MODIFIED ON A COMMUNITY WATCH PRINCIPLE, AND OPERATING ALONG SECTIONS OF BOTH THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY AND THE HIWATHA LRT TRAIL, THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION’S TRAIL WATCH PROGRAM HAS VOLUNTEERS ADDING EYES AND EARS TO THE GREENWAY, WATCHING FOR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ALONG THE TRAILS, CALLING 911 WHEN NEEDED, AND OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO TRAIL USERS IN NEED.

“WE HAVE A FANTASTIC SERIES OF TRAILS IN MINNEAPOLIS, AND I FELT IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO HELP KEEP THEM SAFE,” SAID 74-YEAR-OLD TRAIL WATCH RIDER PAUL CASPERSON.

IN ADDITION TO TRAINING FROM DON GREELEY, COMMUNITY CRIME AND SAFETY SPECIALIST WITH THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE, SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS HAVE COME ALONG ON RIDES, GETTING TO KNOW THE TRAIL WATCH RIDERS, AND HELPING THEM LEARN THE SKILLS NEEDED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO CRIME ON THE TRAILS.

ONE WATCH RIDER, TED WELTER, SAID, “IT FEELS REALLY GOOD TO BE OUT HERE MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AND IT’S A GREAT EXCUSE TO GET IN A 15-20 MILE RIDE ON A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT!”

CURRENTLY, THE COALITION IS OPERATING RIDES MOST DAYS OF THE WEEK. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING US SUSTAIN THESE RIDES AND PERHAPS ADD MORE, PLEASE CONTACT NATE AT TRAILWATCH@MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG OR (612) 879 0106.

My name is Gabriel Hoffman, and I am a member of the Coalition board from Seward.

By Gabriel Hoffman, Coalition board member from Seward

Poet, cyclist, and Midtown Greenway Coalition board member, Mr. Hoffman is also the author of the following poem, which was first published in the Midtown Greenway Coalition newsletter:

Rain Art on the Greenway
Coalition T-Shirts
Xcels Transmission Line Update
Nate Kerr is a Greenway Hero
Progressive Dinner
Tour de Fat

The Coalition Would Like To Thank . . .

Translation by Accentos, Inc.

TRADUCCIÓN:

SIGUIENDO EL MODELO DEL PRINCIPIO DE VIGILANCIA COMUNITARIA (COMMUNITY WATCH), Y ACTUANDO EN SECCIONES DE LOS SENDEROS MIDTOWN GREENWAY Y HIWATHA LRT, EL PROGRAMA DE VIGILANCIA DEL SENDERO DE LA COALICIÓN MIDTOWN GREENWAY Cuenta con voluntarios que son los ojos y los oídos en el Sendero Greenway, observando actividades sospechosas, llamando a 911 cuando sea necesario, y ofreciendo asistencia a los usuarios de los senderos que la necesiten.

“Tenemos una serie magnífica de senderos en Minneapolis, y yo sentí que era muy importante ayudar a mantenerlos seguros”, dijo Paul Casperson, de 74 años de edad quien es un participante del programa de vigilancia del sendero. Además del adiestramiento ofrecido por Don Greeley, especialista en delincuencia y seguridad del departamento de Policía de Minneapolis, (continuado en la página 5)
Rain art is the most recent trend of practices that have the goal of ‘harvesting’ rain or storm water to keep it out of our storm sewers and use it for a beneficial purpose. So what is rain art? It can be a sculpture, a mobile, a gargoyle, fountain, water fall or other designed feature or combination of features that capture rain water, and in which that rain water is an integral part of the art or creation. In addition to being captured in a playful way, the water could be re-circulated, or may go on to be used for a garden and recharge the ground water below.

In the spring issue of Pathways, the Greenway newsletter, we told you about the planning grant the Coalition was awarded by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization for a rain art, water feature on the Greenway (see p.2 in that issue). We are in the process of putting together the advisory committee that will assist in determining where that water feature will go. We have enlisted a team with experience in landscape architecture, stormwater management, water feature design, water engineering, watershed management, urban design and community organization.

Certain criteria must be met for the design, function and maintenance of the water feature. These criteria include:

- **Stormwater**—how much can be captured, where will it come from and go to, how could it be used, how complex would the capturing be;
- **The space**—how accessible to the public is it, how would Greenway users interact with it, how visible is it, how attractive is it,
- **Potential partners**—are there property owners, businesses, and/or community organizations that can support, bring (contribute?) funding, and help maintain the completed project;
- **Costs**—What is the estimated cost, is the amount feasible for funding sources, what is the cost-sharing potential in the neighborhood for this site.

Could there be a rain art water feature in your neighborhood? We have begun reviewing potential sites and will narrow down to three or four for which we will do a more detailed review, probably including discussing the idea with the communities adjacent to the potential water feature sites. Choosing a site does not guarantee that the water feature will be built—community input and funding have to be secured. So, stay tuned.

In the meantime, here are some articles to whet your appetite for rain art:

- **Portland, Oregon Art of Stormwater Exhibit Guide**
- **“Stormwater as entertainment”, Stormwater, May 2009.**

**STOP BY AND PICK UP A NEW COALITION T-SHIRT AND BUTTON**

As seen here on Nate, T-shirts are short sleeve, 100% cotton and US made, featuring our love logo in bright green and just $20. Buttons come in two sizes for a minimum donation of $1. Both are available at the Freewheel Midtown Bike Center, or venture down the hall and purchase at our office.
NATE KERR IS A MIDTOWN GREENWAY HERO

By Tim Springer, Executive Director

I think of a hero as someone who acts selflessly, taking on big challenges to improve the lives of many. Nate Kerr is a hero. He has been on staff at the Midtown Greenway Coalition for two years through a program called the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC), working for us as a volunteer in exchange for a small monthly stipend. Normally LVC volunteers work for an agency for one year, but Nate extended his work with the Coalition to two years to help roll out the programs he was most interested in. Nate came to the Coalition with experience in youth work, bicycle advocacy, and bicycle mechanics. He got our Green Way to Go youth biking program up and running, and he leads most of the rides. Nate also started our Trail Watch Program by building relationships in person and on line with police and our local bicycling community. We’ll be losing Nate in early August as he heads off the Gulf Coast to work for Outward Bound as a canoe instructor with at-risk kids. Bon Voyage and best wishes, stay in touch Nate.

XCEL’S HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES Continue to Threaten the Midtown Greenway

By Tim Springer, Executive Director

Xcel Energy’s proposed Hiawatha Project for high voltage transmission lines along the Midtown Greenway is of concern because it would compromise the historic and general aesthetics of the Greenway, consign the Greenway corridor to blight rather than a hotspot for new development, fill in an important public greenspace by Hiawatha Avenue with a substation, and perhaps subject us to electric shocks and health hazards while biking.

Currently, Xcel plans to install the lines overhead unless some party agrees to pay the roughly $15 million more it would cost to put them underground. In pursuit of a route permit, Xcel filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC then established an Advisory Task Force to help determine what should be studied as part of an Environmental Impact Statement. The route permitting process will be done around May 2010.

We remain unconvinced that the line is needed. We believe an aggressive approach to conservation, distributed generation such as solar or combined heat and power, and smart grid could serve the need. These efforts should be done throughout all of south Minneapolis because this is the area that would benefit from the new substations.

That said, if lines go in, the Midtown Greenway Coalition has some goals:

1. Protect the Greenway—the lines underground, and not along the Greenway because that would hinder future development and corridor modifications needed to gracefully accommodate future trail transit alongside the trails.
2. The community should get to determine where the substations go and what they look like.
3. Mitigation should be done, such as implementation of a public walkway along the Greenway’s north rim between Chicago and Portland Avenues.
4. The new transmission lines should be sustained by implementing electricity demand reduction strategies specific to south Minneapolis so that more lines are never needed again.

What you can do:
• Visit midtowngreenway.org for the latest information.
• Email tim@midtowngreenway.org to request that you are added to our email list for updates, hearing notifications, etc.
• Communicate your opinions with your elected officials at the City, County, and State.
**MISSION**

We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people’s lives.

**MISIÓN**

Nosotros habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.

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**Thank you to our Spring 2009 Donors and Volunteers!**

*Please call if we have missed you!*

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**Midtown Greenway Coalition Board Members**

The Coalition board of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway Corridor, and four at-large seats.

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**Grants and Contracts**

Bikes Belong
Longfellow Community Council
McKnight Foundation
Midtown Phillips
The Minneapolis Foundation
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
Philips West
Powderhorn Foundation

**Business Organization Members/Donors**

(3/20/09 – 6/17/09)

- Bike's Shop Inc
- Freewheel Bikes
- Lander Group
- Powderhorn Park
- REI
- Whole Foods

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**individual Members/Donors**

(3/20/09 – 6/17/09)

- Matthew Allian & Sarah vernon
- Mary Arneson & Dale Hammerschmidt
- Paul Ashman
- Edward Axt
- Brian Balleria
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- Barb Beck
- Kevin Bergstrom
- Eric Berger & Maia Twedt
- Amy Blumenshine
- Allan & Margaret Brockman
- Martha Brand & Gerald Rosen
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- William Turek
- Dirk Van Oppehn
- Linda Velve & Martha Hewett
- Charles Warner
- Barry Warner
- Mary Weber & Peter Flack
- David Wex
- Foster Wile Jr.
- Bob & Julie Young

**In memory of**

Jack Hanson
Ellen and Pat Flannigan
Sarah Moscovich
University of Minnesota

**In memory of andrea borgman**

Randy Miranda

**Volunteers**

Mark Ambrose
Mary Arneson
Robert Barry
Alex bauman
Dorothy Beckvall
Kurt Blanchnett
Simon Blenks
Aarone Baroo
Paul Casperson
Gregg Severson
Steve Crayford
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Janeen Court
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Accentos, Inc.
JT Bates
Carbon Creative
Dorsey & Whitney LLP.
Freewheel Bike
Granovisons
Hennepin County

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**Thank you to our Spring 2009 Donors and Volunteers!**

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**Midtown Greenway Coalition Board Members**

Matthew Dahlquist  
CEDAR ISLES DEAN  
John DeWitt  
PROSPECT PARK  
Amanda Doulouse  
PHILIPS WEST  
Eric Hart  
LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Fleur Higginbotham  
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POWDERHORN PARK  
Gabriel Hoffman  
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Anders Imboden  
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Todd Sample  
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AT LARGE  
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Matthew Dahlgquist  
CEDAR ISLES DEAN  
John DeWitt  
PROSPECT PARK  
Amanda Doulouse  
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For a list of board members' roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Follow the links to Board of Directors, or call 612-879-0103.
THE TOUR DE FAT IS COMING TO MINNEAPOLIS!

By Michael Nelson, Board President

The Tour de Fat, a celebration of bikes and biking sponsored by New Belgium Brewing, is coming to Minneapolis. It is intended to increase awareness and participation in cycling as a sustainable form of transportation, while having a lot of fun in the process! Make plans to attend—silly costumes for you and your bike are encouraged. The event includes an optional costumed bike parade, musical acts on a solar-powered stage, and an estimated crowd of 3,000 almost all arriving by bicycle. The event highlight is when a volunteer “trader” hands over their car keys and a promise to be car-free for a year in exchange for a hand-built Black Sheep commuter bike ($3,000 value). The Midtown Greenway Coalition was selected as a co-sponsor of the event, and will receive all proceeds from the sale of New Belgium brews. The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota and Minnesota Off Road Cycling are also involved. The Coalition will need your help along with 99 other volunteers to make the most of this fantastic opportunity. Please contact Tim (tim@midtowngreenway.org or 612 879-0105) to volunteer for this event and have a great time to boot! For more information on the event or signing up for the art bike parade, go to www.midtowngreenway.org or http://www.newbelgium.com/tour-de-fat.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER BY BICYCLE

— FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH 2009

By Fleur Higginbotham, Coalition board member representing Powderhorn Park

What better way to celebrate summer than with the annual Progressive Dinner along the Greenway! This is always a fun and fabulous event with joyful bike rides to different Greenway locations for a three-course meal. Appetizers will be at a private home with whimsical perennial gardens, hosted by Ilana and Mike Favero, Barb Pratt, Bob Corrick, and Beth Parkhill. The main course will take us atop Midtown Exchange in the Chicago Lofts Party Room, hosted by Jeff Gundvaldson, Matthew Lang, Vicki Potts, and others. Those that came last year will remember the gorgeous 360-degree views and stunning sunset. The final leg of the ride will take us to another private home near the River to enjoy delectable desserts, hosted by Cara Letofsky and Jim Davnie.

This will be the second year that the Progressive Dinner will be a fundraising event for the Coalition with a minimum donation of $35 per ticket. This is going to be fun! So reserve your spot and learn event details by emailing events@midtowngreenway.org or leaving a message with your contact information at 612 879-1080.

As always, the Midtown Greenway Coalition truly appreciates your continued support.

As this goes to press, we are pleased to announce product sponsorships from The Herkimer Pub & Brewery, New Belgium Brewing and The Birchwood Café. If you are a local business and would like to sponsor this event, please contact the Coalition. No rain date—only a severe electrical storm cancels this event.

PROGRAMA DE VIGILANCIA DE SENDEROS DE LA COALICIÓN MIDTOWN GREENWAY

(continuado de la página 1)

varios oficiales de policía han participado en los recorridos en bicicleta, pudiendo conocer a los vigilantes voluntarios del sendero, y enseñándoles las destrezas necesarias para poder ser un factor disuasivo eficaz de delitos en los senderos.

Ted Welter, uno de nuestros vigilantes voluntarios, manifestó: “Me siento muy satisfecho de estar allí marcando la diferencia, y es una buena excusa para hacer un recorrido de 15 a 20 millas en bicicleta en una hermosa noche”.

Actualmente, la Coalición está realizando recorridos en bicicleta casi todos los días de la semana. Si estuviera interesado en ayudar a apoyar esos recorridos y quizás participar en algunos más, por favor póngase en contacto con Nate aTrailwatch@midtowngreenway.org o llamando al (612) 879 0106.
FIGHT THE POWER
(SEE P. 3)

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City, State, Zip _________________________________
Phone, E-mail _________________________________

☐ $250 – Greenway Angel
☐ $100 – Greenway Patron
☐ $50 – Greenway Advocate
☐ $25 – Greenway Sponsor
☐ $12 – Greenway Friend (low income)
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☐ Yes, I want to volunteer
☐ My main interest is: ____________________________

Please make your check payable to:
“Midtown Greenway Coalition”
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN  55407

Clip and post on fridge

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TOUR DE FAT
Saturday, July 18th
(see page 5)

PROGRESSIVE DINNER PARTY
Friday, August 28th
(see page 5)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Second Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
July 13, August 10, and September 14

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Fourth Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
July 23, August 27, and September 24

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, are at
the Coalition office (2834 10th Avenue South,
Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN  55407).