



# West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

# Wavelength

May 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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*Two spots are open on the West Calhoun Neighborhood Board of Directors. Please attend the Annual Meeting or call the West Calhoun Hotline at 612-928-3511 and leave your name and number!*

## West Calhoun Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 7pm Whole Foods Market Cooking Classroom 3060 Excelsior Blvd.

Join your neighbors at Whole Foods Market on Tuesday May 10 at 7pm for our West Calhoun Neighborhood Annual Meeting.

Park Board Representative Vivian Mason will be there to talk about redistricting and the upcoming elections and will discuss shoreline erosion, development around the lake, and bringing back the fishing dock! If you have concerns about develop-

ment around the Lake or traffic levels, please come and speak to your elected representative.

Michael Lander from the Lander Group will also be attending the Annual Meeting to talk about plans for the demolition and construction of the Weisman Building site on the north end of Lake Calhoun.

Council Member Barret Lane will attend the An-

nual Meeting and we will get an update on the progress of two new bus shelters that are scheduled to be installed this summer from Ben Erickson of Close Landscape Architects. We will also be holding board elections this night—consider joining the Board!

Don't miss this opportunity to speak with your neighbors about your ideas or concerns.

## WCNC Community Garden

Rhonda Phillips from Boulevard Gardens and Cher Underwood from Whole Foods Market are leading the effort to create a community garden behind Calhoun Commons and adjacent to the Midtown Greenway.

Because this site used to

be a dump, the garden can only be non-productive, meaning only non-food items can be grown there.

We are looking for gardeners! With so many residents living in condos and apartments, West Calhoun is an ideal place

for a community garden—meet your neighbors while you dig in the dirt!

If you are interested in helping to plan the community garden, call 612-928-3511 and leave a message.

## Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

### **Attention Condominium or Renters Associations:**

*West Calhoun board members would like to attend one of your meetings. Please call the West Calhoun hotline, 928-3511, if we haven't yet contacted you!*

### **WCNC Board Members**

Two board member positions open. Election will be held at the Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 10. This is a one-year commitment. Current board projects include: shoreline restoration along Lake Calhoun, installing new bus shelters and neighborhood directional signs, an outreach campaign to apartment renters and condo owners, keeping an eye on development, creating a community garden. If any of these things interest you, consider joining a fun and enthusiastic board!

### **Sign Design**

We are designing new signs that will direct people from the lake to Calhoun Commons and the Midtown Greenway. Does anyone have any graphic design experience they could lend to this effort?

## From Council Member Barret Lane's Office City? Park Board? Library Board? What's the Difference?

Minneapolis is unique in that it is run by a number of independent, but overlapping, jurisdictions, each with specific responsibilities. Having all these different bodies can be a challenge, but they are all essential to providing residents important public services. The four main bodies running Minneapolis are:

**City of Minneapolis.** The City of Minneapolis (City) provides the vast majority of city services such as police, fire, public works, licensing and inspections, and civil rights. It is governed by the Mayor and City Council. The Mayor is elected city wide, but each of the 13 council members is elected by his/her geographic ward.

**Park and Recreation Board.** Often referred to as the Park Board, it owns and operates all the city parks and parkways. It also has its own police force, the Park Police – which can be accessed through 911. The Park Board

is governed by 9 elected Park Board Commissioners, although the Mayor has veto power over some Park Board actions. Six commissioners are elected by their geographic district and 3 are elected city wide. West Calhoun is in District 4. In the next election (November 2005), the entire 13<sup>th</sup> Ward will be in Park District 6.

**Library Board.** The Library Board operates all of Minneapolis' libraries. The Library Board has 8 members. Six members are elected city wide. One member is appointed by the Mayor and one by the City Council.

**School Board.** Throughout the State of Minnesota, local school boards are independent of city government. In Minneapolis, the School Board is composed of 7 members who are all elected citywide. The School Board does not receive general property tax money. It receives most of its funding from the State plus some

dedicated funds that were approved by Minneapolis voters.

### **What Does This All the Separation Mean for Residents?**

Mayor, City Council, Park Board, and Library Board are all up for election at the same time – every four years. The next election is in November 2005. School Board elections occur in even years.

All of these entities control some of your tax dollars. Although the City, Park Board and Library Board levy property taxes as a single entity (and then divide the total tax levy under a specific formula), each body has its own budget. They are each responsible for their choices and decisions.

When you call our office for service or with a question, sometimes we have to either refer you to the Park, School, or Library Board and/or act as your liaison with the body.

These boards work together when appropriate. The new Central Library is a joint project of the City and Library Board. The City and Park Board provide services to each other. For example, the City maintains Park Board infrastructure like roads and sewers, while the Park Board cares for the City's boulevard trees.

This government structure means that we as citizens ask a lot of each other in operating our city. We encourage residents to stay informed on those issues of interest to them and learn who is responsible for it. Also, if you would like to learn more about these bodies, or some of the other bodies that affect Minneapolis, please call our office.

## National Night Out 2005

Avoid the rush, get an early start planning your party and applying to block off your street for National Night Out (NNO) August 2, 2005. This year you can even apply and pay on line.

### Register Your Block Party With Community Crime Prevention/SAFE Starting May 15

Review NNO materials and register your party online starting May 15, at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno).

Register by July 12 to be eligible for door prizes. If you don't have Internet access, call 612-673-3568 for registration materials. If you want to close off your street, do it early to get the benefit of low registration fees.

*If you see graffiti, take a digital photo before it is cleaned up and email it to the police. The fire department has chemicals to remove graffiti. Lt Marie Przyanski is the new sector lieutenant and Thomas Thompson is the new Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) for West Calhoun.*

## Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) Collection Events in Southwest Minneapolis

Open a cupboard in your kitchen, basement, garage. Read a few labels. If they contain any of these words: CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, POISON, those products may contain hazardous materials. Hazardous to you, hazardous to your family and hazardous to our environment if not used up or disposed of properly.

Don't throw them in the garbage.

Don't pour them in the sewer.

Don't pour them on the ground.

The neighborhood event collections are being offered to encourage residents to safely and properly dispose of their unwanted garden and household hazardous waste. The county will accept many household hazardous wastes, including mercury items (fluorescent and HID lamps, thermostats and thermometers); pesticides; automotive wastes (fuel additives, starter fluid, waxes); aerosol cans, paint, lead-based paint chips, solvents and thinners; pool, photographic and hobby chemicals; and household

batteries. Call 348-3777 for questions on materials accepted or go to [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us). The department emphasizes that business-generated wastes will not be accepted at the collection sites.

This collection provides residents with convenient neighborhood locations to take their problem wastes.

Collection events will be held on:

**Saturday, June 4, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Armatage Park at 58<sup>th</sup> St. and Russell Ave. S.*

**Saturday, June 25, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Operations Center, 3800 Bryant Ave. S.*

**Saturday, July 16, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Southwest High School, 3414 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St.*

**Saturday, July 23, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Windom Open School, 5821 Wentworth Ave. S.*

**Thursday, August 11, 2005 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

*Anthony Middle School, 5757 Irving Ave. S.*

Follow the signs to the entrance. Arrive after the first hour to avoid a longer wait.



**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.*

## **Please Don't Pollute! Drains to Lake Calhoun!**

### ***Storm Drain Stenciling***

*If you can help us  
alert neighbors to the  
impact of pollutants  
in Lake Calhoun,  
please call 612-928-  
3511 and leave a  
message. Look for  
future notices around  
the neighborhood and  
help us stencil the  
drains!*

Because our storm sewer water is not treated, it is extremely important to guard against pollutants that get into the street and get carried to the lake when it rains. This runoff from our urban landscape carries anything in the street - pesticides, antifreeze, fertilizer, motor oil, pet waste and grass clippings - directly to the nearest lake. Here are some simple things you can do to protect our lakes and rivers:

- go to the car wash instead of washing your car in the street
- pick up after your pet
- reposition your downspout so that rain water goes into the ground and not down the sidewalk
- make a rain garden
- keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street

Thanks for being good stewards of the lake!