



Law and Order Night in HPDL

What questions do you have about crime prevention, public safety, child protection and 911? Here's your opportunity to learn more. HPDL's Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, together with Minneapolis CCP/SAFE invites residents to a get together on Monday, March 21, 2005, at 7 p.m. at Pearl Park Recreation Center, 414 Diamond Lake Road. Inspector Scott Gerlicher, Commander of the 3rd Precinct and Lieutenant Connie Leaf, the new sector Lieutenant, will be speaking about crime and police service in our community. Maryam Williams, Supervisor of the 911 Communications Center will also be speaking on how the 911 system works. Other members of law and order agencies, such as Child Protection, Probation and the City Attorney's office will be there to answer any questions you may have. So join us to get the 411 on law and order in HPDL. Child care will be available. Please call the HPDL office before March 16, 2005, to reserve a space for your child.



Marie Foss

Kids rushed the gates at the Gold Coin Hunt of this year's Frost Fest.

The Topic is: Transportation

By Bill Helgeson

Three topics are on the minds of HPDL residents: the expansion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the proposed reconstruction of Interstate 35W at Highway 62, and improvement of the traffic issues at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Edgewater Boulevard.

Airport Expansion

In January, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) voted to spend \$10M for ongoing development and environmental review for the expansion of the Humphrey Terminal. The Humphrey Terminal would be expanded from 10 to 18 gates and all non-skyteam airlines (those not having a relationship with Northwest) would be moved to the expanded terminal. This is considered the first phase of a three-phase \$862M proposal put forth by Northwest Airlines. A final vote for funding the \$135M first phase plan is scheduled to take place in June.

35W / Crosstown Reconstruction

Because the City of Minneapolis vetoed the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) initial plan for this major highway reconstruction project, a municipal consent appeals process was initiated. State law requires that a three-member appeal panel consisting of one representative from the Municipality, one representative from MnDOT, and a neutral representative provide recommendations to the Commissioner of Transportation. The municipal consent appeal hearing took place on Monday, January 31, 2005. The major discussion items were Bus Rapid Transit lanes, the width of bridge sidewalks and bike lanes, and a possible re-build of the bridge over Minnehaha Creek. According to state law, the appeal panel must issue its decision within 60 days of the hearing. The panel members were clear, however, of their intent to issue a decision to the Commis-

Mark Your Calendar for the Business Fair!

The HPDL Business Association is holding its second annual Business Fair in conjunction with the Hale and Field Schools' Plant Sale. Scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2005, the Business Fair will take place in the cafeteria of Hale School. Last year, the Fair was a terrific success, and hundreds of fair attendees and business owners and employees had a great time as they sampled the delicious food from HPDL restaurants and coffee shops, participated in door prize drawings every 15 minutes, and mingled about meeting one another. Keep your eyes open for a post card announcement with more details in May. HPDL business owners are invited to participate, please contact Reid Olson at reid@hpdl.org.

sioner of Transportation well before April. In the interim, MnDOT and the City plan to meet and negotiate outstanding municipal consent issues prior to the issuance of the appeal panel decision.

Cedar Avenue / Edgewater Boulevard Intersection

This intersection can be difficult to navigate and presents hazards to both drivers and pedestrians.

On January 18, 2005, representatives from the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department, Hennepin County, and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board had a meeting and several alternatives were discussed:

Short Term Alternatives

- Removal of the southbound leading left turn arrow at the Nokomis Parkway signal during non-rush hour periods. This has been implemented.

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Transportation *from page 1*

- Physical protection of the southwest corner of Cedar Avenue and Edgewater Boulevard.
- Installation of a permanent Dynamic Speed Display for the southbound Cedar Avenue approach to Nokomis Parkway.

Long Term Alternatives

- Combining the intersections of Edgewater Boulevard and Nokomis Parkway.
- Providing a new connection from Nokomis Parkway to Edgewater Boulevard (with Edgewater's access closed or restricted at Cedar Avenue).
- Adding capacity to the Nokomis Parkway intersection.
- Creating a gateway concept as drivers enter from the south.

Public Works will need additional meetings with the Parks and Recreation Board to further discuss their concerns and desires. Further discussions with Hennepin County relative to potential funding alternatives are also planned. Once completed, the long-term alternatives will be presented to the jurisdictions and the Citizen's Advisory Committee for review and comment. Following any modifications based on comments received, the alternatives will then be presented to the neighborhoods for review.

After a few years' hiatus, the Transportation Committee is once again active within HPDL. If you would like to join this committee, sign-up for email updates or just have a question, please email Bill Helgeson at bill@hpd.org.

From the Chair

By *Jeff Rau*
Chair, HPDL Board of Directors

It seems like just yesterday that we were talking about football, a new school year and falling leaves. Now we're starting to think about warmer temperatures, gardens and spring break. Not to disparage winter in any way but there is just nothing like a Minnesota spring. All the people who have huddled in their houses start to emerge and the mood changes. Our vibrant community once again starts meeting on the sidewalks, in the parks and around the gardens. What a wonderful time of year!

It's also a wonderful time of year at HPDL. Last December, we met as a community to talk about and voice approval for the direction of the HPDL Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase II Action Plan. The meeting went well with many useful suggestions and supportive comments. After that meeting, some revisions were made to the plan based on the input the community provided. This final draft was then presented to the HPDL Board of Directors for approval. On January 31, 2005, the Board approved the plan for submission to the NRP Policy Board.

While this may sound like the completion of the process, it really is only half way. At this point, the NRP Policy Board will take our Action Plan and perform a rigorous review of its contents. Based on that review, revisions may still need to be made. A lawyer will also review the document to ensure that the activities included meet the definition of fundable projects as part of the NRP legislation passed by the Minnesota legislature. Finally, the NRP Policy Board

must vote to approve the Action Plan after all these reviews and revisions. There is still a lot to do...

However, this is still a huge milestone for us! This process has been in the works for over 2 years now and numerous people have willingly given of their time to make it possible. Many thanks to our Phase II committee members from 2000 to the present: Dana Bacon, Scott Benson, Karin Bolwahn, Rosie Doege, Matt Doscotch, Paul Dykes, Bert Ellenbogen, Sally Hoover, Dawn Lindblom, Ken Martin, Helen Merrill, Laura Pagois, Karen Pritz, Helen Rozycki, Raymond Rozycki, Dick Saunders, Jane Shimek, Jason Stone, Margaret Sullivan, and Justin White as well as everyone else who worked so hard to get us this far. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



City Remodeling Showcased in Home Tour

Three residents of HPDL will share their homes and their neighborhood pride during this year's

Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour. Our neighbors at 5230 - 15th Avenue South, 5036-11th Avenue South and 5233 Bloomington Avenue South will participate in the tour on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 8, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

In its 18th year, the Home Tour is an annual event that promotes city living by bringing together thousands of home enthusiasts for a weekend of home remodeling ideas and new home ownership and rental opportunities. The home tour is a free, self-guided event and takes place regardless of the weather. A description of each home and a map showing its location will be available in late April. Each home on the tour is identified with a home tour street sign. Take this opportunity to speak with homeowners and remodeling contractors and learn about neighborhoods and our wonderful city homes!

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: _____

The Rabbithood Reviewer Strikes!

Nokomis Café

5155 Bloomington Avenue South
612-724-6111

Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:00-8:00, Fri 7:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-9:00, Sun 8:00-8:00

The Nokomis Café is a new business in HPDL and fate led me to it one mild Saturday night recently. My wife and I left for dinner about 8pm. The restaurant we headed to had a line waiting out the door. With no parking for at least a block or more, we didn't even stop to see how long the wait was. Our second backup choice was no better. On our way to our third backup choice, I suddenly remembered that there was a new restaurant that was right on our way! I had heard they specialized in ribs, and my wife was fine with that. Thank goodness we're flexible. Anyway, we parked right in front, and walked in to an empty restaurant. We asked the young man who greeted us what he recommended. His name was Cory, and he is the owner. After hearing his recommendations we ordered a full rack of ribs (\$14.00), a side order of baked beans (\$1.50 small/\$2.50 large), and an order of one of the three soups-of-the-day (\$2.50 cup/\$3.50 bowl). The dining area had been freshly painted with nice bright colors, and there were several tables for dining in. We ordered to go, in part because it was about 15 minutes to closing time. While waiting we lounged in some of the most comfortable leather chairs that I've ever seen in any waiting area. There was a bulletin board with house sale and rental flyers, and some other reading material. There was also a stack of Frost Fest brochures!

As we waited for our selections to be prepared, we reviewed the menu a little more

thoroughly and noted that it included turkey, ham or roast beef hoagies, with choices of cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and/or Italian dressing. Other options included a garden salad, various snack items such as garlic bread, chips, muffins, scones and cookies. For caffeine lovers, there is a large selection of coffee and espresso drinks. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$4.00 for drinks ranging from a simple espresso shot, to cappuccino, latte, and various concoctions of mocha espresso—all available in choice of 12 oz. or 16 oz. There are other drinks like hot cocoa, tea, juice, and so on. There is even a small kids section on the menu, which includes corn dogs, mac and cheese, and 'kids meal' with juice box and cookie for \$2.25.

Our order was ready before we knew it and we headed for home. Once there, we grabbed some plates and silverware and opened the to-go box. If you're a fan of ribs—you gotta try the ribs from Nokomis Café! Besides the fact that there was a very generous quantity, these were fall-off-the-bone tender. They were covered with a tasty barbeque sauce and were truly delicious. I had asked if they had a spicy sauce, but they didn't, so I did add a touch of spice at home on my second helping. The soup was a seven bean soup and was substantial and delicious. The side order of baked beans was tasty. We also received a discount coupon for our next visit. Good idea!

The next time I don't want to wait in a long line—I know where to go! If you want your meal to be ready and waiting when you arrive, you can call Nokomis Café in advance at (612) 724-6111 and order ahead of time. I have a feeling that if Cory keeps up the good work, I might have to wait in line sometime soon. Nokomis Café: Welcome to HPDL.



Iris Von Bargen

Hale School hosts the Plant Sale and HDPL Business Fair.

Hale/ Field Plant Sale

By Deb Geraghty

Based on the overwhelmingly positive response to their initial effort last year, Hale and Field Community Schools will again join forces in a plant sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at Hale School, located on the corner of 12th Avenue and 54th Street and will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with pre-order pickup from 8 a.m. to noon.

A wide variety of annuals will be available in bedding packs, larger singles and hanging baskets, and there will be a selection of perennials too. These gorgeous plants are supplied by Pahl's, a family-owned nursery in Apple Valley. In addition to plants, the Garden Store will offer an enticing assortment of trellises, planters and garden gadgets.

Profits from the sale go to the Field PTA and the Hale Landscape Committee. Last year, Hale's portion of the sale helped pay for the terraced seating and blacktop play court that replaced the infamous muddy hill on the playground, as well as additions to the series of "Edu-Path" gardens around the school. PTA dollars at both schools help to provide supplies and services which otherwise would have to be eliminated in this era of budget cuts.

As anyone who was there last year can testify, this isn't just an ordinary plant sale. It's a garden event, with music, kid's activities and Master Gardeners on hand to answer your questions. We're even hoping to add a coffee shop this year. And while you're there, plan to stop by the HPDL Business Fair, located inside the school!



Marie Foss

Frost Fest brought people together.

Meet Your Neighbor

Elections for the current HPDL Board of Directors were held in September 2004.

Paul Dykes

As a resident of HPDL, I was interested in becoming more aware of the “goings-on” in the area and also having some input. I wanted to be active in the neighborhood — to become a part of it. I have served on the Board as Secretary and have also been involved in the Housing and Phase II Planning Committees. I also find the time to work on our community garden at Hampshire Drive and Diamond Lake Road. I have lived in the Hale neighborhood for four years with my partner Joe and our three cats. I am currently employed by Century College in White Bear Lake. You may have seen me this summer at the Bachman’s store on Lyndale Avenue, where I was a horticulturalist. Or, perhaps you’ve been to IKEA — I currently work part-time there in addition to my job at Century. My hobbies include singing and gardening (my yard is gradually turning from grass to garden...)



Marie Foss
Paul Dykes

Erroll Foy

I decided to get involved with the HPDL Board of Directors as a way to connect with the neighborhood. My wife Amy exposed me to the association as she is the block contact (blockhead) for Park Avenue between 58th and 60th. My interests include transportation issues such as airport noise mitigation and the construction of 35W and involvement with the HPDL Business Association. We have lived here about one year and are very happy with our decision to make a home here. I look forward to meeting many of you and if there is anything I can do for you, please contact me via the HPDL website at erroll@hpd.org.



Marie Foss
Erroll Foy

Ben Frevert

My name is Ben Frevert, Hale representative, and I am currently a senior in the In-

ternational Baccalaureate program at Southwest High School.

I am participating on the Board of Directors because I have always had an interest in government, I have lived in the Hale neighborhood my entire life, and I feel that the youth of these neighborhoods are under-represented.

My main area of concern is the development of Edward C. Solomon Park. I want to ensure that the park is developed with community interests in mind and will serve to diversify and expand the parks systems in our community.

Bill Helgeson

I am part of the HPDL Board of Directors because I’ve always been someone that is active in my community. I’ve been involved in politics as a candidate and as a volunteer at the grass roots level and I’ve been involved with the business community as a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. Becoming active in HPDL was just a natural extension of wanting to make my community a better place to live. My area of interest is the new Transportation Committee, an expansion of the previous Airport Committee. When I tell people I lived on an island as a kid, they always envision an exotic Caribbean island with sand beaches and palm trees. The island I grew up on happens to be in the heart of Minneapolis — Nicollet Island. Now I live in the Page neighborhood with my wife Wendy, my son Andrew and our daughter Tess. The best things about the neighborhood include all the diverse and wonderful businesses within walking distance, Minnehaha Creek right outside my front door and our truly wonderful neighbors. For over a year, the neighbors have gotten together once a month to celebrate Flamingo Friday. So if you are traveling down Columbus Avenue on a Friday evening and see pink flamingos in the front yard and a bunch of smiling and happy people in the house, you’ve just witnessed Flamingo Friday!



Marie Foss
Ben Frevert



Marie Foss
Bill Helgeson

Dawn Lindblom

My husband and I have lived in the Diamond Lake neighborhood for over 9 years with our two pug dogs. We enjoy the close proximity to all the wonderful things the city has to offer...great restaurants, first-class museums, and the numerous parks and lakes for long walks or bike rides. This will be my second year on the HPDL Board and I’ve particularly enjoyed the opportunity to be an active participant in helping to develop our neighborhood plan and participate in the 35W/Crosstown reconstruction planning process. I also appreciate the dedication and passion of all the HDPL board members I have gotten to know over the past year and hope that more community members will get involved!

Ken Martin

I am married to Jennifer O’Rourke and we have two sons, a 2 1/2 year old and a 4 month old. We have lived in the neighborhood for a little over three years. Our Diamond Lake home is the first for my wife and I and we couldn’t have picked a nicer neighborhood to live in than HPDL. Our hobbies as of late have been parenting, as two young children don’t leave time for much of anything else. However, when I do have time I love sports, outdoor activities, and politics. I joined the Board because I believe that HPDL can make a difference in the lives of all of our neighbors and have a lasting impact on our community for generations to come.

Reid Olson

As a resident of HPDL since 1972, I wanted to be more involved with events that affect our neighborhood. I joined the Board last year in order to be more involved and I look back on the past year as a rewarding experience. As a “hands-on” type, I have enjoyed working with the Business Association on the highly successful Business Fair, as well as Frost Fest and Picnic in the Park. I’ve also enjoyed contributing to the HPDL Newsletter. My home is shared with my wife, Margarita, and two of our three daughters. The third daughter lives in Sacramento with her husband and our 5 year old grandson. One of our daughters has “returned to the nest,” together with a puppy that she acquired while venturing out on her own. I love the central location of our neighborhood, but like many others, I am disappointed in the actions of the Metropolitan

Airports Commission regarding airport noise abatement. I look forward to another exciting year with HPDL

Jeff Rau

I have lived in the Diamond Lake neighborhood for over six years with my wife Heather. We have two sons - Erik (5 years) and Owen (18 months) and new daughter who was born in November. The thing I like most about HPDL is that while we are part of the "big city," you can still get to know your neighbors and interact with them. I joined the Board in 2003 to get more involved in our community. My area of interest on the Board is finances — how do we make the organization self-sustaining in the future? If you've got any great ideas, feel free drop me a line at jeff@hpd.org.



Marie Foss

Jeff Rau

Jane Shimek

A few months ago, longtime HPDL volunteer and my friend Karen Pritz lost her battle with leukemia. Karen is really the reason that I'm part of the HPDL Board. She encouraged participation, collaboration and organization and when she saw a spark of interest in someone, she fanned the flame until you were fully involved! For that, I say thanks to Karen for her dedication and inspiration. This is my first long term volunteering experience and it's been interesting and rewarding. I live in the great Page neighborhood with my husband Dale and our greyhound Trudi. When we're not planning, plotting or executing yet another landscaping project, you can find us exploring new restaurants and businesses in HPDL and the rest of south Minneapolis.



Marie Foss

Jane Shimek

Jason Stone

I am pleased to continue serving on the HPDL Board of Directors. My wife Shireen and I have been married about a



Marie Foss

Jason Stone

year and a half and we're tucked happily away between the 5-8 Club and Fat Lorenzo's in the Diamond Lake neighborhood. Cumulatively, we've lived in South Minneapolis about ten years and feel very much at home. We feel that we have the best of all worlds in the HPDL neighborhood -- great neighbors, wonderful parks and lakes, a well built home (1951 is a nice vintage), central access to the metro area, and a variety of small shops and restaurants. I'm an Information Technology Manager for US Bancorp, although my education is in Sociology and Latin-American Studies. I am very active as a community volunteer and in local politics. Serving on the Board is a joy, because I'm passionate about my city and find a great deal of personal satisfaction in working for a better community.

Jennifer Waak

I've lived in the Hale neighborhood for just over 5 years, buying my house so I could have a dog. I came home with BJ from the



Marie Foss

Jennifer Waak

Humane Society just weeks later. I decided to get involved in the neighborhood association as well as the Board because I was spending far too much time reading about various local events and wondering who was part of those mysterious "neighborhood groups" that the city met with. I realized the only way to have a voice was to get involved. My Mom always told us growing up that we couldn't complain unless we first tried to do something about it, and I guess that lesson stuck. I do think that living in HPDL is the best of both worlds. As a consultant, I work all over the metro area but I am always less than a half hour from work and am always going against traffic. I still find it hard to believe that I'm minutes from both downtown and the tranquility of Minnehaha Creek. BJ's favorite activity is stalking small animals along the creek and around Lake Nokomis, so we can be found over there most days. She has yet to catch anything, but she is not deterred and I enjoy the comedy of it all. My remaining free time seems to be split between the dichotomy of working on my house and yard and planning overseas adventures for myself and friends.

Safety First!

Attention Residents: This crime notification was made available to Hale, Page and Diamond Lake residents on February 10, 2005 by the Minneapolis Police Department. If you would like to receive further notifications, please contact 3rd Precinct SAFE Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethle at (612) 673-2839. You can also schedule a free home security check.

Facts:

Since February 2, 2005, there have been several daytime burglaries in the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake area. Thieves usually gained entry by breaking a house door or a window. One entry was made through an unlocked attached garage. The most recent incident occurred shortly before 5 a.m., two occurred between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and another in the late afternoon. Items taken include cash, coins, a purse, and a briefcase. There is no suspect information.

Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Monthly Meetings

March

Topic: Health Care Directives and Power of Attorney

Speaker: Mike Pesellin, Attorney with the Legal Aide

April

Topic: Pursuing Justice: A Prosecutor's Perspective

Speaker: Amy Klobuchar, Hennepin County Attorney

May

Topic: Healthy Eating

Speaker: Karen Palmer, Dietician - North Memorial Medical Center

June

Topic: Gardening

Speaker: Hennepin County Master Gardener

Meetings are held at 1:30pm on the last Wednesday of every month at Faith Lutheran Church, 3430 East 51st Street.

Highlight on HPDL Businesses

By Reid Olson

Snyders Drug Moves into HPDL

It's not every day that we can welcome a new business to our neighborhood but on October 1, 2004, Snyders Drug Stores moved into their new location at 5159 Bloomington Avenue South. Nancy Caligiuri, a Snyders Drug representative, attended the HPDL Business Association Committee meeting in January and shared how excited they are to be a part of our neighborhood. "Minnesota nice is alive and well," she said, as she described the welcome they have been receiving from neighbors who have been stopping in to say hi, as well as to shop. Residents are welcome to transfer their prescriptions to their pharmacy, as many have already done and Nancy said, "we will make the transfer painless." With the proximity to HPDL neighborhood, you might even save money on gas! The store is staffed by pharmacists Mike and Maggie, and by technicians and staff Nancy, Katie, Mike and Kris. Judging from Nancy's enthusiasm, they will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Sheila Bruce's Piano Instruction

HPDL has a neighborhood piano teacher who has been giving lessons from her home since 1989. In my communication with Sheila Bruce, I quickly found that I learned as much about her as I did about the piano lesson business. Sheila is a very proud HPDL resident, spending a lot of time volunteering for community and church activities, and getting to know her neighbors. Many of her students find her neighborhood location very convenient. I get the impres-

sion that a large part of her life revolves around her students.

Sheila offers beginning to intermediate private piano instruction for students of all ages. Her style of teaching is relaxed yet structured enough to show consistent progress. She uses various techniques, such as games, repetition, humor, and goal setting to encourage her students. Every spring, her students participate in an annual music party (piano recital) to parade their new skills.

"It must be the beauty of the HPDL neighborhood that helps bring out all that beautiful music from my students," Sheila has determined. She is currently offering 14 lessons for the price of 12 for HPDL resident and their friends—just mention that you saw the offer in the HPDL newsletter. Sheila can be contacted at (612) 827-7834 or emailed at slabmusic@aol.com. Lessons are conveniently located at 5218-11th Avenue South.

Classic TaeKwonDo Studios

Classic TaeKwonDo Studios has been operating at its current location in HPDL for 4 years. The business is operated by Carolyn Boston, who has been teaching TaeKwonDo for 28 years. Carolyn teaches traditional TaeKwonDo, which she describes as a Korean martial art utilizing the whole body for self defense. She finds that TaeKwonDo teaches coordination, self-control and discipline while building confidence, strength, and flexibility. Carolyn has the support and involvement of her Master instructor Grand Master Moon Kim who visits periodically for advanced promotion tests and helps her keep the tradition true to form.

Carolyn feels that the family oriented nature of the HPDL neighborhood is a great fit for her family oriented school and finds that parents are very interested in participating in their kid's activities. She welcomes neighbors to stop in and visit. "Our studio is a unique blend of tradition and fun," Carolyn said. Among the many benefits of TaeKwonDo are: building concentration skills, relieving stress, and helping adolescents gain the internal strength

needed to combat peer pressure. Family discounts are available and a current offer is available that allows a second family member to receive 3 months free when another person in the family signs up for 3 months. Call (612) 810-2051 for details. Classic TaeKwonDo Studios is located at 5157 Bloomington Avenue South.

Classic TaeKwonDo Studios has been supportive of community activities such as the Business Fair, Picnic in the Park, and Frost Fest. Thanks for your continued support.

ReNance Dance Studio

Not many HPDL businesses have been active in the neighborhood as long as the ReNance Dance Studio. But believe it or not, ReNae Baechler took lessons here as a three year old girl! ReNae eventually bought the business in June of 1978 and has maintained the studio in the same location ever since. ReNae has degrees in both elementary education and dance, and has taught many children in the community. Students are offered beginning classes in ballet and tap and progress to jazz, danceline and pointe as they advance. With 27 years in the business, ReNae has learned that keeping classes small allows her to provide more personal attention. "I also take pride in keeping reasonable rates, not only for lessons, but also for dancewear and costumes—all while fostering a non-competitive atmosphere," she said. Classes culminate in an annual recital in June. Special offers are available in August when registration for the next dance season begins. Find out more about classes, or about the recital this June by calling (612) 824-0848. ReNance Dance Studio is located at 5352 Chicago Avenue South.

The HPDL Business Association works to encourage support of neighborhood businesses. So, if you own or operate a business in HPDL, or live in HPDL but own or operate a business in another nearby neighborhood, we would like to know about you! You are invited to complete a business summary form available through the HPDL office. Call (612) 824-7707 for more information or email us at office@hpd.org.

Learn more about HPDL

Our neighborhood website is all new and includes information about upcoming local events.

Visit www.hpd.org

For information on local businesses, visit our Business Association website at www.rabbithood.com

From City Hall

By Scott Benson, Ward 11

To my friends and neighbors with HPDL: Thank you for the opportunity to update you about the happenings at City Hall. If you have questions, please feel free to e-mail me scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or call my office at (612) 673-2211.

Truth in Taxation

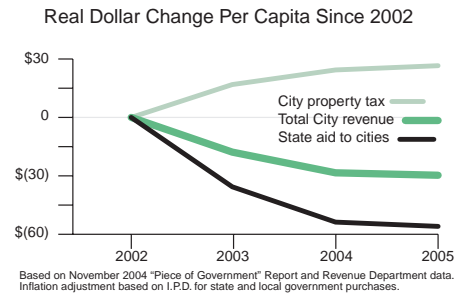
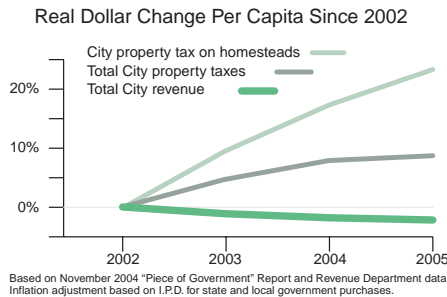
Property taxes for many of the residents in Ward 11 and across the state are going up. But what is causing these increases? The G-7 Tax Study Group, an organization which consists of some of the largest cities, counties and school districts in the state, has been studying property taxes and the forces that affect them. Their findings paint an interesting picture of the multiple reasons behind the tax increases. All of the numbers referenced in this article are state-wide averages, but correlate fairly consistently with the situation in Minneapolis.

Property taxes are not increasing because of increasing government spending. As the chart below shows, in spite of increases toping 5% in total property tax and over 20%

taxes by \$26 per resident. This increase in city taxes was not because cities were spending more. Rather, the city property tax increase was the result of an even larger decline in LGA.

Homestead property taxes are rising at an even faster pace than general property taxes. The 2001 tax act shifted the property tax burden from businesses to homeowners. In 1997, commercial properties paid 56% of the total property tax, apartments paid 12% and homeowners paid 32%. In 2005, businesses will pay only 35% of the property taxes, apartments 12%, leaving homeowners to pay 53% of the total property taxes. Even if the city made no changes to property taxes or fees, total property taxes on the average Minneapolis home would increase 8.5% in 2005, mostly because of these changes in State law.

There are numerous reasons why property taxes are increasing, but as can be plainly seen, the Governor and the State legislature have had the most impact on property tax rates.



in property tax on homesteaded properties, average city revenue is actually down.

A large part of the reason for this decrease in total revenue is the reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA) from the state. The next chart shows total city revenue, which is declining, in comparison to the two main revenue streams, property tax and LGA.

From 2002 to 2005, inflation-adjusted city aid is down \$56 per resident. In order to make up for this loss of aid, cities reduced their total expenditures \$29 per resident. However, this alone was not enough to entirely make up for the loss of state aid. In addition, cities had to increase property

Hot Plate Restaurant coming soon!!!

"Comfort food, just like what Mom would make, but better" is on the menu at a new restaurant called Hot Plate, due to open in April.

Located at 5204 Bloomington Avenue South, Hot Plate will serve breakfast and lunch and will feature waffles, pancakes, scrambled eggs, meatloaf, hot dishes, and grilled cheese sandwiches. The fun, funky, retro space will also feature a coffee bar with bars, cookies, muffins, and scones.

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
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 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

March 21 Monday	Law and Order In HPDL Community Meeting 7 p.m.	Pearl Park 414 E. Diamond Lake Road
March 28 Monday	HPDL Board Meeting 7 p.m.	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.
April 23 Saturday	Earth Day Celebration 9:30 a.m.	Pearl Park 414 E. Diamond Lake Road
April 25 Monday	HPDL Board Meeting 7 p.m.	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.
May 14 Saturday	HPDL Business Fair 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Hale/ Field Community Schools Plant Sale 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Hale School 1220 East 54th St.
May 23 Monday	HPDL Board Meeting 7 p.m.	HPDL Office 5144 13th Ave. S.

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	

Stay in Touch with HPDL

Learn more about your community by signing up for our neighborhood email alerts. We'll send you occasional updates about events such as the Picnic in the Park, Business Association Fair, Earth Day and the upcoming elm tree care workshops. Send an email to Rosie Doege at office@hpd.org with the words "Sign me up for HPDL email alerts" and we'll be sure you receive ongoing updates. Please note that HPDL will not share your email address with anyone.