



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Published for the East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood & Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhoods

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Volume 48 / Number 7

www.hillandlakepress.org

July 2024

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WHERE WE ARE NOW

Editorial by Craig Wilson

Craig Wilson is the editor of the Hill & Lake Press and lives in Lowry Hill.

Our late editor Jean Deatrick had a regular column called "Where We Are Now" that I couldn't help thinking about when I walked by the new Southwest LRT Bryn Mawr station along the Cedar Lake Trail at Penn Avenue and 394.

The LRT station was intended to be a critical link to Bryn Mawr and North Minneapolis at a cost estimated in 2015 of \$14-16 million, which we can assume is well over that now.

However, it seems so out of place, like a spaceship that's landed in the middle of a prairie — a bridge to nowhere of the Galactic Empire Revival variety.

If Transit Police cannot manage the relatively small and highly visible Uptown Transit Station and had to close it due to concerns related to safety, crime and vandalism, how will they monitor this remote site? Will they have to do so with full-time dedicated staff at an additional expense to taxpayers?

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that cities can punish people for sleeping in public places, will it put an end to our transit system acting as an ad hoc mobile emergency homeless shelter?

Will transit riders even use this station with its long skyway over the heavy rail corridor, far



The new Southwest LRT Bryn Mawr station at Penn Avenue and 394 extends far into the prairie along the Cedar Lake Trail. Who will use it and how will it be maintained? (Photo Craig Wilson)

from businesses and residences? Sound transit oriented development maximizes the amount of residential and commercial space within a quarter mile walking distance of public transportation — where is that suppose to happen here?

With most current shelters on the brink of clo-

sure due to lack of proper funding from Hennepin County and other agencies, could these millions of dollars in capital costs and millions of dollars in on-going future operations have been better spent on to affordable housing and shelter support? Time will tell.



Hill & Lake Press

Founded in 1976, Hill & Lake Press reports community news and events, educating and informing our neighborhood community members about issues of the day. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

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Distribution
U.S. Postal Service

Advertising Deadlines
Next issue —
August 2024
Reservation deadline —
July 8, 2024
Materials due —
July 15, 2024

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Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to the Hill & Lake community. Our copy limit is 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

Support Our Police

In his poignant Star Tribune editorial, "Police officer Jamal Mitchell was exceptional, but he was not the exception," Chief Brian O'Hara addresses a critical juncture for our community.

The loss of Officer Jamal Mitchell, a beacon of bravery and commitment, is a tragic reminder of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers. Chief O'Hara's reflection on this loss and his call to recognize the broader virtue within the profession is both timely and profound.

Chief O'Hara's presence here is profoundly significant, as this tragic loss is vividly bookended by another that brought him here. No one should ever lose their life from law enforcement actions experienced while in custody — this should be true here and everywhere. Two things can be true at the same time.

When I relocated 40 years ago, those who tempted me here summed up those that live in Minneapolis with one word: "hardy." Our path forward, fraught with challenges, discourages even the best of us.

And yet, Chief O'Hara's leadership shines a way through our strife — a way that demands deep reflection, carefully considered actions, and vigilant transparent oversight. It is through healthy civic engagement and transparent oversight that trust can be built across all aspects of our local government and the citizens it exists to serve — not just our MPD. But that's the perfect place for all Minneapolis government to start.

With his command over our Minneapolis Police Department, Chief O'Hara is raising the bar by institutionalizing constitutional policing as the standard by which they protect and serve.

I can say with 100% certainty that Jamal Mitchell wasn't an excep-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

tion — I should know. I've fed him along with every officer at every watch at every precinct multiple times over the last four years. Our hardy MPD officers are and will follow the Chief's leadership.

There's no way out of our challenges, but his is a way through. Give our Chief what he's asked of us — remove the needless friction and lower the temperature.

*Rob Reul
Lowry Hill*

Sleuth Your Stoop

Have you ever wondered who built your house? What did they look like? How did they entertain? Who did they entertain? What did it look like before remodeling (or remuddling)?

St. Paul's Episcopal church is hosting a house detective workshop by resident historian Kathy Kullberg on Saturday, July 27 in our newly remodeled Undercroft. The church has been located at Lake of the Isles since 1958 and has served the community by hosting local weddings, holiday parties, a Boy Scout troop, and funerals, which may be part of your history as well.

We invite you to come and learn research tips and some local history about Lowry Hill and Kenwood. Ms. Kullberg has been researching much of the neighborhood's housing stock for over the past 15 years. During this workshop you will learn how and where to find the information for your home.

Please go to the church's website at Stpaulsmpls.org for more information and to register for the event. Seating is limited for this fun and enlightening half day workshop.

*Laurie Larsen
Lowry Hill*

Rape at Cedar Lake Could Have Been Avoided

A disturbing article appeared in the Saturday June 15 Star Tribune. The article headline stated, "Man accused of attacking woman walking on Cedar Lake trail and raping her at knifepoint."

It further states, "woman said she was walking on a trail when she was grabbed by a man... who she

said threw her into the brush and held a small knife on her while choking her...." Minneapolis Park Police responded to a report of a robbery and sexual assault near Cedar Lake on June 7."

In a Letter to the Editor submission to the Hill & Lake Press, Aug. 2022 Issue, during the Cedar-Isles Master Plan process, I submitted an argument against the residents' feedback to, "Keep Cedar Lake Park 'hidden and secluded' and a place to find 'solitude'."

I lobbied for an asphalt path through the "hidden and secluded" North/Northeast section of Cedar Lake Park which would bring a wider audience of park users through the isolated area and make it a better, safer park. I believe the June 7 situation merits a recounting of my grounds challenging a "hidden and secluded" park.

In the August, 2022 letter, I stated, "It may surprise a lot of people, but secluded, isolated, heavily vegetated areas, with poor sight lines are threatening areas for many people and are therefore avoided! These features are not attributes of successful parks—in fact, these parks can become disamenities. There is a reason why the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization has paid for extra police presence since 1995 at East Cedar Beach (a.k.a. Hidden Beach)."

The tragic incident on a Cedar Lake Trail is a clarion call to change the conditions of the "Hidden and Secluded" Regional Park. These horrible incidents do not occur often, but when they do, steps should be taken to eliminate the conditions that provide the opportunity to attempt them!

Keep the nature park but make it accessible with one decent path to enable more park users to the area and make the area less threatening!

*Ron (Jake) Werner
St. Louis Park*



Thanks to the efforts of John Van Heel and Citizens for a Loring Park Community, as well as area stakeholders, the Douglas Median and Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads received much-needed tending. Prescription Landscape was contracted to manage the corridor for the rest of the 2024 growing season. Tangletown Gardens will install a seasonal planting in early July once the irrigation is turned on. Thank you to our readers for your support of this important effort. Pictured from left to right are Prescription Landscape staff Monaire Baughn, Braden Kramer, Garrett Lucas, Nicholas Weed, Zaden Larson and Brandon Kelly. (Photos Craig Wilson)

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: THE HAPPIEST CITY

Opinion by Susan Lenfestey



Slain Minneapolis police officer Jamal Mitchell.
Say his name. (Photo Minneapolis Police Department)

Susan Lenfestey is a regular columnist and founder and current board member of the Hill & Lake Press. She lives in Lowry Hill.

When I read that the Institute for Quality of Life had named Minneapolis the happiest city in the USA, I decided to get with the program. No more Debbie Downer opinions from me!

But then I got to wondering what life is like in the less-happy cities, because things are a little rough in our city right now.

I'm not talking about the quality-of-life issues that usually get me down, like gas-powered leaf blowers and unused bike lanes.

I'm talking about crime and failing businesses, and how some in city leadership don't seem to see the crisis it truly is.

Crime

On the crime front, efforts are being made to restore safe streets by hiring “ambassadors” and “violence interrupters” to patrol the streets. It’s a start, but not the same as the presence of a robust and well-trained police force.

Mayor Frey and Police Chief O’Hara have been working hard to replenish the ranks of the MPD — difficult in the current environment. Recently the city announced a tentative three-year agreement with the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis that includes an historic 21.7% pay increase over three years.

But some members of the Council oppose the contract and have continued to sow distrust of the MPD. In a public statement after the shooting of Officer Jamal Mitchell, Ward 10 Council Member, Council Vice-President Aisha Chughtai, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, known also as the DSA, did not mention that a police officer was shot. She did not say his name.

Instead, Chughtai wrote that the “[m]assive law enforcement presence, helicopters overhead, and gun violence should not be normalized” and apologized to her constituents saying, “[m]any residents came home to find crime scene tape closing off access to their home. For those who experienced this yesterday, I am so sorry.”

Mpls for the Many, the political action committee that supports DSA-aligned candidates, sent out an email stating that “... we collectively grieve the tragic deaths of Officer Jamal Mitchell, Osman Said Jimale and Mohamed Bashir Aden.” No. We. Don’t.

I know nothing about Mr. Jimale or Mr. Aden, but I know that only one of those men was there as a police officer, to protect the lives of the others. Say his name.

The email went on to urge supporters to attend a public hearing on June 25 to voice opposition to the new contract.

That hearing, before the Administration and Enterprise Oversight Committee, was attended by nearly 100 people. After a detailed presentation on behalf of the city by City Operations Officer Margaret Anderson Kelliher, and rebuttal by Stacey Gurian-Sherman of Minneapolis For A Better Police Contract, the meeting was opened for public comment. Roughly 35 people spoke, the overwhelming majority of them in favor of the contract.

But the committee deadlocked at 3-3 on whether to move forward with a full Council vote on June 27, with opponents insisting that they needed another hearing to get more information.

Chair Won-sley, Ellison, and Chughtai were against, while Vice-Chair Palmisano, Vetaw, and Cashman favored immediate action.

Kicking the Can

Given that the Council already participated in a day-long seminar on contract details, and there is no requirement for public input on this or any other city contract, and citizens are more likely to share opinions than new facts, this appears to be a kick-the-can-down-the-road maneuver with the goal of prolonging the process. It’s reminiscent of the foot-dragging of so-called progressives on reopening the 3rd Precinct. If you keep holding hearings, you might hear what you want to hear.

The next public hearing has been pushed to July 8 with final consideration no earlier than July 18. However, seven votes are needed for approval and Council Member Osman, the seventh vote, will be out of town for the next two-week council cycle. This could push the vote until August 1. Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman has promised to vote for the contract. Stay tuned.

If the council fails to approve the contract, then it returns to mediation, and advances to binding arbitration.

“I’m not talking about the quality-of-life issues that usually get me down, like gas-powered leaf blowers and unused bike lanes... I’m talking about crime and failing businesses, and how some in city leadership don’t seem to see the crisis it truly is.”

On the commercial front, small businesses are plagued by chronic crime and vandalism.

Judy Longbottom, owner of the UPS store at 28th Street and Hennepin Avenue South, sent a list of simple requests to the City Council, including asking that lighting be restored in the streets and alleys by her shop. Criminals have stripped the copper out of the streetlights, leaving her business and her neighbors in the dark.

She wrote, “I beg city council members to hear our valid concerns about the cost of doing business in the city of Minneapolis. There is a breaking point for all businesses.”

That breaking point was recently reached by Mikaela Harrod, owner of Les Sól, a boutique on Lake Street near Irving Avenue, who will close her business on June 30.

In a post announcing the closing she wrote: “Small businesses in Uptown are hurting... we feel the city hasn’t done enough to help our little slice of Minneapolis... We’re sad to close our doors... but hoping our closing can serve as a reminder to the city that more needs to be done to help other small businesses.”

Restaurants still open are hanging on by a thread, reducing their hours to stay in business and retain employees. Efforts to unionize in these small, often BIPOC-owned, restaurants could not come at a worse time.

Kim’s restaurant in Uptown, owned by stalwart Uptown supporter Ann Kim, is an example of a restaurant determined to stick it out in these tough times. But workers there are attempting to unionize, an effort Kim does not support. The restaurant recently had a slab of concrete thrown through the front window and white paint splashed over the façade. Whether random or related to the unionization effort is anyone’s guess.

Council Member Cashman is co-author of a bill to establish a Labor Standards Board, an advisory panel that would recommend new policies to oversee working conditions for restaurant employees.

The bill is opposed by over 150 chefs and small restaurant owners, but has the backing of Mayor Frey and City Council President Elliott Payne. (Because the foray into managing Lyft and Uber went so well.)

The DSA-aligned members of the City Council should get to work on what they were elected to do. That means supporting struggling businesses and not trying to run them. That means doing the tedious work of rebuilding our police force and providing public safety. Until that work is taken seriously, the title of happiest city is a chimera.



HERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN OUR CITY IN THE LAST MONTH:

- The shooting death of Jamal Mitchell, a promising young police officer, a beloved partner, father and son. There are no words to express the depth of this loss, to his family, to the city.
- The brutal assault of a woman at Cedar Lake who was forced at knife point into her car and raped twice before managing to escape.
- A spate of brazen armed robberies that occurred in broad daylight along Douglas Avenue in Lowry Hill.
- A slab of concrete thrown through Ann Kim’s restaurant on 31st and paint splashed across the façade and in the restaurant.
- Restaurants hanging on by a thread being pressured to unionize.



WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- Attend the police contract hearing on July 8 and the council vote on July 18. Held in the temporary council chambers at the Public Service Center: 250 S 4th St; Room 350.
- Pay close attention to these important City Council actions.
- In national elections we are the voting-est city in America, with 81.3% turnout in 2020.
- Turnout for the municipal election in 2023 was 31.7% of eligible voters.
- The next municipal election is scheduled for 2025.
- Say his name. Then vote.



WILL LYNDALE BE THE NEXT HENNEPIN?: HENNEPIN COUNTY UNVEILS NEW DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR LYNDALE AVENUE

By Marty Carlson

SAMPLE CONCEPT A



These section concepts do not reflect the final options for the corridor layout. (Image Hennepin County)

SAMPLE CONCEPT B



If included, transit lane operations will be determined in the future. Bikeways for consideration between Summit Avenue and 28th Street. These section concepts do not reflect the final options for the corridor layout. (Image Hennepin County)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

On June 10, Hennepin County opened up a new round of public comment on its proposed reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue from Franklin to 31st Street at an open house at SpringHouse Ministries. The centerpiece was the release of three alternative potential design concepts for the roadway, each of which is materially different from the others.

The redesign process itself has already sparked tensions in the area, pitting local business owners and residents concerned about accessibility and parking against the bike lobby and transit advocates, who want to see the addition of dedicated bike and bus lanes. Dueling protests occurred in the area in March 2024.

The flash point for the new round of public comment is likely to be “Sample Concept B,” which proposes adding a dedicated bus lane on one side of the street, which appears from the rendering to eliminate all parking on that side for the length of the roadway.

“The redesign process itself has already sparked tensions in the area, pitting local business owners and residents concerned about accessibility and parking against the bike lobby and transit advocates, who want to see the addition of dedicated bike and bus lanes. Dueling protests occurred in the area in March 2024.”

More bike lanes...

Also of note are dedicated bike lanes proposed in Sample Concepts B and C. The county states that while Lyndale is not identified as a bikeway on current city or county bike plan maps, these proposals were driven by public feedback received during the first round of public comment. If adopted, the proposed bike lanes would connect the Loring Greenway to the Midtown Greenway.

Sample Concept A comes closest to preserving the street in its current configuration, with several caveats. First, it’s a three-lane roadway with a center turn lane. For those who weren’t paying careful attention already, this cements a change from four lanes to three that was already deemed permanent in 2022.

Second, all of the concepts include additional pedestrian safety measures, such as bump-outs at crossings. Third, the width of the proposed lanes has not yet been determined. That’s a source of concern to some local business owners, who worry that enhanced boulevard space at the edge of the roadway could come at the expense of safe and convenient loading and unloading for both personal and commercial vehicles.

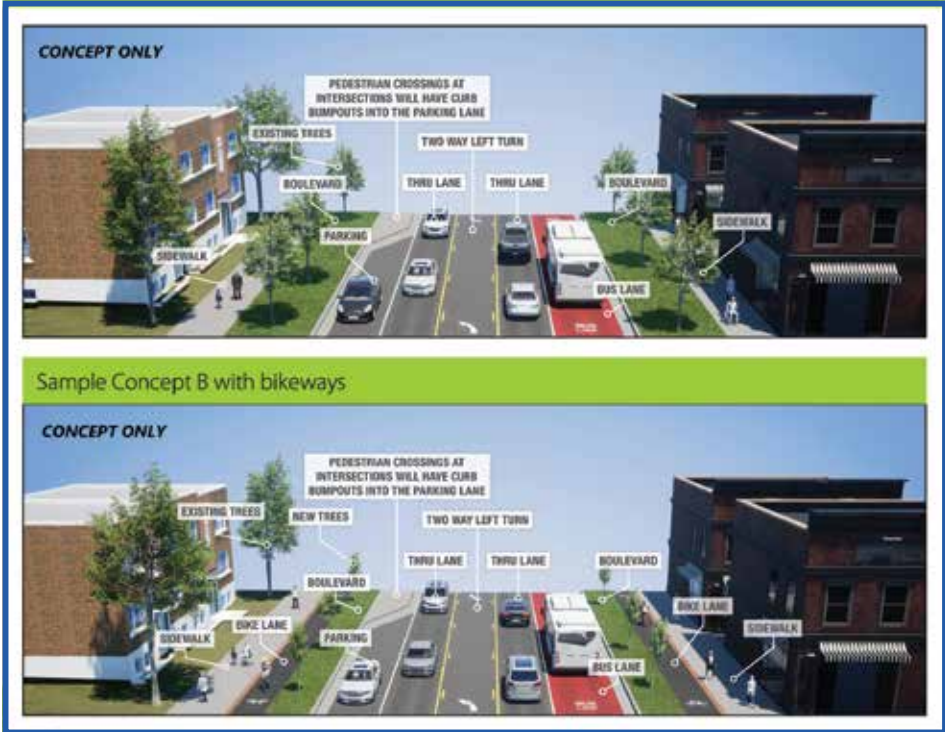
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Sebastian Joer

SAMPLE CONCEPT C



Bikeways for consideration between Summit Avenue and 28th Street. These section concepts do not reflect the final options for the corridor layout. (Image Hennepin County)



PUBLIC COMMENT NEEDED:

Public input on these design concepts is requested by Hennepin County.

Residents can complete a short online survey by visiting –

beheardhennepin.org/lyndale-avenue

The survey remains open through the end of July.

“The flash point for the new round of public comment is likely to be 'Sample Concept B,' which proposes adding a dedicated bus lane on one side of the street, which appears from the rendering to eliminate all parking on that side for the length of the roadway.”

Why is this reconstruction necessary?

The county cites a number of reasons in its presentation materials. First and foremost is that such roadways are anticipated to have a 60-70 year functional lifespan, and Lyndale Avenue has not been comprehensively recon-

structed since the 1930s. Below grade utilities also need attention. Other reasons include safety, ADA compliance and increased green space.

Bottom line?

This is your time to speak up! Want bus-only lanes? Take the survey. Like parking? Take the survey. Like bike lanes? Take the survey. You get it...

Nota bene: use of the word “transit” in the survey appears to mean “buses,” which may be confusing for some participants.

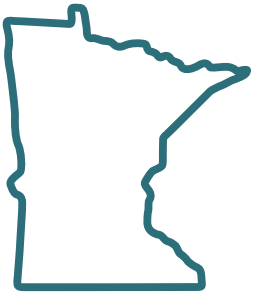
The open house materials, available at the project website, contain additional useful information. And, for those of you who (like me) are survey-averse, you can email comments in your own words to Josh Potter, the project engineer, at josh.potter@hennepin.us.

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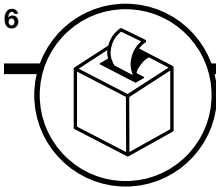
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THESE CANDIDATES WANT TO REPRESENT YOU IN THE HOUSE: They Are Competing in the August 13 Primary

By Craig Wilson, Editor

Craig Wilson is the editor of the Hill & Lake Press and lives in Lowry Hill.

The Minnesota Primary is on August 13. According to the Secretary of State, three candidates are competing in the primary for the 61A House seat, which has been held by Representative Frank Hornstein since 2003. The Hill & Lake Press invited candidates Katie Jones, Isabell Rolfes and Will Stancil to each write a short essay on what they believe is the single most important issue their constituents want them to address at the state level, in 400 words or less. Here’s what they had to say.

The Hill & Lake Press does not endorse any candidates. We will interview those who will be on the ballot in November for the general election in the October issue.



Katie Jones (Photo Alice Gao)

Katie Jones

From Elliot Park to Cedar Lake, Uptown to Harrison, community safety is the issue I’ve heard consistently from voters across our district.

Too many neighbors have faced unsafe situations, and we need to hold those who cause harm to others accountable. Everyone deserves to feel safe walking, riding the train, or entering their car. It’s also an issue of equity: Data shows that BIPOC community members face a disproportionate burden of violence compared to white neighbors. It’s the

role of elected leaders to develop and implement effective policies so people can live, learn, work, and play safely.

This requires effective partnership at every level of government to work upstream to prevent violence and harm. Our state must support community-based violence intervention efforts that have proven to be effective. That includes passing common sense gun laws to get deadly weapons out of our communities and holding manufacturers accountable. Most importantly, we must engage with people in our neighborhoods. I recently attended Hennepin County’s Safe Communities Summit to hear from local experts and experienced community groups. Everyone underscored the need for collaboration, trust building, and investment in our communities. They also emphasized listening — to one another, to our community members traumatized by violence, and to first responders. Creating greater understanding and building these relationships are foundational to restoring trust in our systems.

Safe communities are ones that are well-resourced with strong connections between neighbors. As our city faces a budget deficit that will impact everyone who lives here, I will pursue an increase to Local Government Aid for Minneapolis so local decision makers have the resources needed to advocate for appropriate responses for people in crisis and can focus on prevention. Having a healthy city budget is critical, and we need to state action to support the local economy, broadly grow our tax base, and stabilize property taxes. Solutions include reimagining downtown buildings wherever possible to convert vacant offices to residences, and piloting incentives that turn unused lots and properties into spaces utilized by the community.

Like many of today’s complex social problems, progress is made by taking a multi-pronged approach and working in collaboration. As the adage goes, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” From access to stable housing, fully funded education, reliable transit, and making sure everyone’s basic needs are met, I will champion policies that strengthen our communities because it’s how we build more durable solutions.



Isabel Rolfes (Photo Molly Burns-Hansen)

Isabel Rolfes

I’ve made it clear in my campaign that no issue stands alone. But if I had to pick one that is front and center, it’s safety.

Our small business owners are yearning for a public safety presence, so their storefronts remain safe.

Our LGBTQIA+ friends are facing a resurgence in bigotry and hate crimes. Our neighbors and friends are on edge because of the notable presence of guns in our community.

The list goes on.

The State doesn’t control what Minneapolis’ Public Safety department does, but I will work closer with them to draft complementary public safety legislation to have the most positive benefits for my fellow neighbors in 61A. This means not only sending funding, but ensuring we are doing the work to implement a holistic approach to public safety that addresses the wide range of issues impacting safety in Minneapolis.

I will work with the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board to ensure their training is set up in a way to keep the community and emergency responders safe when they are called to respond to calls, as well as ensure there is follow through on new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training that aims to remove biases in policing.

I will protect our “red flag” laws to reduce chances of repeat offenders accessing guns and do the hard work to pass safe storage laws

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CANDIDATES WANT TO REPRESENT YOU, Page 6

and ban assault rifles.

We also need to increase safety by ensuring all Minnesotans have access to basic needs to reduce the root causes of crime before it happens. This means providing: dignified, good-paying jobs; affordable housing; healthcare; education; and access to transportation.

This means investing in what we know works, which is culturally relevant shelters in the short-term to meet the needs of different community members, and taking a housing-first approach to addressing the housing crisis in the long-term to ensure people in need are getting the full range of services necessary to transition back into being housed.

While there are many steps to be taken to make Minneapolis a safer place, I firmly believe that taking a holistic approach to public safety is how we bring everyone to a better place.

At the state level, I will tackle public safety. And I will do it through all of these avenues with community input every step of the way.



Will Stancil (Photo James McFeeters)

Will Stancil

My top priority at the legislature is bringing prosperity back to Minneapolis.

We’ve all seen the changes. Businesses are leaving the city and there are many vacant storefronts in Uptown. The school district keeps shrinking — twenty percent of students

gone in just a few years.

There are public safety problems, particularly in the Lakes area. And it’s alarming that, despite all this, property taxes are slated to rise — not because services have improved, but because the tax base has withered.

Helping the city was my core focus when I entered the race. I’ve discovered that it is also, overwhelmingly, what voters want to talk about when you knock their doors.

There’s no magic solution that will solve all these problems at once. These are complicated issues and even the best-laid plans usually need revision when they’re put into practice.

But I’ve worked on local government, development, and educational topics for a decade, and I have a few ideas. I’ve also talked to a lot of people — former legislators, business owners, teachers — and have harvested as many ideas from them as possible.

Fixing the commercial environment will require new investment in the city, supporting existing businesses and creating incentives to open new ones.

I’m willing to throw money at the problem; my view is that spending upfront to bring back commerce will pay back in multiples down the road. It will also require addressing public safety concerns, since it’s hard to get customers to frequent an establishment in an area they perceive as unsafe.

I’ve worked on efforts around the country designed to attract new parents to struggling school districts, so I know it’s possible.

It requires, first and foremost, close attention to what services and programs parents want. Rather than working to provide education to a minimal standard, we need to figure out what sorts of education is exciting to families — small class sizes, arts instruction, dual-language immersion — and then ensure those opportunities are available in the city district.

Minneapolis neighbors almost all want to attend their local school, but no parent will ever choose to gamble their child on a school they don’t think is up to par. This has to be incorporated into educational policymaking as a first principle.

I have lived in Lowry Hill for 15 years and I love this neighborhood and city. I want to help it prosper once again.



Hill & Lake Press

The Hill & Lake Press is a non-profit newspaper funded and supported by its advertisers and neighborhood associations:

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- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)

- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)

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Saturday, July 20, 10:00 am
Loring Park

Sunday, July 28, 2:00 pm
Chute Square (University Ave. SE & Central Ave. SE)

Bring a picnic! Bring your family & friends!

Free musical in the park!



Summer in the City

Rooftop Dining at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis



Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays
5:00 – 9:00 pm

Join us this summer for drinks, dining, and the absolute best views of Loring Park & downtown Minneapolis. Summer goes fast, and so do reservations, so please make plans now to dine with us all summer long.

Reservations at womansclub.org or through the Front Desk at 612.813.5300 or frontdesk@womansclub.org.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS 410 OAK GROVE STREET



Cedar · Isles · Dean
Neighborhood Association



Storytime Picnics

3rd Friday of the month
10:45 - 11:30 AM @ Park Siding Park
Upcoming Dates: July 19, August 16





Sunday Summer Music Series
July Band: Ngange & Themasses
4:00 - 5:00 PM @ Cedar Lake South Beach
Upcoming Dates: July 21, August 18

Family Fishing on Cedar Lake
Saturday, August 3, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM
Join Cedar-Isles-Dean & Kenwood
Neighborhoods @ Cedar Lake for fishing fun!



Learn more at cidna.org



Saturday, Sept. 7
9 AM – 3 PM

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Kenwood • Cedar-Isles-Dean

Join us selling or buying at the 13th Annual Neighborhood Super Sale! Residents in the sale neighborhoods can register for \$20, which gets you:

- sale listing on the interactive online map
- advertising and social media promotion
- official Sale Here lawn sign
- invite to a sign pickup party
- option to have unsold items picked up for donation (pickup Monday, Sept. 9)



Register by 11 PM on **Monday, Aug. 26**
Details + registration: eastisles.org/sale







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LOWRY HILL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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Thomas Lowry Park

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Live Band

Face Painter

Origami Artist

Fire Truck Visit

Artrageous Community Creation Station



Visit lowryhillneighborhood.org for event details and more.



THE JUNGLE THEATER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Story by Josie Owens



The Jungle Theater, near the intersection of Lyndale Avenue and Lake Street (Photo Craig Wilson)

Josie Owens is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press and lives in Lowry Hill.

Not many neighborhoods can claim such a highly regarded theater only a stone’s throw away. For 25 years, the Jungle has been producing marvelous shows in its wonderful jewel box theater.

Humble Beginnings

The Jungle was the inspiration of Bain Boehlke, a longtime champion of the Minneapolis theater scene. While lying on a beach in Mexico in 1986, Boehlke suddenly thought — what Minneapolis needs is a neighborhood-based, storefront theater. It’ll be called (looks around) the Jungle!

With this idea percolating, Boehlke found an empty storefront on Lake Street and Lyndale Avenue that was the “intimate space to produce simple productions and lavish a lot of care on them.” On February 7, 1991, the Jungle opened its sold out show of Timothy Mason’s “Only You” in its 93-seat theater. With the help of co-founder George Sutton, the early years were successful, bringing four to five plays each year to the neighborhood. These plays were usually by established playwrights — Pinter, Albee, Beckett, Mamet — featuring small casts in small spaces.

The Second Phase

With success came growth, and the theater needed an upgrade. After six years, Boehlke and Sutton still wanted to maintain an intimate feeling but needed to expand beyond a 9 ½ foot stage.

In 1996, the Jungle announced a \$2.5 million dollar campaign for a new theater. By September 1997, the campaign was complete, and groundbreaking began kitty-corner in the Kinicker’s building.

The new space housed a 30’ x 80’ stage with two stage doors. However, with only 140 plush velvet seats, the theater still maintained the

intimacy of a small theater. On February 12, 1999, “Macbeth,” with a cast of 36, opened in the new theater.

Middle Years

The Jungle carried on for many seasons, turning out excellent productions of both classics and con-

“While lying on a beach in Mexico in 1986, Boehlke suddenly thought — what Minneapolis needs is a neighborhood-based, storefront theater.”

temporary shows. In June 2015, Boehlke announced that he planned to retire from his post. For the first time, the Jungle would be in the hands of a new artistic director. The board decided that the search should be broad enough to allow for new ideas and creativity — something not always welcomed by an outgoing founder. This inclusive approach enabled Sarah Rasmussen to become the second artistic director, in 2016.

Rasmussen, a native of Sisseton, South Dakota, shared Boehlke’s dedication to small theater.

After seeing “As You Like It” at the Guthrie Theater in 1982, she returned home and started a theater in her basement. Her love of theater was insatiable. Boehlke and Rasmussen first worked together professionally in 2012 when Rasmussen directed Sarah Ruehl’s 2009 play “In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)” at the Jungle.

Boehlke said that Rasmussen was impressive as she “articulated the ongoing vision of the Jungle, the

depth at which she understood the theater’s core and what its arc of intention is.”

Rasmussen became the Jungle’s artistic director in 2016 and launched her first season with an all-female production of Shakespeare’s “The Two Gentlemen of Verona.” Rasmussen continued this focus on women by hiring all female directors for the 2017 season.

She also shifted the emphasis to new play development and shows by new playwrights with BIPOC actors and directors. Her approach increased theater memberships and drew younger audiences.

Covid Challenges

Having just opened “Redwood,” the Jungle, along with most of the world, shut down in March 2020. However, something else had also impacted the Jungle. Rasmussen had just been offered and accepted the artistic director position at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, New Jersey.

At a normal time, a broad search might have taken place for her replacement. In a pandemic, the board looked to someone who was at hand and up to the challenge. The Jungle found that person in Christina Baldwin, a revered actor and director in Minneapolis. Baldwin was very familiar with the Jungle’s vision, having acted and directed in many plays there.

For a year, as interim artistic director, Baldwin brought creative solutions to the Covid crisis while complying with rules prohibiting Equity actors and audiences from being in the theater.

The Jungle had Shine a Light, a free multimedia event of local artists and exciting window installations and projection on the Jungle exterior. Baldwin directed a virtual show, “Is Edward Snowden Single?”, a two-person cast with over 20 roles. With this trial by fire, Baldwin saved the Jungle and was named its artistic director in April 2021.

“The past is the present. It’s the future, too.” — Long Day’s Journey into Night

Since Covid, the Jungle has returned to problems of old — budgeting for a small theater. Its size prevents the Jungle from qualifying for many grants available to larger or even smaller theaters.


Baldwin can produce only three productions each season while she “finds some way of sustainability not so reliant on outside fundraising.” It is very important to her that the actors earn a living wage, and she stresses that Minneapolis needs to double down and support the arts with more funding.

In 1991, Bain Boehlke recognized that Minneapolis needed a theater like the Jungle. Twenty-five years have proven that he was right. Rasmussen and Baldwin carried the torch for this neighborhood and community. It is important for us to return to supporting this amazing theater. You won’t be sorry!

As heard on stage at the Jungle....

“So, what are we going to do the rest of our lives?” Before we “shuffle off this mortal coil,” go to the Jungle so that you can “regret nothing! You hear me? Nothing!” because the Jungle will continue to produce top-notch, thought-provoking, diverse plays. “Same procedure as last year? Same procedure as every year.”

The Jungle will announce and open its season tickets sales on July 17. The hilarious and sentimental “Dinner for One” needs to be part of your holiday season!



JUNGLE THEATER:

HOURS:
Wednesday - Friday
4:30pm - 7:30pm

Please note: Box Office phones will close one hour prior to show time on show dates.

Walk-up Hours:
Thursday & Friday
4:30pm - 7:00pm

LOCATION:
2951 Lyndale Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612.822.7063

ONLINE:
Online sales are available 24/7 or by email at — boxoffice@jungletheater.org.

The Jungle Theater has a PAY AS YOU ARE pricing policy. For more details, please see our website.

JUDGING THE QUALITY OF A CITY BY THE CONDITION OF ITS URBAN TENNIS COURTS

Article and Photos by Mark Tierney

Mark Tierney lives in Lowry Hill and is a tennis enthusiast.

Unlike sports like soccer, lacrosse, hockey, baseball, football and basketball that are often supported by schools, community leagues and club teams, tennis is mostly left to individuals. Team sports become lobbying forces that usually influence the distribution of limited funds for building and maintaining sports venues. This dynamic often leaves tennis courts and their individual advocates at the end of the receiving line.

The Power of the Park Board

The building and maintenance of our city tennis courts fall under the purview of the park board. It costs approximately \$150,000 to build a single tennis court and more than \$2,000 per year to maintain it. In Minnesota, a new court will begin to show surface cracking within four to five years. If these cracks are not immediately and continuously addressed, they will expand. Eventually, at the ten-year mark, the court will become unplayable. However, if regularly maintained, a tennis court could have a life expectancy of 20 to 30 years. Once a court becomes unplayable, the cement surface will need to be torn up, removed and replaced, which can be more costly than building a new court from scratch. The four courts in Loring Park, which were original to the park when built in 1883, have recently undergone this very process. In 2017, the park board had a



The Loring Park tennis courts in 2017 and 2024

choice to make after years of neglected surface maintenance: come up with \$500,000 to tear out and rebuild the four courts or eliminate them altogether and create new green space. Those supporting more green space argued, “Nobody plays on them anyway, so why spend all of that money?” They were overlooking the obvious reason they were not being used — they were unplayable (see adjacent photo). Supporters of “find the money and rebuild” were dispersed and unorganized, mainly individual tennis players from the Loring neighborhood and the Friends of Loring Park.

The dilemma of urban tennis courts is that there isn’t an organized lobby. There wasn’t a neighborhood high school tennis team lobbying for courts or a local player associa-

“Those supporting more green space argued, 'Nobody plays on them anyway, so why spend all of that money?' They were overlooking the obvious reason they were not being used — they were unplayable.”

tion comprised of the Loring Park residents. The case for eliminating the courts for more green space seemed inevitable but for a few committed, persistent park board commissioners and staff who believed the Loring courts needed to

be preserved. It took an additional five years and lots of cajoling and creative financing to finally return the courts to their prominence in the park. **Match Point to Minneapolis** Today, thanks to the commitment and efforts of some park board staff and commissioners, our city now offers two of the most beautiful public urban tennis venues in the country: the Loring courts and the Kenwood courts, which the park board resurfaced this year. In both cases, the courts serve as prominent jewels of the park.

Both sets of courts are nestled within the lush confines of their respective parks, amidst towering trees that provide a natural canopy, filtering dappled sunlight onto them. And once again, we have the pleasure of the sounds of the thwack of a tennis ball meeting the racket, the shuffle of players' feet, and the constant cries of triumph and frustration. These are important and wonderful aspects of both parks. In addition to these parks, the tennis courts in North Commons Park and Painter Park (33rd and Lyndale) have recently been resurfaced. Having playable urban tennis courts in our community takes a special commitment to maintenance. I encourage those of you who play and care to express your appreciation and views to some of the people who have made it all possible.



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Meet Your Neighbor

Interview by Craig Wilson, Editor

Kathleen Kullberg, House Detective



Kathleen Kullberg (Photo Tess Kullberg)

Craig Wilson lives in Lowry Hill and is the editor of the Hill & Lake Press.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the East in Homestead, Pennsylvania, which was the setting for the deadly Pinkerton fight against U.S. steelworkers in 1892. After attending college at Penn State, and living outside historic Philadelphia, I moved to Minneapolis in the 1980s.

What is it that drew you to the Hill & Lake community?

After marriage in 1988 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, my husband Curt and I bought a 100-year-old duplex in Lowry Hill East (also known as the Wedge Neighborhood) to renovate.

We loved the lakes district location and the old houses, thinking it was a great place to open a bed and breakfast. Then two kids happened. The time I had for running a bed and breakfast shifted to taking care of the family.

At the local pool, neighbors started talking about their old houses. That’s when my curiosity about who lived here in the past and what they did for a living got my attention and began to learn more about Midwestern history.

Midwestern homes are typically not as old as out East, which really surprised me when I

moved here. I was wanting to learn more about my new home and the people who had occupied it.

What is “house sleuthing” and how did you get involved in it?

I had no idea where to begin to research my own house. But I started asking questions at the libraries and Hennepin History Museum. So, the house sleuthing took me down a few rabbit holes, as they say.

The first step is knowing where to start looking. The tools and sources are publicly available, I just had to figure out where and how to find them. The biggest sources are the Hennepin County Library Special Collections, property records, and the Hennepin History Museum. They have amazing collections and great people to help sort things out. My own house’s stories began to appear as I dug in. I signed up for online genealogy sites and started meeting the descendants of people who lived in my house.

One day, an older gentleman appeared in my yard and told me stories of when he lived in my house. Back in the day, they even had maids, which I could imagine cooking in my kitchen. Apparently, the maids even once chased an alligator around in the basement to catch it. That was a fun story to hear. Maybe there really is an alligator still in Hill & Lake sewers and Lake of the Isles?

I discovered local historians who were very helpful. With my teaching background, I just had to share all that fun lost history. I started writing for local papers, including the Hill & Lake Press. That also led me to create walking tours of my Lowry Hill East neighborhood and tell of one very important Minnesota writer — Maud Hart Lovelace — who lived, wrote and set one of her Betsy-Tacy books here, “Betsy’s Wedding.” Realtors started asking me to write up short house histories for properties they were listing.

About eight years ago, I started to teach a house detective class through Minneapolis Community Education several times a year at different schools.

What motivates you to research houses?

There is so much history in our old houses, and not just the big grand houses. Every house has great stories. For me, the smaller houses have even more stories because families moved on, and new ones moved in. One of my greatest challenges and joy is to find those details for other homeowners. It is amazing too what newspapers can tell you. In the days before

phones, computers and television, the only way people shared their daily lives was through the daily papers. Weddings, funerals, pictures, party attendees, room descriptions were all detailed and just waiting for us to find them again. Today, most sources are now online as well, which allows your fingers to do the walking so you don’t have to travel.

What is your upcoming “Sleuth Your Stoop” class?

“Sleuth Your Stoop” will happen on Saturday, July 27 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. It will be a half-day hands-on workshop at Saint Paul’s Church on Lake of the Isles focused on how residents can be their own house detective. Electronic devices are encouraged. Students will learn all the shortcuts and places to go for much of the info. By the time they leave, they should have enough tools to get them digging in their own rabbit holes.



“SLEUTH YOUR STOOP”

Saturday, July 27
9:30 a.m. to noon.

Registration is required and
available on the church website:
stpaulsmpls.org.

Deadline is Friday, July 26.

CORRECTION NOTICE:

In June 2024, Craig Wilson was erroneously credited with interviewing and photographing Colin Snow in the Meet Your Neighbor column. Alida Mittau conducted the interview and wrote the piece. The photo was provided by Mr. Snow, and the photographer is unknown. We apologize for this error.



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MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 61A PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUM

All candidates who will be on the Primary Election ballot have been invited.

Wednesday, July 17 • Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church
2020 W Lake of the Isles Pkwy • Minneapolis, MN 55405

Please submit questions in advance to voterservices@lwvmpls.org with "MN House District 61A Forum" in the subject line. Questions will also be accepted at the forum.



The League of Women Voters website (LWVMpls.org) will have a live stream link and an unedited recording will be available following the forum. Scan the QR Code for information on how to watch the live stream.

The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.



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Anyone requesting on site interpretative services please contact: voterservices@lwvmpls.org before July 11, 2024.



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Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond



Dorothy Richmond is founder of the Dear Neighbor column and a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.

Dear Neighbor,

It's July. It's summer. It's hot. It's time for hotdogs!

The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that Americans consume 20 billion hot dogs each year (70 hot dogs per person).

Thanks to Upton Sinclair, whose book "The Jungle" (1906) exposed the appalling conditions of the meatpacking industry and resulted quickly in the establishment of the Meat Inspection Act, we can relax. So, don't get on your high horse about hotdogs harboring horse meat, sawdust, ground-up worms, dog and rat parts (which a whopping 43% of Americans still believe — so, who's eating those 20 billion hotdogs? I am, and I guess maybe you are, too).

According to the National Library of Medicine, the correct term is hotdog: one word. "Hot dog" refers to a canine in heat. While many sources like the tony magazine "Bon Appétit" and the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council (and our copy editors) beg to differ, I am going with "hotdog."

For the record, a hotdog without beef or poultry cannot be called a hotdog. For vegetarians, the term is "meat-free sausage roll," and vegans can feast on "carrot dogs" (Lizzo is a fan).

Hotdogs were one of the first foods eaten on the moon. Who knew that NASA's C-Suite had foodies?

I love hot dogs, especially in the summer.

Burgers are fine the rest of the year, but no Michelin any-star restaurant can compete with a grilled hotdog, which pairs nicely with Old Dutch Rip-L Potato Chips, baked beans, coleslaw, and any beverage except coffee. If I were to get married again, I'd have the reception catered by Five Guys.

On June 11, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt served hotdogs to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the "Queen Mum"). King George ate two, off a paper plate, and drank beer. The Queen asked Roosevelt how a hotdog ought to be eaten. He replied, "Very simple. Push it into your mouth and keep pushing it until it is all gone." She dined on hers with a knife and fork.

For me, the real king is Joey Chestnut, the current hotdog-eating champion, who set a new world record by eating 76 hotdogs in ten minutes (buns included!) at Nathan's annual Coney Island hotdog-eating contest in 2021. I'd feast on hotdogs with him any day.

Late Breaking News

Joey Chestnut was just banned from entering this year's Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest for endorsing the brand "Impossible Foods," which sells plant-based meatless products. We are judged — and in this case, paid — by the company we keep.

Recently my friends, Abby and Eddie, had a dinner party. When the invitation came in, promising grilled hot dogs (my mating call), the only possible response was: Yes!

After dinner, while lesser diners might play Pictionary, Charades or Mad Libs, one of the guests, Claire, held court with a hotdog trivia contest. I won and now possess a silver-plated hotdog sculpture which sits proudly on my kitchen's windowsill. Meryl Streep has Oscars? I have an Oscar Mayer. The hotdog bun was invented to prevent consumers from burning their hands. That answers the chicken/egg question.

Mickey Mouse's first on-screen word was "Hotdog!"

"Hotdogs are meant to be enjoyed, not weaponized," ESPN stated after a fan threw a hotdog at Tiger Woods. They went on to report that Tiger Woods was "not in any danger" and that the fan just wanted to get in the news. The tournament's director would not disclose the name of the quickly subdued and taken-into-custody hotdog hurler, saying simply, "He's just an idiot."

My neighbors and dear friends, Mark and Janice, are legendary party-givers. For years they hosted Super Bowl gatherings. One year I walked in and, Behold! There was a newly purchased Hot Dogger in the kitchen, just like the ones at Speedway. My mothership had called me home: I grabbed tongs and took over. It was the best Super Bowl I didn't watch. Their Hot Dogger moves to the front yard on Halloween, and I'm on it preparing and serving countless hotdogs to

neighborhood kids and adults — when bliss, passion and goodwill conflate.

In 2023, "Bon Appétit" held a blind taste test for Best Hot Dog. The unanimous winner was Nathan's (of Joey Chestnut fame and glory). I would have loved to be on that panel but clearly would be that holdout juror by voting for Hebrew National Beef Franks.

Hotdogs — beefy or veggie — aren't just delicious. They're fun. They're communal and, like all great equalizers, bring everyone together. You can doll one up any way you like but, at its base, it's still a hotdog.

If I were Secretary of State, I'd have hotdogs served at every joint meeting between adversaries. I like to think this would put an end to all world wars. Like different cultures and points of view, we're all still human.

— Dorothy



The Oscar Mayer Award (Photo Dorothy Richmond)

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Drumming It Up at East Cedar Lake Beach



Kenwood Neighborhood Organization kicked-off East Cedar Lake Beach summer programming with the Beach Opener. Brother Ghana warmed up beach goers with group drumming followed by Duniya Drum and Dance. Kenwood residents and visitors of all ages enjoyed the beautiful weather, food truck fare and African rhythms. (Photos by Courtney Cushing Kiernat; Photo of Duniya Drummers by Amanda Vallone)



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