



A Tale of HPDL Treasure

By Reid Olson

Twelve years ago, while on bed rest during her pregnancy, Margaret Craig developed an interest in role-playing video games for Nintendo. Little did she realize that this newfound interest would lead her to participate in, and win, the HPDL Treasure Hunt in 2004!

Three years ago, the HPDL Business Association created the Treasure Hunt to help bring neighbors together and to encourage residents to patronize neighborhood businesses. For the hunt, a small rabbit is hidden somewhere in the neighborhood and clues as to its location are posted daily at participating businesses.

Enticed by the possibility of winning the prize, Margaret, an HPDL resident since 1992, started to follow the clues. The first clue, which was posted on Monday, July 19 was "not helpful," Margaret said, but the second clue sent her and many others to 14th Avenue. Unfortunately, it turned out that the clue's mention of "14" referred to the number of a bus line, not a street.

The third clue found Margaret pacing off 56 paces from every bridge in the area. The fifth clue on Friday had her searching most of the weekend, but it was a later clue that made her realize she had been searching the wrong side of the creek. Margaret even enlisted the help of her son Charlie and one of Charlie's friends to help search. No time for a regular meal at this household — dinner out of a box again, then back to the search.

Monday evening it seemed like everyone in the neighborhood was searching. Everywhere Margaret and the boys went, there was trampled grass — evidence that someone was ahead of them and had probably already found the rabbit. At one tree, an interesting bird's nest caught her eye and she pointed it out to the children, unaware that she was just a few feet away from the treasure!

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Important HPDL Community Vote!

Attention HPDL residents! It's time for you to vote on the HPDL Phase II Action Plan!

Over the past three years, we've provided updates on the development of our Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Action Plan, a document that summarizes goals and strategies for the HPDL neighborhood. Now, a final draft of the plan is ready for resident review and approval before we forward it to NRP. **A community meeting to comment and vote on the plan is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hale School Cafeteria, 1220 East 54th Street, Minneapolis.**

The Phase II Action Plan document is inserted in this newsletter. It was written with input from neighborhood residents over the past three years, utilizing primarily information gathered through surveys, community meetings and on-going dialogue. We hope to have captured the goals, needs, wishes and hopes of the community, as this document is our guide for the next seven to ten years. **Please join us on December 6 and give us your opinions of the final plan.**

If you have questions prior to the meeting, or if you are unable to attend and would like to share your comments or vote by absentee ballot, please contact Neighborhood Coordinator Rosie Doege at the HPDL office by calling (612) 824-7707 or via email at office@hpdl.org.

Childcare will be available for this meeting, but reservations must be made by Thursday, December 2 at 4:00 PM.



HPDL volunteer Karen Pritz encouraged a spirit of collaboration.

Iris Van Baergen

Fond Memories of HPDL Volunteer Karen Pritz

The HPDL neighborhood will miss our dear friend Karen Pritz. Perhaps you have seen Karen giving a presentation about the history of HPDL at one of our community meetings or have read one of her articles in this HPDL newsletter. Maybe you have seen her running around at Picnic in the Park with a funny fisherperson's hat on, orchestrating the logistics of the event. Karen Pritz, our dear friend and dedicated HPDL volunteer passed away on Friday, October 15, 2004, after a long struggle with leukemia.

Karen Pritz was one of HPDL's tireless volunteers who, in 1990, began the planning to create the Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake Community Association. Her work with other HPDL volunteers toward the creation of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase I Action Plan and the

From the Chair

By Jeff Rau
Chair, HPDL Board of Directors

With the onset of autumn, many changes are upon us. Children have headed back to school. Trees have changed colors. Football season has returned. And new Board members and officers have arrived at HPDL. I am honored to have been selected as this year's Chair for the Board of Directors. I take the place previously held by Margaret Sullivan, who served on the Board for numerous years, being a tireless advocate for community involvement. Her shoes are hard to fill. While we will miss her knowledge and sense of humor, we truly appreciate her dedication and all of the hard work she has willingly given to the Board and the neighborhood.

While Margaret has moved on, her work is still going strong. In the summer edition of this newsletter, she wrote to you about the progress we are making on HPDL's

Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Plan. That plan has now been drafted and is included in this special expanded edition of the newsletter. Please take some time to review it. We want you, the HPDL residents, to make sure that what we propose is what you want. This document will guide what programs we provide and how we spend our NRP money over the next few years. We will be looking for community approval of the plan at our next community meeting in December, but we welcome comments or suggestions about the plan at any time. Call our office at (612) 824-7707 or visit www.hpdl.org to give us your feedback.

It's a busy time of year and HPDL is no exception. Plan some time this week to do something fun. Take a walk around Diamond Lake. Play with your kids at Pearl Park. Maybe just sit on your front step and enjoy all that Minnesota has to offer in autumn. Whatever it is, just relax and enjoy. See ya 'round the neighborhood.

Buckthorn Busters!

On Saturday, October 16, 2004, a small but dedicated group of neighbors turned out to remove buckthorn around Diamond Lake. This is the third year of removal and the effort has been very effective at controlling the spread of this invasive plant! Big thanks to volunteers Joe Pelant, Bob Lind, Dave Oltmans and Jason Stone and to Lyndale Garden Center for donating supplies. Please be sure to remove any buckthorn plants around your yard.

New Park Inside Old Fence

By Bill Hood

The familiar and unwelcoming fence along 58th Street from the 58 Club to the alley before 13th Avenue (with the "Keep Out: Airport Property" signs) will soon invite residents to "C'mon in ... to the Edward C. Solomon Park." The newest addition to the Minneapolis Park system is in progress and your ideas and suggestions are welcomed as city officials decide what to do with the park.

The large, 40 acre parcel has looked pretty much the same for about 30 years. Bordered on the south by 60th Street, the entire area has been acquired by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). There are three primary zones within the fence: some large, open field areas which were mowed and look good for low impact recreation, a pretty thick knot of urban forest and a thriving wetland.

A dedication ceremony was held August 20, 2004. The gate to the fence was unlocked, a mobile stage was set up, dignitaries spoke, a band played, kids ate hot dogs and then they locked it up again. A community meeting on November 8 was held to gather community ideas for the long term use of this valuable civic asset. Additional opportunities for public input may be offered – check our website at www.hpdl.org for details on how you can offer your ideas.

The park was named for Ed Solomon who was the MPRB commissioner from the 5th district (HPDL) from 1996 until his death two years ago. He was a long time activist and volunteer in the parks programs at McRae Park and he was popularly known as the Mayor of 48th and Chicago.

Cedar & Edgewater: Help is on the Way!

By Jason Stone

It's an intersection that can be difficult to navigate and potentially hazardous to drivers and pedestrians. Hopefully, help is on the way for the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Edgewater Boulevard. On September 29, 2004, a community meeting brought together residents and a contracted engineer to discuss the problems, possible solutions and move a step closer to improving the situation. The standing room only crowd at the Nokomis Community Center was facilitated by traffic engineer Mike Martinez. City Council member Scott Benson was also present. Martinez listened to residents' concerns, presented data and potential improvements and solicited feedback. Observant neighbors may have noted increased traffic enforcement recently as well as city vehicles measuring the flow of traffic. For more information, go to the city of Minneapolis website and search on 'Edgewater' or e-mail mmartinez@sehinc.com. If you'd like to learn more about upcoming community meetings on topics such as this, check our website at www.hpdl.org.

Yes!

I want to help HPDL keep my neighborhood a great place to live.



Please return this form with your check payable to:

HPDL, 5144 13th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55417. **Thank You!**

Here is my tax deductible contribution:

\$10 \$15 \$25
 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

HPDL Phase II Action Plan

Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake Community Association

a draft for resident review

Autumn 2004

www.hpdl.org

Dear HPDL Residents:

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Action Plan is a document that summarizes goals and strategies for the HPDL neighborhood. It was developed with information gathered through resident surveys, community meetings and on-going dialogue. We hope to have captured the goals, needs, wishes and hopes for the community, as this document is our guide for the next seven to ten years.

We invite you to read through this draft of the plan. A community meeting to comment and vote on its approval is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2004 at the Hale School Cafeteria, 1220 East 54th Street, Minneapolis. If you have questions prior to the meeting, or if you are unable to attend and would like to share your comments or vote by absentee ballot, please contact Neighborhood Coordinator Rosie Doege at the HPDL office by calling (612) 824-7707 or via email at office@hpdl.org. You can also comment on the plan by visiting our website, www.hpdl.org.

We are interested to hear your feedback! Please join us at the community meeting on Monday, December 6, 2004.

Sincerely,

Hale, Page, Diamond Lake Community Association Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

The neighborhoods of Hale, Page and Diamond Lake (HPDL) represent an “unsung jewel” of South Minneapolis. The HPDL neighborhoods boast outstanding residential areas with easy access to commercial and recreational areas in the metro area. The boundaries are Highway 35W on the west, Minnehaha Creek on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, and both Highway 62 and 62nd Street on the south.

The city of Minneapolis charter was signed under an elm tree on the Charles Hoag property on Clinton Avenue South and there are several other historic houses in the neighborhood, including the Foshay House that once looked out onto Pearl Lake, now Pearl Park.

Natural amenities grace our neighborhood with its many parks, green spaces and bodies of water, including Diamond Lake, Minnehaha Creek and Lake Nokomis. A healthy collection of home based businesses supplement our commercial nodes along Portland, Chicago and Bloomington avenues. Eight churches are housed within our community and HPDL has two excellent schools: one Minneapolis public elementary school (Hale) and one K-8 parochial school (Our Lady of Peace).

Since first embarking on the NRP Phase I plan in 1992, some changes have taken place in HPDL. Hale School remains paired with Field School in the adjacent Field-Regina-Northrop neighborhood, but Hale is now grades K-4 and Field is grades 5-8. In 2004, Hale also became an Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) site, so children can receive educational services in our neighborhood or a nearby neighborhood from infancy through eighth grade.

Among the 4,303 households in HPDL, 94% are single-family homes. According to the 2000 census, 10,129 people live in our community. 89.2% of residents describe themselves as white, but racial and ethnic diversity has increased somewhat from 1990 to 2000 with the white population declining slightly and Latino, African-American and Asian populations increasing.

The housing stock remains strong with very few problem properties and virtually no empty lots. Residential turnover is still fairly high due to airport noise and the relatively small size of many of our homes, but new homeowners fill vacancies rapidly.

Many homes in HPDL have been insulated through the Metropolitan Airports Commission Part 150 soundproofing program since 1992. However, some obstacles remain in getting MAC to fulfill its initial promise of insulating homes in the 60-64 DNL zone and residents are actively involved. In addition, residents are participating in the planning process for reconstruction of highway 35W at the 62 Crosstown Commons, working to ensure that proper noise mitigation measures, public transportation and environmental integrity are taken into account.

Many environmental improvements have been made to areas around Diamond Lake (buckthorn removal and nature walk), Minnehaha Creek (path improvements and erosion control) and Lake Nokomis (drainage ponds) through partnerships with other neighborhoods, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Blue Water Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

Our participation process for developing a Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program was organized under a Phase II Steering Committee. The committee consisted of

volunteers recruited at neighborhood community meetings and via the HPDL Community Association newsletter. Efforts were made to increase the diversity of the committee by inviting diverse individuals from the community to participate in the steering committee, but we achieved only age diversity, not that of race or ethnicity.

Early activities of the steering committee included planning and implementing the neighborhood survey, soliciting goals and priorities from all of HPDL's committees, writing the Phase I review and creating a draft of the Phase II plan. Assisting the execution of the steering committee's tasks were the HPDL staff and Board of Directors. The committee was guided by the requirements of NRP, including the stipulation that all viewpoints and resident perspectives be represented in the Phase II plan.

The Phase II Steering Committee communicated to the neighborhood through the newsletter mailed to each household, the neighborhood e-mail list and meetings advertised through flyers, posters and mailed postcards. Agendas and minutes were produced and made available upon request. Committee updates and solicitations for input were regularly published in the newsletter. One-to-one communication was used to encourage the participation of individuals who might not have otherwise been included in the process.

Results of data gathering for the Phase II Action Plan were presented to the neighborhood at a community meeting in January of 2004. At that meeting, further neighborhood input on priorities for the new plan was also solicited. After the committee agreed on a final version of the internal draft, it was submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval. Members of the Board of Directors and the steering committee updated that draft into an external draft.

Next, the draft will be circulated to all households in the neighborhood via the newsletter. Copies of the plan will also be available from the HPDL office, Pearl Park Community Center, cooperating businesses, churches and via the internet at www.hpdl.org. Review and comment will be encouraged via telephone, e-mail, letter or face-to-face discussion.

A community meeting will be held to gain final resident approval. Voting procedures will include mechanisms for absentee ballots. Procedures will be instituted to ensure that committee members and Board members do not have the ability to access the ballots before the meeting. Elected officials will be invited to tally the ballots. The approved Phase II plan will be subsequently submitted to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

PHASE II BUDGET

The proposed Phase II budget was developed from priorities set by residents in the neighborhood survey and at community meetings. The Phase II committee has attempted to adjudicate funds according to items deemed most urgent by neighbors, but strict adherence to neighborhood priorities was not always possible or pragmatic.

For example, although housing issues tended to rank fairly low as neighborhood concerns, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program has required that all neighborhood organizations spend 70% of their Phase II allocation on housing and housing-related issues. In addition, some oft-repeated concerns such as snow plowing really fall under the purview of city services. While HPDL can advocate for neighbors in these instances, dedicating a lot of Phase II dollars to these categories is not necessarily efficacious. Overall, most of the categories fairly accurately reflect the concerns and priorities of our residents.

FUTURE STRATEGIES

The Board and residents of HPDL recognize that NRP funding beyond Phase II is tenuous, especially due to our struggling economy and other priorities determined by elected officials. Currently, we are exploring new strategies that will help secure financial resources ensuring the future existence of the HPDL Community Association. We recognize the critical role that the neighborhood organization plays in centrally administering community activities such as those created and established during Phase I as well as those described in the following Phase II plan. Strategies reviewed to expand our revenue base have included the creation of community events with participation fees such as a Holiday Home Tour, advertising for local businesses and much more.

HOUSING

GOAL: Provide a neighborhood of well-maintained properties that offer a full range of life cycle housing options for a diverse mix of individuals and families of all ages, incomes and levels of mobility.

RESOURCES: \$560,000

STRATEGY 1:

Improve and maintain the housing for residents of HPDL.

- Continue to offer the home improvement grant and loan program. Increase availability of the program.
- Investigate ways to offer a special accessibility section to the home improvement program to allow residents with decreased mobility to retrofit their homes so that they may live independently.
- Investigate ways to customize the home improvement program to allow noise insulation for houses not included in the MAC Part 150 Sound Insulation Program.
- Develop an architectural plan book to promote home improvements.
- Develop a list of "problem" properties and work with neighbors and inspections officials to clear up ongoing problems.
- Work with a developer or agency to buy up substandard, vacant or other properties to improve or develop.
- Sponsor a neighborhood home & garden fair to highlight home and landscape improvements.
- Provide workshops on home improvement and landscaping.
- Partner with public or private entities to offer workshops on improving the energy efficiency of housing structures.
- Sponsor an alley beautification competition between blocks.
- Partner with NRP and the City of Minneapolis to get program information out to disenfranchised populations via targeted mailings, the newsletter or one-on-one contact.

STRATEGY 2:

Improve senior and affordable housing options in and around HPDL.

- Investigate initiatives and new housing developments sponsored by housing agencies or organizations.
- Develop a range of assisted living options and partner with nearby neighborhoods to maximize possibilities.
- Investigate the possibility of developing housing for seniors or affordable housing above small commercial strips such as those on Chicago Avenue and 54th Street South.
- If underused commercial property becomes available for sale, investigate the option of redeveloping the property with housing as part of the mix.
- Investigate development of multi-unit senior housing.
- Partner with Trust Consortium, Habitat for Humanity or other organizations for programs ranging from senior painting assistance to building affordable housing.
- Support block nursing program (Nokomis Healthy Seniors). Advocate for continuing this program with city officials.
- Partner with Nokomis Healthy Seniors to get program information out to seniors via the newsletter, targeted mailings or one-on-one interaction.
- Provide workshops for seniors on retrofitting their homes and offer “safety audits.”
- Create a local support system within the neighborhood through a “barter board” to exchange services or an “adopt-a-senior” program so that seniors can get smaller plumbing and electrical jobs as well as seasonal chores accomplished.
- Create a neighborhood referral list of local and/or trusted handymen and contractors so seniors and neighbors feel safer contracting larger jobs.

STRATEGY 3:

Maintain and improve rental housing and develop better relationships with rental housing landlords and residents.

- Work with landlords to encourage them to keep up the safety and appearance of their properties.

- Serve as a link for tenants to communicate with landlords who are not maintaining their property.
- Develop a list of “problem” properties and work with landlord, tenants union, CCP/SAFE and inspections officials to clear up ongoing problems.
- Partner with GMHC or other agencies to buy up substandard, vacant or other rental properties to improve or develop when they go on the market.
- Offer workshops to train homeowners and renters how to meet financial and other responsibilities of their housing unit.
- Increase opportunities for renters to become property owners. Offer incentive programs or informational workshops on purchasing a home.

Public Partners: City of Minneapolis – Inspections Department, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the Minneapolis Police Community Crime Prevention (CCP/SAFE) program, Hennepin County, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC), Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), Nokomis Healthy Seniors, Habitat for Humanity, Volunteers of America and TRUST Consortium.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Create a thriving business community that serves the needs of HPDL residents, provides opportunities for building community and offers business owners the opportunity to build and grow their businesses.

RESOURCES: \$55,000

STRATEGY 1:

Provide the community with leadership and resources for commercial development needs.

The HPDL Business Association will serve as a conduit for on-going and action-oriented communication between business owners and the community and assist with

new business development. Strategies to be assessed include:

- Develop regular business roundtable meetings where community residents can share their thoughts, ideas and concerns with local business owners and the Business Association.
- Maintain an online business directory on the HPDL website that includes home-based businesses.
- Secure Neighborhood Economic Development Funds (NEDF) with support and guidance from the Community Planning and Economic Development Agency (CPED).

Implementation

The HPDL Business Association will work in partnership with the HPDL Board to promote commercial and the economic development of the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Coordinator and HPDL volunteers will assist with the creation and distribution of business directories.

STRATEGY 2:

Create a communication plan that encourages, attracts and retains a healthy and diverse commercial community in HPDL.

The HPDL community is a neighborhood with many new business and commercial development opportunities. The HPDL Business Association will work in partnership with CPED, Women Venture, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the HPDL Neighborhood Board to develop and communicate strategies and actions that attract new businesses to the neighborhood.

Implementation

The HPDL Business Association will develop a communication plan to inform community residents and partnering organizations of desired businesses, available commercial properties and funding opportunities. The communication plan will incorporate best practices with a list of the resources available. A variety of strategies will be evaluated including:

- Consult neighborhood businesses for recent market analyses of HPDL and the surrounding area to determine demographics. Identify what needs and desires new businesses might fill and then communicate broadly with partners.

- Actively market CPED loan and HPDL grant programs for businesses.
- Promote local businesses through the HPDL website. If the HPDL newsletter becomes self-funding, offer advertising opportunities to local businesses.
- Promote available resources for new business start up that provides information on financing options, developing business plans and marketing strategies.
- Inform and offer training opportunities for HPDL residents interested in opening a business within the HPDL neighborhood.
- Develop incentive programs in conjunction with CPED to attract new businesses.

Implementation

The Business Association will develop the communication plan with input from the partners described above. The Neighborhood Coordinator will assist with implementation.

Public Partners: Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Agency (CPED), Women Venture, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Kowalski's Market, and The Turtle Bread Company.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

GOAL: Build stronger ties between neighbors to enhance the livability and perception of safety of HPDL.

RESOURCES: \$46,000

STRATEGY 1:

Create a stronger community through a diverse range of neighborhood events and information sharing. Organize activities that reflect and celebrate the generational, ethnic and racial diversity of the HPDL neighborhood.

Events:

- Continue to sponsor the annual Picnic in the Park in the summer and Frost Fest in the winter, the celebrations of our neighborhood.
- Redesign Frost Fest to make it a more inclusive and intergenerational event.
- Sponsor an arts & crafts fair in conjunction with the annual Picnic in the Park.
- Create a "Movies in the Park" program at Pearl Park during the summer months.
- Create a walk-for-fitness club in conjunction with Pearl Park and Hennepin County's "Healthy Steps" program.
- Expand the annual 10th Avenue garage sale into a neighborhood wide event.

- Organize an HPDL lecture series, perhaps in conjunction with the schools.

Information sharing:

- Continue to offer the HPDL newsletter to keep residents informed of neighborhood activities and upcoming meetings on topics that might impact our neighborhood.
- Publish a community resource guide.
- Deliver welcome packets to all new neighbors.
- Create a resource network of volunteers willing to help other community residents with a variety of tasks.
- Set up a bulletin board on the HPDL website for "swap" ads.
- Update and revise website to be more interactive and informative for neighborhood news and events.
- Continue efforts to improve marketing of neighborhood events.
- Advocate for residents with the City of Minneapolis to improve the quality of city services, such as street sweeping, snow removal, zoning and inspections.

Public Partners: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, Nokomis Healthy Seniors, Minneapolis Community Education, HPDL Business Association.



K9 Officer talking at Picnic in the Park.



Traffic on 35W and the Crosstown slowed to a crawl during a 2003 snowstorm.

Marie Foss

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL 1: Protect and improve neighborhood livability in the face of changing transportation conditions.

RESOURCES: \$45,000

STRATEGY 1:

Advocate HPDL’s community interest concerning the pending 35W/Crosstown Reconstruction project.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has proposed reconstruction of the 35W/ Crosstown corridor, as part of second phase of reconstruction of the 35W thoroughfare through south Minneapolis. The proposed area for reconstruction is 35W from 66th Street in Richfield to 42nd Street in Minneapolis, including Highway 62 from Portland Avenue to Penn Avenue. There is a significant impact on the HPDL community. Potential effects to HPDL residents include increases in air and noise pollution, increased traffic on residential streets, a loss of businesses and a decrease in housing stock.

Our strategy will be to participate actively in the planning and decision-making processes for the reconstruction plan. We will partner with MNDOT and policy leaders to establish community dialogue through meetings and advocacy work, and explore additional options for other forms of mass transit including Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit.

Implementation

The Transportation Committee will keep neighborhood residents informed of recent developments through community meetings, the HPDL newsletter, and special

mailings. Residents will also be encouraged to share input and feedback via focus group discussions.

STRATEGY 2:

Decrease the number of speeding vehicles on residential streets.

Evaluate the success of previous traffic-calming projects and choose new strategies that complement our findings. The Transportation Committee will make recommendations to the City and County Road departments and efforts will be made to determine which traffic-calming options can be implemented. Strategies will be evaluated including:

- The installation of speed bumps, stop signs, “slow down” signs at crosswalks and stoplight cameras.
- Altering traffic semaphore timing, if needed, to increase the smooth flow of traffic along major arteries.
- Resolving problem areas, such as the Cedar/Edgewater intersection and other intersections with high volume or accidents.
- Adoption of a “Slow down – we live here” community awareness program similar to the one in Southwest Minneapolis.
- Recruit neighborhood volunteers to monitor high traffic areas and bus-driving practices on Chicago Avenue.

Implementation

The Transportation Committee will conduct focus groups with local residents, especially those located along main thoroughfares. Assessment and strategies for implementation will be led by the Transportation Committee in partnership with local police departments. All activities will be supported by the Neighborhood Coordinator.

STRATEGY 3:

Improve availability and access to mass transit along 35W and throughout the HPDL neighborhood.

The proposed 35W/Crosstown reconstruction project offers a unique opportunity to advocate for more effective methods of mass transit along 35W including the availability of Bus Rapid Transit lanes. Additionally, it would serve as an opportunity to more broadly evaluate mass transit accessibility and efficiency throughout the neighborhood. HPDL residents will encourage MnDOT and elected officials to incorporate better means of mass transit affecting neighborhood residents.

Implementation

Representatives from both the Transportation Committee and more generally within the neighborhood will participate in organized meetings by MnDOT, City officials and other elected parties to discuss mass transit options. The Transportation Committee, with support from the Neighborhood Coordinator, will help lead residents in the following activities:

- Recruit volunteers to review existing Metro Transit reports (and related third-party reports) concerning the utility of established local bus routes.
- Convene a community meeting to discuss unmet transit needs in the HPDL neighborhood.
- Contact Metro Transit and relevant policy leaders to discuss HPDL’s need for bus route changes and additions.
- Promote the establishment of bus lines that feed into the LRT system, as appropriate.

Public Partners: MNDOT, City of Minneapolis- City Council Transportation and Public Works Committee, State and County officials and Metro Transit

GOAL 2: Reduce the impact of airport noise on HPDL residents.

STRATEGY 1:

Encourage government officials (legislative county commissioners, City Council) to develop, adopt and enforce policies that mitigate airport noise.

For the last eight years, the Metropolitan Airport Council (MAC) has promised to

provide noise mitigation out to the 60 DNL. Recently, they have proposed new policies that would reduce or eliminate critical home updates and have recommended that homeowners pay 50% of the costs for some improvements.

Implementation

The Transportation Committee will continue to advocate and encourage the Metropolitan Airport Council (MAC) to approve a full 5 decibel home insulation package for all homes in the 64-60 DNL footprint, working in partnership with the South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) and Residents Opposed to Airport Racket (ROAR).

STRATEGY 2:

Persuade airlines to revise or assume new procedures that reduce airplane noise.

The Transportation Committee will promote the re-routing of flights to non-residential areas and limitations on night flights. They will continue to encourage the airlines to phase out louder “hushkitted” Stage 2 ½ aircraft and replace them with quieter Stage 3 aircraft.

Implementation

The Transportation Committee will work in partnership with SMAAC and ROAR to advocate the enforcement of airplane noise ordinances and/or fees for night time flights.

Public Partners: SMAAC, ROAR, City of Minneapolis Transportation and Public Works Committee, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and State and County officials.

PARKS AND RECREATION

GOAL: Improve parks to serve needs of all residents and increase neighborhood livability.

RESOURCES: \$35,000

STRATEGY 1:

Upgrade appearance and safety of Pearl Park grounds and fields.

- Upgrade fields and grounds to facilitate usage for a broad spectrum of neighborhood residents: walkers, sports enthusiasts, picnickers, bike riders, skaters, children, families, nature lovers and others.
- Improve athletic fields to reduce injury.
- Maintain portable toilets in the north end of Pearl Park in the least aesthetically objectionable way and encourage use of such facilities when present. Discourage improper use of area when portables are not present.
- Advocate for a diverse range of recreational opportunities for all residents to ensure broad participation.

STRATEGY 2:

Improve the safety and accessibility of other HPDL parks. Create links between the parks.

- Improve the lighting on Lake Nokomis, especially on the lagoon side from Cedar Avenue west to Edgewater Blvd.

- Create a path on north side of Edgewater Blvd.
 - Work to improve maintenance of the Lake Nokomis bike/walking paths in all seasons to improve safety and comfort.
 - Add portable toilet to the Edgewater Tot Lot in the least aesthetically objectionable way.
 - Ensure that valued park services such as mowing and as lifeguards for beaches and the wading pool are offered.
 - Create a “grand round” of neighborhood parks. Connect as many current green space areas as feasible, including the north side of Pearl Park and the north side of Edgewater Blvd. Use bike paths in streets if connection via paved paths is not possible.
 - Design a pedestrian/bicycle system consistent with the City’s Master Plan.
 - Create a map for pedestrians and cyclists that includes neighborhood green spaces and ways to travel between them.
 - Investigate possible dog park areas to provide place for dogs and owners to use; establish maintenance of such area when completed.
 - Participate in the planning process for the use of Ed Solomon Park.
- Public Partners:** Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Minneapolis — Public Works Department.

CRIME AND SAFETY

GOAL: Improve safety and the perception of safety in our community.

RESOURCES: \$31,000

STRATEGY 1:

Build community relationships to promote effective law enforcement and prevent crimes. Promote personal and property safety via block clubs, McGruff safe houses and communication.

- Support existing block clubs and McGruff Safe houses. Develop block club and McGruff house map and directory.



Patches of urban forest bless HDPL.

Doug Frevett

- Identify blocks in need of leaders and promote the establishment of block clubs and safe houses on those streets.
- Establish a Block Club incentive fund to support block club activities and recruit leaders at the annual HPDL picnic.
- Help maintain and promote block clubs by facilitating information with CCP/SAFE and communicating information and events via the HPDL newsletter.

STRATEGY 2:

Increase community awareness of personal and property safety and strengthen the partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Park Patrol.

- Deliver an annual crime and safety neighborhood community meeting.
- Maintain and strengthen volunteer walk patrol. Establish neighborhood bike patrol.
- Maintain crime & safety booth at annual HPDL picnic.
- Educate the community on crime prevention strategies. Partner with law enforcement in these efforts.
- Educate neighbors about proper reporting of nuisance crimes, such as theft, burglary, vandalism and graffiti.
- Use different modes to communicate CCP/SAFE crime alerts, increasing the number of informed residents.
- Advocate for improved alley lighting to increase safety and perception of safety for residents.

- Partner with Minneapolis Park Patrol to improve park safety.

Public Partners: Minneapolis Police Department – CCP/SAFE, Minneapolis Park Patrol, other neighborhood organizations.

ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 1: Gardening and Greening

RESOURCES: \$20,500

STRATEGY 1:

Improve the natural environment and beautify the neighborhood.

- Improve the aesthetics of entry points into the neighborhood.
- Increase planting sites for trees, flowers and shrubs along boulevards or within existing parks.
- Sponsor/support a Greening Group that will inventory green spaces in the neighborhood and study possible uses for them in conjunction with the Park Board.
- Sponsor a neighborhood home & garden fair together with the housing committee.
- Create an annual plant swap program for neighborhood residents.
- Work out maintenance plans for existing and added community garden areas.
- Investigate organizing a community vegetable garden.
- Implement recommendations from Greening Group, working with residents in adjoining areas and Park Board staff where appropriate. Use “adopt a park” strategies or work with Park Board to come up with funding and maintenance plans and assist Park Board in performing maintenance tasks.

- Investigate creating corridors for historic street lighting.

Public Partners: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Minneapolis – Public Works Department

GOAL 2: Sustain the natural environment and protect the health of HPDL residents.

The natural amenities of our neighborhood make it a very desirable place to live. Residents have expressed a strong desire to keep the waters of Minnehaha Creek, Diamond Lake and Lake Nokomis clean and to ensure that both residential and commercial sources of air and water pollution are reduced.

STRATEGY:

Improve air and water quality by reducing indoor and outdoor pollution.

- Monitor, provide alerts and attempt to mitigate airport-related air and water pollution.
 - › Publicize Minneapolis Health Air alert days on the HPDL website.
 - › Rotate responsibility among community members to monitor prominent issues related to our environment.
- Provide workshops and use the HPDL website to educate neighbors on hazardous waste, the environmental impact of lawn and garden care, invasive species and the use of certain household chemicals.
- Create incentive programs to encourage behaviors that help protect air and water quality. Examples of possible programs are:
 - › Water Quality
 - » Encourage the development of rainwater gardens to reduce runoff of storm water into the lakes.
 - » Establish a neighborhood team to monitor the impact of 35W/Crosstown construction on water quality. Partner with Blue Water Association and other neighborhoods to centralize stewardship of neighboring bodies of water, including Diamond Lake, Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis and Minnehaha Creek.
 - › Air Quality
 - » Partner with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County to promote the Commuter Challenge Event (formerly BBOP).
 - » Promote neighborhood carpooling.
 - » Provide subsidies for the purchase of bike racks for high traffic areas.



Clean Sweep volunteers at work.

Marie Foss

› Garbage/Hazardous Waste

- » Continue to sponsor annual community Clean Sweep to pick up trash and improve alley appearance.
- » Establish hazardous waste collection site on Clean Sweep day.
- » Partner with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis to inform the community about hazardous waste, including reduction efforts and proper disposal.
- » Encourage recycling and inform the community about re-use centers.

- Actively seek funding for programs related to monitoring and improving air and water quality.

Public Partners: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Clean Air Minnesota, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, Minneapolis Air Quality Management Authority, Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban CO2 Project Plan, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Airport Commission, Blue Water Association, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Women’s Cancer Center and other neighborhood associations.



NRP Phase I helped improve Hale School.

- Ensure that citizen concerns regarding class sizes, funding, quality and the challenges of serving a diverse community are heard.
- Include school issues in HPDL Board and community meeting agendas.
- Invite representatives of Our Lady of Peace School, Hale School and the Minneapolis School Board to participate in HPDL community meetings.
- Utilize HPDL Newsletter to update the community on successes and challenges of neighborhood schools.
- Provide a link to the Hale School website via the HPDL website.

STRATEGY 2:

Improve partnership between schools and the community. Increase neighborhood volunteerism in the schools.

- Sponsor intergenerational activities to increase residents’ involvement in neighborhood schools by coordinating after school activities with neighborhood organizations (HPDL Quilters, HPDL Lecture Series — Building Community section).
- Invite HPDL neighbors to participate in school events and volunteer activities that the schools deem appropriate for larger community involvement.
- Provide more community service opportunities for neighborhood schoolchildren and their families through creative partnerships between the School Board, Hale School, Our Lady of Peace School, Minneapolis Community Education, the Minneapolis Park Board, neighborhood churches and other organizations.
- Partner with the neighborhood for projects which monitor air and water quality in

HPDL, educating families about environmental issues.

- Investigate supporting a parent volunteer liaison at the schools to increase neighborhood volunteerism at our schools.
- Support neighborhood and church tutoring programs for our students.

STRATEGY 3:

Assure that the neighborhood schools meet the educational and physical needs of the students and community. Increase access to schools and enhance the schools’ role as community gathering and focal point.

- Develop procedures with Hale School for community use of common space (gym/art/conference room addition).
- Enhance the HPDL neighborhood, enrich school science curriculum and improve ties between neighborhood and schools by assisting Hale School in the Landscape Improvement Project. Advertise volunteer opportunities, help maintain the gardens and participate in the grand opening event.

Public Partners: Minneapolis School District, Minneapolis School Board, Hale School, Our Lady of Peace, Community Education, Pearl Park Community Education.

EDUCATION

GOAL: Maintain and promote quality schools in our community.

RESOURCES: \$7,500

STRATEGY 1:

Strengthen communication between schools, governmental bodies and community.

- Work with Minneapolis School Board and Hale School to promote the quality and safety of our schools and communicate those strengths to HPDL residents.
- Appoint a liaison between the HPDL Community Association, Hale School and the Minneapolis School Board to encourage information sharing between the district and community. Consider creating a liaison with Our Lady of Peace School.

BUDGET

| Categories | NRP Funds |
|---|------------------|
| Housing [†] | \$560,000 |
| Commercial Development ... | \$ 55,000 |
| Community Building/ Newsletter | \$ 46,000 |
| Transportation | \$ 45,000 |
| Parks & Recreation | \$ 35,000 |
| Crime Prevention and Safety . | \$ 31,000 |
| Environment | \$ 20,500 |
| Education | \$ 7,500 |
| TOTAL NRP ALLOCATION . | \$800,000 |

[†] NRP requires 70% of Phase II funds be spent on housing and housing related activities.

Treasure Hunt *from page 1*

Several calls that evening to Rosie Doege at the HPDL office assured Margaret that the rabbit had not yet been found. That evening turned into a sleepless night. Why hadn't she looked under the nest? It must be there. Scattered dreams all night about the rabbit, the nest and about the tree left Margaret tired the next morning. She decided to give up! It wasn't worth losing sleep over.

It was now Tuesday morning, July 27th. She had appointments to keep. When she was unable to connect with the first appointment, and had some time to kill before the next one, she found herself back at the same tree. She looked under the nest. Still nothing. "Give up! End the stress!" she thought. Then suddenly, "I spied a 'twisty tie.' I saw a tiny loop of wire. I knew I had found it. I was hysterical. I untied the rabbit from the underside of a branch 1/3 of the way around the tree from the nest I was obsessing about, arms length in." Just like the 9th clue said. She had it!

Finally, Margaret was able to claim her prizes, and there were many—over \$600 worth of certificates good for many useful products and services, plus \$150 in cash. One of the gift certificates was used for a set of much needed tires. A massage gift certificate should help relieve all the tension from the hunt! Our winner stated that she spent additional money at the businesses that provided the prizes—proving that the businesses benefit from their participation. Nothing like a win-win situation for the neighborhood! The HPDL Business Association thanks the many neighborhood businesses that donated prizes. A special thank you, also, to Dave Wiencke, neighborhood businessman and association member for his creativity and dedication.

The only downside to this spirited story is that the Business Association will have to replace the "treasure" next year. Young Charlie has claimed ownership of the rabbit and now displays it in a prominent place in the families' living room. By the way, if you're wondering what the rabbit looks like, it is a small wire sculpture, about 3 inches high – at least it was in 2004!

For those with a sense of adventure—watch your mail next spring for details on the fourth annual Treasure Hunt.

Karen Pritz *from page 1*

subsequent securing of NRP funds provided the foundation for many capital improvement projects, community programs and events. HPDL neighborhood outcomes included the expansion of the Pearl Park building facilities and grounds, building of the Hale School gymnasium, improvements to the Diamond Lake nature path and Todd Park, HPDL home improvement loan and grant programs, and events such as Picnic in the Park and Frost Fest. Karen had some role in every one.

The phrase "volunteer burnout" did not apply to Karen. She was a constant, strong, supportive life force for HPDL. Even while in the hospital earlier this year, Karen was working with us on the NRP Phase II Action Plan, which is inserted in this issue of the newsletter. That she was thinking of ways to help others during her illness is so Karen: it's reflective of her care, commitment and dedication toward our community. Though she lives on in so many places, spaces and events in HPDL, we will miss her dearly. Our heart-filled thoughts go out to her husband Jay Seshadre, daughter Satya and son Raman.



The Future of Minnehaha Creek

A citizen advisory committee for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District met for the first of a series of meetings in mid-September and mid-October. In a "visioning process" intended to give citizen input and guidance, the committee discusses issues that may impact the creek for the next ten years and beyond. The committee is comprised of appointees from the communities that the creek flows through from Gray's Bay to the Mississippi River. All meetings are open to the public and will be held at a variety of sites in communities along the creek. For additional information and the location of future meetings, visit the Watershed District website at www.minnehahacreek.org. The next meeting is November 30, 2004, from 7-9 p.m. at the Wolfe Park Pavilion, 3700 Monterey Drive in St. Louis Park.

HPDL Needs You!

If you can spend a few hours a month, have an interest in your community, and want to affect what happens in your own neighborhood, please give us a call. Rosie or Viola at the HPDL office would love to hear from you. The number is (612) 824-7707.

HPDL Committee Meetings

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Building Community | Call |
| Business Association | Call |
| Commercial Development | Call |
| Crime and Safety | Second Tuesday |
| Housing | Call |
| Newsletter | Call |
| Environment | Call |
| Gardening | Every Wednesday (Spring - Fall) |
| Phase II Planning | Call |
| Transportation | Call |

HPDL Board:

Paul Dykes (Secretary)
Erroll Foy
Ben Frevert
Bill Helgeson
Dawn Lindblom
Ken Martin
Reid Olson
Jeff Rau (Chair)
Jane Shimek (Vice Chair)
Jason Stone
Jen Waak (Treasurer)

HPDL Staff:

Rosie Doege
Viola Carlson

HPDL publishes this newsletter quarterly and distributes it to the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake Neighborhoods. If you have questions or comments, would like to contribute, or join the Newsletter Committee, please call the HPDL office at 824-7707.

Newsletter Editor:

Jane Shimek

Newsletter Committee:

Marie Foss Bill Hood
Doug Frevert Reid Olson
Laurie Frevert

Newsletter Staff:

Rosie Doege

HPDL was founded in 1991. It is bound by 35W, 62nd Street, Cedar Avenue, and Minnehaha Creek. HPDL serves as a forum/clearinghouse for ideas; provides a meeting place to air grievances, define concerns and develop solutions; provides opportunities to work with other organizations across the city; serves as a conduit between residents and government; and helps us to celebrate our neighborhoods and their own special uniqueness within our diverse city.

Phone: 824-7707 Fax: 824-6824
email: office@hpdl.org
5144 13th Ave. So., Mpls., MN 55417

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HPDL Community Association
5144 13th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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HPDL Community Calendar

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Dec. 6 Monday | Community Vote HPDL NRP Phase II Action Plan 7 p.m. | Hale School - Cafeteria 1220 E. 54th Street |
| Dec. 27 Monday | HPDL Board Meeting 7 p.m. | HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S. |
| Jan. 17 Monday | HPDL Community Meeting 7 p.m. | Pearl Park 414 E. Diamond Lake Road |
| Jan. 24 Monday | HPDL Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. | HPDL Office 5144 13th Avenue South |

You make the call:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Bus Ride Info | 373-3333 |
| Humane Society | 763-522-4325 |
| Animal Control | 348-4250 |
| CCP/SAFE | |
| Officer Brian Cross | 673-2848 |
| Spec. Sue Roethele | 673-2839 |
| Burned Out Street Lights | 673-2429 |
| Airport Noise | 726-9411 |
| Graffiti | 673-2090 |
| Pearl Park | 370-4906 |
| City Council Member Scott Benson ⁽¹¹⁾ | 673-2211 |
| County Commissioner Gail Dorfman ⁽³⁾ | 348-7883 |
| Peter McLaughlin ⁽⁴⁾ | 348-7884 |
| State Senator Wes Skoglund ⁽⁶²⁾ | 651-296-4274 |
| State Representative Jean Wagenius ^(62A) | 651-296-4200 |
| Minnesota Public Lobby | 378-0285 |
| HPDL Office | 824-7707 |
| office@hpd.org | |
| www.hpd.org | |

VOTE HPDL NRP Phase II Action Plan

Hale School
1220 E. 54th Street
7 p.m. Monday
December 6th, 2004

HPDL Newsletter Special Edition!

Look inside for your copy of the
HPDL NRP Phase II Action Plan.

Join us
December 6, 2004
for a Community Meeting
to vote on the plan!