

ROBLYN 21XX

YOUR VOTE WILL BE COUNTED

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3

In a previous issue of this zine, we learned that **Brian** (2138-R) did something for the first time; he requested an absentee ballot. After he dropped it off at an official box at the **Rondo Library**, he checked the status of his ballot at **MNVotes.org**. Brian is happy to report that his vote will indeed be counted.



ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS

Brian's

You have applied for a ballot for the **August 11, 2020 State Primary** and the **November 3, 2020 State General Election**.

November 3, 2020, State General Election:

Your ballot was accepted on **October 13, 2020** and will be counted.

August 11, 2020, State Primary:

Your ballot was counted.

Slick!



Cheryl (2153-I), a board member of the **League of Women Voters**, explains what we might expect on Election Night. “The actual counting of votes is done in each county, and they all have different volume and equipment. Results will probably be slower than in previous years. This does not indicate fraud – quite the opposite. It shows that election workers are taking great care with your vote, following the chain of custody to ensure accuracy, and doing everything possible to keep this year’s election free from doubt about its legitimacy.” As for the security of voting by mail, Cheryl says that barcodes ensure that each person can only vote once. They also make tracking ballots possible while maintaining privacy. “Minnesota has over 30,000 poll workers – also known as election judges. They are taking extra risks to their own health by staying indoors for hours while hundreds to thousands of people come in to vote. During this year of COVID-19, limiting our poll workers’ exposure is the main reason so many groups, including the Secretary of State and the League of Women Voters, have urged citizens to vote from home if possible.” If you plan to mail your ballot, the sooner the better. **Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, Tuesday, November 3** and received within seven days. Or you could bring it to the county office at 90 Plato Blvd W, St Paul. Or you can bring it to an official drop-off site, like Brian did. It’s also okay to ask a trusted person to deliver your ballot. “We are allowed to bring up to three other ballots to be counted,” Cheryl said. If you did not vote early, you can still go to your polling place on Election Day. Most people reading this zine vote at the **Merriam Park Recreation Center**. Cheryl says, “However you choose to cast your ballot, please vote!” For more information, see **MNVotes.org**.

OCTOBER AND IT'S SNOWING

Mary McCluske (2143-R)

October, and it's snowing. And then it's not.

In Minnesota, there's a saying: If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. Or five months, or five years. (Just kidding. Unless it's winter. Then the cold is endless, and all the smart people have gone south, leaving us poor souls to cope with seasonal affective disorder and plowed-in alleys).

There's this tree in our front yard, a Norway red maple. We call it the Grandparents' Tree. Planted in 1987, a year after we moved in, it's grown from a sapling to a glorious bridge between seasons. Every spring, I take heart, seeing the pale emergent green from my upstairs window. In summer, it connects to an overstory of other maples, a convergence, a touching of branches. I think of a neighborhood of trees; gossiping, amused, watchful, protective. But when seized by storms, the narrative shifts. We spent a small fortune this year to watch a pair of agile young men climb to frightening heights to remove the limbs, both dead and alive, known as "widowmakers" from a different tree. We'd have that evil beast removed entirely if not for the fact that doing so would cost as much as a luxury European cruise for two. Another thing we can't afford.

The Grandparents' Tree is named in honor of those three who left this world within a few months of our move to this house. I look at it, touch the rough bark, and feel close to them. Sheltered. And when the sun comes out, I find joy in the uniquely colored leaves. Their quiet warmth, not showy or bold. The way they cradle drops of melted snow, as if to say: Wait five minutes. This, too, will pass.

(Read more of Mary's work on her blog, *Writer Interrupted* at MaryMcCluske.com, "Incredible writing!" was how **Margaret** (2139-R) put it at a recent Saturday Coffee.)

TRICK-OR-TREAT OR FORGET IT?

Not everyone is bagging it this year

With the Health Department advising against traditional trick-or-treating because it could exacerbate the spread of Covid-19 during a time when we need to be recommitting to social distancing, hand washing and "masking up", neighbors are considering how to adapt. **Beth** (2147-C) writes, "The Rozgas will be handing out treats in a safe manner so please stop by." **Nancy** (2098-C) who initiated the discussion on the **Carroll Ave & Friends listserv** was also planning to participate for the 44th time on her block. The **Robey's** (2083-C) will be handing out cotton candy from a safe distance. And according to the **Cheryl** (2153-I), between 6 and 8 o'clock, "Quite a few of the Iglehart neighbors are going to put out tables by the sidewalk with individual treats so there isn't a lot of touching." **Andrea and Sarah** (2116-C) are taking it even a step further. In addition to having treats, they will be having a fire for anyone who needs to warm up. "Our kids are looking forward to it!", they write. The **Quants** (2082-C) kids are also excited about the trick-or-treating this year. They joined other families that expressed gratitude for "everyone's willingness to provide some safe and much needed fun!", as **Hillary** (2097-C) put it. In a related conversation at National Night Out, **Morgan** (336-Cr), **Mary Ann** (2148-R) and **Cary** (2152-R) also talked about options for no-contact treats, while many others feel conflicted and may opt to go dark this year.



Here's a ladybug holding down some napkins
with the Question of the Day:

What is your solo? What gives you refuge
during this time of Covid-19?

THE NOSY NEIGHBOR

Random Notes about What People are Up To

Jill and Tim (2129-R) are helping people get to the Ramsey County office to vote early or to the Merriam Park Recreation Center to vote on Election Day. Need help? Contact Tim: norcom850@yahoo.com or 651-408-4411; or Jill: jill1019@yahoo.com or 612-868-5664.

On Sunday, September 27, **Kyu and Pitnarry** (2151-C) offered another patio concert. The violinist and cellist respectively were joined by **Ken Freed**, violist with Minnesota Orchestra to form a string trio. It was a delight to listen to music under a shedding fall canopy. **Carolyn** (2134-R) specifically remembered the magic of yellow leaves from the surrounding elm trees as they came down upon our heads. The father and daughter duo – Kyu and **Ariella** – was lovely. They played “Bagpipes” (the name of the piece, not actual bagpipes) against the backdrop of a windy gray sky and the feeling that thunder showers were imminent. Indeed, at one point, music sheets were blown from their stands. Thankfully

soundman **Tom** swooped in to help. The incident spoke of the setting, which was intimate and informal. Neighbors in their lawn chairs, on blankets and even listening from the seat of their bikes at the curb made the classical music wonderfully accessible and enjoyable. As Pitnarry introduced her solo – “Bach’s Cello Suite No.1 in G” – she said that the piece is a refuge for cellists in this time of Covid-19.

Fifty years ago, **Bob** (2142-R) got drunk. The next day he couldn’t find his 1937 canary yellow Pontiac; he had blacked out. The family had had enough. So, they took Bob to St. John’s Hospital for treatment. But he didn’t have insurance and was quickly discharged. Two weeks later, from the Trend Bar on University Avenue, Bob called a counselor he had met during his brief stay at St. John’s. He was drunk again. He needed help. When the counselor showed up at the bar, Bob offered the man a beer. “That wasn’t the agreement,” the counselor said. So, being a man of his word, Bob was admitted to detox at the Hastings State Hospital. It was another step toward 50 years of sobriety. In other words, Bob has been sober for as long as **Justin** (2133-R) has been alive. Congratulations to both on these seminal anniversaries. As for the missing car, Bob still keeps his eye out for it.

While jogging, **Emily** (2133-R) thought she recognized someone. As these things go, she wasn’t sure and so didn’t say anything. But when new neighbor **Teddie** (2125-C) introduced herself at National Night Out along with her husband **Chris** and their daughter **Clea**, it became clear why she looked familiar. Teddie, a recent appointment to the Minnesota Court of Appeals, was Emily’s writing teacher in law school.

At a recent Saturday Coffee, upon hearing that **Jan** (2142-R) grew up on St. Paul’s East Side, **Tim** (2129-R) asked, “What street?”, as he grew up there too. This led to the realization that Jan knew the doctor who delivered Tim.

Some lucky cats have their own hashtag. Do a search for **#PippinTheKittyBoy** to see the kitty and his person **Michael** (2168-C).

Thank you, **Stone Soup Group**, for an
Excellent National Night Out!



Comments, questions and submissions can be sent to Rebekah@TwoPeopleAndACat.com.

Roger and Mary (2123-R) are famous for their lavish holiday decorations. But they might have some competition this year from new resident **Morgan** (336-Cr), who has lit up her new digs with an elaborate array of ghosts and spider webs. **Bomi and Chris** (2139-C) were also complimented for their holiday flare by Halloween enthusiast **Cary** (2152-R).



Ralph (2126-R) recently sat for a **QuOTeD Podcast** interview to tell stories about managing the land he and **Cynthia** have in Wisconsin. Did you know that the couple was part of the group that started the **Mississippi Market Co-op**? It's a good example of how we benefit from those with a long view of things.

Brian (2138-R) has been enjoying the "Insights Design Lecture Series" at **The Walker** for quite a while. So, it was a delight to learn that graphic designer **Patrick** (337-F) was the president of series sponsor **AIGA – Minnesota** when the program was conceived over 30 years ago. It was also fun to learn that Patrick had designed the iconic Dayton-Hudson logo.



Coffee!
Saturdays, 8:30-10 a.m.,
2138 Roblyn Ave.
Bring your own cup!



Along with a team of volunteers, **Ron and Nancy** (2130-R) helped their grandson **Devin** build a **Gaga Ball Pit** for a community park in Golden Valley. Gaga is a fast paced, gentler version of dodge ball that is played in an octagonal pit with a soft foam ball. Devin led the project as a key part of his quest to become an Eagle Scout.

Cynthia (2126-R) reports "My brother **Paul** drove here from Hartford, CT in his 1986 standard transmission VW Vanagon with his 21-year-old son, **Daniel**. Paul had some hope of teaching Daniel how to drive a standard transmission, but no luck so far." Life circumstances cleared the way for a long visit. "Paul is out of work, with the pandemic, and Daniel's college classes are all on line." Cynthia says her mom, **Carol**,

For her 93rd birthday, Cynthia's mother, Carol,
enjoyed music on the Stone Soup Stage.
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age 93, is "enjoying having a chance to tell the family stories to Daniel, who doesn't already know them by heart." As for the sweater that Cynthia made for Paul who was spotted wearing it at a Saturday Coffee, she writes, "Paul helped me pick out the yarn for that sweater during a Thanksgiving visit in 2018. I finished it this past August; as with many knitting projects, I pulled out more stitches than I put in. That's the secret to really beautiful knitting."

According to **John** (2116-R) the ratio of time to put coats on little kids to time elapsed before they want to come back inside is 5:1.

Let's get through this pandemic alive and healthy, with as many people as possible and with joy.