



# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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June 2023

## ArtRocks!

By Will Stensrud



(Photo Tim Sheridan)

*Will Stensrud volunteers to organize events at Cedar Lake East Beach and surrounding woodlands. Will lives in Kenwood.*

In 2019 volunteers from the Cedar Lake Park Association and Kenwood Community School came together with a vision to designate part of the woods on the east side of Cedar Lake an official DNR School Forest. Active neighbors loved seeing this new initiative take root as it intersected nicely with other community engagement efforts at Cedar Lake East Beach, formerly Hidden Beach.

Unfortunately, spring of 2020 saw the world come to a standstill making any community-related activities nearly impossible to coordinate. However, times of struggle often cultivate sparks of creativity, and this was precisely how the ArtRocks! art installation in the woods on the east side of Cedar Lake was born.

### Connecting Community Through Art

The idea of doing art installations in the vicinity of Cedar Lake East Beach was something that had been tossed around in Kenwood Neighborhood Organization brainstorming sessions for several years. However, it was the simple desire to bring families and children together during the COVID pandemic that brought this vision to be a reality.

Communication went out to Kenwood Community School families and through social media channels at the beginning of May 2020. Families were encouraged to pick up a rock and a paint kit outside of ARTrageous Adventures, just across the street from Kenwood School. Students were instructed to use nature as their inspiration to create an ArtRock! that would be placed in the woods on the east side of Cedar Lake for a community art installation.

### Incredible Outpouring of Support

Over 150 rocks were painted and returned. Signs were made to formalize the project and to remind everyone walking through the woods to be re-

spectful of the art and to social distance on the trails.

Although students were front and center in the motivation to establish this event, it was the outpouring of appreciation from the adult population that took the spotlight. In a time of unthinkable challenge and uncertainty, these painted rocks glimmered with hope and a promise that creativity and collaboration would prevail. People walking the woods in solitude stumbled across an unexpected outlet that connected them to their community.

### ArtRocks! is now in its fourth year and has become formalized through Kenwood School.

Second and third graders from Kenwood School get the opportunity to paint a rock as part of their school curriculum, and many of the classes take walks to the school forest during the school day to see how all of the rocks have been displayed in the woods intersecting with nature.

This year the rocks were on display from May 26 - June 4 before being returned to Kenwood classrooms and taken home by students for summer break. Hill & Lake Press photographer Tim Sheridan captured these amazing images of the event that I hope you all enjoy (see page 15).

For more information about the Kenwood DNR School Forest and how you can become involved, please contact Sierra DeMery at – [sierra.demery@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:sierra.demery@mpls.k12.mn.us).

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## GET READY TO WRITE!

### PARK BOARD ANNOUNCES SHORT SCHEDULE FOR CEDAR-ISLES PLAN APPROVAL

By Marty Carlson



Summer recreationalists on Lake of the Isles. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is determining the future of Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Regional Parks. (Photo Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

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

Apparently time has now become a hot commodity.

On Tuesday, June 13, the Park Board announced that its latest version of the Cedar-Isles Park Plan would be released to the public on Friday, June 16, with the plan going to a vote before the Park Board's Planning Committee on Wednesday, June 21.

For our many neighbors who have been following this process closely, that means there is one business day on June 20 — as June 19, which falls on June 19, is a federal holiday — to review the plan and submit comments before the vote.

The hearing itself will be held at the Park Board headquarters, 2117 West River Road, at 6:30 p.m. Those interested in speaking at the meeting must sign up immediately before the meeting or call 612-230-6400 before noon on June 21.

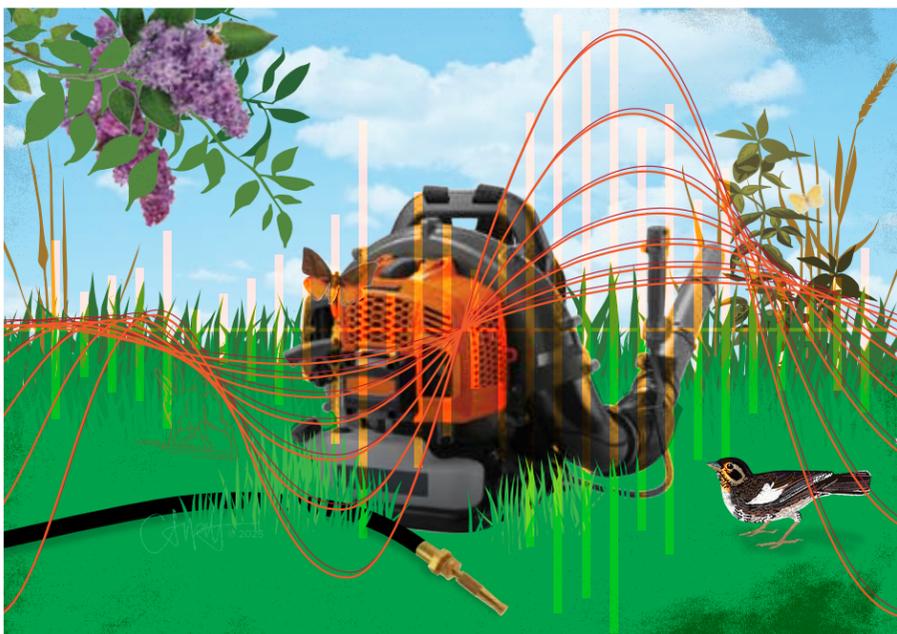
If the plan passes the planning committee, it will go before the full board on July 5, at which point commissioners can offer up any amendments they choose.

After patiently waiting months for the Park Board staff to do its work, we have less than a week to do any work at all on our end and to provide feedback to our representatives.

These could be highly consequential meetings, so interested neighbors are strongly encouraged to review the new plan, offer comments in person as described above or emailed to [OpenTime@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:OpenTime@minneapolisparcs.org).

## Everyone's Entitled to My Opinion: Say Goodbye To Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers!

By Susan Lenfestey



(Illustration Christopher Bohnet)

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

It's 6:15 on a glorious spring evening. Goldfinches hang on the feeders like bits of fluttering sunshine, lilacs are heavy with their liquid scent, and the bridal wreath is starting to pop tiny white blossoms down the stems like the tail of a comet. What a nice

night to sit on the porch, clear my head of the day's clutter and sip a glass of a crisp whatever happens to be on hand.

It's perfection. That moment in Minnesota when we get it right.

**And then it starts. The wailing shriek of the leaf blowers on neighboring yards and sidewalks, the clouds of brown dust billowing up like swarms of gnats.**

We are decent people who look

out for each other. Why do we go on allowing this assault on our senses? Not to mention the assault on the environment?

There are huge problems in the world and some big ones right here in River City, so writing about this small thing may seem like the epitome of privilege.

### But is it a small thing?

Gas-powered leaf blowers can emit more than 100 decibels of noise. Anything over 80 decibels for a prolonged time permanently damages cells in the inner ear. This is especially true for the lawn-maintenance crews who blast them at close range from dawn to dusk. My discomfort is temporary, but the damage to their hearing is permanent.

But even worse is the damage to the planet. USA Today recently ran this headline: "Gas leaf blowers and lawn mowers are shockingly bad for the planet. Bans are beginning to spread."

The article goes on to say that using a commercial gas-powered leaf blower for an hour produces emissions equal to driving from Denver to Los Angeles.

According to James Fallows, writing in The Atlantic in April 2019: "The fault lies in the two-stroke engine, which sloshes together a mixture of gasoline and oil in the combustion chamber and then spews out as much as one-third of that fuel as an unburned aerosol. If you've seen a tuk tuk, one of the noisy tricycle-style taxis in places such as Bangkok and Ja-

Continued on page 9



# Hill & Lake Press

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

## HILL & LAKE PRESS

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July 7, 2023  
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*Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to the Hill & Lake community.*



### Show Lowry Hill Meats Love!

Eight years ago, our neighborhood was abuzz with news that a butcher shop would be opening on Hennepin Avenue next door to Burch Steak and Pizza (RIP) in Lowry Hill. After years of delivering amazing quality food, Lowry Hill Meats announced it will be closing its doors on June 30.

### Little did we know the impact a butcher shop could make in our lives.

Lowry Hill Meats has enhanced the quality of daily meals in our homes, greatly enriching holiday meals and making us feel extra special knowing that we are supporting local businesses and agriculture. A sudden craving for a very good "sammy" is more than satisfied at Lowry Hill Meats, which has what many of us consider to be the best burger in town!

Erik Sather, the owner, and his team continuously seek out the best possible meats and ingredients in our region — all for our benefit. Local is better, always!

Erik has provided not just one or two Community Sourced Agriculture, or CSA, options but multiple ones over the years, again emphasizing the importance of supporting our local community.

### Delivering this level of quality isn't an easy task in a small storefront situation.

Why did they do it? Because they knew it makes an important impact on our community. And we all benefited.

The fine quality meats, charcuterie and cheese platters become a staple for our weekend dinner parties, family BBQs and holiday tables. They have also made the best pantry products on the market available to us long before we saw them in big box grocery stores and co-ops. All of these things add up to a remarkable retail shop on our front steps.

### Let's not forget Covid!

Lowry Hill Meats adjusted like champs and made our lives better and easier throughout Covid. Remember the meat shortages? The unsafe conditions in mass production meat facilities?

We didn't need to worry. Erik and his business quickly established safe practices and supplied us with everything we needed. That was a huge benefit, and they never faltered, retaining their positive attitude and simply making it easy for us.

### Show Them Love!

Erik and his team have cared for us as a community since day one. They did good. We owe it to them to thank them and support their new label "Lowry Hill Provisions" in local grocery stores and food cooperatives. Please, thank them for their business and support them as they evolve.

Lara Miklasevics  
Kenwood

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What To Do About Hennepin?

Readers have asked what can be done to get the city to revise its plans for the makeover of Hennepin Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street, a prototype of which can be viewed in Uptown between Lake and 31st Streets, where businesses are shuttered or hanging on by a hair.

### The answer seems to be nothing.

Council Member Lisa Goodman voted against it and did what she could to prevent it. There is no point in calling her.

Other city officials repeatedly say it's a done deal as it has been approved by the council and by Mayor Frey, after he successfully vetoed the 24/7 bus lanes that would have removed 93% of on-street parking permanently.

With the veto, parking will remain during off peak hours until transit numbers are met, so parking could disappear at any point.

### There is no stopping it now, they say.

Which is painfully reminiscent of what we were told about the chosen Southwest Light Rail route years ago.

I'd planned to write about Hennepin Avenue and Uptown for this issue, and what we might be able to do to help rebuild it in a way that serves our entire community.

But there are many moving pieces to that story, and I got distracted by leaf blowers. I'll get back to Uptown in the July issue.

### Tell us what you think!

In the meantime, we would love to hear your creative but realistic ideas for getting the city to rethink the Hennepin Avenue plan.

Or, why you think it's a good plan. The only requirement is that you take a thorough look at the plans before responding. Email me at [susan@hillandlakepress.org](mailto:susan@hillandlakepress.org)

Susan Lenfestey  
Lowry Hill

### Good laugh!

I enjoyed the April Fools story in the April 2023 edition.

Brought me back to my days as the Hill & Lake Press editor from Cedar-Isles-Dean in the 1980s.

In those days, each of the four Hill & Lake neighborhoods provided a volunteer editor, and we rotated issues. I often did the April edition and when I did, we always ran an April Fools page!

My very best effort was the year we had a "story" about a home for exiled dictators in Lowry Hill.

The punchline of the story was that the only ones to profit were the dictators and the realtors.

Never thought anyone would believe the story, but I later learned that an irate reader contacted the local office of Representative Martin Sabo to complain about how this could have been allowed.

Fortunately, Kathleen Anderson, who ran Mr. Sabo's local office at the time, was an East Isles resident and Hill & Lake Press lover.

She was able to set the reader straight by reminding them to look at the issue date and note the April Fools disclaimer!

The power of the Hill & Lake Press indeed!

Gary Cohen  
Golden Valley

### 2040 Bait and Switch

As a 20-year real estate developer with an urban and regional planning background, I found the February 2023 article in the Hill & Lake Press on the 2040 plan changes to be mostly on point.

Not only is there a feeling of bait and switch, but it also represents another example of the city's confusing us with a poorly planned agenda and no real opportunity for residents to provide input.

In the online public survey, the city states that Lowry Hill and surrounding communities are "areas with a range of allowed building types, as well as uses which are commonly found in residential areas."

Are four plus unit dwellings (multi-family), daycares, fraternity and sorority houses, single room occupancy and state care facilities, etc., commonly found in residential areas? They aren't.

They are found on the edges of residential areas for logical reasons, and proven planning best practices, which city staff choose to ignore. Homeowner property values will fall, and very little if any affordable housing will be created.

I'm not against these uses, but there is a place for them, and it's not in Lowry Hill. The city should be adding value to these historic neighborhoods, not devaluing them by erasing our single-family zoning protection.

I was told by one of our city representatives that with the current restrictions on the Urban Neighborhood 2 (UN2) designation, the development of four plus units is unlikely. If it's unlikely, then why have the designation?

I was also told that any constituent oppositional comments would have zero effect, and what's done is done. Then why open it up for comment? It's smoke and mirrors.

Chad Harkin  
Lowry Hill

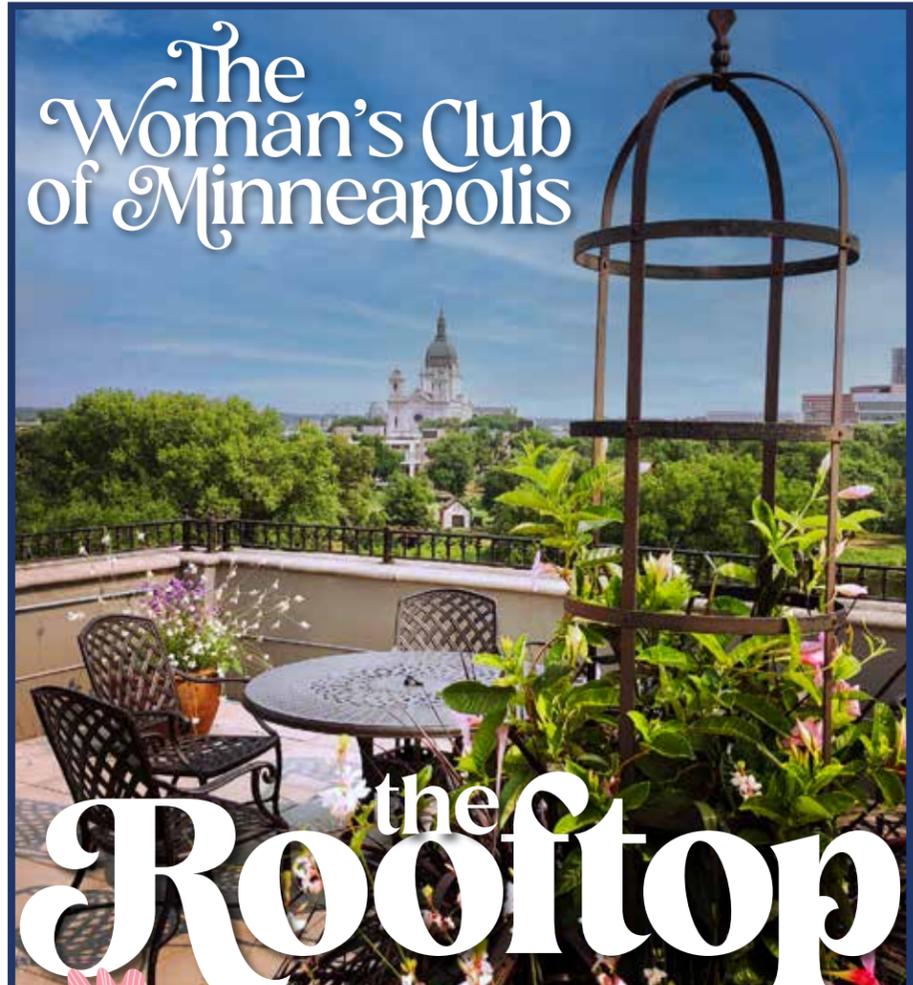
## BOOKKEEPER WANTED FOR Hill & Lake Press

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.

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis

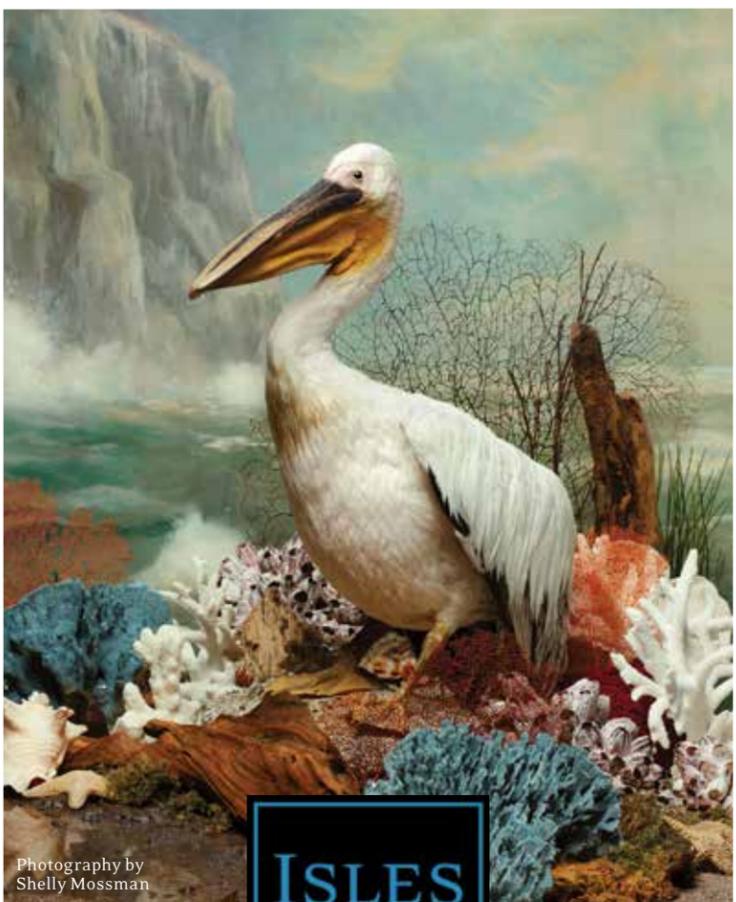


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## The 2023 Legislative Round-Up: How Will it Affect Our Neighborhoods?

By Marty Carlson

### "By any reasonable measure, the 2023 legislative session was a blockbuster."

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

By any reasonable measure, the 2023 legislative session was a blockbuster. For the first time in a decade, the DFL won control of the House, the Senate and the governorship, and used that control to advance a wide range of public policy initiatives. Regardless of your personal politics, it was a consequential session. Here are some of the impacts we're likely to see in our neighborhoods:

#### Public Safety

Car thefts and thefts from cars continue to plague our local neighborhoods and the city as a whole. While carjackings are down notably, they remain a source of anxiety. Local law enforcement has, in my view, responded with real creativity and grit, but remains hampered by a serious shortage of officers.

Help is coming. Included in the \$880 million public safety omnibus

bill is a provision that makes carjacking a specific crime. There are three degrees of offense, all felonies, carrying maximum penalties of between 10 and 20 years in prison.

Help with officer recruitment and retention is also on the way. While the omnibus bill sets aside a relatively paltry \$8.8 million for this purpose, the tax bill included a whopping \$300 million in one-time public safety grants to local law enforcement. That money can be used for recruitment and retention or to fill a wide range of other needs, largely at the discretion of local law enforcement agencies. This is a big deal and should provide meaningful aid to our overburdened police departments.

#### Pot in the parks, and a pot of money for parks.

Yes, use will be legal starting on August 1. No, smoking pot won't be legal in our parks. The new law prohibits pot smoking or vaping in any public place and limits personal adult use of cannabis to individuals 21 years of age at a private residence or on private property not generally accessible by the public.

Still, judging from recent trips to Boston, I think we'll notice this one. Pot smoke is everywhere in Boston, including Boston Common.

Personally, I think the benefits of decriminalization make it a worthwhile tradeoff, but I strongly suspect that change will be in the air.

The legislature also set aside significant one-time dollars for our regional park system. Along with money for expansion of the Luce Line, Shingle Creek and Victory/Wirth regional trails, there are additional funds for operations and much-needed park maintenance.

#### Minneapolis 2040 Lawsuit

In other news, the city's attempt to legislatively override the pending Minneapolis 2040 lawsuit failed.

For those of you who haven't already been following this issue, the short story is this: In 2018, a group of nonprofits sued the city to enjoin the 2040 plan for failing to comply with the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA). Thus far, the city has lost in the district court and lost twice on appeal, which may result in its being enjoined from implementing the 2040 plan pending a full environmental review. If the plaintiffs are successful, this has the potential to reopen discussion and force changes around many aspects of the overall 2040 plan.

One response from the city: if you can't win a lawsuit in court, try to get the legislature to kill it for

you!

This past session, bills were introduced in both the House and Senate to exempt comprehensive plans by cities in the metro area from MERA environmental reviews, retroactive (shockingly) to 2018.

Mayor Frey sent a letter in support of the senate bill arguing that expecting cities to comply with such reviews would be "onerous, inappropriate, and impractical."

Personally, I'm all for the environment, but I can't wait to see the city's response the next time a private business tries to make that argument. Regardless, the effort to legislatively override the lawsuit failed, and it's back before the district court on a motion to enjoin the plan altogether.

#### Accountability at the Met Council

Finally, for those of you who are enjoying the Southwest Light Rail construction process, our own Rep. Frank Hornstein and Sen. Scott Dibble introduced bills to consider making the Met Council an elected body directly accountable to voters.

A revised version of those bills was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, and a task force is now being formed to study that issue and make recommendations for further action.



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## OPINION

By Steve Kotvis

## An Actual Park Board's Buckthorn Policy Urgently Needed



Buckthorn jungle (Photo Steve Kotvis)

**"That's it. In the face of buckthorn, which essentially is a powerful and growing cancer destroying its host, the Park Board's policy and practice is to ignore it and leave it to neighborhood volunteers."**

*Steve Kotvis lives in Bryn Mawr.*

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's most recent draft of the Integrated Invasive Pest Policy is open for public comment through June 14. The policy's action simply states, "As a restricted noxious weed, buckthorn can no longer be planted or sold in Minnesota nurseries."

Concurrently, the Park Board's Natural Area Plan reads, "Ecological management is not routinely con-

ducted by MPRB (Park Board) in portions of the Cedar Lake Park outside of the planted prairie; however, volunteers have been actively removing buckthorn and other invasive species from around the lake."

That's it. In the face of buckthorn, which essentially is a powerful and growing cancer destroying its host, the Park Board's policy and practice is to ignore it and leave it to neighborhood volunteers.

**By default, volunteers have become the backbone line of defense and offense against buckthorn.**

Park stewards and their volunteer teams are filling a necessary void. They already cut, shuck and pluck buckthorn by its roots, multiple times a year in a multi-year process.

They already collaborate on knowledge and best practices. They already solicit and utilize private donations from local non-profits such as the Cedar Lake Park Association and Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary to purchase and plant native seeds and seedlings. They already coordinate volunteer group restoration activities. They already communicate with the public in per-

son and via social media the needs and benefits of saving our natural areas.

**Dear Park Board, buckthorn removal is no forest beautification project.**

The community is fighting the battle but losing the war. Buckthorn has reached, if not decimated much of the Park Board's 2,800 acres of natural areas whose mission it is to protect. Starved, choked and stressed, many of even the mightiest keystone Burr Oaks and Cottonwoods have fallen.

Buckthorn tree canopies block the sun's rays from reaching native shrubs, grasses and wildflowers, while their roots absorb vital soil nutrients and moisture. They have no rival. Not even bugs or microorganisms live in or break down buckthorn. Uncontrolled, buckthorn destroys native areas, diminishes biodiversity and deteriorates the number of species that nest, live and seasonally migrate through the area. With buckthorn present, nature's ways of filtering rainfall fail, degrading the quality of fresh lake and river water.

It's time for the Park Board to

step up, starting with a public policy that assumes a leadership role to address buckthorn.

The Park Board needs to protect valuable natural areas that are foundational to our whole park system. Short of cutting down our trees and putting them in a tree museum, our park system will inevitably fail without healthy, vital natural areas.

The existing buckthorn policy is environmentally dangerous, socially destructive, fiscally irresponsible and managerially negligent. Moreover, the policy and practice that leaves buckthorn to be managed by volunteers is socially, economically and geographically inequitable. When the park board relegates its responsibility to protect natural areas to volunteers, areas without volunteers unjustly suffer.

Park stewards try to save the natural areas closest to where they live. And while they would love to save other parts of the city – and the whole world for that matter – Park stewards can only do what they can do. The work is already overwhelming.

The Park Board needs an actual policy to address buckthorn. Failure to do so could end up having all of us pacing the new Park Board development sadly singing Joni Mitchell's wise lyrics: "Don't it always seem to go. That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone?"

# Hill & Lake Press

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## FEATURE

By Janet Hallaway  
Photos by Tim Sheridan

## Neighbors Gather to Support Hill & Lake Press

*Janet Hallaway is a Hill & Lake Press board member and lives in Lowry Hill.*

On a beautiful evening in May, neighbors gathered in the garden of Tom Hoch and Mark Addicks to raise funds for the Hill & Lake Press, and to encourage involvement in the 46-year-old community newspaper.

Craig Wilson, who became editor when long-time editor Jean Deatrick retired in February 2022, has assembled a team of writers, photographers, copy editors and graphic designers who have worked hard to create a lively paper to report on issues relevant to the neighborhood that would otherwise go unreported. As the motto on the masthead has stated for 46 years, “Where the biggies leave off . . .”

For better or worse, in the digital age the editor no longer sits around a table with volunteers literally pasting up the pages of the paper while enjoying each other’s company and a few beers. The technology of producing the paper you see today, with an editor and then a production person sitting alone in front of their screens employing advanced design software, makes the paper more technical to produce.

The goal of the party was to en-

courage participation and fresh ideas, and to help pay the bills until advertising revenue increases. It succeeded at both.

In a brief program Craig spoke to the need for community connection in today’s divisive age with the following call:

“First, we imagine a future where storytelling brings our community together, showcasing the authentic voices of our neighbors. The Hill & Lake Press has always been a platform for our community’s diverse voices, and we are committed to taking it even further. We want our newspaper to truly capture the spirit of our neighborhoods, uncovering untold stories that would otherwise go unheard and unnoticed. I invite all of you to join us in celebrating the rich tapestry of experiences that make our community vibrant and unique.

“Second, we imagine a future where we promote truth. Unfortunately, we are living in a time of division and discord, often overshadowing the many connections we have in common. We want to foster a platform where different perspectives are shared and where meaningful, respectful and fact-based debates can take place. In a world dominated by misinformation, short inflammatory messages and polarizing opinions, it is vital that we

protect and nurture this small but mighty space.

“Lastly, our future depends on the Hill & Lake Press embracing the transformative power of technology while staying true to our core values. While being steadfastly committed to ink on paper, we recognize the tremendous potential of digital platforms to reach a wider audience, engage new generations and facilitate meaningful conversations. We enthusiastically embrace the digital age as a tool to amplify our impact, connect with readers near and far and create immersive, multimedia experiences that captivate and inspire. By embracing this vision, we embark on a journey of innovation while maintaining the essence of our community print newspaper.”

Craig ended his appeal with this call to action, “Let’s embrace the opportunities that lie ahead while honoring our past, seizing the present and shaping a future where the Hill & Lake Press remains a beacon of civil discourse.”

Susan Lenfestey, co-founder of the Hill & Lake Press, compared the old days of the volunteer-driven paper to now, noting certain advantages to today’s process. For example, using the U.S. Postal Service to mail the paper means that everyone gets a copy in their mailbox, includ-

ing apartment residents who previously didn’t receive the paper due to building access issues. The Hill & Lake Press has received thank you notes — and checks — from many residents who say they feel part of the community for the first time.

And for a bit of nostalgia, Tricia Conroy, Lowry Hill resident, described being part of the volunteer paper delivery squad as a kid in the late 1970s, her first foray into civic engagement!

Many thanks to hosts Tom and Mark for their incredible generosity, to event organizers extraordinaire Susan Lenfestey and Carla Pardue, to Claire Bretzke, Margit Bretzke, Tricia Conroy and Sue Smukler and to Gwen Daniels for creating story boards featuring photos and articles from the earliest issues of the Hill & Lake Press. Finally, thank you to our staff production designer, Christopher Bohnet, for designing the beautiful invitations and staff photographer Tim Sheridan for the lively photos of the event.

The Hill & Lake Press is grateful to everyone who has written a note, a check or an article for the paper, and plans to host a larger gathering in the coming year to celebrate those contributions and the vibrancy of our community.



Story boards graced the garden and will be shared at future events



Will Stensrud and Carissa Brown talking with board chair Win Rockwell



Hill & Lake Press board vice-chair Mike Erlandson and Tom Hoch



Karin Birkeland and John Lillehei



Tom Hoch, Susan Lenfestey and Mark Addicks



Council Member Lisa Goodman, editor Craig Wilson, writer Steve Kotvis and Jenny Pearson



Justin Baylor and Jim Lenfestey talking with Tamara Kaiser



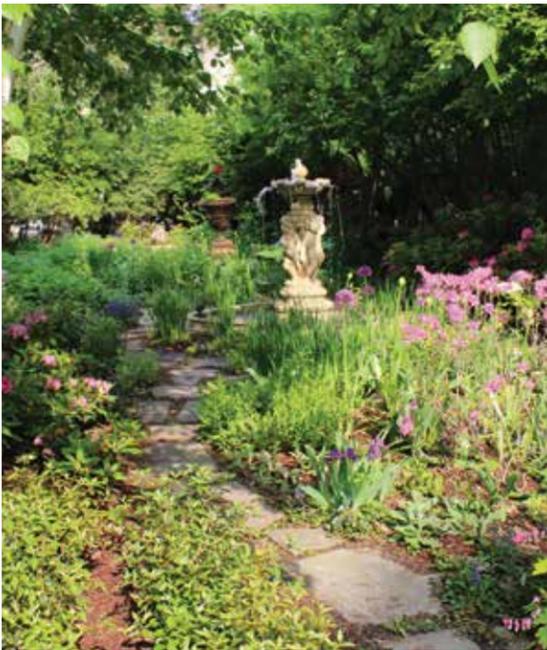
Hill & Lake Press contributing writers Janet Hallaway and Dorothy Richmond



Storyboard of past articles regarding Uptown



Susan Lenfestey and editor Craig Wilson



Garden fountain



Britta Gustafson and Sean Murphy



Writers Marty Carlson, Mary Pattock, editor Craig Wilson and Trevor Porath



Tricia Conroy, former newspaper delivery girl, reminiscing with Susan Lenfestey and editor Craig Wilson



Supporters enjoying the beautiful garden setting



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Neighborhood Association

## SUMMER SOLSTICE SHINDIG

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- Face Painting




## JULY EVENTS

**Acoustic Music Series: Sweet Rhubarb**  
Sunday, July 2, 3—4pm  
Cedar Lake South Beach  
- Enjoy live music on a summer afternoon.

**Storytime Picnic Series**  
Friday, July 14, 10:45—11:30am  
Park Siding Park  
- Pack a picnic & blanket, listen to a story, and pARTicipate in a craft.

**CIDNA Gardeners**  
Saturday, July 15, 9am—12pm  
Park Siding Park  
- An opportunity to care for the gardens and visit with fellow CIDNA residents.



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

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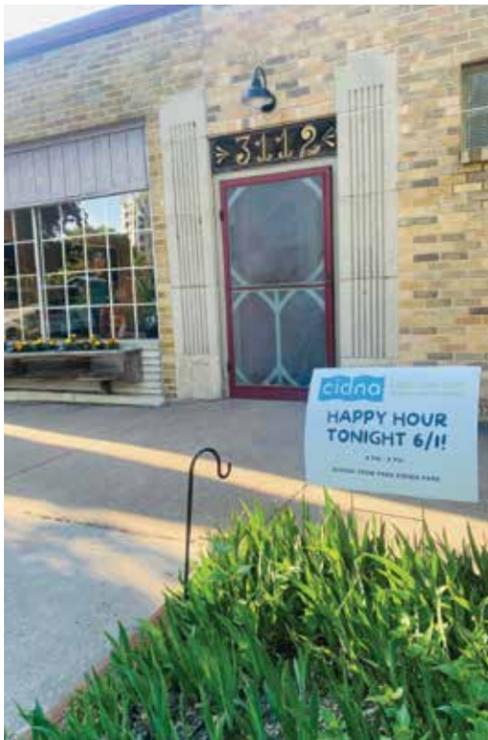
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Thursday: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

— YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE AWARD-WINNING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WEEKLY EDITION —

# Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighbors Bridge Divide

By Patty Schmitz



Pictured at Left: Hosts and organizers of the CIDNA Happy Hour - Bryce and Donna Hamilton, Patty Schmitz and Kristin Dolphin (Photos Alex Dietz)



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)



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

On June 1, Cedar-Isles-Dean neighbors gathered to enjoy snacks, beverages and conversation across from Park Siding Park. The organizers of the event noted that the purpose was purely community building.

Over the past year, Cedar-Isles-Dean has been a “divided” community with the Kenilworth crossing closed down, so it was a great chance to meet up with old friends and make new connections. A number of new faces and neighbors attended — it

was a mix of homeowners and renters. We are grateful to Bryce and Donna Hamilton for opening their space to us. Guests were treated to music by cellist Celia Sieckert — she is in Minneapolis for the summer and available for events. Her email address is [maebird3@gmail.com](mailto:maebird3@gmail.com).

The Urban Eatery donated \$20 gift cards to all in attendance. We know that our local businesses make neighborhood life more rewarding, and we hope to find more ways to partner with them so their businesses thrive.

Cedar-Isles-Dean is continuing to explore ways to engage with all who

live in our neighborhood. Many neighbors commented “let’s do this again”.

Plans are in the works for another meet-up event, probably at a home Cedar-Isles-Dean, so keep an eye out in the CIDNA e-news. If you want to be added to the e-news, email [info@cidna.org](mailto:info@cidna.org).

Finally, mark your calendar for live music on June 11 (3-4 p.m.) and the Summer Solstice event on June 21 at 6:30 p.m., both at Cedar Lake South Beach!

## GOODBYE TO GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS, front page

karta, with purple smoke wafting out of its tailpipe, you’ve seen a two-stroke engine in action.”

Fallows notes that tuk-tuks in those countries are being banned for this very reason.

**So far in this country, gas-powered leaf blowers have been banned in some states and in over 100 cities.**

What about Minneapolis? For now, the city has chosen the carrot over the stick in the form of rebate programs to commercial landscaping businesses.

According to Zach Schultz, policy aide to Council Member Lisa Goodman, the Green Cost Share Program offers up to a 45% match and up to \$100,000 to help local businesses fund projects that save energy, reduce air pollution and cut CO2 emissions. In the case of lawn care companies, businesses that are granted funds to transition to electric lawn equipment must turn in their gas-powered equipment so that it is not resold and used in other locations.

The Minnesota Pollution Control

Agency (MPCA) has offered a bigger carrot, helping commercial landscapers cover nearly 90% of the cost of purchasing electric-powered lawn tools.

City Council Member Goodman says she prefers incentive programs because there is no point in introducing an ordinance that can’t be enforced. “We do not have the staff to police the city. I cannot imagine that we have people available to be chasing down individuals who are using gas powered leaf blowers.”

She has a point. If our already strapped police force has to decide between arresting the carjacker or the leaf-blower, I think most of us know which we’d choose.

But we pass many regulations that aren’t routinely enforced. They simply give the city the legal chops to crack down on those who consistently create a nuisance or a danger for others. No one’s been taken off in cuffs for burning their garbage, but a citation and a fine can be issued if someone burns paint cans and old tires, as a former

neighbor of ours did until the city put a stop to it. Those citations are handled by city inspection workers, not the MPD, although Goodman’s office points out that there are not enough workers to enforce even existing noise ordinances.

There is resistance from the commercial lawn services who argue that the gas-powered blowers are more powerful and that they need equipment that can run all day without recharging.

One Hill & Lake Press neighbor arranged for his lawn company to meet with the city’s sustainability staff to learn more about the rebates. He said the meeting was cordial, but in the end they were unwilling to make the switch.

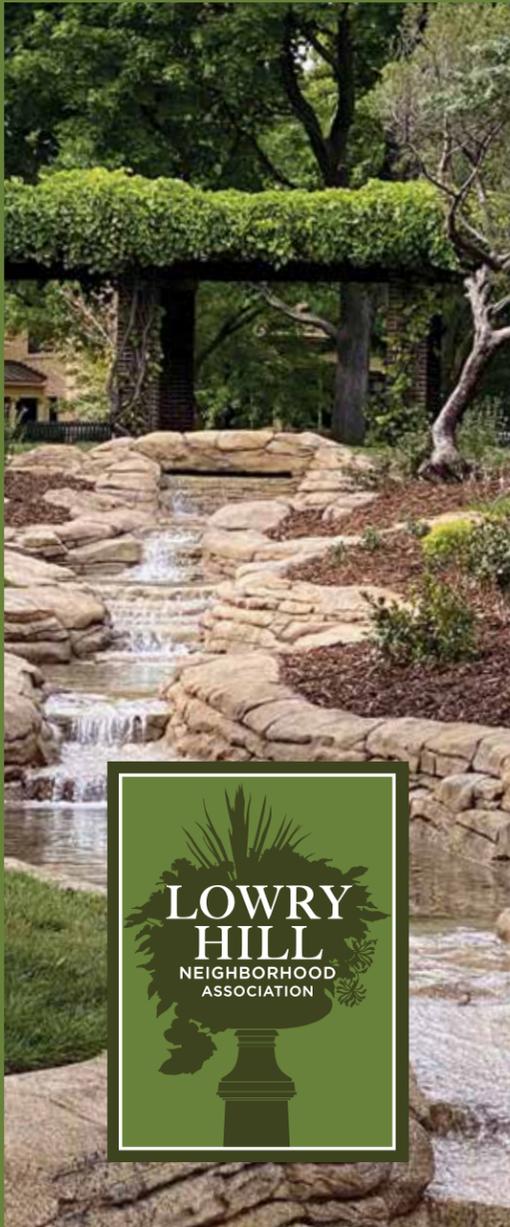
On the other hand, Phillips Garden, a Minneapolis-based landscaping company, took advantage of the MPCA rebate and switched to battery-powered tools. The yard crews say the latest iteration of e-powered tools have nearly the same power as the gas-powered ones, and that they do not miss the noise or dealing with smelly gas cans.

So perhaps we need both. Incentivize the willing and penalize the reluctant. Gas-powered blowers and mowers are eventually going to go the way of the tuk-tuk. Given the catastrophic damage they do to our hearing, our air and our critters, there is no excuse for not using every carrot and stick we can to make that happen now.

### Things you can do.

Get over lawn lust and the desire for a spotless yard. It does not need a full Brazilian. Much of what has fallen decomposes back into the soil. If, like me, you crave tidiness, try to tread lightly. Rediscover the rake or invest in a quiet e-blower that does minimal damage.

If you are fortunate to have a lawn service, encourage them to contact the City Sustainability Department to learn more about the Green Cost Share Program by calling 612-673-2301.



## LOWRY HILL NEWS – June 2023



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us for our favorite summer event on Saturday, July 22nd at 3 pm 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

Meet us at Thomas Lowry Park two times per month for a friendly walk around the neighborhood, lasting approximately 90 minutes. A free “walking club” t-shirt is available for our first 50 walkers!

Our dates are as follows:

- Saturday, June 24, 10am
- Tuesday, June 27, 5:30pm
- Saturday, July 8, 10am
- Tuesday, July 18, 5:30pm
- Saturday, July 29, 10am



### SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD SUPER SALE

Saturday, June 9th, from 9am - 3pm. Search for deals and treasures at sales throughout Lowry Hill, East Isles, Kenwood, and East Bde Maka Ska. Sellers can register on our website soon.



Thank you for your generous support.

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

## 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.



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

## 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

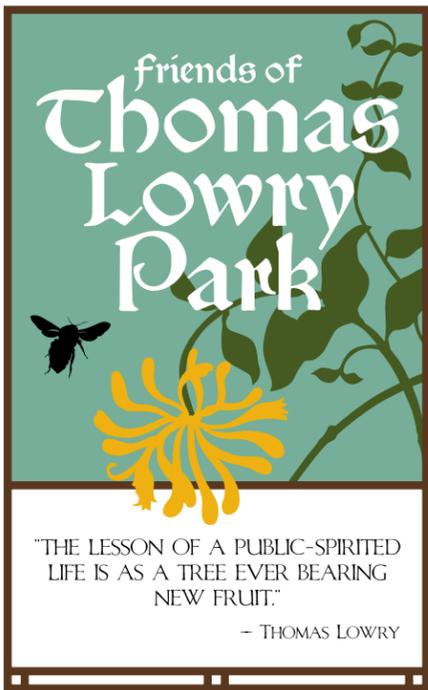
**Save the Date: Sept. 9** Saturday

*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.

# Volunteer at Thomas Lowry Park!

By Kathy Gaskins



ember. It has been a whirlwind in Thomas Lowry Park — cleanup, plantings, irrigation and the pools turned on.

Thanks to all those who could pitch in with pruning, planting and watering before the irrigation was turned on.

And a big thanks to the Park Board crews for all their work with the pools turned on and the irrigation, which needed repairs and adjusting. The park is beautiful!

On Saturday June 10, we focused on more cleanup, weeding and hanging out with the Harkins Family, who volunteered at the event, before they depart for Dallas.

We do have new gloves and garden tools (rakes, trowels) thanks to a generous donation from the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association.

2023 Volunteer Dates  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- June 10
- July 8
- August 12
- September 9
- October 14

July 22 — Ice Cream Social!

For more information, including how to contribute, go to — [thomaslowrypark.org](http://thomaslowrypark.org)

*Kathy Gaskins is a board member of Friends of Thomas Lowry Park and was a longterm resident of Lowry Hill who now lives in the Mill District.*

Happy Summer! Our usual time to get the park ready for summer was condensed because of the warm weather and the early arrival of the annuals that we ordered in mid-De-



Volunteers help maintain Thomas Lowry Park.



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## Song and Dance (and Painter and Sculptor ...) Man

By Mariann Bentz



If you knock on Bill Ashwood's apartment door at The Kenwood Retirement Community you may be greeted with an old showtune, perhaps "Cockeyed Optimist" from South Pacific, or a Gershwin tune.

Once inside his inviting apartment, you see more evidence of his artistic life – a dozen or so paintings – modern abstracts and those that are more representational. One shows a singing sextet taking a bow on stage. The scene is Shiek's Café, and the singer on the far left is Bill Ashwood himself. The visual artist in Bill depicting the performance artist! All of Bill's many talents have brought joy and beauty into the world.

Bill has lived at The Kenwood for almost two years and appreciates that he can be on his own or take part in

The Kenwood life and activities. He often socializes at the free breakfast. He finds his life at The Kenwood is very comfortable, accessible, and he feels cared for by Kenwood staff.

Bill has lived most of his life in the Twin Cities area. He speaks fondly of growing up in South Minneapolis, attending Folwell Junior High and Roosevelt High School. He started working early, mowing lawns with a friend. Since then he's found himself learning and excelling in a variety of trades including commercial art, teaching art and of course singing. This variety helped him, as he says, keep his "fingers in the pie."

Always interested in the arts, Bill took an art correspondence course during his early teen years at Folwell, but instead of mailing his work

in, he bussed to the art school in downtown Minneapolis and received his feedback in person. Later, he was able to put his art experience to work when he was a commercial artist, designing brochures, displays, and ads for several Twin Cities companies. When at Roosevelt High School, Bill explored his love of singing and received an Apollo Club scholarship which enabled him to get free music lessons. Those lessons sent him on a joyful trajectory of singing at a variety of venues in the Twin Cities including Shiek's, Club Carnival, and the St. Paul Opera Company. He loved being able to sing in front of a crowd.

He married his high school sweetheart Clara in 1951. Clara was also a music lover. She worked in the sheet music department at Schmitt's Music and played piano in the lounge at Shiek's

Café. The couple started a family, and you can imagine there were a lot of lullabies sung. After a stint in the Army as a "camouflage specialist" Bill returned to Minnesota and got a degree in art education at the University of Minnesota in 1954. He taught art in junior and high school in New Brighton. But he always kept his night job of singing around the Twin Cities.

Then Bill and Clara built a woodwork-filled home in New Brighton and raised their family of five there. Sadly, Clara died in 1975. Bill was fortunate to find another music-lover and married his second wife, Beverly, in 1977. They continued to live in the New Brighton home, raising their two children. Beverly performed with the Lakeshore Players Theatre in White Bear Lake, among other venues. She died in 1999. Bill continued to live in the New Brighton home until 2001, then moved down the block to an apartment in a friend's home, where he stayed until he moved to The Kenwood. Bill has five sons and two daughters, 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Hopefully someday you will run into Bill, and he will sing you a tune, maybe "On the Street Where You Live" which in his case is at The Kenwood on Summit Avenue in Minneapolis.



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# The Harkin-Roberson Family: Leaving a Lasting Legacy

By Craig Wilson

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

In the midst of social unrest and a global pandemic, one family managed to find their place and become the heartbeat of their corner of Lowry Hill.

The Harkin-Roberson family, consisting of Chad Harkin, Amber Roberson and their two children, Joe and Viola, moved to Minneapolis during the challenging times following the tragic murder of George Floyd. Despite the hurdles they faced, they quickly embraced their new surroundings and became an inspiration to those around them.

Settling near Thomas Lowry Park, the Harkin-Robersons wasted no time in making a positive impact. The family became deeply involved in local initiatives, spreading love, unity and support. They volunteered

at neighborhood clean-ups and actively participated in community events. Their unwavering commitment to making a difference turned their new home into a place of hope and solidarity.

They organized their final community crawfish dinner fundraiser to support their son, Joe, who is living with Prader-Willi Syndrome. This rare genetic disorder requires specialized care and resources, and the family rallied the community to come together for a cause close to their hearts. Neighbors showed up to support Joe and enjoy delicious food and southern hospitality.

As they set their sights on a new home in Dallas, Texas, the Harkin-Roberson family carries with them the love and support of an entire community. Their ability to connect people, inspire action and create a sense of belonging is a testament to the power of unity in times of adversity.



Top right: Chad Harkin and his son, Joe. Top Left: The Harkin-Robersons surrounded by family and friends. Bottom left: Joe Harkin and his favorite mail carrier (Photos Craig Wilson)

# Among Friends

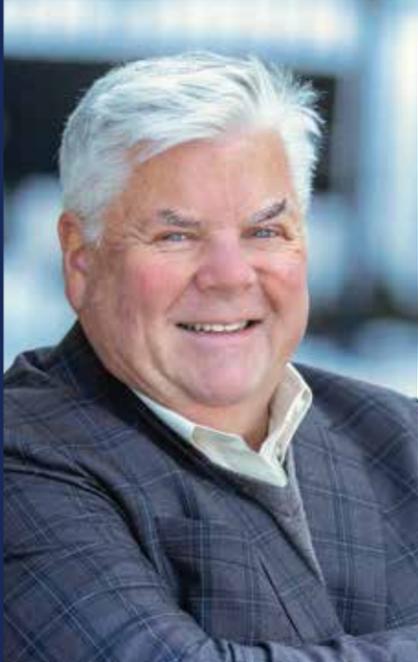
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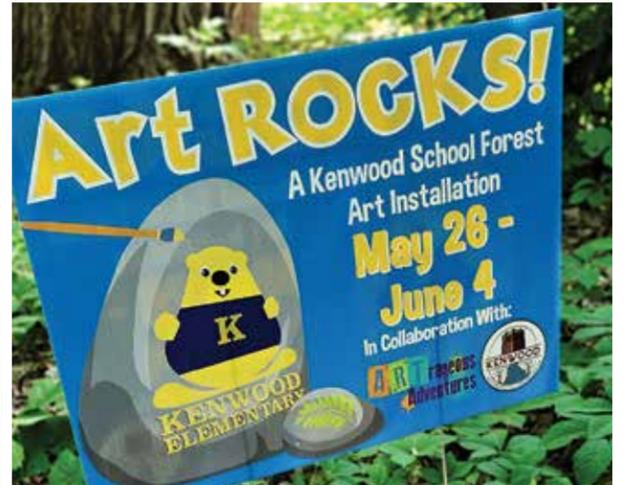
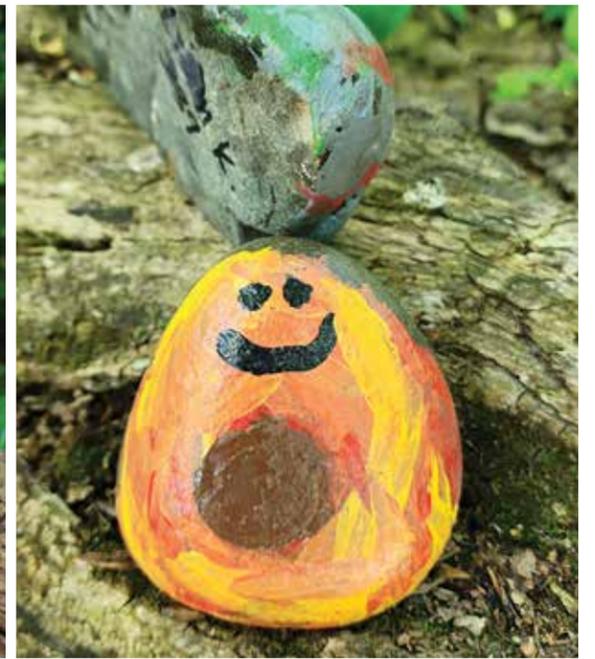
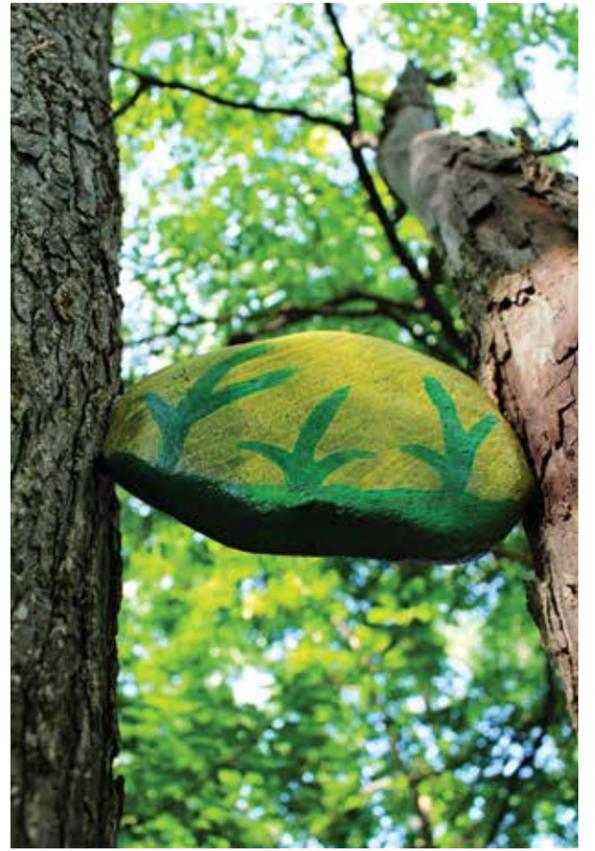
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*Sebastian Joe's*

ArtRocks!, front page



# Storytime Picnic Series Kicks off at Park Siding

By Amanda Vallone

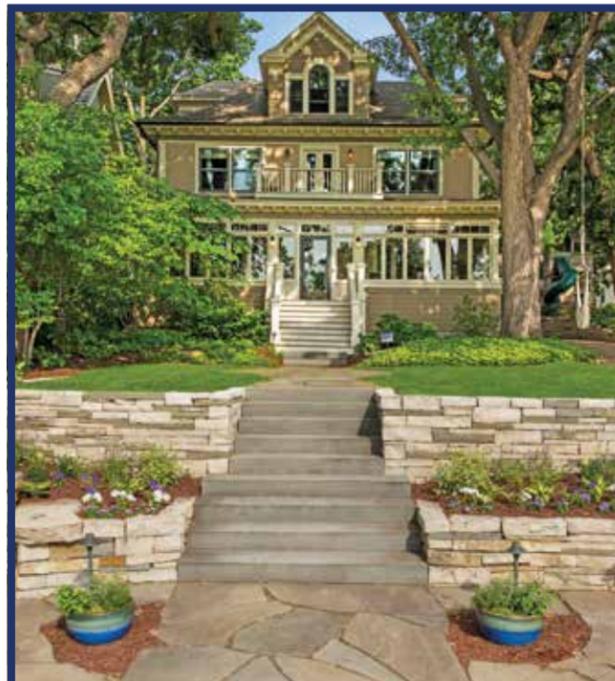
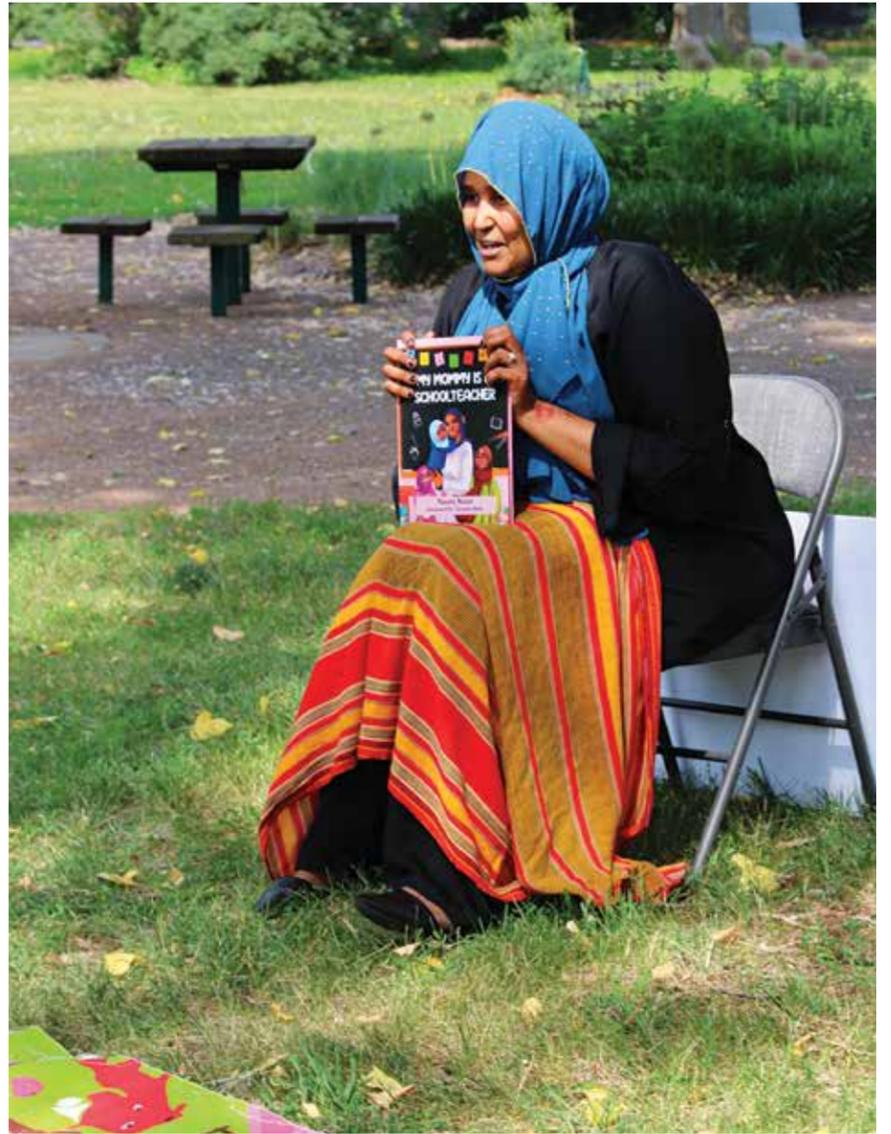
Friday, June 9 kicked off the first of this series as we welcomed local author Nasra Noor to read from her first published book, "My Mommy is a School Teacher."

Nasra is a mother of four daughters and a second-grade teacher in Minneapolis. After years of putting her own ambitions on hold raising her amazing girls, she decided to go back to school to earn her teaching license.

This book inspires all who want to pursue their dreams! If you are interested in her book please check out her website at: [www.authornasranoor.com](http://www.authornasranoor.com)

Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association is a proud sponsor of this Storytime Series that will bring local authors to share about their culture through their published books and storytelling.

Please be sure to save the date for the next one on Friday, July 15th from 10:45 a.m. -11:30 a.m., which will feature Vietnamese-African American author Thuba Nguyen and her book, "My Daddy Tells Me."



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## Spring Traditions Bring Kenwood Students to the Park, the Lake, the Woods and the Table

By Karin Olson



Top left: Kindergartner Ash Decker explores his clothespin butterfly at the Kenwood spring picnic. Top middle: Kindergartners Andrew McQuiston, Frances Lanigan, Thomas Simpson and Rory Miller at the three-legged race starting line. Top right: Connor Kalan (kindergarten) prepares for his first potato sack race. Bottom left: Mr. Kramka, physical education teacher, kicks off track & field day in Kenwood Park. Bottom right: Second graders kick off track & field day with potato sack races in Kenwood Park. (Photos Karin Olson)

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

As spring finally arrived this year, healthy community-building traditions rolled out in full force for Kenwood Community School's students and their families.

Each morning as weather permitted, students who rode the bus were dropped off at the northwest corner of Kenwood Park to participate in the "Woodchuck Walk," an opportunity for students to walk to school, led by school staff and caregiver volunteers.

Many classrooms walked to the DNR School Forest on a weekly basis to observe seasonal changes in the woods, feed the orioles and plant native trees and bushes. In partnership with ARTrageous Adventures, students painted ArtRocks! and placed them along the trails near Cedar Lake East Beach for a temporary art installation for all to enjoy. The whole school benefits from hikes

to the lake and the woods!

Kenwood's annual spring picnic welcomed all families to a light dinner provided by the Minneapolis Public Schools food truck. At the picnic, students and their caregivers could plant seeds to take home, play on the playground, listen to music performed by the fifth-grade band and multi-grade singers and socialize with their school community.

Exciting annual physical education traditions include the "pits and alleys" obstacle course set up the first week of May in the gym, and the all-school track and field day at Kenwood Park, where students compete with their classmates in events such as kicking and throwing contests, obstacle courses, and potato sack and three-legged races. "We want students to compete, but the emphasis is on sportsmanship and having fun in the sun," said physical education teacher Mr. Kramka.

Kramka continued, "We are fortunate to be able to provide our students with opportunities to get moving and challenge their skills in ways that aren't traditional "gym class." Our hope is that this variety of experiences not only increases their physical fitness today but contributes to an appreciation of the outdoors that will benefit them for life."



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### Backyard Concert for Friends and Neighbors



Kim Ford and Rob Werling hosted a backyard concert for friends featuring The Argyle Street Trio. (Photos Craig Wilson)



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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.*

'Tis the season: Let's talk about wedding registries. I'm not a fan, but knowing how they proliferate, I suspect I'm in the minority.

This practice began in 1924 when Chicago's Marshall Field's instituted bridal registries for young ladies of the ton set to request china, crystal, and silver flatware – the trifecta of trousseaus. While it was a brilliant ploy by Marshall Field's in that it worked and brought in gobs of money, a monster was born.

Giving wedding gifts is a tradition that's been around for eons and can be traced to Ancient Rome. Back then, brides and grooms were considerably younger because the average lifespan hovered around 35, so if couples wanted to see their children grow up, they had them early in life.

Now, however, it's a whole different ballgame. The average age of marriage for women is 27 and for men, 29. Add to that the fact that many couples are gainfully employed, have respective households or live together and already have everything they need.

The operative word here is need: Registries often focus on wants and can read like glorified letters to Santa. When a 5-year-old announces he or she wants a doll house or Lego® dinosaurs, it's cute. When a 20-something solicits a \$700 panini press, not so much.

Before we got married, both my future husband and I, well into our thirties, each had

a fully-furnished house and given that we had everything we needed, the thought of asking for anything seemed insane. We worked for months diminishing our inventories and played the "Whose nicer?" game.

I had nicer living and dining room furniture; he sold his. He had a better microwave, TV, blender; mine went to St. Vincent DePaul. And so it went, whittling down our holdings to the point where, literally, two became one.

Even knowing this, friends and family nagged me to register. I declined because we didn't need anything in particular. The response always was, "Well, how do I know what to give you?" Assuming you know at least one of the betrothed, my advice is to figure out something at least one of the betrothed, figure out something that speaks to them.

If they're children of friends and you don't know them well, give money; you can't go wrong with that. The most important things to bring to a wedding and reception are your best wishes and sparkling personality.

Deep down, though, I fantasized about registering at Walgreens for laundry detergent, toothpaste, bar soap, dental floss (unwaxed) – things I could use and use up. And who wouldn't love a gift certificate to the pharmacy?

The wonderful gifts we received were a set of hand-painted coffee cups and soup mugs from my dear friend, Jenny, and season tickets to the Jungle Theater from my dear friend, Mitch. I do remember a most puzzling gift: It was a set of wind chimes comprised of

pink ceramic dolphins. I stared at them and wondered how things like this even get manufactured. But I remember them after lo, these many years, with the rosy attitude that holds that odd and unusual things make good stories.

Memo to the newly married couple: Write thank-you notes. This pronouncement has not changed. Gush over the towels and the hot dog-scented candles and the clock in the shape of a foreign country because no matter how, your guest chose this gift for you. Write the notes with your own hand – no emails, no DMs, no phone calls, no texts, and for the love of God, no generic Facebook blast.

You have three months to get those letters in the mail, which is nothing compared to a lifetime of wedded bliss.

— Dorothy



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**NATIONAL CANOE TO SCHOOL DAY**

East Isles residents and Kenwood Community School students Nora and Leila Murphy canoe to school on "National Canoe to School Day" on Monday June 12.



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# Pencil Sharpening #2

Photos by Tim Sheridan



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