



# The Corcoran NEWS

December 2006/January 2007

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## “Grow Your Neighborhood!”

By Alexis Bell, Editor

The Corcoran Neighborhood Organization (CNO) would like to introduce you to our “Grow Your Neighborhood!” fundraising campaign. Two board members, Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrrell, have secured a \$5,000 dollar matching grant fund from area resident Kim Lund to help CNO with general operating expenses. The money will match any individual donations made to CNO up to \$5,000.

### How does the matching grant work?

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 from individual donors in order to receive a match of \$5,000 to bring our total money raised to \$10,000. Here is how it works: let’s say that I have decided to donate money to CNO. If I make a one-time donation of \$250, the matching grant will match my donation bringing the total donated to \$500. Another option would be a recurring (pledge) donation; you pledge to donate, say, \$25 per month using our online donation option found at our website [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org). Your total pledge would be \$300 and with the match the total donated would be \$600!

### Why should you donate?

Let’s take a look at our mission statement: “We, the Corcoran Residents, in all our diversity, will strive to strengthen and protect our 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.” CNO strives to continue the endeavor of making Corcoran a better place to live, work and raise our families. In order to continue to maintain and strengthen our mission, we rely on donations that allow us to continue working with the community.

### Where does my money go?

The money we receive from your donations and the matching grant will cover program expenses for our non-profit organization. You may have received flyers in the past alerting you to upcoming neighborhood meetings and keeping you abreast of what is happening in the neighborhood. The money helps pay for the paper, the ink and the time it takes to deliver these notices. CNO also has donated paint to the mural projects in our neighborhood (Cedar Avenue Shell Station this fall) as well as creating the annual National Night Out Planning BBQ that takes place every June. A few more examples: this newspaper that you are reading right now, the Corcoran Neighborhood News, The Neighborhood Advocate, graffiti removal, Problem Properties Caucus, events, Clean Sweep, citizen participation, housing programs and Latinos en Accion.

### What is the “Grow Your Neighborhood! Campaign?”

Each month the Corcoran Neighborhood News (CNN) will publish the flower graphic (seen at left) with an update of how close we are to reaching our goal. As you can see, as of the end of November we have reached \$1863 in individual donations towards the goal. Everyone likes a friendly competition, right? We will also be including a graph (seen lower left) showing how many donors have given on each

Avenue. The avenues will be broken down like this: Cedar/Longfellow, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Each month we will break down the number of donors, showing which Avenue has the most participants growing the neighborhood. It looks like 21st Avenue is in the lead. Make your block proud! Donate and encourage your neighbors to donate today.

The Neighborhood Advocate—CNO’s e-mail newsletter—will also be updating you with the same information once per month via email. (If you don’t already receive the Advocate, go to our website to sign up.) You can also access our website at [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org) for the most current and up to date information regarding the progress towards our goal.

In February, at our annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, residents will have a chance to meet Kim Lund, the grantee. We will have more information about our efforts as well as our progress to date.

When you drive by our office located on the corner of Cedar and 35<sup>th</sup>, take a look at our window to check out the progress of our campaign. There will be a large version of the flower graphic in our window showing how close we are getting to our goal of \$5000.

### I want to help my neighborhood grow. How can I donate?

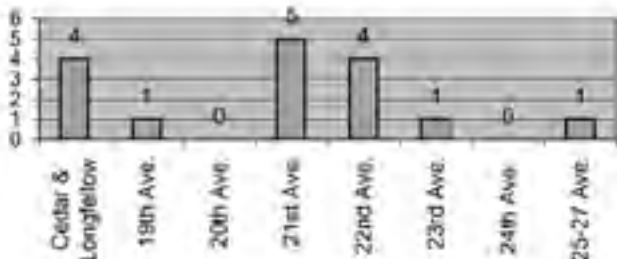
There are many ways that you can donate to help your neighborhood grow. The easiest way is to donate online. All you have to do is go to our website [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org) and click on the Donate button. You can sign up to have the money taken directly out of your checking account via electric funds transfer or your bank card. You just enter the amount you wish to have taken out each month and they will send you an email reminding you of the upcoming withdrawal. Save your emails and you are able to use it as a tax write-off.

While you are on our website, check out the list of Minnesota companies that will match their employees’ donations to non-profit organizations. My friend works for 3M and they match his donation to CNO dollar for dollar. What does that mean for our drive? It means if he donates \$300 per year himself, his company donates \$300 and the grant will match his original donation bringing the grand total to \$900!

You will also find a return envelope inserted in this issue of the paper. Just fill it out and mail it or drop it off at the office. Each month there will also be a cutout in the paper which you can fill out and mail to us or drop off.

CNO is very excited about this new fundraising effort. We would like to thank Kim Lund for this wonderful opportunity. We would also like to thank JoAnn Blohowiak at Art of This for working with us on the visuals for this campaign. We sincerely hope that you, the Corcoran residents, will be as excited about this effort and reach into your pocketbooks to help continue to make Corcoran a great place to live. Please feel free to call or stop in the office for more information on “Grow Your Neighborhood.”

## Watch Your Neighborhood Grow!



## Corcoran Neighborhood News is Now Hiring for a Part Time Position

**Position:** Advertising sales for a small, well-established, neighborhood newspaper.

**Hours:** Approx. 20 hours per month. This is a very flexible job; perfect for a college student, stay at home parent, or as a second job.

**Salary:** \$10.00 per hour.

**Duties Include:**

- Selling ad space in the Corcoran Neighborhood News (CNN). CNN has a list of potential advertisers to contact, must also find additional options.
- Ensure that monthly billing totals at least \$600/month, customers are happy with their ads, deadlines are met, and layout is approved by the Editor.
- Work with the Editor on the layout of the advertising page using InDesign and Adobe Photoshop software (*experience preferred but not required*).
- Creating ads for customers who do not have something electronically.
- Preparing invoices for billing and sending out renewal notices.
- When inserts are sold, finding volunteers to help stuff the newspapers before delivery.

**Preferred qualifications:**

- Experience with Adobe Photoshop and InDesign computer software (*not required*).
- Interest in advertising (*experience preferred*).
- Self-motivated and detail oriented.
- Outgoing and personable.

For more information, contact Amy Arcand at 612-724-7457.

## Lake Street Road Construction Update

All major work is completed except for placing the final 2" bituminous wearing course from 14th Avenue to 21st Avenue. This work will be completed in the early summer of 2007. The contractor continues to complete minor work items including installation of site amenities, installing shrubs, and installing

decorative fencing at various locations. The roadway is open to four lanes of traffic from 5th Avenue to 21st Avenue.

The contractor has completed placing the bituminous base and binder courses and the concrete curb & gutter from 27th Ave through 37th Ave. The roadway will be opened to four lanes of traffic on November 20th. The

contractor continues to install sidewalks on the south side of Lake Street and will continue through November 20th. Trees and shrubs are being installed. Construction work will be suspended by November 24th. However, the new streetlights will be installed throughout the winter months.

## Riche's Kicken Café Opens

*By Matt Wieland, CNO Staff*

Riche's Kicken Café opened its doors to customers at 3445 Cedar Ave S on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, giving area residents another dining option. Owner Richard Flax opened the restaurant at the former site of Coffee Eclectic, and before opening decided to keep the coffee machines in place. Richard continues to serve fair-trade coffee at his café.

I recently ate lunch at Riche's Café, and walked in to a pleasant mix of humor and sensibility, while maintaining a quant café feel. The restaurant certainly has its quirks, which include its name, random pictures on its local flyers (which include a kangaroo reaching into its pouch), and advertisements written on chalk sandwich boards outside the restaurant begging for a rivalry between Riche's Café and Famous Dave's. Even the menu makes you smirk. The café features barbecued meats, soups, sandwiches, baked goods, and of course, fair-trade coffee. Perhaps the restaurant should have simply changed names to Café Eclectic. While the menu hosts a wide array of choices, complimented by daily specials, I have yet to be disappointed by a meal. On this lunch hour,

I decided on a bowl of chili, an easy decision on my volunteer budget. I have since gone back for more, and I believe my chili tally currently stands at four bowls. I have also heard positive reviews by fellow co-workers here at Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, who have ordered meals such as BBQ chicken pizza on pita bread, jerk chicken sandwiches, and twice baked potatoes.

Riche's Kicken Café also features Richard's very own barbeque sauce. Richard has been making the BBQ sauce for 16 years, but began professionally bottling the recipe this past June. You can come in and order from the menu to taste test the sauce, and if you approve, buy a bottle for \$4 dollars at the café.

Riche's Kicken Café is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM—8:00 PM, and Sunday-Monday, 11:00 AM—7:00 PM. On Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, Richard will begin serving a Sunday brunch from 11:00-2:00. Richard also caters, so keep Riche's Café in mind for your next business event or family gathering. Contact the Café at 612-722-1121. Bon appétit!

## 8 Yf'9 Xhofz

I just wanted to thank you and the others for printing the article last month about the deceased kitty. The owner contacted me and was very glad to know what had happened and also very happy to learn that the kitten they had adopted from my neighbors was actually their grand-kitty!

*~ Amy Dolan, Corcoran resident*

## 7 \fjga Uj> am

It is Christmas once again.

The same Christmas and unchanging, with the same deep meaning it has always had.

The same summons to all men to have faith, not in any one faith, but to have faith in themselves, in mankind, in each other.

Because if all the earth be laid in ruins and all our yesterdays and all man's wonders become smoke and ashes, if love remains, then everything remains.

Christmas isn't just once a year – Christmas is always, flowering in late December.

A time for unselfishness, a time for each other, for goodwill, love, understanding, and deep respect for all our fellow men. For all we have on earth is each other.

That's what Christmas is all about – reaffirming our love for each other and mankind.

May all of life's good blessings be showered on you this Christmas – and always.

*By Maynard Swanson*



Register to receive CNO's free e-mail newsletter, The Neighborhood Advocate, by visiting [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org).

- up-to-date news & information
- neighborhood events
- volunteer opportunities
- receive about once a week

*Each issue of The Neighborhood Advocate allows you to end your subscription if you choose.*



**VJGEQTEQTCPPGKIJDQTIQQFPGYU**

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**Email Editor:** [news@corcoranneighborhood.org](mailto:news@corcoranneighborhood.org)

**Phone Editor:** Leave a message at 612-724-7457

**Newspaper Volunteers:** Gerry Tyrell, Jessica Ward-

Denison, Johnny Jones, Jr.

**Ad Sales:** Contact CNO at 612-724-7457 for rate

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**Opinions and viewpoints expressed in CNN are those of the writer and may not reflect the views of CNO or its funders.**

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

# Effectively Addressing Problem Properties

By Gerry Tyrrell, Corcoran resident

This summer saw increasing safety and livability issues in Corcoran, especially along Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. Corcoran Neighborhood Organization is bringing neighbors together to effectively address crime and livability issues. One highly successful example was CNO's concerted effort to organize block clubs to participate in National Night Out on August 1, 2006, with close to 80% of blocks participating. Corcoran Neighborhood Organization's Problem Properties Caucus – a concerted effort of CNO Staff together with the 3rd Precinct, Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch, Council member Gary Schiff's office, block clubs, and landlords—successfully addressed many chronic problems identified by Corcoran residents last summer. Caring Corcoran Neighbors is starting a problem property subcommittee to foster increased involvement by residents in these efforts.

Here are a few tips we've learned to help hold law breakers accountable and keep crime in check:

**1. Call 911 - Alert and Document.** Don't hesitate to call 911 if you see illegal, threatening, or suspicious behavior. Legally, police need "probable cause" to intervene in the community. Your phone call gives

officers the ability to address whatever issue concerns you. Concerned about a group of youth congregating? Then call 911 and report "blocking of the sidewalk or loitering" or even "suspicious activity". Otherwise, the police would be unable to intervene. Try to make detailed and descriptive statements to the 911 operator. The more detailed information you can provide the better equipped police will be able to address the situation. Documented repeat 911 calls to an address alert the police and landlords that there is a chronic problem that needs to be addressed. Although the 911 operator will ask you for your name, you don't have to give your name to the 911 operator if you wish to remain anonymous. Also, give the operator the address of the property you are concerned about - otherwise your address will be documented as the source of the call.

**2. Talk to Your Neighbors - You are Not Alone.** There is strength in numbers. Often those closest to the problem are fearful that they will be targeted as the source of police calls. Talk to your block club leader and ask other neighbors to make calls as well. Some blocks are more organized than others. If you don't have a block club, take the initiative and start one. Staff at the Corcoran Neighborhood office are available to help you.

**3. Call Corcoran Neighborhood Organization (CNO) and Minneapolis Police's Community Crime Prevention Specialist (CCP) - You are Not Alone.** It is important that you let the Neighborhood Office and the Community Crime Prevention team know what is happening. They can pull additional resources and energy toward solving your problem.

**CCP/SAFE Specialist** Contact CPS Karen Notsch at 612-673-2856 or karen.notsch@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

**CNO Community Organizer** Contact Eric Gustafson at 612-724-7457 or eric@corcoranneighborhood.org.

**4. Call the Landlord - Hold them Accountable.** Often landlords hold the key to addressing problem properties, and they often want to know how their tenant's behavior is affecting the community. With your help, they can evict problem tenants as appropriate. You can find out who the landlord is and how to contact them by looking on the Hennepin County Property Tax website and go under "Property Information Search". Search by "Property Address" and you can see who owns the property and how to contact them. If the landlord is not responsive, get others involved in contacting her/him (block club, CCP Safe, CNO, City Council office).

## Community Effort Brings Quick Turnaround at 3043 Longfellow *South Minneapolis Homes and Caring Corcoran Neighbors Contribute*

By Eric Gustafson, CNO Staff

One bad apple can spoil the bunch. For the 3000 block of Longfellow Avenue, that apple was number 3043, which went from quiet to drug house almost overnight last summer. A combination of circumstances and manipulation of the owner brought activity by street prostitutes into the house, which became business as usual. The reputation of the property and the block grew, and drug and gun activity followed close behind. But the crime activity was not without witness. Frequent 911 calls by residents, including members of

the Caring Corcoran Neighbors, and additional efforts by CNO staff, helped lead to two summer raids in which Minneapolis Police seized narcotics and boarded the doors at 3043.

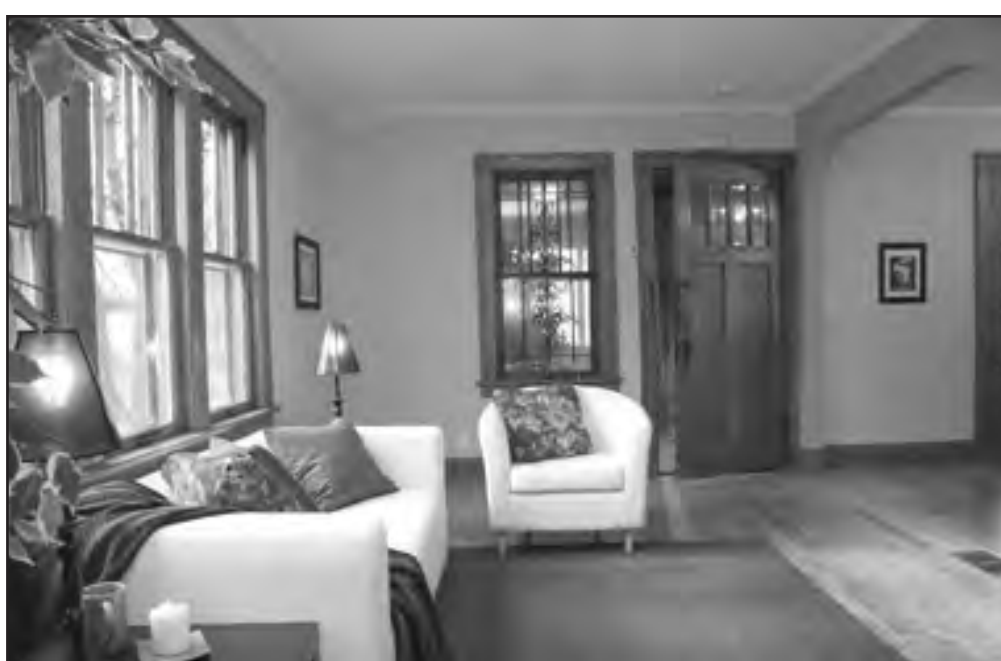
Today, just weeks after the boarding, the home is clean, nicely rehabilitated, and available for purchase. Sitting in the living room, I chatted with Corcoran resident Cynthia Frost, who spearheaded the acquisition and remodeling. She does this for a living as president of a small company called South Minneapolis Homes. "Within an hour of closing,

my crew was here securing the house with new locks, deadbolts, and lighting. I credit the neighbors for keeping watch and preventing further problems." Restoration of the home, Frost explains, occurred not only in physical terms but in its reputation with the problem individuals.

I asked Cynthia what she'd most like people to know about her work. "We restore the housing stock in our community, because we live here. Our focus is providing quality houses for sale." As with many of the distressed homes she's touched, Cynthia

emphasized that her role was part of a community effort. "Before I bought the house, the Caring Corcoran Neighbors group was key in identifying the problems, and making sure they were addressed quickly and effectively," she said. "This project has been inspiring."

To inquire about South Minneapolis Homes, contact Cynthia Frost at 612-360-4440 or smh@visi.com. Also look for a paid insert in this issue, featuring more information about South Minneapolis Homes and several available properties for sale.



The above photos are 'before' and 'after' photos taken of the living room at 3043 Longfellow Avenue. Carpet was removed and the hardwood floors refinished. Finishes from floor to ceiling were replaced or refinished. Photos taken by Cynthia Frost.

# In The Heart of The Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre is Taking the Nativity Story to the Streets

Experience the Christmas Story as you never have before. The story of the holy child being born in our midst – here in Midtown Minneapolis. This innovative holiday presentation will combine puppetry, street theatre and a traditional Latino “La Posada” procession. And you’ll be a part of the action!

Audiences will move with the performers among three different locations:

-First, meet “Maria and José” in the Mercado Central.

-Across the street in the Avalon Theatre, you’ll discover shepherds and star-seekers.

-Then, in a colorful torch-lit procession, follow Maria & José as they look for refuge down 15th Avenue to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, where all will be welcomed for the Nativity.

-Finally, join the fiesta in St Paul’s Fellowship Hall – complete with music, food and games.

Told with HOBT’s signature visual beauty and soulful live music, “La Natividad” will be an utterly unique community celebration. Come join us!

### Performance Dates:

December 15: 6:30pm  
December 16: 6:30pm  
December 17: 4:30pm

### Tickets:

\$20/adult  
\$15/child under age 12  
\$15/person for groups of 10+ Only \$10/person for groups & individuals who live in the Powderhorn, Central, Phillips or Corcoran neighborhoods!

Performed in English and Spanish. Approximately 2 hours long including fiesta. Ticket price includes food. Audiences must be mobile and dressed appropriately for the outdoors; the procession is 2.5 blocks long. Please notify us of any special needs at least one week in advance.

Space is limited, so reserve early. Call 612-721 2535 for tickets.



3451 Cedar Ave S. Minneapolis (612) 724 7457

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LEFT: Scene from 'La Natividad.'  
RIGHT: mask from In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater.



## CNO E-Board Minutes 11/1/06

Attendees: Amy Arcand, Alexis Bell, Sue Duoos, Kath Lenk, Jessica Ward-Denison, Billy Weber

**Motion: Approval of the August E-Board minutes, with the following amendment: The Events Committee reported on preparations for the book sale.**

Made by Alexis, second by Sue, motion carried unanimously.

### Selection of an Elector for NRP

The board discussed and chose an elector representative to the NRP Policy Board. The person will participate in voting for neighborhood representation on the Policy Board on December 12, 2006. The policy board is made up of NRP and city staff, elected officials, and citizens.

**Motion: CNO Board nominates Jessica Ward-Denison to represent CNO and vote for the policy board representative on the behalf of CNO.**

Made by Billy, second by Sue, motion carried unanimously.

### Discussion-McKnight Grant:

The Board reviewed and discussed the McKnight Foundation grant proposal in preparation for the foundations site visit on

November 2, 2006. The proposal is a request for \$70,000 of two years. The funds are for general operating expenses. CNO has applied for and received funding from McKnight in the past. Amy Arcand, Sue Duoos, Jessica Ward-Denison, Eric Gustafson and Billy Weber will be present for the site visit.

**Discussion-General Membership Meeting**  
The Board continued planning for the November general membership meeting. The meeting will be held at Corcoran Park. The topics for the meeting are the Energy Challenge, presented by Kath (Eric G. will be absent); Caring Corcoran Neighbors, Individual giving, and introduction of the new city attorney. Sue Duoos will prepare the minutes in the absences of Billy W.

**Discussion-Individual Giving Planning**  
Jessica W.-D. briefed the board on the giving plan being prepared by the task force of board members in order to maximize giving and the match. The program will launch on December 1, 2006. An emphasis will be made on the participation of on-line giving. A graphic will be developed to track progress in the CNO paper and office. 100% of the board and staff are already participating totaling \$1,840. The

match program will apply to individual gifts and pledges. It will not apply to other matching programs, in-kind gifts, or sponsorships.

### Jessica Ward-Denison Volunteer

Jessica announced that she will be volunteering in the office over the next several months as she transitions between jobs. She will be working on special projects.

### Committee Reports

**Events** – Kath Lenk. Book sale was a great success raising \$1,100! The added second day this year was slow, so next year the committee is likely to return to a one day event. The committee is already working on the next event, Volunteer Recognition, which will be held in February.

**Market** – Harvest Fest, the celebratory last day of the market was a great success. Bringing to a close the fourth season for the market.

**Latino’s en Accion** – Angel Morales’ last day was October 27, 2006. A job will be posted soon for his replacement.

### Motion: Motion to adjourn.

Made by Alexis, second by Billy, motion carried unanimously.

# A Helping Hand and an Opportunity to Lend a Hand

By Jessica Ward-Denison, Corcoran resident

The Salvation Army, an international organization started in London in 1865, has centers in 111 countries. Here in the metro area there are 26 Salvation Army



Salvation Army employees Patty Munuz (left) and Tracy Privratsky sort food that has been donated. Photo by Jessica Ward-Denison

Centers, including one at 1604 E. Lake St. that serves Corcoran and surrounding neighborhoods. In 2005 over 76,000 volunteer hours were logged to help serve over 200,000 people in the Metro Area.

## Services Offered

Year round services: food shelf, hygiene items, diapers, formula, vouchers for clothing, furniture & household items, transportation assistance, and HeatShare (utility bill assistance.) Services are offered based on certain criteria, call 612-767-2700, with questions and to make an appointment.

## Holiday Offerings

Local families in need of extra help around the Holidays can participate in the Toys for Tots program toy distribution. Families can call 651-746-3595 to sign up to receive toys. (Volunteers are needed to staff those phones – see next section.)

## Have a hand to help?

Salvation Army volunteers participate in many ways; visiting nursing homes and hospitals to provide gifts to the elderly and lonely at Christmas, serving over 1,200 meals on a daily basis, donating food to your local office for

the food shelf, donating toys for Toys For Tots, coats for the annual Coats for Kids drive, staffing phone banks and contributing money through the Red Kettle program. Currently volunteers are answering phones for the Toys for Tots program sign up and toy distribution. To volunteer call 651-746-3425 and ask for volunteer services.

The Salvation Army is a faith based organization and offers church services on Sundays at 11:00 am, Sunday school at 10:00 am. Both are bilingual (English & Spanish) services. Beginning in January there is a weekly kids after school program with Captain Cedarvall on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 pm with dinner provided, call 612-767-2708 for more information. You do not need to be a congregation member to receive services at the social service office.

## Some Stats

In fall 2006 at the East Lake office, about 800 children received coats and vouchers for coats. From August to September 2006 the Salvation

Army received over 7,000 calls requesting help with utility bills. The Salvation Army served over 25,000 families from its five metro food shelves last year. Through the Salvation Toy Shop nearly 125,000 presents were distributed in 2005. In 2005 the Salvation Army helped 3,427 families pay their utility bills through HeatShare.

The Salvation Army is located at 1604 E. Lake St., 612-767-2700. Hours are 8:30 to 12:00 & 1:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday.



Donations. Photo by Jessica Ward-Denison

## General Membership Minutes 11/13/06

Meeting opened by CNO Board Chair Jessica Ward-Denison.

Thank you to Corcoran's newest business, Riche's Kicken' Café, for providing BBQ samples for the meeting.

No approval of August 2006 General Membership Minutes as this meeting was part of National Night Out celebrations on August 1.

CNO staff person Eric Gustafson gave a presentation on the state-wide, Minnesota Energy Challenge. Eric projected the Center for Energy and Environment's Challenge website onto the wall and demonstrated how to take the Energy Challenge. More info is available at [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org). The website calculates your possible energy savings for home and business. Points granted are based on your pledge toward energy saving actions. These points can be 'assigned' towards your neighborhood or other community group.

Gwen McMahan, CNO Board Member and member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Advisory Council (3PAC), introduced Minneapolis City Attorneys Scott Christenson and

Paula Kruchowski. Scott Christenson was recognized for nine years of great service as City Attorney through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. We wish him the best as he moves on to the Minnesota Supreme Court. Gwen also welcomed Paula Kruchowski to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and our community. Paula spoke of her departmental and community goals. She asked the community to stay in contact with her through 3PAC meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm.

CNO Board Members Gerry Tyrrell and Kevin Reuther were publicly thanked for finding a community resident and donor who agreed to match all CNO donations up to \$5000. The "Grow your Neighborhood" fund drive is ongoing. The residents who comprise CNO's Board and Staff are all participating. \$1800 has been donated as of the end of October. Look for more info in future issues of The Corcoran News and The Neighborhood Advocate.

Caring Corcoran Neighbors (CCN). History and update provided by Committee Chair Mary Buhr. The program began by resident Sara Blanch out of common

concerns of prostitution and crime.

Achievements of the committee include:

- A distribution list of 70 members
- Visit to Volunteers of America program to assist former prostitutes
- Refined goals through education in problem properties and drug crime
- Saturday summer kick off event with media coverage on new lawn signs
- Wednesday and Sunday walking patrols

Market Advisory Committee Chair Gerry Tyrrell reported in on successful closing of the Midtown Public Market. Committee is rolling into the planning season for the fifth season in 2007.

CNO Events Chair Kath Lenk reported that the annual Book Sale brought in over \$1000. Upcoming event is the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Please contact the CNO office with Volunteer of the Year nominations.

Next General Membership Meeting is February 5, 2007.



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Monday - Friday	1 PM - 9 PM
Saturdays	9 AM - 4 PM
Sundays	CLOSED

Please call 612-370-4919 for more information or visit them at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org), and select Corcoran Park from the Park & Lakes finder.



Corcoran Park coaches pose with guest speaker Carl Eller (Football Hall of Famer) at the annual football banquet held at the park. Pictured left to right: Corey Coakley, Chris Fischer, Walt McFadden, Carl Eller, Tom Carpenter, Paul King. Photo by Peter Jaeger

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# Growing/Starting Seeds in the Winter

By Johnny Jones, Jr., Corcoran Resident

**D**id you know that in the winter a lot of nature dies? Just kidding! When that happens I am very sad. I am sad to see all the beautiful colors go brown. I have nothing against brown (a beautiful color in its own right), but give me some more color. There is a solution: try starting some seeds this winter to a least cut in to some of nature's down time. I will try to help you with that process. Let's apply some rules of seed starting.

When starting seeds, there are a number of things to consider. You need to start with "fresh" seeds, seeds that were marked for the current year. Most seeds are good for one year, with a few exceptions. The second thing you want to consider is germination rates printed on the package, and if that number is lower for that variety, increase the sowing rate in your containers. The third thing to consider is temp, seed starting materials, light and moisture. If

you do the first and second steps, but don't get the third step completed you will be disappointed. Most experts say, use a soil-less mix, but others say use a mix that is used for containers.



Make sure the mix is weed free or you will have a great crop of weeds which is not what

we are trying to grow here. One more thing – go very light on the fertilizers or they will burn your seeds out. Remember, as the plants grow they will need to be fed.

Seeds can be started in any kind of container. When you select the container, it will need to be kept warm and moist (use a spray bottle set to the mist setting to keep seed moist) for success with seed starting and it will need to be cling wrapped. It will also need to be place under a light source and that source can be sunlight or shop lights. Also, to keep the container warm, try bottom heat from heating pads or near a heating unit. Follow these rules for success. These should cut into nature's down time! Happy holidays and enjoy that green color!

Johnny Jones, Jr has a home-base business selling bedding plants! Contact at [plantmaster345aol.com](mailto:plantmaster345aol.com) or 612-724-4817.

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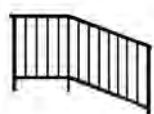
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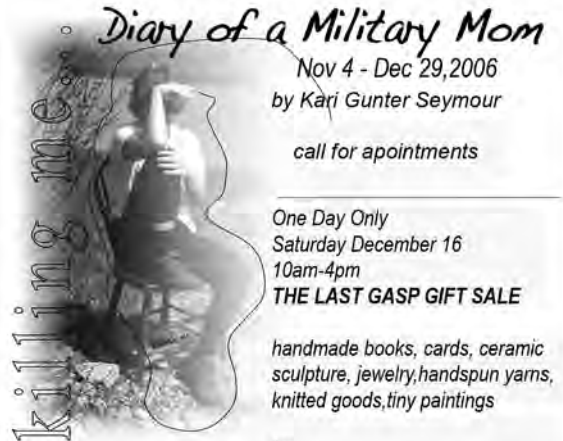


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