



# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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July 2023

## OPINION

By Rich Harrison

### The Uptown Theater Rocks!



(Photo Rich Harrison)

*Rich Harrison is a registered landscape architect and co-director of design at Metro Blooms, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that “partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges.” Rich lives in East Isles and is a longtime volunteer for The Loppet Foundation.*

When word got out that the Uptown Theater was to be renovated to become a new music venue, I was optimistic it may be what our neighborhood needs to get more eyes on the street and dollars flowing to area businesses, making it a more vibrant and safer place to be.

Last Sunday, when I returned

from Chicago where I attended the US vs. Jamaica Gold Cup soccer tournament, I came across an orderly line of young adults waiting to get into the newly remodeled Uptown Theater.

I anticipated that once this new entertainment hub opened the lines to the theater would likely make it down the block along Lagoon Ave., past the Lunds & Byerlys parking lot. As of June 2023, it is happening! The line actually wound all through the parking lot to the west of the theater, behind FedEx and Mesa Pizza Uptown, and then wrapped into the Lunds & Byerlys parking lot.

The new Uptown Theater concert venue has a 2,500-person capacity, and this long queue will become a regular occurrence in the future. I

just hope that everyone remains respectful and peaceful to one another and other people's property as a new vibrancy enhances the Uptown community.

Certainly, the new Uptown Theater cannot replace the beloved Uptown Bar and Cafe, which was a premier destination for bands in the 1980s and 1990s. Sadly, that building was demolished in 2010 to make way for the now vacant Uptown Apple Store.

Next door on Hennepin Ave. S., The Granada, formerly the Suburban World Theater, is also now a fine venue providing a more intimate setting to watch bands and catch a drink and snack in the inviting front entry. This concept of renovating old theaters into new music venues has been successful in the past with the Varsity Theater in Dinkytown and the Palace in St. Paul.

According to a Star Tribune article from Feb. 1, 2022: “Originally opened in 1916 as the Lagoon Theater on the corner of Hennepin and Lagoon Avenues, the Uptown underwent a \$2 million renovation in 2012 and continued showing movies until the pandemic hit in March 2020.”

Now we just need some more local businesses to move in and make this commercial node special again. If only the rents could be accessible!

I'm not a money person, and that's a discussion for another time, but we do have a few places that survived the pandemic and civil unrest.

I stopped by Mesa for a slice of pizza for lunch other day. I asked a staff person named Emily, who served me delicious hot steaming pizza, if she worked the previous weekend. She reported enthusiastically, “On Friday night, we had a line out the door for two hours and it was the busiest I've ever seen it.”

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### PARK BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS FINAL CEDAR-ISLES PLAN

By Marty Carlson



(Photo Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

*Marty Carlson is a regular columnist and lives in Kenwood.*

At its meeting on July 5, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a final version of the Cedar Isles long-range plan.

For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to follow the process since the hastily drafted notice in last month's issue, rest assured that it was an eventful set of weeks, leading to a final result that everyone involved should feel good about.

In a nutshell, the final version of the plan is substantially similar to the draft released by the Park Board in January, which kept the basic outline of the earlier “preferred park concept” but incorporated a series of detailed (and largely unanimous) recommendations by the Community Advisory Committee, or CAC.

The “almost final” version of the plan was released to the public on Friday, June 16, and was warmly received by the community, in large part because it hewed quite closely to the January draft and the CAC rec-

Continued on page 4

[www.UptownMinneapolis.com](http://www.UptownMinneapolis.com)



# 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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Next issue is the 'Kids' Issue' - Aug 2023  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Namaste

A reading sent by a member of my sangha that others may benefit from:

Never give up!

No matter what is going on  
Develop the heart  
Too much energy in your country  
Is spent on developing the mind  
Instead of the heart

Develop the heart  
Be compassionate  
Not just to your friends  
But to everyone

Be compassionate  
Work for peace  
In your heart and in the world

And I say again  
Never give up  
No matter what is happening  
No matter what is going on around you  
Never give up

-Tenzin Gyatso, XIV Dalai Lama

*Constance Pepin  
Linden Hills*

### Too Late to Stop Hennepin Plans?

Thank you for your article, some weeks past, regarding saving trees on Hennepin Ave. S. that offered kudos to Margaret Anderson Kelliher.

It is probably too late to stop the crazy bike lanes on Hennepin Ave. S. I am sorry I did not get myself into this argument a long time ago. The "gap" in the bike-trail network claimed as the basis for the two-way bike lane is a chimera.

Technically, there is a gap, but the basis for the claim is without merit, in my opinion, as there are many ways to get from Uptown to all points on Hennepin, to the Loring Greenway, and Downtown from my home at 28th and Hennepin Ave. S.

Normally, the North Cedar Lake Trail is available, but the light rail construction has it blocked to downtown. However, there is an easy way through the neighborhood using limited-traffic routes. A southbound "bikeway" announcement painted on Humboldt Ave. S. and a northbound one on Irving Ave. S., to and from the Loring Greenway would suffice, I think. I rode this path downtown myself just last week. Note that both Humboldt and Irving have junctions with the Greenway.

Although in general I support the biking policy advocates, in this case, the two-way bike lane on Hennepin forced truly unfortunate compromises. Some flexibility of application in this case is called for, especially when safe and simple alternate solutions are at hand. Bikers should be asked to accept the minor inconvenience of access to the paths described above.

*Jim Hawkins  
Minneapolis*

### Better forest management is critical for quality of life.

In recent weeks you may have noticed, the sky is no longer blue, stars are harder to see at night, and landscapes are discolored by a grayish hue. Wildfires in Canada and northern Minnesota are worse than ever and it has real consequences for our jobs and health.

As a farmer and educator, I notice it in my lungs after a long day outside. I am also worried because heavy smog means it's harder to grow crops and folks may begin to see rising prices for food at the grocery store.

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



### Gratitude to Cedar Lake Stewards

I would like to express my appreciation to all the volunteers working to restore the beauty around Cedar Lake.

Any and every day on my walks I am able to enjoy and appreciate the fruits of their labor as my latest photo attests.

Thank you!

*Rita Benvenuti  
Cedar-Isles-Dean*

### Ylitalo Yielded

Thank you, Susan Lenfestey, for drawing attention to two wonderful programs to help switch from gasoline to electric leaf blowers.

The money available to lawn care companies for this transition is wonderful encouragement.

In the meantime, I've asked my lawn care service (run by James Ylitalo and formerly run by his late father Brad Ylitalo) to quit using gas powered leaf blowers on my yard and driveway except for the heavy lifting at spring and fall cleanup.

Brian Ylitalo, who does most of the work on my yard, immediately responded and is using hand tools and also using my personal electric leaf blower. Brian couldn't have been nicer and more thoughtful about switching at my special request.

My little leaf blower can't match the power of his gas powered one, but I know heftier electric models are available.

I'm happy to see some of the neighborhood lawn care companies have already made the switch to electric versions. This bodes well for a more tranquil and healthier neighborhood.

*Sara Donaldson  
Lowry Hill*

### Gas Leaf Blowers Be Gone!

Three cheers for Susan Lenfestey's column "Say Goodbye to Gas Powered Leaf Blowers!"

For all the reasons cited, it's time to do something about these infernal machines.

I understand the city's reluctance to try to regulate a practice they doubt they can enforce.

Maybe it's time for we consumers to step up. For those of us who employ lawn maintenance firms, why not ask them to refrain from using gas powered leaf blowers?

Or if that doesn't work, find another firm who will use a more environmentally friendly alternative.

*Tim Thompson  
Lowry Hill*

The wildfires in Canada have already displaced a staggering 120,000 people and burned 5.4 million acres of forest. If the rate of fire activity continues at its current pace it will be the worst wildfire season in Canada's recorded history!

This isn't just a Canadian problem – numerous wildfires have burned this year throughout northern Minnesota in the Boundary Waters and Superior National Forest. While fire is a natural part of ecosystems, the harsh reality is that severe weather and a changing climate, particularly the increasing heat and dryness, have created fertile ground for uncharacteristically frequent, large, and severe wildfires.

The United States Forest Service manages 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands nationwide, an area roughly the size of Texas! The agency is trying to proactively ensure forests and grasslands are more resilient to the growing threats of climate-induced fires and other natural disasters. Things like better pest management, prescribed burns, planting diverse tree species, and vegetation management that addresses overcrowding and supports forest health.

We need to get this right before the problem grows much worse. Our national forests and grasslands support us in so many ways - including hunting, fishing, recreation, wood production, cleaning our air and water, and a place of quiet solitude to reflect and be grateful for all we have. Resilience of national forests and grasslands would mean a stronger America.

*Rick Hall  
Moorhead*

## BOOKKEEPER WANTED FOR Hill & Lake Press

The Hill & Lake Press needs a part-time bookkeeper. The bookkeeper will work with the editor, advertising manager and finance committee to track expenses and receipts, enter transactions into Quickbooks and create monthly and annual reports.

A working knowledge of Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel is necessary. A minimum of two years of bookkeeping and/or accounting is required. Almost all work can be done remotely. The bookkeeper will report to the treasurer.

Interested candidates should contact Phil Hallaway at (612) 306-8929.

## Everyone Is Entitled To My Opinion: Dear Mayor, Please Save Hennepin Before It's Too Late

By Susan Lenfestey

**"No one wants to look at the empty businesses and bike lanes eight years from now and wonder why those in power didn't stand up and say, 'Wait, let's get this right.'"**

*Susan Lenfestey lives in Lowry Hill and is a regular contributor to Hill & Lake Press. She cofounded the paper in 1976 and serves on its board of directors.*

Last month I asked readers for their "creative but realistic ideas" for getting the city to rethink the Hennepin Avenue makeover plan. Or, if it's a good plan, why.

The responses included one pleasantly positive take on the plan, while others thought we should put up more of a fight, as the East Phillips neighborhood did against the city's plans for the Roof Depot site. "We're just too polite."

So I thought I'd kick things off with a letter to Mayor Frey. A polite one.

Dear Mayor Frey,

I'm writing to ask you to delay the city's planned makeover of Hennepin Ave. S. between Douglas Ave. and Lake St. for further review in light of the multiple changes that have occurred in our city since Covid, as well as the safety concerns raised by the Bryant Ave. S. project and the disastrous impact of the previous makeover on one block of Hennepin Ave. S. in Uptown.

Development of the current plan started in 2018, pre-Covid, and received limited in-person public review due to the pandemic. Those who were not part of a larger organized group or did not have the ability to use technology such as Zoom were not heard. However, Our Streets Minneapolis, formerly the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, with a staff of over a dozen people, was able to flood the city with electronic letters of support.

The current plan no longer fits the reality of either Uptown or Downtown and will cause irrepara-



Hennepin Ave. S. between Lake St. and W. 31st St. (Photo Craig Wilson)

ble damage to the remaining businesses on Hennepin Ave. S.

You know the changes better than anyone:

1. Covid emptied out office buildings across the nation and drastically changed working and commuting patterns. In Minneapolis, Metro transit ridership is down roughly 65%. This plan is based on pre-Covid numbers that are unlikely to return to what they were.

Despite low ridership, and security concerns that closed the transfer station just four blocks south, the plan still gives priority to bus lanes and includes two 150' boarding platforms at W. 25th St. and Hennepin Ave. S. that stretch half a football field in front of existing small businesses.

2. The Bryant Ave. S. "bike and pedestrian friendly project," an admitted goof by the city, has resulted in a street too narrow for fire trucks, snowplows and garbage trucks to access. This raises serious public safety concerns for the Hennepin project, which also narrows traffic lanes in favor of bus and bike lanes and creates medians to prohibit left turns.

In light of the Bryant Ave. S. mistakes, it seems that a more thorough review of the current Hennepin Ave. S. plan is in order, including how delivery trucks will access busi-

nesses and how snow plowing will impact all traffic but especially safety vehicles.

3. I applaud your veto of the 24/7 bus lanes that would have removed 93% of the on-street parking permanently, but the plan still prohibits on-street parking during the hours of peak bus usage. We can live with that, but can the businesses? We now see that neighborhoods that have had on-street parking removed are suffering.

The Star Tribune recently reported that residents and businesses at W. 42nd St. and Bryant Ave. S. want their on-street parking back. Said Jim Landvick, who runs the Cedar Inn Bar & Grill, "My customers are complaining. It's going to destroy my business."

The most glaring example of what the loss of parking can do is the dead zone on Hennepin Ave. S. between Lake St. and W. 31st St. in once-thriving Uptown. The small business owners in Uptown who are still hanging on tell me that the city "is killing my business."

For contrast, look no further than 50th and France, where parking is free and businesses are humming.

4. There is no disagreement about the need to drastically reduce carbon, or the benefits of walking and biking over the gas-guzzling car. But since 2018, when planning for this

project began, the development and use of electric vehicles has tripled. According to the International Energy Agency, "Global sales of electric cars kept rising strongly in 2022, with 2 million sold in the first quarter, up 75% from the same period in 2021."

Yet this plan makes little mention of the advent of EVs and includes few if any public charging stations.

We need to change the kinds of cars we're driving, a more realistic goal than doing away with 60% of car trips, as the city's Transportation Action Plan calls for. We should model ourselves on Norway, where last year, 80% of new-car sales were electric, and combustion engine cars will no longer be sold after 2025. That's a goal we can all get behind.

I recognize that putting a hold on the project in light of these changes would cause an uproar at City Hall and bring the wrath of many down on your head, but sometimes leadership demands enormous courage.

No one had the courage to put a stop to Southwest Light Rail while there was still time, and we know what an embarrassing and costly boondoggle that is.

No one wants to look at the empty businesses and bike lanes eight years from now and wonder why those in power didn't stand up and say, "Wait, let's get this right."

# CALLING ALL KIDS!

*SEND US NEWS,  
STORIES, POETRY,  
ART, PHOTOS, JOKES,  
GAMES, ETC!*

## coming in august!

### THE RETURN OF THE HILL & LAKE PRESS KIDS' ISSUE!

The August issue of the Hill & Lake Press will be written and produced by neighborhood kids, under the supervision of Jackie Brown Baylor, mom, Lowry Hill resident and board member of the Hill & Lake Press, and guest kids' editor Sonia Kharbanda, a junior at St. Paul Academy and Summit School who lives in East Isles. **There is still time to contribute by July 24!**

Please contact [jackie@hillandlakepress.org](mailto:jackie@hillandlakepress.org)

The summer kids' issue was a regular feature of the Hill & Lake Press in the late 1970s and early 1980s, featuring articles and artwork by, well, kids.

We're delighted to give our next generation of journalists a shot at seeing their work in print!

**PARK BOARD UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS FINAL CEDAR-ISLES PLAN, Front page**

**"Community engagement matters, and this process proved the point."**

ommendations.

Water quality and ecology remained a top focus, and the plan continued to recognize and respect the different characters and usage of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, while retaining a "light touch" as to new amenities.

As largely anticipated, some more divisive items did remain, including the potential for a permanent base for the temporary warming house on Lake of the Isles and a mountain bike trail through the northeast Cedar woods, parallel to the existing Kenilworth trail.

Matters became more contentious the following Monday, June 19, when 17 potential amendments to the plan were posted on the Park Board website, most of which ran counter to various CAC recommendations.

Compiled by staff after the end of the public comment period, and offered to the board members to move if they so chose, these amendments included the return of a proposed boardwalk along northwest Cedar Lake, the construction of a dead-end trail through the Park Lane easements on southeast Cedar Lake, and

the addition of a paved trail through the northeast Cedar woods.

Perhaps the most surprising potential amendment was for a "dog park overlook" on Lake of the Isles, presumably to be cantilevered out from the Midtown Greenway, an idea pushed by the Pedestrian Advisory Committee in its now-infamous March memo to the board.

**A Hostile Public Reaction**

These potential amendments created a short-term furor in the lead-up to the Park Board Planning Committee meeting two days later.

Former CAC members despaired, community residents wrote in large numbers, and the commissioners worked hard to respond.

After a review of the raw public comment data, it became clear that only the final potential amendment, Amendment S, had substantial public support.

That amendment proposed to remove from the final plan a mountain bike trail through the northeast Cedar woods, a literal stone's throw from the existing Kenilworth bike trail.

Out of 389 total comments received during the final 45-day comment period, 84 people (or 21% of all respondents) wrote in objection to the bike trail.

**The Planning Committee Meeting**

Despite the swirl of emotions preceding it, the Planning Committee meeting itself was a civil, constructive affair. District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, who represents

Hill & Lake area neighborhoods, moved the adoption of Amendment S, which passed the committee 3-2.

She also introduced three other amendments, two of which related to cost and maintenance accounting, and one of which sought to remove a proposed portable restroom on the northeast portion of Lake of the Isles. The accounting amendments passed the committee, while the portable restroom amendment did not.

Two other potential amendments were discussed during this meeting, one relating to removal of the so-called "light touch" event space by East Cedar/Hidden Beach, and another proposing the construction of a year-round facility dedicated to ecology in or around Burnham Woods and the 21st St. light rail station.

Both potential amendments prompted discussion in the days that followed, but neither was ultimately moved by the commissioners at the board meeting on July 5.

**Final Approval at the Park Board Meeting**

Adoption of the final plan at the board meeting on July 5 was quick, quiet and unanimous, which I view as an excellent result for all concerned.

Commissioner Shaffer graciously moved the adoption of the final plan, as amended by the Planning Committee, first complimenting the board staff, the CAC and community members for their sustained hard work, a sentiment echoed by President Meg Forney. And with a quick voice vote, the plan was adopted. The whole

thing took less than five minutes.

**My Personal Opinion**

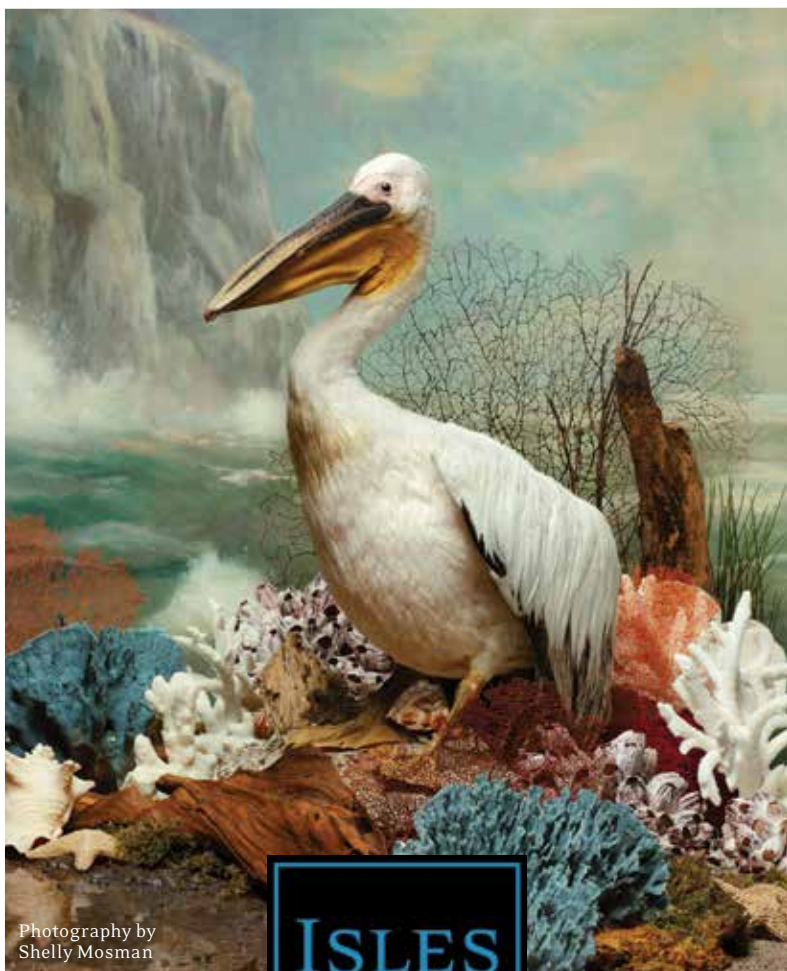
Overall, I believe the adoption of this final plan represents a win for virtually all involved. Nobody gets everything they want in a process like this, but most people got most of what they wanted.

What we did get is a plan that prioritizes water quality and the preservation of natural areas, that respects the historic character of each lake, that is restrained and realistic with its new amenities and that should preserve the flexibility and functionality of these immensely popular parks for the foreseeable future.

The Park Board gets credit for a process that sought out and responded to public feedback in a truly significant way, and the plan itself closely reflects the board's primary directive of preserving, protecting and improving parklands for this generation and generations to come.

CAC members can rightly take pride in the fact that their hard-won compromises and recommendations are completely embodied in the final version of the plan, and community members should take note of just how extensively the many versions of this plan changed in response to their feedback.

Community engagement matters, and this process proved the point.



Photography by Shelly Mosman



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OPINION

By Carol Becker

# Complete Streets Program Increases Injuries to People and the City Is Okay With It

**“In 2022, there were 28 accidents total at 26th and Lyndale. Of the 28 accidents, 23 accidents occurred between July and December, after the City narrowed the street in July 2022.”**

*Carol Becker holds a Ph.D. in public administration, served on the Board of Estimate and Taxation for 16 years and is currently teaching government and political science at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.*

In 2017, the City of Minneapolis adopted a goal of zero transportation-related deaths by 2027. This was done in concert with programs like the “Complete Streets Program,” which explicitly prioritizes the safety of individuals who walk and bike over individuals who travel in cars, and the Minneapolis 2040 Plan, which envisions a 40% reduction in auto travel by 2040.

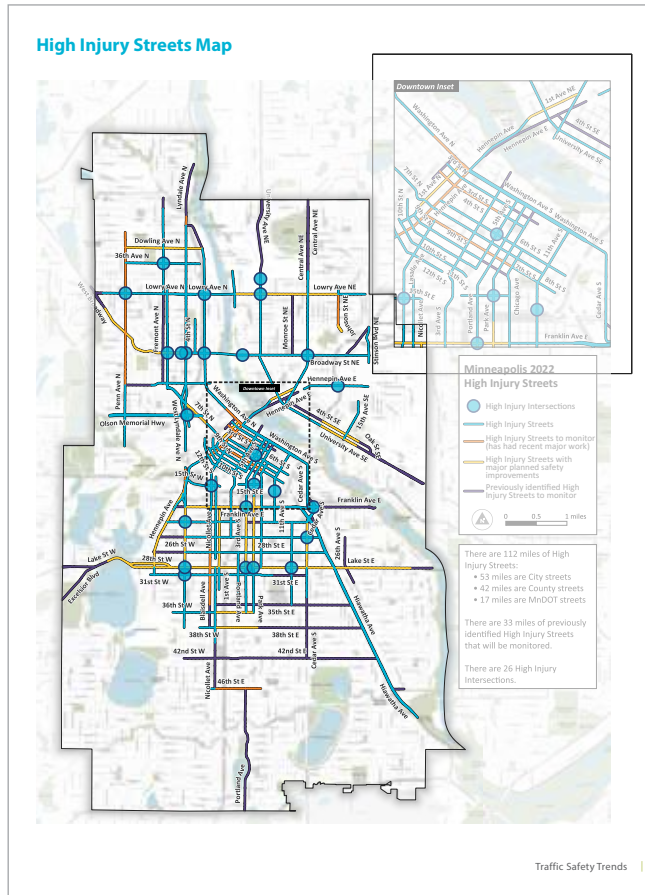
The city created a program called “Vision Zero” to implement physical changes to streets to achieve its goal of zero transportation deaths. These changes include reducing the speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph, converting streets from four lanes to three, creating sidewalk bump-outs, narrowing streets to slow traffic, putting trees and plantings into the middle of streets, putting in bike lanes where there is no demand to reduce the width of the roadway, adding concrete barriers to separate bike and auto lanes and a myriad of other changes. In theory, this sounds like a good idea; in practice, more people are getting seriously injured.

**Have these changes made the city a safer place to travel? No.**

You can see how fatalities jumped after the implementation of the Vision Zero program in the graphic Minneapolis Fatal Crashes (City of Minneapolis). Total fatalities in 2022 were 87% higher than the average annual number of fatalities for 2016-2019, prior to the implementation of the Vision Zero program. To put this in perspective, in 2021, transportation-related deaths were the highest they have been in 24 years.

**There has also been a shift in who is getting harmed.**

The number of fatalities for persons traveling in automobiles and motorcycles has more than doubled over the last three years at an average of 11 deaths when compared to the average from 2016-2019, of 4.5 deaths. In fact, almost all of the growth in fatalities has been from people traveling in cars



and on motorcycles (Minneapolis Vision Zero 2023 Annual Report).

All severe injuries, crashes that do not result in death but in serious bodily harm, increased 20% in 2021 and 2022, at 16 injuries, when compared to the average for 2016-2019, which was five injuries. Severe crashes also show this shift from pedestrians to drivers. Severe pedestrian and bike injuries declined 31% in 2022 compared to 2016-2019, while injuries to persons traveling in automobiles increased over 50% (Minneapolis Vision Zero 2023 Annual Report).

**Many of the physical improvements for pedestrians have made driving less safe.**

When streets are narrowed, it is harder for drivers to see pedestrians and other vehicles. When things are put into the roadway, like plantings, trees, and concrete barriers, it can be hard for drivers to navigate obstacles, especially at night when well over 50% of accidents happen despite substantially fewer travelers. For example, in 2022, there were a total of 28 accidents at 26th and Lyndale. Of the 28 accidents, 23 accidents occurred between July and December, after the City narrowed the street in July 2022 (Fox 9 News, City of Minneapolis). One of these accidents left a woman severely disabled, even though she was simply exiting a vehicle at night on the substantially narrowed street.

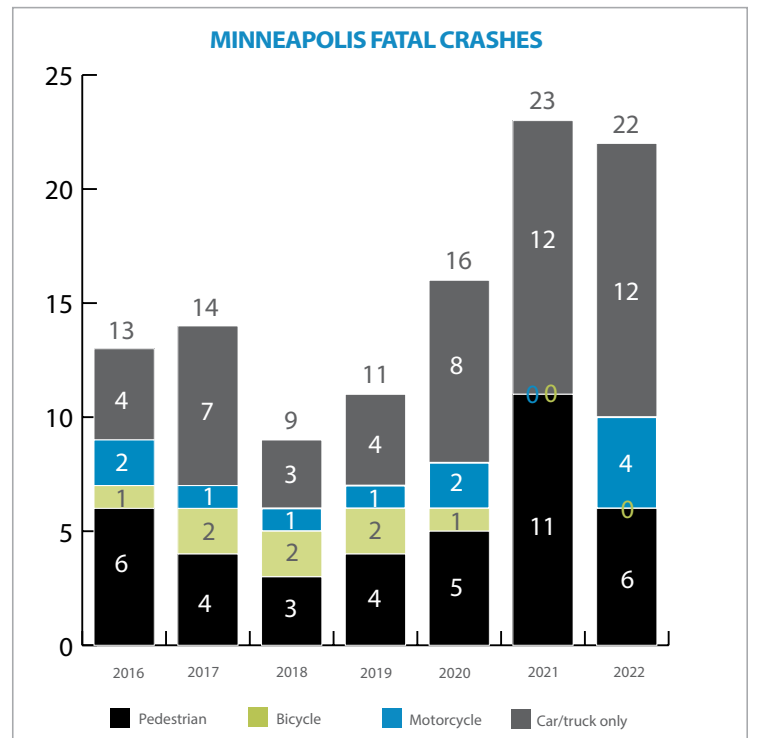
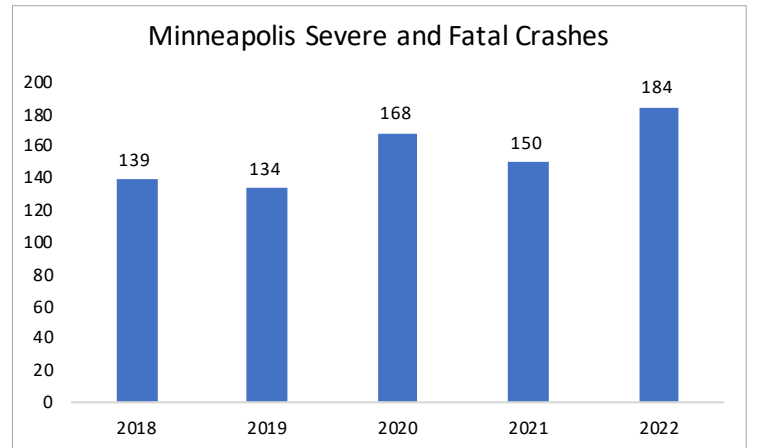
**This shift from injuries to pedestrians to injuries to persons traveling in cars is by design.**

The Complete Streets policy explicitly prioritizes pedestrian and bicyclist safety over the safety of persons traveling in cars. The policy states: “Safety of the most vulnerable street users — those walking, rolling, and biking — must be the highest priority, because they are the most at risk” (Minneapolis Complete Streets Program).

The head of Hennepin County Transportation Planning explained to me that the kind of changes the City of Minneapolis is making to its roadways naturally increase the number of accidents. The hope is that the city is trading fewer severe injuries to pedestrians for fewer severe injuries to persons in cars. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Minneapolis where more drivers are injured than pedestrians.

**What can be done?**

Infrastructure that reduces harm to pedestrians but increases harm to persons traveling by car should be used judiciously and only in places with high rates of pedestrian injuries. This map shows that the vast majority of pedestrian injuries and deaths are occurring on a very small number of streets (2022 Vision Zero Crash Study). Viewed in this light, the changes to Bryant Ave. S. or an unneeded bikeway at W. 40th St and W. 58th St./Sunrise Dr. make



Source: MnDOT MnCMAT 2023. Excludes freeway, intentional, and medical emergency crashes. Fatal crashes were corrected based on Public Works review and Hennepin County Medical Examiner data.

no sense. The city should focus changes on high-injury streets and leave other streets alone.

**The city owes its citizens a pre- and post-implementation report for every roadway change.**

For W. 26th St. and Lyndale Ave. S., the city should have to disclose that there were five accidents before its roadway changes and 23 afterwards. It should then justify why this is a good thing or remove the elements that are causing increased harm. In fact, the city owes its citizens a full analysis of the impact of the Vision Zero changes so far.

Engineers are licensed in the State of Minnesota to ensure that the things they build are safe and meet state and federal laws. Yet in Minneapolis engineers are building things that are increasing harm and injury, not reducing it. In the case of Bryant Ave. S., it also built things that violate state laws. Citizens can file with the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design to request that the licenses of engineers building unsafe things be reviewed.

Last, it is abhorrent that the city is trading the lives of one group for another. Policies that prioritize harm of one group over another must be replaced by policies that focus on reducing injuries and deaths overall. Every life matters, and current city policy does not reflect this.

## FEATURE

## Pacita Abad, Doug Argue: Letters to the Future, and Revisión: Three Art Exhibits to See This Summer!

By Josie Owens

### Pacita Abad Walker Art Center

Jacques Cousteau described coral reefs as “a living kaleidoscope of lilac flecks, splashes of gold, reddish streaks, and yellows, all tinged by the familiar transparent blue of the sea.” To experience this on land, one needs only to visit the current exhibit at the Walker Art Center. Standing in the center of the Perlman Gallery, the viewer is transported to an underwater paradise, surrounded by fish, coral reefs, and seaweed.

Approaching the walls, one is amazed by the unusual techniques that Pacita Abad employed to create this watery world, which she fell in love with as a scuba diver. Her large painted quilts are adorned with mirrors, buttons, Ric Rac and fabric appliqué. The quilts become three-dimensional through Abad’s use of trapunto, a method of quilting in which the material is stuffed with cloth or feathers creating a raised surface. Abad taught herself trapunto as well as many other techniques in her world travels.

Abad was born in the Philippines in 1946 and emigrated to America in 1970 after protesting against the Marcos regime. She became an American citizen in 1994 and died in Washington in 2004. During her too-short life, she traveled to places including Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, Singapore and Sudan to acquire new art techniques as well as give a voice to oppressed people.

Her prolific work, which shares the stories of the people she met and studied with, is highly relevant today. In the four galleries, there are works that have never been seen before in the United States. Along with her quilts, there are other textiles, works on paper, costumes and ceramics. The exhibit is excellently curated by Victoria Sung and Matthew Villar Miranda, who also contributed to the exhibit publication, the most extensive documentation of Abad’s work.

*Pacita Abad runs through September 3.*



Pacita Abad exhibition catalogue  
Walker Art Center

### Doug Argue Weisman Art Museum

“It seemed to me as if I were separated from all my fellows, not by a quite short stretch, but by an infinite distance, and as if I would die less of hunger than of neglect.” Franz Kafka wrote this in his short story, “Investigations of a Dog,” and inspired Doug Argue’s dizzying artwork “Untitled,” familiarly called the Chicken Painting. On a 12’ x 18’ canvas, hundreds of chickens, each one an individual, occupy a dystopian chicken coop that might or might not end at the central vanishing point. The viewer feels surrounded by the cages and that there are even caged chickens behind him. The 198 square feet of chickens engulfs the viewer into an unforgettable artistic experience.

Similarly, in the next gallery, “Genesis,” on loan from the Freedom Tower in New York, is another large canvas containing both the Big Bang and the Old Testament creation story. The letters that tumble out from the center are all from the Book of Genesis and become part of a cosmos only Argue could create.

“Letters to the Future” contains artworks that share the Minnesota artist’s personal journey: death of a brother, birth of his son and interest in botany and philosophy to name a few. Argue says, “I’m really honored to team up again with Elizabeth Armstrong, who curated my first exhibition at the Walker Art Center in 1985, almost 40 years later.

“To have this exhibition showing works I’ve done through all these years at the Weisman Art Mu-

seum in my hometown is very, very special to me. I hope people will see the exhibition and find each work compelling but also take note of the changes I made from one work to the next and hopefully find it mysterious and interesting and reflective of a life being lived.”

*Doug Argue: Letters to the Future runs through September 10.*

### ReVisión: Art in the Americas Mia

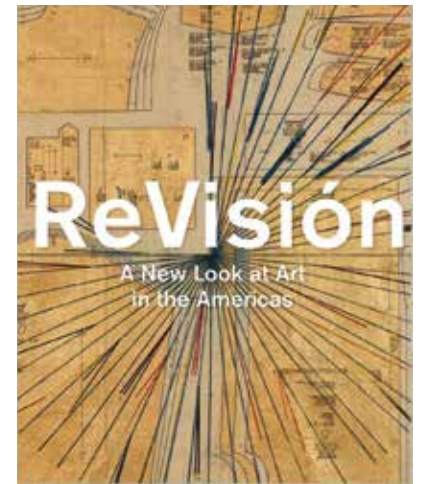
Valéria Piccoli, the new Ken and Linda Cutler Chair of the Arts of the Americas and curator of Latin American Art at Mia, has arrived! Her first exhibit is an engaging experience that combines the Denver Art Museum’s collections of ancient art of American and Latin American civilizations with wonderful pieces from Mia’s own collection. Although the 130 objects dating from 100 BC to today are compelling in themselves, it is the structure of the exhibit that elevates the visitor’s experience.

Revisión is divided into three main sections: Connections to the Land, Riches of this Place, and Organizing Our World. The artworks are in dialogue with each other and provoke the viewer to think of the connections that permeate the centuries. “Water Goddess Chalchiuhtlicue” (1500), an Aztec sculpture, is juxtaposed with “The Virgin of Valvanera” (about 1710) attributed to Cristobal de Villalpando to highlight the appropriation of the Indigenous pantheon by Catholic missionaries.

Rafael Ochoa’s “Portrait of Don José Bernardo de Asteguieta y Díaz de Sarralde” (1793) and Wilfredo Lam’s “Les Bras Sur La Tête [The Arms Over the Head]” share the often-ignored Black experience in the Americas. Luis Gonzales Palma’s stunning photograph “Hija de la Vida,” (2019), is a simply adorned goddess who challenges the bishop with his many objects of power and status in “Portrait of Don Francisco Jose Perez de Lanciego y Eguilaz” (1714) by Juan Rodriguez Juarez.

Piccoli stresses that the show begins and ends in the same place because these overlapping artworks “address political and social issues at the core of the cultural heritage of the Americas” and keep the audience circling back to these powerful themes that have faced this region for over 2,000 years.

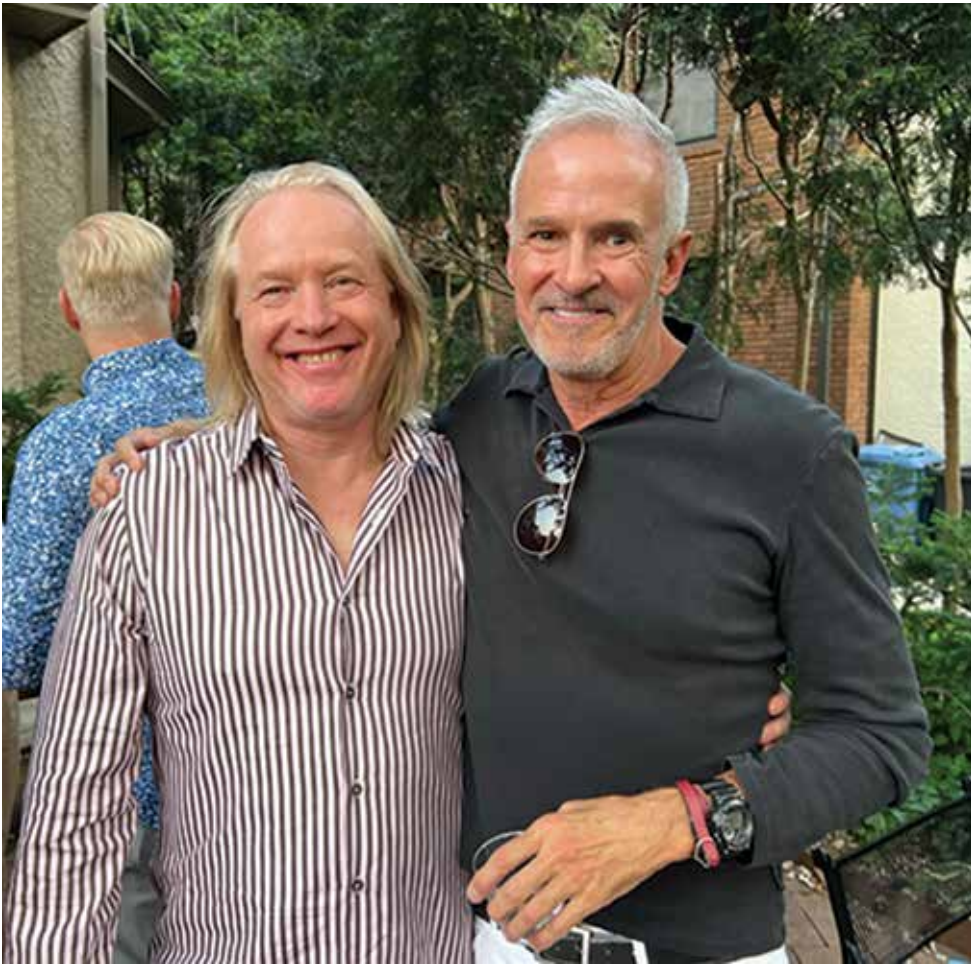
*Revisión runs through September 17. Public tours offered at 2 p.m. daily.*



ReVisión exhibition catalogue  
Minneapolis Institute of Art



Doug Argue, The Future is Not What it Used to Be (detail), 2006. Oil on linen. 78 x 55 in.  
Loan from the Hargreaves collection. Image courtesy of the artist.



Artist Doug Argue and coeditor of his book, *Letter to the Future*, Claude Peck



Artist Doug Argue and host Josie Owens



Kathy Gaskins, Josie Owens and John & Searcy Lillehei



Mia Art Guides Jean Ann Durades, Debbi Hegstrom and Marne Zafar



Groveland Gallery Manager Andrea Bubula and Director Sally Johnson and Josie Owens, who wrote about the gallery's 50th anniversary in the June 2023 edition

The Minneapolis arts community supported Doug Argue at an opening reception hosted by author Josie Owens and her husband Brian Owens in Lowry Hill (Photos Craig Wilson)



**Hill & Lake Press**

**‘Where the biggies leave off...’**

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Neighborhood Association



# AUGUST ACTIVITIES



**Sunday, August 6, 3–4 p.m.**  
Acoustic Music Series: Open Jam at Cedar Lake South Beach  
Enjoy live music on a warm summer afternoon.

**Wednesday, August 9, 6:00–7:30 p.m.**  
CIDNA Board meeting at Jones-Harrison Lakeview Room  
All CIDNA residents are invited to attend.



**Friday, August 11, 10:45–11:30 a.m.**  
Storytime Picnic Series at Park Siding Park  
Pack a picnic & blanket, listen to a story, pARTicipate in a craft.

**Saturday, August 19, 9 a.m.–12Noon**  
CIDNA Gardeners at Park Siding Park  
Care for the gardens and visit with fellow CIDNA residents.



Learn more at [cidna.org](http://cidna.org)

## LOWRY HILL NEWS – July 2023



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us for our favorite summer event on Saturday, July 22nd at 3 p.m. in Thomas Lowry Park for Sebastian Joe's ice cream and a fantastic day with your neighbors.



### GO FOR A WALK THE LOWRY HILL SAFETY WALKING CLUB

Wow! The first walks were a huge success. If you're interested in joining us, we meet at Thomas Lowry Park two times per month for a friendly walk around the neighborhood, lasting approximately 90 minutes. Upcoming dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 15, 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m.



### LET'S GO FISHING!

Saturday, August 5th, from 1-3 p.m. at the South East corner of Cedar Lake, on the dock. The DNR will be there to provide poles and bait. No fishing license or experience required. Join us for fishing, snacks, face painting, and fun with neighbors.



Thank you for your generous support.



Sign up for the LHNA email newsletter at [lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://lowryhillneighborhood.org)



# In Defense of the Bicycle: 15 Reasons You Should Hop On

By Tom Trondson



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

Tom Trondson's debut novel, "Moving In Stereo," won the American Writing Awards "Best Sports Fiction 2022." He lives in Lowry Hill.

1. Because damn it, you can. Pushing off, that glide, that imperceptible understanding (it's a feeling, really), realizing balance is about speed. The faster you pedal, the easier it is.
2. It's a rite of passage. The first time your father or mother, jogging alongside you and your wobbly Schwinn, their hand on the saddle or the flat of your back, released you. There was no turning back then.
3. There's a natural ease to riding a bike. Like talking or laughing. Rolling over flat, unimpeded ground, the momentum leaning into a turn — perfection.
4. It's like riding in a convertible (how the world opens up, and out and out) or standing on top of a roof.

Perspective changes. Everything is better by bike. Lilacs are more fragrant. The sky is bluer. Sounds — the clicking chain caught between gears, tires on gravel, catching your breath — are truer, more distinct.

5. Cycling is like no other transport. The vigor you feel slowing for your destination, that sense of accomplishment, point A to point B — all on your own accord. You did this. Nothing else got you there.
6. Because David Byrne is an advocate.
7. And the benefits: extra parking spaces at Kowalski's, one less car running a red light on Hennepin, less noise, less congestion, less pollution, more sculpted thighs and calves, improved cardio, increased blood flow, vitamin D.
8. Biking is a combination of momentum, balance, concentration and

strength. Plus a little determination on those slow climbs up Irving and Fremont Avenues. My commuter friends boast about the rides home. As if the journey were the point of the exercise. They arrive home happier, sweatier, more present.

9. Without bicycles, there's no Greg LeMond, "Breaking Away", or Katharine Ross sitting on Paul Newman's handlebars with "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head."

10. It's meditative. Spending an hour inside your head while the world passes by in vibrant colors restores vitality and purpose.

11. Three seasons a year it's a hearty, healthy, adventurous way to run errands, hit the gym, see a movie, go to a show, or eat at a local restaurant. You'll thank yourself afterwards.

12. The best is cycling with a group or a friend. Think of the social benefits of tennis or pickleball only you're traveling a greater distance. Conversation is king: arguing The Suburbs versus The Replacements, solving world hunger, or simply lending a sympathetic ear to a troubled friend.

13. Cycling city streets reinforces community, the notion that automobiles, trucks, public transit, pedestrians, dog walkers, stray squirrels and bicyclists can work together in harmony.

14. In this breakneck world it's a fantastic way to unwind.

15. Give it a go... it'll change your life. Vroom!



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)



## THE UPTOWN THEATER ROCKS!, Front page

After lunch, I also stopped by the newly opened Daisy's Bar, the old Cowboy Slim's space located just kitty-corner from the Uptown Theater, for a hoppy happy hour pint of beer. Aubry, the bartender, was also optimistic for the future of the neighborhood.

I learned that this bar is owned by the same organization that developed, owns and manages the Uptown Theater, as well as the Armory, Reign and several restaurants and properties in Minneapolis.

It seems there is true commitment with this new investment in our neighborhood and a new transition is happening, and that there is a good chance that suburbanites and out-of-towners who said they would never come back to the city will be back to enjoy the wonderful diversity and positive energy of art, entertainment, culture and nature that our city has to offer. This is of course my opinion, and I truly believe it is going to happen.



(Photo Rich Harrison)

# East Isles Update

Thanks to all who attended our Summer Social! We had a great turnout of new and familiar faces, and plenty of free ice cream was had by all. Extra special thanks to our Sustaining Sponsors: Isles Bun & Coffee and Kowalski's Uptown Market.

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

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

Visit [eastisles.org/join](http://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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### East Isles Safety Walking Club

July 2 Sunday, 10 – 11:30 AM  
July 26 Wednesday, 5:30 – 7 PM  
Aug. 6 Sunday, 10 – 11:30 AM

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

July 8 Saturdays, 9:30 AM – 12 PM  
Aug. 12, Sept. 16

Check-in W 27th St & E Lake of the Isles Pkwy  
Keep the shores beautiful and healthy for people and wildlife. Bring your neighbors, kids and friends!

### 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! Check for registration on our website soon.

Dates subject to change—visit [eastisles.org](http://eastisles.org) for the latest.

# summer fun in kenwood

## fishing in the Parks

August 5th 1 - 3pm

-  Fish with the DNR: They will provide the poles and bait. No license required!
-  ARTrageous Adventures Fishy Creation Station
-  Increase your fishing skills and get a chance to know some of our wonderful neighbors!
-  Enter a door prize drawing to win a fishing pole and other prizes
-  Refreshments & snack provided
-  Fun photo opportunity!

### Cedar Lake on the Pier



Located on the southwest corner of Cedar Lake. 2630 Cedar Lake Parkway. Park at the parking lot and come on over and join us. Rain or Shine



RSVP using the QR code (but not required)

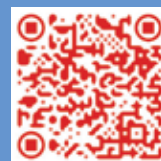


Kenwood Neighborhood Organization, Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, and Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association are sponsoring this outdoor event.

## EVENTS FOR ALL AGES!

Hidden Acoustic Concerts, Yoga, Shakespeare Plays, Mermaids & Pirates Party, Fishing on Cedar Lake.

Learn more at [kenwoodmpls.org](http://kenwoodmpls.org) or simply scan the code



We need YOU to volunteer with us! A great way to meet neighbors and give back to your community.

get involved – [kenwoodmpls.org](http://kenwoodmpls.org)



# The Star in the Cottonwood Tree

As Told by Mary Louise Defender Wilson

*Transcribed with minor clarifications from the audio story, "The Star in the Cottonwood Tree," as presented in the CD, "My Relatives Say" featuring Mary Louise Defender Wilson. Louise Defender Wilson, also known as Gourd Woman, is a Dakota elder and traditionalist born into a family of storytellers on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota.*

A long time ago, when everything was still new, up in the sky, were many stars. Amongst them was this little star, who was very interested and curious about everything. This little star traveled across the sky, and would stop and examine so many things. One day this little star came down to earth. It traveled all around the earth looking at all the animals, all the birds, all the plants and everything that was alive.

One day it came near this village. There was a sound coming from this village that was so beautiful and so wonderful, that the little star could not believe it. It stayed close to this village. It had never heard anything so beautiful in all the heavens and all the places it had visited around the earth. So, it stayed close to this village. It listened, and listened, and couldn't get enough of hearing that beautiful sound. One day it got to thinking, "I am a star, and I am supposed to be up in the sky with the other stars. I had better go back." So, it went back up into the sky with the other stars.

But it began to think about the beautiful sound it had heard coming from that village and thought, "I would like to go back and hear it some more." Then the little star began to feel very lonesome and sad. So, when the other stars were talking about different things, the little star asked them if it could go back and live near that village so it could hear that beautiful sound. The stars said, "No. You are a star and you belong up here in the sky."

So, the little star said nothing. It tried to be involved in all the things that stars do, such as shining up in the sky, and moving here and there. But it got so lonely it went back to the other stars again and said, "I am so lonesome, and I feel so bad. I want go and stay near that village forever to hear that sound."

The other stars said, "You cannot do that because those are people. They have things that they must do to stay alive. They have work to do. They have to gather food. They have to build their houses. They have to look after their children. They have to make their clothes. And they have to live. And if you move close to them, shining around, they will all be looking at you. You will disturb their lives. And they will not get along, so you can't do that."

So, the little star thought and thought. And finally, it asked the other stars, "If I can find a way to be close to that village without them seeing me, can I stay there?" And the other stars said "Yes. If you can find a way to stay there without disturbing the people, then you can go."

So, the little star went close to that village and looked around and saw a cottonwood tree growing close to the village. The star said, "I will stay inside that tree, where I can hear that beautiful sound that comes from that village."

That sound was the sound of the people. The women, the men, the children, laughing, and saying good words to each other. Today the star is still in that cottonwood tree, hoping to hear those beautiful sounds.



Kenwood Elementary students took a hike through the DNR school forest to learn about tree planting from Ojibwe elder, Richard "Black Crow" Wright. Students learned about the Star in the cottonwood tree story. Calvin LaFevere demonstrates the star in a cottonwood branch (lower Right) (Photos Angie Erdrich).

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# Meet Your Neighbor

By Alida Mitau

## John Larsen

*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.*

**John Larsen talks about the impressive garden he maintains with his son Jacob and husband Mike at their home on Lake of the Isles.**

**How long have you lived in your current house?**

My husband Mike and I moved in in 2012, and our son Jacob (who is also an avid gardener and botanist) came to live with us in 2016.

**Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in St Louis, where I fell in love with beautiful gardens and landscapes. My husband Mike grew up in Zimmerman, MN, but he is not a passionate gardener. Our son Jacob grew up in South Dakota, where he spent a fair amount of time working in gardens and greenhouses. Jacob, who just received his master's in botany, has been a great partner in the garden.

**What do you do for work?**

I'm an architect, environmentalist and nonprofit junkie! Mike is an incredible home chef. Jacob is working a couple of jobs this summer before pursuing his doctorate in botany.

**When, why and how did you get into gardening?**

I grew up tending to my mom's gardens and mowing lawns for money. At the time, I thought it crazy to be on my hands and knees planting and pulling weeds all day. Silly me — now it's my favorite place to be!

Jacob has a natural way with all plants. He learned some of his gardening skills growing up, but he has become more interested in and knowledgeable about the subject over the past few years.



John Larsen, husband Mike Stewart and son Jacob Pierre Louis (Photos John Larsen)

**What does your garden consist of?**

As a passionate avocational gardener, I love to grow everything. Finding the balance between growing what I know to be beautiful (often simpler, more limited planting palettes) with growing everything we like to grow is an ongoing challenge. Jacob helps balance my wild desires with his simpler approach.

All that said, we have a large veggie garden with 20+ varieties of veggies. We also have a nice dahlia garden with approximately 80 dahlias of about 40 varieties.

We have a peaceful, wandering shade garden with lots of native woodland perennials, featuring ghost ferns, yews, anemones and Japanese forest grass.

And the list goes on — we grow lots of rhododendrons, fruit trees (five apple trees, two pear trees, an apricot tree and a peach tree), a boulevard zinnia garden to share with the neighborhood and a perennial sun border featuring peonies, lilies, asters and more. It's hard to stop!

**Do you do most of the gardening yourself, or do you have help from friends, neighbors, etc.?**

We know it's crazy, but we do the gardening ourselves.

**How much time do you spend in your garden?**

That's hard to figure. Depending on the time of year, it can be lots or very little. In the spring and fall, we can total more than 40 hours per week among the three of us (Jacob and I are about half and half, with Mike pitching in at times).

In the summer, it drops to an average of 10-15 hours per week, with a spike around the end of June when all the shrubs want trimming. Winter is quiet, but we do bring lots of annuals into the house.

**What is your favorite thing about gardening and why? Least favorite thing?**

My favorite thing is whiling away hours on a cooler day, going from one area to another. It's the best when I'm working with Jacob, and we have casual conversations

about random topics before drifting back into quiet, introverted time. It's so lovely.

My least favorite thing is probably dealing with crabgrass or intense rabbit damage. This past winter, the rabbits killed so many shrubs in our yard — yikes! The rabbits also like to eat our vegetable seedlings before they can really get going.

**Any dreams for your garden in the years to come?**

Every gardener I know never stops dreaming. So, — we — always have more plans. Right now, it's probably about whether we build a greenhouse to keep the gardening going year-round.

**How else do you spend your time in our lovely neighborhood?**

We feel wildly lucky to live on both Lake of the Isles and Kenwood Park. It feels like we live in the country. We love to walk and bike Isles. We cross-country ski, skate and snowshoe in the winter and enjoy walking the wooded sections around Cedar Lake in all seasons.

It's interesting to be asked this series of questions as though I am the only gardener. To me, it's a team effort that brings our family closer together and grounds us where we live.

**What is Upstream?**

In part, my love of growing things (and for our natural surroundings) has inspired me to start an initiative with a group of people from radically diverse backgrounds who are passionate about caring for our wonderful state and all it has to offer. It's called Upstream.

Upstream channels Minnesotans' love for our shared places into greater trust, connection and stewardship.

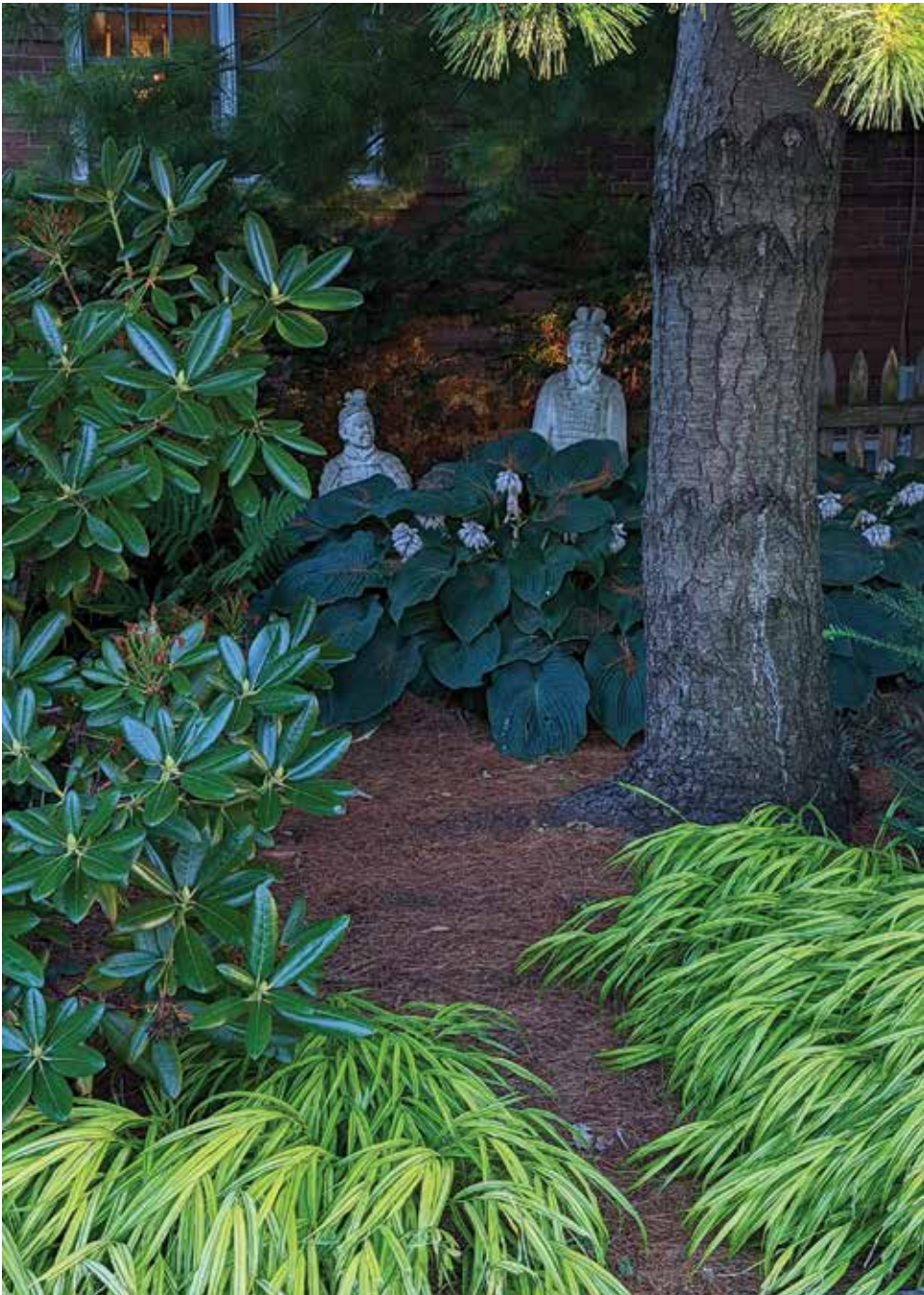
Mike, Jacob and I are proud and honored to be able to do this in our garden, the parks and the streets nearby our home and across the state.



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Top Left: John Larsen, husband Mike Stewart and son Jacob Pierre Louis with their chickens (Photos John Larsen)

## Serviceberry Sensation

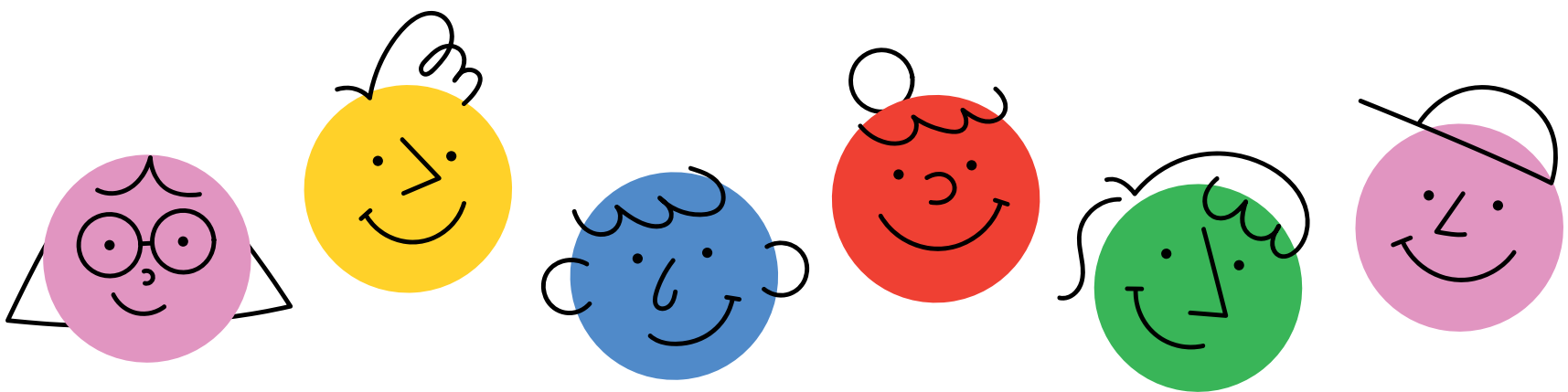
By Angie Erdrich

This is a great time to pick serviceberries, also commonly known as juneberries. They are a great ecological landscaping choice as the larval host plant for 94 species of native caterpillars in the 55405 zip code. Feed the life cycle of pollinators and birds and feed yourself juneberry pie. Learn from elder Richard "Black Crow" Wright at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZnpYwVtM5Q>. Other good landscaping choices for the Hill and Lakes neighborhood can be found by typing your zip code into this plant finder website: <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>.



Left to right: Ojibwe elder Richard "Black Crow" Wright; Amelanchier, also known as shadbush, shadwood or shadblow, serviceberry or sarvisberry, juneberry, saskatoon, sugarplum, wild-plum or chuckley pear, is a genus of about 20 species of deciduous-leaved shrubs and small trees in the rose family; Serviceberry Pie (Photos Angie Erdrich)

## What will you find inside a Christian Science Sunday School?

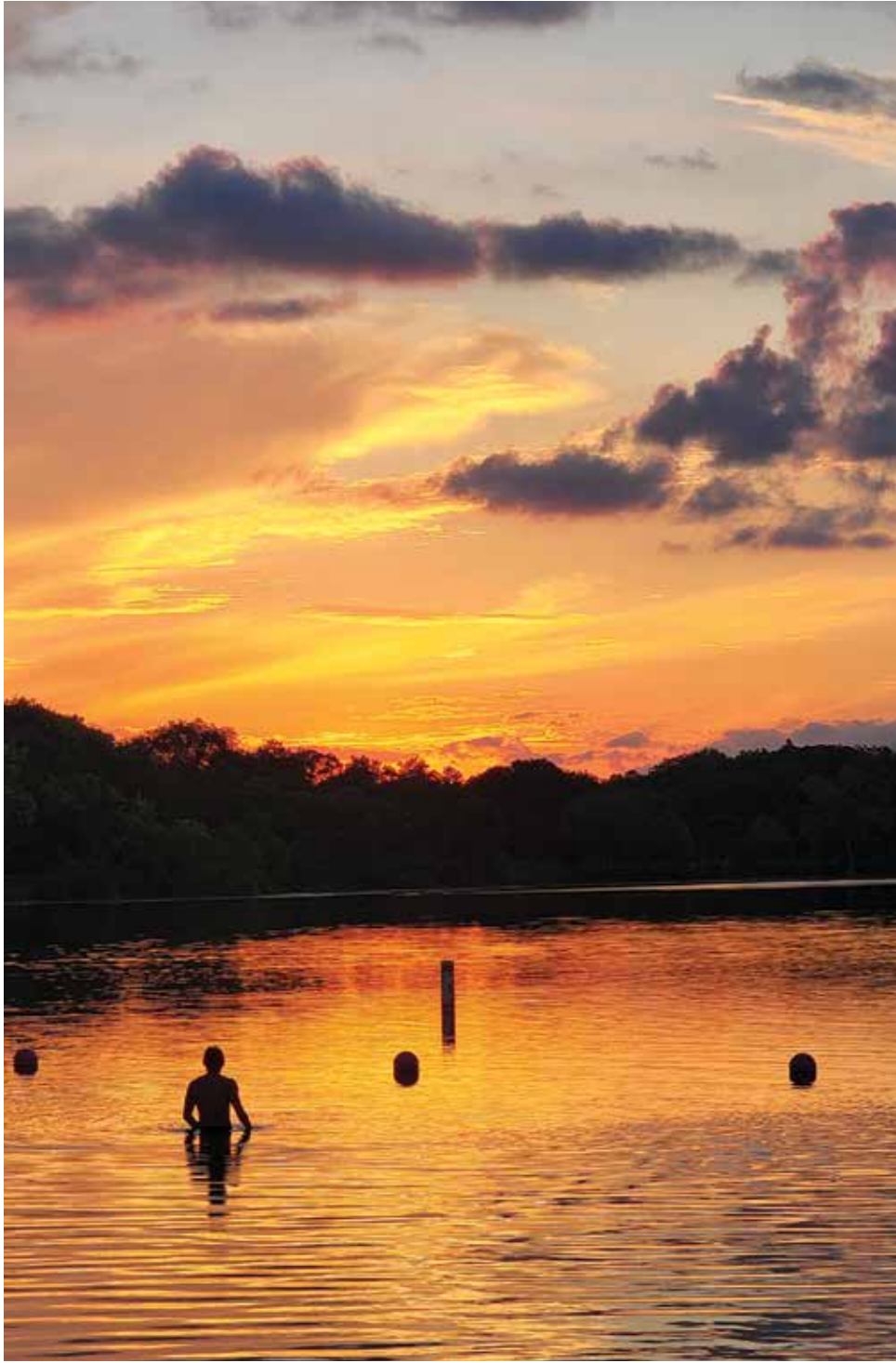


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# Summer Solstice

By Rob Werling

Solstice evening brilliant,  
 Cottonwood consortium dapples,  
 Dispersing seeds complicate the thrilled  
 Green lake surface.  
 Leaves quiver, whisper,  
 full with sun and all,  
 this late in the day:  
 "Stay. Everything we need is here."  
 It will always be so  
 easy.  
 It has always been so...

Dragonfly wood duck cattail burst,  
 Infants, incipience, of every variety...  
 Summer's sigh boils with  
 all of life's inevitabilities.  
 There is no hint yet of yellowing or browning;  
 Death is yet inconspicuous,  
 easily missed, off to the side,  
 stepped over, or too small to see.

But it's true,  
 at the hot glorious tragic apogee:  
 Everything is here now.  
 I'll stay.



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## CELLOici Recitals Return on July 21 and 28

By Michael Wilson

*Michael Wilson is a long-time Hill & Lake Press writer. Formerly a Cedar-Isles-Dean resident, he now lives in Taos, New Mexico.*

Lovers of the cello, take note. After a three-year Covid hiatus, the International Cello Institute's CELLOici recital series is returning this month with three recitals on successive Friday nights by internationally acclaimed cellists in the beautiful Art Gallery of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church.

All three cellists — Blaise Déjardin, Santiago Cañón-Valencia, and Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir — are serving as master faculty at this year's International Cello Institute (ICI) summer program, held in Northfield on the campus of St. Olaf College from July 8-29 for aspiring cellists ages 15-23.

Santiago Cañón-Valencia, a native of Colombia, is a "superstar soloist and something of an international phenom," according to Laura Sewell, ICI associ-



Cellists Santiago Cañón-Valencia and Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir present recitals this month in the Art Gallery of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. Cañón-Valencia plays on Friday, July 21. Thorsteinsdóttir plays on Friday, July 28. Both recitals begin at 7:30 p.m. (Photo Michael Wilson).

ate director and Isles Ensemble cellist. His July 21 recital is expected to be sold out, but there will be room for a few walk-ins, Sewell says.

Cañón-Valencia's program includes works by Bach, Ravel, Ginastera, Garreth Farr, and a piece of his own, "Acenso Hacia lo Profundo." Jee-Won Oh, distinguished collaborative pianist and an ICI faculty member, will accompany him.



Icelandic-American cellist Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir's career as a soloist, chamber musician and teaching artist has taken her to many of the world's most prestigious venues. On July 28 she will alternate movements from the Bach cello suites with movements from unaccompanied cello works by other composers in what Sewell calls a creative and very interesting program. (Blaise Déjardin, principal cello

# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

CIRCULATION 9,000+ HOUSEHOLDS

with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, played on July 14.)

Recitals begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to [www.internationalcelloinstitute.com/celloicirecitals](http://www.internationalcelloinstitute.com/celloicirecitals).

## turtle crossing



(Photos Tim Sheridan)



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# Summer Solstice in Cedar-Isles-Dean

By Tim Sheridan



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# Harry's Bar

A summer evening at Mark Tierney's backyard watering hole in Lowry Hill



(Photos Craig Wilson)



**ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD SUPER SALE!**

**EAST ISLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**KENWOOD**

**LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**East Bde Maka Ska**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> FROM 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.**

East Isles, Lowry Hill, Kenwood, and East Bde Maka Ska residents can register their yard sale to be part of the Super Sale! A \$15.00 registration fee covers ads, yard signs, and neighborhood maps of participating sale locations. Unsold items will be picked up Monday after the sale and donated to Arc's Value Village Thrift Stores and Donation Centers. Just check the box when you register.

Register at: [Eastisles.org](http://Eastisles.org) or [Lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://Lowryhillneighborhood.org)

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

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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.*

It's summer, so let's talk about fun. So often people think fun has to be extravagant, other worldly, fireworks-worthy. It doesn't. You can have fun almost anywhere, any time with the right people and right frame of mind. I recently had a blast at the DMV. Yes, it's true. I had a gas (like the pun?) at the Minnesota Department of Motor Vehicles, now known as Driver and Vehicle Services.

Yeah, right, you're thinking: What could anyone write about the DMV, the acronym I prefer to use, that wouldn't result in being banned from Twitter for life? I used to feel that way, and I also know what it's like to be kicked off Twitter after I let loose following the presidential election of 2016. But I digress.

In the United States there are over 243 million licensed drivers — 89% of all adults. (Watch a few episodes of Judge Judy and you'll find this percentage dubious.) In Minnesota there are nearly four and a half million licensed adult drivers and, while terms vary from state to state, in MN we drivers must re-up every four years and report to the DMV. We sit in a grungy plastic chair, clutch the paper number THAT WILL NEVER GET CALLED, and stare at the screen offering up driving tips and quizzes, praying that we have the right documents and finally wind up the torture with a photo that makes our kids' school photos appear as if they'd been taken by Richard Avedon. Strung end to end, my licenses look like a Diane

Arbus retrospective.

I was born in June, and, say what you will about the DMV, they give plenty of notice. Like couples who send out "save the date" cards eons before the big event, the DMV is on it. I received their summons early in April notifying me that I had to renew my current license, which was set like a ticking time bomb to expire on my birthday.

I'm usually not a procrastinator but going to the DMV loomed like a trip to the gallows which anybody would put off, so the day before my birthday I entered Triple A's hallowed halls (between Lunds & Byerlys and Health Partners in St. Louis Park). I waited until almost the last minute because I couldn't bear the thought of spending a minute of my birthday in a government building unless it was to receive a plaque proclaiming Dorothy Richmond Day, and we all know that's never gonna happen.

First order of business: Get there early. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. I arrived at 7:34 and was third in an already building line, having learned the hard way that every minute spent waiting outside is worth about five waiting inside. Also, if you get there early, you'll likely get a fresh and perky representative (dare I say fun?), not yet beaten down by people whose only operative emotion is hatred of all that surrounds them. How would you feel if everyone you encountered couldn't wait to get away?

I hit the jackpot with agent Sasha, a 50-something woman. It started out benign. I handed over my subpoena, current license, paperwork. I asked Sasha a couple of questions

to which she responded at length and perfunctorily as if reciting the Lord's Prayer or Pledge of Allegiance (If you interrupt, I'll have to start all over again), and I thought OK, she knows her stuff. I asked her how long she'd been at the DMV. She replied, "This is my first day." I said, "Wow, you're amazing." She said, "Wow, you're gullible." And we were off, throwing dish at each other and batting it back. Sasha was fun.

Then it was time for the photo. I combed my hair and regretted that I hadn't worn earrings. Sasha said, "Get in there," pointing to the front of the camera. I obeyed, and Sasha demanded, "Smile!" I told her I thought you're not supposed to smile, and she said, "That's for passports and mug shots. This is the DMV: Work it, girl!" So, I worked it. Then I left, laughing and happy.

My new license arrived a few days ago, and the photo looks like I work in the circus.

— Dorothy



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## What's Important to Young Adults? Summer Reading!

By Hema Patel



Hema Patel's bookshelf and reading nook (Photo Hema Patel)

*Hema Patel grew up in Kenwood and attended Southwest High School. She recently graduated from Yale University with a double major in history and education. She is now home for the summer until she leaves for India to spend a few months cooking and learning with her grandmother.*

Despite all the distracting odds — TikTok, Instagram and endless streaming services — young adults still love a good book.

While it may come as a surprise, reading and falling in love with a story means as much as it did when we were 11, waiting in line to meet “The Hunger Games” author Suzanne Collins at Wild Rumpus.

There’s something romantic about being 20-something, coming home for winter break, and reading the entire Percy Jackson series in 48 hours.

Or meeting up with friends to wander a bookstore and investigate its sticker collections. Or adding a book recommendation to the list that never ends.

Books and stories take us back down memory lane, reminding us that we control just how much we grow up.

Curling up with a good book is not necessarily a 20-something universal truth, but finding some way to connect to reading still rings true for most.

Throughout my own life, I’ve found that if they can find the time, just about everybody likes to read.

Not everyone reads 50 books a year, but even one makes a difference in our creativity, imagination and joy. Some of us love to relive middle grade classics, and others want to stay informed with the New York Times top non-fiction or most recent celebrity autobiographies.

Outside of academic reading, my school friends bring books back into their lives by flipping through photo books, doing dishes to the tune of an audiobook and relaxing into poetry. Apps like Libby, an online public library database, inspire us to download a book right before hopping on a plane, or even in line in the dining hall!

Book reading trends are also enticing us young adults into expanding our library collections, and our minds. “BookTok” (the book reading niche of TikTok) creators have even started to popularize buying sticky tabs to match a book’s cover for those who like to write notes throughout their reading.

There’s nothing more satisfying than seeing the color of ombre lining of your page turner. I am pulled in by mystery book grabs, where a book is wrapped in brown paper packaging and labeled with a genre or trope and cryptic quote.

Though the book may be unknown the surprise alone guarantees your entertainment. Supporting public libraries is also becoming a youth-driven trend as we learn more about the crucial economic and social resources provided by libraries in our cities — so let this remind you to sign up for your free library card today!

Whether we love reading for the memories inspired, mind expansion, or just keeping up with trends, trust me that though my generation might not always read from the traditional paperback, the art of book loving has not died.

And, within the fractured world we have inherited, books provide an escape — a healthy way to come to terms with our emotions and possibilities as we strive for different futures.

A bookshelf, whether physical or virtual, says a lot about a person. From the books that kept us up all night in eighth grade to the ones we read to bolster our understanding of current events, we will always come back to books.

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