediately.

For any further questions, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Jennifer Waisanen at (612) 673-2815.

5th Precinct website:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/5th-precinct.asp

You can also get email crime updates and alerts by sending a blank email with the following address in the "To" line:

SAFE5.2-on@ccpsafe.org

Clean Waters—Learn about the City's lakes, rivers, and streams and what you can do to protect them!

Minneapolis Public Works is holding three open houses so folks can learn more about the city's water resources—our river, lakes, and streams. A variety of exhibits, displays, and staff will be on hand to help people learn more about what the City does to protect our waters, and how residents can do their part to make sure our waters are as clean as possible.

Everyone can make a difference. Every time it rains, or you water your lawn or wash your car, the water runoff washes pollutants from the grass, sidewalk, or driveway into the City's storm drain

system. Those flow directly into our river, lakes and streams! That's why it's important to learn how home and business owners can reduce the amount of runoff coming from their properties. Creating rain gardens and using rain barrels are just two of the ways you can make a difference.

Visitors to the open houses will also have a chance to look at and comment on the draft Minneapolis Local Surface Water Management Plan, which focuses on the ways the City and its residents can work to protect our water resources.

OPEN HOUSES

- **Monday, July 10, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,** Webber Park, 4400 Dupont Ave. N.
- **Tuesday, July 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,** Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board headquarters, 2117 West River Rd. (north of Broadway)
- **Thursday, July 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,** Nokomis Recreation Center Gym, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.



**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.

Parade of Community Gardens



Perennial gardens, vegetable gardens, prairie gardens, rain gardens—all will be featured in the brand new Parade of Community Gardens. The Parade will be held from 10am until 2pm on Saturday, August 19th.

West Calhoun Community Garden is one of more than 50 gardens in the metro area on the parade. The West Calhoun Community Garden is located at the Midtown Greenway Access Point at 31st St. and Chowen Ave. S. behind Calhoun Commons. The garden will feature updated plantings and there will be special events and information. You can also pick up a map of the parade route at the Access Point that day.

The Parade of Community Gardens is sponsored by West Calhoun Neighborhood Council and GardenWorks. Call the West Calhoun Voicemail Hotline or go to www.gardenworksMN.org for more information.