

LAKE STREET COUNCIL
INTERIM EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
Joyce Wisdom

LAKE STREET
BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Uptown
Business Association

Lyn-Lake
Business Association

Nicollet-Lake
Business Association

4th & Lake
Business Association

Chicago & Lake
Business Association

Bloom-Cedar-Lake
Business Association

Hiawatha-Lake
Business Association

Longfellow
Business Association

The Lake Street Council
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Minneapolis, MN 55407
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www.lakestreetcouncil.org

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE HEARS SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS CONCERNS IN PUBLIC HEARING

by Valerie Powers

At last -- the big day is finally set! Monday, May 16 is the date set for the start of the long-awaited, much-needed Lake Street Reconstruction and Streetscaping Project. Work will begin at 14th Avenue South and move west to 5th Avenue South by fall of 2005.

Join us the day before on Sunday, May 15 when we hold a kick-off bash celebrating this development! We are closing off Lake Street between 13th and 15th Avenues. Work on the second portion of the middle segment, running from 14th Avenue South to 21st Avenue South, starts in April 2006. At the same time, work will also start on the east segment of Lake Street, running from 27th Avenue

South to the Mississippi River; work on the west segment is scheduled to begin in April 2007.

On Tuesday, February 15, the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee held a public hearing on the special assessments for the project. The three-part hearing covered road work assessments, base level streetscape assessments, and the enhanced streetscape assessments that will be maintained by the special service district. Several PAC members were in attendance, listening as property and business owners spoke about the financial stresses caused by the assessments. City staffers were present to work with these concerned people. At the end of the hearing, Ninth Ward Council Member Gary

Schiff proposed that the City Council commend the Lake Street PAC members for all their hard work and dedication.

For more information, contact Tom Johnson with Smith Parker at (612) 344-1400 or log on to www.lakestreet.info. To learn more about the May 15 Kick-off Bash, contact Joyce Wisdom with the Lake Street Council at (612) 822-0232.

Project Representative Tom Johnson and PAC chair Paula Gilbertson listen to Project Manager Jim Grube outline developments with the Lake Street Reconstruction and Streetscaping Project.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Lake Street Council's Annual Members Luncheon is Wednesday, March 23! Held at the Ballentine VFW! Special guest speaker Dr. Thandiwe Peebles, Superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools! Call Joyce Wisdom at (612) 822-0232.

See Page 6 of this newsletter for details!

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Joyce Takes Up The Torch - Temporarily

To All Our Businesses and Friends in the Lake Street Area:

Ted Muller has been the Executive Director of Lake Street Council for several years and an untiring advocate for the Lake Street business community. While we know he will always be an advocate for our business community, he is now going to devote himself full-time to his own businesses. You will still see him at various Lake Street related meetings, but he'll be wearing a new hat.

The Lake Street Council Board has been sorry to see Ted leave the Executive Director position. Where else would we find someone to take this part-time job that

requires full-time dedication and pays peanuts? You'll not be surprised that I've accepted the Interim Director's position. I've served as Chair of the Hiawatha-Lake Business Association and have served on the LSC Board for four years.

I have a heartfelt commitment to the business community and neighborhoods of the Lake Street area. These are the constituencies the Lake Street Council serves and the stakeholders that propel our mission. I understand the level of priority-setting needed to raise the funds necessary to build the Lake Street Council into a more sustainable business organization. I'm confident that with our Board's support and your help, we can

lead the Lake Street Council and the whole of Lake Street into the future.

Ted and I have managed through our transition process and the transition continues. The community has clearly informed us that our mission addresses a need in the business community, and one that also serves the related business associations from Uptown to Longfellow: To represent the commercial, industrial and professional business community in the greater Lake Street corridor.

The Lake Street Council Board is optimistic as we look to the future. We have been working on our new strategic plan and we continue to explore opportunities to expand the services offered.



Lake Street Council Executive Director Joyce Wisdom

Please join me in wishing Ted a fond *adieu*, and I hope you will welcome me into this interim position. If you have any questions, please call me at (612) 822-0232. Once again, thank you for being a part of both our local business community and the Lake Street Council.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wisdom
Interim Director

Business Survey Results Reflect Corridor Concerns

by Elma Johnson

Special thanks to everyone who helped gather or provided us valuable information about your business.

May 16th marks the start of the work of Lake Street reconstruction! We've learned more about the Lake Street business community, your concerns and readiness to face the reconstruction project. By the end of January, over 90 businesses had been surveyed. The results showed there are several concerns commonly shared by the businesses: parking, signage, decrease in customer traffic and need for affordable advertising.

Lake Street Council is actively

involved in several projects to address these concerns. Examples of such joint efforts are the Shared Parking Program, preparation of temporary additional signage during the construction, and our participation in the Midtown Marketing Program. This is a fantastic initiative of Midtown Community Works Partnership whose goal is to create and develop a new Midtown Brand. Image development for Lake Street will mean businesses adapting to a more competitive marketplace, building a broader vision and planning for the future.

Our business community is currently experiencing steady growth and becoming more

visible to the greater Twin Cities' community. Merchants have already proven to be adaptable and capable of learning quickly to adjust to the needs of an everyday more demanding and aware customer base. Lake Street attracts and brings together very different peoples, cultures, and ways of living and doing business. Being able to maintain your own identity among a greater Midtown one, we think will be key. Part of the LSC role will be to help design a "tailored" and representative Midtown Marketing Program that recognizes the cultural richness of Lake Street and the identity of the individual communities.

During the coming reconstruction, LSC will be helping to open avenues of communication and build relationships between the businesses, other neighbors, and construction crews, at the same time it will be providing an overall picture of resources available.

The Lake Street Council Board of Directors meets monthly. Call Executive Director Joyce Wisdom at (612) 822-0232 if you have questions or would like to attend a meeting.

by Valerie Powers

On any Saturday night of the year, a group of dedicated volunteers can be seen out on the streets of Minneapolis as MAD DADS patrol the community, on the look-out for young people who need guidance in navigating the hazards of drug dealing, prostitution, violence and other dangers that plague city youth. MAD DADS, which stands for Men Against Destruction Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder, is a grass-roots community-based Christian group aiming to provide these at-risk youth with positive role models and to provide a safe environment in which they can live, work and grow.

The men of MAD DADS, ably

assisted by MOMS (Mothers Offering Moral Support) have logged in more than 25,000 hours of street patrols in Minneapolis since hitting the pavements in 1998. Together, they have hosted nearly 100 block events and rallies involving over 37,000 area adults and children, performed outreach in area schools to urge students to remain in school to graduate, and have provided hundreds of hours on patrol in response to specific requests for safety assistance from area residents. MAD DADS has held mentoring sessions for youth, has partnered and collaborated on safety, youth and community-building activities with other metro groups such as the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Rise,

Shiloh Temple, Urban Ventures, the Minneapolis Gang Task Force, the Minneapolis Urban League, Sabathani Community Center, Weed & Seed, and Hennepin County Juvenile Detention.

MAD DADS is a national organization that started in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1989. It arrived in Minneapolis in 1998. It is connected to the Center for Fathering and the Women's Empowerment Group.

The Minneapolis Chapter is headed by V. J. Smith, who describes himself as a "turn-around specialist and hope dealer." Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Smith found himself looking at his own life and values with fresh eyes after the

birth of his first child. His efforts with MAD DADS have earned him many awards, including the National Crime Prevention Council Award of Excellence in 1999, the Black Pages Humanitarian Award in 2000, the National MAD DADS of the Year Award and the Virginia McKnight Binger Human Service Award in 2001, and the Leadership Award from the Boy Scouts of America in 2002, among others.

MAD DADS is headquartered at 3026 - Fourth Avenue South. Their telephone number is (612) 822-0802 and their fax number is (612) 822-2507. V. J. Smith invites all members of the public to join MAD DADS on their Saturday night patrols.

News of the Nodes

Longfellow Business Association

Our big event in January was a Combined Business Associations' Forum with our elected officials, hosted by LBA, Seward Civic and Commerce Association and Hi-Lake Business Association.

We thank the following elected officials for attending: Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Council Members Gary Schiff, Sandy Colvin-Roy, Paul Zerby and Dean Zimmermann, Park Board Commissioner Annie Young, and State Representative Jim Davnie.

On one of the coldest days of the year, over 100 members of the business community attended this standing room only meeting. We obviously picked the right combination -- Pizza Luce,

politicians and public policy.

The focus was small businesses and industrial development; the turnout showed it is an important issue. We assured ourselves a seat at the table as the City conducts a study of its industrial land and employment policy. It was agreed that forums such as this are very helpful in connecting individual business owners to public policy issues and decisions that affect them. The politicians also recognize the importance of our local business associations in making that connection. Each business association can invite their own elected officials individually to meetings in the near future. Officials noted the importance of business associations setting clear agendas and priorities and working together towards those ends.

LBA also hosted a meeting on Feb. 17th to update businesses on the status on Lake Street Reconstruction, focusing on the proposed streetscaping design and roadway assessments. Last summer, a group of residents and businesses had agreed to this joint proposal, which both LBA and the Project Advisory Committee support. SRF Consulting and Hennepin County brought the "Big Map" and answered many questions. The next step is to form a committee to recommend a more detailed package of streetscape elements and estimate the corresponding assessments.

Hi-Lake Business Association

HLBA is inspired going into 2005! We started the year in a joint association meeting with both Longfellow and Seward that was a

great political and networking success. We look forward to continuing this tradition long into the future. HLBA will be financially supporting the Lake Street Ambassadors Program in the summer of 2005. \$1000 will go towards this successful summer job program for youth working to keep Lake Street clean. Please remember to support the Midtown Public Market again this coming growing season. HLBA is sponsoring A Day at the Market. Your business can also get exposure and show support by contacting Joanna Stone at midtownmarket@qwest.com. Reach our chair Kent Peterson at peterstonk@bitroads.com for future HLBA meeting locations. Join us monthly on the second Friday at 8:45 am.

- Continued on page 4 -

by Valerie Powers

It was winter 1974. Law school student Don Blyly was hunched over a reference book studying when it struck him that running a bookstore appeared to be an appealing alternative to finishing law school. After mulling it over for all of ten days, Blyly opened Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore at the corner of 4th Avenue South and East Franklin Avenue. Outgrowing the Franklin Avenue space ten years later, Blyly moved to 2864 Chicago Avenue South, buying the building where Uncle Hugo's celebrated its 31st Anniversary on March 2 of this year.

Uncle Hugo's carries a broad selection of science fiction,

fantasy, horror stories and many reference books. In 1980, Blyly opened Uncle Edgar's Mystery Bookstore, which offers mysteries, true crime novels, thrillers and historical nautical adventures. The dual enterprise also has a healthy online component, assisted by a web-site that includes the archives of Uncle Hugo's newsletters and a schedule of the many upcoming author's events.

Blyly says: "We draw most of our business from outside of the Minneapolis area. It's easy to tell people how to find the store -- the old Sears store is an unmissable landmark." He adds that he and all of the other Chicago-Lake businesses are eagerly anticipating the



Bookstore owner Don Blyly among the stacks at his Chicago Avenue bookstores, Uncle Hugo's and Uncle Edgar's.

opening of the Midtown Exchange building with its new retail and traffic. Blyly also declares that he is quite pleased with developments in the area of Greenway transit.

So, shop for great, unique books at Uncle Hugo's and Uncle Edgar's. For store hours, call (612) 824-6347. And check out the web-site at www.UncleHugo.com.

News of the Nodes, continued from page 3

Bloomington-Lake Business Association

The Bloomington-Cedar-Lake Commercial Association (BCLCA) will soon get very familiar with Minnesota's second season - road construction -- when the reconstruction of Lake Street begins on May 15th at 14th Avenue. Before it all starts we want to express our gratitude to all the many people who have been involved with the PAC and its committees -- citizens, business owners, city and county employees, consultants and politicians -- who have worked tirelessly to be sure that concerns were listened to and solutions worked through. We know this won't be easy but we are impressed with the level of attention that is being paid to help our businesses cope with this major interruption. We are

looking forward to a revitalized street with a beautiful new streetscape that will make Lake Street and the businesses located here a point of destination.

But before the bulldozers arrive, join us for the 31st Annual May Day Parade on Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 pm. The parade, produced by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, begins at 26th Street and ends at 34th before entering Powderhorn Park for the Tree of Life pageant and all-day festival. It's a great way to welcome spring and meet neighbors and friends from near and far.

Chicago and Lake Business Association

Construction! This is the year -- 2005!

Bridge: The bridge over the Midtown Greenway (at Chicago and 29th Street) will soon be closed in just one month. Watch for updated information on bus rerouting and bus stop changes. All businesses on Chicago Ave will still be open during construction. Come and see the progress and patronize our local merchants.

Lake Street: The repaving of Lake Street will also get underway in just a few months. Again all merchants will remain open during construction. Look for remote parking and alternate access information as you approach your destination. You may also call ahead to your

destination for up to the minute information. It will be exciting to see the new look for the corridor emerge!

Midtown Exchange: The progress is going lightning fast. Every day you see more progress on the outside. The hotel is now at the ground level and going up to reach its 4 story final height. The "For Sale" condos are half pre-bought with a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom model to be opening in the first week of March 2005. On the east side the parking ramp is also at ground level and ready to be built up. A lot of unseen work has transpired inside the building. Watch the Media for more snapshots of interior progress.

Tuesday, March 15, 8 - 10 a.m.

Lake Street Reconstruction PAC Meeting
3rd Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue So.
Call Tom Johnson, (612) 344-1400

Tuesday, March 15, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lyn-Lake Business Association Meeting
It's Greek to Me, 626 W. Lake Street
Call Valerie Powers, (612) 874-7044

Tuesday, March 15, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Chicago-Lake Business Association Meeting
Workforce Center, Chicago & Lake, Rm. 207
Call David Johnson, (612) 823-2080

Tuesday, March 22, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Bloomington-Lake Association Meeting
Plaza Verde, Bloomington & Lake
Call Julie Ingebretsen, (612) 729-9333

Wednesday, March 23, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LSC Annual Members Luncheon
Ballentine VFW, 2916 Lyndale Ave. South
Call Joyce Wisdom, (612) 822-0232

Friday, April 8, 8:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Hi-Lake Business Association Meeting
Roof Depot, 1860 E. 28th St.
Call Sue Duoss, (612) 215-4300

Thursday, April 14, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.

Longfellow Bus. Assn. Annual Meeting
3rd Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue So.
Call Hillary Oppman, (612) 722-4529

Thursday, April 14, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

4th & Lake Business Association Meeting
Urban Ventures, 3041 - 4th Avenue So.
Call Ralph Bruins, (612) 822-1628

Tuesday, April 19, 8 - 10 a.m.

Lake Street Reconstruction PAC Meeting
YWCA - Lake Street & 21st Ave. So.
Call Tom Johnson, (612) 344-1400

Tuesday, April 19, 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Chicago-Lake Business Association Meeting
Workforce Center, Chicago & Lake, Rm. 207
Call David Johnson, (612) 823-2080

Tuesday, April 19, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lyn-Lake Business Association Meeting
It's Greek to Me, 626 W. Lake Street
Call Valerie Powers, (612) 874-7044

Tuesday, April 26, 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Bloomington-Lake Association Meeting
Wells Fargo Bank, Bloomington & Lake
Call Julie Ingebretsen, (612) 729-9333

Thursday, May 12, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Longfellow Business Association Meeting
Location to be announced at later date
Call Hillary Oppman, (612) 722-4529

Friday, May 13, 8:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Hi-Lake Business Association Meeting
Location TBD
Call Sue Duoss, (612) 215-4300

Sunday, May 15, Time TBD

Lake Street Reconstruction Kick-off Party
Lake Street between 13th & 15th Avenue So.
Call Joyce Wisdom, (612) 822-0232

News of the Nodes, continued from page 4

4th & Lake Business Association

4th & Lake Business Association will again be the site of the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration when Lake Street is closed down from 2nd to 5th Avenue. Members of the Somalian community plan to renovate the old American Legion Club at 3010 - 4th Avenue South, creating a restaurant named Zanzibar and an event center. Because in Somalia, social events usually begin at 10 p.m. and last until well past midnight, the developers have gone through a City permit process allowing them to remain open until 2 a.m. 4th and Lake is getting ready for Lake Street reconstruction, which begins at 14th and Lake and goes westward until it reaches 5th and Lake, which is expected to happen in the fall of 2005.

Nicollet-Lake Business Association

Transit and development issues loom large on the agenda of this key city node. Between providing I-35W access at Lake Street and issues that surround opening Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet-Lake continues to be a prime focus for debate by public planners. With energetic leadership, Nicollet-Lake looks forward to a productive 2005.

Lyn-Lake Business Association

While work continues to progress on the Urban Village project, the occupancy rate of the Village Green Apartment complex climbs. The new restaurant named "5" is planned for the old Fifth Precinct Station House on Bryant Avenue, and several other buildings are getting spruced up. AARCEE Rental has closed on Lyndale Avenue, a March cook-out is planned by brave (and optimistic)

business owners on Lyndale Avenue. Talk is circulating about launching another annual identity-creating event, on par with the Lyn-Lake Street Fair. Lyn-Lake just looks better every day!

Uptown Business Association

April showers, bring May flowers! You will be seeing a change in the look of Uptown. Four major development projects are in the works. Housing, retail, parking and more! Keep your eyes open for the new Uptown - normally out of the ordinary. The Metris Uptown Art Fair was ranked ninth in the nation by the Art Fair Sourcebook. The 2005 art fair is set for August 5-7.

Resource Center of the Americas

The Resource Center of the Americas is located at 3019 Minnehaha Avenue South. It

informs, educates, and organizes to promote human rights, democratic participation, economic justice, and cross-cultural understanding in the context of globalization in the Americas.

Member Benefits include:

A one-year subscription (6 issues) to Connection to the Americas; special rates on classes and events; one-time discounts for bookstore, coffeehouse, and cafe; free borrowing from the library; weekly e-mails announcing Resource Center events, as well as other advantages.

For more information, call Resource Center of the Americas Associate Director Lee Wallace at (612) 278-0788. Call today!



The Lake Line

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**Lake Street Council's
Annual Membership Luncheon**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2005
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Thandiwe Peebles
Superintendent of Minneapolis Schools**

Program Also Includes:

- Highlights of 2004 - 2005 LSC activities*
- Introduction of newly-elected LSC board members*
- Recognition of out-going Executive Director Ted Muller*
- Luncheon begins at 11:30 A.M.*

Tickets: \$18 per person, \$23 at the door

**James Ballentine VFW
2916 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

For more information, contact:

**Joyce Wisdom
Lake Street Council
(612) 822-0232**

*The Lake Line is published
by the Lake Street Council
and produced by Aldrich Ink.*

**Questions?
Call Valerie Powers
at (612) 874-7044.**