



City of Lilydale

On the Mississippi

Winter Newsletter—December 2012

LILYDALE CITY HALL

1011 Sibley Memorial Hwy.
Lilydale, MN 55118
Phone: 651-457-2316
Hours: M-F 9:00am - 4:30pm
Email: cityoflilydale@comcast.net
Mary Schultz, *City Clerk/Admin.*

CITY COUNCIL

Anita Pampusch, *Mayor*
Bob Bullard
John Diehl
Marilyn Lundberg
Warren Peterson

PLANNING COMMISSION

James Maher, *Chairperson*
Donald Campbell
Roxanne Sands
Tom Swain
Tom Winters
John Diehl, *Council Representative*

City Council meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at the city hall. The Planning Commission meets as needed.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

David Neameyer, *Building Official*
For inspections call 651-600-2176

www.lilydale.govoffice.com



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Tornadoes of November

The three tornadoes that touched down late Saturday, November 10th in Burnsville, Eagan and Mendota Heights were due to low pressure and a cold front causing temperatures to quickly plunge from a high of 69 degrees down into the twenties. The tornadoes were the latest ever recorded in a given year by the National Weather Service since it started keeping modern records in 1950.

The resulting winds hit speeds of up to 80 mph causing loss of power to residents in St. Paul, West St. Paul, and Mendota Heights, and causing damage to numerous trees and buildings. In Lilydale, the storm caused damage to the roof of the recently completed Lilydale Senior Living building. The Lilydale Garden Center sustained damage to several of their outbuildings and the Pool and Yacht Club reported damage to their deck furniture and canopy. In the Stonebridge neighborhood, twelve homes incurred roof damage. Four large blue spruce trees fell down at Lexington-Riverside and, sadly, the old dead tree across the river, where residents have watched eagles perch for many years, fell over as well.

House / Vacation Checks

The Mendota Heights Police Department wants to help you keep your property safe while you are away. Whether you are gone for a few days or a few months, the MHPD offers house / vacations checks.

To list your property and needs go to the City of Mendota Heights's website at www.mendota-heights.com. On the main page, left side, select Online Interactive Forms, Police On-Line Forms, then House Check Request. You may also pick up a form at the police station located at 1101 Victoria Curve in Mendota Heights, or by calling (651) 452-1366. There is no fee for this service.



Water Resources Management: Reducing I/I

Infiltration/inflow (I/I) are terms used to describe ways that groundwater and stormwater enter into dedicated wastewater or sanitary sewer systems.

Infiltration is groundwater that enters sanitary sewer systems through cracks and/or leaks in the sanitary sewer pipes caused by age related deterioration, loose joints, poor design, installation or maintenance errors, damage or root infiltration.

Inflow is stormwater that enters into sanitary sewer systems as points of direct connection to the systems. Various sources contribute to the inflow, including footing/foundation drains, roof drains or leaders, downspouts, drains from driveways, and sump pumps.

The sanitary sewer system is designed to treat only normal sanitary sewage, such as waste water that is carried from toilets, dishwashers, sinks, showers, bathtubs

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Lilydale City Council, above, left to right: John Diehl, Warren Peterson, Mayor Anita Pampusch, Bob Bullard, and Marilyn Lundberg

Totals for the General Election held November 6, 2012 at Lilydale city hall.

Number of persons registered at 7 a.m. on Nov. 6, 2012	644
Number of new registrants on election day	70
Number of accepted absentee ballots	101
Number of persons voting at city hall on election day	522
Total number of persons voting	623

Election results:

Mayor - Two-year term 2013 - 2014

Anita M. Pampusch	504
write-in	5

Council Member (elect 2)- Four-year term 2013 - 2016

Warren E. Peterson	367
Marilyn Donovan Lundberg	400
write-in	2



Services available at city hall:

- Building, mechanical & plumbing permits
- Business license
- Dog license
- Notary
- Recycling information
- Voter registration
- Zoning information, maps

Visit our web site for more information.
www.lilydale.govoffice.com

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and washing machines. I/I water, also called "clear water" (although it may be dirty,) belongs in stormwater sewers or on the surface of the ground, not in the sanitary sewers.

I/I is a problem because it takes up capacity in the sewer pipes and ends up at the regional wastewater treatment plant where it must be treated like sewage, resulting in higher treatment costs. Extra water in the sewer system requires new and larger waste water facilities to convey and treat larger volumes of flow. In addition, I/I flows contribute to sewer system overflows.

In order to deal with I/I, the Metropolitan Council assessed a surcharge to a city within the metro area if the peak flow from that city exceeded its allowable peak flow. Lilydale exceeded the allowed peak flow due to I/I, and incurred a surcharge of \$126,000 based on the peak flow during a storm event in 2005. Nearly every city in the metro area has I/I issues to correct, and many of these issues stem from when it was acceptable for storm water to enter the sanitary sewer system, which is no longer the case.

Cities are responsible to find solutions to keep storm water out of the sanitary sewer system. It costs less for cities to retrofit individual locations than to increase taxes and/or sewer fees to pay for extensive upgrades at the main treatment plant. In Lilydale, Barr Engineering was hired to investigate and identify sources of I/I. For several years, Barr has been involved with educating private property owner on the applicable city ordinance, guiding owners to acceptable solutions, and reviewing plans. Over the past two years, many steps have been taken by property owners and the City to reduce I/I in our community.

At Lexington-Riverside Condominiums, the primary issue was storm water entering garages due to poor grading and inadequately sized trench drains at the underground garage entrances. This summer, the problems were fixed by re-grading of the parking lots to improve the drainage and installing larger trench drains at the garage entrances to ensure the flow of storm water is directed to the river rather than to the sanitary sewer drains inside the garages.

At Riverwood Apartments, the situation was similar to the issues at Lexington-Riverside, so they also are completing plans to install new trench drains and curb cuts. In addition, the downspouts from the roof will be routed directly into a pipe system that will drain through the driveway trench drains and into the low area on the north side of the building.

Years ago it was common practice for roof drains to be connected to the sanitary sewer, as was the case at River Pointe Condominiums which was built in the 1960's. In September, 2010, in conjunction with a re-roofing project, the roof drains were sealed and water routed off the roof.

Infiltration was discovered to be an issue in the Lexington Court development, caused by groundwater seeping into cracked and broken wastewater pipes. This summer repairs were made to two manholes where excessive groundwater was infiltrating.

Although much has been accomplished to reduce I/I, it will continue to be a priority for the City.

Business Spotlight:
Banas Family Law, P.A.



Banas Family Law, P.A. is a boutique law firm that focuses on helping individuals and families understand and navigate the complicated and emotionally charged landscape of family law. The attorneys at Banas Family Law, P.A. advise and represent their clientele on a wide array of legal matters including divorce, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, child custody, grandparents' rights, spousal support, post-decree modifications, non-traditional family matters, and estate planning.

Nestled in the heart of Lilydale, they work directly with clients to craft resolutions that are unique and individualized to each family. With combined experience of over 20 years, the attorneys at Banas Family Law, P.A. are sensitive to each client's situation. They are persistent and level-headed in guiding families to prudent decision making to reach desired goals.

For more information regarding their services or for a free consultation, contact or visit them at: 651-361-8109 or www.banasfamilylaw.com.

*Lilydale welcomes new residents of
Lilydale Senior Living*



Lance Lemieux of Southview Senior Communities cut the ribbon for the opening of Lilydale Senior Living, located at the intersection of Highways 13 and 35E. Residents moved into the beautiful new building November 1st. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, ground was broken on the adjacent lot, which will become the Villas of Lilydale. The Villas is expected to open in the fall of 2013 and will consist of 47 senior luxury rental apartments and offices of Southview Senior Communities corporate staff. The addition of Lilydale Senior Living and the Villas, both properties owned by operated by Southview Senior Communities, extends the city's multi-family housing to the east side of 35E.

For more information or to schedule a personalized tour of the facility, call 651-454-6853.



Recycle holiday lights & extension cords

Now through January 15, 2013, residents can drop-off old or non-working holiday lights (or any type of string lights) and extension cords at:

The Recycling Zone	Hours:
3365 Dodd Road	W: 9am-8pm, Th: 12-8pm
Eagan, MN 55121	F: 9am-5pm, Sa: 8am-5pm

For more information and a list of drop-off sites around the state visit <http://recycleminnesota.org>



COLDWATER, THE BIRTHPLACE OF MINNESOTA -- NOW A NEW URBAN PARK . . .

A STORY OF ITS HISTORY AND FUTURE

by Lois Owen

Lilydale Explorer

As the designated "explorer" for Lilydale, I keep my eyes and ears open for places to walk or bike that I think would be of interest to its residents. So with that in mind, in October, 2011, I stored in my memory an article from the Minneapolis Tribune, titled "Ransacked Minnesota Historic Site to be Reborn as Park," about a planned new park, to be called Coldwater Spring Park, at the demolition site of the old federal Bureau of Mines Research Center off Hwy. 55. It is on top of the Mississippi River gorge, between Fort Snelling on its south side and Minnehaha Park on its north and just above the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

Almost a year later, I saw another Tribune article about the park, titled "New Look -- Coldwater Spring Debuts". I was pleasantly surprised at the rapid development of the park which was officially opened to the public this past September. And then, almost a month later I saw a calendar item in the Highland Villager listing "a Coldwater Photo Blitz" to be hosted by the Mississippi River Fund at Coldwater Spring. The public was invited to "bring cameras and take photos of life and landscape at the historic site". Not being a native Minnesotan and having lived in the Twin Cities only for a few years, I knew nothing about Coldwater Creek or its historic background so I was enthusiastic about visiting this newest addition to our National Park system.

So on October 28th, a brisk cloudy morning, my friend, Dick, with walking stick in hand, and I, with camera in tow, bundled up and headed to the photo blitz. We drove because it was too cold to bike, but it is a short distance -- only about 1.5 miles from our Lilydale condo building. We were immediately greeted, even before we got out of the car, by a friendly volunteer who told us a little about the park, handed us some literature and suggested we take the short walk to the historic spring house and reservoir. There were no signs along our walking path but the MNRRA (Mississippi National River & Recreation Area) Ranger on Call (rangerontrail.com) cell phone stations (877-727-1172, #21) were there. Later, I called the number and found all kinds of informative and useful facts about the new park including information on the two bike trails we could see from the park. On our walk, as we looked east we saw a section of the Mississippi pedestrian/bike trail which follows the old Minnesota and Cedar Valley (MCVE) railroad that went through Camp Coldwater and leads to Fort Snelling State Park. Looking to the west, we saw a more high-speed commuter paved bike trail that goes past the park's south entrance and extends to the Fort Snelling Visitor Center upper post. After exploring a bit and taking photos, we walked back to the car with Kate Havelin, who was walking back that way and started telling us all kinds of interesting facts about the park. It turns out she works as Coldwater Park Coordinator for the Mississippi River Fund (the charitable arm of the National Park Service), which sponsored the photo blitz. Her job is to let the public know about the park. She offered to give me a private tour at a later date for my article on the park for the Lilydale newsletter. I'd like to share with you some of what I learned when I met her at the park on a sunny day in November.

Coldwater Spring is a 10,000 year old spring that flowed at a pre-Hwy. 55 construction rate of 100,000-144,000 gallons a day. It was formed by glacier melt, possibly older than the most recent Wisconsin ice age and was long a sacred site for the Native American tribes of the Upper Mississippi who used spring water for specific ceremonies. The site was first called Camp Coldwater in May of 1820 when Lt. Col. Henry Leavenworth, who had lost 20 percent of his troops the previous winter due to unsanitary practices at their camp on the Minnesota side of the confluence, moved his soldiers to this new area with its clean source of natural spring-fed water. It was to provide water for Fort Snelling for a century, from 1820 to 1920. Leavenworth was succeeded by Col. Josiah Snelling later that year. Camp Coldwater is considered the birthplace of Minnesota and its populace later founded St. Paul and Minneapolis. The spring water still flows today at a reduced rate of 80,000 to 90,000 gallons per day.

The Coldwater area once housed blacksmith shops, stables, trading posts, a hotel, and a steamboat landing. In the 1880's a limestone well tower and pump house were built and the reservoir holding pond was expanded by Fort Snelling soldiers. Spring water was piped to the fort until the 1940's. It was at this time that Fort Snelling started to decline and the property was left wild until the post-war years, from 1950 to 1996, when the Bureau of Mines (BM), a federally funded research center, whose primary function was to research metallurgy and mining, took over the property and constructed 12 buildings on the site. The BM stayed there until 1996 when President Clinton and Congress decided private industry should be conducting mine research, not the government, and proceeded to shut down 11 centers across the country. The BM was then reabsorbed back into the Department of Interior, and Coldwater was vacated.

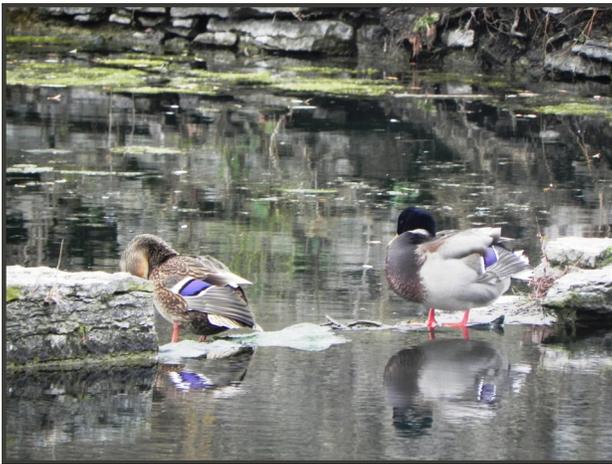
In the 1950's and 60's there were plans to preserve Camp Coldwater and to excavate some of the historic sites. In 1959, government officials even considered building a nuclear reactor there. But nothing came of these plans. The 27-acre property was transferred to the

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NPS/MNRRRA in January, 2010, for what would be a \$2.2 million makeover. The development of the park has not been without controversy due to its nearness to urban highways and the airport. The re-routing of Hwy. 55 and the Hwy. 55/62 and interchange construction caused heated debate throughout the 90's about the consequences to the disruption of the natural water source to the spring. Because of each land reconstruction, it is no wonder the average daily flow of spring water has been reduced by about a third from what it was in the 1800's.

Coldwater is not a park like its close neighbors, Minnehaha, which attracts approximately one million visitors a year and Fort Snelling, which attracts a smaller but equally impressive number of visitors. That is, there will be no amenities like picnic tables, shelters, water fountains, or benches. Rather, it will be more of an open space with trails and its primary emphasis will be on both its history and its nature management. The Friends of Coldwater, the group Kate works for, has specific written recommendations for the park: namely, to expand the park to include the adjacent Veterans Administration bluff-top parcel of 23 acres and the Minnesota Historical Society bottomland of 21 acres to form one 80-acre urban wilderness park linked to the NPS island in the Mississippi River directly below the park. They also urge designation of the property as America's first "Green Museum", a place where the *land* is the legacy, the museum, the teacher and the future. Coldwater's 27 acres is the biggest chunk of land within the National Park and could become the jewel of the MNRRRA, giving the national park more of an identity.



After Kate told me much about the history of the park, we began our walking tour, starting first at what was the former entrance to the Bureau of Mines headquarters, beyond which originally stood 11 more buildings, but now there are none. One site which was left pretty much as found in the park were the original ore bins which were used to store tons of ore for taconite research. The BM used this ore to develop a way to profitably process taconite which boosted Minnesota's iron industry. Open to the weather and now containing earth and natural plants, the ore bins have been retained as a reminder of the recent past. She explained that the BM site sat vacant from 1996-2010 and was littered with glass, rusting debris, invasive buckthorn trees, crumbling asphalt roads, trashed buildings covered with graffiti and paintball splatters, and its copper wiring and piping

worth \$10,000 to \$20,000, looted. She described the controversy surrounding the park in the 1980's and 1990's when people were concerned the reconstruction of the highway would affect the springs and ground water. However, it turned out fairly well she said, when, in 2003, MnDOT set a precedent by basically raising the highway so the water could flow under the interchange through an eight-layer synthetic liner, thereby protecting the water flow to the spring.

Continuing on our walk, we were then near one of the wetlands in the park where, according to Kate, the BM Library stood. Kate said the employees always wondered why there was water in the basement even after they kept draining it out. They didn't realize their building stood in a wetland! She said biologists call this wetland a fen which is one of four main types of wetlands and is usually fed by mineral-rich surface water or ground water. This one is an unusual type of fen because its pH balance comes from calcium and magnesium salts and it is oxygen poor, allowing support of plants such as Valerian which is a hardy flowering perennial. It doesn't grow anywhere else, and there are no other fens whose pH balance is achieved this way in Hennepin or Ramsey Counties. She is hopeful that school groups will come here on field trips to do science projects.

As we walked south, she went on to discuss the prairie and oak savannah restoration that is actively going on in the park, saying this area of land used to be an oak grove, at one time common in Minnesota, but now rare. The trees were almost completely taken over by buckthorn, but thanks to more than 1,000 volunteers, spending many hours, all the buckthorn within the park boundaries has been removed and several oak groves have been restored with new plantings of white oak, burr oaks, hackberry, and beech trees. The Mississippi River Fund spent \$1,000 on trees with the goal of having oaks within the prairie. Last August, Prairie Restorations, Inc. seeded the entire area with plants native to the area such as purple coneflower, yarrow, wild onion, prairie sage, red baneberry, and grasses, all in an attempt to reclaim the space and make it into an oak savannah-prairie. According to Kate, on September 29, 2012, National Public Lands Day, 200 volunteers planted 165 trees, 160 shrubs, and 980 native wetland and prairie plants! But then Kate added, "Look beyond the fence line and see all the buckthorn still there on the adjacent property. You can hardly see the oaks because they're surrounded by buckthorn." I nodded in agreement and silently thought, "I hope the national park people can acquire that property."

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As we walked toward the spring house and reservoir we saw the creek visibly flowing out and down toward the river. Kate said that for 100 years you couldn't see where the creek went because it was hidden in a culvert under the road until the Park Service, in a process called "day lighting", exposed the creek routing it along a more natural flow path. Eventually, a walking trail will be built following the creek down to the river. She said there are all kinds of "social trails" in the park with one, for example, leading to the dog park and several to the river. A second wetland lies in the southwest area of the park with an unusual tall black maple and a beautiful grouping of taller mature oaks. Off in the near distance you can see the Henry Bishop Whipple Federal Building and glimpses of traffic, light-rail, and planes landing and taking off, once again reminding you of the urban setting and of the movie with the title, "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles", but yet you're standing in an oak-savannah prairie. You feel the park is really achieving its important goal of a blend of history and nature, all the while preserving and protecting the source of the water and the underground pathways of the water to the spring outflow. She added, "And to think, all this happened in the lightning speed of one year -- amazing for a government project." I agreed!

A little further along the trail, Kate pointed out a huge cottonwood tree where she saw a pair of eagles last summer. We concluded our walk by going above the spring house to a service road where there is a nice huge block of limestone that serves as a bench where you can sit while listening to the cell phone tour or just enjoying the view and the peacefulness of the area. Because it was fall and there were no leaves on the trees I could clearly see the beautiful Fort Snelling limestone barracks and the steeple of St. Peter's Catholic Church in the near distance -- both grand reminders of this park's historic past, its link to the present-day Twin Cities, and to its future as a park in an urban wilderness.

Upcoming Events at Coldwater Spring Park

Winter Ranger Walk, Dec. 29th, 1pm

Snow Shoe Walk, Feb. 9th, 1pm

Official Address: 5601 Minnehaha Park Drive South, Fort Snelling, MN 55111

Directions: From Highway 55, turn east onto 54th Street and then take an immediate right onto Minnehaha Park Drive South. Drive to the end of the road, and you will come to what appears to be a circular cul du sac. Continue through this and to your left you will see the entrance sign for Coldwater Spring.

Parking: There is a small, gravel parking lot with 10 parking spaces, including two handicap stalls. These spaces are for those specifically visiting the Coldwater Spring unit and use is limited to two hours.

Trails: A handicap accessible gravel trail leads from the parking lot to Coldwater Spring and Reservoir. The distance is just under a quarter-mile. The trail continues to the property's southern end, but this stretch has a coarser gravel surface. A number of informal trails lead into and out of the property.

Hours: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.

