



The Corcoran News

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by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

“Seeing people come together was empowering,” says Corcoran resident Sara Blanch, describing the meeting of 23 residents she organized in October 2005 around the issue of prostitution. Sara was compelled to convene the meeting when her husband Jeff was assaulted late one Friday night while asking a prostitute, and a man who had stopped his car to solicit her in front of their house, to leave the neighborhood. “The next Monday we started advertising the meeting through Corcoran’s e-mail list, and people started calling and stopping by. I immediately felt more positive about the situation.”



Pictured (L to R) are Council Member Gary Schiff, Russ Henry with son Ellyot in front, Sara Blanch, Jeff Blanch (holding award), Amy Arcand (CNO Staff), and Judy Oman.

Photo by Noah Schuchman

Several working groups resulted from the initial meeting, with focus on educating neighbors, improving lighting and signage, and a walking patrol. By late November, the group had chosen the name ‘Caring Corcoran Neighbors,’ and turned out 16 people to the monthly Third Precinct Advisory Council meeting, to make its purpose known to Inspector Scott Gerlicher, Commander of the Precinct, and to express its desire to work together.

Weeks later, the group met privately with Gerlicher, Community Attorney Scott Christenson, and officers from Directive Patrol, the Precinct’s vice squad, to discuss how residents’ observations, and familiarity with chronic offenders, can be put directly toward testimony for use in prosecutions. When CCN’s walking patrol debuts this spring, it has plans to team with Directive Patrol, an arrangement Gerlicher called a ‘force multiplier’ for officers. “These meetings helped a lot of us get over the antagonism we used to feel toward the police,” says Sara. “We quit saying ‘why aren’t they doing

more?’ once we understood that we share some frustrations. I’m grateful Inspector Gerlicher was willing to educate us and take us seriously.”

The Precinct will also be involved in a mid-May block party CCN is planning, to make its work more known and attract involvement. “We plan to invite other groups like RJ and PRIDE to come share what they’re doing,” Sara said. While she hopes to connect newcomers to CCN’s goals and activities, Sara expects that some will find their niche with one of these other agencies, and she says that’s alright. “Everybody’s voice is important. Getting involved will mean something different to each person.”

The group’s geographic focus will remain in the neighborhood, but Sara says her ultimate aims are broader. “My hope is for the girls, who are usually victimized and dependent, to find long-term treatment options. CCN’s efforts could be more effective with improvements to rehab systems and a more proactive approach by lawmakers and judges.”

At his Ninth Ward awards event in January, Council Member Gary Schiff named CCN ‘Block Club of the Year.’ For Sara’s efforts to revitalize and lead a grassroots movement of importance to the community, CNO named her ‘Volunteer of the Year.’

EPQ"Tgeq i pk | gu" I ygp" OeOc j qp As recipient of ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’

by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

To recognize many years of thoughtful service to the community, CNO awarded Gwen McMahon its ‘Dorothy LaDue Lifetime Volunteer Award’ at its Volunteer Recognition Dinner on February 6. Gwen currently serves as chair of CNO’s Housing Committee, and has held other positions on its board including secretary and chair. Explaining why she originally started volunteering, Gwen said, “Neighborhood safety went through some rocky times in the 90s, and I considered moving. But I liked the neighborhood, my house, and my neighbors, so I decided to stay and try to make a difference in the community.”

Gwen moved to Corcoran in 1974 as a renter, and bought a house here in 1984. She retired in 1995 after 30 years as a social worker for Hennepin County. Gwen has also been very active with the Third Precinct Advisory Council (3 PAC), which meets monthly with the police to discuss issues of concern. Gwen has represented Corcoran on the 3 PAC for 9 years, and currently serves as its chair.



McMahon with CNO Chair Kirk Roggensack.

Photo by Amy Arcand

“I first got involved because I planned to keep living here.”

—Gwen McMahon, 2005 recipient of the Dorothy LaDue Lifetime Volunteer Award

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Chatterbox Brunch March 11th!

Collect friends to eat at the Chatterbox Pub Saturday Brunch. The all-you-can-eat buffet is just \$9.95, and half of that will go to support Corcoran programs.

What: A Food, Fun & Friends Fundraiser!
Where: Chatterbox, 23rd Ave & 35th St
When: Saturday, March 11th, 10am-2pm
Who: As many people as you can bring!

RSVPs MUST be made to CNO by Wednesday, March 8th for your meal to help Corcoran!

Call Rachel: 612-724-7457; or email corcoraninfo@qwest.net by **Wednesday, March 8th**

-We need your name - How many people in your party - What time you would like to come. Availability is in half hour increments from 10am-1:30pm. Stay as long as you like!

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by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

The City's zoning code requires new single-family houses to measure no less than 22 feet wide over 80% of their length. While this rarely presents a concern on lots measuring at least 40 feet wide—the code's minimum for new construction—the City has lately been developing lots as narrow as 29 and 30 feet. On these "little lots," such as 3504 Longfellow Ave, a Corcoran lot for sale by the City, the '22/80' rule creates a squeeze too tight to allow adequate air, sunlight, and privacy. In light of the pending sale of 3504 Longfellow and the proposal chosen by neighbors, CNO has asked the City Council to revisit the '22/80' rule.

The '22/80' rule was put in place decades ago to help prevent trailer homes and other non-durable proposals from making their way through the City review process and onto vacant lots. While St. Paul currently allows new single-family construction as narrow as 16 feet, Minneapolis continues to screen undesirable proposals with its 22 foot standard.

The proposals for 3504 Longfellow, solicited by the City and reviewed by neighbors and CNO's Housing Committee, make a great argument for a change. The first, a standard 22-foot spec house, would have a negative impact on livability for its occupants and its neighbors, concluded the Committee. It is simply too wide, boxy, and imposing on the tiny lot and houses next-door.

The second structure proposed, on the other hand, has width variations that allow ample southern exposure and clearance from neighboring houses, while protecting the sightlines and privacy of each. Warmly endorsed by neighbors, it was recommended to the City but does not pass the '22/80' rule, even though it measures 22 feet at its widest. It therefore represents unallowable new construction without an adjustment to the code.

Understanding that this problem affects not only 3504 Longfellow but at least ten other 'little lots' on the City's current for-sale list, as well as future lots made vacant by demolition in deteriorated, narrow-lot areas of neighborhoods such as Phillips, CNO's Housing Committee and Executive Board has asked the City Council to revisit its zoning code.

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By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

At the time of this printing, CNO understands that the owner of the fourplex at 3448 20th Ave, which suffered a massive fire in January, plans to rehab the building. According to a City Inspector, a preliminary analysis deemed the building 'unsound', but the owner was allowed by law a second, independent assessment. After crews worked to shore up the structure, this second analysis showed that the building could be safely rehabilitated.

According to Inspections staff, the owner will need to present drawings signed by a licensed structural engineer for consideration of building permits. The owner will have 60 days from a February 2 report to secure these approvals— otherwise the City will proceed with demolition.

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By Amy Arcand, Corcoran Resident

Neighbors met on February 23 at the CWA Union Hall to hear from the six DFL candidates that have thrown their hat in the ring for the District 62 Senate race. The competition for the DFL endorsement will be great with candidates like Earl Netwal, Tina Sanz, Patricia Rey, Alex Eaton, Matt Gladue and Scott Benson.

The moderator took questions from the audience and each candidate was allowed equal time to answer. The first question was, "What would be your number one issue if you were elected to be our State Senator?" Sanz: education, Rey: bringing diverse voices to the table, Eaton: universal health care, Gladue: tax fairness, Benson: investing in children, Netwal: create a new vision and work with other Senators.

Second question: "Will you honor the DFL endorsement?" All candidates responded that they would. Third question: "What would you do to promote living wage jobs?" Eaton: support small businesses, Gladue: increase minimum wage, improve education, Benson: invest in education, clean up brown fields to allow for job development, Netwal: provide training opportunities, Sanz: increase the living wage and partner across the

state for a solution, Rey: promote economic growth and small businesses, increase funding for childcare and healthcare for working class families.

The forth question asked about the candidates' approach to a more sustainable environment. Gladue: increase use of alternative energy sources such as wind power, Benson: increase use of wind and river power, Netwal: increase use of wind and solar energy and improve our transportation system, Sanz: partner with companies and the university to research wind power and corn use, Rey: set higher standards and invest in education programs for the community, Eaton: increase the gas tax.

All candidates support same sex marriage and the expansion of LRT. When asked which committee the candidate would

most like to be on, Rey responded with Health and Human Services, Eaton with Finance Committee, Netwal with Jobs and Employment, and Gladue, Benson and Sanz all agreed that they would like to sit on the Education committee.

If you are interested in how the DFL is organized, consider attending your DFL caucus on March 7th. For more information go to www.dfl.org.

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On February 9 I attended a meeting of over 150 residents convened by the City of Minneapolis to address investigations, prosecutions, and removal of gang graffiti. These two statistics jumped out at me: 1. In 2005 there were over 100,000 known incidences of graffiti vandalism in Minneapolis. 2. In January 2006 the City removed approximately 450 tags through its free service with one full-time painter on staff.

Blame it on tax season, but I immediately reached for my calculator (blame my geeky nature for the calculator I brought to the meeting). My conservative estimate says the City is able to clean up about 5% of graffiti tags.

I write not to criticize the City,

but to remind you that CNO's Graffiti Cleanup Program has the capacity to remove 100% of tags in Corcoran neighborhood, even through the cold months.

With help from your watchful eye, your connection with neighbors, and your phone calls, we document and photograph all gang graffiti in Corcoran, and share this information with the City. While the City issues inspections orders and pursues suspects, we offer free cleanup, free remover chemicals, and free paint to property owners. Once we have permission, cleanup is done within a week. For more information, call CNO: 724-7457.

While Latino gangs such as Surreños 13 have grown, gang violence is down, according to

by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff Lieutenant Connie Leaf. Graffiti on a garage, she said, is not directed at the garage owner but at rival gangs (and neither is graffiti indicative of other crime). Prompt documentation and removal is still the best solution.

Scott Gerlicher, Third Precinct Commander, said the MPD is stepping up efforts to talk to loitering youth, and to enforce curfew and truancy laws.

City juvenile curfews are: under 12 years: 9 pm weekdays, 10 pm Fri/Sat; 12-14 years: 10 weekdays, 11 Fri/Sat; 15-17 years: 11 weekdays, 12 Fri/Sat.

If you witness vandalism in progress, call 911. On Feb. 20, a call from an alert neighbor led to the arrest of two juveniles still carrying spray paint cans.

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By Kath Lenk, Corcoran Resident

Spring is hopefully around the corner, which means it's time for another Chatterbox brunch for the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization—on Saturday, March 11th from 10am to 2pm. If you haven't been to one of these fun events before, now is your chance. Take my word that the food is great and the company is even better.



I like the CNO Chatterbox brunch for several reasons. It's a great excuse to treat myself to delicious food. It's a great way to spend time with my friends. My friends from all over the cities like to come, and I love to show off our impressive neighborhood spirit to my friends outside of Corcoran. I also get to see all my Corcoran buddies, and meet some new ones. And best of all, I can help raise money for Corcoran by just having brunch with a lot of cool people (and help out a neighborhood business at the same time).

The Chatterbox Pub has a wonderful variety of different egg dishes, yummy potatoes, bacon, sausage, yogurt, fresh fruit, granola, peanut butter sandwiches that everyone raves about, and more! They also serve delicious coffee and, if you are so inclined, unique Bloody Marys (there are lots of other drink choices too). It's all you can eat for only \$9.95 and, on March 11th, half of that goes to Corcoran Neighborhood programs.

To sign up for a time slot, call the CNO office at 724-7457 by Wednesday, March 8th. They just need to know your name, how many will be in your party, and what time you plan to come. The time slots are in half-hour increments between 10 and 1:30 – this is so the restaurant staff is not overwhelmed at any one time. Hope to see you there!

BONUS: The person who brings the most guests to this year's brunch will get a \$10 Chatterbox gift certificate—to be used for any future visit.

Fgukpvcvkqpu<" Hudson's Ace Hardware

By Eric Lindberg, Corcoran Resident

Last October, Jim Hudson relocated, and renamed, his hardware store. For many years it was known as Olson's and was on 28th Avenue just south of 42nd Street (next to the Lake Inn). The new and improved location is kitty-corner from the old one at 2900 East 42nd Street. The first noticeable improvement is the off-street parking right in front of the store entrance. Another immediately visible improvement is the brightly lit interior and easy to read Department signing. But fear not, the same great friendly service Olson's was known for since under Jim's care, is still there – employees who actually know what they carry – and how to use it! (jab at big box intended).

For Jim and his crew, some of which are his children, the biggest improvement is probably the size. After 20 years in the hardware business and 10 years of owning Olson's it's time for some change. The new location is over 2½ times larger than the previous store and enables them to take shipments without filling the aisles with boxes waiting to be un-packed. It has also allowed for the expansion of every department, as well as the addition of a small lumber section. During a brief conversation with Jim, he mentioned the possibility of also offering Small Engine Repair services and sounded excited about adding live plants to the Lawn and Garden selection this Spring. If you were a customer of the (now defunct) Hi-Lake True Value, or have been searching for a new, local resource, check out Hudson's, I'd be very surprised if you were not satisfied. See you soon, Jim!

Uvcvuk Open Monday thru Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed on Sundays. Phone: 612-722-8602



The Team at Hudson's Ace Hardware, 2900 E. 42nd St., includes (L to R): Kathy, Kristen, Anola, LeRoy (seated), and Shawn. Photo by Eric Gustafson

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Por Angel Morales, MLOP

Estamos haciendo una invitación a nuestra comunidad para que inscriban a sus niños en este programa. En la primavera (mes de mayo) empezaremos una liga de soccer, con la finalidad de envolver a nuestros hijos en actividades sanas y de convivencia con otros en el ámbito deportivo. La inscripción la pueden hacer en forma individual o por equipo.

Este programa esta orientado para poder hacer un impacto en la prevención del uso de drogas y que nuestros hijos se mantengan alejados de la influencia de las pandillas. Queremos ofrecer a la juventud mas opciones y el deporte es una de ellas. También este programa nos ayudara a crear una relación entre los residentes y los negocios locales. Lo novedoso de este programa será, que estará manejado y dirigido por voluntarios, y estamos buscando la participación de la ciudad y el condado, los negocios locales,

como apoyo para poder realizar este programa.

Alguna de las veces no se tiene oportunidad de practicar este deporte por la falta de recursos, con la implementación de este programa, trataremos que este no sea un obstáculo. Y daremos oportunidad a todos por igual para que participen. Esperamos contar con los recursos suficientes para que la práctica de este deporte para la juventud sea "gratuita". Nuestra mayor recompensa será: El que los jóvenes dejen de practicar como deporte el estar sentados frente a su televisor, alejarlos de las malas influencias, buscar una convivencia familiar, y que los padres mismos sean sus entrenadores y dirigentes de la liga.

Esto no es un sueño, porque en el verano pasado con pocos recursos, y con poco tiempo para organizar, llegaron a nosotros más de 60 niños y niñas, de los cuales formamos 6 equipos en

las diferentes categorías. Este año empezaremos a difundir las inscripciones con anticipación para que ningún niño (a) quede sin aprovechar esta oportunidad.

Así que no lo piense más, y difúndalo con sus amistades, empezaremos a recibir, inscripciones, desde los 8 años a los 14 años.

Las categorías estarán de la siguiente manera: 8-10 años, 10-12 años, y de 12-14 años. La liga se formara en Femenil y varonil, y habrá oportunidad para que sea mixta (hombres y mujeres). No deje de apuntar a los niños (as) de la edad de 6-8 años porque si tenemos suficientes, quizás podremos hacer otra división.

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Para más información: Ángel Morales, 612 724-7457 o al correo electrónico: mlop@qwest.net o latinosenaccion@qwest.net

THE CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
 Pgzv"kuuwg< April 1, 2005
 Eqr{" ("Cf" Fgcfkpg< Monday, March 20, 2005
 Published by Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, delivered monthly door-to-door in and around Corcoran Neighborhood.
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 E. Lake St. to E. 36th St.: Hiawatha Ave. to Cedar Ave.
 Ejkgh"Gflvqt< Carla Kaiser, 612-724-7457
 corcorannews@qwest.net
 Pgyurcrgt"Xqnpvpggtu< Eric Lindberg, Val Lies, Johnny Jones, Jr., Susan Redmond, the Krupp Family, Marie Gardeski
 Cf"Ucngu< Contact CNO at 612-724-7457 for rate sheet and information about special discounts and classifieds.
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 Rtkpvipi< Finance and Commerce
 A CPED Community Development Block Grant provides partial funding through Citizen Participation funding to CNO.
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Neighborhood
 Minneapolis, MN 55407
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 neighborhood.org

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As a community service, CNO offers photocopy and fax service at the CNO office.

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Fax Service

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by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Dungarvin, Inc., the owner of the existing housing facilities for persons with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), is applying to expand at its existing location at 33rd St. and Hiawatha. The three proposed units are of the same design as the existing units. At its December 7, 2005 meeting, the Housing Committee expressed support for the project, contingent on a check of past behavioral and inspections issued at the existing homes. The City and Police confirm that these have been good neighbors.

I also worked with City planning staff and the owner to make some recommendations on the site and building plans as proposed. One new unit proposed at 33rd St was shown facing its own driveway rather than the street, and the ‘suburban rambler’ style architecture is inconsistent with that of the surrounding neighborhood (understanding, however, that the layout of these one-storey homes with attached garage are requisite to the needs of

residents, most of whom are wheelchair-bound).

Prior to the public hearing, Council Member Gary Schiff and I met with Dungarvin to tour the existing facility, meet some of the residents, and review the plans. This is Dungarvin’s only city location, and it is apparently sought after by prospective residents for our pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and access to transit including light rail. In response to our recommendations, the owner had already revised plans to rotate the 33rd St unit toward 33rd. He also plans to modify this building’s facade to better fit with its neighbors.

After looking at the site, which has ample room for building, both CM Schiff and I encouraged Dungarvin to explore revisions that could facilitate more new residents. Dungarvin liked this idea and asked the City to postpone the public hearing in order to study it. At this time a late-March hearing is anticipated.

Eqteqtcp" Okfvqyp" Tgxkxcn" Rncp" Rww" vq" vjg" Vguy

NCPF" WUG" WRFCVG" by Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Center for Transit Oriented Development (CTOD), a national urban planning firm, will evaluate plans to redevelop land immediately west and south of the Lake Street light rail station, to offer a better understanding of how and when redevelopment might occur.

The parcels being studied include undeveloped MnDOT land along Hiawatha Avenue between 31st and 32nd Streets and the large block bounded roughly by Lake, Hiawatha, 31st Street, and 22nd Avenue, currently controlled by the school district. While this parcel is now home to Anishinabe Academy (in the old Brown Institute building) and site of the Midtown Public Market, it is

widely agreed to be underutilized and is causing more and more local developers to salivate. In addition, the study will consider the future parking needs of the Midtown YWCA next door, since the Y anticipates an expansion that might be served by a shared parking arrangement with a neighboring development.

Redevelopment patterns assumed by the study will be based on the Corcoran Midtown Revival Plan, which was created through a community collaboration process and approved by both the neighborhood and the City Council in 2002. The Plan envisions a mix of commercial space and housing that serves and is served by light rail and other transit at

Hiawatha and Lake.

CNO Staff joined a conference call with CTOD on February 1 to discuss The Plan and the future of both the Midtown Public Market and Anishinabe Academy. The Plan imagines permanent space for the Market, which will soon enter its fourth year. At the meeting CNO staff suggested that while Anishinabe resided elsewhere when The Plan was conceived, its future should not be overlooked in the study; in fact, an urban school might be a great fit in a unique mixed development.

The study hopes to show whether today’s real estate market could sustain the sort of development

described by The Plan, and if not, what level of density would be required. Preliminary results are expected in April. Funds for this work were secured from the McKnight Foundation and others by Midtown Community Works, a public-private partnership focusing on development in the Hiawatha-Lake area.

On February 23, the Land Use and Transportation Committee met with Caren Dewar of Midtown Community Works and Council Member Gary Schiff, to discuss shared goals for neighborhood redevelopment, and how the parties might best communicate and work together.

EPQ" G/Dqct f" Okpwvgu" 4135128

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

Approve January E-Board minutes. Jeremy moved to approve January E-Board Minutes, Kath seconded. Motion carried.

Ejctkvdng" Qti cpl | cvkqp" Cppwcn" Tgrqtvc" OQVKQP Gwen moved to approve the filing of the Charitable Organization Annual Report for year ending 5/31/05. Jessica seconded. Motion carried.

Nkdtct { "Tgswgv" "The East Lake Library renovation project has requested \$15,000 from CNO to help make up their deficit. After discussion, OQVKQP" "Due to lack of funds, we are unable to honor the request for \$15,000 for the East Lake Library and decided not to donate any funds. Motion made by Jessica and seconded by Kath. Motion carried.

Etog" Wrfcvg" Ctvkng" "CNN needs someone to combine 3PAC, Crime maps and emails from Karen Skirseth into an article for the paper. Gwen said she could do it starting in April. Gwen said she would try and add articles and stories about our neighborhood officers.

Pq o kpcvqpu" Eq o kvvvg" "Kirk, Sue and Amy will head up the nominations committee for May Board elections. There are 2 positions open –Secretary and Chair. Ella would like the nominations committee to also find a new Treasurer, as she would like to step down in May.

Hkpcpekcn" Vtclpki" "Amy led the board through a financial training on reading budgets and spreadsheets for our programs.

Eq o kvvvg" Tgrqtvc

3l" Okfvqyp" Rwdnke" Octmgy" 6 Amy facilitated the retreat on Jan 21. There is a great partnership building with Kingfield, Mill City Market and other local markets for marketing to local papers. New tag line may be: Fresh. Local. Flavor.

OQVKQP CNO congratulates Caring Corcoran Neighbors on all their accomplishment thus far and is pleased to accept Caring Corcoran Neighbors as a special committee of CNO with Tiffany Hand as chair. Caring Corcoran Neighbors, along with staff will develop sustainable and actionable goals that impact the entire neighborhood and the goals will become part of CNO’s overall 2006-2007 once approved by the Executive Board. Motion made by Gwen and seconded by Ella. Motion carried. Adjourn.

Submitted by Jessica Ward-Denison

EPQ" Gzgewkxg" Dqct f" Okpwvgu" 31;128

In attendance: Jeremy Mork, Kevin Reuther, Gerry Tyrrell, Kath Lenk, Eric Lindberg, Jessica Ward-Denison and Amy Arcand

Approve November and December E-Board minutes. Kevin moved to approve November and December E-Board Minutes. Motion carried.

Igpptcn" Ogo dgtujkr" Rncpplpi" ("Xqwpvvggt" Tgeqipkvkqp" Fkppgt: Monday, February 6 beginning at 6:00 p.m. will be the Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Corcoran Park. Volunteer of the Year will be announced. Proposed agenda items will be Gary Schiff discussing the 311 call center and the Ward 9 awards, then committee updates. Events committee needs help setting up and picking up items. Schedule will be: dinner from 6-6:45 p.m., recognition from 6:45-7:30 p.m. and General Membership from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Cf" Hgfgtcvkvq" CNO has the opportunity to work with an ad agency at a reduced rate to develop a branded theme for Corcoran. The board discussed that this was not currently a priority, but Gerry and Kath know people who could possibly help develop stock letterhead as a staff time saver.

Fktgevtat" Tgrqtvc

Hwftcklupi" Wrfcvg: MPM received \$25,000 from the Kellogg Foundation/Project for Public Spaces; \$50,000 from McKnight for MLOP; a grant for translating headsets from McKnight for sharing with other neighborhoods, and grant renewals from Otto Bremer and Payne Lake Community Partners for MLOP.

Hwftlpi" Tgswgv: CNO was approached with a funding request to fund a headstone for a woman killed after being picked up on Lake St. Board discussed and decided that discretionary funds could not be used at this time. The request will be printed in the next CNN.

Uvehl" Iqcnu are complete and approved.

Pgy" Tgpgvtu Casa Mexico is moving into front office and MLOP is moving to the back offices. This will increase our rent income.

Vtgcwvtgtu" Tgrqtvc" "Review of November Financials. Financials show that CNO still needs to meet some goals around Income for 2006-2007 fiscal year. Advertising Sales, Grants, and Newspaper Subscriptions could be increased to leave more breathing room. Other income including rent,

donations, MLOP contributions to CNO are at or above goal. Expenses are in line with or under budget. Midtown Public Market presented a new 2006 budget to accommodate the \$25,000 Ford Foundation/Project for Public Spaces grant.

Eq o kvvvg" Tgrqtvc

3l" Jqwukpi Eric reported that the housing committee reviewed 3 proposals for the vacant lot on 31st & 19th. 1 proposal was selected, owner occupied based on a Habitat for Humanity design, but built by a private contractor. The proposal will be recommended to the city. The building at 3121 Cedar has been purchased by someone who has a good reputation in the city. They are working to bring the property up to standards and to secure it. Formerly it was not secure and numerous transients and prostitutes were using the building.

4l" Qwvtgcej" cpf" Gxgvu March 11 is the proposed date for the CNO Brunch at the Chatterbox. February 6th at 6 pm is the General Membership Meeting and Volunteer Recognition dinner.

5l" Ncpf" Wug" cpf" Vtcurqtvcvkvq Board reviewed the brochure that advertises CNO at the crossroads of Midtown. Working with other organizations on the corridor housing initiative, more to follow.

6l" Tgvtcvkxg" Lwvkeg" 6 Moving board meetings to every other month to hopefully increase participation. Also, a program called Men who Use Prostitutes is currently only available in English, so the RJ board has decided that any non English speaking client of RJ will have ESL classes as a component of their contracts and then participate in the Men who use Prostitutes program after ESL classes.

7l" Okfvqyp" Rwdnke" Octmgy" 6 Jan 21st is the annual retreat. There is a great panel set up to discuss marketing on a shoe string.

8l" Okfvqyp" Ncvkqp" Qti cpl | kpi" Rtqlgev" 6 Expect to hire a Part time staff person and bring an intern on within the next few months.

Qnf" Dwukpguu Kath was interested in a “How to Read Financials” quick class at the next board meeting. Jessica knew of some classes through the MN Council of Non Profits and said she would pass them on. Amy added a financial component to the February agenda.

Adjourn. *Submitted by Jessica Ward-Denison*

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Powderhorn Residents Group (PRG), a non-profit organization located at 2017 East 38th Street, has developed over 400 quality, affordable houses since its 1976 inception. In addition to development, PRG offers homebuyer workshops and counseling for first-time buyers.

J q o g"Uvtgvej" J q o gdw {gt"Gfwecvkqp covers the home buying process including credit and budgeting, working with lenders, special loan programs, working with realtors, home inspections, and more. Its an ideal starting point for those considering home ownership. The workshops help people avoid common pitfalls including predatory lending. The one-time fee of \$35 per household includes a useful reference binder.

Oqtvicig"Eqwpugnkpi is also available, and helps new buyers prepare for milestones such as pre-approval, mortgage loan application, purchase agreements, and closing. A counselor will review your finances, assess your eligibility for a mortgage, and help you determine what you can afford and which mortgage programs best fit your situation. If you don't qualify, a counselor can help you plan to get on the road toward home ownership.

Contact Stacey Bostwick, at PRG 612.721.7556, ext. 21, or visit www.prginc.org/workshop.html. Registration forms will also be available at CNO.

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By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

Several great programs offer free home repairs, maintenance, painting, or improvements to low-income home owners who are elderly, disabled, or whose work and family situation is an obstacle to doing the work themselves. These programs also offer great volunteer opportunities. They include *Rebuilding Together*, *A Brush With Kindness*, *Hearts and Hammers*, and *Metro Paint-A-Thon*.

Eligibility and guidelines vary, and some have deadlines. This is a great time to apply since most of the work is done during summer months. Call me at 724-7457 for more. We have applications!

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housing & home improvement fair

Go to South High after your Brunch at the Chatterbox! The Fair will run from **10am-3pm on Saturday March 11** at South High School, 3131 19th Ave S. The Fair features exhibits and educational workshops for current and prospective homeowners on improving, maintaining, purchasing or refinancing a home.

Seminars include: Maintaining a Green House (reduce, reuse, and recycle when decluttering or remodeling), Home Security, Design Solutions for Problem Spaces, Lowering Heating Costs, Selecting and Working with a Contractor, and more.

Kids can build their own wooden planter for the yard for free. Other attractions include \$2500 worth of door prizes and two Grand Prize gift certificates.

Entering its 12th year, the Housing and Home Improvement Fair is one of the most successful community events in South Minneapolis. For more, call 875-4545 or visit www.housingfair.org.

Volunteer at the Fair! Typical shifts are 2 hours. Contact Eric at CNO, 724-7457

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Getting that early spring start- Transplanting those great seedlings

By Johnny Jones, Jr., Corcoran Resident

Oh that beautiful word "Spring" makes me smile. Those bright sunny rays! I am sure that though put a bright smile on your face, too. If that's the case, let's get transplanting. I bet you think I am going to change my tune from *smiles* to *beautiful*. I will use both words, for both of these words will explain what the beautiful transplants will do to your face: *Make you smile*. Now let's get serious, I will talk about the steps for transplanting.

I cvjgt [qwt"Eqpvckpgtu: Again, they can be a recycled yogurt cup or anything. It's not a fashion statement. However, make sure they are clean. Use a diluted mixture of bleach and warm water. If the containers are not clean, you are asking for *damp-off* and other fungus diseases. Punch drain holes in the containers, and make sure they are larger and deeper in order for the seedling roots to develop properly. This is very important; otherwise the smiles will be disappointing. We don't want that!

I tqykp i "Okz Again use a good, well-draining mix. This will reduce the chances of *damp-off* and other problems, reducing the chance of soggy feet for your new transplants. It also allows air to move around the roots of the new transplants; I like air, too! I think air help keeps us alive if I remember my biology correctly. One more thing about *air*: Don't crowd your seedlings. Guess what they need... *air* to circulate around them. There's something special about this *air*... It is life!

Rncpvkpi {qwt"Vtcpuvcvnc Remove your seedling carefully from the seed tray or whatever container you used. You can use an old fork or something to remove the seedlings. Do not destroy or damage the baby roots. Now that's a great thought... Treat those roots like a *baby's butt*: Gently! Now fill the containers with your well-draining grow mix to the top, and punch a hole in the center of growing mix with a pencil or small dowel. Place the seedling in the hole with a *baby's*



butt gentle touch. Pack gently around the seedling and water in with a diluted one third liquid fertilizer. Feed every two weeks or so, gradually increasing the mixing until the seedlings are ready to go outside.

Nkijvki Now that you have completed the transplanting, guess what? In order to complete that beautiful smile on your face, these transplants will need plenty of light. You can use cool white florescent light from simple shop light fixtures, or you can place plant light bulbs in the shop light fixtures. Place the fixtures close to the seedlings, to within 6-8 inches of the seedlings for 8 to 10 hrs a day. You will need to move the fixtures as the plants grow, keeping them 6-8 inches from the plants. The more light, the better. If the seedlings don't get good lighting they will not be *smiling beautifully*. Make them happy by giving them plenty of light. It makes for *beautiful smiles* all around.

Qpg"Oqtg"Vjki í "Oc{dg"Vyq Don't over water your seedlings. It leads to the grow mix being too soggy. You know what you get with that: *Damp-off*. It's ugly. Also, don't over feed your seedling. They can't eat fast, and they can't eat much. They will burn and die from too much food, just as we get sick from eating too much.

Fq"Vjku Have a great spring and summer. Happy gardening with *Great Smiles* and *Beautiful Smiles!*

Johnny Jones, Jr. has a home-based business selling bedding plants: plantmaster345@aol.com, 724-4817.

Next up: Design a garden to attract god's creatures



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By Sue Redmond, Corcoran Resident

Looking for a *htgg* athletic and recreation program for your kids? With sports getting so expensive, the Minneapolis Police Department's PAL Program is a great resource. According to the City of Minneapolis website, the league was established in 1996, with police officers serving as coaches and mentors to youth. PAL has after-school athletic, recreational and educational activities. The league serves youth ages 5-17 and only requires a parent/guardian signature and proof of date of birth. The application is one simple page. The website is <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pal>.

Once your family joins, you will receive a t-shirt, mailings for activities and a quarterly newsletter. PAL works through the Minneapolis Park Board and Schools, where many of the activities take place. Along with police, parents can volunteer with PAL. Activities take place after school, Saturdays and during the summer. Summer includes Camp Chi Rio in Annandale. Youth from fourth through twelfth grade can attend. PAL has a variety of field trips that include canoeing, horseback riding, the MN Zoo, rock climbing, roller skating, safety camp, the wave pool and a fishing tournament. Check out this great free resource for your family to plan ahead for the spring and summer! An application can be picked up at CNO.

I am an active community member, Board Chair of the Midtown Restorative Justice program and a Loft member. Please email me at sured8@yahoo.com with comments or story ideas.

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The City of Minneapolis is making a thousand trees available to its residents, to help repair some of the damage done by storms and Dutch elm disease in 2005. Residents can order one tree per address, and folks can choose from four varieties: Autumn Spire Maple, Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry, Bicolor Oak, and Black Hills Spruce.

Ordering a tree:
The trees cost \$15 each, and are each about 6 feet high with a 1 1/4-inch trunk. The thousand trees will be made available on a first come, first served basis, and trees should be ordered by April 15. To order a tree, visit Mayor Rybak's website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/> or go to the Tree Trust site at www.treetrust.org.

Picking up your tree:
After submitting an order form, residents will need to pick up their tree on one of two pick-up dates: May 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Xcel Energy Riverside Plant, 3100 Marshall Street NE May 20,

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Jenny Lind School, 900 50th Avenue North.

Learn to care for your trees:
Tree Trust is providing free workshops, which are available for residents to learn more about how to plant a tree the right way, how to care for it, and how to be your tree's first responder! Learn how to identify insect and disease problems, hazardous trees, and other tree health issues. The workshop dates are: April 4, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Northeast Bank, 77 NE Broadway April 8, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway

Research has proven that trees are a valuable investment. They increase property values, improve air quality, lower heating and cooling costs, control storm water, & make our cities better places to live.

For more information, contact Lorrie Stromme, City of Minneapolis at 612-673-2003, Mimi Hottinger with Tree Trust at 651-644-5800.



For the enthusiasm and extensive hours he volunteers for the Midtown Public Market (currently serving as co-chair) and countless community events, Corcoran resident Dustin Denison, holding certificate, was recognized as a 'Citizen of the Year' nominee at Council Member Gary Schiff's Ward 9 Awards Event.

Dustin was also nominated for CNO 'Volunteer of the Year.' For more about Dustin, see page 4.

Photo by Noah Schuchman

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AUJX'7cc_]Yg♦ 7UfVcbYfg'D]nnUz~bW"♦ 7 lUhhYfVc l'DiV♦ 7cZYY'9W'YWhJW"♦ 7iV' : ccXg♦ >U_YYbcDg'D]nnU' /DUghU♦ >U a UJWU>U a UJWU♦ 'AUbbmBg'HcfnUg'
♦ AUhhDg'6Uf♦ BYk : fYbW l'6U_Yfm♦ FU]bVck' : ccXg♦ GkYyh@cffU]bYfg

æ}áÁR^••á&æÁYæ!áÉÖ^}á• [] ♦ R [æ] } ^Á
æ}áÁV^!áæ} &^ÁÖ^, ♦ S!á•cá}Á Tæ^Á
Ö [{ ~ ^á•cáæ}áÁ Tæ!cá}ÁÖ [: :æ ÁP [, æ!áÁ
Ö }•c^á}Á♦ S!á•cæáÖæ]æ*^!♦ CE } }^]æá
Ö!á} ^ ^ ♦ ÁUæá [/ÁÖ [] :æ!^Á♦ P^æc^!Á
Ö!æ : :á}á ♦ Úæc!á&æáÖ!^*^!♦ Sæ!^}Á
P [*æ } ♦ CE } }^ÁP [/ :á } ^!♦ Ræ• []Á
Xá&c [/ÁR [@]• [] ♦ Š [~ææ}áÁR [/]^♦

Öæ!æáSæ!á^! ♦ Tæ!á••æÁ^! ♦ Š!•æá
S!á•^! ♦ CE } ^]æáSæ&^! ♦ Ö [/ [c@^Á
Šæ!Ö^ ^ ♦ ÁP^!^}Áæ}áÁR^ á^ÁŠæ}á^! ♦
Sæc@ÁŠ^ \ ♦ Tæ!^ÁŠ!c ♦ ÚæcæáŠ [, á }•^
♦ R^}Á Tæ!&@ ♦ Ö, ^}Á T & Tæ@ [] ♦
Tæ!^ ^ÁcæáT [^] ♦ Tæ!c@æáT [~]æá ♦
Úæ { ÁP^!• [] ♦ Sæc@^ÁP^!c [] ♦ Tæ!^Á
P [/á^ } , æ] ♦ Ö [/á•ÁUæ^!♦ CE } }Á

UqV [/]♦ Š [á•ÁUá^ \ • ♦ Úc^ç^ÁU!^*^!
♦ÁÖ!æ&ÁU^ { ~ ^♦ GWubXJU'6UfVYf'
G!cá^ Væ } ^æÁU } ^á^! ♦ Úæ { ^]æá
Ú [~^!♦ Ö^!^Áæ}áÁ T^]æ}áÁU^!æ!•
♦ Š^ []ÁV@ []• []♦ Ö!^!^ÁV!^!^]Áæ}áÁ
S^çá}ÁU^~c^!♦ Úæ&@^]ÁXæ}Ú& [^ ♦
R [æ] } ^ÁÖÉZá^! { æ }

EY^Áæ!^Á} & ^ááà!^Á!æc^~ /Á- /Á [~ /Á] * [á } * Á • ~] [/cÉÁQ^~ ^Áá [/Á] [c^Á^Á^~ /Á] æ { ^Á } ^c@^Á]á•cÉÁ~cÁ@æç^Á~áç^}Áá~!á} *Ác@á•Ácá { ^Á } ^!á [áÉÁ, ^Áæ } [/] *á: ^ÉÁ
Ú!^æ•^Á!^cá^•Á\ [, ÉÁÁU!Áá~Á^ [~ qáÁ]á^Ác [/Áá^Á} &] ^á^Áá} Ác@á•Á]á•cÉÉÁá•Á^ç^!Ác [/Á]æc^Á
Öæ]Á!FGÉ!G!É!I!É
EV@æ} VÁ~ [^Áæ] /Ác [/Áá] [/!•Ác [/ÁÖ [/& [/æ } q•Áá!æ } & @Á] [/ *!æ { •KKÁ
T!æc [, } ÁŠæcá } [/ÁU! *æ } á : á } *ÁU! /b^&cáæ } áÁ T!æc [, } ÁU~á!á&Á Tæ! / ^cÉÁV@á^Á]á•cá [/] ^Á} &] ^á^Áá [/] : Ác [/Ác@^ÁÖ [/& [/æ } ÁP^!^ *á /! [/ÁU! *æ } á : æcá [/] É