



# Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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## KENWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF FEEDING ORIOLES IN CEDAR LAKE WOODS

By Angie Erdrich



Kenwood 4th graders visiting the Oriole feeding station near East Cedar Lake Beach (Photo Karin Olson)

Angie Erdrich is a pediatrician, Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal member and local volunteer. She lives in Kenwood.

The Kenwood Community School tradition of feeding orioles and other migratory songbirds that arrive the first week of May started ten years ago with a fifth grade class grandparent, Grandpa Lundeen, who made birdhouses and gave them to the school.

Orioles feed on oranges and grape jelly when they arrive north but turn to eating insects and cat-

**“Deborah Gregory, a fifth grade teacher, says that her students love to hike ten minutes to the DNR School Forest to enjoy nature and replenish the oranges and add jelly.”**

erpillars later to raise their broods.

Students identify the distinctive hanging woven basket nests, hear the bird calls, and witness the magic of setting up the feeders and seeing the bright orange birds swoop down to eat.

Deborah Gregory, a fifth grade teacher, says that her students love to hike ten minutes to the DNR School Forest to enjoy nature and replenish the oranges and add jelly.

The DNR School Forest was established in 2019 as a coopera-

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## SEVEN INCHES? TWELVE INCHES? AN AVERAGE OF THE DIFFERENCE?

By Jeanette Colby

Jeanette Colby lives in Kenwood.

Last month, the Hill & Lake Press interviewed Dr. Marion Collins, whose concern for safety and precision led her to check the distance between the freight and light rail tracks at 21st Street.

She found that the centerline-to-centerline distance was 12 inches less than the industry standard minimum of 25 feet.

The Met Council followed up and found a discrepancy of seven inches.

Without acknowledging fault or expressing regret, the Met Council announced that the tracks will be moved.

For the neighborhood, that means the end of May and early June will see "significant construction noise" and vibrations from the work to remove tracks currently embedded in concrete.

Placing the new tracks will involve more traffic from greenhouse gas-emitting cement trucks, dump trucks and other rail maintenance vehicles and activities.

Scheduled for Sunday, June 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., the road to East

**“Considering all safety and livability concerns of this nearly \$3 billion project, let's hope Dr. Collins won't put her measuring equipment away just yet.”**

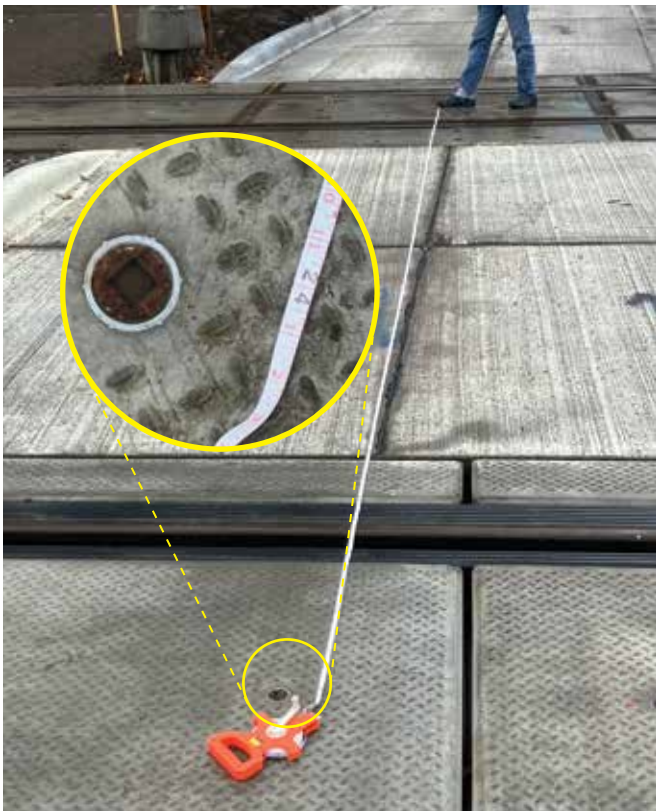
Cedar Beach (Hidden Beach) will be closed to car traffic (assuming weather permits).

Pedestrians and bicyclists will still be able to cross, and people who live on the small stretch of Upton Avenue across from the park will be able to drive in and out with help from a flagger.

Some people wonder if seven inches (or 12?) matters in the bigger picture of freight rail safety.

But apparently the Met Council feels the effort and expense is worth it and will "ensure there is at least 25 feet between the centerline of the freight tracks and the centerline of the LRT tracks" according to Kaydee Kirk, community outreach coordinator.

Considering all safety and livability concerns of this nearly \$3 billion project, let's hope Dr. Collins won't put her measuring equipment away just yet.



Last month Kenwood resident Marion Collins reported discovering that LRT tracks were too close together and did not meet minimums standards. The Met Council will attempt to correct this misalignment over the summer. (Photos Marion Collins)





# Hill & Lake Press

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

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*Our goal is to offer readers diverse perspectives on newsworthy events or issues of broad public concern to the Hill & Lake community. Our copy limit is 300 words and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.*

**Overlook Gardens**

We are residents of Stevens Square-Loring Heights neighborhood, long time friends of Robert Skafe and volunteers with our neighborhood organization, SSCO (Stevens Square Community Organization).  
While we are pleased that Robert Skafe was honored and tribute given

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

to his legacy by your publication, we feel the need to clarify some of the information for your readers.

The Overlook Gardens (not Park) is an area of green space along the I-94 south side corridor next to 17th Street, between Stevens and 2nd Avenues. The view from the Overlook facing Minneapolis Downtown and across the freeway from the Convention Center is spectacular. SSCO worked to transform this neglected land into a garden space in the early 1990's. Robert Skafe was instrumental in working with the community to make this transformation.

It is premature to say that the Overlook has been re-named for Robert Skafe. The land is presently owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) passed a resolution on February 7th 2024 directing MPRB staff "to pursue methods of establishing site control through the

State of Minnesota Department of Transportation allowing for the continued operation and maintenance of Overlook Gardens. . . and allowing for a naming process honoring Robert Skafe to be initiated once site control is established."

The naming process, which cannot begin until site control is conveyed successfully to MPRB, may take up to two years, and will require community engagement and advocacy.

There are so many great and wonderful things to say about Robert Skafe, and he is sorely missed by his many friends and neighbors.

Maureen Wells  
Dee Tvedt  
Karen Ives  
Stevens Square - Loring Heights

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# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ROUNDUP: FOUR NEW LAWS OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WILL NOTICE

By Marty Carlson



Hill & Lake area state representatives Rep. Frank Hornstein and Sen. Scott Dibble were co-chairs of the conference committee for the transportation bill. Their efforts led to the funding for the Workforce Development Center and Hennepin Avenue business support. (Image State of Minnesota)

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

The 2024 legislative session ended at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. By all accounts, its end was a raucous, wild ride. While detailed end-of-session analysis will take time, particularly breaking down details of the 1,000+ page “mega-omnibus bill” that passed in the session’s closing hour, here are four items that did pass both houses and our Hill & Lake neighborhoods will notice:

### 1. Uber/Lyft Not Leaving

Front and center in the Legislature’s final weekend was a legislative fix for the Minneapolis City Council’s ride-sharing ordinance that caused both Uber and Lyft to threaten to leave the city. A proposed deal announced by some legislators earlier in the month prompted both companies to say that they would leave the state entirely, but a last-minute deal among all interested parties resulted in a statewide fix that will keep existing rideshar-

ing in the state, with increased wages for drivers. Credit is being claimed all around, with supporters of the city ordinance saying its passage sparked statewide change, while opponents cast it as another instance of the legislature saving the city from itself.

### 2. Legislative Override of the 2040 Lawsuit

The many twists and turns of the lawsuit seeking to enjoin the city’s 2040 comprehensive plan reached a potentially definitive end with the passage of a provision retroactively exempting city comprehensive plans from complying with the state’s normal environmental protection laws. Earlier in the week a panel of judges from the state court of appeals dealt the lawsuit a serious but not-necessarily-fatal blow by reversing the district court injunction against the 2040 plan. The new law, retroactive to 2019 (coincidentally the passage date of the 2040 plan), has the potential to kill the lawsuit entirely. While passage of this provision is, at the least, a serious setback, plaintiffs in the lawsuit are not yet ready

to throw in the towel and are reviewing arguments that could be used to challenge applicability of the new law.

### 3. \$9 Million for Workforce Center at Former YWCA Site on Hennepin

Inserted into the Transportation, Labor and Housing Finance Omnibus Bill, and chief authored in the House and Senate by local legislators Rep. Frank Hornstein and Sen. Scott Dibble, is a provision allocating \$9 million for the Rise Up Center, described in legislative materials as “a 70,000-square-foot, geographically accessible, culturally competent, and economically sustainable hub for BI-POC-workforce development in the green building and clean energy fields.” The center, proposed for the former YWCA site on Hennepin, is sponsored by a group of labor unions and nonprofits, and while a regular bonding bill failed to pass this session, the inclusion of this provision in the omnibus bill meant that Rise Up stood out where many other nonprofit funding proposals failed.

### 4. Money for Hennepin Avenue Businesses

Included in the Employment and Economic Development Supplemental Budget Bill is \$1 million in “Promise Act” funds for Hennepin Avenue and Uptown. Described as a “small business revitalization program that will provide grants and loans to disadvantaged businesses,” the funds may be available to Hennepin Avenue businesses struggling with the pending roadway reconstruction. In total, the bill allocates nearly \$100 million in Promise Act funds statewide over two years. Grant amounts range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 depending on revenue, and loans may be in larger amounts, with interest capped at 3%.

Spring, the sweet spring,  
is the year’s pleasant king;  
Then blooms each thing,  
then maids dance in a ring,  
Cold doth not sting, the  
pretty birds do sing,  
“Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we,  
to-witta-woo!”

– Thomas Nashe (1567-1601)  
British poet. Spring (l. 1-4)

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# EVERYONE’S ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: COMMUNITY SAFETY IS THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY

Opinion by Susan Lenfestey



City leadership voted to build a community safety center at 2633 Minnehaha Ave. S. to replace the 3rd Precinct, which was abandoned and set on fire during the social unrest following the murder of George Floyd. (Photo City of Minneapolis)

*Susan Lenfestey is a regular columnist and founder and current board member of the Hill & Lake Press. She lives in Lowry Hill.*

We all want a city council that focuses on the needs of its constituents and treats the security concerns of everyone with respect. We all want to live in a safe and thriving city.

There is far less agreement on how we get there. Most people are aware of the two different approaches, from those who believe that the MPD should be abolished, to those who believe it should be reformed.

They may not be aware of the importance of the terms community safety and public safety in this debate. (Full disclosure, this geezer was not.)

Those who talk about public safety acknowledge that there has been an unacceptable tolerance of rotten apples in the MPD but say it’s unfair to paint all officers with the same brush. They argue that more good officers should be hired and paid well to replenish the force and to combat the uptick in crime.

Those who talk about community safety say that racism is still rampant in Minneapolis and in the MPD, and that reform is not enough. They argue that the presence of the police doesn’t deter crime, it escalates violence.

The distinction between the two was made clear at a recent neighborhood meeting to discuss how the new Third Precinct building will

be used. Amanda Harrington, director of design and implementation for the Office of Community Safety, emphasized that it is a community safety building, not a public safety building.

Service providers, trained to deal with people experiencing homelessness or mental illness (or, other issues to be decided by “the commu-

**“We all want to live in a safe and thriving city. There is far less agreement on how we get there.”**

nity”) will share the building with the MPD, but they will have separate entrances and offices.

Harrington explained that this is because cops need security to store weapons and records, but also because some community members have said that the sight of a cop is triggering and will prevent them from entering the building to access services.

The distinction also turns up closer to Hill & Lake Press land. While the legislature did not get around to passing the bonding bill, leaving important local and statewide projects unfunded, Rep.Frank Hornstein and Sen. Scott Dibble

secured \$9 million for Tending the Soil, a coalition of labor and activist groups who hope to turn the former YWCA building in Uptown into a job-training facility called the Rise Up Center.

The New Justice Project, a member of the coalition, states on its website that its aim is “to build a base of everyday Black Minnesotans committed to organizing around community safety, pushing for decreases in public safety budgets at the city, county and state level . . . “

With the leftward lurch of the City Council, the push for decreasing public safety budgets seems to have found its champions.

The starting salary for a Minneapolis police officer is roughly \$65,000 per year, putting it behind smaller communities such as Minnetonka and Inver Grove Heights. Also putting it behind the salary of a Minneapolis City Council member who is paid \$109,846 per year.

In a recent CBS report, MPD Chief Brian O'Hara says his department is short by more than 200 officers and has lost 40% of its police force in the last four years, “while facing the highest levels of crime and violence, in some categories, that the city has ever seen.”

(Meanwhile, Minneapolis is facing a \$21.6 million budget hole in 2025, and the prospect of a double-digit property tax hike. The center cannot hold.)

But from Hennepin to Lyndale, there’s new energy rising from the business owners who are hanging on. They are connecting and organizing to support each other and to brainstorm ideas for short term survival and long-term success.

For the first time there’s some financial relief available. Businesses can apply for grants from the \$1 million secured by Sen. Dibble from the Promise Act to help defray losses related to the civil unrest of 2020.

And the city awarded the contract for Open Streets to the Uptown Association — to be held on Lyndale because there are no open streets in Uptown right now!

When the environmental writer Bill McKibben was asked where people should live in the coming climate crisis, he said, “Wherever there is a strong community.”

By supporting our community — and paying more attention to city elections — we can have a safe and thriving city once again.

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# LIMITED INFORMATION MAKES JUDICIAL DECISIONS TOUGH

By David Piper

David Piper is a senior district court judge in Hennepin County since he retired in 2022. He continues to handle certain cases for the Court on a part-time basis. He served in juvenile court between 2011 and 2020.

There is a lot of understandable concern about serious crime in Minneapolis, often expressed on-line, especially on the Nextdoor app. I limit my time on the Nextdoor app, as reading the daily descriptions of crime can be discouraging.

To illuminate the judicial process in Hennepin County, I will highlight how judges handle preliminary decisions after a defendant or juvenile is charged with a crime and detained, either at the Public Safety Facility for adult defendants, or at the Juvenile Justice Center for juveniles.

**“No judge wants to be blamed for releasing a child who ends up harming another victim, or possibly the same victim in a domestic assault case.”**

Three important principles for judges to weigh are the risk to public safety, considering the charged offense and the liberty interests of the defendant.

If an adult defendant is arrested and detained at the jail (the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center), then the Court has to have a hearing within the next day or two, excluding holidays and weekends.

The purpose of the hearing is to decide whether the defendant should be released, or if the Court should impose conditions on his or her release. The conditions can include remaining in jail, wearing an



(Photo Tony Webster)

ankle bracelet or drug testing, depending upon the circumstances of the offense and the defendant.

These hearings are held at the Public Safety Facility at 410 Park Avenue South in Minneapolis, and they are open to the public.

**Most of my criminal experience has been in juvenile court.**

Most of the detention hearings for juveniles charged with serious crimes (called “delinquency” in juvenile court) are open to the public and are held at the Juvenile Justice Center at 590 Park Avenue in Minneapolis.

If interested in observing a detention hearing, it is a good idea to call the Juvenile Court at 612-348-4822 to see which, if any cases, on the detention calendar are open to the public.

**The following paragraphs illustrate an example of a “typical” (if there is such a thing) juvenile court detention hearing:**

It is 1:30 p.m. in juvenile court, and the Juvenile Court Detention calendar is about to begin. When I handled these cases there were no windows in the courtroom, and the atmosphere was usually tense.

The majority of the kids on the detention calendar are from a minority population. The juvenile’s parents are usually present.

A probation officer makes a recommendation as to whether the juvenile should be released to his

home or to a relative and whether he or should be detained either at the Juvenile Detention Center or at home wearing an ankle bracelet (“electronic home monitoring” or “EHM”).

A Hennepin County Attorney opines as to what should happen to the detained juvenile. A parent(s) also usually appears, although not always.

It is heartbreaking when no adult appears with the juvenile, either because the parents have given up or, and this is the worst, the juvenile does not have parents or relatives able to care for them.

Once in a while, the juvenile will agree to remain at the Detention Center, because there are no other reasonable options.

Often there are no future placement options, and the Court may be forced to select a less than ideal option.

The “easy” cases are the ones where Probation, the County Attorney, the parents, and most important, the juvenile and parents agree that the juvenile should be at home with parents under their supervision. This plan is often for those juveniles charged with property offenses or lower-level assaults.

The complicated cases are those where the charge is a serious felony involving a weapon, but the juvenile has no prior record and the parents want the child returned home, particularly if the child is

going to school and involved in extracurricular activities, or a parent needs the juvenile to help around the house.

Because the juvenile is new to the system, there may not be much information. On the one hand, the child may be a risk to public safety and may re-offend if released.

No judge wants to be blamed for releasing a child who ends up harming another victim, or possibly the same victim in a domestic assault case.

**Most agree that a juvenile is not going to be rehabilitated at the detention center.**

It is named the “detention center” after all, and not the “rehabilitation center.”

Although the detention center does a good job schooling kids and providing for their safety, there is legitimate concern that a detained juvenile may be more likely to re-offend following detention than if he or she was allowed to return home or to a relative’s care.

Contrary to what you often see on television, judges often have to make these important detention decisions quickly, especially in Hennepin County with a population of approximately 1.26 million.

A compromise decision can involve placing the juvenile on electronic home monitoring, although the ankle bracelet can be cut pretty easily, and the bracelet obviously cannot prevent a juvenile from re-offending. It can only reduce the risk.

Ultimately, we try to make the best decision but often have limited information. And it is more of an art than a science deciding who is “dangerous” and likely to re-offend and who is not.

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# A CALL TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF HENNEPIN AVENUE BUSINESSES

Submitted by Council Member Katie Cashman



Speaking to 70+ uptown community members at the Uptown Community Coalition’s founding meeting in April 2024 (Caption by Katie Cashman, Photo City of Minneapolis )

Council Member Katie Cashman submitted this piece to Hill & Lake Press to communicate to her constituents. She represents Ward 7 and lives in Stevens Square - Loring Heights.

While the once-every-50-years reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue is necessary to keep the street and infrastructure under it working well into the future, there is no avoiding that this is and will continue to be an enormous strain on businesses through next year, many of which were already experiencing a challenging time.

While the approved street layout and key details of the construction were finalized long before I was sworn into office, the hard work of helping our community navigate through the strain and the changes ahead remains.

We already have far too many vacant storefronts along Hennepin, and more must be done at all levels of government to help our business district thrive once again. The city, and my office in particular, has a role to play in rallying folks to shop locally whenever possible.

Beyond encouraging Public Works staff to install the "Businesses Open" signage across the construction zone, we are working in partnership with Council Vice President Chughtai and her team to shift the narrative of Uptown and Hennepin Avenue in a more positive direction through media opportunities and community partnerships, as well as to increase accessibility to existing city resources.

The city has several business support programs such as matching grants for facade improvements or free technical assistance available for things like strategic business planning or marketing and branding, which many don't

know about.

It's our job to make these programs as accessible as possible for those who need it most. Please join me in visiting the city of Minneapolis' "business services" web page or reach out to my office directly to find out what's available: ward7@minneapolismn.gov.

I know that many businesses don't need lip service; they need investments in areas like community safety and accessibility to support more customers to come in.

We are hopeful that additional business grants from the state are on their way through Senator Scott Dibble and Representative Frank Hornstein's bill, which will expand the boundaries of the Promise Act to include all of Hennepin Avenue South on both sides of the corridor. We stand ready as partners to help deliver these resources and those currently offered by the city.

It is a fact that in our urban environment residents and small businesses will continue to contend with major infrastructure projects, but the city has an opportunity to create proactive, tangible plans for how to minimize negative impacts on small businesses long before there are any orange cones on the ground.

Our storefront businesses do so much for our community, so let's do all we can to lift them up during this difficult period. If you have ideas for my office on elevating community initiatives through our communications channels or network, we'd love to hear them!

We will continue to share updates about construction and ways to support small businesses in our biweekly Ward 7 newsletter and social media.



## Hill & Lake Press

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

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# ARE CARS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION?

Opinion by Brian Lammers



An EV charging station on 25th Street between Aldrich Ave. S. and Lyndale Ave. S. (Photo Brian Lammers)

*Brian Lammers is a renewable energy developer who uses many forms of transportation in and around Minneapolis’ East Isles neighborhood, his favorites being biking and walking.*

The most economically dynamic cities are crowded, "vibrant and flexible," to use Jane Jacobs' words.

They require a mix of transportation modes to thrive. Economic activity relies on mobility; people require diverse transportation options to meet their needs.

Current transportation and planning orthodoxy assumes public transit infrastructure is more climate-friendly than automobiles for moving people. But dedicated lanes for trains, buses, and bikes — like roads for cars — require rights of way, often paving over green space.

Big transit projects are costly and disruptive. Removing parking and auto traffic results in significant economic losses — less commerce, more vacant storefronts, and reduced tax revenue.

**Recent experience with large transportation public works in Minneapolis has generated skepticism about the environmental and public benefits of transit.**

The Metropolitan Council's Southwest Light Rail project, for example, has deforested miles of trails in southwest Minneapolis and required widening corridors, constructing new bridges and tunnels, and deploying huge amounts of carbon-intensive concrete and steel.

The project has also suffered from project delays, economic disruption and \$1 billion in cost overruns. To the east, the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction project that removed on-street parking between Lake and 31st Streets has contributed to vacant storefronts and a desolate streetscape.

Plans to redevelop the stretch of Hennepin Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Lake Street in a similar manner do not bode well for the vitality of the Uptown district.

**Meanwhile, transit use cases have been upended by trends of more remote work and less commuting.**

Ridership and the economic benefits of new transit are at risk of not materializing as originally envisioned. Budget overruns can only further deteriorate the economic cases for such projects.

The current climate and urban planning debate ignores the fact that light vehicle transportation is a relatively easy sector to decar-

bonize via electrification. And vehicle decarbonization is happening rapidly. According to the US Department of Energy Information Administration, electric, hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles represented more than 16% of light vehicle sales in 2023 with their market share forecasted to grow dramatically in the coming years.

**The electric grid is becoming greener, with more renewable energy contributing to the power generation mix, displacing fossil fuels.**

The wind and solar composition of Xcel Energy's generation fleet is 41% and is forecasted to grow to more than 75% over the next 20 years. Consequently, the electric power charging EVs in Minneapolis will increasingly come from renewable resources.

While the carbon intensity of automobiles is decreasing, electric vehicle technology is rapidly improving, lowering costs, and making autonomous electric vehicles more feasible.

The emergence of autonomous EVs has the potential to replace personal vehicles with fleets of hired automobiles, putting existing road infrastructure to more efficient use and further reducing the transportation sector's contribution to climate change.

**Information technology is also evolving to better allocate carbon and other costs to transportation users.**

Dynamic pricing and user fees can influence behavior, charging drivers for premium access to desirable destinations, incentivizing riders to make alternative transportation choices to reduce pollution or optimize public benefits.

Smart metering can incentivize EV parking on city streets to lower the carbon intensity of automobiles using busy corridors. Dynamic pricing for parking and road use can help manage congestion, direct traffic, or favor EVs and hybrid vehicles.

Cities can consider parking meter holidays where it makes sense to promote economic growth like on the beleaguered Lake Street corridor or Uptown district in Minneapolis.

With proper incentives drivers, businesses and the public will make rational mobility choices to reduce pollution and boost economic growth.

A few words on congestion which, in the wrong places like freeways, causes delays and inefficiencies. But in the right places such as urban neighborhoods and commercial districts, traffic and congestion correlate to economic vitality.

**If congestion occurs in places that are lively and culturally vibrant, we should be willing to tolerate some congestion to generate economic activity.**

There are economic benefits from the activity that causes congestion, and there are costs to reducing traffic and vehicular access to businesses. Stated differently, congestion and traffic are often a byproduct of economic

**“Instead of trotting out the tired talking points of increased taxes, more government spending and big public works to solve climate and transportation problems, we need our leaders to promote new and better technology, harness market forces and foster innovative solutions to decarbonize our transportation system and improve the vibrancy of our neighborhoods.”**

activity and not always a pure public burden.

The costs and benefits of congestion, economic activity, pollution, pedestrian and vehicular access can and should be included when evaluating transportation projects.

**People want the agency and freedom afforded by a wide range of mobility choices. People also demand a strong economy, vibrant neighborhoods and less pollution.**

Smart public policy can consider comprehensive costs and benefits of carbon intensity, economic activity, and transportation infrastructure to incentivize climate-friendly behavior and give people greater choices.

Instead of trotting out the tired talking points of increased taxes, more government spending and big public works to solve climate and transportation problems, we need our leaders to promote new and better technology, harness market forces and foster innovative solutions to decarbonize our transportation system and improve the vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

And maybe the much-maligned automobile can become part of the climate solution.





# PARK BOARD COMMITTEE HITS “PAUSE” ON ROADWAY CLOSURES AT THE MALL PARK

By Marty Carlson

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

On April 24 and May 7, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board took votes to reexamine the plans in its Southwest Service Area Master Plan for closing portions of the existing roadways through The Mall Park in Uptown. The decision was taken in response to safety concerns expressed by several commissioners, including Planning Committee Chair Cathy Abene and local commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, and followed close on the heels of concerns expressed by area neighbors related to safety, parking and aesthetics.

As covered in previous Hill & Lake Press articles (see December 2023, March 2024), the Master Plan itself was approved by the Park Board on November 4, 2020, during the height of the pandemic, and covers 42 neighborhood parks, including The Mall.

Along with a relocated walkway, urban agriculture space, and the addition of native plantings, plans for The Mall notably included a proposal to close portions of the one-way roads that line the park, and the addition of a shared-use, permeable “woonerf” for the block nearest the Walker Library, which would replace the more traditional U-shaped roadway that presently exists. A woonerf, which translates as a “street for living,” is a Dutch term for common space created to be shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and low speed motor vehicles. They are typically streets without curbs and sidewalks, and vehicles are slowed by placing trees, planters, parking areas, and other obstacles in the street.

At the April 24 Planning Committee meeting, discussion of the proposed closures started during the public comment period. Hill & Lake Press editor Craig Wilson was the first to speak.

Wilson noted that he had been a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) during the master planning process, and stated he had “deep concerns”



Local resident Aaron Jorgensen-Briggs testified at the April 24 park board meeting that the proposed changes to The Mall Park would adversely affect other area renters, who he described as “busy working people, families, students, people on fixed incomes, senior citizens and people with disabilities... who rely on their cars to meet their daily needs.” (Image MPRB)

about the proposed roadway changes. Wilson noted the process was “hectic,” with 42 parks being planned in just 16 meetings, which amounted to roughly 30 minutes per park. Wilson said he expected the Park Board to engage in more thorough professional vetting after the fact, such as traffic studies, and also noted the area had changed in ways not anticipated when the CAC concluded its work in 2019.

Mike Erlandson, chair of the East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA), spoke next, arguing it would be a “grave mistake” to move forward with the proposed closures, which local residents and the EINA oppose.

Erlandson’s concerns were echoed by eight other area residents, a mixture of homeowners and renters, all of whom spoke in opposition to the current plan. The need for parking was mentioned most frequently, along with appreciation for the park as currently laid out.

One speaker noted that approximately 550 area residents had signed an online petition in opposition to the plan.

During the commissioners’

discussion, emergency vehicle access was at the fore, particularly as respects fire access to the prewar apartment buildings along the southern boundary of the park. Commissioner Abene expressed concern that the existing roadway may be the only practical fire access to some of the buildings, and these concerns were echoed strongly by At Large Commissioner Charles Rucker, who is also a first responder and works for the

**“(Commissioner) Rucker also said he had spoken with Minneapolis Fire Chief and Marshal Bryan Tyner, who said he was 'shocked' and had 'no idea' these changes had been proposed.”**

Minneapolis Fire Department. Rucker said he had visited the site the previous weekend, primarily to assess whether it would be adequately accessible to fire trucks in the event of a fire at one of the neighboring apartments.

There was “no way” emergency access under the proposed plan would be adequate, Rucker said, citing the prewar apartments’ balloon construction, which lacks fire stops, and noting that every second counts when responding to such fires. Rucker said that any fire department response would involve multiple vehicles, which could not be adequately accommodated with the proposed closures.

Rucker also said he had spoken with Minneapolis Fire Chief and Marshal Bryan Tyner, who said he was “shocked” and had “no idea” these changes had been proposed. Tyner submitted a letter, offered into the record by Rucker, expressing his concern that emergency access would be inadequate, and noting that the area already presents challenges to response times due to its unique geography and traffic patterns.

At Large Commissioner Tom



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At Large Commissioner Charles Rucker, who is also a first responder and works for the Minneapolis Fire Department, said there was “no way” emergency access under the proposed plan would be adequate. (Image MPRB)

Olsen spoke in support of the planned closures, arguing that the Master Plan for the area embodies the Park Board’s overarching values and priorities.

Olsen did not directly rebut the letter submitted by Chief Tyner but asserted that the plan did provide adequate emergency vehicle access because it did not change access for the southern roadway that immediately borders the apartments.

A review of the site map in the Master Plan, however, shows that it does propose closing half-block sections of that southern road immediately east and west of James Avenue, eliminating the road’s continuous flow and making side streets the primary access point for most of the apartments.

Also, despite earlier comments from multiple renters, Olsen asserted that opposition to the plan came from “very motivated, very connected, very privileged people” who didn’t like the CAC process, in remarks that drew rebukes from both Commissioners Abene and Thompson.

The Planning Committee’s overall discussion of this issue arose in the context of an amend-

ment to a resolution granting an easement to the Metropolitan Council to perform necessary sewer work underneath The Mall itself.

The amendment from Commissioners Shaffer and Abene passed on a voice vote, with only Commissioner Olsen voting against, and the full amended resolution then passed the committee with no audible dissent.

The amended resolution came before the full board at its next regular meeting on May 7, and passed on a vote of 7-2.

Commissioners and staff noted that work with the Fire Department and City Engineer’s office was already in progress; the matter may come up for a more definitive vote by the end of May.

Finally, as with the Planning Committee meeting, local residents spoke during the public comment period, uniformly in favor of preserving the park’s current configuration. One speaker stated that the online petition to preserve the park had now garnered over 700 signatures.

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# TEMPLE ISRAEL IS FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN THE WORLD TO ACHIEVE LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION

By Melissa Rappaport Schiffman

*Melissa Rappaport Schiffman is a LEED Accredited Professional, author, and Co-Founder of Project Hive Pet Company. She lives in Cedar-Isles-Dean.*

How does an almost 100-year-old synagogue embrace sustainability in the 21st century?

For Temple Israel, one of the largest Jewish Reform synagogues in the country and located just a few blocks east of Lake of the Isles, sustainability is rooted in the value of Tikkun Olam — the Jewish tradition of repairing and improving the world.

For the past two decades, I've been deeply involved in Temple Israel's sustainability efforts. In 2004, we established the Ner Tamid Task Force for Sustainability and installed a small array of solar panels on the synagogue's roof. These panels provide more than enough electricity to power Ner Tamid, the Everlasting Light above the Bimah (altar), symbolically making it a truly holy light.

In recent years, Temple Israel has set ambitious sustainability goals, including working towards net zero carbon emissions and net zero waste by 2030 and LEED certifying its building on Fremont Avenue South. On April 12, we celebrated a significant milestone: achieving LEED Gold Certification.

**What makes this achievement unique?**

Temple Israel is not only one of the oldest synagogues to achieve LEED certification but also the first and only synagogue to attain it as an existing building. Most LEED certified projects are newly constructed buildings; only a small fraction, about 8%, are certified as existing buildings. Since most buildings are existing, that's where there's opportunity for meaningful improvement.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a holistic, point-based green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in the



All of Temple Israel's sanctuary lighting was converted to LED bulbs, saving energy, money and time not having to replace the bulbs. (Photo Temple Israel)

1990s to address the enormous impact buildings have on our health and environment. To attain LEED certification, a project must comply with all seven prerequisites and earn at least 40 points in energy, water, landscaping, materials, waste, indoor air quality and transportation. Earning 50+ points achieves Silver, 60+ is Gold, and 80+ points gets you to the highest level of Platinum certification. Temple earned 67 points, achieving LEED Gold status.

**Of course, this journey wasn't without its challenges.**

Like many nonprofits, we faced constraints of time and budgets. But we found that our community was there for us. Xcel Energy and the City of Minneapolis offered financial rebates for conserving energy. The USGBC admitted us into their Legacy Program, which provides nonprofits with pro bono engineering time and volunteer hours to help manage the project.

COVID-19 presented challenges as well. We started the process in 2019, and LEED requires at least a year of occupancy data (e.g., monthly energy usage, water usage and waste reports). In March 2020, the building emptied out, and an unoccupied building can't be LEED certified. While that delayed the process, it provided an opportunity to implement additional energy conservation measures identified in a previous re-commissioning study, ultimately improving our energy efficiency and increasing our score.

“... sustainability is rooted in the value of Tikkun Olam — the Jewish tradition of repairing and improving the world. ”

**The benefits of our sustainability efforts are manifold.**

From promoting healthier indoor air quality to realizing long-term cost savings (the LEED project paid for itself in less than two years), sustainability touches every aspect of our community's well-being. Moreover, it aligns with our values of environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

Through our ongoing commitment to sustainability, Temple Israel hopes to educate and inspire. For example, rather than thinking of buildings as burning fossil fuels, creating dirty stormwater runoff that pollutes our lakes and rivers, generating trash and using chemicals, what if we can change the paradigm and ask: How can our homes, offices, schools, and places of worship be of service to our community?

I know a couple in Roseville who built a house that returns more electricity to the grid than it uses. Their rain gardens absorb the whole neighborhood's stormwater runoff. By reimagining our buildings as assets to future generations, we can make a meaningful difference in the world.

For Rabbi Marcia A. Zimmerman, Temple Israel's senior rabbi, this is another example of the congregation's long-standing commitment to interpreting an ancient tradition in a way that has present-day impacts. “Judaism teaches us that God created human beings to be mindful stewards of our planet, not careless consumers. Working to achieve LEED Gold Certification was truly holy work, and our highest expression of Jewish values,” said Zimmerman, underscoring the spiritual significance of sustainability endeavors.

As a lifelong member of Temple Israel, I take great pride in its leadership in environmental stewardship, working towards a more sustainable future. Cheers to Temple Israel for literally LEEDing the way!

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Temple Israel’s Green Team celebrates in April after the installation of the LEED Gold plaque. Pictured from left to right are Anne Rasmussen (CFO/COO Temple Israel), Christine Graf (Consultant), Brent Suski (USGBC), Matthew Strebe (Engineer), Stephanie Leonard (USGBC), Sheri Brezinka (USGBC) and author and project lead Melissa Rappaport Schiffman. Missing is Josh Curtiss, its facility manager who contributed greatly to the project. (Photo Temple Israel)



“Judaism teaches us that God created human beings to be mindful stewards of our planet, not careless consumers. Working to achieve LEED Gold Certification was truly holy work, and our highest expression of Jewish values.”

— Rabbi Zimmerman,  
Senior Rabbi, Temple Israel

LEED v4.1 O+M: Existing Buildings			
Attempted: 67, Denied: 0, Pending: 0, Awarded: 67 of 100 points			
	LOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION	12 OF 14	
	Transportation Performance	12 / 14	
	SUSTAINABLE SITES	0 OF 4	
	Rainwater Mgmt	0 / 1	
	Heat Island Reduction	0 / 1	
	Light Pollution Reduction	0 / 1	
	Site Mgmt	0 / 1	
	WATER EFFICIENCY	11 OF 15	
	Water Performance	11 / 15	
	ENERGY AND ATMOSPHERE	18 OF 35	
	Energy Efficiency Best Mgmt Practices	Y	
	Energy Performance	18 / 33	
	Fundamental Refrigerant Mgmt	Y	
	Grid Harmonization	0 / 1	
	Enhanced Refrigerant Mgmt	0 / 1	
	MATERIALS AND RESOURCES	8 OF 9	
	Purchasing Policy	Y	
	Facility Maintenance and Renovation Policy	Y	
	Waste Performance	7 / 8	
	Purchasing	1 / 1	
	INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	18 OF 22	
	Minimum IAQ	Y	
	Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control	Y	
	Green Cleaning Policy	Y	
	Indoor Environmental Quality Performance	16 / 20	
	Green Cleaning	1 / 1	
	Integrated Pest Mgmt	1 / 1	
	INNOVATION	0 OF 1	
	Innovation	0 / 1	
	TOTAL	67 OF 100	

Temple Israel received 67 points, earning LEED Gold status. (Image US Green Building Council)

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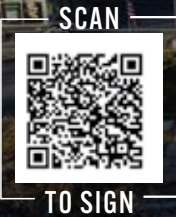
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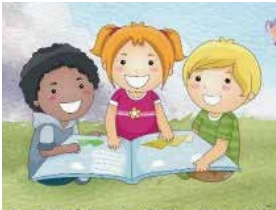
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## Storytime Picnics

3rd Friday of the month  
10:45 - 11:30 AM @ Park Siding Park  
June 21, July 19, August 16



## Sunday Summer Music Series

June Band: Railroad Island  
4:00 - 5:00 PM @ Cedar Lake South Beach  
June 23, July 21, August 18

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

# East Isles Summer Update

Join us at our Summer Social, Wed. June 26, 6–8 PM!  
This annual celebration is a great time to meet neighbors  
and enjoy live music, good food, a pop-up market, bounce  
houses—and, of course, free ice cream!

The Uptown Farmers Market's 2024 pop-up season  
starts soon! Pop-up markets will occur at neighborhood  
events across East Isles, The Vedge, South Uptown, East  
Bde Maka Ska, Kenwood, Lowry Hill, and Cedar-Isles-Dean.  
Stay tuned for details from each group, and on our website.

Lake of the Isles Cleanups continue monthly, and  
Safety Walking Club goes out twice monthly. Get  
to know your neighbors, and put presence in the  
neighborhood while picking up debris.

Adopt a storm drain in East Isles or The Wedge to  
enter a drawing! Email [greenteam@eastisles.org](mailto:greenteam@eastisles.org) the  
drain name and location by June 15 for a chance to win  
prizes from local businesses. Give it a clever name to  
compete for the most creative storm drain!

Mark your events calendar using the list at right,  
and learn about all our efforts at [eastisles.org](https://eastisles.org).



Visit [eastisles.org/join](https://eastisles.org/join) to:



- Donate** to support neighborhood events, resources and opportunities.
- Subscribe** to our news and follow our social media to get updates on events and resources.
- Join** a Committee e-list to help address green issues, safety, and more!



## East Isles Safety Walking Club

**Twice Monthly** Dates at [eastisles.org/safety](https://eastisles.org/safety)  
Meet at Levin Triangle Park · 26th St & Irving Ave S  
*Get outside, meet your neighbors, pick up litter and contribute to community safety and spirit!*

## Lake of the Isles Cleanups

**June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14**  
Saturdays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM · 27th St & Lake of the Isles Pkwy  
*All Lake of the Isles neighbors are invited! Cleanup gear and supplies are available at check-in.*

## East Isles Board Meetings

**June 11, July 9, Sept. 10** Tuesdays, 7 – 9 PM  
Grace-Trinity Community Church · 1430 28th St  
*East Isles residents 16+, business owners/lessees, and nonprofit, education and government reps welcome!*

## East Isles Summer Social

**June 26** Wednesday, 6 – 8 PM (rain date June 27)  
Levin Triangle Park · 26th St & Irving Ave S  
*Meet neighbors with live music, food trucks, fun and free ice cream! This is a great opportunity to catch up and celebrate summer together.*

## 2024 Neighborhood Super Sale

**Save the Date: Sept. 7** Saturday, 9 AM – 3 PM  
*A wave of yard sales will sweep East Isles, Lowry Hill, East Bde Maka Ska, Kenwood, and Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhoods. Sale registration opens June/July online!*

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



# SUMMER PERFORMANCES & FAMILY EVENTS!

## FREE fun at East Cedar Lake Beach & Kenwood Park. All are welcome!

### JUNE

Su 8 Beach Opener Family Event with Brother Ghana & Duniya Drum & Dance at the BEACH  
3:00 pm  
Featuring the Bread & Pickle and Shaved Ice Food Trucks

Su 23 Shakespeare at the BEACH  
3:00 pm

### JULY

M 1 Movie in the Park, *Migration* at KENWOOD PARK  
7:00 pm

Sa 13 Pirates & Mermaids Family Event at the BEACH  
3:00 - 6:00 pm  
Featuring the Tin Fish Food Truck

### AUGUST

Sa 3 Family Fishing on Cedar Lake  
10:00 am - Noon

Sa 10 Open Eye Theatre Puppet Show at KENWOOD PARK  
4:00 pm

Su 25 Pickup Truck Opera at the BEACH  
3:00 pm

### SEPTEMBER

Sa 7 SUPER sale in the neighborhood  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sa 7 Fire & Ice at the BEACH  
6:30 - 8:30 pm





## SUMMER FUN & WELLNESS 2024

All Summer Fun & Wellness events are hosted by the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO) in part, thanks to the generosity of Kenwood neighbors. All KNO events are FREE for all except for food truck items. Event vendors may "pass the hat" for optional contributions at each event.

Learn more about Summer Fun in Kenwood



# YOGA & PILATES at East Cedar Lake Beach

## Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday @ 7:00 pm

Yoga & Mat Pilates for all levels. All are welcome! Bring a yoga mat & any props you might want. All sessions are free. Instructors may "pass the hat" for optional contributions at each session.

### JUNE

W 5 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 6 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

T 11 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

W 12 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 13 Yoga with Cat Griffith, MOV

T 18 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 19 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 20 Yoga with TBD

T 25 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 26 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 27 Yoga with Cat Griffith, MOV

### JULY

T 2 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

T 9 Yoga with Melissa Schoeller, GYPSET

W 10 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 11 Yoga with Melissa Schoeller, GYPSET

T 16 Yoga with Melissa Schoeller, GYPSET

W 17 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 18 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

T 23 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 24 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 25 Yoga with Melissa Schoeller, GYPSET

T 30 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 31 Pilates with Alotapilates

### AUGUST

Th 1 Yoga with TBD

T 6 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 7 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 8 Yoga with Cat Griffith, MOV

T 13 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 14 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 15 Yoga with TBD

T 20 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

W 21 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 22 Yoga with Latricia Askew, MOV

T 27 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

W 28 Pilates with Alotapilates

Th 29 Yoga with Cat Griffith, MOV

### SEPTEMBER

T 3 Yoga with Melissa Mattson, MOV

Th 5 Yoga with Melissa Schoeller, GYPSET



## SUMMER FUN & WELLNESS 2024

Stay up-to-date on KNO summer events!





## Join us for summer activities in Lowry Hill!

Get to know your neighbors, enjoy Lowry Hill's natural beauty, and help keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and connected.



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, July 13  
1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Thomas Lowry Park

Please join us for our annual Ice Cream Social at Thomas Lowry Park! All Lowry Hill residents are invited to this free event. We'll have ice cream from Sebastian Joe's, face painting, an origami artist, live music, and more!



### FISHING IN THE PARKS

Saturday, August 3  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Cedar Lake

Let's go fishing! Join Lowry Hill, Kenwood, and Cedar Isles Dean for Fishing in the Parks! This free event is in collaboration with the Minnesota DNR. They'll provide poles, bait, and instruction! All ages and skill levels are welcome. No fishing license required.



### NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

Saturday, June 15  
Saturday, July 20  
Saturday, August 17

Get outside, build community, and pick up litter. Walks are from 10:00-11:30 am and meet at Thomas Lowry Park.

### BOARD MEETINGS

Our next board meeting is on Tues. June 11 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Kenwood Community Center. Meetings will resume in September.

For more information, visit [lowryhillneighborhood.org](https://lowryhillneighborhood.org)



# ARTIST KEITH HARING’S SUCCESS WAS ROOTED IN ARTS EDUCATION

Story by Josie Owens



Keith Haring works with children from the Alice Smith Elementary School in Hopkins in 1984 during his residency at the Walker Art Center. (Courtesy Walker Art Center)

*Josie Owens is a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press and lives in Lowry Hill.*

American artist Keith Haring was an Artist in Residence at the Walker Art Center 40 years ago for its 1984 ArtFest, which is celebrated in its exhibit Art Is For Everybody. It runs from Apr. 27 through Sept. 8.

A key component of his residency was youth arts education. Arts education played a key role in Haring’s own development as an artist.

His distinctive style emerged at Haring’s young age. When other children were painting refrigerator art, he was already developing his colorful characters.

Growing up in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, he had supportive adults around him. His father recognized his son’s unusual drawing talent and encouraged him not to copy but instead to create his own characters. His mother enrolled him in kindergarten at the Lab School, still known today for its arts-centered education, because “he was drawing all the time.”

In the local public schools, his art teachers taught him not to be ordinary and allowed him the freedom to develop his unique style. His high school art teacher said, “He had such imagination. I felt that anyone who liked to explore line the way he did shouldn’t be pushed into areas he didn’t care for. So, I just left him alone.”

Even art school couldn’t contain his explosive need to express himself. He left the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and his canvas became the subway and walls of the city. There he could share art, even temporarily, with the public. In 1982, Haring had his first solo show at New York’s Tony Shafrazi Gallery, confirming his talent and validating the graffiti art genre.

Meanwhile, the Walker Art Center embraced exposing children to the arts. Adam Weinberg,

Director of Education, believed that it was valuable to have artists and kids connect. He enlisted Susan Rotilie to develop curriculum and work with schools to create programs for children to work with artists.

**“In the local public schools, his art teachers taught him not to be ordinary and allowed him the freedom to develop his unique style.”**

A merging of performing and visual arts was conceived for ArtFest, a weekend celebration in May 1984. Jacques D’Amboise of the New York City Ballet would choreograph a dance with grade school students, but they needed an artist to create the scenery. A Walker intern from New York suggested Keith Haring, not widely known at the time, for this art residency.

Haring was familiar with Minneapolis and the Walker from a 1977 road trip. He brought his philosophy that art is not for the elite and should be shared with all to the residency. Rotilie reached out to Carol Sirrine, Fine Art Coordinator for the Hopkins Public Schools. “I didn’t understand graffiti. I just knew if Susan recommended it that it would be wonderful. Susan and Adam were an amazing team. They were so much ahead of their time.”

For a week, students from Alice Smith Elementary worked with Haring. Craig Anderson, now the Director of Curriculum for the Saint Paul Public Schools, was one of those students. “I was a rule follower, so I was conflicted because I was meeting a law

breaker,” he remembers as his initial reaction to Haring.

He quickly got over his hesitation because Haring was “cool and amazingly talented.” Sirrine remembers that Haring seemed shy and didn’t talk a lot. “Yet he got so much out of the kids, and they adored him.” Rotilie said he seemed like the nerdy but very cool kid. “He was quiet, generous, and had super energy. He never seemed to get tired.”

The new education center at the Walker was underground, which complemented Haring’s work in the subways. The performance would be titled Rompin’ and Stompin’ in the Underground.

Haring was a natural teacher and employed a process of creative risk-taking. “He encouraged them to go into their imagination and create animals from the underground.” He wanted the children to collaborate on their creatures, so he employed Stop!, a game taught to him by his father.

Haring and his father would draw side by side until one yelled stop. Then they would switch drawings and add on to the other’s until one called stop again. Rotilie recalls that he played Hip Hop music on his boom box and would stop the music to indicate it was time to switch to someone else’s drawing. After the initial activity, they moved to the large muslin banners on the floor. He stressed that they should magnify their current drawings.

Each child had a pot of paint and would move around and add on to others’ artwork. Haring was also down on the floor working with them and showing them how to accentuate with black outlines. Rotilie recalled that he was so respectful of the young artists. “At the end of the school day after the children left, he added his energy lines around their characters but didn’t paint his own character.”

When the project was completed, Haring spent the extra time drawing for the students and demonstrating his art method.

Anderson said that Haring “drew them in front of us in 15 seconds.” He still has his Haring drawing framed in his office, reminding him of this special time he worked with a famous artist.

Even when Haring designed the poster for ArtFest, he thought of it as collaborative. It was only black and white so that people could color it in and create art.

As part of the Keith Haring exhibition, the Walker is revisiting the original ArtFest with a special three day festival from May 30 to June 1. There are art opportunities for teens on Friday night and for families on Saturday. Haring would undoubtedly be thrilled that so many people are coming to explore and create art. After all, art is for everyone.

➔ **KEITH HARING: ART IS FOR EVERYBODY**

**will be at the Walker Art Center through September 8.**

**725 Vineland Place  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
612-253-3402**

Mon & Tues By appointment  
Wed 10 am–5 pm  
Thurs 10 am–9 pm  
Fri 10 am–5 pm  
Sat & Sun 10 am–5 pm

**If you were a student or were otherwise involved in the Haring art residency, please share your stories at –**  
**craig@hillandlakepress.org.**



# KENWOOD THIRD GRADERS CREATE IMMERSIVE SOUND GARDEN IN SCHOOL FOREST

Story by Karin Olson

*Karin Olson lives in Kenwood and is a parent volunteer at Kenwood Community School.*

Kenwood School’s third grade students collaborated with a team led by local artist/composer/ director/historian/organizer JG Everest to create an immersive, multi-sensory experience for visitors to the wooded trails in of the DNR-designated School Forest near East Cedar Lake Beach

Their work commenced on Earth Day and included weekly sessions with artists as they practiced listening, studied the flora and fauna of the forest, wrote poems, and built natural sculptures.

The project culminated when all these elements were combined with music composed by Everest to complement the sounds of the forest, emitting from over 40 small wireless speakers nestled throughout the trails in bird houses, felt mushrooms and other subtle spots. Visitors who walked the trails were treated to a peaceful, beautiful opportunity to connect with the natural world and hidden truths.

Upon reaching the trails near the beach, visitors heard calming, engaging sounds coming from many spots through the forest. Poems created by the third graders in English, Spanish and Arabic hung on branches along the trails, and intricate sculptures made of natural materials graced some of the key foot traffic spots.

Guidelines for mindfully experiencing the Sound Garden were posted and (mostly!) followed as all the classes from Kenwood School got the chance to bathe in the sights and sounds.

Grown-ups were pretty impressed, too. The installation reignited a sense of wonder in everyone, from chaperones to runners, hikers and dog-walkers who happened upon the Sound Garden — and even drew some to tears!

The third grade Sound Garden installation is part of Kenwood School’s Arts Residencies program, enabled by teachers and funded by the PTA. In addition to regular arts programs and field trips, ongoing residencies bring professional



Kenwood parent Erika Hansen and Artist JG Everest work with children to create art in nature. (Photos Karin Olson)

artists to work with students and teachers to enrich the classroom experience, while expanding and reinforcing learning. Residencies are a crucial and unique aspect of the Kenwood School experience.

Teaching Artist JG Everest’s Wavelets Creative is a community integrative arts organization dedicated to bringing people together in new ways, through immersive arts experiences, often emphasizing and facilitating connections to the natural world.



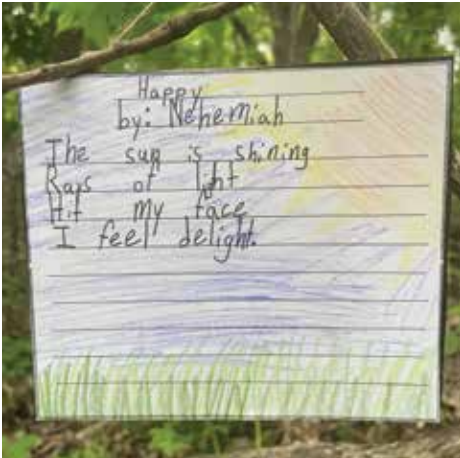
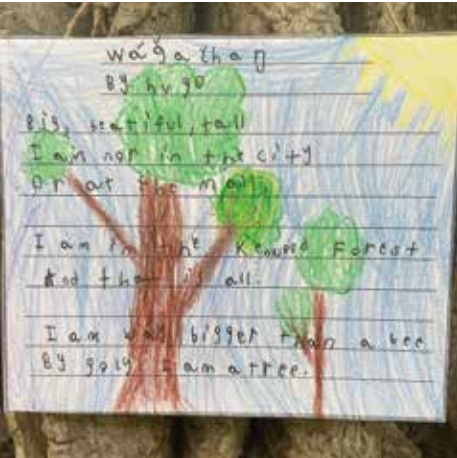
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about Wavelets Creative and other projects led by JG Everest, please visit -


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# SUMMER FUN AHEAD AT EAST CEDAR LAKE BEACH

By Courtney Cushing Kiernat



The behind-the-scene stewardship of East Cedar Lake Beach by dedicated volunteers, and their armchair cheerleaders. (Photos Courtney Cushing Kiernat)

*Courtney Cushing Kiernat is the President of the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization and a regular contributor to the Hill & Lake Press. She lives in Kenwood.*

Longer days and warmer temperatures mean the start of summer in Minneapolis, and the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO) is ready for a full summer of fun and wellness at East Cedar Lake Beach. Six years ago KNO board members Will Stensrud and Mark Brown began organizing community engagement and stewardship efforts at East Cedar Lake Beach. The duo contributed countless hours with

many dedicated volunteers to transform programming at the park. Their goal was to create a stronger sense of stewardship, public safety, welcoming and community at the beach for all — neighbors and visitors alike — to participate and enjoy. These efforts have been successful, contributing to a reduction in crime by 80% at the beach over the last six years and increased engagement by neighbors and visitors of all ages. With the planned opening of Southwest light rail in 2027, KNO has deepened its commitment to beach programming as a public

**“In addition to wellness activities at East Cedar Lake Beach, performances and family events are planned throughout the summer.”**

safety strategy, in large part because of the generosity of residents who give of their time, talent and funds. Kenwood neighbors dedicated to stewardship of the beach kicked off the season with the annual beach clean-up. Stewardship efforts continue every morning throughout the summer. Before most people are awake, volunteers quietly clean the beach every morning so that it is ready for all to enjoy. This year’s beach wellness activities kicked off in scantily clad fashion with 612 Sauna Cooperative. Wellness programming will continue from June through early September. Due to popular demand, well-



## COMMUNITY GATHERS TO REMEMBER OFFICER JAMAL MITCHELL

Neighbors came together to pay their respects to the memory of Minneapolis police officer Jamal Mitchell and to support Fifth Precinct officers who lost a close friend and colleague. Organized by Aileen Johnson, who leads the Minneapolis Safety Walks Club, volunteers laid flowers on a squad car while sharing hugs and tears with officers and community members. (Photos by Courtney Cushing Kiernat)



For those of you interested in making a donation to support Officer Mitchell’s family, scan the code or go to – [lcls.org/benevolent-fund/](https://lcls.org/benevolent-fund/)

(Please include Officer Mitchell in the Comment Section of your donation)





➔ **MORE  
DETAILS -**

...about KNO summer events can be found at [www.kenwoodmpls.org](http://www.kenwoodmpls.org) or the Kenwood Neighborhood Organization Facebook page.

 **Kenwood Neighborhood Organization**

More volunteers are needed throughout the summer, and they do not need to be Kenwood residents!

ness programming will expand this summer with the addition of Pilates by Alotapilates on Wednesdays and a doubling of yoga offerings to every Tuesday and Thursday. All Pilates and yoga sessions start at 7 p.m. and are free for all attendees.

In addition to wellness activities at East Cedar Lake Beach, performances and family events are planned throughout the summer.

The Beach Opener, a fun, family-friendly day with interactive drumming and dance, kicks off a full calendar of events at both East Cedar Lake Beach and Kenwood Park.

Brother Ghana, a frequent Kenwood School artist in residence, and

Duniya Drum and Dance will get the heart pumping and the body moving on Saturday, June 8, 3-5 p.m. Bread & Pickle, by Kenwood resident Kim Bartmann, and Shaved Ice food trucks will be serving tasty treats at this family-friendly event.

Summer fun takes on a British accent with Shakespeare at the beach by the Classical Actor's Ensemble, Sunday, June 23 at 3 p.m. It then morphs into a swashbuckling fun time on July 13 at 3 p.m. with the ever-popular family event, Pirates and Mermaids, featuring the Tin Fish food truck.

Another truck rolls in on August 25 at 3 p.m.: the Pickup Truck Opera presenting Faust, an operatic adven-

ture laced with Depeche Mode. All unique, creative adventures not to be missed at the beach.

KNO-supported family fun spreads to Kenwood Park with Movie in the Park, featuring the movie Migration on July 1 at 7 p.m., hosted by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

August 10 at 4 p.m. will be full of laughs as the Open Eye Theatre Puppet Show returns again along with a pop-up farmers market in partnership with East Isles Association and surrounding neighborhoods.

Summer programming wraps up on September 7 with the highly anticipated Fire & Ice event at East

Cedar Lake Beach. An evening of Sebastian Joe's ice cream, hula hoops, face painting and awe-inspiring performances by real live fire dancers! A perfect send-off to summer at East Cedar Lake Beach.

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# DONATE TODAY!

It's clear that the maintenance issues at the Douglas Median and Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads have been a recurring challenge and perennial problem, exacerbated by insufficient support from the City of Minneapolis and State of Minnesota/MNDOT. Local volunteers, particularly John Van Heel, have consistently pushed for governmental assistance, yet the problem persists.

However, the involvement of Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) is a promising development. Their initiative to rally area institutional stakeholders aims to ensure that the corridor receives the necessary upkeep, especially following Green Minneapolis's withdrawal from its management role. This collaborative effort by CLPC could potentially stabilize and enhance the maintenance of these key areas, demonstrating the impact of community-led action when governmental support is lacking.

If you would like to see the Douglas urn planted with flowers, the grass cut, plantings pruned, gardens mulched and the trash picked up, please help support the effort by sending a tax-deductible charitable donation. You can make your check payable to Citizens for the Loring Park Community and mail it to:

**Citizens for the Loring Park Community**  
**1645 Hennepin Ave #204**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55403**  
(Please note in the memo: Douglas Urn/HL Main)

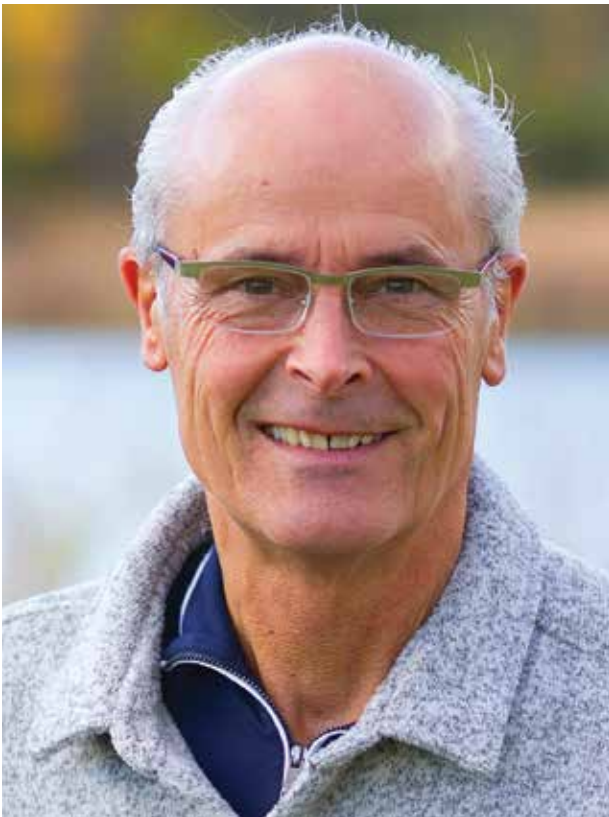
Your contribution will aid in the maintenance and beautification of these important community spaces. Thank you for your support!



# Meet Your Neighbor

Interview and Photo by Craig Wilson, Editor

## Colin Snow, Tai Chi Instructor



Colin Snow, Tai Chi Instructor

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

Colin Snow is the Founder and Principal Instructor of Natural Step School of Tai Chi for Health and Conscious Living. He has taught Tai Chi in Europe and the U.S. for nearly 40 years. Recently, he’s been teaching winter classes at Saint Paul’s Church on Lake of the Isles and summer classes at a quiet spot in Kenwood Park. I had a chance to connect with Colin and learn more about his extensive experience teaching Tai Chi.

**Where did you grow up?**

I was born in 1955 and grew up a few miles from the center of London. In 2003, I moved to Minneapolis with my wife and son. Transitioning to the Midwest came with a major career change — I was a special education teacher in Cardiff S. Wales, and now I teach Tai Chi full-time.

**How did you develop an interest and involvement in Tai Chi?**

While walking in Cardiff city center one day, I happened to glance at a beaten-up post-

er in the window of a shop. It was the first time I had seen the words “Tai Chi.” The poster advertised an introductory class, open to all, so I went. Not knowing anything about it, I was instantly compelled by the flowing, slow, yet graceful movements and signed up for more. This was in the late 70s, and Tai Chi was just starting to become popular in the U.K.

Over the years, I’ve learned that Tai Chi instructors tend to fall into two categories: those who emphasize martial art in their practice, and those who, like me, focus on Tai Chi as a healing art. I’ve come to see Tai Chi as a method for self-healing and taking responsibility for one’s physical, emotional and spiritual health.

**How did you decide to pursue teaching Tai Chi professionally?**

As a beginner, I had no intention of teaching Tai Chi — I just attended class every week after my day job as a teacher to 35 six-year-olds with special needs. Soon enough, I was taking six classes a week and had discovered that Tai Chi was supporting my work as a teacher. It became an antidote for the complex and stressful day-to-day experience of classroom teaching.

**What is your favorite part about teaching Tai Chi?**

The experience of fellowship with others that arises in a Tai Chi class. My approach is to make Tai Chi accessible to all, regardless of age or ability, which has enabled people in many communities to practice with one another, explore and experience Tai Chi’s benefits to mind and body.

**What are some challenges you experience in teaching Tai Chi?**

In the West, we are generally taught to strive for more. This is true if we look at western exercise systems, for example “no pain, no gain” — run farther and faster, lift heavier weights, push oneself to the limit and then go further.

Alternatively, the Tai Chi approach to maintaining good health is to feel more holistic. The years I’ve spent observing people of all ages practice Tai Chi has taught me that learning happens more effectively through playful enjoyment, rather than constantly striving for more.

**How did you wind up teaching in Saint Paul's Church and then in Kenwood Park? Is there anything unique about teaching in these locations?**

The advent of COVID meant virtual classes had to replace in-person classes. I continue to teach some classes virtually because it enables people to join wherever they may be, but once the COVID restrictions lifted, we began to meet in Kenwood Park. Once winter settled in, we wanted to continue classes indoors, and someone suggested Saint Paul's Church. It is a very warm and welcoming community, not to mention a beautiful facility.

**What's a typical class like?**

I prefer to teach small groups of people, which allows for deeper connections with my students.

The first thing I teach to all students in the Natural Step School is The Foundation Form. This is a sequence of postures that flow from one to another. Each movement is repeated several times before moving onto the next, and each posture is played below the speed of habit, with as little effort as possible. The more we are at ease in the movements, the more benefits arise.

You can visit [www.naturalsteptaichi.com](http://www.naturalsteptaichi.com) to sign up for classes, read student testimonials and learn more about the Natural Step School of Tai Chi.

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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.*

Dear Neighbor,

It’s June, when we honor fathers, so, let’s talk about dads and how they influence our lives. I’ll start with mine.

**My father was a farmer, and many times growing up I heard people refer casually to farmers as “dumb.”**

It hurt and amazed me. Each time I heard that, I thought, you get up at 5:00 every morning, oversee hundreds of acres of crops, tend to livestock and milk cows twice a day, maintain an endless array of machinery, do your own taxes, and see how that goes. My father was my first professor in life. I learned to work hard from him.

**He hated lying.**

If my dad were to rank the Ten Commandments, the ninth — “Thou shalt not lie” — would come out on top. He often said, “Your word is the one thing you give and keep at the same time, in equal measure.” He taught me to tell the truth.

**Dad was wise with money.**

He and I often watched the ABC News with Harry Reasoner and Barbara Walters. One night Barbara was on a roll with a Big Story about this relatively new thing called the credit card. She started by holding up a morbidly obese wallet, chock-full of charge cards from every store and gas station around, then panned to a Twiggy-thin billfold with one card that worked “everywhere.”

No more rooting around for the J.C. Penney or Amoco card; no more monthly bills from every store in town. “And the best thing is you

get a line of credit — an automatic loan that you can pay in full or choose the minimum payment.” (She didn’t mention those wily finance charges).

Back at their desk, Harry praised Barbara for her great reporting, and she gushed, “These credit cards will change the laws of economics!” Dad was disgusted: “Harummph. The only law of economics anybody needs to know is that you don’t buy anything you don’t have cash in hand to pay for.” This seared through me. He taught me to live debt free.

One invaluable lesson involves me at my worst. Behind our house was a huge, rectangular slab of cement where people parked, where we played basketball, and, in the summer, where the swimming pool from the hardware store was set up. This multi-purpose area was called, appropriately, “the cement.”

I was in high school, and it was late October. That Friday morning before I left for school Dad asked me to sweep the leaves off the cement when I got home. “OK,” I said, went to school, came home, watched TV and lounged around. At supper, he noted that I hadn’t kept my word, that I needed to sweep the cement first thing in the morning. “OK.” Again, I didn’t. The same exchange took place mid-morning on Saturday, and again at lunch. I still didn’t. Later that afternoon, I was watching a bowling tournament on TV, one leg slung over the chair’s armrest, when he approached me. And he was mad.

**Dad wasn’t a yeller.**

In fact, the angrier he was, the quieter he got. You knew you were in trouble when you could barely hear him. “Dorothy,” he whispered, “I’ve asked you half a dozen times to sweep the cement. You keep saying you will but you don’t. Why not?” I looked up at him, and in words and tone that make me want to reach through a time machine and slap myself, said, “Cuz I don’t wanna.”

His astonishing response: “Dorothy, I know

the perfect way to get out of anything you don’t want to do.” I was wide-eyed and all ears: “What?” He continued, “You just do it. Then you don’t have to do it anymore.” And he walked out.

I sat there a few minutes, absorbing his wisdom. He was right. I got up, grabbed a push broom, and swept the living daylights out of that cement. Not a single leaf remained when I was done.

When he came in for supper, Dad looked at me and said, “The cement looks good.” I said, “Thanks.” And that was that.

Not a day goes by when I don’t have something to do that “I don’t wanna.” But I think of Dad and just do it. He taught me — like it or not — to get things done.

**What about your dad?**

On Father’s Day, or any day for that matter, the best gift you can give your dad, whether living or not, is to carry on his best lessons and then one day pass them on to your own children.

**Happy Father’s Day to all!**

— Dorothy



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is open and remaining spaces are available on a first-come first-served basis.



# Springtime in Hill & Lake Country

Photos by Tim Sheridan



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— Italian Proverb  
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