Bryn Mawr Winter Lights Tour

And the winners are...

Best Winter Garden
It’s official, 200 Thomas S has a gorgeous garden year round.

Most Creative Theme
The neighborhood loved the rainbow chimney at 16 Thomas S!

Shining Brightest
283 Washburn Ave N had so many elements! The 200 block of Washburn was surely visible from space.

Honorable mentions go to:
420 Oliver Ave S with Santa’s iconic sled and 464 Oliver Ave S that was beaming bright blue!

Thank you to the 43 homes that registered for the tour and the numerous other neighbors that illuminated our streets.

December Scavenger Hunt Winners!

The scavenger hunt emails poured in with messages of support like “Thank you for making the Bugle even more fun - the local news is timely, exciting, and inspiring. Please keep up the good work!”

Readers identified the December Bugle page numbers containing a picture of a Bryn Mawr storefront, the community projects process, and the coloring page, expressing their thanks for the Bugle and having a fun activity to do. There was also thanks to the merchants for the amazing prizes.

A random drawing of all submissions sends gift cards to 8 lucky winners.

$20.00 La Mesa gift cards to Rebecca Jensen and Karim Ciano
$20.00 La Mesa gift cards to Rebecca Jensen and Karim Ciano
It was gratifying to hear that neighbors read the Bugle every month and appreciate the hard work it takes to get out the neighborhood news.

The February hunt continues!
Find the following three items included in this issue of the Bugle.

Bugle Advertising Rates
BMNA Survey
School Boundaries Map

To enter, submit the page number where you found the item, with your name and address, to bugle@bmna.org (please use the subject line: Scavenger Hunt) or call 612.234.7819 by Saturday, February 20. Winners will be entered into a drawing to receive a gift card to a neighborhood business.

Have you joined yet?

The BMNA does not charge dues. Please consider making a financial contribution of $40 or more along with your membership. BMNA is a 501C3 tax deductible organization.

Yes, I want to help the BMNA by making a financial contribution of:

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Name(s): ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________
E-mail: _____________________________________________

Help us save postage by including your email address – we’ll send your receipt to your inbox. If you don’t have an email account, no problem, we’ll still promptly mail your receipt. Check should be made payable to BMNA. For security please do not leave memberships at the Market.

Please mail to:
Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association
2915 Wayzata Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55405-2145

Published by the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association
February 2021
BMNA Reporter

BRYN MAWR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
6:30– 8:00 PM
Google Meet/Virtual Meeting

Board and Staff
Kevin Thompson – President
Brian Treece – Vice President
James Dietrich – Treasurer
Jessica Willey – Secretary
Dave Holets – Area 1 Rep
Karen Fredericson - Area 2 Co-Rep
Sue Verret – Area 2 Co-Rep
Dennie Juillerat – Area 3 Rep
Joanne Michalec - Area 4 Co-Rep
Colleen Dhenin - Area 5 Co-Rep
JoEllyn Jolstad – Event Coordinator
Barry Schade – Area 6 Co-Rep
Rod Miller - Area 6 Co-Rep
Beth Turnbull Area 5 - Co-Rep
Allison Reese – Area 3
McKenzie Erickson – Event Coordinator
Joanne Michalec - Area 4 Co-Rep
Barry Schade – Area 6 Co-Rep
Stephen Harvey – Area 7 Co-Rep
Jolynn Jolstad – Bugle Editor
Jeremy Staffed - Webmaster
McKenzie Erickson – Event Coordinator
Lynda Shaeheen – Communication/Fundraising Coordinator
Anthony Ramirez – Area 7

Guests:
Sue Verrett – Area 2 Co-Rep
Karen Frederickson - Area 2 Co-Rep
James Dietrich - Treasurer

Call to Order at 6:32 PM
Agenda approval moved, seconded. Motion carried.
Minutes from October and November Annual Meeting moved, seconded. Motion carried.

2800 Wayzata Blvd Site Update—Steve Minn
Three items to present. 1) School site pond 2) progress with State finance 3) Swervo development. 1) There has been an extended discussion about the school ponds. Rod and McKenzie represented the BMNA. Addressed issues presented by the school. Cameron Flakne, Lupe Development, shared a new pond design that responds to the school needs for educational use. Lupe will provide an allowance for the project, an Anwatin School committee working group will design the final pond design. 2) All funding is in place for the Lupe Development project. Are confident housing bonds will be received. 3) The 2800 Wayzata building was originally planned to be office space. The market has changed in the CoVid environment. Ned Abdul, Swervo Development, is planning to do a market rate residential conversion of the site. The site will be 5 levels from the street, open to all ages. Surface parking will be retained. Traffic will be reduced moving from a business use to residential. The senior living care building planned for the east part of the site will not be developed, the market is not conducive to this. Townhomes are being considered. All the plans for this site are in line with past discussions the BMNA has had about land use in this area. There will not be additional affordable rate units in the 2800 building conversion to residential. The requirements for affordable housing on the site have been met with the units in the senior building being constructed by Lupe. Swervo developers will complete the BMNA Issue Review Process (IRP) request form before asking for support from the BMNA for the conversion project.

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act—Nicole Buehler-HNA
Qananni Omar, HNA, presented background on TOPA. The idea originated in Washington, DC, 40 years ago. Has been studied by the City of Mpls and options presented to the Business, Inspection and Zoning and Housing committee. Three options are on the table which include giving tenants' rights to purchase, to purchase and assign rights to others, or removing tenants from the process and only involve developers and buyers. Harrison is advocating for a version of the option that gives rights to tenants to purchase and/or to assign rights to others. This affords renters opportunity to purchase existing single-family homes in their neighborhoods that have been subject to predatory buying by developers. Working on support for city council funding in the future. Funding will be needed for staff capacity to help with furnishing and paperwork, and financing for tenant buyers. BMNA support would be needed in early spring. BMNA Board will discuss the issue in January using our IRP process.

Treasurer Report – JD Dietrich
Updated financial reports were sent to Board. The Finance Committee drafted a budget for 2021, presented proposed budget for discussion. Outlined the changes from the 2020 budget. Adjusted for lost revenue for events we will not hold in early 2021. Proposing some changes to consolidate budget items and rename line items. Will vote on the proposed budget at the January 13 meeting.

Cedar Lake CAC Update - Chris Eiz
Barry Schade presented. BMNA Board members were not included as official reps on the CAC doing the master plan but Barry and Chris have been attending the meetings. Interest in keeping Cedar Lake a natural area. There is a remnant of Hennepin County land that both the light rail landscaping committee and Cedar Lake Park Association want to keep as part of the public domain.

By-Law Changes, Emeritus Board Member Status - Jay Peterson
Jay moved, Sue seconded, changes to our bylaws to add a new Emeritus board member category. Emeritus board members would be nominated by the officers, have served at least three terms, and will be non-voting. Include Finance Committee as a standing committee. Added a line to clarify that Area Reps are voting members of the board. Motion carried.

Communications and Fundraising Report - Lynda Shaeheen
Written report sent to Board members. Barry has taken over getting welcome packets to area reps. Brian will notify area reps of new neighbors who need packets. Scavenger hunt in Bugle had 20 participants, the winners received gift cards to local and BIPOC businesses. On December 21, Mill City Times will be making a video clip of how you would spend a weekend in Bryn Mawr. Link to the feedback survey we had available during the November Annual Meeting will be sent via the BMNA electronic newsletter. Attended a city-wide coordinator meeting about the schools. Feel well connected to the schools. Colleen is on the Bryn Mawr Elementary site team. Have created a line to allow for donations to the BMNA in memory or in honor of someone. Give to the Max brought in the same number of donors as last year.

Event Report – McKenzie Erickson
15 houses signed up so far for the first ever Bryn Mawr lights tour. Map and vote online through our website and market. Second coloring sheet in Bugle. Will be displayed in the windows at Cuppa Java. No Winter Fest this coming year but looking at how to have a CoVid safe gathering in February.

Bugle - JoEllyn Jolstad.
No Bugle in January. The deadline for articles/ads for the February Bugle is January 20th. Holding another scavenger hunt in December.

Webmaster – Jeremy Staffed.
Working on technical issues with the website. Will be taking down the website for 24 hours for massive maintenance and updating.

Committee Reports
Community Projects - Jessica Wiley.
Deadline is December 31. Two new projects to date.
Gardens – Dennis Juillerat.
Enjoy the downtown containers decorated for winter.

Elections – Brian Treece.
Brian moved that we appoint three candidates for rep positions. Liv Nielsen, Area 1, Allison Fruen, Area 3, and Anthony Ramirez, Area 7. Reps would run for their positions at our 2021 Annual meeting. Seconded. Motion passed. Welcome to our new reps.

Racial Justice – Kate Knuth/McKenzie Erickson/Jessica Wiley.
Steve Harvey reported on our support for BIPOC businesses, match funding for awnings for Gorgeous Looks Salon, owned by Brianna Cress.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Schools – Lynda Shaheen. Schools having virtual open houses in January.

Other standing reports
SWLRT Update.
Jay and Karen took a David Davies walking tour of the light rail area and where the wall will be. All the public art funding has been removed.

Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday January 13, 2021
Virtual

BRYN MAWR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
6:30 - 8:00 PM
Google Meet/Virtual Meeting

Board and Staff
Kevin Thompson – President
Brian Trecce – Vice President
James Dietrich – Treasurer
Jessica Wiley – Secretary
Liv Nielsen – Area 1 Co-Rep
Karen Fredericksen - Area 2 Co-Rep
Sue Verrett – Area 2 Co-Rep
Allison Franu – Area 3 Co-Rep
Joanne Michalec - Area 4 Co-Rep
Chris Eiz – Area 4 Co-Rep
Colleen Dhemmen – Area 5 Co-Rep
Belt Turnbull Area 5 – Co-Rep
Jay Peterson – Area 6 Co-Rep
Rod Miller - Area 6 Co-Rep
Barry Schade – Area 6 Co-Rep
Stephen Harvey – Area 7 Co-Rep
JoEllyn Jobstad – Bugle Editor
McKenzie Erickson – Event Coordinator
Lynda Shaheen – Communication/Fundraising Coordinator

Guests:
Lisa Goodman – Minneapolis City Council
Torie Stone – MPD
Grant Snyder - MPD
Charlie Adams – MPD
Ben Garsky - Area 6
Melissa Croft - Area 6
Gail Freedman - Area 6
David Dayton – Area 7
John Pierce - Area 7

Call to Order at 6:31 PM.
Agenda approval moved, seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes from December 9, 2020 moved, seconded. Motion carried.

City of Minneapolis - Councilmember Lisa Goodman
Lunch with Lisa will continue to be virtual. Hosting Michelle Rivero, Director of Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs on January 27. The tour of the Dayton’s project is still online. Penn Avenue sewer project delayed; new lining had to be ordered. CPG minimum funding was secured for all neighborhoods at $25,900. Sees a renewed commitment from Council to neighborhoods, clear that neighborhood associations have been extremely valuable in communicating with constituents during civil unrest and the pandemic. Special meeting hosted January 14 by Met Council on SWLRT. Next phase of work on the tunnel will be loud and disruptive and the wall has caused the project to go over budget and delayed completion. Welcomed and praised Lt. Grant Snyder and Lt. Charlie Adams as new leadership in the 4th Precinct.

Crime Prevention Specialist - MPD Torie Stone
Lt Adams and Lt Snyder introduced themselves. Good news - no Part I incidents to report in the last month. The Crime Prevention Specialist position being moved into NCR (Neighborhood Community Relations) department. Will continue to work with neighborhoods in the same capacity. Asked for feedback on what is going well and areas for improvement.

Treasurer Report/2021 Budget Adoption – JD Dietrich
Sent out brief written report. Will present end-year report in February. Proposed 2021 budget moved and seconded. Motion carried. Discussed need for flexibility as CoVid plays out. Jay discussed importance of the Bugle and our commitment to fund it.

Emeritus Board Member Nomination and Board Member Resignation – Kevin Thompson
Kevin proposed that Vida Ditter be approved as our first Emeritus Board Member. Vida has been involved for many years and has held various positions with the BMNA. She will bring a great perspective to Board discussions. Moved, seconded. Motion carried. Accepted the resignation of Dave Holets, Area 1. Dave has been a longtime board member and we thank him for his service. He will continue to volunteer with the Bugle and gardens.

Communications and Fundraising Report – Lynda Shaheen
Lynda was interviewed by Mill City Times for an online piece featuring the neighborhood. Link will be shared. Good feedback on the holiday lights tour. School open houses and school choice cards. Will be working on getting families together in the future and including articles in the Bugle on families who attended/attended the neighborhood schools.

Discussion Items, New Business, Updates and Announcements
Chris Eiz reported that a Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles master plan meeting will take place on January 25. Will cover the resiliency of Cedar Lake. Question about a possible crosswalk at Glenwood and Vincent for those crossing to Wirth. Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

The BMNA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by the BMNA. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or if you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting our neighborhood coordinator at 612-324-7819 or email coordinator@bmna.org at least five days before our event.

SUPPORT THE BMNA!
We have some of the cheapest rates around!
Why don’t you advertise in the Bugle?!

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(Inserts must be printed by you, double or single-sided.)

Full-Color Now Available - $80
Does not include ad placement fee. Some production costs may apply. Call for Details.

Ads are due the 20th of each month and should be camera-ready and paid in advance.
For more information contact Deryck (612-377-8968) advertising@bmna.org
Happy new year! The last 20 Bugles in February have been filled with recaps of all the neighborhood events and adventures that happened during our winter hiatus. This year of course is different. Saturnalia was cancelled along with the traditional holiday gatherings. No Santa’s sleigh or street drumming and no live music in a packed-to-the-gills Cuppa Java until closing.

Despite missing the throngs of people, my family and I enjoyed the first ever BMNA Lights Tour. It was quiet and serene to wander from one festive house to the next. Bravo to everyone who participated!

We’ve had a mild winter with moderate temperatures and just enough snow. It’s been perfect for sitting fireside outdoors with a couple close friends and debating the issues of the day.

Despite a deadly pandemic wreaking havoc on our country, I’m grateful for the luxury of keeping my family safe and secure. Never before have I appreciated my health and stable housing so much. A while back, I decided that I would make do, not want more and wait patiently until we could return to what we now think of as “normal”.

For almost a year, I have worked from home and ventured out minimally for “necessities”. This month the vaccines started rolling out, people started to feel more hopeful and apparently less cautious.

With the new more contagious strains afoot, I have stopped going anywhere indoors. All our groceries and household essentials are delivered and everything else that cannot be picked up curbside will just have to wait.

As an educator, I have gotten the weekly emails articulating which of my colleagues have been prioritized over me and I am ok with that. But today, a fellow educator sent me a link to sign up for a vaccine appointment in another county. Even though my gut told me this was too good to be true (and wrong to jump the line), I had a moment where I believed it would happen. So now I wrestle with the disappointment of losing something I didn’t realize I wanted so much. More than ever I know that nothing is certain and “normal” was always an illusion. Even though I have felt sad, isolated and trapped today, I will sleep well knowing others were vaccinated today and oh so grateful that my 80+ year old mother was among them. My turn will come. We have not come this far to give up now.

- JoEllyn Jolstad, editor@bmna.org

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Winter is here!

Bring your snow blower in for service and maintenance. Pick up and delivery available. Give us a call.

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SNOW BLOWER / LAWN MOWER SALES & SERVICE
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Darryl Weivoda, Owner
(612) 529-9151  Northendhdwr@aol.com

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Recycling

Bryn Mawr Recycling Schedule

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Use it up, wear it out, make it do, do without. Recycle.

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From the Editor

www.ci.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste
(612) 673-2917

What are you doing this weekend? Why not go DANCING! LIVE music is more FUN!

www.perservatorsband.com
Check our website & come see us. We’ll rock your socks off!
Hans Gasterland, drums. Call today: 612-723-5038

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Visit BMNA.ORG for a link to membership information.
bmna.org/bmna/membership.html

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Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Welcomes You!

Online worship on Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.
Adult Ed book discussion on Zoom Sunday 9:15-10:15
contact: info@brynmawrchurch.org for link

All Are Welcome Here!

COMPLIMENTARY ADVERTISEMENT In Exchange for BMNA Meeting Space
Have You Seen the Art in the Park?

H ave you seen Zug Zug? It is a sculpture done by a local artist who placed him in a secret location in Theodore Wirth Park. It has been a welcome diversion for many during this time of social isolation and outdoor activities. Get out your boots, snow shoes, skis, or fat tire bike and start exploring Wirth Park in search of Zug Zug.

Bryn Mawr Almanac

February 4, 2012
Six wild turkeys in a ditch along Highway 55. These birds have become comfortable in urban areas and are not afraid to find food. They roost in trees.

February 4, 1996
Low -23º, high 3º (first above zero reading in 4 days).

February 14, 2018
A few bees flying around the hives behind the J.D. River Gardens on a sunny 45º afternoon. On warm days at this time of year, bees clean up their hives, removing debris including bees that didn’t survive the winter.

February 16, 2003
Winter colors against the snow reward the careful observer: russet brown leaves still clinging to white oaks, purple twigs and buds of paper birches, light green needles of white pines, reddish-orange patches on trunks of red (Norway) pines, bright red stems of dogwood bushes, soft yellow branches of weeping willows.

February 27, 2021
Full moon, the Ojibwe Onabini Giziz or Crust of Snow moon. Snowshoes needed.

Bryn Mawr Soap

On sale at Bryn Mawr Market and Twin Cities area co-ops

www.brynmawrsoap.com 612-374-3613

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408 Cedar Lake Road
612.377.4179

Hair cuts, color, style and product.
Appointments & walk-ins welcome!

Juliette
Paul Mitchell products

Nancy
Neuma organic hair products
The BMNA Wants to Hear from You!

Fill out a Short Survey at www.bmna.org

As stated in our bylaws, the purpose of the BMNA shall be to:
1. Strengthen our community.
2. Improve the quality of life in our community.
3. Foster good personal relationships in our community.
4. Open channels for information and communication in our community.

Please tell us what your priorities are for the neighborhood association in the coming year.

Bryn Mawr News

Lynda Shaheen, Fundraising and Communications Coordinator for the BMNA was recently interviewed by the Mill City Times. Here’s an excerpt, “What do you know about the Bryn Mawr neighborhood of Minneapolis? We sat down with Lynda Shaheen, Communications and Fundraising Coordinator for the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association to get a better idea of the geography, parks, businesses and annual events. She describes how to spend a perfect day in her neighborhood, from coffee to pampering and take-out dinners.” The full video can be seen on our website at www.bmna.org.

Vida Ditter Named Emeritus Board Member

At the December meeting of the BMNA, the Board changed its bylaws to create a new position, Emeritus Member. A person is nominated to this position by the Officers Committee, if they meet the criteria for membership. The criteria are that they have served in a Board position for at least three terms and have worked for the neighborhood “above and beyond.” Vida Ditter more than meets these requirements. She has lived in the neighborhood for decades with Vida and her late husband Frank’s children all going to Armitage School. Vida has been active on the Neighborhood Association from near its beginning in 1976. The Board proudly named Vida as its first Emeritus Board Member at its January meeting.

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association Calendar - February 2021

All meetings are open - everyone is welcome. Neighbors are urged to attend and participate in meetings and activities of special interest to them.

Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association and its committees are meeting virtually over Google Meet. Email secretary@bmna.org for meeting links.
Big Changes at 2800 Wayzata Blvd

Some readers will remember when in 1956 Northwestern Bell built the Mid-Century Modern style office building at 2800 Wayzata Blvd. But, most readers know it as the Quest and then Century Link building. A collaboration between Lupe Development and Swervo Development of Minneapolis has renamed the site “Wirth on the Woods” for a senior housing project. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring or summer. In December, 2020, Swervo Development announced big changes to the commercial building yet to be named.

Wirth on the Woods: Lupe Development will deliver 100 units of affordable senior housing in a six-story building (The Theodore) and 100 units of market-rate senior housing (The Eloise) in another six-story building. These properties will share amenities, including an outdoor courtyard, garden and greenhouse. The campus includes the commercial building.

The project will include a retention pond to provide Anwatin and Bryn Mawr Elementary schools an outdoor nature classroom and a nature-play playground. The proposed design includes a walking path around the pond, an 8’ fence, an outdoor classroom with a bridge boardwalk and observation deck. The boardwalk and observation deck will not be accessible to the neighborhood and will be secured with locked gates to prevent safety risks for neighborhood children. A trail bordering on the Anwatin athletic field from Mt. View to Theodore Wirth Park will be constructed as requested by the neighborhood and dedicated to the Park Board for public use and access.

2800 Wayzata Blvd Commercial Building: Swervo Development controls development of the existing commercial building and the property to the east that abuts the Upton Avenue properties. Swervo was unable to secure commercial redevelopment and ruled out interest in adding a charter school to the site. The Century Link building proposal includes a two-story addition to the building that would allow about 120 rental units, mostly studios and one-bedroom apartments. There will be a few two-bedroom corner units. The building will have a nicely appointed amenity area for residents, green space, a pet area, great bike storage and a resident fitness center. The rental units will be market-rate and not age limited. The rehab does not include retail or commercial space. Parking will be on surface lots, not underground or in a parking ramp. With a bus stop in front of the building and a light rail station within a few blocks, a traffic analysis determined there would be 100 fewer vehicle trips per day with the rental property.

Further, a market analysis determined the demand for an assisted living facility, as was initially proposed for the east side of the property, is considerably lower than anticipated. Instead, Swervo is moving forward with plans for a townhome project consisting of two or three bedroom units. The number of units has not been finalized. The BMNA requested if townhomes are built, they be for purchase, not rental, to add diversity to housing options in Bryn Mawr.

While still in the design finalization phase, Swervo’s goal is to kick off construction on all three complexes this summer once the approvals and permits are in place. Swervo and Lupe have the ability to construct all three segments at the same time which will be much less disruptive to neighbors overall as opposed to an extended multiyear approach.

The Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Land Use Plan adopted by the BMNA in 2003 recommended the site be used to expand housing options in Bryn Mawr so these development plans are consistent with Bryn Mawr’s vision for the future.

Swervo and Lupe Developments will answer questions or address concerns when they update the BMNA at its monthly Board Meetings. All are welcome to attend the meetings.

-Rod Miller, Area 6 Co-Representative
Welcoming the New Year in Area 2

The Cedar Lake Townhomes are lit up for New Year’s Eve. Social committee members Timm Caven, Curt MacKenzie, Sharon Miller, Jan Halverson, and Mary Corlett organized this beautiful COVID friendly way to celebrate the New Year together.

Community Solar Gardens

Bryn Mawr residents with solar panels on their roofs report substantial savings from the electricity generated by their solar system. But there is an easy way for Bryn Mawr residents to support solar energy without installing solar panels on their home.

The Minnesota Legislature has provided an option for us as customers of Xcel Energy, both renters and homeowners, to subscribe to a community solar garden located in Hennepin or an adjacent county. Once subscribed to an active solar garden, customers will receive bill credits on their monthly Xcel Energy bill based on the amount of electricity supplied to Xcel that was produced by their subscribed portion of the solar garden.

In this way, community solar gardens offer residents a chance to participate in the generation of solar energy and potentially save money.

While consumers continue to purchase their electricity from Xcel Energy, the credit they receive from Xcel is typically projected to be greater than the subscription cost to the customer, producing a net savings on an annual basis.

Since the solar facilities are developed by independent companies, there are numerous subscription models being offered. Residents should carefully examine the company they might be working with before signing a contract. The Minnesota Attorney General’s office has put together a document giving tips about how to evaluate a company, and it can be found by simply googling “Minnesota Attorney General community solar gardens”.

There are a couple of things I suggest you look for in a subscription:

- Is there an up-front cost?
- How easy is it to cancel?
- How stable is the company?
- Is there a guaranteed savings?

I’m also available to discuss your questions.

- Barry Schade, Area 6 Co-Representative  612-203-1758

Bryn Mawr Moms on the Search for Good Books & Food

The Other Americans

Laila Lalami

Laila Lalami is a Moroccan American novelist and professor who has won numerous awards for her novels, including the American Book Award, the Arab American Book Award, and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. She was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. She lives up to her reputation with this book.

It took effort to follow all the characters, The Other Americans was an exciting read. Nora, the main narrator of the story, has a deep need to know whether the hit and run death of her father, Driss, was an accident or intentional, and her pursuit of the truth keeps the reader on edge.

But the mystery of her father’s death is not what defines the essence of this book. Lalami uses multiple perspectives to tell the story, each of nine characters speak with micro-aggressions on the job and run death of her father, Driss, a Moroccan American, and Efrain, an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, all crave a sense of place, a desire to feel that they are home. Jeremy, a high school classmate of Nora’s and a new cop, and Selma, acquiesced to her parents’ demands to become a doctor. She represents Nora. Nora, despite pressure from her parents, followed her passion for music and became a composer and yet still holds favor with her father. Coleman, a Black displaced East Coast detective, lives with micro-aggressions on the job and a lack of connection at home. The characters all struggle with feeling like “the other” whether they are citizens or not. The author wrestles with “who is sufficiently American?”

Keeping track of the multiple storylines and conflicts is a challenge. Lalami takes on a lot in this 300-page novel. But this is a story that generates deep discussions about issues of immigration, identity, diversity and white resentment, and as stated in the LA Times, asks “who are the real Americans and how do we decide?” questions our country is facing right now.

What the Moms are reading now:

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous, by Ocean Vuong

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On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous, by Ocean Vuong
COVID Vaccine

If you are 65 or older, you can sign up for one of the limited number of appointments for a vaccine by calling 833-431-2053 or registering at mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine.

For those who are waiting for the vaccine, the state encourages you to take advantage of the free saliva test sites if you have any concerns about exposure. School age children returning to in-person school or college are encouraged to get tested as well. A full list can be found at http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus.

Nearby sites include the Convention Center, the Minneapolis Public Schools Davis Center, and Hennepin United Methodist Church. You can also order a test to be delivered to your home at https://www.health.state.mn.us or by calling 651-297-1301.

Homeowner Assistance

Homeowners who may be impacted by COVID-19 financial hardships should contact a home ownership advisor at the MN Homeownership Center, https://www.hocmn.org, or at the MN Homeownership Center, 651.659.9336, to see if they are eligible to apply for mortgage relief. Deadline extended to February 28, 2021.

Potential Delay in SWLRT

At a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 14, Metropolitan Council representatives elaborated on their recent announcement of a potential construction delay for the Southwest LRT Project. One cause of the delay is the discovery of unforeseen soil conditions while building the tunnel in the Kenilworth corridor this past construction season. In response to this discovery, the Project will introduce a more protective construction method (a secant wall) when building the tunnel near foundations of adjacent buildings.

Another change comes from the completion of design for a corridor protection wall (the Wall) demanded by BNSF. The Wall will be located between the Bryn Mawr Station and to just east of I-94. This is no surprise. The neighborhood was notified of the Wall and participated in the aesthetic treatment of it in 2017. However, this requirement was added after final design and construction contracting, and the impact of its inclusion is only now becoming apparent.

These two significant items will impact the schedule and cost of the Project, and are currently being evaluated. The Metropolitan Council now predicts that the Project will not meet its opening day projection of 2023. Hopefully, the increase in cost will be able to be met with funds set aside for such unforeseen contingencies.

At the Town Hall meeting, Project staff also pointed out that construction activity will become more apparent in Bryn Mawr in 2021. Besides construction related to the two stations in Bryn Mawr, concrete trucks will be active for construction of the tunnel. On certain days, every three to six weeks, 130 truck loads of concrete will be required for building the seal at the base of the tunnel. Details of this activity and other plans for 2021 construction will be discussed in a public meeting being considered for Bryn Mawr sometime in the next few months.

The Bryn Mawr Bugle

February 2021

Call Minneapolis 311 for information
Weekdays 7 AM to 7 PM
Weekends 8 AM 0 4:30 PM

Minneapolis 311 is also a 24-hour online resource for access to City services.

Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov
New School Boundaries in Fall 2021

We are fortunate to have an elementary and middle school in our neighborhood within walking distance. And now we even have a middle school in our neighborhood at Bryn Mawr Elementary School! Changes have been made to our pathway starting next year. Our assigned community schools are: Bryn Mawr Elementary, Anwatin Middle, and North High. These schools will be different than they currently are. Please check out the plans for the new school and its programming before making a choice. Students from Bryn Mawr, Kenwood, and Nellie Stone Johnson will be reassigned to North High (after attending Anwatin-the Spanish Immersion program will be moved to Anwatin) to increase it's size, balancing out attendance across the city so that North High will have programming similar to other schools. Each school has held an online open house this month which can still be seen on our website, bmna.org or on each school’s website. School choice cards are due February 7. It is important that you list your community school as one of your two choices otherwise you will not be guaranteed placement in your community school.

BMNA Schools Committee

The BMNA has a Schools Committee which meets 3-4 times a year to discuss any issues related to education that affect our neighborhood. Our mission is to support the neighborhood schools. We are also trying to connect families in the neighborhood within walking distance. And we have a group on Next Door if you are interested. We are looking for more members to join us if interested, please contact Coordinator@bmna.org.

Personal Experience with the Local Schools

On a personal note, my two children went to Bryn Mawr Elementary and Anwatin and had tremendous experiences. My oldest had a sizable cohort of neighborhood kids that he already knew when he entered kindergarten. My youngest had very few neighborhood kids in his grade and made all new friends. The staff there were great and many are still teaching there; the kindergarten team is fabulous. The principal is a very caring and experienced leader. Our time there felt very nurturing and supportive. My kids had rich and diverse experiences and made great lifelong friends. Being able to walk to school was such a benefit, shortening my child’s day and helping me get involved in volunteer opportunities and feel connected to the school and other families. Minneapolis Kids on site was a great bonus and trading pick up with other neighborhood families was a help too. The transition to Anwatin was easy as it is all one campus yet distinct enough schools to offer a true middle school experience. Now that my kids can look back at their experience, they are so glad for the education they’ve had and wouldn’t trade it.

-Lynda Shaheen, Area 2

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City of Minneapolis Curfews

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sun-Thurs</th>
<th>Fri-Sat</th>
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<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>11:00 pm</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact Information For Bryn Mawr Community Schools

Bryn Mawr Elementary (PreK-5)
252 Upton Avenue South
612-668-2500
brynmawr.mpls.k12.mn.us

Minneapolis Kids School-age Childcare
Cat Bryn Mawr School
612-668-5890
mplskids.mpls.k12.mn.us/

Anwatin Middle School (6-8)
256 Upton Avenue South
612-668-2478
anwatin.mpls.k12.mn.us

Anwatin Community Education
612-668-2450
252 Upton Avenue South

Spanish Dual Immersion
International Baccalaureate and Anwatin Middle School (6-8)
www.anwatincommunityed.com

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Youth & Schools

Lynda Shaheen, BMNA Schools Committee Chair

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The Bryn Mawr Bugle February 2021

on the web at

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North High School Attendance Area

Contact Information For Bryn Mawr Community Schools

Bryn Mawr Elementary (PreK-5)
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www.anwatincommunityed.com
What is happening in the School Forest?

If you happened to walk through the Anwatin/Bryn Mawr DNR School Forest over the last year, you may have seen a bit more activity than usual. Wood chip piles have grown, patches of forest overgrown with buckthorn now reveal towering pines, and children seem to be playing in all corners of the 11-acre woodland.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of many volunteers, the Bryn Mawr School Forest Committee, the Minneapolis Nature Preschool, and the No Child Left Inside grant from the Minnesota DNR, the forest is undergoing a transformation. Currently, there are three main efforts: removing buckthorn, planting and identifying native species, and building an outdoor classroom area for students of Bryn Mawr Elementary, and becoming the home of the Minneapolis Nature Preschool.

Forest Stewardship:
The Anwatin/Bryn Mawr School Forest has a number of beautiful trees, including cottonwoods, oaks, pines, spruce, maples, linden and mulberry. Unfortunately, buckthorn has come to dominate the understory over the last two decades. For those of you who have pulled buckthorn, you know it is an arduous task, especially when trying to organically prevent the buckthorn from resprouting. As an established DNR School Forest, a forester helped us to create a forest stewardship plan. This involves removing existing buckthorn and planting new trees. Once the original plant species are more visible, permanent interpretive signage will be added to a number of species. Minneapolis Nature Preschool naturalists Jill Druckman and Sarah Amado are leading the efforts to create and install signs by June 2023.

Nature Play Area:
Just beyond the Bryn Mawr Elementary playground, imaginations run wild. Many see only a bunch of stumps. Others know that underneath countless loads of wood chips are layers of landscape fabric blocking stumps of buckthorn from resprouting. To the children, the nature play area contains a candy shop, a kitchen, a hot tub, an obstacle course, a mountain for mermaids, and much more.

Based upon guidance from a survey of Bryn Mawr Elementary, an extension of the playground for nature play would provide greater forest accessibility to students during the school day. An outdoor classroom was also created from stumps to welcome classes into the forest from the playing field. Story walks provided by the Minneapolis Nature Preschool and Hennepin County Library connect the Welcome Woods Classroom to the nature play area and will continue to be updated seasonally.

Minneapolis Nature Preschool:
Tucked further away in the school forest are three preschool classrooms, used by the Minneapolis Nature Preschool. Teachers and children meet in small groups for nature based play and learning. Four years ago, the Minneapolis Nature Preschool (MNP) offered its first ever camp in the woods behind Anwatin and Bryn Mawr. Today, MNP has grown to offer programming in all seasons, and is grateful to have the opportunity to navigate COVID-19 by operating preschool programming 100% outdoors. In the year to come, MNP plans to offer both morning and afternoon preschool classes out of room 10 at Bryn Mawr Elementary, and will be collaborating with High-5 and other Bryn Mawr Elementary classes to provide greater access to the forest.

Thanks to the hard work of many neighbors, including, but not limited to: Mary Bolla and David Dayton, Dick and Connie Adair, Steven Lish and family, Beth Dutcher and family, Brian Sostek, staff at Bryn Mawr Elementary, as well as the children, families and board of the Minneapolis Nature Preschool, and the Loppet Nordic Team at Anwatin. Additional efforts were provided by members of the Conservation Corps of MN and IA. Also, thanks to Dustin at Hennepin County for the donation of 6 new trees, Kota Tree Care for numerous wood chip drops, MPRB for the donation of logs and wood chips, and Forester Andy McGuire (DNR) for creating and implementing the forest stewardship program. An additional thanks to the generous support from local donors, as well as support from the BMNA, to not only help MNP become a reality, but a thriving nonprofit organization in the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood.

If you are interested in continuing to remove buckthorn in the school forest, please contact director@minneapolisnaturepreschool.org.

Tools, safety gloves and goggles are available. For more information on Bryn Mawr Elementary, please view the open house that was held Jan 7. A link is available at BMNA.org. For information about the Minneapolis Nature Preschool, please visit minneapolisnaturepreschool.org.

- Alyson Quinn, Area 7
The Bryn Mawr Bugle is an open-forum newspaper published by the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association. Content is based entirely on volunteer submissions which may be emailed to bugle@bmna.org. Articles and letters to the editor will be published at the discretion of the Editor. The Bryn Mawr Bugle is published every month, except January. Distribution is free to Bryn Mawr residents; copies are also available at the Bryn Mawr Market, and on the home page of bmna.org.

Be sure to check references, State Agencies, BBB, etc. and inquire about bonding when using any new service.

Are You New to the Neighborhood?

Contact Your Area Representative for a Welcome Packet!

**Want Ads**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates: $4.50 minimum (4 lines, approx. 40 characters per line), $.50 per additional line. Free ads for lost, found, teens, pets &amp; youth ads. Due Date: 20th of preceding month. Instructions: No ads over the phone please or accepted without payment. Drop off at Bugle Box at the Bryn Mawr Market or email <a href="mailto:bugle@bmna.org">bugle@bmna.org</a>.</th>
</tr>
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Looking for historical photos, documents, stories, illustrations, etc. pertaining to Cedar Lake’s west side for personal research. I am an Area 1 resident and wonder if anyone has anything on anything that pertains to West 21st Street email roger@remvideoevent.com with ‘Cedar Lake’ in the subject line.

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**Communications and Fundraising Coordinator**
Lynda Shaheen
612-234-7819 • coordinator@bmna.org

If you are not part of our e-mail list, please sign up at bmna.org.

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subscriptions@bmna.org

Webmaster
Jerome Strawbridge 612.314.1859
webmaster@bmna.org

Drop Off Box
Bryn Mawr Market, behind the counter

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**CONCRETE/BRICK/STONE/MASONRY:** Repair or new - foundations, driveways, sidewalks & steps, garage slabs, also kitchens & bathrooms. Call Gary 651-423-8666.

**SNOW REMOVAL, TREE & SHRUB TRIMMING:** Premier lawn & snow, Inc. providing reliable snow removal, lawn care, tree and shrub trimming with quality results for SW Minneapolis since 1987. For prompt estimate call Dennis (952) 545-8955.

**CONTRACTORS/CONSTRUCTION:***

- CONCRETE EXCAVATION & RECLAIM: Call 763-426-6254
- GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING EXPERTS: Call 651-789-0110
- ASBESTOS SURVEYORS & REMEDIATION: Call 651-224-0700

**YOUTH**

Smith Sisters Sitters: Gentle and Fun Babysitters in the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood. Two responsible teenage sisters who enjoy kids and know how to deal with everything from diapers to dinner. Can work together for large families, or one-on-one for maximum flexibility to fit your schedule. Contact us at the email below to schedule your next sit.

Smith Sisters Sitters: Original BnM Family. Email: SmithSisterSitters@Outlook.com. Starting at $8 / hour

**SMITH SISTERS SITTERS**

- **Gentle and Fun Babysitters in the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood.** Two responsible teenage sisters who enjoy kids and know how to deal with everything from diapers to dinner. Can work together for large families, or one-on-one for maximum flexibility to fit your schedule. Contact us at the email below to schedule your next sit.

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**LOOKING FOR A NANNY IN BRYN MAWR?**

- **Pet Sitters:** gentle and fun sitters in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood. Siblings available. Email: SmithSisterSitters@Outlook.com.

Looking for a Nanny in Bryn Mawr? Please contact us at the email below.

**PETS - INFANT SITTERS**

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