



# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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## CIDNA Fall Festival Turns 25!

By Patty Schmitz



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

On October 8 the CIDNA neighborhood hosted its Fall Festival at Park Siding Park. The great fall weather made for a turnout of about 150 people. Featured events included an ARtrageous Adventures bike decorating station, Mr. Fun Zone, live music by Marina Capri Music, Sebastian Joe’s make your own sundae station and the return of the bike parade. CIDNA unveiled its new website (cidna.org) and offered sweatshirts and CIDNA coffee mugs for donation. In honor of the 25th anniversary,

attendees had the option to complete a CIDNA trivia “quiz.” The winner of the \$100 Taberna gift card was Nancy Nikora.

Thank you to our volunteers for staffing the pop-up face painting station that was a hit with the kids. We are also grateful to the local businesses that donated gift cards and food for the event. Finally, a very special thank you to the Urban Eatery, which provided a \$20 gift card to every adult who attended the event. Let’s remember all of our local businesses, and shop or

eat there when we can. They help make our neighborhood a wonderful place!

If you attended the event, or you didn’t and you want to support the work of CIDNA, please consider a donation to help support these events in the future: <http://cidna.org/connect/>

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*Patty Schmitz lives in the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood.*



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## Crime: Why Not Just Hire More Officers?

By Marty Carlson

Since the start of the pandemic, we’ve all ended up developing skills we never wanted to acquire in the first place. In my case, this includes learning to cut my own hair (not terrible, but also not an elegant process) and learning how to hand-strip a terrier (don’t ask). It now appears we need to add some basic crime prevention strategies to our list of unwanted but necessary skills as we learn to navigate a challenging public safety environment that does not appear likely to change in the short- to mid-term future.

### Why is our neighborhood less safe than it used to be?

My answer is that I’m not sure it matters, at least for purposes of figuring out how to respond. Entire books have been and will be written on the subject. Most will point to the disruption of the pandemic, the George Floyd murder, and its aftermath, widening income and wealth gaps, and other factors, but despite the use of statistical analyses, comprehensive reviews, and divining rods, I’ll be shocked if a consensus opinion emerges any time soon.

What we do know is that violent crime is on the rise, while the number of active police officers has dropped off a cliff. The numbers are probably familiar. At the start of the pandemic

Minneapolis had over 900 sworn officers. At its low point, that number dropped to approximately 550, not all of whom were fit to serve. The Park Police, while a much smaller department, is also at its lowest staffing level in decades. Its 33 sworn officers happens to be the same number it had roughly a century ago when the city was also much smaller.

While the number of Minneapolis officers is slowly creeping upwards—it’s finally cracked 600—we are still well short of the 731 required by the city charter, let alone the more than 900 we had pre-pandemic. On any given night, the MPD can field 12-14 officers for the entirety of downtown and Cedar-Riverside. Pre-pandemic, that number was roughly 60—a 400% decrease in coverage.

So, hire more officers, you say! This is, by far, the number one suggestion I received in my inbox last month. Not so easy, it turns out. We don’t just have a shortage of officers locally, we have a severe shortage statewide and nationally. From St. Cloud to Duluth to Osseo to Albert Lea, police departments are experiencing critical staffing shortages. In July of this year, the City of Morris reluctantly disbanded its more than 140-year-old police department because of officer recruiting and retention problems. There just aren’t enough cops anymore, and

there’s not a flood of new recruits waiting to get in.

### My personal experience working with law enforcement

Back in the early 2000s, I worked in the Public Safety Division of the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office. I was involved with trials all over the state and worked with law enforcement officers day in and day out. As a general rule, for every hour spent in trial, there’s an hour spent waiting for trial to start, so I spent a lot of time in the hallways talking to cops. At that time, one of the principal officer complaints was how difficult it was for young people to break into law enforcement (so to speak). I talked to many officers who had siblings, children, cousins, friends who had done the hard work it takes to become a licensed peace officer, but simply couldn’t get a job. Law enforcement was a respected profession; staffing levels were high, turnover was low, and the few jobs available went to the best of the best or the lucky.

In my experience, the respect shown towards law enforcement in Minnesota was deserved. Initially, this surprised me. I grew up in a state with notably lower peace officer standards and training and learned quickly as a teenager to avoid contact with law enforcement whenever possible. But, after working directly with Minnesota officers and watching literally hundreds of hours of squad video, my views underwent a 180-degree shift. Law enforcement is a difficult and

dangerous job. Most people having contact with law enforcement aren’t at their personal best, and when alcohol and drugs are involved, the level of bad behavior rises exponentially.

What I saw in response were officers who were firm but calm, generally polite, brave in the face of violence, and far more patient than I could ever be with the childish behaviors they routinely had to deal with in the booking areas. It’s not a job you do for the money; it’s a public service.

This is not to put law enforcement on a pedestal. Like all of us, even the most experienced officers make mistakes from time to time. New recruits forget their training. Bad officers do exist, as we saw quite painfully with Derek Chauvin. And every once in a while, at the AG’s Office, we’d watch a clip of squad video, shake our heads, and say, “they must have been following the Articles of Confederation that day, because it sure wasn’t the Constitution...” Those cases got dropped.

My views became more nuanced after I left government service, hung out my shingle, and started taking a modest number of criminal defense cases. No one ever needed to convince me that driving while Black was somehow a citable offense, but you feel it more acutely when you see it firsthand, and it involves someone you know and it ruins young lives before they’ve barely gotten started. Likewise, my friends in the criminal defense bar (and they were friends)

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# Hill & Lake Press

The Hill & Lake Press has served the community since 1976. Views expressed are not necessarily those of Hill & Lake Press.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**Kenwood Cultural Understanding Award Goes to Second Grade Teacher**

Kenwood Elementary School has awarded the annual Bridging the Gap of Cultural Understanding Award to Lisi Becker, 2nd Grade Teacher. Ms. Becker has taught at Kenwood for two years and previously taught at Jenny Lind. Last summer, she completed a semester of coursework on anti-bias teaching and learning, sponsored and facilitated by MPS and AMAZEworks. She and her grade-level team piloted the AMAZEworks anti-bias curriculum this year.

Through beautifully illustrated, well-curated books, Ms. Becker and her colleagues led students through important conversations that fostered healthy identity development and respect across race, class, culture, gender, ability, beliefs, and other social identities. Principal Heidi Johnson reflects that “Ms. Becker is a well-respected teacher leader who has demonstrated her commitment to equitable practices and joyful learning for all children.”

This is the third annual award that was started in 2018 in honor of art teacher Margaret Zimmerman Swenson in recognition of her remarkable accomplishment of developing a Native American art curriculum through which children

learned from visiting Native artists.

The award is chosen by the principal and bestowed upon a member of the school community who successfully bridges the gap of cultural understanding and shares knowledge between cultures. Each year Birchbark Books sponsors the winner with a gift certificate.

*Angie Erdrich  
Kenwood*

**Thank you, Josie Owens!**

Thank you, Josie Owens, for providing us with the history of the formation of our distinctive neighborhood in the September issue—so refreshing and knowledgeable. It was such a pleasure to read.

*Suzanne Prass  
54-year resident of Lowry Hill*

**Greetings from Taos!**

Thank you to Josie Owens for her fine article about the always-fascinating history of the remaking of the land that would become our four Hill and Lake neighborhoods by successive generations of European settlers, business titans, and developers (“The Linking of the Lakes: A Municipal Challenge,” September HLP). The

changes they wrought would be inconceivable today (think: razing the Devil’s Backbone, lowering Cedar Lake by five feet) but were entirely consistent with the ethos of the time of making nature conform to human needs and visions of beauty. Mention should be made of the Cedar Lake Park Association, champions of saving and rehabilitating the ravaged north and east shores of Cedar Lake.

Definitely worth a read is Neil Trembley’s comprehensive, gracefully written “Cedar Lake Park Association: A History,” particularly the Introduction and first two chapters. It’s available on the CLPA website ([www.cedarlakepark.org](http://www.cedarlakepark.org)). Click on “Publications,” then on the green-type link.

Josie Owens touched on the festivities when the Lake of the Isles-Lake Calhoun (now Bde Maka Ska) channel was opened in 1911. It was the largest, grandest civic celebration the city had ever seen, or has seen since. Imagine: 150,000 people crowded around Lake Harriet on July 4 to watch the “Water Parade” and fireworks, and on July 11 30,000 schoolchildren marched down Nicollet Avenue. Such fun!

The official opening of the channel between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake two years later, on Saturday, November 8, 1913, couldn’t have been more different. Certainly, the weather wasn’t cooperating—36 degrees at 2 pm with wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour when Superintendent Wirth and the Park Board commissioners pushed off for their inaugural tour of the two newly-joined lakes.

Hill & Lake Press marked the 100th anniversary in November 2013 of the opening of the Kenilworth Channel with an article and pictures of the construction of the two channels and the details of the two vastly different openings. You can find it at [www.hillandlakepress.org](http://www.hillandlakepress.org). Click on “Issues,” then scroll down and click on “Nov 13.” The article begins on page 4.

*Michael Wilson  
Taos, New Mexico*

**The Isles Ensemble Is Back! Next concert is Sunday, Nov. 6**

Here’s something that Hill and Lake music lovers may not all have heard: the musicians of our esteemed Isles Ensemble have resumed their season of Sunday afternoon 4 pm concerts in the heart of our neighborhood, at Lake of



*The Isles Ensemble musicians are (from left) Ivan Konev, piano; Kenneth Freed, viola & violin; Joanne Opgenorth, violin; Laura Sewell, cello; Stephanie Arado, violin; Sifei Cheng, viola; Leslie Shank, violin & viola; and Tom Rosenberg, cello. Not pictured: David Leung, violin & viola; and Timothy Lovelace, piano.*  
(Photo: Annie Brandt-Fontaine)

The Isles Lutheran Church. The Isles Ensemble’s first full post-pandemic season opened on September 18 and continues on Sunday, November 6, at 4 pm with works by Latvian composer Peteris Vāskis, French composer André Caplet, and Czech composer Bedřich Smetana.

How did we come to have a chamber music concert series right in our own backyard? Well, according to violinist/violist and Lowry Hill East resident Leslie Shank, one fine day in 2004 she and violinist Joanne Opgenorth were walking around Lake of the Isles and were struck by the beauty of Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church as they viewed it across the water. Opgenorth poked her head in the church, Shank recalls, and said, “The acoustic is great. This would be a marvelous performance space for a chamber group.”

Shortly afterwards the Isles Ensemble was born. Each member of the ensemble, as their website states, brings a wealth of artistry and experience to the stage, resulting in an outstanding group the Star Tribune called the “cream of the Twin Cities classical musicians.” The varied performing and teaching careers of the Isles Ensemble musicians include membership in the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, internationally touring string quartets (Lark, Chester, Manhattan) and college and university faculties.

Go to [islesensemble.org](http://islesensemble.org) for information on this season’s programs and on the ensemble members.

Admission is \$25 for individual tickets or pay what you can. Children and students are admitted free of charge.

There's always a reception afterwards with light refreshments to meet and greet the musicians and your neighbors.

*Michael Wilson on behalf of the Isles Ensemble, Kenwood*

**Groveland Gallery:**



**Walking Distance, Artist Justin Terlecki**

Walking Distance, an exhibition of new paintings by Justin Terlecki, opens October 22 at Groveland Gallery. Originally from Youngstown, Ohio, Terlecki has exhibited his work regularly in the Twin Cities since moving to Minnesota in 1998. In 2009, Terlecki received a Jerome Fellowship for Emerging Printmakers through Highpoint Center for Printmaking. Terlecki's work is included in the permanent collection of the McDonough Museum of Art and many local and national private collections.

Terlecki's colorful depictions of everyday life take the viewer on an intimate tour of the ordinary. Pulling from quiet observation, public spectacle and human relationships, Terlecki's scenes range from local celebrations and family dynamics to snapshots of the city. As the artist explains, "Common everyday places can easily be overlooked as sources for creativity. In my latest work, I discover inspiration in my own familiar surroundings, such as my living space in Downtown St. Paul, my Lowertown neighborhood of century old stone and red brick buildings, and even my mother's home in Northeast Ohio. Working through direct observation, when possible, I explore the intricate details of these

environments. I study the way natural or artificial light casts shadows and reflections to create a realistic inviting presence."



**The Heavens, Artist Dan Bruggeman**

Groveland Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of The Heavens an exhibit of new paintings by St. Paul artist, Dan Bruggeman. For over 30 years his work has been part of exhibitions across the U.S. including the Albright Knox Museum in Buffalo, the North Dakota Museum of Art in Grand Forks, the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearny, and the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul. Bruggeman currently teaches in the Fine Art Department at Carleton College in Northfield.

Included in this exhibition will be a new series of landscapes on paper. About this new work, Bruggeman writes, "Melancholia, the contemplation of the dismal plight we are in, has nothing in common with the desire to die... Describing the dismal plight we face contains the possibility of overcoming it (The Description of Disaster by WG Sebald)."

Imposing in its scale, uncanny and mysterious, our upper-midwestern landscape has long been an avenue of transcendence. Its paradox is as compelling as any other in nature, treading that razor-thin edge between threat and wonder, human and divine.

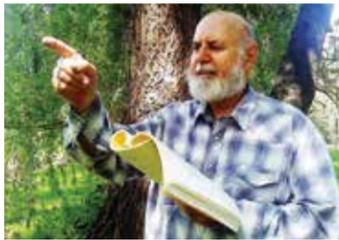
But it also sits against the backdrop of an unavoidable reality: it is deteriorating. That looming sense of loss is the melancholic plot-twist in this otherwise serene theatre. It is the same delicate and precarious balance that, since Eden, has linked Earth and the Heavens.

In these paintings, I've

sought to explore that connective tissue while paying homage to the melancholy derived from its transitory nature. These tiny vignettes might be playful if not for the suggestion of loss. But still, amid that void, this landscape offers hope that what once existed may live on, and that the sentimental might give way to something eternal.

Both artists will be present at the opening reception Saturday, October 22 from 2-5 pm. The opening reception and exhibition run concurrently. Both shows continue through November 26, 2022. For more information, please call 612-377-7800 or visit [www.grovelandgallery.com](http://www.grovelandgallery.com).

*Sally Johnson  
Director of the Groveland Gallery, Lowry Hill*



**New "Wirth Woods Dance Suite"**

Bryn Mawr resident Jim Stokes has composed a "Wirth Woods Dance Suite," an orchestral work in five movements for improvisational dance and good listening. The classic suite (Copyright (c), 2022 by James H. Stokes) can be heard online by entering: [SoundCloud.com Jim Stokes](https://www.soundcloud.com/jimstokes) Composer.

*Jim Stokes  
Bryn Mawr*



An update from East Isles

The East Isles Neighborhood Association's (EINA) annual Summer Social was an exciting end to summer as residents gathered at Levin Triangle Park in August. It was great to see the park full

of neighbors of all ages. A big thank you to our amazing friends in East Isles including Deb Altschuler (EINA Board Member) and her team for the behind-the-scenes logistics, Steve Havig (Lakes Area Realty), our music sponsor. Isles Bun & Coffee, shared their amazing treats, and Kowalksi's provided the ice cream. A brief downpour didn't dampen anyone's spirits as neighbors enjoyed catching up or meeting for the first time. And of course, everyone appreciated the cookies, ice cream sandwiches, live music, and the puppet show!

Our East Isles Farmers Market wrapped up their season at the end of September. Market Manager Jenny Breen and her team continue to bring a local farmers, food trucks, live music and more to the market week after week. The market is the result of a partnership between East Isles and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

EINA is excited to announce Cuyler Dinegan has joined our team as neighborhood coordinator! Cuyler brings a wealth of experience working with municipal governments,

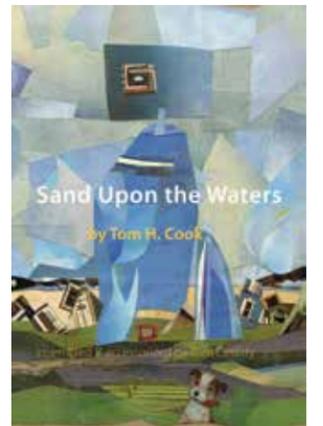
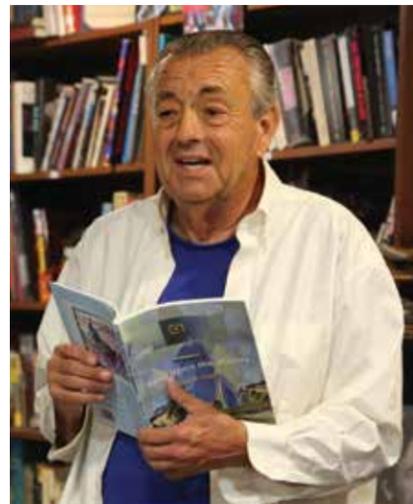
nonprofits, and graphic design. Please join us in welcoming Cuyler to East Isles!

At EINA's September board meeting, the board backed a new initiative; the addition of a Safety Block Club that will begin walking patrols in October. The group seeks to improve public safety while providing an opportunity for neighbors to connect. Neighborhood walking groups are being formed in different parts of Minneapolis and in areas they are established have proven to make a difference. To learn more or volunteer email [info@eastisles.org](mailto:info@eastisles.org).

The EINA board welcomes neighbors to our monthly board meetings. The board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Grace-Trinity Community Church. However, the November meeting will take place on Monday the 7th due to Election Day 2022.

To the entire Hill and Lake Press community, EINA wishes everyone a wonderful fall season!

*Quinton Courts on behalf of EINA.*



Tom Cook reading this past month from his new book Sand Upon the Waters, A longtime contributor to the Hill & Lake Press, Tom was featured in the September 2022 issue. The book is available at Magers & Quinn Booksellers in Uptown. (Photo by Dorothy Childers)



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**HIRE MORE OFFICERS, front page**

would routinely complain about squad video or audio being magically unavailable in certain cases. While I never gave this much credit as a government lawyer, I got depressingly good at predicting when I'd be told "there's no tape" in my private defense cases. Still, in the vast majority of cases the evidence showed officers doing their jobs professionally and effectively, and my clients tended to plead guilty because they were guilty.

All this is to say that law enforcement is an incredibly complex, challenging line of work. It's not white hats and black hats, saints, and sinners. There's a constant friction between the hope and expectation of rising to the highest standards of conduct every single day and tamping down the darker impulses, weaknesses, and imperfections we all have in some measure. We necessarily hold officers to a higher standard of conduct but, paradoxically, it's practically unattainable. Good officers, like good parents, know they fall short every day but keep on trying.

We need the best of the best—now more than ever—but there's a critical shortage of officer candidates. The flood of new candidates that existed fifteen years ago has slowed to a trickle, and not everyone who wants to be a peace officer is a good fit for the job.

**So, what is to be done?**

Wholly apart from new approaches to policing, we simply need more officers to respond to the rise in violent crime. This won't happen easily or quickly. In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, the flag of law enforcement is very much in the mud, and it will take years to get the stains rinsed out. Recruitment is a challenge, and since it's a statewide challenge, it needs a statewide response. Right now, cities and counties are fighting with each other for a small pool of available officers. Competing recruitment and retention bonuses are becoming the norm, and Minneapolis has an extra challenge simply because it was the epicenter of the George Floyd disaster.

To some extent, this is a problem we can and should throw money at. While the best law enforcement officers aren't

motivated primarily by money, promising young people are not going to enter the profession in sufficient numbers if they will be crippled by student loan debt and other obligations. They need to know they can appropriately provide for themselves and their families and be fairly compensated for the risks and abuse that wearing a badge currently invites.

In the Legislature, both parties seem to recognize this, yet collectively they have accomplished nothing. In the last legislative session, Republicans in the Senate proposed \$65 million for officer recruitment and retention. Democrats countered with numbers ranging from \$6 million to \$16 million, with larger amounts spread out for crime prevention, intervention, and alternative policing measures. Republicans responded with additional proposals of their own. In the end, the entire public safety bill failed, and the Legislature appropriated precisely zero new dollars for recruitment and retention.

In case it's not perfectly obvious, with both the Park Board master planning process, and now with public safety, I have resolutely tried to avoid slipping into our worsening partisan morass. In both instances the neighborhood groups we've managed to assemble have been much more bipartisan than many might guess. I like that. I think it's good for the neighborhood, and I also think it's good for us on a larger scale given how divided and angry we've become on a national level.

That being said, when it comes to a failure as colossal as the collapse of the public safety bill, I suspect there's room for finger pointing in all directions. If you care about this issue, please let our state political leaders know. This is a politically connected neighborhood on both sides of the aisle, and I firmly believe that public input makes a difference. If you have time, please reach out to whomever you know in state government and let them know this needs to be a consensus priority in the coming session.

Given that we're sitting on top of an historic budget surplus in excess of \$9 billion, this is hardly an instance in which tough choices need to be made between competing priorities. As

between recruitment and retention and other law enforcement needs, we can do it all if we want to. It's in the State's interest. If you can't provide basic public safety, you don't have much of a community. Personally, I'm in favor of whatever actually works, or whatever experienced law enforcement professionals think has a reasonable shot at working. While I believe that crime prevention and intervention are absolutely essential, effective officer recruitment and retention is also a mainstay of any functioning law enforcement system.

No matter what happens in St. Paul, however, it's going to be years before we're back to the staffing levels we actually need. In the meantime, our officers will have to learn to do more with less. Which brings me back to the need for us to learn unwanted skills, in this case having to do with crime prevention, the single most important thing we can do to help law enforcement in this challenging time.

**We can actively prevent crime from occurring in the first place.**

The easiest crimes for law enforcement to respond to are the ones that don't happen. Effective crime prevention frees up limited law enforcement resources to be used where they're most needed, and many of the crimes we're seeing now have an element of opportunism to them. We can do something about that:

- Lock your house, lock your car.
- Don't keep valuables in your car if you can avoid it, conceal them if you can't.
- Keep your car in the garage if you have one.
- Don't wear headphones when you're out, don't be staring at your cell phone when you're walking.
- Try to avoid sitting in your car once you've reached your destination.
- Keep a porch light on at night; if you don't have one, consider having one installed. It also turns out – and this was surprising to me – those doorbell cameras are quite helpful to law enforcement as well. They often record what actually happened, entry and exit routes, and other useful information, so please con-

sider getting one if your circumstances permit.

- Above all, please don't hesitate to call 911. Even in this time when we've so painfully witnessed the reality of police misconduct, it's important to recognize that this is the exception, not the norm. 911 typically receives over 1,000 calls for service on any given day. By contrast, in the entirety of last year the City received 380 complaints of misconduct, 43 of which were assessed to be duplicates, and 86 of which were outside the City's jurisdiction. 911 is here to help, and even if the police department lacks the resources to respond to a given call, it still provides an important data point. Police resources are prioritized where the needs are most acute, and that's impossible to accurately assess if there isn't an underlying report.

**We still live in a relatively safe city.**

Finally, it's critical to maintain perspective. While crime is indisputably on the rise, Kenwood and CIDNA are still much safer than most neighborhoods in the city. Between January 2021 and July 2022, Kenwood recorded one completed carjacking, while CIDNA had zero. The situation is more challenging in Lowry Hill and East Isles, where there were 19 and 26, respectively, during that same time period. It's a similar story with robbery, where Kenwood had two completed offenses during this same 19-month window, and CIDNA had four. Lowry Hill had 44, and East Isles had 60. And with motor vehicle thefts and other offenses there are stark differences among neighborhoods, and law enforcement needs to be able to deploy its limited resources where they're most needed. For the rest of us, we need to get good at helping ourselves, and we need to get good at communicating with the law enforcement we do have, because the cavalry's not coming any time soon. And please, please be nice to the officers we have remaining. It's a difficult, necessary job, and we shouldn't want them to leave.

*Marty Carlson lives in Kenwood.*

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OPINION

By Michaela Neu and David Wilson

## Urban Trees - More Valuable than Gold and Silver

Far more than just being aesthetically beautiful, urban trees provide countless benefits to all of us who live in cities. In addition to sequestering significant quantities of carbon (approximately 15% of all carbon sequestered by trees in North America comes from our urban forests), urban trees reduce stormwater pollution and flooding, capture particulate air pollution, mitigate heat islands, and reduce energy consumption for heating and cooling of buildings.

In addition, urban trees provide critical habitat for wildlife, increase property values, improve pedestrian traffic for retail establishments, and have been proven to reduce street crime.

And with climate change making our cities hotter and causing extreme precipitation events, an urban tree canopy is critical to keeping our cities livable and vibrant in the coming decades.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, a single mature tree absorbs approximately 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. Extrapolating from the i-Tree Planting Calculator, it is estimated that

a mature urban tree also captures 5.5 cubic meters of precipitation, reduces electricity used for cooling by 173 kilowatt hours (kWh), reduces natural gas used for heating by 2407 kilo British thermal units (kBtu), and captures .33 pounds of particulate air pollution every year.

Multiply this by the millions of trees that make up the Twin Cities urban forest, and it is clear that our urban tree canopy is essential green infrastructure that is literally worth its weight in gold.

### Disease, development causing canopy decline

Unfortunately, the Minneapolis urban tree canopy is declining. The 2015 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment of the Twin Cities metro area (prepared by the University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources) estimated a decrease in Minneapolis tree cover of 3.7% between 2009 and 2015, and since 2015 the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer and accelerating urban development has continued this trend.

Funding for tree planting by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has declined due

to the expiration of an emergency tree planting levy. Meanwhile, public works street construction projects are putting more mature street trees at risk.

Climate change has made it critical for our community to prioritize saving existing urban trees and increasing budgets for expanding our urban forest.

Growing our urban tree canopy is the most sustainable, proven, and cost-effective way for our community to mitigate the impacts of climate change on urban residents.

### Effort would increase canopy by 30%

In 2021, Green Minneapolis launched the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative (TCCRI), a public/private partnership focused on significantly expanding the urban tree canopy across Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metro area. Designed to address the most harmful impacts of climate change on our region's residents, it offers a 20-year vision to increase the metro area's tree canopy by 30% through planting and maintaining millions of additional trees on public and private lands.

Focused on identifying new funding sources

## Inventory of All Trees on Hennepin Avenue to be Cut Down by the City

Photos by Tim Sheridan

START: Hennepin Avenue starting near the Walker Art Center



1. Hennepin Avenue at Groveland looking north towards downtown



2. Groveland Avenue at Walker Art Center



3. Corner of Douglas Avenue looking south



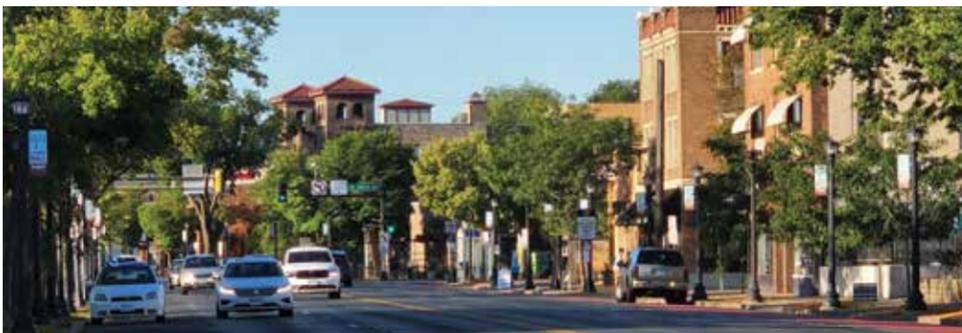
7. Hennepin Avenue in front of The Lowry restaurant



8. Hennepin Avenue at W 22nd Street



9. Hennepin Avenue at W 24th Street



13. Hennepin Avenue at intersection of W 25th Street



14. Looking south at W 26th Street



18. Hennepin Avenue south of W 28th Street



19. Looking south near bridge over the Greenway



20. Looking south near Lagoon Avenue

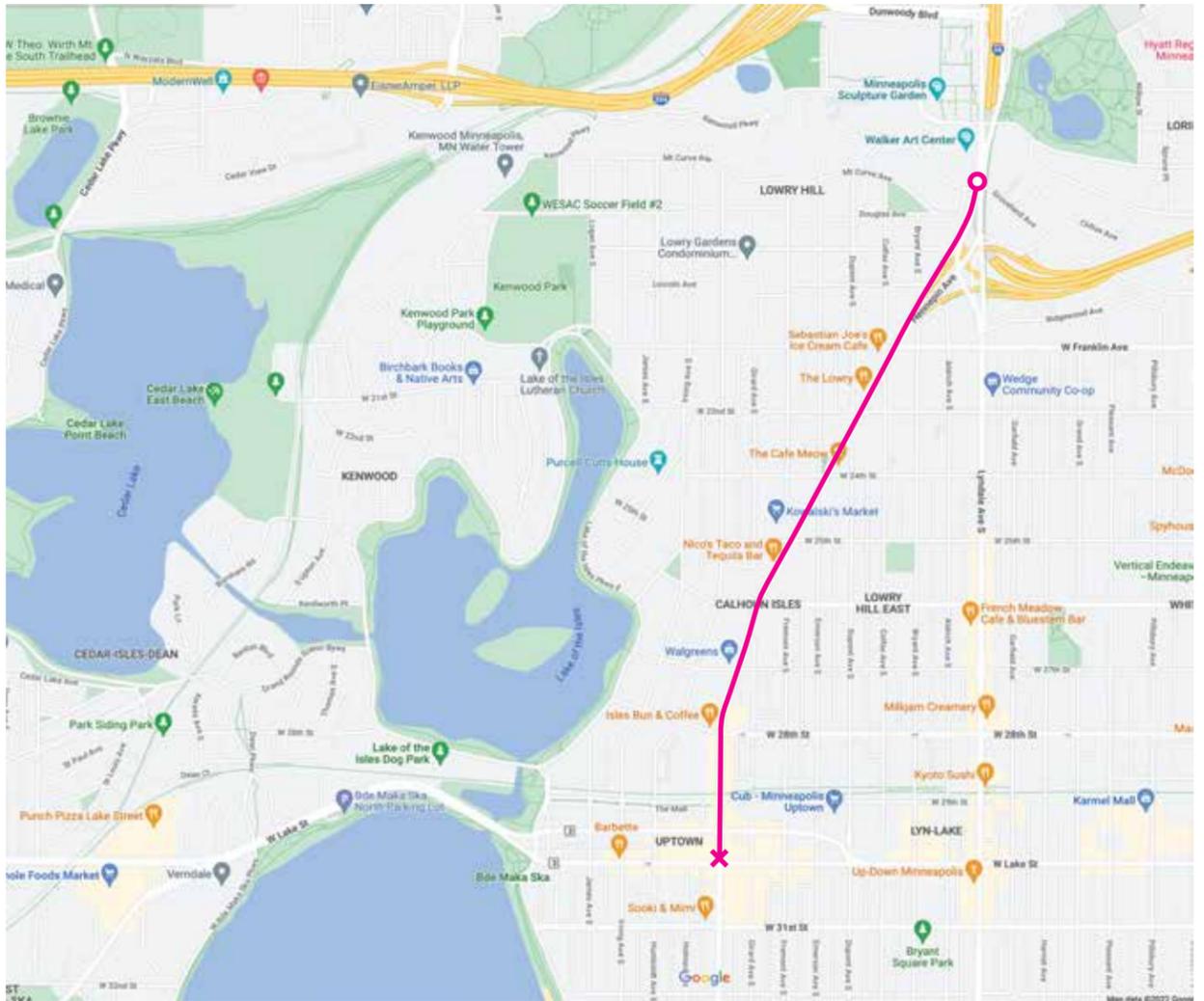
for tree planting and maintenance, to date the TCCRI has secured \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for increased tree planting by the park board.

The TCCRI has also launched Minnesota’s first Urban Tree Carbon Offset Program in partnership with the park board, designed to increase the amount of carbon sequestered by urban trees by planting and protecting public trees for 25-year minimums.

Carbon offset programs allow companies to offset their carbon footprints by purchasing carbon credits from projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Proceeds from the sale of these carbon credits will be used by the park board and other tree-planting partners to increase their budgets for planting and maintaining our urban forest.

Our urban trees are indeed more valuable than gold and silver—they play a critical role in keeping our city vibrant and livable. Climate change has made it crucial for our community to prioritize saving existing urban trees and to support public and private investment in planting millions more.

*Michaela Neu and David Wilson are with Green Minneapolis, a non-profit organization with a vision to grow a green future for our city, with tree-lined streets and active public spaces that enrich quality of life, create a healthier environment and connect people through place. Visit [www.greenminneapolis.org](http://www.greenminneapolis.org) to learn more.*



Map of Hennepin Avenue. (Map from Google Maps)



4. Corner of Summit Avenue looking south



5. Corner of Hennepin and Lincoln Avenue



6. Corner of Hennepin and Franklin Avenue looking southwest



10. Hennepin Avenue south of W 24th Street



11. Looking northwest from Fremont Avenue



12. Looking southwest from Fremont Avenue



15. Looking south at W 27th Street



16. Looking south past W 27th Street



17. Looking south towards the intersection of W 28th Street



21. Looking south at Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street

**The City of Minneapolis plans to reconstruct Hennepin Avenue between West Lake Street in East Isles and Douglas Avenue in Lowry Hill. The city claims that all of the trees along Hennepin Avenue will need to be cut down and removed as a result of the new project design. Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman, who represents all four Hill & Lake neighborhoods, voted against the project, which passed 11-2.**

**END: Hennepin Avenue ending near Lake Street in Uptown**



## THE KENWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

### *The Importance of Life-Long Learning* MEET NEIGHBOR DAVID JOHNSON

**D**avid Johnson is an explorer. Throughout his life, he's always been interested in the unknown, and pushing the boundaries of his own knowledge and experience. His blue eyes sparkle with energy and focus, and he loves to engage in conversations with friends and strangers alike.

His apartment at The Kenwood Retirement Community is full of books, maps, and photos of the many places he has lived. Especially important are the maps. As he said, "an accurate map has no interest to me." He much prefers a map that has mistakes, or empty spaces – the Terra Incognita. This is a sign of a life-long learner who acknowledges what is unknown and learns about it.

David's whole career has been about education, and he continues that theme in his life at The Kenwood. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in Sociology, he went on to University of Iowa for his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology. He taught and was in administration at several institutions including Luther College, St. Cloud State, and his alma mater, Gustavus Adolphus. Perhaps his favorite job was chancellor at University of Minnesota – Morris, from 1990-1998. He likened the job as being the one who "sweeps the chancel every morning and dumps the ashes." David was at once fundraiser, speaker, booster, and problem-solver. He's proud to have been part of Morris, one of only a handful of universities in the United States that is both public AND a liberal arts institution. He helped fulfill its mission to offer an excellent education for people who desire the socio-economic and racial diversity of a selective public institution. He speaks fondly of those years and keeps in contact with former Morris students who have gone on to do great things.

After retirement (a word to be used loosely when applied to David) he went on (among many other activities) to be the president of the University of Minnesota's Elder Learning Institute (now Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or OLLI) from 1999-2001. David continues his passion for learning at The Kenwood where he recently initiated Kenwood Kollege (he is a believer in alliteration.) The Kenwood Retirement Community is known for its wide range of activities, including exercise classes,

outings, brain games and more. But after the isolation induced by COVID, David wanted to create a "health club for the mind" by offering The Kenwood residents a way to connect and

challenge their minds by interacting with speakers who are experts in their fields. Recent Kenwood Kollege guest speakers include Maria Sheremata, vice chair of the Ukrainian-American Community Center speaking on the war in Ukraine, and Jim Hart, a health care expert speaking on the idea of Medicare for all. Future guests in the monthly series include Myron Just speaking about agriculture, Judge Lois Conroy speaking about the justice system, and Loralee di Lorenzo speaking about Bountifield International, a non-profit working in Africa. Kenwood Kollege is "one more arrow in The Kenwood quiver" which makes The Kenwood such a great place to live. David sees it as his duty to not only provide learning opportunities for Kenwood residents, but also show the large community and speakers what a highly educated and interesting group the residents at the Kenwood are. Channeling his work as the Morris chancellor, David is used to bringing people together and making things happen.

When he was living in Norway and working for the National Institute for Social Research, David wanted to bring something special back as a memory, and he hit on the idea of rare and antique maps. He then became an avid collector. One of his favorites is a map of Norway, engraved in the 1570s by a mapmaker in Amsterdam. Northwest of Oslo the map shows an empty white space – Terra Incognita. It's not that nothing is there, it's that the area was inaccessible at the time of the map's making. It's a reminder that no matter how much we know, there is always a "terra incognita," an acknowledgment of what we don't know YET. It perfectly sums up the adventurous and learning life of David Johnson.



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# Meet Your Neighbor

A monthly column by Craig Wilson, Editor

## Amy Sullivan, History Professor and Author



Amy Sullivan. (Photo provided by a friend)

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with my parents and two younger sisters.

### What brought you to Minnesota?

My husband, Andy Wright, and I had both lived in Minneapolis during our twenties, so after we met in Viroqua, Wisconsin, we decided to move to the Twin Cities in 2008 with my two daughters, for jobs, schools, and expanded opportunities. A year later, Andy's parents moved from Milwaukee, and we have shared a duplex in Lowry Hill since then. My sister and parents also moved to South Minneapolis over the past several years. We love Minneapolis, and my family is proof that Okies can adapt to Minnesota winters.

### What do you do professionally?

I am a history professor at Macalester College in St. Paul, where I teach U.S. History courses about race, gender, childhood, medicine, drugs, and addiction.

### Why did you go with oral histories as a framework for this type of research?

Oral history methods are my favorite tools. Since I am working on a history topic that is recent and a problem that is ongoing, this was the best tool for me. I wanted to preserve the stories of people who experienced loss and sorrow, as well as those who are innovating and changing the standard narrative about addiction.

History is all about change, and I am drawn to how individual narrators find their place in historical moments through the process of oral history. Giving that kind of respect to people, when you're in an interview situation and listening deeply, also affirms who they are, where they've been.

For me, a lot of the power of this project has been that I've been able to help my narrators see how important their lives and their work are to a bigger issue, a bigger audience.

### Opioid Reckoning emerged out of the oral history project you created called The Minnesota Opioid Project. What is that project all about?

The project started well before I knew I was going to write a book. I wanted to make an oral history collection of as many people as

possible who were affected by the crisis—individuals, parents, doctors, care providers, and others. I had no intention of writing a book using those interviews until I was approached by the publisher. I'm still working on the interviews, and I plan to eventually donate them to the University of Minnesota Library's Social Welfare History Archive.

### What are your hopes for this project and this book?

I hope to bring the stories of ordinary people and people who are working to end the opioid epidemic to the forefront of our minds and conversations. I also hope to convey how this issue is experienced by people on all sides of the problem so that we can truly dismantle the stigma that comes with opioids and other drug use and start working deliberately and methodically to decriminalize drugs.

An addiction shouldn't destroy a life or a person's future. I want readers to see how it has been and how we can do better.

### What do most people misunderstand about opioid addiction?

That people can just stop using opioids, as if it is always a matter of personal choice.

### And how does that misunderstanding affect the way we address the problem as a society?

We don't want to look at it critically. We don't want to be creative. Okay, this isn't true across the board because there are people who are doing really incredible work.

I think the problem is the general public is not aware of the work that's being done. There are so many scientists, there are so many treatment specialists, there are so many community organizations that are working day and night to improve addiction care.

What they need is the funding, the resources, and the community

buy-in to end the epidemic and dismantle stigma.

### As you mention in the book, the subject of opioid addiction is also very personal. You have a daughter who struggled and nearly died from her addiction. How did that experience affect your interactions with the people you interviewed for this book?

Well, I am so fortunate that she lived and that she is living a full, healthy, happy life today. Our family's experience ended up being an incredibly powerful connector for me as a researcher because most of my narrators had similar experiences, from the same or different vantage points on the topic. This created a powerful space between us for trust, acceptance, and insights.

I was ignorant about opioids and addiction ten years ago, and I learned an incredible amount from my beloved daughter and from all of my narrators, whether they are in the book or not.

### When was Opioid Reckoning released, and how has it been received?

My book came out in October 2021, and I had a book launch at Macalester that month. It was also a Minnesota Book Award finalist in non-fiction last spring. I have been presenting to a wide variety of groups across the state, and been interviewed on radio, tv, and for podcasts.

Two of my favorite podcast interviews were with Margaret Swift Thompson, who started Embrace Family Recovery after working at Hazelden for many years, and another completely different conversation with an English professor, Charles Woods' The Big Rhetorical Podcast.

It is equally exciting to talk about the issues I raise in the book with people who know a lot about addiction and recovery and people

who know very little. I have found that most people don't understand how drug treatment evolved and how much of an influence Minnesota has had on our understanding of "rehab," and which so many assume is the only way to recover from addiction.

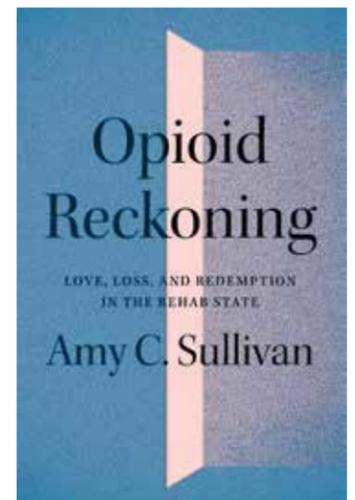
### Where can readers purchase Opioid Reckoning?

My book is available at local bookstores and many places online in hardback, paperback, as well as in an audiobook format, narrated by me.

I will be signing books at the Twin Cities Book Festival at the Fairgrounds on October 16, from 1-1:30pm, and on October 23, I will be presenting at the Twin Cities Jewish Community Mental Health Education Conference at Temple Israel.

I am happy to speak to book clubs, support groups, and any other civic or social groups. I can be reached via email at, amysulli@gmail.com

*Craig Wilson is a Lowry Hill resident and the editor of the Hill & Lake Press. Craig has been contributing to this column since 2008.*



(Cover provided by the publisher)

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PHOTO FEATURE

Photos by Tim Sheridan

# Twin Cities Marathon



# Dear Neighbor

A monthly column by Dorothy Richmond

### Let's talk about the difference between cats and dogs and, by extension, their respective owners.

I began thinking about it a while back when a friend asked if I'd had pets when I was a kid. My gut response was no, not because we never had a dog or a cat but because they were never referred to as pets.

I grew up on a farm with cats and dogs all over the place. Not one of them, however, was acquired, as in sought and selected, which is the prerequisite for the nomenclature "pet." We had animals: cats and dogs just appeared and stayed until their eventual demise by tractor, truck, or a cow stepping on them. We attach ourselves to our pets, not animals in the wild, which is pretty much what life was like out there. I learned early on to not get attached to or even name the cats or dogs any more than I named cows. When there was more than one dog, it was described by dominant breed; cats were specified by color. Still, they were well fed by kitchen scraps and from 50-pound bags of Purina Whatever-Chow my dad got at the elevator.

Even surrounded by animals, I knew from the get-go that I'm a cat person the same way I'm left-handed. Cats made sense to me in a way that dogs never did. All that barking and jumping and sniffing made me nervous, whereas a cat just "was," a quiet life force that roamed around and snuggled once in a while, but demanded nothing more than food, water, and shelter.

### On to the difference between cats and dogs: While they're both loved and loving in the right home, what seems to separate them is their sense of loyalty.

Dogs are loyal to their owners and cats

are loyal to their homes. There's a reason there are no cat parks or cat pub nights or cats at the beach and you don't see cats in hotels. Chuck and Don's is rife with canine friends while the only cats are those lodged in crates awaiting adoption. Dogs are like children, happy wherever Mom and/or Dad are. Cats just want to stay put.

When my daughter, Daisy, was eight, I took her to Italy to visit my dear friend, Jenny, and her daughter, Chiara, in Assisi. Later just Daisy and I went to Rome for a few days. One day after lunch we were walking along a cobblestone path, holding hands. She was happy, completely relaxed, and I marveled that here we were 5,000 miles from home, and Daisy was carefree. I imagine that's what it's like with a dog. Apropos of almost nothing, Daisy is a popular dog's name.

Once a year I make a pilgrimage to Kenwood Pet Clinic for our Miss Cat's checkup. While it is a fine facility, I chose it for its proximity and to alleviate the torturous drive for both of us. ERRRRRRRRGGGGHHHHHRRRRGGHH is the sound a cat makes en route to anywhere. The whole process still seems a bit fatuous. On the farm, the vet came to you because cows, bulls, pigs, and horses were his or her purview. I doubt Dr. Garlie spent much time on anything smaller than a barrow or gilt.

Each morning I sit here working and see the dog walkers go by and I think of the farm when walking a dog would have been seen as outré as jogging. To expend energy dogs ran and people worked. Especially when it's cold and the Jaws of Life couldn't get me out of the house, the thought of walking a dog is too much to bear.

Which leads me to the difference

between the owners. My neighbor and friend, Mary King (a diehard dog person), said it best: Dog people are more outdoorsy while cat people are homebodies. Maybe she's right.

- Dorothy

*Dorothy Richmond is an experienced Spanish instructor and the author of several Spanish textbooks. She is a longtime resident of Cedar-Isles-Dean.*

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LHNA

## LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### November LHNA Board Meeting: Tues Nov. 1st at 7pm (via Zoom)

All residents are welcome. A zoom link and agenda will be on our website. If you have a question or wish to be on the agenda, please email us at [lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org](mailto:lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org)

### Street Sweeping is underway. Don't get towed!

For a few more weeks, Public Works crews are sweeping from curb to curb throughout the city. City crews will post signs at least 24 hours before sweeping a street. Visit the City of Minneapolis's website for street cleaning information and/or to sign up for phone notifications from the City. More information on [Lowryhillneighborhood.org](http://Lowryhillneighborhood.org) as well.

### Halloween is Monday, October 31st

Please be cautious of pedestrians and drive safely around the neighborhood.

### Connect with us on social media!

LHNA is on Instagram @lowryhill\_mpls. Or follow us on Facebook: search for Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association.

### We rely on support from residents like you.

Please consider making a charitable donation to LHNA on our website, or send a check to: LHNA, PO Box 3978, Minneapolis, MN 55403



### safety tips to KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

- **Keep exterior lights on!** On front porches, back porches, side doors, and near your garage. Motion detector lights are also very effective.
- **Keep exterior doors and windows locked.** Use quality locks, including the garage doors. Keep garage doors closed unless you are in or near the garage, even during the day.
- **Don't leave a garage door opener in a car** parked outside on the street, parking pad, or alleyway.
- **Don't leave wallets, purses, computers, or other valuables in a car, even if the car is in the garage.**
- **Don't leave valuables, like bicycles, unsecured on porches, patios, or in the yard.** And, if you have very valuable bicycles, even if stored in the garage, keep them locked.

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

## Let me help you get it together.



Leah Harp, LCSW, PhD

Leah Harp is an East Isles resident and a retired psychotherapist. She focuses on helping women take control of their spaces through discussion and hands-on cooperative purging and organizing. Let's create functional, pleasant closets, desks, pantries, offices, garages, etc.

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Email [DrLeahHarp@gmail.com](mailto:DrLeahHarp@gmail.com) for more information.



## Thank You

Kenwood Neighborhood Organization thanks these three individuals who have helped create this beautiful rain garden space at Kenwood School: Louise Erdrich, for donating the beautiful poem and hiring and funding the landscape designer for the beautiful space by [www.heritagehabitats.com](http://www.heritagehabitats.com); Angie Erdrich, Kenwood volunteer who brainstormed and coordinated this amazing community project; Artist, Zoran Mojsilov for donating his time to transport, surface finish and install these beautiful stones.

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