



The Corcoran News

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“What a great neighborhood!”

-Spencer Morris who lost his home in the fire of Jan. 10.

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On Tuesday, January 10th, the fourplex at the corner of 20th Ave. S and 35th Street burned. The fire started around 7:00 a.m. All four units were occupied but everyone was able to get out safely. Amy Arcand, CNO director, was at the site and spoke with one of the residents. Derrick Williams, who lived in the upper left unit, said he “heard a ‘crack, crack’ noise and woke up to see fire behind the radiator.” Williams and his girlfriend, Daisy Evins, ran out of the building in their pajamas, without time to even grab any possessions. Amy was able to give them clothes and some gas money. Evins said, “We lost everything. I don’t even have my purse.” According to Williams, smoke detectors never went off.

The Red Cross arrived at the scene around 9:30 a.m. and offered residents some assistance. Residents were

put up in a hotel and offered some immediate support. Williams came into the CNO office the day after the fire and reported that they were only able

By Amy Arcand, CNO Staff

father’s picture on it. She said, “I hadn’t even had a chance to look at these books. I’m glad that I was able to save them.” She also said that it is too late in life to have to deal with all of this and to find a new home. According to the landlord, Morris had lived in the apartment for 30 years.

Stephanie and Rob Westphal, Block Leaders

“We lost everything. I don’t even have my purse.”

-Resident of Burned Fourplex

to stay at the Days Inn on University Ave. until Friday, January 13th and were looking for another apartment in the neighborhood. He said, “The landlord offered us another apartment over on Nicollet but we love this neighborhood and want to stay here.”

Eric Gustafson, CNO’s Housing and Land Use Coordinator, met Naomi Morris the day after the fire. Morris, who is in her 80’s, lived in the bottom right unit with her son Spencer. She was back at the building with several of her children to salvage what she could from the wreckage. Eric found her holding two books that she had gotten for Christmas and an antique plate with her

for the 3400 block of 19th Avenue, organized a week-long donation drive to help the affected families. They asked residents to donate household goods, furniture, clothing, money, and gift cards to local grocery chains. “We wanted to reach out to our neighbors in their time of need,” she said.

Donations were gathered at the CNO office and distributed to the families. “The community response was incredible!” remarked CNO Organizer Rachel VanScoy. “Within three days our office was filled with donated items. It looked like we were having a rummage sale. Residents kept calling to offer donations, even after the drive was finished.”

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By Rachel VanScoy, CNO Staff

On Monday, February 6th, CNO is hosting a dinner honoring all those who donated their time as volunteers in 2005. The dinner will be at Corcoran Park. We start serving food at 6:00pm; the awards ceremony begins at 6:30pm. In an effort to make sure people can enjoy the goodies, the presentation, and the company, the "I gpgtca" Ogo dgtujkr" o ggkpi" y km"uvctv"cv"9<52r o l" The meeting includes a recap of 9th Ward Awards, community reports, and a presentation on 311 by Noah Schuchman, Aide to Council Member Gary Schiff.

CNO depends on the people who get involved in committees, or with single events. “Volunteers really do make up the heart of Corcoran,” agrees 2004 volunteer-of-the-year Jessica Ward-Denison. If you are ever interested in helping CNO in any way, please call us at: 612-724-7457, or email: corcoraninfo@qwest.net. *If you volunteered last year and have not received an invitation, please let us know. We want to keep our records accurate and we want you to join us for dinner!*



Stephanie and Rob Westphal organized a donation drive for the victims of the fire that brought in hundreds of items from neighborhood residents.

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Por Ángel Morales, Coordinador del proyecto MLOP

El día Viernes 16 de Diciembre del 2005 a las 6:00 p.m. se llevo a cabo una reunión comunitaria en las instalaciones del parque Corcoran, (3334 20th Ave. S. Minneapolis)

Para celebrar una noche, en la que la convivencia era total entre niños (as) y adultos.

Esta celebración fue para conmemorar, las fiestas de navidad y se celebra días antes del nacimiento del niño Jesús, dentro de la creencia Católica cristiana.

Los acontecimientos se muestran, al buscar alojamiento José y Maria en la ciudad de Belén y piden posada por

unos días. En esa parte de la historia, adaptada a nuestras costumbres, en nuestros países latinoamericanos, que combinamos, lo religioso con lo que acontece en la vida diaria.

En esta celebración se hizo con los integrantes de los equipos de soccer en el vecindario y demás niños de otras comunidades, fue una aportación de “Casa México” y sus voluntarios y estuvieron regalando bolsitas con dulces, y se cantaron canciones de esta época navideña, hubo música por el D.J Payasito, y se quebraron piñatas. Esta fue la parte más divertida para los chiquillos porque el ver la ansiedad por ser los escogidos para

quebrar la piñata, pero el momento más inolvidables y divertido fue para los que quebraron la piñata.

Al romper la piñata los dulces cayeron regados por el piso y todos se arrojaron a recogerlos. Fueron solo dos horas de diversión pero muy bien aprovechadas por los chiquitines.

Este fue un esfuerzo conjunto de MLOP y “Casa México” por conservar las tradiciones y costumbres de los latinoamericanos inmigrantes y también para poder mostrar nuestras aportaciones en lo cultural a nuestra comunidad.

Pero lo mejor de la reunión fue que nos pudimos reunir y agradecer

a todos su aportación, y contribución al programa MLOP, en nuestros vecindarios. Disfrutamos todos a la vez y despedimos el año de una forma alegre.

Asistieron a esta celebración cerca de 30 adultos y alrededor de 60 niños, disfrutaron a más no poder y fue la última reunión del año del programa MLOP en el vecindario de Corcoran.

Esperamos continuar este año con la misma energía e incrementarla para que más vecinos participen en estas actividades que buscan unirnos y trabajar por una comunidad más fuerte, en nuestros propios vecindarios.

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In the past few months, the Corcoran neighborhood has seen many changes. Businesses have come and gone. Lake Street looks different, 35th Street looks different, and even Cedar Avenue. How odd to think that during this coldest (or supposed to be coldest) time of the year the Corcoran residents and business owners are moving around the most.

Have you walked or driven past the corner of 21st Avenue

and 31st Street during the night time? There's a window that faces the second level track of the YWCA. You see people running, walking, talking, or stretching. They keep warm by constantly moving, yet remain right here. Kind of like that hamster in the wheel going 'round and 'round... I'll admit that I too am one of those people on the



By Carla Kaiser, CNN Editor

track. Maybe that's what our neighborhood is up to as well... moving and changing to keep up with all of us!

In this issue, CNO staff and volunteers have covered the changes that you may have been wondering about. If there's something here you don't see, or would like a translation of, please ask for more information! And as always, your thoughts and comments are welcome here in *your* community newspaper.

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by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff



On January 11, Chad Blihovde from Jordan Realty gave me a tour of the 30-unit apartment building at 3121 Cedar Avenue, which is currently undergoing major renovations. Chad was involved in a recent sale of the building to new owner Vishnu Lalta. At this time, nine of the units are still occupied.

The first priority for Mr. Lalta, Chad explained, has been making improvements to building security and access. "The outside doors are now secure," he said, "so you can't just wander in off the street, and we're in the process of changing all the locks."

Chad showed me several vacant apartments, in various stages of work. The focus now, he said, is on tearing out damaged carpeting and repairing or replacing subfloors in the units. "We found some carpet in pretty bad condition, water damage to some of the plywood subfloor, and cockroach problems." New carpet and linoleum was apparent in some of the units as we walked through.

The previous building owner, Spiros Zorbalas, put the building up for sale in December after the building's rental license was revoked by the City Council. Zorbalas owns 'UPi Property Management Group,' which managed 3121 Cedar and still manages dozens of buildings throughout Minneapolis. The revocation at 3121 Cedar was based on UPI's failure to address repeated criminal, disorderly, and nuisance activity at the premises, including use and sale of crack cocaine.

At the time of revocation, the City Council defined a number of specific corrections that must be made at 3121 Cedar in order for the building manager—previous, new, or otherwise—to secure a rental license. These included full extermination and fumigation of the building, and acceptance of a detailed management and security plan by the SAFE unit of the police department. CNO understands that Lalta has been working on his plan with SAFE.

When asked for comment on the new owner, longtime 3121 Cedar resident Ed Fesler responded, simply, "The new owner is great! Outstanding!"

Chad Blihovde said of Lalta, "he's a hands-on property manager with a good reputation. He makes a point of getting to know each of his residents."

Chad went on to praise 3121 Cedar as a quality building that has simply suffered from lack of care. "We're finding plenty of insulation between the floors, which makes for quiet living spaces. Most units will soon have new flooring; and many, new lighting and appliances. We look forward to working with the City, and to turning this building around."

For more on 3121 Cedar Ave, see the November 2005 issue of *The Corcoran News*.

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By Mary Buhr, Corcoran Resident

Mike and Denny Letson, the "brothers" of Brothers Electric Company, an established electrical contracting business located at 3447 Cedar Ave S, recently entered into an agreement to purchase the business *Coffee Eclectic* from original owner, Mary Buhr.

Buhr's last day will be Tuesday, January 31st. The Letsons will take over on Wednesday, February 1st, and Mike's daughter, Amy Halverson, will manage *Coffee Eclectic*. Some might wonder why owners of a successful, well reputed electric company would suddenly dive into the thick of the highly competitive specialty coffee business. As owners of the building at 3445 Cedar (in other words, Buhr's landlords) it presented an unexpected, nonetheless intriguing opportunity.

Annette Whitener of Roseville assumed operation of the business on Monday, January 9th with the intent of fulfilling her dream of having her own coffee shop. Whitener, who grew up in the Corcoran neighborhood, shared a dream and vision similar to Buhr's: of creating a neighborhood gathering spot in a community near and dear to her heart, as well as offering locally roasted fair trade,

organic coffee. Both she and Buhr were greatly disappointed when her financing didn't come through as expected. Buhr resumed operation of *Coffee Eclectic* last Wednesday and the Letsons decided to take the leap into what was, for them, the uncharted territory of the specialty coffee business.

Buhr was both relieved and excited by the purchase agreement reached with the Brothers Electric Company Wednesday morning. The Letson brothers have operated their company in its current location for many years. They not only have experience operating a business, but a vested interest and sincere commitment to building upon what Buhr started, expanding *Coffee Eclectic's* presence and service to the surrounding community. They will keep the current name and logo, as well as honor any un-expired *Coffee Eclectic* coupons, gift certificates and promotions, upon assuming ownership.



For any further information, stop in the shop or contact *Coffee Eclectic* at (612) 724-8111

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By Sue Redmond, Corcoran Resident

It was a bright sunny day when I stopped in to meet Susanna De Leon and Bruce Nestor, who moved their law office to 3547 Cedar Ave S. from downtown in April 2005. Maybe you remember the old building/house that was run down and falling apart on that corner? The building now has a fresh, clean look with new paint and a clean yard. Attorney-husband-wife team Susana and Bruce have their offices and a kitchen in the back with a side entrance and receptionist. The front half is reserved for the dance group that Susanna is very committed to. The front has a large space for their practices. The couple was friendly and welcoming, giving me a tour of the building and talking in depth about their commitment to the community and their work. Bruce and Susanna live in Corcoran so they can now walk to work and continue their deep involvement in the community.

Susanna is a petite Mexicana-Xicana woman with an earnest and active involvement in her culture through the Traditional Aztec dance troupe, QuetzalCoatlucue, and her work with immigration. QuetzalCoatlucue means 'divine bird of the serpent skirt' and is a Kalpulli – learning community whose focus is to share and conserve cultural teachings. The troupe danced at the Midtown Public Market this past summer and gives frequent performances in the Twin Cities and beyond. The group is open to youth and young adults, practicing in the front space of the building. Susanna has created a safe supervised space for youth to make their dance dresses, masks and drums, work on the computer, use the phone and have a snack or meal. Susanna's

vision uses traditional culture to support youth in understanding their culture through dance and the arts. Paintings of fellow dance troupes have been given and exchanged. A memorial to four dancers who died in a car accident last year coming to Minnesota for the solstice dance includes photos and a candle for their remembrance.

The couple takes a variety of legal cases, mainly focusing on the immigrant population and immigrant issues and needs. Bruce provided a resume that includes his work with Centro Campesino and the Iowa Immigrants Rights Network, and he is a member of the Bar in Iowa and Minnesota. Susanna came to the United States as a teen and worked in labor jobs typically available to immigrants, as described in her resume. Susanna obtained a law degree from the U of M, is an adjunct professor at the U and is active in the Chicano Studies Department. Susanna is involved with many community agencies that focus on the rights of immigrants and has been involved in educating elected representatives.

QuetzalCoatlucue accepts invitations to participate in events, giving dance performances on evening and weekends. The dances are a ceremony and an offering to the community. Their next biggest event will be the summer solstice celebration on June 21, 2006, with a vigil the night prior. The troupe welcomes neighbors and community members to attend and receive the music and energy from the dances and to bring offerings of fruits, flowers or candles-traditional gifts for the celebration.

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Bicyclist and Corcoran Resident Christopher Szarke Talks Shop

by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

A coffee shop conversation made a wintertime convert of long-time bicyclist Christopher Szarke. "Until then, I'd always parked my bike for winter to ride the bus," he explained. "That day I met a gentleman who was over seventy and biked year-round, in all weather."

Christopher has never owned a car, a choice driven primarily by concern for impact on the environment. "I started bicycling more in my late-30s, in part because I wanted to work more exercise into my everyday routine," he said. Since his fateful encounter in the coffee shop, he's made bicycling his year-round transport.

Christopher currently works at Park House, a day center for people living with AIDS, as a certified massage therapist. He also has a private practice in Corcoran. Although he started winter bicycling in order to commute, he soon found himself doing more cold weather riding for

recreation. "I'll often take a trip around one of the lakes on my way home from work," he said.

When asked about the cold, Christopher says dressing in layers, with a waterproof shell and pants, is crucial. And he wouldn't leave home without his balaclava-style facemask to cut the winter wind.

Climate aside, Christopher says he finds Minneapolis to be a bicyclist-friendly city. And, there's an extra element of camaraderie in winter, he says. "You quickly start to recognize people who take the same routes." On his regular commute, he rides on the Midtown Greenway, which is plowed during winter, and Park Avenue, one of the many streets with a designated bicycle lane. "There's a surprising volume of bicycle traffic in winter, especially on the Greenway," he said. But there are also major streets he's learned to avoid, such as Cedar Avenue and Lake Street.

As long as he can feel safe and visible to drivers, Christopher says, it's a good day to bicycle. Visibility starts with reflective gear. As he does year-round, Christopher wears a strobed, reflective band on his leg and a reflector and headlamp on his helmet. "In cases where it's safer, I'm not afraid to use a lane of traffic," he said, "and this is allowed by state law." Christopher says he hasn't encountered much trouble sharing the roadway. "Some bicyclists I've talked to report harassment from drivers. But I've always shown and expected mutual respect, and I've never had a problem."

To combat the extra abuse to his bike from cold and road salt, Christopher says he scrubs down the chain regularly with a toothbrush and chain oil from a bike shop. "The sort



of knobby tires you see on a mountain bike are the only special equipment a bicycle should need," he said. Christopher also does a full tune-up of his bicycle before and after the winter season.

Christopher says he learns more every season, and insists he's not an expert on winter biking. "A great place to get advice is bike shops," he said, "the Hub Bike Co-op on Minnehaha is a great resource for routes, repairs, and gear."

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By Amy Arcand, CNO Staff

Villa Market, which opened in December 2005 at 3408 Cedar Avenue, is owned by Meria Villa and Daniel Marcatoma. This husband and wife team completely remodeled the inside of the building that was recently purchased by his brother. Meria and Daniel are Ecuadorians and have lived in Minnesota for six years. This is their first business. The couple financed the business with savings and has not taken out any business loans. They live in Northeast Minneapolis but say that they love this neighborhood and are excited about opening their business here.

The inside of the store is filled with Mexican and Ecuadorian products that are meticulously displayed on the shelves. Customers will find a small selection of fresh foods like jalapeños, limes, cilantro, tomatoes, onions, yucca and tomatillos. There is a wide variety of bottled drinks, salsas, dairy products



and household goods as well as a small meat counter in the back featuring Mexican favorites. The selection of beans is outstanding as they carry garbanzo, fava, lentils, canary, pinto, black, red and blackeye beans. Patrons will find large sacks of rice and a nice array of spices. The store also offers money transferring services through Western Union and Inter-Cambio Express.

Stop in and see the wide variety of Mexican products and introduce yourself to one of our newest neighbors. Don't forget to pick up groceries for dinner and a Coke in the bottle for the walk home.

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Por Ángel Morales, Coordinador del proyecto MLOP

En el mes de Diciembre, dio la apertura oficial de la oficina de "Los Gallos" # 5 en la ciudad de Minneapolis y están localizados en: 1855 E. Lake St. En Minneapolis. Para ser más precisos en el vecindario de "Corcoran" en la esquina de la 19th Avenida y la calle Lake. Este negocio estaba anteriormente localizado en la misma calle Lake, junto a la estación de radio hispana "Radio Rey, en el vecindario de Longfellow.

Los Gallos inicio operaciones parciales el día 9 de diciembre, el horario de oficina es: lunes a sábado de 9:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m.

Los domingos de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. Los servicios que ofrecen:

- Envíos de dinero a diferentes partes del mundo, en especial a Latinoamérica.

los clientes pueden aprovechar, como clientes distinguidos al final de año reciben regalos (deben de guardar sus recibos) también en algún momento han estado regalando un disco compacto de música en español, al hacer 3 envíos.

Hacen celebraciones en donde toda la comunidad esta invitada: como por ejemplo: El día de las Madres, 10 de mayo. El día de la virgen de Guadalupe, 12 de diciembre.

Este negocio es operado por su dueño el Sr. Orlando Cruz, a pesar de ser un negocio con servicio en español, tiene personal bilingüe que atiende por igual a personas de toda la comunidad.

El servicio al cliente es por demás personalizado y atendido por jóvenes y bellas (bilingües) señoritas, visítelos y será atendido amablemente por: Aracely, Griselda, Aidee, Denno. la persona encargada de esta sucursal, es: Alma Delia.

Mencionare que el propietario de este negocio, es una persona que esta envuelta en los eventos comunitarios, y fue uno de los patrocinadores de "La Fiesta" en este vecindario, y no solo patrocino el viento también estuvo presente el día del evento y estuvo regalando artículos y dando globos a todos los niños.

Apoyemos a los negocios que se encuentran en nuestro vecindario usando sus servicios, de esta manera podremos hacer una relación mas fuerte en nuestra comunidad, entre vecinos y negocios, y haremos mas fuerte una economía local.

Por nuestra parte mediante el programa de Midtown Latino Organizing Project, le damos la



Los Gallos opened their doors for business at their new location in Corcoran on Lake Street. It was a wintery day, but the business looks forward to the coming months. Stop by and see all the different services they offer!

- Aceptan su cheque en el uso de un servicio, pago de servicios, (Gas, electricidad, Cable, teléfono, etc..)
- Compra y reservación de boletos de avión.
- Cambio de moneda.
- Venta de tarjetas telefónicas.
- Money orders.
- Y algunos servicios más. Visítelos para mayor información.

Este negocio tiene diferentes promociones durante el año que

THE CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Pgyurcrgt" Xqwpvggtu< Eric Lindberg, Val Lies, Johnny Jones, Jr., Susan Redmond
Cf" Ucngu< Contact CNO at 612-724-7457 for rate sheet and information about special discounts and classifieds.
Ektewcvkqp< 2,200
Fgnkxgt{< 612-724-7457
Rtkpvpipi< Finance and Commerce
A CPED Community Development Block Grant provides partial funding through Citizen Participation funding to CNO.

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The Corcoran Neighborhood News
Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
3451 Cedar Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407

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HOUSING UPDATE

by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

At CNO's January 4 Housing Committee meeting, Corcoran residents interviewed three parties to proposals for a new home at 3028 19th Avenue South. The lot, currently empty, is owned by the City of Minneapolis, which intends to sell the lot to a private party for construction of a new single-family home. As part of such a process, the neighborhood organization—CNO, in this case—reviews the proposals and makes a recommendation to the City Council.

Once it received copies of the proposals, CNO flyered the 30xx block of 19th, first before the new year, and again the week of the

meeting, to invite neighbors.

Attendees were pleased with the proposals, two of which were from individuals who wish to live in the house themselves. Selected was the proposal of Jesse Lee, who grew up in Minneapolis and said he is excited about raising a family in the neighborhood. The committee identified house height and size, and aesthetic fit with existing houses on the block, as major concerns, since most houses on this block of 19th Avenue are 1-1/2 storey bungalows, compared with the two-storey houses proposed.

The elevations Jesse presented

were nicely broken up by intersecting roof lines of various heights. His was the smallest house proposed, and the Committee felt it would most closely match its neighbors in size and architectural character. Jesse's proposed builder is D&J Steele, which has an office on East 35th St. in the Corcoran Neighborhood.

CNO's recommendation, and that of City staff, will go to the City Council. The mayor must also sign off on the final decision for sale. Earl Pettiford, Senior Project Coordinator for the City, said that barring any unforeseen delays in City Hall, the builder should be able to break ground in the spring.

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3451 Cedar Ave South
phone (612) 724-7457

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Submitted by Jessica Ward-Denison

In attendance: Kirk Roggensack, Ella Ritzman, Sue Duoos, Jeremy Mork, Gwen McMahon, Kevin Reuther, Gerry Tyrrell, Jessica Ward-Denison and Amy Brock.

Approve November E-Board minutes – November minutes were not approved in December, pending Board discussion.

Crrqkp"pgy" Dqct f" o g o dgtu—Sue Duoos-Vice-Chair, Jeremy Mork-At-large, Kath Lenk- At-Large.

Sue is the Director of the Midtown YWCA and has been an active member on the LU&T committee and the market. She brings with her a wealth of non-profit management experience and a commitment to our neighborhood. She is seeking the Vice-chair position and will be a good fit for the Executive/Personal committee as she manages a large staff and works with the financials at the Y. She will represent CNO as a business owner.

Jeremy currently works for the State of MN and has worked for non-profits in the past. He is interested in grassroots organizing and would like to become a lobbyist for children. He looks at this opportunity as a way to connect to the workings of politics in our neighborhood. He is currently renting and would bring a perspective

that we currently do not have. He lives in the area most affected by prostitution and is interested in working with the Longfellow group of neighbors. He seeks the At-Large position.

Kath is interested in taking on a new role within the board. She has stepped down as Chair of the Events committee and would like to move to an at-large position. Kirk is up for election in May and has decided to step down as Chair at that time. He would like to take over as Events Committee Chair. The Events committee will operate without a chair until May when Kirk makes the change. Both Kirk and Kath have said they will help with events until that time.

After discussion and questions, **Oqvqpp"y cu" o c f g d" I ygp" vq" cr r qkp"Uwg" Fwqx. Xleg/E j ckt. Lgtg o { "O qtm. cv/nct ig" cpf" Mcvj" Ngpm. cv/nct ig" vq" d qct f" r qukvqpu" cpf" ugeqpf g f" d" Gmc" Pq" swgukvqpu" Oqvqpp" ect tlgf"**

Qvjgt Kirk is moving to E. Nokomis, but will stay on the board as chair as a property owner in Corcoran. In effort to more effectively support the director and staff, the Personnel committee will meet more often going forward.

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Okfvqyp" Rwdnke" O ctmgy" tsgwgv" hqt" hwpfu" htq o CNO to support the market in 2006 by donating \$5,000 to the operating budget. Joanna presented the budget for 2006 for the Market. Motion made by Jess to support a grant of \$5,000 to MPM from CNO for 2006 operating budget. Ella seconded. Motion passed.

4228/4229" EPQ" I qcnu Board discussed the outreach goals and Kevin raised a concern that goal 1 referred only to Latino residents and was not representative of all new immigrants. Discussion followed about whether it had to say "Latino," because of the MLOP program or if it could say all new immigrants. It was decided to refer the question to the Executive Director & the Program Manager. **OQVQPP" o c f g d" Mgxlp. ugeqpf g f" d" Gmc" Crr tqxg" vjg" 4228/4229" i qenu" cu" y tkvvp" ykvj" vjg" gzeqr vqpp" qh" vjg" Ltu" Qwvtgcej" i qcu" o' d' cugf" qp" t g x i g y" d" Gzge" Fktgevt" cpf" Rtqi tc o" O c p c i g t" Rcuugf"**

Fluewuu" rquukdng" tg o qxcn" qh" 4' d qct f" o g o dgtu" y j j" c x g" j c f" r qqt" cvgpf cpeg" Luis Paucar attended the February and March 2005 board meetings but has missed the rest of the year. In February, the board discussed Luis' attendance with him and he committed to attending regularly. Ernesto Payan attended the February and June 2005 board meeting but missed the rest of the year. Ella requested that we contact Luis again, as she felt that he was interested in participating and should get another change. Board discussed that he had been notified previously per the by-laws written policy [If an Executive Board member fails to attend 3 Executive Board meetings in a row or 4 out of 6, this would constitute grounds for removal. The member must be notified 1 week prior to the next Executive Board meeting that expulsion grounds have been met. The member has the right to make appeal to the board at this meeting. There must be a 2/3 majority vote

to expel member.] and that it was important to move forward as the position on the board needed to be filled – Luis was notified by the chair of the opportunity to attend and have the opportunity to stay on the board. Ernesto was called, but direct contact not made. Based on previous discussions, and the following of notification procedures and Luis's inability to attend meetings, it was deemed by the board that it was necessary to remove Luis in order to fill the at-large position going forward. A motion was required to remove the member therefore: **C" o qvqpp" y cu" o c f g vq" tg o qxg" Nwku" Rwevt" htq o" vjg" d qct f" htq" hcem" qh" cvgpf cpeg" Oqvqpp" y cu" ugeqpf g f" Oqvqpp" ect tlgf.** Board members and staff will continue to surface candidates for open board positions. Board suggests a panel or committee within the MLOP program to foster board members and then bring the "up thru committee."

FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 Board MINUTES: Addition to Agenda: Personnel committee update. Personnel committee met to discuss the lack of participation of some board members. Committee reviewed by-laws regarding lack of participation and recommends adding this policy to facilitate removal of non-attending board members:

If an Executive Board member fails to attend 3 Executive Board meetings in a row or 4 out of 6, this would constitute grounds for removal. The member must be notified 1 week prior to the next Executive Board meeting that expulsion grounds have been met. The member has the right to make appeal to the board at this meeting. There must be a 2/3 majority vote to expel member.

Motion: Kirk brought forth motion to approve policy as written, Eric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vtgcuwgtg" Tgrqtv" /Review of September financials, all in order.

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Cm" Cdqw" Hc o kn { " tsgwgv" htq o " Dtkcp" Mgm { < " Board fields a request from Brian Kelly for an art project at the Park. The Board decided that Kirk would call Brian and talk to him about the project and coming to the events meeting to discuss it, as this type of request should come up through committee.

öPgy" kfgcuö" r tqegfwtg < Ella presented a proposal to the board discussing how the staff and board can be responsive to ideas from the community after goals have been set for the year. The goal of this procedure is to provide staff with direction on how to respond. As an organization we want to hear new ideas from the community and be able to respond realistically. Ella has volunteered to work with staff to develop a procedure. Adjourned.

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- GEA U t reach and Events
- €#Fund Drive, Please Donate & Carol on 12/11 at 2:30
- €#Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on Feb 6th
- 3. Land Use and Transportation (LU&T)
- €#A brochure is being made about CNO with Metro Design Center to promote the neighborhood to developers
- €#Conversations continue about the property that Anishinabe Academy is located on
- €#LU&T passed a motion opposing Wellington's request for a window variance on the Aldi store at the corner of Lake & 21st. Midtown Public Market (MPM)
- €#Project for Public Spaces grant and Global Market partnership – MPM has formed a partnership with the Global market at the Sears site to submit a joint grant for \$25,000 to support research, programs and staff in the 2006 season. MPM will have a consultant relationship with the Global Market as they look to open their outdoor market in 2006.
- €#MPM met with Kingfield and the Northeast markets to discuss joint marketing and partnership opportunities.
- 4. Midtown Latino Organizing Project (MLOP)
- €#Awards were handed out to 60 children who participated in the soccer program

Nc" Okuk>p< Nosotros, los residentes de Corcoran, en toda nuestra diversidad, procuramos reforzar y proteger el carácter único, vida llevadera, y la tela social de nuestro vecindario. Nosotros procuraremos alentar y habilitar a todos los residentes, negocios y dueños de propiedades para unirlos, hablando de nuestras cuestiones comunes.

EPQ" Okuukqp" Uvcvg o gp< We, the Corcoran residents, in all our diversity, will strive to strengthen and protect the unique character, livability, and social fabric of our neighborhood. We will endeavor to encourage and empower all residents, businesses and property owners to unite in addressing our common issues.

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Two Twin Cities programs help with repair and maintenance work for low-income homeowners who are elderly, disabled, or whose work and family situation is an obstacle to doing the work themselves.

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides interior and exterior repair services on specific work days in 2006. These could include accessibility modifications for a disabled resident, or repairs to plumbing, roofing, broken appliances, doors and windows, or general repairs. Homeowners must complete an application to be considered, and services are provided at no cost to those who qualify. **Rebuilding Together** is also seeking volunteers of all skill levels. To inquire or request an application, call 651-776-4273.

A Brush With Kindness is a volunteer program that helps low-income homeowners make light exterior renovations at no cost. Crews will work throughout the summer. Again, an application must be submitted for consideration, and the deadline is March 15, 2006. **A Brush With Kindness** is also looking for volunteer labor. To inquire or request an application, call 612-788-8169.

CNO also has copies of these applications. Stop in the office or call 612-724-7457. If you are aware of a neighbor who could use help with home repairs or maintenance, please talk to them about these programs or contact CNO.

On Saturday, March 11th, from 10am-3pm, the 12th annual South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair will take place at South High School, 3131 19th Ave S. The Housing Fair is free and open to the public and continues to be one of the most successful and well-attended neighborhood based events in Minneapolis.

The South Minneapolis Housing Fair promotes home improvement and maintenance, project financing, city living, and local neighborhood involvement. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet over 100 contractors, real estate agents, lenders, and community organizations. There will also be free seminars from professionals.

This year, offers include a presentation by Star-Tribune columnist John Ewoldt, entitled "Maintaining a Green House: How to use the 3-R's" (reduce, reuse, recycle). Ewoldt will provide free and inexpensive resources to help you find a better home for your old stuff than the garbage. He'll discuss places to find new and used building materials. For more info: www.housingfair.org.

The Housing Fair is a family event. A free children's woodcraft project will be offered all day. There will be hourly drawings for over 100 door prizes, and a Grand Prize drawing worth more than \$200. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Presented by South High Community Education and participating neighborhood associations, including CNO. For further information visit www.housingfair.org.

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By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Corcoran residents continue to benefit from a partnership between CNO and Hennepin County's Sentence-to-Serve (STS), whose crews clean gang graffiti vandalism year-round, even through the cold months. "If they can tag it, we can paint over it," said STS Director Bob Hunter.

"Once we have permission from a Corcoran property owner, we turn it over to STS and the graffiti is gone—turnaround time is still less than a week," explained CNO Organizer Eric Gustafson. "This goes for any property within our neighborhood boundaries of Cedar, Hiawatha, Lake, and 36th Streets. In addition to painting, (STS Crew Leader) Phillip Gray is an expert with spray paint removal products and what works best for metal, stucco, and wood."

Vandalism is a frustration no one deserves to deal with, but prompt removal of gang graffiti disrupts the intended message to rival gangs, and makes the community safer. "Many homeowners have removed the graffiti themselves, and quickly," continued Gustafson, "and they deserve a big 'Thank You.' Those unable to clean it themselves shouldn't feel bad, but we hope they'll call CNO to give us permission. The STS experts are happy to handle it for them."

CNO also has a variety of removal products and latex paint, available to homeowners at no cost. Residents who witness vandalism in progress, or who have information that could lead to an arrest, should call 911.

