



West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Wavelength

October 2009

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.

Inside this issue:

WCNC wants you 2
to get involved

WCNC Launches 3
new E-News

MPRB
Lake Calhoun
Planning Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 5
7 p.m.
Location TBA

See page 4
for more details.

SW LRT Plans to Bring Light Rail to West Calhoun



West Calhoun Community Meeting
SW Transitway Planning

November 10 WCNC meeting, 7 p.m.
The Bakken, 1st Floor Galvani classroom

Katie Walker , Hennepin County Study Manager for SW LRT, will discuss plans & answer your questions.

In recent months, discussions have increased surrounding the proposed SW Transitway (LRT) connection from Minneapolis to the Southwest suburbs of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie. Recently WCNC agreed to a set of guiding principles regarding our support for proposed route alignments. These principles were taken from the Southwest Transitway Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) decision-making process and include:

- **Planning Compatibility** defined as consistency with the growth and development plans for the region.
- **Performance** defined as transit system impacts and improvements, ridership (total, new riders, reverse commute), capital and operating costs and efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Implementation Factors** defined as construction complexity, property acquisitions/displacements, permits and other potential impacts.
- **Critical Environmental Resources** defined as potential impacts to historic and cultural properties, parks, wetlands and water bodies, threatened and endangered species, hazardous/contaminated sites, geology, and properties in proximity to the project for noise and vibration.

WCNC supports the route that best meets these criteria, ensures federal funding and brings LRT to the Southwest metro area.

WCNC believes that transit in Southwest is a good thing. We need to bring transit into the neighborhood in a way that enhances West Calhoun neighborhood. There are big opportunities, as well as some issues that need attention around the proposed West Lake Station (located behind Whole Foods Market.) Over the past several years, we've had an ongoing dialogue about the LRT with the Midtown Greenway Coalition, Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) and Council Member Betsy Hodges. We now hope to bring these voices together so that the West Lake Station will exceed the expectations of all stakeholders. We envision a station that welcomes riders into our neighborhood, and acts as a true "Gateway" into the city of Minneapolis and the Chain of Lakes region. For more information, visit www.southwesttransitway.org or call us at 612-928-3511.

Welcome to Two New Neighborhood Businesses

We recently visited two new restaurants in West Calhoun to find out what they'd love West Calhoun residents to know about them.

HomeMade Pizza Co.

3054 Excelsior Blvd 612-920-3414

www.homemadepizza.com

Date opened: Sept 10, 2009

Joel, the store manager, gave us several great reasons why we should buy their pizzas: they're all-natural, all-fresh and they support local farmer's markets. To his point, they were cutting fresh local basil as we spoke. He said they get their cheese from a farm in Wisconsin. Their pizzas have no preservatives and you can pronounce everything in them. Their secret sauce recipe has five all-natural ingredients and their wheat crust has one third less carbs and no sugar.

If you come into the store to order, your pizza will be ready in 10 minutes, or 20 minutes if you call ahead. They also deliver raw pizza to your door in 45 minutes. Either way, you just pop the pizza in the oven for 10-15 minutes at 425 degrees and dinner is ready. They also have fresh salads, cookies and all-natural ice cream. Joel said they love the community, they've been very welcomed and they're glad to be here!

Wakame Sushi & Asian Bistro

3070 Excelsior Blvd #216 612-886-2484

www.wakamebistro.com

Date opened: July 23, 2009

Owner Anha Pham told us they thought this would be a good location for sushi and Asian because there aren't many sushi restaurants in this area away from Uptown. They have a great happy hour every day from 3 - 6 p.m. and late night happy hour from 9:30 p.m. to midnight, Monday - Saturday. They're open Friday and Saturday until 1:00 a.m. Anha said their prices are great as well. She wants the neighborhood to come here and party or chill out instead of going into Uptown or downtown. Their curry and Thai dishes are top sellers. Their Sea Bass, Hot Spicy Girl Roll and Crazy Monkey Roll are their most popular items. Anha explained that her partner George had a restaurant in Kansas City, but this concept is totally new to them. George's specialty is Japanese and Ahna's is Asian fusion, and they're trying to incorporate both; that's why it's Asian and sushi. Next summer they plan to have more plants and increased privacy on the patio. Ahna says, "Come try us out!"



I WANT YOU to join the WCNC

There are still open seats on the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council. The 2009/2010 WCNC Board includes: Mari Taffe (Chair), Michael Wagner (Vice Chair), Barb Stevens

(Treasurer) and George Effrem. There are still five open seats waiting to be filled.

WCNC needs you.

Consider joining your neighborhood civic organization. There has never been a better time to get involved. With the SW Transitway and Lake Calhoun planning moving ahead, it is a great time to make an impact on the future of your neighborhood.

For more info, contact our Coordinator, Rhea Sullivan, info@westcalhoun.org, or leave a message at 612-928-3511.

WCNC Comings and Goings

In July, long-time WCNC Board member **Todd Wildermuth** moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where his wife Sanne is now teaching at a local university. Many thanks are due to Todd, who served on the Board for several years and shared his policy-savvy leadership skills. Todd served as Vice Chair, WCNC representative to the MPRB Lakes District Council and carried the torch on West Calhoun environmental and development issues. We wish Todd and his family all good things in their new life in the Southwest.

We want to extend a warm welcome to our newest Board member, **Michael Wagner**. Michael hails originally from Pittsburgh, PA, and joined us this spring as the West Calhoun representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition. Michael was elected to the WCNC Board at the Annual Meeting in May. Michael also took on the role of Vice Chair. Michael has plunged into the work of the Board and is active in issues surrounding the SW Transitway planning.

The Bakken Update

The Bakken Museum continues its planning and fundraising for new exhibits relating to energy conservation and renewable energy. Plans include a possible photovoltaic installation for an electric vehicle, a small, demonstration-level wind turbine, and a sign that would be lit by solar-charged batteries. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Dr. David Rhees, Executive Director, at rhees@thebakken.org or 612-926-3878, ext. 213.

For information on The Bakken in general, including Super Science Saturdays and their popular Evening Out program on the second Tuesday of each month, see The Bakken's recently revamped website: www.thebakken.org.

The Bakken's hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Thursdays, when the Museum is open until 8:00 p.m.

Hot Off the Presses: WCNC to Launch E-News

Would you like to get more up-to-date news about issues and events in West Calhoun neighborhood?

Subscribe now to the new WCNC E-newsletter.

This periodic e-newsletter will provide updates on the SW Transitway, Lake Calhoun Planning and other important neighborhood issues. We will only send updates when we have important news to share.

To sign up, send your e-mail address to:
info@westcalhoun.org

The Midtown Greenway: Empowering Communities by Michael Wagner

It's a busy time for the MGC, although the summer months are quickly coming to a close, you don't have to stop using the trail -- bundle up and keep on going!

- **Hiawatha Project Update:** The battle continues with the proposed Hiawatha Project (Xcel Energy), where Xcel has applied for an application to put high voltage transmission lines across the Midtown Greenway corridor. Please visit www.midtownpower.com to have your voice heard and learn about the reasons for the opposition to the project.
- **"At Grade Crossing" policies:** The MGC is actively discussing policies as they pertain to "at grade crossings" on the trail, specifically to determine problem areas where the trail crosses at street grade and to come up with creative ways to address those areas that enable trail users and motorized traffic to interact in a safe way. Questions or suggestions? Please contact your MGC representative.
- **The Trail Safety Watch Program:** This program is in full gear going into this fall. The MGC hosted tables on Saturdays in September near the Freewheel Bike Center to raise awareness on the trails. The goal of the program is to help maintain a safe environment for trail users by promoting awareness and encouraging safe practices when riding after dark. The MGC is still actively seeking volunteers to help with this program. Please contact Tim Springer, tim@midtowngreenway.org.
- For any other inquiries or to volunteer on one of the many MGC programs, including Public Art, Rail Transit, Greening, or to donate money or to become a member of the coalition, please contact your West Calhoun MGC representative, Michael Wagner, michael.todd.wagner@gmail.com, or visit www.midtowngreenway.org.

WCNC *Wavelength* Publication Information

Contributors to this issue of the *Wavelength* include: Tracy Nordstrom, Dr. David Rhees, Mari Taffe, Michael Wagner, Rhea Sullivan (Coordinator).

Check out our website at www.westcalhoun.org.

To submit article suggestions, e-mail info@westcalhoun.org or call 612-928-3511.

**Ward 13 Breakfast with
Council Member
Betsy Hodges**

**3rd Wednesday
of each month
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 7:00
p.m., at The Bakken. All
business and residential neigh-
bors 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.*

Lake Calhoun Planning Meeting - Thurs., Nov. 5, 7 p.m.



Join Park Board Commissioners Tracy Nordstrom and Bob Fine and MPRB staff in a community planning meeting to discuss the future of Lake Calhoun on **Thursday, November 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., location TBA.**

The purpose of the meeting is to provide Calhoun context, bring residents up to speed on planning efforts since 1997, talk about the MPRB Comprehensive Plan and the current financial situation of the Park Board, and allow residents to break into small groups to talk about wishes, big ideas, and consider concepts new or never completed after the 1997 Master Plan.

For more information, visit the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board website at www.minneapolisparcs.org or the WCNC website at www.westcalhoun.org or contact us at info@westcalhoun.org or 612-928-3511.