2014 SUMMER

PPERRIA news



inside

- 1 SPECIAL EDITION
- 2 ABOUT
- 2-3 THE TOWER @ 100
- 4-5 TOWER TRACTION
- 6 PLANT SALE
- 7 GARDEN TOUR
- 8 PARKING TASK FORCE
- 8 TUTORS NEEDED
- 9 CALENDAR
- 10 THE NEIGHBORS
- 11 2014 CONCERT SERIES

Cover photo: Witch Line? Climbing the tower is always a popular event. Insider hint: come early. photo by Kevin P. Grotheim

tower 100 edition

PROSPECT PARK WATER TOWER

THE WITCH'S HAT WATER TOWER WAS DESIGNED BY NORWEGIAN ARCHITECT *FREDERICK WILLIAM CAPPELEN* AND CONSTRUCTED BY THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS IN 1913. OCCUPYING THE HIGHEST NATU-RAL LAND AREA IN MINNEAPOLIS, THE WATER TOWER WAS BUILT TO IMPROVE WATER PRESSURE IN THE HOMES OF PROSPECT PARK RESIDENTS. THE TOWER WAS DECOMMISSIONED IN 1952, BUT HAS BEEN PRESERVED AS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THIS CITY'S HISTORY. THE WITCH'S HAT WATER TOWER AND TOWER HILL PARK ARE LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

12-13 july 2014 Tower 100 Festivities and tower open

Tower Hill Park

10 AM-5 PM

Historic Presentations each day

Noon, 2 PM and 4 PM

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Witch's Hat Water Tower to supply water to southeast Minneapolis. To mark this special occasion, the Tower will be open for the weekend for the first time since 1928 both Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13 along with a walking tour of historic homes of Prospect built by 1914. A map with artist watercolor will be available for the tour. Historic presentations will be made at the tower at noon, 2 PM and 4 PM both days.

For more information: tower100@jringglass.com

about

PPERRIA is the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association — the oldest neighborhood association in Minneapolis. Organized in 1901, PPER-RIA was born out of the opposition to the city proposal to level Prospect Park hill, and ever since our neighborhood, through PPERRIA, has embraced controversial issues be it the I-94 freeway construction in the 1960's, school closings in the 1970's, the repaving project in the early 1980's, safety and security lighting of the late 1990's, or Central Corridor Light Rail in the current day. All Prospect Park and East River Road neighbors and businesses are eligible to join.

Your current PPERRIA officers:

President	Christina Larson	
	pperriapresident@gmail.com	
Vice President	Richard Adams	
	rba.garuda@gmail.com	
Secretary	Eric Amel	
	eric@msrdesign.com	
Treasurer	Dick Poppele	
	dick@umn.edu	

PPERRIA business is ably assisted by:

Adminstrative Assistant	Jessica Buchberger	
	PPERRIAstaff@gmail.com 612.767.6531	

PPERRIA invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event organized by PPERRIA. 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 us at 612-767-6531 or PPERRIAstaff@gmail.com at least five days before our event. You may contact us through Minnesota Relay Services at 1-800-627-3529 or by dialing 7-1-1.

PERRIA news is the official quarterly newsletter of the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association with a mission to brief membership in advance of the monthly Board of Directors/Membership meeting.

Editor-In-Chief, *Clarence I. Seymour;* Assistant Editor, *Malcolm Arthur Melborne;* Photo Editor, *Franklin Thornton;* Copy Editors, *Sharon Warwick and Orlin Bedford.*

Email submissions to eric@msrdesign.com for the Autumn issue.

For a substantial collection of archived PPERRIA minutes, committee reports, past newsletter and event calendars, check out the Official PPERRIA website: http://www.pperr.org/pperria/pperria.html

The Tower at 100

(1913 - 2013)

[Note: The following are notes (by *Lois Willand*, corrected by *Joe Ring*) from a talk given at Pratt Community School May 15, 2013 by Joe Ring on the occasion of the Tower Centennial.]

The property that we now call Tower Hill was platted as Tower Hill Park in 1892. The developer wanted to sell lots for residential development on the hill, but the lots were not selling.

PPERRIA, the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association, which formed in 1901, wanted to have the land used for a water tower, to help get better water pressure for homes. The developer at that point wanted to use the hill for gravel.

PPERRIA proceeded with its plan to purchase the hill for a water tower. The purchase price was \$19,500 with a average cost of \$47.50 per property owner. This amount would be equal to \$3,000.00 in today's dollars. The purchase was approved by the Minneapolis City Council, which named the land St. Anthony Park Heights.

Another tower had previously stood on the hill, probably in the years 1825 to 1870, as a military sentry tower whose purpose had been to control the caravans of oxcarts that formed by the river crossing at St. Anthony Falls and traveled east on Territorial Road to St. Paul. The oxcarts, which carried furs, grains and other trade goods that came from Canada, (what is now) North Dakota and the Red River Valley were driven by Metis people. St. Paul was their destination for selling their goods because its location was as far up the Mississippi as boats could travel at that time.

Elizabeth Duvay wrote in her journals written between 1845-1860 that her family used to travel from Mississippi to St. Anthony Falls for a summer trip, and would stop for a break at the hill with its sentinel tower.

In 1913, *Frederick William Cappelen*, a Norwegian-born architect and civil engineer who held the office of Minneapolis City Engineer, was approved to build a water tower on the hill. He designed a Romanesque Medieval style stand pipe water tower that was completed in the summer of 1914. The tower had windows part way up made of leaded glass.

The tower had a caretaker and was kept open in 1915. The caretaker was a friend of neighborhood children and was nicknamed "The Wizard". In 1915 triangles greens were authorized at the Clarence Avenue and Malcolm Avenue intersections with University Avenue by the Minneapolis Park Board to complement the uniqueness of the Tower and Tower Hill Park.

By 1936 the boulder with the name "Prospect Park" was in place by the Park Board. The tower was taken out of service as a water tower in 1952, when the city installed high pressure pumps.

By 1955 the exterior was resurfaced and the windows had been removed or covered. Also that year, the tower was struck by lightning. The Minneapolis City Council planned to tear down the tower. Prospect Park residents did not agree with the decision, and engaged with city officials to successfully keep the tower intact. A group of Prospect Park Bluebirds (a junior branch of the Camp Fire organization), went door-to-door to obtain signatures on petitions against the tower's destruction, and received some of the credit for "saving the tower".

1986—the tower's tile roof had deteriorated and needed replacement. The city, mindful of budget needs, planned to replace the expensive tile with shingles. Again, neighborhood activists prevailed and convinced the city it should use tiles for historical accuracy. Thus, the tower roof was repaired with tiles, fortunately made by the same company that fabricated the original tiles.

In the 1990's, the tower was increasingly becoming a victim of graffiti. In 1995, when the city began its Neighborhood Revitalization Project (NRP) Prospect Park participated in the program through the improvement association, PPERRIA. Prospect Park resident Joe Ring and his wife Susan Thrash began a project to do daily cleanup of the graffiti. For two years they went to the tower daily, removing and painting over the graffiti. Joe and Susan formed a Tower Hill committee, and with funding from NRP, PPERRIA, and grants, undertook major improvements on Tower Hill, including new steps, new decorative light posts, new benches and picnic tables. walking path improvements, tree and shrub thinning for better views of the hill and from the hilltop. Lights inside the tower were paid for by PPERRIA, and the tower is now lighted at night, adding to its attractiveness and visibility as our neighborhood landmark. The pump house, located at the base of the hill across from Pratt School. was also restored in conjunction with the tower's restoration.

In 1997 the Tower and Tower Hill Park were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A historic plaque was added in 1997 to the base of the Tower, which has helped reduce graffiti. [Text featured on page one of this newsletter.]

What was its second purpose? Prospect Park Water Tower was also built to be a bandstand; however, there was only one concert in the band shell because the musicians experienced difficulty in carrying their instruments up the inside spiral staircase.





Tower Traction

Tower 100 remarks by chair Joe Ring July 12-13, 2014 10 AM - 5 PM Tower Park

In preparing for the Tower 100 events I began to review the materials I had about how the Witch's Hat came to be. I looked over again how the residents of Prospect Park came together in 1901 to form the Prospect Park Improvement Association [PPIA] and the first item on its agenda was to petition the city to improve the water service to the area. To help move this action item forward the PPIA got all of the Prospect Park owners in 1906 to approve a plan to purchase the lots that made up Tower Hill. They hoped to preserve it as a wooded sanctuary for the Prospect Park community and hopefully develop the site for a badly needed water tower. The cost of the property was \$19,500 and it was equally divided among all property owners in Prospect Park depending on lot size. This amount came to between \$49.00 to \$72.00 each. That would equal two to three thousand dollars in today's funds.





In 1907 the city accepted the purchase as a public park but action was not taken for the needed water tower. In fact the city did purchase property in Kenwood and constructed a water tower there in 1910 but this action did not improve the water situation in Prospect Park at all. Then in May 1913 the city council voted to approve construction of a water tower on Tower Hill Park and the city engineer, Frederick Cappelen, began drawing the plans for a standpipe water tower with a public observation deck. Ground was broken on the project in July of 1913 and the Pump House, standpipe tank and concrete enclosure were completed by November with the tile conical rood and finishing items completed in Spring of 1914. The tower was put into service in May and its dedication took place on July 28th, 1914.

In reviewing this history, it seemed odd to me that ten years after the site was available, a project of this size was suddenly put on a fast track for completion. Something other than the needs of the residents of Prospect Park was driving the construction of the Tower forward. My suspicions were confirmed when I came across an article in a 1916 Gas Engine Review Magazine in which *Mr. Patrick Lyons* of the Bull Tractor Company was quoted as saying that he and his partner, *Mr. Maurice Hartsough*, chose the location at 2638 University Ave SE Minneapolis because it had the best rail connections, an excellent labor pool, and the city agreed to upgrade the utilities to the new industrial area.



Gray Tractor Co. Tractor

The Bull Tractor Company broke ground on its University Ave SE location in May of 1913 and by 1914 was the largest manufacturer of farm tractors in the country. By 1916 three other tractor manufacturers had stated operations in Prospect Park. These companies were Gray, Andrews and Ford. Although none of these companies survived the great depression of 1930, an interesting spin – off company was created by the principals of the Bull Tractor Company in 1914 to make their patented engines, which could run on kerosene as well as gasoline. The name that they chose to complement the Bull name was Toro.



The question is: if the good citizens of Prospect Park had not taken action and used their own personal funds to set the stage for the city officials to be able to act very quickly, would all of this investment and the creation of thousands of jobs have been located here in Minneapolis.

—Joe Ring

Ford Tractor Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota



The Ford Tractor, Gas Review magazine, October 197

The Ford Tractor Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota was one of the exhibitors at the 1916 Fremont, Nebraska Tractor Demonstration. This tractor is remembered as a Ford tractor that had no connection to Henry Ford, and as one of the poorly designed tractors from this period that helped to convince the legislators of Nebraska to pass a law that no tractor could be sold in the state without first being independently tested.³¹ This 1919 law resulted in the famous "Nebraska Tests' starting in 1920 that were read with interest by prospective farm tractor purchasers.

garden walk and plant sale

Garden Walk and Plant Sale on Saturday, July 12, 2014

(the weekend of the Witch's Hat Tower Centennial Celebration)

This year, the Prospect Park Garden Club (PPGC) is joining forces with the Hennepin County Master Gardener Program (HCMG) annual Learning Garden Tour, July 12 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Four of the eight gardens on the 2014 HCMG Learning Garden Tour are located right here in Prospect Park; the others are nearby in Northeast, Marcy-Holmes, and Longfellow. The self-guided HCMG Learning Garden Tour displays a variety of gardens designed and maintained by U of MN Extension Master Gardeners. Certified Master Gardeners will staff Education Stations at each site on the tour, answering questions and demonstrating special garden features.

HCMG Learning Garden Tour Tickets are \$15 purchased online until July 11, or \$20 the day of the tour at any of the featured gardens. All proceeds from ticket sales support the Hennepin County Master Gardener Program (which, among many activities, assists with the Prospect Park community gardens). To purchase tickets in advance and for other information, visit the Hennepin County Master Gardeners website http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/events/ hcmg-learning-garden-tour/ Look for the bright pink 2014 PP Garden Tour Map & Information flyers at Prospect Park businesses (Signature Cafe, Schneider Drugs, Cupcake, Overflow, Textile Center) after June 28.

PPGC Plant Sale will be the same day, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, on "The Franklin Oval" pocket park at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Bedford Street SE. This mid-summer Plant Sale will feature hosta and other perennial divisions, well-established potted vegetable plants ready to bear, late-season bloomers, and house plants. All proceeds support the Garden Club programs, including the Pratt School gardens and Chergosky Park, neighborhood pocket park plantings, and buckthorn eradication. For more information about the Plant Sale, contact Lisa Norling at norling.lisa@gmail.com

á

learning garden tour

Henneppin County Master Gardeners July 12, 2014, 9 AM-4 PM

http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/events/hcmg-learning-garden-tour/

Northeast, Southeast, and Longfellow neighborhoods of Minneapolis (map)

The annual tour features beautiful gardens, inspiration and the opportunity to learn how these garden were created.

The Learning Garden Tour is a self-guided tour of 8 gardens in Northeast, Southeast, and the Longfellow neighborhoods of Minneapolis. The gardens are designed and maintained by University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners in Hennepin County.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (discounts for groups of 10 or 20) and can be purchased until Friday, July 11th via Pay-Pal below. Tickets are \$20 (cash or check) on the day of the tour and can be purchased at any of the gardens. 12 or under is free with adult.

If you would prefer, you may mail your check to HCMG Learning Garden Tour, 479 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344. If you are mailing your check, please allow sufficient time to reach our offices by Friday, July 11th.

Proceeds benefit Hennepin County Master Gardener community programs



parking

Parking in Prospect Park Task Force April 9, 2014

Betts Zerby & Bill Seeley, Co-chairs

Betts Zerby discussed the reason for the meeting – PPERRIA Committee at March Meeting. to discuss parking problems and potential recommendations for changing parking regulations. Summary of present parking restrictions, lack of enforcement, areas with unrestricted parking. Map with street widths, showing unrestricted parking areas, with wide variety of restrictions on other streets.

People attending meeting were from: Superior Street, Bedford, Orlin, Arthur, Barton, Melbourne, Seymour, East River Terrace.

Problems discussed:

• Fourth Street parking problems created by non-resident parking.

• Bridal Veil Falls area parking threatened by development at Good Samaritan, which will have limited parking and no visitor parking.

• Emergency vehicle, and other large vehicles getting through streets with narrow streets, and considering width and length of vehicles.

Problems with more density in an area designed for single family homes changing to increased density with rental housing.

Non-resident daily parkers.

Issues discussed:

• Coupon parking solution used in some European countries, Oregon i.e. having parking for residents only, with coupons for any other parkers sold for fees. *Evan Roberts*, PPERRIA Transportation Committee Chair presented.

• Restricted parking, need for resident approval, various types of restricted parking, i.e. hours, duration, dates.

· One-side parking — either year round or between first snow emergency and April 1.

- Lax enforcement.
- · Area-wide consistency of regulations.

Minneapolis Council Member *Cam Gordon* suggested we have someone from the City come to our next meeting to tell us about the possibilities for parking restrictions. *Gordon* explained that the City of Minneapolis can impose "critical parking" restrictions without having to obtain neighborhood consent. An example of such a "critical parking" situation was the City's declaration of one side of the street parking for all of Minneapolis during February-March, 2014 due to excessive snow accumulation which narrowed passable street width.

Members who agreed to serve on a committee to discuss possible solutions include: Greg Bernstein, Nancy Koscielek, Matti Lifson, Mary Joan Gregorian, Eleanor Zanna Brown, Kathy Hammergren, Meredith Poppele, Evan Roberty, Bill Seeley, Kari Simonson, Darren Baumgart, and Betts Zerby.

Any others interested in serving on Committee are welcome. Contact *Betts Zerby* at the following email: bettszerby@gmail.com.

tutors needed

Further your career with meaning: Grow the skills of children and youth. Tutors are needed to help children and youth succeed in school by giving them the extra support they need to read and do math. Minnesota Reading Corps—the nation's largest state AmeriCorps program—and Minnesota Math Corps train tutors to directly impact students in schools across Minnesota. We are looking to place over 1,000 literacy tutors and math tutors in schools across Minnesota to commit a year of service and change the world of struggling students.

As a tutor, you will implement research-based strategies to help children believe in themselves and succeed in reading by the end of third grade, or in math by the end of eighth grade—all while growing your career network and new skills. You will receive training, a living allowance of (about \$484 biweekly for full-time), an education award of up to \$5,645 to further your education, and the reward of making a real impact in your community.

Continue your career in a meaningful way. Apply today to become a tutor! Go to www.MinnesotaReading-Corps.org or www.MinnesotaMathCorps.org. Strong preference is given to tutors who can start serving August 10, 2014. Send questions to recruitment@ servemnaction.org.

One year. This year. Serve to grow.

calendar

PPERRIA NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 july Administration Committee meeting	7:00 PM	
PPERRIA Office, 2950 University Ave SE	Contact Dick Poppele	dick@umn.ec
12-13 july		
Tower 100	typically every 100 years, 10) AM-5 PM
Tower Park [tower open]	Contact Joe Ring	tower100@jringglass.co
12 july		
Learning Garden Tour	9 AM-4 PM	
Four PPERR locations [see posting]	Contact hennepinmastergarde	eners.org for tickets
12 july		
Garden Tour Plant Sale	annually, 10 AM-3 PM	
Oval on Franklin		rling.lisa@gmail.com
12-13 july		
PPERRIA Yard Sale Weekend!	hours your by loootion	
Luxton Park Community Center	hours vary by location Contact Gib Ahlstrand	qiba@visi.co
· · · ·		
14 july		
PPERRIA Executive Committee meeting PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE	Second Monday on the mor Contact Christina Larson	pperriapresident@gmail.co
· · ·		_
15 july		
FREE Community Concert Pratt Community School Amphitheater	Saint Paul Postal Band 7:00 - 8:30 PM	
	7.00 - 0.30 FIM	
17 july		
PPERRIA Master Plan Committee meeting	Third Thursday on the month, 5:30 PM	
PPERRIA office, 2950 University Ave SE	Contact Tamara Johnson ta	amara_minneapolis@yahoo.cc
23 july		
Garden Club	6:30 - 8:30 PM Potluck: loca	ation varies call
	Mary Alice Kopf	mollisk@usiwireless.com
28 july		
	Fourth Monday of the mar	th Dooro 6:00 DM
PPERRIA Membership & Board of Directors meetings Prospect Park United Methodist Church	Fourth Monday of the mor Contact Christina Larson	pperriapresident@gmail.co

To include items in the next PPERRIA calendar

Contact Jessica Buchberger pperriastaff@gmail.com or 612.767.6531

the neighbors

PPERRIA STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Administration	John Orrison	johnworrison@gmail.com
Executive	Christina Larson	pperriapresident@gmail.com
Historic District	Joe Ring	jring@jringglass.com
Master Plan	Tamara Johnson	tamara_minneapolis@yahoo.com
Membership & Communication	John Cushing	jccushingjr@comcast.net
Organizational Development	no chair	
Zoning & Project Review	Dick Brownlee	dickbrownl@mac.com
Nominating Committee	Richard Adams	rba.garuda@gmail.com
Transport & Transit Liaison	Evan Roberts	evanrobertsnz@gmail.com

PPERRIA TASK GROUPS

Parking in Prospect Park	Betts Zerby	bettszerby@gmail.com
	Bill Seeley	
Sound Wall	Bob Sykora	bob@sykora.org
Glendale/ Community Outreach	Dick Poppele	dick@umn.edu
4th Street	Julie Wallace	jwallace3@comcast.net
Luxton Book Exchange	Becky Shockley	shock001@umn.edu
Motley Crew	Rebekah Lorence	rlorence@mm.com
Community Events	Marybeth Luing	mb.luing@gmail.com
Community and River Gorge Cleanup	Tom Kilton	tom.kilton.b1cw@statefarm.com

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Garden Club
Tree Health Project
Prospect Park Community Gardens

Mary Alice Kopf Paula Denman Del Hampton Sam Johnson mollisk@usiwireless.com pjdenman@comcast.net ppcg.coordinators@gmail.com

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS: PPERRIA REPRESENTATIVES

District Councils Collaborative (DCC) Education & Human Services Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL)

Prospect Park 2020

Dick Gilyard John DeWitt Dick Poppele

GAPSA, Graduate and Professional Student Association University District Partnership Alliance

Phil Anderson

Contact: Jerry Stein or Chuck Holtman Susan Gottlieb, Jakki Kydd-Fidelman, Susan Larson-Fleming

> rgilyard.architect@earthlink.net jdewitt@comcast.net dick@umn.edu

Nick Bussa (bussa019@umn.edu) Dick Gilyard, John Kari Alternates: Dick Poppele, Eric Amel



Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association, Inc. 66 SE Malcolm Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55414

2014 Prospect Park summer concert series

The Prospect Park concert committee plans to offer the following concert series this summer:

Three of four summer concert series performances are set for 7:00 PM at the Pratt School Amphitheatre:

- May 20 Community Sing lead by Brett Hesta new this year
- June 17 Claudia Schmidt
- July 15 Saint Paul Postal Band in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the of the Tower Hill Park tower

The fourth event will be a special festival event

August 12 Music festival at Luxton Park – 6-8:30 PM in conjunction with the Luxton Park Community Center Performers yet to be confirmed.



Saint Paul Postal Band: Vintage photo of musicians going postal.