



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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May 2023

OPINION

By Mary Pattock

SWLRT PROBLEMS SPUR CALL FOR MET COUNCIL REFORM STUDY



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

Mary Pattock has reported on SWLRT for many years, warning officials of residents' concerns related to project feasibility and safety. Now the Met Council is likely to be reformed due to its mismanagement of the project. Mary lives in Cedar-Isles-Dean.

Imagine a public agency that, by law, is unaccountable to the voting public. It controls billions of public dollars. It levies taxes. It can overrule local governments, and reports to a single elected official.

What a recipe for arrogance, incompetence and mismanagement! Even corruption.

Of course, I'm talking about the legal framework of the Met Council. Unfortunately, reports coming out of the Office of the Legislative Auditor document how the council is living up to an unsavory potential, complete with practices that seem to at least border on corruption. What else do you call it when the Met Council, under fire for overspending, intentionally omits a \$93 million component from its bidding process?

Time was, the lonely voices of area residents were the only ones decrying the council for bait-and-switch and willful denial of facts. We shouted from the rooftops that the soil would be problematic! Tunnel con-

struction will damage the condo buildings! Co-location next to hazmat-bearing freight trains will be dangerous! For our efforts, we were maligned as NIMBYs and obstructionists.

Now that events have proved us right — at the painful cost of a half-billion taxpayer dollars and years of delay — the legislature has become serious about reforming the agency. (Meanwhile, true to form, the council persists in calling the problems we predicted “unforeseen.” Did somebody say “gaslighting?”)

Proposals for Comprehensive Reform

Rep. Frank Hornstein, who chairs the House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee, proposes setting up a 14-member task force on metropolitan governance, with members drawn from government, business, unions, higher ed, the public. The task force would submit recommendations to the legislature on how to select council members, whether some council functions should be assigned to other agencies and whether there are alternatives to its current structure.

Sen. Scott Dibble, chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, takes a different approach. He'd re-establish the Met Council as a “home

rule” entity under a statute that lets citizens create a local government separate from the standard plans established under state law. Ramsey County's chief judge would appoint 11 metro-area members with expertise in regional governance to a special commission. They would study how to reconfigure the Met Council under a home-rule charter and submit their recommendation to metro area voters.

The two proposals are being considered in conference committee.

“Elected Council” — Not a Silver Bullet

As public outrage at the Southwest Light Rail debacle has increased, so has indignation at being taxed and governed by its unelected sponsor, the Met Council. But making the council elected wouldn't by itself produce needed reform — which is why the comprehensive approach offered in the proposed legislation is required.

With its vast scope of planning and operational responsibilities, the Met Council is staff-driven. Could it be anything else, with a board of only 16 members earning \$20,000 for part-time service? By necessity, members rely too heavily on staff — who have opinions that may or may not be in the public interest.

Should council members be full-time, and paid accordingly? Our full-time Hennepin County Board members earn \$119,244 and full-time Minneapolis City Council members earn a base salary of \$106,101. State legislators, who are part-time, earn a base of \$51,750.

Should the agency be broken up into smaller, more manageable planning and operations agencies? Should construction-savvy MnDOT take over the building of light rail and bus lines? Should a separate transit agency run bus and light rail operations? Comprehensive reform would address these issues and more.

Today's Met Council dysfunction is the logical outcome of state statutes. It's on legislators to fix the mess.



(Photo Tyler Ecklund-Kouba)

Polars Host All-City Track Meet With Equipment from Lowry Hill Effort

By Mark Tierney

Mike Tierney, Tyler Ecklund-Kouba, Jackie Brown Baylor and Craig Wilson played key roles in the North High Track Team fundraiser that raised \$50,000. They live in Lowry Hill.

It has been more than 25 years since North High School has hosted a track meet at their school.

That all changed on April 25 when North hosted the all city meet on their home field at North Commons Park.

Over 350 student athletes participated from seven public high schools in Minneapolis.

It was a proud moment for the school, its track coach Chris Skoglund and his team. Coach Skoglund stated that this was all made possible because of the generous support provided by Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, which led a fundraising effort last year.

With help from Kenwood Neighborhood Association and the generosity of area residents, Lowry Hill raised \$50,000 that was used to purchase all the basic equipment needed to run a meet, including hurdles, pole vaulting pit and poles, starting blocks and a beeping starting machine to replace a gunshot.

Congratulations to all involved in this community effort.

REMEMBERING PAT SCOTT: LONGTIME NEIGHBOR AND PUBLIC SERVANT

By Council Member Lisa Goodman



This photo is a bit of history as the people pictured all served as Ward 7 Council Members (left to right: John Bergford, Barbara Carlson, Lisa Goodman, Lee Munnich, Pat Scott). Missing from the photo is Parker Trostel, who served from 1978 to 1982. (Stock Photo)

The Hill & Lake Press is sorry to note the passing of a devoted public servant, former Ward 7 Council Member Pat Scott.

Lisa Goodman was elected to the Minneapolis City Council in 1997 after Pat Scott left office. She has represented Ward 7 for 25 years and is retiring at the end of 2023. Lisa lives in Bryn Mawr.

Former Ward 7 Council Member Pat Scott, a 58-year resident of the Kenwood neighborhood, was a fierce advocate for our community, serving on the Minneapolis Board of Education from 1985-1989 before going on to two terms on the City Council from 1989-1997.

While on the Council Pat served on the Transportation and Public Works Committee, the Zoning and Planning Committee, and the Community Development Committee. She worked to develop the city's 2010 Plan which helped revitalize downtown Minneapolis, particularly Nicollet Mall.

After her years of official public service, Pat continued to work on projects to strengthen the fabric of our community, including the Neighborhood Involvement Program, the restoration of the park around Lake of the Isles and volunteering with Meals on Wheels. She lent her expertise to the redevelopment of the Uptown Library, organized the annual 4th of July neighborhood block party on Russell Avenue and faithfully

Continued on page 2



Hill & Lake Press

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Happy Spring! (Photo Craig Wilson)



Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to The Hill & Lake community.

Nature does not compromise.

The city's attempt to save 120 trees along Hennepin will still lead to cutting down 49 trees during a city declared "climate emergency."

Kumi Naidoo, the South African human rights leader from Greenpeace and Amnesty International, argues that nature seems to never get a serious seat at the table.

Despite a looming climate catastrophe with carbon dioxide and temperature rates climbing to unprecedented highs, the city chose to compromise rather than revisiting its plan to reconstruct Hennepin altogether.

"The problem with political compromise is that nature does not negotiate," Kumi Naidoo.

*Susu Jeffrey
Bryn Mawr*

Kudos for a great April Fools prank!

I just finished reading your article "City Leaders Pivot on Hennepin Avenue, Cedar-Isles Plan and SWLRT!" in your April issue and it brought such joy and lightness to one hell of messy processes.

Thank you Mike Erlandson and Susan Lenfestey for the much appreciated laugh.

*Nancy Green
East Isles*

Tis the season, of noise no more?

Here is a short article from May 1 Climate Nexus. May it become policy in Minneapolis:

"Ear-SORES No More! Lawn Mowers And Leaf Blowers Are Going Electric: Gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers may become ancient history as several cities and states across the U.S. are beginning to enact bans of the fossil-fueled powered devices to combat both noise and climate pollution.

A commercial gas leaf blower can produce the emissions equivalent of driving from Denver to Los Angeles, according to USA Today.

California has taken the lead in banning the engines used in the lawn care industry, which are known as "small off road engines," or SORES. Other cities and states, including New York, Maryland, and Massachusetts, are considering similar measures."

*James P. Lenfestey
Lowry Hill*

Stunned Ward 10 Delegate

I attended the Ward 10 Convention as a delegate and witnessed the chaos and fighting that ensued.

Warsame campaign delegates disrupted the endorsement process by shouting down Chughtai and then swarming the stage. The violence prompted the leaders to stop the convention.

To my shock, Chughtai wrote a statement on her website describing what occurred that included the following statement:

"Because we've shown the wealthiest folks in this city, and the politicians they've bought, that the people of this city have the power to make real change and build the community we deserve. That's why they're afraid of us. That's why they stormed at us."

Whatever else might be accurate in her account, this statement is false. She is welcome to her strong commitment to challenging the wealthy and powerful members of our community.

But to blame those people for what happened at the convention is unacceptable.

*Tamara Kaiser
East Bde Maka Ska*

Wow!

What an amazing issue. I even highlighted the concluding sentence in the first paragraph of the lead by Erlandson and Lenfestey.

I read every piece and marvel at the journalistic excellence of our local paper.

We appreciate you, Hill & Lake Press.

*Bonnie Nelson
Uptown*

Correction regarding April 2023 article: "Park Board Seeks Funding Support to Improve Water Quality" (Pg 4, second to last paragraph).

Article reads: "While the storm water fee is a basic addition to water bills for property owners, the parkway funding will add to MPRB's levy."

Instead, the last phrase should read: "the parkway funding will add to the city's levy."

REMEMBERING PAT SCOTT, front page

watered the plantings around Hennepin Methodist Church.

When not engaged in creating community for others, Pat spent her time encouraging and enjoying the musical and athletic activities of her grandchildren. The things that mattered most to Pat were her family and her community. She tended to both with loving and diligent care.

Pat is survived by her husband of 62 years, Tom Scott, professor emeritus in the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, where he also served as the director of the Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA) for 30 years, and by her three children, Catherine, Robert and James (Kate), five grandchildren Ian, Hannah, Julia, Ella and Graeme and a sister, Barbra Eaton (Ed Salners).

Our deepest sympathies...



The Hill & Lake Press

WITH GRATITUDE

to contributors of
"Save the Seven Pools"
capital restoration project
and Fremont Triangle upkeep
THANK YOU,
FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!



Thomas Lowry Park volunteer
gardening opportunities:
Saturdays

10:00 - 12:00 am
5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14

Friends of
Thomas Lowry Park
thomaslowrypark.org

East Isles Summer Social

Wed. June 14, 6-8 PM • free*
rain date: Thurs. June 15, 6-8 PM

Joanne Levin Triangle Park
W 26th St & Irving Ave S

Meet new and familiar neighbors with live entertainment, bounce houses, food trucks—and of course, ice cream!

We're also seeking volunteers! Consider tending a bounce house or scooping ice cream (many hands help our events run smoothly). Email info@eastisles.org.



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Friday June 23
8:00 pm – 1:00 am

Celebrating LGBTQ+ with dance, music, drinks, & food

TUESDAY
June 13

JAZZ with
Connie Evingson

Summer songs to welcome the Rooftop season
with special guest, guitarist Joan Griffith



5:00 club opens for dinner & drinks
6:30 concert

CLUB DAY MONDAY
WITH **LORI DOKKEN & FRIENDS**

Monday June 5
special guest
Jen Burleigh-Bentz

Monday June 19
special guest Erin Schwab
Kick-Off to Pride Concert

5:30 - 7:00 MUSIC
5:00 CLUB OPENS FOR DRINKS



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BALLROOM OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB.
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SUNDAY June 11, 4:00 pm
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Call for exhibition hours



The Woman's Club of Minneapolis
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Information & Reservations
612.813.5300 womansclub.org

LOWRY HILL NEWS - May 2023



LHNA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 6
at 6:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Society
of Minneapolis
900 Mount Curve Avenue



6:00 p.m. - Social Hour

Free beverages, including wine, and light bites.



6:30 p.m. - Meeting & Elections



Featured speakers include:

Minneapolis Police Department Chief Brian O'Hara, Inspector Katie Blackwell (5th precinct), and Council Member Lisa Goodman (Ward 7).

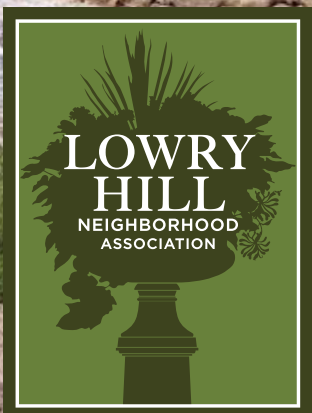


LHNA Board President Chas Scheiderer shares:

Past, current, and future LHNA initiatives, events, and opportunities.



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Thank you for your generous support.



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Demise of City's Neighborhood Revitalization Program Furthered Racial and Equity Disparities

By Robert Thompson

"While this decline has now impacted all neighborhoods, the least affluent and most diverse were affected far more heavily than those in the more affluent parts of the city."

Robert Thompson worked for the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and managed neighborhood funding programs at the City of Minneapolis for almost 20 years, supporting volunteers across the city in developing and implementing long-term resident-based neighborhood action plans. Robert has master's degrees in public administration and nonprofit management and provides professional support to Hill & Lake Press and other community organizations. Robert lives in Falcon Heights.

In 2011, after several years of contentious negotiation, the City of Minneapolis closed the award-winning Neighborhood Revitalization Program, known as NRP, and took control of its assets, as well as responsibility for management and oversight.

NRP was created in the early 1990s as an innovative approach to save the city from persistent urban decline; over four decades the population had fallen by more than 150,000, and the city was filled with thousands of boarded and vacant buildings.

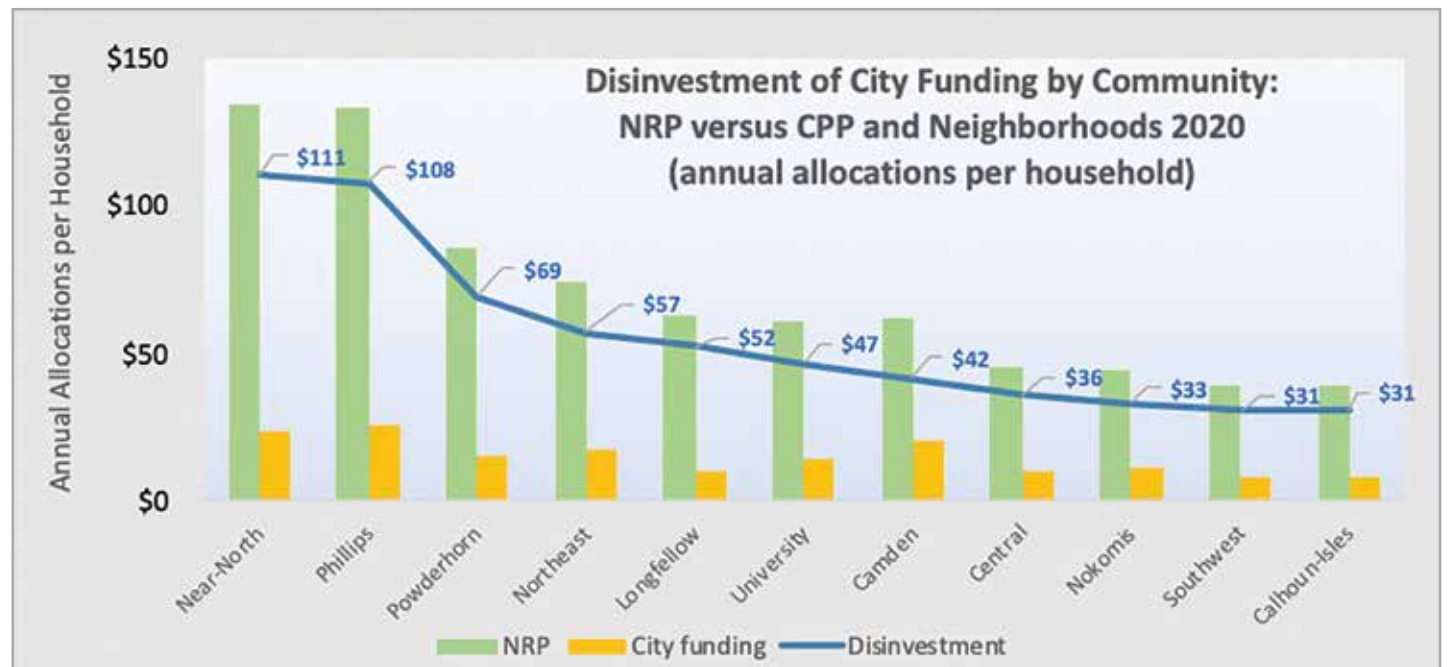
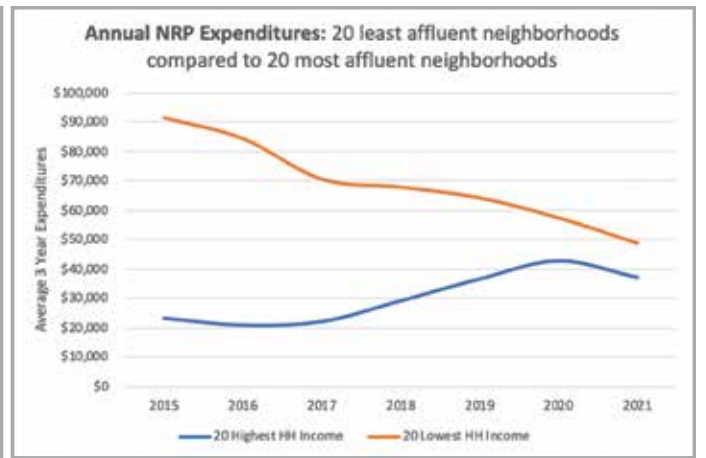
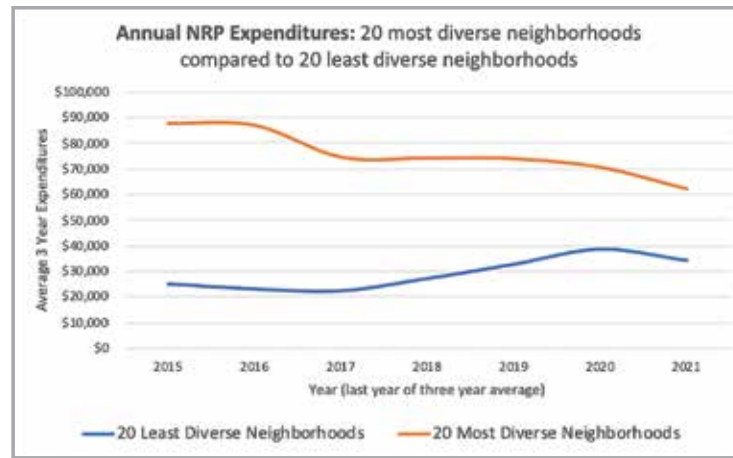
During its existence, NRP allocated more than \$236 million dollars to fund neighborhood action plans developed by neighborhood organizations across the city. Much was dedicated towards addressing the housing crisis, but neighborhood action plans also funded school, park and library projects, commercial corridor and economic development initiatives, addressed community safety concerns, and more.

Despite its popularity and success, the city gaslit the NRP program.

NRP was recognized by the United Nations and the federal Urban and Housing Development agency for its innovative, bottom-up planning process. Several respected studies also noted the NRP's allocations were heavily weighted to more diverse and low-income neighborhoods.

Despite these prior studies, city leaders continue to claim that the NRP was an example of "structural racism" that primarily benefited white affluent homeowners.

However, an analysis of the city's own management of these



(City of Minneapolis)

neighborhood programs suggests that city management — not NRP — was the real culprit.

Both NRP and the city's current neighborhood funding programs used a formula to determine annual allocations to neighborhoods. The NRP formula generously allocated funding to the least affluent and most diverse neighborhoods of the city. After the city takeover of the NRP program in 2011, annual neighborhood allocations fell dramatically across the board.

Racially diverse and less affluent neighborhoods suffered the most.

While this decline has now impacted all neighborhoods, the least affluent and most diverse were affected far more heavily than those in the more affluent parts of the city. For example, on a per household basis, neighborhoods in Near North and Phillips experienced nearly four times the level of disinvestment compared to neighborhoods in Cedar-Isles-Dean or Southwest.

Actual expenditures of NRP funds have also fallen significantly since the city took over the program, and this fall has not hit neighborhoods equally. Between 2015 and 2021, average annual expenditures for the 20 least affluent neighborhoods fell by 61%. During that same period, average annual expenditures for the 20 most affluent neighborhoods increased by 46%.

The most diverse neighborhoods also have fared poorly under the city's oversight of neighborhood programs. From 2015 through 2021,

average annual NRP expenditures for the 20 most diverse neighborhoods fell by almost 30%, while annual NRP expenditures for the 20 least diverse neighborhoods increased by 37%.

This is not due to lack of NRP funds, with approximately \$26 million remaining as of August 2022.

These disparities and lack of support has led to a growing sense of frustration and distrust among many city residents, who feel that their voices are not being heard and that the city is not doing enough to address their needs and concerns.

In 2019, neighborhood leaders from North Minneapolis wrote a letter to city leadership demanding the city dismantle Neighborhood and Community Relations, the department responsible for managing neighborhood programs. There was no response. Shortly after, the city's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission echoed the neighborhoods' call to reform or close the department. Instead, the city disbanded the commission.

What does the future hold? That's up to the City Council, but the current program is exacerbating the very problems it was meant to solve, while undercutting neighborhood support across the board.

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OPINION

By Ray Peterson

2040 Plan Perpetuates a History of Racial and Economic Injustice In Low Income Minority Neighborhoods

"The new proposed zoning code puts those economic and social burdens back on low income and minority neighborhoods. I am not sure if the city is doing this intentionally or suffers from a lack of historical awareness."

Ray Peterson submitted the following commentary about concerns of the Ventura Village neighborhood regarding the Minneapolis 2040 Plan and more specifically the Built Form Regulations and Land Use Rezoning. He remarked, "It seems that while our neighborhoods are very different, the neighborhoods you cover have similar concerns. We are late to the process of reacting to the Minneapolis 2040 Plan because city staff has done a very good job of keeping us in the dark as they make decisions that affect our community." Ray Peterson lives in Ventura Village.

A Slap in the Face

The City of Minneapolis is currently engaged in redoing the zoning ordinance as part of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan. For many of us who spent years trying to undo the economic and racial injustices of the past zoning code, this is a slap in the face. The new proposed zoning code puts those economic and social burdens back on low income and minority neighborhoods. I am not sure if the city is doing this intentionally or suffers from a lack of historical awareness.

In the past, we used different terminology. We called it "dumping the city's problems into low income and minority neighborhoods so that the rich neighborhoods did not have to deal with them." Uses such as bars, saunas, liquor stores, pawn shops, porno theaters, garbage transfer stations, polluting industries, housing for level 3 sex offenders, etc. were all dumped in our neighborhood. The result was high crime rates and unsafe living conditions.

Now, planning staff and city officials defend permitting these uses by claiming that any problems that arise will be controlled through other city departments such as licensing. Our experience was that using licensing and enforcement activities (often requiring police involvement) was an exercise in frustration. It typically took five to ten years to deal with any one problem property. Then another one would pop up. It was like playing "whack-a-mole." The only strategy that worked was changing the zoning — either eliminating the use or making it conditional.

Two Examples: Saunas and Bars

Saunas were concentrated along Lake Street. Saunas were fronts for prostitution (along with pornographic theaters). Johns would patronize these establishments and would proposition any women who happened to be anywhere remotely nearby. It was impossible for a woman to walk down Lake Street or Franklin Avenue without being harassed. It was also hardly the ideal environment for children. The problem of saunas was finally solved

by changing zoning to restrict saunas to a downtown adult entertainment district.

Bars and liquor stores were originally concentrated in low income and minority neighborhoods through liquor limits and then zoning. The five dive bars on Franklin Avenue between Chicago and Bloomington Avenues largely preyed on and perpetuated problems of area drug and alcohol abuse and affected the surrounding residential area especially when the bars closed early in the morning (1:00 a.m. and when the ordinance changed, 2 a.m.) when the party moved outside. Then there was the liquor store located on private land in the middle of Peavey Park.

Clearly the city does not care about its low income and minority residents or their safety.

Under the Minneapolis 2040 Plan, bars, liquor stores, saunas, etc., will be allowed to locate anywhere they want in our neighborhood because the city is zoning our neighborhood as a higher intensity commercial district. We will have nothing to say about what happens because the city is also getting rid of the conditional use permitting process for these uses. However, in the proposed lower intensity commercial district that is more often designated in rich, non-minority neighborhoods, these uses are not even allowed.

The city is doubling down on its efforts to use zoning to perpetuate racial and economic injustice in low income, minority neighborhoods. The city recently lost a lawsuit that will now require them to conduct an environmental impact study. Such a study would likely reveal the economic and racial injustice impacts of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan. Instead of doing the study, the city is trying to get a law passed that will exempt them from the environmental rules.

The 2040 Plan will eliminate family housing.

Despite lip service to the contrary, the Minneapolis 2040 Plan's Built Form Regulations create huge financial incentives to either convert three- and four- bedroom apartments into efficiency units or tear them down and build new efficiency units. Developers will be able to cram ten efficiency units on the average-sized lot in neighborhoods within a mile of downtown. At maximum build-out of both unit types, the higher number of efficiency units will generate twice the total income and displace families in the process.

The 2040 Plan ignores the impact of COVID.

The Minneapolis 2040 Plan was prepared before COVID devastated downtown and changed our work habits perhaps for a very long time. Yet the city is charging blindly ahead and implementing a plan that does not address the impact of COVID. One of the main goals and the implementation strategies of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan is to expand downtown into the surrounding neighborhoods. However, COVID has dramatically changed downtown. Office vacancy is over 22%, and downtown is a retail wasteland. What exactly are we expanding?

Maybe the entire 2040 Plan should be revisited. For downtown, the emphasis should be on how to save the existing downtown and not on expanding it to include more neighborhoods.

Implementation of the 2040 Plan will create massive amounts of environmental pollution.

The Minneapolis 2040 Plan calls for the construction of thousands and thousands of new housing units but eliminates the requirement for any off-street parking. People are not changing their behavior and using public transportation. Transit ridership declined 25% before the COVID pandemic and has declined another 50% post-pandemic as reported by Carol Becker in March 2023 in the article: "The Bike Lobby is Destroying Our Environment." The light rail stations at Lake Street and Franklin Avenues are not safe (who wants to get robbed or shot?) and are disgustingly filthy. What will be the environmental impact of having thousands and thousands of cars roaming city streets and idling at stoplights while trying to find an on-street parking space, especially one that isn't metered? What will happen in winter when the availability of on-street parking can be reduced by half?

The 2040 Plan does not provide for any new open space.

The Land Use Plan that is part of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan maps out the land on which new housing as well as other development is permitted. Existing parks are expected to serve the thousands and thousands of new residents. No new public open space is shown and the plan's Built Form Regulations require almost no on-site open space. Rear yard requirements have been eliminated. What will be the demand on parks that are in the newly expanded downtown districts? In other areas of the city, what will be the impact on neighborhood parks when families with children are forced to move to the suburbs because they can't find housing in the city?

The 2040 Plan will destroy our schools.

The Minneapolis 2040 Plan calls for most of the new housing in the expanded downtown area to be in six-story to 20+ story buildings that will likely contain units that are too small and too expensive for families with children. While in the surrounding neighborhoods, the financial incentives are in place to eliminate family-sized units and force families to move to the suburbs. Can our schools survive if there aren't any children?

The 2040 Plan will increase the cost of rental housing and promote blight.

The Minneapolis 2040 Plan not only increases the allowable density of housing along commercial corridors but does the same in the heart of our residential areas. Speculators will be encouraged to purchase and assemble properties in order to tear them down and build larger apartment buildings. Because there will be competition for these properties, they will likely have to pay inflated market rates. To cover holding costs, speculators will raise rents and, because they plan to tear the buildings down, there will be minimal incentive to maintain the housing. As a result, the houses will deteriorate and become a blight on the neighborhood.

This is what happened in the 1970s when speculators assembled properties and built 2 ½ story walk-up apartments. It also happened in the blocks surrounding Abbott Northwestern Hospital, when speculators bought properties, betting that the hospital would pay them top dollar to buy them out as the hospital needed more land for expansion.



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

- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)
- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)
- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)
- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)



Kenwood Holds Fundraiser to Support Summer Programs

By Marty Carlson



Kenwood Neighborhood Organization President Mark Brown presenting to neighbors (Photo Tim Sheridan)

Marty Carlson is a regular columnist and lives in Kenwood.

On April 29, the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization hosted a public safety fundraiser to continue its community programming at Cedar Lake East Beach, also known as Hidden Beach. With a goal of \$10,000 to support a year's worth of programming, the event raised over \$22,000, securing its future for this year and next.

While Kenwood itself remains among the safest neighborhoods in Minneapolis, Hidden Beach has been a consistent problem area for longer than I've lived here. That has

started to change noticeably in the last several years, due in good part to family-friendly "positive programming" at the beach, spearheaded by Kenwood Neighborhood Organization and a small group of community-minded volunteers. From concerts to yoga, plays to saunas (really!), the beach is becoming an area people take their families to, rather than a spot to keep kids away from.

The numbers are quite striking. In 2013, there were 134 police reports written for the area, which encompasses both citizen 911 calls and officer-initiated reports. By 2022, that number had dropped to 27, a decrease of over 80%.

What accounts for this decline in police reports?

It appears to be two factors. First, the Park Police made the area a focus for heavy enforcement in the years immediately prior to the pandemic. This led to a short-term rise in citations — largely alcohol-related — but also laid a groundwork for success as to the second factor, which is positive programming.

Park Police leadership has strongly supported the neighborhood's efforts, stating that positive programming is one of the most effective law enforcement tools available for areas like this. It's purely preventative, in that it creates a culture where offenses are less likely to occur, which, in turn, keeps people out of the criminal justice system. Everyone wins.

Individuals and small groups can make a difference!

While the success of this project has truly been a group effort, particular credit is due to our neighbor Will Stensrud who studied the problem, developed creative solutions and has worked hard and persistently over a period of years to make that solution a reality.

Overall, this is a great example of how individuals and relatively small groups of neighbors can play an outsized role in addressing persistent problems in their communities — other great examples being neighborhood safety walking groups,

"So, if you have an idea for how to address a specific problem in your community, take heart and reach out to your local neighborhood organization. If the idea resonates, you may be surprised at the level of support from your neighbors!"

Henry LaBounta's lake clean-up efforts, and the Seven Pools restoration at Thomas Lowry Park.

So, if you have an idea for how to address a specific problem in your community, take heart and reach out to your local neighborhood organization. If the idea resonates, you may be surprised at the level of support from your neighbors!

Upcoming events at Cedar Lake East Beach include a beach barbecue on Saturday, June 10 from 3-6 p.m., concerts and yoga throughout the summer and a May "residency" by the 612 Sauna Society that lasts through May 29. All are welcome!

MARK GLOBUS

FOR MPLS CITY COUNCIL

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Everyone's Entitled to My Opinion: How Can Such an Abysmal Failure Still Be in the Works for the Rest of Hennepin Avenue?

By Susan Lenfestey



Empty bicycle parking on an empty sidewalk next to an empty bicycle lane that once provided vital parking to area business (Photo Susan Lenfestey)

"The City Council budgeted over \$1 million in engineering and design consultants for transit planning, but not a dime in commercial and retail consultants for the businesses that line Hennepin Ave. S. As they say in Uptown, 'This city is not business friendly.'"

Susan Lenfestey is a co-founder of the Hill & Lake Press and serves on its board of directors. She lives in Lowry Hill.

A funny thing happened on my way to write about Uptown and the development planned for Seven Points, the former Calhoun Square.

When interviewing the remaining business owners and employees in Uptown, I kept hearing variations of the same themes:

"...Nothing has changed the face of Uptown more than what the city did to Hennepin Avenue..."

"...You can recover from unrest; this is a wound that won't heal..."

"...There is no safe parking..."

"...The ramp behind Seven Points is expensive, poorly maintained and unsafe..."

"...This city is not business friendly..."

Several pointed to Victoria Crossing in St. Paul, where there is free on-street parking, or 50th and France, where there are multiple free parking ramps, and shoppers stroll the pedestrian-friendly streets in a safe environment.

How can such an abysmal failure still be in the works for the rest

of Hennepin Ave. S. going north from Lake St. to Douglas Ave.? A plan that includes center medians, raised bike lanes, limited left turns and 150 ft. bus platforms (a football field is 300 ft.), such as planned at 25th St. in front of Rinata and Osman Cleaners?

So who is "the city" and how did we get to here?

When it comes to reconfiguring streets, such as the bike lanes on 26th Ave. and 28th Ave., or the Bryant Ave. S. makeover which turns out to be too narrow for fire engines, "the city" is a dance between the City of Minneapolis Planning Department, which develops the plan, and the Public Works Department, which implements it. Both are charged with fulfilling a policy known as Complete Streets. Complete Streets helps guide the Transportation Action Plan, and coordinates with the 2040 plan — all available with a quick Google or ChatGPT search.

Complete Streets was authored by bicycle and pedestrian activists and former City Council President Lisa Bender, who has since moved to Minnetonka. It was adopted by the City Council in 2016 and updated in 2021.

The goals of Complete Streets are laudable.

"Minneapolis is committed to rebalancing its transportation network by clearly prioritizing walking, taking transit and biking over driving motorized vehicles, in a manner that provides for acceptable levels of service for all modes." This includes a "mode shift goal of three of five trips taken by walking, rolling, biking or transit by 2030." In other words, cutting car traffic by 60%.

But the goals of Complete Streets are also laughable, given our city's climate and the sprawling structure built to accommodate the automobile.

(Yes, originally to accommodate street cars, and that's a whole other blot on our city's past). Not to mention our admittedly unhealthy habit of getting where we want to

go quickly and conveniently.

The powerful bike lobby and planners at City Hall are not wrong about the need for us to change our carbon-heavy habits. But they are wrong to model our future transportation needs on the bike culture of Amsterdam, which many openly do when questioned about this plan.

Instead, they should look to Norway, where the climate and perhaps the culture is more similar to ours. In Norway 80% of cars are now electric and the government will no longer allow the sale of combustion engine cars after 2025. The government is also subsidizing the construction of much needed charging stations. Oslo is quieter and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen 30 percent since 2009. Those are goals we can all get behind.

But the Complete Streets policy barely mentions the advent of electric cars or the need for charging stations. It calls for more bus routes, bigger bus platforms and more bike lanes. Considering the devastation in Uptown, the recent 66% drop in transit ridership, and the closing of the bus station at Lagoon due to criminal activity, they should revisit those choices.

Nor does it mention the small businesses affected by the redesign of these streets.

The City Council budgeted over \$1 million in engineering and design consultants for transit planning, but not a dime in commercial and retail consultants for the businesses that line Hennepin Ave. S. As they say in Uptown, "This city is not business friendly."

Why are we destroying our city streets and businesses to put in barely used bike lanes, when we should be building charging stations and phasing out gas engine cars?

Despite the unprecedented upheaval to every aspect of our daily lives in 2020, the city proceeded with its "public process."

The planning and public engagement for this project happened at the height of the pandemic and social unrest following the murder of George Floyd. Meetings were held via Zoom calls and largely flew beneath the radar.

When businesses along Hennepin were boarded up and fighting for their existence, city planners proceeded with a design based largely on feedback from the internet without authentic outreach to those affected most.

Area business associations and neighborhoods opposed the plan but it moved forward even without their support and buy in — even though our Council Member Lisa Goodman voted against it. The great irony is that they will have to live through the construction and pay for it via tax assessments.

Please, city officials, stop with the pipe dream.

Rethink the Hennepin Ave. S. redesign before it's too late. It's a disaster in the making.

Next month — an upbeat look at Uptown and the changes coming to Seven Points. Maybe.

THE PESTO'S YET TO BE!

Opening for Weekend Brunch

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 20TH & 21ST

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Rooftop opening soon

All Aboard!

By Leah Harp



(Photos Leah Harp)

Leah Harp lives in East Isles.

When spring arrives, the Co-mo-Harriet Streetcar Line resumes its journey between Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska.

This heritage line run by the Minnesota Streetcar Museum captures a slice of life in Minneapolis-St. Paul between 1879 and 1954, when streetcars ran on over 500 miles of track across the Twin Cities and beyond.

Catch the "1300," built in 1908 in St. Paul and listed in the US National Register of Historic Places, or the modern "PCC," built in 1943.

Passengers board the trolley on the platform close to the shore of Lake Harriet, and pass through peaceful leafy green parkland to

reach the north platform across from Bde Maka Ska. It returns with a stop at the Car Barn.

The trolley is easily accessible by bike and bus, and a ride is a fun addition to a picnic, lakeside lunch, visit to the rose garden, playground, bird sanctuary or canoe ride, or swim at the lakes.

Chartering the trolley offers a unique party venue.

Specialty charters include the Motorman charter, where you are taught to run the streetcar.

The trolley offers a Kids' Club, Neurodiversity rides, weddings, renewals and visits with Santa.

Please visit Trolleyride.org for special events throughout its 51st operating season!





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The Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads needs our support for ongoing maintenance. Green Minneapolis maintains this green gateway to our city and neighborhood through the generous contributions of local institutions and neighborhoods.

All local institutions have made a generous contribution this year. Due to reduced funding the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association is unable to support the Crossroads at the same level as in the past few years without some help from our neighbors.







Please scan the QR code or go online to greenminneapolis.org/donate and make a donation. Also, please specify that the funds are for the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads.



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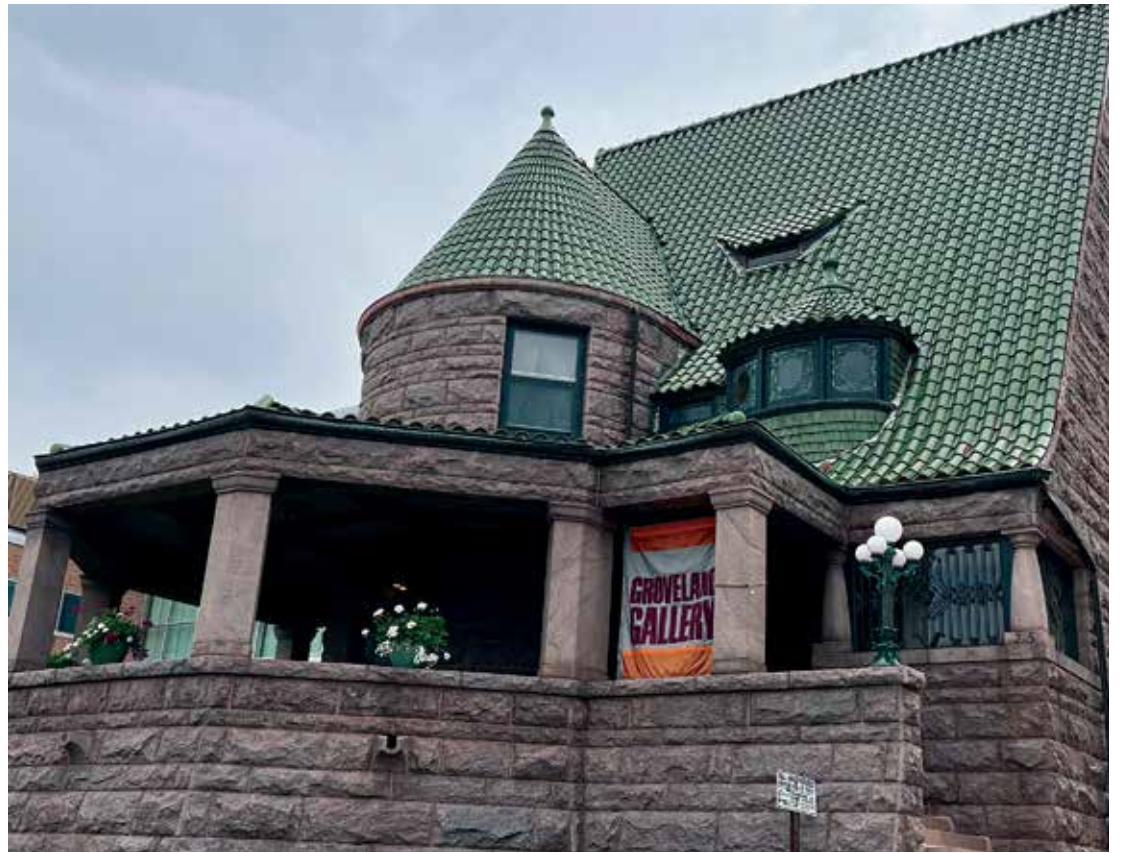


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SPECIAL FEATURE

By Josie Owens

Groveland Gallery - 50 Years and 100 Artists



Groveland Gallery is located at 25 Groveland Terrace in Lowry Hill (Photo Craig Wilson)

Josie Owens is a regular columnist focusing on art and history. She lives in Lowry Hill.

“We are committed to the tradition of nurturing and developing the careers of local and regional artists.”

In 1973, a group of local artists came together to create what would be known as the Groveland Gallery. For 50 years, the gallery has enabled local artists to show and sell their art. On May 6, the gallery will start its 50th anniversary celebration with four months of exciting events.

When one enters the historic 1894 Frank B. Long House across from the Walker Art Center, the visitor is able to view two art shows in a well-lit, pleasing environment. Either Sally Johnson, the gallery director, or Andrea Bubula, the gallery manager, is happy to discuss and answer questions. The gallery is a dynamic space as the shows change every six weeks. The exhibits enable artists to showcase their works, but a customer can always view artwork by the other 30 Groveland artists in the back room. These artists share a commonality of creating representational art with recognizable subjects and imagery that is pleasing and connects with the viewer. Sally says that Groveland Gallery is a place where art enthusiasts come and turn into art collectors.

Groveland has a devoted following. Sally recounts how even during Covid she would stand in front of the large porch window and hold up artworks for viewing. It is easy to see how one would become a regular as the space is inviting, and Sally and Andrea, both artists who turned to art management, are so welcoming. Both women feel extremely lucky to do this work. “The artists are so interesting, and I get to work with people who want to be here learning about the art,” Sally says. She especially enjoys that she can share an artist’s techniques and vision with a customer and in turn share the customer’s thoughts with the artist. “It’s rewarding to be a conveyor of information.”

Andrea mentions that there is a web of connections among the artists who support one another beyond the gallery. This is a direct result of the management style. Kit Wilson, an artist who has been represented by Groveland for 22 years, says, “Sally has

created a community at the Groveland Gallery. She encourages the artists to come to one another’s openings. Instead of being siloed, we have a community. Sally has done that.” The 50th Anniversary will celebrate this community of over 100 artists who have been a part of the Groveland Gallery.

The celebration starts on May 6 and has been divided into three parts. Each section will start with an opening reception. Starting with the Past (May 6-June 3), 25 artists from the beginning and early years will be featured. Brian Szott, the former fine art curator at the Minnesota Historical Society, will lead a roundtable discussion on May 13. The Present (June 10-July 15) will focus on the current artists with studio tours hosted by the artists and concluding with a Party on the Porch on July 8. The final group is the Future (July 22-August 19) and includes another roundtable discussion on August 10.

Kit Wilson says, “Sally and Andrea are so professional and good at their jobs. I have felt nothing but proper and good representation. They have been a fixture for 50 years because they have been steadfast in their mission and what they do.” Let’s hope that Groveland Gallery is part of the neighborhood for another 50!

Join the celebration at 25 Groveland Terrace for the Opening Reception on Saturday, May 6, 2-5 p.m.

For more information about the upcoming events, please visit <https://grovelandgallery.com/>.



50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION SERIES

PAST | PRESENT | FUTURE

PAST

May 6 - June 3, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 6, 2-5pm

Roundtable Discussion:
May 13, 3 - 4:30pm with Brian Szott

Participating Artists:
Larry Hofmann, Rod Massey, Carl Oltvedt, Dani Roach, Lauren Stringer & Rochelle Woldorsky

PRESENT

June 10 - July 15, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 10, 2-5pm

Studio Tour & Porch Party:
9 studios/2 cities July 8, 12 - 6:30 pm

FUTURE

July 22 - August 19, 2023
Opening Reception: Saturday, July 22, 2-5pm

Roundtable Discussion:
August 10, 5:30 - 7pm
with Nicole Sirek Watson & Jane Becker Nelson

Participating Artists:
Michael Kareken, Carol Lee Chase
Justin Terlecki & guest artist Jacob Docksey

PAST

MAY 6 - JUNE 3, 2023

Wendell Ameson
Chris Baird
Cameron Booth
Gary Bowling
Joseph Byrne
Jim Conaway
Anne DeCoster
Eric Austen Erickson
Larry Hofmann
Gendron Jensen
Sally Johnson
Greg Kelsey
Robert Kilbride

Mike Lynch
Rod Massey
George Morrison
William E. Murray
Carl Oltvedt
David Rich
Dani Roach
Hank Rowan
Jerry Rudquist
Matthew Smith
Lauren Stringer
Rochelle Woldorsky



Hill & Lake Press

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Having Earth Day Once A Year Is Not Enough!

By Henry LaBounta

Henry LaBounta lives in East Isles.

This year on Earth Day members of our community came out to pick up the trash around Lake of the Isles. In all, 63 adults and 12 children helped pick up 160 gallons of trash in one day. That’s incredible! Thank you to Ellen van Iwaarden, the East Isles Green Team chair, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and everyone else who helped make this happen.

Since May 2022, members of our group have collected over 3,500 gallons of trash — 1,135 gallons of those from Lake of the Isles, including 104 syringes.

In that time, I’ve learned a lot about how trash enters our lakes.

Put simply, trash flows directly off the streets into storm drains which then empty unfiltered into our lakes. A simple solution is to pick up the trash before it enters the storm drains.

Another problem is less visible: salt and excess nutrients entering the lake. The solution here is to rethink our habits. Just one teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water. An alternative to salt is chicken grit, also known as cherry grit, which is crushed gravel that provides traction on ice and causes zero harm to the environment.

Also consider ending or limiting the use of fertilizer on our lawns and in our gardens. These nutrients run off into storm sewers and into the lakes, causing algal blooms that are smelly, toxic and suffocate fish. The same goes for toxic weed killers and pesticides. What you spray in your yard doesn’t stay in your yard.

From studying maps of storm drains and street sweeping sched-

ules, I’ve determined that the much of the trash is coming from the streets around Hennepin Avenue. Cars crush the trash along the curbs, which allows it to slip easily through the grates and then make its way to the lakes. The upcoming Hennepin Avenue reconstruction includes a storm drain system that addresses this problem and should help keep urban litter from ending up in urban lakes.

How can we “think upstream” and organize effectively to stop trash from entering the lakes? The city’s Adopt-a-Drain program encourages neighbors to keep storm grates clean, and to cut back or end the use of ice-melting salt and phosphorous-rich fertilizers. You can learn more by Googling “City of Minneapolis” and “Adopt-a-Drain.”

The East Isles Neighborhood Association, along with the park board and the Department of Public Works, is working on solutions. Our area Park Board Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer has suggested installing a boom around the Euclid

culvert outflow to catch the trash before it spreads all over the lake. If the park board agrees to install the boom, East Isles has agreed to fund it.

East Isles has also started a monthly trash collection drive and welcomes more volunteers. (To sign up, see the links below.) We are applying for grants from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and will also apply for Hennepin County grants to help fund neighborhood initiatives to make a difference. The other neighborhood associations in the Hill & Lake Press coverage area are on board with these efforts.

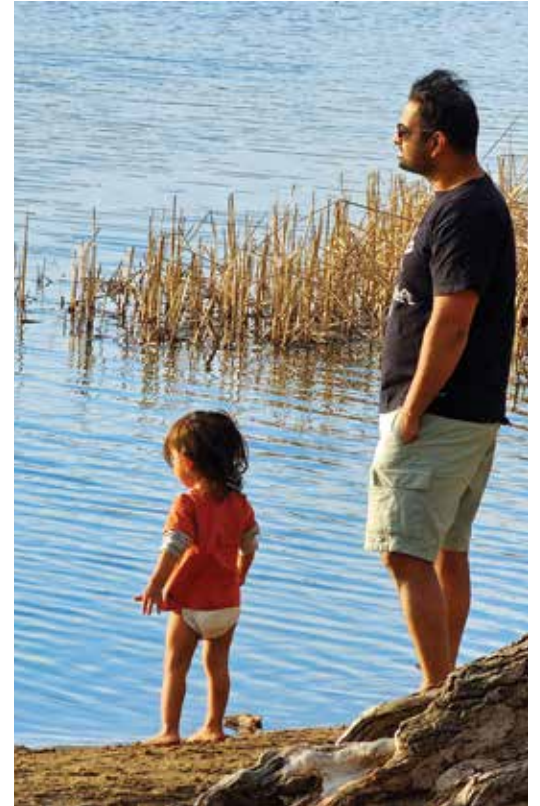
Together we can make a difference and help save our beautiful lakes. If you want to help or just know more, please check out these resources: ‘Friends of Lake of the Isles’ Facebook group; eastisles.org neighborhood news; or feel free to email me at cleanlakesmpls@gmail.com!



(Photos Tim Sheridan)



Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country and, by the end of the year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1990, Earth Day was an event celebrated by more than 140 countries around the globe, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.



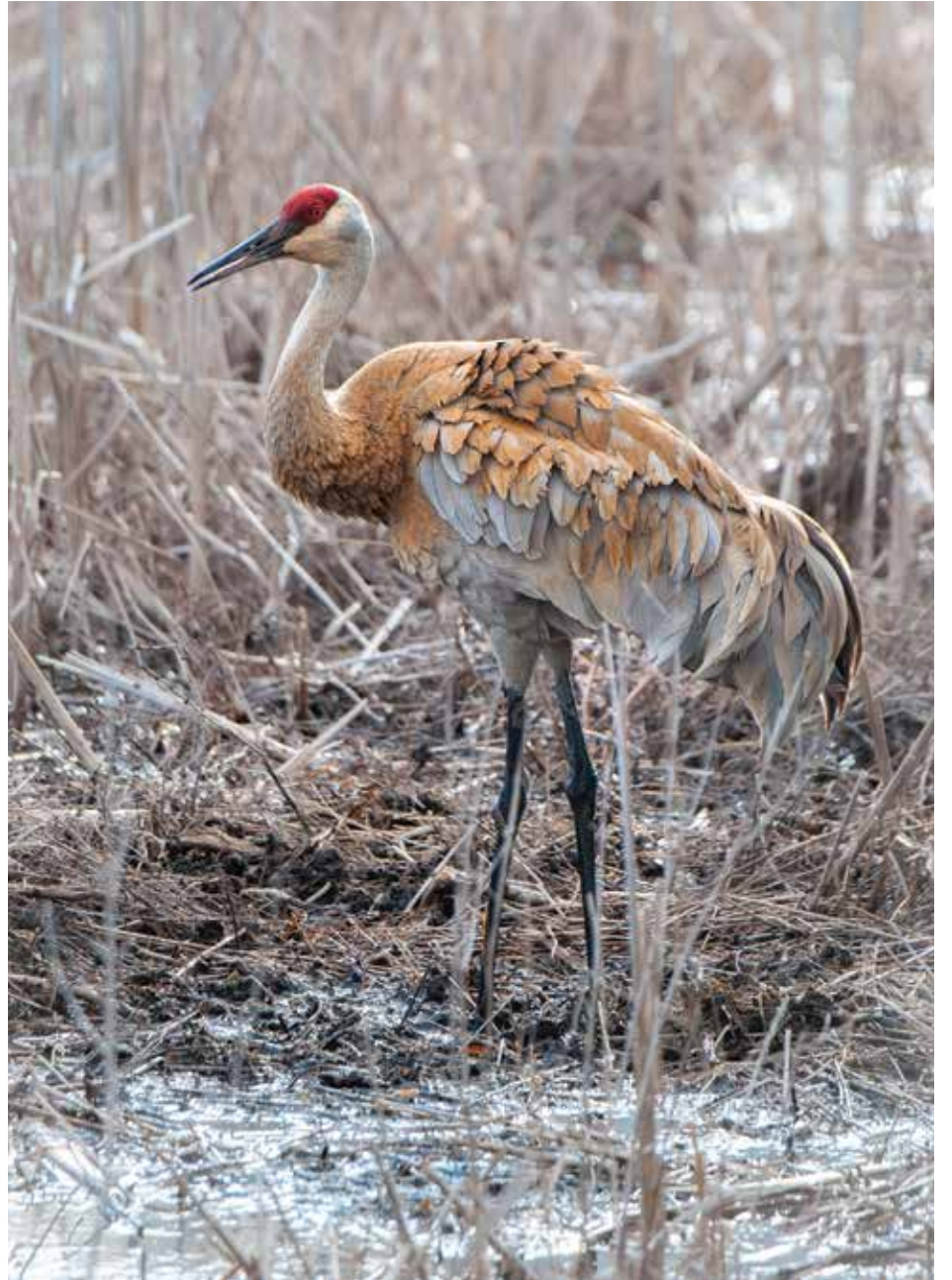
(Photos Tim Sheridan)

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Above - Sandhill crane in the cattails of Cedar Lake
 Top left - Great horned owllet exploring the world outside of its nest for the first time and highly intrigued by me and my camera. (Photos Bowdie Daul)



Photography by Evelyn Krasner



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Meet Your Neighbor

By Alida Mitau

John Galvin of LITT, formerly Liquor Lyle's

Alida Mitau grew up in Lowry Hill and returned after living in Chicago for several years. She attended college in Amherst, Mass. where she was the Arts & Living editor of The Amherst Student. She now has a career in marketing and communications.

Liquor Lyle's, the 57-year-old iconic dive bar on Hennepin and Franklin, permanently closed its doors in the early days of the pandemic. The space has remained unoccupied since, and the neighborhood has surely felt the bar's absence.

I grew up with countless stories from my parents and neighbors about messy, unforgettable nights at Liquor Lyle's. Once I was old enough to patronize the bar, I delighted in their three-for-one, informal drink policy and often brought friends visiting from out of state to what I considered the quintessential Minneapolis dive bar.

Sometime last summer, word got out that LITT Pinball Bar, formerly named TILT and currently located in the Whittier neighborhood, would be taking over the old Liquor Lyle's space. As someone who often bemoans this kind of change, I assumed that the newfangled bar would dishonor the Liquor Lyle's legacy.

After I connected with John Galvin, one of the owners of LITT, my mind was decidedly changed. I now look forward to seeing the pinball community and former Liquor Lyle's regulars alike mix, mingle and create new memories in the remodeled space.

How did you get involved with LITT pinball bar?

My involvement goes back to the beginning when we opened in our existing space. I'm the pinball guy, so I take care of sourcing both new and used machines, refurbishing them, rotating the lineup and a whole host of other day-to-day activities.



TILT, located in the Whittier neighborhood, is opening LITT in the former Liquor Lyle's space on Hennepin Ave. S. (Photo Craig Wilson)

How did you become the pinball guy?

I grew up around pinball. My dad operated machines in bars, hotels, bowling alleys, etc. for his 40-year career. For as long as I can remember, I'd drive around town with him taking care of the route or hang back at the shop while he worked on machines. I started shopping machines for him on the weekends and as a summer job when I was 13. I've always loved working on pinball machines. There's something very rewarding about taking a machine apart, fixing and cleaning it, putting it back together and ultimately playing a game in its refurbished state.

What is LITT's origin story?

For me, the LITT origin story is simple: I wanted a dedicated pinball location, where I could cultivate an ever-changing lineup of cool machines in a welcoming space, where people could hang out, enjoy food and beverage and compete with one another (if they want to). Maybe that's not so simple, but it's how I approached this project then and still do now.

What made you decide to move to a new space?

We knew early on that our current space was limiting our potential. It's an awesome spot, but we ultimately felt that we could serve our players and customers better with room for more machines, seating and people in general.

Why did you choose the old Liquor Lyle's space?

When we found out that there was a deal available to get into the old Liquor Lyle's space, we thought it would be a great opportunity for us to grow. Having a standalone building in a great location certainly has its appeal. There's also a lot to be said for the history and heritage of the Liquor Lyle's space that we felt we could honor, while still making it our own.

When do you expect to move into the new space?

The timeline for our move has been a bit of a moving target. The scope of work has also expanded as we've continued along. The project has been progressing steadily,

though, and we anticipate its being complete sometime in July or August, assuming we don't hit any major bumps (potholes) in the road.

How will the new space come together? Will it incorporate the same design elements and branding of your current space?

The vibe of the new space will be both familiar to patrons of our current location and somewhat fresh! Many of our design elements are carrying over, but we also have the room and flexibility to incorporate some fun new stuff. Our branding is very much staying the same. It's still us, just a new name and a bigger space.

Were you once a patron of Liquor Lyle's? Will you pay any homage to Liquor Lyle's in the new space?

I certainly visited Lyle's a handful of times over the years. What I remember best from those occasions was the three-for-one drinks and an awesome mix of people! There are a couple of design elements that will certainly be familiar to Liquor Lyle's fans. They aren't totally sorted out yet, so you'll have to wait and see for yourself....

What are you most excited about regarding this new venture?

We're most excited for everything! Haha! Seriously, I'm stoked to have more pinball machines for the community to experience, more space for people to hang out in when not playing pinball, more draft beer and storage! It will be such an upgrade to have space on site to store supplies, spare pinball machines and parts. We'll also have a workshop on site, which will be hugely beneficial to everyone.



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Kenwood School: Math Masters' Successes Add Up

By Karin Olson



The Kenwood fourth grade Math Masters team: Rainer Askew, Mason Fitzgerald, Sabina Good, Jojo Hansen, Violet Hansen, Ben Keller, Cal LeFevere, Palak Mayell, Joey Newman, Izzy Rennie, Lucas Wise. (Photo Karin Olson)



Ben Keller, winner of the fourth grade Math Masters St. Paul Regional Competition held on April 28. (Photo Karin Olson)

Karin Olson in a Kenwood School parent and volunteer She lives in Kenwood.

The inaugural fourth grade Math Masters team at Kenwood School shone brightly at the regional competition held in St. Paul April 28.

Students competed as teams and individually on six sets of mathematical problems. The Kenwood students made up two teams who placed sixth and ninth in a field of 22. In individual competition, Ben Keller took first place, and Mason Fitzgerald took ninth among a field of 92 contestants.

Laura Murphy, Kenwood parent and East Isles resident, coached the team to their success. "As the only team from Minneapolis Public Schools to compete in Math Masters this year, our mathletes felt a big responsibility to represent Minneapolis well," said Coach Laura, "and they surely did! We couldn't be prouder of the entire team."

Coach Laura decided to start the team at Kenwood School this year because she still has fond memories of participating in the competition as an elementary student in the 1990s and has plans to coach

both a fourth and fifth grade team next year at the school.

Kenwood School offers advanced math for students beginning in fourth grade. All Kenwood fourth graders were invited to join this year's Math Masters team, and 11 students decided to sign up. The experience was underwritten by a donor so there was no cost for any of the mathletes to participate. Everyone on the team had the opportunity to work with Coach Laura and other volunteer coaches on sample problems and team strategies during practices held during the six-week season that began in March.

In all, over 5,000 students were expected to compete at more than 50 sites throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. Math Masters is designed to promote excellence in critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, as well as provide recognition to students for academic effort and achievement. If you're interested in volunteering as a parent or community member to help coach next year's Kenwood teams, please reach out to Coach Laura at lauramurphy.mn@gmail.com.

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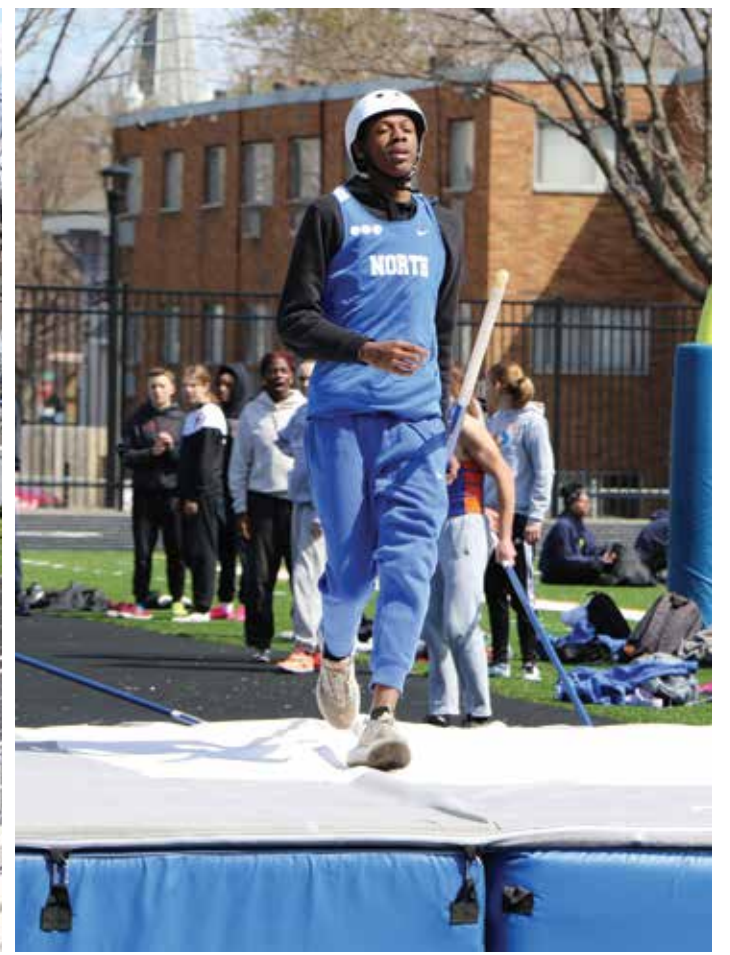
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Photos by Tyler Ecklund-Kouba



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East Isles Update


Thanks to all who attended our Earth Day Cleanup! We had 60+ neighbors join to remove about 130 gallons of trash and 30 gallons of recycling.

Join us for new monthly Lake of the Isles Cleanups! Check-in for supplies if needed, and please come for any amount of time—every little bit helps.

We're seeking volunteers for our Summer Social: June 14 evening at Triangle Park. Ping info@eastisles.org.

The annual Super Sale is set for Saturday, Sept. 9! Start your sale piles and look for registration in June.

Visit eastisles.org/join to:

- 1 Donate to support neighborhood events, resources and opportunities. 
- 2 Subscribe to our news and follow our social media to get updates on events and resources.
- 3 Join a Committee to address green issues, community safety, transit and more.



eastisles.org/join  

UPCOMING EVENTS

East Isles Safety Walking Club

May 24 Wednesday, 5:30 – 7 PM

June 4 Sunday, 10 – 11:30 AM

June 21 Wednesday, 5:30 – 7 PM

Meet at Triangle Park: W 26th St & Irving Ave S

Get outside, meet neighbors and help make our community safer!

Lake of the Isles Monthly Cleanups

June 10, July 8 Saturdays, 9:30 AM – 12 PM

Check-in bottom of W 27th St stairs, off E Lake of the Isles Pkwy

Keep the shores beautiful and healthy for people and wildlife. Bring your neighbors, kids and friends!

East Isles Summer Social

June 14 Wednesday, 6 – 8 PM (Rain date: June 15)

Joanne Levin Triangle Park: W 26th St & Irving Ave S

Live entertainment, bounce houses, food trucks—and of course, ice cream!

2023 Super Sale

Save the Date: Sept. 9 Saturday

Partnering with Lowry Hill and East Bde Maka Ska, 2023's sale will be bigger than ever! Register in June.

Dates subject to change—visit eastisles.org for the latest.

Photo courtesy of Alex Cook, youarelovedmurals.com



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SUNDAY SCHOOL
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10:45–11:30 am on Fridays, June 9, July 14, and August 11. Bring a picnic and enjoy the park.

Acoustic Music Series at Cedar Lake South Beach

3:00–4:00 pm on Sundays, June 11, July 2, and August 6. Live music on a summer afternoon.

Summer Solstice Celebration at Cedar Lake South Beach

6:30–8:30 pm on Wednesday, June 21. Fun activities and music for all ages.



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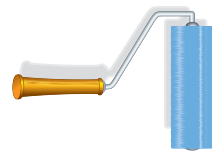
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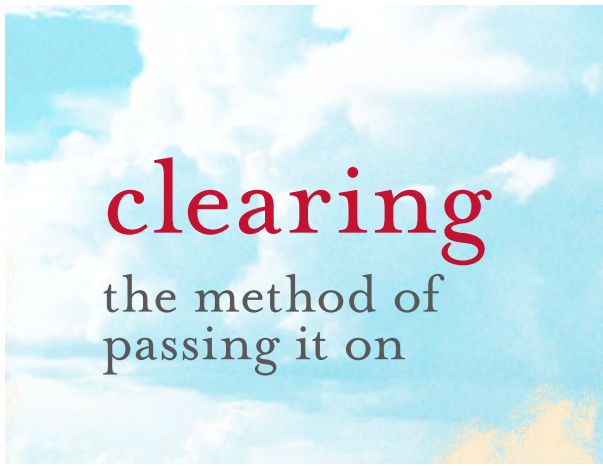
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Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond



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

Let's talk about clearing — not to be confused with cleaning — and saying no to the curse of clutter and getting down to the essence of our lives. Dusting, vacuuming and tidying up, so much as I like them, merely maintain.

They don't lighten the crushing weight of our often beloved possessions. Clearing is about getting rid of the stuff that clogs our drawers, closets, attics and lives.

Saying no to clutter has become an essential part of my life, a method of living which I came to call Pass It On — long before Marie Kondo, with her famous edict, "If it doesn't spark joy, discard it," came on the scene. I didn't develop this method so much as it developed me.

It began when my father died, some 30 years ago. At the time I was living in St. Paul in a house my mother had inherited from her Aunt Grace, who died shortly before I finished graduate school in St. Louis.

Not wanting to deal with selling the house, Mom asked if I wanted to live there, which was perfect as I'd just taken a job in St. Paul.

Grace never married and bought the house when it

was built in 1922, a standard-issue bungalow: living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, one bathroom. The basement, true to its era, had a fruit cellar, a coal bin, a spaceship-sized furnace and a wringer washing machine. Upstairs was an unfinished attic that revealed, as all our houses do, Grace's personality and marrow.

The main floor was well-appointed and pristine. The basement held almost nothing — a few random pieces of furniture, the wringer, and, alas, the coal bin still full of coal that I had to deal with. Ever practical, I asked my dad if it was safe to use the coal for grilling. He replied with a wink, "Well, if anybody dies, don't use it anymore." I bought charcoal.

But, oh, that attic. Grace wasn't a hoarder, but like many people who lived through the Great Depression, she was very much a saver. Anything she'd ever owned was up there: clothing, knick-knacks, linens, tools, kitchen implements, books, gardening tools, newspapers, dishes, three Underwood typewriters, furniture, mirrors, jars (countless jars!), holiday decorations, cards, pencil nubs. And every receipt, invoice and piece of paper for everything ever: Piggly Wiggly (groceries), The Emporium, The Golden Rule, Schuneman's (department stores), utility bills, pension checks and tax statements, along with bridge tallies and dance cards from the St. Paul Athletic Club. Somehow it was all Grace, a portrait of both her and an age.

And an old, ugly sofa that I would sit on when I needed to be really, really alone to think.

I returned from my father's funeral numb with grief and headed upstairs with a can of Diet Pepsi. Sitting on that grim couch, going over the sad events of recent days, I looked out on the sea of effluvia and it just came to me: If I can bury my father, I can sure live without all this stuff.

I got up, grabbed a box and put five things in it. I felt better. As he'd died five days earlier, I put in another 20 things, and decided in honor of my dad, who loved simplicity, I would get rid of five things a day for a year. I kept that promise, and each day I felt a little better. It became a form of prayer.

I'll do the math for you: five things per day multiplied by 365 days equals 1,825 things over the

course of a year. It sounds like a lot but there was a lot to deal with, and months passed before I noticed a difference upstairs.

By then I'd begun winnowing out my own inventory, feeling lighter and less infatuated with things. When I had half a dozen boxes or so filled, I'd drive them down to the St. Vincent DePaul store on West 7th St.

This was the Pass It On part of it — the flow, the river of objects changing as they went from superfluous to useful again, a joy to someone else. Not everything went to charity; some items went to friends and history buffs, and other earmarked and appreciative destinations.

The year was up, and I kept going. Seven years later I got married and moved to Minneapolis. By then the house was fairly freed of all things unnecessary, a celebration of my father's spirit: Living without became living with.

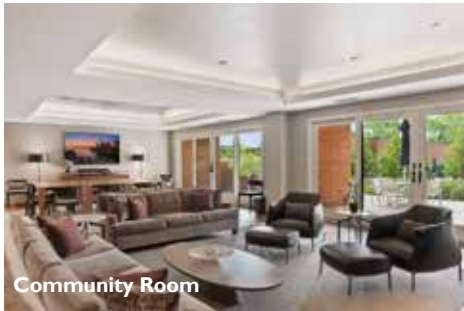
Two miraculous perks were the house was realtor-ready and the move was clean and simple. I still get rid of things every day and keep a stash of boxes in the basement. When they're full, my dear friend and neighbor Janice Peterson, who volunteers at Central Lutheran's Free Store, carts them off. And I always feel better, freer, uplifted.

Pass It On. Try it, you might like it.

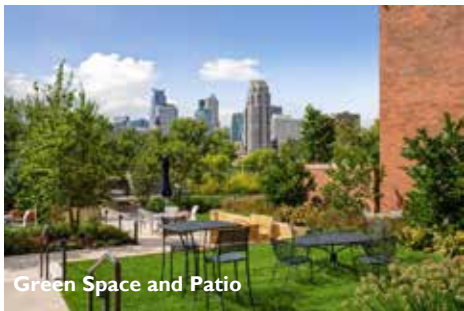
— Dorothy



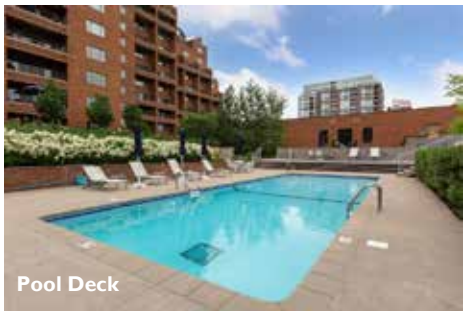
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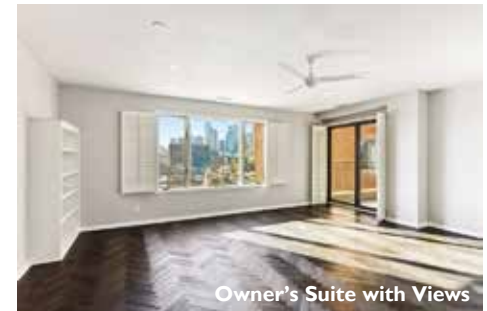
Community Room



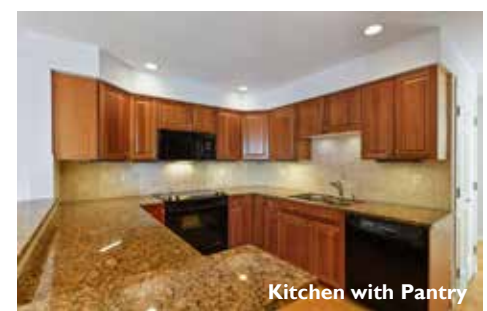
Green Space and Patio



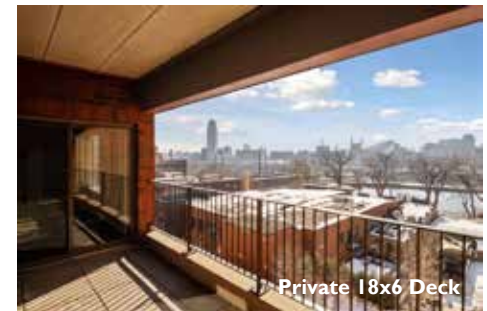
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Visit us at the Open House Saturday May 20th from 1 – 3 p.m.

SUMMER 2023

FAMILY BBQ & BEACH OPENER

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH
3PM - 6PM
East Cedar Lake Beach

<p>3:30pm Brother Ghana Drum Workshop</p>	<p>4:30pm Tiyumba African Drum & Dance Company</p>	<p>5:30pm FREE hotdogs, chips, and fruit</p>
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KenwoodMpls.org
More Information

PIRATES & MERMAIDS

FAMILY BEACH PARTY

EAST CEDAR LAKE BEACH
SAT, JULY 15TH 3-6PM

TIN FISH FOOD TRUCK!

- MEET ARALYN THE MERMAID
- TREASURE HUNT
- ARTRAGEOUS CREATION STATION
- PIRATES COVE STORYTELLING & SNACKS


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2023 SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES

HIDDEN ACOUSTICS

AT EAST CEDAR LAKE BEACH

SUNDAYS 3:00 PM

June 4	The Barley Jacks <i>Bluegrass</i>
June 25	Classical Actors Ensemble <i>Much Ado About Nothing, Shakespeare</i>
July 16	Jayanthi Rajasa <i>Jazz / Gospel / Soul</i>
August 13	BZ3 Organ Trio featuring Peter Vircks <i>Jazz / Soul</i>
August 20	The Witness Project: Saving the Planet One Poem at a Time <i>Poetry / Spoken Word</i>
August 27	Humbird <i>Modern Folk</i>

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FREE SUMMER YOGA SERIES

YOGA

AT EAST CEDAR LAKE BEACH

Accessible yoga for all levels, all are welcome! Bring a yoga mat or towel and any props you might want.

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

June 1	Latricia Askew
June 8	Jes Rosenberg
June 15	Latricia Askew
June 22	Melissa Schoeller
June 29	Latricia Askew
July 6	Latricia Askew
July 13	Melissa Schoeller
July 20	Molly McNeil
July 27	Melissa Schoeller
August 3	Molly McNeil
August 10	Latricia Askew
August 17	Molly McNeil
August 24	Jes Rosenberg
August 31	Molly McNeil

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Notice: Due to SWLRT construction there will be no public parking or vehicle access within a block of the beach entrance this summer. Please plan accordingly.

