SUMMIT HILL ASSOCIATION/DISTRICT 16
NEW BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS CHOSEN
At the Annual Meeting of the Summit Hill Association/District 16 Council on October 11, 2018, six new community members were elected to the Summit Hill Association Board of Directors. SHA is excited to welcome James Farnsworth (sponsored by Dixie’s on Grand), Kelly Haase (owner, In Tandem Counseling), Allison Penner-Hurst (owner, hush Therapeutic Massage), Bruceanne Phillips (resident, Summit Avenue), Peggy Reichert (resident, Goodrich Avenue) and Peter Stitzel (resident, Fairmount Avenue) to share their time and talents in service to Summit Hill Association. At the November meeting, the board voted unanimously to appoint the officers for the new term — Hayden Howland, President; Peter Rhoades, Vice President; Jacob Colling, Secretary and Andrew Gesell, Treasurer begin their new terms immediately. Summit Hill Association is looking forward to a productive year continuing to serve as a resource for information, representation and support for our wonderful neighborhood and its residents.

LETTER FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT
ANDY RORVIG
Several years ago, my wife Amanda Karls and I decided to make this neighborhood our home. We chose it because there is a true sense of place in this community. It was built over a century ago and then reinvigorated by many of you who understood that this area was worth investing in and saving.

This community supports a mix of multifamily and single-family homes, small businesses, and places of worship. In short Summit Hill has been “doing” density and mixed use before either was cool—and we’ve been doing it with style and grace. However, after making this my home, I began to understand that not all of our city leaders understood its value. So, five years ago this month, I threw my name in the hat to serve on the Summit Hill Association Board. A few years later, I had the privilege of becoming the SHA Board President. I have served in that post for the last two years.

We have done many good things these past two years, but as I sign off I want to highlight just a couple of them:

- First is the support we have been able to provide local business along Grand Avenue. Among other things, we mediated community concerns around Grand Old Day and brought about changes that made the 2017 celebration an even greater success for business owners along the Avenue. Those changes have continued to be adopted by the organizers. Just recently, we also began work to create a task force to invigorate businesses on the East end of Grand.
- Second, you will notice a number of “bumped-out” cross walks and other safety improvements on Grand Avenue that were added these past few months. These will make our community more accessible and safe. But for the work of people on SHA like Sara Schmidt, this would never have occurred.

But despite these successes, we continue to be met with unsolved challenges.

- First, Grand Avenue is increasingly plagued by empty store fronts and an aging infrastructure. As I have said countless times before, the success of our area is dependent on a vibrant Grand Avenue. This should greatly concern us all.
- Second, there is a continuing and unproductive fight that needlessly pits our community’s sense of place against “progress,” both real and pretended.

Certainly, status quo should not be the end goal. For example, there are real concerns that high homeownership costs (due in no small part to taxes) keep some would-be neighbors from buying a home here; seniors lack affordable options for aging in place; and we could do better to foster inclusivity in an increasingly diverse city.

However, building huge luxury condo buildings on top of historic homes, and installing parking meters on Grand Avenue won’t address them. Such measures will only line coffers temporarily at the expense of deteriorating the characteristics that drew many of us to live here, to invest in our homes and businesses, and to build a community.

It was truly a privilege for me to serve as the President of the Summit Hill Association.

ANNUAL APPEAL
Give Where You Live!
As you think about your year-end contributions, consider investing in your community’s future by making a contribution to the Summit Hill Association (SHA).

Your donation will boost the year-round efforts of SHA to maintain the vibrancy of our neighborhood through community projects and programs. The work of SHA is accomplished primarily by volunteers—many from right here in the community—and is made possible by the generosity of many readers like you.

There is so much your gift will support, including the volunteer committees of SHA. This year, the Traffic Calming & Safety Committee collaborated with the City of Saint Paul to identify intersections on Grand Avenue that would benefit from safety improvements, including curb extensions and traffic signal upgrades. The Environmental & Beautification Committee partnered with a classroom at Linwood Elementary to learn more about raingardens and their maintenance. To document this special field trip, Artist Annie Hejny created a new art piece which now hangs at the Linwood Rec Center. In the upcoming year, SHA is excited to be hosting a book club series and discussions addressing challenging issues affecting our neighborhood and our city, as well as a renter’s...
GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Allison Penner-Hurst, Grand Avenue Business Owner

Saint Paul is truly a unique and engaging place to live and work. I love its community-oriented culture. I love the fact that it feels like a small town without sacrificing the advantages of a big city. As the owner of hush Therapeutic Massage, an established Grand Avenue business since 2010, I have found the business community to be just as vibrant and welcoming as the city itself.

As Vice President of the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) Board of Directors, working alongside the Summit Hill Association helping to plan and organize events like Grand Old Day and the Summit Hill House Tour, I have seen firsthand the important role that this neighborhood plays in the culture of this amazing city.

I am looking forward to ensuring that Grand Avenue and the Summit Hill area continue their valuable contribution to the city of Saint Paul for years to come.

Bruceanne Phillips, Summit Avenue Homeowner

I am a public relations and public affairs consultant, having worked in broadcasting, politics and as a fundraiser for a chiropractic college. The combination of my work experience and my love of the neighborhood will be a valuable asset to the board and to the association. My ability to work collaboratively with neighbors, elected officials and the association will be essential to the growth of the association and the preservation of our neighborhood.

As a PR professional, with experience in fundraising and my connections with the media and the ability to generate positive stories will be helpful to portray Summit Hill in the best light.

James Farnsworth, Grand Avenue Business Employee

I’m a third-year student at the University of Minnesota, studying Human Resource Development in the College of Education and Human Development. Professionally, I am the Marketing & Membership Coordinator for the Grand Avenue Business Association. I also served as the Volunteer Coordinator and as a general committee member for the 2018 Summit Hill House Tour.

I’m looking forward to contributing my skills related to non-profit governance, strategic planning, communications, social media, event planning, and operations to SHA. Summit Hill is a vibrant community with engaged and dedicated neighbors. I’m looking forward to maintaining SHA as a strong and healthy organization.

Kelly Haase, Grand Avenue Business Owner

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a private practice in the neighborhood (In Tandem Counseling, Inc). I have worked in the past for non-profit organizations that support and pursue justice. Since opening my own business, my energy has been focused on creating a healthy, sustaining, practice that offers compassionate and challenging support to clients. I am
looking for a way to give back to the community and share my skill set in community organizing, creating safety, and bringing about change.

I am interested in giving back to the community in which I work to try to help create the best living and work environment for my clients, the neighborhood, and other businesses.

Peggy Reichert, Goodrich Avenue Resident
I have lived in Summit Hill since 1973, as a renter, condo owner, and homeowner. Five places within 4 blocks. My family and I love the neighborhood.

I think the Summit Hill Association is an important institution in the neighborhood, perhaps now more than ever. Now that I am retired, I have more time to volunteer and I am willing to work to sustain the vitality of this organization. I would like to serve on the Board to help maintain and strengthen the flow of timely, accurate information between City Hall and our neighbors.

Peter Stitzel, Fairmount Avenue Resident
Our family moved from the West Coast in 2014 and renovated 844 Fairmount Avenue. We moved into the home in January of 2016.

My wife is a pathologist for Regions, I primarily stay at home with our son, aged 10, and our daughter, aged 7, but still do some fisheries business consulting for Alaska vessels. I coach basketball, baseball and soccer, and volunteer in Cub Scouts. My wife and I both sing in the choir at Hamline Methodist Church, and our children play cello, piano and violin. This is the most beautiful neighborhood we have ever lived in and we love our neighbors.

NEIGHBORHOOD HONOR ROLL NOMINATIONS
An Opportunity to Recognize Special Efforts

Have you noticed a group or business or an individual here in Summit Hill who have gone above and beyond to be helpful to others in the community? From neighborly good deeds to starting initiatives to raise awareness and bring positive change or a commitment to service where we live, we all know someone like this – someone who is always helping to make Summit Hill a better place to live.

The Summit Hill Association greatly values its volunteers and we look forward to recognizing outstanding community members from Summit Hill as part of the citywide Neighborhood Honor Roll Celebration. Summit Hill residents nominate neighbors who have made significant and lasting impacts in the community each year—and whom they feel deserve special recognition. Honorees are then chosen from submitted nominees by the SHA Board to join other honorees from across the city at a special celebration in their honor.

This year SHA will recognize honorees from each of three categories, Individuals, Businesses and Organizations (scouting troops, community service organizations, etc.). Members of the Summit Hill community are encouraged to submit nominees from each of these categories. We will select one honoree from each and support their recognition at the city-wide event.

To submit your nominations, send an email to info@summithillassociation.org, or visit the SHA website @ www.summithillassociation.org, citing the name of a

SHA BOOK CLUB & COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS
Recognizing the Faces in our Community
Launching Fall 2018, Read Brave Saint Paul is a citywide, intergenerational reading program set around a common theme relevant to the city. The 2019 Read Brave theme is housing, a critical topic in Saint Paul where thousands of people struggle to afford housing.

The city is faced with brave decisions to make about housing in our communities—decisions that start with deep conversations among our residents. When we all read the same books, we all have a common vocabulary, characters, and experience through which to engage in meaningful dialogue around challenging topics.

Read Brave is presented by the Saint Paul Public Library, City of Saint Paul, and The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library. Read Brave Saint Paul is generously sponsored by Bremer Bank.

Inspired by the Read Brave Saint Paul program, the Summit Hill Association invites you to participate in a Book Club & Community Discussion beginning in January 2019. During the four monthly meetings we will be reading and discussing books which are related to the Read Brave reading program. You don’t need to attend all four to participate! Childcare, food and beverage will be provided. Book Club meetings will be held at Linwood Rec Center. Books will be available to borrow, either from SHA or from the public library, or purchase your own and pass them on to others! We currently have 10 copies of ‘Evicted’ in the office available to borrow.

For more information, to sign up for each of the meetings, or to reserve available books, go to the SHA website @ summithillassociation.org, email to info@summithillassociation.org, or call the SHA office @ 651.222.2221.

In your communications please indicate if you need assistance in getting the books and if you will need childcare. Get started reading over the holiday, then join us for discussions beginning in January. The books chosen and the dates for each discussion are as follows:

Tuesday, January 22nd @ 7PM
‘Evicted’ by Matthew Desmond
Poverty and Profit in the American City is a 2016 non-fiction book by the American author Matthew Desmond. Set in the poorest areas of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the book follows eight families struggling to pay rent to their landlords around the 2008 financial crisis. A community conversation about housing insecurity.

continued on page 7

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Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
AS THE SEASONS CHANGE
Are You Ready For The Snow?

It’s time to gather up and check some important tools for winter survival!
Snow shovels?
Snow blowers checked out and ready to go?
De-icing salt for sidewalks and steps that’s also safe for our canine friends?
Brushes and scrapers for the car?
An extra pair of gloves and a hat stashed in the car?

Don’t forget another great tool that can make it easier to monitor snow emergencies and parking restrictions during those emergencies! The City of Saint Paul provides an app that will keep you up to date and notified about where and when parking is restricted for plowing. Follow the link below to download the app to your phone and stay informed. The link will also connect you to answers about a variety of other questions concerning snow management. There are great resources available to help make the season less stressful!

To download the City of Saint Paul Snow Emergency App go to https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/street-maintenance/snow-emergency-information/saint-paul-winter-snow

NEW PEDESTRIAN SAFETY & TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT
Visions of Safety
Several of our Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming Committee members were recently seen setting up 360 degree visibility proof of concept parabolic mirror in an alley of our Summit Hill neighborhood. The committee is putting together a plan for similar setups in obstructed view alleys throughout the neighborhood. We are currently researching funding sources for this project.
What do you think? Do you have an alley intersection you’d like to nominate for consideration? Go to the SHA website @summithillassociation.org to submit your suggestion!

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL

SAINT PAUL HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC EVENT
Listening Session for Local Historic District Property Owners
Historic Hill Historic District
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Clubroom C
270 Kent Street, Saint Paul
For any designated heritage site or structure located within a locally designated heritage district, approval from Saint Paul Heritage Preservation office is required for any exterior projects. Design review will focus on ensuring that sensitive improvements will maintain key historic features, the historic integrity of the property, and the character of the heritage district.
The Heritage Preservation Commission is currently seeking feedback on the policies, procedures and impact of heritage preservation in Saint Paul.
Links to a feedback questionnaire, along with numerous additional links to City of Saint Paul public reference information and recent news articles regarding this important conversation can be found on the SHA website @ www.summithillassociation.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC EVENT
SAINT PAUL FOR ALL — 2040 Comprehensive Plan
Friday, January 11, 2019 8:30 AM
Room 40 (basement) of City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul is updating its comprehensive plan – a forward-thinking vision that will guide the city’s development over the next 20 years. Links to the draft plan can be viewed in-full or by topic/chapter on the Summit Hill Association website @ www.summithillassociation.org.
Please give your opinions on the draft plan in the comment form found at that link, or in-person at the public hearing. Your input is truly valued as we move through the plan adoption process.

THE COMMODORE
651.330.5999
Gangsters and romantics welcome.

Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
A STEP BACK IN TIME
The Oxford Club
Oxford Hill site was once home to cold ice, hot rolls
By Jane McClure

Story from the December 2004 issue of Avenues
(courtesy of the Villager)

Those skating parties, under hundreds of Japanese lanterns strung over the full length and breadth of the long rink, were gay and festive.”

— James Taylor Dunn, Oxford Club history

Almost 90 years ago, the Oxford Hill development site was part of the Oxford Club’s skating rink. It was a place where neighborhood residents could strap on their skates and glide around to live music. The daring also could whoosh down a wooden toboggan run. Small children were content to use wooden sleds or pieces of cardboard to slide down the slopes.

“The rink was located on the south side of Grand between Oxford and Lexington in a large hollow, which is now filled up and occupied by stores,” wrote historian James Taylor Dunn in 1956. There were just two buildings on the block at the time – the Peters family home at Grand and Oxford and Sweeney’s Confectionary at Grand and Oxford and Sweeney’s Confectionary at Grand and Lincoln Avenue.

The hollow was used informally for skating and recreation before a club was organized. The Oxford Club facilities grew over time. “First there was just a toboggan slide, then the rink was formed, a warming house built, and in the early ‘20s additions to the warming house, including a cloak room and a bandstand, were made,” Dunn wrote. Originally the rink was entered from the alley between Grand and Lexington. In the early 1920s, wooden steps were built for entrance from Grand Avenue.

For the first few years of its existence, the club rented its land from Rufus Jefferson. In 1923, the club bought the land.

Members paid $5.00 per family per year at the start (the fee eventually increased to $6.00 and then $8.00 per year). Five small leather-bound memo books kept in J.W.G.’s careful script are preserved at the Minnesota Historical Society library. Linen-tabbed, alphabetized pages list the paid member families from 1922 to 1927. Their addresses extended as far north as Iglehart Avenue, as far south as St. Clair Avenue, to Pleasant Avenue and “beyond Lexington,” Dunn recalled.

In the books J.W.G. carefully noted rink opening and closing dates, as well as days the rink had to be shutdown due to heavy snow or melting ice. He also noted the dates music was supplied. “December 31, 1924, Band. Poor crowd,” he noted.

“My remembrance is that whenever there was good skating weather, my father was in constant attendance, seeing that hockey was not played in the afternoon, and making arrangements for Saturday night band music to accompany the skaters,” Dunn wrote.

Part of his father’s duties included “keeping track of the trouble-makers.” “In 1925, Neal Gorman was kicked off for putting sneezing powder on the hot pot-bellied stoves of the warming shack.” (Other histories indicate it was Neal Tilton who pulled this stunt.)

Bad behavior was one way to get kicked off the Oxford Club rink. Not paying dues, falsely claiming your family paid or repeatedly claiming to be a guest or a member of another family could also earn J.W.G.’s enmity. It’s not clear what his “N.G. notations stood for (possibly for No Good?), but it appears by the names of people asked to leave. “Lies. Kicked off later” appears behind one name.

By the late 1920s, the Oxford Club numbers were dwindling. The end came when the warming house burned down.

Dunn recalled in his 1956 history that his father tried to persuade the other club members to hang onto the land for investment purposes. When they declined, he bought them out. Other histories indicate that the property was sold at a 1928 sheriff’s sale. Whatever happened, the hollow was filled in and sold lot by lot. The Oxford Club was gone forever.

Young and old enjoyed the Oxford Club skating rink that operated from 1916 to 1927 on the south side of Grand Avenue between Oxford Street and Lexington Parkway. This photo was taken looking west.

Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING.
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Membership options that include University Club of St. Paul available.

Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
A TRADITION RETURNS TO GRAND AVENUE!

The Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) is excited to bring back holiday lights on Grand Avenue! You can find the decorated light posts at the intersections of Grand & Fairview, Grand & Snelling, Grand & Hamline, Grand & Lexington, Grand & Victoria, and Grand & Dale.

“Grand Avenue has been a premier shopping and dining destination in the metro area for many years. We want to continue to be a place people choose to visit. We’re excited to bring back holiday lights and garland which brings the holiday spirit and hopefully entices folks to stick around a bit longer to dine and shop at the many great local establishments along Grand Avenue. As a business association, we hope our visitors from near and far and our immediate neighbors are brought some joy from these new decorations along our three mile avenue. We look forward to continuing to find ways to beautify Grand Avenue.” – Elizabeth Tinucci, member of the GABA Board of Directors and owner of Colossal Cafe on Grand.

GABA would like to thank the following Grand Avenue businesses that made this year’s holiday light displays possible:

- Axia Home Loans
- Colossal Cafe
- Coulee Bank
- Escom Properties, Inc.
- Green Mill
- Kinderberry Hill
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Sinclair
- Skally’s Tax Service
- Summit + Finn
- The Odd Couple Team with Keller Williams Integrity Realty
- Wedding Shoppe, Inc.
- The Uptowner Cafe

Turn of the century charm. Neighborly hospitality.
Koenig is a St. Paul native and graduate of the School of Communications Arts. Since joining the GABA board, Koenig has served as the Chair of the Membership Committee and currently serves as the President of the GABA Board of Directors. He is owner and partner since 2001 of The Odd Couple Team at Keller Williams Integrity Realty located at 1460 Grand Avenue. Most recently, Jason served as the chairperson for the Summit Hill Association’s 2018 House Tour. His leadership, energy and generosity were integral to the event’s overwhelming success.

GABA was founded in 1966 when two businesses along the Avenue came together to buy flowers to welcome a new restaurant to Grand Avenue. A few weeks later, the two business owners sat down and had the first GABA meeting. The association of small business owners has grown through the years and now has more than 125 member businesses.

Grand Avenue is now home to more than 200 businesses. Most are locally-owned and have been on the Avenue for more than 30 years. Grand Avenue businesses pride themselves on creating a unique shopping experience for visitors, largely because of the many specialty retailers and services.

STAYING IN TOUCH!

If you’ve read thru this entire newsletter, you’ve probably noticed the number of times you’ve been directed to our website or to our email address. If you were reading an electronic version, you’d be able to click on some of the many links to vital information we have gathered to provide you that information. It’s another really great way to stay in touch and be ‘in the loop’ in a very timely manner. Sign up for our eNewsletter, sent monthly with more ‘developing news’ and reminders, along with occasional urgent messages for the residents of Summit Hill. To provide your email address to receive these communications, please go to our website @ www.summithillassociation.org to sign up. Don’t forget another up-to-date way to be notified of important developments is to join our Summit Hill Association Facebook page. Friend us!

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ANNUAL APPEAL continued

and landlord’s forum to facilitate awareness and communications between landlords and the almost 50% of those renting Summit Hill residents.

Put plainly: we couldn’t do what we do without your support!

There are several ways to make a contribution to the Summit Hill Association:

• Return the SHA Annual Appeal envelope included with this newsletter to the SHA Offices. Checks can be made out to Summit Hill Association.

• Take advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover. Individuals who are 701/2 years or older can transfer money from their traditional IRA account directly to charitable organizations like the Summit Hill Association. Talk to your financial advisor to learn more about this option.

• Have your contribution to SHA matched by your employer! Many companies offer employer matching gifts, which often result in a dollar-for-dollar match of your donation. Visit tinyurl.com/SHAmatch, then enter your employer into the search bar. Most of the time, having your gift matched is as easy as filling out a quick online form.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

HONOR ROLL NOMINATIONS continued

nominee for each group and including a brief statement about why you have chosen to recognize them. Nominations will be accepted between now and the end of the year. We’d appreciate your help in identifying and honoring some of the best around us!

SHA BOOK CLUB continued

Tuesday, February 19th @ 7PM
‘White Fragility: Why it’s so hard for white people to talk about racism’ by Robin DiAngelo

The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

A community conversation about racism

Tuesday, March 12th @ 7PM
‘Voices of Rondo: Oral Histories of St. Paul’s Historic Black Community’ by Kate Cavett

In Voices of Rondo, real-life stories illuminate the northern urban Black experience during the first half of the twentieth century, through the memories and reflections of residents of Saint Paul’s historic Rondo community.

A community conversation about the Rondo neighborhood

Tuesday, April 23rd @ 7PM
‘The Hate U Give’ by Angie Thomas

The Hate U Give is a young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It follows events in the life of a black 16-year-old girl, Starr Carter, who is drawn to activism after she witnesses the police shooting of a childhood friend.

A community discussion about the Black Lives Matters Movement

Check out the SHA web site for current info: www.summithillassociation.org
Summit Hill Association
District 16 Planning Council
860 St. Clair Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Telephone 651-222-1222
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Check our web site at
www.summithillassociation.org

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