



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

Providing local news to the Minneapolis lakes community since 1976

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
Madelia MN
Permit No. 279

***** ECRWSS **
Postal Customer

Volume 49 / Number 5

www.hillandlakepress.org

May 2025

SPRINGTIME IN UPTOWN!

By Susan Lenfestey



Moona Moono located at the corner of Hennepin Avenue and West 31st Street; Brilliant yellow crocuses bloom brightly. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

Susan Lenfestey is a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

Right on cue for the season, Uptown is showing signs of rebirth and renewal.

In the last month the Uptown Association hosted two community meetings, each attended by over 200 people. At the second meeting attendees discussed plans to bring businesses back to the area and some recent encouraging developments.

Among other things, a farmers market will be opening this summer in the area between the parking ramp and The Mall, the Lagoon theater is getting a makeover, and the old Apple store and adjacent Granada theater have been purchased by a local developer (no word yet on what he has in store).

The message was Uptown is coming back! I decided to go see for myself.

Moona Moono, which according to owner Angie Lee means “culture

octopus,” opened in the old Paper Source space on April 12. It’s described as an “Asian-inspired café and general store,” which it is, and more.

It’s sunny and sophisticated and already mobbed by people enjoying coffee, boba, matcha and snacks — and perusing the hip selection of Korean beauty products, Japanese housewares and paper goods and kawaii — cute small toys. A great addition to the neighborhood.

The resolute businesses that weathered the unrest, pandemic, construction and economic storms of the past few years, among them Magers & Quinn, Penzeys and Amazing Thai, as well as Uptown Diner, seemed to have had an uptick in business, like new shoots emerging from their deep roots. All they need now are a few parking bays...

Across the street at TCS Studios, which offers roller skating classes, fitness sessions, skate parties and just plain roller skating, I could see a

throng of kids whirling past the windows like confetti in the wind. Pure joy.

I finished my walkabout at the Wine Tasting Room on 31st, just west of Moona Moono. It’s so subtle you can miss it, but don’t. It’s a small and beautiful wine bar, serving high end wines for those who know, and perfectly fine wines for those who don’t, with a delicious French inspired tapas menu. I splurged on the Sancerre, in honor of the revival of Uptown.

My walkabout only covered the Hennepin and 31st axis and there’s so much more to explore. Go get a boba or a book and check out what else is springing up in Uptown.

Park Board Reverses Course, Plans to Restore Roadway on the Mall

Page 7

UPTOWN ASSOCIATION BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO UPTOWN

Page 13

Rough Caucus Night for Cashman in Hill & Lake Precincts

Page 17

Lessons From New Orleans: Minneapolis Should Celebrate All Its Historic Layers

Page 18

Do Not Millennial Greige My Home

Page 22

Earth Day 2025 Welcoming Spring

Pages 26 & 27

HILL & LAKE COUGAR LIVES ON

By Craig Wilson, Editor



Lowry Hill resident Cam Winton shares the story of the cougar with children at Kenwood Community Center on April 26. The park was abuzz with excitement and celebration over the special guest of honor. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)



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

In December 2023, Lowry Hill’s wilder side made headlines when a 132-pound cougar was captured on home security cameras, gracefully moving through our alleys in search of new territory — or perhaps a mate. It was a thrilling and magical moment for the neighborhood, but sadly, the cougar’s journey ended just days later when it was struck by a car on I-394.

Tagged as NE-132 in Nebraska as a young cub, the cougar had traveled hundreds of miles eastward — a remarkable but perilous trek that reflected the dangers wildlife face crossing human landscapes.

Thanks to the determined efforts of Lowry Hill resident Cam Winton — with strong support from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer and Superintendent of Plan-

ning Michael Schroeder — the community rallied to preserve the memory of our unexpected visitor. Alongside the Park Board and wildlife biologist and taxidermist Meadow Kouffeld, they helped ensure that the story of the Lowry Hill cougar will live on.

After more than a year of careful work, the cougar has been preserved in a natural walking pose, complete with the visible signs of its journey.

The taxidermy was unveiled on April 26 at the Kenwood Community Center, where local children and families gathered in wonder to see the remarkable feline up close. The cougar will soon move to its permanent home at the Carl W. Kroening Nature Center, helping future generations connect with the realities of wildlife survival — and the fleeting magic of living close to the wild.



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.

HILL & LAKE PRESS
P.O. Box 50052
Minneapolis, MN 55405
www.hillandlakepress.org

Staff
Craig Wilson, Editor
craig@hillandlakepress.org
Barb Davis, Advertising
barb@hillandlakepress.org
Carla Pardue, Outreach
carla@hillandlakepress.org
Christopher Bohnet, Production
Photographers:
Ryan Jandl
Courtney Cushing Kiernat
Tim Sheridan
Jill Field, Copy Editor
Jeanette Colby, Proofer
Kathy Low, Copy Editor

Board of Directors
Jackie Brown Baylor, Secretary
Barb Davis
Mike Erlandson, Chair
Susan Lenfestey, Vice-Chair
Brian Lucas
Dominic Saucedo
Andy Schwarm, Treasurer

Distribution
U.S. Postal Service

Advertising Deadlines
Next issue —
June 2025
Reservation deadline —
May 9, 2025
Materials due —
May 15, 2025

Interested in advertising?
Contact Barb Davis at
barb@hillandlakepress.org.
To donate to Hill & Lake Press
please visit www.hillandlakepress.org



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 (750 words for a commentary) and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

In Memory of Jeff Veigel, A Community Treasure

Minneapolis recently lost a cherished community member, Jeff Veigel, co-owner of Isles Bun and Coffee — home of the beloved Puppy Dog Tail. Jeff passed away in April, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, generosity, and the world’s best cinnamon rolls.

Jeff and his wife, Catherine, have owned and nurtured Isles Bun into more than just a neighborhood bakery. Featured recently in the Star Tribune for their irresistible cinnamon rolls, the shop has long been a gathering place for East Isles locals and visitors from across the Twin Cities. But it wasn’t just the baked goods that brought people in — it was the atmosphere Jeff helped create: welcoming, joyful and full of life.

Jeff’s smile greeted generations of patrons, many of whom became friends. He and Catherine have been tireless supporters of the local community, always showing up, always giving back. The warmth of their shop reflects the warmth of their hearts.

As we mourn Jeff’s passing, we also celebrate the joy he brought to

our community. His spirit lives on in the cozy hum of Isles Bun and in every shared coffee, every gooey Puppy Dog Tail, every neighborly chat.
Our hearts go out to Catherine, the staff, and the whole Isles Bun family. Thank you for sharing Jeff with us. He will be dearly missed — but never forgotten.

Mike Erlandson
East Isles

Correction

I wanted to send a quick correction regarding the April Fools piece “Making Uptown Great Again.”

The story about MyPillow moving into the old Urban Outfitters space is slightly off — it’s actually the old Victoria’s Secret location.

Michael Latour
Lowry Hill

Rise Up Revealed

Thank you for your timely and comprehensive article on the status of the YWCA in Terry White’s piece, “The Rise Up Center Has Yet to Rise!”

All my neighbors have been trying to figure out what is happening and why there has not been progress. I texted and emailed your detailed article to multiple folks.

FYI — it easily could have been the front page story. Your newspaper has become a key source of local information for my household.

Terry Harris
East Bde Maka Ska

Wow — brilliant piece.

Your article “Making Uptown Great Again” is exactly the kind of polished garbage that keeps this place broken. But hey — April Fools, right? That’s the excuse? Because nothing says comedy like mocking a community that’s still bleeding.

Because what Uptown really needs right now is to be held down and brutalized just a little bit more, right? Maybe throw in a few more kicks while it’s down. That’ll fix everything. Maybe that’s your version of “restoring order?”

The way you framed this whole mess — Uptown didn’t fall apart in a vacuum. It was crushed under the weight of a system that let a man die under someone’s knee, and then tried to pretend everything could go back to “normal.”

Eric Rech
Wedge

Dearest Dorothy

Every Dorothy Richmond column is a delight. I’m a sucker for an engaging personal essay, and Dorothy’s never disappoint.

They’re deliciously candid, succinct, frequently droll, sometimes touching.

Her most recent contribution — about a youthful friendship with an older gentleman who shared her passion for the written word — was the best yet. I was impressed — but not surprised — to learn that its author was mad for H.L. Mencken, whose sardonic take on the human comedy is often evident in Dorothy’s prose.

How fortunate for Mr. Gorman and Dorothy Richmond that God allowed both to play a long-ago and

UPTOWN FARMERS MARKET COMING SUMMER 2025



These are some of the approximately 20 neighbors from East Isles, The Wedge, East Bde Maka Ska and South Uptown who came together to clean up a vacant lot on West Lake soon to be transformed into a beautified gathering space for music and games as part of the Uptown Farmers Market. (Image: Uptown Farmers Market)

long-running proverbial chess match. Winners all ‘round, including those of us who could read about it years later.

Susan C. Jones
Kenwood

Mahalo from Minneapolis!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Herb Wilson’s letter to the editor last month, “Aloha from Volcano.”

Since his son, Craig, took over as editor, I find myself reading the paper cover to cover. He has elevated the Hill & Lake Press to new heights — it truly is a gem for our neighborhood.

His father said it best when he wrote that, under his son’s leadership, the paper chronicles “the present, while celebrating the past and charting the future.”

Keep up the good work, Craig. I’m a fan — and I can now say I know someone who’s a Native Hawaiian!

Lori Mittag
Kenwood

Why is “Republican” Elizabeth Shaffer Asking for the DFL Endorsement?

Editor’s note: Elizabeth Shaffer was given an opportunity to respond to Mr. Norton’s accusations in the subsequent letter to the editor.

As the former Minneapolis DFL Vice Chair and small business owner, I think the city is better off when Republicans run for office in Minneapolis. A diversity of thought is healthy, and it’s also beneficial for DFL candidates to be able to differentiate their progressive ideals against conservative candidates. However, when a Republican runs for office, they should run as a Republican ... not as a Democrat.

Elizabeth Shaffer is seeking the Minneapolis DFL endorsement even though she aligns closer to Republicans with her anti-labor stances and efforts to re-criminalize cannabis. In her current role as a Park Board Commissioner Shaffer recently backed a plan to make marijuana usage in parks a crime, something that has historically harmed Black residents at disproportionate levels.

She also sided against union workers during the Minneapolis Park Board strike last summer. Labor support is a core DFL value, it’s literally part of the party name. That could be part of why her opponent (Katie Cashman) is the only union-endorsed candidate in this race. Beyond her conservative stances Shaffer has also donated thousands of dollars to Republicans.

This seems to be less about her actual political ideology and more about viability in a deeply blue Ward 7. Over 87% of voters in Minneapolis voted for Kamala Harris in 2024 so it seems like the most electable path for Elizabeth Shaffer is to make you think she’s a Democrat (even though her political stances and donations to Republicans would lead you to believe otherwise).

I have no problem with Elizabeth Shaffer running for office, but she should be honest about her political affiliation and run as a Republican. Pretending to be a DFL candidate is a disservice to voters and to the DFL as a whole.

Mike Norton
East Bde Maka Ska

Response From Elizabeth Shaffer to Mr. Norton Regarding False “Republican” Label and Other Claims

The headline of Mr. Norton’s letter and his “supporting logic” is not

only disingenuous but dangerous to our community.

It is unfortunate that today, more than ever, our political culture is full of half-truths and misinformation aimed to destroy.

First, his accusation that I have “donated thousands to Republicans over the years” is false. Over the course of my lifetime, I have contributed to one Republican candidate, over ten years ago . . . who happened to be my brother. No regrets.

Second, he questioned my leadership during the MPRB strike last summer. As commissioner, I supported the established union and management negotiation process — which ultimately resulted in a historic agreement with LIUNA 363, providing an average salary increase of \$11,000 over two years. I am pro-union and am focused on forging strong relationships with workers AND businesses to ensure a strong local economy and great jobs for Minneapolis.

Third, I voted to support the prohibition of smoking in our parks via policy. Additionally, Commissioner Rucker and I worked together on an ordinance approach (allowing enforcement through citations, like a parking ticket). Even though it failed, many communities around us, including St. Paul, use this ordinance approach to enforce smoking restrictions in parks. In the interest of transparency, it’s also important to share that Mr. Norton is the Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer of Baja Ontario, a THC edibles company.

According to the Minnesota Reformer, Mr. Norton has also formed an exploratory committee as a first step toward seeking to replace U.S. Rep. Angie Craig in the south metro’s Second Congressional District — which includes communities like Northfield, Eagan, Lakeville, Cottage Grove and Red Wing, far outside our Hill & Lake community.

I am a local Democrat committed to representing my ward on the City Council. In order to move our city forward, it’s time that we hit reset in the way we dialog with each other. Having to have this conversation is just another example of why I am running for City Council.

Elizabeth Shaffer
Minneapolis Park Commissioner,
District 4
Ward 7 City Council Candidate

Paula Chesley for Ward 7

I am wholeheartedly supporting Paula Chesley for Ward 7 City Council. I hope you will too! As a resident of Ward 7 since 1979, I have a long perspective on the many changes to this area. Like many of you, I’ve really loved living here but now find myself in mourning for our vibrant, safer and friendly neighborhood of the recent past.

If you’re like me, you’re desperate for a savvy new leader who will have her finger on the pulse of Ward 7. You want someone: who focuses her efforts locally; who thoroughly researches issues, listening, asking and answering questions in the process; who formulates and implements reasonable and creative solutions; and who regularly and effectively communicates with constituents and colleagues alike. If so, Paula is your candidate.

In her community service work as well as professional life, Paula is not only very smart and caring, but she is also highly responsive! I have spoken with Paula about local politics for years and know her to be both progressive and sensible. I strongly believe her political viewpoints are the best match for our ward and city at this critical juncture.

Because she engages with people who think differently than her, she is

a bridge-builder and buffer in these polarizing times. I strongly encourage you to visit Paula’s website www.paulaforward7.org to learn more and then make the sensible and responsible choice by supporting her election!

Terry Campbell Lindeke
Kenwood

Elizabeth Shaffer for Ward 7

It is time for the constituents of Ward 7 to step up and support a candidate who will work for a safer, more functional, equitable and fiscally responsible city government. As a long-time resident of Ward 7, I believe Elizabeth Shaffer is the candidate to best represent our area on the Minneapolis City Council. Having worked with Elizabeth as a volunteer on various neighborhood concerns for several years, I’ve seen firsthand her ability to find sound solutions and to lead with vision and competency.

If you want responsive, thoughtful and respectful representation, guided by high principles and compassion, she is a stellar candidate. Elizabeth shows up for you, answers your calls and effectively resolves issues. She will work tirelessly (no exaggeration) to bring a project to fruition, while giving consideration and context to a satisfactory resolution.

Elizabeth excels in collaborating with others. On the recent campaign to restore historic Thomas Lowry Park, her leadership and vision truly made the difference in accomplishing its success. She led the coordination of multiple agencies and interests in a professional and caring manner.

Her current leadership on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has been productive as evidenced by this past year’s twenty projects and/or initiatives she successfully led. Just this month, she spearheaded the successful effort to restore The Mall Park to a roadway, so important to our community.

Please take time to read her credentials and recent accomplishments on her website www.elizabethshaffer.com, or give her a call regarding issues. It is so important to have responsive, well-informed council leaders who will address the changes needed to revitalize our city. Elizabeth Shaffer is the candidate who can best represent Ward 7 and give us hope for a brighter future.

Suzanne C. Payne
Lowry Hill

Katie Cashman for Ward 7

We all talk about the loss of businesses from our neighborhood. I long for the day when Uptown sidewalks are busy again with folks coming and going to a vibrant mix of new and old businesses. We all have compassion

for the struggles of business owners over the last five years.

Our Council Member Katie Cashman has met with many local businesses, and championed funding for a variety of business-support programs. Every time I was in Katie’s presence over the last two years, she was engaging directly with business owners and explaining the available support.

Katie also recognizes the struggles of employees who have no union representation. Thinking of both business owners and their employees — many of whom are our neighbors — Katie promoted the widely mischaracterized concept of a Labor Standards Board.

This is not a union, and it is not about promoting specific policies or minimum wages. This new board would have created a public setting where business owners, employees and community members can find ways to work together during these tough times, for the greater good.

Katie’s hard work with her council colleagues and the mayor was initially very successful and the proposal was moving forward, until the mayor vetoed it, and Council Members Jamal Osman and Andrea Jenkins changed their votes to uphold the mayor’s veto.

Public safety is also key. All of us were eager for the council to provide funds to hire more police recruits, and it has, funding many new positions. Katie also made the motion to make police work more attractive, by raising their salaries, and wrangled her council colleagues to push both actions across the finish line.

Katie has also secured funding for an expanded Safety Ambassador Program, in neighborhoods including Uptown, and for an additional Crime Prevention Specialist in our 5th Precinct. Unfortunately, in my opinion, the Mayor’s team is “slow walking” both of these funded public safety initiatives and will give no timeline for the delivery of either.

Still, there are those who are unaware — or unwilling to admit — that Katie has done everything in her power to listen and respond to the needs of Ward 7 residents. Some even bear false witness, accusing her being a wild-eyed radical.

In fact, Katie has shown herself to be a pragmatic, effective council member. Based on new software that helps ward offices track, organize and respond to resident requests and feedback, her office has allegedly tracked the most resolved cases of any ward in the city.

Katie Cashman has an outstanding record of listening and responding to the people of Ward 7. I urge you to support Katie at the Ward Convention on May 10 and to vote for her in November. I’ll be door knocking for her.

Jim Hawkins
East Isles



A stylish pup spotted at Café du Monde in City Park, New Orleans. (Image: Craig Wilson)

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: LEAF BLOWERS, REDUX

By Susan Lenfestey



A seasonal dance of the absurd, as petrochemicals and manpower join forces to blow leaves from one place to another. (Image: Joe Shlabotnik)

Susan Lenfestey is a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

As I write this it’s barely above 40 degrees, and the eager beavers are out there blowing the winter layer of leaf mold, street grit and calcified dog poop sky high with their gas-powered cyclone machines. Bumblebees, beetles and birdsong be damned, the yard needs a full Brazilian.

I get it. I’m itching to get out there and tidy up. But even raking at this time of year is destructive to the sleepyheads in the soil. So, sweep your walkways and patios, but resist the urge to purge the lawn and flower beds until temps are consistently above 50 degrees.

Hill & Lake Press readers may recall that I’ve written about gas-powered leaf blowers before, and that we had formed a committee to pass an ordinance to prohibit their use in the City of Minneapolis.

This is a (lack of) progress report.

Municipalities from Honolulu to Southampton have enacted restrictions on gas-powered lawn equipment, ranging from outright bans to forbidding their sale to financial incentives for people and businesses

who switch to cleaner, quieter electric equipment. Minneapolis has chosen to go with the incentive approach.

“Municipalities from Honolulu to Southampton have enacted restrictions on gas-powered lawn equipment, ranging from outright bans to forbidding their sale to financial incentives for people and businesses who switch to cleaner, quieter electric equipment. Minneapolis has chosen to go with the incentive approach.”

In the last year, several City Council members we spoke with ex-

pressed little interest in working on an outright ban, pointing out the burden it would put on small businesses, often BIPOC owned, and the inability to enforce it. Because of that, they said, chances of passage were slim.

They felt that the City’s Green Cost Share rebate program, managed by the Minneapolis Department of Health, was a better approach, with a goal of phasing out gas-powered lawn tools over the next five years. They pointed out that several landscaping companies have already taken advantage of that program.

Given the state of our planet I know we should persist. But given the state of our nation, I know there are far more urgent issues. And given the state of my age, I know there are other ways to spend what’s left of my one wild and precious life.

I’ll continue to keep an eye on how the city’s carrot approach is working, but I hope that someone with more snap in their bean will take up the stick. There is no excuse, knowing what we know about these shrieking purveyors of pollutants, to allow them to continue to destroy our peace, our health and our planet.



**WANT
TO GET
INVOLVED**

Please contact me
at – susan@hillandlakepress.org



AWESOME INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY OR OWNER-OCCUPIED DUPLEX!



1625 W 25th St - \$1,495,000
8 Bed | 5 Bath | 6,599 sq ft

Each unit has grand living spaces and lives more like a single-family home! Upper level unit is the 2nd and 3rd floor. 4 car attached garage. Steps to Lake of the Isles!

Main-level unit:
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 2,637 sq ft

Upper-level unit:
5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3,962 sq ft



SUE WESTERMAN 612-599-7050
sue.westerman@cbburnet.com

JON NESS 651-442-3245
jon.ness@cbrealty.com

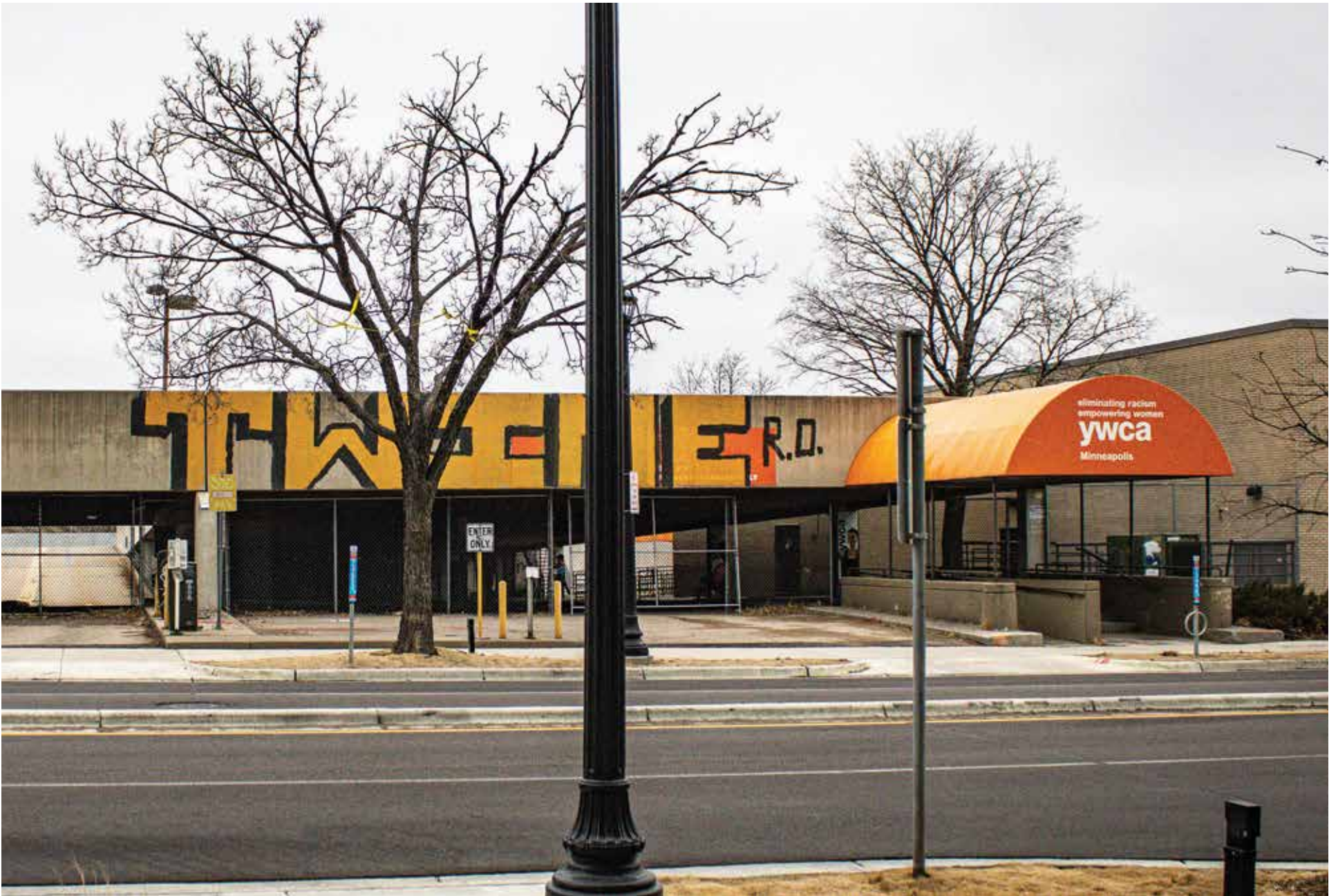


COLDWELL BANKER | REALTY



RENOVATION OF FORMER YWCA ON HENNEPIN TO BEGIN WITHIN THE YEAR

By Terry White



The former YWCA site, located on the north side of the Midtown Greenway (Image: Ryan Jandl)



Tending the Soil



Terry White is a regular contributor. He lives in Field.

On April 1, Tending the Soil formally purchased the former YWCA properties at 2820 and 2828 Hennepin Ave. for \$4.25 million. Skeptics are concerned that the nonprofit groups planning to convert the building into a training hub for low-wage and BI-POC workers have no prior experience managing a project or budget of this scale.

The facilities comprise 80,000 square feet and will house training areas as well as office space for the nonprofits that make up the Tending the Soil coalition: Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), United Renters for Justice, New Justice Project, SEIU Local 26 and Unidos MN. LSE Architects was selected to design the new Rise Up Center. The firm will have a busy year — it has also been chosen to design the city's new Election and Voter Services center at the site of the former Third Precinct police station.

The East Isles Neighborhood Association inquiries about building security were answered by a Unidos MN representative. The security firm Securitas was hired to guard the facility starting on April 4. Guards are stationed seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to help prevent vandalism and graffiti during those hours.

A capital campaign to raise \$9 million for the renovation is ongoing. That amount matches what the state has already appropriated for the project. Renovations are scheduled to begin in late 2025 or early 2026.

SHOP
LOCAL
READ
LOCAL

EAT
LOCAL
ENJOY
LOCAL

Hill & Lake Press

We are your
LOCAL
Newspaper

THE
PRINTING
BUSINESS CARD
FLYER
POSTCARD
BROCHURE
POSTER
MENU
BANNER
STORE

 THE UPS STORE[®]
be unstoppable[®]

VISIT US IN MAY TO RECEIVE:

20%
OFF
PRINTING

For 20 years, your Uptown
UPS Store has been a
locally, woman-owned &
operated small business!

2801 HENNEPIN AVE S.
612-822-0022

CITY COUNCIL REJECTS APPEAL BY “BAYLOR BOUTIQUE” DEVELOPER

By Marty Carlson



The Minneapolis City Council. Back row, from left: Jason Chavez; Jamal Osman; Elliot Payne, President; LaTrisha Vetaw; Michael Rainville; Katie Cashman; Emily Koski. Front row, from left: Aisha Chughtai, Vice President; Jeremiah Ellison; Andrea Jenkins; Aurin Chowdhury; Linea Palmisano; Robyn Wonsley. (Image: City of Minneapolis)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

Plans for the so-called “Baylor Boutique” multi-unit housing development at Fremont and Douglas, in Lowry Hill, hit a major roadblock on March 27 when the Minneapolis City Council denied the developer’s appeal seeking a variance for a substantially larger structure than is allowed under the current zoning code.

As previously covered in the Hill & Lake Press (March 2025), the proposal to tear down two existing triplexes, combine the lots, and replace them with an eight-unit luxury condominium building had already suffered a significant setback when the Minneapolis Planning Commission in February denied the developer’s application for a variance increasing the allowable floor area ratio (FAR) of the structure by more than 60%.

Following the denial by the Planning Commission, the developer, JADT Development Group, LLC, initiated an appeal to the City Council. The first step in that appeal process was the council’s six-member Business, Housing & Zoning Committee, which met on March 20. Prior to reaching its decision, the committee took testimony from planning commission staff, the developer, concerned neighbors, and their attorneys.

The committee then voted 3-1 to reject the appeal, with Council Members Jamal Osman, Jeremiah Ellison, and Aurin Chowdhury voting

against it. Ward 3 Council Member Michael Rainville voted in support of the appeal, while Ward 8 Council Member Andrea Jenkins abstained without explanation. Local Ward 7 Council Member

“Prior to voting, Council Member Ellison voiced concerns that a 60% FAR increase was significantly greater than any FAR variance previously allowed by the city, and noted that changes of this magnitude were better addressed through a comprehensive legislative process than a one-off quasi-judicial appeal.”

Katie Cashman was forced to recuse herself because her previously announced support for the project barred her from serving as an impartial decisionmaker in this quasi-judicial proceeding.

Prior to voting, Council Member Ellison voiced concerns that a 60% FAR increase was

significantly greater than any FAR variance previously allowed by the city, and noted that changes of this magnitude were better addressed through a comprehensive legislative process than a one-off quasi-judicial appeal.

A week later, the matter came before the full City Council. With little discussion, the council voted 11-0 to deny the appeal, with Jenkins again abstaining and Cashman recusing herself. Prior to the vote, Council Member Rainville encouraged the developer to work closely with both neighbors and staff in any future design or revision. This decision by the full council exhausts the developer’s appeal options with the city.

While the developer’s options have now narrowed, they still include a range of choices such as pursuing this appeal through the court system, revising its plans for the property to make it smaller in scale, developing an entirely new concept, or abandoning the project altogether.

Disclaimer: Because Editor Craig Wilson is an immediate neighbor of the proposed development, this article was edited by others, with oversight and final approval from the Hill & Lake Press Board Chair Mike Erlandson.



Free Estimates

Interior & Exterior Painting • Insurance Claims • Wood Finishing
Exterior Wood Restoration • Water Damage Repair • Patching • Enameling



greg@chileen.com
612-850-0325
30 years experience
Insured | References

Bodywork and Massage Therapy

with *Hannah*



Offering:

- Swedish Massage
- Deep Tissue Massage
- Combination Massage & Facials

at The Uptown Wellness Center
2920 Bryant Avenue S, Suite 107
Office: 612-354-2928
Cell: 612-386-7499



Around the corner from
Bryant Lake Bowl and the
Highpoint Center for Printmaking



PARK BOARD REVERSES COURSE, PLANS TO RESTORE ROADWAY ON THE MALL

By Marty Carlson



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commissioners. Back row, from left: Steffanie Musich, Vice President; Cathy Abene, President; Billy Menz; Elizabeth Shaffer; Becky Alper. Front row, from left: Becka Thompson; Charles Rucker; Meg Forney; Tom Olsen. (Image: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

As predicted in last month’s issue of the Hill & Lake Press, the question of whether portions of the westbound roadway of The Mall Park in East Isles would be removed or replaced was not dead, only sleeping.

In March, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board voted 5-4 not to require the Met Council to replace the westernmost two blocks of the roadway following subsurface sewer work this summer.

Removing the roadway would have been consistent with the board’s 2020 Southwest Service Area Master Plan, but acting on that plan sparked significant opposition from local community members, approximately 780 of whom signed a petition in opposition to the change, largely citing parking and emergency vehicle access concerns.

On April 16, the Park Board reversed course, voting 6-3 to require the Met Council to restore the roadway to its current condition after the sewer work is concluded. The new vote was prompted by a change of heart on the part of District 1 commissioner Billy Menz, who had voted with the 5-4 majority to remove the roadway in March.

In explaining his change of position, Menz said he had intended to vote to require roadway replacement in March, but at the last minute had been swayed to change his vote by Chris Meyer, his predecessor in the District 1 seat, and others.

Menz began his comments at the April 16 meeting by apologizing to his colleagues but explaining that his prior vote didn’t feel right in his gut, and he regretted it almost immediately, which he said was a first in his Park Board role.

After some soul-searching, he got to work, touring the site with local District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer and others, which he said led to a better understanding of the complexities of the site and the needs of local residents.

Accordingly, Menz drafted a resolution to override the board’s vote on March 5. Menz said he was

sensitive to the concerns of other Park Board and community members regarding using resources (i.e., funds from the Met Council) efficiently, but he said he also thought it was important to follow a “first do no harm” principle, and expressed concern that the board’s earlier decision could cause significant harm, even if unintended. In his comments, Menz expressed concerns about awkwardly disrupt-

“Menz expressed concerns about awkwardly disrupted traffic patterns, local resident concerns, and – above all – concerns about emergency vehicle access for the adjoining apartment buildings, a concern echoed by the Minneapolis Fire Marshal.”

ed traffic patterns, local resident concerns, and – above all – concerns about emergency vehicle access for the adjoining apartment buildings, a concern echoed by the Minneapolis Fire Marshal.

The fire-safety concerns cited by Menz were echoed in comments by At-Large Commissioner Charles Rucker, who serves as a career Minneapolis fire fighter in his day job. Rucker said, based on 20 years of driving fire rigs, that quick and ready access to buildings is essential, particularly given that the apartments lining The Mall’s south side are pre-war buildings with “balloon construction,” having no interior fire stops, a building style that allows fires to spread quickly. Rucker noted that the recent narrowing of Minneapolis roadways and the partial closures of several

parkways during COVID all impaired fire department response times, and that minutes matter in emergency situations.

Park Commissioners Tom Olsen and Becky Alper spoke passionately in opposition to Menz’s resolution. Both noted that roadway removal was part of the 2020 Master Plan, and that the plan had not yet been altered. That, they argued, meant the money from the Met Council would be squandered if not applied in furtherance of the plan. They also expressed a view that the safety concerns expressed by other commissioners were really a stalking horse for resident parking concerns.

Alper suggested that removing parking on The Mall altogether would better address fire access and safety concerns, while Olsen proposed a satirical resolution to widen all roads within the Park Board’s jurisdiction to 20 feet for fire access, regardless of parking issues, tree loss or other green space impacts.

At Olsen’s urging the resolution failed unanimously, but he said the argument was ideologically consistent with the views expressed by commissioners who said they planned to vote in favor of the

Menz resolution. Alper characterized such votes as “hypocrisy.”

Prior to calling a vote, Board President Cathy Abene said the main issue in her mind was infeasibility. Not only had the fire marshal expressed concerns, but Abene described the scheme in the master plan as merely a “concept plan,” and noted there had not been due diligence performed regarding the issues of safety, community impact, or the legal issues related to vacating a roadway. Abene said these missing elements needed to be shown to work before taking affirmative steps to implement the plan.

Voting in favor of Menz’s resolution to restore the roadway: Commissioners Abene, Menz, Musich (another flipped vote from March), Rucker, Shaffer and Thompson. Voting against: Commissioners Alper, Forney and Olsen.

So, for now, it appears the roadway will be restored after the Met Council sewer work concludes, and the resolution directs the superintendent to “re-engage the neighborhood and reframe those aspects of The Mall Park determined to be infeasible at or before such a time when the park is due to receive funding under the 20-Year Neighborhood Parks Program.”

LAKE + IRVING

UPTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Lake & Irving is a culinary-focused neighborhood restaurant in Uptown Minneapolis that is casual but classy, serving food that is approachable but interesting with outstanding hospitality.

Monday - Thursday:
4 P.M. - 10 P.M.
Friday - Saturday:
11 A.M. - 10 P.M.
Sunday:
11 A.M. - 9 P.M.

1513 West Lake Street
(612) 354-2453

Online reservations and ordering for delivery or pickup available

FrameStyles

Custom Framing
Gifts & Cards
Since 1986

2107 Penn Ave. S • Mpls, MN 55405
612-374-2420
framestyles.net



Walker Place by Vivie™



Welcome to a place where you belong.

Life is better when you feel seen, supported, and connected. At Walker Place by Vivie, life is filled with possibilities—from friendships and meaningful activities to spaces that truly feel like home. Wherever you are in life, we'll help you celebrate it.

Join us for our annual Walker Place Garden Party.

Saturday, May 17 | 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Scan a QR code to schedule a tour.

3701 Bryant Ave. S, Minneapolis
(612) 827-8500 | vivie.org/walker-place

HISTORIC WOMAN’S CLUB VOTES TO SELL

By Susan Lenfestey



(Image: The Woman's Club of Minneapolis)

Susan Lenfestey is a member of the Woman’s Club and a regular contributor. She lives in Lowry Hill.

After nearly a century on the hillside overlooking Loring Park, The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis had some reckoning to do. Despite efforts to raise money, increase membership and reimagine its mission — all of which were successful, just not successful enough — the cost of maintaining the historic building was simply too high.

On April 22 club members gathered to vote on the board’s recommendation to sell the building, and on whether or not the Woman’s Club should regroup and continue at a new location.

Members voted to approve both the sale of the historic property at 410 Oak Grove Street to continue the club in a new location, if needed.

With 77% voting in favor of the sale and a similar margin supporting the club’s future elsewhere, the real estate team will now evaluate offers — including those that allow for a lease-back option — while a

separate team explores how best to continue the club’s mission.

The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis is not alone in falling on hard times. (And yes, it is woman, singular, as the club’s founders wanted it to be a place for every woman.)

At one time there were over 3,000 women’s clubs in the United States with over a million members. Given the huge changes in women’s lives — and in the culture — only a handful of clubs exist today.

Women’s clubs were originally started by progressive women advocating against slavery and societal inequities, and for women’s suffrage.

According to the National Women’s History Museum, “[these] women decided to ignore customary restrictions and insisted on developing their minds and communities by meeting regularly in order to learn about the great ideas of the past and contemporary urban problems together.

“In particular, they came to target limitations on the lives of women and children and sought to do something about them. They valued

education and called for women’s admittance to institutions of higher learning, but they also addressed the abysmal conditions of working girls in factories and appealed for the amelioration of workplace abuses.”

It was that history that drew me in. When women had so few opportunities for education or careers outside the home, they came together to change that — and to change an unjust world. They were the activists of their day. It’s that history that still holds me.

Over the years women’s clubs became more social, exclusive and yes, stodgy.

As someone who was kicked out of Brownies for not carving my pumpkin the Brownie way, I’ve had a lifelong aversion to joining clubs of any sort. But I had this one wrong. This a club you join to support an important part of women’s history in Minneapolis, not to get a pickleball court.

In recent years the club changed gears to be less “clubby,” in part by opening membership to all and reducing dues, but also by deepening

engagement with the local community in numerous ways, including opening its kitchens to Involve MN, a nonprofit founded by Melanie Snyder and Grant Snyder, a former MPD commander. Involve MN produces over 12,000 meals a week that are distributed to shelters and drop-in centers across the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

The club also opened its doors to the community, hosting concerts in the lower-level theater, world class speakers in the mid-level ballroom, intimate jazz nights in the upper-level lounge, and great parties on the rooftop — one of the most beautiful views in town.

No one wants to lose this extraordinary piece of our past and valued partner in the present.

The hope is that a buyer will be found who will honor the history of the building and find a creative way to preserve it. And soon.

Memo to MacKenzie Scott: Have your people get in touch with our people!

“The Cream of Twin Cities classical musicians”

Rob Hubbard, Minneapolis Star Tribune

THE ISLES ENSEMBLE

There and Back Again: A Season Finale | Sunday, May 18, 2 PM

at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church | IslesEnsemble.org

Experience the many moods of mother nature with a program that takes the listener on a stroll through the countryside – from dawn to dusk and everything in between.

Featuring works of chamber music by Enescu, Haydn, and Dvorak.

Admission at the door: \$25 or pay as you can (children and students free).

Hill & Lake Press

YOUR UPTOWN AGENT

FOR HOME, AUTO & LIFE



Mention Hill & Lake Press & we'll make a \$20 donation to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf when you call for a quote!

Steph Swanson, Agent
(612) 721-2248
stephanieswanson.com
steph@stephswanson.com

 **State Farm**



BARBETTE



RESTAURANT • AMUSEMENTS

VOILÀ!

BRUNCH

7

DAYS A WEEK

1600 W. LAKE ST. | 612.827.5710
BARBETTE.COM   @BARBETTEMPLS

FRESH EATS

LIVE BEATS

GOOD VIBES



uptownmarket.org

Mark your calendar
for opening day:
**Thursday,
June 12,
4PM-8PM**

**UPTOWN
FARMERS
MARKET**

GIRARD AVENUE PLAZA
NEXT TO SEVEN POINTS.

YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR GROWTH.
Please consider a
tax-deductible donation





What time is it?
It's eye-appointment o'clock!

Eye exams are fast, painless, and important to your health. Plus our on-site optometrist, Chad Legois, is really nice, we promise! Book online or give us a call. Exams are \$120-\$180 and most Blue Cross and Medica plans are accepted.

4318 Upton Ave S. MPLS
owloptical.com
612-367-4106



Your Voice for Ward 7

ELIZABETH SHAFER
for CITY COUNCIL



Current Minneapolis Park Commissioner
Resident of Ward 7 for 13 years

Moving Minneapolis Forward, Together.

- PROMOTE SAFETY
- ENSURE ACCOUNTABLE & INNOVATIVE BUDGETING
- PROVIDE SERVICE-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP
- BUILD A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

I appreciate your consideration!
Thank You Elizabeth



For more about Elizabeth, visit - elizabethshaffer.com

Prepared and paid for by the Campaign for Elizabeth Shaffer, P.O. Box 50289, Minneapolis, MN 55403



Cedar · Isles · Dean
Neighborhood Association



MAY EVENTS

Garden Tool & Spring Swap
Saturday, May 10, 1-4pm

@ Kenwood Community Center

Bring garden tools, decor, books, and art supplies to swap—no buying!

CIDNA Annual Social & Meeting
Wednesday, May 14th 6-8pm

@ Jones Harrison Senior Living

Enjoy light appetizers, connect with neighbors and get key updates!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!

Your donation to CIDNA keeps free events alive all year long—music, markets, and more! Donate Now to help us keep the good times going!



Learn more at WWW.CIDNA.ORG

HEY TEEN!

SUNDAY SCHOOL helps build a relationship with God which helps you learn

- how to love yourself and others
- how to trust yourself and others
- how to understand your value in the world



FROM A CURRENT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENT >



Resource Guide for Youth

“Sunday School provides me the opportunity to have inspiring conversations with dedicated teachers about the healing power of Christian Science and gives me key takeaways that I can carry throughout my day, week, and life.” — Chloe

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY at 10:00 a.m.

Our classes are led by experienced and fun-loving teachers. For students up to age 20.

SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, MINNEAPOLIS
1822 Hennepin Ave • Minneapolis, MN 55403 • secondchurchminneapolis.com

Lowry Hill Update

We want to hear from you! LHNA wants to know what Lowry Hill residents consider their neighborhood priorities. Lowry Hill is bound by I-394 on the north, I-94/ Hennepin Ave on the east, 22nd St on the south, and Lake of the Isles Pkwy, Logan Ave, and Morgan Ave on the west.

Did you know storm drain street trash pollutes our lakes and rivers? Winter can be especially bad, as debris breaks down in the elements. But adopting a drain is free, and takes only minutes to maintain: mn.adopt-a-drain.org

And our new website is now live—check out the sleek local events calendar, neighborhood news, and more!

♦♦ Donate at our website to support this work ♦♦



Lowry Hill Board Meetings

May 6 • June 3 1st Tues. 6:30 – 8 PM

Kenwood Community Center: 2101 W Franklin Ave
All residents are welcome! Meetings are held Sept–June. If you have questions or want be on the agenda, please email us: lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org

Garden Tool Swap

May 10 Sat. 9 AM – 12 PM

Kenwood Community Center: 2101 W Franklin Ave
Bring your unused garden tools, seeds, books, and more to swap! No one is required to donate, and all items donated are free for any participant to take home.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Walks

May 17 • June 21 3rd Sat. 10 – 11:30 AM

Start + end at Sebastian Joe's: 1007 W Franklin Ave
Join us for friendly walks around Lowry Hill! Get outside, meet neighbors, pick up litter, and build community.

Lowry Hill Annual Meeting

May 20 Tues. 5 PM social, 6–7:30 PM meeting

First Unitarian Society: 900 Mount Curve Ave
Gather to hear from local leaders, learn about LHNA's achievements, and elect our new board members.

lowryhillneighborhood.org
for full details, newsletter sign-up and more

UPTOWN ASSOCIATION BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO UPTOWN

By Terry White



Mayor Jacob Frey addresses attendees at a meeting hosted by the Uptown Association to discuss concerns about Uptown’s future. (Image: Dennis Werneke)

Terry White is a regular contributor. He lives in Field.

On March 24 and April 7, the Uptown Association hosted meetings to discuss the Safety Ambassador program, crime and parking. Both meetings were well attended, with several hundred residents and business owners at each.

According to association leaders Andrea Corbin and Judy Longbottom, “The Uptown Association is incredibly grateful to be part of the bright future of Uptown. We will continue to work toward solutions and collaboration with the residents and businesses in our community. Thank you to all who have shown up, emailed and called. Let’s keep the momentum going.”

At the first meeting, Community Safety Commissioner Todd Barnette, Director of Design and Implementation Amanda Harrington and Deputy Director of Neighborhood Safety Lea Lakes explained the Safety Ambassador pilot program.

The program will be piloted along East Lake Street and Franklin Avenue. This means that the community will need to work together to improve safety in the Uptown neighborhood, as little can be expected from the city alone.

Council Members Katie Cashman of Ward 7 and Aisha Chughtai of Ward 10 responded to safety concerns by directing people to contact Mayor Jacob Frey.

Their position was that they had approved the necessary funding for the Safety Ambassador program, but that implementation is the responsibility of Frey and Barnette.

Barnette and his staff explained that the purpose of the pilot is to ensure the program’s success. Their analysis of the downtown Safety Ambassador program suggests that, given the funding and infrastructure, long-term success is more likely if they can test the program and tools before expanding it to more areas of the city.

At the second meeting, Frey attended and took questions about

parking and safety. He acknowledged the obstacles Uptown has faced and noted that its recovery has been slower than in other parts of the city.

He also told the crowd that crime is decreasing citywide. Frey promised more free parking on 27th and 28th streets, but attendees were more concerned about the parking removed on Hennepin Avenue in front of storefronts.

The Proposed Solutions

Solutions being pursued by the Uptown Association include creating a business improvement district that would encompass Lyn-Lake and Lowry Hill, in addition to Uptown, and actively recruiting businesses to move into the area. The goal is to attract 30 to 40 new businesses to increase foot traffic.

There will be a farmers market on Thursday nights starting in June. On Sept. 20, Open Streets will take over Hennepin Avenue, and an art activation series is currently underway inside the Seven Points mall.

Open Streets Minneapolis transforms major city roads into lively, car-free spaces filled with music, food, art and community activities, creating vibrant gatherings organized by the city and local partners.

Other recent changes include the opening of Moona Moono café in the former Paper Source location and the purchase of the former Ap-

“Council Members Katie Cashman of Ward 7 and Aisha Chughtai of Ward 10 responded to safety concerns by directing people to contact Mayor Jacob Frey. Their position was that they had approved the necessary funding for the Safety Ambassador program, but that implementation is the responsibility of Frey and Barnette.”

ple Store building and the Granada Theater by Peter Remes, owner of First & First, a property development company.

Uptown may or may not see more support from the city, but business owners and residents have grown impatient. People are showing up to be heard — they came to these public discussions, and if all goes well, they will continue to show up and support Uptown businesses to ensure they stay open and viable.

SPRING IS HERE.
TIME FOR A SCOOP.

LINDEN HILLS 4321 UPTON AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN LOWRY HILL 1007 W FRANKLIN AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN
KINGFIELD 4301 NICOLLET AVE SO. MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Sebastian
Joer

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR THE
**BERGER
FOUNTAIN
FUNDRAISER**



THURSDAY, MAY 15TH
6:30 - 8:30 PM



**THE WOMAN'S CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS**

410 OAK GROVE STREET
WITH AVAILABLE OFF STREET PARKING

FEATURING
**DAN CHOQUINARD &
KEVIN KLING**
WITH
SPECIAL GUESTS & SPEAKERS
PROGRAM
STARTS
AT 7PM





For more
information contact:
LoveLoring2@gmail.com
Minneapolis Parks/Berger Fountain

VOLUNTEER DAY

East Cedar Lake Beach
& School Forest



**Join us for a morning of
community stewardship!**

Meet at East Cedar Lake Beach
West 21st & S. Upton Avenue

Saturday, May 10th | 8 A.M. - Noon
10 A.M. Announcements & Short Program
Food Truck | Coffee & Breakfast Treats



Please Bring:
Rake | Shovel | Gloves

- Trail Maintenance
- Buckthorn Removal
- Beach Raking & Cleanup



WE ARE

open

DURING
CONSTRUCTION

Shop in-store
or online.
We deliver!

LOWRY  LIQUORS

WWW.LHLWINE.COM

CITY SPENDING: WHO IS WATCHING?

By Terry White

Terry White is a regular contributor. He lives in Field.

This story originally appeared in the Better Minneapolis newsletter and has been updated.

Each month the editor and contributors of the Hill & Lake Press must decide which stories to cover.

The challenge is narrowing them down to ones that will interest readers because there are far more stories than contributors can write about.

Lately, the Star Tribune has largely stopped covering City Council meetings and candidate forums.

A few digital outlets, like the Minneapolis Times, Sahan Journal, MinnPost and Minnesota Reformer, continue reporting on important issues.

There are also other neighborhood papers, such as the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder and the Longfellow Nokomis Messenger. Compared to some cities, Minneapolis has a decent number of local news sources.

Many people now get their news from Facebook groups, YouTube, Bluesky, Threads, podcasts and newsletters. Only 35% of people under age 44 read a newspaper more than once a month.

And much of what circulates online is unedited, unchecked for accuracy and often lacking nuance.

By contrast, newspapers such as the Hill & Lake Press utilize copy editors, proofreaders and fact checkers to ensure accuracy.

The Fractured News World

To say our news landscape is fractured is an understatement. It's a serious problem when you're trying to find out what happened, track an elected official's record, or learn the fate of an ordinance, zoning change or spending decision.

Searching for information means navigating a fragmented universe — one filled with context-free headlines and muddled by spin.

Understanding what's happening in your neighborhood requires diligent research.

Unless it involves multiple shootings, it likely won't make the newspaper or TV news — and even then, there's no guarantee.

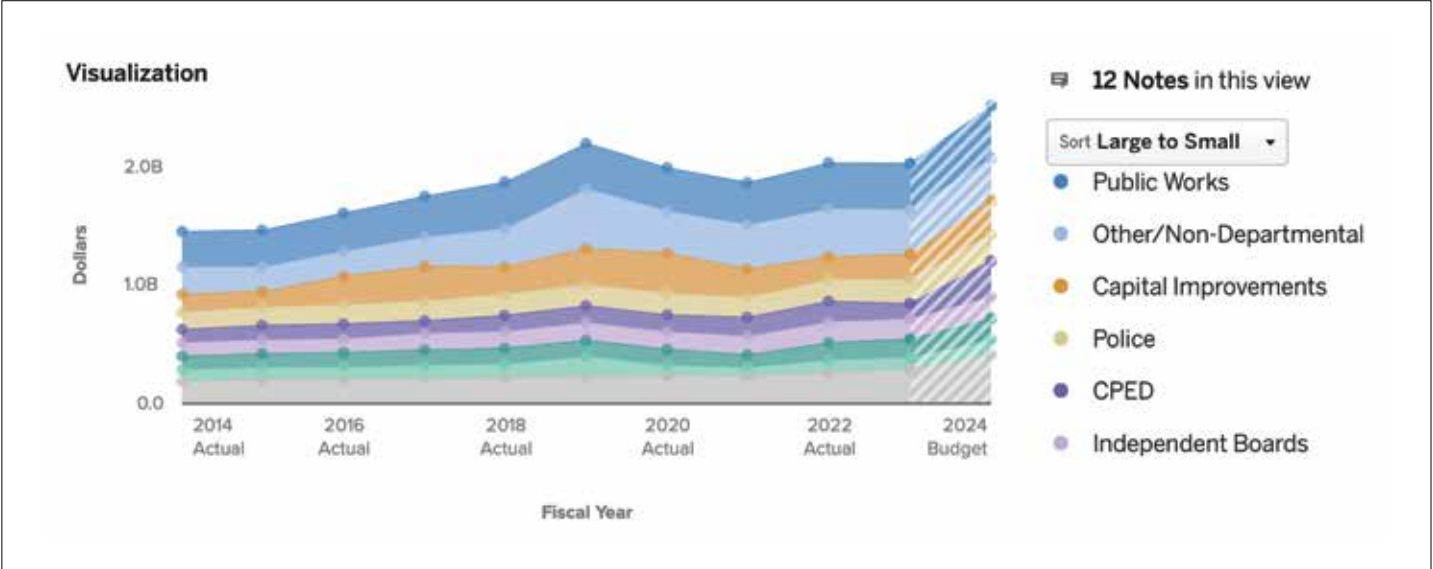
The fractured state of local news coverage matters for several reasons:

Democracy

If you had walked the streets on April 8 and asked people what day the DFL caucus was, we'd guess at least 80% wouldn't have known what you were talking about.

Another 10% might have known but wouldn't attend either because they didn't understand its significance or didn't see a reason to participate.

Of the remaining 10% who both knew and cared, 5% were busy that night, 3% forgot and 2% showed up to choose delegates for future conventions that will decide who gets the DFL endorse-



The City of Minneapolis website offers an interactive tool designed to communicate its project budget transparently. However, it can lack fine-grain detail and be difficult to interpret without a deep dive into the figures and a synthesis of the data. (Image: City of Minneapolis)

“To say our news landscape is fractured is an understatement. It’s a serious problem when you’re trying to find out what happened, track an elected official’s record, or learn the fate of an ordinance, zoning change or spending decision. Searching for information means navigating a fragmented universe — one filled with context-free headlines and muddled by spin.”

ment for the next City Council, Park Board and Mayor.

City Spending

There simply aren't enough reporters investigating how our tax dollars are spent on a local level.

In an election year, this lack of scrutiny means that incumbents may have the opportunity to reward supportive groups and organizations without accountability.

To investigate this story, we examined the Legislative Information Management System and reviewed recent City Council agendas to determine what had been approved.

We began with the February 27 meeting, during which a significant amount of money was allocated.

Among the key expenditures were contracts for community engagement services, including 10 vendor agreements at \$100,000 each and 12 additional contracts at \$300,000 each, totaling \$4.6 million.

For group violence intervention, contracts were awarded to five organizations totaling \$800,000.

In the March 27 agenda, we found that the city is also hiring nonprofit consultants to train other nonprofits.

Notably, Cure Violence Global was hired to provide training and technical assistance to Minneapolis under a \$681,000, three-year contract.

Minneapolis, in turn, contracts with several violence prevention organizations: Restoration, Inc. (\$708,000), T.O.U.C.H. Outreach (\$708,400), Sabathani Community Center (\$708,400), MAD DADS (\$619,394), and A Mother's Love Initiative (\$671,155). These contracts total \$3,416,430.

As residents, we are unlikely to ever learn whether this money was well spent — whether violence was reduced or if community engagement improved.

No one outside the city is reporting on the contents of these contracts or how success will be measured.

One oddity stands out: Why are so many contracts for the same amounts?

For instance, 12 contracts of exactly \$300,000 were awarded to different businesses. Are they all charging the same hourly rate and working the same number of hours?

And why are there two separate Violence Interrupter contracts for \$708,400?

These patterns suggest that more due diligence may be needed.

Conclusion

We're raising questions even though we know the answers — if they exist — will likely go unheard. That's the nature of today's fractured news landscape.

Even if a story is written — most likely by a volunteer — it will reach a small audience, make a brief splash, and then disappear into a lake of news constantly set swirling by national controversies, political infighting and finger-pointing that define our city government.

Without robust, diligent reporting on local government actions, we rely on our politi-

“Without robust, diligent reporting on local government actions, we rely on our politicians to act with restraint and common sense.”

cians to act with restraint and common sense.

This year, the Hill and Lake Press intends to track key issues and candidates in the hope that some recognize that oversight is a fundamental part of budgeting.

It's a responsibility that extends across nonprofits, construction contracts and all levels of government operations.

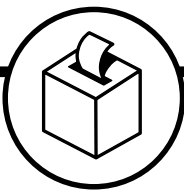
In the coming months, readers of the Hill & Lake Press will find a new website that will allow them to share articles with their networks.

The monthly newspaper will continue, but the website will allow the Hill & Lake Press to write and distribute more stories. Stay tuned.



WATCH FOR NEW WEBSITE

This year, we intend to track key issues and candidates in the hope that some recognize that oversight is a fundamental part of budgeting ... In the coming months, readers of the Hill & Lake Press will find a new website that will allow them to share articles with their networks.



MINNEAPOLIS DFL SENIOR CAUCUS HOSTS MAYORAL FORUM ON APRIL 10

By Terry White



Mayoral forum held at the Sabathani Community Center. (Image: Terry White)

Terry White is a regular contributor. He lives in Field.

The Minneapolis Chapter of the DFL Senior Caucus recently hosted a mayoral forum. Candidates in attendance included the Rev. DeWayne Davis; State Sen. Omar Fateh, DFL–Minneapolis; Mayor Jacob Frey; Jazz Hampton; City Council Member Emily Koski; and Brenda Short.

The event was the first since the Senior Caucus elected new leadership. Officers include Bibi Black, chair; Jim Davine, vice chair; Susan Lynx, secretary; Ken Engelhart, treasurer; Byron Richard, membership director; and Cara Letofsky, political director.

The forum drew approximately 150 people in person at the Sabathani Community Center and another 154 online via Zoom. The momentum seen during the DFL caucuses appears to be ongoing. It’s evident that many people are eager to learn about the candidates and are willing to show up to meet them. The chaos on the national stage seems to be contributing to a sense of urgency in this local election. People are realizing that they cannot take good governance for granted — it requires active participation by citizens.

The format included a 90-second opening statement from each candidate and two minutes per question to respond to six questions. Since more

than six questions were submitted, all were placed in a fishbowl, and candidates took turns drawing them at random.

The questions reflected the main concerns of voters:

1. What is your approach to local economic development?
2. Shelters are often full. What should the city do to ensure unsheltered people have housing?
3. How will you address crime, including juvenile crime?
4. Given the reduction in federal aid, how will you craft a budget that keeps property taxes from driving people out of their homes?
5. As mayor, what changes would you make to the violence interrupter program?
6. Do you believe the strong mayor system is effective? What would you do to improve it?

The candidate field may still change. On April 14, Council Member Emily Koski announced that she is ending her campaign. According to a statement on her campaign website, “I’ve come to a hard truth: Under the current political climate, I can’t be my authentic self and be a candidate in this race the way it demands. I tried to balance it all — be a mom, build a great team, serve as a council member, raise a million dollars, show up for my kids, show up for every event — all while being a person driven

by honesty and integrity.” The full statement is available at emilykoski-formpls.com.

The five remaining candidates could be joined by others. In the 2021 election, 19 candidates ran. Based on results from the recent Minneapolis DFL caucuses, Mayor Jacob Frey, State Sen. Omar Fateh and “Uncommitted” were awarded the most delegates.

Below is a summary of a few candidate positions from the forum.

Economic Development

Fateh: Fateh said he wants to support entrepreneurs by creating an Office of Small Business Support to help them navigate city processes. He also supports offering grants when road reconstruction impacts foot traffic, finding unused spaces for businesses and providing zero-interest loans to help them purchase property. He said he supports a vacancy tax.

Davis: Davis said he wants to attract multinational corporations and secure commitments from them. He envisions Minneapolis as a hub for growth and wants to understand the obstacles facing small businesses. He supports offering incentives to small businesses and wants to see more investment in underserved areas.

Short: Short said she would pause new development and focus on making vacant apartments more affordable. She emphasized the importance of collaboration to help restore the city and support small businesses.

Hampton: Hampton said he wants to make it easier to start businesses by streamlining processes and cutting red tape. He noted that business owners should be able to call and get clear answers. He also said high taxes need to be addressed to foster economic growth and mentioned that he teaches a class on entrepreneurship.

Frey: Frey called small businesses the backbone of the economy and said many of the ideas presented by other candidates are already in place. He pointed to his administration’s creation of the Ownership and Opportunity Fund, which aims to help Black and brown business owners acquire their businesses’ property to build generational wealth. He also supports breaking up larger commercial spaces to accommodate more small and local businesses.

Encampments and Crime

On encampments and crime, Frey highlighted the amount of affordable housing produced under his administration and said Minneapolis is ahead of the national curve. He claimed the city has housed 2,500 people over the past year and expanded the shelter system. As of last week, he said there were 21 to 35 unsheltered individuals, compared to 200 to 300 a year ago.

Davis called for more housing development targeted at residents earning at or below 30% of the area median income. He proposed building a “scaffolding of support” to help people transition into permanent housing and said the city should seek more funding from the state.

Fateh said he supports a housing-first approach and opposes the removal of belongings from encampments. He criticized the city for lacking a comprehensive plan to address encampments and said its current actions are wrong. He pointed to his legislative record and the millions of dollars he has helped allocate for housing. He also advocated for shifting the city’s approach from a regulatory framework to a public health model.

Public Safety

On the question of safety, Frey cited statistics showing a decrease in crime and credited the steps taken by his administration and the Minneapolis Police Department to build a comprehensive public safety system. He said more police officers are needed to allow for increased community engagement and emphasized his desire to continue the work already underway.

Fateh referenced the murder of George Floyd and called for a transformative approach to public safety. He said he helped secure \$19 million in public safety funding for the city and argued that an armed officer is not always necessary, favoring a different strategy.

Davis said addressing crime requires first addressing poverty.

The summary above reflects a few of the candidate positions discussed at the forum. The issues raised are of significant concern to many residents, and voters are encouraged to attend a forum to assess which candidate best represents their priorities. There are approximately six months until the election in November.

Another

BUSCH

GROUP

Offering

612-799-3639

Real Estate,
Done Well

THE BUSCH GROUP

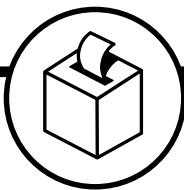
Tel 612-799-3639
Cell 612-799-3294
jennifer@thebuschgroup.com
Broker • Owner

RESIDENTIAL | ESTATE
INVESTMENT | COMMERCIAL

Hill &
Lake
Press

‘Where the
biggies
leave off...’

NOW AVAILABLE
FOR MAIL DIRECTLY



ROUGH CAUCUS NIGHT FOR CASHMAN IN HILL & LAKE PRECINCTS

By Marty Carlson



Scenes from local precinct caucuses held on May 10th. (Images: Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

Incumbent Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman had a rough night at the April 8 DFL caucuses.

Attendance was sky high in Ward 7 and throughout the city, the highest in nearly a decade, and while official delegate numbers from the Minneapolis DFL have been frustratingly hard to come by, it’s clear that Cashman significantly underperformed in the precincts that comprise the immediate Hill & Lake area.

Perhaps the most striking example was in Precinct 2 (Kenwood), where the event in the Kenwood School cafeteria was a door-buster. Sign-in sheets ran out almost immediately, forcing organizers to rely on writing pads brought by individual attendees to be used as ad hoc sign-in forms.

After the standing-room-only crowd was called to order and the initial business concluded, the group broke into subcaucuses to proportionally allocate delegates to the May 10 DFL Ward 7 convention, which determines which City Council candidate, if any, will receive the DFL endorsement.

At this point it emerged that out of the 187 residents packed into the cafeteria, fewer than six had attended to caucus for Cashman, meaning that her subcaucus failed to reach minimum viability and she was shut out from receiving a single delegate. Out of 32 delegate slots available, Park Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer nabbed 30, while political newcomer Paula Chesley got 2.

It was a similar story in Precinct 3 (Lowry Hill), although not quite so lopsided, with Shaffer garnering 31 of 49 delegates, Cashman getting 8, and the remaining 10 declaring themselves uncommitted. The outcome was more mixed, but still skewed, in Precinct 9 (East Isles), Chesley’s home turf: 11 for Shaffer, 9 for Chesley, 3 for Cashman, and 21 uncommitted.

As with Kenwood, both precincts reported high turnout. Delegates in Precinct 4 (CIDNA) were awarded by acclamation, meaning their specific allegiance is unknown, but attendees reported polite clapping for Cashman when she arrived to speak, with Shaffer entering the room shortly afterwards to raucous applause and banging on tables.

While these are obviously just a handful of the 12 precincts that comprise Ward 7 — and Cashman does appear to have performed better in others — these are troubling numbers for any incumbent, and the precincts involved tend to have high turnouts in November.

Cashman responded, in part, by complaining about the process. On April 15, she and one of her supporters filed complaints with the DFL Ward 7 Committee about the 7-2 (Kenwood) and 7-4 (CIDNA) caucuses.

The complaint signed by Cashman related to the 7-4 caucus and sought, among other relief, to bar longtime DFL activist and local feminist icon Mary Pattock from convening caucuses in the future.

The second complaint, signed by Cashman supporter Kevin Ha, sought to invalidate the entire 7-2 caucus and have it “recalled,” i.e., everyone in the precinct would have been required to appear for an entirely new caucus at some unspecified point before the May 10 ward convention. Both complaints failed in committee on the evening of April 21.

Cashman’s complaint about the 7-4 caucus was heard by the Ward 7 Committee. By the

“Attendance was sky high in Ward 7 and throughout the city, the highest in nearly a decade, and while official delegate numbers from the Minneapolis DFL have been frustratingly hard to come by, it’s clear that Cashman significantly underperformed in the precincts that comprise the immediate Hill & Lake area.”

time the group convened, part of her complaint had become moot, in that a local resident whom she alleged had maligned her during the caucus had voluntarily removed himself from the credentials committee, which was the relief she sought.

The remainder of the discussion focused on Pattock. In comments during the meeting, Cashman complained that Pattock had described her as a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) in social media posts.

Pattock, who said she had not even seen some of the allegations until the meeting began, refused to concede, and said she based her beliefs on information she had seen online and on Cashman’s voting record on the council.

After a robust discussion among the group, committee member Nick Kruse brought a motion to grant Cashman the relief she sought,



but the motion failed when no other committee member would second it.

Cashman supporter Kevin Ha’s complaint regarding the 7-2 caucus was heard later that evening by the newly formed Ward 7 credentials committee.

Ha’s principal allegation was that new attendance counts were not taken before each subcaucus, which he speculated could have resulted in one delegate out of the 32 total being allocated to either Cashman or an “uncommitted” group, which had also failed to meet minimum viability in the first count.

Precinct 7-2 convener Mark Oyaas vigorously disputed Ha’s allegations, asserting that the caucus fully complied with the rules, and noting no objections were raised by anyone at the time of the ward delegate votes.

As with the prior complaint, a robust discussion ensued among committee members. Some expressed openness to granting some form of relief, including the potential of “reallocating” one delegate (which Cashman visibly supported).

Others pointed to the potential disenfranchisement of the remaining caucus-goers, and to the steep mathematical hurdle Cashman’s supporters would have needed to overcome to crack the minimum viability threshold given their low numbers.

As the discussion concluded, committee member Scott Graham (2023 Cashman opponent) brought a motion to dismiss the complaint. The motion quickly drew a second and passed on a vote of 7 to 4.

If nothing else, the high caucus turnout, palpable anti-incumbent sentiment, and ensuing complaints point toward an energized and fractious road to November.

LESSONS FROM NEW ORLEANS: MINNEAPOLIS SHOULD CELEBRATE ALL ITS HISTORIC LAYERS

Editorial and Photos by Craig Wilson



Craig Wilson is a licensed landscape architect, urban planner and editor of the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

On a recent visit to New Orleans, I joined a walking tour through the Garden District and adjacent Irish Channel.

It was led by longtime resident and tour guide Walter Thomas, a New Jersey transplant.

What unfolded wasn't just an architectural history — it was a meditation on place: on architecture, green space and the passage of time.

New Orleans reveres its historic architecture and urban fabric — and protects both.

The Garden District is celebrated for its extraordinary concentration of antebellum mansions, many built between 1838 and 1900 on what was once the Livaudais Plantation.

These homes rose in the decades after the Louisiana Purchase, when the United States acquired one-third of the continent for \$15 million — roughly 3 cents per acre at the time, or about 80 cents per acre in today's dollars. That purchase included most of present-day Minnesota.

What makes the district compelling isn't just the grandeur of its columned facades. It's how the neighborhood holds a layered story of daily life, prosperity, decline, class, migration, industry and aspiration.

The nearby Irish Channel, with its Creole cottages and shotgun doubles once home to dockworkers and laborers, is also a protected historic district.

In New Orleans, preservation extends beyond mansions. It includes working-class homes, local businesses and community traditions — the full story of a city.

In Minneapolis, the Hill & Lake neighborhoods are no strangers to historic significance, yet most are not currently protected.

From the grand homes of Mount Curve to the early 20th century apartment buildings along The Mall Park, these blocks reflect the lives of people who have lived here for more than a century.

But if we only preserve the showpieces — the architectural equivalents of hoop skirts and top hats — we risk flattening our story.

The alley garages, worker homes, corner stores and multifamily dwellings along remnants of old streetcar routes are equally part of our heritage. These quieter layers reveal the lives of teachers, tradespeople, artists and newcomers — the people who made the neighborhood function and flourish. Their contributions deserve not just remembrance but respect in planning and preservation decisions.

The choice to tear down or protect isn't only about buildings. It's about how a city sees itself. In the end, those choices shape identity.

New Orleans extends the same care to its landscape.

The Channel and the Garden District are linked by jasmine-, magnolia- and primrose-filled gardens, shaded sidewalks and Magazine Street, where historic buildings now house locally owned shops, restaurants and residences.

In New Orleans, even cracked sidewalks are tolerated and retrofitted for ADA compliance if needed, so the massive roots of live oaks — which define the streetscape — can be preserved.

We paused under magnolias and marveled at Doric columns, ironwork balconies and quirky garden ornaments, including decorative pineapple and pinecone finials that symbolize welcome and wisdom.

These small moments, layered over time, create a kind of visual dialect unique to the place.

The ironwork itself deserves special reverence. Cast and wrought iron fences in the Garden District aren't just decorative; they are defining features. Each one tells a story — from elaborate Greek Revival scrollwork guarding a sugar baron's mansion to simple horse-hitching posts in front of a rowhouse.

These fences create rhythm, scale and identity. They mark boundaries without severing connection — a design idea worth revisiting in our own streets and front yards.

In Minneapolis, our walnuts, maples and bur oaks face quieter but no less pressing threats — from climate change and invasive species to redevelopment.

Let's treat our tree canopy as a living monument, every bit as worthy of protection as a

Queen Anne gable or Prairie School window.

And let's not overlook the cumulative beauty of sidewalks, gardens, fences, trellises, shrubs, trees, lawns, parkways, boulevards and layers of planting that shape the pedestrian experience.

Landscape architecture isn't just an amenity. It's a form of storytelling — a connective tissue that enhances continuity and character.

A call to preserve our sense of place before it's lost.

Preserving that layered narrative isn't just about honoring the past — it's about fostering belonging and meaning in our shared future.

As Minneapolis reshapes itself under the 2040 Plan, with lot combinations and tear-downs that could threaten entire blocks of historic housing — much like what happened in the mid-20th century in the neighborhoods to our east — maybe it's time to ask a different question:

What if we established a conservation or historic district to protect our remaining architectural and cultural fabric before it's gone?

Since being designated a National Historic District in 1974, New Orleans' Garden District has had a design review process for all exterior alterations — with one notable exception: paint color.

That may seem minor, but it illustrates how a preservation framework can be rigorous without being rigid. Residents can still express their individuality while respecting a district's historic character.

Our community might take note. We can adopt thoughtful design standards without stifling personality or progress.

And what better place to start than the Hill & Lake neighborhoods, where the city's urban story still speaks through a variety of intact prewar architecture — from single-family homes to multifamily dwellings, many of which offering naturally occurring affordable housing, and tree-lined streets?

If we don't act, it could all disappear — just like so many other places in Minneapolis that have already been lost in the name of so-called progress.



(Images: Craig Wilson)

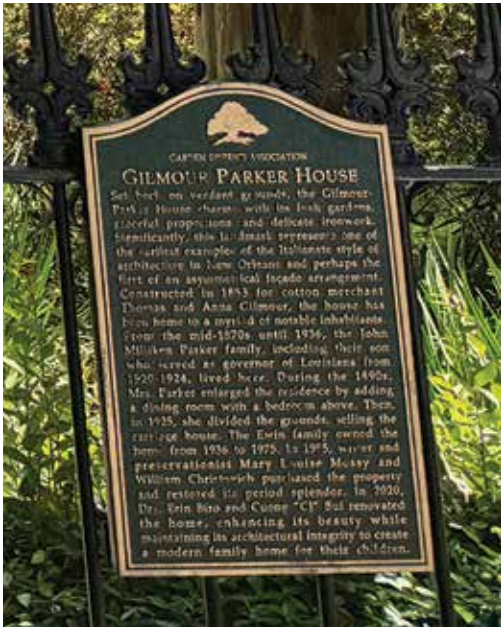
“Let’s treat our tree canopy as a living monument, every bit as worthy of protection as a Queen Anne gable or Prairie School window.”

NEW ORLEANS





“What if we established a conservation or historic district to protect our remaining architectural and cultural fabric before it’s gone?”





“The alley garages, worker homes, corner stores and multifamily dwellings along remnants of old streetcar routes are equally part of our heritage. These quieter layers reveal the lives of teachers, tradespeople, artists and newcomers — the people who made the neighborhood function and flourish. Their contributions deserve not just remembrance but respect in planning and preservation decisions.”



DO NOT MILLENNIAL GREIGE MY HOME

By Molly Mogren Katt



(Image: Kate Simpson Photography)

Molly Mogren Katt is a writer, entrepreneur and mom who launched HeyEleanor! on Substack to document facing her fears. She lives in the Wedge.

“These wood floors are so old,” Ivan said with palpable disgust, poking a work boot at a crumb-filled gap. “I’d just cover them with linoleum.”

We never spoke to him again. It’s like that with old houses, trying to find the handful of contractors who can comprehend why you might want to restore the thing that’s lasted for over a century instead of taking a hammer to it.

We purchased our 1903 Folk Victorian in March of 2020.

It needed everything. Updated plumbing and electrical, floor patching and refinishing, a new kitchen and bathroom.

But the place had good bones: all the original light fixtures and tiled fireplaces; the woodwork, dehydrated and dirty, but miraculously never painted. I climbed the grand staircase after closing, wondering what in the hell we were thinking.

The good news? The pandemic meant we literally weren’t doing anything else. No extra-curriculars, no happy hours, just Tiger King and a never-ending punch list. The bad news? When everything needs help, you don’t know where to start.

Overwhelmed, I called my friend Carter Averbeck of Omforme Design (613 W. 24th Street). His ethos matched our vision — making this house work for a modern family while honoring its history.

During our initial walk-through, I showed him a selection of safe, neutral paint samples I felt I was supposed to pick. He rolled his eyes. “Victorian homes love color.”

In that moment, I snapped out of my social media-influenced, Millennial greige stupor. Yes, Carter, color! I love color, too!

Today, that room boasts wallpaper with blue and orange chimney swallows. It’s where I drink my morning coffee on a surprisingly comfortable 19th-century settee Averbeck re-upholstered in deep green and chartreuse velvet.

Averbeck offers full-service interior design, but as people who enjoy the hunt, we hired him to help with general design support. An old house doula, if you will.

He created an approximate kitchen layout, suggested what to consider when selecting a countertop and backsplash, and provided dimensions for furniture and light fixtures.

I’m not sure if he found my screenshots of furniture from Facebook Marketplace annoying or endearing (both?), but knowing those three blue typing... dots would soon offer brutally honest feedback gave me needed scaffolding.

Five years into our renovation, our list of like-minded preservationists continues to grow.

We finished our attic with 90-year-old white oak flooring procured by Lumberstash, a small salvage operation out of South Minneapolis (follow them on Instagram at @lumberstash to call dibs on their latest finds).

We’ve purchased period-appropriate lighting from Architectural Antiques in Northeast, where pricing includes rewiring. Although we didn’t end up using Hayes window restoration, if you’re looking to preserve that wavy glass goodness, they’re your people.

Put a pilgrimage to Bauer Brothers on North on your historic renovation bingo card. Imagine multiple football fields packed with cast iron bathtubs, stained glass, urinals, anything yanked from old buildings and ready for new homes ... if you can find an employee to sell it to you.

For a more curated experience, I’ll pop into

“... I hear my kids running down the squeaky stairs (or, more often, sliding down our sturdy oak banister) and am reminded why we live here. Old houses are built to last, so long as a willing steward steps up every few decades.”

H&B Gallery during my neighborhood walks, just to see if they’ve pulled a buffet that fits my dimensions from a weekend estate sale.

Looking for a screaming deal?

I nabbed two gorgeous light fixtures for under \$30 a piece from the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Our cobweb-filled basement often gifts us with the best finds. We stripped and painted a forgotten medicine cabinet and reused many doors from our “old door graveyard” (doesn’t every historic home have one?).



(Images: Molly Mogren Katt)

With old houses, it’s always something. Needy, whiny, expensive, and yet deeply rewarding — not unlike children. Some days I daydream of level floors and square corners.

And then I hear my kids running down the squeaky stairs (or, more often, sliding down our sturdy oak banister) and am reminded why we live here. Old houses are built to last, so long as a willing steward steps up every few decades.

FOURTH ANNUAL

LAKE OF THE ISLES
PENCIL DAY

Saturday, June 7th from 1 – 2:30 p.m.

NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SCULPTOR
CURTIS INGOLDSTAD RETURNS
TO SHARPEN HIS CREATION

Music – Dancing – Ice cream
Pencil stories – All Welcome

2217 E LAKE OF THE ISLES PKWY

@lotipencil www.lotipencil.com

ICEHOUSE

MPLS. MINN.

LIVE MUSIC VENUE

FULL FOOD + DRINK MENU

JAZZ BRUNCH SATURDAYS + SUNDAYS

MAY FEATURES

SATURDAY 10TH

BROTHER ALI TOUR W/ DJ ABILITIES

HIP HOP ARTIST, SPEAKER AND COMMUNITY LEADER

SATURDAY 24TH

PHANTOM FEARS - CRUSHIN' MN WITH GUESTS

RUSH TRIBUTE BAND FORMED BY MINNESOTA'S FINEST

FRIDAY 30TH

LAAMAR WITH LADY MIDNIGHT

NEW PROJECT BY MPLS BASED SINGER, SAXOPHONIST & COMPOSER

SATURDAY 31ST

ANNUAL TGNP RECORD LABEL PARTY

THE KICKOFF PARTY FOR OUR OUTDOOR SHOW SERIES

CALENDAR + TICKETS

HTTPS://WWW.ICEHOUSEMPLS.COM

2528 NICOLLET AVE SOUTH | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404 | 612.276.6523

Walker Place

by Vivie

Celebrate the beauty of spring at our annual

Walker Place Garden Party

May 17, 2025 | 12 - 6 p.m.

3701 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis

Join us for live music, flowers, artisan jewelry, engaging talks, carriage rides, and hands-on activities. Take a tour of our beautiful apartments and enjoy delicious refreshments. Experience the welcoming warmth of our community.

For more information and to RSVP, contact:

Victoria | victoria.barlow@vivie.org | (612) 827-8508

Scan the QR code or visit vivie.org/walker-place to learn more about this vibrant community.

LORI MITTAG: Community Activist Extraordinaire

Interview by David Piper



(Image: David Piper)

David Piper is a regular contributor. He lives in Kenwood.

Lori and I have been friends for many years. We met when she worked for Will Dolan, my best friend from law school. Lori was Will's legal assistant when he was the Meeker County attorney.

Tell us a little about yourself, your family and your legal career.

I grew up in Austin, Minnesota, home of Hormel. And yes, I do eat Spam. I like Spam. I can't get my husband to eat it, though.

I had four siblings — now three. One passed away from cancer when she was 66. My parents have both passed away. My dad was a laborer for Hormel. He taught me to never give up. My mom was a homemaker who went back to work when I was in high school. She got a job at the local shoe store. I was so proud of her. I'd walk home from school and stop in to say hi. She taught me how to work hard.

I have two sons I'm most proud of. They make me a better person. One is 31, lives in Winona with his partner and just had a baby eight weeks ago — so I'm a new grandma! My other son lives in Connecticut and is getting his master's degree in architecture.

I've been married to Jeff, my husband of 33 years, who is a lawyer in private practice in Minneapolis. We've lived on Newton Avenue for the last 35 years.

I graduated from St. Cloud State with a degree in criminal justice studies, then earned my law degree from Hamline. After law school, I got a job with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. I didn't think the interview went well, so after it ended, I walked right back in

and told them they had to hire me because I didn't want to work anywhere else. Surprisingly, they did — in spite of, or perhaps because of, my brashness.

I started out enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act, then moved to defending the state in civil lawsuits. Eventually, I prosecuted criminal cases involving environmental law violations.

My legal career ended when I went into premature labor with my first child — just before I was scheduled to speak on Fourth Amendment seizure issues. I decided I wanted to stay home with him. It was tough to make it on Jeff's income alone, but we made it work.

How and why did you end up so involved in community affairs? What are you currently involved with?

In 1990, two neighbors showed up at my door with a box of files for the Newton Avenue elm tree injection program, back when Dutch elm disease was decimating Minneapolis trees. Apparently, they saw "Can't Say No" written on my forehead — and Jeff and I have been involved ever since.

Around the same time, the police department contacted me about becoming a volunteer crime prevention specialist. I trained with the department on how to keep neighbors safe and what to do in various neighborhood situations. Today, our Fifth Precinct has a dedicated crime prevention specialist, Faith Randall. She and the department do a great job keeping residents informed.

I also want to give a shout out to Aileen Johnson, who started neighborhood walking clubs. I'm part of the Kenwood walking club — you can spot us in bright orange shirts!

While the official volunteer program no longer exists, I've continued that role informally. For at least 30 years, I've been sending emails to about 185 households about public safety, community events and neighborhood news.

Any parting thoughts about our city and its future?

I know it sounds corny, but I love this city. I believe in owning the community we live in. By that, I mean get to know your neighbors, build relationships — and public safety will follow.

We need leaders who are committed to solving problems and who truly listen to their constituents. I believe our civic and business leaders are working hard to bring back downtown and Uptown, and after 35 years here, I'm sensing some real momentum.

Can neighbors contact you with questions, comments or how to get more involved?

Absolutely. I welcome any contact and can be reached at Lmittag@gmail.com.



Hill & Lake Press

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

- East Bde Maka Ska Neighborhood Association (EBMSNA)



- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)



- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)



- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)



- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)



- West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council (WMSNC)



Friends.
Neighbors.
Architects.



2319 JAMES AVENUE SOUTH • 612.353.4320 • PKARCH.COM

HALLMARK DOESN'T MAKE A CARD FOR THIS

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 May, the month we celebrate mothers. So, let's talk about Communism.

I was a junior in high school when my history teacher, Mr. Hill, also the head football coach, ran a movie on Communism while he sat at his desk working out plays for the night's game. I found it fascinating.

That night I dutifully went to the game and sat among friends. Bored, my thoughts turned to Karl Marx, and his key concept of 1875, as per the movie, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." I loved this idea, but felt instantly it could never work.

Why not? Not in society, anyway — too many divergent ideas of what is givable or needed, good or fair. Could it work in a family — a micro-society?

My first, hasty teenager response: No. I had too many friends whose family systems, including my own, did not contain the generosity of Marx's dictum. But, could there be family systems that did? I continued to wrestle with this question into the very first days of motherhood, and beyond.

Gazing at one-week-old, sleeping Daisy, I marveled, "You're perfect." The question I'd felt coming at me from my parents from the first days in the cradle: "Ok, Baby, What do you need to do to be interesting, respected, admired, cherished?," instantly found its answer: Nothing. (In my mind, of course, I'd always fallen short.) I looked at Daisy and told her, "You exist. You're good to go. (From each according to his abilities...). You — that's all I need."

I don't know about you, but for me the first year was the easiest, and Marx stayed in the wings. The job description is the same for every new mother: feed, change, bathe, do a ton of laundry, cuddle and coo, read books aloud, take photos, speak lovingly and gaze adoringly. No doubts about how you're doing: Clarion wails of needs help you stay the course. In a nutshell, be sure Baby is happy.

It's when the hard-wired personality presents itself and the word "No!" enters the child's vocabulary that things get complicated, and the heart of Marx's dictum kicks in.

Mothers are celebrated for giving. We need to celebrate them also for knowing when not to give.

Marx's dictum — "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" — came into play seriously when Daisy was in sixth grade. After K-5 at Kenwood Elementary School, she attended a charter school in St. Paul that she loved (Latin, virtues, math, all of it). Alas, there was no school bus to transport her — we had to do it.

My husband was an emergency room physician, and his schedule defied chronicity: Enter Dorothy, the truehearted chauffeur.

Mornings and afternoons during rush hour I crept to St. Paul. And back. On a "good" day, each round trip was a mere hour. Many days, though, it ran (crawled) to 90 minutes: three hours total! As Lily was then too young to stay home alone, she had to be hauled along for the afternoon pickup. The phrase "Driving Miss Daisy" took a dark turn.

One afternoon, late in the school year, I experienced for the first — and thank God — last time road rage. A Mustang (of course, it was red!) cut me off on that freeway hellscape near Cedar-Riverside. Until then, I'd curbed my swearing around the girls. Not today. As

our three lives flashed before me, I let loose with every swear word I knew and a few invented for the occasion.

The imbalance was too great. It was killing me and messing up our family: I hated driving when I could be working, Lily hated being dragged along, my husband hated that I was a wreck and that dinner was often late and subpar. Ah, but Daisy loved that school.

Karl Marx to the rescue! We had a family meeting and told a devastated Daisy that next year she'd be going to a school nearby (an excellent one, by the way). I explained that no one member of a system can overshadow the needs of others; it's the job of the family to self-correct and find alternatives that allow everyone to be happy.

In time, Daisy came to understand. She made new friends, thrived academically, and triumphed on the new school's Nordic ski team.

Our whole family grew as a consequence. Hats off to Marx! No Hallmark card will wish you a Happy Communist Mother's Day. But I do.

— Dorothy



1807 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH , LOWRY HILL
6 Bedrooms | 7 Baths | \$1,495,000



RIVERVIEW TOWERS 1920 1ST STREET SOUTH #2001
1 Bedroom | 2 Baths | \$175,000



LET US OPEN THESE DOORS ...TO YOUR NEW HOME



We are excited to again sponsor the **Doors Open Instagram Contest!**
Hope to see you out there! doorsopenminneapolis.org



FRAN ★ BARB DAVIS
JONNA KOSALKO

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
franandbarbdavis.com 612.554.0994



3200 BDE MAK A SKA PARKWAY #302
2 Bedroom | 2 Baths | \$575,000

55 YEARS STRONG: CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

Photos by Courtney Cushing Kiernat



Neighbors from Kenwood, Lowry Hill, and East Isles gathered on Earth Day to do their part, cleaning up around Lake of the Isles and Kenwood Park. Neighbors of all ages, by foot and canoe, picked up trash in and around the park and lake. Fellow residents, including Kristi Pearson, cheered on and thanked the clean-up teams for their efforts.



SPRING AWAKENS

Photos by Courtney Cushing Kiernat



La Grande Bande presents its 2024/25 Season
Music from New Spain

*Relive the musical glories of 17th-Century México
with choral music by Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla*

Annunciation Catholic Church
509 W 54th St, Minneapolis

Saturday, May 24

6:45PM Pre-concert talk with Dr. Luisa Vilar-Payá from
La Universidad de las Américas, Puebla, México

7:30PM Concert Performance

The choir at the Cathedral in Puebla, México was one of the best in North America in the 1600s. The Cathedral itself is a beautiful testament to Bishop Palafox y Mendoza’s vision of completion and restoration. After the bishop’s arrival in 1640, the much-delayed building project resumed. The Cathedral was completed finished in 1690. This program is centered around music written for the Cathedral’s consecration on April 18, 1649. Join us as we celebrate the music of Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, the Cathedral’s famed music director from 1628 to 1664. His music played a key role in the Cathedral’s consecration in 1649.

Tickets

\$20 (advance), \$25 (at door), \$10 (students)

Use discount code HLP525 to save 10%

Online at www.lagrandebande.org/tickets or call 507-237-6539
Please contact La Grande Bande directly with questions.





SUMMER FUN & WELLNESS 2025

All are welcome to East Cedar Lake Beach and Kenwood Park Events

MAY

- 10 8 am-Noon **East Cedar Lake Beach & School Forest Volunteer Day**
- 10 1-4 pm **Garden Tool & Spring Swap** at Kenwood Community Center
- 31 10 am **Safety Walk & Clean-Up** Meet at the Kenwood School playground
- EVERY F-Su **612 Sauna at the Beach**, Registration required

AUG

- 9 10 am **Safety Walk & Clean-Up** Meet at the Kenwood School playground
- 23 4 pm **Open Eye Theatre Puppet Show** at Kenwood Park
- 24 3 pm **Pickup Truck Opera at the Beach**
- EVERY Su 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Slow Flow**
- EVERY T 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Flow**
- EVERY Th 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Power Flow**

JUN

- 7 3-6 pm **Beach Opener Family Event**
- 22 3 pm **Hidden Acoustics Shakespeare at the Beach**
- 28 10 am **Safety Walk & Clean-Up** Meet at the Kenwood School playground
- EVERY Su 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Slow Flow**
- EVERY T 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Flow**
- EVERY Th 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Power Flow**

SEP

- 6 6:30 - 8:30 pm **Fire & Ice Cream at the Beach**
- 13 9:00 am - 3:00 pm **Super Sale Multi Neighborhood Garage Sale**

JUL

- 12 3-6 pm **Pirate's Cove Family Beach Party**
- 20 2-6 pm **Hidden Acoustics Bluegrass at the Beach**
- 22 Dusk **Movie in the Park at Kenwood Park Elemental**
- EVERY Su 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Slow Flow**
- EVERY T 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Flow**
- EVERY Th 7 pm **Yoga at the Beach - Power Flow**



Brother Ghana

Stay up-to-date on KNO summer events!



All Summer Fun & Wellness events are hosted by the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO) in part, thanks to the generosity of Kenwood neighbors. All KNO events are FREE to all except for Food Truck items.