



Hill & Lake Press

‘Where the biggies leave off...’

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

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Volume 48 / Number 12

www.hillandlakepress.org

December 2024

HILL & LAKE PRESS ANNUAL APPEAL: SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

By Carla Pardue

Carla Pardue is the Outreach Coordinator for the Hill & Lake Press. She lives in East Isles.

This year, our Uptown businesses are facing unprecedented challenges due to ongoing road construction along Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street.

As the outreach coordinator for the Hill & Lake Press, I connect with local businesses each month — delivering papers, discussing ads, and hearing their stories.

Many owners share the daily struggles they face, from the impact of road closures and extended construction projects to the lingering effects of social unrest, the pandemic and rising crime, and the ongoing shift from physical storefronts to on-line shopping. It’s a perfect storm, with many businesses on the brink.

As a gesture of appreciation and support, the Hill & Lake Press offered free advertising to our local businesses in our December issue.

We need your help to support local businesses.

Your gift this year will not only help us cover our expenses; it will send a message of appreciation to our friends in the business community who are struggling to get through this unprecedented time.

Please consider giving generously.

Thank you for being part of our community and supporting the Hill & Lake Press and our local businesses.



Santa’s helper, Carla Pardue, at the winter wonderland display at Red Cow restaurant on Hennepin Avenue (Photo: Red Cow staff)

Hill & Lake Press

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Seeking Solutions to Crime and Disorder



The driver of this Kia Soul stopped in the middle of the street to search trucks for valuables. A neighbor walking on the sidewalk captured this photo as the car sped away. (Photo: Anonymous)

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The future site of a parking meter off Hennepin Avenue. Many businesses and residents are concerned about the potential impact on neighborhood livability and business viability. (Photo: Susan Lenfestey)

PARKING METERS ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS OFF HENNEPIN??

By Susan Lenfestey

Susan is a regular contributor and lives in Lowry Hill.

Not only will parking be limited on Hennepin Avenue to make way for bike and bus lanes, but the city is now installing parking meters on 26th and 27th streets between Hennepin and Humboldt — streets with houses and apartments and businesses on them.

In response to concerns from neighbors, Erik Fox, Assistant Parking Systems Manager for the City of Minneapolis, explained it this way:

“The parking needs of this area continue to evolve as this larger Hennepin project enters different phases. My team has evaluated this neighborhood throughout this project and has

kept the Ward office updated on parking-related changes along the way.”

He went on to say, “It was determined that the most appropriate approach to managing the turnover of the parking spaces surrounding the Hennepin project would be handled by meter installation ... Ensuring everyone has access to the curb space in the area is the primary goal in making these decisions.”

The investigative reporting team at the Hill & Lake Press will follow up.



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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Distribution
U.S. Postal Service

Advertising Deadlines
Next issue —
January 2025
Reservation deadline —
December 9, 2025
Materials due —
December 15, 2025

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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 (750 words for a commentary) and we reserve the right to edit for clarity and length.

Minneapolis at a Crossroads with 15% Property Tax Hike

Property taxes across Minneapolis are rising — in some neighborhoods by over 15%.

On top of this, City Council Member Robin Wonsley, the leader of the Democratic Socialists-aligned majority, is now exploring a new Minneapolis income tax to address current budget deficits.

This is how a city triggers an economic doom spiral. Some residents will choose to move just a few miles away to lower-tax suburbs, leaving those of us who remain shouldering even higher taxes.

This, in turn, could drive more people out of the city, compounding the problem. We’ve seen what happens when cities go down this path — look at Detroit or St. Louis.

Instead of continually increasing property taxes and introducing new income taxes, our City Council and Mayor should focus on cutting unnecessary spending and prioritizing core services.

Minneapolis must remain an affordable place for everyone, especially low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters.

We also need city leadership that is laser-focused on rebuilding and reinvigorating our tax-generating commercial areas, particularly the Downtown and Uptown corridors.

These areas have faced similar challenges due to crime, remote work, and poorly timed street construction projects.

Revitalizing these districts would attract new businesses, create jobs, and generate much-needed tax revenues while giving residents more reasons to stay in the city.

To ensure Minneapolis remains a vibrant and livable community, the city government must commit to supporting a safe and thriving environment, managing budgets responsibly to keep taxes reasonable, and simplifying bureaucracy so that small businesses and restaurants can thrive.

Minneapolis’ future as a livable, affordable, and vibrant city is at stake.

It’s time to send a clear message to the City Council: Enough is enough.

Increasing property taxes and adding new income taxes and overburdensom regulations won’t fix Minneapolis — sensible, smart and thoughtful governance will.

*Karin Birkeland
Lowry Hill.*

Minneapolis: A Call To Action and Accountability

When Vice-Presidential Candidate J.D. Vance visited Minneapolis during the presidential campaign to address urban decline and crime,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

many may have dismissed his comments as partisan posturing.

Yet, as someone who has called this city home for over 25 years and served as an aide to Minneapolis Congressman Martin O. Sabo, I feel compelled to consider his statements — not to endorse his politics, but to acknowledge the concerns they raise.

Though I supported the Harris-Walz ticket, I hope the Trump-Vance victory sparks a renewed conversation among our elected officials about the real challenges facing our city.

Minneapolis is undeniably struggling with rising crime, and our police department remains significantly understaffed and under-resourced.

Our transit system is in disrepair, often perceived as unsafe due to crime and the lingering effects of COVID-19.

Many neighborhoods continue to feel the lasting impacts of the riots following George Floyd’s death, and divisions persist over critical issues like replacing the police precinct or establishing common ground at George Floyd Square.

In Uptown and Downtown, businesses are closing at an alarming rate, with restaurants shutting down due to low foot traffic and safety concerns.

Tragically, we see young people on the streets at all hours, and some have lost their lives in these very areas.

Moreover, the growing number of unhoused individuals in encampments has become a pressing crisis.

Rather than prioritizing sustainable housing solutions and essential services, some city leaders seem more focused on maintaining these encampments, inadvertently reinforcing the cycle of homelessness.

This has resulted in areas being labeled as “no-go zones,” deterring residents, visitors and businesses alike.

I used to feel immense pride in calling Minneapolis my home. While I still love this city, it’s disheartening to hear that friends from outside Minneapolis are reluctant to visit — especially after dark.

Our elected officials must urgently address these issues with a renewed sense of accountability and commitment.

Minneapolis deserves a brighter future, and we owe it to ourselves and future generations to work tirelessly for positive change.

*Mike Erlandson
East Isles*

The Need for Change

As we absorb the results of the 2024 election, I find myself reflecting on the political shifts that have brought us here.

From a historical perspective, the current moment feels like a significant realignment in American politics — one that has been brewing since the Great Recession of 2008 but was overlooked by both parties until it could no longer be ignored. Trump’s reelection signals more than just the success of one candidate; it underscores the ongoing disconnect between party elites and the economic anxieties of average Americans.

Since 2016, Trump’s brand of economic populism, focused on job loss and rising inequality, has cap-

tured the frustration many feel toward “business as usual” politics. Meanwhile, Democrats have struggled to tap into this discontent, often focusing on anti-Trump rhetoric and defending a return to “normalcy.” Yet for millions, “normal” has meant an unstable economy, eroded unions and rising inequality.

This election should serve as a wake-up call for the Democratic Party. The issues of economic security, health care and housing stability resonate far more deeply than the traditional campaign rhetoric centered around existential threats. People want leaders who will address these core issues, not just oppose their opponents.

In order to maintain a healthy democracy, both parties need to focus on economic justice, systemic inequality, and validating the anger many Americans feel.

Ignoring these grievances will only deepen divisions and pave the way for continued populist backlash. It’s time for Democrats, and all of us, to listen, engage and work toward genuine, transformative change.

*Max McPartland
Lowry Hill*


I.C.E.

Rhymes with NICE, but isn’t.
Coming in the middle of the day, or night,
tearing parents from their children, unmoved by tears.
Cold cuffs on warm hands recently making bread.

I.C.E. hearts — frozen in some ancient “them or us” scenario,
I.C.E. minds — barren as arctic fields, following orders.

This is not the country that I know.
Where is it?
That land of the free and home of the brave?
Oh, I see it there — submerged under the frozen waves.

*Shannon King
Wedge*



Election Day 2024 (Photo: Ryan Jandl)

WHERE WE ARE NOW: SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO CRIME AND DISORDER

Editorial by Craig Wilson



The aftermath of a theft I witnessed, where someone stole roofing materials from my driveway. Our construction site has been targeted by thieves daily over the past couple of months. (Photo: Craig Wilson)

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

Like many residences in Lowry Hill, my family’s home became a construction site this year after the August 2023 hailstorm that left roofs across the neighborhood in need of replacement.

After sorting through countless pamphlets and business cards, we settled on a contractor whose signs dotted lawns throughout the area. Paralyzed by too many choices, we let our neighbors’ decisions guide ours, essentially “crowd-sourcing” our contractor decision.

What began as a straightforward roof replacement quickly evolved into months of construction, as our work on the roof highlighted other areas where maintenance had been too long deferred, such as trim, siding and storm windows.

Having been homeowners for some time, we expected the usual remodeling headaches — unforeseen latent issues, inevitable miscommunications. What we didn’t anticipate was the persistent threat of crime.

A glimpse into a week of relentless crime.

Start the clock on Sunday evening. As I stood at the kitchen sink, I watched a man back his car into our driveway and casually start loading our roofing materials into his trunk. Assuming he was part of the crew, I didn’t think much of it at first.

But a nagging feeling made me call the contractor, and sure enough, he was a building supply thief, not crew. When I went outside to confront him, he simply drove off with our supplies, leaving me shaken.

The following day, Monday, construction workers reported break-ins to their cars — one sideswiped as well — while opportunists in Kias and Hyundais prowled the street, checking door handles.

On Tuesday workers refused to work because regularly scheduled street sweeping meant that they couldn’t park near our house, so they were unable to monitor their vehicles.

By midweek, my house had become a de facto guarded camp, with one worker assigned full-time sentry duty to deter additional thefts. In all there were 11 attempted break-ins (that were witnessed), with five successful thefts.

In each instance, the targets were working-class men, mostly immigrants, merely trying to earn a living, but instead reduced to guarding the

tools that provide their livelihood and questioning their safety in this “dangerous neighborhood.”

That same week, three neighbors within a block reported attempted carjackings and muggings. Unfortunately, these crimes are not atypical but have become the new normal.

The growing presence of disorder in our cities is unsettling and oppressive, and quietly chips away at our sense of safety and well-being.

In a recent episode of The Ezra Klein Show, Charles Fain Lehman delves into the “hidden politics of disorder,” shedding light on how seemingly minor crimes — public intoxication, homelessness, encampments, panhandling, vandalism, loitering and petty theft — can have outsized effects on how secure people feel. Even as violent crime rates decline, these visible signs of disorder continue to leave communities on edge.

For my family, the impact of this disorder has been deeply personal.

Last summer, a family member was pistol-whipped and carjacked. More recently, our car was broken into, causing thousands of dollars in damage. These are experiences that are now shared by many.

Yet the material losses pale in comparison to the psychological toll — our trust in the city and county we call home, and its leaders, has been shattered. In our “blue” city, it feels as though the foundational promise of safety has eroded.

By contrast, at our rural cabin in “red” Wisconsin, life feels simpler and safer. We leave keys in cars, doors unlocked and breathe a sigh of relief, knowing the risks of crime are minimal.

“I’m struck by the parallel between being told the economy is fine, even though many don’t feel it, and being told crime is down, while still feeling unsafe.”

But this dual reality isn’t sustainable for people without the means to escape. Minneapolis businesses and residents can’t thrive in a climate where the perception of safety continues to decline, driving people to seek refuge elsewhere.

The question isn’t just how we address crime, but how we rebuild the collective trust that makes urban life vibrant and viable.

Disorder may not always be violent, but its creeping presence threatens the fabric of our communities.

It’s time to confront this challenge, not just with policy solutions, but with a shared determination to restore a sense of normalcy and security to our cities. The stakes are too high to ignore.

I pride myself as a problem solver but I’m completely stumped by this issue.

Over the past four years I’ve tried to be proactive in finding solutions to some of the problems stemming from the pandemic.

In 2020, I developed Avivo Village, creating tiny homes in a North Loop warehouse to house individuals experiencing homelessness. In response to the park encampments in 2020, I developed Avivo Village for St. Cloud as well.

In 2021, I rallied neighbors to raise \$60,000 for the North High School track team, providing a

vital extracurricular outlet during the pandemic at the request of its Principal Mauri Friestleben.

In 2022, I became editor of this paper, reviving it to restore a sense of community after the chaos of COVID.

But this problem is vexing in the extreme.

That’s why I’m turning to you, our readers, for a solution.

Historically, crime-reduction strategies typically range between the “stick” of stricter law enforcement and the “carrot” of using social services to address root causes.

Yet both approaches often feel abstract, inadequate or inappropriate to many.

Policies like Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s “Broken Windows” strategy in New York City drew praise for reducing crime, but they also sparked criticism for disproportionately targeting marginalized communities and deepening systemic inequities. These approaches highlight the difficulties in finding solutions that are effective, equitable and sustainable.

As a community, we need ideas that are practical and actionable — steps we can take together to rebuild safety and trust in our neighborhoods.

I’m struck by the parallel between being told the economy is fine, even though many don’t feel it, and being told crime is down, while still feeling unsafe.

I want to feel safe walking my own sidewalk. I want to shop at Walgreens without needing an employee to unlock basic items like deodorant. I want a return to the sense of normalcy we once took for granted. Don’t you?

So, what’s the solution? A carrot? A stick? Something new? The Hill & Lake Press would love to hear your thoughts.



CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

from Faith Randal
Crime Prevention Specialist,
Minneapolis Police Department —
5th Precinct

- Do not leave personal belongings/any items visible in your car.
- Do not leave your car unattended to heat up in the winter.
- Lock your car doors at all times — when you are in your car and when you are out of your car.
- Park in a closed garage whenever you can (declutter/donate items to be able to fit your car if you have a garage).
- Consider cameras if you do not have any.
- Consider more lighting or motion lights in area around your home and your garage.
- Always call 911 to report suspicious behavior — this includes strangers walking down your alley and looking into garages, loitering or vehicles circling the block with occupants you don’t recognize.

THE WOMAN’S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



World AIDS Day
Sunday, December 1

4:00 pm: Social Hour; 5:00 pm: Program
6:00 pm: Candle Lighting Ceremony

Join us for an event to commemorate World AIDS Day.
4:00 pm: Enjoy food from the Involve MN kitchen. Involve MN prepares and delivers meals to unhoused people in the Twin Cities. There will be video screening and archival documents from the early years of the AIDS pandemic.

5:00 pm: T. Mychael Rambo will emcee a program featuring music from Lori Dokken and others. Speakers and videos will illuminate the impact of AIDS.

6:00 pm: A remembrance candle lighting ceremony will take place with a walk to Loring Park.

Admission is free and open to all. Donations suggested to Aliveness Project, providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the Twin Cities; Aca-cia Global, a nonprofit working in the townships outside of Cape Town, South Africa; and Loring Park, the heart of the gay community in Minneapolis.



Sunday,
December 15

A holiday tradition continues with a brunch buffet featuring savory foods, sweet treats, and everything in between. Brunch with Santa always sells out, so make your reservation today. \$50 plus service fee and taxes, \$30 for children 12 years and under, plus service fee and taxes.

11:00 am: Holiday cheer begins with drinks in the Lounge
Reservations for brunch at 11:30 am, 12:00 noon, & 12:30 pm

womansclub.org, 612.813.5300

THE WOMAN’S CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS 410 OAK GROVE STREET MINNEAPOLIS



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John Derian Picture Book II

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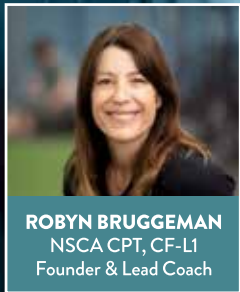
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EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION: LIFE IN THE RED LANE

By Susan Lenfestey



New "bus only" red lane on Hennepin Avenue. (Photo: Craig Wilson)

Susan Lenfestey is a Hill & Lake Press founder and board member. She lives in Lowry Hill.

November 5th brought no good news to our country, or the world or the planet.

When MAGA Republicans lose an election, they blame others. “Massive fraud, crooked poll workers, rigged machines!” When Democrats lose, they blame themselves.

They hold a wake to talk about the what the deceased should have done to avoid being run over, and don’t mention that a car was going 65 mph on the sidewalk.

This is not the America I was lucky to be born into, where the belief was instilled in us that together we could use education to overcome ignorance, vaccines to overcome deadly disease, laws to overcome brutal racism, regulations to overcome poisoning our planet, and a Peace Corps to extend an open hand to the world instead of a fist.

We went to the moon to boost our national pride and not a billionaire’s ego.

Starting under Reagan, we’ve seen the belief in FDR’s New Deal and LBJ’s Great Society slowly chipped away and replaced by the right-wing belief that people deserve to fail, that government is the enemy, and that unfettered capitalism is the answer.

Despite getting no credit for it, President Biden did more for workers and for the planet than any president in decades. And now the president-elect and his degenerate cronies are gleefully planning to take a wrecking ball to anything that’s left of those programs.

We know that those with the least will suffer the most. But how will others get through?

Those of us who are buffered by circumstances that may protect our homes from being broken, but not our hearts. Or the youngest among us who will have to pick up the pieces.

I’m contemplating downing a draught of hemlock. But first I’m going spend more time in neigh-

borhood bistros, bookstores and businesses that are the mainstay of community.

And I’m going to pay less attention to the right-wing extremists in

“I’m contemplating downing a draught of hemlock. But first I’m going spend more time in neighborhood bistros, bookstores and businesses that are the mainstay of community.”

Washington and more attention to the left-wing extremists on the Minneapolis City Council. Their daffy out of touch priorities and virtue-signaling policies would be laughable if not so damaging to our city.

We can no longer be told that what we are seeing isn’t real, that encampments are not a dangerous burden on those living near them or safe for those living in them, that concrete bunkered bike lanes and painted red bus lanes save lives, reduce carbon and aren’t harmful to businesses, and that we need to police our businesses but not our streets.

Our schools are facing an \$84 million deficit, Hennepin County has a \$30 million gap in its proposed 2025 human services budget, and the proposed city budget calls for a tax increase of 8.1% in 2025 and another 9.8% in 2026.

We can be a city with a heart, but also one with a brain. We need healthy businesses to provide livelihoods for people and to pay taxes for the social programs and oversight boards this council is so eager to fund.

We may be the happiest city in America, but we are still a city in crisis.

We need experienced leadership on the council to address the serious issues facing our city and not policies in foreign affairs. People who can collaborate and debate without overwrought oratory.

There is a municipal election in 2025, and precinct caucuses will be held on April 8. Caucuses determine which delegates go on to the ward and city endorsing conventions.

In our one-party city, the candidate who gets the most supporters to show up at a caucus has a very good shot at winning in the general election.

Never been to your precinct caucus? This is a critical year to start and to show up.

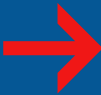
Environmental journalist Bill McKibben was once asked where people should live in the coming climate crisis. He replied, “Wherever you have a strong community.”

I believe that. It will be impossible to ignore our national blood-

“We can be a city with a heart, but also one with a brain. We need healthy businesses to provide livelihoods for people and to pay taxes for the social programs and oversight boards this council is so eager to fund.”

bath for the next four years, but this old bean plans to focus on the issues closer to home with whatever snap I still have left.

That includes working to replace the ideological far-left members of the City Council with reasonable and responsive adults. If we don’t, we’ll only have ourselves to blame.



MINNEAPOLIS CAUCUSES: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

The Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (DFL) precinct caucuses will take place in person at 7 p.m. on April 8, 2025. Locations, determined by ward and precinct, will be announced closer to the date. Most of Hill & Lake Press’ coverage area falls within the 7th or 10th wards.

Caucuses are a cornerstone of Minnesota’s grassroots political process, providing an opportunity for residents to engage in shaping the political landscape by discussing party platforms, introducing resolutions, and electing delegates to represent their precincts. These delegates will advance to the ward conventions, which will take place between April 26 and May 31, 2025 (specific dates TBD). At these conventions, endorsements for city council candidates will be decided.

The city convention is scheduled for Saturday, July 19, and Sunday, July 20, 2025. During this event, DFL delegates will endorse candidates for mayor, park board and the Board of Estimate and Taxation. Endorsements are a critical step for candidates seeking party backing, often shaping the direction of the November general election.

To vote at the ward or city conventions, you must first be elected as a delegate at your precinct caucus. This process underscores the importance of community participation, as it empowers individuals to have a direct say in party decisions.

The Independent-Republican (IR) Party, now officially known as the Republican Party of Minnesota, typically does not field candidates or hold caucuses for Minneapolis city elections. However, other political organizations, including the Green Party or independent campaigns, may play a role in the race.

Residents are encouraged to participate in precinct caucuses to ensure their voices are heard in shaping local policies and candidate endorsements.

A TABLE FOR EVERY CITY

Opinion by Terry White

Terry White writes for the Hill & Lake Press, the Minneapolis Times and publishes the Better Minneapolis newsletter. He lives in the Field neighborhood in South Minneapolis.

The creation of a Labor Standards Board in Minneapolis could represent a significant shift in how the city approaches labor issues — but it’s also a sign of a broader national strategy reshaping local governance with a Democratic Socialist agenda.

On November 15, the Minneapolis City Council passed a resolution to establish a 15-member Labor Standards Board, despite opposition from small business owners and dissenting council members.

This board, comprised of employees, employers and community stakeholders, aims to give workers a "seat at the table." While supporters call it a victory for labor rights, critics view it as a power grab by national unions and advocacy groups that prioritize broader agendas over local concerns.

This resolution, pushed forward after two years of internal crafting, mirrors efforts in cities like Detroit, where similar boards have been established. Its passage raises critical questions: Who does this board truly represent? How will it impact local businesses and residents? And what does it say about the growing influence of national organizations on city policies?

The Board

The board will consist of five employees, five employers and five community stakeholders from specific industries. The City Council will appoint 12 members, and the mayor will appoint three. Although Mayor Frey is expected to veto this resolution, the City Council is likely to override the veto. Mayor Frey’s counterproposal called for a board of 10 members, composed of five employees and five employers, with half appointed by him.

Passing the resolution was far from straightforward. It had been in the works for two years, and the final meeting where it was approved was marked by tension and accusations among council members — a common occurrence at such meetings. The dissenting votes were cast by Council Members Michael Rainville,



(Photo: The Detroit News)

LaTrisha Vetaw and Linea Palmisano. Council Member Robin Wonsley was not present.

City Clerk Casey Clark must preside over these meetings with his rule book at the ready, as a director is needed when a group of 13 individuals, with little respect for one another or the public, role-plays at city government.

A National Agenda

Before discussing the specifics of this resolution, it’s important to put this board within a broader context. It is part of a national effort led by unions and the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) to advance their agendas through city councils nationwide. For example, a May 23, 2023, story in The Detroit News detailed the passage of an Industry Standards Board in Detroit. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) joined Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield in celebrating the board’s creation for arena workers. If you replaced Sheffield in the photo with the Minneapolis resolution authors, City Council Members Katie Cashman, Aisha Chughtai, Aurin Chowdhury and Jason Chavez, the differences would be minimal. They employ the same language of securing a “seat at the table” for workers and use the same strategies.

One of the main controversies surrounding this resolution was that small business owners and “com-

munity stakeholders” were not given an opportunity to express their feelings about the board. The committee changed the board’s creation from an ordinance to a resolution to avoid listening to feedback. They incorporated into the rules for how committees and boards are established that public comment was not required.

Instead of speaking at the Minneapolis City Council Public Health & Safety Committee, where the resolution originated, residents and business owners attended the November 12 Budget Committee public meeting en masse to voice their concerns. The committee members heard testimonies like this one:

“Hi. I’m a business owner, a restaurant and event center. I’ve been building that business for years. With my own hands. We are having problems with the homeless. They break the windows. They break the cars. We have to go out there and start cleaning. I don’t even go to my apartment. I sleep in the business to make sure they don’t burn it, or they don’t do anything. So, I know I’m hearing [a] proposal that you guys are wanting to — without consulting with the business people, no help. No city council or anybody came to us and said, ‘Hey, you’re doing something good, South Minneapolis! How can we help you?’”

“I love to help the employees, but if you don’t help me, how am I going to help the employees? You know?

Somebody said before you dream, you have to sleep. You need to help us.”

“Now, I feel like, you know, if I lose this business, I may leave this town. It’s not business friendly. Nobody comes. There’s no police. There’s nobody can do anything. My car was broken [into] 16 times.

“If you replaced Sheffield in the photo with the Minneapolis resolution authors, City Council Members Katie Cashman, Aisha Chughtai, Aurin Chowdhury and Jason Chavez, the differences would be minimal. They employ the same language of securing a 'seat at the table' for workers and use the same strategies. ”

The window now is broken. The car was broken two weeks ago. \$2,000. I lost almost \$50,000 just for what the homeless are doing. No help. No money. No nothing.”

“You guys are thinking about building roads, building this one, but the problem in hand to take this mentally ill, you know, homeless and build hospital for them. You’re not doing it.”

What this business owner and many others who spoke failed to understand was that while they believed they were addressing the local city council, they were actually speaking to national organizations with priorities they deem more significant than local concerns. Their priority is La-

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bor with a capital “L” — not local employers.

This was underscored when Andrea Jenkins emphasized her membership in SEIU 284 during the meeting, signaling she would not risk appearing anti-labor with an election approaching. After the vote, Aurin Chowdhury led union chants at the press conference. Linea Palmisano pointed out that public perception was clear: supporting businesses was unlikely when council members show up at the table dressed in union colors after a rally. Katie Cashman’s attempts to convey empathy for small businesses were undermined by her hoarse voice from cheering for workers.

Be Straightforward, Please

The reluctance of these council members to state outright, “I’m here to represent the unions,” indicates that even they recognize the need for balance and that their role as elected officials demands more.

During the meeting, Jason Chavez made no pretext of balance. He shared personal stories of his hardships growing up and stated, “It’s corporations that fearmonger and scare residents in the City of Minneapolis to influence decisions. I support workers, Uber and Lyft drivers, and raising the minimum wage to \$25 an hour, and I don’t need permission from corporations to do that today.”

He added, “Without workers, there would be no businesses.” To appear more balanced, he could acknowledge that businesses do not emerge spontaneously at the behest of workers: They require individuals willing to invest their time, money,

talent and ambition. Creating and sustaining a business is not easy, and not everyone has the capacity to do it.

The organizations supporting this board are part of a national movement. Cities often provide a more straightforward path for getting proposals passed compared to states, as local governments can be more receptive and face fewer procedural hurdles. However, similar measures can also be passed at the state level. California passed a \$20 minimum wage for fast food workers. Minneapolis might prepare themselves for this same rule to be proposed by our Labor Standards Board.

These are only a few of the questions we hope residents will ask their council members. We encourage residents in the next election to pay close attention to the endorsements their candidates are receiving, such as those from labor unions, advocacy groups or political organizations.

Understanding these affiliations can help voters assess how aligned their candidates’ values and priorities are with their own vision for the city. If you want your council member to be a representative for national unions and the DSA, then you have chosen the right people. You’ll want to familiarize yourself with the goals of these organizations and determine whether they are healthy for Minneapolis.

However, if you’re seeking council members who prioritize Minneapolis issues, actively listen to all stakeholders, and approach city governance with a balanced perspective that recognizes the interdependence of businesses and workers, you may need to look elsewhere.

Changing the direction of our

current council, backed by national unions providing campaign support such as organizational direction, donations and volunteers, will require significant effort. The Labor Standards Board could be a warning sign

that Minneapolis residents may face more of these opaque policy maneuvers in the future.



THERE ARE MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

about our local Labor Standards Board:

- 1. Which industries will be the focus? In Detroit it was arena workers. In California fast food workers. Construction companies, restaurants and small businesses in Minneapolis are particularly concerned that they will be the ones targeted by new regulations.
- 2. Who exactly are “community stakeholders”? Council members have not been clear about whether this means union representatives, restaurant diners or neighbors to construction projects. The lack of transparency suggests a lack of consideration by the council for the public need to understand their exact intentions.
- 3. While Cashman, Chughtai, Chowdhury and Chavez put their names on the document as authors, who else contributed? The idea of this board did not originate from them.
- 4. They claim the board was two years in the making and they did their due diligence by meeting with a diverse group of voices. This statement is misleading as the official text was revealed only in the last month and there were three amendments proposed and overridden at the council meeting when it was passed. What was behind this rush? What made it so important to pass that it couldn’t wait two more weeks so amendments could be further discussed, and the public allowed a comment period?
- 5. What is their economic plan for keeping taxes and spending in line with current revenues? What actions are they taking to ensure businesses can survive, let alone thrive?

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Winter finally arrives to Minneapolis. (Photo: Ryan Jandl)

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PROPOSED PARK BOARD CANNABIS AND THC POLICIES OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

By Marty Carlson

Marty Carlson is a regular contributor and lives in Kenwood.

On Monday, November 18, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board released two new proposed policies governing the use and sale of cannabis/THC products on park property, opening a 60-day public comment window for feedback on the proposed drafts.

While personal marijuana use has been legal in Minnesota for over a year, the state is still crafting rules and processing applications related to dispensaries, meaning the drug won't be widely commercially available until some point in 2025.

The proposed new policies seek to anticipate that change by establishing a framework that regulates the sale and use of cannabis/THC products in a manner roughly similar to alcohol and tobacco.

The first of the two policies is an amendment to the Park Board's existing tobacco policy, redrafted to include cannabis products. Tobacco products, whether smoking, vaping, or smokeless, are banned in any form, with the exception of ceremonial use.

By contrast, "THC products" are banned only if they produce vapor or smoke, meaning that THC beverages and edibles are apparently legal to consume on park property under the new proposed policy. As for enforcement mechanisms, the Park Board has opted for a soft approach, at least initially.

Says the new policy: "Park staff, including Park Police, will help inform the public of the new policy, and warn those violating this policy that they will be asked to leave the park/facility should they fail to stop..." The policy then states that Park Board staff will "monitor compliance" for the purpose of determining whether a future ordinance will be needed.

The second proposed policy governs the sale of THC products on park property. Consistent with the overall ban on smoking, the



(Image: CBS News)

policy is drafted to permit only the sale of THC beverages and edibles, and those products are limited to no more than 5mg of THC potency per serving.

Any THC concession vendors must first obtain a license from the State of Minnesota before they can obtain a contract or

permit to operate on Park Board property. THC products obtained from such a vendor can be consumed only in a designated area, although "grab and go" purchases are allowed, provided they are not consumed outside of designated areas. This latter point will likely create some enforcement tension with the separate tobacco/cannabis policy, which appears to allow THC beverages and edibles to be broadly consumed throughout the park system.

Similarly, THC products may be purchased from permitted vendors as a "secondary component" to public events, but any such purchases must be consumed in a designated area.

Apart from shorter, early-in-the-day events (i.e., races), any public events featuring cannabis service will also require security supervision by the Park Police. Public comment on both cannabis policies is now open through January 21, 2025. Links to the full texts of the policies and a Park Board survey on the subject can be easily found by typing "Minneapolis Park Board cannabis public comment survey" into your web

browser. The policies themselves are clearly still in draft form; one section, related to public events, reads in full: "Designated area (language from Cannabis policy) – grab and go allowed – consume needs to be in the designated area."



TO VOICE YOUR COMMENTS

To read more about the proposed policies, simply type, "Minneapolis Park Board Cannabis public comment survey" into your web browser.

The actual public comment survey can be found here –

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LK2D9YZ>

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A MATERIAL IMPROVEMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

By Susan Lenfestey



2417 Fremont Avenue South is adjacent to U.S. Bank and across the street from Kowalski's in East Isles. (Images: D/O Architects)

Susan Lenfestey is a Hill & Lake Press founder and board member. She lives in Lowry Hill.

This proposed facility at 2417 Fremont Ave. S. raises some familiar concerns. According to an email from Council Member Katie Cashman to the East Isles Neighborhood Association board:

“Cubtan Nur runs Axis Home PCA Agency, a company that provides Professional Care Assistance, or PCA, to individuals with needs and a focus on in home care. Her business is

expanding, and she needs more office space for her consultants but would also like to utilize the development to provide a supervised living facility for her patients that might need extra care above in home service. The plan is to renovate the current structure to accommodate this service and then to build a two-story addition for her office space as well as some market rate apartments. Overall, the scale is pretty small at this point but it would provide a material improvement to the neighborhood.”

Two recuperative care centers, located at 1801 Nicollet and 918 W. Lake Street, were

recently approved by the City Council despite neighbors’ concerns and lack of information about the operators’ qualifications.

Recuperative care centers have filled a need in other states but are new to Minnesota. They were authorized by the Legislature in 2023, with expenses to be funded by Medicaid.

Neighbors are suggesting that the Legislature should amend the rules governing these facilities to ensure stricter oversight and that the City Council should revise the 2040 Plan to grant itself greater control over zoning decisions.

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THE FUTURE OF THE TWIN CITIES IS BRIGHT AND ELECTRIC

By Charlie Zelle



Charlie Zelle (Image: Metropolitan Council)

Charlie Zelle is the Chair of the Metropolitan Council. He lives in Cedar-Isles-Dean.

As a longtime resident of the Hill & Lake Press neighborhoods, I care deeply about the livability and vibrancy of our special area in Minneapolis.

As chair of the Metropolitan Council, I have the honor of being engaged in the planning process to achieve long-range goals for the entire region.

The Met Council is in the final stages of putting together its Imagine 2050 regional development guide.

The guide is based on countless hours of research, input from city and county officials, and active outreach and engagement with community groups and neighborhoods across our region.

The work we have done paints a very different picture of the future of Minneapolis than was presented in November’s opinion piece “The future is electric.”

Our region is growing, but we will not see density approaching the levels of New York City as the piece suggests.

In New York, the density is over 27,000 people per square mile (74,000 on the island of Manhattan), while today’s density in Minneapolis is approximately 7,000 people per square mile.

We continue to see growth across the urbanized portions of our region and expect that growth to continue through 2050, albeit at a slower pace than previously forecasted. Minneapolis is projected

to grow from its current estimated 434,000 to about 514,000 in 2050, or about 18.4%.

Growth in our region is occurring faster in the suburbs and emerging suburban edge, because that’s where the undeveloped land is.

Urban growth requires more efficient use of space and increases in density so services like transit can be delivered in a more cost-effective way.

Planning for higher densities and greater mix of uses within walking distances of where people live makes it easier to travel without a personal vehicle.

The City of Minneapolis has adopted this strategy in its 2040 plan, which the Met Council approved as being consistent with regional policy goals.

I’m not here to argue for or against the Minneapolis 2040 plan. Instead, here’s what our regional transportation looks like.

More choices, to go more places, more often.

This is an exciting time for transit in our region. For the past decade we’ve been building out the Metro system, with a dozen new rapid transit lines offering fast, frequent, all-day service in operation, construction, or planned.

By the year 2030 a half million people who didn’t have good transit connections in 2015 will have a 30-minute, one-seat ride to most destinations.

Transit ridership was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but has been growing steadily. Many routes are at pre-

“My great-grandfather, a doctor, used to make house calls by horse from his home on Dupont Avenue. Imagine how my great-grandchild might be traveling decades from now.”

COVID service levels today. Transit, walking, cycling, and even electric scooters are being supported to complement private vehicle travel — not to eliminate it. All these options give people the ability to choose the best transportation mode for the trip they need to take. In 2024, the Met Council funded 34 bicycle and pedestrian projects around the region, including 10 “safe routes to school” projects. These projects are the most-requested project type in the Met Council-led regional transportation project selection process.

Electric vehicles are an important part of the mix.

It is a fact that our climate is changing. As the region’s planning agency, the Met Council has been developing policies and strategies to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.

Electrification is one of the leading strategies to reduce transportation’s impact on climate change and public health.

Electric vehicles are becoming more common, and the Met Council is pursuing strategies to help communities accelerate electrification including support for public charging infrastructure.

While buses represent a small share of greenhouse gas emissions, as we retire older buses in our fleet and new electric vehicle technology becomes available, we are adding electric buses and infrastructure to maintain them.

I’m just scratching the surface of the work the Met Council is doing to plan for a better future for our region. You can read the draft Imagine 2050 plan on our website. (<https://metro council.org/Planning/Imagine-2050.aspx>).

As we consider all the planning challenges looking ahead generations, it’s important to recognize that changes in our living and transportation patterns are a given.

My great-grandfather, a doctor, used to make house calls by horse from his home on Dupont Avenue. Imagine how my great-grandchild might be traveling decades from now.



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

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- East Isles Neighborhood Association (EINA)



- Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA)



- Kenwood Neighborhood Organization (KNO)



- Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association (LHNA)



- West Maka Ska Neighborhood Council (WMSNC)



THE RISE OF FASCISM IN MINNESOTA

Opinion by Josie Owens



Members of the Socialist Workers Party demonstrating, c.1935 (Photo: Minnesota Historical Society)

Josie Owens is a regular columnist and lives in Lowry Hill.

“Several videos began popping up around 1:15 p.m. Saturday on social media of about a dozen people, one with a bullhorn, wearing all black with red face masks and carrying black flags with red swastikas on them in the Short North.” The Columbus Dispatch, Nov. 16, 2024.

“A group of people carrying Nazi flags demonstrated outside a community theater performance of “The Diary of Anne Frank” in Livingston County, Michigan, in a display of antisemitism.” CNN, Nov. 12, 2024.

When will the next fascist headline involve Minnesota?

Look at the state history and see that it could likely be soon. Yes, Minnesota, a state known for lakes, welcoming immigrants, Tim Walz and Prince has a long history of fascism.

In 1938, revisionist history books tend to suggest that the moral United States was on the brink of joining the Allies.

The truth is that there was a fascist movement gaining traction across the United States and more than one Minnesotan was at the forefront. Charles Lindbergh, one native son, was a Nazi sympathizer, advocated isolationism and was vocal in the America First movement.

Another native son, George Deatherage, was chief of the Knights of the White Camellia.

Founded in Louisiana in 1867, this organization was like the KKK but even more flagrant in their intimidation as they did not disguise themselves.

Deatherage focused on the lack of unity among the American Nazis and tried to unite the 800 groups under the military dictatorship of Major General Moseley. A planned coup was discovered and quashed in 1940.

Silver Shirts

“The Silver Shirts, a national organization anti-Semitic and anti-Negro in principle, have been holding meetings in Minnesota.” Minneapolis Spokesman, Aug. 5, 1938.

Only recently freed from the yoke of the Citizens Alliance, a business oligarchy that suppressed unions and controlled the city from 1900-1930, Minneapolis flirted with organized fascism.

In 1939, Silver Shirt recruitment meetings were organized in Minneapolis. William Dudley Pelley, who had founded the Silver Legion of America, popularly known as the Silver Shirts and modeled after Hitler’s brown-shirted street fighters, wanted to recruit 3,000 to 5,000 new members to the Silver Shirts.

He sent his top lieutenant, Roy Zachary, to speak at public rallies and in private meetings. T.G. Wooster, state organizer of the Silver Shirts, assisted in sending invitations to Minnesota businessmen and professionals.

On Aug. 3, 1938, the Duluth Herald shared that 300 people “paid 25 cents each to hear Roy Zachary, national organizer of the Silver Shirts, deliver an anti-Semitic address at Ark Lodge Auditorium.”

“It’s time for Minnesota to lead the way in making Nazi propaganda a hate crime and therefore not protected as freedom of speech. Germany guarantees freedom of speech but clarifies and criminalizes “disturb[ing] the public peace in a manner that violates the dignity of the victims [of the Nazi regime] by approving of, glorifying, or justifying the National Socialist rule of arbitrary force.”

Zachary explained that the organization was opposed to Jews and has a “fine-spirited Christian philosophy.” One of his proposals was to segregate all Jews in one city in Minnesota.

One businessman when called out for attending the fascist meeting responded that he went out of curiosity but privately admitted “it wasn’t a very comfortable chair, but I could have sat there for two hours more listening to his wonderful message.”

For the September meeting, Pelley himself planned to speak. It never happened.

By this time the 544 Union Defense Guard had organized under Ray Rainbolt. “The requirements to join the UDG were few but important, and they included a willingness to defend all who may be potentially victimized by fascist groups and to take part in the minimal training required to have a reasonably well-organized guard.”

A cab driver alerted Rainbolt where Pelley was. Rainbolt contacted and warned Pelley not to proceed. When the audience arrived at Calhoun Hall, the UDG was there. The audience and Pelley both left.

“Zachary made no further attempts to hold rallies in Minneapolis; fascist propaganda tapered off; and after a time it became evident that the Silver Shirt organizing drive in the city had been discontinued altogether.”

Suppressing Information

One group burned the books. Another banned them. Both have the same effect. One book that the German Nazis certainly would have burned and the far right would ban if they read would be “It Can’t Happen Here.” Sinclair Lewis, a venerable native son, sounded the alarm in 1935.

The New Yorker’s review stated that reading the novel was a public duty. Lewis “knows the fascist leader will not be a fascist leader, but a Professional Common Man who will Attack the Interests — but who, strangely enough, will not be very vigorously attacked by them...His methods will be similar — intimidations, mass propaganda, murder — and his ideas will be similar.” How prescient.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has been tracking the rise of hate groups in the United States.

In 2000, they listed 599 groups nationally with eight in Minnesota. In 2023, the numbers had increased to 1,430 nationally and 22 in Minnesota. If only this increase had been shared more than that of the price of eggs.

Minnesota Firsts in Social Change

Despite this complicated past, Minnesota has led the way in protecting minority groups — the American Indian Movement (1968), law outlawing segregation (1869), first legal same sex marriage in the U.S. (1971).

It’s time for Minnesota to lead the way in making Nazi propaganda a hate crime and therefore not protected as freedom of speech. Germany guarantees freedom of speech but clarifies and criminalizes “disturb[ing] the public peace in a manner that violates the dignity of the victims [of the Nazi regime] by approving of, glorifying, or justifying the National Socialist rule of arbitrary force.”

As of November 2021, New York has banned swastikas and other hate symbols on public property. The Supreme Court needs to revisit the “imminent lawless action” test established in Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969) considering the rise of these empowered hate groups.

As Look magazine stated in 1938, “In a less disturbed world, America could afford to ignore these people as the inevitable fanatic fringe of any free nation. Today they cannot be ignored. Adolf Hitler was once ignored as merely a joke and a fanatic.”

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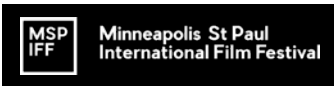
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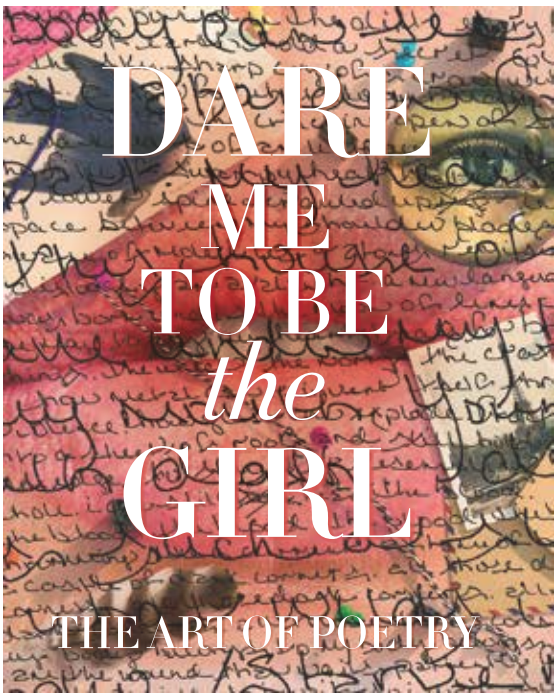
KNO wishes you safe and joy-filled Winter Holidays!

Please consider including KNO in **Your Charitable End-of-Year Giving.** Your support helps KNO continue and expand community engagement and communication efforts that focus on the health, safety, inclusiveness and cohesion of the Kenwood neighborhood for residents and visitors. We can't do this without you!



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This Holiday Season, put Kenwood's local businesses on your list of stops for gifts, gift cards, and a bite to eat.



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EVENTS!

Neighborhood Safety Meeting
Thursday, January 23 (time TBD)
Lutheran Church of Lake of the Isles

Winter Social
Saturday, January 25 from 1 - 3
Lake of the Isles Ice Rink
2500 W. LOI Parkway



Thank you to all who attended CIDNA events in 2024. What a blast!

Vibrant communities need people who care. Join the fun and volunteer with the Cedar, Isles, Dean, Neighborhood Association!

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to support future events.

Your donation to CIDNA is appreciated!



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How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.

Phillips Brooks, *Christian Science Hymnal*, No. 222

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Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10 am – 1 pm

Wednesday 3:30 – 8:45 pm



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Lowry Hill Update

Please make an effort to shop local this holiday season.
Uptown businesses continue to be affected by construction
along our major streets on top of pandemic hardships.
Support your local shops and economy!

Mark your calendars for the Annual Winter Party, Jan.
25, 1 – 3 PM at Lake of the Isles Ice Rink. This is a great
chance to get outside, connect with neighbors from around
the lake, and beat the cold with fires, cocoa, and treats!

Did you know storm drain street trash pollutes our lakes
and rivers? Save our waters—less trash, less leaves, no slime
means beautiful lakes. Adopting a drain is free, easy to do, and
takes only minutes to maintain: mn.adopt-a-drain.org



Lowry Hill Board Meetings

Dec. 3 • Jan. 7 Tuesdays, 7 – 9 PM

Kenwood Community Center: 2101 W Franklin Ave

All residents are welcome! If you have questions or
would like to be on the agenda, please email us:
lhna@lowryhillneighborhood.org

Neighborhood Walks

Dec. 21 • Jan. 18 Saturdays, 10 – 11:30 AM

Start + end at Sebastian Joe's: 1007 W Franklin Ave

Join us for friendly walks around Lowry Hill! This is a
great way to stay active and get outside, meet your
neighbors, pick up litter, and build community.

Year-End Giving

LHNA relies on your support to fund neighborhood
programs, events, and advocacy. We are a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit, and all donations are tax deductible:
donorbox.org/support-lhna

Annual Winter Party

Jan. 25 Saturday, 1 – 3 PM

Lake of the Isles Ice Rink + Warming House

Gather with lakeside neighbors, good cheer, hot cocoa
and Isles Bun's puppy dog tails. Mark your calendars
for this beat-the-cold, cross-neighborhood event!

lowryhillneighborhood.org

for full details, newsletter sign-up and more

KENWOOD'S 'GIRLS ON THE RUN TEAM' ENDS SEASON WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT

By Karin Olson

Karin Olson is Kenwood Community School Parent and lives in Kenwood.

Twenty-one local third, fourth and fifth grade girls from area schools capped off their fall season of Girls on the Run with a Cocoa & Cookies stand that raised over \$400 for Kenwood School's Outdoor Classroom project.

Said team coach and parent Daisy Simpson, "Many people are aware that running and being active are part of Girls on the Run. What they may not realize is that it also provides a social-emotional curriculum.

One of the lessons was about "Community," and the girls brainstormed all the communities of which they are a part. Another was about "Compromise," in which the girls brainstormed project ideas, chose which project to do and how it would benefit part of their community.

The girls decided to benefit Kenwood Community School, even though many of the team members attend different area schools. The "Planning" lesson was about identifying individual strengths as they assigned roles and tasks for the project.



Kenwood's Fall 2024 Girls on the Run team (Photo: Daisy Simpson)

All the work was 100% led by the girls — the coaches were there to support, but the girls accomplished it all and had great time along the way!"

Girls on the Run is a nationwide after-school program for girls in grades 3-5.

The Kenwood team was founded three years ago and just completed their fifth season (both fall and spring seasons are offered.)

The program blends physical activity with purposeful so-

"The girls decided to benefit Kenwood Community School, even though many of the team members attend different area schools."

cial-emotional topics such as positive self-talk, emotional reflection, making and choosing friends, inner strength, and gratitude.

All seasons lead up to an ending celebration in which each girl and a selected "buddy" run or walk a 5K.

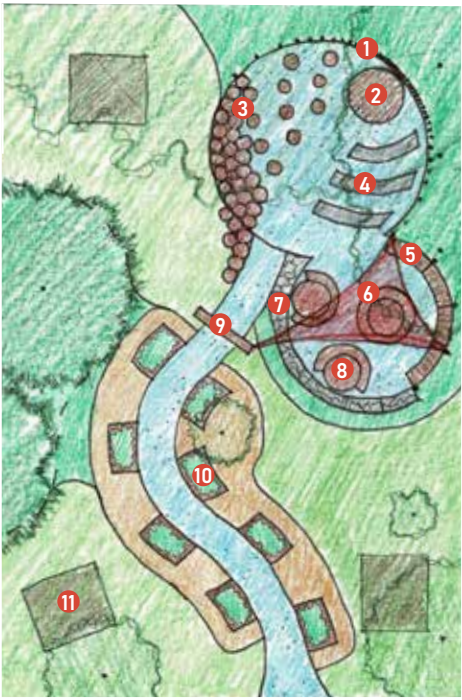
Kindergarten teacher Cathy Sullivan, sponsor of the Outdoor Classroom project at Kenwood School, said, "We are so grateful that these capable young athletes chose to benefit our school with their community impact project. What a wonderful result! We believe that when it's completed, the outdoor classroom will truly benefit the entire neighborhood, beyond the school."

More community-based fundraisers will be announced in the coming months, providing opportunities for members of the community to engage.

Girls on the Run is seeking coaches for next year. For more information, visit www.gotrmn.org.

KENWOOD GETS OUTSIDE

By Brandon Colpitts (more importantly, Wynne and Willa's dad)



Brandon Colpitts lives in Lowry Hill.

I am an adopted Minnesotan (classic case of "my spouse was born here and living elsewhere with children was never going to happen"), and I am a proud one.

I could list the myriad of reasons, but the most important one is that you all taught me to GET OUTSIDE. In the rain, snow, cold, dark, and even when there are bugs. It has fundamentally changed my life, my personality, and my long-term pursuits.

In the short term, it always makes my day better, especially on the tough ones. It helps regu-

late my mood and has helped me detach from the notion that it has to be "nice" outside for me to feel nice.

My only regret was not learning this all from you sooner.

Now we all have slam-dunk opportunity to share the power of getting outside more with the next generation, right here in our neighborhood. Kenwood Elementary, spurred on by the beloved Kindergarten teacher Ms. Sullivan, is fundraising to build an outdoor classroom.

Imagine these teachers having the opportunity to get kids outside to learn. Kids working away at standing desks, admiring the existing pollinator garden.

Imagine beautifying your neighborhood walk by turning a dusty patch of grass next to Franklin and Penn with three old picnic tables into an entire forested patio for the community.

Imagine having another reason to walk by Kenwood on your way to another neighborhood institution, The Kenwood, for pistachio pancakes.

We're all looking for ways to build community and invest in it.

I think we all are yearning to do more local (as we attempt to look away from the blinding sun of the national discourse).

Everyone in the "Hill and Lake" is here because we know this is a beautiful place to be out-

side, and these kids, learning to meet all the new stresses of life, deserve it as much as anyone.

We've got the rendering, we've got the people lined up to build this thing. This is shovel-ready. And it's not anything controversial like a "bike lane."

You can be a part of building better for a public institution that has been a fixture of the lives of kids for over a century. We just need the money, and maybe a little of your time.

Maybe it's because we know about the wealth in these neighborhoods that we're always waiting for a big-ticket donor to take care of it. Kenwood Elementary doesn't need one person to help; it needs the whole community.

Raising kids is a community exercise, and getting outside is entirely non-partisan. If you don't have kids, or don't have kids in Kenwood, it's still your neighborhood public institution, so think of this as "more park."

Or, if you're farther afield, find your local school. I bet they need your time and money too.

So please, if you can, donate for this all-around feel-good project, and encourage grandparents and friends to as well.

We're doing what Minneapolis does best: making space to learn in nature. And start thinking of all the ways you'll use this space to build your own community.

It's for all of us to use, and to maintain.



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to Kenwood School's Outdoor Classroom, please use the QR code below.



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Meet Your Neighbor

Interview by Craig Wilson, Editor

Jackie Brown Baylor, author of “Dahlia's Make a Difference Day”



Jackie Brown Baylor at a reading of her book "Dahlia's Make a Difference Day." (Image: Thang Holt)

Craig Wilson is the editor of the Hill & lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

Jackie Brown Baylor is the parent editor of the Kids' Issue, Hill & Lake Press board member and secretary, and published children's book author of "Dahlia's Make a Difference Day." She lives in Lowry Hill with her family.

Can you tell us about where you grew up and what your childhood was like?

I was born in Brainerd, Minn., but spent most of my childhood in Hudson, Wis., raised by my strong and ambitious single mother. On occasional weekends, my father would take me to his cabin in Crosslake, where my grandfather owned Ye Olde Wharf. My grandmother would bring me to visit my great-grandmother at the nursing home, and I'd put on tap shows for her and the other residents, who were my cheering fans. We didn't have much growing up, but I was surrounded by love and special moments, especially with my extended family. My grandparents in Brainerd were like a second set of parents, always present in my life. Some of my favorite

memories were visiting Deerland Forest, Paul Bunyan Land and Pirates Cove. I was also lucky to spend summers with my two aunts in Boston, Mass., which gave me a sense of adventure and exploration. My childhood was rich in imagination — I loved to dream I could jump into picture books and become part of their worlds.

What do you think are the biggest challenges kids face today?

As a mother of two, I see many challenges children face today. Technology is both a gift and a burden. Kids spend less time reading, writing, creating art, playing simple games, or just being bored. For me, boredom was where my imagination thrived and new friendships blossomed. While my children have access to more information than I could have ever imagined as a child, there's also a lot of outside influence — both positive and negative. As parents, we must strike a balance, using these tools in ways that help rather than harm. I work hard to ensure my kids can "just be kids."

How did you come to be the parent editor for the Hill & Lake Press Kids' Issue?

Anyone who knows me knows how passionate I am about youth and children. Editor Craig Wilson kindly reached out to ask if I'd be interested in resurrecting the Kids' Issue with him. As a member of a younger family in the neighborhood, I saw this as a wonderful opportunity to connect families and celebrate children, art, journalism and the incredible neighborhoods we share. I was inspired by the work of the Hill & Lake Press founders and the children who contributed in past years. Over the last two years, I've connected with parents who contributed to the Kids' Issue as children themselves and now encourage their own kids to carry on that tradition. I truly believe this has inspired more families to read the paper and sparked interest in journalism in the next generation.

What inspired you to write “Dahlia’s Make a Difference Day”?

The inspiration came from a conversation with my children about their dreams. My son asked, “What was your dream as a kid? Why didn't you do it?” His question hit me, and I realized I wanted to show my children what it looked like to make a dream come true. I drew inspiration from my neighborhood and community. Lowry Hill is full of “doers” who uplift one another. I was also inspired by my love of nature, animals in the city, children's activism, and the generational family support that has shaped my life. This book celebrates all of that. I specifically wanted the lead character to be a little girl of color. As a mother, I've seen how impactful representation in books can be for children and their families. Stories that reflect

diverse experiences connect children to the world around them and inspire them in powerful ways.

What is the key lesson or message you hope readers take away from the story?

The message is simple: acts of kindness don't need to be grand. They should be small, frequent, and local. Greeting a neighbor, cleaning a storm drain, picking up litter or attending a community event can all make a difference. Children often feel the weight of the world on their shoulders, but they should focus on what they can do in their own communities, here in Minneapolis. Kindness is contagious, and when we work together, we can all make a meaningful impact.

Do you have any upcoming book signings or events planned?

I'm excited to be featured on the podcast “Grrity kids.” We'll talk about my book, the concept of making a difference, and how small actions can lead to big change. The podcast aims to break down stigmatized differences for parents and kids, and I'm thrilled to be part of it. I hope to continue connecting with kids through storytelling, speaking, mentoring and celebrating them. I'm always eager to collaborate with my community and look forward to more opportunities in the future.

Where can people purchase “Dahlia’s Make a Difference Day”?

The book is available at Birchbark Books, the Guthrie Theater gift shop, and Flour & Flower in St. Joseph, Minn. Supporting local businesses and booksellers is incredibly important to me. Part of my dream is to sell this book through local relationships, building community along the way. For those unable to visit these locations, I'm happy to ship copies through our website, www.gildedgato.com. While I may explore broader distribution, such as through Amazon, someday, for now, I'm focused on meaningful connections locally and beyond.



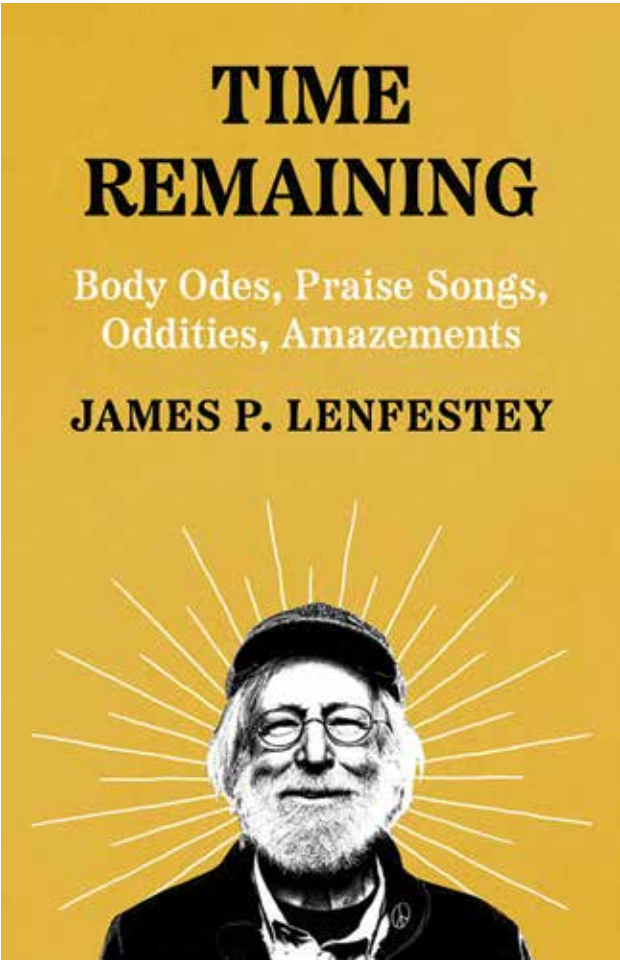
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"Dahlia's Make a Difference Day" visit Birchbark Books or visit www.gildedgato.com



ANOTHER POETIC GENIUS AMONG US?

By Walter Whitman, who lives on Emerson



(Image: Jim Lenfestey)

Jim Lenfestey (alias Walter Whitman and retired Urban Coyote) is a poet and founder of the Hill & Lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

Neighbors, I have come upon a most astounding poetry development in our neighborhood.

Not only do we host the first-ever Poet Laureate of Minneapolis, Heid Erdrich, a powerhouse of national acclaim, teacher and major hellraiser for Native languages and the arts, who just received a big award from the Academy of American Poets.

But this month our own Urban Coyote (retired), aka James P. Lenfestey, who lives on Girard, published his seventh full-length poetry collection, one that may well vault him to the front rank of poets to accompany Erdrich and former neighbor Robert Bly, who reminds us at this historic political nadir of what the hermit said: ... Because the world is mad, The only way through the world is to learn the arts and double the madness! Are you listening?

I am listening, and so praise the doubled madness of “Time Remaining: Body Odes, Praise Songs, Oddities, Amazements,” Lenfestey’s latest poetry collection from Milkweed Editions, fizzing with wit, fun, facts and the long view about the body, art, language,

history and planet viewed from a tower seven decades tall, five of which spent in Lowry Hill.

Lenfestey’s previous Milkweed books as well as his Urban Coyote columns for the Hill & Lake Press and his editorial journalism for the Star Tribune won many awards and accolades. But can greatness possibly spout from “an aged man, a tattered coat upon a stick” (Yeats) clicking his walking stick to Sebastian Joe’s for soup with geezer pals, a most ordinary neighborhood soul, poetic crown invisible to the unknowing eye?

Fortunately, poets get the last and lasting word, especially in these harrowed days, and Lenfestey delivers with exuberance. “Rhythmic, jovial, and eminently approachable, this collection embraces the Cetacean mind and the fearless left hand. Lenfestey writes love songs to the world “as it really is: bizarro, curious, inelegant, unclear, / unfaithful, filled with delight,” Milkweed said that, and other poets agree:

“Lenfestey’s poems in “Time Remaining” find wonder and joy everywhere. He writes odes to the ankle, to teeth, even to groaning, as he turns his keen eye on the aging body. But melancholy is but a minor note in all this music. Lenfestey has a core of good cheer and wit that infuses his poems. They are truly life-affirming.” — Connie Wanek

“Time Remaining” is the perfect title for a book that says, in every poem, there are so many ways to love the world and be amazed by it: Don’t leave any out! There is genuine wisdom in this book, hard won and generous. A book to treasure for its many ways of opening the reader to the world in all its amazements.” — Jim Moore.

“Lenfestey is a poet who loves the world, the body, language, and the work of other poets, deeply. He writes out of a place of wonder, curiosity, and joy. This volume has wisdom and wit, sustenance for the indignities of age. There is friendship and fellowship to be had in these pages.” — Sarah Ruhl

“What a marvelous collection of joy, generosity and wisdom!” — Wang Ping

You would agree too, had you attended his publication launch on Nov. 21 at Plymouth Congregational Church, co-sponsored by Literary Witnesses, The Loft Literary Center and Milkweed Editions, where he transfixed an overflow crowd with moving and zany performances mostly of his longer poems.

“Time Remaining” is Lenfestey’s third book from Milkweed, seventeenth over all

since leaving the Star Tribune editorial board in 1998 for the poet’s path. The sublime poet Ada Limon also published three collections with Milkweed and went on to become U.S. Poet Laureate and a MacArthur “genius.” Will “Time Remaining” qualify Lenfestey for those same honorifics? Time will tell.

At 80, Lenfestey’s long view encompasses 100,000 years of human language and 5,000 of writing plus poems that tell more about your body than you ever imagined, with only a rare glance to the future.

In the closing poem, “Tour of Kindness,” readers will wait with him.

Now I am waiting,
we are all waiting,
wondering when it will arrive,
and what it can mean.



So don’t wait until his fame explodes! If inclined, you can purchase “Time Remaining” for yourself and holiday gifts at Milkweed’s bookstore in Open Book, or at Birchbark Books or Magers & Quinn in the neighborhood while experiencing his “Ode to the Independent Bookstore.”



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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 December, the season for holiday parties filled with strangers. Fresh off Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends — people you actually know — these events can sometimes feel like tagging along to your significant other’s high school reunion.

Some people shy away from such gatherings, but I love them. I see them as bags of Halloween treats, each filled with delightful surprises. Sure, there’s always that house handing out dental floss or hand sanitizer — the kind of “treats” guaranteed to get you TPed.

But mostly, you’ll find the human equivalents of Twix bars, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, and caramel M&Ms. People are full of fun and fascinating stories. Sometimes, though, you have to dig to get to them. Bring your own trowel.

Those who avoid parties like these often say they don’t know how to strike up a conversation with strangers. But starting a conversation can be as simple as a game of catch — a game we all know how to play.

Catch is about back-and-forth motion; so is conversation. Instead of a ball, you toss words. Two people can play, or three, or even more. The only goal is to keep the ball moving and have fun. In catch, all you need is a ball and an open mitt. In conversation, all you need are words and an open mind. Best of all, there are no winners or losers. Everyone’s just there to have fun.

Of course, there are spoilers in both catch and conversation. Watch out for them. These buccaneers come in two forms.

The first is “Catch and Keep.” You toss out a question — throw the ball — and the other person catches it but refuses to throw it back. Instead, they drone on and on, never asking a question or making a comment to continue the exchange. They catch the ball and keep it, forgetting that catch is a game for at least two. By hogging the ball, they kill the conversation.

The second spoiler actively derails the game. You ask an opening question (“How do you know the hosts?”), and they respond with something absurd or unrelated (“Man, it’s really snowing out!”), leaving you squinting and thinking, Huh?

This is like throwing the ball over the fence or into the street. It forces you to chase

it down and do all the work to reset the game. That’s not fun. In politics, this is called “the pivot” — taking a specific question and answering it on your own terms. In everyday parlance, it’s called being a jerk.

Every conversation starts with a question. Some people avoid asking questions because they worry about seeming nosy. Nonsense! Yes, prying or rude questions — “How much money do you make?” or “Are you still married to that bum?” — are unacceptable. But genuine questions, rooted in curiosity and interest, are always welcome. They’re the heart of good conversation.

If someone says something you strongly disagree with, don’t shut down. Throw the ball back and ask why they feel that way. You might learn something — it’s always a gift. Stay curious. Don’t worry about where the conversation is going, as long as you’re both engaged and talking.

The goal is to make a human connection with your fellow partygoers. I promise, three questions and you’re in. A simple “Where do you live?” is a great start. After three exchanges, you’ll be happily playing catch.

Like the game of catch, conversations are about connecting. This holiday season, may the best gifts you give and receive be meaningful connections with others.

— Dorothy



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Father-Son Duo Teddy and Sam Rockwell Join Loyce Houlton’s Nutcracker Fantasy at the State Theatre This December

By Craig Wilson

Craig Wilson is the editor of the Hill & lake Press. He lives in Lowry Hill.

Teddy Rockwell, 10, and his father, Sam Rockwell, 41, of East Harriet (with Sam formerly of Lowry Hill), will perform in Loyce Houlton’s Nutcracker Fantasy this December at the State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the production runs from Dec. 14-22 and continues to be a cherished Minnesota holiday tradition.

Sam Rockwell is the son of Hill & Lake Press founders Win and Binky Rockwell, who, along with Jim and Susan Lenfestey, established the publication in 1976.

At the time, the Lenfestey’s were the "Hill" of Lowry Hill, and the Rockwells were the "Lake" of East Isles. Sam, featured in a 1995 article about his own performance in the Nutcracker, now shares the stage with his son as history comes full circle.

This year’s Nutcracker Fantasy will showcase nearly 100 student dancers from across the Twin Cities alongside professional dancers.

The 44-piece Nutcracker Orchestra, led by Steve Amundson and Philip Brunelle, will perform Tchaikovsky’s timeless score in a festive retelling of the classic tale.



Sam Rockwell, a 12-year-old HLP area resident, has danced with the Minnesota Dance Theatre & School for four years, and is reprising his role as Fritz Silberhaus in this year’s Nutcracker Fantasy. Sam attends Blake School. His interests include drums, baseball and other sports. Loyce Houlton’s Annual Nutcracker Fantasy will run December 8 through 22 at the Historic State Theatre. For tickets call 339-7007, or 989-5151.



Left: Sam Rockwell is featured in a 1995 edition of the Hill & Lake Press, highlighting his role as Fritz Silberhaus in Loyce Houlton’s Annual Nutcracker Fantasy.

(Image: Hill & Lake Press)

Right: Sam and Teddy Rockwell (Photo Molly Sullivan)

Teddy, a 5th grader at Barton Elementary and student at Minnesota Dance Theatre and School, will perform as Fritz and a young cousin. This marks Teddy’s third year in the production. His father, Sam, returns for his fifth year, playing the Grandfather and dancing in a second-act ensemble. Sam performed in the Nutcracker Fantasy in 2023 and for three seasons in the 1990s.

Recognized as “the gold standard of Nutcrackers in Minnesota” (Star Tribune), the production takes audiences on a magical journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy, as seen through the eyes of Marie and guided by her wizardly Godfather Drosselmayer.

LOYCE HOULTON’S NUTCRACKER FANTASY

Tickets range from \$17-\$130 and can be purchased through the State Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster, or by calling 800-982-2787.

The State Theatre
805 Hennepin Ave.,
Minneapolis.

Performance Schedule:
Saturday, Dec. 14 – 3:00 p.m.
(Community Preview with pre-recorded music)
Sunday, Dec. 15 – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19 – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21 – 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 22 – 3:00 p.m.

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